



Fall 2004

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Wings Over Wisconsin NEWS

Kettle Moraine Turkey Hunt

It was any exciting day for young turkey hunter, Adam Kleinke, from Kewaskum, as he bagged his first gobbler on the Kettle Moraine Chapter's new habitat restoration area. He harvested a 20lb bird with a 10 1/2" beard. Adam took part in a special turkey season for first time turkey hunters. Jim Roe from the Gateway Gobblers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, was Adams's guide. The hunt was held on the new wildlife project area recently purchased by the Kettle Moraine Chapter of Wings. The property is located on the Washington-Fond du Lac county line.

This is the first of what is hoped to be many youth hunts on the new project area. The area will take several years, a lot of hard work and many funds to reach it's potential. The chapter president, Richard Knoebel, said "the chapter also hopes to hold handicap deer hunts in the future as well as hunter education field days." Knoebel went on to say that "we hope by getting youth involved in the outdoors we can foster a desire to become enthusiasts for the rest of their lives".

Northeast Chapter Purchasing 90 Acres

The Northeast chapter is in the process of purchasing 90 acres of land in the Town of Morrison. The acquisition of this Brown County property would allow the Northeast chapter to provide public wildlife viewing and recreational opportunities in an area that is

converting open space to residential development. They also have a long history of community involvement and have worked with the DePere, Wrightstown and Denmark FFA chapters. This property will allow them to provide the FFA chapters with a hands-on experience for understanding and appreciating wildlife.

This land purchase is contingent on the chapter receiving funding from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. The Wings Project Coordinator, Burt Bushke, has also applied for a grant from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation to possibly cover a portion or all of the expense not covered by the Stewardship. If all goes well, the chapter should get word on the Stewardship by the end of the year. Good Luck Northeast!!

1st Annual Wings Shoot Successful

Picture this. A clear sunny day in the high 70's, walking around a beautiful wooded course with friends seeing who needed a little more practice and who could have boasting rights for the day. It was a friendly shooting competition after all. That's what 108 sporting clay



shooters were doing on July 25th. There were also 63 trap shooters eyeing for the prize of top shooter.

The shoot, held at the Mayville Gun Club was a big success and a lot of fun. All of the shooters, over 120 in all, shot sporting

clays or trap or both. There was also a fun shoot set up for anyone who wanted another shooting challenge.

Everyone had a good time and some even won some money. We gave away over \$600.00 in Lewis class prize money to 21 lucky shooters. The top winners included Duane Eilbes of Mayville who received the Top Overall Shooter, Pat Briskie of Ripon who shot Top Trap and Leigh Perry of Milwaukee who received the honor of Top Sporting Clays.

A big thanks to the Mayville Gun Club for helping to make this event run so smoothly and on such a beautiful course. The Wings Trap and Sporting Clay shoot was so successful that next year's event has already been scheduled for July 31, 2005. Hope to see you there!

Joint Effort for Restoration

By Tom Giese, Beaver Dam Daily News

For hunters and bird-watching enthusiasts alike, it's a win-win situation.

Through the cost-sharing efforts of a pair of sportsman's groups, land purchased in western Dodge County will not only serve as habitat for songbirds, but will also offer options for game bird hunting.

The local chapters of Wings Over Wisconsin and Pheasant's Forever contributed \$1,600 each toward the purchase of 100 acres of land off Fountain Road in the town of Westford. The property was owned by Gordon and Teresa Neuman and Pete Geertsma.

"It has been very valuable to have the various groups involved with the project," said Eric Lobner, wildlife biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The parcel, located four miles south of Randolph, will be restored to its condition of more than a century ago. That means 53 acres will be planted in

upland prairie cover while 47 acres will revert to wetland.

The land is expected to draw turkeys, pheasants, ducks and deer as well as a variety of songbirds. A portion of the property has been planted in wildflowers and grasses, while earth moving equipment has returned a section of the low land to its maiden form.

Grassland prairie restoration has received higher priority in recent years. Lobner said. In the past, woodlots would have been purchased.



"Historically, we haven't done a lot of grassland prairie work," he added. Equally important is the partnership

that has blossomed from the acquisition. According to Burt Bushke, WOW statewide project coordinator, the cooperative effort will benefit wildlife.

The project marks the fourth venture involving Wings Over Wisconsin (WOW), the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the DNR. The projects range from acquisition of a 440 acre marsh near Sun Prairie to a 161 acre prairie/wetlands near Mayville.

"It's important that conservation groups cooperate on different projects," Bushke said.

He said WOW looks forward to joint ventures in the future. "This could be the start of something down the road," Bushke said.

Mayville Youth & Women's Hunt

The Mayville chapter will be sponsoring a pheasant hunt for the top graduates of the hunter education course held at the Field & Stream Sportsmen's Club in Mayville. The hunt is scheduled for

2004 - 2005 Banquet Season Dates

Southeastern

October 4, 2004
Legacy
New Berlin, WI

Southwest

October 6, 2004
River Banquet Hall
Boscobel, WI
Contact: Carolyn Haupert
at
608-568-3378
or email her at
chaupert@chorus.net

Kettle Moraine

October 28, 2004
Amerahn Hall
Kewauskum, WI
Contact: Dick Knoebel at
262-626-4317

MEMBER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Wings Over Wisconsin is proud to recognize

Clarence Kersten

*for his outstanding volunteer support for Wings Over Wisconsin.
Thank you for your dedication to natural resource conservation and
to Wings Over Wisconsin.*

Clarence was nominated for this honor by his chapter for all of the time and energy he devotes to this organization. Clarence, a founding member of the Fox Cities chapter, provides his craftsmanship by building raffle drums, gun boards and game boards. He also builds frames for prints for the chapter. His chapter appreciates that fact that Clarence is always there to lend his services whenever needed.

October 23rd and will be held at the Mayville land on Hwy 28.

Approximately 80 birds will be released for the students. The hunting groups will consist of two students, an instructor and a bird dog. This is the 9th year that the Mayville Chapter has sponsored this worthwhile event.

Member Recognition

What would Wings Over Wisconsin be without volunteers? It would be a name, an idea that could not be realized. All of our member volunteers make it possible to reach our conservation and community goals.

With that in mind, we would like to give our chapters and members the opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals and to showcase them in the newsletter.

Clarence is the first nomination received for the honor. We hope that you and/or your chapter heads will take the time to recognize individuals or groups that make a real difference within your areas. There is no specific criteria for this program. If you feel someone has stood out from the rest let your chapter head or the Wings office know.

If you would like to make a nomination, please forward the volunteers name, chapter, and a brief description of his or her good works and a picture if available. That's it!

If you would like to forward the nomination to the office, you can mail it to:

Wings Over Wisconsin
Attn: Tracy Renner
8 South Main Street
Mayville, WI 53050

Or email us at:

office@wingsoverwisconsin.org

Our member volunteers are special individuals who make a difference. Please take advantage of this opportunity to say thank you for their efforts.

Marsh Country Feeders

New Sponsor

We are proud to announce that Marsh Country Feeders, located in Horicon, WI, has agreed to become a donating sponsor for Wings Over Wisconsin.

Scott Hurlbert, owner of Marsh Country Feeders, has generously donated a bird feeder and a gallon jug of bird seed to

each chapter to help support their banquet fundraising efforts.

The feeders are the newest design in tubular style bird feeders. They combine a durable, UV-resistant polycarbonate tube with a cloth mesh bag providing optimum feeding opportunities for many different species. The nyjer seed feeder will attract such birds as the goldfinch, purple finch, redpole, pine siskin or indigo bunting.

Thanks to sponsors such as Marsh Country Feeders, Wings chapters can raise more funds to continue their environmental conservation efforts.

For more information on the feeders, please visit their web site at:

www.marshcountryfeeders.com

Fox Cities Needs Secretary/Treasurer

The Fox Cities chapter is looking for a volunteer within their chapter to fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer on the Fox Cities Wings Board.

This is a very important area that needs to be filled by an organized individual. For more information, please contact Chris Bordeaux at 920-722-7803, or his email address is:

Bordeauxfour@aol.com

Brown County Summer Intern

The Green Bay chapter has generously donated \$1,000 to the Brown County Land Conservation Department to hire a summer intern to work on installation of Vegetated Buffer Strips associated with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The following is a letter of thanks written by Erin Frisk, the summer intern.

Thank you for the donation that enabled me to work on the Conservation Reserve

RECIPE CORNER

Autumn Soup

Submitted by: Connie Thull

1 lb	Ground Venison	1 cup	Potatoes (cut up)
1 cup	Chopped Onions	2 tsp	Salt
4 cups	Water (hot)	1/2 tsp	Pepper
1 cup	Chopped Carrots	1 tsp	Meat Extract
1 cup	Chopped Celery	1	Bay Leaf
6	Tomatoes (whole)	pinch	Basil

Brown venison slowly, add onions and cook 5 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients. Simmer 20 minutes. Add tomatoes and simmer another 10 minutes. Enjoy!

Enhancement Program (CREP). The donation has enabled me to experience land and water conservation and management first hand. Buffering streams and wetlands is crucial in the fight to improve the quality of water in Northeastern Wisconsin. I have enjoyed working with other conservationists in the effort to spread the word about CREP. Convincing farmers to install buffers has been quite an experience but I feel that we have made an impact on how they feel about riparian strips.

Farmers want to get the greatest yield possible off of the acres that they own. This means that many farmers will crop right up to a stream or wetland that is on their agriculture field. Also many of the farmers have drained their wetlands so the entire areas is cropped. Through CREP, rental and incentive payments are provided to the farmers for the land they convert to a riparian strip or restore as a wetland. This is beneficial to all. It monetarily benefits the farmer through the program payments and also during flood periods they are not losing the seed that was planted right next to the stream. The buffer benefits every backyard bird watcher because it

provides additional nesting ground for birds. Every waterfront property owner benefits if the water runs blue rather than brown. Fisherman in the area would benefit if our waterways could sustain clear-water fish rather than Carp and Mud Minnows.

CREP is a long-term solution to a problem that we have created over the decades. In order to improve our water quality we need cooperation from every landowner that has a stream, creek, or wetland on their property. CREP is designed to just work with farmers and not developers or homeowners. When working with farmers, the first step is to provide them with maps that outline the area we would like to buffer. We then GPS the buffer area to get the acreage. The acreage and soil types are used to write a contract that the farmer may choose to or not choose to sign. If the farmer wants to install the buffer then the contract is signed and sent to NRCS to write up the seed plan. A fifteen year agreement does not require as much paperwork as an easement does. Easements are permanent so I feel they are worth the extra paperwork. We currently have over fifty landowners in

CREP but it will take many more contracts for us to see a significant improvement in our water quality.

This is my second summer as an intern working on CREP. During my time at the Land Conservation Department I have seen streams with eroded banks, silt filled bottoms, and algae lined surfaces turn into model streams with acres of bird nesting habitat lining its banks. Every buffer makes a difference. My view on water quality and water management has forever been changed by this internship. Every cent that goes into this buffer program is well worth the outcome. I believe that CREP will greatly improve the health of our watershed and provide habitat for an array of creatures.

Thank you again for the donation that helped me gain valuable experience and installed valuable conservation projects.

3rd Annual Youth Hunt - Southwest

For the third year, an event is planned this fall to involve young people within the Southwest chapter. Their youth hunt will be held on Saturday, Oct 2nd at Northwoods Retreat near Boscobel.

Informational topics include safety, a demonstration of dog information and dog etiquette, followed by a clay pigeon shoot. A hunt will follow, with groups of 2-3 youth accompanied by an adult Wings member and a dog. The lucky hunters will learn how to field dress their birds; then the event will conclude with lunch.

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

Albert Camus

IMPORTANT NATURE DATES

Oct 3	First Frost
Oct 5	Yellow coneflower seed collection
Oct 14	Wood ducks migrating
Oct 25	White-tailed bucks begin rut
Nov 19	Ring-necked pheasants begin to winter in cattails
Dec 5	Look for beaver prints and tail tracks in the snow
Dec 15	Look for mink slides along creeks and waterways
Dec 27	Take part in the Christmas Bird Count
Dec 29	White-tailed deer bucks begin to shed antlers

DON'T FORGET

VOTE

NOVEMBER 2nd

Your vote does make a difference!!

Create a Wildlife Brush Shelter

Source: *National Wildlife Federation / Backyard Wildlife Habitat*

Brush piles make excellent places for many wildlife species to hide, find food and even raise their young.

Building a wildlife brush shelter involves little to no cost and can be lots of fun. The concept is simple: build a sturdy structure out of logs and branches that provides cover and safety while still allowing enough spaces for animals to move around.

The dimensions of an average brush shelter are approximately ten feet across and five feet high. However, if you're dealing with limited space, a shelter half that size made with smaller brush will still attract a variety of critters. Someone with a larger property may want several shelters twice that size.

How to:

- Start by building a strong base with about a half dozen large logs, six to ten feet long and four to six inches in diameter. Stack and criss-cross them in a manner that's sturdy and provides a variety of runways and spaces. (Imagine an animal the size of a rabbit being able to navigate through your structure).
- Add large branches by criss-crossing them in a slightly tighter mesh than the logs. Continue adding more branches of a gradually smaller diameter to obtain a denser, more compact weave on top of the pile.
- Your end product should be a dome-like structure.
- Some communities do not allow brush shelters, so check you local codes. If brush piles are a fire hazard in your region, consider creating a rock pile or stone wall.

Southwest Pheasant Release

The Southwest chapter had their annual release on August 21st this year for their area. They distributed 2,800 birds to chapter members who are required to release them on CRP or other suitable habitat.

The chicks were raised in three locations, Lancaster, Fennimore and Cassville. Any member of the Southwest chapter can request up to ten pheasants to be released.

Mayville Habitat Restoration Area

By: Mike Tomcheck

A prime example of the Mayville chapter's on-going commitment to nature is the Wings Over Wisconsin Habitat Restoration Area. Located one mile north of Mayville on Highway 28/67, this 161 acre parcel of farmland was purchased from the Hesprich's in 1996. This purchase was made possible through the Wisconsin DNR's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. This program, initiated by the Wisconsin legislature in 1989, is designed to accomplish the following goals: Preserve high quality natural areas, protect and restore wildlife habitat, protect water quality and to expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. To make these purchases possible, the Wisconsin DNR has established matching grants for interested parties.

Once this purchase was completed, the Mayville chapter began an extensive restoration project. They planted over 20,000 trees including oak, white pine, maple and crab apple. They also restored 120 acres back to it's natural prairie condition complete with a vast assortment of flowers and grasses. Two ponds were also added to attract more native wildlife.

As far as wildlife is concerned, this area has proven to be an ideal habitat for all

types of animals and birds. On any given day, deer can be seen running over the hills, geese flying overhead, rabbits scurrying through prairie grass and even two or three pheasants crashing through the brush. It is these pheasants that bring the chapter most of it's praise. In 1998 and 1999 they had one of the first releases of Jilian Chinese Pheasants in the state.

In addition to the initial pheasant release, the Mayville chapter has also been involved in yearly youth hunts with individuals that have successfully passed Hunter Education classes. Each year they release about 80 birds for this event. Last year something new was added when they invited first time women hunters to participate in this annual event.

Outside of hunting, this preserve is enjoyed by many members of the community. Bike trails have been established in the area, hikers often use the firebrake trails and many dogs enjoy the freedom of wide open spaces as their masters take them on daily walks. Also, people just come to the preserve just to enjoy the peaceful setting.

In addition to the Mayville chapter, the Northeast, Tri-County and Kettle Moraine chapters have become involved in the purchasing of land through the Stewardship program. The Wisconsin DNR is expected to continue this matching funds program until June 2010.

Eden 25 Gun Raffle

The Eden Chapter will be selling tickets for a 25 Gun Raffle starting in mid to late October and running through January 10, 2005. The chapter members will be selling tickets for \$25 each for the raffle.

The raffle is set up so each ticket buyer will have up to 25 chances to win a gun. The drawing for the raffle is set to take place at an Elk Feed in Fond Du Lac at the KC Hall. If you would like more information on the guns offered or tickets please call Larry Luedtke at 920-922-8324.

We would like to thank the following sponsors and contributors. Their support enables Wings Over Wisconsin to continue to achieve their conservation goals.

Sponsors



Marsh Country Feeders
N7811 Marsh Lane
Horicon, WI 53032
920-387-0221
www.marshcountryfeeders.com

FRABILL.com

Frabill Inc.
Jackson, WI 53037
1-800-558-1005

Contributors

Mathews Inc.
919 River Rd
Sparta, WI 54656
www.mathewsinc.com

Mayville Engineering Co
715 South Street
Mayville, WI 53050
www.mecreloaders.com

Lakewood Products
275 June Street
Berlin, WI 54923
www.lakewoodproducts.com

The Highground

By: Pat Wilmot

Every once in a while as we all progress through our lives, I'm a firm believer that things happen to us at times with no other explanation except that its supposed to happen, pre-ordained.

Recently, I feel I experienced one of these occasions.

It was quite by coincidence that our 1240 hunting group of members and their boys planned a get together at our Neillsville properties to celebrate a house warming at the boys trailer after their recent remodeling project. The date was September 11, 2004, the 3rd anniversary of the horrific terrorist events in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

At the time it didn't seem important but as the day unfolded the significance became apparent.

The party was scheduled to begin at 4:00 on that Saturday afternoon so when Sandy, my wife, and I got to our trailer at noon and with everyone else out ATVing we had a couple of hours available to us before the festivities began.

About 3 miles west of Niellsville on Highway 10 is a place called The Highground, a memorial park dedicated to veterans of all our conflicts as well as any member of our armed forces. It's been there for some years and something I've always wanted to experience so we decided to go visit it.

Experiencing is the proper term, I believe, to describe the powerful feelings that emanated from the exhibits as we strolled the grounds situated on one of the highest points in Clark County on a hot, clear, sunshine filled afternoon. The skyline to the south and west shows geological remnants of glaciers from long ago that only adds to the charm and mystique of the location.

The highlights of the park are very well done memorial statues dedicated to veterans to both World Wars, The Vietnam War, the Native Americans and the Women of the Services.

There is a plan in the works for a memorial to the Korean Conflict and that would help complete the grounds and its message.

Another exhibit that is very impressive is an exact replica of the Liberty Bell that was developed and toured the United States before coming to live here permanently under a beautiful covered log structure.

Also, some of the walkways around the perimeter are made up of what are called "legacy stones", 1'x1'x2" slabs of a light gray granite dedicated by friends and family to their veterans.

The stones are inscribed with the service-person's name, the years they were in the Service, the conflicts they may have been involved in, a short message and the people doing the dedicating. None of the stones are ever placed without a ceremony that is performed on Saturdays in the good weather months. I'm sure it's quite touching.

As we roamed the walkway reading the inscriptions on the stones we were pleasantly surprised to find the one from our own Post 69, Mayville, as well as Dodge County's stone.

There is also an information building as you drive in with souvenirs and loads of literature on all of our military's involvement's. You could while away a day in there alone.

We spent almost 2 hours on the grounds and I used up a roll of film without trying too hard. We were totally impressed with the experience, to say the least, and to do it on the anniversary of one of the most notable days of our nation's history only added to the feelings of appreciation we felt for all those that had been involved in this very special place.



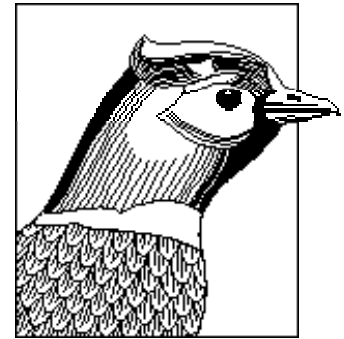
Pheasant Learn to Hunt Program

The Beaver Dam chapter is helping to sponsor a new program in Dodge County. The Pheasant Learn to Hunt program was created by Brenda Hill, a wildlife biologist, and Heather Gottschalk, a DNR warden.

The program for first time youth hunters will review firearm safety instructions, pheasant habitat requirements and identification, mock pheasant hunt field exercise and a trap shoot at the Beaver Dam Conservation Club. Following the instruction portion the hunters will proceed to the Shaw Marsh public hunting grounds for the actual hunt.

Mentors will hunt with the youth on a one-to-one or two-to-one ratio. Hunting dogs will also be on hand to flush the birds.

Along with Wings sponsorship, the Beaver Dam Conservationists, Wisconsin Waterfowlers, Marshland Chapter, and Pheasants Forever will be sponsoring the event.



Governor's Meat Auction for 4-H

Brandon Meats and Sausages provided a five-foot summer sausage and cheese basket to the Governor's Meat Auction to support the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation. This helped to raise \$2,500 for 4-H. Brandon Meats also sponsors the Wings Waupun and Markesan chapters and the state office of Wings.