



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

Willow River Rod & Gun Club News

There was a brief discussion on the proposed trap house construction and if it should be poured or of block construction. This subject will be addressed when plans for the trap house are finalized.

There are almost 100 shooters combined participating in the winter archery leagues. The February 3D archery shoot brought in 51 shooters. The next 3D archery shoot is scheduled for Sunday, April 18th starting at noon.

The Summer Trap League will begin on Thursday, April 22nd.

The ARA and IR50 League schedules have been set and are listed on our website. Everything is ready for another great year of small bore shooting!

The Rifle Range is getting lots of use and work will be performed after frost out to allow for better drainage of the shooting area.

The Pistol Range is also getting much use and backers will be replaced. The Sheriff's Department qualifying sessions are set for Tuesday, March 30th and Wednesday March 31st on the club ranges. Check the club calendar at our website for range closures.

New trap house construction and facility ground lighting enhancements are scheduled for the upcoming year.

We need to acquire a few more poles to get the electricity and lightning upgrades.

Last year our membership ended at 434. We look to match or exceed that number in 2010.

Fund raising events for 2010 include the Park Art Fair and Fun Fest Food booth setups. Upcoming meetings are scheduled to make these events profitable for the club. Mark your calendars for Monday, April 12th which is the scheduled date of the 2010 St Croix County Spring Hearings to be held this year starting at 7 pm at St. Croix Central High School Commons, 1751 Broadway St., Hammond, WI 54015. The location for this year has been moved because of the high cost of holding it at New Richmond WITC. Hopefully the Hammond School Commons will work out just as well and at a greatly reduced cost. Plan on attending!

The Club will again check with the Baldwin Club to

determine trap availability. The New Richmond and Baldwin Hunter Education range days are scheduled on the club land in March.

The entrance gate to the club land has been working to perfection except for one glitch which has been repaired. Everyone has been very positive about the gate to this point.

The 4H Group has again been given access to our land for their outdoor educational use in 2010.

The telephone ground line to our clubhouse will be repaired later this year when weather conditions permit. Money was allotted for a donation to the National Wild Turkey Federation Banquet as sponsors of the "Jake's Table", 3D archery vital replacement and expenses for the upcoming summer archery league and the April Turkey Shoot.

Discussion on decline of fish and lake quality in the area was held. If there are concerns, Marty Engel, our area fish manager out of Baldwin should be contacted.

Need a Good Gunsmith or FFL Service?

If you need any gunsmithing work performed or need to transfer a firearm from another dealer contact club member Eric Bauer at 715-246-5369 or 651-247-7272 (ebauer@midwestpic.com). He specializes in gunsmithing, customizing and accurizing, optics, cleaning and inspections along with providing a wide array of reloading supplies. He is a Rock River Arms Dealer and also builds AR15's to order.

USF&WS Tom Kerr's Spring Migration and WPAs

As the spring thaw continues, many species of waterfowl are heading north to their breeding grounds. Some of these, such as wood ducks, mallards, blue winged teal, hooded mergansers and even a few green winged teal and northern shovelers will set up territories and raise their young in our area. Others such as canvasbacks, ring necked ducks, redheads, American mergansers, pintails,

widgeon and a myriad of other species are merely stopping over on area wetlands to fuel up before continuing their journey north. If you spend any time driving around or looking for wildlife on local Waterfowl Production Areas or State Wildlife Areas you have probably noticed waterfowl in some of the shallow sheet water found on crop fields or pastures. These areas of shallow water are important sources of food for migrating waterfowl. They often fill up with open water before the larger marshes are ice free but as soon as the frost goes out these areas of sheet water dry up quickly. During migration, waterfowl need to re-fuel constantly to maintain their fat reserves, which are essential to successful reproduction and egg laying. These shallow areas provide easy access to seeds and invertebrates. Hens that arrive on the breeding grounds in good condition are more likely to be able to produce a clutch of eggs.

Waterfowl are also using seasonal wetland basins such as those found on the Bierbrauer Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) located about a mile east of Star Prairie. Last summer I wrote about how drought can benefit these basins by allowing many species of seed producing plants such as beggar's ticks and smartweed to grow, produce tons of seed and make "deposits" into the seed bank. Waterfowl feeding in these basins are starting to make the first "withdrawals" from the seed bank. These "withdrawals" from shallow wetland basins are critical for migrating waterfowl, allowing them to refuel on their long migration north.

For more information on the St. Croix Wetland Management District and a map of the Bierbrauer WPA, check out our website at www.fws.gov/midwest/stcroix/. Warden Paul's Corner - Turkey Youth Hunt to take place April 10 & 11, 2010

The fourth annual spring Wisconsin Youth Turkey Hunt is set for April 10-11. The hunt is intended to give youth hunters (both residents and non-residents) an opportunity to hunt turkeys and gain valuable hunting experience. The youth hunt occurs each year, and is held the weekend prior to the opening Wednesday of the spring turkey season.

As in previous years, youth ages 12-15 who have successfully completed a hunter education program and have purchased a 2010 spring turkey license, 2010 turkey stamp, and have a valid carcass tag for spring 2010 may participate in the 2-day youth hunt.

New this year, youth ages 10 and 11 or youth of 12 through 15 years of age who do not possess a hunter education certificate but who still have a current valid 2010 turkey license, stamp, and permit may participate if "mentored" by a qualified adult under the new mentored hunting program. Participants may only hunt in the turkey management zone for which their permit was issued, and may only harvest one bearded or male turkey total during the youth hunt. Youth who do not fill their tags, or who have purchased extra tags over-the-counter, may still use any remaining unused tags not filled during the special youth hunt during the original time period and zone for

which the tags were issued.

A full set of regulations for the youth hunt is available in the 2010 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations, which is now included in the 2009 Small Game & 2009 Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations. More information, including the criteria for a qualified adult mentor, can be found on the youth turkey hunting page of the DNR Web site.

Hunters looking for further information can refer to the spring turkey hunting regulations.

Deer Harvest Totals

Hunters registered 329,103 deer for the 2009 deer hunting seasons. This includes a total antlerless harvest of 191,715 and antlered (buck) harvest of 134,156. The grand total includes 3,232 deer recorded as unknown. The closely watched total buck harvest for all archery and gun seasons was down 3 percent compared to 2008.

The 2009 archery buck harvest was up 19 percent over 2008 at 41,402 making it the fourth best archery buck harvest in history. Archers accounted for 31 percent of the total buck harvest in 2009. This was up from the 2008 archery buck harvest which accounted for 25 percent of the total buck kill. Gun buck harvest declined by 11 percent last year from 103,845 in 2008 to 92,754, the 29th highest gun buck total on record.

Antlerless harvest was carefully regulated on a unit-by-unit basis through the bonus permit process. In 2009, 13 deer management units had no antlerless permits available to gun deer hunters in an effort to promote strong deer population growth in those units. Gun bonus permits were limited in many other units that were near established population goals.

In 2008 gun hunters registered 246,607 antlerless deer. In 2009 the number was 146,917, a decrease of 99,690 or approximately 40 percent. The greatest changes in antlerless deer harvest occurred in the northern forest where hunters registered 30,431 antlerless deer compared to 56,607 in 2008. This 46 percent reduction in antlerless harvest was due to a reduction in antlerless deer tags available in the northern forest.

The eastern farmland also saw a greatly reduced antlerless harvest with more than 31,000 fewer antlerless deer registered, a 47 percent decrease from 2008. The decrease in the eastern farmland region is largely due to the suspension of Earn-a-Buck hunting requirements.

The statewide post hunt population estimate is 990,000, down slightly from 2009. Regional populations vary widely in Wisconsin and in northeastern Wisconsin deer populations are generally below desired goals. Populations are higher in the rest of the northern and central forest regions and above goals in the eastern, western and southern farmland regions. Hunters interested in learning more about local populations are encouraged to attend a deer management unit information meeting in their area. Meeting locations and dates are available online or by calling the DNR Info line at



Guy Carlson's and Cindy Metzger's 2009 deer bow harvests

(888) 936-7463.

Winter severity recording stations will continue to report through April and this fall's antlerless harvest quotas will be finalized after all winter severity data are collected. March is a critical month for northern deer herds. Harsh weather in March can result in greater mortality and lower fawn production as deer can be in a weakened condition at the end of winter.

Leftover spring turkey permits on sale March 22nd

Remaining permits for the 2010 spring turkey hunting season will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis starting March 22. Leftover permits will be first issued for sale by zone, one zone per day, with each zone having a designated sales date.

Sales will start at 10 a.m. March 22 and continue through midnight each day or until permits are all sold. These sales will be held for five consecutive days with customers able to purchase one permit per day. Any remaining leftover permits for all zones will go on sale Saturday, March 27 and will continue until sold out or the season ends. Permit purchases are limited to one permit per day until each zone and time period is sold out.

The following zones have leftover permits. The scheduled sales dates are as follows:

Zone 1 – Monday, March 22

Zone 2 – Tuesday, March 23

Zone 3 – Wednesday, March 24

Zone 4 – Thursday, March 25

Zone 5 & Zone 6 – Friday, March 26 - Due to the

low number of permits left in these units, the sale has been combined into one day.

There are no leftover permits available for Zone 7 after the initial drawing. There are also no leftover permits for time periods A or B in the other zones.

A limited number of disabled-only turkey permits for state park areas is available among leftover permits. Disabled hunters who have been issued either a Class A or Class C Disabled Hunter Permit should visit a DNR Service Center or call the DNR Customer Call Center at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463) beginning on Monday, March 22, 2010 after 10 a.m. to purchase one of these permits.

The fee for turkey permits is \$10 for residents, and

\$15 for nonresidents. All hunters will also be required to pay the spring turkey license and stamp fee, unless they have previously purchased the license and stamp, or are a 2010 Conservation Patron License holder. Residents and nonresidents will have equal opportunity to purchase over-the-counter permits. Purchasing these permits will not affect preference status for future spring or fall turkey permit drawings. A select number of disabled turkey permits for several state parks are also available for leftover sales. Disabled hunters should note that these permits will only be available through DNR service centers.

Leftover permits can be purchased over the Internet through the Online Licensing Center; by calling toll-free 1-877-WI LICENSE (1-877-945-4236); at license sales locations; or

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cs/servicecenter/locations.htm>

DNR service centers during the time they are open for counter service. Hours for service centers were recently reduced. Please check dnr.wi.gov for a list of service centers and days and hours of operation (DNR Service Centers are not open on Saturday). Hunters should have their DNR customer ID ready. Hunters with any questions about when or how to buy permits may call the DNR Customer Call Center from 7 a.m. through 10 p.m. seven days a week at 1-888-WDNRINFO (1-888-936-7463).

The spring 2010 turkey hunting season runs from April 14-May 23. The season is divided into six 5-day (Wednesday through Sunday) time periods.

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

Upcoming Events...

- March 20th (Saturday).....Hunting/Fishing Expo, Prairieview Covenant Church, 9am-4pm, Contact: Nancy King 651-271-3360
March 20th (Saturday).....Aquatic Invasive Species Training Session, Star Prairie
Community Center, 9-12 noon, Contact: Bob Goodlad 715-248-7672
March 20th (Saturday).....Winter crow season closes
March 22nd, 25th, 27th, 29th.....New Richmond Bow Hunters Education, Willow River
Rod & Gun Club, Contact: Ron Roettger 715-248-3883
March 22nd-26th.....Remaining turkey permits not issued go on sale starting at 10 am
March 23rd (Tuesday)St Croix County Alliance Habitat Banquet, Baldwin
American Legion Club, Contact: Mike Reiter 246-6643
March 31st (Wednesday).....Hunting, fishing, sports and conservation patron licenses expire
April 8th (Thursday)Willow River Rod & Gun Club's April Meeting,
7 pm, club land, Contact: Brian Headlee at 246-5322
April 10th -11th (Sat.-Sun)Youth Turkey Hunt (see regulations)
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 14th – 18thSpring Turkey Hunt (Period A)
April 15th through July 31st.....It is illegal to allow dogs to run on DNR and Federal Waterfowl Production Area
lands during this time unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet.
April 18th (Sunday).....Earth Day Celebration, YMCA Camp, Hudson, Contact: Aleisha Miller 715-684-2874 ex.125
April 19th (Monday).....Star Prairie Fish & Game Association April Meeting,
6:00 Dinner & Social, 7:00 Meeting, Don Madsen's
April 21st – 25thSpring Turkey Hunt Period B
April 25th (Sunday).....Early catch and release trout season closes at midnight.
April 28th - May 2ndSpring Turkey Hunt Period C
May 1st (Saturday)Open inland fishing season (see regulations)

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

New Richmond, WI 54017
P.O. Box 145

