



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 now complete following the shoot offs and last 3D shoot of the season. The 3D shoot drew 95 shooters while the evening "Coon Shoot" had to be postponed due to inclement weather. It was a great turnout to a very successful season. The roast pork was delicious and a great time was had by all! Final standings can be found on our website.

The Indoor Archery League will start the first week in January 2010.

September 3rd will mark the last trap league night. Eleven teams made up this year's league with several youth posting some impressive scores.

The 2009 Fall Hunters Education Class will begin September 10th and run through October 19th with the Field Day set for Saturday, October 10th. The class is scheduled from 7-9 pm twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. For more information contact Ron Roettger at 715-248-3883. There are no Fall Bow Hunter Classes scheduled at this time.

The IR 50:50 shoots are listed on the website with the State Match to be held on Saturday, August 29th and Sunday August 30th.

The John Zinsmeister Family Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th starting at noon.

Shooting Ranges will be closed on September 13th for Family Day and September 16th for Law Enforcement Training. The Pistol Range will be closed on August 23rd, 29th, 30th, and September 12th, 14th, 19th and 21st for rim fire shoots. Check the club website calendar for closure times on these dates.

There are many plans for club enhancements scheduled. The new archery fence and dumpster enclosure should be up soon. The rifle range and pistol range fence are scheduled for 2010 construction. Power will be run to the buildings and also for the new access gate. Light poles will be raised on the archery range. The new front access gate will be installed in 2009 but will go into operation in 2010. Trees will be cut to allow these additions.

Special Thanks goes out to Robin Haffner and Family

for doing the installation of the double doors on the club house. The work is greatly appreciated.

Treasurer Chris Polfus has changed job positions with Jerry VanHouten for the remainder of their terms.

Money was allotted for land improvements, Family Day, Trap League Party and clay birds.

Club Members are reminded that if any club or range violations are noted they are to record the vehicle window sticker ID number and report it to a board of director so that appropriate action can be taken. It only takes one idiot to spoil it for everyone.

### Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News and Notes

The Senior Pontoon Ride was held on Wednesday June 10th with 11 pontoons participating in the event. Approximately 115 people participated on a drizzly, but ultimately pleasant day. A fall pontoon ride on Cedar Lake is a possibility. The fall outing would be a ride only with no food, scheduled possibly in late September or early October. It was suggested that Community Ed contact the people on the waiting list from the last ride if the ride is scheduled.

A payment was made to Dan Cain for food plot plantings on Stanton Prairie WPA

Trigger Happy will again be the evening band for the 2009 Star Prairie Park Party. Ten Mile Creek will provide entertainment for the 5 – 8 pm slot. Four bartender licenses are required with volunteers needed to fill out the paper work at the meeting.

Games will be the much the same at this year's Buck's Night as last year with an in-between card game added and the spin to win wheel repaired. The 10 gun raffle guns have all been purchased and are now all at the establishments for display with the raffle tickets. The prize for the establishment drawing will be the Monday night Packer – Baltimore game. Dan Michaelis will run a credit card for cash or payments system the evening of the event. Guns were purchased from Russell's, Mork's, and Gregerson's. Members are encouraged to patronize these places. General Raffle items were purchased from



*Recent DNR Purchase of Cedar Lake School for parking lot expansion on Cedar Lake*

Sportsman's Warehouse and Gander Mountain, including a kayak. Club members are reminded that raffle tickets must be sold or purchased by the member.

The Interpretive trail and guide books for the McMurtrie Preserve are complete, with a special thanks to Jim Riemer for his work on this. Plans are being made to have the preserve open to the public on selected weekends.

The Kid's Fishing day sponsored by the Indianhead Bassers was a success with 12 boats hosting kids 8 to 14 years old on Lake Wappogasset. Kids received a rod and reel for participating.

The club has 34 members paid for 2009 with 15 Life members age 65 and older.

Club identifying signs will be placed on long term wildlife/habitat projects. The Bob Moberg scholarship was presented on May 22nd to Tom Volkert of New Richmond High School. Tom plans to attend UWRF. The club paid for the lunch costs of the Youth fishing day. Money was also donated to the Friends of the Willow for the Fun-Fest canoe races.

Tom Kerr reported on the cooperative Pheasant Stamp grant effort with USF&W and the SPF&GA. Work will be performed on the Stanton Prairie Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) to remove trees and restore prairie plantings. The local USF&W manages about 8,000 acres of property. Maps of the WPA's can be found on the USF&W web site. Tom described the "Ducks on a Stick" program of mounted local duck species for educational purposes and will be looking for specific species this fall that can be donated to the program. Tom also provided an overview of some of the grassland and wetland restoration projects in our area.

The Natural Resources board visited River Island Park on June 23rd. Club Directors were there to answer questions.

The dedication of The Schottler property easement by the Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust was held on June 24th.

The north Cedar lake school house property purchase by the DNR has been completed for \$36,000.

The DNR is proposing a slot size limit on bass on Squaw, Bass, Perch, and Glen Lakes. The limit would be 3 bass, with fish 14 to 18 inches released. One fish over

18 inches could be kept. This may be fast tracked through the rule making process and could go into affect in a year or two.

The club tax return for 2008 has been submitted.

Surveying area WPA's for depth, fish populations and water quality was discussed as was clearing of the Willow River for canoeing or kayaking as club projects. The Cedar Lake invasive species inspections at the north boat landing began on June 12th.

The cost of the CIP work force will increase from \$15 a day to \$2 a day per inmates.

## **Warden Paul's Corner – Waterfowl Seasons Set**

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### **A. The Season Structure:**

60-day season, the overall daily bag limit for ducks is six, no more than four mallards of which only one can be a hen, three wood ducks, two redheads, one black duck, one pintail, two scaup and one canvasback. In addition, five mergansers to include not more than two hooded mergansers. Coot daily bag 15.

Northern Zone – Sept. 26 at 9 a.m. – Nov. 24.

Southern Zone – Oct. 3 at 9 a.m. – Oct. 11, and Oct. 17 – Dec. 6.

### **B. Youth Waterfowl Hunt – Sept. 19-20**

Youth may harvest Canada geese in all zones during these two days; however, the bag limit and/or tag requirement applies for the respective zones. These days overlap with open goose seasons in most areas so adults will also be able to shoot geese but not ducks during the youth hunt.

### **C. Canada geese**

The state is apportioned into three goose hunting zones: Horicon, Collins and Exterior. Other goose management subzones within the Exterior Zone include Brown County, Burnett County, Rock Prairie and the Mississippi River.

### **D. Exterior Zone**

*(including Brown and Rock Prairie subzones)*

Daily bag of two geese.

North Zone – Sept. 19-25 and Sept. 26, (9 a.m.) – Dec. 12.

South Zone – Sept. 19 - Oct. 2, Oct. 3 (9 a.m.) – Oct. 11 and Oct. 17 – Dec. 17

Mississippi River Subzone – Oct. 3 (9 a.m.) – Oct. 11 and Oct. 17 – Dec.

Burnett County Subzone - closed

For additional regulations, read the Waterfowl Hunting regulations.

## **Early Goose Season**

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With fall right around the corner, many people are ready to go a field in pursuit of game. The Early Canada Goose



*Ron Roettger Teaching Hunters Ed*



*Paul Sickman Teaching Hunters Ed*

Season starts September 1 and goes through September 15th. The daily bag limit is 5 geese with a possession limit of 10 geese. Only approved non-toxic shot may be used. All shotguns must have a plug so the shotgun cannot hold more than three shells (including the chamber). Hunting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. When a goose is harvested and before it is carried by hand or transported in any manner, the hunter shall validate the permit by slitting or punching holes in the permit accordingly.

To participate in the Early Goose Season, all hunters must possess with them in the field a valid Small Game, Sports or Conservation Patron license is required. All hunters must possess a current Early September Canada Goose Hunting Permit. All hunters must be HIP registered each year (no charge and acquired when purchasing a license). Persons 16 years old and older must also purchase a state and federal waterfowl stamp to hunt geese during the early season. First time Wisconsin Hunter Education Course graduates may use their hunter safety card in place of a small game license and state waterfowl stamp (if 16 or older the hunter would still need to purchase a federal waterfowl stamp). Persons born on or after January 1, 1973, must have a hunter education certification to purchase any hunting license. Persons 12 and 13 years old must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian while hunting. Persons younger than 12 cannot hunt nor purchase a hunting license. All hunters must possess these requirements when hunting and the federal waterfowl stamp must be signed in ink across the face of the stamp by the license holder.

For additional regulations, read the Wisconsin Early September Canada Goose Hunting regulations.

### **Lake Sturgeon Regulations**

The 2009 hook and line season for lake sturgeon opens Sept. 5 on the St. Croix River. The season has been shortened and ends Sept. 30, and the minimum length for harvesting sturgeon has been increased to 60 inches.

Anglers who harvest a legal-size fish must immediately attach the harvest tag to the fish and take it to a registration station by 6 p.m. the next day for registration. The only registration station in St. Croix County is Willow

River State Park. Anglers can also call the Baldwin DNR Service Center during normal business hours to register a legal sturgeon also.

All anglers must have a Wisconsin general inland fishing license unless they are under 16 years old, or were born before Jan. 1, 1927. Military personnel who are Wisconsin residents and in active service but on furlough or leave are eligible to receive a free annual fishing license. They still need to purchase the \$20 lake sturgeon harvest tag if they plan to keep a lake sturgeon.

If anglers plan to harvest a sturgeon this season, they must purchase a harvest tag before they fish. The sturgeon harvest tag was implemented for the first time in the 2006 hook and line season. All revenues from the harvest tag sales go directly to projects dedicated to the improvement of sturgeon populations and habitats and therefore, better fishing opportunities. No tag is needed if anglers are catch and release fishing only. Anglers can only target sturgeon during the open season.

The harvest tag is available throughout the season and costs \$20 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. It can be purchased: over the Internet through the [https://hfwa.centraltechnology.net/wi\\_public/goHome.do](https://hfwa.centraltechnology.net/wi_public/goHome.do) **Online Licensing Center**; by calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236); at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cs/servicecenter/locations.htm> **DNR service centers** during their regular business hours (check service center link for hours of operation, which vary by service center; service centers are closed Saturdays).

Lake sturgeon are slow-growing, late maturing fish, with females spawning for the first time when they are 20 to 25 years old and then only every three to five years thereafter. Because females are larger than males, they are often targeted by anglers, and their over-harvest can cause population declines that may take years to recover.

For any questions or to report a violation, call Conservation Warden Paul Sickman at 715-685-2914 ext. 120.

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## Upcoming Events...

- August 22nd & 23rd.....Bonus antlerless deer tags go on sale for regular Deer Management Units, August 22nd for even numbered units, August 23rd for odd numbered units
- August 29th (Saturday) .....Wildlife Talk, Willow River State Park, 7 pm, Nature Center, Mike Reiter speaker, Contact: WRSP 715-386-9340
- August 29th (Saturday) .....Remaining Fall Turkey Tags go on sale at noon at DNR Licensing Centers
- September 1st (Tuesday) .....Mourning Dove Season opens
- September 1st (Tuesday) .....Early September Canada goose hunting season opens in designated areas through Sept. 15. (See Regulations)
- September 9th (Wednesday).....Black Bear Hunting Season opens (See Regulations)
- September 10th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's September Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- September 12th (Saturday) .....Archery deer season opens statewide through Nov. 19th; Fall Turkey season opens through November 19th; Ruffed Grouse season opens in Zone A; Cottontail Rabbit season opens in Northern Zone Squirrel season opens through January 31st
- September 17th (Thursday).....1st Annual Wisconsin Waterfowl Association "All Sportsman's Get Together", Ready Randy's, Contact: Tony Stanek 651-336-3925
- September 19th (Saturday) .....Trail Run at Willow River State Park, 9 am to noon, Contact: WRSP 715-386-9340
- 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 Rover 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

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

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