HAPPY NEW YEAR!

from FGC President
Stefan Anderson

Every year January fills me with hope as I consider the possibilities and opportunities in the year to come. This year I am particularly excited about the future of the Land O’ Lakes Fish & Game Club. There is much to be happy about. I look forward to working with you to realize the three pillars of our club: recreation, education, & conservation.

In this newsletter you will read about some of the highlights from last fall. The traditions and rhythms of the club provide us with a base from which to draw fellowship and from which to grow. Hopefully you were fortunate enough to attend the Christmas Dinner dance or catch one of the fall speakers. Regardless, we can all look forward to the activities to come. Make your reservations today for the Valentines Dinner. Submit your photos today for the annual photo contest. Take your skis today to the Land O’ Lakes cross country ski trails. Make a commitment today to becoming more active with the club.

The success of our club depends on member involvement. Right now a dedicated group of members is assembling the programs for the coming year. You will be notified soon, when the lineup is posted to the club website. The Fish & Game Club Board is reworking how outings are planned, coordinated, and run. To be successful in this area we need members to volunteer, but we also recognize that we need to make that volunteer process easier and better defined. We will do that.

To help improve communication and better fulfill the club’s mission, we have recently updated the club’s website which you can find at www.fishandgameclub.org. While this is still a bit of work in progress, it is my hope that this site will better connect members to club activities and each other, while also serving as a public resource promoting recreation, education, and conservation here in the majestic Northwoods.

I look forward to working with you this year to make it a great one.

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding the club, please feel free to email me at Stefan.Anderson@ConserveSchool.org. Alternatively, you can use the comment form on the “CONTACT” page of the club website.
The Fish & Game Club is not alone. We too require gracious volunteers to run the organization. Note below, the long list of volunteers required to offer our wonderful civic and social programs. We ask that you consider volunteering, kind of a pay-your-dues for a period of time, so our fine programming can continue. When a program has no volunteers the offering cease such as OUtings as there is no outings committee.

The following are the VOLUNTEER OPENINGS at present:
- Outing Committee Chair and members (total of 4)
- Michigan Road Clean Up Leaders (2 mi. of Hwy 2 in Watersmeet)
- Programs Committee members

THANK YOUS:

Board Members
Mike Brennand
Steve Wilkinson
Stefan Anderson
Dale Sharpee
Pat Bielke
Gary Ebert
Sudy Wattson

Education Fund
Jim Thomas

Scholarship Committee
Gary Ebert
Stefan Anderson
Chris Ebert
Rhoda Sharpee

Public Land Service
Rita & Steve Kickert (NCT)
Cheryl Pytlarz (Camp Surveys)

Adopt-A-Highway
Steve & Lynn Klemann (WI)

Membership
Margie Marrs

Dinners & Dance
Karen Sattler

Agonikak Trail
Jim Thomas

Ski/Hiking Trail
Bob Turnquist (chair)
Alan Piel
Jeff Pytlarz
Tom Wheeler

Evening Programs
Chris Tews (chair)
Carol Mason Sherrill
Steve Kickert
Jim & Margie Marrs

Teacher Grants
Kathleen Kuchevar (chair)
Dianne Brennand
Kathy Floriano
Rhoda Sharpee
Sherry Zoars
Peggy Zorr

NEWSLETTER
Karen Turnquist
Cheryl Pytlarz

CHRISTMAS DINNER DANCE
by Chris Ebert

The Fish & Game Club Dinner/Dance for 2018 was held on Saturday, December 8th at the Gateway Lodge in Land O’ Lakes. There were 63 reservations for this event, and everyone seemed to have a grand time. Participants starting arriving at around 5:00 p.m. for snacks and drinks, followed by rousing renditions of our favorite Christmas Carols and holiday songs next to the huge Christmas tree in the Gateway lounge. Linda Brainard accompanied us and Pam Lee helped lead us in the caroling. After returning to the dining room, we sang “The Twelve Days of Christmas”, directed by Jim Thomas with the hearty participation of the diners at all eight tables (some tables performing double duty).

Pastor Mary Willis led us in prayer before dinner was served at approximately 6:30 p.m. There were three entree choices: Shrimp Delilah, Pork Medallions, or Smothered Chicken. Everyone seemed to enjoy their food, and several empty plates were seen. Coffee and dessert completed the meal. After dinner, the band Crossroads got fired up and the fun really started. Participants loved the music, and the dance floor was often filled. Festivities started to wind down around 9:30 p.m. with many tired, but happy, revelers heading for the parking lot. The Fish and Game Club warmly welcomes those who are new to the area or attending the Dinner Dance for the first time and hope to see them at future meetings and other activities. We hope to see even more club members at next year’s shindig.
Check out the updated club website which includes all the features of the previous website and more. Key features of the new website include:

- A growing directory of local recreational opportunities
- A calendar of events hosted by the Land O’ Lakes Fish & Game Club
- A calendar of events hosted by others that are in line with the mission of the Land O’ Lakes Fish & Game Club. (members are invited to suggest events for this calendar).

The website is still a work in progress. Within the next few weeks members will get information on how to update their membership information online and access member only features as well.

The web address for the new website is the same as it was for the old website: www.FishandGameClub.org

Calling all Northwoods photographers! Submissions are now being accepted for the annual Land O’ Lakes Fish & Game Club Photo Contest. From now through Feb. 8, 2019 you can submit your best local photos in the following four categories: close ups of nature, wildlife, people and pets enjoying the Northwoods, and Northwoods scenery. You can learn more about the contest and see the work of past winners at: www.ConserveSchool.org/fishandgamephotos.

We all thank Mike Brennand for holding the helm as Club president 2014-2018. That’s a lot of years! Big contributions during his leadership are the FREE TREE GiveAway at Summer Launch on Memorial Day weekend AND improving the college scholarship program. In the past two smaller scholarships were awarded. Now just one larger scholarship is awarded so the recipient receives an amount that covers significant school costs.

Welcome to Stefan Anderson the new Club president for the 2018-2019 year. Stefan is Headmaster at Conserve School. Stefan is also in charge of FGC membership, sends out emails to the club members and just re-designed our Club website.

The groundhog said six more weeks of winter... So I ate him.
May -- Our season started off with a fabulous program jointly sponsored by Fish & Game Club and Conserve School. Stan Tekiela, well-known naturalist, wildlife photographer and writer from the Minnesota twin cities, gave a fun and enlightening presentation on Uncommon Facts About Common Birds. Dinner was offered at Conserve School and many members took advantage, enjoying an excellent dinner and program after.

June -- Al Schwoegler, long-time Loon Ranger and Speaker’s Bureau volunteer with Loon Watch (Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute) spoke about the work he has been doing with monitoring loons since the 1980’s. He also shared fascinating loon stories plus new loon information gathered over the years.

July -- The “hot” topic of Climate Change was explored with a presentation by David Barnhill, former Director of Environmental Studies at UW-Oshkosh and current chapter leader of Citizen’s Climate Lobby of Oneida & Vilas Counties (non-partisan national organization). Questions of “How is climate change affecting Wisconsin and the rest of the planet?” and “What does the future hold?” brought up very lively and interesting discussion.

August - Researchers from Mississippi State University presented on their Predator-Prey Research Project in the UP (Upper Michigan). Research has been conducted since 2008 on the relationship between whitetail deer and their predators in the UP. We learned how research is conducted in the field and were given the latest results of the research work.

September -- The scheduled topic was to have been State Parks of the UP-An Armchair Tour, but last minute speaker cancellation brought a real challenge to come up with another program. With a record turnout of near 90 folks, Carol Mason Sherrill and Steve Kickert “saved the day” with their last-minute enlightening programs. Carol shared the latest on the Wildcat Falls project in the UP. Steve Kickert presented his incredible program on the History of Sylvania. Huge thanks to Carol and Steve!

October -- Our final program for the season was a Behind the Scenes look at the American Birkebeiner XC Ski Race Event held annually at Hayward, Wis. Ben Popp, Executive Director of the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, shared with us the mind-boggling numbers and details of all that is involved in putting on the largest cross country ski race in North America.

2018 Program Committee members were Steve Kickert, Jim Marrs, Margie Marrs, Carol Mason Sherrill and Chris Tews, Chairperson. Leaving the committee are Margie Marrs and Chris Tews.
Education Fund

by Jim Thomas

Balance as of 1/18/19 was $31,814.20. The Fund’s purpose is to support educational grants given to teachers for programs to foster the conservation of natural resources through the education of our young people. If you would like information on educational grants, the Club has a brochure describing the program. Donations made to this fund are only used for teacher grants or scholarships and are not used for general operating expenses. If you would like information about this fund, call Jim Thomas at 715-547-3556. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, send your check to Land O’ Lakes Fish & Game Club, Education Fund, P.O. Box 516, Land O’ Lakes, WI, 54540-0516.

Ski Trail Report

by Bob Turnquist

Thank You Bob. The trails are beautiful!! The Editor

For as little snow as we have had early this year the skiing on the Fish & Game Ski Trail has been good. Since a snow of 4+ inches of heavy, wet snow followed by another 4” of new snow, conditions are excellent.

We made up an enclosure to store envelopes that folks can use to mail in donations. Each envelope contains instructions to request a receipt for tax purposes if the donation is larger than $20. Several people have mailed in donations already. An enclosure was also installed to store plastic bags folks can use to clean up after their dogs. I have not seen any messes on the trail since the enclosure was installed which is encouraging. Please take a bag if you ski with a dog.

Skiing is one of the few things that is both good for you and is fun. Skiing through our beautiful woods is good for the mind as well as the body. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the trails.

Remember you can find ski trail conditions on Skinnyski.com. Direct access to our trail conditions is accessed by going to http://www.skinnyski.com/trails/traildetail.asp?Id=639

See you on the trails!

bob

Educational Grant Committee

2018-2019 Awards

The Educational Grant Committee met November 6 to assess teacher requests. Members of the committee are Dianne Brennand, Kathy Floriano, Rhoda Sharpee, Peggy Zorr and Kathleen Kuchevar, Chair.

The LOL F&G Club Board members selected and approved these requests for financial consideration. A total of 14 requests were received and 12 awards given for a total of $4,497.63. The following the projects are being funded by the grants.

Christine Fuller, Eagle River Elementary, Grades 3-6, 150 Students. After School STEAM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) -- $300.00 To provide a club on Tuesdays, 3:30- 5:00 thirty times this year in engaging sessions led by teachers and local experts. Wood Working for Wildlife, Animal Adaptations, Geocaching, Space Science, Robotics, etc. Could use F&G Club volunteers to cut lumber for bird and bat house kits.

Holly Geiger and Mark Deditz, St. Germain School, Grades 2-4, 29 Students. Learning Locally, Field Trips to Northwoods Wildlife Center and Wildwood Park -- $500.00 To visit local businesses to experience an environmental program tied to curriculum studies, guided tour of birds of prey exhibit, injured animals care, to relate in Ed Center with hands-on microscopes for insect identification, witness honey bees and to note diverse animals.

Tami Davis, Eagle River Elementary, Grade 5, 81 Students. Fantastic Frogs -- $95.00 To apply curriculum and experience the entire life cycle of watching tadpoles become frogs using the “Tadpole Tube Town” and “Morph into Tube Tube Town” kits, to learn about food chains and the local ecosystem in clear plastic to better observe how food moves.

Educational Grant Committee, continues on pg 6
Please thank Headwaters State Bank

Amazon Smile Community Support
by Dale Sharpee

If you use Amazon’s services, there is an opportunity for you to provide financial support to the Club. This support is from the AmazonSmile Foundation. This Foundation created a program whereby Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to charitable organizations selected by their customers. In 2017 an account for the Club was created so that donations could be received from this program. Donations from the Foundation have been received in 2017 and 2018. Thank-you to those of you who have and are participating in this program. If you would like more information on AmazonSmile, refer to “Frequently Asked Questions” on http://org.amazon.com. If you chose to support our Club through this program, the following will link you directly to smile.amazon.com: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1604410. (The number in the link is the Club’s EIN.)
Reservation Form for Valentine’s Dinner

The annual Fish Game Club Valentine’s Dinner will be held on Thursday, February 14th at Gateway Lodge. The evening will begin with a cash bar at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. All entrées include salad, baked potato and a special Valentine’s dessert, tax and tip. Following dinner we will have a slide show of all photos entered in the annual photo contest and awards will be presented to the winners.

Please fill out this form and enclose a check for the appropriate amount made payable to the Land O’ Lakes Fish and Game Club. Reservations need to be made by February 5th. Your check will be your reservation.

Please indicate your choice of entrée:

- **Baked Herb Chicken** $24.00 (4 Pieces Chicken baked in herb mixture)
- **Boneless Pork Chop** $25.20 (Served W/Apple Cranberry Sauce)
- **Shrimp Delilah** $28.80 (Tiger Shrimp sautéed W/asparagus over linguine)

Name: ___________________ Entrée: ___________________ Price: ____________

Name: ___________________ Entrée: ___________________ Price: ____________ Total: ____________

Include a phone number should a question arise: ________________________________________

Mail reservation to Fish & Game Club, P.O. Box 516, Land O’Lakes, WI 54540

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**CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE**

www.facebook.com/LOLFGC

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**CLUB BOARD MEMBERS**

Officers and Directors for the Fish and Game Club 2018-19 year listed here.

- **President** Stefan Anderson 715-547-1308
- **Vice-President** David Sherrill 906-358-0016
- **Secretary** Steve Wilkinson 906-544-2183
- **Treasurer** Dale Sharpee 906-544-2463
- **Directors**
  - Pat Bielke 262-424-4046
  - Gary Ebert 906-358-4246
  - Sudy Wattson 906-544-2461

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**DON’T FORGET THE CLUB’S EMAIL ADDRESS!!**

fishandgameclub@gmail.com

We send out periodic e-mail reminders about meetings, activities and outings that are going on within the Club. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, send your request to Stefan Anderson at Stefan.Anderson@ConserveSchool.org