



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

### Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

*(From Chris Polfus's March Meeting Minutes)*

**Archery** – The winter spot and bush leagues have three weeks remaining. A 3D shoot (one or two person team) is scheduled for April 27th. A schedule of shoots for area clubs is posted on our web-site.

**Trap** – A Turkey Shoot is scheduled for April 6th, starting at 11 am. The Trap league will begin on April 24th. If interested please contact Joel Dekoch at 246-7437, [jdeckoch@precolaser.com](mailto:jdeckoch@precolaser.com), or Jerry Van Houten at (651) 436-5204, [jvanhouten@precolaser.com](mailto:jvanhouten@precolaser.com)

**Rifle Range** – The 25 yard bunker on the rifle range has suffered serious damage and will not be repaired until the rifle range renovation is completed. Range rules must be followed!

**Pistol Range** – PORTABLE BENCHES ARE NOT TO BE USED AS TARGET STANDS. Bullets must hit the berm. Do not bring the target towards the benches but move toward the berm because the bullets must hit the berm for safety reasons.

**St. Croix Alliance** – The DNR will hold meetings to discuss deer management goals as well as other hunting concerns. Local Herd control and Earn-A-Buck deer units will be discussed. For more information go to the Wisconsin DNR website.

**Membership** – For those of you that have received your membership packets, don't forget to get the window stickers affixed. Family membership will be \$75 for 2008 and if you've put in 10 hours the previous year, the cost will be \$45. No discounts will be given throughout the year. We currently have 350 members. Applications for 2008 will include a more thorough form including rules and regulations. Be thorough in your responses, otherwise they'll be delayed until completed.

**Education Committee** – The Bow Hunter's Education Course will begin March 24th with classes on March 27th, 29th and 31st. The field day is scheduled for April 5th at the club land. On Thursday, March 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 pm and from 9 to 10:30 pm on that night.

### Old Business/New Business

The Law Enforcement Committee has come up with dates of usage and they are posted on the club's web-site calendar.

The Ellsworth Rod & Gun will be having their first Chicken Feed of the year scheduled for April 10th and will continue every 2 weeks. Serving will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you have questions call (715) 273-3595.

Money was allotted for a donation of a gun and club membership for the NWTF Banquet. Todd Hoff presented the club with a complimentary fishing trip in Canada. Discussing was held on using it for a raffle. Please call the club at 246-4884 or stop out to get more details. Information about this trip will be posted on the club's web-site.

Baldwin gun club is having their annual fund raising banquet on April 12th. The WRR&GC club donated a gun and club membership to be used at their banquet.

Money was allotted for trap thrower maintenance and a Canterbury Voice Release system for one of our trap houses this season. We will have this up and running before league starts.

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

### Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

*(From Mike Kelly's February Meeting Minutes)*

**Fisheries/Habitat:** The cost of the 49 fish cribs constructed this year on Cedar Lake was \$52 per crib. The crib hauling sleds have been upgraded with electric winches. The grant of \$186,000 for a study of the phosphorous issues with Cedar Lake has been approved.

**Park Party:** The schedules date for the Park Party will be Tuesday, August 12th. The planned entertainment will be Trigger Happy Band and a polka/old time band to replace the Fiddler. The food offerings will remain the same, but corn on the cob will be added to the menu. Last years problems with ice delivery, and shar-

ing a beer cooler, and replacing the trolley with wagons were discussed.

**McMurtrie property/Land Trust:** A discussion was held on dedicating the dam area in honor of Jack Hayes for his support and dedication over the years

**Outreach/Youth:** The club provided funds for the construction of 20 wood duck nesting boxes built by the Keeping Youth Involved (KYI) group led by Ernie Shores. A discussion was held on the benefits of a kid's ice fishing event, making ice fishing houses available to youth, and further club involvement in youth hunts.

#### **Old Business/New Business:**

The club has 72 members in good standing.

A Cedar Lake School property (North Cedar Lake access area) meeting was held Feb. 1st. The DNR is willing to put money in to the acquisition project to expand parking, with possible removal of the old school building.

A discussion was held on planting lake vegetation closer in to the dam at the Cedar Lake outlet. The Lake District would pay for the plantings with our club providing labor.

#### **Spring Hearings April 14th, 2008**

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On Monday, April 14th, starting at 7 pm, the 2008 Spring Hearings will be held in St Croix County at WITC, Cashman Auditorium in New Richmond. There are several questions that pertain to hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation that will be voted on at this time. An electronic voting system will again be used this year to help in expediting the voting process. Two members of the Conservation Congress St Croix County delegation will also be elected.

Some of the Department of Natural Resource's questions include:

Require that anglers use artificial lures with barbless hooks while fishing for bass during a catch and release season for bass

Establish a catch and release musky season north of highway 10

Extend the open season for musky south of highway 10 to December 31st

Several changes involving various lakes including one to increase the size restriction of musky on Bone Lake in Polk County from 45 to 50 inches

Several trapping rule change proposals

Prohibit paintball activity on department managed lands

Conservation Congress's advisory questions include:

Legislation to prohibit deer baiting and feeding statewide

Eliminating the option for future Managed Forest Law participants from closing their property to public recreational access

Begin the process to create a gray wolf harvest season

Phone-in turkey registration

Prohibition on the transportation of aquatic invasive species

Elimination of the barbless hook requirement for early season trout fishing.

The Spring Hearing process allows for the public to weigh in on issues that directly affect them. Resolutions will be taken from the floor and become the basis for future questions that can be implemented and become law.

Over the last several years the Spring Hearing process has been streamlined to minimize time and maximize public involvement.

Come to the Spring Hearings on April 14th and participate in a truly unique opportunity for grass root involvement. You won't be disappointed!

#### **Tree Seedlings Still Available From State Nurseries for Planting This Spring**

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*(Submitted by Area Conservation Warden Paul Sickman)*

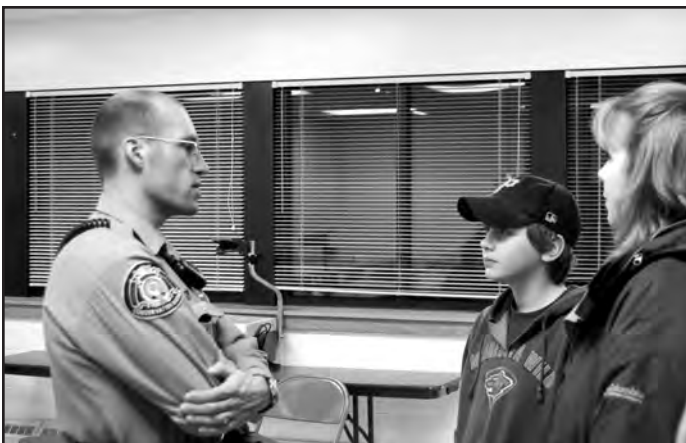
Some varieties of tree seedlings are still available from state tree nurseries for Wisconsin landowners who are interested in planting trees on their property this spring. There are a lot of benefits to establishing a forest tree planting, including growing forest products, enhancing wildlife habitat, reducing soil erosion, improving water quality, conserving energy by establishing a windbreak and improving the aesthetics of the land. Trees reduce carbon dioxide in the air, thereby reducing the warming "greenhouse" effect of the gas. Over the lifetime of a tree, several tons of carbon dioxide is eliminated.

Landowners who are contemplating large tree planting projects should contact their local DNR forester or a private consulting forester for advice on species selection, site preparation, planting methods, tree planter rentals, and other considerations in establishing a successful forest tree planting. Tree seedlings and wildlife shrubs can be obtained from both private and public sector nurseries in Wisconsin.

Landowners can purchase seedlings from the DNR state nurseries for reforestation, wildlife habitat, windbreak and erosion control purposes. The minimum



*String Shoot Spring 2008*



*Warden Paul Sickman teaching 2008 Spring Hunters Education Class*



*Keeping Youth Involved (KYI) group shooting trap mid January*

quantity that can be ordered from the state nurseries is 1000 tree seedlings, 500 wildlife shrubs or one packet. Wildlife, energy, and shoreland packets include 300 seedlings each.

Hardwood tree species still available at the state nurseries include red oak, black walnut, black cherry, sugar maple, silver maple, black ash, white ash and yellow birch. Conifer tree species available include white spruce, white pine, and red pine. Wildlife shrubs available include silky dogwood, hazelnut and hawthorn.

Private nurseries throughout Wisconsin also report a good supply and diversity of conifers, hardwoods and wildlife shrubs for tree planting in spring 2008. Forest tree seedlings and shrubs are distributed in April and early May. Landowners who order from the DNR can pick up their seedlings at the state nurseries located in

Boscobel, Hayward, or Wisconsin Rapids, or in many counties at a central location designated by the local DNR forester. Applications to purchase state nursery stock are available from local DNR offices, service centers, state nurseries, or by visiting the DNR Web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Nursery/order/>. A list of private nurseries providing forest tree seedlings in Wisconsin is generally available from these same offices and the DNR Web site. Any questions please call Warden Sickman at 715-684-2914 X 120.

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## Upcoming Events...

- 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 -30th.....Wild River Gun Show, Dresser WI
- March 31st (Monday).....Hunting and fishing licenses expire
- March 31st (Monday).....NWTF Banquet – TAC Night Club, Amery, Contact: Dean Swenson 715-268-7780
- April 1st (Tuesday).....Bag limit of panfish in St Croix County changes from 25 to 10 (See 2008 fishing regulations)
- April 6th (Sunday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club Turkey Shoot, 11 am start,  
Contact: Joel Dekoch at 246-7437 or Jerry Van Houten at (651) 436-5204
- April 12th & 13th.....Youth Turkey Hunt (See Regulations)
- April 10th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's April Meeting, 7 pm, Club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- April 14th (Monday).....Spring Wildlife and Fish Rule Hearings, WITC Cashman Conference Room, New Richmond, 7 pm
- April 15th through July 31st.....It 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 - 20th.....Spring 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 – 27th.....Spring 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 4th.....Spring turkey hunting period C
- 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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