



Wisconsin Game Preserve Association's 2010 Spring Newsletter

www.WisconsinGPA.org

2010 WGPA SPRING
NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2010

President's Message Jeff Rice



Jeff Rice - WGPA president

My dog sleeps about 20 hours a day. She has her food prepared for her. She can eat whenever she wants, 24/7/365.

Her meals are provided at no cost to her. She visits the doctor once a year for her checkup and again during the year if any medical needs arise. For this she pays nothing and nothing is required of her.

She lives in a nice neighborhood in a house that is much larger than she needs, but she is not required to do any upkeep. If she makes a mess, someone else cleans it up. She has her choice of luxurious places to sleep and receives the accommodations absolutely free.

She is living like a Queen and has absolutely no expenses whatsoever. All of her costs are picked up by others who go out and earn a living each day. I was thinking about all of this and suddenly it hit me like a brick...

...My dog is a Democrat!

Now on to business.

Our Winter meeting was held on February 8th in Madison at the Capital. (my 1st to trip to the Capital, at age 50 you wouldn't think it would be my first trip). We had a nice group of attendees with a good discussion on various topics.

Gary mention a few important bills that he was watching/working on for us. Senate Bill 424 sport shooting range bill, an update on the Quail legislation, and he is looking into workman's com rates for shooting perseveres.

The fall meeting will be hold held at Krugs Northwoods, August 29th and 30th at Medford. Jerry will be giving farm tours Sunday afternoon. This will be a good time to view flight pens that can, and must, handle snow.

After the tours we'll head to downtown Medford for dinner and speakers. , followed by the auction.

Monday will be held at the Farm. If you have an interesting topic or speaker call Susie at 715-785-7836.

Make sure you mark your calendars now, for we all know how busy we can get.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a couple of our new members. De-jno's Inc – Shaving Distributor– Michael Auch is the Director of Sales and Marketing and he can be reached at 262-657-1210 and Bloomfield Persevere Hunt Club – Earl is the Manager, he can be reached 262-379-0027.

As the season winds down, I hope everyone has a safe end to the season. Let's hope the weather stays nice and we can finish the season strong. I look forward to seeing you in August.

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2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2010 annual WGPA meeting will be held on August 29th and 30th in Medford, WI. The meeting will be hosted by Krug's Northwoods. We would like to extend a special thanks to Suzzie, Jerry, and Jenny for taking time out of their busy schedule to host this year's meeting.

The meeting will start on Sunday evening with a social hour and dinner. The night will conclude with a live auction.

Monday will be highlighted with a talk from Dr. O'Conner.

He will be speaking on Avian Influenza and the indemnification plan associated with it. He will clearly delineate what happens if an AI outbreak should occur on your farm and the steps that would be taken to eradicate it. This will be an informative talk and something you won't want to miss.

Please reserve these dates today and plan on attending this year's meeting in Medford.

WGPA BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The annual WGPA board meeting was held on February 8th at the state capitol. The meeting was informational and a variety of topics were discussed.

Prior to the meeting, Christian Plata, representing Democrat Amy Sue Vruwink who is the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, talked to us about some of the current legislation going on in the state capitol.

Mike Hack agreed to take the lead on getting the regulations on quail production moved from DNR control to the Department of Agriculture. Mike will work with Amy Sue Vruwink and Gary Goyke during this process.

Senate Bill 424 was discussed, which would allow an existing shooting club to repair, remodel, or reinforce any building on the range for the purpose of public safety or to ensure continued use of the building. A motion was passed to support this bill.

The workman's compensation issue was discussed. Currently, the rate for shooting preserves is 17%. The WGPA has started the process of getting shooting clubs re-classified, which would lower their work comp rate.

A motion was passed to oppose LRB 3662 relating to crimes against animals. This Humane Society bill is littered with vague language that can be interpreted in many ways.

We discussed the U.S.D.A's plan to drop the program that traces livestock movement across the country.

James F. Clark

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PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA'S TAX PLAN:





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WORKMANS COMPENSATION

Currently, the workman's compensation rate for hunting preserves is 17%. They fall under a high risk employment field, such as carnival workers. Hunting preserves have a track record of being a safe place to work, and the 17% work comp rate is not justifiable.

To correct this problem, the WGPA will be asking for a reclassification of shooting preserves. The re-classification will require inspections of shooting preserves to verify the accuracy of the classification. This process could take up to three years. We will keep you up to date as more information becomes available.

SB 222 - CASED GUNS IN VEHICLES

The WGPA is working on legislation that would allow for uncased guns (as long as they are unloaded) to be transported in vehicles. Currently, all guns must be unloaded and cased while in a vehicle, regardless of the situation.

SENATE BILL 424

This bill provides that an owner of a sport shooting facility may repair, expand membership, facilities, and activities under generally accepted practices for shooting facilities, assuming the club has been in existence prior to June 18th, 1998. Further, the bill states that neither a government body nor court may require the closure of such facilities unless and there is finding of a public safety hazard AND at least three opportunities have been provided by the owner to correct said hazards. If closure is required, the state agency must purchase the facility from the owner by condemnation. They must pay the owner for an amount equal to the sum of the value of the land and improvements on the land.

There is an amendment to this bill that would move the date for an "existing" club to June 18th 2010, as long as the shooting facility is a lawful or nonconforming use under the zoning ordinances in effect.

LRB 3662 (WINDCHILL'S LAW)

This bill was introduced when a nine month old colt (named Windchill) was found at a home malnourished, covered in ice, and unable to stand. He had no access to food, water, or shelter. The colt was removed from the home and died 20 days later. The people boarding the colt

received nothing more than a slap on the wrists.

Under this bill, penalties for animal abuse become more harsh, making such crimes a mandatory felony if convicted. Embedded within this bill are lines that are open to gross interpretation. There are vague and blanket statements that can be applied to most any situation.

USDA TO DROP LIVESTOCK TRACKING

Faced with stiff resistance from ranchers and farmers, the USDA has decided to scrap the program intended to track livestock in the event of a disease outbreak. According to officials, it will be left up to the states to devise aspects of a new system. The old system was voluntary and only gained support of 40% of the nation's livestock producers. It had become clear this system, which was started in 2004, was not working. The concern at this point is how different rules in each state can be effective.

MANAGED FORREST LAND—LRB 09-4111/1

Currently, over 3 million acres of forestland in Wisconsin are enrolled in MFL, representing over 44,000 individual enrollments. MFL lands can be enrolled as "open" to public access or "closed" to public access. Owners can enroll up to 160 acres as "closed" per municipality. Those choosing to "close" access, you will have to pay a higher per acre fee.

A new bill specifies that a parcel of land enrolled in MFL may not be closed to public access if the land was, on January 1, 2009, part of a parcel under single ownership that exceeded 1,000 acres in size, in a single municipality.

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Carrie Wierzba from Lake Elaine Game Farm would like to extend a special thank you to all members who offered their support in January. All your cards, letters, and donations were greatly appreciated.

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GADET CORNER



Jeff Rice is holding a tool used to beat snow from nets. It's PVC construction is light, easy to use, does not hold snow, and is strong enough to withstand heavy use. A special Thank You to Jeff for sharing his idea.



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The Wisconsin Game Preserve Association is committed to protecting the rights of hunting preserves along with the producers who supply them. In addition, the WGPA has a strong commitment to educating young hunters as to the value of Wisconsin's rich hunting heritage.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact any of the officers listed. They will be happy to answer your questions.



Wisconsin Game Preserve Association

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