



P.O. Box 145 • New Richmond, WI 54017 • (715) 246-4884 • 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 IR50 matches are finalized for 2009 with no further shoots scheduled. The club will stay with the IR50 in 2010. ARA shoots have been scheduled for 2010.

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. Vertical posts on the pistol range will be replaced next year.

Future long term capital improvements for 2010 will include the upgrading of the upper trap and a voice activated thrower. The upper trap may have to be modified to accommodate this improvement.

A very special thanks goes out to Chris Kupczak and all the folks that helped make the rifle site-in days a huge success!

The rifle range on the club land will be closed from 9 am – 5 pm on Monday, November 30th and Tuesday December 1st because of law enforcement qualifications. The rim fire (pistol) range will need the support posts reset because of heavy use.

The Fall Hunters Ed Course has completed with the graduation of 51 students. A February class is being planned using a modified format to abide by DNR restrictions.

Membership invoices for 2010 will go out in November of this year. Current membership now stands at 412.

A Benefit 3D Indoor Archery Shoot will be held on Sunday, January 10th. More details will be forthcoming.

Electricity has been provided to the entrance area and the gate will be installed soon. (See below)

The entryway to the club house will be completed this fall.

Money was allotted for membership to the Indianhead Archery League, the purchase of clay birds for 2010, rim

fire supplies, New Richmond Chamber of Commerce membership and a SPF&GA Bucks Night sponsorship.

Entrance to Club goes High Tech

A new automated gate is being installed at the entrance to the club and will be put into service with the membership renewals in January 2010. This improvement to our facilities will make it easier for members to enter and exit as well as recording passage so we can get better information regarding how much the club is used. Each member will be required to make a \$10 deposit on a Key Card along with the dues for next year. This is a one time deposit and the card will be active as long as the membership is in good standing.

When entering the club grounds, the card must be presented to a reader located on the driver's side of the road near the gate. The system utilizes radio frequency communication so the card will not have to physically touch the reader, but just be held within 2 - 3 inches of it. As soon as the card is recognized, an electric motor will open the gate for a predetermined amount of time. Readers will be on both sides of the gate so exiting is accomplished in the same manner. There should no longer be any need to get out of your vehicle at the gate. During high traffic periods such as league nights and events open to the public the gate will be locked open.

As well as making access easier, this system should improve security by eliminating instances of the gate being accidentally left open. It will also provide some accountability in cases of safety or rule violation.

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 and they will be included in the newsletter. Suitable articles of interest can also be submitted. *This is your newsletter!*

NOTICE!

The Willow River Rod & Gun Club will no longer provide a deer carcass dumpster for deer carcass disposal on the club land for 2009. Successful hunters can dispose of the carcasses in their regular garbage disposal service. *Thank you for your consideration.*

Alliance News and Notes

The 2010 County Aids Project is dedicated to the replacement of an aeration unit at Squaw Lake. The unit will be purchased at a price of \$3,278.00. The County's budget has been approved and the purchase and installation will move forward.

The Alliance herbicide distribution effort is alive and well under the leadership of Jack Rasmussen. Herbicide is available to the public and another order has been placed to keep up with the demand.

Green Bay Packer caps have been purchased by the Alliance through the "Green Bay Packers Promote Orange Hat & Wisconsin Deer Donation to Benefit Food Pantries Program". These hats will be donated for drawings at the various county lockers participating in the food pantry venison donation program.

Archery deer hunting is presently allowed at Homestead Park with similar policies enforced as those in place at Glen Hills County Park. Contact the County Parks Department for more information.

The Hudson Rod & Gun Club released 200 adult rooster pheasants into the county just prior to the 2009 pheasant season opener. The Alliance provided half the funds for this effort as to our agreement.

Construction of the new fishing piers at the Willow River State Park is nearly completed with railings needing to be installed. These piers will provide much needed shore fishing access to the public.

The boat landing channel at Squaw Lake has been dredged to facilitate boat access.

Marty Engel, Fisheries Biologist, reported on the Bass Lake Management Plan which has been finalized. Large fingerling walleyes (1300) were introduced into the lake by a joint effort of the Bass Lake District and the Somerset Youth Athletic Association. 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 moving forward with construction hopefully completed 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



President Brian Headlee's Archery Buck

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 have been reviewed internally by the DNR and sent on to a special bass committee. Hopefully the questions will appear on the 2010 Spring Questionnaire.

Construction of handicap accesses on the Kinni are moving forward with 2 of the 3 sites complete.

The formation of a Friends Group for the USF&WS local District is being implemented. A meeting of interested parties was held on October 26th with another one planned in December. Several issues were raised which will be addressed as the formation process moves forward.

An archery deer management hunt in North Hudson has been ongoing and has been a resounding success to date. This may set the ground work for more hunts and could expand into other municipalities.

The January 2010 Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th, 2010 starting at 6:30 pm at Land & Water Conservation Building.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Update

Brush for Cedar Lake fish cribs can be obtained from area Waterfowl Production Areas again this year.

It was decided to present an annual appreciation award to a selected Bucks Night sponsor to thank them for their continued support.

The club will close and winterize the Menke cabin within the next few weeks.

Club members helped staff the Youth day at Forest Ridge on October 3rd. About 32 youth took part in trap shooting, pheasant hunting, fishing and archery events. A motion was made and approved to budget \$1200.00 to support various activities partnering with the USF&WS, including construction of bluebird and wood duck nest boxes, the "Duck on a stick" project and the purchase of a tool that could burn or cut the club logo onto items that we donate or sell.

Terry Zais reported that New Richmond and Osceola schools have expressed interest in possible club built



Marty Powers Archery Buck



Buck taking a break in South View Addition

11/13/2009

USF&WS Tom Kerr's WPA of the Week Oak Ridge Waterfowl Production Area

The Oak Ridge Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) is located between H and 220th Ave., about two miles east of Star Prairie. The 385 acre WPA, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the St. Croix Wetland Management District is located adjacent to 200 acres of State Wildlife Area (SWA) managed by the WI DNR. Over the last several weeks, this 585 acre complex of wetlands, grasslands and forest has been heavily used by migrating waterfowl. In the last few weeks of October, over 2,000 waterfowl were on the lake including coots, scaup, canvasbacks, mallards, green winged teal, gadwall, Canada geese, trumpeter swans and many other species.

These birds will use the lake to rest and fuel up for the rest of their migration south. Oak Ridge Lake is relatively shallow, only 2-4 feet in depth and harbors a tremendous diversity of submerged aquatic plants, arguably the most valuable of which is sago pondweed. According to the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center website, the importance of sago pondweed to migrant waterfowl is so great that "...continental migration pathways of some species can be determined by the location of large water bodies dominated by the plant." On Oak Ridge Lake, the combination of sago pondweed, hard stem bulrush and many different pondweed species creates an ideal situation for feeding waterfowl, which can build up energy needed for migration.

Although many migrants use the lake, some of our locally produced mallards and wood ducks are probably still on the lake also. Locally produced blue winged teal probably used the lake early in the fall but with the first hint of cold weather headed south. If you are lucky you may also see the bald eagles that nested on the south end of the lake.

The Oak Ridge WPA and adjacent SWA are located within a state waterfowl refuge so special regulations that prohibit waterfowl hunting and other types of hunting apply.

For more information on the St. Croix Wetland Management District, check out our website at www.fws.gov/midwest/stcroix/.

easels.

A fall pontoon ride on Cedar Lake was held on September 2nd with 15 seniors from the St. Croix Health Center taking part.

The club thanks member Ray Berry for the donation of a McMurtrie large parking lot light and pole.

Donations were made to Pheasants Forever - Kinni chapter, Bank Electric and Arlen Luehman for Park party donations.

The club has 38 members paid for 2009, and 15 Life Members.

From Wisconsin Wildlife Surveys – August 2009

The number of small game hunters decreased 3% in the 2008-09 small game hunting season from 2007-2008 levels. This is the seventh decrease in license sales in the last eight years. The estimated harvest increased from the last season for crow, gray fox, mourning dove, raccoon and squirrel, while decreases occurred for bobwhite quail, cottontail, coyote, gray partridge, pheasant, red fox, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and woodcock.

Statewide ruffed grouse population indices increased 3% between 2008 and 2009, based on the number of drumming grouse heard during the roadside surveys.

The total number of sharptail grouse dancing males on the 9 manages tracts in Wisconsin decreased slightly for 183 in 2008 to 175 this year indicating a 4% decrease in the sharptail population since last year. The overall population has been gradually declining since 1999 with cyclic increases in the late 1990's and more recently.

For the second year in a row, and three of the last four, the number of pheasants seen by rural mail carriers has dropped from the previous year. In 2009 the decrease was 35% from the previous year. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven was 0.44 in 2009, down from 0.68 seen per 100 miles driven in 2008.

The 2009 pheasant crowing counts indicated a statewide average of approximately 1.3 roosters/sq. mile, a 36% decrease from the 2008 average of 2.0 roosters/sq. mile. Fifty-five crowing rooster pheasant surveys were conducted this past spring to monitor pheasant population trends throughout Wisconsin's pheasant management counties.

Upcoming Events...

- November 19th (Thursday).....Early archery deer season closes statewide. Reopens November 30th - Jan. 3rd, 2010
November 19th (Thursday).....Fall crow season closes
November 20th (Friday)It is illegal to hunt with a firearm the day before the gun deer season opens, except for waterfowl hunting or hunting on licensed game farms or shooting preserves, or within the CWD management zone.
November 21st (Saturday).....Regular gun deer season open through Nov. 30
November 24th (Tuesday)Northern zone duck season closes
November 30th (Monday).....Muskellunge season closes / Turtle season closes
December 1st (Tuesday).....Lake Trout Season on Lake Superior opens
December 6th (Sunday)Southern zone duck season closes
December 9th (Wednesday).....Muzzleloader deer season closes
December 10th – 13th.....Late statewide antlerless-only firearm hunt. Hunters may use Herd Control and Earn-a-Buck antlerless deer carcass tag 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 10th (Thursday).....Spring turkey permit application deadline. Application deadline for bear hunting kill permit. Bobwhite quail season closes.
December 10th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's December Meeting, 7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
December 12th (Saturday)Canada goose season in the north exterior zone closes
December 14th (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 17th (Thursday).....Canada goose south exterior zone season closes
December 31st (Thursday)Pheasant season closes / Hungarian partridge season closes / Bobcat hunting and trapping season closes / Fisher trapping season closes / Frog season closes

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

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