



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 has ended and the Winter Leagues are scheduled to resume the second and third weeks of January 2010. Tuesday evening work parties will be planned before league starts. Members will be notified of the dates and times.

The Summer Trap League is completed and was a huge success with 11 teams competing. Next year promises to be bigger and better.

The IR50 matches are finalized for 2009 with no October shoots scheduled. Eighteen shooters completed in the last state meet.

ARA shoots will include the club championship match on September 12th and the ARA State shoot on September 20th.

Both the rifle and pistol ranges are in good shape getting lots of use. Debris will be removed from in front of the backstops and new backers will need to be constructed for future use. These are presently stored in the open shed next to the trap shed.

Backers on the archery practice range will be swapped out to improve quality.

Future long term capital improvements for 2010 will include the upgrading of the upper trap and a voice activated thrower.

Membership invoices for 2010 will go out in November of this year.

Because of unforeseen conflicts, the Family Day Event scheduled for September 13th had to be cancelled. An email announcement will be sent out to the membership announcing that fact.

Alliance activities can be reviewed in the upcoming WRR&GC September newsletter.

The membership is reminded that the club calendar is available on our website and has been modified to allow easier access. Club closures and events are listed on the calendar.

The Fall Hunters Ed class has begun September 10th and will run through October 19th with the range day scheduled for October 19th.

The Archery and dumpster fences will be completed, trees for electrical entry service removed and the entry gate to the club land installed later this year.

Luke Mason, a local Boy Scout, has approached the club for an Eagle Scout Project. Two potential projects were outlined for him. One is the design and construction of a perimeter fence on the property and the other is a club land biological inventory with noxious tree and plant removal project. More information on his selected project will be forthcoming.

Rife/Shotgun site-in days are scheduled on the club land for the Sundays of November 1st, 8th and 15th. Range supervisors will be solicited for these dates. Money was allotted for site-in day targets and ARA shoot food and beverage.

### Newsletter Requests

If you have any photos of hunting, fishing or outdoor recreational activities and would want to share them with our club members please send them to Mike Reiter at 461 Parkview Dr. New Richmond WI, 54017 or email at [mikesal@frontiernet.net](mailto:mikesal@frontiernet.net) and they will be included in the newsletter. Suitable articles of interest can also be submitted. *This is your newsletter!*

### Alliance News & Notes

The 2010 County Aid Project will be the replacement of an aeration unit at Squaw Lake. The unit will be purchased at a price of \$3278.00. DNR Fish Manager Marty Engel will write up a summary providing the scope of the project and a total cost estimate.

The Alliance herbicide distribution effort is moving forward under the leadership of Jack Rasmussen. There appears to be sufficient herbicide on hand but more will be purchased as needed.

The Hudson Rod & Gun Club will be releasing 200 adult rooster pheasants into the county just prior to the

2009 pheasant season opener. A check from the Alliance was issued for \$975.00 for the purchase of half the birds. A release site map will be provided prior to release.

Construction of the new fishing piers at the Willow River State Park has begun and will be finalized this year. These piers will provide much needed shore fishing access to the public.

The WRSP Kids Fishing Contest, held Saturday July 18th and sponsored by the Alliance was again a huge success. Many Alliance members helped at the event. A note along with a \$20.00 donation was received from the parents of one of the participants. A great time was had by all with lots of fish registered.

Progress is being made on some of the Squaw Lake issues following an August meeting of stakeholders. Several subjects were addressed including easements and dredging possibilities. Good discussion was had on the issues and future meetings will be scheduled to finalize some of the projects.

Marty Engel, Fisheries Biologist, reported on the Bass Lake Management Plan which has been finalized. Large fingerling walleyes will be introduced into the lake and if all goes well, the 2011 County Aids money will be dedicated to "woody" habitat placement. Fish crib construction and placement along with wood and stumpage infusion into the lake will be a part of this project.

Construction of the Hatfield Lake carry in boat launching facility is scheduled this fall. The site of the landing will be between the last two ball diamonds to the west within the park. The access will be a drive-in, turn around with parking in the main lot. It will also serve as a winter access. Signage is also being planned for the lake access.

A resolution for a slot size for bass on Glen Lake was introduced at the 2009 Conservation Congress Spring Hearings. Glen Lake, Bass Lake, Perch Lake and Squaw Lake may all benefit from a slot size on bass. This proposal requests a protective slot of 14 to 18 inches on bass with a bag of 3. Only one may be over 18 inches. Marty has proposed these rule changes with positive public support. These rule changes are now being reviewed internally by the DNR.

The formation of a Friends Group for the USF&WS local District is being considered. Plans are moving forward. Following a lengthy discussion, several issues were raised which will be addressed as the formation process moves forward.

The upcoming "Learn to Hunt Youth Program" at Forest Ridge scheduled for October 3rd was discussed. It will be expanded this year to include other activities and areas of interest.

Harv Halvorsen, area wildlife manager, reported on a proposal for an archery deer management hunt in North Hudson. A group of archers have organized and are scheduled to provide this service to the village. A map of "hunnable areas" was provided along with a summary of the hunt's objectives and focus.

Harvey also reported on the results and comments

from hearings held on some local deer management units (DMU) and over wintering goal changes for our area. The USF&WS is in the process of providing a collection of "Ducks on a Stick" for education purposes. Various species of ducks are professionally mounted on a dowel with one wing exposed for identification. Each mount brings a price tag of \$175.00 and the USF&WS has a matching grant for this purpose. Prime waterfowl specimens are also being sought to complete the project. The Alliance at this time has allotted \$350.00 to be used for the mounts.

A motion was made and approved to provide Education Specialist Aleisha Miller \$200.00 for the purchase of aquatic macro invertebrate nets.

A motion was made and approved to provide \$120.00 for the purchase of hats to be donated through the "Green Bay Packers Promote Orange Hat Program & Wisconsin Deer Donation to Benefit Food Pantries Program. Details will be worked out.

It was announced that Glenwood City Lockers, Deer's Food Lockers, Power's Wildgame Processing and Mike's Deer Cutting are businesses that will be participating in the "Annul Venison Drive to Feed the Hungry" program this fall. Legally harvested and tagged deer can be dropped off at these businesses to help our area food shelves and shelters.

The November Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10th, 2009 starting at 6:30 pm at **Land & Water Conservation Building.**

### **USF&WS Manager Tom Kerr's WPA of the Week**

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In spite of the recent rains, many of our area wetlands are still dry. Although many people think that drought is bad, it is part of the natural cycle and many plants and animals have adapted to dry conditions. Some even depend on it for their survival. If you have been past the Bierbrauer Waterfowl Production Area, located about one mile east of Star Prairie on 235th Street you have probably watched as the wetland in the southwest corner of the WPA has slowly dried up over the summer. The exposed mudflats have created ideal growing conditions for seeds that have lain dormant at the bottom of the wetland for many years. The mud in the bottom of the wetland is referred to as a seed bank. Over time many species of plants make "deposits" of seeds into the wetland. These seeds, specially adapted to survive long periods underwater, wait for the correct conditions to germinate. For wetland plants, mudflats created by drought often provide these conditions.

Instead of saving for a rainy day, the seed bank saves for a drought. As the wetland slowly reveals mudflats, different plants respond to the growing conditions. If you look at many of these wetlands now you will see two dominant plants in the center of the dry basins. The tall



*Unapproved Target Practice*



*WRR&GC Caretakers*

yellow flowering plant with a red stem is beggar's ticks and the plant with small pink flowers that will soon produce thousands of tiny seeds is smartweed. Birds and many species of wildlife will feast on these seeds when they ripen. If the wetlands flood this fall, migrating waterfowl will also eat these seeds and use this energy to fuel their migration. If you have spent any time in low areas or wetlands you also know that the seeds from beggar's ticks will stick to your clothing. Many of these seeds will remain uneaten and be the next deposit to the seed bank, waiting for the next drought to grow and thrive.

As these wetlands re-flood, these plants provide cover and food for all sorts of animals ranging from tiny invertebrates to waterfowl and herons. Although drought may turn our lawn brown, many of the plants and animals found in our area have adapted to dry conditions that are extremely important in maintaining the productivity of prairie wetland systems, like those that once stretched across much of St. Croix and Polk Counties.

For more information on the St. Croix Wetland Management District and a map of the Bierbrauer WPA, check out our website at [ww.fws.gov/midwest/stcroix/](http://ww.fws.gov/midwest/stcroix/).

## **Wild Rice**

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(From DNR Website)

Wild rice is an annual aquatic grass that produces seed that is a delicious and nutritious source of food for wildlife and people. The seed matures in August and September with the ripe seed dropping into the sediment, unless harvested by humans or wildlife. Seeds on a single stalk reach maturity over a 10-14 day period, with the highest seeds maturing first.

Only Wisconsin residents may harvest wild rice in the state. Harvesters age 16-65 must purchase and possess a wild rice harvesting license for \$8.25 annually. Immediate family members (spouse and minor-age children residing in the same household as the license holder) may harvest rice under the same permit as long as the other family members have received special wild ricing identification. Those buying quantities of wild rice for

resale or importation as well as those processing wild rice for others or processing wild rice for sale to others must annually purchase a wild rice buyers license.

Harvesters are limited to gathering wild rice in boats no longer than seventeen feet and no wider than 38 inches that must be propelled by muscular power using paddles or push poles. The grain is still harvested by hand using wooden sticks (flails) that bend the tall stalks over the canoe. As the seed heads are tapped, some rice falls in the canoe and some in the water to seed the bed for future years. The flails must be rounded wooden rods or sticks no more than 38 inches long and hand-operated. Harvesting should be done gently, so that the stalks and beds can be harvested again as more rice matures.

Because wild rice ripens at a gradual, uneven rate, rice can be harvested repeatedly during the season, which may extend for up to two to three weeks on a particular lake. Different water bodies will also ripen at slightly different times, so the harvest season may last four to five weeks overall, if fair weather holds. Ripening is also affected by sediment type, water depth, and other factors. An acre of good rice beds can yield over 500 pounds of seed, but hand harvesting will only capture about 10 to 15 percent of this amount.

## **Waterway Public Use**

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Trout anglers, canoeists, hunters, and others who frequent Wisconsin's rivers and streams need to be aware of rules pertaining to access along waterways. Waterway users will need to use the "keep your feet wet" test. The law allows users to exit the body of water, where necessary, to bypass an obstruction. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest route possible. Using the exposed shoreline for purposes such as picnicking and sunbathing is not allowed.

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## Upcoming Events...

- September 21st (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association September Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- September 24th (Thursday).....Ducks Unlimited Banquet, Apple River Chapter, Gibby's Lanes, New Richmond, 5:30 with Dinner at 7 pm, Contact: Katrine Antolak 715-269-5511
- September 30th (Wednesday).....Close inland trout season
- October 8th (Thursday) .....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's October Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- October 11th (Sunday).....Duck season closes in the southern zone; reopens Oct. 17 through December 6th  
Canada goose season closes in the south exterior zone. Season reopens Oct. 17 and runs through Dec. 17 in the south zone and Dec. 31 in Mississippi River subzone.
- October 11th & 12th.....Youth Deer Hunt. Youth hunters ages 12 to 15 who have successfully completed a hunter education program and possess a gun deer hunting license may participate in this hunt. (See Regulations)
- October 13th (Tuesday).....Black bear season closes. See current Wisconsin Bear Hunting Regulations for specific season dates and zones.
- October 15th through 18th .....Antlerless deer hunt in earn-a-buck, CWD, and most herd control deer management units. See current regulations for details.
- October 17th (Saturday).....Pheasant season opens at noon; runs through Dec. 31, Sharp-tailed grouse by permit opens through Nov. 8, Cottontail rabbit opens in southern zone at noon through Feb. 28, 2010, Raccoon gun and trapping for state residents opens through Feb. 15, 2010 and Red and gray fox hunting and trapping in the northern zone opens through Feb. 15, 2010.
- October 19th (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

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

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