



P.O. Box 145 • New Richmond, WI 54017 • (715) 246-4884 • www.willowriver.org

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

(From Chris Polfus's March Meeting Minutes)

Archery – The winter spot and bush archery leagues have been completed. A 3D Archery shoot is scheduled for April 27th. This will be either a individual or two man shoot. Ron Roettger and Dave Hegge have put together another great Indoor Stick Bow shoot featuring the 3D targets. Watch the website next year for more information.

Trap – A Turkey Shoot was held on April 6th with 22 shooters attending. The Trap League is scheduled to begin on April 24th. Please contact Joel Dekoch at 246-7437 jdeckoch@precolaser.com, Jerry Van Houten at (651) 436-5204 jvanhouten@precolaser.com if interested.

Rifle Range – Several of the WRR&GC board members visited the Menomonie Gun Club to view their rifle range and get ideas for our range expansion. The Menomonie range is designed and built with what is call Blue Sky device that stops errant shots not aimed at the bunkers. Some very good range modification ideas have come out of this visit and the club will be able to incorporate some of them in our planned renovation.

Pistol Range – The first rim fire match of the season is planned for April 20th with a workday scheduled the morning of April 19th starting at 9 am. **PORTABLE BENCHES ARE NOT TO BE USED AS TARGET STANDS.** Bullets must be aimed to hit the berm. Move towards the berm and do not bring the targets towards the benches. It is an unsafe practice.

Land Development – Signage will be placed every 50 yards around the perimeter of our property to define and secure it.

Membership – For those of you that have received your membership packets, don't forget to get the window stickers affixed to your vehicles. There are currently 245 paid members. We expect a large increase for membership in the next few weeks because of league start up.

Education Committee – The Baldwin Woodville Hunter's Education Class was allowed use of our land and ranges to hold their Field Day on Saturday, April 5th. The group was extremely appreciative of this opportunity.

Old/New Business:

Ron Roettger has been graciously cleaning the clubhouse throughout the winter and will continue to do so for the remainder of the year. Please remember that on league nights, we need to do our part to clean up after ourselves throughout the building and make Ron's job a bit easier.

Monies were allotted for the purchase of class 5 lime rock to be used in the parking lot and the driveway, food and prizes for the April 27th Archery Shoot and for Junior achievement badges.

Bob Peterson has made the announcement that he will be retiring from the Board of Directors after serving on it for 29 years. Bob has been involved with the club for 31 years and was one of the driving forces that restarted the Willow River Rod & Gun Club many years ago. We all owe Bob a huge "Thank You" for all he's done!

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's February Meeting Minutes)

Senior Pontoon Ride: The Cedar Lake Senior Pontoon Ride is scheduled for June 17th. A rain date is set for June 18th. The number of participants that will be accommodated this year was increased to 125.

Fisheries/Habitat: Donations for the Cedar Lake fish cribs at Russell's Sport & Bike were recently picked up by Don Demulling. A Cedar Lake cleanup to remove ice-fishing related debris is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th. Scheduled private land development of is down this year due to the economy and CRP land losses.

Park Party: The scheduled date for the 2008 Park Party is set for Tuesday, August 12th. The park site has been reserved, CIP help enlisted and the bands "Trigger Happy" and the "Chimeleskis" (polka/old time) have been retained.

McMurtrie property/Land Trust: An engraved stone and a sign have been ordered for the dedication memorial to Jack Hayes at the dam site on the property. Material

for the construction of 12 Leopold benches has been purchased and plans are being made to construct a covered shelter and rest rooms with storage at the site this summer.

Outreach/Youth: The SPF&GA has provided monies for donations to the Indianhead Chapter of Pheasant Forever, the St. Croix Strutting Toms and membership to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

Buck's Night: The proposal to provide small binoculars as a door prize was discussed with the decision referred to the event committee. Buck's Night is scheduled for Monday, November 17th.

Old/New Business:

The club has 71 members in good standing. Dues notices for unpaid 2008 memberships will be mailed.

The Cedar Lake School property (north Cedar Lake access area) is owned by the township with the DNR pursuing purchase of the site for expanded boat trailer parking.

The NR school district Service Learning day is set for Wednesday, May 14th. Groups of students have been reserved for planting the retention pond, constructing of the Jack Hayes memorial, and installing gates at the McMurtrie Preserve. Another group of students will be installing screening under the dock on the Cedar lake bay access.

The next meeting of the SPF&GA is scheduled for Monday, April 21st, with the 6 pm social hour and the 7 pm regular meeting at Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake.

2008 Spring Hearing Results

On April 14th, 2008, sixty-nine outdoor enthusiasts packed into the Cashman Center in New Richmond to become part of Wisconsin's 74th annual Spring Hearings. Wisconsin is the only state in the Union that provides this opportunity to give grass root input into the conservation rule making process. Under the guidance of Conservation Warden Paul Sickman, who presided over the Department's portion of the meeting and Ron Roettger, Chairman of the St Croix County Conservation Congress delegation, who led those in attendance through the Conservation Congress advisory question part, the event took a hair less than two hours to a very successful conclusion. The use of electronic ballots sped up the process but did not detract from the meeting by allowing anyone who wished to comment on the questions to do so. There were several DNR officials on hand to provide clarification to any of the questions also. Several questions in the pamphlet were of local nature and those in attendance had the option to pass on them.

While most of the questions were not controversial, a few brought forth more than a few comments. A number of questions that appeared on the questionnaire did not go through the normal rule making process and were tacked onto the budget bill by a couple of the less

than "ethical" legislators. These questions concerned catch and release musky and bass seasons and all were strongly defeated both statewide and at the county level. This hopefully will send a message to Madison that the public will not tolerate such behavior by their elected officials.

On the Conservation Congress side of the questionnaire, a positive response to the ban of baiting and feeding of deer was given 43-25 in the county and 3092-2678 statewide.

Discontinuing of closing Managed Forest Law (MFL) land failed 23-30 in the county and 1763-3631 statewide.

The ability of quartering deer in the field passed 33-15 in the county and 3540-1921 statewide.

The establishment of a wolf season framework was given the go ahead by a resounding vote of 51-4 in the county and 4848-772 statewide.

The vote tallies of the rest of the 71 questions contained in this year's hearing session are available on the DNR website.

Three resolutions were also presented at the meeting. Two addressed turkey permit drawing preference consideration to individuals over the age of 65 who purchase patron licenses for three consecutive years and another for youth and those in military service home on leave. The third resolution referred to a weasel trapping rule change. Results of these resolutions were not available at this time but will soon be available on the DNR website.

The resolutions presented at the Spring Hearings will form the basis for future questions and eventually rules that will be legislated into law.

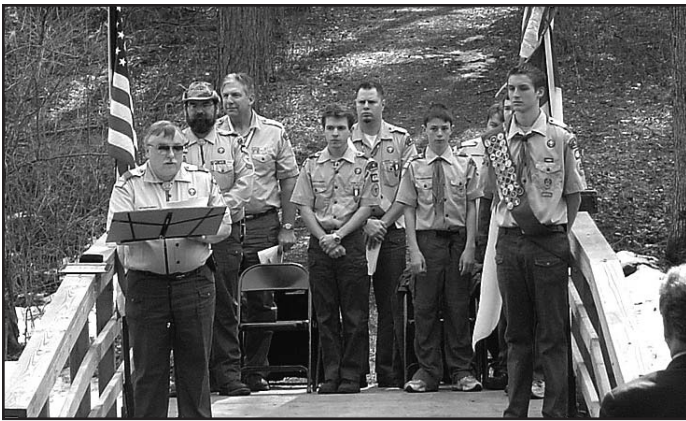
I would like to thank all who took the time out to come out to this very important meeting. Is this a great system or what!

Deer Food Pantry Donations

Hunters, during the 2007 deer hunting season donated 9,200 deer to the state's Food Pantry Program. A total of 126 processors in the 52 counties of the state butchered and ground over 414,000 pounds of packaged venison. St Croix County donated the fifth most deer to the program with 368. Buffalo County led the effort with 797 donated deer. Thirteen deer harvested in March of 2008 during the Hudson Wisconsin Deer Sharpshooter Program were also donated to the program. Processors in the county that were involved in the program were Deer's Locker, Glenwood City Locker and Power's Wild Game Processors.

There have been several blurbs in the news media over the last few weeks concerning lead from projectiles and bullets being identified in processed venison which has led North Dakota and Minnesota to pull food pantry venison from the pantry shelves. Many hunters are now questioning the integrity of venison they have in their freezer.

I feel this type of recall is a knee jerk reaction to



Ben Matthys at Eagle Scout of Honor Ceremony at Saratoga Springs Park on April 5th, 2008



Dave Johnston teaching Hunter Ed Spring 2008

something that should have been better researched before anything was decided. Reporters and journalists have a history of falling over themselves trying to get a scoop on a news breaker, which in the majority of the cases, have no substance. When the real “meat and potatoes” of the story is brought to light it ends up on the last page, just before the want ads, printed in very small print.

Cedar Lake Ice Out

Over the last 29 years the Don Demullings (Junior and Senior) have kept an accurate record of ice out dates on Cedar Lake. From 1980 to 2008, the earliest ice out on record was March 22 in 2000 while the latest was April 24th in 1996. The ice outs in this time span encompasses 33 days and highlights the fact that in nature nothing is predictable! Here are the ice out dates as they were recorded. *(As of Friday, April 18th, 2008, Don Demulling Jr. advises me that the ice out date on Cedar Lake will be a few days out.)*

1980	April 18	1995	April 4
1981	March 28	1996	April 24
1982	N/A	1997	April 18
1983	April 10	1998	March 30
1984	April 11	1999	March 31
1985	April 9	2000	March 22
1986	April 7	2001	April 15
1987	March 25	2002	April 16
1988	April 6	2003	April 12
1989	April 17	2004	April 13
1990	April 5	2005	April 9
1991	April 7	2006	April 9
1992	April 10	2007	March 31
1993	April 19	2008	April > 18
1994	April 8		

Boat Registration

(Submitted by Area Conservation Warden Paul Sickman)

With spring finally here, many people are getting ready for the upcoming fishing and boating seasons. When getting your boat ready, make sure you look at your registration to see if it is still current. Remember boat registration expires on March 31 of the year listed on your decal. Don't just look at your decal and see 2008 as that is expired and needs to be renewed!

All boats with motors including canoes with motors attached (gas or electric) have to be registered and display the assigned letters, numbers and decals.

There are 5 exemptions for boats needing registration in Wisconsin and they are:

Sailboats 12 feet and under WITHOUT a motor.

Manually propelled boats not equipped with a motor or sail.

Licensed documented fishing vessels.

Sailboards.

Any boat covered by a valid certificate from another state or federal government and has been in Wisconsin not more than 60 consecutive days **unless Wisconsin is the state of principle use.**

Once the owner is issued the certificate of number (registration) and decal, the owner shall display the issued numbers on each side of the forward half of the boat. The owner must purchase the numbers and letters or paint them on the boat. The numbers and letters must be block in style, not less than 3" high and in contrasting color to the surface on which they are applied. Display the registration number with at least a 2" space between the letters and center 4 numbers. It is the responsibility of the owner to be sure that the registration number is clearly visible and maintained in legible condition at all times. Place the decal in line with and 3" from the registration number toward the stern (back).

For any questions or to report a violation, call Conservation Warden Paul Sickman at 715-685-2914 ext. 120.

Upcoming Events...

- April 15th through July 31stIt is illegal to allow dogs to run on DNR lands and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas lands during this time unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet.
- April 16th - 20thSpring turkey hunting period A
- April 20th (Sunday)St Croix County Earth Day Event, YMCA Camp, Hudson, 1-5 pm,
Contact: Aleisha Miller 715-684-2874 Ex. 125
- April 21st (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association April Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- April 23rd – 27thSpring turkey hunting period B
- April 24th (Tuesday)Start Willow River Rod & Gun Club Trap League
Contact: Joel Dekoch at 246-7437 or Jerry Van Houten at (651) 436-5204
- April 27th (Sunday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club 3D Archery shoot, Contact: Chris Polfus 246-6849
- April 30th – May 4thSpring turkey hunting period C
- May 3rd (Saturday)Open of 2008 inland fishing season, and musky season south of highway 10.
- May 3rd (Saturday)Open frog season through December 31st
- May 7th – May 11thSpring turkey hunting period D
- May 10th (Saturday)100 Bird Trap Shoot to benefit Central St Croix Rod and Gun Club (Baldwin), at Osceola R&GC, 12 noon start,
Contact: George Gfall 715-246-5904
- May 14th (Wednesday)New Richmond High School Service Day
- May 14th – May 18thSpring turkey hunting period E
- May 21st – May 25thSpring turkey hunting period F
- May 24th (Saturday)Musky season opener north of Highway 10
- June 18th (Wednesday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association's Annual Senior Pontoon Ride on Cedar Lake,
Contact: New Richmond Community Education

Comments, criticisms or input, please contact Mike Reiter 246-6643 or Jessa Nelson 246-0266

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