

May 2018

President's Report

SAYNER-ST. GERMAIN



FISH AND WILDLIFE CLUB, INC.

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

Hello Members,

Finally, Spring! Today as Fred and I were watching, the ice nearly disappeared off the lake; just the day before, there was still black ice over it's surface. WOW.

Our April Speaker, Annie McDonnell, from the North Lakeland Discovery Center, did a very entertaining and informative program on the Wild Cats of Wisconsin. First up were bobcats. All cats are very agile and flexible, with more vertebrae than humans and their clavicles are free floating, attached by muscles. The widest part of their bodies is their head, which explains how they can be so sneaky. Their teeth are set for "the kill bite" and their ears can hear high pitches while their eyes can see in near total darkness. Bobcat males weigh @ 22 pounds and females @ 15. They are known for their "scary growl" sounds. They have been spotted often in our area. Annie next talked about cougars which have migrated to our area from British Columbia to Northern Montana and the Rockies. They are less commonly seen here. The last species was the Lynx. The lynx have huge paws and black tips on their tails. They live primarily in boreal spruce forests and follow snowshoe hares as their primary prey. It was so interesting to be able feel the actual skins of each species. Each of our speakers have so much to offer and bring such interesting props. Attend and you will be entertained and rewarded with so many new facts!

Be sure to plan on attending our next

meeting on May 24th. Bart Kotarba, from the Northwoods Wildlife Center will do a program on frogs and turtles.

At our General Meeting, which was our annual meeting, we held our elections. The results were: Laura Locher, President; Ken Dahnke, Treasurer; Ellen Dahnke, Secretary; and Fred Locher and Cora Mollen for two year Board terms. Congratulations to all. Remember, we still need a VEEP - running for President the following year is not a definite requirement!

Also of some importance from the meeting, Treasurer, Ken Dahnke, reported that we have \$1,405.00 in donations and \$785.00 in dues. So once again, thank you to all who have so generously renewed their memberships. We received a \$100.00 grant from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation which will go towards the Junior Angler Program on May 17th. We also will donate \$300.00 to the Freedom 5K run which supports the Awassa Trail and the bike trails. Jim Carlton and Ken Dahnke are spearheading a cash raffle with tickets being sold during flea market Mondays. Jim will be there most Mondays, with reduced hours. You can call him at: 815-483-5849 if you'd like to help. A signup sheet will be available at our meetings. The tickets will be \$5.00 apiece, with the prizes at \$1,000, \$500 and \$250.

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Email: saynerstgermainfishandwildlife@gmail.com

Website: www.saynerstgermainfishandwildlifeclub.org

Contributer's Corner

Our special thank you's this month go out to:

- The Dankes for the delicious food provided by Ken and the raffling done by Ellyn.
- Anne Small for the monthly Paw Prints Newsletter and all the Club emails,.
- Cora Mollen for all the interesting wildlife writing for the newsletter.

Nancy and Stan Partin for their NOVA sponsorship

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation for the \$100.00 youth grant



Above: Club members and others attended the Junior Angler Instructor Training on Apr 30th in St Germain with instructor Jackie Shar



Sunshine Report

Get well wishes go out to: Mary Lou Davis, Ellyn Dahnke, Mike Pergolski and Dick Kloefer.

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

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Frank Klamik attended the annual Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Annual Convention and came back with a lot of timely information. If you are interested, I can print some up for you.

Please remember that the May HWY 70 clean-up will be on May 30th. Please call Karen Anderson at: 715-542-3946 if you can help.

I have the 2018 Club activity and program postcards ready; so attend our meetings and pick one up.

Stay Wild and Participate,
Laura

NEXT MEETING

Thurs., May 24
7:00 PM

St. Germain Community Ctr

Frogs & Turtles
Bart Kotarba, NWC

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., May 24
6:00 PM

St. Germain Community Ctr

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

On a recent river paddle, we heard a bird-like chirp from one side of the river, then an answer from the other side. Soon I saw several bobbing, furry heads inspecting us from a safe distance. The curious and playful manner of these river otters (*Lontra Canadensis*), make them one of my favorite northern animals.

This group of otters consisted of a female with three grown pups. Unlike most other members of the weasel family, otters tend to be more social. Otters usually give birth in April, with litters that range from one to five pups. The young first leave the den at about six weeks and stay with their mother for about a year until she again gives birth. The youngsters we encountered must have had a year of training under their belts and were soon to separate from their mother and establish their own territory.

Otters do not dig their own dens, but utilize natural holes or burrows that have already been excavated by other animals, like beavers, so these yearlings will need to do a lot of home inspections before they settle on a den.

Otters are great predators. They can swim almost seven mph and can stay underwater for up to four minutes. They feed primarily on a wide range of fish species, as well as crustaceans like crayfish. I especially enjoy watching the otters on our river dive down to capture crayfish. They bring them up to the surface where they float on their backs while cracking them open and eating the meat. River otters will also consume amphibians, reptiles, aquatic insects and small mammals.

You can spot otters all year long. They are active not only in open water, but are proficient at hunting under the ice during winter. River otters switch from being

active after dark during the spring, summer and fall, to a more daytime schedule during the winter. So your best chance to see an otter is often during the winter when they can be seen loping across the ice or surfacing in a patch of open water.

Though nowhere near their historic population size and range, river otters are not currently considered a population at risk. Their numbers have been holding steady in most areas, except where habitat loss is a factor. River otters are very susceptible to pollution. Because they are so high on the food chain, they tend to bioaccumulate toxins like mercury. For this reason, efforts to reduce mercury and other toxic emissions have been very beneficial for these entertaining critters.

Anne Small

Club Fishing Tournament & Picnic Saturday, June 2nd

Fishing begins anytime after 6 AM & goes to Noon.

Picnic starts at 12:30 PM

****You don't have to fish to be a part of the activity.****

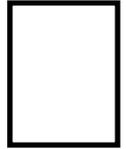
Location: NORTH Big Arbor Vitae boat ramp and picnic grounds. *(Turn north off of HY 70 on Old Highway 51 (it turns into Buckhorn Rd) & go 2 miles to the park.)*

Picnic: Brats, soda, beer, etc. provided, \$5.00 donation



If you need someone to fish with or can provide space on your boat let us know.

Please call Frank Klamik at 715-891-2924 to sign up for the event.



Frank's Fishing Report



We had an opening day with many people fishing on the rivers. Ice still covered a fair amount of the lakes in the area. With the warm temps since that weekend, most of the lakes are now ice free. Go small and slow for wall-eyes. Other game fish should be more active.

In the southern part of the state, they had a normal opening day with good catches of all fish including panfish.

Panfish will not be spawning yet, but will be looking for warm water. Fish the north side of the lake or protected bays or channels. Look for warm water.

Frank Klamik

Highway 70 Cleanup

May 30th at 9 am
(Rain date May 3rd at 9 am)
Meet at St Germain Comm. Park Lot

Sign up to help with the cleanup of our 2-mile adopt-a-highway segment along Highway 70. Please call Karen Anderson at 715-542-3946.

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.