



Meetings held YEAR-ROUND
4th Thursday of the month.
Newsletter published year-round
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Happy New Year! It has been a harsh and typical old time winter so far. We have had lots of snow and very cold temperatures so far this season going back to early December. As I write this at midday with the sun out it is about 6 below zero. The lakes are frozen really hard and are holding up to heavy angler traffic. I was downhill skiing last week in the UP and the trails were in great shape. If it weren't for the low temperatures all of the outdoor enthusiasts have had their winter wishes come true.

First I want to report on the great annual Christmas Party we held at the Clearview Supper Club on December 9, 2013. We had a capacity crowd of 74 people in attendance. We had a great time! We were treated to Holiday music by Bret and Frisk, had a huge array of great appetizers and enjoyed a wonderful meal as well. Daryl's staff at Clearview did a great job again this year. We changed the program this year to only give out prizes drawn from the volunteer raffle. This is a small way to thank all of the members who sign those clipboards and volunteer to help out on our many projects and activities all year long. Pat Thier was the grand prizewinner of our annual volunteer appreciation raffle gift of a beautiful framed and signed print donated by Don Baumann. (Thank you Don for doing this 3 years in a row).



Above: Pat Thier, winner of the wonderful wildlife print donated and framed by Don Bauman.

Other winners were:

- Fred Radtke - \$25 Gift Certificate- from Northern Exchange
- Karen Grace - \$20 Gift Certificate – from the St. Germain Chamber
- Karen Schwartz - \$20 Gift Certificate – from Spang's Italian Restaurant
- Gary (Kathy) Groff – Gift Basket - from the Red Canoe
- Karen Anderson - \$15 Gift Certificate – from Knocker's Pizza Co.
- Judy Schell – Gift Basket – from Cut to Perfection
- Anne Small – Wildlife Thermometer – from Eliason Lumber/Hardware

Thanks to the above businesses for their generous donations. Thanks also to all the members who brought non-perishable food items to the party for the Vilas County Food Pantry. Due to your generosity, we provided over six large boxes of food for many less fortunate people this

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NEXT MEETING

Thurs, January 23rd
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

PROGRAM

“Getting from Lost to Found”

presented by Tony Campion from the
Eagle River Search and Rescue.

50/50 TICKET SALES

Ellyn Dahnke

BOARD MEETING

Thurs, January 23rd
1:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

President’s Corner—Cont. from Page 1

holiday season. All in all the evening was again one of festive Christmas caroling, good conversation and much merriment. Next, to update you on some club news items -- we have received thank you letters from the Vilas County Food Pantry for our Donation of food from our members as well as the Club’s donation of \$620 last month. Also, we received a thank you cards from Warm the Children for our \$500 donation to provide warm clothing to less fortunate children and from Wild Instincts Rehab center for our donation of \$500.

As you know, in November we lost lifetime member, volunteer and past board member Ellen Finch to cancer. Ellen held a special place for our Wildlife Club in her heart and was always willing to jump in and help out the club. For years she was he editor of the newsletter and membership chairperson as well. Jim Finch, Ellen’s husband, along with the entire Finch family have made a \$300 donation to our scholarship fund in Ellen’s memory.

Our next meeting will be on January 23rd at 2 p.m. and the topic will be “Getting from Lost to Found” (not the Lakes) presented by Tony Campion from the Eagle River Search and Rescue. Note this is the first meeting on our winter schedule of meeting in the afternoon. There are no refreshments at the winter afternoon meetings. Also, please remember that Club elections are coming up and we need people to step forward to fill the President and Secretary positions.

Bob Schell, President



Above: Check presentations (l-r) Judy Schell presenting \$620 and 168 pounds of food to Vilas Food Pantry rep Rich Short. Geri and Gary Shambo, Sherana Adams (receiving \$500 check for Warm the Children), Bob Schell and Frank Klamik.

FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

As I sit here looking out, the temperature is around 15 degrees below zero; calling for a high around 6 above. It should be a good day to take an afternoon fishing trip. There is a cold front coming in.

I went out yesterday, January 1, 2014 , and was quickly reminded to slow down and go smaller with my bait. After three bait changes, I ended up with a size 14 Purest and started to catch fish.

Watching my dept finder and seeing fish constantly, I knew I was in a good area. Collecting eight nice bluegills plus small fish, it was time to leave.

Remember with cold inactive fish speed, size and last, color will help fill your bucket.

~Frank Klamik

Thank you to Dale & Judy Faesi for the donation sent with their membership renewal.

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

Now and then, on walks along the forested side of Lake Content, I could catch a glimpse of a resident mink on a log at water's edge or moving among the ferns on mossy slopes.

The mink body is slender, about two feet long with the thick tail that makes up a third of its length. Their ears and bright eyes are small, but both keenly attuned to their surroundings and will alert the mink to any opportunities or dangers. Mink bodies are clothed in shiny, dense fur, in tones of brown and black with a small contrasting white chin and patch of white on the neck. In spite of their short, stubby legs, the mink can move quickly on land and they are excellent swimmers aided by webbed feet and their oil-slick, waterproof fur coat. They spend most in-water-time in shallows, but are able to dive as deep

16 feet in pursuit of a meal. Their diet is varied including small rodents, fish, crustaceans, frogs and toads, as well as small birds.

Mink are a very vocal bunch with the squeaking calls of the young, the piercing shrieks and hisses when threatened or in combat, and purring and chuckling sounds when content.

The young are born in spring nested in a fur-lined pocket in the mink's burrow. (Burrows may be dug by the mink themselves or consist of holes abandoned by muskrats, badgers or skunks.) There may be 3 to six babies in each litter. These will mature in eight weeks and begin to take on hunting skills. By fall of the year, they are independent.

Over the centuries, because of their fine, thick coats, mink have been trapped and their furs traded. The mink coat, over time, became a status symbol of the fashion world. So much so, that an industry of mink ranching grew and prospered. Unfortunately, specially bred mink escaping such facilities have mixed with the mink of the out-side world and reduced the population of truly wild mink.

Cora Mollen

WANTED

FOR FISHING FUN

Free Fishing Weekend January 18 and 19, 2014

dnr.wi.gov - search for "free fishing weekend"



SUNSHINE REPORT

Well wishes go out to Judy Schell who is dealing with severe back issues. She will have spinal fusion surgery in February at St. Clairs in Weston.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jon Strom & Penny Wiesmann
St Germain



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Bob Schell, President 715-542-2321
 Frank Klamik, President Elect 715-892-2772
 Judy Schell, Secretary 715-542-2321
 Dave Zielinski, Treasurer 715-479-1401

DIRECTORS

Marlene Rakowski (2 yr.) 715-542-3201
 Mac McCormick (2 yr.) 715-892-4409
 Jane Keithley (2 yr.) 715-542-2078
 Stan Rakowski (1 yrs.) 715-542-3201
 Gary Walbruck (1 yrs.) 715-356-3902

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 715-892-2772
 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



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.