

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

### Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

The Summer Archery League is going strong with 29 adult teams and 4 youth teams competing. A 3D shoot is scheduled for August 8th.

The Fall Hunter's Education Class is set to start on September 10th.

The Park Art Fair club food booth is ready for business with a change in menu of hot roast beef sandwiches to replace the chicken wings. The remainder of the menu remains unchanged. Dates for this event are June 4th and 5th.

An older model pull behind road grader has been purchased by the club for future road work. Rubber tires will replace the iron ones presently on the unit.

Plans for the instillation of the club entrance gate are moving forward. Money was allotted to bring in electricity to that location first with the possibility of lighting at the pistol range and other locations being considered. Gate specifications will then be decided following electrical service instillation.

The clubhouse entrance will be completed this summer. The new rear door has been installed thanks to the excellent efforts of Hafner Construction.

A decision was made to prepay for the propane gas used at the club this year.

The WRR&GC was awarded the Conservation Congress Top Conservation Club of the year award! Chris Polfus accepted the award from Conservation Congress Awards Chairman Ron Roettger at the club's May meeting.

### Willow River Rod & Gun Club Receives Top State Award

Formed back in the 1930's, the Willow River Rod and Gun Club has always played an active role in providing educational, environmental, conservation and shooting sports related programs, activities and projects in the area. In May of 2009 it was recognized the top local conservation organizations in the state and received the prestigious Conservation Congress Outstanding Achievement Award. The present club officers are: President Brian Headlee, Vice President Jon Nysse, Treasurer Chris Polfus and Recorder Ron Roettger.

A major effort of the club is focused on getting youth



*Board Member Chris Polfus accepting the 2009 Conservation Congress Top State Conservation Club for 2008 from Conservation Congress Awards Chairman Ron Roettger*

involved in the outdoors and outdoor recreation. Youth programs are provided supporting community outdoor youth activities including 4H, FFA, Keeping Youth Involved (KYI), League of Light and area scouting groups.

The club holds summer and winter archery leagues, a summer trap league, a family picnic, summer and winter fishing contests, turkey shoots, rim fire bench rest matches, 3-D archery tournaments and an indoor 3-D animal league.

In 2008 after the closing of a DNR sponsored shooting range in northeastern St Croix County and the forced closure of the Baldwin Shooting facility located south of Baldwin Wisconsin, the Willow River Rod and Gun Club's board of directors made a decision to become proactive in the shooting sports and provide funds to assure that the club's ranges meet specifications for safety and optimum use. In 2008 more than \$20,000.00 was spent on range expansion and improvements. The expenditure listed above does not include the huge amount of donated labor by club members to complete the renovations. Besides intense conservation awareness by the Willow River Rod & Gun Club, realization of the importance of providing a safe and effective place to carry on the shooting tradition is paramount.

***Congratulations on a well deserved award!***

## Alliance News and Notes

The Alliance Habitat Banquet held March 24th was a huge success.

Kyle Kulow reported on the selection process of the Bruce Anderson Scholarship for 2009. Rebecca Baumgartner from Baldwin is the recipient and will be attending Northland College majoring in Natural Resources and Forestry. Kyle will present the scholarship to her on May 13th.

Dave Larson reported that the Xcel Energy/St Croix County agreement at Pine Lake Park is still being negotiated with a meeting scheduled on site for May 21st. There are several options that will be discussed.

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 as necessary. Calls continue to come into Jack for information on buckthorn removal.

Marty Engel, Fisheries Biologist, reported on the formulation of a Bass Lake Management Plan which will be wrapping up soon. Following the final stakeholders meeting scheduled for May 28th, the plan will be presented to the Lake District Board for implementation.

Extensive work by the state and county has been performed on the Bass Lake boat landing this spring. More than 120 cubic yards of muck had been removed and the landing, dock and ramp are now in A-1 shape. Water level fluctuations could cause more problems in the future however.

Progress has been made on the Squaw Lake aeration easement agreements. A mid June meeting and potential tour will be scheduled. Several issues will be addressed including easements and dredging possibilities.

Construction of the Hatfield Lake carry in boat launching facility is moving forward with a meeting set for May 14th on site. Decisions will be made for location and the timing of construction.

Tom Kerr of the USF&WS reported on the upcoming waterfowl pair and brood surveys for 2009. This year the surveys will be expanded to include more area Waterfowl Production Areas. Participants have been identified and the pair surveys will be held the end of May with the brood surveys held a month or so later.

The Annual Willow River State Park Kid's Fishing Contest will be held on July 18th. The Alliance sponsors the event and provides physical help each year.

The 5th Annual St Croix County Earth Day was held at the YMCA Camp south of Hudson on Sunday, April 19th. The Alliance sponsored a table at the event which was again a huge success!

Ron Roettger reported on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual State Meeting held in La Crosse on May 7th - 9th. This was the 75th anniversary meeting for the Congress. The Willow River Rod & Gun Club received the Top State Conservation Club

Award for 2008 as an added highlight.

Future County Aides Projects for 2010 were discussed with several excellent suggestions made including providing woody debris to Bass Lake for fish habitat. A project selection decision will be made over the next few months.

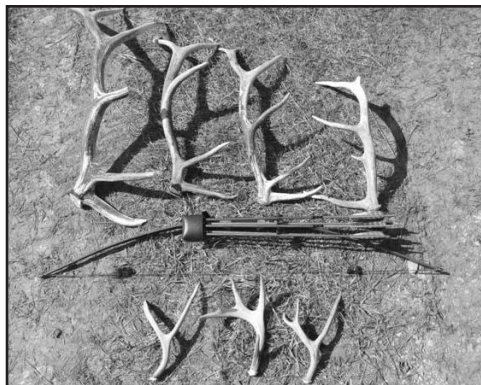
Marty and Kyle reported on the trout habitat improvements and easements work being performed on Parker Creek. KLT/handicapped access on the Kinni River was also discussed.

The Cedar Lake north access will be expanded through the DNR's purchase of the Cedar Lake School. This acquisition was recently approved by the Governor. There is a five year extension for Card Club use.

Marty reported on panfish surveys of local lakes as well as several comprehensive lake studies completed this spring. The walleye slot size presently enforced on Cedar Lake appears to be producing successful results. The adult walleyes per acres have increased from 2 in 2004 to 5.5 in 2009. Due to tribal spearing of Cedar Lake this year the bag limit has been reduced from 3 to 2. A resolution for a slot size for bass on Glen Lake was introduced at the 2009 Conservation Congress Spring Hearings and is moving forward through the rule making process. Bass Lake and Perch Lake may also benefit from a slot size on bass and public opinion on these potential changes will be gathered. Marty is looking into this and if consensus can be arrived at, things can move forward and save some time.

The DNR is being asked to make more cuts and will 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. Several DNR Service Centers will also be closed including the one in Baldwin, negotiated pay raises have been put on hold, mandatory furloughs enforced and there are more possible personnel cuts. A hunting and fishing license fee increase has been put on hold for the next two years so budgets will remain tight.

Tom reported on USF&WS regional activities over the last year. Over 1000 acres have been burned, 500 acres of high priority land has been seeded with locally harvested prairie seed and many WPAs have been cleared of unwanted woody growth returning them back to productive prairie settings. Educational mounts and displays are



*Elk and deer sheds found in South Dakota during turkey hunt by Ron Roettger*



*2009 WRR&GC Sponsored Bowhunter Education Class of 2009*



*Ron Roettger with 2009 South Dakota Spring Turkey*



*Ron Roettger with one of two Wisconsin fifth season turkeys 2009*



*Club President Brian Headlee with third bow harvested turkey in 2009*

also being considered to expose youth to the outdoors. **The July Annual Meeting** of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7th, 2009 starting at 6:00 pm at Hatfield Lake in New Richmond. Lunch and beverage will be provided with the meeting to follow.

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

*(From April Meeting Minutes)*

The Senior Pontoon Ride is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th, with a rain set a week later. The Star Prairie park shelter has been reserved. The maximum 125 people have already signed up. Construction of a better ramp system to load wheel chairs onto the pontoon boats was considered.

A Kids Fishing Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th on Cedar Lake. Youth 8 to 14 years of age are eligible for a day of guided fishing. Contact Erv Erickson for more information at 715-294-3524.

Dan Cain is securing insurance coverage to be able to do prairie burns again next year. Dan will be planting the club subsidized food plots on private lands again this year.

The Star Prairie Lions club has given the go ahead to tie the Park Party in to Ox Cart days advertising. "Trigger Happy" will again be the evening band scheduled with "Ten Mile Creek" contacted to play the 5 - 8 pm slot. All 10 guns for the raffle have been purchased. A discussion on the Packer trip for the establishment that wins the sales raffle was deferred to the Bucks Night Committee. A gun buy-back policy was decided. Firearms will be bought back by the club from members only, at 90% of our cost.

Service Learning day is set for Friday, May 15th. One home room of about 20 New Richmond high school students will install sign posts, construct a privacy wall and do general cleanup.

A donation was made to the Wisconsin Warden's Association.

The club has 24 paid members for 2009 along with 14 Life members age 65 and older. Dues reminders will be sent to unpaid 2008 members.

Warden Paul Sickman reported on the Spring Hearings

with 102 people attending the St. Croix county hearing. A local resolution was submitted for a 14-18 inch slot size regulation on bass in Glen Lake. Cedar Lake was speared this spring. The walleye limit was reduced to 2 because of this.

Fish Manager, Marty Engel reported on the fish survey done this spring on Cedar Lake. Preliminary results show that the adult walleye population has increased from 2 per acre in 2004 to 5.5 per acre this spring. The majority of the walleyes sampled were in the slot size of 15 to 18 inches. There is no walleye stocking on the lake. Muskies were also sampled with Fyke nets. The largest fish weighed 27 lbs. There is no natural reproduction in Cedar Lake so muskies are stocked every other year. The club ditch clean up on Hwy 65 south of Star Prairie was performed on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Legal size brown trout, from the St. Croix Falls Hatchery were stocked on the Willow river on April 28th at the state park, and April 29th east of New Richmond. A \$400,000 state grant to study Cedar Lake has been approved. The study will last 2 years and be done 2 days a week at 7 sampling stations during the open water season. The study starts May 1st with a training day for volunteers to be scheduled later.

The north Cedar lake school house property to be purchase by the DNR is currently under review by the DNR board who is questioning the costs involved. There is a possibility that some matching funds from local clubs may have to be raised to complete the deal.

The next meeting of the SPF&GA is scheduled for Monday, May 18th, 2009 with the 6:00 pm social hour and the 7:00 pm regular meeting at Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake.

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## Upcoming Events...

- May 20th – 24th.....Spring Turkey Hunt Season F
- May 23rd (Saturday).....Musky season opens north of highway 10 (See Regs)
- June 6th & 7th.....Free Fishing Weekend Statewide
- June 7th (Sunday).....Willow River State Park “Art Along the Willow” and  
Open House, Contact WRSP at 715-386-9340
- June 7th (Sunday).....Free admission to all Wisconsin State Parks
- June 10th (Wednesday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association Annual Senior Pontoon Ride
- June 11th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club’s June Meeting,  
7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- June 15th (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 20th (Saturday).....Northern bass zone catch and keep season opener (see regs)
- July 18th (Saturday).....Annual Willow Rive State Park “Kids Fishing Contest”,  
Contact: WRSP 715-386-9340

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

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