

President's Corner



Meetings held YEAR-ROUND
4th Thursday of the month.
Newsletter published year-round
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OTTER

Cold! Cold! Cold! It has been cold folks. For those of you off to warmer places the majority of our days have been below zero since the beginning of December. As an even more chilling thought take note of the photo of our editor Anne Small jumping in the frigid water of Big St Germain Lake. I snapped this picture while working at the Angel on My Shoulder - Polar Plunge on January 4th. Anne was reluctant to include her icy jump for charity in the newsletter but I convinced her it would put a smile on many faces.



Above: Anne Small our editor (right) doing the Polar Bear Plunge for charity.

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 have two Director positions up for reelection plus all officer positions are available every year. Also, 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.

This month the board voted to again make a \$500 donation to the Loon Watch program at Northland College. Loon Watch is a program of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at the College that strives to protect common loons and their aquatic habitats through education, monitoring, and research. Besides supporting this important Wildlife cause we will also receive some beautiful annual Loon posters that include our club name and logo as a major sponsor.

On Page 3 is a thank you message that the Pulec family asked us to include in the newsletter. Our Wildlife Club made a contribution to the Veterans Hospital in Milwaukee in Steve's name.

Last month we received a generous contribution toward our scholarship fund from the Finch family in memory of Ellen Finch.

Thanks to Judy Schell, Jane Keithley, and Melody Kysiak for filling in for me at our January 23rd meeting. Judy provided the following information about the presentation by Mark Naniot. Mark is the owner and licensed rehabilitation specialist of Wild Instincts Rehab Center in McNaughton. The rehab center now has a 3000 square foot building and covers 17 acres they have 37 "patients" right now including raccoons, bats, turtles, owls, eagles, and various other critters. It can rehab all species of wildlife and is the only licensed center in the state that can take in bears. It is one of only two places in Wisconsin allowed to take in fawns.

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NEXT MEETING

Thurs, February 27th
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

PROGRAM

“Getting from Lost to Found”

Presented by Tony Champion from
the Eagle River Search and Rescue

50/50 TICKET SALES

Diane Guckenberg

BOARD MEETING

Thurs, February 27th
1:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

President’s Corner—Cont. from Page 1

Mark brought along Ruby, the red tailed hawk for everyone to admire close up. Ruby was hit by a car in August and is blind in one eye and suffered head trauma as well. Mark explained that hawks depend mostly on sight to survive as opposed to owls that depend more on hearing.

It is this time of year I like to take the opportunity to recognize some of the people that help keep the club going month after month. These are the workers that if we had a signup clipboard for their jobs their names would always be on it.

Now to acknowledge those silent workers of the club- I will start by thanking Cora Mollen and Anne Small the authors of our ever-popular “Birds, Animals and Other Wild Things” newsletter section. Each month they inform us and entertain us with those great features about those often unnoticed creatures of the northwoods. Anne is also our newsletter editor and our membership chair. Cora has recently taken over as club historian as well. I can assure you that meeting a deadline each month and coming up with new material is not necessarily an easy chore. Anne has helped us to streamline the newsletter and reduce publishing time and costs. Thanks to Dick Banks our Hy 70 Adopt-A-Highway pick up crew chief for coordinating this project 3 times a year. A special thanks to Dick who after many-many years will be retiring from the pickup duties. Also

thanks to the McGill family for doing the pickup duties on County Highway C. Thanks to Linda Polaski for doing the Sunshine report every month.

The following board members are recognized for their numerous contributions. Dave Zielinski, our treasurer, has kept our books and paid our bills in a very timely and accurate manner for many years. Judy Schell has performed the secretary duties for the club, which involves the time consuming task of the monthly minutes and a multitude of other necessary duties that most people don’t know about. Our program duo of Marlene Rakowski and Jane Keithley has done an outstanding job of keeping our programs interesting, entertaining and wildlife related. We thank our board member and newsletter contributor, Frank Klamik for imparting his fishing knowledge each month. Frank catches lots of fish – heed his advice! Board members Stan Rakowski, Mac McCormick, and Gary Walbruck have been major contributors and mainstays on the board. All of these positions along with those already mentioned above require discipline to get the job done month after month. Last but not least, thank you to all of the members who sign those clipboards and volunteer to help out on our many projects and activities all year long.

We look forward to seeing you at the February 27th meeting where Jane and Marlene have rescheduled the Eagle River Fire and Rescue talk on “Getting from Lost to Found”.

Bob Schell, President



Above: Mark Naniot from Wild Instincts Rehab Center with Ruby the Red-Tailed Hawk.

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

When winter doles out frigid temperatures and deep snowpack, we often wonder how wildlife can withstand the conditions. The movements of animals can be restricted and their food sources can be very scarce. One of the overlooked components of the diet of many mammals is lichen. While the importance of lichen in the diet of caribou is well known, most



researchers overlook the use of lichens by other species.

Lichens are composed of an alga and a fungus living together as a single organism. The fungal cells envelop the algal

cells and provide protection from the elements and preserve moisture for the algae. The algae photosynthesize to produce carbohydrates as food. There are nearly 18,000 species of algae known worldwide, but

they are divided into three main types based on their growth form: fruticose (branched), foliose (leaf-like) and crustose (crust-like). Lichens come in a multitude of colors and shapes that add some interest to winter walks if you look closely. As a food source, lichens have a small amount of protein but are primarily a source of carbohydrates.

Recent research has shown that a variety of Northwoods animals utilize lichens to supplement their meager diets during the winter and spring. White-tailed deer feed on several species of tree-dwelling lichens. Deer have been noted herding around freshly cut trees not only for their tender upper branches but also to feed on the fruticose lichens that grow on their upper reaches. The diet of flying squirrels during the colder months is made up primarily of lichens, especially the fruticose and foliose types. They also consume lichens throughout the year and use them for nesting material. Several species of voles have been found to depend heavily of lichens for their annual diet. Birds utilize lichens as well, mostly for nesting materials, but wild turkeys and spruce grouse also use them as a food source.

Anne Small

A Note from the Family of Steve Pulec

About two months ago Saint Germain lost a great friend and supporter; Steve Pulec. There were not too many of you who did not make it to his memorial in November at The Whitetail. The number of guests and cards received that day and the following weeks was truly comforting to us; his family.

The money donations we collected were donated recently to the Clement Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee where Steve was being treated for his cancer. It was a long, difficult year for us but this facility is staffed with some of the most caring people we have encountered.

We take pride in this community by reporting that close to \$6000.00 was donated in Stevens' name to the Milwaukee VA. Pretty amazing. The figure has been rounded off because some donations were sent directly to the VA and some to the family. The funds were equally

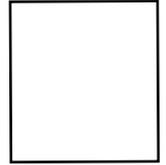
distributed to Chemotherapy, Radiation, and Research; all integral parts of Steves' treatment.

To just say "Thank You" to you all does not seem sufficient but please know that every hug, tear and funny story was and is appreciated by his family. The support we received after Steves' passing is proof that he was loved by his community as much as he loved you.

Special thanks to Stevens favorites- The American Legion of Eagle River, The Bo-Boen Snowmobile Club, and the Sayner/St. Germain (save a duck) Fish and Wildlife Club.

The Twilight will never be exactly the same without "our leader Steve" but we hope to continue the tradition of smiling, caring, personal and community involved service that came so effortlessly to him. Thank you again and God Bless

~The Family of Steven A. Pulec



FRANK'S FISHING REPORT



The water is now at its lowest temperature of the year. Fishing is slow and the snow limits travel on the lakes. We have been forced to fish a few well traveled lakes in the north and south.

All fish have been slow to bite! The presentation must now be slow and precise as fish are not chasing, and are reluctant to bite anything they must work to catch. Northerns have been biting on tip-ups, bass have slowed as witnessed by the last two ice fisherees I attended. Remember speed, size and color in that order.

~Frank Klamik

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.

SUNSHINE REPORT

Wishes of good health to both Bob Cadwell and Judy Schell who will be having back surgery.

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