

# President's Corner



Meetings held YEAR AROUND  
4th Thursday of the month.  
Newsletter published year around  
Editor: Anne Small  
Telephone: 715-614-3711  
E-Mail: annesmall1@gmail.com

## DECEMBER 2012

**D  
A  
W**



BOBCAT

**D  
R  
I  
N  
T  
S**



RACCOON



OTTER

Happy Holidays everyone! I am writing the week prior to our annual Christmas party, which promises to be a festive kickoff to the season. We have a record 75 reservations and plan to have tons of fun. This is the time of year our members can sit back and feel good about what the club has done for the betterment of wildlife in the northwoods as well as the contributions we have made to the community. This month we will be making our annual contributions to the Warm the Children fund as well as money and boxes of food to the Vilas County Food Pantry. I hope all of you can enjoy the happiness of the season here in the northwoods or elsewhere with friends and family.

Special thoughts and prayers go out to Ellen Finch who is dealing with very serious health issues. Ellen, a lifetime member, is one of our most active volunteers and is always available to lend a hand.

Our Bake Sale on Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> was a great success. A Big thanks to Lori Pergolski and Judy Schell for coordinating this event and to all the bakers and callers that made it a success. The club took in over \$530 because of everyone's super effort. The callers and table workers were: Teri Beier, Ellyn Dahnke, Donna Rollmann, Karen Walbruck, Betty McCormick, Jane Keithley, and Gloria Olson. Just about all of the goodies were sold by 1 pm and no discounting was necessary to clear the tables – that is a tribute to the over 40 bakers that contributed goodies. Thank you!

This month we received thank you letters from the Plum Lake Library, North Lakeland Discovery Center and Wild Instincts Animal Rehab Center for our donations last month.

On Thursday November 15<sup>th</sup> 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 a member or members speak about their specialty, interests, hobbies, or sidelines. This month we were lucky to pin down Dave Zielinski to give us a honey of a talk about his hobby of beekeeping. Dave started out telling us about other bees and wasps and how they differ from honey bees. For instance, Wasps and yellow jackets die over winter- only the Queen hibernates elsewhere and their hives are not reused. Honeybees on the other hand do stay alive and live off the stored up honey over the winter. Honeybees are not aggressive by nature, and will not sting unless protecting their hive from an intruder or are unduly provoked. Dave built three sets of his own hive boxes . There are three types of bees in the each hive- Queen, worker and Drone, There is only one queen per hive. A queen bee can live for 3-5 years. The queen mates only once with several male (drone) bees, and will remain fertile for life. She lays over 1000 eggs per day. Fertilized eggs become female (worker bees) and unfertilized eggs become male (drone bees). When she dies or becomes unproductive, the other bees will "make" a new queen by selecting a young larva and feeding it a diet of "royal jelly". Dave's bees are Italian bees (he said they winter better) that he acquired via a 3-pound box from California that contained thousands of bees. We found out bees have abilities we can't imagine. For instance, the workers are alive only 42 days in the summer and can travel up to 3 miles from the hive to collect nectar and pollen. Some of the bees are "scout bees", somehow they can communicate to other

Continued from Page 1...

pollen collectors of where to go to get pollen. These workers cover over 2000 miles and visit over a million flowers to make one pound of honey. Dave and his wife Chris harvested over 30 pounds of honey this year. Overall it was a fascinating and informative talk and was enjoyed by all.

In our general meeting Jane and Marlene gave us a run-down of our monthly meeting topics for 2013. They have done an outstanding job keeping with the theme of wild-life topics plus making them interesting and entertaining. Jane and Marlene also discussed the need to start looking for a new program chairman to replace them next year. Jane and Marlene will work with the new person to get them started. Also, they asked for anyone

with an idea for a meeting topic to let them know. We are always looking for good program ideas.



*Happy Holidays everyone!*

*Bob Schell, President*

## LAKES COMMITTEE REPORT

This year we received \$5000 from the Town of St. Germain representing the lakes improvement portion of the room tax funds that was budgeted for 2012. We did not receive any funds from the St. Germain Chamber of Commerce this year. Our treasurer Dave Zielinski has made the allocations of these funds to the various lake organizations based on the matching funds received from the lake groups. Additionally the lake groups have each contributed the maximum of \$1000 in matching funds (except for

Pickerel which does not get matching funds from the town). Expenditures by the various lake groups this year total \$ 16,457.44. These expenses have been as follows: Fish stocking on Little Saint of \$9056.44, Fish stocking on Found of \$3000., Fish crib brushing on Alma/Moon of \$ 2001, and intern boat inspections on Found Lake of \$2400.

The new balances as of November 30, 2012 are:

Little Saint Germain	\$	0
Found Lake		7,022.67
Lost Lake		8,498.12
Alma Moon		8,453.75
Stella		455.00
Pickerel (does not receive room tax funds)		5,841.95
Big Saint Germain –Fawn-Content-		11,599.53

Because I get questioned repeatedly about the handling of the Lake Improvement funds, I will bore many of you that have seen the rules many times before and you can stop reading if you wish. The following is for those wanting to know--The Room tax funds requested from the Town for the Lakes Improvements Committee are held in separate restricted accounts by lake group when received. The funds are allocated to each lake group when received based on guidelines as established in prior years and approved by the Town Board. As stated in the guidelines, individual lake groups must contribute funds to participate in the allocation. These restricted funds can only be used for lake improvement activity such as fish stocking, algae control, navigational aids, website development and the control of Aquatic Invasive Species –AIS (including the new threat of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia -VHS). The amounts received, allocated and spent by each lake group are published at least four times a year in the Lakes Improvements Committee section of the Fish and Wildlife Club newsletter. This year as in past years, overall expenditures exceeded the total funds received from the Town and Chamber.

The DNR does not usually allow fish stocking every year in every lake so there is sometimes a carryover of balances by individual lake organization to provide for future stocking as well as to provide for emergency funds for the early eradication of AIS, studies, and other contingencies. Remember that the balances by lake include funds contributed by the lake organizations and their residents.

*Bob Schell*



*Above: Club members L-R Ellen Finch, Nancy Minx, Geri Shambo, Judy Schell, Lorraine Washechek, Ida Nemeč, and Cora Mollen presenting a \$300 donation to head librarian Ida Nemeč of the Plum Lake Library.*

**Thanks to  
Sonja Wendorf  
for the donation.**

# Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things



Woodland edges and open fields under snow cover showcase the distinct tracks and well traveled trails of the Eastern Cottontail Rabbit. This rabbit is an active, year-round resident of the north woods, recognized by its tall ears, large back feet, coarse grey-brown coat and the cotton ball-like tail that gives

it its common name. During warm seasons, this rabbit feeds on wild grasses, shoots of woody plants, clover and dandelions with the occasional visit to gardens to enjoy our crops of lettuce, beans and peas. Tender twigs, bark, and buds of shrubs and samplings serve as winter foods. The rabbit's sharp front teeth, which continually grow, are perfect for clipping stems. You may come across stands of stems cropped, as rabbits do, at a neat 45 degree angles. Feeding activities are mainly at dusk or nighttime.

Unlike their European cousins, Cottontails do not live in burrows. During daylight hours, the rabbits tend to keep a low profile, hunkering down in the cover of tall grasses, brush piles or other protective spaces including old wood chuck diggings and hollow logs. A rabbit's home range is usually about 9 acres. The Cottontails have keen eyesight and hearing and respond quickly to any threatening approach. At first, they freeze, remaining motionless in or-

der to avoid detection. If that ploy fails, they speed off in a zigzag bounding. When hard put, they are capable of running 18 miles per hour for a distance of half a mile.

For birthing, females create a fur-lined hollow concealed by grasses.

Three to six babies are born in a litter. They weigh about one ounce and are blind, hairless and helpless, but they are quick to develop and are out of the nest and independent in about five weeks. Females may have three litters of young a year.

Unfortunately for the Cottontail predators await. Only about 15 percent of their many young survive their first year and adults are a favorite meal of the fox, owls and coyotes. For their meat and super-soft pelts, they face a yearly hunting season as well.

*Cora Mollen*



## Sunshine Report

Thoughts and prayers go out to both Ellen Finch and Steve Pulec as they continue with their treatment. We hope they are both feeling better soon.

Continued well-wishes to both Rich and Linda Polaski as they deal with on-going medical problems.



Left: Jane Keithley presenting a \$500 check to Mark Naniot of Wild Instincts Animal Rehab Center. Right: Dave Zielinski with his sample bee hive presenting his talk at our November meeting.



### 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.



## FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

Some lakes and flowages have safe ice. Walleyes are being caught by people fishing after dark. Some as shallow as one foot of water and as late as nine o'clock. A few of our lakes have ice cover but are not safe. Caution is the name of the game at this time of year. The southern lakes are still ice free so go back to slip bobbers, wax worms, night crawlers and minnows. Slow moving crank baits are still good in cold water.

I last fished on my boat on November 23 and had a nice catch. Crappie up to 14 1/2" and perch to 12 1/2" along with walleye and northern.

~ Frank Klamik