

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.

November 5, 2009

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Kinnickinnic River cleanup revitalizes Milwaukee neighborhood

The DNR, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), City of Milwaukee and other partners took another step on Monday, November 2, toward protecting the Great Lakes, the Milwaukee community and the local economy. With the completion of the \$22 million Kinnickinnic River Legacy Act cleanup, the course is set for a more navigable river, redeveloped businesses and a revitalized riverfront for the surrounding neighborhood.



This "before" photo was taken from a vantage point on the Paul Davis Restoration property on the Kinnickinnic River looking to the east toward the project area and Lake Michigan.

Photo courtesy of U.S. EPA

Over the past four months federal, state and local agencies have worked together to remove 167,000 cubic yards of contaminated

sediment from the river between Becher St. and Kinnickinnic Ave. A former brownfields site next to the river has sprouted a boater's lounge in a newly-refurbished office building, a microbrewery, additional boat slips, moorings and fisherman wharves, riverwalks and a boat launch ramp.

"Today marks the beginning of enhanced recreational opportunities and economic revitalization along the KK," said Governor Jim Doyle. "This project not only improves, protects and preserves one of our state's greatest natural resources, but will also bolster the local economy and create jobs for hardworking Wisconsin families."

The river clean up was paid for with \$14.3 million from the Great Lakes Legacy Act fund and \$7.7 million from a state of Wisconsin bond fund under Gov. Doyle's "Grow Milwaukee" initiative. The project took place between June 3 and October 3 of this year. Dredging ended ahead of schedule.

Project's partners behind cleanup success

The cleanup removed about 1,200 pounds of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and 13,000 pounds of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (a byproduct of petroleum) that were contaminating the river. The dredged material was transported by barge and disposed of in a special cell within the Milwaukee Area Confined Disposal Facility at Jones Island, owned by the City of Milwaukee and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



This "after" photo also was taken from the restoration property and provides a much less cluttered view to the east.

WDNR Photo

"The City of Milwaukee is grateful for the many partnerships that have made this project a success," Milwaukee mayor Tom Barrett said. "Milwaukee's economy and quality of life are directly linked to the health of Lake Michigan and its tributaries."

The Great Lakes Legacy Act was signed into law in November 2002 to cleanup contaminated sediment at areas of concern around the Great Lakes sites severely degraded by significant pollution.

"Ridding the Great Lakes of contaminated sediment to protect the health of our families and communities is a battle we need to fight site-by-site," said Cameron Davis, EPA senior advisor to the administrator.

Since 2004, EPA has completed six Legacy Act cleanups removing over 1.6 million pounds of contaminants from Great Lakes waterways, reducing risks to human health and wildlife at a cost of almost \$119 million. Sixty-eight million in Legacy Act funds have leveraged \$51 million in non-federal dollars from state, local and private partners.

More information about the Kinnickinnic River cleanup is available at EPA's ["Great Lakes Legacy Act"](#) website.

Footnote: DNR, the U.S. EPA and the City of Milwaukee jointly issued this news release on November 2.



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Wild Rose education center takes Fisheries Society award

By: Tom Turner, Northeast Region

The American Fisheries Society, the nation's largest professional fisheries organization, has awarded its annual "Outstanding Project of the Year Award" to the Education Center at the DNR's historic Wild Rose Fish Hatchery in Waushara County.

The Education Center is part of the \$15.9 million Phase I project to transform Wild Rose into a state-of-the-art replacement for the 100-year-old hatchery. The center won the award in the education category.



In attendance at the October Natural Resources Board meeting where the Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center's "Outstanding Project of the Year Award" was presented were, left to right: Wild Rose operations supervisor Steve Fajfer, Natural Resources Board vice-chair Jonathan Ela, Fisheries Management director Mike Staggs, DNR Secretary Matt Frank, American Fisheries Society's Don Gablehouse, Fisheries Management educator Theresa Stabo, Wild Rose Hatchery supervisor Randy Larson, and Fisheries Management fish propagation coordinator Al Kaas.

WDNR Photo

On August 18, 2008, Governor Jim Doyle and DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** officiated at the grand opening ceremony for the new coldwater facilities that are used to continue hatching and raising Chinook and Coho salmon, brown and rainbow trout.

The \$1.5 million visitor and aquatic education center incorporates four restored historic buildings from the old hatchery, plus a new visitors building that uses live aquariums, video and extensive exhibits to share the story of Wild Rose and fisheries management.

To read more about the work of the hatchery, the renovation project and the Education Center, go to the ["Join us at the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery"](#) website.

Footnote: Tom Turner is the public affairs manager for the Northeast Region.



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Commissioner clarifies calculation to insure an adult child

By: Betty McWilliams, Bureau of Human Resources

State of Wisconsin health insurance coverage now is extended to include adult children to age 27. The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) has passed an emergency administrative rule which clarifies certain provisions of the state statute allowing for coverage of these adult children.

Of **most importance** is the explanation of how to calculate the premium to determine the eligibility of an adult child to receive coverage under their parent's insurance, when that child also is eligible for health insurance coverage through their employer.

Under the statute, the amount of the premium that the adult child would contribute to their employer's plan is to be compared to the **additional amount** their parent (subscriber) will pay to include that child under their policy.

December 31 is the deadline for adding an adult child to 2010 health insurance. The subscriber must file a ["Group Health Insurance Application/Change Form"](#) with their DNR central office or region payroll office on or before the deadline.

The October 22 "DNR Digest" story ["December 30 deadline to insure domestic partners"](#) indicated that health insurance plans would mail the week of October 26 their annual "Adult Child Eligibility Form" to those with dependents age 19 or older on their insurance.

The deadline to return the form remains December 1. The mailing was postponed a week or two so it would reflect this update.

The OCI clarification on the adult child provision doesn't change any information about the **imputed taxable income**, which is separate from determining eligibility of the adult child. Go to the Employee Trust Fund's ["Imputed Income Tables—Fair Market Value for Non-tax Dependents"](#) webpage to learn more about the potentially significant impact on your taxes of adding your adult child to your insurance coverage. For example, and depending on which insurance plan you're on, if your adult child doesn't qualify as a dependent for tax purposes, you could see an annual increase in your taxable income of several thousand dollars.

Notable clarification on adult child in school called to active duty

If your adult child is a full-time student who is called to active duty in the national guard or in a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces, the statute requires that the child apply to be a full-time student within 12 months from the date they're discharged to become an eligible dependent for insurance purposes.

To learn more about the provisions of the law pertaining to inclusion of an adult child on their parent's health insurance, go to ETF's ["Benefit Eligibility for Adult Children Up to Age 27"](#) webpage. This recently-updated page responds to frequently asked questions about eligibility and tax implications.

Footnote: Betty McWilliams is a payroll and benefits specialist in the central office.



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Eco-Driving Project results announced at Havenwoods

By: Francis Vogel, Wisconsin Clean Cities

We all can help reduce petroleum dependence and improve air quality, whether we drive an advanced-technology vehicle or a clunker on its last legs. You may ask how. By eco-driving, a relaxed driving style that improves fuel efficiency and reduces emissions. Easy acceleration, observing the speed limit, smooth braking and tire pressure monitoring typify actions that, taken together, constitute eco-driving.

The Fleet Training on Eco-Driving Project to promote eco-driving in southeastern Wisconsin announced preliminary results October 14 at an event held outside DNR's Havenwoods Environmental Awareness Center. Included among the successes was a 13 percent boost in fuel economy for those fleets participating in the project..



Southeast Region director Gloria McCutcheon announced the results of the Fleet Training on Eco-Driving Project at Havenwoods Environmental Awareness Center on October 14.

WDNR Photo

DNR's former Bureau of Education and Information initiated the project upon receiving a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program grant in 2007 to promote eco-driving in the air quality [ozone nonattainment area](#) of southeast Wisconsin. With a goal of lowering vehicle emissions, and in turn improving air quality, air educator Lindsay Haas, partnered with Wisconsin Clean Cities–Southeast Area, a Milwaukee-based nonprofit organization, to create and implement a fleet eco-driving initiative.

The project selected fleets from the [City of Milwaukee-Department of Public Works](#) and from [Veolia Water North America Water-Milwaukee](#) to receive classroom instruction, behind-the-wheel training, pre- and post-testing and a training manual for ongoing use. Milwaukee Area Technical College helped develop and deliver the "Fleet Training on Eco-Driving Project."

Two fleets see double digit rise in fuel economy

Trainees from the two fleets saw a 13 percent increase in their fuel economy after receiving the project's varied instruction. This 13 percent improvement is in keeping with the 10–20 percent savings estimated by the U.S. Department of Energy in its seminal Driver Energy Conservation Awareness Training (DECAT) Program, which ran from 1976 through the 1980s. The Fleet Training on Eco-Driving Project is the first comprehensive effort since DECAT to show the many benefits of changing driver behavior, which also include lower maintenance and repair costs, as well as improved road safety.

"Just as with fleet drivers, the general public can 'do a little and save a lot' by taking simple steps to reduce gas use," noted Gloria McCutcheon, director of DNR's Southeast Region. "It all adds up to cleaner air."

"Our joint project demonstrates that eco-driving is an everyday solution for everyone to cut fuel costs and clean our air," added Francis X. Vogel, executive director of Wisconsin Clean Cities.

To learn more about eco-driving, visit DNR's ["Do A Little, Save A Lot the Daily Commute"](#) webpage.

Footnote: *Francis Vogel is the executive director of Wisconsin Clean Cities, Southeast Area, Inc. Chris Tall, educator with the Bureau of Air Management, worked with Vogel on this story.*



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Mark next week Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week

By: Department of Military Affairs, Wisconsin Emergency Management

Governor Jim Doyle has declared November 9-13, "Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week." The annual campaign, sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service, reminds people to be prepared for winter conditions that could threaten their safety.

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm, such as traffic accidents on icy

or snow-covered roads, prolonged exposure to the cold or indoor carbon monoxide poisoning.

It's important to start taking preventive measures for winter weather. Now is the perfect time to winterize your car and home, gather items for a disaster kit, and make sure you have a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, or a commercial radio with fresh batteries.

The National Weather Services also has produced additional winter storm maps. You'll find them on the [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#) website.

You can get more information on the winter weather awareness campaign by contacting your county emergency management director or your local National Weather Service office.



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Office of the Great Lakes announces calendar photo contest

The Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) is holding its second annual photo contest. Winning entries will appear in the 2010-2011 "Discover Wisconsin's Great Lakes" calendar.

The photos submitted, which must be shot in Wisconsin, should fall within any of four categories: "Natural Features and Wildlife," "People Enjoying Wisconsin's Great Lakes," "Cultural and Historic Features" and "Lake Protection Activities."



Gervase Thompson, fisheries technician at the Brule Fish Hatchery, took "Any Moment Now..." on the Brule River, winning second place in 2009 in the category of Natural Features and Wildlife.

Gervase Thompson Photo

Last year, four DNR employees were among the contest winners. OGL staff hopes that even more employees will enter the contest this year, especially in the category of Lake Protection Activities.

"It would be great to have some nice shots of the projects happening in habitat restoration, sediment clean up, fisheries and other work being done on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan and their tributaries. We would like to have pictures of on-the-ground progress in restoring the Great Lakes," said **Jo Temte**, contest coordinator and water resources management specialist in the OGL.

In addition to photographs, the OGL is seeking Great Lakes writings. Essays, poems, songs and other writings may be used in the calendar, as well as on the OGL website, in publications and in displays. "Superior Memories" by DNR financial specialist, **Catherine Khalar**, Brule River State Forest, is among the featured writings in the 2009-2010 calendar.

The deadline for entering the contest is February 1, 2010. For official contest rules and instructions for submitting photos and writings, visit the [Office of the Great Lakes](#) website.

If you have questions, email them to [Jo Temte](#) or call her at (608)267-0555.



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Stay current on status of seasonal flu and H1N1 flu in Wisconsin

The media today are "working overtime" to keep up with the ever-changing news on the availability of flu vaccine and who will be moved to the beginning of the line to receive those shots. You can stay current with H1N1 activity in the state by going to the ["H1N1 Flu Virus"](#) webpage on "MyDNR." You'll also find a link on the top page of "MyDNR" in the left hand navigation box under "Inside DNR."

The H1N1 page provides links to recent news releases and the Wisconsin Department of Health's pandemic information resources, including updated FAQs.

DNR is scheduled to hold a flu clinic in the central office on December 3. Return to the October 22 "DNR Digest" story ["As elsewhere, central office's seasonal flu clinic is postponed"](#) for yet more links.



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Legislature wraps up its 2009 floor session

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

The 2009 floor session of the Wisconsin Legislature concluded today, November 5. Work will continue on legislation, and hearings and meetings will be held until the legislature reconvenes on January 19. Future issues of the "DNR Digest" will contain updates on the status of this work.

The ["2009 Bill Tracker"](#) contains a complete report on DNR-related Senate and Assembly bills introduced for fiscal years 2009-2011. The November 19 "DNR Digest" will contain a status report on actions taken today.

On the calendar for November 5

- **SB 241:** Approval of 50-inch ATV width
- **AB 138:** Appointment of DNR Secretary
- **AB 258:** Used oil filters ban

Legislation passed

- The Senate gave final approval to **SB 107**, Sen. Mark Miller's Electronic Waste Recycling Bill, and the governor signed the bill into law as **Wisconsin Act 55**.
- The Assembly Renewable Resources Committee passed the Legislative Council's Biofuels Bill, **AB 408**. It may be scheduled for early next year.
- The Assembly Tourism Committee passed **AB 219**, Rep. Fred Clark's bill mandating that kids under age 12 wear life-preservers.
- The Assembly passed Rep. Ann Hraychuck's **AB 356**, which eliminates the three day waiting period for archers. The bill now is in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Work on proposed legislation

- Drafting continues on creating a climate change bill, which may be ready for public review later this year.
- The Groundwater Study Group continues to meet and discuss issues relating to possible legislation to update Wisconsin's groundwater laws.

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



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"DNR Education News" seeks contributions from department staff

By: Annie Kalson, Office of Communication

The Office of Communication is inviting DNR contributions to the department's online "[DNR Education News](#)" newsletter. Since 2007, the department's Education Team has been reaching out to Wisconsin kindergarten to 12th grade (K-12) educators two to four times each year with information on upcoming DNR and DNR-related educational opportunities and resources such as grants, professional development, educator workshops, curricular resources and more.

With close to 1,500 subscribers and still growing, the newsletter reaches more educators than ever. For this reason, the team is seeking contributions from the wide array of DNR programs for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

This past spring, "Education News" joined the list of DNR newsletters that the public and department staff can subscribe to via GovDelivery, a service that more efficiently manages online information and provides more subscription options.

Many of those already receiving the newsletter have expressed appreciation for the wealth of opportunities it provides for formal and non-formal educators statewide. Non-formal educators include youth group leaders, naturalists, rangers, etc.

Information on education-relevant program activities and resources should be limited to a maximum of 150 words. Email me, [Annie Kalson](#), or call me at (608)264-6280 to receive notices of upcoming issues of the "DNR Education News" and share your program's resources with Wisconsin's educators.

Footnote: Annie Kalson is a program associate with the DNR Education Team.



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Donations and events ring up big buck for "Partners in Giving".

Paul DeLong, administrator of the Division of Forestry and 2009 "Partners in Giving" chair reported that deposits from returned donation forms and events through the first three weeks of this year's campaign total \$47,835. The South Central Region held a cookout during the third week, netting the campaign \$315.

Paula Schumann, financial specialist in the Bureau of Finance, arranged for University of Wisconsin-Madison men's basketball coach Bo Ryan to speak at its pizza sale, held on October 20. This fundraiser netted \$334 for the campaign. Ryan answered a number of questions from the audience. Finance Bureau director Shelly Young won the UW basketball autographed by the coach.



Bureau of Finance accountant John Kallas held the can containing the names of those entered the drawing for the UW basketball autographed by Bo Ryan. Division of Customer and Employee Services director Vance Rayburn pulled Shelly Young's name as the winner.

WDNR Photo

Other members of the Bureau of Finance pizza sale team: **Dorothy La Mar, John Kallas, Terri Burns, Mark Hetzel, Traci Brewer, Margaret Hooper-Lofton, Mary Weaver, Julie Brunette and Lesa Pitts.**

Speaking of drawings, three others drew prizes during the second week of "Partners in Giving":

- **Jeff Sims**, from the Bureau of Air Management, drew a 2010 State Trails pass donated by the Bureau of Parks.
- **Darlene Nelson Galloway**, also from Air Management, drew a 2010 State Park and Forest sticker from the Bureau of Parks.
- **Bruce Rodger**, again from Air Management, chose the jug of maple syrup donated by **Karl Martin**, with the Bureau of Science Services.

"No, you didn't need to be employed in the Bureau of Air Management to be selected for a prize during the second week. The drawings really are random," said DeLong. "It's possible that air folks just move more quickly to turn in their (Partners in Giving) forms, but that's merely conjecture."

The following folks were selected to choose prizes during the third week:

- **Becky Lottes** from the Bureau of Human Resources chose a 2010 State Parks sticker donated by the Bureau of Parks.
- **Richard Hamann** from the Bureau of Technology Services picked a ceramic conservation warden mug donated by the Bureau of Law Enforcement.
- **Dorie Turpin** from the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater hasn't yet claimed a prize.

"Please turn in your SECC form, (even if you don't intend to donate) to be eligible for drawings for the following remaining prizes," added DeLong:

- Fishing license
- Choice of baked goods
- Jar of honey
- Hat from the Nature Conservancy
- "Connectivity" T-shirt (XL)
- Certificate for a free 2010 Trail pass
- Four tickets for the February 28, 2010 UW Women vs. Iowa home basketball game
- Black ceramic Conservation Warden mug
- Three-piece Avon jewelry ensemble
- Upside-down (tomato) planter
- Handmade decorative fall wreath
- "Shore Lunch" print by local artist Tim Leonardelli
- Gail Ambrosius chocolates
- Ghirardelli chocolate squares
- Bottle of Wollersheim wine

Upcoming event not to be missed

The bureaus of Waste and Materials Management, Remediation and Redevelopment, and Cooperative Environmental Assistance will hold their annual book and bake sale for the "Partner's in Giving" campaign from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, in GEF 2 room 513.

The sale organizers are asking for donations of books and other media for the sale. You can sign up to bring in baked goods on the day of the sale.

Place books and other donations in the box located in **Lindsey Gieck's** office near pillar B7 on the 5th floor. The sign-up sheet for donating baked goods is on the round table by the front desk on the 5th floor. Bring baked goods to the conference room on the day of the sale. Pack them in single or double portions, which Gieck will price the morning of the sale.

Watch the "Digest" for an account of the Bureau of Finance's eighth annual "Partners in Giving" silent auction held on November 4.



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Thousands vote online for new endangered resources license plate

By: Kathleen Wolski, Office of Communication

DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** recently announced the results of an online survey to help gauge the popularity of four potential designs for a new Wisconsin Endangered Resources license plate. More than 23,000 votes were cast to help select the license plate design to benefit Wisconsin's endangered resources.

"Hands down, this has been the most popular survey to date for the DNR. We know University of Wisconsin students, using social media, lobbied hard for their school mascot," Frank said. "Of the four plate designs depicting native Wisconsin wildlife and their habitat, the badger received 68 percent of the total, coming in at 16,167 votes."



The proposed license plate featuring the badger garnered the most votes.

WDNR Photo

In second place, the great blue heron and eastern bluebird designs ran neck and neck, each with 12 percent of the total and 2,890 and 2,846 votes respectively. The red-headed woodpecker brought in eight percent of the total with 1,905 votes. Online voting ran from October 9-19. View all four designs at the "[New License Plate will Support Endangered Resources](#)" webpage.

"There is a great deal of awareness and pride in Wisconsin's beautiful natural resources and interest in protecting them for future generations," Frank said. The new plate design will use the latest color technology and is expected to be available to Wisconsin motorists for a \$25 contribution. One hundred percent of the \$25 will be used to support the Endangered Resources conservation fund. The departments of Natural Resources and Transportation will use the survey results to help make a final decision on the new design. The plate will be available to Wisconsin motorists in 2010 in addition to the grey wolf, featured on the Endangered Resources plate since 1995.

For more information on the license plate or the Endangered Resources program, email [Rebecca Schroeder](mailto:Rebecca.Schroeder@dnr.wisconsin.gov), or call her at (608)266-5244. You also can write [Susan Foote-Martin](mailto:Susan.Foote-Martin@dnr.wisconsin.gov), or call (608)266-0545 to speak with her.

Footnote: *Kathleen Wolski is an outreach coordinator in the Office of Communication.*



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Wisconsin Project WILD workshop could make your job easier

Do you get calls from teachers or youth groups asking you to join their classrooms or host a field trip?

Do you break into a nervous sweat wondering how to make a meeting with students both educational and fun?

Do you turn down teachers because you simply won't have time to create a learning experience for their students?



Participants in a Project Wild "Habitat Lap Sit" activity depict the interdependence of habitat components needed to support wildlife. Each person represents a different piece of the habitat "pie." Take away one piece, and the habitat will collapse.

WDNR Photo

By attending the four-hour "Making Wildlife Education Easy!" workshop sponsored by DNR's Project WILD program, you can learn how to teach today's wildlife concepts through fun, hands-on and engaging activities.

At the noon to 4:30 p.m. workshop on January 28, 2010, you'll experience Project WILD activities, learn some simple guidelines for teaching kids at different ages and receive a checklist of key questions to ask when someone calls to request an education program.

You'll also walk away with a "kit" of ready resources that will bolster your confidence in presenting youth programs in your community. Kits include the most recent Project WILD and Project WILD Aquatic activity guides (copyright 2008) and educational resources that complement wildlife education.

To sign up for this free workshop in the Madison area on January 28, email [Amalia Baldwin](mailto:Amalia.Baldwin) by January 8, 2010. The location of the workshop is still to be determined, and Baldwin will contact those who sign up in December.


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White porcupine a wonder of Wisconsin wildlife

By: Sharon Larson, Northwoods Wildlife Center

On September 25, the Northwoods Wildlife Center in Minocqua received a phone call about a porcupine some caring people had found under a highway overpass near Ringle. It appeared to be acting abnormally, maybe even injured. Transportation was arranged and later that day, the porky was admitted to the wildlife center with abnormal breathing and lethargy. It may have been hit by a car, or even fallen from the overpass.



The rehabilitated, rare white porcupine prepared to head back into the wild.

WDNR Photo

This sort of visitor to the center is pretty standard. What wasn't standard about this young-of-the-year porcupine was her color. She was completely white. Not albino, because among other characteristics, she lacked the pink eyes and other features. The rarity of such a color can be compared to that of the white buffalo of Native American lore.

Wildlife center staff gave this "white porky," as we dubbed her, needed medical and supportive rehabilitative care, until she was deemed well enough to be back in the wild where she belonged. On October 11, she returned to more-suitable habitat, away from highways and overpasses.

The Northwoods Wildlife Center is a non-profit organization operating solely on private donations and memberships to treat injured and orphaned wildlife to return them to the wild, while educating the public through guided tours and educational programs. The center treats 800 to 1,000 wildlife animals per year. Species admitted range from deer mice to black bears, hummingbirds to bald eagles...and the occasional white porcupine.

Footnote: Sharon Larson is married to Mark Naniot, director of wildlife rehabilitation at the Northwoods Wildlife Center. She's also a DNR limited term employee working with wildlife biologist Ron Eckstein, Rhinelander..


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

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Last updated:  11/05/2009 13:56:25