

President's Corner



APRIL 2011

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OTTER

Where did the month go? It seems like we just had started the new year and now the first quarter is already gone.

For starters this month, on March 15th Dave Zielinski, Frank Klamik and I held a bat house building session with the St. Germain Brownies at Dave's workshop. Anne Small the brownie leader and our newsletter editor brought the troop of ten eager girls ready to do battle with screw guns, deck screws, cedar boards and brown paint (latex thank God). The girls soon had all ten bat houses assembled and painted. The bat houses will soon be hanging at various locations around St. Germain. This joint project between our Club and the Scouts turned out to be a fun and rewarding project for everyone.



The board is making good progress on putting together our major fund raising raffle for this year. We have decided to stick with a kayak as first prize since it is so easy to cart around to the flea market each week (humm). Ken Jackson, a local fishing guide and author has very generously donated a half day guided fishing trip that will be second prize. Ken is a third generation guide with over 20 years of professional licensed guiding under his belt. Third prize will be a complete fishing package consisting of Shakespeare Rod and reel, tackle box and many baits. This package was donated to the Club by Wal-Mart in Minocqua. We were hoping to get an undercover spot at the flea market this year to make our booth setup each week easier but were unable to get the space.

This month we received another "community dollars" check from Camps SuperValu for \$54.68 as a result of our members shopping at Camps and writing CD 14 on their receipts and dropping them in the red basket at the service counter. In 2010 our club received over \$260 community dollars from Camps. A big THANK YOU to Mary, Dave and Bruce Weber at Camps for their generosity.

In other club news, the board approved a donation of \$348 to the North Lakeland Discovery Center to help them sponsor four of their events this year. In April the board will be making allocations of funds for donations to various groups in the area. If you have any suggestions please contact any board member with your ideas. The scholarship committee met this month to select a Northland Pines High School senior to be the recipient of our annual \$1500 scholarship to be given away at our May Chili supper.

Life member, Cora Mollen has agreed to takeover the role of Club Historian from Jane Keithley. We thank Cora for volunteering for this task and thank Jane for her many years of doing a good job keeping the Club "scrapbook".

On March 24 we held our monthly general meeting and had 26 members and guests present. Our guest speaker was Licia Johnson from the North Lakeland Discovery Center on the topic of bats. As always, Licia has a knack for educating us and entertaining us at the same time.

Many of us don't like bats and have some common misconceptions about bats. First off, being blind as a bat is not all that bad for bats can see perfectly well. A bat getting caught in your hair is very unlikely because bats can maneuver in the dark using a sonar like ability called echolocation. Bats can hone in on very small objects always avoid

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NEXT MEETING

Thurs., April 28th
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

PROGRAM

April is "Ask the Expert" month. This month Rick Polaski will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about computers and then some! Get your questions ready - what does it mean when I get this message? why does my computer always lock up? how do I? what are cookies? You get the idea. See you on Thursday, April 28, at 2 pm.

If you missed the March program on Bats, you missed a good one.

~ Jane Keithley

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Marlene Rakowski & Judy Schell

50/50 TICKET SALES

Phil and Sue Monday

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., April 28th
1:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

President's Corner—Continued from Page 1

hitting items using this unique sense. Only Vampire bats in Central and South America actually take blood from mammals. No vampire bats are in the USA.

Bats are the only mammals that fly (A flying squirrel really only glides) and make up 25% of all mammals on earth. The major types of bats found in Wisconsin are the "cave bats" being the Little Brown Bat, Big Brown Bat, and Eastern Pipistrelle Bat. We also have some "tree" bats such as the Hoary Bat, Silver-haired Bat and the Keens Bat. Most Wisconsin bats winter in caves or old mines and do not migrate although several varieties do migrate about 300 miles south.

Bats are especially important here in the northwoods considering that a Little Brown Bat can catch and eat as many as 600 flying bugs per hour. THINK MOSQUITOES!! Wisconsin's Big Brown Bat can eat as many as 7000 mosquitoes and 300 moths each night. So the next time you want to swat a bat, think of all the bug bites it has deterred. Right now there is a big concern because a large portion of the bat population in the eastern United States is being wiped out by a disease called the "white nose" syndrome that is spreading very fast from state to state. The white-nose syndrome is a fungus that is a devastating disease to bats. It apparently infects bats in their winter hibernation caves or old mines. It kills up to 95 percent of bats in hibernation. The disease is expected to reach Wisconsin within the next few years. All in all it was a very interesting and lively meeting topic.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2011/2012

Officers:

Bob Schell, President
Rich Polaski, Pres. Elect
Judy Schell, Secretary
Dave Zielinski, Treasurer

Directors:

Marlene Rakowski 2 yrs.
Mac McCormick 2 yrs.
Jane Keithley 2 yrs.

Our next meeting is on April 28th at 2 PM and will feature Rick Polaski who will enlighten all of us computer novices and answer many of our questions on how to better use our computers. Rick is a local computer professional and will give us answers to those many frustrating glitches we encounter everyday on our machines.

Bob Schell, President

Editor's note: I didn't get this write-up from Rich in our Feb. newsletter, as I took it in early to be printed. Thought it would be interesting to share even though it is a little late!

Addendum to President's Corner (February 2011)

On January 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. 22 members and guests attended the Sayner-St. Germain Fish & Wildlife Club General Meeting at the St. Germain Community Center. For the first part of the meeting we were entertained by Bart Kotarba of the Northwoods Wildlife Center who made a presentation on "Porcupines."

It seems that the Porcupine family split up over 30 million years ago into two distinct groups. One group is known as the ground porcupines and is found in Africa, Europe and Asia. The other is the tree porcupines and is native to North America and uses their large front teeth to satisfy their healthy appetite for wood. They belong to the rodent population. They are known to eat natural bark, stems and springtime buds. They have been known to invade campgrounds to chew on canoe paddles and anything else that was handled by human hands that had left salt behind.

The average porcupine has over 30,000 quills that are barbed and are used as a defense mechanism. Their biggest predator is the Pine marten and Fisher along with Coyotes and Wolves. Man is then included in its predator base because many believe porkies caused untold damage to new and young trees and are to be shot on sight. There has never been a study to substantiate that thought.

Most North American Porcupines live to be over 3 1/2 to 4 feet long and weigh in at around 35 pounds. They have a 7 month gestation period and have 1 to 2 young per litter. They are born with their eyes open and their grills will harden within 3 days and will be on their own within 2 months they are nocturnal and will not normally be seen during the day.

The biggest questions always is how do they mate. The answer is always, "Very Carefully."

~Rich Polaski, *President Elect*

SPECIAL THANKS THOSE INCLUDED DONATIONS WITH THEIR MEMBERSHIPS!

Richmond Banks	Tim & Julie Martin
Lucille Burke	Rowan Maurer
Ted Crusius	Mel & Sharon Mrozak
Ken & Ellyn Dahnke	Edmund & Eve Pelletiere
Jeff & Gloria Darton	Mike & Lori Pergolski
Jeffrey & Maria Ewald	Patrick & Patrice Pergolski
Dave & Judy Faesi	Arlene Petersohn
Jim & Ellen Finch	Jack & Mary Platner
Ron & Carol Ann Gawrys	Art & Dolores Poitz
Toni Green	Dave & Dottie Richardson
Ronald & Patricia Groehe	Bob & Judy Schell
Stan & Cheryl Grulke	Mel & Kay Schultz
Mike & Lisa Pagel Halverson	Gary & Geri Shambo
Brian & Kim Holinbeck	Rich & Patti Sparrow (Patti's Mummumming Waters)
Ken & Nancy Horve	Earl P. Stankowsky
Richard Hosman	Nancy Tober
Don & Betty Hotter	Gary & Karen Walbruck
Judy Kaisler	Bill & Bonnie Walden
Michael & Lu Ann Kallas	Sylvester & Ruth Walker
Roger & Sally King	Gerald & Marilyn Walters
Dave & Marie Kuemmel	Lorraine Washechek
Mark & Barbara Liszeo	Sonja Wendorf
Ernest & Judy Manski	

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things



By mid-April, the woodlands we explore are free of snow except for a few stubborn patches that hold to ruts in the trail and the hollows below trees. Green is not the only spring color. The season seems to be announced also by tones of red which brighten the surface and depth of the woodland. There is the rust-red of the fallen pine needles that muffle our steps. Surviving Bunchberry, Barren Strawberry, rosettes of Hawkweed and groups of Sorrel redden the drying banks. Gray stumps glitter with red-capped Soldier Lichen. Above them, Blackberries raise burgundy canes and maple shoots glow scarlet in the sunshine. As if wanting to be contrary, young aspens sport plump silvery buds on amber stalks.

In one low spot, we discover a pond created by snow melt. It seems to exist particularly for the small masked Wood Frogs whose song, like the clacking of castanets or quacking of a band of miniature ducks, rises from the shallow water. The surface of the pond is in constant motion, with ring upon ring of ripples where the frogs bob about. Submerged grasses are the depository for a multitude of frog eggs. Each long grass stem is heavy with jellied bundles dotted with frogs-to-be. This vernal pond's existence will be brief. By late May or early June only a damp depression will remain.

We walk further down the trail to where the woodland opens out into a vast bog. The area is red-violet from bank to bank, the hue of stands of Leather Leaf and Bog Rosemary. (These are known by the poetic names Cassandra and Andromeda) None of their flowers are open, though buds are swelling at branch tips. In a few days, the entire bog will be graced with their delicate white bell flowers. Below the thick dark growth of the Leather Leaf branches, pitcher plants are tinted red, but the sphagnum moss sports a fresh, vivid, spring green.

~ Cora Mollen

Lakes Improvement Committee Report

First, on the business side, we have received \$1000 checks from the Little Saint Germain and Alma Moon Lake Districts. We have received the first allocation from the Town of St. Germain for a portion of the room tax revenue. Also, we have not received any funds from the Chamber so far this year. When we receive confirmation of the amount of money from the Town room tax funds and Chamber we will make the appropriate allocations. In the mean time I want to list the current balances WITHOUT room tax or chamber funds for the various lake organizations. These balances are as of March 23, 2011: Little Saint Germain - \$5,954.44, Found Lake - \$11,056.67, Lost Lake - \$7,620.12, Alma Moon (March check not inc.) - \$6,762.75, Stella - \$455.00, Pickerel - \$5,341.95, Big St Germain -Fawn-Content - \$10,722.53.

There have been no expenditures approved by the committee so far this year. As a reminder, these restricted funds are distributed back to the respective Lakes for improvements such as fish stocking, signage, marker buoys, AIS education, fish shelters, algae studies, weed control, signs, etc.

This year the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department has arranged to get six student interns from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh to do AIS/VHS boat inspections at various boat ramps in the county. These inspections will be on a nominal fee basis and will be used by several of our area lakes. It is anticipated that the inspections will be partially funded by Lake Improvement Funds. Also, since there have been cutbacks in the DNR funds, we anticipate more of these funds will be needed for fish stocking this year.

~ Bob Schell



Bruce & Mary Weber presenting Judy Schell with an additional donation to the Club.

Adopt-A-Highway dates for 2011:

- Wed., May 11 (rain date ~ Thurs. May 12)
- Wed., July 13 (rain date ~ Thurs. July 14)
- Wed., Sept. 14 (rain date ~ Thurs. Sept. 15)

All at 9.00 a.m. at the pavillion parking lot.

Who's Signed up for May 11th?

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Dick Banks | Judy Schell |
| Teri Beier | Ken Beier |
| Stan Rakowski | Rick Polaski |
| Bob Schell | Mac McCormick |

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Reminder: Please be sure to send in your membership renewal which was included in last month's newsletter. Also, be sure to help the club out by selecting to receive your newsletter via email. This will not only save the club over \$600 per year, it will also help the environment by reducing paper use.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gary & Kathy Groff
Eagle River



FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

April brings last ice in the north, and walleye runs in the southern river systems.

Last ice can be very good yet dangerous. Stay away from anything that protrudes above ice. Watch for holes that have stayed open overnight.

Many fish will ride high in the water at this time of the year. They will come up to take a bait more often, then go down. Practice line control, watch for crowds.

The southern river systems will start to produce as soon as they open. The fish have moved under the ice. Use the lightest tackle you can control to catch these early walleyes.

FRANK KLAMIK

CLUB PLEDGE

- ✓ I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the state of Wisconsin—especially of the Sayner-St. Germain area.
- ✓ I promise to obey all rules and regulations governing the harvest of wildlife and plant material.
- ✓ I promise to educate future generations so that they may become the caretakers of our water, air, land and wildlife.