

LAKE CAMPBELL SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



April 2015

Volume 2015, Number 4

Easter

*The Pasque flower is the State flower;
Pasque refers to Passover*



Earth Day April 22

The 1968 photo (left) from Apollo 8 showed our planet hanging in space with the barren surface of the moon in the foreground. The picture helped coin the phrase

"spaceship Earth," and transformed public attitudes about our stewardship of our spaceship. The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970.



April 6 Monday Monthly Business Meeting, 7:30

- Secretary and Treasurer Report
- Planning Fish Fry supper, April 25; have about 40 lbs of perch, walleye, bluegill and northern pike donated from ice anglers; perhaps enough for 80 meals, does anyone else have fish you could donate?? Also asking for volunteers to help cook and serve on evening of April 25. Attend planning meeting or call Chuck 693-7750
- Other business:
 - Clubhouse maintenance: New furnace fan by Doc Peterson
 - Clubhouse rented March 21 to Faith Reformed (Kevin Suiter); photo shows minnow races in rain gutters, and BB Gun events after the pot luck luncheon.
 - Clubhouse will be rented Apr 11 to snowmobile club
 - Window installation: at meeting we'll approve location for windows; Contractor Terry Hideman will supervise our club volunteer carpentry crew.
- Membership: Welcome back renewing members Harlan Larkin, John Mette, Kevin Suiter. Each gets news by email. We have 52 members so far this year; 2015 membership Began Jan 1.



March 2 Meeting: Synopsis of minutes

(11 attendees, Quorum of 3 board members and 3 regular members). It's cold in building! The furnace fan is faulty, Doc Peterson will check.

Reviewed fishing derby: renewed 13 memberships and received 5 new memberships, Weather: Windy, sunny 20 F. 43 anglers signed up, 18 youth; all youth received a free fishing rod (Sioux Valley Outfitters in Volga). Gross receipts were \$2372.50. The airplane ride won by Terri Steen. The group discussed improvements for next year's event.

Outreach: voted to donating at least \$50/yr after ice derby to WaterFest, OutDoor Adventure Foundation, SD Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Outdoor Adventure Center, , Women in the Outdoors event, and Brookings County 4H. (Note, donations were made; received thank you note from GFP Foundation)

Discussed Oyster Feed: oyster feed is quite a bit of work/cost and had declining attendance (60 meals last year); we will try a fish fry later in April; Menu: fish, potatoes, beans, cole slaw, salad, drinks - would like to do homemade pies as this has been frequently requested. Fee depends on costs to be determined.

Wood duck boxes: boxes proposed as conservation measure and fundraiser, but no orders at fish derby and we learned that boxes are free from Fish and Wildlife Service; we will make one as a display on club property and one to donate to the Spring Fling held by the Lake Association in May.

Window/ Door install: Mike Erickson offered to donate windows and deck from his house; several members inspected and salvaged the deck (deck material can be seen in the BB Gun photo).

Christmas Tree For Fish (by Chuck Berry)

Want to help fish? Put a Christmas tree under your dock. This was the out-of-the-box suggestion of Brookings County Conservation Officer Jeff Grindler at a past Sportsmen's Club meeting. Fishermen know the benefits of fish habitat – they call it “structure.” A tree provides places to hide, a surface to deposit eggs, and a surface for algae and bugs that are food of small fish.

I tried it last summer and I think it worked. I didn't have any trouble with the dock or boat, and I trapped a lot more minnows around my dock that in past years. The photo shows how I tied a 6-ft tall Balsam Fir tree between the wheel posts. The tree was basically intact after one summer so I'm using the same one this year. If 100 dock owners did this, it would amount to 1,200 ft² of fish habitat, about the surface area of our club house in the lake. The new fish habitat is removable and does not affect boating. If you still have your tree, give this DIY lake improvement project a try.



Lake Watch

Recreation: First boat on the lake launched at Madsen Landing (3/22) to fish the warming waters along the north end of the lake. The GFP put in the dock and fishing pier on March 24 (photo). Ryan Eggen volunteers to grade the parking lot; Sunset Rd. families pick up trash at Madsen Landing and dam.



Water: Ice was off the south end of the lake on March 17 but hung around until March 20 on the north end. Last year, ice went off the lake on April 10. The photo shows 50% ice coverage at the north end of the lake on March 20. Note the herring gulls sitting on the edge of the ice; note the lone blue goose with the gulls. A little water was flowing over the dam in March but water level was just at dam height late in the month - it is a dry spring so far. Water temperature was 42 F on 3/30; transparency = 20 inches at the GFP dock.



Wildlife: The snow goose has two color plumage types in the same species - white (snow) or gray/blue (blue), thus the common description as "snows" and "blues." The long lines of mixed snows and blues first appeared over the lake on March 6 and a few flocks were still migrating on March 30. Also, several people saw as many as 8 bald eagles on the ice. A few common mergansers and bluebills used



the lake. Wood ducks and hooded mergansers came back just before the end of the month (first seen in the northern end on 3/29).

One of the earliest signs of spring is the robin migration, see robin migration map on *Journey North* http://www.learner.org/jnorth/maps/robin_wave_spring2015.html. The photo above shows 30+ robins feeding on crab apples at the Country Club. Click on the robin map labeled "First Seen" to find a dot on the map for Lake Campbell; highlight the "i" for "information and click on the LC dot. This is a cool web site for LC naturalists – look at the hummingbird map and get involved when you see the first hummer this year. For you gardeners, record the first leaves on your favorite bush or tree and report the date to Project Bud Burst, which is another citizen science web site collecting data from thousands of nature observers. <http://budburst.org/>.

Monthly Meeting and Event Schedule, 2015

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| January: Annual Meeting | July: Business Meeting |
| February: Regular meeting and Ice fishing Derby | August: Guest speaker on Lake history/environs |
| March: Monthly meeting | September: GFP hunting forecast |
| April: Regular Meeting and Oyster Feed | October: Regular monthly business meeting |
| May: Business meeting | November: Bingo night |
| June: GFP fishing forecast for Lake Campbell | December: Regular monthly meeting, first Monday |

Sportsmen's Club Quick Facts

Established: 1957 **Membership dues:** \$10 single, \$20/couple **Clubhouse:** 46776 220th St
Officers: C. Berry, President, 693-7750; B. Brotsky, VP, R. Nett, Sec. T. Trzynka, Treas.
Board of Directors: Randy Bortnem, Fred Meyer, Russ Bortnem (Past Pres.)

ONE SWALLOW DOES NOT MAKE A SUMMER, BUT ONE SKEIN OF GEESE CLEAVING THE MARCH THAW, IS THE SPRING.
Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac.