

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 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.

May 7, 2009

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2009 Employee Recognition Day photo gallery

By: DNR employees around the state



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Thomas Bauman, wastewater engineer
Gretchen Wheat, water resources engineer
Andrew Craig, water resources management specialist
Jim Pardee, environmental analysis & review specialist
Dave Panofsky, waste management engineer
Marney Hoefler, attorney
Robin Nyffeler, attorney

Members of the team from the Northeast Region:

Elizabeth Spaeth Werner, wastewater specialist
Elizabeth Heinen, water supply specialist
Bob Barnum: natural resources region program manager
Dan Helf, natural resources basin supervisor
Rob McLennan, natural resources basin supervisor
Al Stranz, natural resources region program manager

Excellence Award: **Peter Wood**, Southeast Region water resource engineer, for his work in the success of the stormwater program in southeast Wisconsin.

Footnote: *Kathleen Wolski is a public involvement and outreach manager in the Bureau of Education and Information.*


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Associated Recyclers honor Paul Wiegner and Cynthia Moore

Paul Wiegner, West Central Region recycling specialist, received the prestigious 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin. This award is given to an individual, business or community that has exhibited outstanding results from their recycling program.

Wiegner is an 18-year veteran of the department, working his entire career in the Waste and Materials Management Recycling program. His depth of knowledge and insightful perspectives have earned him the respect of the statewide recycling community and his peers. His ability to form collaborative partnerships and work innovatively with local units of government has played a large part in the success of the state's recycling programs.

AROW also presents Dixon Recycler of the Year award



AROW board member Toral Jha (right) presented the Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year Award to Cynthia Moore.

AROW photo

AROW also awarded its Christy Dixon Recycler of the Year to an “individual whose career demonstrates the highest professional standards in the recycling field.” Association board Member Toral Jha presented the award to **Cynthia Moore**, DNR’s Recycling Program coordinator.

Moore began working with the department in February 2001 in the position of Recycling Team leader. She moved into her position as the Recycling Program coordinator. After a brief period in the Office of Great Lakes in 2008, Moore returned to the post of Recycling Program coordinator.

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“Throughout her tenure with the DNR, Moore has been a strong advocate of product stewardship and electronics recycling in Wisconsin,” said Jha. “She

Conservation warden Matt Groppi is “ambassador” to Afghanistan

Matt Groppi is a member of the DNR’s 2008 class of conservation warden recruits. Before he was even assigned a work station, however, the Army Reserves called him up for training and deployment. It wasn’t long before he knew where he’d be stationed, Bagram in Afghanistan. An on duty staff sergeant, Groppi’s jobs in the war zone were military and customs law enforcement, giving him the rare opportunity to develop many of the skills he’ll employ when he returns to the states and the department.

As he tells the story, during his first stint in Bagram, Groppi met a captain assigned to the provincial reconstruction team charged with rebuilding the area’s infrastructure. Upon hearing from him that the local kids especially love pens, Groppi told family and friends who had wanted to send him “care packages” that he didn’t need anything, but they could donate supplies for the schools in the vicinity.



Matt Groppi displayed a snow leopard pelt used in training in customs enforcement.
WDNR Photo

“When I went through the DNR law enforcement academy, the importance of being active in the community was stressed, repeatedly,” said Groppi. He took that philosophy to Bagram with him.

With fellow warden and friend **Rick Peters**, Merrill, the two formed a partnership to collect and ship school supplies. Peters took the effort to the Wisconsin Conservation Wardens Association (WCWA), which agreed to cover the cost of shipping the supplies to Bagram. The WCWA also agreed to purchase additional items with cash donations it received.

“When Rick and Matt brought up the idea of supplying school supplies and clothing, the WCWA agreed to help organize and pay for the shipping of the supplies,” said DNR warden **Jim Jung**, Rhinelander, and secretary for WCWA. In addition to these items, association members have donated over \$300 toward the purchase of more supplies. Collections take place during warden training.

"I think many association members will be surprised when they get feedback from Matt on how much difference their single small donation can help folks that they have never met halfway around the world."

"Matt's efforts should be commended because this is something he does not have to do as part of his official duties but chose to do. He simply wants to make a difference," explained Peters.

Applying law enforcement and natural resources skills mutually beneficial

"The Bagram military base is like a small US town and, as in any town, there are laws that must be enforced," said Groppi. "I supervised law enforcement during my first four months of duty, then moved on to customs enforcement. I never dreamed that I'd have the chance to use and develop my conservation warden skills."

Groppi explained that customs enforcement meant checking the gear belonging to anyone on their way back to the states. He was conducting inspections to assure that no soil, invasive species or other items specified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as illegal were amongst the luggage. At the same time, he was learning about international trade laws.

Local vendors come onto base to sell their wares. Furs are a particularly popular item, Groppi said. It was his job to be on the look out for furs listed on the international treaty dictating what can and cannot leave Afghanistan enroute to other countries. "In the U.S., such items may fall under the endangered species act," he said.

"At home, I will have responsibility for working with trappers of furbearing animals," said Groppi. "There's a lot of wildlife in Afghanistan, and we have to assure that leopard, wolf and fox furs, which are illegal in the states don't get through base customs."

"When I enlisted, I was given kind of an entrance exam that tested aptitude. I wanted to be a military police officer, but I had no specific ideas about what that involved, " explained Groppi. "I chose to become an MP because I wanted to do something that would prepare me to become a warden. I'm glad that I have an opportunity to do work that's so similar to my duties as a warden."

Started base hunting and fishing club

"We actually started a hunting and fishing club over here. We get together twice a week and watch hunting and fishing videos," said Groppi. "Some of the guys have solicited some of companies and they've sent us quite a collection of

videos, magazines and catalogs. Some companies have even offered free outdoors trips to the soldiers when they return home.”

All of the members of the club are from Wisconsin, so he keeps current on changes in the state’s hunting and fishing regulations. Groppi is scheduled to return home early this fall.

Rebuilding includes Afghanistan’s educational system

Groppi explained that family and friends donating school supplies wanted to be sure that they got to those who needed them. That’s one of his duties. In return, he sends photos of the students to those at home, so donors can see the appreciation on the students’ faces.



According to Matt Groppi, students like this young man will put to good use the relatively simple items donated. This father holds a new notebook for his son.

WDNR Photo

“We delivered school supplies, clothing and other items to the Egyptian-run hospital on base because the people are poor and the kids really enjoy them,” said Groppi. “We’ll be going there on a regular basis, and I’ll also continue to give items away for the local schools.”

The list of items making their way to the hospital, schools and the community includes outdoor-related literature and videos, even if they’re old, that would be useful for the guys in my unit and for distribution to the locals; hunting and fishing clothing, including some WCWA shirts and hats; DNR publications on wildlife and habitat; classroom supplies, including crayons and coloring books.

Clothing donations, especially for the harsh winters are much appreciated, said Groppi. He plans to work with someone receiving donations of soccer balls, a popular sport in that region of the world.

Groppi enamored with the beauty of Afghanistan and its wildlife

While training in Mississippi before deployment, Groppi read a Time magazine article on the top 10 environmental heroes in the world. One was about the

Afghanistan woman who led the effort to create the country's first national park.

Wanting to learn more, he did online research and came upon the Wildlife Conservation Society in Afghanistan and began emailing a member of the organization. As fate would have it, this same person, the country's director for the Wildlife Conservation Society, came to base to train the customs enforcement soldiers on the furs they'd have to inspect.

Upon sitting down to talk with this man, Groppi learned that the society had written the management plan for the park. One of the goals for the park is to establish a trophy hunting program to serve as a source of revenue, explained Groppi.

He also discovered that the ["New York Times"](#), ["Reuters UK"](#) and the ["BBC" \(British Broadcasting Company\)](#) had run stories on the first park, located in the Band-e-amir Region of Afghanistan. "In the park, in the middle of the desert, there are six lakes as blue as any Caribbean waters," said Groppi.

Dreams of returning to a stabilized Afghanistan

"I would like to return one day as a tourist," said Groppi. "Afghanistan was a popular vacation spot before the Russian invasion in 1979, which lasted until 1989," explained Groppi. "The country has tremendous potential to once again become a flourishing tourist destination."

Grateful for support from wardens, friends and family

"I am thankful for the support of everyone back home, especially Rick Peters' and Jim Jung's work coordinating donations," said Groppi in closing.

"I will be able to take away several things from the deployment that will assist me in my duties as a conservation warden. From a legal standpoint, being able to research the laws governing trade of endangered species, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) and writing our unit's policy on fur inspections has been a great learning experience" said Groppi.

"From coordinating donations, I've learned how supportive people can be if you just ask for help. I look forward to finishing my field training when I return and using these experiences to promote conservation efforts in the area where I'm assigned."

In closing, chief warden **Randy Stark** praised Groppi's work: "We're really proud of Matt's service to our country and his commitment to serving the people and natural resources of Afghanistan. It's impressive how he's applied

the community involvement skills he learned in the DNR Warden Academy on an international level. It really underscores the universal importance of community involvement in solving problems."

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Ashenbrucker is Waste and Materials Management Employee of the Year

By: Ann Coakley and Jane Washburn, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management

Steve Ashenbrucker, a waste management specialist based at the Northern Region's Park Falls Office, was honored on April 16 with the Waste and Materials Management Program's Employee of the Year award for 2008.



Steve Ashenbrucker is Waste and Materials Management's Employee of the Year.
WDNR Photo

Ann Coakley, NOR Waste and Materials Management (WMM) Supervisor, recognized Ashenbrucker at a NOR WMM staff meeting. Steve earned this award for his outstanding work and the valuable assets he provides to the program in terms of knowledge, experience and judgment. He is admired and respected for the quality and value of work that he does, as well as for quietly voluntarily doing more than he is asked to do. He has been with the program since 1990.

Ashenbrucker worked on numerous high profile and sometimes controversial projects during the past year, including a large demolition project, closure work at a bankrupt landfill, and several enforcement cases. He is dedicated, dependable, and helpful. He has a high regard for others. Steve is humble and wise, serving without expecting recognition.

Other nominees for this annual award include: **Terry Hegeman**, hydrologist in the Northeast Region (NER); **Sandy Miller**, hazardous waste coordinator in the NE; **Marty Herrick**, engineer in the West Central Region (WCR); **Brian Kalvelage**, hydrogeologist in WCR; **Mike Ellenbecker**, waste management

specialist in the Southeast Region; **Bob Grefe**, engineer in the bureau; **Jane Washburn**, bureau office manager; **Sarah Murray**, communication specialist in the bureau; **Jack Connelly**, the bureau's solid waste program coordinator; and Cynthia Moore, recycling program coordinator.

Previous recipients of the Waste and Materials Management Program Employee of the Year have been **Colleen Storck, Barb Hennings, Paul Huebner, Sandy Miller, Jim Zellmer, Brad Wolbert, Ken Hein, Ann Bekta** and **Terry Hegeman**.

Congratulations to all!


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Employees and public recognize those they work with at DNR

"An open house and two public hearings were held on the environmental impact statement and proposed permit for Rosendale Dairy on January 22. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 600 to 650 people attended the events held at Ripon, some supporting the significantly increase of the dairy's herd, while others opposed it. The testimony portions were respectful and everyone was courteous and well-behaved. A great job was done by staff attorneys **Robin Nyffler** and **Marne Hoefler** as hearing examiners. Northeast Region basin supervisor Dan Helf did a great job of coordinating the logistics and organizing the many staff involved. The region also had great support from the **Watershed Management Bureau** and the **Air Management Bureau**. Kudos to all involved." **Ron Kazmierczak, Northeast Region director**

"I'd like to submit **Paul Wiegner** (waste management specialist) for recognition. He received the "2009 Recycler Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) in March 2009. This award is given to an individual, business or community that has exhibited outstanding results from their recycling program. We all know and appreciate how much Paul has given to the recycling program and community, and how much we depend on his knowledge and perspectives. It was wonderful to realize that others outside of our circle also have recognized his achievements." **Cynthia Moore, DNR Recycling Program coordinator in the Bureau of Waste and Materials Management**

"Two days ago I called your office for a remote camping permit and a woman in your office named **Jamie (Dahl, forestry ranger)** was one of the most helpful persons I've run into in a long time. I also spoke with a man (Terry Boone, forestry ranger/assistant property manager) who grooms the trails on the Overmeyer Hills area, who turned out to be just as helpful. We will be skiing on your famous cross country ski trails this weekend and this

would be an opportunity to thank your people and you for a great place to return to each year. During these days of shortfalls, more is expected of state government. These two people appear to be examples of great state employees." While we're probably not the wild spenders the Chamber of Commerce loves to see, we're still there six to seven times a year, and it's because of the state forest and its management that we return for skiing and canoeing. Thanks!" **Gary Birch, Stoughton**

"I want to extend my congratulations to **Lisa Gaumnitz, Mary Farmiloe, Carol Holden, Steve Sisbach** and **other department staff** who generated this radio spot. I am hearing positive feedback from all quarters. This is the best we have done in my opinion of getting the word out to farmers about hazards associated with runoff at this time of the year. Also note that "Wisconsin State Journal" reporter Ron Seely wrote ["Man's Passion for Sugar River translates into manure runoff control,"](#) a front page story in this morning's paper based on this radio spot. This is a home run. Congratulations everybody!" Gordon Stevenson, chief of the Runoff Management Section

"The **Bureau of Law Enforcement** (LE) would like to recognize three people who made program integration work at a higher level. Recognizing tighter budgets, less personnel availability and overall tougher economic times, the bureaus of Law Enforcement and Science Services teamed up to create a unified bill processing service. Science Services provided FTE for LE to offload WISMART and bill paying processes, **John "Jack" Sullivan's** leadership allowed it to happen, **Greg Pils'** willingness to share his staff and provide direction and the open mindedness and hard work by **Lisa Stacey** allowed the division to gain BIG in terms of efficiencies and savings. Lisa has just been superb! She's really streamlined LE's bill processing and has created efficiencies that two people could not have achieved before. Thanks LISA!"

Karl Brooks, deputy chief warden

"**Tami (Ryan, Southeast Region wildlife supervisor)**, I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciated the recent help from **Tim (Lizotte, CWD biologist)** and **Brian (Glenzinski, wildlife biologist)** to get the drawn down impoundment on the Bark River in the City of Delafield seeded. They helped me and my staff to work out an appropriate seed mix and ordered the seed. They assisted **Michelle Schneider** with answering questions from concerned citizens and City of Delafield officials regarding the seeding. Today, Tim accompanied me and several members of my staff to the impoundment and served as lead worker and "project manager" for the seeding operation. We were successful in getting about 80% of the areas seeded with a mixture of native seed and winter wheat. This highly visible and controversial project will continue to place demands on water program staff. The help your team provided is another excellent example of their can do attitude. Again, thanks for their support and assistance. **Jim D'Antuono, Southeast Region Fox basin team leader**

Missy Sparrow, Southeast Region wildlife biologist, and Southeast Region wildlife technicians Angie Rusch and Bob Zinkgraf received the following compliment: "Thank you all for your time and efforts in putting together our

wildlife booth at the Sport Show once again. It was well done (as per usual) and the new, interactive display was a hit for kids and adults alike! By the end of the day yesterday the buzzer was worn out - and may need some TLC before next year's show. Your leadership in running this exhibit is greatly appreciated." **Tami Ryan, SER wildlife supervisor**

"The Fox River project owes a special word of thanks to **Mark Allen** (chemist in the Bureau of Air Management) and Steve Geis for saving the day when it comes to air sampling for PCBs. TetraTech was able to arrange for the State Lab to do the analyses along with DNR's air samples but the details were only worked out last week. With that short a lead time, there wasn't much time to arrange for sampling media. The vendor for air sampling media is out of stock for the next month so there was a real possibility that the monitoring would not be started when dredging began. Mark reevaluated DNR's immediate needs and Steve Geis suggested a mechanism for replacing our supply that is advantageous to both DNR and TetraTech." **Donalea Dinsmore, air management specialist. Bruce Baker, Division of Water deputy director echoed Dinsmore's praise of Allen.**

"**Jane (Cummings Carlson**, forest health coordinator), I spent a pleasant and productive afternoon with **Brian Schwingle** (forestry plant pest and disease specialist, Rhinelander) on Wednesday. We were looking at aspen "decline" and some older hemlock with top dieback. The aspen issue seems to be regional, we have been looking at lots of struggling aspen trees in Minnesota with Mike Albers. Our survey crews mapped quite a bit of aspen dieback and scattered mortality in northern WI. Anyway, it was refreshing to spend some time with someone who is so enthusiastic about their job." **Steven Katovich, USDA Forest Service Saint Paul, MN**

"I would like to commend **Linda Williams**, (Northeast Region forest health specialist) and **Brian Schwingle** (plant pest and disease specialist) for their recent handling of a request for assistance from Roland Jorns in Door County. **Karl Martin** (chief of the Wildlife and Forestry Section) brought this request to me a few weeks ago. I was particularly pleased with how quickly Linda was able to respond and how responsible she was about collecting the needed information on Eutypella Canker. Brian really surprised me by thinking two steps ahead of me and contacting Dr. Blanchette to solicit interest in a research project to study Eutypella. Linda's quick and thorough response and Brian's actions on his great idea not only gave Roland quick service but provided the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers' Association with a proposal in a timely manner. The research idea will be brought to the table at next week's national maple syrup producers' meeting. I am very impressed with the great team work!" **Jane Cummings Carlson, forest health coordinator**

"Just wanted to let you know the great customer service we received from **Diane TenPas** (environmental program associate in the Southeast Region's Water Program. The copy machine was not working: message NO TONER. Lots of people were waiting on printing jobs. We called Diane. She was upstairs with new toner in two minutes. We were back working productively in five. It's so nice when it all works out." **Southeast Region headquarters**

staff

"A note of thanks for a staff that goes the extra mile. **Heidi Jasso** (environmental program associate in the Southeast Region) provided helpful advice and timely and accurate answers to several calls during a stressful reporting season, all the while exhibiting patience and courtesy. We appreciate this excellent customer service." Representative of the Environmental Department at WE Engergies

"On behalf of our facility and the Tower Avenue Green Team, thank you (**Peter McMullen**, SER Air Management program and planning analyst) for attending our Earth Day event! It was a great success. The information you shared, illustrated the many aspects and benefits of going green. Your knowledge and professionalism gained very positive feedback from our employees. We look forward to working with you for future events."

Representative of GE Healthcare Clinical Systems in Milwaukee

Footnote: In addition to getting the "It All Adds Up to Clean Air" message out at GE Healthcare, McMullen represented the Air Program at the Kohl's Corporation Earth Day celebration, which was attended by approximately 1,000 employees.

"Southeast Region ushered in a new era of enhanced communications when Secretary **Matt Frank** came to Southeast Region Headquarters to provide a budget briefing on Monday, February 23. Approximately 70 staff attended, and the entire region was provided webcast access through the outstanding work of regional information management specialists Pete Barker and **Fran Findley**. With very short notice and with brand new technology, Pete and Fran installed the new master equipment and arranged a cadre of site managers who facilitated webcast access to staff at all locations throughout the region. In addition, **Sandy Manthei** (financial assistance specialist) arranged a traditional teleconference hook-up to insure all staff had an opportunity to hear Secretary Frank." **Reported in the Southeast Region's management team meeting notes**

"Fisheries technician **Rick Randall** received the 2009 Special Contribution Award-Technical during the statewide Fisheries Management Conference."

Reported in the Southeast Region's management meeting notes

"I would like you to know what a professional employee you have working at Kohler Andrae. I worked with **Doris Kultgen** (labor helper/program assistant at Kohler-Andrae State Park) on January 10. Due to the candlelight hike event, the participants were lined up to the highway waiting to purchase their annual park stickers to enter the park. I understand that the attendance for the 2009 event was one of the largest in history. Doris provided each participant excellent customer service. She answered questions, sold stickers, answered phones, and even kept the office looking good...I felt it needed to be noted that you have an exceptional employee named Doris Kultgen." **A park volunteer**

The **executive director of the Federation of Environmental Technologists** thanked waste management specialist **Ron Kroepfl** for

helping organize the Vapor Intrusion Sampling for the Environmental Professional seminar in Brookfield on September 23. "Thank you once again for your support and the generous giving of your time and knowledge to make this program a success."

The **Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection** thanked Southeast Region Waste and Materials supervisor Frank Schultz for speaking at the wood utilization meeting held in West Bend on October 23. "I appreciate your willingness to speak on air and waste issues. We have received many positive comments and I am glad you could be a part of it."

"On behalf of the present and future City of Delevan residents," Mayor Mel Nieuwenhuis thanked **Southeast Region staff** "for your valued and irreplaceable assistance in our continuing efforts in the clean up and re-use of our Railroad Corridor Project."

"Responsiveness, efficiency, timeliness, effectiveness and consistency" are the watchwords for Smart Regulation, the Air and Waste Division's regulatory improvement effort. Launched in 2003, Smart Regulation has an impressive record of positive feedback from stakeholders and government officials. Several Southeast Region employees have been recognized for their efforts. Click on ["Air and Waste Division Success Stories"](#) to read this feedback.

Southeast Region waste management specialist **Mike Ellenbecker** received this message: "On behalf of the Milwaukee Bar Association, I want to thank you very much for the excellent presentation on Hazardous Waste Inspections you gave to the Environmental Law Section on January 21. The presentation was practical-based and very useful for the environmental law practitioners that viewed it. We greatly appreciate your interest and willingness to present the seminar." **Dave Ruetz, Milwaukee Bar Association**

The **US Fish and Wildlife Service** thanked Milwaukee Service Center manager **May Vang** for her special assistance in December: "I am writing to thank you for allowing May to assist us. Her help was invaluable. May's presence and ability to quickly clarify questions and answers was a great help to me. It was a pleasure to work with May. Her genial attitude and professionalism are a credit to the Department of Natural Resources."

The Plymouth Service Center Customer Service and Licensing Team was honored as the 2009 recipient of the "Wildlife Management Special Service Award" during the Wildlife Management Statewide Conference in Appleton on January 13. The team consists of Service Center manager **Deb Harder**, and customer service representatives **Bob Pfister** and **Cheryl Roehre**.

Safety and Risk Management section chief **Tom Joestgen** sent a note of appreciation to Southeast Region construction representative **Ken Anderson** for his efforts planning the replacement cold storage building at the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery. "You have done a great job for Southeast Region in the recovery of the building lost to fire at the Kettle Moraine Springs hatchery. I understand that you have bird dogged this issue all along and have set the bar pretty high in the world of insurance loss recovery. You have done your region a great service."

Southeast Region warden **Kevin Mickelberg** reports that **several wardens, especially in Waukesha and Racine Counties**, were instrumental in responding to the floods. "The wardens were actively involved in area command posts and played a significant role in field operations, helping with dams that were at risk of failure due to extremely high water levels. Many wardens were involved in notifying residents of pending threats and securing and protecting areas impacted by high water."

Neil Palmer, Village of Elm Grove president, sent this thank-you note to Southeast Region basin supervisor **Sharon Gayan**: "The recent record rain event demonstrated that the Elm Grove Flood Control Project was a huge success. And the citizens' reactions to the changes in the environment of the park have been overwhelmingly positive. The project would not have been possible without a cooperative partnership between the Village and the Department."

Bob Leaverton (wildlife technician stationed at Pike Lake State Park) received a thank you for extraordinary service from a **visiting camper**. The camper, who is diabetic, had broken her sugar glucose monitor. Worried that if she ordered a new unit it wouldn't be delivered to her campsite, Leaverton suggested that it be delivered to his home. Upon receiving the monitor, he delivered it to the camper. "Just wanted to let you know how much it was appreciated how you helped me get my blood sugar meter. It made the rest of our vacation go smoothly. We had a great time in Wisconsin. Thanks again."

SER fisheries technician **Cheryl Peterson** received the Mel Both Memorial Recognition of Service Award from the Racine Chapter of Salmon Unlimited. This annual award is given in honor of Captain Mel Both, who was an active conservationist throughout his life. Peterson received this award for her hard work and dedication to enhancing the Lake Michigan eco-system and promoting fishing for families and commercial fisherpersons.

To forest resource education and awareness specialist **Genny Fannucchi** and everyone involved in the production and distribution of the Arbor Day-Earth Day Calendars: "The calendar is a fabulous teaching tool, and students (who visit our tree farm) even ask if we have put a copy in their "take-home" bags. We appreciate your generosity in providing them to us and look forward to using them again this year for Arbor Day when we host students from Antigo's Pleasant View Elementary School." **Jim and Marlene Zdanovec, 2004 American Tree Farm System National Tree Farmers of the Year**

To Rhinelander-based aircraft pilot **Mike Weinfurter**: "I offer my sincere thanks to Mike Weinfurter for helping in the search for persons reported adrift on an ice floe in the vicinity of the McQuade boat launch on February 23. Mike responded by conducting aerial search of the Western Lake Superior south shoreline. Although he did not find anyone on the ice, his actions were critical to the overall mission. Please convey my appreciation to him for his valuable and timely assistance in this case. His professionalism and commitment to saving lives is to be heartily commended. I applaud his actions!" **Capt. M.J. Huebschman, commander Sector Sault Sainte Marie, U.S. Coast Guard.**

Aeronautics section chief **John Jorgensen** and the **aeronautics staff**

received thanks from the **Columbia County Sheriff's Office** for their help: "The DNR's airplane was called upon to assist my agency with the location and apprehension of a suspect who had fled into a remote area via an ATV. Your airplane was able to locate the abandoned ATV in a heavily wooded area. Even more important, the air support provided the ground search team with added officer safety resources while the search was being conducted. It is very comforting to know the DNR has resources that may be activated at a moment's notice."

Hats off to the **53 staff from the Bureau of Watershed Management** who pedaled their bicycles to and from work and meetings for a total of 23,614 miles in 2008. This eco-friendly group pedaled in rain, sleet, wind and snow and reduced the DNR's carbon load by an estimated 9 tons. Way to go and good luck at meeting your goal of 25,000 miles for 2009.

"I just wanted to let you know the excellent service that **Chuck Revak** (environmental enforcement specialist, Spooner) and warden **John Krull** (Superior) are providing the Remediation and Redevelopment and Waste Programs. We are working with a very difficult situation at a facility in Superior that is releasing waste oil to Lake Superior. Chuck worked hard to help arrange an inspection of the facility and is now helping with enforcement actions. Without Chuck's work we would not have gotten to where we are with this case. John's help with an inspection warrant, on his day off, is also greatly appreciated." **John Sager, DNR hydrogeologist in Rhinelander**

"I would like to provide some positive comments/feedback concerning the professional demeanor of conservation warden **Thomas Heisler** of the Winter station. I had the opportunity to meet with him relative to deer feeding on my property. He enlightened me on the rules and regulations and I really appreciated his professional approach to this situation. Your organization should be proud to have such a shining employee in your organization."

Michael E. Mahaffey, Ojibwa, WI

"This past summer I had the opportunity of observing an employee of yours conducting a creel survey on Lake Magnor, Polk County. I would see **Greg (Stokes)**, fisheries technician, Cumberland) working the open water creel survey last summer and fall often during the course of a week. Greg performed his job with much vigor and professionalism, whether he was surveying a fisherman on his catch, talking to a local resident or picking up at the landing. Many times good things are overlooked! So I took it upon myself to let you know.

An excerpt from an email to Secretary Matt Frank from **Ron Kulas, a member of the CWD advisory board**, regarding the hunting public: "Working on the CWD advisory board, I learned of **Jordan Petchenik**, (research scientist) Bureau of Sciences Services, and **Brian Dhuey** (research scientist) and the hunter surveys, and it dawned on me these two gentlemen should have a much larger role in wildlife management and there should be an increased focus on people management. Understanding people, listening to them, explaining, educating and outreach are the keys to the entire process because people are the key."

Excerpts from an email message from **Jeff Smoller**, Information and Education Bureau director, to **Vance Rayburn**, Customer Assistance and Employee Services administrator, regarding a report prepared by Bureau of Science Services scientists **Kim Peterson** and **Ed Nelson**: "I have completed reading, for the third time, the Website Redesign Steering Committee Interviews report and I consider it to be one of the most content-rich, well-organized and succinctly edited... I have seen in my DNR career."

Regarding **Richard Lathrop's** (research scientist in the Bureau of Science Services) environmental testimony at the Assembly Natural Resources Committee hearing on possible statewide phosphorus (fertilizer) ban: "Thank you for your testimony on statewide restrictions on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer (AB 3). The Assembly Committee was very impressed with the thoughtful comments from citizens and science experts." **Tami Jackson, Wisconsin Association of Lakes**

"I'd like to thank those involved (**Northeast Region Law Enforcement, Forestry and Wildlife staffs**, and Menominee Tribal Enterprises) in responding to the Navarino forest fire last week. It was good to work with the crew involved and I thought they performed a very safe and professional job in suppressing this fire under pretty difficult circumstances. It turned out to be another outstanding example of our functions working together and you should all be proud of your efforts. **Randy Williams, Area Forestry Leader, Waupaca.**


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Forestry employees cut their carbon footprints on way to work

By: Bob Manwell, Office of Communication

Getting to work is a major transportation decision we all make on a daily basis and the choices we make can significantly affect the size of our environmental "footprint" on our environment.

GEF 2 Forestry Division staff has recently tabulated the results of a year of riding, walking, bussing and carpooling to work and the results are impressive.

During the three month period April to June 2008, participating staff commuted more than 80,000 miles using alternative modes of transportation. As a result, they avoided release of 81,319 pounds of carbon to the environment in the form of CO₂.

"This was a voluntary effort by forestry staff who work in downtown Madison," said Forestry Division administrator, **Paul DeLong**. "Even though central

office is a relatively small portion of DNR's statewide forestry program, we've been able to make an impressive contribution toward reducing our carbon footprint in our commuting."

There are many commuting options available including biking, bus riding, walking and carpooling, all of which can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide – a major contributor to climate change – released from our motor vehicles.

"Obviously, where you live and where you work dictates the commuting options available to you. Safety, availability of public transportation and proximity to work are all factors to consider," said DeLong. "Individual choices on how you get to work or go about daily chores and business must fit each individual's situation, but as we can see, the combined efforts of a relatively small number of people can have a large impact.

After all, Wisconsin's nearly 11 billion trees are doing their part by sequestering carbon," DeLong added. "It seems appropriate that we would look for ways that we can reduce the amount of fossil-fuel based carbon released in the first place."

Footnote: *Bob Manwell is a public affairs manager in the Office of Communication working with the Division of Forestry.*


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Check out global warming discussion group meeting on May 20

[Sustain Dane](#), a non-profit Madison-based organization "committed to creating a community that deeply enjoys, cares for and is sustained by its unique environment," will sponsor a series of discussion groups on "Global Warming: Changing CO2urse" beginning on Wednesday, May 20, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room G09 of GEF 2.

Sustain Dane's is promoting these sessions as consisting of seven to 12 participants who meet weekly or biweekly for about an hour to discuss readings from a course book. Each meeting will be broken into two parts: an opening and a facilitated discussion. Except for the first meeting, sessions are opened and facilitated by members of the group on a rotating basis.

"Global Warming: Changing CO2urse" is a four session course that delves into the history and science behind global warming, examines personal values and habits that relate to climate change; and adopting personal actions to curb the

effects of global warming.

This type of discussion is designed for those with a minimal background in climate change. To aid you in deciding to become a part of these discussions, the May 20 meeting will focus on the purpose and format of the course. Those attending will schedule future meetings to suit participants' schedules, probably over the lunch hour.

Northwest Earth Institute developed these courses and since 1993, over 65,000 individuals (including some from the DNR) and hundreds of organizations all over the country have participated.

To learn more, visit Sustain Dane's ["Northwest Earth Institute Discussion Courses"](#) website or email [Autumn Sabo](#), Bureau of Education and Information, with questions. Although RSVPs aren't required, they're appreciated, Sabo would appreciate them via email or phone at (608)266-2711.

