

# 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.

**September 10, 2009**

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### States meet on outreach to Hmong and diverse outdoor community

Members of DNR's Bureau of Law Enforcement traveled to St. Paul, MN on September 2, for a joint meeting with members of the Minnesota DNR and the Twin Cities' Hmong sportsclubs to discuss strategies to more deeply involve the Hmong and other diverse communities within the Wisconsin conservation community. The meetings were held both at a local Hmong community center and restaurant, as well as the Minnesota DNR's central office.



Joint meeting of representatives of the Minnesota DNR, Minnesota Sportsclubs, Minnesota legislators and Wisconsin DNR. Eileen Hocker (center left), to her left are Randy Stark, Minnesota staff, Darrel Waldera and Dave Zebro. To Hocker's right are Mark Burmesch and Kou Xiong.

WDNR Photo

Wisconsin's delegation included chief warden **Randy Stark**, warden training director **Darrel Waldera**, West Central Region warden **Mark Burmesch** and Northern Region warden **Dave Zebro**, along with DNR Hmong liaison **Kou Xiong** and Law Enforcement's diversity outreach coordinator **Eileen Hocker**. They met with Minnesota's chief of enforcement Jim Konrad and his team of Southeast Asian and Hispanic warden officers. Also among Minnesota's contingent were representatives of its Outreach Section, which includes Southeast Asian Outreach and Hunter Retention and Recruitment.

Community participants at the meeting included members of the local St. Paul Hmong Capital Sports Club, a chapter of the larger Minnesota Deer Hunting Association (MDHA); Asian Outdoor Heritage club; and a member of the Minnesota legislature, who is Hmong.

Minnesota DNR's more than 15 years of community organizing and networking within the Hmong community has resulted in

widespread integration of the community into many facets of Minnesota's conservation community including: advocacy and input on natural resource policy through the MDHA; a large percentage of yearly hunters and anglers; sponsorships of recreational safety classes, raffles, sales of firearms and other hunting paraphernalia; and an active voting block of state elected officials who support natural resource issues.

Wisconsin DNR's staff made the journey to learn and discover best practices that could be brought back to Wisconsin after hearing about Minnesota's success rate through Wisconsin's Hmong liaison Kou Xiong, who was recruited and initially trained by Minnesota's Southeast Asian team. Insights gained from the trip included the importance of:

- Working with Wisconsin's equivalent of the MDHA, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, to actively include the newly-formed Hmong sportsclub in Green Bay in all aspects of its organization, including advocacy and policy formation.
- Hiring a team of Southeast Asian officers with special funding for training.
- Providing solid internal DNR support for its Asian and other diverse staff members.
- Providing much freedom and latitude to Southeast Asian staff members to network with the Hmong and other Asian communities.
- Educating the mainstream community to address racism and resentment.
- Recognizing the advantage in Minnesota of having the majority of the state's Hmong and other Southeast Asian communities located in the Twin Cities' area.

The two agencies agreed to continue working together on this issue, and Wisconsin staff proposed to host a similar joint meeting next year.



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### Work picks up as legislators begin returning to the capitol

*By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary*

Assembly and Senate work continued to resume as members of both houses began returning to their capitol offices from their summer break. As occurs on the national level, Wisconsin's representatives and senators spent time during their breaks talking with their constituents.

For a complete status report on Senate and Assembly bills introduced in fiscal years 2009-2011, go to ["2009 Bill Tracker."](#)

All of the following bills, and the two confirmations, may be taken up when the Legislature returns to the floor of the Senate and Assembly between September 15 and September 24:

- The Assembly Natural Resources Committee passed the NRB appointment authority bill, **AB 138**, and the Senate Natural Resources Committee passed its identical **SB 113** during the week of August 31. The full Assembly and Senate now will take up their respective bills for a vote.
- The Mercury Reduction bills, **AB 299** and **SB 200**, also passed their respective committees and will be scheduled for full Assembly and Senate votes
- **SB 241** (Sen. Jim Holperin introduced), the bill to allow a 50-inch wheelbase on an ATV, passed the Senate committee.
- **SB 243** (Sen. Jim Holperin introduced), the bill to repeal the 3-day wait for an archer's license, also passed out of committee.
- **AB 86**, (Rep Mary Hubler introduced), the bill to allow nonresidents over 65 years old to hunt with a crossbow, passed the Senate committee and is available for a final Senate vote.
- The Senate Natural Resources Committee unanimously reconfirmed Natural Resources Board members Christine Thomas and Jane Wiley.

**Footnote:** *Paul Heinen is a policy initiative advisor for the Secretary's Office.*



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### Northern Wisconsin paper features regional staff's habitat work

*By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region*

Limited access to equipment, personnel and funding couldn't stop a fisheries biologist and two technicians from doing trout habitat work on streams in Polk and Barron counties, during the past couple of years. The "Inter-County Leader Outdoors" newspaper's August 12 issue featured the Northern Region crew's work on the Clam River in the southeast corner of Burnett County, funded through the sale of trout stamps.

Fisheries biologist **Heath Benike**, Barron, and fisheries technicians **Byron Lund** and **Jeremy Fisk**, both also at Barron, are wrapping up in-stream habitat improvement on the Clam River. Last year, the crew worked on the McKenzie Creek in Polk County.

"Inter-County Leader" reporter Marty Seeger heard about the Barron crew's work and wrote an article, because he was impressed with the project and what it means to the fishery. Read ["Trout stamp funds giving area streams a lift"](#) to learn the challenges Benike, Lund and Fisk over came to improve the fishery in northwest Wisconsin.

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



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### **Facebook case a first for DNR wardens**

*By: Joanne M. Haas, Office of Communication*

#### **Technology aside, public still key for tips**

One Waukesha County man is guilty and another awaits court action in what the Wisconsin DNR Enforcement and Science Division is calling its first arrest based upon a Facebook video of illegal deer shining, spotted by an anonymous tipster.

"This was new territory for us. We learned a lot," Waukesha conservation warden supervisor **Rick Reed** said of the case involving a video posted on the popular social networking website. "Internet cases are very time intensive, and the warden service does not have people dedicated to this type of investigation."

There have been DNR arrest cases built from information found on other websites – such as Craig's List and Ebay, Reed said. DNR's first-ever Facebook-based case against Adam Frame, 25, of Mukwonago, and Dustin Porter, 24, of Sullivan, had one strong similarity to the more traditional cases, however.

"We rely heavily on the public to help us catch violators," said Reed. "There is simply too much going on throughout the state—and on the Internet—for us to keep up with it on our own."

#### **Browsing Facebook brings in tip on violation**

This was the case with the alert citizen who spotted the video titled: "Hunting... Muktown style." Reed said "Muktown" is a joking reference to Frame's place of residence--Mukwonago. Published reports indicate Frame posted the video of the two allegedly using a vehicle's headlights to shine deer and ultimately take shots. No deer were shot, according to the complaint.

"The tip came in late November or early December in 2008," Reed added. "It was not until later in the investigation that we learned it actually occurred in 2007."

Reed credits warden **Doug Zeihen**, Waukesha, who acted as the primary investigator with Reed as secondary, for his skilled work at "piecing the computer evidence together with other known facts." Gathering evidence from computers in a manner that is acceptable to the courts requires certain parameters, he added.

"Learning the legal aspects through this investigation was new, and each site has its own legal setup for subpoenaing information," explained Reed. "There also is a whole set of terminology associated with computers that we are not used to dealing with. Gathering basic information from an Internet site takes more time and additional follow-up to confirm accuracy.

"Computers do provide some evidence that we do not normally have," said Reed "The legal system is definitely still adjusting." The complaint notes that the two men were on their way home from a tavern when the alleged incident occurred in the town of Mukwonago. Reed explained that due to the timing of the tip and other factors, it was impossible to speculate on the condition of the two men.

On August 14, Frame was found guilty in Waukesha County Circuit Court under a plea deal to shining wild animals and possessing a firearm. Frame was fined \$354 to be paid \$25 each month beginning in September—or he'll spend six days in jail.

The case against Porter is pending in Waukesha County Circuit Court.

**Footnote:** *Joanne M. Haas is a public affairs manager.*



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### **WasteCap features GEF 2 remodeling for sustainable changes**

Non-profit WasteCap Resource Solutions recognized those involved with the remodeling of GEF 2 for their push to assure sustainability by employing a reuse and recycle policy. In doing so, labor costs were compared with the savings that could be achieved through lower operating costs and "durable finishes that would last a long time."

Scroll down WasteCap's news page to its "Friends in the News" "["WI DNR Strives for Sustainability with New Office"](#) for a long list of sustainable changes undertaken during reconstruction. The article is based on a report DNR facilities designer **Kim Guthrie** submitted to WasteCap, which earned her certification as an Accredited Professional in Construction and Demolition Recycling for her accomplishments in leading the project.

Read more in the April 24, 2008 "DNR Digest" story "["Remodel takes center stage on tour of sustainable facility"](#) about Guthrie's

walk-through of GEF 2 during which she hosted the Madison Chapter of the International Facilities Managers Association. WasteCap's vision is to change waste into resources. The organization advises Wisconsin businesses on how to save money by changing the way they handle solid waste. The more than decade-long effort to update GEF 2 was a how-to example of doing just that.

This month, the Department of Administration's Division of State Facilities checked the GEF 2 energy use records from Madison Gas & Electric. Records indicated that the building has seen a 20% reduction in energy costs from years 2006 to 2009. Aside from having more efficient building systems, turning off your computer at night has made a difference, said Guthrie.



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### Canada lynx kitten now call MacKenzie Education Center home

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

**Editor's Note:** The following story is based on a news release issued on September 1. This past Saturday, the older of the two lynx kittens was euthanized due to a severe spinal injury. A necropsy will be performed to help determine if it was a pre-existing condition or recent injury. Needless to say, all involved with the kittens are suffering from this loss.

The MacKenzie Environmental Education Center (MEEC) near Poynette will again be home to rare Canada lynx kittens, thanks to a fundraising effort spearheaded by the director of the Poynette Public Library and local school children.

The two Canada lynx kittens made their public debut on September 2, at MEEC, located about two miles east of Poynette off County Highway CS.

Canada lynx, a protected wild animal in Wisconsin and never common in the state, are short-tailed, long-legged wildcats. Snowshoe hares are the main food of the lynx, but they will eat other small mammals like squirrels, voles and small birds such as grouse at MEEC.

The Canada lynx pen in the wildlife exhibit had been vacant for over a year. The recently-hired director of the Poynette library, Kris Daugherty, asked if she could begin a fundraising effort to help pay for a replacement lynx. MEEC director **Derek Duane** and wildlife technician **Dan Mautz** met with Daugherty to discuss the idea. Even though the estimated cost of a lynx was about \$2,000, she wasn't at all discouraged and the project was off and running within a few days of the meeting.



This Canada lynx kitten reclined on a branch as it settled into its new home at the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center.

WDNR Photo

Daugherty loves cats and said that since the library uses the "link-cat" system, she thought that a community-wide fundraising effort would be well supported. She wanted to make it easy for all the kids that visit the library to donate money, so suggested a "penny drive." Posters and donation jars were placed at popular locations throughout Poynette and at the MacKenzie Center. It didn't take long for the jars to start filling.

Daugherty kept the community updated through a regular news article in the local press. The Friends of the Library were so taken with her efforts that they agreed to match "penny-for-penny" the amount of money donated. After only about two months the total had surpassed \$700, and by mid August \$900. A local couple with strong ties to the MacKenzie Center wrote a check to the library for \$100 to insure the goal was met.

Once the fundraiser began, a search was launched to locate a lynx for the exhibit. The MacKenzie Center policy is to never take an animal from the wild for exhibit purposes.

"We wait for an injured, orphaned, confiscated or captive-born animal to replace those that typically die of old age. This often can



take several years and up until August 24, no lynx could be found,” said director Duane.

Knowing how important it was to find a lynx and how disappointed everyone would be if one wasn't found soon, Duane placed a call to Pecks Wildwood Park in Minocqua. He was given a name of someone in Detroit Lakes, MN who'd had some lynx kittens “a while ago”.

Duane made the call and the news was almost too good to be true. “Yes, we actually have two lynx kittens for sale,” said John Weichert, at Wildwood Park. The price was \$1,500 each and he wanted to sell them as a pair. Both are three-month-old males and would make excellent additions to the education exhibit at MacKenzie.

Duane then made a call to the president of the Friends of MacKenzie Center, Barney Lohan, to ask if they would consider donating toward their purchase. He immediately replied “yes” take them both, said the MEEC director.

Immediately, he next called Daugherty at the library who was thrilled with the news. Not only was a lynx located, but there were actually two kittens, just as she had shown on her fundraising posters. Several phone calls later, the purchase was confirmed, import permits were obtained, and transportation to Poynette was arranged. Upon arriving at MEEC, the kittens were isolated for awhile, as is common practice.

“Even during tough economic times, people will rally to support a worthwhile cause. The new lynx will serve a role as educators at the MacKenzie Center for many years to come, thanks to wonderful local support and a great idea from Kris Daugherty,” said Duane. The distribution of Canada lynx closely follows the abundance of its main food, the snowshoe hare. Lynx populations rise and fall in response to the periodic 10-year “boom and bust” population cycles of snowshoe hares. When the 10-year cycle of snowshoe hare populations crashes, lynx have to wander farther for food. Some of their wanderings bring them to Wisconsin.

Biologists don't think that Canada lynx are breeding in Wisconsin, so all sightings--and they are rare since lynx travel at night and avoid people--probably are just visitors, not residents.

The MacKenzie Environmental Education Center is located just two miles east of Poynette on highway CS. The property is owned by the Department of Natural Resources and managed by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The wildlife exhibit is open to the public seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 4 .m. daily. Over twenty other species of animals native to Wisconsin also are housed in the exhibit. For directions to the facility or further information, call (608)635-8110 or check out the [MEEC](#) website.

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



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### **Deer and bear come face-to-face outside Ashland office**

*By: Ryan Brady, Northern Region*

**Editor's note:** *If you witness wildlife activity outside your office or in the field and are able to capture the moment with your camera, send a photo and brief story to me, so I can share it with your DNR colleagues across the state.*

Wildlife biologist **Todd Naas** and I were discussing some pressing wildlife management issues when we noted a doe and fawn eating apples under the tree behind our office in Ashland. Though not unusual, the doe became anxious, looking alertly into the brush behind her. We suspected a second fawn might emerge when, instead, a healthy-looking black bear poked its head out into the small field.



Deer and bear recently encountered one another just outside the Ashland Service Center.

WDNR Photo

A staredown ensued, as the bear split its time eyeballing each of the deer, no longer happily feeding, and then began to close in on the

fawn under the apple tree. Deep down, I think Todd and I were hoping to witness first-hand some of Marty Stouffer's "Wild America." But alas, after just a couple minutes the bear turned around and headed back into the brush -- apparently someone in the adjacent parking lot had unknowingly spooked it.

The doe and fawn quickly took off, as well, leaving us to wonder if the bear had come for the apples or the fawn. Regardless, it was nice to have all this take place within a stone's throw of our desks, and I was lucky to have my camera nearby to snap some photos through the window.



This female bear is the subject of a long-term ecology study conducted by Ashland high school students under the guidance of their science teacher.

WDNR Photo

The bear sported a neck collar (below the chin and above the blaze), and is one of multiple bears Ashland science teacher Bruce Prentice and his high school students are monitoring as part of a long-term bear ecology study in the area. According to Prentice, the bear is a fairly young female, about three-and-a-half years old, weighing in around 200 pounds. She recently had her first litter of cubs. The Ashland DNR Service Center is part of her typical home range, and apparently she's made herself quite visible on the west side of Ashland this year.

**Footnote:** *Ryan Brady is a research scientist stationed in Ashland.*



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Produced by: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Communication and Education

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Last updated:  09/10/2009 13:51:38