



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

(From Chris Polfus's February Meeting Minutes)

Archery – The winter spot league has begun with 10 four person teams competing. The winter bush league has 21 two person teams. A 3D shoot was held on February 16th. A schedule of shoots is available on the website for the area clubs.

Trap – There will be a Turkey Shoot on April 6th and an open shoot scheduled in March. Watch our website for more details.

Pistol Range – The range has been getting lots of use. Make sure to read and follow the posted range rules.

St. Croix Alliance – The Alliance Habitat Banquet is scheduled for March 18th at the Baldwin VFW Club Hall.

Membership – Family membership has been set at \$75 for 2008. If you've put in 10 hours the previous year, the cost drops to \$45. No discounts will be given throughout the year. We currently have about 350 members. Applications for 2008 will include a more thorough form including rules and regulations. Be thorough in your responses, otherwise acceptance will be delayed.

Long Range Planning – Signage at the gate as well as the entrance to the clubhouse was discussed. Any suggestions or ideas are welcome.

Public Relations – Mike Reiter's writing in the NR News has been a welcome addition. Please contact Mike if you have ideas, stories or pictures. Archery scores have been turned into the NR News and are posted on the website. Go out to the Links page on our website you'll see the Star Prairie Fish & Games website. On their page is the video from the fish crib building on Cedar Lake as well as crib locations.

Fishing Tournament – The tournament this year scheduled at Mary Park in New Richmond on February 10th was cancelled due to extreme weather conditions. Hopefully next year we will have better weather conditions for the event.

Education Committee – The Bowhunter Education Class is scheduled to start March 24th with classes on

the 27th, 29th and the 31st. On Thursday the 27th, there will be NO Archery Bush league from 7-9 pm. The clubhouse will be open for Bush league from 4 to 6:30 and 9 to 10:30 pm.

Old/New Business:

The Law Enforcement Committee has come up with dates of Law Enforcement usage which are now posted on the club's website calendar.

Money was allotted for food at the 3D shoot, a dust mop for the clubhouse, a donation for a crossbow to be given away at the Alliance Habitat Banquet, the purchase of drink tokens for the clubhouse and clay birds for the Summer Trap League.

On August 23rd, the clubhouse will be closed for a private function from the early afternoon until dark.

A discussion on safety at our club and club land and how we can prevent any serious issues or conflicts was held. Now that we have vehicle stickers and license plate numbers we have the ability to track violations. If, at any time, you feel someone is in violation of our range or club rules note the violator's sticker number or license plate number if the sticker is not affixed. Contact the number at the gate or any club board member. We will then contact the person and discuss the situation. There's no need for you to confront them. In the past we were not sure if everyone at the club was a member but vehicle stickers should help eliminate the problem. Abuse of these stickers could result in the revocation of your membership. The stickers you get with your membership should be placed on the vehicles listed on the application.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's January/February Meeting Minutes)

Board Election: Stuart Nelson, Dave Peterson, and Chuck Magoon were re-elected to the board at the annual meeting held in January.

2008 Officers:

President: Dan Bygd
Vice President: Chuck Magoon
Treasurer: Stuart Nelson
Secretary: Mike Kelly

2008 Committee Chairmen:

Park Party: Bob Swanda and Chuck Magoon
Buck's Night: Craig Warren and Terry Zais
Habitat/Fisheries: Erv Erickson and Dan Cain
Outreach/Youth: Stuart Nelson and Dave Peterson
Senior Pontoon Rides: Ray Barry and Don Madsen

Fisheries/Habitat: Forty nine fish cribs were constructed and placed on the east side of Cedar Lake, on Saturday, January 26th. Dan Cain reported on the Pheasant Fest Show held in the Cities in January. Over 30,000 people attended that event.

Park Party: Ideas on changes for the 2008 event were discussed. The same time frame has been settled on and a new band to replace the "Fiddler" will be contacted.

McMurtrie property/Land Trust: Construction of sewer, water (for bathrooms) and an open pavilion are planned for McMurtrie in 2008. The land trust is investigating the old NR Archery Range and property owned by Schottlers, located north of Somerset Pine Lake as future projects.

Outreach/Youth: Club monetary allotments made in January included Land Trust membership, a St. Croix County Alliance donation for the Spring Habitat Banquet and a Wanderoos Lions donation for the kid's ice fishing event. We are working on a letter to describe our partnership in Conservation, to be sent with future donations solicitations. A discussion was held on the club sponsoring additional opportunities for youth in the outdoors and additional club involvement in the Forest Ridge Youth Outing.

Membership: The club has 71 members in good standing.

Old Business/New Business:

Wood duck nest houses have been constructed. A Cedar Lake School property (north Cedar lake access area) meeting was held February 1st. It was determined that Alden Township owns the property with no reversionary clause attached.

The 2008 club budget was distributed and explained with a motion made and approved to accept the budget as distributed.

A discussion was held on naming the Cedar Lake dam after Jack Hayes, in recognition of his many years of service in the area. The proposal was to partner with the Lake District and Land Trust to accomplish this.

There will be a NAWCAA partner meeting on January 29th. The club's Phase IV objectives have been met.

Thanks You's were received from Jack Hayes, Hoot Johnson, and the Willow River Rod & Gun Club (for support of the deer carcass dumpster).

Special thanks go out to WRR&GC member Larry Suennen for providing many of the photos that are posted in this newsletter.

Submitted by Area Conservation Warden Paul Sickman

Removal of Ice Shelters

Anglers are reminded that deadlines are approaching for removing ice fishing shelters from inland and boundary waters. All permanent ice fishing shelters must be completely removed by:

March 1st – Wisconsin-Minnesota boundary waters
March 2nd – Inland waters south of State Highway 64
March 16th – Inland waters north of State Highway 64, Lake Michigan, Green Bay and Lake Superior

Failure to remove a shanty by the deadline could result in a citation. Additional costs may be incurred if the shanty breaks through the ice and must be recovered. After the date for removing permanent shelters from the ice, an angler may continue to use a portable shelter but the shelter must be removed when it is not occupied.

New license sales

Hunting, fishing, trapping and other 2008 licenses and harvest permits for fish and wildlife activities in Wisconsin will go on sale March 10th while the 2007-2008 Wisconsin hunting and fishing licenses expire on March 31st, 2008. Once the new years license sales begin, the automated system cannot print the past year's license. Therefore, anyone wanting to go hunting, fishing or trapping from March 10th, 2008 to March 31st, 2008 (the end of the license year) will be legal with the "new" license for that activity.

Over the Counter Spring Turkey Permits

More than 56,000 remaining 2008 Spring Turkey permits will be available for sale on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 10 am March 28th. Hunters will be able to purchase one additional turkey permit per day until each zone and time period is sold out. Permits cost \$10 for residents and \$15 for non residents. Permits cannot be purchased for another individual, with the exception that parents/guardians can purchase a permit for their minor child.

Zone 37 has 734 permits left for the 6th time period (May 21st -25th). Zone 19 has 406 permits left for the 5th time period (May 14th-18th) and 871 for the 6th time period (May 21st-25th).

The permits can be purchased: over the Internet through the <http://www.wildlifelicense.com/wi/> Online Licensing Center; at



Trumpeter Swans winter on open water in St Croix County



Ron Roettger teaching 2008 Spring Hunter Educations Class



Ice shanties on Cedar Lake



Fish Crib Construction on Cedar Lake 2008

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cs/servicecenter/locations.htm>
DNR service centers during their regular business hours (check service center link for hours of operation, which vary by service center; service centers are closed Saturdays); at

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cs/licenseagents/> automated license issuance system sales locations; or by calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236). An updated <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cs/springturkey> listing of units with leftover turkey permits and the numbers of permits available can be found on the <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/turkey/index.htm> turkey hunting pages of the DNR Web site at or by contacting a DNR service center.

There are still disabled hunter permits available for early periods (periods one through three) in a number of state park turkey hunting zones. Hunters interested in Disabled Hunt Units (5B, 10B, 11A, 12A, 15B, 25A) must visit a DNR Service Center to purchase their permit. Six 5-day spring hunting periods runs April 16 – May 25

The spring turkey hunting season will run from April 16th through May 25th. The season is divided into six

5-day (Wednesday through Sunday) time periods. A total of 46 zones, 15 state parks and Fort McCoy will be open for hunting. The state's second 2-day Turkey Youth Hunt will take place the weekend before the season opener, April 12th and 13th.

In 2007, there were 206,925 permits issued with a record harvest of 52,428 birds and a success rate of 25.5 percent. Winter wild turkey survival should be good this year in most areas, according to wildlife managers. Despite recent heavy snow cover in parts of the state, turkeys are resourceful at finding other food sources such as waste grain in farm fields. Turkeys are hardy birds and can handle nearly any Wisconsin winter say Wildlife Biologists.

If you have questions about this or any other subject please contact Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 X120.

Upcoming Events...

- March 10th (Monday)New hunting and fishing licenses (2008-2009) go on sale
- March 13th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's March Meeting, 7 pm,
Club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- March 13th (Thursday)Deer Harvest Status Meeting, Baldwin DNR Office, 7 pm, Contact: Harvey Halvorsen 715-684-2914
- March 16th (Sunday)Last day to remove ice houses north of highway 64
- March 17th (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association March Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- March 18th (Tuesday)St Croix County Alliance Habitat Banquet, Baldwin VFW, Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- March 28th (Friday)56,000 non issued Spring Turkey permits go on sale statewide starting at 10 am,
Unit 37 has 734 permits available for May 21-25th (6th season),
Contact license sales outlets, DNR service center or internet
- March 28th -30thWild River Gun Show, Dresser WI
- March 31st (Monday)Hunting and fishing licenses expire
- April 1st (Tuesday)Bag limit of panfish in St Croix County changes from 25 to 10 (See 2008 fishing regulations)
- April 10th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's April Meeting, 7 pm, Club land
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- 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
- May 3rd (Saturday)Open of 2008 inland fishing season
- May 14th (Wednesday)New Richmond High School Service Day
- Comments, criticisms or input, please contact Mike Reiter 246-6643 or Bob Peterson 246-2816
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