

# President's Corner



FEBRUARY 2011

Winter is in full swing in the Northwoods! Snowmobiles are running along side the roads of St. Germain, ice fishermen are tucked in their shanties, and the deer are starting to huddle in the woods.

First I want to thank Rich Polaski and Jane Keithley for filling in for Judy and I at our January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. I understand the porcupine presentation was interesting and informative. Rich has agreed to give a summary of the presentation for those of you who could not attend.

This is a quiet time of the year for the club so I will just cover a few items current as well as future items. First, the Board has again approved a \$1500 scholarship to be given to a graduating senior at Northland Pines High School in May. This scholarship is for a qualified senior going into a wildlife related field.

The Brownie Scout project to build bat houses is progressing well. Frank Klamik has finished sawing all the cedar boards to build the houses. The girls will assemble and paint the houses in March.

It is almost election time again, we will be looking for people to be on the nominating committee as well as those who would be interested in serving as an officer or director.

Last, we are looking for ideas for this year's fund raising project. Our kayak raffle has been successful in the past but we are very open to new ideas. So please feel free to let us know of any ideas you may have.

We look forward to seeing you at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting where Jane and Marlene have arranged a presentation on sand cranes. I really look forward to this meeting because I know absolutely nothing about sand cranes.

*Bob Schell, President*



BOBCAT



RACCOON



OTTER

# Lakes Committee Report

By Bob Schell

## Septic Tank Inspection and Pumping Program Update

Since February is a slow month for lake activity I thought I would update you on the Vilas County Septic Tank program that I reported to you last year. This is direct "connect" with the quality of our lakes for if too many untreated nutrients (septic wastes) reach our lakes or streams we will end up with increased algae or weed growth. As this growth dies and settles to the bottom it uses oxygen that otherwise would be used for fish survival. This was also one of the hottest topics of one of our best-attended monthly meetings in 2010.

I have obtained the following information from the Vilas County Lakes Association (VCLA) January 2011 newsletter:

"Vilas County must complete an inventory of all septic systems in the county in the year 2013. Then, by October 1, 2015, Vilas County must include all septic systems in the county on the Vilas County Septic Pumping and Inspection Program.

Vilas County lists approximately 16000 documented Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS), or septic systems, in its records. Each year, Vilas County mails approximately 5300 post cards to one third of these POWTS owners, prompting them to have their septic system pumped, or at least inspected, and then to return the card to Vilas County Zoning (Zoning) to show they have taken appropriate action. ... approximately 5300 cards were sent in 2010, and that all except 297 POWTS owners responded. The 297 non-responders will receive a "ticket" from Zoning, informing the non-responder that they must appear in Vilas County Circuit Court on a particular day, or that they must take action to inspect or pump their septic system to cancel the court appearance.

### Undocumented Septic Systems

...Zoning estimates that in addition to the approximately 16000 documented septic systems in Vilas County, there are 6700 more septic systems that exist in Vilas County, but that have never been documented. Zoning staff members are now preparing letters to be mailed to approximately 4100 of the 6700 probable owners of undocumented septic systems, asking the owners to submit to Zoning the details describing all septic systems on their property. Later, in 2011, another approximately 2600 letters will be mailed to owners of potential undocumented septic systems, asking for identification of all septic systems on their properties."

So as you can see from the above it looks like anyone with an older-undocumented septic system will be getting notices from the county within the next two years.

### NEXT MEETING

Thurs., February 24<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

### PROGRAM

Did you know we have Sand Cranes in Wisconsin? Did you know they are as close as the Rainbow Flowage? Robert Dall from Harshaw will tell us all about these creatures. Sounds interesting so don't miss this one. ~Jane Keithley

### REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Judy Schell & Gloria Olson

### 50/50 TICKET SALES

Phil Monday

### BOARD MEETING

Thurs., February  
1:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center



### SUNSHINE REPORT

- Wishing a speedy recovery to Stan Rakowski who had eye surgery

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

# Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things



While many of our summer songbirds head south for the winter months, we thankfully have some year-round feathered residents to keep our feeders busy. Chickadees, nuthatches and blue jays come to mind. There are also a handful of species that are notable winter visitors to our area from their breeding grounds in far northern regions of Canada and the Arctic. Among these migrants is the Snow Bunting, which can often be seen in small flocks along snowy roadsides or in fields. I have noticed them frequently this winter along the edges of County N west of Sayner.

The non-breeding plumage of Snow Buntings includes brown coloration on the head and back, with white breast and rump, and white patches on the wings. The tail is black with white edging. Snow Buntings only have one molt each year, which occurs in late summer. The molt gives the birds their non-breeding coloration. Then, during the winter males actively rub their feathers in the snow, eventually wearing off the tips of the feathers to reveal the brilliant white and black spring plumage just in time for the breeding season.

Beginning in April, male Snow Buntings begin their migration north to the tundra regions of Canada and Alaska when temps can regularly be 20 to 30 below zero. Females will follow six to eight weeks later. They usually build their bulky nests in cold, rocky cavities using grasses, moss, and roots. The female lays 3 to 9 eggs and will remain on the nest for the duration of incubation to keep the eggs warm. The male will feed his nesting mate during this time. By fall, Snow Buntings begin their journey southward, arriving in northern Wisconsin in mid-October.

Snow Buntings feed year-round on seeds from weeds and grasses, which is why they are often seen in open fields. During the summer they will also consume spiders and insects.

Watch for flocks of these northern "snowbirds" which often startle and take flight as you drive by in your car. Their unique flight pattern reminds me of snowflakes adrift on a breeze.

~ Anne Small

## A Few Words from Jane ...

If you have a few minutes to spare each month and want to contribute to your Wildlife Club, become the Club's Historian. At the next meeting, ask Jane Keithley what is involved. Really, it only takes a few minutes each month.

The programs for 2011 have been booked, and the agenda for 2012 is falling into place. What a better time to take over the Program Chairmanship! It is really fun and you meet such interesting people along the way. You can do this!!



## FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

*Late February brings the start of last ice of the year. The northerns are now staging near their spawning area. Pay attention to weed beds that have moving water near them. Watch ice thickness carefully. Walleyes will be close behind.*

*Panfish will feed more aggressively as the sun warms the water under the ice. Speed control changes by the hour at this time of year, second is size of your bait, last is color. The slower the bite, the slower and smaller your presentation; always maintain line control. Large panfish can take a bait without moving the line, watch for a dead line or something not normal in your presentation.*

FRANK KLAMIK

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

PRSR STD RATE  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 SAINT GERMAIN WI  
 PERMIT NO 10603



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

Bob Schell, President 715-542-2321  
 Rich Polaski, President Elect 715-479-4718  
 Judy Schell, Secretary 715-542-2321  
 Dave Zielinski, Treasurer 715-479-1401

**DIRECTORS**

Marlene Rakowski (1 yr.) 715-542-3201  
 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  
 Anne Small 715-614-3711  
**HISTORIAN** Jane Keithley 715-542-2078  
**KITCHEN COORD.** Terrie Beier 715-479-9339  
**LAKE IMPROVEMENT** Bob Schell ch 715-542-2321  
 Frank Klamik 715-892-2924  
 Dave Zielinski 715-479-1401  
**MEMBERSHIP** Ellen Finch 715-542-2436  
**NEWSLETTER** Anne Small 715-614-3711  
**PROGRAMS** Jane Keithley 715-542-2078  
 Marlene Rakowski 715-542-3201  
**SCHOLARSHIP** Clyde Owens ch 715-479-7032  
 Geri Shambo 715-542-4074  
 Dick Banks 715-542-3687  
**SUNSHINE** Linda Polaski 715-479-4718  
**CLOTHING** Bob & Judy Schell 715-542-2321  
**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.