

President's Corner



Meetings held YEAR AROUND
4th Thursday of the month.
Newsletter published year around
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MARCH 2013

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OTTER

First I want to draw your attention to the Membership Renewal notice in this newsletter. We are again requesting you receive your Monthly Fish and Wildlife newsletter via email if possible. This saves the club the expense of printing and mailing the newsletter as well as the many hours of volunteer time for assembly and mailing. So please fill in the email address box on the enclosed renewal notice to save the club some time and money (and perhaps a tree). We know some of you do not have email and we will continue to send you the newsletter via regular mail.

Big congratulations are in order for Steve and Shelia of the New Twilight Bar and Grill for their Wedding Day, Saturday February 23rd. They have both been super supporters of our Club for years. Steve always says "Save a Duck" when he gives us a donation. Best wishes to them on their new life together.

Annual Club elections are fast approaching. Our nominating committee this year is made up of Dick Banks and Ellen Finch. Nominees will be announced at the March Meeting and the election will be held at the April meeting. All officer positions are open every year and this year three director positions will be filled as well. Please let Ellen (715 542-2436) or Dick (715-542-3687) know if you are interested in becoming an officer or board member.

Our board has been discussing ideas for this year's fund raising project. We keep coming around to the same popular idea of a kayak raffle. We are always looking for input, so please feel free to let us know of any ideas you may have. We will be deciding on this soon. I am working with the Flea Market people to try to secure a covered spot in the shelter this year.

In other club business we paid the second \$750 installment of our Scholarship to Jordan Welnetz who is attending Lakeland College. Jordan was on the Dean's list with a 3.92 GPA and is aggressively pursuing outdoor related classes. She is also in a work study position with Loon Watch.

The board voted to contribute \$500 to be a recognized sponsor of events at Trees for Tomorrow which will directly support their education programs.

Our Club was featured in an extensive article in the Vilas County News Review in February. The article covered some of our activities and what we contribute to wildlife causes and the community. We also received a letter from Wisconsin State Representative Rob Swearingen thanking us for all we do.

At our last meeting our membership and board voted for me to send a letter to Kathy Stepp, DNR Secretary, supporting the continuation of children's classes at the Mackenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette. In the past the Center has taught outdoor and environmental activities to over 16,000 school children a year. The DNR recently made a decision to end these programs without much public input.

We have set June 1 as the date for our Second Annual Fishing Tournament. Last year we had a lot of fun and some good times dodging waves on a very windy, warm and sunny day. We hope to have more people this year- you don't need a boat to be a part of the group- Frank Klamik our organizer will make sure there is a spot for you in someone's boat.

NEXT MEETING

Thurs., March 28th
2:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center

PROGRAM

Meet the "Mc Squizzy Clan"
Jeremy Holtz, Rhinelander DNR, will introduce us to the wonderful world of squirrels. See you all on Thurs. Mar. 28th. Don't miss this one!

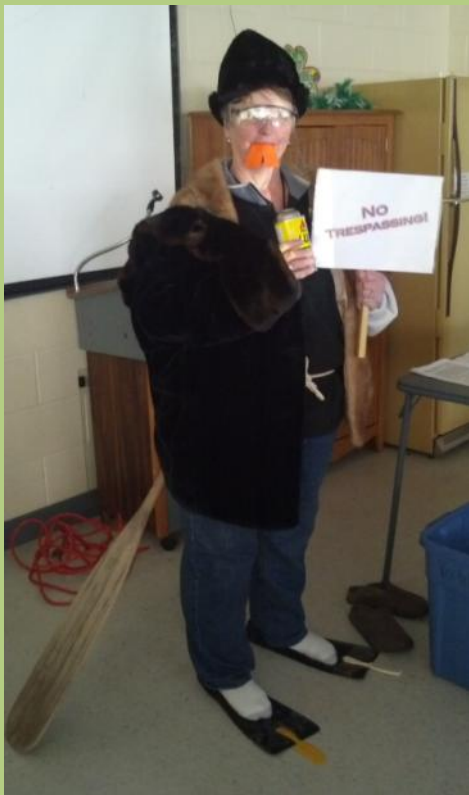
50/50 TICKET SALES

Karen Walbruck

BOARD MEETING

Thurs., March 28th
1:00 pm

St. Germain Community Center



Above: Jane Keithly at our February meeting dressed as a beaver - complete with a paddle tail, big teeth, beaver skin, and web feet.

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While on the subject of fishing, I want to bring up two events where we are looking for people to help kids become more involved in the outdoors. First, we would like to put on fishing clinics for kids that are part of a DNR program. This would involve several sessions of DNR training as well as being available for the actual day the clinic would be put on. I have contacted the St Germain Elementary School and they are happy to work with us to do this in the future. We only need several more people to help with this so let us know if you would be interested.

Second, Don Hiller has contacted us to see if anyone would be able to take over the DNR Boating Safety Class that he puts on for students every year. This would involve the hands on training to give the course (Don would stay on during the first several years to guide the new teacher(s)) and then it would only involve putting on the class for 2 ½ days every June. Let me know if you would be interested in doing this.

This month our club paid for the bussing of children from the St Germain Elementary School to Klondike Days in Eagle River. We will also be assisting the school in paying for wildlife speakers similar to those we have at our meetings (Bears, Loons, Beavers, etc.)

On Thursday February 28th we had 28 members attend our General Monthly meeting. Our guest was Melissa Hartley from Trees for Tomorrow talking all about beavers. We learned a multitude of facts about these furry critters. These large rodents move with an ungainly waddle on land but are graceful in the water, where they use their large, webbed rear feet like swimming fins, and their paddle-shaped tails like rudders. These attributes allow beavers to swim at speeds of up to five miles an hour. They can remain underwater for 15 minutes without surfacing, and have a set of transparent eyelids that function much like goggles. Their fur is naturally oily and waterproof. They are herbivores and eat leaves, branches, bark, roots and aquatic plants. Their lodges are constructed of branches and mud and are often strategically located in the middle of ponds and can only be reached by underwater entrances. These dwellings can have up to three living levels and have a vent at the top to help moderate the inside temperature. Beavers, like man, can change the environment by building dams that can sometimes be massive and change an entire river flow. The highlight of the talk was when Jane Keithley got to be "Miss Beaver" and got all dressed up with web feet, buck teeth, beaver fur coat and paddle tail. She would have made a nice top hat in the old days! All in all, it was a fun and interesting presentation.

We look forward to seeing you at the Thursday March 28nd meeting where Jane and Marlene have arranged a presentation about squirrels. Maybe we can learn how to keep the darn things off our bird feeders. See you there.

Bob Schell, President

Birds, Animals & Other Wild Things

Have you ever noticed that the seed at your bird feeder seems to disappear overnight? Chances are good that you probably have flying squirrels visiting your feeder. Northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*) can be



found in the northern-most states and Canada. They inhabit both conifer and deciduous woodlands.

Northern flying squirrels are small, about 10 inches from nose to tip of tail, light brown fur

with a white belly and long tail. Their large black eyes are distinctive and help them with their night vision, since they are primarily nocturnal. These squirrels also have a special loose fold of skin called a patagium that runs from the wrist of their front leg to the ankle of their hind leg. When the flying squirrel jumps from a high perch, it extends all four legs and this flap of skin catches the wind like a parachute allowing the squirrel to glide.

Gliding distances have been measured up to 120 feet.

While northern flying squirrels feed on seeds, nuts, acorns and berries, a considerable amount of their diet also comes from fungi and lichens. On occasion, they also consume insects and bird eggs.

The breeding season for northern flying squirrels is between March and May. They can maintain several different den or nesting sites, but in the winter season it is usually a tree cavity that is anywhere from 6 to 60 feet high. Inside the cavity, the mother will raise one litter a year without the help of the father. The young are weaned within two months and are able to glide by three months. Sometimes individual adults of the same sex will huddle together in nests for warmth during the winters.

To get a glimpse of these squirrels in action, you need to go out about a half-hour after sunset or an hour before sunrise, when they are most active. You can hear their warning chirps from up in the trees. Using a flashlight to shine on your bird feeder, you can usually get a good look at them and maybe even see them jump and glide. They are fun to watch.

Anne Small

Lakes Committee Report

Please see the Presidents Corner this month where we are asking for people to step forward to help teach kids more about fishing as well as boating safety.

I will keep this report short and only provide the balances, as required, for the various lake organizations.

The balances as of February 27, 2013 (no change from Dec 31, 2012)

Little Saint Germain (\$1000 check rc'd 2/28)	\$	0
Found Lake		7,022.67
Lost Lake		8,498.12
Alma Moon		7,751.84
Stella		455.00
Pickerel (does not receive room tax funds)		5,841.95
Big Saint Germain -Fawn-Content-		11,599.53

These restricted funds can only be used for lake improvement activity such as fish stocking, algae control, navigational aids, website development and the control of Aquatic Invasive Species -AIS (including the new threat of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia-VHS). The amounts received, allocated and spent by each lake group are published at least four times a year in the Lakes Improvements Committee section of the Fish and Wildlife Club newsletter.

Bob Schell



SUNSHINE REPORT

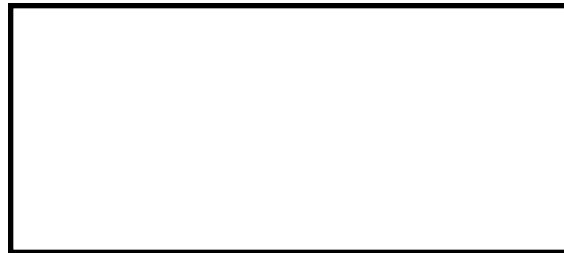
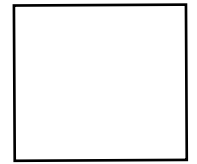
Our condolences go out to Roger & Carla Klein. Roger's mother recently passed away.

Get-well wishes go out to Judy Berard who broke her leg in a snowmobile accident.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Tom and Karen Schwartz
St Germain



FRANK'S FISHING REPORT

Fishing in March can be frustrating. By now we have located the lakes that are producing the best. Many people still have a hard time catching fish. Become a line watcher; setting the hook at any difference in your line's movement. A panfish can take a bait without moving a spring bobber. Keeping a clean hole and a clean straight, not-curved line will increase your catch. Pull ice buildup into the hole. This melts ice off your line.

In the southern half of the state, ice out usually occurs about mid-March. Don't forget your fly rod as soon as ice leaves. Fish the back water and protected sun-drenched bays. The fish are only trying to get warm.

~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.