



President's Corner

MAY 2011

**D
A
W**



BOBCAT

**D
R**



RACCOON

**I
N
T
S**



OTTER

On the top of the list this month is the Annual Chili Pot Luck Dinner and Scholarship Award on Thursday, May 26, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Kenneth Musial of Eagle River is this year's recipient and he and his family have been invited to attend. Please call Bob or Judy Schell (715 542 2321) with your reservations for dinner and let us know if you would like to bring a food item for the dinner. We are looking for a few more pots of chili, crackers, onions, cheese, sour cream, or more desserts as well. Please call us prior to Tuesday May 24 for your reservations and donations. Set up is at 5:00 p.m. (let us know if you can help out) and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your own place settings and if you signed up for chili please bring it warm.

This time of year many people forget that the food pantry has needs all year around, not just at Christmas. Therefore we are requesting everyone attending the Chili Dinner bring an item for the food pantry.

On Thursday April 28, 2011 we held our monthly general meeting featuring the topic of "Ask the Expert". Our guest speaker was Rick Polaski, a local computer expert and active club member. Rick did a good job of answering members questions and explaining many of the "mysteries" of the computer. We were filled in on the differences between Operating Systems (OS), Internet service providers (ISP) and the various ways to connect to high speed internet. Internet connectivity is a hot topic in our area because of the lack of high speed service availability. Rick answered many of our questions relating to this as well as many other topics. Rick offers custom computer building as well as repair and consulting services in our area and has been a big help to many of our members in the past. Rick can be reached at 414-698-1350.

During the business meeting we discussed and approved the board's recommendations for donations this year to various organizations. The list is as follows: Scholarship \$1500, Vilas County Food Pantry \$500 as well as food donations several times a year, \$500 to the Northwoods Wildlife Center, Trees for Tomorrow \$500, Plum Lake Library \$300, Vilas County Historical Museum \$500, St. Germain Elementary School trip to Trees For Tomorrow \$300, Northwoods Discovery center - \$348, Hike and Bike Trail \$ 300, St. Germain fireworks \$100, Big Brothers Big Sisters \$250, St. Germain Fire Dept. \$100, Fire Department Auxiliary \$50, Children's Museum \$100 and Warm the Children Drive \$500. We have added Loon Watch to our list this year with a donation of \$200. The Board left open the opportunity to donate to other local causes as the year progresses.

We held our annual election of officers and Directors during the April General meeting. The voting ended in no change for the coming year. Your officers are as follows President – Bob Schell, President Elect—Rich Polaski,

Continued on page 2

NEXT MEETING

Annual Chili Potluck Dinner & Scholarship Award



Thurs., May 26th
6:00 pm



St. Germain Community Center
(Set-up at 5 pm)

President's Corner—Continued from Page 1

Secretary –Judy Schell, Treasurer – Dave Zielinski. Directors reelected are Stan Rakowski , Marlene Rakowski and Jane Keithley. The Frank Klamik and Mac McCormick director terms were not up for election this year. I want to personally thank the board and officers for all the hard work and support they have given to the Club and me throughout the year.

Plans for the Kayak raffle at the flea market and area events are progressing well. As mentioned last month 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. St. Germain Sport Marine will again pay for the printing of the raffle tickets. We will have

the sign up sheets at the Chili Supper on May 26th –so start thinking of any Mondays you might be able to help out manning our booth. We will set up the tent and Kayak every week and will be looking for volunteers to help me with this chore also.

See you at the Chili Dinner!
Bob Schell, President

Birds, Animals & Other wild Things



Paddling down the Wisconsin River on a late April morning, we heard a bird-like chirp from one side of the river, then an answer from the other side. Soon I saw several bobbing, furry heads inspecting us from a safe distance. The curious and playful manner of these river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) make them one of my favorite northern animals.

This group of otters consisted of a female with three grown pups. Unlike most other members of the weasel family, otters tend to be more social. Otter usually give birth in April, with litters that range from one to five pups. The young first leave the den at about six weeks and stay with their mother for about a year until she again gives birth. The youngsters we encountered must have had a year of training under their belts and were soon to separate from their mother and establish their own territory. Otters do not dig their own dens, but utilize natural holes or burrows that have already been excavated by other animals, like beavers, so these yearlings will need to do a lot of home inspections before they settle on a den.

Otters are great predators. They can swim almost 7 mph and can stay underwater for up to 4 minutes. They feed primarily on a wide range of fish species as well as crustaceans like crayfish. I especially enjoy watching the otters on our river dive down to capture crayfish. They bring them up to the surface where they float on their backs while cracking them open and eating the meat. River otters will also consume amphibians, reptiles, aquatic insects and small mammals.

You can spot otters all year long. They are active not only in open water, but are also proficient at hunting under the ice during winter. River otters switch from being active after dark during the spring, summer and fall, to a more daytime schedule during the winter months. So your best chance for seeing an otter is often during the winter when they can be seen loping across the ice or surfacing in a patch of open water.

Though nowhere near their historic population size and range, river otters are not currently considered a population at risk. Their numbers have been holding steady in most areas, except where habitat loss is a factor. River otters are very susceptible to pollution. Because they are so high on the food chain, they tend to bioaccumulate toxins like mercury. For this reason, efforts to reduce mercury and other toxic emissions have been very beneficial for these entertaining critters.

~ Anne Small

For those of you who like to keep track of when migratory birds and other species make their spring appearance, you should really check out the Journey North website at: <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>. There are links for reporting the arrival of a variety of birds and butterflies (like monarchs), and you can look at interactive maps tracking the movements of these animals as they make their way northward.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE INCLUDED
DONATIONS WITH THEIR
MEMBERSHIPS!**

Keith & Cathy Anderson
Ken & Terrie Beier
John Blochowiak
Henry & Helene Eberle
Jim & Aliza Faber
Arden & Vicki Hvam
Don & Sue Morlan
Ida Nemec
Butch & Diana Rost
Webb & Georgie Southwick
Addison & Barbara Toynton
Harry & Suzanne Tressel

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES 2011/2012

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2011/2012 WERE DUE APRIL 1, 2011

Your membership is important to us. If you have not already sent in your dues, please complete the form below and return with your check for \$10.00. Your dues will continue your membership to 3-31-2012. If the years indicated on your newsletter **LABEL** are **11/12** or later, you do not need to renew.

NAME _____ SPOUSE _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
CITY & STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____

****TO SAVE ON \$\$\$ AND RESOURCES, WE WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN SENDING
THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL. ****

If you are willing to receive your newsletter via email, please include your email below.

Email address (print clearly) _____

DUES: RENEWAL \$ 10.00
DONATION \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Return with your **\$10.00 renewal fee** to:
SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB, INC.
P.O. BOX 214, SAINT GERMAIN, WI 54558
Please make your check payable to the club.

Do you have an ALTERNATE ADDRESS at which you receive mail delivery for the time you are there? Please indicate below:

_____ Phone number _____

Which months of the year are you there? (If you can break it down to a day of the month, please do so.)

Membership questions? Email Ellen Finch at elf@nnex.net

SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN FISH &
WILDLIFE CLUB, INC.
PO BOX 214
SAINT GERMAIN WI 54558-0214

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR STD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
SAINT GERMAIN WI
PERMIT NO 10603



FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

The ice is out! Many of us are now looking forward to opening day. Some fishermen have been taking advantage of our early river systems and doing well.

For the most part, walleye, northern and perch will be post spawn. Panfish are looking for warm protected water to help develop their eggs.

Remember to keep your presentation as light as you can control. Slip bobbers, 1/16oz. jigs and minnows and a hook and split shot often work well for early walleye.

Many panfish can be caught on a fly rod from now until they move deep after they spawn.

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.