



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** – Summer League has started and is currently at 30 teams with 3 youth teams. Eighty-two shooters attended a successful 3D shoot which included a 2 man competitive group. Thanks to all that helped setup and work the shoot.

**Trap** – There are currently 11 teams competing in Trap League. The voice release option is working well. Volunteers are needed to help during the Thursday shoots. These hours can be counted towards your 10 volunteer hours. Contact Joel Dekock, Jerry Van Houten, Terry Condon or Bill O'Rourke on Thursday to get on the schedule.

**Rifle Range** – The range committee will be going over the bids to make sure nothing was overlooked. Once the start date is determined, a schedule of work days will be posted at the entrance to finish the project. The more volunteers we have, the quicker this project is completed. Tree removal on the south side of the range will be a major project.

**Pistol Range** – A Rim Fire match is scheduled for May 17th with the State Rim Fire match scheduled May 31st and June 1st. PORTABLE BENCHES ARE NOT TO BE USED AS TARGET STANDS. Your bullets must hit the berm so move towards the berm and do not bring the target towards the benches because it is unsafe.

**Membership** – For those of you that have received your membership packets, don't forget to affix the window stickers. There are currently 245 paid members.

**Food Events Committee** – The Park Art Fair is our next big money making event and is set for Friday June 6th and Saturday June 7th. Thursday after 5 p.m. will be our setup time. We need volunteers for setup, work shifts and tear down Saturday late afternoon. This event will be bigger than last year. The chamber is including a Blues and Brew festival with Lamont Cranston performing Friday night. For more information visit their website at <http://www.newrichmondchamber.com/artfair.htm>. The Club is again serving chicken wings. A sign up schedule will be posted at the club. If you have questions call the club at (715) 246-4884 or contact Chris Polfus at (612) 719-6565 or [Snuka1@gmail.com](mailto:Snuka1@gmail.com)

### **Old/New Business**

Bob Peterson has retired from the Board and will be replaced by Ron Roettger as Secretary. Chris Polfus will take over as the Treasurer. Once again thank you Bob for all of your dedication to the club.

We've discussed new gate signage with Jon Nysse planning that effort.

Money was allotted for food and supplies for the upcoming Park Art Fair, cement and supplies for a new entrance to the clubhouse as well as a patio off the west side and sidewalk to the back door that leads to the rest-rooms. This also includes concrete for 2 Horseshoe pits. Money was also approved for rim fire awards and plaques through 2008. This includes the state match.

June 7th is a cleanup date. We'll be doing some major improvements to the club land.

Please forward any lost item concerns to the Membership coordinator at [Jessa.Nelson@gmail.com](mailto:Jessa.Nelson@gmail.com)

### **Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News**

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

The annual Senior Pontoon Ride on Cedar Lake is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17th, with a rain date of June 18th. The number of riders that will be accommodated this year was increased to 125. Ray Barry will contact pontoon drivers for this event.

Donations for the fish cribs construction on Cedar Lake that were collected at Russel's Sport & Bike has been deposited and will be used to help in next year's crib building efforts.

A Cedar lake cleanup to remove ice-fishing debris was completed and was a joint effort of the Cedar Lake Rehabilitation District and the Star Prairie Fish and Game Association.

The location sites for trail and nature viewing were marked and GPS locations taken at the McMurtrie Preserve. Bluebird and wood duck nesting boxes have been erected. Projects for the New Richmond High School Service Learning day, scheduled for May 14th, will include planting the rain garden with native plants, installing gates and sign posts, digging in overflow for the rain garden, installing screening under the dock at Cedar

Bay and constructing the Jack Hayes memorial near the dam.

A Junior Bass Masters group has been initiated by the Indianhead Bassers with several tournaments planned. The club will be open to youth 13 – 18 years of age. The club voted to provide a monetart sponsorship for the group.

The Boy Scout Order of the Arrow will be camping at the McMurtrie Preserve on the weekend of Aug. 22 –24 and will provide one service day at the site. The Scouts plan to re-deck the dam, assemble Leopold benches, and possible clear the ridge trail. There will be 25 Scouts with 15 leaders. The club will also sell, or take orders for, Leopold benches at club events. Additional youth events, such as ice fishing opportunities, “Learn to Hunt” outings and “Kid’s Company” sponsorship were discussed.

276 small binoculars for door prize have been purchased for the annual Bucks Night event. Thirty-one firearms have also been purchased, including guns for the 10 gun external raffle. Buck’s Night is scheduled for Monday, November 17th.

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

Cards were received from the Bygd girls and Volleyball team, the Jack Hayes family and Phyllis Menke.

The annual spring ditch cleanup on Hwy 65 is scheduled for 6:30 on April 22.

A committee was formed to investigate polo shirts with the club logo to wear at summer events.

The USF&W has hired a summer intern and the club will contribute monetarily to defray part of that cost.

A new order for club caps has been placed with 12 dozen each of orange, khaki, and Navy on order.

USF&W waterfowl surveys on local Waterfowl Productions Areas (WPA) is planned for the end of May. Contacts will be made for help.

### **Alliance Meeting News and Notes**

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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 that award which Kyle will present on May 14th. Tara plans to attend UW Superior majoring in Biology for Secondary Education.

The St Croix County Alliance has received the 2007 Outstanding Conservation Club Achievement Award from the Conservation Congress. Kyle accepted the award at the State Conservation Congress meeting held in Wisconsin Dells on May 9th. It will proudly be displayed at the County Land and Water Conservation Office. Ron Roettger gave an overview of that meeting also.

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 by the end of June.

The old Pine Lake dock will be moved to Squaw Lake and the Squaw Lake dock will be moved to Perch Lake according to Dave Larson. This is a classical example of

musical docks.

Money has been provided for Jack Rasmussen by the Alliance to purchase another batch of herbicide to be distributed to local residents to control invasive species especially buckthorn. The threat of garlic mustard was also addressed.

Money for the taxidermy work on a large male brown trout has been allotted by the Alliance. Scott Miller did a beautiful job. The mount will be provided to the River Falls High School for display. This will compliment a donated mount of a female brown donated by Mark Toso.

The New Richmond High School Service Day is scheduled for May 14th. Kyle, Dave, Mike and Aleisha Miller will help with coordinating activities out at the McMurtrie Preserve with some of the students.

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 contacts can be made with the present landowners where the aeration systems are located. Action items delineated at the first meeting have not been accomplished. Other pending topics that are in the offing are easements and agreements for the aeration system, boat landing ownership and maintenance and dredging opportunities. This is a very important meeting and should be held as soon as possible. The future of the fishery on Squaw Lake hangs in the balance! The Alliance feels its responsibility at this time will be to continue to maintain a back up aeration unit for emergency purposes. This unit will be used on a county wide basis.

Earlier this year an informal meeting was held at the USF&WS Office to address concerns of local residents about conservation practices and policies of the USF&WS and the DNR. Several individuals attended the meeting and all felt it was worthwhile.

Because of timing and other commitments no one from the Alliance was able to attend Lobby Day, held January 30th in Madison.

Earth Day was held on April 20th at the YMCA Camp in Hudson. Several Alliance members manned booths. Aleisha Miller has done a great job in organizing the event which gets bigger and better every year. More than 500 people attended.

The Alliance reviewed the changes that have occurred on both the Land & Water Conservation Committee and the County Board as a whole. A presentation will be made concerning Alliance accomplishments in 2007-08 before the full Board on May 20th.

Alliance support for two resolutions concerning a ban on artificial feeding of deer and the Great Lakes Compact was again emphasized. Anther resolution concerning the artificial feeding of deer will again be presented to the County Land & Water Conservation Committee and the full board later this year.

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 moni-



*Wood Duck boxes being installed during NR High School Service Day on Cedar Lake*



*Debris collected from Cedar Lake following ice-out*

tor placement and data collection.

The Baldwin Shooting Range lawsuit situation was updated. Following unsuccessful arbitration, a judge's ruling formally closed the range. It could reopen however, if proper safety improvements are made. Efforts are presently being made to raise money to have the range reopen.

There was much talk on fishing and turkey hunting activities of the Alliance membership. Some of it was even factual.

Jim Sandfort advised the Alliance that the Hudson Rod & Gun Club was again considering buying and stocking pheasant in the county. The Alliance has made the commitment to help defray the cost of the project if it moves forward.

A review of the fyke netting on Hatfield Lake was given. Bullheads are a clear and present danger and plans are being made to help eliminate them from the lake.

There are upcoming meetings scheduled for agency staff and stakeholders on the total sediment loading of waters including the Willow River. The next meeting is scheduled for May 29th at the Government Center in Hudson.

It was decided to invite Senator Sheila Harsdorf to our next meeting in July.

#### Greetings from Jen Hegge

*(Jen is the Daughter of Dave Hegge and was an active Willow River Rod & Gun Club member before entering the Peace Corp)*

Greetings from Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala Mexico! I hope this message reaches you and your families in good health and spirits!

My first three months were spent in Queretaro, Queretaro for Peace Corps Training. Queretaro is a beautiful city located about three hours (by bus) north of Mexico City. The three months were full of language, cultural, and technical trainings. Of course, I did a little traveling too! I visited, among other places, Colima which is the most active volcano in Mexico. There are actually two peaks there, Nevado de Colima and Vocan de Colima. I climbed to almost 14,000 feet to see Nevado de Colima. It was amazing!



*Willow River Trout 2008*

I moved to my permanent site just after New Years. Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala is located two hours (by bus) south east of Mexico City and bordered to the south by the city and state of Puebla. It is the third smallest state in Mexico. The volcano La Malinche (also La Malinche National Park) is beautiful and can be seen from just about anywhere.

I am based in the office of the Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), a federal agency. I work with communities throughout the entire state. Most of my time is spent working with agricultural conservation practices, ArcGIS, and teaching English. The people are warm, welcoming, and generous. The last seven months have been both challenging and rewarding. In my time away from work I have found time to travel most of central Mexico, am learning to salsa dance, chase scorpions from my apartment, and of course study Spanish!

I do have access to internet. My e-mail address is [jenniferhegge@yahoo.com](mailto:jenniferhegge@yahoo.com). Feel free to drop a note anytime. Jen Hegge, Peace Corps Volunteer Mexico 2007-2009

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## Upcoming Events...

- May 21st – May 25th .....Spring turkey hunting period F
- May 24th (Saturday) .....Musky season opener north of Highway 10
- May 31st and June 1st.....State IR50-50 match on Club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- June 7th & 8th.....Wisconsin Free State Fishing Weekend
- June 8th (Sunday) .....State Park Open House Day, Free State Park Admission
- June 8th (Sunday) .....Willow River State Park's "Art Along the Willow", 10am – 4 pm, Free Park Admission,  
Contact: Carol Benish 715-381-0441
- June 12th (Thursday) .....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's June Meeting, 7 pm, Club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- June 16th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association June Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,  
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- June 18th (Wednesday) .....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association's Annual Senior Pontoon Ride on Cedar Lake,  
Contact: New Richmond Community Education
- June 22nd (Saturday) .....Open northern bass zone catch and keep season, see regs
- July 19th (Saturday) .....Willow River State Park Kids Fishing Contest, 9am to noon, Contact: WRSP 715-386-5931

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

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