



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

2010 Board of Directors:

Dave Miller, Brian Headlee and Jon Nysse were elected to the Willow River Rod & Gun Club's Board of Directors for 2010. The new officers and positions for 2010 are:

Brian Headlee - President

tenspot17@hotmail.com - (715-246-5322)

Jon Nysse - Vice President

jnyss@gmail.com - (715-246-7021)

Jerry Van Houten - Treasurer

jjvanhouten@hotmail.com - 651-436-5204

Dave Miller - Secretary

(715-246-3409)

Jessa Nelson - Membership Director

jessa.nelson@gmail.com - (715-246-0266)

Bill O'Rourke - Non-Shooting Events

annlizzie@frontiernet.net - (715-246-2475)

Chris Polfus - Long Range Planning

chrisp@polfus.com - (715-246-6849)

Ron Roettger chose not to run this time around. We want to thank Ron for all that he has done for the club over the many years on the Board. He still will continue to be a very active member of our club however.

1. The 2010 winter Spot and Bush Archery Leagues will run for 11 weeks. Shooters can shoot ahead for the spot league but cannot for the bush league because each week presents different shooting layouts. A price break can be had if both leagues are shot.

2. The next WRR&GC Turkey Shoot will be scheduled for Sunday, April 18th. The summer trap league will commence on April 22nd. Looking ahead, the club will be looking into the purchase of a new trap.

3. An overview of activities from the 2009 club season was presented by President Brian and League Chairpersons. The various leagues makes money for the club to cover league expenses while also providing capital for club maintenance and improvements. A third of all trap rounds shot at the club were shot by our youth. The club sponsors New Richmond and Baldwin Hunters Education classes, 4H activities, scout involvement and was named Conservation

Club of the Year by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for all it does for outdoor recreation and promoting youth involvement. Our club is a well rounded asset to the area.

4. The rifle and pistol ranges are still receiving moderate use. Backers should be replaced as necessary with new ones stored in the metal shed next to the trap shed.

5. A full schedule of rim fire events (ARA and IR50) are scheduled and are listed on our website. Seven of our 13 shooters are in the top 25 in the nation!

6. The club still needs polls to mount lighting fixtures on the club land. We would be willing to pay upwards of \$1.50 per foot if in good shape. Electricity will be rerun to the trap shed this spring. A sign indicating directions to our driveway will be placed on the access road also.

7. Gate access cards are available when one renews their membership. Vehicle tabs will be sent out after January 19th. It was noted that 87 club members turned in work hours for 2009. The entrance gate will be operational after the annual meeting.

8. Ron Roettger indicated that the Spring Hunters Education classes will run from Monday, February 8th through March 18th with Monday and Thursday class days from 7-9 pm. The Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th. The Bow Hunters Education Class will run from Monday, March 22nd, 25th, 27th and be completed on March 29th. On April 1st the class will be invited to shoot the Brush League with other club members.

9. Dave Miller provided the club with a permanent cash box to be installed in the club house. Thanks also goes out to Joe Arnez for providing the tent for the Glor Benefit on January 10th.

10. A discussion was held, the bylaws consulted with a final decision made that our approved allocated expenditures for 2009 could automatically roll over to 2010.

11. Ron Roettger volunteered to again maintain club house clean-up details.

12. The club will welcome 4H club activities along with Baldwin Hunters Education use of our facilities for 2010.

13. The trap league will explore providing patches, awards and trophies for league shoots.

14. Money was allotted for a St Mary's raffle donation and trap league targets and materials.

Entrance to Club goes High Tech

A new automated gate has been installed at the entrance to the club. 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.

Alliance News and Notes

At this meeting on January 5th, 2010, the St Croix County Alliance had a special invited guest. State Representative John Murtha joined us to get an overview of our activities and answer some of our questions. The issues addressed by Rep. Murtha were:

- a. Potential over ride of Gov. Doyle's veto of the DNR Secretary's Appointment
- b. Stewardship land purchase parameters and how they effect hunting, fishing, trapping and outdoor recreation activities
- c. The DNR and deer management going forward into 2010 and beyond
- d. Baiting & feeding of deer restrictions
- e. Wood burning particulate pollution monitoring - air quality
- f. Effect quality of life has on job creation in our area of Wisconsin

A very special thanks to John for the insight he provided to us on these issues!

Other business:

1. The 2010 County Aid Project was dedicated to the replacement of an aeration unit at Squaw Lake. The unit has been purchased at a price of \$3,278.00.

The County's budget has been approved and the system has been installed.

2. The Alliance herbicide distribution effort is alive and well under the leadership of Jack Rasmussen. Herbicide is available to the public upon request at this time.

3. 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. A total of 166 deer have been donated to date at the 5 participating lockers. Last year 186 deer were donated.

4. Archery deer hunting is presently allowed at Homestead County Park with similar policies enforced as those in place at Glen Hills County Park. No problems have been observed during the current hunting season at either park.

5. The boat landing channel at Squaw Lake has been dredged by the DNR staff to facilitate boat access next spring. Further Squaw Lake Stakeholder Meetings are planned to finalize several unresolved issues. A Squaw Lake Master Plan will be drafted and a grant to help defray the cost of this plan is being submitted by the Squaw Lake District. The Alliance will pen a letter of support for this grant application.

6. Marty Engel, Fisheries Biologist, reported on the Bass Lake Management Plan which has been finalized. 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. Marty will be working with Mr. Edson from the Lake District to get landowner approval for shallow water wood placement. We have identified several supply sources for this wood.

7. Construction of the Hatfield Lake carry in boat launching facility will be completed this spring. 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 and a dock may be part of the launch site.

8. 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. Because of the high volume of potential department questions on the 2010 Spring Questionnaire, the majority of the State bass questions have been tabled by the Department this year. A renewed effort will be made to have the DNR address these issues in 2011.

9. The formation of a Friends Group for the USF&WS local District is being implemented. Two meetings have been held with a third planned for



Audrey Van Dam's and Austin Headlee's 2009 successful deer harvests

Wednesday, February 10th. A grant has been received to help cover the costs of the Friends Group formation.

10. An archery deer management hunt in North Hudson has been ongoing and has been a resounding success with no problems to date. This may set the ground work for more hunts and could expand into other municipalities. A total of 22 deer had been removed by the archers. A grant may be received to continue with this effort next year.

11. Harv Halvorsen reported on the recent verified cougar sightings in the area. He speculates there might possibly be two animals crossing through the area. Videos and photos of the animal(s) have circulated on the net.

12. A brief report of ongoing alternative funding activities was given.

13. Plans for the 2010 Alliance habitat Banquet are ongoing. This year's banquet will follow the same format as last year.

14. The February 2010 Banquet Planning Meeting of the St Croix County Sportsman's Alliance is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9th, 2010 starting at 6:30 pm at Land & Water Conservation Building. The Banquet is tentatively scheduled for March 23rd, 2010.

Life members age 65 and older.

4. SPF&GA Board Members whose terms expire at the end of 2009 are: Dan Bygd, Mike Kelly, Bob Swanda and Terry Zais. Board of directors and officer elections will take place at the annual meeting in January. The 2010 budget will also be presented for review.

5. Tim Madden presented a proposal for developing and RV park on land next to the Trout Farm and is looking for ideas from the club or projects to provide public usage such as fishing piers, nature trails, etc.

6. Joel Kemm presented a slide show of the work being done on local WPAs for prairie restoration. USF&W burn results for 2009 indicated approximately 1200 acres in the spring and about 350 acres in the fall. This is approximately 16% and 5% respectively of the total 7800 acres they manage. Tom and Joel also answered questions on the various aspects of controlled burns and restoration work.

7. Stuart Nelson presented an idea for a bus tour of various Waterfowl Production Areas, Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust and SPF&GA club projects to various groups such as High School Science Classes, Rotary, Lions, Garden clubs and Senior citizens to showcase these projects and get more exposure to the environmental protection work being done in the area.

8. A discussion was held on continuing ice fishing opportunities for youth on Cedar Lake this winter. Contact Jon Bush if you would like to help.

9. Brian Headlee is looking for Eagle Scout projects that the club could suggest.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association News

1. Fish cribs will be placed on the east side of Cedar Lake this year with the assembly area for them to be located at the north boat landing again unless a more suitable area can be found. The crib build date is scheduled for Saturday, January 30th starting at 8:00 AM. An alternate date will be scheduled for February 6th. Brush will have to be hauled in from neighboring WPA sites. The CIP will be contacted for log drilling with the DNR crew set as a backup plan.

2. The SPF&GA designated expenditures for the Glor Family Benefit at Fat Matts on January 10th, which will be sponsored by the Willow River Rod & Gun club, and a donation to Wanderoos Lions Club Youth Fishing Event.

3. The club has 38 members paid for 2009 with 14

New Richmond National Wild Turkey Federation

New Richmond Area NWTF Chapter Is looking for members and volunteers If you are interested in joining, getting involved or interested in more information please contact: Jeff Matz 715-246-2323 or 651-261-4924 jpmatz@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events...

- January 29th -31st.....Northern Wisconsin Deer Classic and Outdoor Expo,
Eau Claire Indoor Sports Center, Eau Claire Wisconsin
- January 31st (Sunday).....Squirrel season closes
- February 6th (Saturday)Gun Show, Lakeview Event Center, Siren WI-Ruffed grouse season closes in Zone A (Northern Zone)
- February 8th - March 18thNew Richmond Hunters Education Class, Monday and Thursday Nights 7-9 pm,
New Richmond Armory, Contact Ron Roettger 715-248-3883
- February 11th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's February Meeting,
7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- February 15th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association Annual Meeting,
6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's
- February 15th (Monday).....Coyote trapping season closes, Raccoon trapping and hunting seasons close
Red and Gray fox gun and trapping seasons close
- February 19th -21st.....Gun Show, New Richmond American Legion
- February 28th (Sunday)Cottontail Rabbit season closes
- March 22nd, 25th, 27th, 29th.....New Richmond Bow Hunters Education, Willow River
Rod & Gun Club, Contact: Ron Roettger 715-248-3883
- April 12th (Monday).....Conservation Congress Spring Hearing, 7 pm at St. Croix Central High School Commons,
1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI, Contact: Mike Reiter 715-246-6643
- April 18th (Sunday).....Earth Day Celebration, YMCA Camp, Hudson,
Contact: Aleisha Miller 715-684-2874 ex.125

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

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