



BLACKWOLF WILDLIFE ASSN. NEWSLETTER

Feb. 12, 2004

WINTER MEETING AT GEORGES GASLIGHT-Will be February 25th at 6 PM, (Wednesday) with dinner at 7:15. Please let me know if you will be attending so I can let George's know the numbers. There are a lot of things to talk about re club activities.

FALL AND WINTER HUNTING SEASON-About 600 birds were released this past year and most of us had fairly good results. There were a lot of private releases recently and all the reports are that the birds were excellent flyers, loved to run, and made a lot of us want to practice more before next year. We finally found out the predator that was taking our birds. Many pheasants were wounded by our own hunters for they were found a day or week later with no marks from any predator. In several cases pheasants were found that were still warm and only dead a short time. One problem we found was shells that were left in the field were under power. Make sure you purchase good shells with ample powder and a # 6 shot. In addition, many of us are shooting at birds that are too far away. Please do your best to improve our results next year.

CHUCKARS AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE-Quite a few of these birds were released and very few shot this year. We now know the reason - apparently they hid well, for they are still here and residing at several of our neighbor's homes, staying under spruce trees and being fed daily. They should come back to our land in the spring. Also, Ron Eagan and Roger Manock have really liked using the Chuckars for dog training and hunting.

PHEASANTS/CHUCKAR/QUAIL ORDERS- included is an order blank for this years hunting. Please note three items-the price of birds, the early discount of \$2.00 per bird, and the guest charge of \$10.00.

WOODCOCKS-Several were seen this year Did you know that the American Woodcock, with its eyes placed toward the top of its head, can see backward and upward and forward and upward with binocular vision, and laterally, almost 180 degrees with each eye?

POND/FISHING- this spring we will be ordering quite a few of the hybrid crappies. They seem to be quite popular and very sporty. We need several fish traps constructed, so if you have time to work on this give me a call. Also, we want to put a third small dock on the north side of the pond.

OTTERS-Three years ago we purchased 4 catfish for the pond. They have not been seen since until January 15 when two heads were laying three feet from the edge of the water. Art Sonnenberg said it was the work of otters. He caught a 65# otter in a trap there in November but released it because he did not have a permit. Apparently there are many otters in the area.

DEER HUNTING THIS FALL- Brian Wilke shot a 10 pointer and Tom Nitz had an 8, with both of them meeting our QDM guidelines. I received many reports from those of you hunting both deer and pheasants and the number of deer on our property was very high and more than in past years. Also, there are some good size bucks visiting here on a regular basis. The road kill in our area this year was about 14 which is less than the 23 two years ago. Hopefully the new fence does some good, and the additional cover is considerable. I recently remembered that we have a tunnel going under highway 45 which at one time was constructed by the state as a cow pass. Last week we made it more accessible so perhaps this will be of some help. I would also like to cut back the brush that is near Howlett Road so there is more visibility when deer cross at some of their favorite places.

TREE PLANTING AND ORDERING TREES-We have a special package of 40 transplants trees and shrubs that will arrive here for pick-up on April 17th. Cost is \$50. If you want a packet or someone you know does please call me before March 1. Also, I will be ordering several of these packs for planting here and if you want to plant one packet let me know.

BEEF FARM/BULL PEN-Most of you have had a chance to visit our remodeled barn and meeting room. It was only a concept in September, work started in October, and we were using it in early December. The entire project has worked out much better than I ever anticipated. Many of you have found it a good place to warm up, meet other members, and enjoy a pizza, soda, cards, dice, or an occasional Packer game. Lately some members have been cross county skiing, snow shoeing, walking the trails, and using our snowmobiles. Once in a while a game of liars dice starts! I want to thank the many members that have helped with the work or contributed items such as wildlife prints, a coyote skin, kitchen equipment, and a TV. I will be preparing a listing that will be kept permanently with the names of donors and items. Thanks again!

MUSIC/TRIO FROM MILWAUKEE-On, Saturday May 1, a group from Milwaukee will be playing 60-70's music for listening/dancing from 7-11 PM at the Bull Pen. Please mark down this date for they are very good and we'll all have a good time. We will send out a special notice around the 1st of April. The 3-piece band is led by a friend of my daughter (Diane) and they played in Milwaukee during Harleyfest. If everyone brings a dish to pass we should have a good afternoon/evening. An RSVP would be appreciated, costs will be low, guests will be welcome.

DUES FOR 2004-Dues for this year will be \$200. If you are 65 years old or older and have been a member for 10 years they are ½ or \$100. The initiation fee for new members has been raised to \$300.

NEW MEMBERS-Please welcome them!

Mike and Pam Isaksson from Oshkosh- enjoy fishing, golf and hunting and have three children.

Bruce and Gloria Nelson from Winneconne-enjoy hunting, fishing, boating and skiing

Lurton and Carolyn Blassingame from Oshkosh-enjoy hunting, fishing, skiing and land preservation

Arnold and Shirley Riese from Oakfield-enjoy hunting, fishing (on Lake Michigan), and wood cutting

WORK PROJECTS-Please remember that one of our membership requirements is either for you to work one day on a project here at BWVA, or if you cannot help yourself - to make a donation so we can fund a project. We occasionally send out a project listing and many of you have mentioned the one you would like to work on. Probably the most important one this year is removing the barbed wire west of Howlett. Also, I will be sending out a notice of work sessions that I will schedule so you can help when you have time. Please be sure to fulfill your membership requirement by offering your help or a donation. One of the reasons we have such excellent cover here is the many hours so many of you have contributed over the years!

SALES TAX- the State of Wisconsin is collecting their 5% on all dues and pheasants. This is a new cost.

SPECIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR INFORMATION-Jeff Schultz rented our land this year and did a marvelous job, especially since he no-tills which is great for cover. I recently paid Jeff \$188 for drying the early corn he combined to open the strips for us and \$800 for leaving the corn that is still up. I will retrieve some of this cost when the standing corn is sold next month.

MANY THANKS-

Mark Sloat- for his long hours of work building the beautiful pine bar for the Beef Farm. Also, to his two days of work installing the cabinets in the kitchen at the Beef Farm

Brian Wilke- for his entire Saturday spent on the electrical wiring on the ceiling

Mike Solomon- for finding a blacksmith to build the wrought iron light bracket, for framing the calendar and QDM Trophy buck map, and for his many hours of consulting