

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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

Because of the New Richmond Fun Festival booth set up there was no formal July meeting of the Willow River Rod & Gun Club. Club president Brian Headlee reminds the members and users of the club land to slow down when on the premises. Now that the road is being graded on a routine basis, folks appear to be driving faster. Signs may be posted in the future to stress this fact.

Alliance News and Notes

1. Following the election, the slate of officers of the St Croix County Alliance of Sportsman's Clubs remains the same with Kyle Kulow of Baldwin as President, Dave Larson of Glenwood City as Vice President and Mike Reiter of New Richmond as Secretary/Treasurer.
2. Jim Zeller of Greystone Commercial made a short presentation to the Alliance about potential development of the old Nike Base Site near Roberts. Jim described the site and talked about potential use of the Nike Base as a facility for firearm training or as an academy for some shooting programs. Jim acquired the site about 10 years ago and now wants to expand its use. Law enforcement training or a 911 central location site are other possibilities. Looking for ideas is the first step and Jim will keep the Alliance posted of any developments.
3. Kyle Kulow reported on the selection process for the \$750.00 Bruce Anderson Scholarship for 2009. Rebecca Baumgartner from Baldwin is the recipient and will be attending Northland College majoring in Natural Resources and Forestry. Kyle presented the scholarship to her on May 13th. Congratulations Rebecca!
4. Dave Larson reported that the Xcel Energy/St Croix County agreement at Pine Lake Park is very near being resolved. Slight modifications to the original plan are being considered to everyone's satisfaction.
5. The Kinni Land Trust, through a series of partnerships, has made a major land purchase of 204 acres from Vern Nagel in Erin Prairie Township. The land trust plans to turn the land over to the DNR later this year. It will be open to hunting and other outdoor recreational activities thanks to the cooperation of the participating organizations and the Nagel Family!
6. Aleisha Miller made a request for Alliance help in purchasing waders for her county based education programs. The Alliance made a motion to provide funds for this purchase and also suggested that she look into the use of waders and hip boots used at the McMurtrie preserve's water based educational programs.
7. Kyle gave a report of the tree planting efforts for 2009 in St Croix County. The planters are in good shape with repairs made a few years earlier. Money generated through the use of the planters has been deposited in the Alliance account.
8. The Alliance will continue the herbicide donation program for treatment of noxious plants such as buckthorn into 2009. Jack Rasmussen has purchased more herbicide for distribution for the Alliance. Calls continue to come into Jack for information on buckthorn removal.
9. The Annual Willow River State Park Kid's Fishing Contest will be held on July 18th. The Alliance sponsors the event and provides physical help each year.
10. Marty Engel, Fisheries Biologist, reported on the formulation of a Bass Lake Management Plan which has been finalized. The plan will be presented to the Lake District Board for implementation. If all goes well, the 2011 County Aids money will be dedicated to "woody" habitat placement in the lake. Fish crib construction and placement along with wood and stumpage infusion into the lake will be a part of this project.
11. Progress has been made on the Squaw Lake aeration easement agreements. A July 23rd meeting of Squaw Lake stakeholders is scheduled at the Squaw Lake landing. Several issues will be addressed including easements and dredging possibilities. An agenda for the meeting will be available shortly.



President Brian Headlee taking care of club land road conditions

12. Bob Heise of the Land and Water County Conservation Department described ongoing water monitor activity in the county. Monitors are in place on the Willow River and other area lakes. Very good data is being collected and will be used for baselines to determine future water level variations.

13. Construction of the Hatfield Lake carry in boat launching facility is moving forward. 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.

14. Future County Aids Projects were discussed and a replacement aeration unit for an older model one in use at Squaw Lake will be purchased as the proposed project for 2010. The Squaw Lake District agreed to provide labor for installation and maintenance and presently pays for the electrical costs on the units. This will make all the units interchangeable if there is a failure during use for any system. A back-up unit is already available in case of problems. Maintenance of the aeration housing may also be updated. Providing woody debris to Bass Lake for fish habitat was chosen for the proposed 2011 County Aids Project.

15. Marty provided the group a tour of Hatfield Lake aeration system and described the workings of that system.

16. Marty and Kyle reported on the trout habitat improvements and easements work completed on Parker Creek. KLT/handicapped access on the Kinni River was also discussed.

17. 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 with a bag of 3. Only one may be over 18 inches. Marty has proposed these rule changes with positive public support.

18. Marty also submitted a change for boundary water

uniformity for fishing sturgeon on the St Croix River with Minnesota. This would include a 15 day catch and release season for sturgeon following the regular catch and keep season. The size limit on sturgeon is presently 60 inches.

19. Harv Halvorsen, area wildlife manager, reported on a proposal for an archery deer management hunt in North Hudson. A group of archers have organized and are proposing to provide this service to the village. Harv was to attend a meeting on this subject and would report back on the deliberations.

20. Harvey also reported on the upcoming hearings on some local deer management units (DMU) and over wintering goal changes for our area.

21. The DNR is being asked to make more cuts and has lost the use of some of its vehicles because of seasonal usage and reduced mileage. These vehicles are sorely needed to provide service work on our water resources. Negotiated pay raises have been put on hold, 8 unpaid mandatory furloughs enforced and there are more possible personnel cuts. A hunting and fishing license fee increase has been put on hold for the next two years so budgets will remain tight.

22. An area duck pair/brood survey has recently been completed in cooperation with the USF&WS. Results of these surveys will be distributed as soon as the data is tabulated and analyzed.

23. Warden Dave Hausman gave a brief report on area law enforcement activities and passed out booklets describing the 2008 annual report of the bureau of law enforcement.

24. Warden Paul Sickman described the upcoming learn to hunt program to be held at Forest Ridge and talked a bit about expanding it to other activities and areas of interest.

25. The September Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th, 2009 starting at 6:30 pm at the Land Conservation Building in Baldwin.

Coyotes (Scientific name: *Canis latrans*)

(From the DNR Website)

Coyotes are one of Wisconsin's most common and highly adaptable canines. You may be fortunate enough to see one trotting across a field, marshland, or wooded area in search of its next meal. Sometimes called a brush wolf or prairie wolf, coyotes are extremely intelligent, skillful hunters and play an important role in Wisconsin's natural circle of life. The coyote is a valuable furbearer and it provides the coyote hunter, trapper, and wildlife observer with a great challenge.

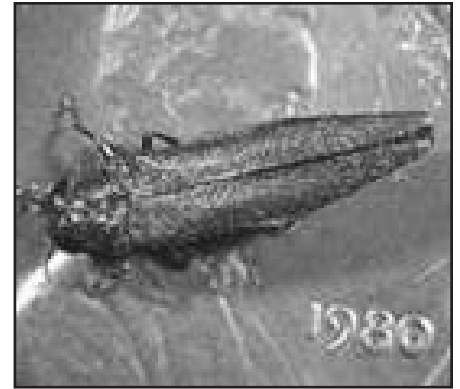
Smaller than an adult gray wolf yet larger than a fox, these medium-sized members of the dog family have



Wild Parsnips, a dangerous photo-sensitizer



Coyote



Emerald Ashborer, a treat that is on the way!

long, thin legs, a tapered nose, or muzzle, and rather large, pointed ears that open forward above the face. Like foxes, coyotes have yellow eyes with round pupils. Interestingly, coyote pups have round pupils while fox pups have elliptical pupils. They have a very bushy, black-tipped tail about a third of the body length. Also, coyotes are half the size of wolves with thinner muzzles. Males and females look similar though females are normally smaller than males. An adult male is about 44-52 inches long, including its 14- inch tail, and weighs from 25 to 42 pounds. Some coyotes even reach the weight of 75 pounds, but this is rare.

Coyote fur is moderately long and coarse, ranging in color from a dull yellow to gray. The back, neck, front of the legs, and top of the tail are usually a buffy gray. The midline is often darker colored than the rest of the back. Each hair on the upper part of the body has several colors and is tipped with black, giving the upper parts a dark, grizzled appearance. The underparts of the coyote are a cream color. The face and back of the ears are redder than the rest of the body. The inside of the ears, the edges of the mouth and the throat are white. The summer coat is usually more buffy than the winter coat. Coyotes shed their fur once each year, beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer.

When moving through their habitat, coyotes typically do the "dog trot" or a gentle lope. They will gallop if pursued or when chasing prey. They average about 25 miles per hour when galloping, but can sprint up to 35 miles per hour. They do not have great stamina for running and will tire rather easily. They can dog paddle fairly well in water.

Coyotes have excellent senses smell and very good eyesight and hearing. They live to be relatively old for an animal. They often reach 12 years old, 18 in captivity, but they're average life expectancy in the wild is 6 to 8 years old.

Warden Paul's Corner - Boating

The boating season is in full swing. Boating on lakes and rivers in Wisconsin has become a very popular past time. Each year thousands of boaters venture out to Wisconsin waters to enjoy the sport. With the increase in use it is very important that you, as a boat operator understand the laws of boating. Awareness of these laws could steer you and other boaters from a "close call". Please consult the Wisconsin Boating Regulations before

boating this season. Here are few boating reminders for the upcoming summer season:

- All personal watercrafts (PWC) must operate at a slow no wake speed within 200 feet of any shore on a lake.
- All PWCs must operate at slow no wake speeds anytime the PWC is within 100 feet of any other boat or a PWC on any water body.
- Operators and all passengers on PWCs must wear their life jackets at all times.
- All boats must operate at slow no wake speed anytime they are within 100 feet of a dock, raft, pier or buoy restricted area.
- While towing a water-skier, tuber, etc., the boat must have a competent observer to watch the skier (a mirror is not legal in Wisconsin).
- All PWC's pulling a water-skier must be capable of carrying 3 individuals.
- All boats must have a wearable life jacket of the proper size and type for each individual on board the boat.
- All boats 16 feet and over must have a throwable floatation device (seat cushion or ring buoy).
- All boats equipped with motors must be registered, even electric trolling motors.
- Boats on the right have the right of way on the water.
- Enjoy the water, don't drink and drive.

Lost Fishing Licenses/Stamps

During the year, wardens check thousands of anglers and it is almost inevitable that a warden will contact an angler who has lost their fishing license. If this happens to you, you must obtain a duplicate fishing license. The cost for this duplicate fishing license is \$10.00 and can be obtained at your local DNR Service Center, the county clerk office, any automated license issuance system (ALIS) vendor, 1-877-WILICENSE, or online at dnr.wi.gov. If you had any fishing stamp privileges, such as an inland trout stamp, they will automatically print with the duplicate license at no extra cost. However, if you purchased your license and stamp privileges at different times and only lost the stamp, you will need to purchase the stamp privilege at full price.

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

Upcoming Events...

- 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,
Menke Cabin on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- July 28th (Tuesday)Annual Upper Willow River Rehabilitation District Meeting,
New Richmond Civic Center lower level, 7 pm, Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- July 31st (Friday).....It is illegal to allow dogs to run on DNR lands and Federal Waterfowl Production Area
lands April 15th through July 31st
- August 1st (Saturday)Deadline for fall turkey permit application, sharptail grouse,
bobcat, fisher and otter application deadlines also
- August 13th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's August Meeting,
7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- August 17th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association August Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social,
7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's on Cedar Lake, Contact: Dan Bygd 715-246-6477
- 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

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

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