



President's Corner

SEPTEMBER 2011

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OTTER

Our Annual Picnic was held on Thursday August 25th at the St. Germain Community Center with over 60 people in attendance. The weather cooperated and provided us with a pleasant evening in the northwoods to enjoy the good food and an entertaining program. Our guest speaker was Bill Kroll speaking about the fur trade in the area during the late 1700s. Bill is very involved with Living History Encounter Inc. a group that presents historical vignettes and interpretation. One of the many things he spoke about was the Voyagers, the men that transported goods through the Great lakes in 40 foot long birch bark canoes. These men would paddle several tons of cargo that was usually in round cornered boxes (so as not to poke holes in the canoes) or bales that weighed 90 pounds each. These Voyagers would move furs to the wealthy people in Europe and in return trade trinkets and items such as tin cups to the Native Americans here in the Frontier of America. An interesting fact is that the men hired to paddle the canoes did not know how to swim- that way if the canoe capsized they would be forced to stay with the canoe and thus save the cargo. Bill brought along many samples of items that were part of the culture of the era. Beaver skins used for top hats, tobacco twists, sharp tools used to scrape fur skins and many other interesting items. Overall it was an enjoyable and interesting evening.

The Raffle revenue is ahead of last year and things are going quite smoothly because of all the great volunteers we've had helping us out. We had a very successful three days at the Pig in the Pines in August and will set up our booth at The New Twilight Bar and Grill on September 18th and at Cranberry Fest on October 1st and 2nd. Last month Steve Puleck of the New Twilight Bar and Grill bought \$100 in raffle tickets. Steve has been a great supporter of our club year after year. Thank You Steve!

All of the copies of the books that I spoke about last month donated by Cora Mollen to sell at the flea market booth have been sold. The book titled, Fascinating Fungi of the Northwoods was a big hit and was an appropriate addition to our booth. Thank you Cora!

Our raffle booth tent suffered some broken ribs last month but I was able to find inexpensive parts on the Internet. The parts were exact replacements and worked well so we dodged a bullet of buying a new tent. (Humm ---If I broke a leg – I wonder if I could get a cheap new one on the internet?)

Some of you may have noticed that the Loons on our local lakes are already congregating and getting ready for their long migration south. This month at our general meeting we will hear more from Dr. Mike Meyer of the DNR about our area loons. Dr Meyer spoke to us last year about loon habits and how the DNR has been tracking loons using modern GPS equipment. He will give us an update on how the loons survived the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as well as many other interesting facts. You don't want to miss this one. The Meeting will be on Thursday September 22nd at 7PM in the St. Germain Community Center. See you there.

Bob Schell, President

NEXT MEETING

Thurs., Sept. 22nd

7:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

PROGRAM

Back By Popular Demand!
Loon expert Dr Mike Meyers
will tell us how our Northwoods
loons fared during the Gulf oil
spill. Loon lovers won't want to
miss this ~Jane Keithley

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., Sept. 22nd

6:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

SUNSHINE REPORT

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Sue
Dubore her mother passed away.

Rich Polaski will be going to the Mayo
Clinic in MN this month for tests. We
wish him well.

*Please call Linda Polaski, 715-479-4781, if you
know of someone who needs a card of cheer,
encouragement, sympathy, etc.*

Lakes Improvement Committee Report

Fall is fast approaching and the lakes are getting cooler. The summer was quite average and most lakes have recovered from the drought of previous years. We now need to turn our attention to what is needed to keep our lakes in good shape for the protection of wildlife and the use and enjoyment by future generations.

As I mentioned last month, this fall marks the end of a three year study covering the general health of our area lakes and any issues that may need attention to keep or improve lake quality. The results of this study will be reviewed at a community information meeting on Saturday September 17th at 10AM at the Community Center. The study considered the types of lakes we have (drainage vs. seepage), the ratio and types of land acres draining into a particular lake, lake depth, the amount of phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a (Algal Abundance), water clarity and types of Aquatic plants present. (Little Saint Germain Lake was not included in this study for they were already working on a Management Plan)

The findings show our area lakes in "Great" condition. The area lakes (Alma, Moon, Lost, Found, Big Saint, Content and Fawn) have no Aquatic Invasive Species and in general have good water chemistry. An interesting finding is that the low calcium level in our lakes makes them have a very low susceptibility to Zebra Mussels.

Much of the credit for keeping the lake quality high is to those people who have worked over the years to educate lake users on how to reduce the likelihood of introducing invasives and thanks to the users themselves for following good practices. A special thanks goes out to all those volunteer boat inspectors for showing up at boat ramps at 6AM week after week and year after year to educate and "get the word out."

If you have an interest in our lakes and want to find out what shape they are in and what is planned for the future to keep them healthy, you need to attend on the 17th.

Next month we will cover any fish stocking and report on the allocation of matching funds for the various lake organizations.

~ Bob Schell

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

As the evenings get cooler and the acorns on the oak trees start to brown, we have noticed increased ac-

activity of the Northern Flying Squirrels in the trees around our house. If you venture outside after dark or even keep a few windows open at night, you will probably hear their high pitched squeaks coming from the trees. You can also hear the sound of falling acorns. Flying squirrels are hard at work dropping and collecting these nuts under the cover of darkness.

As you probably know, these mammals don't actually fly; they glide. Flying squirrels have a loose flap of skin between their front and hind legs. When the squirrels spread their legs apart as they jump, these flaps act like a parachute catching the wind and allowing them to glide.

Flying squirrels are nocturnal and are active year round. Because food sources are limited during winter they spend much of the fall season intent on food storage. These arboreal rodents are not only interested in tree nuts (acorns & hazelnuts), but they also consume mushrooms, lichens, fruits, buds, insects, small birds and eggs.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Daniel & Stefanie Olson

Williamsburg, VA

Daryl & Linda Weger

McFarland, WI

Steve & Laura Lorenzen

St. Germain, WI

Old pileated woodpecker holes are favorite spots for these squirrels to nest. We have many of them in the old aspen snags in our woods, which mean we have a very healthy flying squirrel population. By early July, they will have a litter of 2 to 5 young. They are cared for by the mother until they are weaned at about this time of year. I suspect that is why we are now hearing plenty of vocalizations at night. By about three months of age, the young will have learned how to glide and will be ready to live on their own.

There is a good chance that family members will remain close by even after the young have reached adulthood. Flying squirrels are very social and will actually share nesting cavities with eight or more adults. This trait helps them to withstand the cold winter temps through the heat generated from their bodies.

Also of note: Like clockwork I happened to see the usual flock of night hawks circling near the Hwy 70 W dam on the first of September. That is one my cues that fall weather is soon to appear. And two days

afterwards, we had high temps in the 50's. It is amazing how these birds are so in tune with the weather. I think they often times they make more reliable predictions than the local weather channel:)

~ Anne Small

Last Adopt-A-Highway for 2011

Wed., Sept. 14 (rain date ~ Thurs. Sept. 15)

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

Who's Signed up?

Dick Banks	Mac McCormick
Carol Seegers	Gary Groff
Rick Polaski	Frank Klamik
Dave Zielinski	

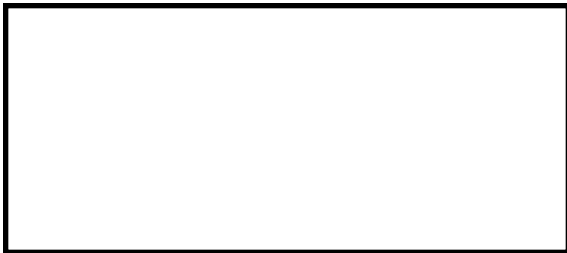


Above: The club's booth at the St Germain Flea Market.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

The warm water period is over. With shorter days and cool nights the water temperature has dropped. This signals the fish and they start to feed more to build up fat for winter. Most fish will stay in the summer pattern, but feed more aggressively until turnover. Turnover occurs at 50 degrees water temp. After turnover some fish stay on the green weeds and others move off to hard rock bars and humps. They also go back to large minnows like redbtail chubs, or in the case of muskies, large suckers.

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.