

# DNR eDigest

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[Previous E-Digests](#)

[Print This Page](#)

The Bureau of Education and Information's goal is to publish "The E-Digest" bi-weekly on paydays. The bureau will publish additional issues, as needed. Contact "E-Digest" editor [Diane.Brinson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Diane.Brinson@wisconsin.gov) or at 608/266-5215 to submit stories, story ideas and photos that communicate internally the department's work, policies and issues that matter to DNR employees.

February 26, 2009

## In this E-Digest:

- [Warden David Walz named Haskell Noyes Award recipient](#)
- [Redesigned website will showcase agency](#)
- [Public TV to air Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail feature March 1](#)
- [DNR's new Affirmative Action Advisory Committee introduced](#)
- [Posting public meetings/hearings falls under Open Meetings Law](#)
- [Science Services recognizes accomplishments of its staff](#)
- [Researchers receive grants to study climate change and air quality](#)
- [Two DNR sons prove that hunting brings out the best in people](#)
- [Financial resources and advice available to all, including veterans](#)
- [Avoca officially recognized DNR efforts during floods of 2008](#)

---

 [Print](#)

## Warden David Walz named Haskell Noyes Award recipient

*By: Randy Stark, Bureau of Law Enforcement*

Conservation warden **David J. Walz**, stationed in Watertown in the South Central Region, is the most recent DNR conservation warden named to receive the prestigious Haskell Noyes Efficiency Award. Walz will receive the award, a gold pocket watch, during a ceremony in May.

Haskell Noyes, chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission from 1931 to 1933, presented the first award more than 75 years ago. Members of his family continue the tradition today by recognizing a Wisconsin conservation warden who embodies "faithful able service."



Warden Dave Walz coached young visitors to the 2009 Pheasant Fest on firearm safety and marksmanship at the department's laser shot range.  
WDNR Photo

During his 10 years in Watertown, Walz has developed a law enforcement program within his administrative area in Jefferson and Dodge Counties that is an effective blend of enforcement activities and educational initiatives. What is significant and makes Walz such a worthy recipient of this award are his contributions to the overall professionalism of the warden service.

A field training officer, Walz also is actively involved with the recruit warden training program at Duck School, Fur School and basic academy test-out-week at the State Patrol Academy. He serves as the chair of the Bureau of Law Enforcement's Information and Education Committee and for the last few years has taken the lead in coordinating his program's display at the DNR's Wisconsin State Fair park.

Walz saw an unconventionally busy year in 2008, as Jefferson County contended with early summer flooding conditions lasting close to a month. Many wardens were involved in rescue efforts. Walz specifically used a flat-bottom boat to help evacuate an apartment building. He also worked with the utility company to shut off services to many flooded homes.

Late last year, Walz was involved in another type of rescue. In October, a Watertown woman flagged him down because her father wasn't breathing. Assuring that someone called 911, he determined that the man had no pulse and immediately began working with a family member to administer CPR, until EMS arrived. Taken to Madison via med-flight, the man died two days later. The warden's quick response gave the family time to spend with their loved one.

### **Walz assists with local law enforcement and community outreach**

Walz works closely with local police agencies. Not long ago, he assisted the Watertown Police Department in pursuing two suspects driving a stolen car. When the car crashed

and the passenger fled to the river, Walz helped locate him.

Problemsolving with town and county boards is a routine task for Walz. Currently, he's working with the Fort Atkinson Police Department on an investigation into the killing of 70 ducks by snowmobilers on the Rock River.

Walz positively represents the department at many public relations events including Madison Deer and Turkey Expo, Madison Fishing Expo, Madison Boat Show, Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) camp, Youth Outdoor Exposition (Dodge County) and Jefferson County Fair.

On his own time, Walz is a board member for the Jefferson Land Trust and Jefferson County Displayers turkey federation.

**Footnote:** *Randy Stark is the director of the Bureau of Law Enforcement.*

  
[Top](#)

---

 [Print](#)

## **Redesigned website will showcase agency**

The department is off to a great start developing an easy-to-use and dynamic Internet website. The new DNR website will be up and running by July and will include a redesigned home page, the user-friendly [Google search engine](#) and "[GovDelivery](#)," a government-to-citizen system that will improve the department's digital communications with the public.

## **Background and scope of web redesign project**

Last fall, Secretary **Matt Frank** set the DNR website as a priority for the department. He appointed Customer Assistance and Employee Services administrator **Vance Rayburn** to serve as the project's executive sponsor and the Secretary's representative.

Rayburn directed Education and Information bureau director **Jeff Smoller** and Customer Service and Licensing director **Diane Brookbank** to work with staff from all programs to improve the department's website. This charge includes taking a critical look at how the current site is designed, how information and content are displayed and accessed, and how these decisions are made. Last month, under their leadership, a Web Steering Team and a Web Technical Team began to work on developing a new website by July 20.

The Web Steering Team, with division and regional representation, recommends and oversees strategy, projects and decisions. Steering Team members are: **Dennis**

**Schenborn**, Bureau of Fisheries; **Dreux Watermolen**, Bureau of Science Services; **Elizabeth Kluesner**, Division of Lands; **Frances Findley**, Southeast Region; **Karl Brooks**, Bureau of Law Enforcement; **Mark Heyde**, Bureau of Forestry Services; **Sue Bangert**, Division of Air and Waste; and **Timothy Panzer**, South Central Region.

Most of the members of the Web Technical Team, again representing their programs, come with web knowledge and experience. The following team members will be responsible for supporting web standards, testing innovations and measuring results: **Margie Damgaard**, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, and **John Bushman**, Bureau of Technology Services, lead the team. Team members are: **Sue Acre**, Bureau of Fisheries Management; **Lena Arvola**, **Tracy Fretwell**, **Jeff Margenau**, **Brent Alderman** and **Margie Palmer**, all of the Bureau of Education and Information; **Lori Compas**, Bureau of Forestry Services; **Mike Kvitrud**, Bureau of Science Services; **Dennis Weise**, Bureau of Technology Services; **Tom Aten**, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment; **Drew Feldkirchner**, Bureau of Endangered Resources; **Bonnie Gruber**, Bureau of Parks and Recreation; **Bill Lorenz**, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing; **Chris Welch**, Bureau of Science Services; and **Kevin Wissink**, Bureau of Forestry Services

To view the organizational structure of the redesign project, go to the ["External Website Redesign Project"](#) organizational chart.

### **Update on competition to redesign the DNR web home page**

There were 21 innovative and creative designs submitted for the [DNR home page](#) and lower level pages. The Web Redesign (sub)Team will assemble these entries in an anonymous format for the Web Steering Team. The criteria for judging these designs can be found on the ["Design Competition Details"](#) page. A story in the March 12 "DNR Digest" will announce the winners.

### **Watch for more information**

Over the next several months, the steering and technical teams responsible for the web transformation will keep you updated on its progress and milestones. Look for future "DNR Digest" articles containing information on:

- A dynamic intranet site where DNR staff can monitor progress on the web redesign project, including submissions for the redesign competition; staff questions, comments and suggestions; scheduled brown bag information sessions; and other events and celebrations.
- Award winners for the web page redesign competition.
- Information on the Google search engine.
- How GovDelivery will help you improve and manage customer communications.
- Pilot projects to showcase program websites.

For more information on the new website, contact any member of the Web Steering

Team or Web Technical Team.

**Footnote:** *Margie Damgaard, John Bushman and Sue Acre collaborated on this story.*

  
Top

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 [Print](#)

## **Public TV to air Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail feature March 1**

Tune in this Sunday for a one hour special on The Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail. “On the Trail: An In Wisconsin Special” will premier statewide on Sunday, March 1 at 7 p.m. during the pledge drive for Wisconsin Public Television. An encore presentation will air at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 12.

The Bureau of Endangered Resources developed the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail guides, a series of five highway-based viewing guides highlighting unique regional ecosystems of Wisconsin. Each guide links a set of waypoints, refuges and wild places that offer the best birding and wildlife watching opportunities in the state.



A future bird watcher (perhaps), Meadow Feldkirchner patiently watches with her dad Drew Feldkirchner of the Bureau of Endangered Resources.

WDNR Photo

DNR conservation biologist Susan Foote Martin, reported that about 225 supporters attended a special screening of “On the Trail” last weekend at the Sundance Cinema in Madison. The special event was a collaborative effort among the DNR, the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Public Television.

“This partnership including a government agency, public television and a non-profit foundation is an example of creative forces coming together to showcase our natural resources and help the public connect to nature,” said Foote Martin.

DVDs of “On the Trail” will be offered during the Wisconsin Public Television pledge drive as premiums, along with complimentary copies of the five Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail guides. Wisconsin Public Television broadcasts to most areas across the state. Go to the [“Wisconsin Public Television”](#) website to find the station in your area.

More information on the trail can be found at Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative's [“Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail” website](#), the Bureau of Endangered Resources [“Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail” site](#) or [“Wisconsin Public Television.”](#) Order complimentary copies of the Bird Trail guides by contacting [Heisley Lewison](#).

  
Top

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 [Print](#)

### **DNR’s new Affirmative Action Advisory Committee introduced**

Secretary **Matt Frank** recently appointed to two-year terms the members of the new Affirmative Action Advisory Committee (AAAC). The committee soon will develop a workplan which will outline the initiatives that the group will work on during its term.

The new AAAC is charged with working directly with the Office of Diversity Affairs director **Rudy Bentley** to develop ideas and make recommendations to the Office of the Secretary on improving affirmative action goals and developing equal employment opportunity initiatives.



Attending the first meeting on February 20: (seated left-right) Isabel Gutierrez-Pils, Dan Graff, Rudy Bentley, Andy Janicki, Andre Ash and Cecilia Novinski; (standing left-right) Barb Swenson, Amalendu Bagchi, Jeff Roe, Jay Vosters, Greg Pils, Julie Amakobe, Teri Heathcote, Sensen Lin, Angela Ewing and Sue Bangert.

WDNR Photo

“The Secretary has appointed a conscientious and dedicated group of DNR employees to the committee, and DNR employees can look forward to hearing good things from the committee in the days and months to come,” said Bentley.

Bentley encourages DNR staff to contact any member of the AAAC with concerns and ideas.

The members of the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee are:

- **Julie Amakobe**, Bureau of Facilities and Lands
- **Andre Ash**, Southeast Region’s (SER) Air Management
- **Amalendu Bagchi**, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management
- **Sue Bangert**, Division of Air and Waste
- **Angela Ewing**, SER Human Resources
- **Daniel Graff**, Bureau of Legal Services
- **Isabel Gutierrez-Pils**, Division of Water
- **Teri Heathcote**, Northern Region Customer Service and Licensing
- **Andy Janicki**, Bureau of Facilities and Lands
- **Sensen Lin**, SER Air Management
- **Cecilia Novinski**, West Central Region Parks and Recreation
- **Greg Pils**, Bureau of Science Services
- **Jeff Roe**, South Central Region Division of Forestry
- **Barb Swenson**, Bureau of Air Management
- **Jay Vosters**, Northeast Region Parks and Recreation

Bentley serves ex officio as a permanent member of the AAAC. The group selected Ewing and Pils to co-chair the committee.

  
[Top](#)

---

 [Print](#)

### **Posting public meetings/hearings falls under Open Meetings Law**

Wisconsin’s Open Meetings Law requires all governmental bodies, including the DNR, the Natural Resources Board, and any committees, groups or subgroups created by DNR or the NRB, to give public notice of any meetings convened to conduct the department’s business.

One part of this requirement is to provide notice to the state paper of record, which currently is the Wisconsin State Journal, and any other media that request to be notified of meetings. The DNR meets this requirement by publishing meetings on the "Hearings



and Meetings Calendar" found on the DNR's ["Public Hearings and Meetings"](#) website. The agency sends a weekly email to the State Journal and other media with a link to this page.

While the department also directs the general public to this calendar to check for meetings, the Open Meetings Law also requires that government bodies post their meeting or hearing notices in one or more places where the general public is likely to see them, as well as posting the notice at the site where the meeting or hearing will be conducted.

To meet this section of the law, the DNR will start printing and posting a list of weekly meetings in the entryway to the State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), and at each of the five DNR regional headquarters. Each region has designated one person and a backup to receive and post these notices each week. Bureau of Education and Information (EI) staff will distribute the list and post the meetings in GEF 2.

In addition, every individual who currently sets up a meeting and sends in a notice for the DNR "Hearings and Meetings Calendar" now also will be responsible for assuring that the meeting notice is posted at the site where the meeting will take place. When an employee sends a meeting notice into the "DNR CAL Hearings and Meetings Calendar" mailbox, they'll then receive a response indicating that they're also responsible for assuring that the notice is posted at the hearing/meeting location.

Staff can use a template available on the intranet for posting notices. In cases where the meeting is being held at locations other than DNR properties, the meeting organizer will need to coordinate with the facility to assure proper posting.

For more information on public notices, email publications editor [Paul Holtan](#) in EI or phone him at (608) 267-7517, or attorney [Mike Scott](#) in the Bureau of Legal Services at (608) 266-7527.

### **Submit notices at least 24 hours prior to hearings and meetings**

The minimum statutory posting time requirement for notices is 24 hours. DNR policy is to try to provide at least two weeks notice of meetings. Meeting notices should be sent in as soon as you finalize all of the hearing or meeting details. Some meetings, such as NRB meetings, are posted for months in advance on the DNR website. If a notice will be posted for less than two weeks, contact Paul Holtan or an EI public affairs manager directly.

Meeting and hearing notices should be emailed to the DNR CAL "Hearings and Meetings Calendar" email box in the DNR Global Directory under [DNR CAL Hearing Meeting Calendar](#). If an agenda includes all of the required notice information, you can email it, instead. It makes it easier, however, to compile this extensive list of meetings if you adhere to the style provided below. The statute requires all of the following



information be provided in notices:

**Date** - The (name of the team, committee, group or just the name of the meeting topic) will meet from (time followed by a.m./p.m.) in Room XX of the (building name, with complete street address) in (City). The group will be discussing X, Y and Z. For more information contact (staff contact) at (phone number).

**For example:**

**August 10** - The Stationary Source Strategy Workgroup (workgroup 3) of the Wisconsin DNR Air Permit Improvement Initiative, APII, will meet from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. in room 511, of the State Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), 101 S. Webster St., **Madison**. The purpose of the meeting is to review and get feedback on a draft registration operation permit (ROP), a draft registration construction permit (RCP) and on the application process for each. For more information, please call Caroline Garber at (608) 264-9218.

**Hearing notices may include special requirements**

Hearing notices for the DNR “Calendar” should follow this same format, however, there also may be special requirements for hearing notices under specific statutes and administrative codes. Check with program attorneys to determine if there are additional hearing notice requirements. Also, take a look at the [“Media Relations Handbook”](#) for more information on hearing requirements, or contact your [public affairs manager](#).

  
[Top](#)

---

 [Print](#)

**Science Services recognizes accomplishments of its staff**

*By: Chris Welch, Bureau of Science Services*

The Bureau of Science Services paid special attention to the achievements and contributions of four members of its staff who provide valuable support to department programs. Honors were bestowed on the four during the bureau’s statewide meeting and training session running from February 11-12, in Wausau

**Bartelt brings science to bear on meaningful decisions**

As the chief of the bureau’s Wildlife and Forestry Research Section for 15 years, **Jerry Bartelt** has supervised a wide array of research designed to further the department’s mission and the goals of such program bureaus as Forest Management, Forest Protection, Wildlife Management and Endangered Resources.



Bureau director Jack Sullivan presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Jerry Bartelt during the Science Services statewide meeting.  
WDNR Photo

Science Services acknowledged Bartelt's service with the Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing his sincere concern for the resources, whether they be game, nongame, common or rare, imparting a holistic approach in all phases of his work.

These projects help provide a scientific basis for decisions and guidance on issues ranging from Chronic Wasting Disease; hunting regulations; contaminants; the management of agricultural, wetland, working forest and natural ecosystems; and setting priorities for broad conservation initiatives needed to ensure healthy ecosystems in the state and region.

Bartelt's contributions to DNR, multi-agency and public teams and committees bring not only a scientific perspective and knowledge, but guidance that leads to meaningful decisions and products.

As author and co-author of numerous reports and professional, peer-reviewed publications, Bartelt provides information and guidance beyond the department on sustaining Wisconsin's ecosystems.

### **Wisconsin and federal agency depend on Rasmussen's statistical skills**

**Paul Rasmussen**, in the Science Information Services Section, accepted the Employee of the Year Award for the more than 25 years he has helped ensure department decisions are based on sound science. Routinely called upon by agency programs for his statistical and experimental design expertise, he's the only department statistician/biometrician who regularly provides these short-term methodological consulting services.



Paul Rasmussen received the Employee of the Year Award.  
WDNR Photo

As part of the Walleye Technical Group, Rasmussen has helped develop methods to assess the effects of changing gill net regulations on walleye harvest; evaluated the use of otolith marking; and studied the movement of walleye between lakes.

Along with staff in the Bureau of Fisheries Management, Rasmussen has been instrumental in developing methods and assessing statewide trends in mercury concentrations in walleye and yellow perch. As a result, the department has provided credible information about changes and trends in mercury contamination.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recruited Rasmussen to assist in the design of the monitoring protocols included in the federal recovery plan for Karner Blue Butterfly, because of his key role in developing the Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan.

### **Weigel singled out for work with both Fisheries and Watershed Management**

Because the Science Services' statewide meeting takes place every two years, a second Employee of the Year award went to research scientist **Brian Weigel**.



Science Services also named Brian Weigel Employee of the Year.  
WDNR Photo

With the Fisheries and Habitat Research Section, Weigel conducts research for the Fisheries Management and Watershed Management programs, communicating his findings for direct use in integration of science with policy.

Weigel also has led the Water Division's Baseline Monitoring Rivers Program since 2003, striving to standardize sampling that aids in evaluating the health of riverine systems.

### **Steve Serns Excellence in Research Award goes to Ed Nelson.**

**Ed Nelson**, in the Science Information Services Section, received the Steve Serns Excellence in Research Award for his 20 plus years providing high quality social science research for programs throughout the DNR. His work has had a pivotal impact

on high-level policy decisions and service delivery.



Jack Sullivan presented Ed Nelson with the Steve Serns Excellence in Research Award.  
WDNR Photo

Nelson led an effort beginning in the late 1980s to measure the effectiveness of Air Management's public outreach efforts on ozone in Southeast Wisconsin. The research performed provided critical data to assess and guide development and implementation of Ozone Action Days. Nelson's work contributed to updating fees to fund Air Management's new source review permit program.

Playing a role in the Clean Air Act efforts in the ozone non-attainment area of southeast Wisconsin, Nelson conducted four focus groups to explore the possibility of reporting ozone/air quality information as part of regional weather forecasts.

Nelson initiated work on four other important, large studies: the Wisconsin Recycling Study; Forestry Training Evaluation; State Boating Survey; and Urban Forestry Evaluation.

**Footnote:** *Chris Welch is the communications manager in the Science Information Services Section.*

  
Top

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 [Print](#)

## **Researchers receive grants to study climate change and air quality**

*By: Dreux J. Watermolen, Bureau of Science Services*

The Bureau of Science Services recently acquired over \$371,000 from the [Wisconsin Focus on Energy's Environmental and Economic Research and Development Program](#) for research projects that will contribute to the future management of Wisconsin's natural resources. The Bureau of Air Management also received nearly \$149,000 from the same program for ongoing air quality monitoring work.

These funds are among the \$885,658 in Focus on Energy grants recently awarded to

scientists to investigate various energy and climate change questions. DNR's grants break down as follows:

- **Ed Nelson**, a social scientist in the Bureau of Science Services, received a \$44,486 grant to assess farmers' willingness to adopt practices and participate in programs to sequester carbon.
- Research scientist **David Sample** obtained a \$186,643 grant to develop an ecosystem management approach to biomass production in southern Wisconsin.
- **Carl Watras**, research scientist in Boulder Junction, received \$139,969 for a project examining potential climate change effects on carbon and water in northern Wisconsin lakes and wetlands.
- Air monitoring field operations team leader **Bruce Rodger**, in the Bureau of Air Management, acquired two grants in the amounts of \$58,109 for ongoing air quality monitoring and \$90,857 for the Wisconsin Mercury Deposition Network.

[Focus on Energy](#) works with Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost-effective energy efficient and renewable energy projects. Its Environment and Economic Research and Development Program supports research efforts that fill gaps in existing knowledge about the interconnections between energy use, environmental quality and economic stability.

In addition to the Science Services and Air Management researchers, nine other research groups at various University of Wisconsin campuses, the U.S. Forest Service and other institutions received funding to address energy and climate change topics.

Much of the funded research will directly benefit the Wisconsin [Initiative on Climate Change Impacts \(WICCI\)](#), a collaborative DNR and University of Wisconsin effort that provides science-based information and recommendations to natural resources managers.

For additional information, contact [David Webb](#) in the Bureau of Science Services or call him at (608)266-0245.

**Footnote:** *Dreux Watermolen is chief of the Science Information Services Section.*

  
[Top](#)

---

 [Print](#)

## Two DNR sons prove that hunting brings out the best in people

Last fall, West Central Region public affairs manager **Ed Culhane** quoted the words of La Crosse area warden supervisor **Steve Dewald** in a call for nominations recognizing

the ethical behavior in other hunters:

“When people enjoy the outdoors this fall, our hope is that they will experience a safe and ethical hunt, and that they will pass on positive and cherished traditions to our youth,” said Dewald.

Contrary to what hits the front page of newspapers or the six o’clock news in the way of accidental shootings or wildlife poaching, most hunters possess the skills, patience and good judgment necessary for a successful hunt. And, the best of them are eager to share these and other outdoor qualities with those new to hunting, especially the young.

“Over the years I have found this award to be one of the more rewarding aspects of my job. Too often I see what unethical behavior looks like in the field,” said Dewald. “Seeing how random acts of kindness and ethical behavior can make such a positive impact on others is very enjoyable.”

To honor these hunters, in 1997 Dewald partnered with outdoor writer Jerry Davis and La Crosse Tribune outdoor editor Bob Lamb to create the annual Ethical Hunter Award. Culhane described the inception of the award as “an effort to bring attention to the positive contributions made by Wisconsin’s safe and ethical hunters. Special youth awards also are given to the young who hunt ethically.

The goal of the Ethical Hunter Award is to recognize "hunters engaged in actions that reflect positively on the tradition of hunting rather than pursuing personal gain."

### **2008 award recipients part of the DNR family**

By the time Dewald, Davis and Lamb completed their reviews of the 2008 nominations for the Ethical Hunter Award adult category and youth category, they’d unknowingly selected a winner in each category who is the son of a DNR employee. This was truly a first.

These two young men exemplified the qualities recognized as “hunters helping others rather than pursuing personal gain” and “hunters engaged in behavior that positively reflects on the tradition of hunting.”

A nominee must be a licensed hunter, hunting in Wisconsin. Dewald explained why the DNR and the La Crosse newspaper decided to establish a comparable youth award. “We established a youth award after the first few years to encourage youth to make positive decisions in the field. We felt a separate category was necessary since we hold the adult nominations to a higher standard.”

### **Nick Owens repeatedly shows that he has a big heart**

For the first time since the creation of the Ethical Hunter Award, sons of two DNR employees took home the award, one in the youth category and one in the adult

category.



Nick Owens proudly displayed the turkey he took with a bow and arrow shot to the head/neck.  
WDNR Photo

Nick Owens, an 18-year-old from Harshaw, won the award in the adult category. Owens is the son of Northern Region's **Michelle Debrock Owens**, an environmental enforcement specialist stationed in Rhinelander.

As Owens scouted for a good spot to hunt on the fourth day of the 2008 gun-deer season, he came upon another hunter who was upset about the deer she'd shot and was seeking help from others in her hunting party. Read about how Owens gave of his time to help a fellow hunter in ["River Valley Outdoors."](#)

Just the week before, Owens pitched in to help a nearby farmer by doing chores and caring for the farmer, whose wife had just died and was suffering from a stroke, himself.

Owens will receive the Ethical Hunter Award at the August meeting of the Natural Resources Board in Hayward.

### **Adam Donaldson remembered his hunter safety class lesson**

When 13-year-old Adam Donaldson, from Kronenwetter, knew that he could take a shot at some turkeys clearly within range while hunting last April, he also knew from his hunter safety class that it was unethical to shoot at any bird on the opposite side of a property line.





DNR's Glenn Falkowski (left) and Garrett Drach served as Adam Donaldson's hunting mentors.  
WDNR Photo

The young man had permission to hunt on a specific property during a DNR learn-to-hunt program. With his mentors **Garrett Drach**, a fisheries technician in Wausau, and **Glenn Falkowski**, a water supply engineer also stationed in Wausau, Donaldson encountered a flock of toms and hens. It seemed almost as though the birds knew to walk just the other side of the property line.

Young Donaldson's father **Eric Donaldson**, a wastewater engineer in Wausau, was proud of his son's decision to put the safety back on his gun, based on a matter of ethics. He nominated Adam for the Ethical Hunter Award.

Donaldson wasn't sure what to do when his first-grade son, and then his daughter, said they wanted to learn to hunt. He asked for advice from his DNR colleagues.

"I was thankful for the (DNR's) hunter safety and learn-to-hunt programs because I've never hunted before and without that, I wouldn't have known what to do with my kids' desire to hunt," said Donaldson. Today, not only have his children taken hunter safety classes, he and his wife also completed the classes.

"River Valley Outdoors" also ran the story ["Applying what he learned, Donaldson keeps safety on."](#)

"Taking up turkey hunting was fun because I could do the calling while Adam did the hunting," said Donaldson. "We have to get up early so we can set up our blind in the dark and wait for the turkeys to wake up. It's a joy to see the woods come alive as the sun comes up."

The Ethical Hunter Award isn't specifically tied to the learn-to-hunt program, explained Dewald, but nominations of new hunters have come out of these hunts.

The youth awards are presented in the young person's community, rather than at a board meeting that would mean the kids missing school.

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 [Print](#)

## **Financial resources and advice available to all, including veterans**

*By: Patrick DuCharme, Bureau of Human Resources*

The DNR Employee Assistance Office periodically will provide information and resources via the “DNR Digest” that may be of help to you and your family or friends. Today, we’re offering the following money saving and veterans-related resources:

- Wisconsin Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton’s website [“Barbara’s Guide for Penny Pinchers”](#) contains a variety of money saving and financial resources you can access.
- The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has a number of factsheets and publications including [“Veterans Benefits Booklets.”](#)
- The online resource [“USA Together”](#) helps link citizens with military members and families who are in need of financial aid or goods. There is a screening and verification process to help assure the requesting military member and their situation are legitimate. A dot.com millionaire started this site because he wanted to help connect citizens who want to help with needy members of the military.

**Footnote:** *Patrick DuCharme is associate director of the DNR's Employee Assistance Program.*

  
[Top](#)

---

 [Print](#)

## **Avoca officially recognized DNR efforts during floods of 2008**

*By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region*

The Village of Avoca recently expressed its appreciation for the help several South Central Region (SCR) employees provided during the June floods of 2008.

Heavy rains the first week of June saturated the ground and swelled streams around the small Iowa County village located just south of the Lower Wisconsin River. After several days, the basements of dozens of homes were filled with flood water. On June 8, DNR forestry staff began pumping water from basements, using water pumps normally used to fight forest fires.



The Village of Avoca declared its appreciation of the efforts of DNR employees during the destructive floods of 2008.

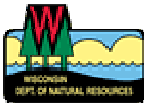
WDNR Photo

Two days later, the situation worsened dramatically with a new onslaught of torrential rains that flooded the village, making roads impassable and prompting the Avoca fire chief to order a complete evacuation of the village. Dodgeville Area wardens were dispatched and used their boats to evacuate people stranded in their homes by rising flood waters. Additionally, SCR forestry staff lent a hand organizing and mentoring the local incident response team.

DNR staff recognized for assisting the village during the 2008 floods were: **Scott Lancaster**, forester ranger, Spring Green; **Steve Williamson**, forestry technician, Spring Green; **Willard Dilley**, forestry technician, Boscobel; **Dan Hillberry**, forester and forestry technician, Spring Green; **John Nielsen**, then area forestry leader, Dodgeville, now SCR forestry leader; **Aaron Young**, forestry team leader, Poynette; **Todd Kenefick**, forest ranger, Richland Center; **Chuck Horn**, area warden supervisor, Dodgeville; and conservation wardens **Mike Nice**, Richland Center, **Joe Frost**, Dodgeville and **Dave Youngquist**, Arena.

**Footnote:** *Greg Matthews is SCR's public affairs manager.*

  
Top



---

[DNR Intranet Index](#) || [Search](#) || [DNR Home](#) || [Wisconsin Home](#) || [CE Intranet Home](#)

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