

# DNR eDigest

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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.

**March 12, 2009**

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## Program cooperation alerts farmers to manure runoff problems

Believing that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, several DNR programs pooled scarce resources to launch a multifaceted campaign to keep manure out of lakes and streams as the snow melts.

The goal is to build on the proactive efforts by DNR regional and central office staff over recent years to raise awareness among farmers of the risk of spreading manure on snow-covered or frozen fields before rain or melting snow is forecast.

At the campaign's centerpiece are paid and unpaid radio advertisements that started airing on Monday, February 23, and will run through March on more than three dozen stations statewide. The 60-second spot airs during and after agricultural news and other

farm programming and features Steve Haak, a Belleville farmer.

Bureau of Education and Information video producer/director **Mary Farmiloe** directed, produced and edited the spot. **Lisa Gaumnitz**, Water Division public affairs manager, and Farmiloe collaborated on the script with Haak. **Karl Scheidegger**, warmwater rivers biologist in the Bureau of Fisheries Management, is the announcer.



DNR fish biologist Kurt Welke took to the air in early February to look for potential manure runoff problems that could affect Dane County streams.

WDNR Photo

Other campaign components are a web page featuring information, contacts and multimedia offerings for farmers, one on the same topic for media, and a featured web page about Haak and why he got involved.

**Hugh Schmidt**, runoff management Internet support and **Lena Arvola**, internet manager in the Bureau of Education and Information developed the [“Prevent Manure Runoff Events”](#) webpage. Tom Bauman, agricultural runoff program coordinator in Watershed Management, Gaumnitz and **Carol Holden**, runoff management education coordinator in Watershed Management provided the content.

**Jeff Margenau**, web administrator in the Bureau of Education and Information developed the [“Manure Runoff Media Kit”](#) website. Arvola developed the [“Farmer Works to Keep the Sugar River Clean”](#) page.

**Editor's Note:** All three webpages contain links to the radio spot. Unfortunately, some older DNR computers may have trouble playing the MP3 files. If you're unable to hear the spot, contact your bureau's ITC or regional information management specialist for help.

“The whole idea for the outreach over the past four years has been to prevent the instances of drinking water contamination and the significant fish kills we saw in 2005,” said DNR Environmental Enforcement Section chief **Steve Sisbach**.

“We think those efforts over the years have heightened awareness among farmers of the risk of spreading when melting snow or rain is forecast. We've also seen several instances where operators have clearly taken proactive measures to avoid runoff problems or have made a lot of efforts to minimize the impacts on streams when runoff

has occurred.”

Sisbach called DNR staff together in January to start planning for the runoff season and contributed seed money to kick start discussions on the radio buy. When efforts to bring in other institutional partners came up empty, the DNR’s Watershed Management Bureau, Office of the Great Lakes and the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau stepped up.

“Thanks to their commitment to this important issue, we pulled together what is a very modest buy, but one we think will be very effective in reaching farmers. It targets the programming that farmers listen to, focuses on prevention and capitalizes on farm broadcasters’ interest in the topic,” said Holden.

Holden and Gaumnitz coordinated the media buy, with help from **Jane Launderville**, chief of the General Accounting and Purchasing Section; purchasing agent **Reche House**; and procurement specialist **Dick Straub**, all with the Bureau of Finance.

Other key components of the campaign are cooperative news releases issued by DNR and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and efforts by DNR’s regional public affairs managers to pitch stories on runoff prevention and problems to local media.

Chief warden **Randy Stark** has told wardens to be alert for signs of manure runoff so that proactive measures can be taken quickly to contain significant runoff. Sisbach also has helped fund aerial flyovers in south central Wisconsin as part of that region’s proactive work.

  
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## **GovDelivery® allows public to subscribe to information service**

*By: Margie Damgaard, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater*

As part of our website redesign, the department will launch [GovDelivery](#), an automated email and digital subscription management system on [DNR’s public Internet](#) homepage. This new service will allow citizens to sign up for automatic notices via email, wireless alerts, newsletters or [Really Simple Syndication \(RSS\)](#) to keep informed when new information is available or posted on our website.

“Using GovDelivery will help us better focus our communication with our customers,” said **Diane Brookbank**, director of Customer Service and Licensing and co-sponsor of the redesign project. She added that our agency will be able to “personalize and streamline the information we send to our customers and be more efficient in how we do

this.”

Brookbank noted that the new information delivery system will:

- **Give subscribers what they want, when and how they want it.** We will offer more subscription services for a variety of topics and issues. The signup process allows residents to choose how they would like to receive their updates, e.g. via email, RSS or wireless alerts. Take a look at an [example of a customer subscription request](#) the Bureau of Fisheries is working on.
- **Streamline the process of communicating new information.** GovDelivery automatically will deliver email and wireless text alerts when web content changes. For example, everyone who signs up for air quality information will receive an alert or advisory when it is issued.

GovDelivery uses CertifiedEmail so the emails sent land in inboxes and not in junk folders. The system will cut costs and by using less paper, postage and staff time.

“Based on the experience of other GovDelivery clients, including other state agencies, we also can expect an increase in the number of people who visit our website and learn more about our agency and the work we do,” Brookbank noted.

The February 26 “DNR Digest” story [“Redesigned website will showcase agency”](#) mentioned GovDelivery as just one of the new features the public will find on the department’s Internet website in the near future.

**Footnote:** *Margie Damgaard is a co-leader of the web redesign project.*

  
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## **Bureau of Finance releases 2009 purchasing deadlines**

*By: Michele Young, Bureau of Finance*

It’s time again to finalize year-end projects, as the Bureau of Finance announces the purchasing deadlines for the fiscal year. **These deadlines are the dates by which you must submit your purchasing requisitions in order for Finance to complete the fiscal year 2009 purchasing process.**

To ensure that the Bureau of Finance can complete all the necessary procurement steps, e.g. bids, requests for proposals, purchase orders, etc. by the Department of Administration’s deadlines, the bureau has established the following cut-off dates. These are the latest dates to submit purchasing or printing requests. Finance encourages early

submission of requests.

**Purchasing requisition cut-off dates:**

- Services **over \$25,000** are due in the Bureau of Finance by **March 13, 2009**.
- Materials **over \$25,000** are due in the Bureau of Finance by **March 20, 2009**.
- Materials and services **under \$25,000** are due in the Bureau of Finance by April 24, 2009.

**Printing services cut-off dates:**

- Printing services bids **over \$25,000** are due in the Bureau of Finance by **March 20, 2009**.
- Printing services bids **under \$25,000** are due in the Bureau of Finance by **April 10, 2009**.
- Printing services that can be **purchased off a contract** are due in the Bureau of Finance by **May 1, 2009**, regardless of the dollar amount.

You can contact one of the central office [purchasing agents](#) with any questions regarding these cut-off dates.

**Development, grants, aids and other encumbrances for 2009**

The Bureau of Finance must receive all requisitions for development, grants and aids encumbrances, as well as any other amounts to be encumbered in FY2009, no later than **May 8, 2009**.

**Fiscal year 2010 purchase orders**

Purchase orders needed as of July 1, 2009 to ensure uninterrupted operations, or those needed in July or August, may be submitted beginning May 1, 2009. Be sure to allow sufficient lead time to conduct any required procurement steps, e.g. bid or request for proposals, to ensure your purchase orders can be issued July 1. It's important that you indicate on the purchase requisition that the **order is for FY2010**.

**Footnote:** *Michele Young is director of the Bureau of Finance.*

  
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**Editor's Note: Link added to February 26 "DNR Digest" story**

*By: Diane Brinson, Bureau of Education and Information*

The February 26 issue of the “DNR Digest” carried the story [“Posting public hearings/meetings falls under Open Records Law.”](#) We failed to include in the story the link to the “Meeting Notice Template” found on the [Bureau of Education and Information](#) webpage under "Employee Resources.”

Use this template to assist you in preparing public hearing and meeting notices.

**Footnote:** *Diane Brinson is editor of the “DNR Digest.”*

  
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## **Vote online March 12-18 for winners of Arbor Day Poster Contest**

*By: The Arbor Day Team, Division of Forestry*

### ***Help raise awareness of natural resource holidays***

For the first time ever, the Division of Forestry is opening to all DNR employees the chance to vote online between March 12 and March 18 to select the winners of the 2009 Statewide Arbor Day 5th Grade Poster Contest. The voting will determine which 12 posters the department will feature in the 2010 Arbor Day/Earth Day calendar and help raise awareness of these two natural resource holidays.

The DNR first participated in the national 5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest in 1992. The department printed the first Arbor Day/Earth Day Calendar, highlighting the thoughts and artwork of Wisconsin’s students, 11 years ago.

### **2,511 students statewide lent their creativity to this year’s contest**



Narrowing down a showcase of Arbor Day Poster Contest artwork are (left to right) Tessa Jilot; Genny Fannucchi, education and awareness specialist; urban forestry coordinator Richard Rideout; and Jacinda Tessmann, forestry communications specialist.

WDNR Photo

Each year, the Forestry Division sponsors a poster contest for Wisconsin's 5th grade students, encouraging them to think creatively about our tree and forest resources. The contest is part of a nationwide competition sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

A total of 2,511 Wisconsin 5th graders took part in this year's contest. Participating schools then selected one winning poster to submit to the statewide competition, bringing the pool down to 98 posters. Forestry staff, with the help of a few judges, narrowed the field even further to 22 finalists. At this point, the task of selecting the statewide winner remains, and **we want your input!**

### **Cast your vote at the online polling site**

At the voting site, ["2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest Voting,"](#) you'll view the top 22 posters from around the state. These imaginative masterpieces address this year's poster contest theme: "Trees are Terrific...in Cities and Towns!" and visually portray the many benefits our urban forests provide in communities, large and small.

Once you've viewed the posters, you'll be prompted to vote for your top three choices through the website. Detailed instructions will help you along the way.

### **Join the fun and remind your colleagues to vote**

We've all seen the power of voting. So, have some fun, make a contribution and remind your colleagues to vote. A dozen 5th graders will be happy that you did!

General information about Wisconsin's 5th Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest can be found on [Forestry's "Arbor Day"](#) webpage. Information about the national competition is available on ["Arbor Day Foundation's Poster Contest"](#) website. Contest winners will be announced in the March 26 edition of the "DNR Digest."

You can direct any questions to forestry educator [Tessa Jilot](#).

  
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### **Web-based services make meetings cheaper, easier**

*By: Greg Swanson, Bureau of Education and Information*

The DNR has two Internet-based services, Live Meeting and Mediasite, available to department staff to make meetings and presentations easily accessible while reducing the associated costs. Live Meeting is a video and audio conferencing service hosted by

Microsoft. Mediasite is used for webcasting meetings, training sessions and presentations over the Internet.

In its most basic application, Live Meeting adds video and screen images like documents to an audio conference call over the Internet to the participant's computer. It also has the capability to record and store meetings.

Mediasite presentations can range from simple slide shows with audio to complex productions with multiple cameras, other media, a live audience and more. Presentations can be webcast live, recorded for on-demand use or both.

While face-to-face meetings are absolutely necessary in some cases, webcasting meetings and presentations: can save the department considerable time and travel expense; can often be organized on very short notice; can be used to present a more compelling message; and in the case of sessions that are recorded for on-demand use, can present information consistently over time and space.

Instructor-led training for Live Meeting are offered in GEF 2 and the regions. You can enroll at the ["Office of Employee Development and Training"](#) webpage, where you click on "Scheduled Classes." Microsoft also offers online training at its ["Live Meeting 2007"](#) website.

For more information on Live Meeting and Mediasite as communication tools for the DNR, go to ["Webcasting in DNR"](#) and click on "Live Meeting" in the first section and "Mediasite Essentials" in the "Resources" navigation box.

**Footnote:** *Greg Swanson is a public affairs manager working with the Division of Customer and Employee Services (CAES). Pat Powers in the Bureau of Technology Services contributed the information on LiveMeeting.*



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## **Regional and central office staffs "greening" the DNR statewide**

Last month, the central office Green Team compiled reports from the regions and some bureaus documenting the work of DNR staffs to sustainably manage department facilities around the state in a "greener" fashion. The team also distributed copies of the report to the Secretary's Office and program directors.

DNR Green Teams from around the state contributed reports on their locations' efforts during 2008 to reduce the size of their environmental "footprint." **Lance Green**, air management specialist in the Bureau of Air Management, compiled these reports and



describes them as incomplete “but showing the amazing variety of actions and creativity of our earth-caring staff. This report also helps us share these ideas and replicate them across our facilities,” he said.

If you have questions or comments upon reading the following report summaries, contact the person listed for each location.



Compost collection bins now are in position under most coffee machines in GEF2.  
WDNR Photo

### **Regions take steps to reduce waste from lunchroom to home to highways**

**Bruce Moore**, water resources engineer in Ashland in the **Northern Region (NOR)**, summed up his Green Group’s focus on reducing the size of their carbon footprint.

“Our region has been promoting a variety of practical measures at office and home that the individual can take to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon) emissions,” said Moore. Examples of steps taken to this end include:

- **turning off PCs** at end of day;
- **installing programmable thermostats**,
- replacing spent incandescent lights with **CFL lighting**;
- **driving conservatively**; and
- **chartering buses** to regional or statewide meetings in lieu of driving separately;
- **service centers** are operating paper, cardboard, glass and plastic recycling programs;
- **Spooner’s battery collection** to date has received 150 pounds of old batteries;
- American Legion State Forest has a **mission to reduce energy** use at every one of its facilities.

As a way to disseminate a variety of green tips, NOR also publishes a regular column, "Greening the NOR," in the region’s internal e-newsletter.

**Southeast Region’s (SER) Jessica Lawent**, air management specialist in Milwaukee, reported that the region formalized their Green Team, with representatives across

programs from the four SER offices.

“We have a vision, a charge and have been meeting every couple of months since July (2008) and corresponding via email,” said Lawent. “Projects we completed or are working on include:

- **Computer survey:** conducted a survey on two nights in all four offices to determine how many monitors and CPUs remain on at the end of the workday. Affixing "shut off" stickers on all monitors and CPUs, the team then sent a note to staff about turning them off before going home.
- **Waste Free Lunch Day:** hosted the first “Waste Free Lunch Day,” the team awarded small prizes to those employees with the least amount of waste from their lunches. The Team plans to host more of these lunches.
- **Collecting dishes and utensils** used at cookouts and potlucks, rather than using disposables.
- **Locally-grown lunches:** will organize locally-grown lunches, like chili made from local products, beginning in the spring when there’s a selection of locally-grown produce.
- **Tote bags:** looked at holding a tote bag design contest, but producing bags would be cost prohibitive.
- **Recycling:** evaluating the recycling in each SER office and growing off each other. Discovered that the Waukesha office has an expansive and organized recycling set-up and tracking system, which the Milwaukee regional headquarters wants to mirror.
- **Composting:** started a scrap bin in the Milwaukee office, but access is limited to prevent overloading the bin. Waukesha and Milwaukee offices are waiting for approval to have a worm composting bin in their lobbies, available for the public to view.
- **Paper towels:** placed stickers on the paper-towel dispensers in the regional headquarters building that read "This comes from trees," to remind people to use as little as possible.
- **Informational emails:** will send infrequent, informational emails to staff on issues like printing (minimize printing, use duplex option), recycling, energy use, vehicle use, etc.
- **Green Star awards:** considering giving awards to employees who go above the “call of duty.”

**South Central Region’s (SCR) Percy Mather**, waste management specialist in Fitchburg, reported that most of the greening efforts at the regional headquarters have been “extra and beyond the call of duty:”

- **Reduce (our carbon footprint):** annual 12,000 mile challenge when staff walk, bike or snowshoe to work and track driving miles avoided. Employees donate money based on the mileage to Second Harvest food pantry. Since most of the miles are biked, SCR also promotes bike-to-work week.
- Due to the increasing cost of paper towels, Customer and Employee Services (CAES) leader **Tim Panzer** emailed an appeal to use **other hand drying alternatives**, e.g. use

the blowdryer or bring in a cloth hand towel. The cost of disposable towels also has decreased.

- The SCR's Green Group has been working with the CAES leader to **identify building energy issues** such as ventilation, heating and building lighting to try to reduce energy use.
- **Sheila Mittlestaedt**, regional information technology specialist, emailed staff regarding **different printing options and costs** in an effort to encourage staff to switch to the least expensive option.
- **Reuse/Recycle**: in addition to the regular recycling of paper, glass and metal in the building, collected and sent for reusing/recycling the following items: packing material to a motorcycle store that ships parts and a mailing store; Tyvek envelopes; rechargeable batteries to Batteries Plus; cell phones; electronic and media waste; fluorescent bulbs.
- **Earth Day**: held a **cookout/potluck and swap day** to celebrate Earth Day. Participants brought in surplus items from their homes available for exchange. Takers chipped in a dollar each to raise money for rain garden plants. Donated remaining items to St. Vincent de Paul. Staff picked up litter on the grounds during Earth Week and planted several oak trees on the grounds.
- **Lunchroom food scraps are composted**. Staff generates at least a cubic foot of material a week, more in summer. A compost bin sits outside the building. Material from the bin is removed at least twice a year and incorporated into planted areas on the grounds.
- **Lunchroom has dishes and a dishwasher**, which runs about three full loads a week. Reuse of dishes saves about a pound per day in disposable cups plates and utensils.
- **A motion-sensor on the soda machine** turns off the refrigeration when no one walks through the area on nights and weekends.
- Members of the Green Team included some **mowing guidelines** in the new grounds contract to encourage mowing only when the grass gets high enough and identifying no-mow areas.
- **Garlic mustard and Japanese hedge parsley removal**: Staff volunteers are pulling plants and extending the perimeter of cleared area each year.
- **Rain garden plant installation**: Installed and planted the third rain garden, which collects runoff from one of the visitor parking areas.

#### **SCR staff will tackle new ideas in 2009:**

- Several staff members are working on a **long-term management plan for the Nevin grounds** to transition to an oak savannah
- Collected a box of **surplus winter clothing for distribution** to the needy at a local church-operated food pantry.
- Collected **holiday cards for recycling**.
- Posted a map to encourage staff contacts for one-time or occasional **ride sharing**.

“Not listed are the many official and scheduled actions that occur, e.g. replacement of gas guzzling vehicles with (hopefully) those with higher gas mileage; automatic lights off after office hours; surplus electronics sent to SWAP site in central office, etc.”

added Mather.

**Marcy McGrath, Northeast Region** waste management specialist, reported on progress field staff is making to reduce carbon and improve energy efficiency. Go to [Northeast Region's greening table](#) for details on the region's carbon reduction and energy efficiency projects.

**West Central Region's Cyndi Thomas**, waste management specialist in Eau Claire, reported on the greening activities from her region during 2008:

- Over 50 people participated in a **gas-free challenge**, saving over 29,000 miles of single-occupant commuting during the warm season by walking, biking and carpooling to work.
- Major effort undertaken to get **PCs turned off at night**, including direction from the region's administration and placing "off at night" stickers on PCs.



Linda Morgan, a member of the central office Green Team, viewed a display on recycling electronic media during Earth Week '08.

WDNR Photo

- Replaced all incandescent light bulbs with **compact fluorescent lights**.
- **Reviewed cleaning supplies** and replaced some toxic/damaging cleaning materials.

**In the central office**, Lance Green reported that the Green Team used Earth Day to kick off two new recycling efforts in the GEF2 building:

- Set covered, labeled buckets with instructions under each coffee machine inviting staff to recycle their coffee grounds, peels, rinds and cores and anything else for a **compost bin**. Volunteers from six floors take the material home to turn it into rich soil. Team is planning to get volunteers for the remaining three floors.
- Arranged for the local company Cascade Asset Management to place labeled, locked bins in GEF 2 to **collect and recycle electronic media** such as CDs, DVDs, tapes, discs, hard drives and any other e-media. They destroy/recycle items and guarantee security for the data. This is a pilot program that may go statewide.
- Displayed what is/isn't recyclable and updated the ["Recycling Guides for DNR Offices"](#) to provide instructions for recycling in many of our facilities.
- **Collected used greeting cards** last year cards and donated them to a nursing home in Oregon, where the residents made holiday placemats and other fun items.

**Bureau of Endangered Resources** director **Signe Holtz** requested that her staff

establish a Bureau Green Team. Conservation biologists **Dawn Hinebaugh** and **Heidi Nelson**, with environmental reviewer **Lisie Kitchel** reported that the team has provided websites and green information to bureau staff. The team also developed an extensive [list of goals](#) for reducing their impact on the earth including ways to reduce paper use and obtain more sustainable paper; reduce electric energy use; increase efficient commuting and green travel options; and reduce package waste coming into GEF 2 or produced at meetings.

The bureau also:

- Challenged the staff to **donate reusable plates/utensils/cups** to donate to an ER party/potluck box that can be used for bureau gatherings, keeping cups separate for use at meetings attended by folks outside of the DNR.
- **Sent links to other sites** that the team thought bureau staff might find interesting.
- Gave each employee a "**Remember to.....**" **post-it** to remind them to turn off and unplug all electrical devices in their office.

  
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## **Duane Lahti receives Lake Superior Stewardship Award**

*By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region*

**Duane Lahti**, former Lake Superior Water Basin leader, recently received the 2008 Environmental Stewardship Award. The [Lake Superior Binational Forum](#) honored Lahti as a tireless department employee and advocate for the Lake Superior area's water resources.

At a meeting in Superior, the Forum's U.S. co-chair Bruce Lindgren gave the award to Lahti for his leadership in the protection and enhancement of Lake Superior over a 30 year career.

Lahti started with the department in 1980 and spent most of his career as a water regulation and zoning specialist at Brule. In 1992, he became the Lake Superior Basin leader, stationed in Superior until his retirement this January. He now resides in the community of Oulu in northwest Bayfield County.

## **Common sense approach wins Lahti public's confidence**



Former Lake Superior water basin leader Duane Lahti, (left) received the 2008 Environmental Stewardship Award from Bruce Lindgren, co-chair of the Lake Superior Binational Forum.  
WDNR Photo

The Northern Region's Water Media leader **Tom Jerow** said that as a Water Regulation and Zoning specialist and basin leader, Lahti demonstrated a common sense approach necessary to earn the respect and confidence of the public. He went on to explain that Lahti helped the City of Superior develop and implement the Special Area Management Plan that balances the need to protect wetlands with growth. The majority of the city's vacant land is designated as wetlands.

"Duane's efforts are perhaps best exemplified in what you don't see versus what you can see, Jerow said, "as someone who used the public trust doctrine to back him up. When property owners wanted to privatize lake beds, Lahti stood up to them all the way to the Supreme Court."

Lahti's efforts helped shape the broad interpretation that the waters of the state belong to and should be held in trust for the citizens of the state, Jerow said. To that end, he envisioned the restoration of the river and worked for the removal of the Orienta Dam on the Iron River in Bayfield County. After years of working with the owners of the structure and other parties, the dam was removed and the resource restored.

### **He led the way in dealing with lake contaminants**

The former basin leader played a key role building consensus on the Wisconsin Lake Superior Public Advisory Team in its efforts to develop a special designation for toxic substance discharges to Lake Superior. Lahti led the way in removing contaminated sediments from Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet. He oversaw the contamination investigation and helped establish cleanup standards at the Ashland Northern States Power Lakefront Superfund Site, Koppers/Crawford Creek and countless other projects.

Through Lahti's efforts, the St. Louis River became a candidate for designation under the National Estuary Research Reserve program. He worked closely with groups such as the St. Louis River Citizen Action Committee on issues impacting the Area of Concern.

### **Colleagues stand to recognize Lahti**

In the words of **Mike Cain**, an attorney for the DNR, "throughout his career Duane has

exemplified "superior efforts" to protect Lake Superior and its ecosystem.”

Those sentiments are shared by members of the Binational Forum and the many people that Lahti touched over his career. Among those in the crowd giving him a standing ovation at the presentation was former Lake Superior basin educator Nancy Larson, who later went on to replace Lahti.

The Lake Superior Forum has tackled issues such as toxic substances, pollution prevention, habitat protection and sustainability. The Forum annually honors extraordinary efforts by individuals and organizations that protect and restore Lake Superior’s natural environment.

**Footnote:** *Jim Bishop is the public affairs manager for the Northern Region.*

  
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## **Photos and writings will make up 2009-10 Great Lakes calendar**

*By: Jo Temte, Office of the Great Lakes*

With the release of the 2008-2009 “Discover Wisconsin's Great Lakes” calendar, the DNR Office of the Great Lakes kicked off its annual photo contest, in search of photographs for the 2009-2010 calendar.

Photographers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, California and as far away as Germany submitted photos for the next calendar. DNR employees contributed several beautiful photos.

In addition to seeking photos, the department asked for writings about the Great Lakes. The office received three poems and one song. DNR employee **Catherine Khalar**, financial specialist stationed in Brule, sent in the poem "Superior Memories."

To see all photo and writing submissions, visit the [“2009 Great Lakes Photo Contest”](#) webpage.

**Footnote:** *Jo Temte is a water resources management specialist and coordinates production of the annual Great Lakes calendar.*

  
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## **Two from the community help Customer Service and Licensing**

They'd probably go unnoticed as they always remain focused on performing essential services for the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing. Sponsored by Community Work Services, **Reem Ezalarab** and **Rachel Karch** contribute to the day-to-day functions that make the DNR's customer service so successful.

Community Work Services is a non-profit agency dedicated to placing challenged adults in the community so that they can contribute in a work environment.

### **Ezalarab keeps recreational vehicle licenses moving**



Reem Ezalarab, dressed in her "signature" pink, prepares to mail licenses to owners of recreational vehicles.

WDNR Photo

Reem Ezalarab works Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. mailing out boat, snowmobile and ATV licenses.

Ezalarab attended Memorial High School in Madison and currently lives with her parents and 16-year-old sister. During her free time, she enjoys bowling with Special Olympics, listening to music and spending time on her computer. She loves the color pink and usually wears it every day.

### **Karch is responsible for shredding confidential documents**

Rachel Karch also works in Customer Services and Licensing, where she can be found between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Karch shreds confidential paper for her bureau, but eventually will expand her service to include confidential paper collected from several floors in GEF 2.





Rachel Karch stands beside the paper shredder that she uses daily.  
WDNR Photo

She moved to Madison from Appleton last summer, where she lives on the near west side near her parents and brother. She loves listening to music, taking long walks and swimming.

Riding the fast roller coasters at Great America is another love of Karch's. Last summer, she went bungee jumping at the Wisconsin State Fair. If you see her around, be sure to say "Hi Rachel." She'll appreciate it.

  
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## **South Central adds 3,000 miles to its biking/walking challenge**

*By: Hank Kuehling, South Central Region*

It seems that every year the weather at the beginning of March is less than conducive to biking or walking to work, and this March is no exception. But, that's going to change before we know it, so what better time to begin South Central Region's (SCR) Fifth Annual Biking/Walking To Work Challenge--this year upping it to a 15,000 Mile Challenge.

Last year 45 SCR employees logged close to 18,000 miles during the challenge, smashing to smithereens the goal of 12,000 miles. In addition, sponsors donated \$750 to charity. Every year is different, however, so we'll see how we do against the challenge of 15,000 miles this year.



John Olson, a SCR engineer stationed at Nevin, consistently bikes to work as weather permits. This photo was taken a year ago, with deep snow still on the ground.

WDNR Photo

Again this year, the challenge is extended to all staff in South Central Region. As with past challenges, several employees have volunteered to support participants that are biking and walking to work by either donating a specified amount of money per mile logged (usually either a half-cent or one cent per mile) or by donating a specified amount (usually between \$50 and \$100) if the challenge is reached or surpassed. Some supporters donate both on a per-mile basis and a challenge-met basis.

In the past four years, donors sponsoring the challenge have made a huge difference in the amount of SCR's charitable contributions. The primary charity will again be the Second Harvest Food Bank, although each contributor can designate a charity of their choice. Another option will be to tie these donations to the "Partners in Giving" campaign in the fall, around the completion of the challenge.

Miles that qualify for the challenge, whether biked or walked, are those:

- commuting miles to and from work, either here at Nevin or other SCR work sites,
- commuting miles ridden to other sites for work purposes, e.g. from Nevin to GEF 2 for a meeting.

Even if a participant rides only a few times this year, their miles will go toward the 15,000 mile target. Those that live far away from work are encouraged to consider driving part of the way to work, parking their car for the day, and biking or walking the rest of the way.

A closing word of caution: If you're eager for spring and ready to hop on your bike or lace up your walking shoes, be alert for ice on pavements and sidewalks, especially on days following a previous day's thaw or snowstorm. Remember, it's still March in Wisconsin, which brings high school tournaments to town, often accompanied by snow.

**Footnote:** *Hank Kuehling is a hydrogeologist stationed in Fitchburg.*

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## Lake Delton fisheries restoration on track

*By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region*

Agency water staff expects Lake Delton to be refilled by Memorial Day, and in conjunction with local groups, will begin this spring to restore the lake's fishery.

"We will be stocking into Lake Delton starting in early spring and continuing through the summer and into fall," said **Scot Stewart**, South Central Region fisheries program manager, located in Fitchburg. The department also plans to stock in 2010 and 2011, added Stewart.



Fish soon will occupy the refilled Lake Delton, pictured here following the 2008 flood that caused the breach allowing the lake to drain completely into the Wisconsin River.

WDNR Photo

Heavy rain last June caused a catastrophic breach of 267-acre Lake Delton at County Highway A, followed by total dewatering into the nearby Wisconsin River. The lake's fishery either flushed into the river or remained stranded on the lakebed.

The lake began refilling last December after reconstruction work was launched on County Highway A and "enough work was completed last fall to allow the lake to partially fill, but additional work needs to be completed to allow the lake to reach full pool," said Andy Morton, DNR Lower Wisconsin River Basin leader.

The department also conducted a carp eradication project last December on the portion of Dell Creek flowing between Mirror Lake and Lake Delton, and in a coffer dam pool on the lakebed.

"The carp project resulted in almost a 100 percent kill and that's good news because carp compete with native fish species, destroy aquatic habitat, roil water and stir up sediment which reduces water clarity," said Stewart.

The Bureau of Fisheries Management has approved stocking quotas for all species raised by the state. The remainder of fish needed for stocking either will be transferred downstream from nearby Mirror Lake or obtained from private hatcheries, added

Stewart. Local groups are helping with fundraising to offset the stocking costs.

Forage fish slated for stocking include fathead minnows, golden shiners and white suckers. Largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye, bluegill, black crappie and channel catfish are the sport fish that will go into the refilled lake. According to Stewart, it will take three to four years of growth for the bass and walleye to reach the legal size for taking.

**Footnote:** *Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*

  
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