



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

1. The Archery league is going well with 41 teams and more than 140 shooters participating this year. There are five full youth teams included also.
2. The Trap League is also shooting well with 12 teams involved with 5-9 people on each team. With the purchase of the new thrower, the club is looking to sell the old one.
3. Participation in the rim fire shoots are ahead of last year. Seven of the top 25 shooters in the nation are shooting at our meets.
4. The rifle and pistol ranges need new backers. A club work day is scheduled for June 26th to get the land spruced up. A large rock will also be moved from the pistol range.
5. A three strand wire fence will be constructed to help secure the rifle range. Club land road maintenance has been performed with 280 tons of rock being spread on the road and parking lot.
6. Paid membership now stands at 411.
7. The Fun Fest Booth needs workers to provide help and get their club hours run up. A sign up sheet will be available in the club house.
8. The Somerset Hunters' Education Class will utilize our land on June 30th. A class is also scheduled for August 13th and 14th at the club.
9. The Park Art Fair Food Booth netted about \$1100.00.
10. Seven light poles have become available and will be used in five locations.
11. Money was allotted for arrows for the Archery trophies, the A1 Archery benefit including a club membership, and Fun Fest Booth food.

Fun Fest Food Booth - Help Needed!

If you haven't put in your club hours yet this year, this is the perfect opportunity to do so. The WRR&GC will be sponsoring a food booth at the New Richmond Fun Fest scheduled for July 8th - 11th, 2010 and need help manning the booth. Sign up sheets are available at the club house. For more information contact any of the club's board of directors.

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!

Wisconsin's Best Towns for Sportsmen

In the June/July issue of "Outdoor Life" America's top 200 towns for outdoor sports activities are listed. Author John Taranto selects his locations based on a variety of factors including hunting and fishing opportunities. He also looks at those places that rank high on youth activities, places to retire and value of the dollar. With all things considered Rapid City, South Dakota comes in number one. In looking over the list, Wisconsin does very well for itself placing seven of its cities in the top 200. Listed in order of ranking are Ashland (27), Phillips (31), Superior (44), Prairie du Chien (46), Rhinelander (67), Green Bay (112) and Stevens Point (159). Throw in the Packers, Badgers and Brewers and who wouldn't want to live in Wisconsin!

Wisconsin Wildlife Surveys

Every few months I receive a copy of the Wisconsin Wildlife Surveys put out by the DNR. These green covered books contain a plethora of information. At times there is more information presented than the average guy really needs. I personally find the subjects in these publications extremely useful.

One of the articles in the April 2010 issue concerned a survey of archery hunters and was written by Brian Dhuey. Responses received back from 4,883 archers were analyzed with the following results. "The average archer in Wisconsin is male, 46 years old, has 21.5 years of archery hunting experience, hunted for 15.8 days in 2009, uses a compound bow, camouflage, a tree stand, bow sites, deer scent, grunt call and mechanical release. Bow hunter density ranged from a high of 17.6 hunters per square mile of deer range per day in deer management unit 69C, to a low of 0.04 hunters per square mile in deer management unit 78." About 75 percent of archers rated the 2009 season fairly low to very low in hunting quality.

Another report addressed the results of the 2009 Gun Deer Hunting questionnaire and was also written by Brian Dhuey. A total of 3,957 2009 gun hunters returned the survey which resulted in the following information. The 2009 gun deer season provided active hunters with over 3.5 million days of hunter recreation. Gun deer hunters averaged 5.7 days a field during the 2009 season. The majority of gun deer hunting took place on private lands (71%). Thirty two percent of the respondents in 2009 killed a deer. Eighty two percent rated the 2009 season fairly low to very low in hunter satisfaction.

Star Prairie Fish & Game Association Activities

1. The Senior Pontoon Ride was held on June 16th with 13 pontoons providing rides for 97 participants. An excellent meal of grilled trout and brats was

provided following the event.

2. A Kids Fishing Day was held on Lake Wapogasset on June 5th sponsored by the local Bass Club. A good time was had by all!
3. Bare root wildlife shrubs were given to the club by the Polk Co. Land & Water Service and were distributed to club members before the May meeting.
4. A donation was made to USF&WS for "Ducks on a Stick", The Unity Lions Club for their fishing contest.
5. The Natural Resources bus tour is scheduled for Saturday, July 17th and is sponsored by the Star Prairie Fish & Game Association, Star Prairie Land Preservation Trust, USF&WS and the St Croix County Extension.
6. The club has 32 members paid for 2010 and 15 Life (age 65 and older).
7. The Girl Scout Group, who took part in the ice fishing outing last winter, is interested in monitoring the bluebird nest box trail of 14 boxes. They will try it this year and possibly take it over next year.
8. Warden Paul Sickman reported on the local spring turkey kill, spearing on Cedar Lake and the new deer season framework.
9. The SPF&GA has received the Outstanding Local Conservation Club of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress at the Annual Conservation Congress Meeting in Lake Geneva.
10. A discussion was held on maintenance of the memorial stones at River Island Park, that the club originally installed. The Board of directors will take up the issue with the Star Prairie village Parks Dept.

Public asked to report game bird brood observations

Outdoor enthusiasts and hunters can help the state monitor the brood production of a variety of game birds including pheasant, ruffed grouse, turkey, quail, gray partridge, prairie chicken and sharptailed grouse by reporting sightings to the state Department of Natural Resources. State wildlife officials say brood sightings are an important measure of the reproductive success. "People often see game birds and their broods while they are out enjoying Wisconsin's summertime," said Brian Dhuey a DNR research scientist who monitors wildlife abundance and distribution across Wisconsin. "The public can help us monitor the reproductive success of these birds by reporting sightings on the Game Bird Brood Observation survey page of the DNR website." People interested in participating in this survey can find survey instructions and record their sightings online on the Game Bird Brood Observation survey. The survey period begins June 13 and runs through August 21st, 2010. The DNR is interested in the type of bird seen, the county it was seen in, the number of hens and chicks seen, and the activity people were engaged in and for how long when the observations were made. People can record observations at the end of every day, or for times when they do not have access to the Internet and would like to keep track of your observations, a tally sheet (pdf) has been provided to help record sightings.

Each summer, wildlife personnel around the state are asked to fill out ten-week brood observation reports. These 10-week brood surveys have been ongoing for some species for more than 30 years. Ruffed grouse, gray partridge, and pheasant 10-week brood surveys have been collected since 1970. Wild turkey was added to the 10-week brood survey in 1987. Prior to 1970 department personnel did game bird brood observations for ruffed grouse and pheasants. Information gathered on game bird brood production is used by DNR for monitoring population indices, making fall hunting forecasts, and monitoring regional trends.

Questions about the Game Bird Brood Observation survey, accessing the tally sheet, reporting your observation, or the results of the survey, can be referred to Brian Dhuey at (608) 221-6342.

Important Bird Area Designation- by Tom Kerr USF&WS

On Friday, May 21, I spent the day at the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge helping with the Birding and Nature Festival. The three day festival, cen-



Take a Kid Fishing



Mallard brood

tered at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland is an event that attracted over 300 people this year to enjoy the fantastic birding opportunities found in the Chequamegon Bay Area. The participants can choose from over 110 programs during the three day event, including topics as varied as Birding Basics, Bats of northern Wisconsin and a guided kayak tour of the Fish Creek Estuary. All of these events highlight the tremendous wildlife value of the Chequamegon Bay Area.

During the three days, over 180 species of birds were observed. Some of the highlights included a red-headed woodpecker and an American avocet. The avocet, which was spending time at the mouth of Whittlesey Creek, served as a great backdrop for a ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge as an American Bird Conservancy Important Bird Area. Karen Graff from Senator Feingold's office attended the event to make a short presentation and help cut the ribbon with Rick Schultz, the Fish and Wildlife Service's regional Refuge Chief. The designation recognizes the value of this coastal wetland and floodplain forest habitat for many species of birds. Hopefully, the IBA designation will also raise the public's awareness of the importance of maintaining and protecting our natural resources. Nearly 230 species of birds, such as shorebirds, warblers, seabirds, waterfowl and wading birds either call the Refuge home or use it for food and shelter during fall and spring migration.

If you are interested in the Birding and Nature Festival check out the website at <http://birdandnaturefest.com>. Next year's festival will be held from May 20-22 but don't hesitate to visit the Refuge and the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center before then to enjoy some of the programs and wild watching opportunities near Chequamegon Bay.

July 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>27</u> [26] Jun	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>1</u> Jul	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
10:00a -3:00p <u>IR 50/50</u> <u>Rimfire</u> <u>Match</u> 3:00p -7:00p <u>ARA Rimfire</u> <u>Match - State</u> <u>6 Card</u>		4:00p -10:00p <u>Summer</u> <u>Archery</u> <u>League</u>		6:00p -9:30p <u>Trap League</u>		9:00a -12:00p <u>4-H Club</u> <u>Shoot</u> 12:00p -3:00p <u>4-H Club</u> <u>Shoot</u>
<u>4</u> [27]	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
 Independence Day Last Quarter	 Independence Day (Fed) 5:00p -9:00p <u>ARA Rimfire</u> <u>Match - 6</u> <u>Card</u>	No Summer Archery this week		6:00p -9:30p <u>Trap League</u> 7:00p -8:30p Club Meeting	New Richmond Fun Fest	New Richmond Fun Fest 10:00a -3:00p <u>IR 50/50</u> <u>Rimfire</u> <u>Match</u> 3:00p -7:00p <u>ARA</u> <u>Rimfire</u> <u>Match -</u> <u>State 6 Card</u>
<u>11</u> [28]	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
New Richmond Fun Fest New Moon	5:00p -9:00p <u>ARA Rimfire</u> <u>Match - 6</u> <u>Card</u>	4:00p -10:00p <u>Summer</u> <u>Archery</u> <u>League</u>		6:00p -9:30p <u>Trap League</u>		
<u>18</u> [29]	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
First Quarter 9:00a -12:00p <u>4-H Club</u> <u>Shoot</u> 12:00p -3:00p <u>4-H Club</u> <u>Shoot</u>		4:00p -10:00p <u>Summer</u> <u>Archery</u> <u>League</u>	9:00a -5:00p <u>LEA-County</u>	9:00a -5:00p <u>LEA-County</u> 6:00p -9:30p <u>Trap League</u>		
<u>25</u> [30]	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>
	Full Moon	4:00p -10:00p <u>Summer</u> <u>Archery</u> <u>League</u>		6:00p -9:30p <u>Trap League</u>		

Upcoming Events...

- July 8th (Thursday).....Willow River Rod & Gun Club's July Meeting, 7 pm, club land,
Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
- July 8th -11th.....New Richmond Fun Fest
- July 17th (Saturday)Willow River State Park Kids' Fishing Contest, Contact Kari 715-386-9340
- July 17th (Saturday)Conservation Bus Tour, Star Prairie Area, Contact Mike Kelly 715-246-6643
- July 19th (Monday)Star Prairie Fish & Game Association July Meeting, 6:00 Dinner & Social,
7:00 Meeting, Don Madson's on Cedar Lake
- August 2nd (Monday)Fall Turkey Hunting Permit Deadline
- April 15th - July 31st.....It is illegal to allow dogs to run on DNR lands and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas
lands during this time unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet.

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

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