



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 October shoots scheduled. The club will stay with the IR50 in 2010. Nine of the top 75 and 4 in the top 25 shooters in IR50 shoots were club members.

ARA shoots have been scheduled for 2010. We are the only club belonging to this organization north of Omaha. All 7 of our club members shooting finished in the top 50 for 2009.

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.

Rife/Shotgun site-in days are scheduled on the club land for the Sundays of November 1st, 8th and 15th. There will be club members available to help shooters from 9 am to 5 pm on those dates.

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.

Electricity will be provided to the archery shed and gate entrance area this year. Quotes will be gotten and the gate should be installed this fall.

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

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 Archery and dumpster fences have been constructed. Thanks to all those that helped in accomplishing these tasks!

Money was allotted for the purchase of three power poles to be erected on the club land.

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.

Hunt Down Hunger!

This year the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance and the Green Bay Packers are joining together to help promote the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program in St Croix County. Special Collector Caps have been purchased by the Alliance for a special drawing to be held at each of the four locations in the County that have agreed to accept donated deer harvested during the 2009 deer gun and bow seasons. These caps are blaze orange or blaze orange camo and have the Packer "G" emblem on the front. Each hunter donating a deer in St Croix County will be eligible for a special drawing for one of these caps.

The participating meat processors are Glenwood City Lockers, Deer's Food Locker, Power's Wildgame Processing and Mike's Deer Cutting.

Deer Tag Dilemma

With the opening of the archery deer season and the upcoming youth hunt, October herd control hunt, regular

deer gun season, muzzle loader season and December herd control hunt there will inevitably be many questions and uncertainties on what tags are good for what season periods. When a perspective hunter purchases his various licenses, he is given an assortment of tags which can and cannot be used in certain areas, at certain times and under certain conditions. With the elimination of "earn a buck" restrictions in many of the northern deer management units (DMU's) many hunters don't realize that those extra tags for herd control units cannot be used on antlerless deer in the now regular hunt units. They are valid only in herd control units. If the hunters wish to harvest an antlerless deer in these regular units they must first purchase a bonus tag for that particular unit at a cost of \$12.00. There are a ton of these tags available and can be purchased at a rate of one a day per hunter until they are exhausted. Check the DNR website or ask a license agent for permit availability. The tags issued with your licenses are clearly marked but a variety of tags are provided depending on the type of license you purchase. Make sure you are using the proper tag in the correct area during the proper season or you may be receiving an unwanted visit from the local warden.

Warden Paul's Corner - Shining Wild Animals

Often during hunter's safety course the question is asked, "What is shining?" Shining is using a light to locate or "shine" wild animals, typically deer. The light used could be headlights, a flashlight or a high powered portable light. In addition, laser sights on guns, bows or crossbows are lights by definition and are illegal. Many individuals like to shine animals at night just to watch the animals because many of the animals are nocturnal and not able to be seen during daylight hours. Some hunters like to shine wild animals and deer to see where they are so they can hunt them. The following restrictions apply to shining.

It is illegal to use or possess with intent to use, whether or not a firearm, bow or crossbow is in possession, a light for shining wild animals (including vehicle headlights) between the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM from September 15 through December 31. While shining, it is illegal to use or possess with intent to use a firearm, bow or crossbow. Lastly, it is illegal to shine at any time on federal refuges and Waterfowl Production Areas. NOTE: Some areas may prohibit shining by a local ordinance. Check with your local Sheriffs Department to find out if that restriction occurs in your county.

Pheasant Season Starting

Now that we are into October, most huntable species will or have opened. October 17 is the long awaited pheasant opener for many in the county. Pheasant hunters need to remember that the season opens at 12:00 noon on October 17 and that the daily bag limit is one male daily the opening weekend for October 17-18. Starting October 19, the daily bag limit is 2 males. The

possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Pheasant hunters on federal lands open to hunting can only use non-toxic shot and as always need to pick up there empty shells.

New Mentored Hunting Law

Effective September 1, 2009, Wisconsin's new Mentored Hunting Program, with the combined controlled conditions of "one gun", "arms reach", and "one to one" mentoring, was designed first and foremost with safety in mind.

The mentoring program removes barriers to participation yet allows people to safely experience hunting in a highly controlled manner. It creates circumstances that are responsive to the social conditions research tells us is necessary to recruit more hunters.

A mentored hunting experience can kindle an interest that leads to the creation of a life-long connection with the natural world - creating an appreciation and understanding of it - and evoking a spirit of commitment to pass on the conservation ethic and our hunting heritage to future generations. Anyone age 10 or older, born on or after January 1, 1973 can obtain a hunting license and hunt, without the need to first take hunter education, provided they and a mentor comply with all of the following requirements:

Rules that apply to the Hunter

- Must be at least 10 years old.
- Must have the appropriate valid hunting license, permits and tags
- May only hunt while within arms reach of a "mentor" - regardless of the hunter's age or the mentor's age
- Must follow all other hunting laws, seasons and bag limits
- 10 & 11 year olds may only hunt under these mentorship rules, even if they already completed hunter education

Rules that apply to the Mentor

- Must be at least 18 year old
- If born on or after 1-1-73, must be a hunter education course graduate, or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces
- Must be the hunter's parent or guardian, or have the permission of the hunter's parent or guardian before acting as a mentor for a person under age 18
- Must have a current year's hunting license. (Type of hunting license does not matter for the mentor, unless they will also be attempting to harvest game, in which case they must have the appropriate valid hunting license, permits and tags for species they are hunting.)

Only allowed to serve as a mentor for ONE hunter at a time if the hunter is either of the following:

- Age 10 or 11, or was born on or after 1-1-73 and has not yet taken and passed a hunter education course.

Rules that apply to both the Hunter and the Mentor:

- Only ONE firearm, bow or crossbow (if eligible for a



Club members Ron Roettger and Bret Stephens with bow harvested deer in South Dakota



Ron Roettger with Wisconsin bow harvested deer

crossbow permit) can be possessed jointly between the hunter and the mentor

For questions or to report a violation, contact Warden Paul Sickman at 715-684-2914 X 120.

USF&WS Tom Kerr's WPA of the Week

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 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 inverte-

brates 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/.

Wisconsin Waterfowl Stamp Project Funding

(From Wisconsin DNR Wildlife Management Report - Oct. 5th, 2009)

One hundred and twelve project proposals were submitted for potential waterfowl stamp funding for the FY10/11 biennium. There are four project activities that receive priority consideration in reviewing these proposals - wetland restoration, major maintenance, intensive wetland management, and wetland development. Of the \$718,270 in waterfowl stamp funding subsequently distributed to projects, 41% went to wetland restoration, 49% went to major maintenance, 3% went to intensive wetland management, 0% went to wetland development, and 7% went to other types of projects. However, it should also be noted that in addition to this distribution of stamp funds, an additional \$300,000 was made available through regional waterfowl stamp allotments for routine wetland maintenance. Adding this to the money allocated for major maintenance projects and 65% of the available waterfowl stamp funding is now being used for wetland maintenance, both routine and major, to preserve our investments.

Upcoming Events...

- November 1st (Sunday)Wild Ginseng season closes
November 2nd (Monday)Woodcock season closes
November 8th (Sunday).....Sharp-tail season closes (See Regulations)
November 9th (Monday)Mourning dove season closes
November 9th (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association November Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social,
7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
November 12th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's November Meeting,
7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
November 16th (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association Bucks Night, Ready Randy's, 5:30 pm Social,
7:30 pm Dinner, Contact: Dan Bygd 246-6477 or Mike Kelly 246-4109
November 19th (Thursday).....Early archery deer season closes statewide. Reopens Nov. 30th through 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 November 30th
November 24th (Tuesday)Northern zone duck season closes
November 30th (Monday)Muskellunge season closes
Turtle season closes

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

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