

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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

2009 Board of Directors:

Jessa Nelson and Bill O'Rourke were elected to the Willow River Rod & Gun Club's Board of Directors for 2009. The new officers and positions for 2009 are:

Brian Headlee - President

tenspot17@hotmail.com - (715-246-5322)

Jon Nysse - Vice President

jnyss@gmail.com - (715-246-7021)

Chris Polfus - Treasurer

chrisp@polfus.com - (715-246-6849)

Ron Roettger - Secretary

ronroettger@frontiernet.net - (715-248-3883)

Jessa Nelson - Membership Director

jessa.nelson@gmail.com - (715-246-0266)

Bill O'Rourke - Non-Shooting Events

annlizzie@frontiernet.net - (715-246-2475)

Jerry Van Houten - Long Range Planning

jjvanhouten@hotmail.com - 651-436-5204

Bob Peterson chose not to run this time around. We want to again thank Bob for all that he has done for the club over the many years on the board.

Check our web-site for archery and trap league results. IR50 and ARA information and standings will also be listed there. The web-site is the place to check for land and range closures due to law enforcement training and club related activities.

Turkey Shoots are scheduled for the Sundays of April 19th and May 24th on the club land. Trap League is set to start on Thursday, April 23rd.

Approved expenditures from 2008 were carried over to 2009. Included or added was the installation of the front gate system, construction of the wood privacy fence from the trap shed to the score card boxes and construction of the wood privacy fence around the dumpster. Electricity will be run to both sheds plus new trap range lights on both ranges will be installed. The signage on the land will be completed while out of bounds markers for the upper trap range and additional range backers will be construct-

ed. Archery targets and trap shoot clay birds will be purchased and a front entrance to the club house will be added along with installation of new rear double doors.

Membership now stands at 359 with 150 renewals to date. All 2009 invoices have been sent out.

The John Zinsmeister Annual Family Day is scheduled for September 13th. The Spring Hunter Education Class start date is February 5th and will run through March 16th with the range day scheduled for March 14th on the club land. The Spring Bow Hunter's Education Class will be held on March 19th, 23rd, 26th, 28th and 30th with the 28th being an all day Saturday session. The Fall Hunter's Education Class will start on September 10th and run through October 19th with the range day to occur on October 10th. For more information contact Ron Roettger at 248-3883.

Bob Peterson and past board member for the last 28 years was presented with an award plaque for all he has done to make the club what it is today. Thanks Bob for a phenomenal effort over so many years!

Other discussion points included the fact that the Baldwin Club Hunter's Ed group may need to use our ranges until theirs is up and running. Members of the local 4H group were granted permission to again use our club facilities. The various law enforcement groups will need to get their shoot dates into the calendar for 2009 and there was discussion on the possibility of the formation of an organized military-like shoot being held on our club land. The Christian Gun League, "League of Light", was also granted the use of the club for shoots with archery indoor shooting to occur on February 21st and March 21st. Members of the Keeping Youth Involved (KTI) group will be tapped again in 2009 for their help at various club functions.

Money was allotted for club membership application in AAR and USAR, a donation to the local hunter's education group to offset Armory rental and for donations to the Baldwin Club and the St Croix County Alliance for prizes for their banquets in March.

A review of the club by-laws was given by Larry

Suennan and appropriate changes were voted on and approved. A copy of the updated by-laws will be available on our web-site.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From Mike Kelly's December Meeting Minutes)

Fisheries/Habitat: Twenty cords of oak logs have been delivered to the north landing on Cedar Lake. Brush for the cribs has been cut and is available at Stanton Prairie WPA. It will be moved to the crib construction site on the north end of Cedar Lake prior to the crib construction and the logs will also be pre-drilled. The CIP will help in these efforts. The crib construction date is Saturday, January 31st. The club has placed 178 cribs to date into Cedar Lake with the permit allowing 500 over the next years.

Park Party: The event produced a net loss to the club in 2008. A decision was made to move the event to the Thursday before Ox Cart Days contingent on the availability of the band "Trigger Happy". The scope of the party in 2009 may be cut back a bit.

Buck's Night: Buck's night was a successful fund raiser, with full attendance and good sponsor response. The results of the various games and net profits are available for review. Thanks to the committee and all club members that helped out.

New/Old Business:

The club has 77 members in good standing. 2009 club dues of \$25 must be paid for a member to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting scheduled for January 19th.

Club member Jon Bush is arranging the Community Fishing Opportunity (CFO) club event to be held on Saturdays in January on Cedar Lake.

The New Richmond Sports Association is planning an ice fishing contest on Cedar Lake on February 14th.

Money was allotted to fund an intern to monitor and educate lake users on aquatic invasive species on area lakes. This is in cooperation with Beaver Creek Preserve and will be conducted on area lakes including Bass, Cedar and Squaw.

Money was also provided to the local Hunters Education Program to offset their costs of renting the National Guard armory.

Warden Paul Sickman passed around the plaque that will be presented to the Forrest Ridge Hunt Club for hosting the youth hunt last fall. Paul also stated that the open warden position out of Baldwin will be open for 2 to 3 years due to state budget issues.

A letter or notice that will be given to the ice fishing community on Cedar Lake reminding them of their responsibility to control litter and behavior thus keeping Cedar Lake a safe and desirable place to ice fish will be drafted by the club.

Alliance News and Notes

Tuesday, March 24th was the date selected for the 2009 Alliance Conservation Banquet. Plans are moving forward for this event.

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.

Plans are in place for the joint project between the City of New Richmond, St Croix County and the DNR to provide a carry on boat access to Hatfield Lake. Construction will begin next year with the use of "County Aids" funds and a match from the City of New Richmond. A late March planning meeting between the partners will be scheduled. Several ideas for future "County Aids" projects were also discussed.

The St Croix County Land and Water Resource

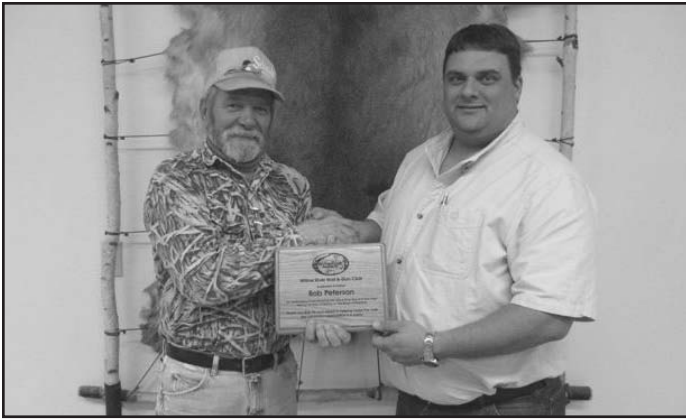
Management Plan, which is reviewed on a 5 year basis, had a hearing on December 4th, 2008. The Committee approved the plan with minor amendments and it will now be forwarded on to the Department of Agriculture then go before the County Board at their March board meeting for their review and final approval. St Croix County again participated in a very successful venison donation program. Donations were down from last year but we were again in the top 10 counties for the number of deer donated (186) which included 145 gun and 41 archery deer harvested.

The Alliance will continue the herbicide donation program for treatment of noxious plants such as buckthorn into 2009.

The Alliance has provided funds for a weasel (ermine) mount that is now on display at the DNR Office in Baldwin. Plans are also moving forward in providing help to the area conservation wardens in the assemblage of a "Wall of Shame" like collection of items that they can use in their educational activities. Several European mounts have been processed for this effort.

Willow River State Park (WRSP) and their friends group (OWLs) have been working on a grant application for the upgrading and construction of new handicapped fishing piers at the park. The Alliance has made a commitment for a monetary donation toward this project. The grant application has been submitted to the state and the piers will be installed in the vicinity between the beach and the dam. They are a concrete cantilever design approved by the DNR. This type design has previously been installed at the Lake Wissota State Park.

Progress has been made on the Squaw Lake aeration easement agreements. A February 5th meeting will be scheduled at the Star Prairie Town Hall to include all stakeholders. Several issues will be addressed including the easements and dredging possibilities.



Bob Peterson, long time board member of the WRR&GC, accepting an award plaque from President Brian Headless for his many years of club service.

Water level monitors purchased by the Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District and placed above and below the New Richmond dam have been pulled for the winter months but will be again be installed next spring. Data up to this point have been very informative with water levels and temperatures recorded. A third unit may be placed between the two units to calibrate for barometric pressure. Tammy Whittmer from the county is coordinating this effort.

A phosphorous reduction program to decrease the amount of phosphorus that enters the Willow River and eventually the St Croix River has been ongoing with several meetings held. A concerted effort is being made to incorporate upstream land owners into the decision making process. What happens along the course of the entire river dictates what occurs in downstream river systems.

A Bass Lake Management Plan is being formulated to set a course of action going forward. Marty again reported on the most recent meeting which addressed the fishery and water quality aspects of the plan. Walleye fingerling stocking and fish habitat enrichment will become part of that plan. Milfoil growth in the lake has been curtailed by the introduction of weevils. Weevil propagation needs undisturbed shorelines to promote their reproduction because they over winter on shore. The Chippewa County Long Lake plan is being used as a template for this management plan. The next scheduled meeting will be held on January 29th at the St Joseph Town Hall starting at 6 pm.

The Baldwin Gun Club's effort to reopen is slowly moving forward under a court ordered plan giving them the "green light". Each phase of that plan is being closely monitored to assure compliance. There is talk that the range may reopen as early as this spring.

Alliance public relations efforts will be expanded to contact various papers in our area to see if they would be interested in information about Alliance activities. From there contacts could be made to report on education,

conservation and resource related projects in the local areas of the county and beyond.

Marty Engel, area fish manager, reported on a number of DNR related items:

The Cedar Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District and the Star Prairie Fish & Game Association are planning on adding 40-50 fish cribs to Cedar Lake with a January 31st construction date scheduled.

Several more fish cribs will be constructed on Glen Lake in the County Park on February 9th.

The DNR and County will partner on stream improvements on the Patton Tract located on the Kinnickinnic River near J and Cemetery Road. Mowing has occurred with plans for wildlife prairie plantings in the works.

There are plans for perhaps three handicapped access points on the Kinnickinnic River that are also being considered due to a very generous donation recently received.

Photos of ice speared muskies from Bone Lake have been circulating on the internet. These have raised concerns about potential harvest limits going forward beyond incidental take.

Warden Sickman commented that warden mileage restrictions have been modified slightly to allow more travel. Paul also mentioned the potential for future budget constrictions. Funding cuts for car killed deer pickup is also being considered by the state.

The February Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th, 2009 starting at 6:30 pm at the Land Conservation Building in Baldwin. The main focus of this meeting will be the 2009 Conservation Banquet but other items will be addressed.

Warden Paul's Corner – Operation of ATV's on Roadways

During this time of year there are many ice fishing derbies occurring on St. Croix County Lakes. Anglers on the lakes many times use ATV's as transportation during the tournament or on a normal day of ice fishing. No matter what time of year or event there is CURRENTLY no exemption for ATV's to ride on any roadway or road right of way in St. Croix County. For example if an individual lives in a subdivision near a lake and would like to use their ATV on the frozen waters, they must trailer the ATV to the lake. Even though it is more convenient to ride the ATV to the lake on the road it is illegal to do so. In addition, all ATVs on the ice need to display current registration decals or carry proof of registration if you are waiting to receive your decals in the mail.

If you have any questions or concerns about ATV operation or any other regulation please contact Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 extension 120.

Upcoming Events...

- January 19th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association Annual Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- January 28th (Wednesday).....Upper Willow River Rehabilitation Meeting, 7 pm, New Richmond Civic Center, Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- January 30th – February 1st.....NW Wisconsin Deer Classic, Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center, Contact: Don Beinborn at beinborn@umn.edu
- January 31st (Saturday).....Fish Crib Construction on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- January 31st (Saturday).....Squirrel and northern zone (A) ruffed grouse seasons close
- February 5th (Thursday).....Start of Spring Hunter's Ed Class in New Richmond, Contact: Ron Roettger 715-248-3883
- February 5th (Thursday).....Beginning Fly Tying class, 2 hours each night for 6 weeks, 7-9 pm, Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Lake Elmo, MN, Contact: Mike Alwin 615-770-3349
- February 12th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's February Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- February 14th (Saturday)New Richmond Sports Association's Ice Fishing Contest on Cedar Lake
- February 16th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association February Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- February 28th (Saturday)Cottontail rabbit season closes
- March 19th (Thursday)Start of New Richmond Bow Hunter's Education Class, Contact: Ron Roettger 715-248-3883
- March 24th (Tuesday).....St Croix Alliance Annual Habitat Banquet, Baldwin VFW Club, Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643

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

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