

DNR eDigest

Editor: [Diane Brinson](#), (608) 266-5215

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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 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.

April 9, 2009

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Wildlife Federation names Steffes Conservationist of the Year

At its annual meeting on April 4, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) named **Dick Steffes**, real estate director in the Bureau of Facilities and Lands, its Conservationist of the Year. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the state's largest conservation organization, cited Steffes' part in DNR's purchase of over 700,000 acres during his tenure. These lands are dedicated to wildlife management, fisheries management, state parks, forests and natural areas.

"Whether you are a hunter, angler, trapper, hiker, biker, logger, bird watcher, camper or

just enjoy Wisconsin's scenic beauty, your life has been greatly enriched by the fine work done by Dick Steffes during his thirty-five year career," said Lil Pipping, WWF President. "All of our lives and the lives of future generations will be richly enhanced by the land that has been protected through Dick's efforts."



Real estate director Dick Steffes recently received the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's prestigious 2008 Conservationist of the Year Award.
WDNR Photo

Steffes started his career as a DNR relocation specialist, but quickly moved into acquisition. During his career, he's been involved in securing nearly three quarters of a million acres of forest and recreational land for the people of Wisconsin, making him someone who forever will be part of our state history, said Pipping.

Remarks made by Pipping at the award presentation pointed out that "Steffes was instrumental in building the acquisition program that supported the public's approval to create the Stewardship Program in 1990, and the reauthorization in 2008." Land trusts, local governments and the state have been able to protect more than a half million acres for outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and endangered species because of the Stewardship Fund.

Steffes credits great team for successful acquisitions

Pipping went on to refer to Steffes as "patiently negotiating--often over years--seizing opportunities, working behind the scenes and pulling off spectacular acquisitions. Known as a nice guy with a quick laugh, but a tough negotiator, he squeezes everything he can out of every state dollar."

In accepting the award, Steffes made a point of telling the gathering that he is merely one of a great team working on land acquisition.

"Dick is a thorough professional and has worked extremely well with thousands of

landowners, real estate professionals, other DNR employees, senior staff and elected officials to ensure that these important lands are protected and that the taxpayers' money has been wisely invested," said George Meyer, WWF executive director and former DNR secretary.

"Dick has a way of dealing with highly complicated and intricate business transactions in a manner which appears effortless and sets everyone's mind at ease, but underneath we know that it takes a great deal of hard work and a vast degree of experience."

A partial list of land purchases Steffes was involved in or personally negotiated on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin include: the Chippewa Flowage, the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage, the Dells of the Wisconsin River, the Mountain Bay State Trail, the Willow Flowage, the "Great Addition", Capital Springs Centennial State Park, Governor Thompson State Park, Straight Lake Wilderness State Park and Wildlife Area, Gov. Nelson State Park, the Peshtigo River State Forest, the Wild Rivers Legacy Forest, Rainbow Springs and the Turtle Valley Wildlife Area.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is comprised of 168 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry related organizations located in Wisconsin, and is the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

"Preserving our outdoor traditions and nature-based tourism economy is only possible if we protect our natural lands and ensure quality land is open to the public for hunting, fishing and recreation, and Dick Steffes has been a quiet force making remarkable investments in public land, that future generations will cherish," said Pipping.


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Department releases draft master plan for Straight Lake State Park

By: Ken Brokaw, Northern Region

The department has released the ["Draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment \(EA\) for Straight Lake State Park and Wildlife Area"](#) for public review and comment.

The Natural Resources Board approved the purchase of the 2,779-acre property in Polk County in March 2005. Governor Jim Doyle followed up on the board's decision by approving the project the following month. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is providing project funds.

In addition to going to the website [website](#), the public can find copies of the draft plan at the Luck Public Library, 21 2nd St.; the Frederic Public Library, 127 Oak St. West;

and the Balsam Lake DNR office, 941 Mallard Ln. #104, or by calling 715/483-3747.

The DNR also will hold a public information meeting to discuss and receive comments on the draft master plan and environmental assessment on Thursday, April 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the "DBS" Hall, 300 1st St. in Luck. The "DBS Hall" is disabled accessible.

Property manager **Kurt Dreger** explained that the primary objective of the meeting is to share the results of the draft master plan and environmental assessment with the public and receive their comments.

"There will be a 15 to 20 minute introductory presentation at 6:15 p.m., followed by an open house style discussion and listening session. Members of the public will have the opportunity to personally ask questions and discuss the draft master plan with DNR staff," said Paul Kooiker, program and planning analyst in the Northern Region.

The department will take into consideration those comments received on the plan when it revises it for presentation to the NRB for its approval, tentatively scheduled for this June's board meeting.

Comments may be submitted until April 27 via the master plan website. Written comments also may be submitted until April 27 via email to [Paul Kooiker](#); by mail to him at WDNR, PO Box 367, Grantsburg WI 54840-0367; or by FAX at 715/463-5806.

Footnote: *Ken Brokaw is the team leader for the Straight Lake State Park and Wildlife Area master plan process.*


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Horicon Marsh Education Center now open to the public

By: Bill Volkert, Horicon Marsh Education Center

Now open to the public, the new Horicon Marsh International Education Center serves as a destination and a gateway for visitors to Horicon Marsh, as well as providing year-round educational opportunities. Under construction since late 2007, the center reflects the partnership between the DNR and the Friends of Horicon Marsh International Education Center.

Sharing the new facility located on highway 28 between Horicon and Mayville with the Horicon Service Center, current hours for both operations are Tuesday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors also will be welcome on weekends from

April 18 through the end of May, and then again during the fall.



Yellow coneflowers, among others, bloomed in an established prairie during construction.
WDNR Photo

Darlene Luehring, customer service supervisor, was the key person working with the movers, coordinating with the region and working with staff. The move from the temporary location couldn't have happened without her. She did a lot to help get the service center up and running.

Plans are in the works for the grand opening and building dedication ceremony on May 15.

The 32,000-acre Horicon Marsh includes an 11,000 acre State Wildlife Area, with the remaining land designated a National Wildlife Refuge. The marsh received the prestigious title of "A Wetland of International Importance" in 1991, hence the current name of Horicon Marsh International Education Center. The marsh, also designated a Unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area.

One of the most renowned and recognized wetlands in Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest, its new Education Center will serve as a world-class educational facility. The center will focus on wetland and wildlife topics to help visitors understand the delicate natural relationships that exist at this marsh.



Facing across the marsh, this view showed how the building was built into the landscape and opens up to a great view of the marsh.
WDNR Photo

The center features an auditorium and high-tech audio/visual center, two classrooms with lab space for hands-on experiences, traveling exhibit area, gift shop, large public viewing area with a spectacular view of Horicon Marsh, and many other visitor

amenities. Except for the 3,500 square foot exhibit hall and a research library, all of the other facilities are fully-developed and will be open to the public. Future fundraising efforts through the Friends Group will focus on completing this display area, featuring museum-style exhibits.

The Friends of the Horicon Marsh International Education Center was formed in 1994 and over the past 14 years has worked tirelessly to raise nearly \$3 million towards the building's final project budget of \$5 million.

More than 500,000 people visit the marsh each year to observe wildlife in a natural setting, creating a huge demand for interpretive services. Through the DNR's wildlife education program, staff has provided professional training to 63 delegations of scientists from 39 foreign countries and conducted some 175 to 200 interpretive programs annually, reaching nearly 10,000 people.

Since 1984, the Horicon Marsh education program has conducted more than 4,000 programs for over 225,000 people--only a small proportion of the half million annual visitors to the marsh. We expect that the Education Center will provide something for everyone.

Footnote: *Bill Volkert is the wildlife educator and naturalist at the Horicon Marsh International Education Center.*


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Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year goes to Jeff Knorr

The Bureau of Law Enforcement recently named conservation warden **Jeff Knorr**, Fremont, the 2008 Wisconsin Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

The department created the Fremont station to address rapidly increasing use of the Wolf River and Lake Poygan by recreational boaters and fishers.



Northeast Region conservation warden Jeff Knorr is Wisconsin's Boating Law Enforcement Officer for

2008.
WDNR Photo

As Wisconsin's Boating Officer of Year, Knorr's nomination now will move on to compete for regional and national recognition through the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

Boaters and local governments oppose speed limits

When Knorr identified a safety problem on the Wolf River due to large boats operating at excessive speeds, he routinely met with opposition from some segments of the boating public and local governments when he attempted to address the controversial issue and impose restrictions.

"Often the argument against Jeff's efforts has been that there is no documentation of problems or accidents to indicate a safety issue," explained chief warden **Randy Stark**. "Jeff has been thoughtful and diligent, however, in collecting information in support of his safety concerns."

Some boat operators insisted that high performance boats required higher speeds due to hull design requirements. From an enforcement standpoint, Knorr documented various boat speeds using a radar gun and video camera, explained Stark

"Jeff also has been at the forefront of boat noise enforcement for his entire career," said Stark. "He teamed up with a retired noise engineer from Mercury Marine to develop noise measurement procedures. Jeff was the first to note that the usual stationary testing method has a primary design flaw." Stark added that Knorr continues to refine his shoreline test to develop testing procedures that are safe, accurate and identify boats that have illegal noise levels.

Stark concluded his praise of Knorr by pointing out that "Jeff knows the challenge he faces is an uphill battle with some denying the existence of a safety problem. He continues to persevere with energy and enthusiasm, however, knowing that the result of his labors will save lives."


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Biosurveillance enlists wasp to find destructive emerald ash borer

By: Andrea Diss-Torrance, Bureau of Forest Sciences

DNR Gypsy Moth and Invasive Forest Insect Program coordinator Andrea Diss-Torrance looks forward to enlisting the services of a native wasp (*Cerceris fumipennis*)

to perform “biosurveillance” in hunting down the highly-destructive emerald ash borer (EAB), this summer.

Using one insect to locate another is a new technique that has the potential to improve our ability to detect EAB infestations earlier and increase our options for minimizing the impact of the beetle on Wisconsin’s ash trees.



The adult emerald ash borer measures only about a half inch in length. Because of their small size and activity limited to three to six weeks a year, it’s rare to find an adult.
WDNR Photo

Awareness is one of the most important tools in preventing the spread of EAB. By itself, the pest spreads slowly. Humans have been moving EAB rapidly, however, primarily in firewood taken to the places we love best, our homes, vacation properties and parks.

EAB is not the only devastating forest pest moving in firewood. There are seven other pests and diseases transmitted in firewood in the Lake States alone. DNR strongly emphasizes the key role you can play by heeding and communicating the alert to **not move firewood long distances**. Instead, get your firewood near where you’ll use it.

The August 14, 2008 “DNR Digest” published a story on confirmed reports of emerald ash borer findings in Ozaukee and Washington counties, last summer. Read about this beetle and its potential deadly impact on the state’s estimated 765-million ash trees in [“First confirmed sightings of emerald ash borer in southeast Wisconsin.”](#)

Devastation of urban forests can’t be underestimated

Ash trees are prevalent in Wisconsin forests and landscapes, and the department is serious when talking about the potential for the borer to not only eliminate individual ash species, but all species of North American ash. In addition to this potential ecological disaster, extinction of ash would have a personal affect on many of us. About 20% of the trees in Wisconsin’s urban forests are susceptible white and green ash trees.

That the community will lose the intrinsic value of the tree is obvious. Homeowners and communities also will see: the loss of property values; increased costs associated with higher energy and water use to cool no-longer shaded homes, businesses and lawns; and the cost of removing and replacing the trees before they become a public safety

nuisance. At least one community had to make a hard choice to delay buying a fire truck in order to remove large numbers of dead ash that created a public hazard.

Preventing introduction and early detection are vital to minimizing the impact EAB will have on Wisconsin communities, both human and natural. The more time we can buy before EAB is established, the more time we have to develop better ways of managing it. Early detection of smaller populations of the pest is important because there are more options for managing small, isolated populations than there are once the pest is well established.

Detection of EAB challenging

Unfortunately, early detection of EAB is challenging. The borer isn't strongly attracted to specific scents like other species, such as the gypsy moth which uses a pheromone to attract a mate. While EAB prefers purple or green and vertical shapes, these too aren't strongly attractive at a distance. For these reasons baited traps haven't worked as well at detecting low populations of EAB when compared with baited traps used for other insects like the gypsy moth.



When it comes to locating the invasive emerald ash borer, the means used by the wasp surpass the technology used by humans.

WDNR Photo

Surveyors also look for sick ash and peel whole trees in search of larval EAB under the bark. Where no sick ash are appropriately located, surveyors have girdled ash trees to attract beetles to lay eggs, then peeled the trees before the pest could complete its lifecycle. While more sensitive in finding EAB populations at lower levels, peeling is time consuming and expensive.

Wasps lend themselves to EAB detection

DNR staff members are excited by the work of Philip Careless, a researcher with the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Careless has been studying a native solitary wasp (*Cerceris fumipennis*) in the hopes of using it to detect EAB. This wasp hunts for specific beetles to feed her young, taking only beetles in the same family as EAB and about the same size.

By watching what beetles a wasp brings to her nest, and how long it takes her to return

with a borer, a surveyor can determine whether a population of EAB is located close to the nest. While this may sound risky, *C. fumipennis* is docile with people and doesn't sting even when handled.

Careless has been improving techniques for working with natural populations of this gentle wasp and currently is developing a way to house wasps in artificial nests which would allow surveyors to move them where they suspect the presence of EAB.

This summer, forest health staff from DNR and the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will survey parts of southeast Wisconsin and state properties at high risk for EAB for the presence of naturally occurring nests of wasps. Once these nesting grounds are identified, surveyors will monitor wasps at selected sites on a trial basis to determine if they bring beetles back to their nests.

If the results are promising, and Careless is successful this summer in improving on movable nests, Wisconsin may add biosurveillance with *C. fumipennis* to its detection methods for EAB.

Take personal responsibility and pass it on

While field work and trials are occurring, the department calls for employees to take precautionary steps personally and professionally. As a DNR employee, you have a unique opportunity to both personally abide by the law, while at the same time making the public you encounter in your job and personal life aware of the serious impact of this invasive species on the rural and urban forests we all enjoy.

One of the best parts of camping is a campfire, and a fire in the fireplace makes for a cozy winter evening. Let's make sure, however, that we aren't bringing in a pest with the firewood that will devastate the trees in the places we value most.

Obtain your wood for burning at the campsite, the cabin or your home close to where you'll use it. Don't move it long distances. You might save a few bucks, but it will cost you a lot more if EAB or any of the other pests and diseases moving on firewood go on to kill the trees on your property, in your community or at your favorite campground.

In addition, moving hardwood firewood out of areas quarantined for EAB can cost a lot in fines. Last summer, Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac and Sheboygan counties were placed under federal quarantine for EAB, joining Illinois, lower Michigan, parts of upper Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and parts of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Ontario, Canada. New counties may be added to the federal quarantine at any time of the year, and all hardwood firewood is included in the quarantine.

For updates on quarantined areas, go to ["Wisconsin's Emerald Ash Borer Resource Information Source"](#) webpage.

DNR also has taken steps to regulate the firewood that is allowed onto state lands to help

reduce the spread of EAB and other invasive pests and diseases. For more information on regulations on firewood entering state lands, go to [“Firewood Facts, Rules & Advice.”](#)

Learn more, equip yourself to slow down this destructive invasive

The "Wisconsin's Emerald Ash Borer Resource Information Source" site above will better equip you to perform as a line of defense against this invasive pest that potentially can cause heavy damage to Wisconsin's ash trees. Also, visit DNR's Forest Health Protection [“Emerald Ash Borer”](#) webpage. Here you'll read about the [“Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Response Plan,”](#) a collaborative undertaking amongst State of Wisconsin and federal agencies, as well as the University of Wisconsin.

If you're interested in learning more about the use of the [wasp \(*C. fumipennis*\)](#) in detecting emerald ash borer, check out the following sources:

- [“Wasps may help locate ash borers,”](#) posted to the “Journal Sentinel Online” on March 18;
- [“Questions and answers about the EAB wasp project,”](#) written by Philip Careless;
- [“Native wasp to be used in search for harmful forest pest,”](#) a news release from the USDA Forest Service office in Durham, New Hampshire;
- [“From observation to forest health application,”](#) a feature article also posted by the USDA's New Hampshire Forest Service office.

Footnote: *Andrea Diss-Torrance is DNR's Gypsy Moth and Invasive Forest Insect Program coordinator.*


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Web redesign winners named; redesign project site goes live

During the month of February, DNR employees were encouraged to submit suggestions to improve the look of the DNR's Internet homepage. The intent of the competition was to allow both technical and non-technical employees an opportunity to be part of the new look of our website and work collaboratively to improve service to our customers. The Web Redesign Project Steering Committee helped score 22 entries based on design criteria.

Stay tuned for more information about the next steps in our redesign process.

Congratulations go out to everyone who participated in this part of the process. **Here**

are the winners:

- 1st Place: **Lori Compas**, Bureau of Forest Services
- 2nd Place: **Bonnie Gruber**, Bureau of Parks and Recreation
- 3rd Place: **Alisa Santiestaban**, Bureau of Fisheries Management
- 4th Place: **Jeff Margenau**, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing

Those receiving honorable mention:

- **Marty Burkholder, Josephine Pradella and Anne Urbanski**, Bureau of Air Management
- **Jeff Schuetz**, Bureau of Law Enforcement
- **Eric Ballas**, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment
- **Diane Anderson**, Division of Forestry in Woodruff

The Website Redesign Steering Team also thanks the following employees for their entries and suggestions. **Michael Diss-Torrance**, Bureau of Technology Services; **David Ekern**, Bureau of Science Services; **Barry Gilbeck**, West Central Region; **Craig Hollingsworth**, South Central Region; **Mary Hunter**, Bureau of Customer Service & Licensing; **Janet Hutchens**, Bureau of Education & Information; **Mike Kvitrud**, Bureau of Science Services; **Kirstie Larsen**, Northern Region; **Alice Miramontes**, South Central Region; **Dolores Sirek**, Bureau of Watershed Management; **Lena Arvola** (three designs), Bureau of Education & Information; and **Sue Acre**, Bureau of Fisheries.

The Web Steering Team will meet with the top four entry designers on April 23. Compas, Gruber, Santiestaban and Margenau each will give a brief presentation on their own design and features they found interesting from any of the other 21 designs submitted.

The new DNR website design will be a combination of all the great ideas submitted.

The Web Redesign subteam will take the 22 designs that were submitted, along with information from the Web Redesign Steering Team and the Web Publishers and Internet Managers Team (WPIM) members and prepare two or three prototype websites. Once developed, these prototypes will be linked from the DNR homepage and will include a survey for input from all DNR staff and our external customers.

Web Redesign Team's Intranet site goes live!

The Redesign Team's Intranet site ["Web Redesign Project"](#) now is live.

You now can find information, ask questions, offer suggestions and monitor the progress of the Web Redesign Project. Navigate the site to see who is on the Website Redesign Steering and Technical teams, as well as learn more about the scope of the project. There

also are links to “DNR Digest” stories and some great testimonials.

With each new development, DNR employees express their excitement about the new website. This Intranet site is another opportunity where you can read about new developments and provide input.

Footnote: *Sue Acre, Bureau of Fisheries Management; John Bushman, Bureau of Technology Services; and Margie Damgaard, Bureau of Drinking and Groundwater are members of the Web Technical Team and contributed to this article.*


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Four from DNR win Great Lakes calendar photo contest

By: Jo Temte, Office of the Great Lakes

Four DNR staff members earned top honors for their entries in the Office of the Great Lakes first annual “Discover Wisconsin’s Great Lakes” photography contest and will have their photos featured in a calendar available this summer.



Robert Rolley photographed and submitted “Historic Fishing Boats.”
WDNR Photo

“Historic Fishing Boats” by **Robert Rolley**, Bureau of Science Services, placed second in the category “Cultural and Historic Features.” “Any Moment Now” by **Gervase Thompson**, Brule Fish Hatchery, placed second in the of “Natural Features and Wildlife” category. Photos by Thompson, as well as **James Christopoulos** in the Bureau of Wildlife Management, and **Catherine Khalar** at Brule State Forest, also placed in the “top ten” in one or more of the contest’s four categories.

Congratulations to all DNR photography contest winners. To see the winning photos, visit the [“2009 Great Lakes Photo Contest”](#) website and click on the “Winning Photos” link. Use your headphones to hear the slideshow soundtrack.

The Office of the Great Lakes will begin accepting photos for next year’s contest on

August 6, 2009. For more information, contact [Jo Temte](#).

Footnote: *Jo (Glenna) Temte is a water quality specialist in the Office of the Great Lakes.*


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Editor's Note: link corrected for employee recognition photos

By: Diane Brinson, Bureau of Education and Information

In the March 26 issue of the DNR Digest” you read the story [“Recognize fellow employees in special May 'DNR Digest.”](#) In this story, I requested that you send photos of your co-workers to a folder on a common drive, so I can review and prepare them for publication. Unfortunately, the shortcut/link wasn't working.

Use this link: \\central\ntcommon\2009_Employee_Recognition_Photos, which will take you right into the folder where you can save your photos for the special recognition issue. If you have any problems doing this, contact me at [Diane Brinson](#) or 608/266-5215.

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


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Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day in variety of venues

By: Lance Green, Bureau of Air Management

Plant trees, save paper, stand together

The DNR central office Green Team invites department employees to celebrate this year's Earth Day and Arbor Day with a series of events, activities and displays during the week of April 20 to 24. Since both of these special days are during that same week, the team is observing the vital connection between the trees we grow and conserve, and the paper they provide us.

Events during this special week will include:

- **Wisconsin Forests and Climate Change Lecture: Avery Dorland**, forest geneticist

and nurseries specialist in the Bureau of Forest Sciences and leader of the “Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts Forestry Working Group” will explain how climate change is affecting our state forests. Monday, April 20 at 11:45 a.m. in Room G09 of GEF 2.

• **Arbor Day Capitol Tree Planting:** Join schoolchildren from Weyauwega Elementary, state dignitaries, Smokey Bear, Bucky Badger and invited guests in the Arbor Day Big Tree planting ceremony at the corner of Main St. and Martin Luther King Blvd. on the capitol square. The Bruce Company, of Madison, will spade plant a 10-year-old swamp white oak donated by the Wisconsin Nursery Association (WNA). Local area musician Ken Lonquist will lead the children in song and debut his new composition “Why Plant Trees?” Festivities start at 10:15 a.m. on Friday, April 24.



School children planted a tree on the Capitol grounds during Earth Day/Arbor Day festivities in 2006. WDNR Photo

• **Lunchtime Walks Around the Capitol Square:** Pick up a guide map of the Capitol Park trees at our Good Day Cafeteria (1st floor, GEF 2) display. Walk around the square to learn and test your tree ID abilities. Bruce Allison, local author and arborist who conducted the "Capitol Park Tree Structure Stability Study," will lead tours on Wednesday, April 22. On Thursday, April 23, Bill Beckman, Department of Administration’s Capitol Grounds superintendent, will lead the tour. He knows the trees well and can provide insights on their history and management.

• **Tree Seedling Giveaway:** Come to the Good Day Cafeteria during lunchtimes this week and pick up one or more evergreen seedlings from a DNR nursery to plant at your home or other property. The give-away will start on Wednesday, April 22 and will continue each day at lunch until 200 seedlings are gone.

• **Tree of Green Pledges:** Pledge to do something that will lessen your impact on the earth and display your commitment by hanging "pledge leaves" on a tree in the Good Day Cafeteria. Even if each individual action is small, together they can make a big difference. This activity is taken from DNR's new Climate Change Activity Guide for seventh to 12th grade teachers.

• **Sustainability and Planting Trees:** Check out the displays all week in the Good Day Cafeteria to find out how to plant trees and learn about sustainable forestry practices for landowners.

• **DNR Paper Use--How Can We Reduce It?:** Staff will read in an April 23 "Digest" story how programs are reducing and eliminating paper use, as well as how to reduce your own paper use. Please contact Lance Green (details below) if you have a story to tell

• **Recycled Paper Options:** How do the sustainable benefits derived from using our present copy/print paper with 30% post-consumer waste compare with using 100%

recycled paper? What about costs, i.e. can we conserve enough to cover the difference? The Bureau of Endangered Resources has been using 100% recycled for several months. Find out more at our display in the cafeteria and in the “DNR Digest” article during the week.

Contact [Lance Green](#) for more information on these activities, or if you’d like to volunteer to help.

We’re grateful for the members of the DNR Green Team for pulling all the activities together. Thanks go to: **Genny Fannucchi**, Bureau of Forest Services; **Ryan Conner**, Bureau of Forest Management; **Autumn Sabo**, Bureau of Education and Information; **Cynthia Hoffland**, Bureau of Facilities and Lands; **Dawn Hinebaugh**, Bureau of Endangered Resources; **Linda Morgan**, Bureau of Technology Services; and **Barb Bickford**, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management.

Footnote: *Lance Green is an air management specialist and chairs the central office Green Team.*


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South Central Region names outstanding conservation wardens

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

South Central Region conservation wardens **Tyler Strelow**, Fitchburg; **Rick DeWitte**, Cassville; and **Dave Walz**, Watertown recently received kudos for their outstanding law enforcement efforts during 2008.



South Central wardens recently recognized for their performance during 2008: (left-right) John Buss (see story in March 26 “DNR Digest”), Tyler Strelow, Rick DeWitte and Dave Walz.
WDNR Photo

Strelow aided those caught off guard in snowstorm and floods

Tyler Strelow, who is responsible for eastern Dane County, was honored as tops among

his peers for administering and conducting safety programs and investigating accidents involving hunting, boating, ATV operation and snowmobiling.

When weather extremes stranded miles of travelers on the interstate in February 2008 and the June 2008 floods threatened lives and property, warden Strelow played a key role in assuring safety.

“Tyler’s program addresses safety education as well as enforcement in Dane County,” said warden supervisor **Jeremy Plautz**, Fitchburg. “He is a skilled taxidermist and has made several pheasant decoys for use in addressing road hunting problems.”

DeWitte recognized for environmental enforcement work

Veteran conservation warden Rick DeWitte recently received recognition for his outstanding law enforcement efforts during 2008 in the field of environmental protection.

DeWitte, whose area of responsibility covers the southern half of Grant County, was singled out as tops among his peers in the region for working to prevent degradation of the region’s air, land and water.

“Rick is an outstanding conservation warden and was heavily involved in matters related to last year’s June flooding and animal waste runoff,” noted warden supervisor **Chuck Horn**, Dodgeville.

Walz serves up a mix of enforcement and education

Warden Dave Walz, who serves in Jefferson County, received commendations as the region’s Outstanding Warden for 2008.

Serving in Jefferson County, Walz ranked tops among South Central Region’s warden force not only for his conservation law enforcement efforts, but for programs in outdoor safety, public relations, protecting the environment and working with other agencies.

“Dave has developed a (law enforcement) program within his administrative area that is a good blend of enforcement activities and educational initiatives,” said Plautz.

His peers also honored Walz for several rescue efforts in 2008. During the June floods, he used a flat bottom boat to assist with evacuating residents from a Fall River apartment. He also worked with the utility company to shut-off services to many flooded homes, thereby eliminating the danger of electrocution.

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

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Make Travel Connections to help save fuel and emissions

By: Josie Pradella, Bureau of Air Management

Travel Connections is back!

If you've ever looked for a good way to hitch a ride with other DNR employees either going to the same meeting or an event in the same location, you need look no further than the "[Travel Connections](#)" website. The DNR Green Team is behind this ride sharing undertaking, with the goal of reducing the use and cost of vehicles, fuel and emissions. The establishment of effective working relationships is the "frosting on the cake."

Originally begun in 2004, this service has been defunct for the past few years because of restructuring of the department's website and staff changes.



Natasha Kassulke advertised her need to share a ride. Kassulke is creative products manager for the Natural Resources Magazine in the Bureau of Education and Information.

WDNR Photo

This ride match service helps people share rides, whether as the driver or the passenger, going on a work-related trip. For example, many DNR employees are involved with the Wisconsin State Fair. Why not rideshare to this annual event? Or how about your program's statewide meeting or that training in the use of program-specific processes or equipment?

"Travel Connections" is easy to navigate and can minimize the number of state-owned vehicles on the road. Even our children can explain the benefits of doing that.

Lena Arvola, Bureau of Education and Information; and Bureau of Customer Services and Licensing's **Matthew Weaver**, **Penny Kanable** and **Diane Brookbank** were responsible for making "Travel Connections" functional once again.

Bookmark the "Travel Connections" "[Travel Connections](#)" website so you have it the next time you arrange a trip or need a ride--to make your travel connections with ease.

Footnote: *Josie Pradella is an air specialist and has been on the DNR Green Team*

since 2002.


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Volunteers needed to spruce up southern parks for season

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

If you're looking for ways to actively celebrate Earth Day, join other volunteers to help spruce up Wisconsin's environment during work days at Lake Kegonsa State Park (Stoughton), Governor Dodge State Park (Dodgeville), Mirror Lake State Park (Baraboo) and Wyalusing State Park (Bagley) on Saturday, April 25. You'll be helping ready these popular outdoor destinations for spring-through-fall visitors.

"With a tight economy, state park officials are anticipating more people will be looking for recreational opportunities close to home, and they expect state parks will be especially busy this summer," said Luthien Niland, Wisconsin State Parks liaison to the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. The Friends group is sponsoring and coordinating the volunteer work days.



Enjoy glorious sunsets from the shore of Lake Kegonsa.
WDNR Photo

Volunteers will help local Friends and each park's DNR staff by clearing debris from trails and campgrounds, making minor repairs to park structures, cleaning up beaches and waterfronts, and doing a variety of other activities.

"This is an opportunity for those who appreciate the beauty of Wisconsin's State Parks to give something back," said Niland.

The work days will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Except at Wyalusing, a rain date is scheduled for each park the next day, Sunday, April 26. Volunteers will dine on lunch and snacks that area businesses will donate. All participants also will receive Work • Play • Earth Day waterbottles.

Advanced registration is free, but required. If interested, find more information or register through the "[Friends of Wisconsin State Parks](#)" website. Also listed at this site are similar cleanups scheduled to take place at other parks around the state.

The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks is a nonprofit umbrella organization that works in support of local state park, forest and trail Friends groups around the state, assisting them with enhancing, preserving, and protecting Wisconsin State Parks and Trails.

Footnote: *Greg Matthews is South Central Region's public affairs manager.*



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“Centennial Reader” charts time and stories from Peninsula Park

John Nolan authored the report that recommended establishing a park system, and in 1909 the state legislature appointed a State Park Board. In his report, Nolan declared parks as a place to “refresh and strengthen and renew tired people.”

Thirty-five primarily Norwegian-speaking people lived in “the park” in 1909 that would become known that year as Peninsula State Park. Today, the park annually hosts as many as 2,000 campers from much more diverse backgrounds. As the story goes, the first Peninsula Park superintendent Albert E. Doolittle assured that campers were enjoying their stay by delivering groceries to their campsites.



Vida Weborg lived along Shore Road. She illustrated “Old Peninsula Days,” written by Hjalmar Holand, and also designed the bands of the memorial pole. The pole stands beside the grave site of Chief Kahqaudos, who is buried at the park's golf course.
WDNR Photo

The “Centennial Reader, A Collection of Histories and Stories” creates vivid images of these and other events as you’re transported through 100 years of memories. You’ll begin your journey with the 1913 poem “Tale of the Lone Pine;” move onto the sage

advice of Potawatomi Chief Simon Kahquados (1851-1930); and conclude the trip with “Curtain Call” the words of Fred Alley, who founded the American Folklore Theatre for the park in 1990.

For a list of signature events and much more to help celebrate this centennial milestone, go to the [Friends of Peninsula Park](#) website.

To purchase a copy of the 92-page “Centennial Reader,” contact park naturalist [Kathleen Harris](#) via email or phone 920/868-3258. You also can send a check for \$7.50 per book (\$5), plus shipping and handling (\$2.50) to Harris at Peninsula State Park, PO Box 212, Fish Creek, WI 54212.

Watch for a story on Peninsula Park’s first century in the June issue of the “Wisconsin Natural Resources” magazine.

Also, "on August 4, 2009, Peninsula will host ‘Talking Tombstones,’ an historical program at Blossomburg Cemetery,” reads a note from Harris included with the “Reader.” “If you are in Door County, I hope you’ll consider sharing your story as part of the event. For more information on how to get involved, please call me 920/868-3258.”



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DNR engineer volunteers to educate on climate change

By: Jim Crawford, Northeast Region

Wisconsin's citizens need to understand climate change. That’s why I volunteered to staff the DNR booth at the 2009 Einstein Project Science Fair, held in Green Bay on February 14. DNR’s climate change booth was among others sponsored by local companies, universities and agencies like U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Over 100 young scientists and their parents visited the DNR booth to plot March temperatures for Green Bay. Armed with data from 1897 to 2008, each visitor could plot mean, minimum and maximum temperatures for a specific year. Each received a handful of M & Ms, which we pretended were molecules of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere.



Jim Crawford (second from right) talked with teachers visiting his climate change exhibit at the Einstein Project Science Fair. His son Ben assisted by plotting 112 years of temperatures.
WDNR Photo

After plotting data, I reviewed two National Geographic magazine posters on global warming with those who visited the booth. My son Sam showed the National Geographic DVD “Six Degrees Could Change the World.” Also available was a pile of coal (big source of CO₂) to touch, posters and the report of the Governor’s Task Force on Global Warming, published in July 2008.

Most visitors agreed that we need more energy conservation, and we need to move to renewable energy, as soon as possible. A few were less hopeful that such changes will occur.

Parents showed a lot of interest in seeing the temperature trend. Fortunately, my other son Ben had plotted the 112 years of mean temperatures in Excel and matched a line to the data. The results suggest that March temperatures in Green Bay increased two degrees Fahrenheit in the last 20 years.

Throughout the day, science teachers picked up DNR publications on climate change, including the new “Climate Change: A Wisconsin Activity Guide—Grades 7-12” (DNR PUB#EI-7051). Kids’ interest leaned toward brochures on nuclear power.

Not only did our visitors learn about climate change, I learned their opinions on the subject and how well they’re informed. I’d recommend reaching out to the public at such events. You’ll need to study the science of climate change and shop around for supplies to offer a similar booth. I can suggest readings and lectures on climate change and policy. The weather station was happy to fax over the Green Bay temperature records. Local coal vendors provided samples. DNR landscape architect **Dan Rogers**, Green Bay, printed a banner and a graph to plot temperature. Oh, and don’t forget the most important part of the display—the M & Ms.

Footnote: *Jim Crawford is an air compliance engineer stationed in Green Bay.*

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Pilot Heath Van Handel died while on fire control duty

Heath Van Handel, 36, a DNR aircraft pilot with more than a dozen years of professional aviation experience, died April 8 when the twin-engine airplane he was flying as part of forest fire control activities crashed in Wood County.

Van Handel was flying a Cessna 337 aircraft as part of the Division of Forestry's response to a fire in the Town of Cary in Wood County. Van Handel was pronounced dead at the scene.



DNR aircraft pilot Heath Van Handel.
WDNR Photo

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration are investigating the cause of the accident.

In addition to his work as an air attack pilot providing intelligence on a fire's behavior and fuel type to personnel on the ground, DNR conservation pilots also handle a variety of other duties, according to aircraft pilot **Bob Clark**, who worked with Van Handel and the other Oshkosh-based pilots. The group of 10 full-time and 10 LTE pilots works with other divisions and bureaus providing observational, telemetry, and survey data.

Van Handel, who lived in Appleton, was married and the father of two children. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December 1996. In May 1999, he graduated with an associate technology certificate from the pilot program at Kansas State University in Salina.

Colleagues and friends said Van Handel considered the DNR pilot position his "dream job" because it gave him an opportunity to combine his passion for flying with his deep respect for natural resources.

"It is difficult to put into words the feeling Heath's colleagues have about his untimely passing," said Aeronautics Section chief **John Jorgensen**. "Heath's skills as a pilot were excellent. When Heath spoke, he was straightforward, to the point, and he contributed

greatly to the Aeronautics Section. For me, he represented the next generation of DNR pilots. Heath will be greatly missed.”

Van Handel’s funeral is scheduled for noon on Monday April 13 at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 140 S. Green Bay Road in Neenah. Visitation will take place at the church from 9 a.m. until noon on April 13. Go to [Google Maps](#) for directions to St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.

Send condolences to the Van Handel Family, 417 E. Frances St., Appleton, WI 54911. The department is establishing a memorial fund for the family and children, ages 2 and 4. Further information will be provided in the near future.


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