

President's Corner



DEC 2013

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This month I am sad to report that three of our very active and long time members passed away last month. All three had many years associated with our Club and were dedicated volunteers and contributors over and over. Their presence, dedication and thoughtfulness will be greatly missed by the club as well as many members of the community. We lost Steve Pulec on November 4th to cancer. Steve was a huge supporter and has made many large donations to the Club. He always wanted to help us out by having us setup at his customer appreciation days at the Twilight and backed all of our activities – yes – Steve, we will still “save a duck”. Lois Gardener passed away on November 7th; Lois has had many years of helping the club - from handing out birdseed in the old days to more recently working the raffle booth at both the flea market and Cranberryfest this fall. Lois was very active with many community groups as well. We lost Ellen Finch to cancer on November 28th. Some years back Ellen was awarded Lifetime membership to the Wildlife Club because of all the contributions she has made over the years. She has been a member of the Board, membership chairman, and for many years our newsletter editor. Ellen has volunteered countless hours at many of our events and was always willing to step up and help without our asking. She was an avid supporter of the Plum Lake Library and her Church as well. She leaves a large gap that will probably never be filled by just one person. We can truthfully say that Steve, Lois and Ellen were all loved dearly by so many and our condolences go out to their families.

Moving on, our Bake Sale on Saturday November 9th was a great success. A Big thanks to Lori Pergolski for coordinating this event and to all the bakers and callers that made it a success. The club took in a record \$550 because of everyone's super effort. The callers and table workers were: Teri Beier, Ellyn Dahnke, Donna Rollmann, Karen Walbruck, Geri Shambo and Jane Keithley. And thanks to over 40 bakers that contributed goodies. Thank you!

This month we received thank you letters from the Plum Lake Library, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Vilas County Historical Museum for our donations last month.

On Thursday November 14th we held our monthly general meeting with 28

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Above: Steve Pulec was a long time club supporter.

Note: We do not have a regular meeting in December. The 2014 program schedule will be announced in January.

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members present. Jane Keithley and Marlene Rakowski arranged to have Jim Bokern speak to us on Ojibwe Culture. A paragraph here can't do the informative talk justice but a few of the highlights were: There were six different bands of Ojibwa (Chippewa) in Wisconsin, their main mode of transportation thru rivers and portages was pine pitch canoes, the French fur trade added much to their history by providing goods not seen before (blankets, pots, non-native vegetables, etc) in trade for beaver skins. The fur traders introduced the potato that grows well in the sandy soil of the northwoods. Jim had many really interesting old maps of the area from the mid 1800's showing how the Ojibwe occupied much of the St Germain area. Overall it was a fascinating and informative talk and was enjoyed by all.

I am writing the week prior to our annual Christmas party, which promises to be a festive kickoff to the season. We have a sold out crowd expected and are planning a fun evening. 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.

Happy Holidays everyone!

Bob Schell, *President*



Above: Lifetime club member, Ellen Finch was such a valuable member and volunteer.

Lakes Improvement Committee Report

This is the final Lake Account Report for the year. Expenditures this year have totaled \$11,510. (\$4500 for fish stocking on Big Saint, \$3000 for fish stocking on Lost Lake, \$1455 for crib brushing on Alma, \$1300 on Clean boats clean waters boat inspection interns for Lost Lake, \$1150 for marker buoys on Lost Lake, \$105 for meter parts on Alma-Moon) . We received \$5000 from the Town of St. Germain representing the lakes improvement portion of the room tax funds that was budgeted for 2013. 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. The new balances as of November 21, 2013 are:

Little Saint Germain	\$ 2,051.00
Found Lake	8,905.67
Lost Lake	4,987.12
Alma Moon	8,037.84
Stella	455.00
Pickereel (does not receive room tax funds)	5,841.95
Big Saint Germain –Fawn-Content-	9,380.53

As a reminder, most of the above balances are the result of contributions from the various lake organizations each year as well as the room tax funds from the town. These restricted funds are distributed back to the respective Lake organizations for improvements such as fish stocking, signage, marker buoys, AIS education, boat inspections, fish shelters, algae studies, weed control, signs, etc. ~~~Bob Schell

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

On a recent walk, I spotted a large stand of dried goldenrod protruding from the snow, remnants from the past summer. Over half of the plants in the stand had marble-shaped swellings about midway up on their stems. These round growths are called galls. Many different kinds of plants can have galls and they can be found on almost any part of a plant. Everyone has probably seen a gall, but may not have been aware of what they were looking at.

Many galls are caused by insects, especially those in the fly, wasp, and moth families. Insects are thought to trigger the formation of galls through either the physical act of injuring the plant or through the secretion of chemicals into the plant. The response of the plant is to increase the cell growth around the infected site, eventually forming the sturdy gall. The immature insects utilize the gall as both a source of food and shelter while developing to their adult forms. Insects are usually very specific as to which plant they choose for their galls. Some types of galls harbor only a single larva, while others can have many individuals.

Goldenrod plants can have several types of galls, but

the marble-sized swellings that I saw were caused by a fruit fly, *Eurosta solidaginis*. The life cycle of this fly begins in the spring when the adult fly lays an egg on the young goldenrod plant. After hatching, the larva burrows into the stem, initiating the gall growth. Inside the gall, the larva excavates a chamber as it feeds on the gall itself. Because the adult fly does not have chewing mouth parts, the larva, in late fall, prepares a way for the adult to exit the gall by chewing a tunnel through all but the very outer skin of the gall. Then the larva enters into a resting state within the gall where it will overwinter. In spring, the life cycle is complete after the larva pupates and the adult emerges through the exit tunnel.

Galls can also be seen frequently on oak leaves, blueberry stems, and willow branches. If you find one, you may want to try cutting it open to check out the larval chamber. Some of the galls are beautifully intricate inside. This is a great time of year to look for galls as they are easy to spot on bare branches...just another way to add interest to your winter wanderings.

Anne Small



Above: Lois Gardener was a long-time club member and volunteer.



**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!!**

**JOHN & BARB SELL
ST GERMAIN, WI**

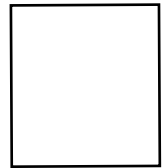
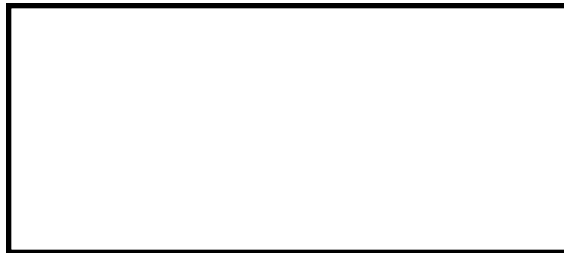
FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

Ice formed in the north around Nov 16th, I ventured out on the 19th when we had 4" with two tip-ups and a jigging Rapala. I caught walleye, perch and northern. Most of the early season spots now have groups of people walking out. Weeds are the key to fish concentrations. Walleye are making morning and evening movements to feeding shelves. Fish the last hour before dark and at least one 1/2 hour after dark.

Ice in the south is about one inch as of this writing. Fish your favorite backwater area at this time of year. Be safe on first and last ice. Don't fish alone. Tell someone where you are going.

~Frank Klamik

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



Above: Bake sale organizer, Lori Pergolski (center) with Ellyn Dahnke (L) and Geri Shambo (r)



SUNSHINE REPORT

Wishes of good health to the following:

- Clyde Owens who had back surgery.
- Matt Weckerle who had back surgery
- Lee Olson who had heart surgery
- Lynn Alexander who is recovering from pneumonia

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



Thanks for the
donations from:

John & Barbara Sell
James & Mary Anderson

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.