



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

Archery – The 2008 archery league is in its 6th week. The New Richmond News is planning an article on the league to appear in an upcoming edition. A 3D archery shoot is planned for Saturday, August 2nd and the archery shoot-offs are scheduled for Sunday, August 3rd.

Rim Fire: Rim fire shoots have occurred in April through June and have averaged 15 shooters. The price of gas has certainly affected attendance. Good scores have been posted and competition is high. Range rules must be followed to assure a safe line of fire.

Trap – The trap league is off to a good start with 11 teams competing. Adverse weather has caused rainouts however.

Rifle Range – Work on the range has been put a hold until weather conditions improve. Backstop railroad ties will be moved to the bunkers and placed sideways to allow easy removal and replacement. Seeding will be performed and the concrete poured. The slab will be 10 x 72 feet with 8 shooting stations planned. This will allow prone shooting at intervals. An 80 foot overhead roof structure will be built and a drive up access to allow equipment unloading is planned. The youth group, KYI (Keeping Youth Involved) will help when possible while large work parties will be needed at the appropriate times. An August 1st deadline for completion is envisioned.

Education – Alex Frinack, son of Jeff and Barb Frinack has been selected by the club to attend an environmental workshop this summer.

The New Richmond Hunters Ed group is still trying to reserve the New Richmond Armory for classes this fall. The fall course is projected to be larger than normal.

Public Relations – An upcoming Outdoor Happenings in the New Richmond News will feature the club and its activities.

Alliance – Expansion of hunting opportunities are being explored locally through a landowner/hunter program. Responsible hunters can provide a service in residential and urbanized areas of the county to help curb over abundance of deer, goose, turkey and other species.

Land Development – The parking lot has been lowered to help drainage while rifle range expansion is ongoing and making good progress. Additional lighting is being considered with new signage planned throughout the club land and ranges. A list for signage is being compiled.

Old/New Business:

Brandon Van Somerson and Graf Concrete have been responsible for the concrete work that has been completed around the club house and grounds. Thanks goes out to them for the great workmanship and service provided to the club!

The club's food booth at the New Richmond Park Art Fair was a big success. Following a very busy weekend and a good turnout, the club turned a nice profit. A special thanks goes out to Brandon Glor, Scott Beauvais, Bill O'Rourke, Mark Lange, Pat Cloutier, Jeff Germain, Chris Polfus and all the other members that spent time at the booth.

Ron Roettger and his family have volunteered to provide gardening services and maintenance around the clubhouse flag poles.

A bow hunt opportunity on the club land is being considered. Potential hunters could be chosen through a raffle drawing.

Ron Roettger has volunteered to provide approximately 7 dozen arrow trophies for the archery league. Funds were allotted for raw materials.

Keeping Youth Involved (KYI), a youth group led by Ernie Shores, has volunteered for work at the rifle range, construction of picnic tables and other activities this summer. A trap shoot outing in August and a rifle shoot in September are being planned for them.

The Baldwin Club appears to be making headway in their efforts to reopen their range and optimistically will accomplish this by year's end.

Plans for construction of a south access club house entrance are being made. Funds for a 10 x 10 foot structure were approved with volunteer labor generously being donated.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's May Meeting Minutes)

Senior Pontoon Outing: The Cedar Lake event is scheduled for Wed. June 11, with a rain date of June 12. The number of riders that will be accommodated was increased to 125 this year. A trout lunch will be served to attendees. Three vans will be provided by Johnson motors for transporting guests from the village park to the lake. **Fisheries/Habitat:** Jim Reimer from the USW&WS provided an update on the

spring burn season on area Waterfowl Production Areas. About 1200 acres were burnt to rejuvenate grasses and control brush to improve waterfowl nesting habitat.

Park Party: This annual event is scheduled for August 12th. The River Island Park in Star Prairie plus coolers have been reserved.

McMurtrie Preserve/Land Trust: Dennis Earley discussed the plans for the Jack Hayes memorial, near the dam on the property. The cement base for the engraved stone has been poured. A date for a formal dedication of the memorial will soon be set. The property committee has been discussing sites and plans for utilities and a shelter to be constructed at the preserve.

Outreach/Youth: A kid's Fishing day is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th on Long Lake located near Centuria. The event is sponsored by the Indianhead Bassers Club.

Members can contact Erv Erickson if they know of a youth that would like to take part in the outing.

Buck's Night: Sixteen firearms have been purchased and raffle tickets for sale by club members were distributed. The guns and/or signs for the raffle are being placed in area establishments.

Membership: The club has 71 members in good standing.

Old Business/New Business:

1. Club thank you cards will be ordered by Mike Kelly.
2. Dave Tate, from Dowd Reliance Insurance, explained the club's liability insurance limits. There is no coverage for guns stored at private homes. Liability issues with the fish crib sleds were also clarified.
3. A second road cleanup on Hwy 65 will be scheduled this fall.
4. Club logo polo shirts and Tee shirts will be ordered by Chris Polfus and Mike Kelly.
5. The Bob Moberg scholarship will again be provided by the club with selection of the recipient to be made by the New Richmond School Administration.
6. The Star Prairie Fish & Game Association was presented with an "Outstanding Achievement" award from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress by Awards Chairman Ron Roettger.
7. Twelve dozen each of orange, khaki, and Navy club caps have been purchased with delivery scheduled by August 1st.
8. The Star Prairie trout farm has an open house on Monday, May 26 from 1:00 to 5:00 for a special event with club members invited.

Duck Stamps

One thing we can all do to help in the loss of wildlife habitat is purchase a duck stamp. According to a release from the USF&WS, "the Duck Stamp isn't just for ducks. For over seven decades since its creation, the Stamp has delivered more than \$700 million for the acquisition of over five million acres of crucial wetland and grassland habitat for the Refuge System. These include fee-title acquisition and easement properties. Ninety-eight percent of the funds collected through the Stamp go directly to habitat acquisition in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Waterfowl benefits directly, but so does all of those non-waterfowl species when duck-stamp money secures wetland and grassland habitat. It's no accident that the Duck

Stamp is officially called the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

Birders and conservationists should make the Stamp a personal annual requirement. Today, possession and use of the Stamp are part of a broad and integrated movement to conserve birds and habitat in the 21st-century. You can buy your upcoming Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp starting on June 27th!

Odds and Ends

The United States Department of Agriculture and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) received 1,193 bear complaints during the calendar year 2007. They trapped and translocated 763 bears. Most of the complaints (59%) were handled over the phone. Bears captured were translocated to large blocks of contiguous public forestlands. St Croix County had only 1 nuisance bear complaint in 2007.

The statewide post hunt white-tailed deer population estimates for 2007 was 1,217,000. This was 74% above the statewide goal of approximately 700,000. The 2007 post hunt population estimates were more than 20% above goal in 104 deer management units.

The 2007 gun deer season provided active hunters with over three million days of hunter recreation. Gun deer hunters averaged 5.5 days a field during the 2007 season. The Northern Forest, Eastern Farmland and Southern Farmland regions of the state experienced the most hunter days. Ninety-eight percent of hunters hunted the 2007 regular gun season while fifty-one percent of active hunters harvested a deer in 2007.

Seventy percent of all turkey hunters who received a Fall Turkey Permit hunted turkeys in 2007. The overall success rate of active hunters was 28.2%. Statewide the average number of days spent hunting fall turkeys was 5.5 days with the highest hunter pressure on the weekends. The most commonly used method of fall turkey hunting was ambushing from concealment.

Through the cooperative efforts of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources biologists within the Bureaus of Wildlife Management, Endangered Resource and Science services, a total of 12,131 birds were banded in Wisconsin in 2007. Sixteen species of birds including ducks, geese, swans, eagles, osprey, woodcock, mourning doves, terns, and swamp sparrows were banded in 258 sites across the state.

Reports of observations of 12 pine martens, 8 lynx, 70 cougar, 31 moose and no wolverine were received in 2007 in Wisconsin.

Responses from the 2007 Mammal Surveys of 140 DNR field personnel indicated 2 marten, 68 badgers, 526 black bear, 43 bobcat, 508 coyotes, 104 fisher, 56 gray fox, 110 gray wolves, 553 red fox, 208 river otter and no jackrabbits seen in 2007.

Fish Stocking Permits Now Available Online

(Submitted by Area Conservation Warden Paul Sickman)

Fishing clubs, lake associations and private pond owners who want to stock fish can now apply online for the permit they'll need before transferring fish into any water in Wisconsin. Filling out an online application may allow



Ron Roettger, Chair of the Conservation Congress Awards Committee presenting Dan Bygd, President of the Star Prairie Fish & Game Association, with the 2008 Club Achievement Award



Ed Harvey, Chair of the Conservation Congress, presenting Kyle Kulow, President of the St Croix County Alliance with the 2008 Club Achievement Award



Ron Roettger with 2008 Spring Gobbler



2008 Lake Michigan Salmon Catch

people to get a permit decision more quickly than if they fill out and mail in a paper form, says Paul Cunningham, the Department of Natural Resources fish biologist who coordinates fish stocking permits.

The online application and a blank, printable application form can be found on DNR's fisheries pages along with other information about private stocking efforts, including a listing of fish farms where fish may be purchased for stocking at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/faq/stock.htm>.

Hundreds of people apply for fish stocking permits every year. Between June and December 2007, the department received more than 330 applications for fish stocking permits. Walleye was the most popularly species, with nearly one-third requesting to stock this angler favorite, followed by yellow perch. Applicants who choose to fill out their application online will still need to print out their completed form and mail it in to the DNR, along with a copy of a

fish health certificate for each species to be stocked from the fish farm where the fish were purchased, according to Joanna Griffin, DNR fisheries database manager. "When you contact a fish farm to order fish, ask for a copy of the most recent Fish Health Certificate," Griffin says. "You'll need to attach a copy of the certificate to your stocking permit application.

Since January 2002, a fish health certificate from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has been required for all fish stocked into state waters, including private ponds, to avoid spreading fish diseases to new waters.

Contact Conservation Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 ext 120 for questions or to report violations.

Upcoming Events...

- June 25th, 28th & July 12th.....Hudson Rod & Gun Club Women's Introductory Trap Shooting Class, Contact: Paul St. Ores 715-381-7203
- July 6th (Sunday).....IR50 Rimfire Shoot on Club land, 9am - noon, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- July 10th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's July Meeting, 7 pm, Club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- July 13th (Sunday).....Indian Head League Trap Shoot at Grantburg & Osceola
- July 15th (Tuesday).....Turtle season opens through August 31st
- July 19th (Saturday).....Willow River State Park Kids Fishing Contest, 9am to noon, Contact: WRSP 715-386-5931
- July 21st (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association July Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- July 27th (Sunday).....Indian Head League Trap Shoot at Siren & Hudson
- August 1st (Friday).....Fall turkey permit application deadline
- 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
- August 30th (Saturday).....IR50 Rimfire Shoot on Club land, 9am – 2 pm, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322

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

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