



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

No formal meeting of the Willow River Rod & Gun Club was held in July due to preparation for New Richmond Fun Fest Weekend. (The following is an excerpt from a column about the club appearing in the New Richmond News recently.)

Located two miles west of New Richmond on Highway A, the Willow River Rod and Gun Club facility includes a four season clubhouse with water and rest rooms, an indoor archery range, a contained rifle range that has 25, 50, 100 and 200 yard bunkers, two lighted voice activated automatic trap ranges, a pistol range certified for sanctioned shoots, a practice and walkthrough archery range, a set of horseshoe pits, ample picnicking and play areas and walking paths.

The Club is a conservation and outdoor recreational oriented organization with facilities nestled on approximately 35 acres of mostly wooded land. Deer, turkey, pheasants, grouse, rabbits and a variety of bird species and other wildlife are frequently observed on the club land. The Club strives to offer a variety of activities to its members and guests. This includes a summer trap league, summer and winter archery leagues, archery and hunter education programs, turkey shoots, 3D archery shoots, sanctioned rim fire shoots, a family day picnic, fishing contests, rifle sight-in days and youth outings. The club also has a website and publishes a monthly newsletter. In addition, the Willow River Rod and Gun Club supports conservation scholarships and sponsorships through partnerships at the local, county, state and federal level.

Being one of the oldest outdoor clubs in the County, The club's history dates back to the 1930's when it was sponsored by and remained for a number of years, a branch of the New Richmond Kiwanis Club. In the early 1940's, a separate Willow River Rod & Gun Club was formed. The land where the Club is presently located was purchased in 1951 from Ernie Germain. On July 5th, 1955 the club filed articles of incorporation with the State of Wisconsin. After several successful years, interest in the club waned and the club became inactive. Efforts in the late 60's and 70's to get the club back on track ended in partial success but in 1979 there was a concerted effort by a number of local individuals to re-establish the Willow River Rod and Gun Club as a viable organization. There had been a railroad "induced"

fire on the club land a few years earlier that destroyed hundreds of pine trees. It wasn't until the railroad settled the claim to the satisfaction of the club that there were funds available to get the club off the ground. Prior to this, club monthly meetings were held in a variety of locations including the VFW Club, New Richmond Civic Center and charter member Bob Peterson's New Richmond Bootery. Construction of a roofed open pavilion on the club land in 1983 followed by the enclosing of that structure in 1985 marked the start of the club house evolution. The addition of an indoor archery range and the large addition to the club house with custom cement outdoor patio work added over the last year continue to demonstrate the Club's vision for the future.

Currently, the Willow River Rod & Gun Club has some very ambitious plans going forward. Expansion of the current rifle range with the construction of a protected shooting area, permanent shooting stations and state of the art safety modifications are planned for completion later this summer. An entry addition to the club house along with plantings around the flag poles are also planned

Present Willow River Rod & Gun Club officers are President Brian Headlee, Vice President Jon Nysse, Secretary Ron Roettger and Treasurer Chris Polfus with Jessa Nelson, Bill O'Rourke and Jerry Van Houten rounding out the rest of the Board of Directors. The monthly meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of each month, starting at 7 pm on the club land. A monthly newsletter is available to members.

For more information visit their web site at <http://willowriver.org> or write to WRR&GC, PO Box 145, New Richmond, WI 54017.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's June Meeting Minutes)

DNR Warden Rosen has monitoring Cedar Lake on several occasions this spring, with tickets being written for no license and boating violations. Since the panfish bag limit has been reduced to 10 this year, any tips or concerns on over-bagging should be reported. Jason Happe a new warden trainee, currently residing in Eau Claire.

The River Island Park Party is scheduled for Aug 12, four bartender's licenses are required and the CIP has been reserved for setup and cleanup.

The Jack Hayes memorial, near the dam will be dedicated on Saturday, July 19, at 1:00. The Boy Scouts' "Order of the Arrow" group will be camping at the McMurtrie Preserve from Aug 22nd to 24th. While there, the scouts will replace the deck on the dam, assemble Leopold benches and work on clearing the oak savannah on their work day. Flowers and shoreline plants will be planted near the Menke cabin.

Funds will be provided for the Forrest Ridge "Youth Hunt" on Saturday, Oct. 4th, with the club also providing volunteer help.

The 10 raffle firearms have been placed at area establishments.

The club has 72 members in good standing.

Liability coverage for the fish crib sleds, even when rented out, is covered under the club policy. Umbrella insurance was also discussed.

Club Tee shirts have arrived. One will be provided free to active members while extras can be purchased for \$10.00 each.

A discussion on the guidelines for Moberg scholarship recipients was held and a standard operating procedure for this was decided.

Alliance News and Notes

State Senator Sheila Harsdorf from the 10th District was a guest attending the July Annual meeting.

The subject of lead bullet fragments being identified in processed deer meat poses a very serious problem with food shelves and could spell the end to the distribution of processed venison at them. Dave Larson passed around two memos that came from the Wisconsin Department of Human Services. These letters had earlier been shared with the members on the Alliance distribution list. Bioavailability of elemental lead and validation of testing procedures proposed are two important parts of this issue that need to be addressed quickly. Donations of venison to the food shelves and harvest of deer by hunters for personal use hang in the balance.

At the June meeting of the St Croix County Board, a resolution requesting a ban on the artificial feeding of deer in the county was submitted by the County Land and Water Committee and after some discussion was approved. This ban is strongly supported by the Alliance.

Senator Harsdorf commented on the importance of partnerships and how they can lead to the culmination of success projects. She addressed the importance of the Stewardship fund and how it will affect the future of outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. She also answered several questions from the group on issues of lead in venison, the ban on feeding of deer, the use of land acquisition under the Stewardship Fund and the appointment process of the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The Alliance thanks Sheila for her insight into these issues and others that affect natural resources in the State of Wisconsin.

The following Alliance officers were reelected for the coming year: President Kyle Kulow (Baldwin), Vice President Dave Larson (Glenwood City) and Recorder/Treasurer Mike Reiter (New Richmond).

Kyle Kulow reported on the Bruce Anderson Scholarship Award selection for 2008. Tara Kimberly of the Baldwin-Woodville High School has been selected to receive this

award. Tara plans to attend UW Superior majoring in Biology for Secondary Education. A note from Tara was circulated at the meeting.

Dave Larson reported that things are moving forward with the Excel Energy/St Croix County agreement at Pine Lake Park. There is a safety concern for high line/watercraft interference but things are moving toward a compromise which should be in place soon. Several projects for the park are on hold awaiting a favorable decision.

The old Pine Lake dock been moved to Squaw Lake and the Squaw Lake dock has been moved to Perch Lake according to Dave Larson.

A motion was made and approved to purchase another batch of herbicide to be distributed to local residents to control invasive species especially buckthorn. A list of several individuals that desire the herbicide has been assembled and are awaiting herbicide availability.

Jack Hayes, a strong conservation advocate of Cedar Lake and the surrounding area, recently passed away. A memorial dedication is planned at the McMurtrie Preserve property on Cedar Lake for July 19th starting at 1 pm.

The Willow River State Park Annual Kid's Fishing Contest is scheduled for Saturday, July 19th. The Alliance sponsors the event plus provides physical help.

The second meeting of the Squaw Lake Stakeholders has been put on hold until all contacts can be made with the present landowners where the aeration systems are located. There is a need to finalize things soon.

The Alliance made a presentation on their activities at the May 20th County Board meeting which was very well received. Handouts were made available to the board members.

Water level monitors purchased by the Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District will be placed above and below the New Richmond dam soon in locations that have previously been monitored. The County will help in monitor placement and data collection.

A phosphorus reduction program to decrease the amount of phosphorus that enters the Willow River has been initiated with several meetings held to identify the sources and set a course of action to reduce these levels. Several members of the Alliance are actively involved. The Baldwin Sportsman's Club appears to be making headway in their efforts to reopen their shooting range and optimistically will accomplish this by year's end.

An effort will be made to continue promoting public relations and public exposure to the activities of the Alliance through future articles and press releases in local media and newsletters. An expansion of the current e-mail distribution list will be considered with guest invitations being extended to future meetings.

Marty Engel, fisheries biologist, updated the group on plans for bullhead removal from Hatfield Lake and results of area lake surveys including Dry Dam and Squaw Lakes. A Bass Lake Management Plan is also being implemented with public input being sought.

Harvey Halvorsen, wildlife biologist, reported on the 2008 spring pheasant crowing counts in the county which indicated the pheasant population at a 20 year high with 5 birds per square mile. Wildlife habitat plantings and prairie burns for 2008 were reviewed. Beetles that consume leafy spurge have been released in the county with positive



Local area visitors that start with a "B".

results. Purple loosestrife eradication efforts are also showing good results. A report to the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation by the State describes numerous successful project accomplishments. The Casey Lake Wildlife Area is being considered for another county dog training site. This selection was supported by the Alliance.

Conservation Warden Paul Sickman reported on the promotion of Rick Rosen to the Warden Supervisor position in Spooner. The Alliance wishes Rick the best in his new position. He will be missed! The date for the Youth Hunt has been set for October 4th. The Alliance again pledged financial and physical support for that event. Paul mentioned that budgets have been tightened for the department. Funds need to be found so that enforcement efforts can continue at or above the current level.

There is an opening for a County Parks manager which will be filled soon.

County Aides funding of projects for 2009 are now being considered by the Alliance with several proposed. A decision will be made on this at the September meeting.

Fall Turkey Applications

(Submitted by Area Conservation Warden Paul Sickman)

There will be 95,700 wild turkey permits available to hunters for the fall 2008

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/turkey/> turkey hunting season, an increase of nearly a thousand over the 2007 fall season. The application deadline for the fall season is Aug. 1. The season runs Sept. 13 through Nov. 20 with a bag limit of one turkey of any age or sex per hunting approval notice. Hunters must bring their tagged turkey to a designated registration station no later than 5 p.m. the day after it is harvested.

Turkey hunters harvested 12,010 turkeys in the 2007 fall season, for which 94,800 permits were available. There were no hunting accidents reported during the 2007 fall season.

The \$3 application for the fall season can be purchased: over the Internet through the https://hfw.centraltechnology.net/wi_public/goHome.do Online Licensing Center; at <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/> license sales locations; or by calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236). In addition to this application, hunters are also required to purchase a 2008 Fall Turkey License and Stamp unless they have previously purchased this license and stamp or are currently a 2008 Conservation Patron license holder.

Permits remaining after the drawing will go on sale beginning at noon on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008. The permits will be available on-line and at license vendors (DNR Service Centers are closed Saturdays). The fee for these permits will be \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Purchases are limited to one permit per day until each zone is sold out. Purchasing permits does not affect a hunter's preference status for future Spring or Fall Turkey Permit drawings.

What's new for Fall 2008?

Zone Consolidation will begin with the fall 2008 turkey hunting season. The number of <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/turkey/fall.pdf> turkey hunting zones will be reduced to seven large zones instead of the 46 zone structure. There is still the same amount of total turkey hunting area. Each of the new zones combine a number of the smaller zones to give hunters more flexibility to move about in search of wild turkeys.

In the fall 2008 season ONLY, hunters may use dogs to hunt wild turkeys in the following counties only: Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, Sauk, Vernon, and Wood. This is a pilot program that may be extended for the 2009 fall season as well.

Blaze orange clothing and blaze orange on ground blinds is required for turkey hunters statewide during the youth deer hunt (Oct. 11-12) and during the October gun hunt in certain units (Oct. 16-19). Check the 2008 Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations for more information.

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

Upcoming Events...

- August 1st (Friday)Fall turkey, sharp tailed grouse permit application deadline Horicon or Collins Goose (deadline to apply)
Bobcat, fisher, Otter - deadline to apply for drawing
- August 2nd – (Saturday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club 3D Archery Shoot,
Contact: Chris Polfus 246-6849
- August 3rd (Sunday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club League Tournament,
Contact: Chris Polfus 246-6849
- August 10th (Sunday)Indian Head League Trap Shoot at Cushing & Amery
- August 14th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's August Meeting, 7 pm, Club land,
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- August 18th (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association August Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- August 23rd (Saturday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club land closed, private party
Antlerless deer permits for regular deer management units go on sale
- August 30th (Saturday)IR50 Rimfire Shoot on Club land, 9am – 2 pm,
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- September 6th (Saturday).....After drawing fall turkey permit sale starts at 12 noon
- December 10th (Wednesday)Deadline for spring turkey application
Bear deadline to apply for drawing or preference point

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

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