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## Miles firewood can travel to state lands cut from 50 to 25

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### ***New firewood rule took effect on June 1***

**Beginning June 1, anyone bringing firewood onto a state property must have gathered or purchased it from a vendor who cut it within 25 miles of the state-managed property. This is a big reduction in distance from the previous law, which allowed wood from up to 50 miles away.**

**Firewood is a common way to unknowingly move the highly-destructive invasives emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, oak wilt and Dutch elm disease. These pests and diseases have killed millions of trees, and have the potential to kill many more here in Wisconsin.**



**An emerald ash borer is smaller than a penny, but don't let its size fool you. Adults emerge through D-shaped holes beneath the bark of ash trees during late May through mid-July.**

**WDNR Photo**

**The Natural Resources Board made this change to further reduce the risk of introducing destructive forest diseases and insects to state properties. An exception to this law is wood from state-certified vendors whose wood may enter any state property, regardless of where it was originally harvested. Certified vendors have treated their wood to kill pests and diseases. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) inspects the vendor's business and verifies that treatment has been done before certifying the vendor.**

**The change in allowable distance is being made based on a recent study which**

indicates a significant reduction in risk of introduction of wood borne pests with the adoption of the smaller allowable area. Finding emerald ash borer in southeast and southwest Wisconsin was also cause for increased caution.

DNR now has "[Firewood—25 Mile Radius Maps](#)" that illustrate the area around each state park and forest where safe firewood can be obtained.

#### **If you're planning to camp, plan where to get firewood, too**

If you're planning a camping trip to a state park or forest this year, department property managers advise you to get your firewood locally. Most parks and forests have local firewood available for sale on site, or you can buy wood from vendors nearby the property. To learn more about firewood availability at your destination, find the phone number for the state property you'll be staying at on the "[Find a Wisconsin State Park or Forest.](#)" website. The "[Parks, Forests, Recreation Areas and Trails](#)" website contains a firewood notice.

For a list of certified vendors, more information on the certification program and how to become a certified vendor, go to DATCP's "[Firewood Dealer Certification](#)" website. Get answers to "What is Acceptable Firewood" from the "[Wisconsin Emerald Ash Borer Information Source](#)" website.

Read about the early emergence of the emerald ash borer in DATCP's "[Warm spring hastens EAB emergence](#)" June 9 news release.

"A campsite surrounded by healthy, mature trees is basic to a quality camping experience, and so is having a campfire," said DNR forest health educator **Colleen Robinson Klug**. "If we're going to enjoy both, we need to take some precautions to prevent introducing invasive pests and diseases to the parks and forests we love the most. By using wood from trees grown nearby, you help prevent such introductions."

For more information, contact Klug, at (608)266-2172 or DNR's forest health specialist **Andrea Diss-Torrance** at (608)264-9247.



#### **Warden Tyler Strelow named Boating Law Enforcement Officer for 2009**

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Conservation warden **Tyler Strelow**, Fitchburg, recently received the honor of being named the State Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2009. Chosen by the wardens themselves, the Law Enforcement Program bestows this annual award on a deserving officer.

Among his peers, Strelow was recognized as tops in not only boating enforcement, but in the areas of education and outreach, partnering with local law enforcement and training.



Conservation warden Tyler Strelow, right, receives a plaque from state boating law administrator **Roy Zellmer** recognizing the Fitchburg-based warden as Wisconsin Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2009.

WDNR Photo

Stationed in Dane County with its 36 lakes and five rivers covering more than 21,000 acres, "Tyler has become not only the face of the conservation wardens in the Madison area, but the lead spokesperson for DNR's boating and safety program public service announcements," said warden supervisor **Jeremy Plautz**, Fitchburg.

Strelow was featured in a DVD "7 Steps to Safer Boating" that was distributed with the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine last summer. And last year, he pursued additional education and outreach efforts including helping certify 52 students in boating education, working at the Madison Fishing Expo, attending law enforcement safety nights in local communities, and teaching canoeing at the "Concerns of Police Survivors" kids' camp for children who've lost a parent who served in law enforcement.

Warden Strelow also works closely with the Dane County Sheriff's Department and regularly coordinates daily patrols with them for effective enforcement. He addressed the long-standing issue of sailboat non-registration by contacting area sailing clubs.

"Tyler works very hard and does an excellent job of incorporating boating education and enforcement in his daily routine. He is always available for call out during off hours to respond to public needs. Tyler also is working hard to address operating while intoxicated problems on Madison lakes, and he frequently varies his schedule to work during peak activity to best address boating violations and safety," added Plautz.

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

## Trail depot wildlife exhibit is a legacy to Tom Davies

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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*Aztalan State Park manager worked on exhibit for 10 years prior to his death*



Tom Davies had a passion for educating visitors on the archeological treasures found at Aztalan State park.

WDNR Photo

A wildlife display unique to the Wisconsin State Parks and Trails System can be found at the former railroad depot and now Glacial Drumlin Trail headquarters on Main St. in Lake Mills, in western Jefferson County.

The wildlife exhibit is the product of more than a decade's work by **Tom Davies**, who passed away in April 2008, following a short illness. He was a natural resources educator for nearby Aztalan State Park and a tireless advocate for the 172-acre archaeological site and registered national landmark.

With financial help from The Friends of Aztalan State Park, private donations and other assistance, Davies assembled the wildlife display spanning part of the 1990s through 2002. He obtained specimens via road kills or animals seized from poachers. Area taxidermists often donated mounts.

Among the critters on display, many in action poses, are an albino deer, coyote, red fox, beaver and ring-necked pheasant, plus various fish, reptiles, raptors, songbirds and waterfowl.

"The exhibit has been visited by school groups and a fair number of local folks (who are) often amazed that such a display exists nearby," noted **Lance Stock**, DNR ranger and assistant property manager for the Glacial Drumlin Trail, who also helps out at Aztalan.



The display housed at the former Lake Mills Depot provides visitors a view of animals as they may have moved throughout their days.



WDNR Photo

Davies worked in several part-time positions at Aztalan and the Glacial Drumlin Trail before assuming a permanent position with DNR in March 2001.

After joining DNR, "Tom essentially became the first park manager in the history of Aztalan as a park and managed the property on a shoestring budget, verve and aplomb. The lovingly cared for grounds, the interpretive signs, the well maintained facilities are all Tom's legacies," as well as the Friends of Aztalan State Park organization that he "nurtured and encouraged," reads the group's newsletter, "Ancient Times."

Davies was also a teacher in Lake Mills for 22 years prior to joining DNR. He was a Vietnam veteran and active in the Veterans Assistance Foundation.

DNR's Lake Mills Depot is a field office and, as such, is often locked when park staff is working along the Glacial Drumlin Trail or at Aztalan State Park. Those interested in viewing the wildlife exhibit should call ahead at (920)648-8774.

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

## Help with game bird brood ten week surveys while out and about

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**Staff of the Wildlife and Forestry Research Section in the Bureau of Science Services again is asking for your help in recording game bird brood and mammal observations this year. While outdoors during the 10-week brood survey between June 13 and August 21, help monitor the production of pheasant, ruffed grouse, turkey, quail, gray partridge, prairie chicken and sharptailed grouse.**

**Since 1970, department personnel have recorded game bird broods they've observed while afield performing their regular work duties. This information has proven valuable in the past in estimating the productivity of our upland game birds and in making predictions for the upcoming hunting seasons.**



**Quails, such as this pair, are included in the "Ten Week Brood Observations."**

WDNR Photo

**In general, field personnel, aids, LTEs, work crews and anyone else that may work out of the office can participate in this survey. If you don't work or otherwise spend time in the field, but know of others in your program that do, pass the survey along to them.**

**The "[Call for Assistance: Ten Week Brood Observations—13 June through 21 August](#)" provides an abstract, instructions, results and the survey tally forms observers will use to keep track of brood observations during the survey period. Record all game bird broods seen in the course of regular working hours as a**

**DNR employee. This includes driving to and from work sites or field offices. The upland game birds to watch for are the gray partridge, pheasant, ruffed grouse and wild turkey**

**The Wildlife Surveys Section will make a reporting form available on "E-Forms" at the end of the 10-week observation period.** Observers will use this form to summarize and report their sightings for the survey period. Don't use the tally sheet as a reporting form.

Science Services also is asking for information regarding the number of young in the broods observed. This information will be used as a check on other brood size surveys for turkeys, and as indicators of production for all of the species. Sizes of wild turkey, pheasant, ruffed grouse and gray partridge broods should be reported. Again, use the tally sheet provided as an aid in collecting information on brood size.

You also can help by keeping track of live or road kill sightings of the following mammals: bobcat, badger, fisher, pine marten, otter, red and gray fox, coyote, bear, white-tailed jackrabbit and wolf. Use the mammal tally form below to record your observations.

Email any questions you have about this survey to wildlife surveys coordinator [Brian Dhuey](#), or call him at (608)221-6342. The Bureau of Science Services thanks in advance those helping out with these wildlife surveys.



## **Parks and Recreation honors work of employees and volunteers**

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**Naming employees for exceptional performance and dedication in a variety of categories has typically been an annual happening in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Previously, those employees received their awards at the program conference held every-other-year. In the future, the presentation of awards will occur the January or February following the year that recipients are announced.**

**Parks and Recreation bureau director Dan Schuller** and Division of Land administrator **Laurie Osterndorf** recently presented awards to the following people for their outstanding contributions to the Wisconsin State Parks System during 2007, 2008 and 2009:

- *2007, 2008 and 2009 Distinguished Service Awards, respectively:* **Jerry Leiterman**, supervisor of the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, has served the Wisconsin State Parks System for more than 30 years; **David Bouche** recently retired park naturalist, for leading the interpretive program at Devil's Lake State Park; and **Darrel Richer**, Willow River State Park supervisor, with 35 years of service to the State of Wisconsin.
- *2007 Outstanding Employee of the Year Award:* **Dawn Bishop**, property supervisor at Council Grounds State Park for stepping up to do what is needed, expected and asked of her.
- *2007 Property of the Year Award:* **Staff of Lapham Peak Unit** of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.
- *2007 Volunteer of the Year Award:* Jim Stick for dedicated and inspiring work at Governor Nelson State Park.
- *2007 Exceptional Program Support Award:* **Carrie Morgan**, educator and coordinator of the DNR's "Environmental Education for Kids (EEK!)" website, for her support of the State Parks Program for more than 20 years.
- *2008 Outstanding Employee of the Year Award:* **Lance Stock**, ranger and assistant property manager at the Glacial Drumlin State Trail for understanding the priorities of managing parks and trails.
- *2008 Exceptional Program Support Award:* **Dave Daniels**, program and planning analyst in the

Bureau of Facilities and Lands, for his work on development and construction projects in the Northern Region.

- *2008 Property (work unit) of the Year Award: **Mirror Lake State Park Work Unit***, which includes the properties of Mirror Lake State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park and The Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area, for their commitment during record snowfall, devastating flooding and production of the movie "Public Enemy."
- *2008 Volunteer of the Year Award: John McCarthy* for dedication in making the Lapham Peak cross-country trails snowmaking project a success.
- *2009 Exceptional Program Support Award: **Kristin Hess***, real estate specialist for the western side of the Northern Region, for her management of real estate transactions.
- *2009 Outstanding Employee of the Year Award: **Regan Arndt***, ranger at the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, for his leadership and courage in law enforcement activities at the forest.
- *2009 Outstanding Employee of the Year Award: **Beth Mittermaier***, natural resources educator and conservation biologist at the Havenwoods State Forest, for her leadership in redesigning the Junior Ranger/Wisconsin Explorer Program.
- *2009 Property of the Year Award: **Peninsula State Park Staff***, for its contribution to the success of Peninsula State Park.
- *2009 Volunteer of the Year Award: Frank and Bev Weiss* have served as Campground Hosts since 1996.



## Google Search Appliance now available on the "MyDNR" website

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**If you've gone to search for a fellow DNR employee, a department program or other information on DNR's Intranet homepage "MyDNR," you may have noticed a change in the look and capabilities of the search function. Finding the right information on "MyDNR" is easier than ever using the new Google Search Appliance (GSA).**

**GSA is the same search technology that's been available on DNR's external website for nearly a year. You also can do "My DNR" Google searches from any Intranet webpage header by clicking on the "search" button in the upper-right-hand corner.**

**Access to DNR's Internet homepage continues to be available by clicking on "dnr.wi.gov" below the department logo in the upper left-hand corner of the "MyDNR" page, or just click on the logo itself.**

### **"MyDNR" searches similar to Google Internet searches**

If you're familiar with doing Google searches of the Internet, you'll now have at your fingertips the same search capability on the "MyDNR" site. The new GSA technology analyzes search patterns learning as it goes to return increasingly-relevant results.

The speed at which you get to the result you seek will depend on how finely you tune your search topic. For example, if you want to find Secretary **Matt Frank's** comments on Asian carp, type in those exact words. As you're typing in the "MyDNR" Google Search box, suggestions from previous searches will appear. When you arrive at the search results page, you'll also find a navigation column on the right suggesting ways to narrow your search.

So, take the "MyDNR" Google Search Appliance "out for a drive." You'll find it a handy tool to locate the information you need to do your work.



## June magazine enthralls with fierce antlions to largemouth bass

By: Karen Ecklund, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing

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This month's issue of **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine contains another interesting mix of enthralling stories. In "Sustaining a fishery or fighting natural change?" Office of Communication public affairs manager **Lisa Gaumnitz**, who works with the Division of Water, writes about largemouth bass and walleye competing for dominance in some northern Wisconsin waters and what's happening to provide quality fisheries.

In "Casting for common ground," West Central Region's public affairs manager **Ed Culhane** describes from first-hand experience a partnership among DNR volunteers, the angling community and a group of at-risk high schoolers to fuel the students' interest in science and potential outdoor careers.



The cover of the June 2010 magazine.  
WDNR Photo

Follow along with **Heather Kaarakka**, in the Bureau of Endangered Resources, as she shares the unusual strategies mussels use to extend their range in "Saving native mussels reach by reach." Learn how you can join in the first statewide survey in nearly 30 years to find out where mussels dwell.

Celebrate a 40-year commitment to improve air quality in a special insert that engages readers of all ages, including a pinwheel and a crossword puzzle, brought to you by Air Management education staff in "Celebrate 40 years of cleaner air."

See how big projects can bring big results by working in a big space. "A big vision for a broad landscape" showcases collective work on the 15,000-acre Leopold Pines Important Bird Area. **Mike Mossman**, in the Bureau of Science Services, and **Yoyi Steele**, in the Bureau of Wildlife Management, contributed to this story.

Finally, catch "A tiny terror in a sandy pit" and meet one of nature's little tough guys as we introduce you to antlions – small bugs with a fierce demeanor, a lot of fight and some serious engineering skills.

Those features and more await you in the June issue of the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine. Subscribe now. Let us deliver six colorful issues to your door all 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 the [magazine's](#) website or by mail. Subscription blanks and single issues also are available from our circulation office by writing to P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707, or by stopping by my (Karen Ecklund) office in Madison, on the second floor of GEF 2, next to pillar F4.

**Footnote:** *Karen Ecklund is the circulation manager and web publisher for the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.*

## Around the state, employees shine

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### Success stories from the central office

- **Cheryl Peterson**, fisheries technician in Milwaukee, and fisheries marketing specialist **Rachel Piacenza**, stationed in Green Bay, handle inquiries from the Fisheries Management website. Piacenza received the following feedback regarding a Lake Michigan fisheries update: "Hi Rachel, I also received a detailed email from Cheryl Peterson that was very helpful. As an FYI, I have been a hunter and fisherman all my life and this is the second time in the past 2 years that I have contacted the DNR directly (in 2008 I had a situation trying to recover the antlers from a deer I had tested for CWD). I have also had a number of encounters with **wardens in the field and on the water**. In every situation, everyone I dealt with has been extremely professional and courteous and you ladies were no different. Wisconsin's DNR is second to none and I appreciate everything your organization does for the sportsmen/women of Wisconsin. *Pat Bill, a big fan of the "Lake Michigan Fisheries Report"*
- Bureau of Parks and Recreation's **Jeff Prey**, program and planning analyst in Madison, received national notoriety when the National Parks Service congratulated DNR on its "2005-2010 Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)." Read the complete [SCORP recognition letter](#) to learn why Wisconsin is considered a leader in planning for its natural resources.
- **Mark McDermid**, director of the Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance, recently stepped down as president of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), after serving two years. Read about McDermid's contributions in ["ECOS Appointments."](#) The [ECOS](#) website will familiarize you with its work.
- West Central Region director **Scott Humrickhouse** recently passed along a compliment to the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine staff: I was talking with my dad over the weekend and he mentioned to me how much he enjoyed the June issue of the WNR Magazine. From cover to cover, he said the articles were interesting and really well done. He asked me to pass along his compliments to you folks . . . so here you are! By the way, I agree with him - great stuff!

### Success story from the Northeast Region

**Kathleen Harris** (Peninsula State Park naturalist): On behalf of the second grade teachers and students, I would like to thank you and your staff for ANOTHER great day in the park. Everything always goes so smoothly and very organized. Thank you for that! Could you please pass our gratitude on to your staff? We apologize, but since we didn't visit the park this year until just a few days before the last day, we never got around (to writing) a thank you note, but please know how much we do appreciate everything! *Sue Olson, Becky Higginbotham, Kathy Kenneavy*

### Success stories from the Northern Region

- Wardens **Lance Burns**, Gordon, and **Dave Swanson**, Minong: Thanks for the field trip. I liked the part when we got to feed the fish. That big fish was BIG. I think what you guys do is amazing. When I grow up maybe I can do what you do. Thanks for showing us all the tackle and how to tie fisherman knots. Thanks again. *Brittany R., Northwood School, in Minong*
- Compliment sent to **Jesse Schalkowski** customer service representative in Spooner: Thanks so much for the help today. It's was a pleasure to work with you and so much nicer than dealing with

Illinois DNR. It's one of the reasons I always buy Wisconsin licenses and stamps, even if I don't use them. *Thanks so much, Robert M.*

- Compliment sent to **Rhonda Oleary** air management engineer in Superior: Thanks for speaking with me today about timing issues related to the public notice and hearing. Also, please extend my thanks to **Don Faith** (air permit engineer in Madison) for his commitment to make a draft permit available for our review, even while he is on vacation. The dedication you and he have shown is remarkable and a great example to those in public service, as well as private industry. *Clay R., Trinity Consultants*

### **Success stories from the Southeast Region**

- Kudos to Air Management employees **Jerry Medinger**, **Peter McMullen** and **Jessica Lawent** for their participation in the kickoff for the Milwaukee Public Schools Asthma Grant: Thank you for being part of the kickoff to our anti-idling initiative at Congress School. Without individuals like you who are willing to support our school system in its effort to improve the health of our students, we would not be able to make the progress that we are making. You sent a clear message to the community that the issue of bus idling has negative effects on the health of our children. Thank for your support. You do make a difference.

- "Job well done" to **Chris Lilek**, wastewater specialist in Plymouth, for her presentation to elementary school children on water conservation and preservation at the Plymouth Public Library: I just wanted to thank you for your presentation today. It was terrific. It was a great lead-in for our "Splash into Reading This Summer Program."

- Appreciation expressed to Southeast Region director **Gloria McCutcheon** for recognizing the work of the Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation: We are grateful and appreciative for the honor bestowed on us, "Sustain, Reconnect and Grow the Environmental Corridors." Our directors are honored to have been acknowledged for their 36 years of diligent effort for the benefit of the future generations of our community. We will continue with the help of DNR, SEWRPC (Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission) and MMSD (Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District) to preserve the environmental corridor in our woodland, wetland and natural area. There is much still to be done, and the window of opportunity in southeastern Wisconsin is dwindling.

### **Success stories from the West Central Region**

- Email from environmental assistance coordinator **Mark Harings** to West Central Region director **Scott Humrickhouse**: Yesterday while having a conversation with Ray Sislo (Donaldson Company), he pointed out that DNR folks have been very helpful to him since he took over last year. In particular, he said that **Sue Brumberg** (environmental program associate) was a tremendous help to him on two separate occasions. Sue provided much needed assistance in guiding him through filling out the required paper work on reporting and documenting hazardous waste at the facility. Ray said he couldn't say enough about how friendly and helpful she has been.

- **To James Thompson** (Perrot State Park superintendent): The reason I am writing, is to tell you about a person on your staff that needs some praise. We have never been to a park that has had such a kind, knowledgeable, giving soul such as your naturalist **Andrea (Benco)**, Perrot State Park). She was VERY good with the children. When they asked her questions, she answered with a kind voice, explained it with a child's view, and with great expressions. She was very professional yet made you feel like you were a good friend. The program we attended was dealing with bugs. My children hate them with a passion, and that can make it hard to camp as you probably know. She showed the children the bug boxes, and after purchasing them, the children never put them down. They went the whole weekend with them, searching for bugs in every corner of the campground, on the trails, and in the water. We learned during the program about painted turtles because a young boy had found a baby turtle. During our stay, we had 2 turtles lay their eggs in our campsite. Our children couldn't wait to RUN down to Andrea to tell her about the turtles. Our camping weekend was AMAZING because of this woman. I think she is a great Naturalist, and needs the recognition! *Carrie Anderson, Albany, Wisconsin*

- Another kudo sent to James Thompson, Perrot State Park superintendent: We left Tenneson Bay

after a most enjoyable visit. As we were leaving, not driving more than three campsites down the road, our truck pulling a pop-up died! We immediately contacted the camp host, Tennison Bob. He was extremely helpful from finding a garage for us, lending his phone (ours doesn't work in the park), offering us food and water, and having his wife wait to go into town in case we needed a ride. What could have been a total disaster worked out extremely well. After reaching Kiehnau's in Baileys Harbor, after a closer place couldn't come, Steve arrived as promptly as possible, found the problem and did a temporary fix which allowed us to get home safely. I really don't know what we would have done without the camp host. Thank you so much for the service and for having him in that position. *Dick and Nancy Johnsen, Sheboygan*



## MacKenzie Center to host day of outdoor skills and interpretative tour

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### ***A day of fun for all ages!***

**Families are invited to visit the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette, on July 10 for a free program focusing on outdoor skills and an interpretive tour of the center's prairie.**



**Ruth Ann Lee's daughter Emily tried her hand at fishing during the 2009 Outdoor Skills Day and Prairie Interpretative Tour.**

**WDNR Photo**

**Starting at 9 a.m. and running until 2 p.m., visitors will join in on the fun of this year's ["Outdoor Skills Day and Prairie Interpretative Tour."](#) They'll try their hand at or hone their skills at fishing, archery, outdoor cooking and shooting sports. They can move on from these stations to learn about the center's prairie habitat and inhabitants.**

**This is the event's fifth year, open to the public through a partnership among the DNR, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and Friends of the MacKenzie Center. Last year, about 200 people turned out.**

**A concession stand will be open throughout the day. If you have questions,**

email [Ruth Ann Lee](#), lead educator for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation or call her at (608)635-8105. The [center is located](#) just 20 miles north of Madison, two miles east of Poynette on County Road CS. Visit the ["Experience the best in outdoor education"](#) on the center's website, before you come for a day of fun learning.

## Notes from the wildlife desk: Horicon Marsh home to ospreys

By: Brenda Kelly, South Central Region

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Male and female ospreys display the same physical characteristics.

WDNR Photo

Spring is well underway and summer seems to be knocking at our door with warm temperatures. It's the warm weather outside that reminds me of a crisp and cold day last February when we set out to do a new project at Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area. Our goal was to place an artificial nesting platform for ospreys.

Osprey are scientifically named *Pandion haliaetus*, but also can be referred to as a Fish Hawk, as they are experts at catching fish. They are a large-sized raptor with a wing span that can reach up to six feet. Males and females look alike. Their heads are white with dark brow bands. The necks, chests, legs and underwings also are white. Tails are a mix of white and brown stripes.

The osprey's history in Wisconsin has seen its lows and highs. During the 1950s, a downward population trend occurred. Harmful pesticides, like DDT, were taking a toll on bird populations, including the osprey. The effects caused females to lay eggs that had thin shells which couldn't withstand incubation and broke as a result. In 1972, DDT was banned in the United States, but the osprey was placed on Wisconsin's Endangered Species list with a population numbering fewer than 100 pairs.

In 1986, DNR developed a comprehensive Osprey Recovery Plan. A criterion of the plan called for protecting and increasing osprey populations and habitats. Because its natural nesting habitat also had dwindled, an objective was set to improve the bird's habitat by erecting artificial nesting platforms. Through these efforts, the nesting population reached 300 pairs in 1989, and the species was down listed to "threatened."





Horicon wildlife technician Chris Cole placed twigs and branches in the nest box prior to placing it on the pole.

WDNR Photo

A natural osprey nest can be found in either dead or living trees near or over open water. These requirements made Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area a likely choice for our project. Many partners make projects like this a success. The Horicon Marsh Bird Club, specifically its president Jeff Bahls, was instrumental in making the project a reality. **Chris Cold**, wildlife technician from Ladysmith, donated the artificial platform. Alliant Energy donated the pole and placement. **Chris Cole**, wildlife technician for Dodge County, assisted with equipment and placement.

The story doesn't end there. On April 12, an osprey was observed having a look at the new structure and by the 20th a pair seemed to find the spot to its liking. Today, if you visit the Horicon Marsh International Education Center, check out the nest from the spotting scope in our main hall. Don't stop there; enjoy the weather and take a hike out on the Bachhuber Flowage. You might witness an osprey--or one of the many other birds that call this place home--doing a little fishing!

**Footnote:** *Brenda Kelly is a wildlife biologist stationed at Horicon Marsh.*



[Don Bates helps Eagle Scout help disabled hunters](#)

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Eagle Scout Colin Paiva and South Central Region (SCR) wildlife management supervisor Don Bates looked over blueprints for the disabled access hunting blind.

WDNR Photo

**Boy Scouts gathered at the Blackhawk Unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway last fall to undertake a project that would make recreation easier for disabled hunters. Scout Colin Paiva's project was to build an accessible blind for disabled hunters. South Central wildlife supervisor Don Bates** assisted Paiva during months of planning and construction.

Paiva asked Bates for help selecting an appropriate property. The location had to allow for easy vehicular access; be level enough to accommodate a person using a wheelchair or who may have difficulty ambulating over uneven ground; as well as be a safe shooting orientation. A lot of prerequisites to meet!

Once Bates helped with the location, Paiva presented his concept and blueprints to the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board and secured their approval, as is required for any construction on a Riverway property. **Andy Janicki**, DNR's disability access coordinator, provided input on construction so the gun rest was set at the correct height and the hunter would be able to maneuver inside the blind.



Scout Paiva's finished hunting blind was built on a level patch of ground and allows a disabled hunter to set their gun at the necessary height.

WDNR Photo

DNR facility repair workers **Connie Anderson** and **Mike Lehmann**, both stationed in Spring Green, prepped the site by grading it with heavy equipment and dumping crushed limestone.

Bob Paiva, Colin's father, sent SCR director **Lloyd Eagan** his thanks, mentioning that many individuals, including members of the Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board, foresters, biologists and the DNR representative for disability accessible projects " were instrumental in coordination of the project plan."



## Endowment gift helps Lac Courte Oreilles Youth Conservation Corps

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

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Thanks to a donation from a local conservation fund, this year's Lac Court Oreille (LCO) Youth Conservation Corps will more safely do its project work in and around the Chippewa Flowage. The tribal corps has received a \$765 gift from the Hughes Jeffords Chippewa Flowage Conservation Fund which will purchase safety and support equipment for the corps.



A Hughes Jeffords Chippewa Flowage Conservation Fund was awarded this year to the Lac Court Oreille Youth Conservation Corp, that will work on projects in an around the Chippewa Flowage, this summer. The key players involved in the fund also got a US. Forest Service Honor last winter in Milwaukee, they were (from left): Tony Erba, acting U.S. Forest Service supervisor, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF); Mic Isham, Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Tribal Council; Jade Carrasco, LCO Project Leader; Neal Kephart, DNR's Chippewa Flowage manager; and Jeanne Higgins (former) U.S. Forest Service supervisor, CNNF.

WDNR Photo

In 2007, Patti and Chris Jeffords, Couderay, created the fund to provide a perpetual source of support for the preservation, protection and enhancement of the Chippewa Flowage's natural resources. The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, a non-profit organization based in Madison, manages the fund. This year, the LCO youth crew will directly benefit from the gift.

"We are grateful to the Jeffords for providing funding to help support this program" said **Neal Kephart**, Chippewa Flowage property manager. "The LCO Conservation Youth Project is a great opportunity for young adults to gain valuable experience and job skills while performing some important work that benefits the environment around the flowage."

The Youth Conservation Corps Program was born out of a partnership formed last spring among the United States Forest Service, DNR, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and Lac Courte Oreilles Community College.

Kephart said some of the projects the corps will be doing this summer include elk calf monitoring, campsite restoration and construction, trail construction, fish surveys, crib

construction, stream flow improvement and invasive species eradication. The Chippewa Flowage is one of Wisconsin's most spectacular water bodies, encompassing more than 15,000 acres of lakes and forests. The flowage is maintained as a semi-wilderness area, and protects over 200 miles of mostly undeveloped shoreline. Created in 1924 by the damming of the Chippewa River, it now supports an important fishery and protects wildlife such as deer, bear, otter and elk.

**Footnote:** *Jim Bishop is the public affairs manager for the Northern Region, stationed in Spooner.*



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