S tate wildlife officials have confirmed that tissue samples submitted from deer found dead in Columbia and Rock counties have tested positive for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, or EHD. A number of citizens in Wisconsin contacted the Department of Natural Resources with recent observations of small groups of dead deer. Reports came primarily from the Town of Dekorra in Columbia County, but also from Rock, Waushara and Walworth counties.

DNR wildlife health specialists submitted the samples from the reported deer to the University of Wisconsin’s Diagnostic Center for Population & Animal Health, which confirmed they died of EHD. Additional tests of deer from Waushara and Walworth counties are pending and expected within the next one to two weeks.

“Our neighbor states have seen EHD outbreaks for the last several weeks and now it has made its way into southern Wisconsin,” said Eric Lobner, DNR southern Wisconsin wildlife supervisor.

EHD is a fairly common disease carried by midges or no-see-ums – commonly referred to as o-no-see-ums – but the virus that causes the disease does not infect humans, according to DNR specialists, so people are not at risk when handling infected deer, eating venison from infected deer or being bitten by infected midges.

“We are fortunate that the public is tuned into our deer and was quick to alert us to these small pockets of problems,” Lobner said. “By sharing information about the outbreak, we are hoping to get help from the public by providing more eyes on the ground in order to continue to collect observations of sick or dead deer. These observations will help us more clearly understand the geographic distribution and number of deer affected by this disease. This will be valuable information to inform management decisions for both herd rearing conditions and the ongoing of overall impact of the disease on our deer population.”

EHD is often fatal, typically killing an infected deer within seven days. The last EHD observation in Wisconsin was in 2012, in Iowa County where 14 deer died from the virus. EHD is common across southern states and occasionally shows up as far north as the upper Midwest. This year, outbreaks of EHD have been reported in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa. The disease is typically short lived as the flies that transmit the disease die with the first hard frost. Often in cases of diseases like this, once we understand the presence of the disease we can do to prevent the disease, with the onset of cold weather and frost, this outbreak should be over soon. Any information we can get will help us better understand the impact of the disease on our herd.”

To report a sick deer observation please call the DNR call center toll free at 1-888-WDNR-INFOS (1-888-936-7463), email DNRinfos@Wisconsin.gov, or use the chat feature on the DNR website. Staff are available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Please be prepared to provide details about the condition of the deer and the exact location where the deer was observed. Individuals interested in finding more information on sick deer in Wisconsin can visit the Wisconsin DNR website at http://dnr.wi.gov keyword “sick deer.”

Game Bird Brood Production Up from 2011 Levels

M ADISON — Mild winter conditions, early spring green up and a warm and dry summer led to an increase in brood production for pheasants, ruffed grouse and wild turkey according to state wildlife biologists.

“Brood production surveys for these species were conducted during the months of June, July and August as they went about their normal work duties,” said Brian Dhuey, Department of Natural Resources wildlife survey coordinator. “These data are still preliminary and may change,” adds Dhuey, “but they can be used as an index to production and help in the forecast of fall hunting prospects.”

Brood rearing conditions favorable

“A mild winter and an early spring green up meant game bird survival and physical conditions should have been good going into the 2012 brooding season,” Dhuey said.

“Brood rearing conditions in Wisconsin in 2012 were above average for temperature with much of the state seeing temperatures 2-4 degrees above average for the months of June through August. Precipitation was generally below to near normal for much of the state, with the southern half was below to much below average, with some areas in the south receiving little to no rain over the extended periods of the brooding rearing season. Early June weather is the most critical for turkey, pheasant and ruffed grouse broods as this is when newly-hatched chicks are most susceptible to hypothermia if they get wet. A large rain-event in the far northwest, part of northern Wisconsin could have affected brood survival, otherwise much of the summer was excellent for brood rearing and survival.”

Ruffed Grouse

Statewide, ruffed grouse broods seen per hour observer were up 11 percent compared to 2011 levels. Ruffed Grouse production was up in two of the three regions that compose the primary range for ruffed grouse, central (94 percent), northern (5 percent), and southwestern (-1 percent). Ruffed grouse brood size rose slightly from 4.2 in 2011 to 4.3 young per brood in 2012.

While production was good this spring, spring breeding grouse numbers were down 25 percent in 2012,” said Dhuey. “Grouse production in 2012 was above 2011 levels, but it was still 42 percent below the long-term mean. While some areas of the primary ruffed grouse range will be better than others, it appears that ruffed grouse numbers are on the decline from their cyclic high of the past few years.”

Pheasant

The number of pheasant broods seen per hour observer was up 78 percent in 2012 compared to last year. Pheasant production was up in both the primary (106 percent) and secondary (67 percent) pheasant range from the 2011 levels. Pheasant brood size was down, with an average of 4.0 young per brood in 2012 vs. 4.5 in 2011.

“While pheasant brood numbers rebounded from 2012 in 2011 levels, they were still 39 percent below their long-term average,” says Dhuey. “And although pheasant production improved over the past couple of years, overall pheasant numbers are likely impacted by declining grassland habitat due to losses in conservation reserve program acres and increases in commodity prices throughout the pheasant range.”

Turkey

“Wild turkeys were the real bright spot with a 104 percent increase in the number of broods seen per hour observer and an increase in the size of the broods compared to 2011,” says Dhuey.

All 5 DNR regions showed an increase in the observation rate in 2012 from 2011. Wild turkey broods with airable gains in northern (151 percent), northeast (77 percent), south central (136 percent), southeast (176 percent), and the west central regions (26 percent). The statewide observation rate was 34 percent above the long-term mean and the 3rd highest since 1987. The average size of a brood seen in 2012 was 4.9 young per brood, up from the 4.5 young per brood seen in 2011.

“It would appear that wild turkeys had a good brood year across much of the state.”

All survey results are preliminary and subject to change upon the collection of further data and additional analysis.

September 18, 2012

Pockets of Dead Deer Found in Columbia and Rock Counties Died from EHD

Deer found dead in Columbia and Rock counties have tested positive for Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, or EHD. A number of citizens in Wisconsin contacted the DNR with recent observations of small groups of dead deer. Reports came primarily from the Town of Dekorra in Columbia County, but also from Rock, Waushara and Walworth counties.

“Neighborhood citizens have seen EHD outbreaks for the last several weeks and now it has made its way into southern Wisconsin,” said Eric Lobner, DNR southern Wisconsin wildlife supervisor.

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The latest on Wisconsin's Wolf Season

by George Meyer, Executive Director

On October 15th, a historic event will take place in Wisconsin with the first legal harvest of wolves in decades. The Wisconsin Legislature passed a state bounty on wolves in 1865, offering $5 for every wolf killed. By 1948, at Wisconsin's centennial, wolves were disappearing with only about 50 remaining in the state. The bounty on wolves continued until 1957 and by 1960, wolves were extirpated in Wisconsin.

Before the hunt starts, it is important to recognize what a great success the comeback of the wolf in the state is. The great majority of Wisconsin citizens, hunters and non-hunters alike respect the natural ecosystem of the state. The successful recovery of wolves and other wild species in the state and country is a story illustrating the wisdom and effectiveness of the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts. It also shows the value of professional wildlife managers that work for our state and federal wildlife agencies.

The current highly-over-goal wolf population however is an illustration on how the Federal and State court systems can be misused to thwart sound management decisions made by those professional wildlife managers.

The Department of Natural Resources has set the 2012 harvest quota for wolves in Wisconsin at 201. The state share of that quota is 116 with 1160 harvest permitted being issued for state hunters and trappers. The tribal portion of the 201 quota is 86 wolves. It is highly unlikely that the tribes will harvest any of those 86 animals for religious and cultural reasons. In the Ojibwe Creation Story, wolves are known as "ma'ìjìgan" and are considered to be brothers of the Ojibwe people. According to the story, the Great Spirit warned the Ojibwe that should the wolf pass out of existence, humans would soon follow.

So out of a population of wolves in Wisconsin that many believe to be in excess of 1000 animals, substantially above the state’s current population goal of 350, the likely harvest will be 116 or fewer wolves. However this harvest number could be considerably higher if wolves continue to appear or appear as packs of around 100 wolves killed by landowners with livestock depredation permits. In either case, it appears the wolf population in the state is unlikely to be brought back closer to the 350 goal by the February 28, 2013 end of the Wisconsin wolf hunting and trapping season.

As the hunt starts, archery, firearm and traps are the methods allowed for hunting wolves and the results are found on the WDNR’s website. Hunting with dogs is also allowed by a court decision until further notice. An action brought by several humane societies and other organizations has alleged that the use of dogs hunting wolves will cause dog and wolf fighting and therefore should not be allowed. The court based its decision on affidavits filed by former WDNR wildlife biologists. That was the only evidence before the court at the time since the WDNR and the Attorney General’s Office did not file any affidavits or present any counter evidence to the Court. I was in the courtroom at the time the judge made his decision and as a professional I must state that the judge had no other choice based on the court record with which he was presented. The judge did indicate that he would be willing to lift the injunction in the future if he was presented with official documentation from the DNR that the potential for dog/wolf violence had been studied and considered by the Department and the Natural Resources Board and that a decision was reached by the Board to establish regulations governing the interaction of dogs with wolves while hunting or that there was not a need for such regulations.

The Natural Resources Board at their September 26, 2012 meeting, heard testimony from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Bear Hunters and individual hunters that based on their experience of hunting with hounds and past incidental experiences with hounds occasionally tracking wolves. There was extensive testimony that hunting wolves with hounds would not lead to wolf/wolf fighting. The DNR and the Attorney General’s Office will take the record of the Board meeting, submit it to the Circuit Court and request that the judge lift the injunction that he has placed on hunting dogs with wolves this year. It is their goal to have the injunction lifted before the wolf hunting with dogs season starts the day after the 2012 nine-day November gun deer season. Stay tuned for further information. Feel free to re-follow the DNR website or give me a call at 608-516-5545.
The Horicon Marsh Complex

The Horicon Marsh Complex is comprised of the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (27,000 acres) in Mayville, WI, the Fox River National Wildlife Refuge (1,054 acres) in Montello, WI, and the Green Bay National Wildlife Refuge (330 acres) and Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuge (32 acres) located in Lake Michigan near Washington Island, WI.

History

The Horicon National Wildlife Refuge was set aside by Executive Order in 1913 as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds. Plum and Pilot Island were transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard as Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.

Habitat

The refuge is managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area, which, at 29 acres, is one of the smallest wilderness areas in the country. The refuge is managed by staff at Horizon National Wildlife Refuge, in Mayville, WI.

Activities

Public use is allowed during designated time periods of the year for fishing, hunting, and other public use activities compatible with the above objectives.

Note:

The refuge is closed to the public, with the exception of licensed deer hunters during designated time periods of the deer archery and gun seasons.

Note:

Public use not permitted to ensure necessary protection of ground nesting migratory birds.

Gravel Island National Wildlife Refuge

Activities

Resource values are maintained by natural processes. The refuge is monitored to ensure that these values have not been compromised.

Several studies involving double-crested cormorants, red-breasted mergansers, and black-crowned night herons have used Gravel Island Refuge as a study site. Activities have included sampling eggs, embryos, adults, juveniles for various toxicants; sampling blood for genetic purposes, and banding.

Habitat

The limestone and dolomite rocks that make up the base of these islands formed from compacted sediments of marine life that were deposited over 500 million years ago when the area was covered by an ancient ocean.

Opportunities

Environmental Education
Pilot Program to Increase Public Access at Shooting Range

ADISON – Thanks to a pilot project agreement between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Dane County Sheriff’s Office, the public will have weekend access to the Dane County Law Enforcement Training Center Range near Waunakee on weekends this fall for a $10 fee.

This trial run is an expansion of the current public access arrangement, which allows the public to sight-in firearms for the two weeks prior to the 9-day gun-deer season.

DNR Hunting and Shooting Sports Coordinator Keith Warnke and Sergeant Dave Ritter of the Dane County Sheriff’s Department called the market test good news for area hunters and shooters looking for a safe, convenient facility to prepare for the hunting seasons or simply to enjoy the sport.

“Partnership with Dane County to increase access to the range in this case is more effective than trying to build a new range,” Warnke said. “However, the DNR and the Dane County Sheriff’s Office will evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot and decide whether it will be continued.”

Ritter expects a positive response.

“We believe that there will be strong attendance throughout the expanded period the range is open to the public.”

Funding for this project comes from shooters and hunters through the Pittman-Robertson (PR) Wildlife Restoration Grant program. The grant revenues are taxes paid by shooters and hunters on ammunition and firearms equipment.

“This is an appropriate use of these dollars,” Warnke said.

The Dane County Law Enforcement Training Center is equipped with five firearm shooting ranges. Each of the five ranges provides a different type of shooting environment. Its primary function is to provide Law Enforcement Officers with realistic and functional training.

Under the terms of the agreement, the range will be open the following days and times:
- Saturdays and Sundays: Sept. 8-Oct. 28; 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- During this period, one 100-yard rifle range and one 15-yard pistol range will be open to the public to use for shooting and target practice. Shooters will not be limited in the time they spend on the range unless there are no open firing positions and others are waiting.
- Daily: Nov. 3-16; 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A 50-yard rifle range will be open to the public for sighting in firearms in preparation for the gun deer-hunting season (during these dates rim fire .22 shooting will not be permitted). Sheriff’s Office staff may limit the time shooters spend on the range during this high-use period. Experienced firearms instructors will be on hand to provide assistance with sighting and adjusting of firearms.

Target stands will be provided at the range. Shooters should bring ear and eye protection, targets and their own ammunition.

Fees of $10 per person per day will be charged by the Dane County Sheriff’s Department. During the hunter sight-in program, November 3-16, a fee of $5 for each additional gun will be charged.

Fees must be paid with cash or personal check. Credit cards are not accepted.

Minors: Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. A minor must be at least 12 years old and present proof of enrollment or completion of the DNR Hunter Safety Program in order to shoot at the range.

The Dane County Law Enforcement Training Center is located at 5184 Hwy 19 in the Town of Westport, one mile east of the intersection of Hwy 113 and County Trunk I.

LAKEVIEW ROD & GUN CLUB INC.

- Rifle Range Sight In - Open Sept 22, 2012

Come sight in at our range where weather cannot stop us! You can sight in your rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader, or hunting legal pistol. We offer 50-yard and 100-yard targets, with the comfort of being indoors, seated at a shooting station, with sand bags or a gun rest. Need help getting your gun sighted? We can help. If you are headed out west for a big hunt, just call and we will arrange a time for you to stop in and shoot.

Hours of operation:
- Saturdays: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Sundays: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Any Questions Call: Mike—414-430-0681
Rick—414-704-1080

Scope Sighting — $15.00 per gun
Scope Mounting — $25.00 per gun
You supply rings and mount.

300 Years of Membership Service
Badger Fisherman’s League

A special meeting of the Badger Fisherman’s League held on August 12, 2012, six of their members were honored for 50 years of service each to Badger Fisherman’s League.

A dinner honoring these fine gentlemen and their families was held and attended by club members. At this special evening honoring them, each received a commemorative jacket stating their 50 years with Badger Fisherman’s League. Also with the jacket was a 50 years pin and honorable mention certificate.

At each presentation individual members were given a few moments to reflect back and say some words. Each person had their own views and reasons why they have continued their membership in this fine club. Badger Fisherman’s League recently celebrated their 75th anniversary.


Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Presents
16th Annual Conservation Calendar
$100,000 in Retail Gifts and Prizes
Minimum Cash Prize $100
$20.00 Donation
A gift for all occasions

Available From:

| Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Presents 16th Annual Conservation Calendar |
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| **Dan Gries** | **Menasha** |
| **Doug Gries** | **Menasha** |
| **John Koester** | **Menasha** |
| **Love Qualla** | **Menasha** |
| **Bruce Tenelager** | **Menasha** |
| **Tony’s Bar** | **Menasha** |
| **Joanna Habib** | **Menasha** |
| **All Seasons Sports** | **Menasha** |
| **Timberline Taxidermy** | **Menasha** |
| **Jim Ciminai** | **Menasha** |
| **J & H Game Farm** | **Menasha** |
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| **Bobbins** | **Menasha** |
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| **Suring Backhaus Retreat** | **Menasha** |
| **Jim Weshon** | **Menasha** |
| **Pat Ramirez** | **Menasha** |
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| **Scott Dernwolf** | **Menasha** |
| **Slim & MaryAnn’s** | **Menasha** |

or call the WWF Office at 800-897-4161 to order with $3.00 shipping fee.

Odds of Winning - 1 in 28
(365 prizes)
Virtual Beach for Real-Water Safe Fun

By John Wetzel, WPR Waterfront Committee Chair

The Waterfront Committee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources created a new project called Virtual Beach for Real-Water Safe Fun to encourage water safety. The project uses real-time water-quality information to inform beachgoers about the water quality at beaches across Wisconsin.

When and why a Great Lake beach goes public health watch status is a complex decision based on many factors, including the occurrence of certain bacteria such as E. coli. The committee’s goal is to make the system user-friendly and easy to understand. The project has received positive feedback from users.

The system was created by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and was funded through a federal grant.

The project was launched in July 2012 and is available at virtualbeach.dnr.wi.gov. The site provides real-time water-quality information for 226 Wisconsin beaches, including Great Lakes beaches and other popular recreational areas.

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Editor D. A. Gries

Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club 2012-2013
Fish Fry Schedule

ALL YOU CAN EAT ! ! !
October 20th
November 10th
January 19th
February 16th
March 16th
5PM - 8:30PM
Sportsman Lane
Stoddard 608-483-2107
www.chaseburgrodandgun.com

September 2012 Calendar Winners

1 $1000 Cash Dale Alger, Shiocton, WI 9331
2 Remington 1187 12 ga. Jack Dickson, Wild Rose, WI 6723
3 $200 gas card (Labor Day) Mark Retthauer, Tomah, WI 7078
4 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Joel Overman, Freeport, MN 3780
5 Ruger Hawkeye 30.06 Irene Turbin, Janesville, WI 2856
6 $150 Cash Dan Dubik, Madison, WI 9196
7 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Roger Kosmosky, Neillsville, WI 8794
8 Weatherby Vanguard 40-60 Darleen Bira, Pewaukee, WI 7560
9 $150 Cash Bruce Zienert, Little Chute, WI 2615
10 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Dan Schwarze, Waukesha, WI 7676
11 Marlin 1895 45-70 Scott & Deb Gillard, New Berlin, WI 5081
12 $100 Cash Rob Hemenway, Shawano, WI 9645
13 Gander Mountain Gift Card $300 Drake Larson, Cambridge, WI 2357
14 Benelli Super Nova 12 ga. Richard Fuchs, Stevens Point, WI 304
15 $100 Cash Rick Wolf, Janesville, WI 2589
16 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Marte Clover, Port Atkinson, WI 2955
17 Mossberg Silver Reserve 20 ga. Jeff Tadyth, Manitowoc, WI 1441
18 $100 Cash John Deslis, Chippewa Falls, WI 9842
19 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Chuck Hawley, Black River Falls, WI 4414
20 Henry Golden Boy 22lr Lynn Rosol, Madison, WI 1455
21 $100 Cash Jan Herbinger, Milwaukee, WI 5527
22 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Dennon Baldwin, Camp Douglas, WI 3206
23 TC Otaga synchulus 50 Cal Mark Abbot, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 705
24 $100 Cash Dennis Baldwin, Camp Douglas, WI 3206
25 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 John Anderson, Onalaska, WI 1036
26 NEF A5 12 ga. Mary Angelwirth, Wisconsin, WI 1214
27 Gander Mountain Gift Card $300 John Schnyder, Omro, WI 7488
28 Gander Mountain Gift Card $500 Charles S, New Berlin, WI 2224
29 Marlin 925 Paul Ganzen, Appleton, WI 9888
30 Gander Mountain Gift Card $100 Brett Mack, Port Atkinson, WI 4411

2012 WWF BANQUET CALENDAR

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<tr>
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<td>Ruth Ann Lee</td>
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<td>MacKenzie Center, Poynette, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Wayne Thayer</td>
<td>Sat., Jan. 26, 2013</td>
<td>Ho-Chunk Casino, Wisconsin Dells, WI</td>
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... Don Burke, Turnerville 1973...