

January 2016

President's Report

Hope everyone is off to a good 2016 New Year. Thanks again to all the Club's Volunteers for helping to make it go. Anne Small keeps our website up to date, so please check from time to time about activities and contact information.

All volunteer organizations run on members involvement, and we will have nominations/elections in a couple of months for Board positions. Please consider serving, as the time commitment is minimal. In that regard, we welcome Ken Dahnke,

who is working with Dave Zielinski to become familiar with the Treasurer's ropes, as Dave is stepping down after a number of years doing a tremendous job.

If you have questions about membership renewals, please contact Ellyn Dahnke at 715-542-3939. If you need a ride to a meeting, please call one of the Board Members, and they will arrange it. Thanks and hope to see you on the 28th.

Marv Anderson, President

Frank's Fishing Report

Most lakes in the northern half of the state are now ice covered. Many small lakes in the southern half of the state have ice in the early ice locations. These places are usually the same from year to year. Ice has just formed on many deep lakes and is not safe, also be aware of current locations. Be safe! Do not venture out alone.

All fish are still following their normal summer patterns and working the deep weedline in 8-12 feet of water. Look for groups of fisherman to give up their locations. Remember speed, size and color in that order are key to catching fish at this time of year.

Frank Klamiq



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

Paw Prints

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Meetings held YEAR-ROUND 4th Thurs. of the month.
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Changes for Trout Anglers in New Year

Source: <http://dnr.wi.gov/News/Weekly/>

Trout anglers have much to celebrate in 2016 as an expanded early trout season gets underway and ongoing habitat improvements are contributing to upgraded stream classifications.

The expanded early catch and release trout season started at 5 a.m. on Jan. 2 and runs until Friday, May 6 on many inland state rivers and streams. The regular trout season opens Saturday, May 7, 2016.

A 2015-2016 fishing license and trout stamp are required to fish during the Jan. 2-March 31, 2016 period. A new 2016-2017 fishing license and trout stamp will be required on and after April 1, 2016.

Meanwhile, based on surveys of some 300 waterways over the past two years, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists are upgrading the classifications of 14 streams and newly classifying another 27 that for the first time have been documented as sustaining trout populations. Six of the newly classified streams have earned the coveted Class 1 designation.

"Shared efforts by property owners, angling groups such as Trout Unlimited and DNR are contributing to very real improvements in Wisconsin trout streams," said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. "At the same time, we believe the expanded early trout season and simplified regular season rules will create even more opportunities for anglers from Wisconsin and beyond to enjoy these world-class waters. We're pleased these initiatives are working hand-in-hand to benefit the environment and the economy."

Joanna Griffin, DNR trout specialist, said the stream survey and classification work helps DNR prioritize streams for improvement and qualify projects for funding from trout stamp sales.

"The classification process also provides a way to engage local community mem-

bers and angling groups with efforts to reduce runoff and adopt best management practices for entire watersheds," Griffin said.

DNR uses three categories to classify trout streams to ensure adequate protection and proper management: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. Class 1 streams, such as a newly upgraded segment of Black Earth Creek in Dane County and newly classified streams in Iron, Pierce and Sauk counties sustain healthy populations of wild trout through natural reproduction and require no stocking. Wisconsin currently holds some 5,289 miles of Class 1 trout streams, about 40 percent of the state's total trout stream mileage.

Class 2 waters contain some natural reproduction, but not enough to use available food and space and require stocking to maintain a desirable sport fishery. Trout survive and grow well in these waters, which account for about 6,126 miles or 46 percent of the total trout stream mileage.

Class 3 waters provide marginal habitat with no natural reproduction or carryover of the stocked fish. Wisconsin holds some 1,817 miles of Class 3 trout streams, about 14 percent of the total. Through habitat improvement efforts, some Class 3 streams can sustain natural reproduction and achieve a Class 2 ranking, as seen with streams in Buffalo and Trempealeau counties over the past two years.

The survey work also leads to a better understanding of trout populations in key waters and played a role in the development of the simplified regulations that will debut during the 2016 regular trout season. The regulations will create more uniformity for anglers who fish on different trout streams and within small geographic areas. Under the new system, maps online and in the regulation pamphlet will indicate

NEXT MEETING
Thurs., Jan 28
7:00 PM
St. Germain Community Ctr

PROGRAM
Planting native vegetation to
support wildlife
With Bart Kotarba, NWC

50/50 RAFFLE
Anne Small

REFRESHMENTS
Marv & Karen Anderson

BOARD MEETING
Thurs., Jan 28
6:00 PM
St. Germain Community Ctr

one of three regulations:

Green means go fish, with no length limit, a bag limit of five fish and no bait restrictions;

Yellow means caution, with an 8 inch length limit, a bag limit of three fish and no bait restrictions; and

Red means special regulations are in place. Anglers are advised to stop and understand the regulations before fishing.

To learn more about the regulations, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "trout review." A list of early season streams can be found on the website.

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Thanks for the
generous donation!
Dale & Judy Faesi

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

A sudden scuffling and tumbling announces the daily arrival of local Gray Squirrels on my back porch. Just now their coat is at its fullest, their tails handsome thick plumes. They aim for a good share of the sunflower seeds in my porch rail feed-



er. Though they are considered pests by many trying to feed the feathered flock, I have to admit a soft spot for the Grey Squirrel. When I was a child, our family rescued a small one from a fallen nest and it was a much enjoyed member of our household until it matured and could head to the wild. Then, when my children were young, we had to nurture another squirrel youngster.

Squirrels are active chiefly in the early and late hours of the day. Older males are dominant, though the job of protecting nesting spots falls to the females. If you observe squirrel interactions, you see a good deal of posturing, stomping of feet and flexing of tails. They also have a varied repertoire of squeaks, grunts and raspy sounds as well as the affectionate purrings of mates and mother's with young.

Clusters of close-packed leaves and twigs are built on forking tree limbs as home base by these com-

mon members of the forest community. Occasionally, they chose the shelter of a tree trunk hollow. Unfortunately, they may also find their way into attics and wall spaces of houses where they can cause damage. Both male and female share nest space at times, particularly in frigid weather, but they do not hibernate. Females can give birth to two sets of young a year, each consisting of 2 to 8 young. Very few of these will survive due to predation, competition for food and challenging habitat conditions.

Gray Squirrels eat a range of foods including tree bark, tree buds, berries, various seeds, nuts, acorns and some woodland mushrooms. Bones, antlers and turtle shells are often gnawed, probably as a source of minerals. Squirrels are considered scatter-hoarders. Food stuffs are buried or hidden in tree trunk crevices for future use. One squirrel may have hundreds of such food caches in its home territory. The squirrels have a keen power of observation, a gift for remembering landmarks and a sense of distance that help to locate the stored food months later. Not all hoarded seeds and acorns are recovered and many of these unclaimed "treasures" contribute importantly to populations of forest plants and trees.

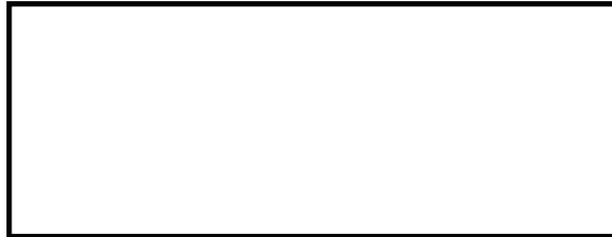
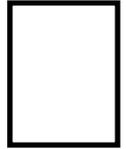
Cora Mollen

Sunshine Report

The Club sends its condolences to Frank & Marilyn Klamik. Frank's mother passed away.

If you know of a club member who is ill or needs words of cheer, please contact Judy Schell at 715-542-2321 or judithschell@hotmail.com

SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB, INC.
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	Bob Schell	715-542-2321

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.