

BLACKWOLF WILDLIFE ASSN.

MARCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 10, 1999

NEW MEMBERS

Our new member this month is Aaron Sagemeister. Aaron lives on Decorah, works at Mercury, and enjoys hunting and working with his dog. We should be receiving some new maps soon for Aaron has some experience in this area.

TRAILS

The past several weekends some of us have been widening the trail in the Zwifel woods, east of Howlett Road. The trail really hasn't been open for several years now. It is now widened to at least 16 feet, and around the full circle. We also trimmed around the Oak and Spruce, eliminating the Basswood. There was a lot of help from Tom Nitz, Clarence Rennert, Rodger and Eric Jacobsen, the Hugh's, and Terry Donahue. Hope you will have a chance to walk through and see how great it looks!

PHEASANT HOLDING PEN

Two weeks ago several of us visited Long Shot in Van Dyne to look at their pheasant holding pen. My son in law, Bob Dahl, has offered to let us build a holding pen behind his barn on Highway 45, and he will take care of the feeding of any birds we have. After visiting Long Shot, we now have a plan on how to build the pens. Right now the plan is to continue to release roosters on the three release dates, and to also release additional birds upon request. All of the details haven't been worked out, so your thoughts would be appreciated. Also, if you want to help in building the pen, please let me know.

FOX, COYOTES, AND RACCOONS

Leo Lefeber and several his friends have been hunting fox and coyotes. They have shot four fox and two coyotes right in this immediate area. Clarence has been trapping raccoons and close to 40 have been caught in the past 4 months, along with many cats. We need to encourage a lot more trapping. I would like your opinion on having a small incentive on our game farm for the trapping of raccoon, fox, coyote, opossum, and wild cats.



Clarence Rennert November 8, 1998

RAT RIVER MAPS:

Several of you have asked for the maps of the Rat River Hunting Area, and just where the pheasants were released. I am waiting on the DNR for the map and will include it with this letter. This area surrounds the Town of Winchester. 600 birds were released in 1997, 600 in 1998, and an additional 600 will be released this April (mostly hens). These pheasants were trapped in Iowa and then their offspring were raised in captivity and released as full grown birds. To date there are reports of a lot of pheasants in the 13,000 acres near Winchester.

PHEASANTS FOREVER

For the past several years I have been on the Board of Directors for Pheasants Forever, and in January of this year I was selected to be Habitat Chairman for the County. As a lot of you know, the main question is where are our pheasants going, and most of you know the answer. The predators are sure taking their toll. Many organizations, including DU, Pheasants Forever, and the DNR don't really want to talk about this subject. We all know the value of good nesting cover, food plots, etc., but somewhere we need to take reasonable steps to keep predators in balance. I am currently working on a list of 50 ideas to bring this situation to the front, and your help would be appreciated. Clarence is talking with several people in the trapping association and hopefully there will be some good ideas.

ORDERING PHEASANTS FOR THIS YEAR

Roosters ordered prior to June 1 will be at \$9.00 each, and after that date the price will be whatever we are charged by Mc Farland. This will most likely be around \$10.00.

TREE PLANTING IN APRIL

In about a month 2,000 trees will arrive. Many of these are Blue Spruce, Black Hills Spruce, White Spruce, White Cedar and a variety of shrubs. We need a lot of help so let me know if you can volunteer some time.

OUR MEETING AT GEORGE'S GASLIGHT ON FEBRUARY 10, 1999

We had a good turnout. Roger Jacobsen, Clarence Rennert, Mike Smoody, Terry Donahue, Gerry Neumueller, Howard Wruck, and Steve Procknow were all in attendance. Some of the ideas from the meeting:

1. When we release birds in the fall, we should not let our dogs disturb them, for this makes it a lot harder to find them when we hunt on Saturday mornings.
2. Find ways to release wild Iowa hens in the spring here at BWWA. I called Mc Farland and he has some available this week, if someone can drive to Janesville to pick them up.
3. When plowing fields in the fall, keep the edges open until after hunting.
4. We need to change our rule on guests for deer hunting. Currently guests are not allowed for deer hunting, but this creates a problem when you have a hunting partner but he cannot come here. From now on, the same guest rules will apply for both pheasant and deer hunting.

DUES FOR 1999

Thanks to those of you that have already sent in your dues. Enclosed is an invoice for this year. We try to put it to good use and hope that you are satisfied. Also, we have room for a few new members.