

allow the last 2 years of planting work, as match. He noted they have only received 25% reporting back on seed packets handed out last year, so be sure to contact Mike Kelly or Caitlin Smith for information on reporting what you planted. Chris also informed the club of 2 land purchases that are in the works. The USF&W doesn't have money for land in Wisconsin, but local organizations and Pheasants Forever have been partnering to get the lands purchased. Since purchase agreements have not been signed, he was unable to give us exact locations, but did note that one piece is located near Bierbauer WPA (~30 acres, ~\$50,000) and one near Ten Mile WPA (80 acres, ~\$320,000; \$35k-\$40k short). If purchases go through, the Knowles Nelson Stewardship will allow an easement for land to be open to hunting. Chris also informed the club of a Carner Blue Butterfly grant they are also working on. Dan Cain asked for support and brainstorming to get more youth involved in the outdoors.

2. Paul Sickman gave an update on current Warden topics. He informed the club that Dave Hausmann had retired and was replaced by Shaun Denee. New Polk County warden is Peter Wetzal out of Amery. New St. Croix warden addition is Issac out of Baldwin. The 2015 deer season was about average for deer kills. The new registration system proved to be smoother online than by phone. Paul noted there is a new Snowmobile pass required for all operators in WI. Registration is now good for 3 years. There are 11 wardens in the current recruit class. Paul mentioned a new license system being put in place by the DNR; the Go Wild system. Users will receive a conservation card, therefore no physical licenses being printed, and also rumors of no backtag requirement for deer hunting. No news related to CWD or the bear poaching incident from a couple years ago. Paul was asked if the wardens do surveillance on garbage dumping. Paul said they do some via game cameras, but need landowner permission if on private land. The club asked Paul to promote the SPF&G scholarships to his hunter's ed classes.

3. Bret and Mary Bader along with Dave Nestrud presented their request for the need for a number of guns for the Somerset Hunter's Ed field day. They gave the club an overview of how they run the class and focused on a field day to give the students some real world experience with gun handling and hunting. They want every student to handle each type of action of gun. They have been using personal guns in the past and would like to have designated guns for the class. They average 30 students per class with 2 classes per year. Mitch G. shared the positive experiences his kids had in the class because of the field day.

4. Dan Cain spoke on the new style of Indianhead Chapter of PF fundraiser, instead of a banquet. The chapter is doing a 20 gun raffle in partnership with the Amery Trap Team. There will be different membership levels and a sponsorship level which will include logo/name on a banner hung at Amery Gun Club for the year. The drawing/fun day will be held at the Amery Gun Club on May 21, with trap shooting open and food. A portion of the funds will be donated to the Trap Team.

5. Erv reported the club has 1 or 2 bluebird houses and 2 wood duck houses. Also had an idea for a new style bat house. More houses can be built at anytime. The club will hold off until there is more interest.

6. Vern Warwick, on behalf of the Wanderoos Area Community Club, thanked the club for their donation toward the ice fishing contest. He said it was a great turnout.

7. Mike Kelly presented a letter of opposition to be sent to the state opposing a proposition to put a piece of public land up for sale. Dan Cain noted the sale will be put on hold for further discussion.

8. New wardens, Peter and Issac, are expected to attend the March meeting.

9. Pat Beeksma was drawn for the attendance drawing and was NOT present. March attendance drawing will be for **\$40.**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the SPF&G Association is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016 at Madsen's on Cedar Lake.

6:00 p.m. Social Hour

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Respectfully submitted: Chris Clarkson (Secretary)