

December 2017

President's Report



Dear Members,

Merry Christmas to All and to All a Beautiful Winter!

All 24 of us enjoyed our Christmas party. Once again Kris and her staff at the Clearview provided us with great ambience and food. We wish all of you could have attended.

Please mark your calendars for our kick off event: The Leap Into 2018 Fiesta. This awesome event will take place on Thursday, February 22nd at 4:30pm. Please note the time:

4:30pm. We will celebrate with appetizers, a taco and chili bar, and dessert. Fred & I will supply the taco meat, shredded lettuce, tortillas, nacho chips and our special vegetarian chili. We will need the rest of you to bring what you like from the following: appetizers, chili, condiments (sour cream, shredded cheese, crackers, Fritos, onions) or dessert. This is quite a change from past years, but a suggestion was made to have the chili gathering during the Winter when we all needed a warm and cozy gathering. So please let me know if you'll be attending and what you'll be bringing (phone: 715-542-3658, cell: 847-567-0388, email: flocher@gmail.com). We'll even have a piñata!

I'll have a formal 2018 activities calendar available at The Fiesta (and in the next Paw Prints), but here is a preliminary one (we have a few projects and speakers to finalize)

February 22nd: 4:30pm: Leap Into 2018 Fiesta, at the Community Center.

March 15: 3:30-4:30 pm: Bird house building project in conjunction with elementary school Science Club after school program

March 22: Board, Scholarship and Nominating Committee meetings.

April 26th: Licia and Emily's "Wildcats" program.

May 2nd: 9:00am: HWY. 70 cleanup.

May 17th: 3:30-4:30: Junior angler fishing clinic with elementary students of Science Club



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Meetings held March.-Dec
4th Thurs. of the month.
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Editor: Anne Small

SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB, INC.

Paw Prints

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...Continued from Page 1

May 24th: Bart Kotarba, Northwoods Wildlife Center: "Frogs and Turtles".

*Possible: a WI birdathon which would involve a walk while identifying birds along the way. More info will follow.

June 2nd: Saturday - during free fishing weekend: Frank's fishing outing and family picnic at Big Arbor Vitae.

June 28th: *Scholarship picnic/chicken fest at the pavilion - needs approval from the Scholarship Committee.

July 4th: 9am: HWY. 70 cleanup. *Possible rescheduling due to the 4th of July.

July 26th: Rick Howard: "Endangered Species, with a follow up on the impact of climate change".

August 23rd: David Zielinski with Rod Ingram: Bees

September 5th: HWY. 70 cleanup.

September 23rd: David Barnhill: "Coral"

October 25th: *Zach Stern and "Hello" from the Vilas Co. Sheriff's Department.

November 15th at 2:00pm - note the earlier time and date due to Thanksgiving: Elise Schuler: Raptor Education Group.

December 6th: Winter Party at Clearview.

*to be confirmed and coordinated



Remember to please contact me about the Leap Into 2018 Fiesta and if you have any questions or concerns with any Club details.

Stay Wild and Happy New Year,
~Laura Locher

Club Community Projects

The St Germain Elementary School is starting a "Science Club" group that will meet once a month, after school from 3:30-4:30 pm. This will be a collaborative effort between the school and community members including the Sayner-St Germain Fish & Wildlife Club.

Specifically, our Club will be working with the students on two projects. The first is birdhouse building on March 15th. We would like volunteers to help by precutting and predrilling the wood (provided by club funds), so that the kids can do the assembly and painting of the houses. The resulting houses will then be installed the following month along the bike trail bordering Awassa Trails property and on the school grounds.

The second project will be the Junior Angler program on May 17th. This program will teach kids about fish species, fishing skills like casting, and also lake ecology. A couple of club members will need to get Junior Angler instructor certification through the DNR.

We really would like this collaboration to become a regular part of our Club's service projects as we move forward, so would like to see a lot of members take this opportunity to share their knowledge with area youngsters. If you are interested in helping with these two community projects, please contact Anne Small at smallanne76@gmail.com or 715-614-3711



Above: November's speaker, Mark Naniot of Wild Instincts, introducing the club to his resident barred owl, who had permanent injuries that prevented her from being released to the wild.

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

On a recent walk, I spotted a large stand of dried goldenrod protruding from the snow, remnants from the past summer. Over half of the plants in the stand had marble-shaped swellings about midway up on their stems. These round growths are called galls. Many different kinds of plants can have galls and they can be found on almost any part of a plant. Everyone has probably seen a gall, but may not have been aware of what they were looking at.

Many galls are caused by insects, especially those in the fly, wasp, and moth families. Insects are thought to trigger the formation of galls through either the physical act of injuring the plant or through the secretion of chemicals into the plant. The response of the plant is to increase the cell growth around the infected site, eventually forming the sturdy gall. The immature insects utilize the gall as both a source of food and shelter while developing to their adult forms. Insects are usually very specific as to which plant they choose for their galls. Some types of galls harbor only a single larva, while others can have many individuals.

Goldenrod plants can have several types of galls, but the marble-sized swellings that I saw were caused by a fruit fly, *Eurosta solidaginis*. The life cycle of this fly

begins in the spring when the adult fly lays an egg on the young goldenrod plant. After hatching, the larva burrows into the stem, initiating the gall growth. Inside the gall, the larva excavates a chamber as it feeds on the gall itself. Because the adult fly does not have chewing mouth parts, the larva, in late fall, prepares a way for the adult to exit the gall by chewing a tunnel through all but the very outer skin of the gall. Then the larva enters into a resting state within the gall where it will overwinter. In spring, the life cycle is complete after the larva pupates and the adult emerges through the exit tunnel.

Galls can also be seen frequently on oak leaves, blueberry stems, and willow branches. If you find one, you may want to try cutting it open to check out the larval chamber. Some of the galls are beautifully intricate inside. This is a great time of year to look for galls as they are easy to spot on bare branches...just another way to add interest to your winter wanderings.

~Anne Small



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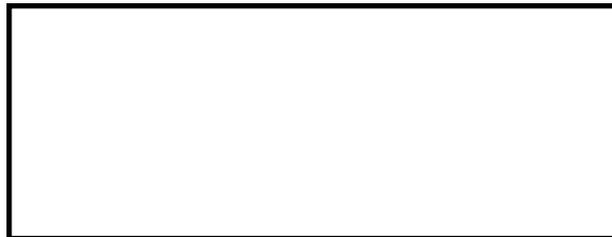
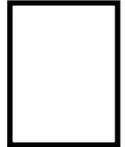
Frank's Fishing Report

Dec. 1, 2017. Most areas of northern Wisconsin have limited safe ice. Some backwater is frozen and will hold people on foot. This is the time to be very careful, fish with a friend and telling every loved one where you are. Carrying a long rope, a life preserver and ice pegs is a good idea.

Panfish are in the weeds on most lakes and wall-eyes are making early and late movements to shallow water to feed. Other game fish are in the weeds chasing panfish and minnows.

Frank Klamik

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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 plants.
- ✓ I promise to educate future generations so they may become caretakers of our water, air, land and wildlife.

Phone numbers are included so that you may pass along any Information, questions and concerns you may have regarding the club.