

Officers and Board Members:	
President: Bruce King, 452-3407	Vice President: Tom Parlow, 769-2142
Treasurer: Kevin Traastad, 452-3804	Secretary: Scott Hobson, 781-6046
Board Members: Gary Gilbeck, 452-3354 Danny Thompson, 452-3774	Merv Broten, 483-2610 Ronnie Moilien, 452-3218
CVCC Contacts:	
Newsletter: David Skipton, 519-2334 muchkap@charter.net Clubgrounds: Roger Anderson, Danny Thompson Education: Steve Pauloski Muzzleloading/Trap Shooting: Scott Hobson Memberships: Tom Parlow Clubhouse Project: Scott Hobson, Tom Parlow Monthly Gun Raffle: Paul Lewison Boy Scouts: Steve Pauloski	Website: Tom Parlow Farm: Gary Gilbeck Club History: Jon Lee Archery: Cory Leis, Dave Larson Oak Savanna Project: John Moe, Kevin Traastad Shooting Ranges Security: Bruce King, Tom Parlow “Serious Sportsmen” Raffle: Bruce King 4H Shooting Sports: Keith Mathison
Website: www.CoonValleyCC.com	Email: email@coonvalleycc.com Please send address or email corrections to this email address.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At long last summer has arrived; in just a few days our daylight hours will become less and less. Your club has been very busy since I last wrote to you.

We have held various shooting events, including muzzleloader shooting and our first ever pre-1960 vintage military rifle shoot. We are one month into our summer archery league and six weeks into our weekly trap shooting. As always, I want to invite you down to watch, help out or take part in any of these activities you may be interested in. Sometimes you need to take the first step in order to gauge your interest.

The shooting range is still being improved. We are trying corrugated plastic for backstop material, we have a set of steel protectors for the upright posts that will be used on the pistol range, soundproofing on the big-bore range has begun, and we have also completed phase two of the war against the burdock.

The food plot crew has finished the spring planting, so we eagerly await the results. I am sure the local wildlife will benefit greatly from all the time and effort put in by a few dedicated members.

If you have not heard, we have re-organized the Building Committee. They have identified all the uses our clubhouse currently has, as well as the wants and needs in a new clubhouse. Tom Parlow and Scott Hobson co-chair this group, and I know they would welcome any individuals willing to assist with this project. I will do all I can to push this project to completion.

I have only scratched the surface on all that is going on at the club. Please stop down and see for yourself.

Respectfully,
Bruce King

PLANTING FOR WILDLIFE

by John Moe

In order to provide better habitat for wildlife on the club grounds, a transition zone between the existing woods and the oak savanna is planned. Trees and shrubs of proven benefit to a variety of wildlife species have been chosen for this project.

The initial planting, consisting of black cherry, hazelnut and dogwood has taken place this spring and extends from the existing woods above and on to the third terrace. It began at the southwest point on the west and extends to the east. Any excess plants will be placed elsewhere on the club grounds. These plants were available for pickup in early May.

A second planting consisting largely of trembling aspen is planned for spring 2015. These will be planted below the 2014 planting, from the lower edge of the third terrace onto the upper portion of the second terrace and will parallel the earlier planting, extending from west to east.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Bruce King

We seem to be living in a throwaway society: “Use this item once and throw it away.” “Use this mower for a couple of years, and when it breaks throw it out because it’s cheaper than fixing it.” Computer and electronic equipment? Obsolete in six to nine months. I need a new cell phone every two years. There are times I feel like shouting, “Stop this madness!”

Technology, I suppose, is a necessary evil. We have had single-use and throwaway items for years. The difference between today and the past is of course the cost. Oftentimes today that throwaway item is gone before the debt for said item is paid off. All I am asking for is a quality product that lasts when taken care of, and is worth fixing if it breaks. (Without the burden of mountains of debt, too.) This would make a difference in my life, and I suspect it would make a difference in yours as well.

When I spend time at the CVCC in pursuit of one of my many interests, I consider that time as payment for a quality product. If that interest grows in popularity, and the CVCC and I continue to invest in it and improve upon it, then we have made a difference in the lives of any who share that interest. That interest becomes a quality product.

You can make a difference. It doesn’t take a lot of time or money or a particular set of skills. All you need to do is pursue that which interests you, become involved, lend a hand in creating that quality product. Indeed it is a multipurpose product and the possibility for new uses grows with each day. What is that product, you ask? That product is your CVCC membership, of course. Give it a try.

CVCC Sponsored Hunter Safety Education Update – 2014

by Royce Curtis

The CVCC Hunter Safety Education regular class and first on-line class have certified a total of 60 new hunters. There will be two more opportunities for certification with registration beginning August 1st for our on-line Field Day on Saturday, Sept. 27th, and also registration for the adult-oriented night class offered through the Driftless Folk School in Viroqua beginning on Tuesday Sept. 2nd. Registration information will be posted on the Wisconsin DNR web site in July. (Check <http://dnr.wi.gov/> under Education – Safety Classes and search Vernon County.)

Some significant changes are being made to how the certification classes are offered and taught as well as to the final testing procedures. Testing procedures were changed this year to require instructors to fail students who touch the trigger or point the muzzle at the instructor during testing. Also, starting in 2016 the State will be limiting the total hours and time frame over which the class can be taught. Our instructor group is opposed to this change and will be requesting a variance from the State Safety Warden to allow us to continue offering our regular class as we have in the past.

We have a very dedicated group of volunteer instructors who work hard to provide these classes and receive great personal satisfaction in training these students to be safe, responsible and ethical

hunters. Additional help is always welcome, so if you would like more information on becoming certified as an instructor and helping out with our classes, let us know at cvcchuntsafe@gmail.com.

Trap Shooting

by Merv Broten

Trap shooting started this year on May 7th and will continue through September. We shoot every Wednesday evening, starting at 6:00. So far this year the weather has cooperated, and we have yet to be rained out. An average of eight shooters turn out, and we usually shoot three rounds. John Halvorson leads for the year so far, with a score of 24. The cost is \$5.00 for a round of 25 targets, and both members and non-members are welcome.

Planning for the new trap house is progressing. Contractors have been contacted, and as soon as schedule permits we can get started. The cost for the electrical and concrete work will be \$3,000. Gary Gilbeck has graciously volunteered to do the excavating. Two life members have already donated \$500 each towards the project, and \$500 more is promised upon completion. At the May membership meeting, the membership also voted to authorize spending up to \$2,200 of Club funds. We should be enjoying the use of the new trap house and thrower before the end of the season.

Archery Group

by David Larson

The archery group from the Coon Valley Conservation Club has held two 3D bow shoots this year. In February we had the Sweetheart Bow Shoot, with around 70 shooters, including a few female & youth shooters. In March we had a dual shoot with the Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club in really nice weather and about 90 shooters participated, with many more female & youth shooters at this event. At that shoot the Chaseburg Club gave away their Rinehart 3D target, won by Mark Anderson from Onalaska. We had another dual shoot with Chaseburg on April 12th & 13th, and gave away a Rinehart tom turkey. Thank you to all the people that shot the first two shoots and thank you to all the people who helped work the event.

Muzzleloader Weekend

by Scott Hobson

On the week of May 12th-18th the CVCC hosted its Spring Muzzleloader Weekend, with a shoot date of May 17th. However, several of our out-of-town members came as early as Wednesday to enjoy the grounds and do some fishing and plinking with their modern cartridge guns. (I for one am not sure if the concept of loading a rifle from the rear of the gun instead of the front will ever catch on, but that's just me).

Before the folks showed up there was some prep work that needed to be done: mowing, replacing backboards, range cleanup, and targets prepared for the shoot. So that week Royce Curtis and I came early and did what we could, but when the people started showing up we found ourselves doing more resting and gabbing than working.

One of the things that our out-of-town members seem to enjoy is the trip into town for Friday night fish at the Stockyard, and so we did. Friday afternoon we shot some trap and had an impromptu competition on the pistol range that seemed to be a big hit, with the dueling tree taking the brunt of the shots.

When Saturday rolled around, we were under the impression that several of the Wisconsin State Muzzleloader Association Members would show up and shoot. However, that did not happen, so the shoots we had planned for a large group of shooters went quite fast. A new shoot that Royce tried this year was a clay target wired to the 100-yard backstop. It was started out with a \$20.00 bill and every time someone wanted to try and shoot the target, they had to put a dollar in. The kitty grew to \$40.00 before Bill Marquart finally got it.

The parking lot had five campers that stayed until Sunday; everyone was gone by noon.

On a special note: Royce and I have been setting up these shoots now for several years and have found great enjoyment out of people having different objects to shoot at for practice, but in the last couple of years we have seen the enjoyment falling off. As to the number of shooters that comes early, leaving the range full of targets to be put away, here is what we are proposing for the future: If you wish to come and shoot early and would like something to shoot at we will show you where the targets are kept and you can place them out for yourself and return them yourself. We will be happy to help.

Our next weekend-long shoot is the weekend of September 18th – 21st with the Pheasant Hunt on Sunday the 21st at Badger Land Pheasant Farm. Also we still have the monthly shoots that are on the third Saturday of every month starting at 1 pm.

We wish to thank everyone for their continued support of the muzzleloader shoots and would like to see more come out and have fun with a bunch of very interesting folks.

CVCC LOGO WEAR

The CVCC can outfit you with some of the best-looking logo wear! Be proud of your club by wearing a stylish cap or shirt to any function that you may attend. For the cold weather we can get a camo jacket with fleece liner, plain zip-up fleece jackets, or any style that you may require.

The next time you are at the clubhouse, ask to look over the catalogs and see if there is something that catches your eye. If not and you find an item elsewhere, we can have the logo placed on it for a small fee. For any questions check with Scott Hobson at any of the meetings and we will see what we can do for you.



Vintage Military Rifle Shoot

by Merv Broten

On Saturday, June 7th, the Club held its first-ever Vintage Military Rifle Shoot, open to any pre-1960 center-fire military rifle in original condition. The target was a man-size silhouette target with 7-, 8-, 9-, and 10-point scoring rings, placed 100 yards from the firing line. Twenty rounds were fired, so a perfect score would be 200 points. Ten shooters participated, six members and four guests. They brought 17 different rifles to shoot, and shot the course a total of 24 times.

First place – 187 - Merv Broten, shooting a Swiss K-31 in 7.5 X 55 Swiss caliber.
 Second place – 171 - Bruce King, shooting a Russian M91-30 in 7.62 X 54R caliber.
 Third place – 166 - Ed Fanta, shooting a U.S. M1 Garand in .30-06 caliber.
 Fourth place – 164 - Jim Brower, shooting a U.S. M1903A3 in .30-06 caliber.
 Fifth place – 163 - Rick Broten, shooting a Swedish M1938 in 6.5 X 55 caliber.

Everyone had a lot of fun, and we have already decided to do it again! We will hold another Vintage Military Rifle Shoot on August 23rd. Come out and join us.



**Thank you to G2 Outdoor Products and Koon Kreek Feeds
for food plot seed donations**
by Kevin Traastad

This year, club members Tim Bindl from G2 Outdoor Products and Wayne Kruizenga from Koon Kreek Feeds donated chicory and corn seed, respectively. The G2 Chicory seed is a blend of chicory designed to provide a high source of nutrients, including protein for wildlife. Where this perennial blend was planted, it should last a few years in our plots before something else will need to be planted.

G2 Outdoor Products is offering a discount to club members and a way for the club to make a little money at the same time. If you purchase a G2 Outdoor Product through their website, you will receive a 10% discount and the CVCC will earn \$5 for each product you purchase. You will need to use the code CVCC10 for the discount and the moneymaking opportunity to apply. Check out their website, <http://g2outdoorproducts.com/> for available products.

Koon Kreek Feeds donated enough corn seed to plant about 1.5 acres of corn on the CVCC farm that will be harvested by the wildlife. Wayne and his son Kyle were also generous enough to till up some ground for us and plant most of the corn.

This year about five acres total were planted to food plots. This acreage does not include the clover plots that were established a few years ago. In addition to the chicory and corn mentioned above, Roger Anderson also planted milo and a mix of Sunn Hemp, Nitro Radish and a forage soybean variety, Bobwhite. Each plot received a small amount of fertilizer to provide the nutrients needed for a moderate amount of growth.

Thank you to Roger Anderson for working up the plots and planting the seed.

From the 2014 Coon Creek
Rendezvous shoot held at the
CVCC grounds on 21 June.



**Coon Valley Conservation Club
S1005 Knudson Lane
Coon Valley, WI 54623**

**Nonprofit Organization
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PERMIT No. 15



SUMMER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming 2014 Events Calendar (next three months):

Membership Meetings – Last Thursday of the month, 7:30 start: 31 July, 28 August, 25 September.
Board Meetings – 10 July, 14 August, 11 September.
Summer Archery League – Mondays at 5:00 p.m. 7, 14, 21 and 28 July; 4, 11 August.
Muzzleloader Silhouette Shoot – 19 July, 1:00 p.m. start.
4H Shooting Sports Competition Shoot – 20 July, 10:00 a.m. start.
Muzzleloader Shoot – Saturday, 16 August, 1:00 p.m. start.
Chicken Q – Sunday, 17 August, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
4H Vernon County Fair Premium Shoot – Sunday, 24 August, 10:00 a.m. start.
Jonathan Hoff Memorial Fundraiser Shoot – 6 September, 10:00 a.m. start.
Fall Muzzleloader Weekend – Friday through Sunday, 19-21 September, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Fall CVCC Muzzleloader Pheasant Hunt – Sunday, 21 September, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
On-Line Hunter Safety Field Day – Saturday, 27 September, 10:00 a.m. start.