

# President's Corner



## FEBRUARY 2012

It has been a crazy winter so far here in the Northwoods! The morning Judy and I left for a trip to the east coast two weeks ago the temperature was 21 below zero today as I write this it is almost 40 above! (Yes Frank, I should be ice fishing.) Except for snowmobile events and some ice fishing, things are pretty quiet around here.

First, I want to remind everyone that 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.

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 have received a carved wooden trout from Bernie Sopinski (via Frank Klamik) to use as a secondary prize.

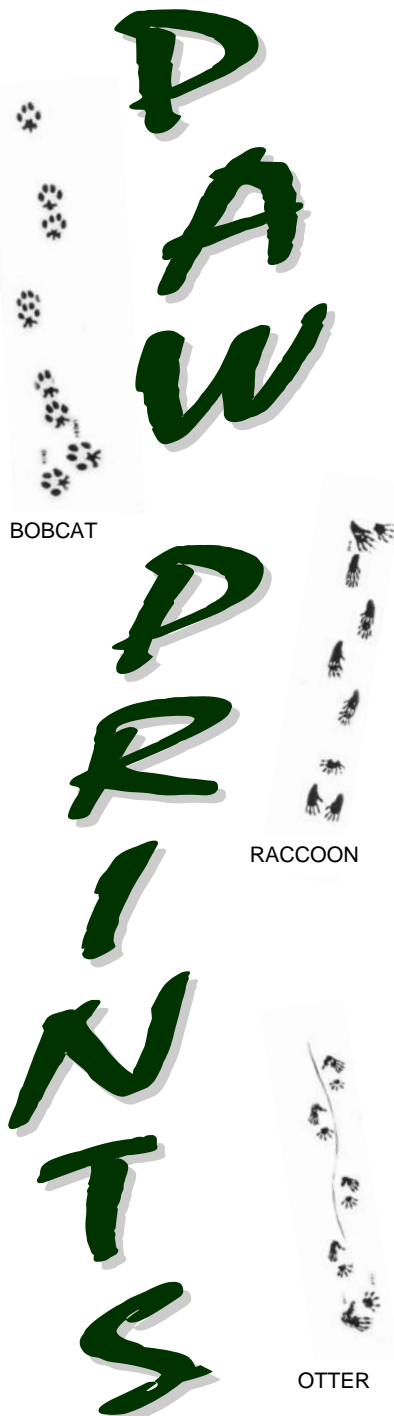
This month we received another "community dollars" check from Camps SuperValu for \$196.85 as a result of our members shopping at Camps and writing CD 14 on their receipts and dropping them in the red basket at the service counter. A big THANK YOU to Mary, Dave and Bruce Weber at Camps for their generosity.

For the people that ordered the club shirts and sweatshirts, they are now in and available at our meeting for pickup. If you need to make arrangements to pick them up please let me know.

I want to thank Rich Polaski and Jane Keithley for filling in for Judy and I at our January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jane has provided notes and a brochure about the presentation by Mark Naniot and I will try to fill you in as best as possible.

There were 28 people at the meeting and based on all the feedback I received the talk was very interesting and everyone left the meeting wanting to help out Mark's new center in some way.

Mark was the licensed animal rehabilitation specialist at the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua until January of last year. Mark and his wife then embarked on a labor of love involving the building of a new rehabilitation center on Highway 47 north of Rhinelander. Starting from scratch and using their life savings, they have built and a new building, put up fencing, installed a new well and septic system and moved in trailers to provide housing for interns in the summer. Mark and local volunteers have done most of the construction work. Mark is the only person in the northern



BOBCAT

RACCOON

OTTER

## NEXT MEETING

Thurs., February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

## PROGRAM:

'The Northern Lakes – Underwater'

Our guest, Eric Engbretson, will be showing photographs he has taken of fish in our area lakes. He will discuss what he sees, how he photographs his subjects, and how they relate to their natural underwater habitats.

~Marlene Rakowski

## REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Linda Polaski and Terrie Beier

## RAFFLE TICKET SALES

Phil Monday

## BOARD MEETING

Thurs., February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
1:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center



## SUNSHINE REPORT....

- Wishes of a speedy healing to Rich Polaski who recently had hand surgery.

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

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part of the state fully licensed to perform rehabilitation on all wild Animals including bears, eagles etc.

The new venture is called Wild Instincts Rehabilitation Center and covers over 17 acres. Surprisingly, while all the construction was going on, the center took in 312 wild animals for rehab during the year. This included 16 Bald Eagles, 5 black bears, 30 deer, and 5 humming birds, 5 loons, and over 76 other species of birds and animals. They are the only facility licensed in Wisconsin that can take in bears. The cost of rehabbing a bear is \$3000. An animal can stay at a rehab facility for only 180 days during which it must be released, transferred, or euthanized. The Center receives no federal or state funds and its only operating income is from donations and memberships. Their website is [www.Wildinstinctsrehab.com](http://www.Wildinstinctsrehab.com).

Last year our club board approved a \$500 donation to the center to be given upon startup of the operation. We presented the \$500 check to Mark after his presentation. The Center still has much left to do to bring their operation up to full speed. Our funds will help fund a small part of the building of raptor enclosures, finish painting, and installation of sinks and cabinets in the new building. The Center is in desperate need of everyday supplies to keep it operating, feed for the animals and building supplies to finish the construction. We will do a collection for items at our March meeting. Some of the needed items are: paper towels, soap, newspapers, dog food, frozen venison, whole fish, sheets/blankets/towels, fence posts, fencing, cash, gas cards.

We look forward to seeing you at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting where Jane and Marlene have arranged a presentation about our National Forests. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Bob Schell, President*



Judy Schell (left) presenting Ida Nemeč (right) with a donation of \$300 from the Club to the Plum Lake Library. (Fall 2011)

# Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

When Kenneth Grahame made Mole one of the main characters of his book, Wind in the Willows, he brought him above ground to live in the bright, busy world of the town and river bank. It was a fantasy for sure, because the true mole, probably the Eastern Grey Mole in the Wisconsin north, spends its lifetime underground. A venture above ground would usually be by accident or under extreme duress.

Lovers of well-tended lawn have little patience with moles. The critters burrow fairly close to soil surface and their pathways create a circuitry of mounds, tipping grasses and sometimes garden plantings. So moles meet with trap and poisons.

But, there's much to appreciate about these unique animals. Nature has endowed them with special life-style gifts. Their small, cylinder-shaped bodies covered with a smooth velvety coat, are designed for slipping easily along their tunneled territory.

Paddle-shaped feet with strong claws aid in digging. The special character of their muscles and bone allow them to exert pressure more than 32 times their body weight while digging. They can dig an 18 foot runway in an hour. A blood supply high in hemoglobin allows them to survive in conditions of reduced oxygen.

Moles are virtually blind. If your lifetime is spent tunneling in the earth, you need a set of senses that promote a kinship with darkness. The moles are perfectly suited to cope with a lightless environment. Their small 2-to 9 inch bodies are equipped with a keen sense of touch assisted by sensory bumps on its



snout, sensory whiskers on the face, and sensory hairs on the feet and tail.

Moles are an asset in elimination of insects and other pests and in management of soils. Because of their strenuous tunneling efforts, moles require lots of food. They eat nearly their body weight in a day. On the menu, chiefly, are grubs, slugs, insects and worms. A mole's below-ground digging helps loosen, mix soils and distribute soil nutrients.

It's not likely that one these industrious fellows will mimic Grahame's Mole, put aside its earthy work and come topside into sunlight shouting, "This is the life."

~ Cora Mollen

## Frank's Fishing Report

February brings the coldest temperature of the water in the North. It also is getting close to last ice in the southern half of the state. Ice out is usually around the 15<sup>th</sup> of March in Southern Wisconsin. We can get about one extra month in the north.

Last ice can be an excellent time to limit out on panfish. Fish feel the heat of the sun warming the water under the ice and often bite more aggressively often moving just under the ice as the water drains into the holes.

Be aware of changing ice conditions as the ice leaves. A plank or suspended pier have saved wet feet many times.



Some good fishing on a St Germain lake!

~FRANK KLAMIK



**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 715-892-1375  
 Anne Small 715-614-3711  
**HISTORIAN** Cora Mollen 715-892-1375  
**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** Anne Small 715-614-3711  
**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.