



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** – There are 33 teams of which 4 are youth teams participating in the Summer Archery League going into the 6th week. The next 3D shoot is scheduled for Saturday, August 8th with the shoot-offs set for Sunday, August 9th.

**Trap** – Shooting is going well for the twelve teams participating.

Three members of the New Richmond Hunters Education Group will be off for training in Rice Lake on June 13th and 14th.

The next Alliance meeting is scheduled for July 7th at Hatfield Park.

Results of the recent rimfire shoots are posted on our web-site.

Members are reminded to sign up at the clubhouse for help with the Fun Fest Food Booth.

The mounts of fish and deer donated by Paul Andersen of New Richmond have been hung in the clubhouse.

The Park Art Fair food booth was successful despite the inclement weather. Special thanks to Tom Kunz, Joel Knutson and Chris Sharp for their efforts on improving and updating the cooking equipment. Thanks also to all who helped to make the event a success!

Money was allotted for trap thrower replacement parts, lumber for Boy Scout Walter Decoet to build new picnic tables as an Eagle Scout Project and for Fun Fest food booth expenses.

The Summer Archery League start time has been moved up to 4 pm on Tuesdays. All other shooting ranges are closed at that time.

Membership in the Willow River Rod and Gun Club stands at 430 with an 87% renewal rate at this time.

### Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

(From May Meeting Minutes)

Senior Pontoon Ride is scheduled for Wednesday June 10th, with a rain date one week later. The Star Prairie park shelter has been reserved and 13 pontoons will provide the 1 hour tour of the lake. Club members will serve a trout lunch to the 125 people who have signed up.

Meet at River Island Park at 12:30 on the 10th for work assignments.

**Fisheries/Habitat:** The Kids fishing day is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th on Cedar or Long Lake. Youths 8 to 14 years old are eligible for a day of guided fishing – contact Erv Erickson. Indianhead Bassers will provide 12 boats with a guide for each parent/child.

**Park Party:** Trigger Happy will again be the evening band, with Ten Mile Creek to play the 5 – 8 PM slot. A discussion was held on eliminating the flag raising ceremony and on adjusting food and beverage prices.

**Buck's Night:** Caps have been received that note the club's 25 year partnership with Pheasants Forever. They will be used for a cap raffle at Buck's night. A committee meeting is planned for June 7th.

**McMurtrie/Land Trust:** The New Richmond Service Learning day was held on Friday, May 15th. Trail sign posts were placed, a latrine privacy fence was constructed, dock storage was completed, barb wire removed, the Menke cabin was summarized and general cleanup was performed.

**Outreach/Youth:** Money was donated to Service Learning day and to the Unity Lions club fishing day. The Youth Hunt at Forrest Ridge will be held October 3rd. Club members are encouraged to help while hunting dogs and handlers are especially needed.

The club has 28 members paid for 2009 with 15 Life (age 65 and older). Dues reminders were sent to 26 unpaid 2008 members.

The Cedar lake water study has begun, with interns paid for by the Cedar Lake District to do the sampling. No additional volunteer help is required at this time. An automated weather monitor has been placed on the east side of the lake.

The club ditch clean up on Hwy 65 south of Star Prairie was performed on Wednesday, April 22nd.

The Bob Moberg scholarship was presented at the New Richmond High School Awards Day.

The north Cedar Lake school house property purchase by the DNR has been approved by Governor Doyle. The back side of the school can now be used for additional parking. The community club has a 5 year lease, plus a renewable 5 year extension on use of the building.

Trout Fest at the Star Prairie Trout Farm was held on

Memorial Day, May 25th. This was the 25th annual event with food, music, and tours. All club members were invited to attend.

The July club meeting will be held at the Menke garage at the end of South Cedar drive.

A \$250 grant was received from Polk-Burnett Electric through operation Round-Up. The money will be used for the Senior Pontoon ride.

The next meeting of the SPF&GA is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2009 with the 6:00 pm social hour and the 7:00 pm regular meeting at Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake.

### **Friends of the Willow River Annual Canoe Race**

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The fifth annual Friends of the Willow River Annual Canoe Race will be held on Saturday July 11th, starting at 11:30 am. There are five racing groups: Youth (age 18 and under), Parent/Child (14 and under), Single Person Kayak, Adult (age 19 and older) and Master's Long Race. The races will start and end at the boat landing in Mary Park. Prizes will be awarded and a great time will be had by participants and viewers alike! For more information contact Mike Kelly at 246-4109.

### **Protecting Habitat: Your Duck Stamp Dollars at Work**

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Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps", are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Postal Service for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage. Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today. Besides serving as a hunting license and conservation tool, a current year's Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass for National Wildlife refuges where admission is normally charged. Duck Stamps and the products that bear duck stamp images are also popular collector items.

For every dollar you spend on Federal Duck Stamps, ninety-eight cents goes directly to purchase vital habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/Conservation/mbcc.htm> Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) oversees the use of Federal Duck Stamp funds for the purchase and lease of wetland habitat. The MBCC also reviews, but does not approve, the use of Federal Duck Stamp dollars for the purchase of small natural wetlands and their associated uplands for preservation as <http://refuges.fws.gov/faqs/WPAs.html> Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

### **Feral Pig Hunting Information (DNR Web-site)**

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The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has adopted the position that feral pigs are exotic, non-native wild animals that pose significant threats to both the environment and to agricultural operations. The Department

promotes aggressive removal anywhere feral pigs are reported. Feral pigs are considered unprotected wild animals with no closed season or harvest limit. Feral pigs may be removed any time throughout the year as long as those choosing to pursue them possess a valid [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/regs/index.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/regs/index.htm) small game license and the permission of the landowner where they intend to hunt. Also, landowners may shoot feral pigs on their own property without a hunting license, under DNR's animal nuisance control authority. It is illegal to operate a captive feral pig hunting facility in the state of Wisconsin. It is also illegal to stock feral pigs for hunting purposes or to release hogs into the wild. Should such illegal practices be discovered in your area, contact and alert your local conservation warden immediately.

### **Firewood Facts, Rules and Advice (DNR Web-site)**

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The discovery of the invasive emerald ash borer in Wisconsin in early August, 2008 will cause changes to how firewood and other wood products can be moved within our state. It also serves as a stark reminder of how firewood can harbor many different kinds of invasive pests and diseases that are harmful to Wisconsin's trees – both in forest and urban settings. Gypsy moth, oak wilt, and the emerald ash borer are just a few examples of pests and diseases that hitch hike on firewood, making their way easily into previously unaffected, healthy areas. This poses a serious threat to trees throughout the state. To protect our parks and forests from these firewood hitch hikers, the Wisconsin DNR has created a permanent rule, effective December 1, 2006, which prohibits bringing firewood onto any DNR properties from [www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/firewood/firewood-maps.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/firewood/firewood-maps.htm) more than 50 miles away or from outside of Wisconsin. This includes campsites in state parks and forests. Additional information is available on the rule, [www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/firewood/NR45041g.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/firewood/NR45041g.pdf) " \_blank" DNR Rule: NR 45.04 (1) (g) [PDF 11KB].

In addition, state and federal laws forbid moving firewood out of emerald ash borer quarantined areas. Currently, this means firewood that has been stored, purchased, harvested, or that has moved through the following areas with stops longer than what it takes to re-fuel a vehicle, may not be moved out of these areas: Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, and Sheboygan Counties in Wisconsin, anywhere in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Lower Michigan, and portions of eastern Upper Michigan and Ontario, Canada. And firewood may not be moved from counties in eastern Wisconsin to anywhere farther west under gypsy moth quarantines. If such firewood enters a DNR managed property, regardless of whether it is within 50 miles, it will be confiscated. State and federal fines up to \$1,000.00 apply for violations of firewood quarantines.



*Area fishing can be very productive*



*Pelicans on Cedar Lake*



*Young Area Fisher Women*

### **Elk in Wisconsin (DNR Web-site)**

Elk, (*Cervus elaphus*), Wisconsin's largest native mammal, once roamed over most of North America and throughout Wisconsin. They were extirpated in the mid to late 1800's with the onset of human settlement due to over hunting and a rapid decline in habitat. Elk were last recorded in Wisconsin in the 1886 and historic records show elk once inhabited at least 50 of the state's 72 counties. An attempt at bringing elk back to the state in the 1930's failed because of poaching and the last four elk were reportedly killed in 1948. Although, elk primarily inhabited the prairie/savannah lands of the southern portion of the state, today, most of the currently suitable elk habitat is in the north. This change is due to the large scale conversion of land in the south from prairie to agriculture.

In 1989 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) was directed by the State Legislature to explore the likelihood of successfully reintroducing elk, moose, and caribou. The resulting publication "Feasibility Assessment for the Reintroduction of North American Elk, Moose, and Caribou into Wisconsin" (Parker 1990) determined that an elk reintroduction effort could succeed, while reintroductions of moose or caribou likely would not.

In 1993 the Wisconsin State Legislature authorized the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UW-SP) to evaluate the potential for reintroducing elk to the Great Divide District (GDD) of the Chequamegon National Forest (CNF) near Clam Lake. During February 1995, 25 elk were trapped, held in a quarantine facility for 90 days while undergoing rigorous disease testing, and shipped to the Clam Lake release site. After being held in a pen for a 2-week acclimation period, the elk were released into the CNF on 17 May, 1995.

Management responsibility of the herd transferred from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in May 1999.

Visit a state Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin (DNR Web-site)

Keep the state fish hatcheries in mind when planning your vacation route. They offer great opportunities to see fish as well as view exhibits which trace the life cycles of the fish reared at those facilities. You can also learn about techniques fisheries managers use to ensure the future of

Wisconsin's fishing tradition.

While all the hatcheries raise fish, not all hatcheries hatch fish eggs. Some raise fish that are transferred to them from other hatcheries. They are called "rearing stations". In either case, all state hatcheries offer chances to watch fish.

Hatchery fish need special care and diets to stay healthy. For that reason, we ask parents to please remind their children to keep food, fingers, rocks, sticks and other objects out of the water.

Additionally, exhibits at five of our water-rich state parks and one state forest highlight the natural and cultural history of those areas' unique aquatic environments. Wyalusing, Perrot, High Cliff, Peninsula and Kohler-Andrae state parks and Point Beach State Forest all make terrific vacation destinations. Stop in and see them at our Wisconsin [http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/state\\_parks](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/specific/state_parks).

### **Warden Paul's Corner - Bow Fishing**

With rough fish entering the shallows, many people are starting to bow fish. Equipment requirements for legal bow fishing include arrows equipped with a metal barbed tip that is attached to the bow with a tethered line that allows for retrieval of the arrow and the fish. Rough fish taken by bow cannot be released or returned to the water. Rough fish cannot be left on the shores or banks of the waterway where the rough fish were harvested. Crossbows are illegal for bow fishing. Bow fishing is legal in all of St. Croix County lakes except within Willow River State Park. Bow fishing is allowed during the day and/or night with the aid of lights. Remember to be courteous to homeowners when using lights at night on the lakes. For any questions or to report a violation, call Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 X 120.

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## Upcoming Events...

- June 27th (Saturday) .....Wildlife Talk, Willow River State Park, 7 pm, Nature Center, Mike Reiter speaker,  
Contact WRSP 715-386-9340
- July 7th (Tuesday) .....St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance Annual Meeting, Hatfield Lake Park, New Richmond,  
6 pm, Contact Mike Reiter 246-6643
- July 9th (Thursday) .....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's July Meeting, 7 pm, club land,  
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- July 11th (Saturday) .....5th Annual Friends of the Willow Canoe Race, 11:30 am, Mary Park in New Richmond  
Contact: Mike Kelly 715-246-4109
- July 18th (Saturday) .....Annual Willow Rive State Park "Kids Fishing Contest"  
Contact: WRSP 715-386-9340
- July 18th (Saturday) .....Wildlife Talk, Willow River State Park, 7 pm, Nature Center, Mike Reiter speaker,  
Contact WRSP 715-386-9340
- July 20th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association July 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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