

DNR eDigest

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

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The Bureau of Education and Information's goal is to publish "The E-Digest" bi-weekly on paydays. The bureau will publish additional issues, as needed. Contact "E-Digest" editor Diane.Brinson@wisconsin.gov or at 608/266-5215 to submit stories, story ideas and photos that communicate internally the department's work, policies and issues that matter to DNR employees.

November 19, 2009

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Biofuel solution ends longstanding enforcement case

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

15,000 railroad ties removed

Innovative thinking by and collaboration among DNR staffs transformed a solid waste disposal problem and enforcement case into a biofuel recycling project.

The longstanding problem began in 2000 when about 15,000 railroad ties were removed from the abandoned Illinois Central Line railroad corridor running through Green County. The eight-foot-long by six-by-six inch wooden timbers formed the base of the railroad bed to which the metal rails were fastened.



A worker loaded railroad ties on a truck for hauling to the power plant at Cassville for burning as biofuel.

WDNR Photo

Then, for almost nine years, the stacks of ties sat piled one upon another in an abandoned quarry south of Belleville, while DNR and state Department of Justice (DOJ) staffs tried working with the quarry landowner and responsible parties to find a way to fund their removal for appropriate disposal. Back in 2000, the only option was burial in a landfill, at a substantial cost, to contain the leaching of toxic wood preservatives.

“Our primary concerns (with ties in the quarry) were an inadvertent fire releasing toxic fumes into the air and potential groundwater impacts,” said **Tom Bennwitz**, Fitchburg, South Central Region waste management engineer.

Negotiations between the parties dragged on until October 2008, when Bennwitz and SCR hydrogeologist **Jim Kralick**, Janesville, met with representatives of Dairyland Power Company and Detroit Edison (DTE) in Cassville to discuss excavating an old landfill so it could be sold to DTE for biofuel storage.

Dairyland Power once owned the Stoneman Power Plant and two adjacent landfills containing bottom and fly ash material in Cassville. Dairyland Power sold the power plant to DTE several years ago, but retained the two landfills. DTE bought the power plant with the intent of converting it into a biofuel facility where primarily waste wood, including railroad ties, would be burned.

“It was during this meeting that it became apparent that DTE was looking for old railroad ties anywhere they could find them. At this point, discussions with DTE began to move forward with the possibility of removing railroad ties from the property near Belleville,” said Bennwitz.

The first step involved DNR air management staff testing the ties to determine if they would be acceptable for burning at the Stoneman Power Plant. If not, the project would have ended right there. But “fortunately, they were (acceptable),” said Bennwitz.



SCR warden supervisor Barb Wolf talked to workers during a break from removing the railroad ties.

WDNR Photo

Next, after determining the costs of removing and hauling the ties to Cassville, the quarry landowners were approached with the project idea to judge their interest in cooperating. DTE agreed to pay half of the removal and hauling costs in return for ownership of the railroad ties.

DOJ then approached the defendants to see if they would be interested in ending the nine-year old enforcement case by making a one-time cash payment for half of the hauling costs. Both parties agreed to the settlement.

SCR enforcement, under the direction of regional warden supervisor **Barb Wolf**, Fitchburg, and the Green County Sheriff's Department, established security at the project site, and a Minnesota trucking company removed and hauled the ties to the power plant in two weeks.

“It took the cooperation of many parties to close a longstanding enforcement case so that all involved were satisfied with the outcome,” Bennwitz explained.

Those involved included DNR's bureaus of Solid Waste, Air Management and Law Enforcement, SCR conservation wardens, DOJ, DTE, defendants in the civil case and the property owners.

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



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Jonas elected president of State Drinking Water Administrators

By: Lisa Gaumnitz, Office of Communication

Ten years ago **Jill Jonas**, director of the Bureau of Drinking and Groundwater, and her mother were sitting in a restaurant, celebrating the daughter's appointment to lead the DNR's program to assure safe drinking water and groundwater in Wisconsin.

"I told her, Mom, I think it's important work," Jonas recalled recently. "She put down her fork, turned to me and said, 'Why Jill, it's the most important thing – that and air.'"

A decade later, it's still important work, and beginning in 2010, Jonas also will help lead a key national safe drinking water association in that work.



New Association of Drinking Water Administrators president, Jill Jonas.

WDNR Photo

Earlier this fall, she was elected the 2011 president of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, a group comprised of her counterparts in the other 49 states, U.S. territories, the Navajo Nation and the District of Columbia. In 2010, Jonas will serve as president-elect, and as past-president in 2012.

"Being elected is a reflection of the good work and dedication of our Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff," said Jonas.

"The association is a nationally recognized leader on drinking water issues, and we will continue effectively consulting and working with EPA; other agencies; associations; and local, state and national officials and legislators in assuring that our water is safe to drink," Jonas added.

"It's important to be proactive to prevent the contamination of surface water and groundwater and assure its availability, because that's the water we drink."

Overseeing state's public and private drinking water no small job

The DNR program Jonas leads oversees the 11,446 public water supply systems in the state, which range from small restaurants and gas stations up to the such large cities as Madison and Milwaukee. These systems have had an enviable track record of providing clean water to their 3.8 million customers.

In addition, the program is responsible for helping assure the safety of the drinking water that nearly one million households with private wells rely upon, through overseeing private well and water system construction, operation and maintenance, and groundwater standard development and resource protection. The program also has gained new responsibilities in carrying out the Great Lakes Compact and reducing Wisconsin water use.

Jonas's past professional experience includes assisting the former Soviet bloc countries of Latvia and Lithuania develop groundwater and drinking water regulations and source water protection strategies, along with assisting surrounding Baltic/European officials with water issues and laws. She holds a Masters degree in natural resources with graduate work in aquatic toxicology, and a Bachelor of Science degree in education.

Footnote: *Lisa Gaumnitz does outreach work for the Division of Water.*



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Here's what's new for 2009 gun deer season

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

There are a number of changes for the 2009 gun deer season that hunters should be aware of as they prepare to visit Wisconsin's woods and fields. Among these are:

- No Earn-A-Buck (EAB) requirements in deer management units outside of the chronic wasting disease-management zone (CWD-MZ). The only units that have EAB regulations in 2009 are those inside the CWD-MZ.
- Moving a whole deer from the CWD-MZ to elsewhere in the state is restricted. See page 30 of the ["2009 Deer Hunting Regulations"](#) pamphlet for more details.
- A new "Mentored Hunting Program" permits a licensed hunter 18 years or older to accompany anyone 10 years and older during the hunt.
- There will be a four-day antlerless-only hunt December 10-13 for all units statewide except state park and non-quota units.
- Thirteen deer management units have buck-only hunts for the gun deer season.



During the hunt, deer can be keeping an eye out for the hunter, too.

WDNR Photo

Again, go to the ["2009 Deer Hunting Regulations"](#) for the complete list of regulations, including those new this year.

Other recent gun deer season news

["2009 gun deer season on the doorstep"](#)

["Early returns on deer stubs and hunter self-survey indicate hunters are 'seeing deer'"](#)

["Mentored hunting program a quick hit"](#)

["Deer hunters urged to help eliminate feral pigs"](#)

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



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DNR education presence at state teachers' convention a big hit

By: Elisabeth Olson, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management

DNR educators continued to promote environmental literacy to Wisconsin K-12 (kindergarten through grade 12) teachers at the annual Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) Convention, October 29-30 in Milwaukee. Teachers flocked to the DNR exhibit booth to stock up on environmental education resources for their classrooms.

The DNR educators from the former Bureau of Education and Information attend the WEAC Convention every year and each time are greeted with enthusiasm from teachers. "This stuff is great!" and "I look for your booth every year" are the usual comments.



Cristal Campbell, air quality educator with the Bureau of Air Management, spoke to a teacher who visited DNR's display at the state teacher's convention.

WDNR Photo

Reaching teachers with environmental education materials furthers the DNR mission to protect and enhance our natural resources. Wisconsin's future relies on a well-educated public to be wise stewards of the resources that sustain our

economy, families, communities and future generations.

Environmental education increases public awareness and knowledge of environmental issues and problems. In doing so, it helps provide Wisconsin citizens with the necessary skills to make informed decisions and take responsible action.

"By working with teachers, we extend our reach to the students in their many classrooms and help assure a new generation of environmentalists and conservationists," said Office of Communications educator and EEK! editor **Carrie Morgan**.

DNR educators attend WEAC's Convention every year as a direct way to reach those who shape Wisconsin's future decisionmakers and environmental stewards. Staff provide posters, activity guides and other department publications ranging from information on air quality and recycling, to forestry and wildlife. Teachers then use these resources in their classrooms or to help them prepare lesson plans.

Footnote: *Elisabeth Olson is the recycling and waste reduction education and outreach coordinator for the Bureau of Waste and Materials Management.*



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"Partners in Giving" in last weeks of campaign

The finish line for the 2009 "Partners in Giving" is in sight. Last week DNR's deposit was \$9,075, bringing the cumulative total to \$67,059. Turn in your form if you haven't already done so. Whether you plan to give to the campaign or not, turn in the form anyway for an opportunity to have your name drawn for a prize.

During week 4, the silent auction organized by **Sherri Voigt** in the Bureau of Finance quietly raised \$1,067 for the campaign.

The following names were drawn for week five and selected their prizes:

- **Rebecca Gass**, Division of Forestry, claimed the fishing license donated by **Todd Ambs**.
- **Laurie Egge**, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment, selected the upside-down tomato planter donated by **Mary Rose Teves**.
- **Denise Nettlesheim**, South Central Region, has yet to claim her prize.
- **Peter Biermeier**, Bureau of Parks & Recreation, has yet to choose his prize.

Those drawing prizes during week four were:

- **Robert Liska**, South Central Region, claimed the 2010 State Trail Pass donated by the Bureau of Parks.
- **Tara Bergeson**, Bureau of Endangered Resources, chose a set of four tickets to the February 28, 2010 women's home basketball game donated by the UW-Madison Athletic Department.
- **Wayne Ringquist**, Bureau of Law Enforcement, selected the Wollersheim wine donated by **Sue Bangert**.
- **Mary Anne Lowndes**, Bureau of Watershed Management, claimed the Ghirardelli Chocolate Squares donated by the Bureau of Legal Services.

The following prizes remain:

- Your choice of homemade baked goods
- Jar of honey
- Hat from the Nature Conservancy
- "Connectivity" t-shirt (XL)
- Four tickets for the February 28 UW-Madison Women vs. Iowa home basketball game
- Black ceramic conservation warden mug
- Three-piece Avon jewelry ensemble
- Handmade decorative fall wreath
- "Shore Lunch" print by local artist Tim Leonardelli



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DNR attorney Michael Cain receives Wetland Protection Award

On November 5, retired DNR attorney **Michael Cain** received the Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 2009 "Wetland Protection Award" for his work in developing the state's wetland protection laws. Cain authored or co-authored all of these laws during his 33 years with the department.



DNR attorney Michael Cain (center) gathered with other award winners Jeff Nania (left) and Daniel Brown, representing the Ho Chunk Nation. Wisconsin Wetlands Association board president Mary Linton (left) and the association's executive director Becky Abel posed with the three.

WDNR Photo

At its annual meeting, the statewide Wetlands Association recognized "individuals and groups whose work advances the protection, restoration and enjoyment of Wisconsin's wetlands." In addition to Cain, the Ho Chunk Nation won the "Wetland Restoration Award" for restoring wetlands on its lands, and Jeff Nania received the "Wetland Enjoyment Award" for his work with the Portage School District.

To learn more about Cain's work and the importance of protecting our wetlands, read the Wisconsin Wetlands Association's news release ["Local wetland hero honored with statewide wetlands award."](#)

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Bounty of the hunt donations to fight hunger begins 10th year

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

[Wisconsin's Wildlife Deer Damage Donation program](#) begins its 10th year this fall, having distributed over 3.1 million pounds of ground venison from nearly 70,000 deer donated by hunters, prepared by participating meat processors and distributed by volunteers to food pantries around the state.



A buck keeps a sharp eye out for hunters.

WDNR Photo

"Wisconsin's venison donation program is an important effort that provides high quality food to Wisconsin families in need," DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** said. "This program has been very popular. I encourage hunters to continue this charitable effort by bagging a deer for food pantries."

The deer donation program is a partnership that includes local charitable organizations, counties, DNR, meat processors and hunters. This effort has provided high quality protein to thousands of families over the years. Read more about the good work of this program at the ["Deer donation program enters its 10th year"](#) webpage

Rules of the program are simple. Hunters harvest, tag, field dress and register a deer as they always have. After registration, the hunter drops off the carcass at a participating processor. The only cost to the hunter is transporting the deer.

Green Bay Packers hunting down hunger

New this year is a program run by the Green Bay Packers called ["Hunting Down Hunger."](#) Anyone who has been to a

Packer game or watched the Pack on TV is familiar with the “sea of orange” and camouflage in the stands. Now hunters can wear their favorite team’s logo and their favorite fall colors by purchasing a baseball cap in orange or orange camo or a stocking hat in orange. The Packer organization will donate five dollars from every hat purchase to hunger relief in Wisconsin.

“Through the combination of two traditional Wisconsin past times, the Packers and hunting, we’re hopeful fans will take aim at hunger in this very unique way,” said Green Bay Packers president/CEO Mark Murphy.

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



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Video offers common sense in the workplace to fight H1N1 flu

The Montreal Medical International video “H1N1 Overview” on the Internet offers common sense approaches for attempting to ward off the H1N1 flu virus in the workplace.

Connect with the [“H1N1 Flu Virus”](#) Intranet page on “MyDNR.” Here, you’ll also find links to news release, “Flu Myths and Realities” and frequently asked questions.

Click on the “Wisconsin’s Pandemic Flu Resource” icon to find the most recent information on the status of this influenza within the state’s borders. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services provides weekly surveillance reports, accessible via this webpage.



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Legislature in recess until January 19, 2010; work will continue

By: Paul Heinen, Secretary’s Office

On November 5, the Wisconsin legislature closed its 2009 floor session. Until it resumes on January 19, the legislature will continue to hold hearings and meetings, but there will be no floor votes. The “DNR Digest” will continue to provide updates on this work.

The [“2009 Bill Tracker”](#) contains a final status report on DNR-related Senate and Assembly bills introduced for fiscal years 2009-2011.

Highlights from previous two weeks

- **Assembly Bill 138**, Rep. Spencer Black’s bill to give the Natural Resources Board appointment authority for the DNR secretary passed both houses of the legislature. The governor has vetoed the bill, and the legislature now is debating whether to hold a veto override session.
- **Assembly Bill 258**, Rep. Mary Hubler’s bill to ban used oil filters from landfills, is on the governor’s desk for signing.
- **Senate Bill 241**, Sen. Jim Holperin’s bill allowing 50 inch ATV’s on state trails, passed both house last week and awaits the governor’s signature.

Main issues under consideration

Climate change and groundwater issues likely will dominate legislative time for the next few months. It looks as though the bill drafts will be released in December, with hearings possible early in 2010.

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



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Pilfered trees, native mistletoe and life under the ice

By: Larry Sperling, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing

All of this and more in December Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine

In the seasonal story, the Grinch steals the holiday tree, but timber theft is a real world concern that doesn’t have a happy ending. The crime takes many forms from dark-of-the-night theft, cutting across private property lines, and failure to pay in full for harvested timber. In the December issue of the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine, DNR forestry law enforcement specialist **Gary Bibow** explains the many ways timber is stolen and how woodlot owners can avoid becoming a victim.



This northern pike, *Esox lucius*, was “caught” cruising near a fish crib. When vegetation dies back in the winter, several fish species cruise the water near artificial cribs in search of an easy meal of minnows and panfish.

WDNR Photo

Exact numbers of timber theft cases are hard to quantify. Some cases are reported to local law enforcement and the DNR, but many times the theft is unreported and the owner doesn't know they've been shorted because they're not immediately aware trees are missing or logging totals have been misreported.

“I've been involved in timber theft investigations from Rock County to Ashland County,” Bibow said.

Read how to better protect your stand or woodlot from theft in the story “When You Can't See the Missing Trees From the Forest.”

Another feature, “The Season's Tiny Tot,” introduces readers to our smallest native shrub. Only an inch high, eastern dwarf mistletoe (our only native mistletoe), slowly parasitizes small patches of northern spruces, but it can benefit the forest habitat, too.

In the story “Nature's Architects and Engineers,” readers will marvel at the materials and the design work that insects, birds and mammals employ in constructing their nests, webs, dams and nurseries.

The cloistered world where fish survive life under the ice is explored in “A Cold World With an Icy Ceiling.”



You could catch a glimpse of a brightly-colored Cedar Waxwing enjoying the season's frozen berries along Wisconsin's birding and nature trails.

WDNR Photo

The magazine celebrates the completion of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail series that encourages ecotourism, green travel and outdoor exploration in the story “Road Map to the Right Place at the Right Time.”

You'll find all of this and more in the December issue of **Wisconsin Natural Resources**. Let us deliver six colorful issues to your door throughout the year for less than \$1.50 a copy. All year long we share the hot spots at the hot times to enjoy the Wisconsin outdoors for only \$8.97. Subscribe toll-free at 1(800)-678-9472, online at [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine or by mail. Subscription blanks and single issues also are available from our circulation office at P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

For more information, email me, [David Sperling](#), or call me at(608)266-1510.

Footnote: (David) Larry Sperling is editor of the “Wisconsin Natural Resources” magazine.

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State fish and wildlife agencies trusted for conservation information

By: Southwick Associates

In an October 2009 survey, Southwick Associates asked anglers and hunters which type of organization they trust the most for accurate information regarding fish and wildlife conservation. The results of the monthly [AnglerSurvey](#) and [HunterSurvey](#) polls show that state fish and wildlife agencies are considered the most trustworthy source of conservation information among hunters and anglers.

Of 2,771 anglers surveyed, 54.4 percent reported state fish and wildlife agencies were their most trusted source. Of the 3,378 hunters surveyed, 50.7 percent agreed. The second most trusted source, with 25.1 percent of anglers and 29.5 percent of hunters, are sport-fishing and hunting non-profit conservation groups.

The survey presented other sources of conservation information to hunters and anglers. Non-profit conservation groups not focused on fishing or hunting were preferred by 5.3 percent of anglers and 7.4 percent of hunters. Federal fish and wildlife agencies were rated as the most trusted source by 5.0 percent of anglers and 4.3 percent of hunters. Non-outdoor television programming and magazines ranked even lower.

"The results indicate that sportsmen and women want to hear from their state fish and wildlife agency when it comes to fish and wildlife conservation issues," reported Donna Leonard, who manages these surveys for Southwick Associates. "Efforts to increase conservation awareness or behavior will have better success if state fish and wildlife agencies are involved."

Launched in 2006, AnglerSurvey.com and HunterSurvey.com help the outdoor equipment industry, government fisheries and wildlife officials, and conservation organizations track consumer activities and expenditure trends. The information above represents only a small sample of the vast amount of data that is available from the complete survey results. The results are scientifically analyzed to reflect all U.S. anglers.



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Fire prevention team and team leader receive 2008 honors

By: Gary Bibow, Bureau of Forestry Protection

The Division of Forestry's **Fire Prevention Specialist Team** received the "2008 Superior Team Accomplishment Award" from Division of Forestry administrators at a training meeting at Fort McCoy. Also recognized at the meeting was forestry team leader **Cole Couvillion**, Wausaukee, who received the program's "2008 Excellence in Law Enforcement Award."



Forestry division administrator Paul DeLong (far left) and deputy administrator Darrell Zastrow (far right) presented the Division of Forestry's "2008 Superior Team Accomplishment Award" to members of the Fire Prevention Specialist Team, (left to right) forestry technician Brook Hushagen; forester rangers Ron Zalewski and Jake Bonack; forest fire prevention specialist Catherine Koele; forester ranger Lucas Schmidt; area forestry leader Steve Courtney; and forestry technician Phil Puestow.

WDNR Photo

The members of the Fire Prevention Specialist Team received their award as a result of their work to revitalize and improve the burning permit system, in place since the 1920s. Team members conducted extensive research within DNR and with other agencies managing similar situations.

In 2006, the team tested an option based on an 800 phone system and webpage in Peshtigo in 2006. This approach increased flexibility in cutting off permits because of changing weather conditions, as well as incorporating key fire prevention messages. A statewide trial followed in 2007, with implementation statewide in 2008.

As a result of the work by the team, area managers now are able to cut off burning on a day-to-day basis and can quickly respond when burning conditions are dangerous. The new system also reduces the need to renew permits every three to five days, as well as cutting travel involved and the resulting energy consumption and emissions.

Forest Fire Management Section chief **Blair Anderson** wrote in his nomination of the team: "The efforts of the Fire Prevention Specialist Team have resulted in a fundamental improvement in a decades-old program. Their innovative approach to prevention issues and their exhaustive pursuit of solutions is the reason this new approach was identified and put into place. Their efforts merit recognition."

Other members of the team missing from the photo were: wildland urban interface coordinator **Jolene Ackerman**; forester **Tim Beyer**; fire control dispatcher **Dave Christenson**; forestry technicians **Scott Loveland**, **Steve Williamson**

and **Matt Blaylock**; waste management specialist **Marcy McGrath**; UW basin educator Bill Klase; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife wildland urban interface coordinator Paul Charland.

Recognition of Couvillion goes beyond his immediate duties

According to the award nomination from area forestry leader **Mike Folgert**, Cole Couvillion was "nominated for this award not only because of his excellence in law enforcement but for his excellence as a well-rounded department employee, for his eagerness and dedication to the entire forestry program, as well as for his efforts at leading the individuals on his team."



Forestry team leader Cole Couvillion received the Forestry Division's "2008 Excellence in Law Enforcement Award" from Forestry Division administrator Paul DeLong and deputy administrator Darrell Zastrow.

WDNR Photo

As an example of Couvillion's aggressive investigation of all types of forestry enforcement complaints, he teamed up in 2001 with a local conservation warden and solved a series of arson-caused forest fires. Subsequently, the Wisconsin Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators named him "Arson Investigator of the Year."

Couvillion redesigned a forester ranger credential review form for his region that now is used statewide. Maintaining his deputy conservation warden credentials, he has developed many strong personal and working relationship with conservation wardens, natural resource officers, and other local law enforcement officers.

"This represents a small portion of Couvillion's outstanding contributions and service to the forestry program in an enforcement capacity," said Folgert. "His accomplishments have always exceeded expectations: he leads by example, sets the bar high, gets the work done and holds others accountable to do the same. He has coached and mentored new employees, and has helped a number of employees manage through some tough situations."

Footnote: *Gary Bibow is a private lands forestry law enforcement specialist.*

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Editor's Note: Kinnickinnic River cleanup, inside DNR

The November 5 "DNR Digest" story "[Kinnickinnic River cleanup means a revitalized Milwaukee neighborhood](#)" was derived from a joint news release issued by DNR, the City of Milwaukee and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on November 2. For more of an "inside DNR view" on the work of the department on this cleanup project, go to DNR's "[Kinnickinnic Environmental Restoration Project](#)" webpage.

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Women in government can apply for graduate seminar program

Wisconsin women interested in furthering their careers in state government are encouraged to apply **by December 4** for Wisconsin Women in Government's (WWIG) ninth public policy Graduate Seminar.

There are at least 15 full scholarships available for women currently employed in government. Five additional places are reserved for other applicants, including those in the private sector, at a reduced cost of \$400. The course will be offered for six weeks in January and February of 2010.

Offered in cooperation with the La Follette School of Public Affairs at UW–Madison, the goal of WWIG's Graduate Seminar is to give management training to women in both the public and private sector, and help women in government acquire the skills they need to move into positions of leadership.

"This graduate course is a way to support Wisconsin women who have helped make Women in Government a success," said Grace Cudney, WWIG President. "Not only will this seminar benefit women and the government agencies and private sector organizations in which they work, it also is a wonderful opportunity to gain management, networking and leadership skills."

Go to [WWIG's](#) webpage to find application materials. All applications must be postmarked or received by December 4, 2009 and should be sent to: Wisconsin Women in Government, Graduate Seminar Committee, P.O. Box 2543, Madison, WI 53701 or emailed to info@wisconsinwomeningovernment.org.

WWIG will send out notification of acceptance letters by January 1, 2010.

WWIG awards numerous scholarships throughout the year

The Graduate Seminar is funded through WWIG's annual awards banquet and fundraiser, attended by 1,000 state and local elected officials, business leaders, public servants and political enthusiasts.

Every year, the organization awards scholarships to women pursuing undergraduate study in government; sponsors the Bonnie Reese Legislative Scholarship; provides a scholarship to the young woman elected governor of Badger Girls State (BGS); sponsors girls to attend BGS who would not otherwise be able to do so; and sponsors women to attend the National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Conference in Milwaukee.

New this year, WWIG offered fall leadership seminars to help women across the state with career and professional development. Read more about this opportunity at the ["Fall Leadership Seminars"](#) webpage.



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Navitus pharmacy information now on more secure website

Those receiving State pharmacy benefits managed by Navitus Health Solutions now can access information via a new, more secure page on the Navitus website, "Navi-Gate(r) for Members." Previously available through the 'Navitus.com' public website, formularies, prior authorization (PA) forms and prescription drug benefit information are found exclusively through "Navi-Gate(r) for Members."

Each member must register and create their own secure login to access private and proprietary information on the "Navi-Gate(r) for Members" site. ["Access to Pharmacy Benefit Information on the Navitus Web Site"](#) provides specific information on how to register for access to the "Navi-Gate(r) for Members" site.

To register, members will need both an email address and their identification number found on their Navitus ID card. Members who don't have a valid email address can obtain pharmacy benefit information by calling Navitus Customer Care at 1(866)333-2757.



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Another successful South Central Bike/Walk 15,000 Challenge

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

The fifth annual South Central Region (SCR) Bike/Walk Challenge well exceeded its 15,000 mile goal with current mileage totaling 16,508, noted event coordinator and SCR hydrogeologist **Hank Kuehling**, Fitchburg.

"This figure (mileage) probably will increase as a few more miles are reported for October," he added.

The eight-month challenge ended on October 31, with most of the 41 participants choosing to bike rather than ride to work, while several opted to walk.



Some of the 41 participants in SCR's Bike/Walk Challenge posed near Nevin Hatchery's fish bicycle rack. From left: Sue Kenney, Dave O'Malley, Wendy Wojner, Adam Hogan, Hank Kuehling, Steve Holaday, Kristin Hart and John Olson.

WDNR Photo

"This year, over 650 gallons of fuel were saved and about 7.8 tons of carbon dioxide weren't released into the atmosphere as a result of our employees efforts," according to Kuehling.

SCR challenge supporters offered to make contributions if the 15,000 mile goal was met, and so about \$864 will be going to the contributors' charitable causes, slated mostly for the "Partners in Giving" campaign, said Kuehling.

SCR's 2009 bikers and walkers: Steve Ales, Don Bates, Larry Benson, Alex Britzius, Mark Cain, Ron Curtis, Mike Degen, Greg Delwiche, Lloyd Eagan, Doug Fendry, Mike Foy, Jake Fries, Dan Goltz, Ron Grasshoff, Bob Hansis, Kristin Hart, Karl Heil, Dan Heim, Adam Hogan, Steve Holaday, Anna Jahns, Ken Johnson, Bob Kaczmarek, Cindy Kohles,

Hank Kuehling, Bob Liska, Percy Mather, Laura Miller, John Olson, Dave O'Malley, Cami Peterson, Eileen Pierce, Chris Repking, Becky Roth, Gary Steffen, Kurt Welke, Wendell Wojner, Brad Wolbert, Meg Ziegler, Phyllis Ziehr and Matt Zine.
Footnote: *Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*



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