



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

Members are reminded to turn in their volunteer hours so that they can be credited to their accounts. Only ten hours will provide you with the reduced club membership next year. Forms can be found at the club website or in the mail box by the club parking lot. Call Jessa at 246-0266 if you have any questions.

If anyone has anything to get in the newsletter or have a photo to share with the membership please send to Mike Reiter, 461 Parkview Dr, New Richmond, WI 54017 or call 246-6643.

We will be holding ARA rimfire shoots in the in the pistol range for everyone on 3 dates this fall. The dates are 9/16, 9/23, and 10/7. They will start at 4:30pm, try and show as early as possible, but we will be shooting multiple relays so you can be late. Course of fire will be 3 25 target cards to shot in 20 minutes each. Bring any 22 long rifle and a rest of your choice, rules are very open, as ARA is an unlimited format. Cost will \$3 per card (\$9 for 3). Please contact Brian Headlee with questions at 715-377-8484.

Plans to enclose the entryway to the clubhouse have been put on hold until next spring.

Discussion on allowing rapid fire shooting to be limited to one side of the pistol range is being considered.

Signage throughout the club land is being considered to better define club practices and rules.

Volunteers are needed for the three rifle site-in days to be held on the three Sundays proceeding the deer gun season. Dates scheduled are November 2nd, 9th and 16th.

Ernie Shores youth group, Keeping Youth Involved (KYI), has volunteered their time several times to the club in the past and again will be helping clear brush and debris at the main club land gate. The club sign will also be remodeled or removed.

The deer dumpster will again be placed on the club gate entrance this year. Care will be taken to assure that it is emptied at the appropriate times while the date of the actual placement has yet to be decided. Donations will be solicited to help defray the cost of this project.

This years John Zinsmeister's Annual Family day was

held on September 7th. The roast pork and fixings were great and a good time was has by all. Attendance was down this year however. Better advertising of the event and perhaps a change of the scheduled date is being considered.

Discussion of trap equipment updating will be considered next year. A card reader at the main gate to gain access to the land is also being considered to better serve our membership.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's August Meeting Minutes)

Fisheries/Habitat: Dan Cain's position with Habitat Forever has been eliminated as part of a nation wide cut-back. Dan will be starting his own business (Habitat Creations) working in the same areas as before. Last year Dan completed 1700 acres of habitat work including plantings, burning and restorations.

Park Party: Attendance was down from previous years with about 1000 dinners served. A discussion was held on possibly moving the date to the Thursday just before Ox Cart Days. Bob Swanda will investigate availability of the bands for that date. Final numbers are not in but the party probably about broke even, financially.

McMurtrie property/Land Trust: The Boy Scout's Order of the Arrow will be camping at McMurtrie over the weekend with about 50 boys expected to be in attendance. The Scouts and their leaders will provide a work day on Saturday to rebuild the decking on the dam, extend the parking lot gravel including a path into the trails and clearing the oak savannah on the ridge parallel to the lake. The Land Trust will provide root beer floats to the group at the end of the workday.

Outreach/Youth: The Forrest Ridge Youth Hunt will be held on October 4th. Club members are encouraged to help with this event. Rich Thole, Polk County DNR warden, who had organized the event in the past, has transferred to Vilas County. A Thank You and transcripts from Zach Johnson, a Bob Moberg scholarship recipient, were received by the club.

Buck's Night: All the firearms are being displayed in area establishments. A Bucks Night committee meeting will be

held at 5:00 before the next club meeting. Contact Chuck Magoon if you need additional gun raffle tickets.

Old Business/New Business:

The club has 75 members in good standing.

Sheila Harsdorf addressed the club speaking on the Great Lakes Compact, Healthcare Insurance and Green Tier Regulations. She also answered several questions from the club and agreed to work with the New Richmond Hunters Education Group to help secure continued use of the National Guard Armory at a reasonable fee.

Jon Bush circulated a proposal for a club sponsored ice fishing house concept, and requested it be sent to the entire membership. Please review and plan to discuss at the next meeting.

A motion was made and approved to have Dan Cain represent the club's interests in the Phase IV NAWCAA commitments.

The Willow River Rod & Gun club rifle range renovations are complete. The range is now 75 yards wide with 9 shooting stations with targets at 25, 50, 100 and 200 yards.

There will be a national Walleye fishing tournament held on the St. Croix River in October.

The next meeting of the SPF&GA is scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2008, with the 6 pm social hour and the 7 pm regular meeting at Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake.

Alliance News & Notes

The Xcel Energy/St Croix County agreement at Pine Lake Park is still being negotiated. Xcel Energy has laid out 5 points which the County has addressed and is awaiting a reply. 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. Blacktopping at the park should be completed this fall.

After the September Land and Water Conservation Committee meeting, a decision was made to move forward with the County Aids Project at Hatfield Lake Regional Park in New Richmond. A carry on boat access is being planned on the west side to allow public access to the lake. Kyle has met with the City Parks Department and a plan for the landing will be drawn up and be presented at the City Park Board Committee meeting on September 24th. The Board will be asked to provide funding for the project and to guarantee the access be open without charge to users.

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. Presently St Croix County lockers are participating in the program will accept deer harvested by archers only. Each county has its own guidelines. An e-mail describing the present situation was shared with Alliance members.

A motion was made and approved to purchase another batch of herbicide to be distributed to local residents to control invasive species especially buckthorn. Jessica Hermann has been hired as the new County Parks Manager for Homestead/Troy Parks. Jessica comes with very good credentials having earlier worked in the Milwaukee County Parks System.

The County land open to public hunting agreement, has up to now, been renewed on an annual basis. Going forward an attempt will be made to tie it into the farming lease agreement which will be renewed every five years or as necessary. The County will look into making this part of that agreement. Buffers will be installed around the on site wetlands and crop rotation will be suggested also.

Progress has been made on the Squaw Lake aeration easement agreements. Roger Swanson was reelected as chairman, Craig Jameson as Secretary and Connie Haupt named Treasurer of the Squaw Lake District. A meeting later this year is planned to get things solidified. Water level monitors purchased by the Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District are in place above and below the New Richmond dam at locations that have previously been monitored. The County will help in monitor placement and data collection. Tammy Whittmer from the County is coordinating this effort. The monitors will be removed during the winter months.

A phosphorous reduction program to decrease the amount of phosphorus that enters the Willow River and eventually the St Croix 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. A concerted effort is being made to incorporate upstream land owners into the decision making process.

A Bass Lake Management Plan is being put together to set a course of action going forward. Meetings have been held with more planned to get the plan finalized. The Alliance will be a viable partner helping to put this plan in place. Water quality will be emphasized. Walleye fingerling stocking and fish habitat enrichment may become part of that plan also.

The Baldwin Gun Club's effort to reopen is slowly moving forward. A NRA grant has been received and permits to bring the club property up to specs are being submitted.

Jim Sandfort reported on his recent trip to Poynette to observe the pheasant rearing facilities and attend informational meetings. The Hudson Club plans to purchase pheasants for local stocking this fall. The Alliance has committed to sponsor half the cost of this stocking project.

Marty Engel, area Fish Manager, reported on a number of DNR related items:

The Fink and Casey Lake areas have been designated two new dog training areas established in the County. These compliment the one located on the southwest side of the Cylon Wildlife area.

Volunteer help is needed to harvest native seed locally.



Bullheads to be removed from Hatfield Lake to improve fishing quality.

Anyone interested should contact Harvey Halvorsen at 715-384-2914.

Trout stream monitoring indicated that area streams have had phenomenal reproduction and are in great shape going into this winter.

The season on lake sturgeon in Wisconsin has new regulations including a 60 inch size limit. The St Croix River is not included in these changes this year because Minnesota was too late in considering them. Bullheads will be removed in Hatfield Lake this fall to bring their population under control and allow desirable species to thrive.

Warden Sickman commented on the youth day and hunt that will be held on October 4th at Forest Ridge Hunt Club. It gets bigger and better each year. Paul also commented on Warden Rick Rosen's successful bear hunt.

The November Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th, 2008 starting at 6:30 pm at the Land Conservation Building in Baldwin.

Warden Paul's Corner -Waterfowl Seasons

The 2008 waterfowl regulations have been finalized after state, provincial and federal biologists from the United States and Canada cooperatively review spring waterfowl breeding surveys across North America and other biological and social data.

Important Changes in 2008 and season framework: Federal frameworks close canvasback season, offer scaup at 40 days/1 bird bag and 20 days with a 2 bird bag for a total of 60 days and an increased daily bag of wood ducks from 2 to 3.

Horicon zone simplified to 2 time periods.

Mourning dove season extended by 10 days, Sept. 1-Nov.9; Non-toxic shot required on DNR managed lands. Early September Canada goose season – September 1-15, with a daily bag of 5 geese.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt - September 20-21. The daily bag is the same as the regular seasons.

Ducks - 60 Day Season – Daily bag of 6 ducks, no more than 4 mallards of which only 1 may be a hen, 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 1 scaup for 40 days and



Conservation Warden Rick Rosen 2008 Bear.

2 for 20 days, 1 pintail (60 days). Closed canvasback season. In addition, 5 mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. Coot daily bag of 15.

Northern Zone: Sept 27 – Nov 25 and Southern Zone: Oct 4 -12, Oct 18- Dec 7

*Opening day shooting hours will begin at 9am in both the northern and southern zones.

Special Scaup Season - North zone:

The daily bag limit for scaup will be 1 except that from Oct. 18 to Nov. 6 in the north zone the daily bag limit may include 2 scaup.

Special Scaup Season - South zone:

The daily bag limit for scaup will be 1 except that from Nov. 1 to Nov. 20 in the south zone the daily bag limit may include 2 scaup.

Canada Geese - Year 2 of 5 year Mississippi Flyway stable Canada goose season

Exterior Zone: Daily Bag of 2 birds - North - Saturday Sept 20 - Dec 13.

South – Saturday Sept 20 – October 12, and October 18 – December 18. Mississippi River Subzone: Oct. 4 - Oct. 12 and Oct. 18 – Jan. 1st.

Horicon Zone: Only 2 periods simplify and provide more hunting days. H1- Sept 16 – Nov 2 - H2- Nov 3 – Dec 16 - Daily Bag of 2 with 6 tags per hunter.

Collins Zone: 3 Time periods. Daily Bag of 2 with 6 tags per hunter - C1: Sept. 16- Oct. 3 and Oct. 4 at 9am- Oct. 5; C2: Oct. 6- Oct. 26; C3: Oct. 27- Nov. 21.

Light geese (Snow, Blue and Ross) and Brant: Seasons are the same as for the Canada goose zones and subzones.

Daily Bag Limit: 1 brant and 20 light geese. White-fronted geese: Season is the same as for Canada geese in the Exterior and Collins zones. In the Horicon zone the season will be September 22 – December 16. Daily Bag Limit: 1 white-fronted goose.

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

Upcoming Events...

- September 20th - 21st.....Youth Waterfowl season opens (See Regulations)
(Saturday & Sunday)
- September 20th (Saturday)Exterior goose season opens (See Regulations)
- September 20th (Saturday)Woodcock season opens through November 3rd
- September 27th (Saturday)Open duck season (north zone) through November 25th, 9 am opener, (See regulations)
- September 30th (Tuesday)Inland trout season closes (See regulations)
- October 4th (Saturday).....Open duck season (south zone) through October 12th,
Reopens October 18th through December 7th, 9 am opener, (See Regulations)
- October 9th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's October Meeting, 7 pm, Club land,
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- October 11th - 12thYouth Deer Hunt, Saturday and Sunday, (See Regulations)
- October 11th (Saturday).....Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust's GPS-Geocaching Event, McMurtrie Preserve, 12-4 pm,
Contact Aleisha Miller 715-426-1473
- October 16th – 19thHerd Control DMU antlerless deer hunt, (See Regulations)
(Thursday through Sunday)
- October 18th (Saturday).....Pheasant season opener at noon through December 31st
- October 20th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association October Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting,
Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- November 2nd, 9th and 16th.....Sundays scheduled for Rifle site in days on the club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- November 11th (Tuesday)St Croix County Sportsman Alliance November Meeting, Land & Water Conservation Building, Baldwin, 6:30 pm,
Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- November 17th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association's Bucks Night, Ready Randy's, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- November 22nd (Saturday)Open of Deer Gun Season through November 30th
- December 10th (Wednesday).....Deadline for spring turkey application, Bear deadline to apply for drawing or preference point
- December 20th (Saturday).....Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust's Hiking and Snowshoeing Event, Event, McMurtrie Preserve, 12-4 pm,
Contact Aleisha Miller 715-426-1473

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

New Richmond, WI 54017
P.O. Box 145

