

March 2018

President's Report

Dear Members,

March is here which brings March Madness, St. Patrick's Day and soon, Spring. Those of us lucky enough to be living permanently in the Northwoods wish the best to members living in the hard hit Winter storm areas - it never seems to quit!

The Club is gearing up for our 2018 activities, the first of which is the Birdhouse Project on March 15th, 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the St. Germain Elementary School. Anne Small is heading up this joint project with the Science Club and needs your help. Call Anne at: 715-614-3711 or email her at: smallanne76@gmail.com to get the details.

Once again, our sincere thanks go out to the Pukall Lumber Co. for donating all the supplies, and to Dave Zielinski and Jerry Sykora for cutting up the wood for the project.

Our inaugural 2018 meeting is our "Sneak Into Spring" Chili Dinner and Policy Conference, 7:00pm, Room 6 at the Community Center. We'll have a house salad, chili expertly prepared by Trudy Carlton, Ken Dahnke and Fred Locher (vegetarian), dessert and beverages (BYOB). Dishes and utensils will also be provided.

The "Policy Conference" Agenda will be as follows: Treasurer's Report, Committee Reports (Nominating, Scholarship, Fundraising & Clothing, and Programs), and Member Comments. We really need your input as to the direction/goals for the Club. If you have anything to add to the agenda give me a call or email message. There will be no speaker as we have a lot to discuss, plus we have to eat; so please plan on attending.

A reminder that it is time to renew your club membership. Those who receive their newsletter via email will find an file attached with a membership form. Snail mail newsletters will include a form as an insert. Please check the Membership Year listed on this email or on the back of your newsletter. If it is 17/18 or earlier, it is time to renew. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Stay healthy, wild and ready to party and conference on the 22nd,

Laura Locher



Above: Anne Small (L) picking up the donated lumber and hardware from Pukall Lumber Company with the help of Pukall employee Jake Long (R).



PO Box 214
St. Germain, WI 54558

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

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

Paw Prints



Officer and Board Member Elections

It is almost election time again for the club. Officer positions are elected on a yearly basis. We are especially in need of an individual to fill the Vice President position, which has been vacant for two years. The Vice President does not mean you have to run for President the following year. Your primary role would be as a backup if the President is unable to make a meeting. In addition, we have two board member positions that are up for re-election. We will be presenting a slate of officers and board members

at the April meeting and those members present can vote for their choices.

If you are interested in running for any of the officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer), or for one of the two Board positions, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee, Ellyn Dahnke (715-542-3939) or Anne Small (715-614-3711). Thanks for your consideration!

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

When our woods are touched by early spring, we may hear the call of one of the north's smallest owls, the Saw-whet Owl. The call is a high, steady series of wooden-whistle-like too too too s most on the same pitch. This call is heard only during courtship periods in spring time. The Saw-whet is a tiny owl weighing not much more than a robin with a short body and tail and a broad, rounded head without ear tufts. It is just 8" tall with a wing span of 14 to 16 inches. Feathering is rusty brown with bright white streaks and spotting. The attractive face has pale feathering around bright yellow eyes. The beak is black.

This owl hunts exclusively at night starting at dusk. It possesses keen eyesight and hearing designed for the night hunt. Deer mice, voles and other small mammals make up the main part of the Saw-whet diet, though it will occasionally also feed on small birds, frogs and insects. When food is plentiful, this owl may kill a number of prey and store them for winter food.

During the day, the Saw-whet rests in secret, perching in low branches where there is a thick cover of foliage. Feather coloration is excellent camouflage. You would hardly be aware of the owl-in-hiding unless a group of songbirds discovers it and sets to mobbing, creating a commotion aimed at chasing the owl away.

The Saw-whet nests in cavities drilled usually by Pileated Woodpeckers and Flickers or in natural hollows, often in dead trees. After mating, 3 to 7 eggs are laid.

The young, when hatched, are helpless and require a long period of brooding and feeding by the female. The male plays the role of food provider and guardian. When feathered out the young are a chocolate brown with buff-colored breast. Parents will continue to feed the young after they fledge.

Saw-whets are common in Wisconsin woodlands and play a role in keeping rodent populations in check. A group of bird banders in the Manitowoc area reports handling 200 to 400 of these owls each year. Saw-whets will use a nesting box and it may be interesting to build and provide one if you live in a wooded area. Directions for building and placing one can be found at the site: All About Birdhouses.

Note: It's said that the name "Saw-whet" refers to the owl's alarm call which resembles the shrill noise made in whetting; the final step in sharpening a saw.



Cora Mollen

SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACTIVITIES and SERVICE PROJECTS:

Thursday, March 15th: **The Birdhouse Project**, 3:30 - 4:30pm at the St. Germain Elementary School
Contact: Anne Small at: 715-614-3711 or: smallanne76@gmail.com

Thursday, May 17th: **The Junior Angler Program**, 3:30 - 4:30pm at the St. Germain Elementary School
Contact: Anne Small: see above

HWY 70 Cleanup dates:

Wednesday, May 2nd at 9:00am

Wednesday, July 11th at 9:00am - this is a week later due to the 4th of July

Wednesday, September 5th at 9:00am

Contact: Karen Anderson at: 715-542-3946 or: kandcc@icloud.com

Saturday, June 2nd: **Frank's Family Fish Day** at Big Arbor Vitae Lake

Thursday, June 28th: **Chicken Fest/Scholarship Day** at the Pavilion

Saturday, November 10 **Bake Sale** at the Community Center Winter Bazaar:
Contact: Ellyn Dahnke at: 715-542-3939 or: prd_gran@hotmail.com

December 6th: **Winter Party** at the Clearview. More details to follow.

BOARD and GENERAL MEETINGS with PROGRAMS:

Room 6; Community Center -

Board at 6:00 pm, General Meeting at 7:00pm, unless otherwise specified

Thursday, March 22nd: "Sneak Into Spring" Chili Dinner and Policy Conference

Thursday, April 26th: "Wildcats", Anne McDonnell, North Lakeland Discovery Center

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

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

Thursday, August 26th: "Bees", Dave Zielinski and Rod Ingram

Thursday, September 27th: "Coral, also what David's been up to with his Northwoods groups", David Barnhill

Thursday, October 25th: "Zach Stern and Helo", Vilas Co. Sheriff's Department

Thursday, November 15th at 2:00pm: Elise Schuler from the Raptor Education Group

One week early due to Thanksgiving & earlier time as Elise has a longer travel time

NEXT MEETING

Thurs., March 22
7:00 PM

St. Germain Community Center

'Sneak into Spring' Chili Dinner & Planning Session

Chili, salad & dessert provided

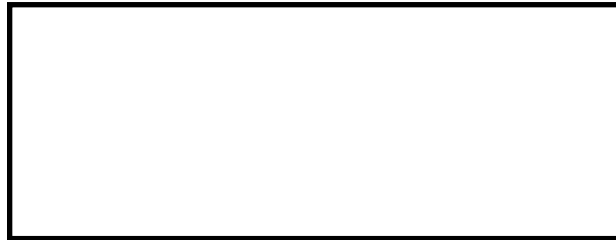
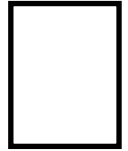
Bring your own beverages.

Dishes and utensils provided.

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., March 22
6:00 PM

St. Germain Community Center



Frank's Fishing Report



March is normally the start of the best bite of the year. As the water warms and the snow melts, the fish notice the warming water and start to respond. Fish can recognize 1/10th of a degree in water temperature change, so they often move higher in the water column and feed more aggressively. Every day is different and changes through the day. Make adjustments as the fish change during the day.

Don't forget to get your 2018 fishing license by April 1, 2018.

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

Hunter Safety Instructor Certification

There will be a Hunter Safety Instructor certification course from 9am - 4pm at the St. Germain Community Center on Saturday, 07 April 2018. (Advance registration is required.) Such a certification course is an alternative to the usual, more tedious procedure. There is no cost to participants for training, supplies, and equipment. Knowledge of firearms, hunting, and/or shooting is not even necessary. For more info, please contact club member Robert Workinger at workinger1855@gmail.com.