



THE FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

JUNE, 2023

THIS ISSUE:

- New members listed
- Scholarship awarded
- Photos from clean-up day
- 'Project Appleseed' support commended by RWVA

2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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715-781-0799

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715-495-5114

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715-426-4895

DIRECTORS

Mike Robey,
Brad Cran
Rachel Vogt

Fund-raiser confirmed: HELP WANTED

Directors heard from Banquet Committee chair Brad Cran that Friday, Sept. 8, 2023 has been confirmed as date for the annual fundraiser at the River Falls Golf Course. The event will include dinner, silent- and live auctions, and a gun raffle. Volunteers are needed. Call or text Cran at #651-343-7638.

Prescott teen named scholarship recipient

Danielle Francis pursuing aviation at Mankato State

Danielle Francis, 18, the daughter of David and Dawn Francis, has been selected as recipient of the Sportsmen's Club annual scholarship. She'll receive \$1,000 after completing her first semester at college.

Danielle is graduating Hill-Murray, a Catholic Benedictine middle- and high school in Maplewood this month. She is a two-year member of the National Honor Society. The Francis' have a family membership at the RFSC.

She is a seasoned shooter, having been a member of Hill-Murray's trap team for two years and the Prescott trap team for three. The Francis' have also been active members of the Sno-Bee's snowmobile club for seven years.

This fall, Danielle plans to attend Mankato State University to pursue aviation with a minor in business. She is currently working to earn her private pilot's

license before beginning classes in August.

Along with shooting sports, Danielle is a serious downhill skier. She is a 12-year member of the Welch Village race team -- including one year as a coach and has taught skiing at Welch Village for three years. She has also competed in alpine skiing at Hill-Murray for two years.

Danielle, who has a 15-year-old brother, Dylan, credits her dad for fostering her in-

terest in shooting.

"I started shooting trap in eighth grade for Prescott but had done a lot of shooting at my cabins-duck and grouse hunting and shooting rifles. (Her dad) is the one who has taught me everything about gun safety, cleaning guns, hunting, and trap shooting," she wrote in an e-mail exchange.

"The thing I enjoy most about competitive shooting is the people. It is a great community and a great time to have fun and hang out with friends. I also love the adrenaline trap shooting brings and the competitive nature of always wanting to do better.

"I love that trap shooting is very flexible and works around other sports you are involved in.

"As I begin the new chapter of my life, I absolutely expect shooting



Danielle Francis

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Board backs area effort to win Action wheelchair

Club directors voiced support for efforts by the River Falls School District to bring an all-terrain wheelchair to the area, which would be available for use by club members and others at no cost.

The District is applying to Access Ability Wisconsin <https://www.accessabilitywi.org/>, a Mineral Point-based foundation that provides off-road chairs to non-profits for use by the public. The chair would allow disabled students to participate in

outings to the recently opened River Falls School Forest, near River Falls south side.

The School Forest committee is looking to groups like RFSC, Pheasants Forever, Trout Unlimited, the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, area veterans groups and others to assist with the process checking out, and maintaining the chair.

Access Ability Wisconsin provides a chair and covered transport trailer at no cost. The

organization receives user requests through its website, then relies on local volunteers to finalize and manage pickup and return arrangements.

Currently, the nearest loaner chairs are hosted by the Blue Hills Sportsman's Club at Rice Lake, and the Beaver Creek Reserve, near Eau Claire.

Member Steve Dzubay brought the proposal to the board as

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Please welcome these new RFSC members!

Ron Monteith, Michael Albarado, Jacob Monteith, Thomas Kennedy, Greg & Michelle Radtke. **(March)**

Garrett Larson, Hanah Hoball, Jessica Bark, Jonah Feuerhelm, Darrin Solum, Tom Davidson, Carmen Canahaugh, Blake Coleman, and Morgan Beeman. **(April)**

Noah Langer, Matt Herum, Gerald Startton, Michael Sprandel, Corey Pottebaum, Keith Hansen, Patrick Sprandel, Bennie Berg, Anton Hildahl, Logan Lombard, Reese Hawkwnson, Jason Hunt, Dylan Ross, and Thomas Suter. **(May)**

Upcoming

Saturday, July 8 -Wildcat Trap awards/fun shoot

Saturday, Aug. 12 - RFSC Mel Warren Turkey Shoot

Friday, Sept. 8 - Fundraising banquet, RFGC

Board briefs

•At the May meeting, directors voted unanimously to spend about \$2,500 with Haas Excavating, Roberts, to grade and refresh the gravel path to the trap houses.

•The price charged RFSC for clay targets continues to rise. Treasurer Ben Gaus reported the semi-annual purchase of birds rose about \$3,000, or 12 percent, over the same quantity received last fall. The price increase may be passed on to shooters soon, Gaus said.

Danielle Francis ...
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sports to remain part of my life and it is something I will do as long as I can," she said.

"As for my dream job, I would love to fly for Delta or a major commercial airline someday," Danielle wrote.

Club secretary Belinda Hopp announced the selection of Danielle at the May 8th board meeting.

The scholarship is intended to encourage characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance that are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism. The award also aims to provide educational help to individuals of the next generation who will protect our rights and resources, the application states.

Applicants must be a member or close relative of a River Falls Sportsmen's Club member, have completed a recognized hunter safety course, provided evidence of community involvement, and draft a short essay, explaining the importance of rights granted by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Danielle's essay:

Right To Bear Arms

When we think about the Constitution of the United States, most people only think about the basics of the Amendments and rights that United States citizens have. Instead, people must consider the importance of each of those rights written on paper. For example, one of the most prominent rights we share as citizens is the right to bear arms, known as the Second Amendment. As time passes, people are becoming less aware of how lucky we are to have the rights granted to us written in the constitution. Because of the lack of knowledge, especially in younger generations, about the importance of having the right to bear arms, some of our rights are even becoming infringed. The Second Amendment is essential in numerous ways, but it is most important to me because I can go to bed knowing I am granted the right to live freely, protecting myself and my land.

The Second Amendment States, "A well-regulated militia being necessary for the security of a free state; the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." A considerable right granted by this Amendment is the right to bear arms. This gives each citizen the right to protect themselves in crucial situations without receiving harsh consequences from the government. Furthermore, the Second Amendment doesn't just help us defend ourselves from each other but also from the government in the case of corruption. For example, people who live in Communist Countries do not have the right to stand up for themselves or against their government without receiving harsh punishments. Another way the Second Amendment benefits us is by having the option to obtain a concealed carry and purchase firearms. Because these rights protect us, protecting them and standing up for what we believe is crucial.

Along with protecting ourselves, United States citizens have also been granted the right to defend our land. This right protects us from our land being taken in unconstitutional ways. The government cannot suddenly decide to come and deport someone off their land in an inequitable manner. Many people live off of their land; for example, farmers, without their land, would be unable to produce or sell crops to earn a living. The Second Amendment secures our land rights and prevents companies, governments, or individuals from doing unjust things to take away our homes or land. The Second Amendment allows you to protect your homestead and your land, meaning in any situation, you have the right to do what it takes to protect your property and yourself.

Finally, when people ask what the Second Amendment means to me, I think about my freedom and the countless hours people in the military have dedicated to fighting for the rights we hold. I am thankful to live in a country that allows us to stand up for ourselves against others and what we believe. Hopefully, as further generations enter this world, they too can understand the importance of the right to protect themselves and defend our country under the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.



Club recognized by Project Appleseed

The Sportsmen's Club recently received a certificate recognizing a decade of support and participation with Project Appleseed, a national initiative sponsored by the Revolutionary War Veterans Association that teaches the fundamentals of rifle marksmanship and blends those skills with history and heritage. RFSC hosts one-day Appleseed training sessions for 15 people each April and October, according to club secretary Belinda Hopp. For more information or to pre-register for an event, visit www.appleseed.org.

Clubhouse, roadside, grounds get a spruce-up

Clean-up day brings out 48 volunteers

A total of 48 club members and supporters turned out Saturday, April 29th to spruce up buildings, grounds and to conduct the annual roadside clean-up.

Rangemaster Ed Gibb declared it "the best turn-out I've ever seen", specifically praising member Nate Schultz for his leadership in helping to keep various groups focused on various tasks.

Several dying and damaged trees were removed, including several cedar and box-elders to the southeast of the trap range that cast shadows that late afternoon shooters found disruptive. Volunteers trimmed back overgrown lilacs, and raked and rejuvenated beds of hostas along the east clubhouse wall.

Board vice-president Parker

Heise led a group in replanting about 50 white pines along the fence line of the new acreage. The club also purchased hose needed to keep the new trees watered this summer.

Director Brad Cran led a group of about 10 youth volunteers on the 2.2-mile stretch of CTH J from 60th Avenue south of I-94. Cran said debris collected included lots of bottles and cans, lots of vape cartridges, several tarps and other junk discarded since last year's pickup.

Inside the clubhouse, volunteers scoured the bar area, relocated clutter and appliances to the storage shed, and spruced up the retail counter area.



Bridget and Addie Swanson clean-up the hosta beds..



James Vogt tossed chunks of trimmed pine onto a small brush fire.



Dan Herum attached a strap as Eric Swenson prepared to persuade a box-elder from a line of trees removed west of Thrower #1. The removals should eliminate shadows for evening shooters.



Will Walen plugs in a new white pine as Parker Heise and daughter Delta attend to another.



Volunteers cleaned up two-plus miles of trash from along CTH J, north and south of I-94. Among the group was Brenda Underall, Nate Hine, Faith Bonse, Riley & Oliver Cran.

RIVER FALLS SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

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Wheelchair Continued from Page 1

is involved with efforts to rejuvenate the school forest through the local chapter of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. He requested RFSC support and suggested there might



be club members willing to help out with loaning chairs to fulfill required volunteer hours.

President John Pietenpol and others were supportive of the idea, since it wouldn't cost the club nor expose it to any liability.

For more information, visit <https://www.accessabilitywi.org/> Members interested in assisting with the project can contact Dzubay at stevendzubay@gmail.com

RANGE FACILITIES ARE OPEN TO MEMBER'S 365 DAYS PER YEAR. WE ONLY REQUIRE THAT YOU OBSERVE POSTED SHOOTING HOURS AS FOLLOWS:

WEEKDAYS FROM: 9 AM TO 8 PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM: 9 AM TO 8 PM

THE CLUBHOUSE IS ONLY OPEN DURING TRAP LEAGUE HOURS (JANUARY TO OCTOBER), WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TUESDAY 5 PM – 9 PM SUMMER, AND FALL TRAP LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 5 PM – 9 PM SUMMER TRAP LEAGUE

SUNDAY 11 AM – 3 PM WINTER, SUMMER, AND FALL TRAP LEAGUE

WWW.RIVERFALLSPORTSMENSClub.COM/

