



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

### Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

**Archery:** The indoor archery leagues are going well with about 100 shooters making up the leagues. There is a 3D archery shoot scheduled for Sunday, February 15th, with set up to be held Saturday, February 14th. This shoot will be a combination archery shoot with the Chilakoot Archery Club and will be held at both club sites. Contributions will benefit the United Special Sportsman Alliance [www.childwish.com](http://www.childwish.com). Together, the clubs will raise funds to help critically ill and disabled youth to realize their dreams.

**Rim Fire:** The AR50/50 and ARA schedules have been submitted and approved. These are posted on the website.

**Pistol Range/Rifle Range:** The ranges are getting much use. Backers need to be replaced on both ranges. There appears to be a water drainage problem on the rifle range which needs to be addressed.

**Membership:** We presently have 372 paid members.  
**Club Activities:** The Chamber of Commerce dues for 2009 will be paid. Upcoming club events scheduled are the Fun Fest and Park Art Fair which are great fund raisers.

**DNR:** Harvey Halvorsen, DNR Wildlife Biologist, is scheduling an open house to be held on March 19th at the Land and Water Conservation building in Baldwin from 4-9 pm. The public is welcome to voice their views on area deer management at this meeting. Harvey has some interesting data for the 2008 seer season to present.

**Alliance:** The 2009 Annual Alliance Conservation Banquet will be held on Tuesday, March 24th, at the Baldwin VFW Hall. Anyone interested in attending can contact Mike Reiter at 715-246-6643 for more information.

**Education:** The 2009 Spring Hunter's Education Class has begun with a class of 26 students. The Bow hunter's Education Class is set to begin April 4th. Any questions can be directed to Head Instructor Ron Roettger at 715-248-3883. The Baldwin Hunters Education group will be using our facilities on April 4th for their range day.

**Land Improvements:** Wood fences will be constructed along the archery practice range. A cedar privacy fence will be constructed around the dumpsters also. The double door at the rear of our clubhouse will be replaced while plans for the entryway into the clubhouse have been put on hold. The entry gate to our land will be installed soon. A decision of installing a sliding gate versus a swinging gate will be made. The large brush pile located on the lower trap site will be burned over the weekend.

A wedding reception has been scheduled for October 3rd on the club land by a club member. The club land will be closed to the public during this event.

An offer will be made to purchase equipment and supplies from the Baldwin Club. A trap, voice activated throwing devise and clay birds could be included in our offer.

The Willow River Rod & Gun Club voted unanimously to ban smoking in the club house proper. Smoking will be allowed outside the building to accommodate smokers. Signage will be posted in the clubhouse advising of the smoking ban.

Archers are asked not to store or leave their archery equipment, bows and bow cases in the clubhouse. Valuables left in the building could pose liability issues for potential break-ins.

Law enforcement range use schedules for the upcoming year are being logged in to provide them access to the ranges. These will be added to the website to notify members of potential range and land closures.

Indianhead shoot dates have been posted on the website.

Todd Hoff of the National Wild Turkey Federation has been named regional representative. A donation (\$250.00) for a gun to be donated as the "Jake's Gun" and a club membership was provided for their upcoming banquet. Todd can be reached at 715-247-5275 or [hoffsfishnfeather@yahoo.com](mailto:hoffsfishnfeather@yahoo.com).

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

Board Election: Ray Barry, Craig Warren, Dan Cain, and Erv Erickson were re-elected to the board for 3 year terms. The following club officers were named:

President: Dan Bygd

Vice President: Chuck Magoon

Treasurer: Stuart Nelson

Secretary: Mike Kelly

2009 Committee Chairmen:

Park Party: Bob Swanda and Chuck Magoon

Buck's Night: Craig Warren and Terry Zais

Habitat/Fisheries: Erv Erickson and Dan Cain

Outreach/Youth: Stuart Nelson and Dave Peterson

Senior Pontoon Rides: Ray Barry and Don Madsen

Senior Pontoon Event: A tentative date for the Senior Pontoon Ride has been set for Wednesday, June 10th, pending reservation of the River Island park shelter.

Fisheries/Habitat: The annual fish crib building date has been set for January 31st on Cedar Lake.

Park Party: The band, "Trigger Happy", is scheduled to play at the 2009 Park Party. The event has now been moved to the Thursday before OX Cart Days.

Buck's Night: LED hat lights have been purchased for the door prize to all attendees at Buck's night scheduled for Monday November 16th, 2009.

McMurtrie/Land Trust: Building plans are under discussion with the Building committee meeting with Kim O'Connell to develop quotes on basic utility services.

Outreach/Youth: Donations were made to the St. Croix County Sportsman's Alliance for their benefit on March 24 and to the Wanderoos Lions club for the Kids Ice Fishing Contest.

The club has 73 members in good standing.

There were a few participants in the Community Fishing Opportunity (CFO) held on January 10th on Cedar Lake. More have signed up for the next outing on January 24.

The club will act as a fiscal agent for the USF&WS to secure funding for local projects. A motion was made and approved to "Act as a fiscal agent to obtain state stamp funding not to exceed \$50,000 over a 2 year period, beginning in the summer of 2009, with an acceptable memorandum of agreement and pending grant approval."

The club budget for 2009 was reviewed and approved. The proposal was for a balanced budget with some reductions in areas due to the expected poor economy in 2009.

The Indianhead Pheasants Forever banquet will be on March 20th. A special 25th anniversary gun will be engraved with PF and SPF&GA logos for both our clubs fund raisers.

A discussion was held on a letter or notice that could be given to the ice fishing community on Cedar Lake to remind them of their responsibility to control litter and



*Willow River Archery League 2009*

behavior to keep Cedar Lake a safe and desirable place to ice fish. A letter to the editor in local papers was suggested as a means to communicate the issue. The club and the Cedar Lake Association will hold lake clean ups sessions in February and March after the ice shacks are removed.

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#### Alliance News and Notes

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Tuesday, March 24th is the scheduled date for the 2009 Alliance Conservation Banquet. Everything appears to be moving along nicely to insure the event goes off without a hitch. The Hudson Rod and Gun Club and the Glenwood Locker provided donations to the event.

Dave Larson reported that the Xcel Energy/St Croix County agreement at Pine Lake Park is still being negotiated. There are five points that need to be addressed with an easement perhaps having to be purchased.

The Alliance will continue the herbicide donation program for treatment of noxious plants such as buckthorn into 2009. Jack Rasmussen will purchase more herbicide for distribution for the Alliance. Jack reported that several gallons of the material were dispensed in 2008.

Progress has been made on the Squaw Lake aeration easement agreements. A February 26th meeting, starting at 7 pm, is scheduled at the Star Prairie Town Hall to include all stakeholders. Several issues will be addressed including the easements and dredging possibilities.

The 2009 Conservation Lobby Day is scheduled in Madison for February 25th. Tom Stolp, Western Organizer for the event, has been busy recruiting individuals interested in attending. Four points will be stressed on this day including returning the appointment of the Secretary of the DNR to the Natural Resource Board, preserving ground water, global warming and protecting drinking water.

The USF&WS is again planning to hold a waterfowl pair and brood survey in 2009. A pre-survey meeting will be held on March 18th at the District Office located between New Richmond and Somerset. This year the survey will be expanded to include more area Waterfowl



*Cedar Lake Truck wash now open*



*To the rescue on Cedar Lake 2009*

Production Areas. Anyone interested call 246-6643 or the USF&WS Office for more information.

The 2009 Annual Waterfowl Conference will be held in Stevens Point on March 6th and 7th.

The 5th Annual St Croix County Earth Day will be held at the YMCA Camp south of Hudson on Sunday, April 19th. The Alliance will sponsor a table and provide monetary help if necessary. For information on the event contact Aleisha Miller at 715-684-2874 Ex.125.

Conservation Congress events:

*District 2 meeting – March 3rd, Barron*

*Spring Hearings – April 13th, New Richmond  
WITC, 7 pm*

The Alliance sent a letter in support of Senate Bill 5 to ban lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus to Senator Mark Miller who is the Chair of the Senate Environmental Committee.

The CWD Ten Year Plan (draft) was discussed by members of the Alliance. The Alliance will contact Dan Jones of the DNR to provide him the Alliance's position of strong support for the plan. The Alliance also strongly supports the ban of baiting and feeding of deer in Wisconsin to prevent disease spread along with a variety of other reasons.

Marty reported on the trout habitat improvements and easements being planned on Parker Creek. KLT/handicapped access on the Kinni River was also discussed.

The DNR is being asked to make more cuts and may lose the use of some of its vehicles because of seasonal usage and reduced mileage. These vehicles are sorely needed to provide service work on our water resources. A license fee increase has been put on hold for the next few years so budgets will remain tight.

Harvey Halvorsen reported that the 2009 Deer Review Meeting will be held on March 19th at the Land and Water Conservation building in Baldwin from 4-9 pm. The public is welcome to voice their views on area deer management at this meeting. Harvey has some interesting data for the 2008 deer season to present.

### Warden Paul's Corner - Fishing from Permanent Shelters

This winter there has been an above average number of problems and issues with permanent ice houses/shelters in St. Croix County. These problems include, fishing from inside a locked ice house, no name on the permanent ice house, no address or improper display of name and address and litter on the ice and around shelters

The doors of all enclosed fishing shelters, both permanent and portable, must be readily opened from the outside while someone is inside. The only time a fishing shelter can be locked is when it is not in use. Therefore, a permanent shelter cannot be locked from the inside. Your shelter needs to be built or modified using a typical door knob/latch, a heavy duty spring or some other way to keep the door closed, but not locked while in use so it can be opened from the outside.

All permanent fishing shelters must display the owner's name and address (in English) legibly by painting or otherwise affixing on the outside of the shelter using block lettering a minimum of 1 inch and in contrasting colors. A name and city or phone number is not correct. Take the short amount of time to look at your shelter and get it into compliance if needed.

The main reason for this requirement is so law enforcement knows who owns the shelter for removal deadlines. In addition, Wisconsin does not want to license fishing shelters such as Minnesota so please follow the laws, be respectful and responsible so the laws stay the same.

For questions or comments call Warden Sickman at 715-684-2914 X 120. Remember no ice is safe ice!

### Hunting and Trapping Seasons Closure

There are a few hunting seasons coming to an end in February. Those seasons are the raccoon and fox hunting seasons which close on February 15, 2009. In addition, the raccoon trapping season also ends on February 15, 2009 for both residents and nonresidents. Lastly, the use of cable restraints for trapping coyote and fox ends on February 15, 2009.

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## Upcoming Events...

- February 25th (Wednesday).....Conservation Lobby Day, Madison  
February 28th (Saturday) .....Hunting/Fishing Expo, 9 am - 4 pm, Prairieview Covenant Church, between New Richmond and Star Prairie off Highway 65  
February 28th (Saturday) .....Cottontail rabbit season closes  
March 1st (Sunday).....Game Fish fishing season closes (See Regulations) Moon Hike, Ed and Angie Colosky, 7 pm,  
March 7th (Saturday).....Willow River State Park February Bird Talk and Full  
"Piciformes Woodpecker and Allies", Contact: Kari 715-386-9340  
March 7th (Saturday).....Early Catch and Release Trout Season opens, (See Regs)  
March 8th (Sunday).....Ice houses must be removed south of highway 64  
March 10th (Tuesday).....2009-2010 fishing and hunting licenses go on sale  
March 12th (Thursday) .....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's March Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322  
March 15th (Sunday).....Ice houses must be removed north of highway 64  
March 16th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association March Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477  
March 19th (Thursday) .....Start of New Richmond Bow Hunter's Education Class, Contact: Ron Roettger 715-248-3883  
March 20th (Friday).....25th Pheasant Forever Banquet, Tac Entertainment Center, Amery, Opens 5 pm with dinner at 7 pm, Contact Dan Cain 715-554-2052  
March 20th (Friday).....Crow Season closes  
March 23rd - 27th ..... Remaining Spring Turkey Permits go on sale  
March 24th (Tuesday).....St Croix Alliance Annual Habitat Banquet, Baldwin VFW Club, Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643  
March 26th (Thursday) ..... Over the Counter sale of remaining 2009 Spring Turkey Permits for Zone 4, 10 am, DNR License Vendors  
March 31st (Tuesday) .....2008-2009 Hunting and fishing licenses expire  
April 13th (Monday) .....pring Wildlife and Fish Rule Hearings, WITC Cashman Conference Room, New Richmond, 7 pm  
April 19th (Sunday) .....th Annual Earth Day Event, YMCA Camp St Croix, 532 Cty Rd F, Hudson, Contact Aleisha Miller 715-426-1473

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

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