

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.

January 14, 2010

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DNR a partner in battle to block invasive carp from Great Lakes

Alarms have been going off in states along the shores of the Great Lakes for what they see as a real threat to their \$7 billion fisheries and tourism industries. The voracious [Asian carp](#). In early December, DNR's Rotenone Applications Team joined other state, federal and international conservation agencies to take part in treating the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal (CSSC) to cut short this aquatic invasive's migration from the Mississippi River basin to the Great Lakes.

The despised Asian carp, which can grow to four feet in length and weigh up to 100 pounds, eat the plankton that is the food source of the native species, starving them to death. The carp were imported from Asia to cleanse fish ponds and sewage lagoons in the southern states, but escaped into the Mississippi and have been working their way north since the 1970s. Spooked by the sound of motors, there have been reports of the fish "leaping from the water like missiles" and colliding with boaters with bone-breaking force.



Rotenone Application Team leader Paul Cunningham mixed a stratification of the rotenone formulation that had formed, to break it down.

WDNR Photo

Paul Cunningham, central office fisheries ecologist and leader of the Rotenone Applications Team, reported that team members were part of a massive carp control effort in the Chicago ship canal. They participated by applying the pesticide to the ship canal to stop dead in their tracks those carp that normally would have been halted at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) ([electrical barrier](#))

This measure was necessary while because COE shut down its only permanent Asian carp barrier (Barrier IIA), near Romeoville IL, to conduct routine maintenance. During the shutdown, Barrier I (an older demonstration barrier) remained active. However, because of late summer DNA detection of Asian carp near the barrier system and concern that the lower voltage Barrier I may not be effective in deterring juvenile fish, the fish toxicant, rotenone, was applied to the canal between this barrier and the Lockport Lock and Dam.

The Chicago ship canal is part of the waterway linking the Mississippi with the Great Lakes. The barrier on that canal emits electric pulses to scare off approaching carp. Those who don't get the hint do get a non-lethal jolt.

Wisconsin DNR's team was made up of **Rick Dauffenbach**, fisheries tech in Sturtevant; **Mark Baldock**, fisheries technician at Horicon; **Steve Gospodarek**, fisheries technician at Waukesha; **Harry Hoodie**, equipment operator at Winnebago; **Sue Beyler**, fisheries team supervisor at Waukesha; **Laura Stremick-Thompson**, fisheries biologist at Horicon; and Cunningham.

"The rotenone treatment was an interim measure until the COE is able to install the second permanent electrical barrier (Barrier IIB) downstream," said Cunningham. Of the five treatment stations established, Wisconsin staffed two: one just downstream of the current electrical barrier and another 1.7 miles downstream of the electrical barrier.

The seven DNR employees arrived in Romeoville on December 1, ready to apply the pesticide over the next two days. They then were cross-certified for pesticide application by the state of Illinois, attended numerous logistical meetings, health exams, equipment checks and training sessions.

DNR's contingent worked under cover of night, so others could recover dead fish in the daylight. "Our two treatment teams needed to be on site continuously to monitor flow rates and distribution of chemical, resulting

in staff working long hours.”

In addition to staff time, expertise and personal protective gear, DNR donated 300 gallons of liquid Rotenone. Illinois DNR estimates that about 400 personnel from various agencies were on hand and that the preliminary estimate of the cost of the operation was \$5 million, including “in kind” contributions by partners.

Wisconsin joins in lawsuit seeking injunction to stop carp’s migration

Many have questioned the effectiveness of the electric barrier to stop the Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. Some seek closing off the century-old manmade CSSC route between the Mississippi and the lakes. Those who use the canal to haul millions of tons of iron ore, coal, grain, scrap metal and other cargo oppose such a measure.



Application Team members Sue Beyler and Steve Gospodarek staffed their station along the Chicago Sanitary Ship Canal where they’d applied a rotenone treatment during the night.

WDNR Photo

Wisconsin Attorney General J. B. Van Hollen recently announced that Wisconsin will be party to the lawsuit first brought by Michigan that also includes Minnesota and Ohio and seeking a preliminary injunction that would apply interim actions to stop the carp from entering Lake Michigan, while pursuing a permanent order. DNR staff was called upon to provide advice on fisheries and ecological issues in the case.

“Michigan has also asked for a permanent order that would require modifications of the Chicago Waterway System to achieve ‘total ecological separation,’ which is probably the only effective long term solution to stopping movement of aquatic organisms between the systems,” said **Mike Staggs**, director of the Bureau of Fisheries Management.

Although not yet a part of Michigan’s permanent lawsuit, Wisconsin supports the “preliminary injunction enjoining the State of Illinois, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and the Corps of Engineers to immediately take all available measures within their respective control, consistent with the protection of public health and safety, to prevent the migration of bighead and silver carp into Lake Michigan...”

To learn more about the seven measures requested by the Wisconsin Department of Justice filing in this case, read the [injunction filed with the U.S. Supreme Court](#).

“Regardless of the outcome of the legal actions, it is imperative that all parties involved act now to make sure that the necessary studies are done and funding secured to achieve total ecological separation before Asian Carp infest the waters above the electrical barrier,” wrote Staggs, “Everyone agrees there will be severe impacts to fisheries in the Great Lakes if Asian Carp become established – Lake Michigan and Superior sport fishing alone is worth \$420 million a year and supports 5,000 jobs in Wisconsin . We’re putting that at serious risk every day

that we don't solve this problem.”

Secretary Frank addressed Asian carp problem in TV appearance

The “Secretary’s Corner” also contains a link to a recent TV appearance by Secretary Matt Frank on [“Upfront with Mike Gousha.”](#) stressing the urgency for stopping Asian carp “from infesting the Great Lakes via the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.”

Media Kit contains more on the habits and devastation of Asian carp

The Bureau of Fisheries Management and the Office of Communication prepared a [media kit](#) to assist the media in informing the public about the potential impact of the Asian carp on the economy and tourism of the Great Lakes region.



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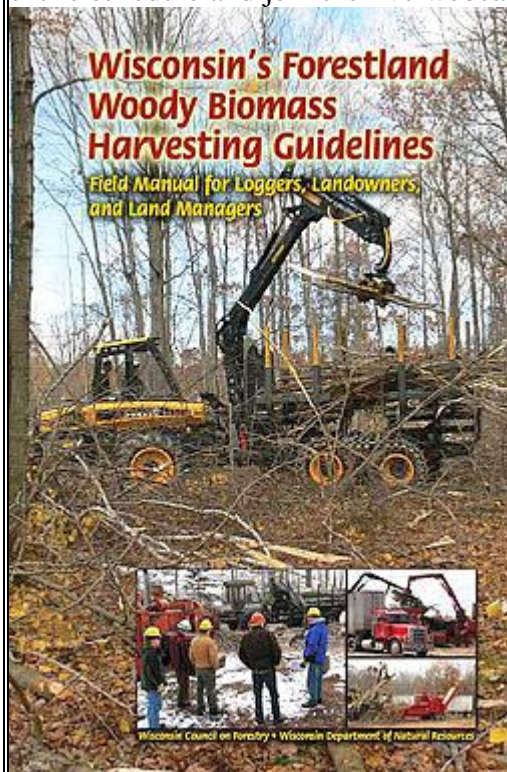
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Science Services seminar series begins today, runs through March

By: R. Chris Welch, Bureau of Science Services

Building on the success and popularity of its previous seminar series, the Bureau of Science Services will conduct another series of seminars highlighting staff research and program activities. The six afternoon sessions will be held at 2:30 p.m. in room G09 of GEF 2, in Madison, and webcast statewide.

Watch for additional email announcements and flyers with detailed information on each presentation. View the entire schedule and join the live webcasts on the [“Winter 2010 Science Services Seminar Series”](#) webpage.



Eunice Padley will kick off the seminar series with a presentation on “Wisconsin's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines.”

WDNR Photo

Consider participating in the following sessions. You don't need to register to attend:

- **(TODAY) January 14:** “Wisconsin's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines,” presented by **Eunice Padley** of the Wildlife and Forestry Research Section
- **January 28:** “Historic Trends in Wisconsin River and Stream Flows,” presented by **Steve Greb** of the Fish

and Habitat Research Section

- **February 11:** “Evaluation of Riparian Buffers in Timber Sales for Preserving Stream Health,” presented by **Brian Weigel** and **Paul Kanehl** of the Fish and Habitat Research Section
- **February 25:** “Upstream Fish Passage at the Prairie du Sac Dam on the Wisconsin River: the Challenges of Reconnecting a Fragmented River System while Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species,” presented by **John Lyons** of the Fish and Habitat Research Section
- **March 11:** “Coastal Management Funded Work,” presented by **Adam Mednick** of the Science Information Services Section
- **March 25:** “Focus on Energy Landowner Focus Group,” presented by **Ed Nelson** of the Science Information Services Section

For more information on the seminar series and/or to receive the email announcements on the webcasts, email me, [Chris](#) or call me at (608) 264-8592.

Footnote: *Chris Welch is the science communications manager in the Science Information Services Section.*



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Coakley new director of Waste & Materials Management Bureau

Just before the holidays, Air and Waste Division administrator **Al Shea** announced his appointment of **Ann Coakley** as director of the Bureau of Waste and Materials Management. She replaces **Sue Bangert**, who became division deputy administrator in 2008.



Ann Coakley is the new director of the Bureau of Waste & Materials Management.

WDNR Photo

In making the appointment, Shea pointed out Coakley’s “dedication, vision and passion for the Waste and Materials Management program. “Her experience, not only from within the program in both the central office and the region, but from her jobs at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and the private environmental consulting sector, will position her to continue the program's proud history of excellence and leadership in the waste management area.”

"I am looking forward to her leadership within the program and as a member of the Air and Waste Management Team," said Shea.

Coakley attended UW-Stevens Point and earned degrees in physical geography and geology. Her professional credentials include working as: a contaminant hydrogeologist for two private environmental consulting firms for eight years; an environmental analysis and review specialist for the Department of Transportation for six years; and, most recently, DNR Northern Region's Waste and Materials Management program supervisor for three years.

"Sustainability" is Coakley's leadership focus. "Together we must understand and consider how waste and materials issues impact the regulated community and the general public, the environment and the economy. Our decisions must be informed by all three stakeholders...our people, the planet and profit."

Coakley and her family will be relocating to Madison from Rhinelander. Rooted in family and the outdoors, she enjoys the silent sports of hiking, biking, camping, fishing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and gardening. Her greatest passion is playing with and teaching her young daughter.

Environmental education of children and the public also are keen interests of Coakley's.. "I grew up in a county park, where my Dad and our family served as caretakers of the grounds and facilities. The rustic, forested park inspired my career in natural resources."



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H1N1 flu vaccination clinic scheduled for late January

As H1N1 flu vaccine has once again become available, the department has scheduled a flu vaccination clinic to be held in room G09 of GEF 2 on Monday, January 25. Home Health United will be on hand between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. that day to administer the vaccinations.

As has been done with other flu shot clinics held in the central office, Home Health United will bill the insurance of those employees covered by Medicare, Medicaid, Dean Care, Physicians Plus and Group Health. Be sure to bring your insurance card to the clinic.

Those not covered by one of these insurance plans may receive the shot at a cost of \$14.50, payable the day of the clinic. Those who pay "out of pocket" can contact their insurance carrier for possible reimbursement.

If you'd like to receive an H1N1 shot on January 25, email [Marty Karow](#) or call her at 246-7998 to coordinate an appointment time. Because the number of employees signed up for the clinic will determine whether one or two nurses are needed, be sure to contact Karow for a time.



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Legislative committees working on DNR-related bills

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

The full Senate and Assembly will return for the 2010 floor session next Tuesday, January 19. In the meantime, legislative committees have been working on bills of interest to DNR. For a rundown on the status of DNR-related bills and laws for this biennium, see the ["2010 Bill Tracker."](#)

Highlights since the New Year

- The Clean Energy Jobs Act's, **SB 540** (Mark Miller) and **AB 649** (Spencer Black) were introduced on January 7. The bills were referred to two new committees in both houses: SB 540 went on to the Senate Select Committee on Clean Energy. The Assembly Special Committee on Clean Energy Jobs received AB 649. The first hearing on both bills will be January 20, at a joint hearing of the two special committees.

- On January 5, the Assembly Fish and Wildlife Committee held a hearing on **AB 548** (Ann Hraychuck), which will allow drivers to keep car-killed bear and turkey. The committee also heard **AB 577** (Joan Ballweg), which would create a one-day fishing license.
- Both of the Assembly and Senate committees voted to send the DNR rule on deer management unit population goals back to the department for further review.

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

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Warden Bayer's actions representative of statewide enforcement

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

There are times when the hook and bullet crowd turns into the collared and cited crew. This activity keeps state conservation wardens busy, especially in the fall when the walleye biting turns hot and some whitetail bucks sport impressive headgear.

Such were two cases--representative of the work of DNR's field wardens all over the state--made this past fall by southern Price County warden **Jason Bayer**, stationed in Phillips. One involved overbagging of walleyes and the other the illegal harvest of a trophy deer.

Citizen tip led to apprehension of overbagging angler

The walleye case started with an anonymous phone call from a citizen to the DNR violation hotline. Using the information, Bayer contacted a Wilson Lake resident on the water, one evening. The man didn't have a fishing license. A citation was issued. Based on the information supplied to him, Bayer knew he needed to keep an eye on this guy. Throughout the summer, he monitored the man and another angler with him, but didn't see any overbagging.



Warden Jason Bayer laid out the evidence he discovered upon further investigation of anglers he suspected of violating fishing bag limits.

WDNR Photo

In November, the warden observed both fishing for walleye on Long Lake. The lake has a daily bag limit of three walleyes per person and it appeared that these anglers were over the limit. The two motored to Elk Lake where the limit is five, and Bayer caught up with them when they landed at the boat launch in Phillips.

"As I approached, one of the men attempted to hide a walleye in the back of the boat," Bayer said. To a game warden this usually is a good indication that someone is over their limit, which turned out to be true.

Bayer followed the men back to their home on Wilson Lake. Following a discussion on daily bag and possession limits, he decided to investigate further. At the house, he seized numerous bags of walleye fillets, along with the 11 walleye from the boat. In total, there were 91 fish.

Bayer issued citations exceeding \$1,000 to the father and son team and asked that the older angler's license be revoked for one year. The case is still in court.

“While determining how many over-the-possession-limit they had, I granted the father his wife’s 10 fish limit, his grandson’s 10 fish limit, and his and his son’s 10 fish limit, which accounted for the first 40 walleye. The other 51 were in excess, and I removed a few that could have been perch and bass,” said Bayer. “The numbers ended up conservative, in their favor.”

Callers concerned about illegal harvest of trophy buck

Earlier in fall 2009, warden Bayer began hearing from people who were aware of a trophy 12-point buck in an area along Highway 111 near the Spring Creek State Wildlife Area, eight miles south of Phillips. Callers were concerned that someone might resort to illegal methods to harvest the deer.



After issuing citations for illegally tagging a trophy buck, warden Jason Bayer confiscated the 12-point antlers from the husband-wife team of violators.

WDNR Photo

Several people were aware of the large buck and had been hunting it on private and public lands. The buck was eventually killed in early November.

Soon after the buck was killed, Bayer received anonymous calls regarding the manner in which this deer had been harvested. With assistance from conservation warden **Dan Michels**, Park Falls, they found that the person who shot and killed the buck with a bow wasn’t the person whose tag was hung on the carcass.

This deer hunting case turned out to involve a husband and wife team.

“This was a case of someone cheating to kill a once-in-a-lifetime trophy buck, stealing the opportunity from a legal hunter,” Bayer said. The animal’s non-typical antler’s unofficially scored 167 points, under a national antler scoring system.

The person who killed the buck already had used his archery tag in September on a 10-point buck. Not content with one nice buck, he used his wife’s tag on the 12-point deer, explained Bayer. This type of violation is known as a “loan/ borrow” where another person’s permit or tag is used illegally to tag an animal.

The two were convicted of three citations with fines totaling \$830, and the husband lost his hunting privileges for one year. The wardens confiscated the buck’s antlers.

Chief state warden Randy Stark commended Bayer for these cases, referring to them as representative of the actions of all wardens in the field. He also had praise for the citizens who called in to report the suspicious activities that led to the citations.

“While we prefer to achieve voluntary compliance through proactive education, taking enforcement action is an important means of creating a deterrent for those inclined to break the law, endanger others, or steal opportunity

from law abiding citizens,” said Stark. “We are fortunate that the vast majority of the public cares deeply about our natural resources and works with us in catching violators by calling our violation hotline.”

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

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Following Climate Change Conference, Gov. Doyle announces Clean Energy Jobs legislation *Task force addressed climate change and growing the state's green economy*

On January 7, Gov. Jim Doyle announced plans to accelerate Wisconsin's green economy, including creating more than 15,000 Wisconsin jobs by the year 2025. New renewable energy standards implemented through the Clean Energy Jobs Act will accelerate the state's green economy and create jobs by 2025.

Referred to as “landmark legislation,” the governor called upon “the Legislature to update renewable portfolio standards to generate 25 percent of our fuel from renewable sources by 2025 and set a realistic goal of a 2 percent annual reduction in energy consumption by 2015.”

The recommendations of Gov. Doyle's Global Warming Task Force led to the introduction of Senate Bill 450 and Assembly Bill 649. Read the full news release [“Governor Doyle Announces Plan to Accelerate Wisconsin's Green Economy,”](#) which contains a link to the economic assessment of the Clean Energy Jobs Act released by the Economic and Policy Staff. DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** is a member of this staff.

Gov. Doyle spoke of Wisconsin's work at U.N. conference

During the U.N. Conference on Climate Change held in Copenhagen in December, Gov. Jim Doyle was part of a panel that also included Washington's Gov. Chris Gregoire, British Columbia's Premier Gordon Campbell, Quebec's Premier Jean Charest and Manitoba's Premier Greg Selinger.

On December 11, the governor's office released [“Governor Doyle Announces Events in Copenhagen,”](#) a preview of his scheduled activities during the conference.

“The speakers all did a wonderful job describing the important work underway at the subnational level to combat climate change and to usher in a new green economy even as they called for strong national and international action,” said Vicki Arroyo, executive director of the Georgetown Climate Center, who reported on the presentations. “The event also underscored the commitment of these leaders to push forward with regional climate and energy collaborations.

Hear from these U.S. governors and Canadian premiers from the Bella Center, at the [Georgetown Climate Center](#) webpage. Gov. Doyle also had joined Gov. Gregoire on a media call on December 11. Listen to the [audio of the call](#) on the center's webpage.

Arroyo also provided a list of what she refers to as “significant news coverage” that delegates and state partners received before, during and after the events in Copenhagen. Following are links to that coverage:

- [“Wisconsin/Manitoba pact focusing on climate”](#)
- [“Wis. governor's focus in Copenhagen is green jobs”](#)
- [“Wis. governor headed to climate summit”](#)
- [“Doyle Gets Ready for Copenhagen Conference”](#)
- [“Greenhouse gas free government? Gregoire sets 2020 goal”](#)
- [“Gregoire at Copenhagen climate talks: Green energy the way to rescue economy”](#)
- [“Ambitious Actions by the States Push U.S. Toward Climate Goals”](#)
- [“Kalin: ‘Incredibly pleased’ with Copenhagen results”](#)

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Friends honor Wyalusing's Brian Hefty and other parks employees

By: Randy Paske, Friends of Wyalusing State Park

"Thanks to DNR employees"

Editor's Note: *This is the first of what will be many stories expressing "Thanks to DNR employees." In addition to stories that recognize the work of employees and programs, this feature will pass along appreciation received from the public, businesses, government agencies and other DNR programs. Email any contributions to this feature to "DNR Digest" editor, [Diane Brinson](#) or mail to OC/2, GEF 2.*

Wyalusing State Park property manager Brian Hefty received the "Outstanding DNR Land Manager Award for 2009" at the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks (FWSP) Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet held at the Horicon Marsh International Education Center on October 23, 2009.

Numerous FWSP awards went to other DNR state parks employees and properties. For a complete list of "Hero Awards" and "Gold Seal Awards," go to the ["Friends of Wisconsin State Parks"](#) website.



John Waring, president of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks, and DNR Secretary Matt Frank were on hand to congratulate Brian Hefty (center) upon receiving the 2009 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks "Outstanding DNR Land Manager Award."

WDNR Photo

Hefty began working for the State Parks System about 17 years ago, and in 2003 became property manager for Wyalusing State Park.

Upon his arrival, he initiated a plan for the further development of the parks buildings, trails and personnel.

Through his involvement with staff development and effective leadership, the park took on a new look.

Buildings were repaired and painted, trails were cleaned and groomed, and staff adopted a "can do" outlook.

Comments from park visitors reflected these positive changes.

In July 2007, Wyalusing State Park, along with other DNR-managed properties, sustained a torrential rainstorm which severely damaged or destroyed a good portion of the park's trail system. In spite of some challenging budget constraints, Hefty successfully initiated a strategic plan for the restoration of sustainable trails.

"Brian continues to be a successful office person, meeting the needs of the parks, as well as hands on manager, often lending a hand doing the work of the parks," said Ken Knowles, FWSP president in presenting the award.

Today, Wyalusing State Park sparkles like the true gem that it is. Visitors have commented often on how good the park looks. Visitors also have commented on the responsiveness of the park staff. Many have said the transformation of the park in the last five years has been miraculous. The staff's attitude reflects on Hefty as an effective team leader. The physical improvements reflect on his ability as a manager.

Footnote: *This article was adapted from nomination papers and the introductory speech by Ken Knowles, Friends of Wyalusing State Park President, at the awards presentation.*

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DNR partnered with Department of Justice on illegal dump cleanup

“Thanks to DNR employees”

Donald Wagner of Ripon finally has agreed to clean up the mobile homes, drums, tires, boats and other solid waste on his Green Lake County property, and to pay \$22,500 to settle state claims brought under Wisconsin's air pollution prevention and solid waste management laws. Northeast Region (NER) law enforcement teamed up with the Department of Justice to resolve a long-standing complaint.



The burning of plastic, asphalt, rubber and other demolition wastes produced a thick black smoke containing air contaminants. Chris Hinz responded to the fire when he saw the plume 20 miles away in Neshkoro.

WDNR Photo

In a letter sent to the departments of Natural Resources and Justice, St. Marie Township chair [Norm Mashuda](#) specifically recognized steps taken by DNR warden **Nate Ackerman**, Wautoma, for initiating the process that led to the cleanup sought by the current and previous town boards. Mashuda referred to the NER warden as the “first responder.”

The complaint that began the case alleged that Wagner had purchased 32-acres in Green Lake County where the previous owner had operated an unlicensed junk yard and mobile home scrapping operation. The complaint also indicated that the landowner had an agreement with two local men to scrap the homes and keep the profits from the metals they collected.

In February 2007, four mobile homes were set on fire. Christopher Hinz, contract asbestos compliance specialist from the Waushara County Health Department, responded along with Ackerman and assisted him in gathering information for the complaint. During a subsequent inspection, Hinz, Ackerman and other NER field staff found asbestos in one of the burn piles; 40 to 60 other mobile homes in various stages of demolition; and thousands of tires, appliances, furniture, batteries, boats and other solid and hazardous wastes.



DNR found a variety of waste strewn around the property, typical of the items pictured here. Also uncovered through testing were materials containing asbestos. A tour of the inside of many of the trailers turned up discarded electronic equipment, tires, household furniture and other waste products.

WDNR Photo

Under Wisconsin law, long-term disposal and storage of such waste without a solid waste storage facility operating license and DNR-approved plan is prohibited. The law also mandates that structures such as mobile homes have to be tested for asbestos and any asbestos found removed before any demolition occurs. None of the dismantled or burned homes had been tested for asbestos.

As part of the settlement, Wagner agreed to test a well serving the property before he abandoned it and to test burn piles for potentially toxic levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), metals and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). He agreed to secure a \$70,000 line of credit to cover the anticipated costs of clean-up and to complete all necessary work by set deadlines.

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Horicon Marsh kicked off new guest speaker series this week

By: Liz Herzmann, Horicon Marsh Education Center

As part of an expanded education program at the new [Horicon Marsh International Education Center](#), staff has developed a guest speaker program. These programs provide a wide range of natural resource and environmental topics that may be of interest to people in the area of Horicon Marsh—and beyond.

The 2010 series kicked off on January 13 with DNR research scientist **Ron Gatti**, from the Bureau of Science Services. He spoke on “Duck Survival and Production in Wisconsin,” focusing on blue-winged teal.



Ron Gatti will speak about the survival and production of ducks, such as this mallard.

Photo courtesy of Jack Bartholmai

All lectures are scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, running through April 28. Each lecture will be in the education center's auditorium, accessible via the lower entrance. The center is located between the towns of Horicon and Mayville on Hwy. 28. Check out "[Horicon Marsh Maps](#)" online.

Following is the full schedule of 2010 lectures. See you there!

- **January 13:** DNR research scientist Ron Gatti on "Duck Survival & Production in Wisconsin"
- **January 27:** Andrew Rothman, founder of the Rainforest Biodiversity Group, on the "Costa Rica Bird Route"
- **February 10:** "Northern Cross Science Foundation- Stargazing at Horicon Marsh." The Foundation promotes astronomy and related sciences, and fosters public education in these fields.
- **February 24:** Horicon forester **Randy Stampfl** on "Forest Management Practices"
- **March 10:** **John Olson**, furbearer ecologist in Ashland, on "Furbearers of Forest and Wetland - Wisconsin's Amazingly Hairy Critters"
- **March 24:** **Ricky Lien**, Plymouth wildlife biologist, on "Overview of Wetland Restoration and Management in Wisconsin"
- **April 14:** Mariette Nowak on "Bird-scaping." Nowak is the author of "Birdscaping in the Midwest, A Guide to Gardening with Native Plants to Attract Birds."
- **April 28:** Horicon educator **Bill Volkert** and Connie Ramthun on "Living with the Land; Lessons in Natural Landscaping." Ramthun is Volkert's wife and operates a prairie plant nursery.

Footnote: *Liz Herzmann is an assistant naturalist at the Horicon Marsh Education Center.*



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Join in the fun and celebrate Lake Winnebago and the Great Lakes

By: fdlreporter.com

The grandeur, oddities and mysteries of the Great Lakes, Lake Winnebago and their inhabitants will be celebrated in two days of free events in Fond du Lac. DNR sturgeon expert **Ron Bruch** will join other panel members in discussing the film "Mysteries of the Great Lakes." Bruch is one of the authors of the book "People of the Sturgeon... Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish."

The Windhover Center for the Arts will present the film at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 29 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, January 30. The 45-minute film, originally shown in IMAX theaters, features the music of Gordon Lightfoot.

"People of the Sturgeon" tells the story of the cultures surrounding lake sturgeon in the Lake Winnebago region through a collection of photos, artifacts and "a few good fish tales."

The Fond du Lac Public Library will host a panel discussion at 1 p.m. on January 30, prior to the second presentation of the film. The panel will include authors Kathleen Schmitt Kline, science writer at the UW Sea Grant Institute; Bruch, lead sturgeon biologist of the Winnebago system; Frederick Binkowski, senior scientist at the UW-Milwaukee Great Lakes Water Institute; and William "Bill" Casper, founder of Sturgeon for Tomorrow.

The discussion will be followed by a book signing, where "People of the Sturgeon" will be available for \$25. The events are sponsored by the Fond du Lac Coast Guard Auxiliary; the Fond du Lac County Historical Society; Paddle, Power and Sail Lake Winnebago; Sturgeon for Tomorrow; Winnebago Lakes Council; Windhover Center for the Arts; and the Fond du Lac Public Library.

For additional information about the Great Lakes events email [Ellen Balthazor](#) or call her at (920)921-7373.



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