

# President's Report

Sayner-St. Germain Fish & Wildlife members, a big welcome to all from your new president, Laura Locher. Briefly, my husband Fred and I are recent transplants from Barrington, IL where we raised our two sons, Fred grew his orthopedic practice and I was active in the community and worked in art and design. Fred's now retired but I continue working in art, translating my photographs of the outdoors into watercolors and also in fiber arts.

We moved into our dream green retirement home, in 2013, which we built on Big St. Germain on Fred's parents' land; we love the fact that you can go out and enjoy the outdoors year-round up here.

Now for some club business: we had our annual chili supper on May 26th - all attendees dined on delicious chili and desserts, generously provided by our members; so thank you to all.

Our scholarship recipient, Cali Boldebeck, who is also an exceptional athlete, had a soccer game missed the supper, but stopped by afterwards with her parents, Charity and Jim to thank us. Cali will be attending Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee as a marine biology major. She is truly an outstanding candidate; so thank you to our scholarship committee, Bob, Clyde



Above: Scholarship recipient, Cali Bolderbeck (center) with her father (far left), Laura Locher (Club President), Cali's mother (far right), and Marv Anderson (back row)

The number of members participating in our activities and attending our programs seem to be down. Our club is a service organization and our endeavors help support many nature and wildlife organizations in our surrounding communities; so if anyone has any ideas on how to increase these numbers - or any ideas on any different direction you want our club to explore, please let me know. We still need a vice president and a program chairman (or assistant to help with ideas and scheduling).

*Continued on Page 2*



## NEXT MEETING

Thurs., June 23  
7:00 PM

St. Germain Community Center

### PROGRAM

*Deforestation*

Joe Hovel, Partners in Forestry

### REFRESHMENTS

Terrie Beier & Laura Locher

### CASH RAFFLE

Lori Pergolski

### BOARD MEETING

Thurs., June 23  
6:00 PM

St. Germain Community Center

## Adopt a Highway



**Wednesday,  
July 6  
9:00 AM**

**Call Karen Anderson to volunteer  
715-542-3946**

*...Continued from Page 1*

Also, I will be taking over the sign ups for manning the booth and selling raffle tickets at the Monday flea market. My phone number is: 715-542-3658; and email: fglocher@gmail.com. Remember, participation is key in keeping our club relevant and strong.

If it's not too late, plan on attending the annual fishing tournament and picnic, June 4th on Big Arbor Vitae: fishing starts at 7 am; the family picnic is at noon at the north launch.

One last thing, please plan to attend our June 23rd program. Joe Hovel will address deforestation in our area. This is an issue that impacts our wildlife as well as the natural beauty of our area.

Thank you for your patience in reading this; remember, be involved.

*Laura Locher, President*

## Frank's Fishing Report

Most of the remaining fish are now spawning. Bass and crappie are on the beds as I write this article on May 23rd. Bluegills will be on the beds within a week.



June will find all fish in a post spawn location. This will be close to where they have spawned or near minnows or perch that have already completed the spawning process. Crank bait, jibs and bait or slip bobbers will all produce.

Shallow, dark water bays will tend to hold the most fish. Most fish are still trying to get warm and feed up after they have completed spawning.

You can now start to speed up your presentation. Trolling is starting to produce now.

*Frank Klamik*

# Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

Interesting aspects of cattails are often overlooked because they are so ubiquitous in wet habitats and along lake edges in our area. Most people are familiar with this emergent aquatic plant and its tell-tale flower head that can be seen by mid-summer, but don't take much time to consider its adaptations and many uses.

Cattails are fast-growing and reach heights of up to six feet, allowing them to capture sunlight over most other aquatic plants. Their sturdy erect, lance-shaped leaves direct water to their roots, which allows them to survive drought periods. The spongy cells within the leaves and stems help to give the plant rigidity, but also allows for transfer air to their waterlogged roots. Cattails form large beds through their pervasive rhizome structure below the soil. Their rhizomes allow cattails to survive wildfires and quickly regrow afterwards. While they usually grow in no more than 2.5 feet of water depth, they can form floating mats that can be found in deeper waters.

Cattails produce male and female flowers on the same plant. The numerous, tiny female flowers form a compact, brown, sausage-shaped inflorescence. The yellow male inflorescence forms above the female flowers on the same stalk. In the fall and following spring you can see the exposed seeds which are attached to a fluffy structures that aid in air and water dispersal. The effective and plentiful seed dispersion of cattails allow them to easily establish in disturbed wet areas. Seeds are able to germinate immediately upon shedding, if conditions are right.

We have three species of cattail that grow in our area, the native broad leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and the two non-native species - narrow leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) and hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*). The latter two species are considered invasive. The broad leaved cattail, as its name states, has wider leaves than the invasive varieties and also has little to no space between the male and female inflorescences.

I personally love cattails for their wide variety of uses for food, crafts and even survival. In the spring, their stalks, pulled up from within their outer sheath make a

great raw snack reminiscent of cucumber. Their rhizomes can be peeled and cooked like potatoes, or used to make flour for baking. The pollen from the male flowers can be collected and added to recipes for nutrition or as a starchy thickener. My favorite part of the cattail is boiling the immature (green) flower heads. They taste just like buttered corn on the cob!

The leaves, shoots and seed heads of cattail have so many possibilities other than food. I enjoy drying the leaves and using them to weave baskets or placemats. Historically humans have used them for making thatch and shelters. The dried leaves and seed heads are great fuel for fires. Leaves can also be used to make poultice for wounds. The seed head fluff can be used to stuff pillows or even clothing as a down-like insulator.

Cattails also have many benefits for wildlife and the environment. They provide cover for aquatic critters and are important for the nesting habitat of red-winged blackbirds and others. The seeds provide a food source for many species. Geese feed on young cattail shoots and the underground rhizomes. While their crowded stands can be considered a nuisance along lake and river edges, they do provide protection from erosion to shorelines.

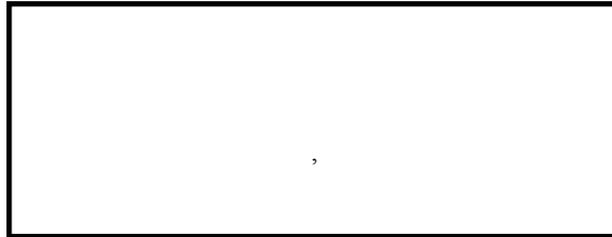
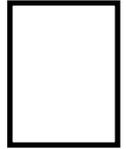
With all of its uses and adaptations, cattails are worth a closer look. If you are interested, there are many great resources online on how to identify, harvest and prepare them.

Anne Small

**Thanks for the  
generous donations!**

**Don & Joanne DeWig  
Jim & Diane Guckenber  
Stan & Marlene Rakowski  
Tom & Karen Schwartz**

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



Reminder: Check your membership year on your email or listed above your address label.  
If it is 15/16 or earlier, it is time to renew your membership. Thank you!!

### Club Contact Information

#### OFFICERS

Laura Locher, President	715-542-3658
Vacant..... President Elect	
Melody Kysiak, Secretary	715-439-5726
Ken Dahnke, Treasurer	715-542-3939

#### DIRECTORS

Fred Locher	715-542-3658
Jim Carlton	815-483-5849
Ellyn Dahnke	715-542-3939
Cora Mollen	715-892-1375
Anne Small	715-614-3711



### COMMITTEES

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY	Karen Anderson	715-542-3946
BIRDS & ANIMALS	Cora Mollen	715-892-1375
	Anne Small	715-614-3711
HISTORIAN	Cora Mollen	715-892-1375
KITCHEN COORD.	Terrie Beier	715-479-9339
LAKE IMPROVEMENT	Bob Schell ch	715-542-2321
	Frank Klamik	715-892-2772
	Dave Zielinski	715-479-1401
MEMBERSHIP	Ellyn Dahnke	715-542-3939
NEWSLETTER	Anne Small	715-614-3711
PROGRAMS	Fred & Laura Locher	715-542-3658
SCHOLARSHIP	Clyde Owens ch	715-479-7032
	Geri Shambo	715-542-4074
	Bob Schell	715-542-2321

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

### 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.