

President's Corner



Meetings held YEAR AROUND
4th Thursday of the month.
Newsletter published year around
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DECEMBER 2010

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RACCOON



OTTER

First I want to wish everyone a Happy Holidays! I hope all of you can enjoy the happiness of the season here in the northwoods or elsewhere with friends and family. The club had another great year by contributing to the betterment of wildlife and the community as well as making the lives of those less fortunate a bit brighter. At the same time, club members had the satisfaction of seeing their time and effort help to accomplish these goals.

Our Bake Sale on Saturday November 13th was a great success especially considering the bad weather and the many other area events on the same day. A Big thanks to Ellen Finch and Lori Pergolski for all the work they did coordinating this event. Please see Ellen's report on the sale results and those involved elsewhere in the newsletter.

On Thursday November 18th we held our monthly general meeting with 28 members present. Jane Keithley and Marlene Rakowski have designated the November meeting as "Members Night". This is where several members speak about their interests, hobbies, or sidelines. First, Frank Klamik had everyone thinking of all those birch trees in their yards when he spoke about his new hobby of making birch bark baskets and wall hangings. Frank gave us a step-by-step demonstration of how he uses "seasoned" birch bark from dead trees found in the woods to make very eye-catching accent baskets for any northwoods home. Frank, who is also our fish column contributor, donated four of his baskets to use as door prizes for the club Christmas party. Because they were so nice, they were some of the first things picked for the prize drawing.

Next, Jane and Marlene had scheduled Dave Zielinski who was supposed to speak on his stained glass hobby. Since Dave was on his honeymoon in Hawaii (Congratulations to Dave and Chris!) they asked me to fill in with some of my interests. I first showed my collection of old historic postcards from St.Germain, Sayner, Found Lake and other Northwoods subjects. Some of the cards date back to 1900. Others are from the more recent 40's and 50's and show St. Germain with Walt's Coffee Shop or Welch's Bait Store. I then moved on to show some of my collection and inventory of antique stocks and bonds – a hobby referred to as Scripophily. I also spoke of my unique sideline of promoting an annual show in Washington DC where dealers from all over the USA and Europe come to buy and sell "Scripophily. The evening provided for quite a spectrum of interests – from Frank's down to earth birch bark to Bob's obscure certificates.

In our general meeting Jane and Marlene gave us a rundown of our monthly meeting topics for 2011. They have done an outstanding job keeping with the theme of wildlife topics plus making them interesting and entertaining. This is not an easy task – some people are just not interested in how to use bat guano in their garden. Kicking off the 2011 season, the January meeting will cover Porcupines. Jane and Marlene also discussed the need to start looking for a new program chairman to replace them at a future date. Jane and Marlene will work with the new person to get them started. Also, Jane asked for anyone with an idea for a meeting topic to let her know. We are always looking for good program ideas.

The next general meeting agenda item was a discussion of a suggestion from Anne Small to save time and money by sending out the newsletter via email in the future. Anne explained that it would save the club over \$100 and over five hours of folding, stuffing, and labeling each month. Based on a show of hands at the meeting, most members were very willing to receive the newsletter via email. Of course we would still provide hard copies for those members without email capability if we were to change over. We will pursue this topic further during our 2011-membership renewal period.

The joint project with the Brownie scouts is scheduled to start up in February and will involve the club assisting in the construction of bat houses. We have been coordinating this project with Anne Small, one of the Brownie leaders. Club members will be cutting wood during January and early February. Dave Zielinski has volunteered the use of his workshop and Frank Klamik has already acquired cedar boards for the project. Anyone wishing to lend a hand on this project should call Bob Schell at 715 542 2321.

NEXT MEETING

Thurs., January 27th
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

PROGRAM

The programs for 2011 are interesting, informative, and entertaining. On January 27 at 2pm we kickoff the season with the Northwoods Wildlife Center's presentation on Porcupines! These little guys are in our forests and some are even eating our garage doors and decks. So what's with these guys? You'll find out in January how we can coexist with the Porcupine.

~Jane Keithley

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Linda Polaski and Terrie Beier

RAFFLE TICKET SALES

Linda Polaski

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., January 27th
6:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

Jane & Marlene are looking for someone to take over the 2012 Program Director's position. It's fun & interesting so what do you say – who will step forward????

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Moving on, on December 2, 2010 we held our annual Christmas Party at the Clearview Supper Club. Boy was it fun! We were treated to Holiday music by Bret and Frisk, had a huge array of great appetizers and enjoyed a wonderful meal as well. Daryl and his staff at Clearview did a great job. A big thanks to Linda Polaski for acquiring many door prizes and wrapping them (along with her daughter Holly). These gifts along with those brought by members provided over 60 gifts to pass out. Ken Dahnke was the winner of our annual volunteer appreciation raffle gift which was a framed print donated by Mac McCormick.

A HUGE Thank You to all the members who brought non-perishable food items and cash to the Christmas party to donate to the Vilas County Food Pantry. Due to your generosity many less fortunate people will eat better this holiday season.

All in all the evening was one of festive Christmas caroling, good conversation and much merriment. As a side note, Dave Zielinski and yours truly ate enough raw beef and onions to last until next year. Again, Happy Holidays to everyone.

~Bob Schell, President

A Special Thank You

We didn't have great weather for our bake sale on Saturday, November 13th, but it didn't keep our wonderful bakers from bringing in a lot of wonderful, delectable baked goods. However, it did keep some customers away. We realized \$293.85 from the sale and \$111.50 in donations, for a total of \$404.85. Thanks to all responsible for this outcome.

A big thank you to Linda Polaski, Donna Rollman and Ellyn Dahnke for calling members, to Ken & Terrie Beier, Judy Schell and Val Rybarczyk for their help the day of the sale. Also, our thanks to Jane Keithley, Marlene Rakowski, Lee & Gloria Olson and Carol Seegers for their kind offers to help. We appreciate it.

Lori Pergolski and Ellen Finch, Co-Chairs

2010 RAFFLE REPORT

As mentioned in last month's newsletter we want to report on the results of our annual raffle and thank all those involved in this very important club project. This year we sold over 2300 tickets and grossed over \$4000. After paying for the kayak, prizes, and expenses we netted over \$3000, which allows us to support wildlife groups as well as many community causes and charities.

As most of you know, we set up the kayak and the butterfly wall hanging (donated by Dennis and Carol Seeger) every Monday at the St. Germain Flea Market. We also set up at other local events such as Christmas in July, Pig in the Pines, Independence Day Parade, and Cranberry Fest. Special thanks goes out to Tom and Kim at St. Germain Sport Marine for paying for ticket printing, Gary and Laurel at Sportsmens Chalet for selling tickets, the St. Germain Fireman's Auxiliary for space at the Flea Market, The Musky Tournament and the Chamber of Commerce for allowing us to set up at their functions.

St. Germain Fish and Wildlife Club wishes to thank the following volunteers for their assistance with the 2010 raffle- with out you it would not have happened: Ken Beier, Terrie Beier, Bob Cadwell, Carol Cadwell, Ellen Dahnke, Ken Dahnke, Gary Frank, Laurel Frank, Ellen Finch, Jim Finch, Arlyne Fleissner, Ron Fleissner, Ken Horve, Nancy Horve, Jane Keithley, John Keithley, Dick Kleopfer, Lolly Kleopfer, Betty McCormick, Mac McCormick, Carol Seeger, Dennis Seeger, Mary Miller, Clyde Owens, Lori Pergolski, Mike Pergolski, Linda Polaski, Rich Polaski, Rick Polaski, Donna Rollman, Marlene Rakowski, Stan Rakowski, Bob Schell, Judy Schell, Sally Schell, Andy Schell, John Schell, Kay Schultz, Brenda Veeder, Chuck Their, Pat Their, Gary Walbruck, Karen Walbruck, Chris Main, Dave Zielinski, St. Germain Sports Marine

~ Bob Schell

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things



During this holiday season, many of us will be decorating our homes with a traditional Christmas tree. If you are still among those who use a real tree, chances are very good that you will select a balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*). It gained popularity in the mid-1800's not only because of its wonderful scent and beautiful shape, but also its ability to hold its needles long after cutting. Many people do not realize the historical importance of balsam fir goes far beyond its use during the holidays.

Native Americans and early settlers used many parts of the tree. The resin, obtained from the blister-like pockets on the tree's bark, was well-known for its antiseptic quality. It was applied topically on virtually any type of wound like cuts, burns, or bites. It was also spread onto chapped lips for protection from the elements and to speed healing. The resin also has an analgesic quality, so was used as a topical pain reliever. A tea created by heating the resin in water was useful for treating many different ailments, including bronchitis, sore throats, colds, dysentery, ear aches, heart ailments, scurvy, rheumatism, and even cancer. The steam from a concentrated resin tea was inhaled as an effective cure for treat headaches. This balsam pitch was also consumed directly as a good source of quick energy which stays in its fluid state even in very cold weather.

This same resinous pitch was used by Native Americans for its adhesive quality and as a waterproofing for canoes. Later, this resin was used in several industries, including the production of glues and caulks, as a fixative for microscope slides, and as a perfume fixative.

In addition to the resin, young branches and needles were used by settlers to stuff pillows and mattresses. The balsam did double-duty by providing for a wonderful scent and also acting as an insect repellent. Bits of balsam fir root were chewed to cure tooth aches. The wood has been used for years as a pulp wood and for making paneling. The high resin content makes the wood burn very well, so it has been popular as kindling.

Balsam fir not only has importance in human history, but it is also valuable to wildlife. The young buds, tips, needles, and seeds are used as a food source by a variety of animals including white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse and red squirrels. Black bear are known to strip the bark and lick the pitch of the balsam. The dense stands created by balsam also provide shelter for many birds and mammals, especially during the winter.

During the holidays this year, you can now look upon the beautiful balsam fir decorating our homes and businesses with a newfound appreciation. Also, when you are on a hike through the woods this winter and need a little pick-me-up, try puncturing one of the bark blisters on the balsam and take a taste. You will be carrying on a tradition that is centuries old and will probably help what ails you.

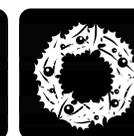
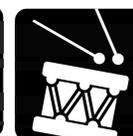
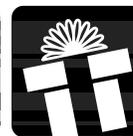
~ Anne Small

FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

We should now be on first ice. Tip-up and jigging Rapalas are good for walleye. They come into weed beds and rock bars to make evening and morning feed runs. Northern and bass are in the weeds all day chasing the panfish. The locations are the same as the summer. The hot lake changes as populations of sizeable fish change.

Good luck!

FRANK KLAMIK



SUNSHINE REPORT

- Condolences to Stan Rakowski whose brother passed away
- Get well wishes to Gary Frank who had an accident while putting up trusses - broken ribs, concussion and broken tibia

Please call Linda Polaski, 479-4718, if you know of any members who need a card of sympathy, cheer, encouragement, etc.

If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.

--Anne Bradstreet

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 Dave Zielinski, Treasurer 715-479-1401

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 Mac McCormick(1 yr.) 715-892-4400
 Jane Keithley (1 yr.) 715-542-2078

Stan Rakowski (2 yrs.) 715-542-3201
 Frank Klamik (2 yrs.) 715-892-2924

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

COMMITTEES

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY Dick Banks 715-542-3687
BIRDS & ANIMALS Cora Mollen 715-542-3749
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LICENSE PLATE FRAMES Stan Rakowski 715-542-3201



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

