



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

The 2009 Indoor Spot League starts on January 13th and runs for 11 weeks. The league shoots on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:50 – 10:00 pm. On Saturdays the club house is open from 9 am until 1 pm. Teams will consist of 4 persons who must belong to the club. The cost for adults is \$40.00; age 12-17 is \$20.00 and 11 and under is \$10.00.

The 2009 Indoor Animal League starts on January 14th and 15th and runs for 11 weeks. The shoots will feature several 3D targets and other “fun” items. Ten targets are shot per week. The league shoots on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5:50 – 10:00 pm. Teams will consist of 2 persons who must belong to the club. The cost for adults is \$60.00; age 12-17 is \$25.00 and 11 and under is \$15.00. There will be a \$20.00 discount for those who shoot both leagues. Kids will not receive a discount however. For additional information email Chris Polfus at chrisp@polfus.com or Rich Vetterkind at rich.vetterkind@smcltd.com

More than 50 shooters participated in the first two rifle sight-in days.

Law enforcement department shoots in October and November of 2009 will be eliminated due to membership shooting conflicts.

Signage on the gate will be a priority issue.

Current club membership currently stands at 342. Renewal membership notices will be sent out at the end of November and the first part of December. Range safety rules will be sent out in all membership renewals.

The Fall New Richmond Hunter Education Class graduated 64 students. The use of the armory and corresponding fee negotiations are ongoing.

A Nomination Committee consisting of Larry Suennen and Mike Reiter will provide names of individuals interested in running for the 2009 WRR&GC's Board of Directors. The terms of Jessa Nelson and Bill O'Rourke are scheduled to expire. If you are interesting in serving on the Board please contact Larry at 246-3925 or Mike at 246-6643.

Plans for the instillation of an electronic entrance gate are in the offing. A motion was made and approved to move forward for a gate with keyboard access and a magnetic closure to include battery back-up.

Alliance News and Notes

The Xcel Energy/St Croix County agreement at Pine Lake Park is still being negotiated. There is a safety concern for high line/watercraft interference and a ruling could take up to two years. Blacktopping at the boat landing has been completed. The boundary rocks and parking lot can be moved if need be to provide the necessary parking needed.

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.

The subject of lead bullet fragments being identified in processed deer meat poses a very serious problem with food shelf venison donations. All venison from St Croix County donated in 2007 has been distributed. Presently St Croix County lockers are participating in the program and will accept deer harvested by archers only. A total of 31 deer have been processed to date. In the future the charitable organizations and food pantries are going to have to step up and take a more assertive role with pick-ups and distributions. St Croix County is more than willing to be involved with the fiscal administration of the program but cannot assume any further liability at this time.

The distribution of herbicide for the treatment of invasive vegetation control has been a huge success in the county following a recent newspaper article. A new source for the herbicide has been identified at a reduced price. Handouts on the correct application technique following invasive plant cuttings and a handout stating that the Alliance has provided the funds for this project have been distributed.

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. They are presently working with the DNR on aspects of their construction. The Alliance has donated \$500.00 toward the completion of this project. Fish crib construction in the WRSP is also being considered to compliment the pier improvements and will be addressed at a later date.

The resolution concerning a ban on the feeding of deer which passed the last two years in St Croix County was forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association (WSC) at their annual meeting. The WSC resolutions committee that reviews resolutions prior to the conference recommended that this resolution be postponed indefinitely. St Croix County has taken a stand on this issue and it remains to be seen where this will go. It might take a disease outbreak in Wisconsin to force this issue and then it will be too late.

The County land open to public hunting agreement, has up to now, been renewed on an annual basis. Going forward the agreement will be included in the lease for a 5 year period until 2012. At that time the agreement could be extended for another 2 years. Buffers will be installed around the on site wetlands and crop rotation will be implemented. Working with the DNR and the USF&WS, wetlands and sensitive areas on the county land will be enhanced and protected.

Progress has been made on the Squaw Lake aeration easement agreements. A December meeting will be planned to get things solidified.

Water level monitors purchased by the Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District are in place above and below the New Richmond dam at locations that have previously been monitored. The monitors will be removed before freeze-up with information obtained over the last few months disseminated to interested individuals. A web-site will also have this information posted. Data up to this point have been very informative with water levels and temperatures recorded.

A phosphorous reduction program to decrease the amount of phosphorus that enters the Willow River and eventually the St Croix River has been initiated with several meetings held, the most recently in Clear Lake. A concerted effort is being made to incorporate upstream land owners into the decision making process.

A Bass Lake Management Plan is being put together to set a course of action going forward. The fishery and water quality aspects of the plan are being finalized. 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 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.

The pheasant release that occurred on public hunting land in the County right before the season opener totaled 204 birds which were in excellent shape. The Alliance furnished half the funding for this project.

Over the past several months the Land and Water Conservation Department has been working to amend their Land and Water Resource Management Plan which is required to be updated on a five year cycle. A public hearing is scheduled to be held on December 4th at the Ag Center in Baldwin starting at 7 pm. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Written comments will be accepted until December 12th.

New guidelines may be in place that will dictate how fishing tournaments are held in the county. The Natural Resource Board will vote on these changes at their January meeting. Fishing tournaments that have been held for a number of years could be grandfathered in while newer ones, like the one being proposed on Cedar Lake this winter, could have further restrictions. On line forms are available at the DNR website.

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

The DNR has made an offer to purchase the old school house on the north end of Cedar Lake. An expanded parking area is planned.

Three handicapped access areas on the Kinni River will be constructed through a donation received.

Twenty more fish cribs will be constructed on Glen Lake in the County Park.

The DNR and County will partner on stream improvements on Parker Creek next year.

Comments are now being taken on the Wisconsin CWD management plan presently under consideration.

Ageing of deer for Deer Management Units 60A and 60B will occur at the Baldwin and Ellsworth registration stations on the opening deer gun weekend.

The project on Twin Lakes near Roberts has been completed with 3 nesting island constructed and habitat enhancement provided.

The youth day and hunt that was held on October 4th at Forest Ridge Hunt Club. It gets bigger and better each year with 23 youth involved this year.

The vacant position created when Warden Rick Rosen assumed the supervisory position in Spooner will not be filled until 2011.

The January Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6th, 2009 starting at 6:30 pm at the Land Conservation Building in Baldwin.



South Dakota Elk Rub

Deer Hunting History in Wisconsin (Part 1)

1834 – Lafayette County, first reported crop damage by deer.

1851 – First closed season for deer, Feb. 1 - June 30; Indians permitted to hunt anytime. 1876 – Hunting with dogs prohibited statewide.

1887 – Two game wardens appointed by governor at a monthly salary of \$50; night hunting prohibited statewide.

1888 – Game laws published in pamphlet form.

1890 – First chief warden appointed.

1892 – Lawful to kill any dog running or hunting deer.

1895 – Sheboygan first county closed to deer hunting; deer cannot be transported unless accompanied by hunter; last October deer season in state.

1897 – First bag limit for deer, two per season; resident license costs \$1, nonresident license costs \$30; estimated license sales total 12,000.

1900 – Twelve hunters killed by firearms.

1903 – Estimated 78,164 licenses sold.

1905 – Salt licks prohibited.

1909 – Season 20 days long, limit one deer; first civil service exam given on a competitive basis for prospective wardens.

1910 – Deer populations drop to record low numbers due to unregulated hunting and market shooting.

1914 – Twenty-four hunters killed, 26 injured; license sales at 155,000

1915 – First buck only season.

1917 – Shining deer illegal while possessing a firearm; Conservation Commission delegated some powers related to deer season, but legislature retains authority to set seasons; deer tags (paper) required for the first time...they cost 10 cents.

1919 – Estimated kill is 25,152.

1920 – First use of metal deer tags...they cost 10 cents.

(To be continued...)



Ron Roettger Jr. with 2008 Archery Deer

Warden Paul's Corner - Hunting from Roads

With the fall hunting seasons in full swing, questions often arise about hunting from roads. A Highway is defined as the entire width between the boundary lines of every public road, but does not include private roads and driveways. A Roadway is defined as the portion of the highway which is improved or ordinarily used for vehicle travel, excluding the berm or shoulder. A Public Road means those roads shown on the current, official county highway map available from the Department of Transportation. Therefore, it is illegal to hunt within 50 feet from the roadway's center, discharge a firearm, shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway, or within 50 feet of the roadway's center. However, anyone hunting small game with a muzzle-loading shotgun or shotgun loaded with shot size BB or smaller is exempt from these prohibitions if the roadway is unpaved (dirt, sand or gravel).

Deer Tags

Deer hunters need to make sure their deer are properly tagged before moving and transporting. Upon harvesting a deer, the appropriate carcass tag needs to be validated and attached to the deer's ear or antler immediately and before field dressing or moving the deer. Hunters need to slit the appropriate month, day and time on the carcass tag with a sharp object. Hunters must also provide a string, zip tie or another fastener to attach the carcass tag to the deer. Insert the string or fastener through the hole in the carcass tag (covered by a small tab) and attach to the deer's ear or antler. After the deer has been tagged, it must be registered at a deer registration station.

For any questions or to report a violation contact Conservation Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 X 120. Have a safe and enjoyable hunting season.

Upcoming Events...

- November 22nd (Saturday)Open of Deer Gun Season through November 30th
- November 25th (Tuesday)Close Northern Zone Duck Season
- December 1st (Monday).....Late archery season opens through Jan. 4th, 2009. Muzzleloader season opens through Dec. 10th
- December 7th (Sunday).....Close Southern Zone Duck Season
- December 10th (Wednesday).....Deadline for spring turkey application. Bear deadline to apply for drawing or preference point
- December 11th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's December Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- December 11th - 14th.....Late statewide antlerless only firearm hunt. Hunters may use Herd Control and Earn-a-Buck antlerless deer carcass tags in deer management units with those designations. Hunters in regular units must purchase a unit specific antlerless deer carcass tag to hunt in those units. Archery season will also remain open in these units during these four days but is restricted to the harvest of antlerless deer. Blaze orange requirements apply for all hunters during this time period.
- December 13th (Saturday).....Close Exterior Northern Zone Goose Season at sunset
- December 15th (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association December Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- December 18th (Thursday).....Close Exterior Southern Zone Goose Season
- December 20th (Saturday).....Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust's Hiking and Snowshoeing Event, Event, McMurtrie Preserve, 12-4 pm, Contact Aleisha Miller 715-426-1473
- December 31st (Wednesday).....Pheasant season closes, frog season closes
- January 4th (Sunday)Late archery deer season closes
- January 6th (Tuesday)St Croix County Sportsman Alliance January Meeting, Land & Water Conservation Building, Baldwin, 6:30 pm, 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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