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DNR keeps waters safe by participating in national "Operation Dry Water"

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Because driving while intoxicated is a dangerous move whether behind the wheel of a car or a boat, DNR participated in "Operation Dry Water" over the June 25-27 weekend, a national campaign to target enforcement efforts on this dangerous practice.



Warden supervisor Steve Dewald, La Crosse, holds onto the boat while warden Mike Cross, also stationed in La Crosse administers a drunk driving test to the boat's operator.

WDNR Photo

"Operation Dry Water" came to state waterways, said Roy Zellmer, conservation warden and boating law administrator, and conservation wardens along with local boating law enforcement officers were out in force looking for boat operators who were impaired.

"Operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs contributes to

nearly two in five recreational boating fatalities in Wisconsin," Zellmer said. "In 2009, 38 percent of boating fatalities involved alcohol and the average blood alcohol content in those fatalities was 0.227 percent – that's nearly three times the legal limit."

Preliminary numbers for last weekend show that 62 wardens and law enforcement officers from 23 other agencies contacted 1,671 boaters and issued 117 citations, only six for OWI. The weather was attributed for the low numbers.

This national campaign started in 2009. In Wisconsin, law enforcement issued 13 citations for operating while intoxicated (OWI) on this weekend last year. Thirty-nine percent of the boat operators averaged blood alcohol content of .227--three times the legal limit.

"A little planning goes a long way; designating a sober driver will make all the difference," said Zellmer.

"Operation Dry Water," was launched in 2009 by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, in partnership with the United States Coast Guard.

Last summer, agencies and organizations from 46 states and five territories participated in the first ever "Operation Dry Water weekend." During that three-day weekend, 2,442 marine law enforcement officers made contact with 17,454 recreational vessels and issued 5,320 boating safety warnings, 283 OUI citations, and 1,127 citations for other violations. Included with the 13 OWI citations in Wisconsin were hundreds of contacts between marine officers and boaters. This year, all 56 states, trusts and territories were expected to participate.



Warden Mike Hirschboeck (left), Sturdevant, and warden Juan Gomez, Kansasville, were deployed along with other wardens and local law enforcement to a Lake Beulah tie-up in Walworth County, last year. An annual event at the location attracts boaters exhibiting poor judgment. The trailer is an FOSU (field operation support unit), which allows wardens to do more on-site.

WDNR Photo

The department distributed a public service announcement ["Increased Boating OWI Enforcement"](#) for airing prior to the June 25-27 weekend. For more information on safe boating, go to DNR's ["Safe boating in Wisconsin"](#) webpage. Learn more about ["Operation Dry Water"](#) at this National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators website.

"Wisconsin has many rivers and lakes, and boating is an important recreation activity," said recreational safety warden **Bill Yearman**, Eau Claire, in talking with a local TV reporter. "We want people to have fun and be safe while enjoying Wisconsin outdoors, so wear your PFD, and don't combine drinking alcohol and operating a boat or any other

vehicle.

State offices closed on July 5 in celebration of 4th of July

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The 4th of July is the big summer holiday, and all state office buildings will be closed on Monday, July 5 to observe the holiday. Because offices will be closed, no state employee should report for work unless they've been directed to do so by their supervisor to meet a compelling business need.

Bobbi Jo Fischer receives 2010 Posekany Award

By: Dave Siebert, Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis

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Bobbi Jo Fischer, Northeast Region (NER) environmental review and analysis specialist in the Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis (OEEA) is this year's recipient of the program's "Posekany Award."

In addition to providing complex environmental analyses support to other NER programs, Fischer is responsible for coordinating review of all transportation projects in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties, and serves as DNR's liaison to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and local governments.



Low Posekany Jr. (left) joined Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis director Dave Siebert in presenting the "2010 Posekany Award" to Bobbi Jo Fischer.

WDNR Photo

The Posekany Award is given annually to an OEEA employee in recognition of "Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Analysis." This honor was created in memory of Low Posekany, who passed away in late 2004. In his 45 years of state service, he was responsible for the concepts within DNR's cooperative agreement with DOT, reaching back to 1952 to reduce the environmental impacts of highway construction.

Fischer is viewed as embodying Posekany's efforts that resulted in the department's current liaison procedures laid out in the "Cooperative Agreement" between DNR and DOT.

Described as having a “can do” attitude, nominations from her peers echoed this view of Fischer: “I have ... always found her passion, idealism, innovation, perseverance in the face of adversity, assertiveness and grit inspiring. She is always asking questions, striving for solutions, and above all, ensuring impacts to our wetlands, waterways and wildlife are avoided wherever possible.”

From her office in Wautoma, Fischer “has taken an active role in promoting our program to our ‘customers,’ including; internal environmental and analysis staff, other DNR staffs, staff from three Department of Transportation regions, bridge and grading contractors, consulting firms, high school and college classes, and local units of government,” said **Al Stranz**, Fischer’s supervisor.

Fischer’s work on behalf of the environment reflected in DOT projects

Stranz cited examples of large and unique DOT projects Fischer has worked on:

- *US Highway 151 Fond du Lac Bypass*: Fischer negotiated an agreement among Federal Highway Administration, DOT, city, town and county officials for a land use and zoning plan to protect the Fond du Lac River corridor, under considerable political pressure and in often confrontational settings.
- *US Highway 10 in Winnebago and Waupaca counties*: At the time, it was the single largest earthwork project in the state, with numerous wetland and waterway crossings. There was the potential for serious erosion control and specifications weren’t followed. Fischer pulled together three large grading contractors, numerous subcontractors, DOT employees and consultant staff to ensure that sensitive areas were protected.
- *US Highway 41 Lake Butte des Morts bridge/causeway*: A segment of the major 6-lane upgrade, work includes new structures on the lake, interchanges, aquatic habitat improvements and shore fishing access.

Fischer also is the lead for the departmentwide Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) work group. The team is developing department policy for use in regulatory decisions to protect aquatic organisms when new bridges and culverts are installed. She also has been involved with developing and making presentations at AOP training sessions sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, DNR and DOT.

“Bobbi Jo researched and learned about AOP issues before most of us had even heard the term. She promoted understanding the issues and the means to solve AOP problems among our staff, across agencies and with local governments,” read another co-worker’s support of Fischer’s nomination.

Several local units of government have Fischer to thank for securing outside funding to replace substandard structures on high-quality waterways in an effort to restore pathways for fish and aquatic organisms.

Their peers also nominated the following OEEA employees for the 2010 Posekany Award:

Amy Cronk, Shawn Haseleu, Tom Lovejoy, Jon Simonsen, and Mike Thompson.

Footnote: *Dave Siebert is director of the DNR Office of Energy.*



Celebrating 20th anniversary of Wisconsin’s Stewardship Fund

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Governor announced funding on stops across the state

Governor Jim Doyle on June 24 announced that more than 21,000 acres across

the state now will be protected for public use. The governor made the announcement as part of the 20th anniversary observance of the state's Stewardship Fund.

"These are incredible additions to public lands in Wisconsin that will now be preserved and enjoyed for generations to come," Gov. Doyle said. "Our natural resources are one of the main reasons why people want to live, vacation and move here. They are why businesses want to locate here. The future of our state is closely linked to our natural resources, and I'm pleased that, today, that future is looking even brighter with the protection of these lands."



Secretary Matt Frank and Governor Jim Doyle spoke to those on hand to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Stewardship Fund with the announcement of a grant to build a public entrance and visitor station at Rib Mountain State Park.

WDNR Photo

Since Gov. Doyle took office, more than 275,000 acres of land across Wisconsin have been designated for public use through the Stewardship Program, adding to the current total of 580,000 acres. Doyle reauthorized the program through 2019.

Following are details on some of the new purchases:

Vernon Wildlife Area, Waukesha: The State of Wisconsin is purchasing 128.9 acres of land from Fred Lathers, LLC for \$773,000 as the second part of a two-phase transaction. The state now has acquired a total of 188.9 acres for the Vernon Wildlife Area, leaving the northeast 10 acres within the project boundary in private hands.

This was a critical parcel for the project, as development continues to surround the marsh and effectively envelop the property. The parcel has significant upland buffer, which will provide nesting habitat for waterfowl, grassland birds, and reptiles, including the state threatened Blanding's turtle.

This parcel adds to the public land that is in high demand in southeastern Wisconsin. The additional land base will provide more recreation, and increase overall satisfaction by users on state land

State Forest Legacy Easement, Forest County: The state has reached agreement with Wisconsin Timber Associates to purchase State Forest Legacy easements on 18,438 acres of high quality hemlock-hardwood forestland in Forest County. Combined with

adjoining national and county forestlands, this easement contributes to several hundred thousand acres of intact forest containing Wisconsin's two highest ranked wild lakes Wabikon and Riley, and the headwaters to Green Bay on Lake Michigan.

This purchase combines environmental protection and economic development. The public will have access to over 18,000 acres and the land will continue to be a working, sustainably-managed forest that provides jobs.

The easement requires future, sustainable management of an uneven-age forest, ideal for wildlife habitat benefits. All nature-based outdoor recreation activities are provided for the public under the easement terms. The transaction is complemented by The Nature Conservancy's and U.S. Forest Service National Forest System's concurrent acquisition of the company's land on Wabikon and Riley lakes, for addition to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

Rib Mountain, Wausau: The governor has approved Stewardship funding to construct a public entrance and visitor stations at Rib Mountain State park, as well as improving the roadway leading up to the park. The project will:

- Reconstruct 1.5 miles of Park Rd. from Violet La. on the east side of the park to the proposed park entrance visitor station development area;
- Construct year-round water and sanitary sewer service connected to the Rib Mountain Water and Sanitary District;
- Install an eight to 10-foot wide multi-use path alongside Park Rd., separated where possible; and
- Construct a 1,390 square foot public entrance and visitor station.

Totogatic Wild Rivers Project, Washburn and Douglas counties: The state also is purchasing 2,114 acres from The Conservation Fund to establish the Totogatic Wild Rivers Project. The acreage encompasses seven different blocks of land and provides about six miles of two-bank frontage for the Totogatic.

In addition, the tract provides a half mile of two-bank frontage on the Five Mile Creek and a quarter of a mile frontage on the Minong Flowage. In 2009, the governor signed legislation designating the nearly 70 miles of the Totogatic River as a "Wild River." This designation results in the preservation and protection of one of the last pristine areas in Wisconsin. The Conservation Fund recently acquired the property from Wausau Paper. Funding for the acquisition is made possible by the state's Stewardship Fund and a \$400,000 grant from the Doris Duke Foundation.



Warden Kratcha named Hunter Education Program's "Outstanding Professional"

By: Randy Stark, Bureau of Law Enforcement

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Conservation warden **Christopher Kratcha**, Sturgeon Bay, has been selected to receive the "Outstanding Professional of the Year" award for Wisconsin's Hunter Education Program.

This annual award goes to a member of DNR's Law Enforcement staff who demonstrates a passion for the Hunter Education Program by going above and beyond what is normally expected, and branches out to new areas to promote safe and responsible hunting.



Christopher Kratcha is the 2010 Hunter Education "Outstanding Professional."
WDNR Photo

Kratcha is keenly aware that promoting our hunting heritage is necessary for the future of hunting.

In 2000, Kratcha was first stationed in Sturgeon Bay as a marine conservation warden, specializing in all aspects of fishing and boating on the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan. He later transferred to the inland warden position at Sturgeon Bay, which fueled his passion for the Hunter Education Program.

As do all wardens, Kratcha began his involvement in the Hunter Education Program by assisting during the classes, making traditional law enforcement presentations. He quickly became more and more involved with other aspects of the program, such as teaching wildlife management and wildlife identification.

Key to his success with hunter education is that Kratcha enjoys working with novice hunters, getting more people involved in hunting and the outdoors regardless of their age. He fully understands that it takes one to make one; meaning that hunters are recruited by other hunters.

Since the Learn to Hunt (LTH) programs began, Kratcha and his volunteer instructors have provided a number of outstanding learn to hunt turkey events for a variety of people, some from non-hunting families and those in other "walks of life" who haven't had anyone to expose them the world of hunting.

The letters of praise that he's received attest to Kratcha's effective approach to hunter's education. He realizes, though, that the real key to successes is the cadre of dedicated volunteer instructors and mentors

When Kratcha learned that he would receive this award, he immediately thanked the volunteer instructors who work with him and added that this recognition means the most to him of all the awards he's received during his career.

Footnote: *Randy Stark is director of the Bureau of Law Enforcement.*

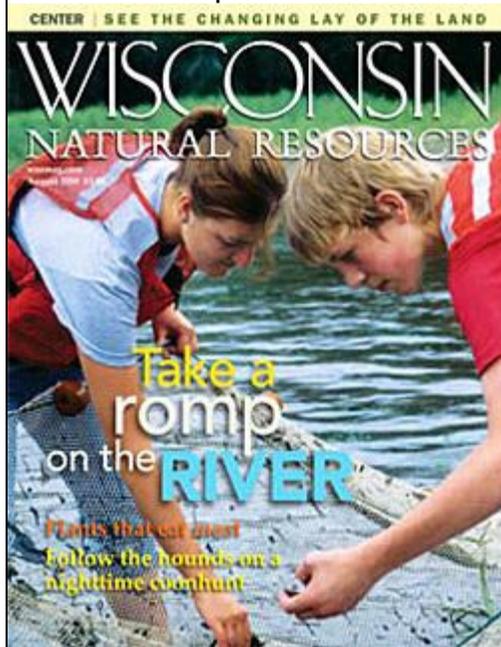


DNR magazine and Science Services win state "Archival Advocacy Award"

By: Natasha Kassulke, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing

The Wisconsin Historical Society has recognized the collaborative work of the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine, DNR Science Services staff and the University of Wisconsin Forest and Wildlife Ecology Program by jointly awarding the groups the "2010 Governor's Award for Archival Advocacy." The "Archival Advocacy Award" is one of three awards (the others are for archival achievement and archival innovation) given annually that honor outstanding work with historical records in Wisconsin.

This year's award recognizes the group's work with historic public land survey records and the publication of an insert "[See Wisconsin through the eyes of 19th century surveyors](#)," in the August 2009 magazine issue that includes a poster-size map of pre-settlement vegetation in Wisconsin. This has been a more than 12-year ongoing project with several partners.



The August 2009 Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine featured the supplement "See Wisconsin through the eyes of 19th century surveyors"

WDNR Photo

The data may be used by ecologists, the DNR and other land management agencies, as they reconstruct past ecological conditions, evaluate and explain changes in the landscape over time, and plan for the future of Wisconsin's environment and economy. The federal government surveyed the area now known as the State of Wisconsin between 1832 and 1866. The survey was done in order to divide the vast public domain into salable-sized lots that could be sold, or otherwise divested, to raise funds for the federal government and encourage settlement. The work was done using the Public Land Survey System (PLSS).

Along the way, surveyors also recorded notes about tree species, diameters and distance from survey corners, water bodies, swamps, marshes, prairies, barrens, geological features, evidence of fire and windthrow, and evidence of Native American activity. These surveys provide a unique record of the vegetation in Wisconsin before large-scale human impacts on the landscape.

Microfilm copies of surveyors' notes are housed with the Wisconsin Historical Society. Original notes and survey plats plus additional local land office records are held by the Office of the Commissioners of Public Lands for Wisconsin in Madison.

Footnote: *Natasha Kassulke is the creative products manager for the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine and worked on this supplement, along with magazine editor **Larry Sperling**, circulation manager **Karen Ecklund** and publications editor **Kathy Kahler**. Program managers **Jerry Bartelt** and **Karl Martin**, with the Bureau of Science Services, collaborated on the supplement.*



Employees invited to Project WILD, WET and Learning Tree training

By: Janet Hutchens, Office of Communication

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The Office of Communication again is inviting employees to participate in DNR-sponsored Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree training. Skills gained or sharpened, along with available resources, can make a program's outreach and educational efforts more effective. Anyone who teaches youth about conservation, natural resources and environmental issues can benefit from this training.

The July 14 ["Project Learning Tree" and "Project WILD" Educator Workshop](#) will be held at the [Horicon Marsh Education Center](#). This new opportunity will dovetail with Secretary **Matt Frank's** initiative announced on Earth Day by increasing awareness of our agency's environmental education programs.



Adults learned to use the outdoors as a classroom for teaching kids "how to think, not what to think" about Wisconsin's natural resources.

WDNR Photo

"Project WILD" is a wildlife focused conservation education program that is one of the most widely used environmental education programs across the nation. Topics range

from healthy ecosystems, adaptations, food webs, wildlife management, policies, and human and wildlife interrelationships.

["Project Learning Tree" \(PLT\)](#) uses forests as a window to the world and a basis for concepts from tree identification, plant and forest systems, diversity, recycling, to air quality. Workshop participants will develop new skills, learn how to adapt activities for their use, explore literature and technology connections and share expertise with colleagues. The activity guides contain hundreds of learner-centered activities that are compatible with instruction in science, social studies, language arts, environmental science and mathematics.

In addition to the PLT guides, participants will learn about and receive a collection of educational resources from the DNR that complement the activities presented in the guides. Graduate credit is available. Contact certified Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree instructor Korie Klink, (608)524-0585 for more information.

There also are two one-day ["Project WET"](#) workshops coming up in Mequon and Waukesha in August that focus on water education. A comprehensive natural resources course for credit will be held this summer at the [Chiwaukee Teacher Academy](#) in Kenosha.

Staff and educators can [subscribe to the workshop calendar web page](#) and receive notices when new workshops are scheduled. Certified instructors are located across Wisconsin delivering these programs throughout the year. For more information on these programs or to find a trainer near you, email me [Janet Hutchens](#), or call me at (608)261-8453.

In addition to training for outreach and education, the bureau invites employees to serve as expert speakers during local workshops, or join the facilitator network and train teachers to use :Project WET," "Project Learning Tree" and "Project WILD."

DNR employees are encouraged to attend any ["Project Learning Tree, Project WILD and Project WET"](#) training for free and have it recorded on your employee training plan.

Footnote: *Janet Hutchens is Wisconsin's Project WILD, WET and Learning Tree coordinator.*



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Success stories from the Northeast Region

- From **Ron Gropp**, Northeast Region forestry team leader, to his staff **Sue Crowley** (forester), **Chris Plzak** (forester), **Shelley Wrzochalski** (forester), **Joe Schwantes** (forester), **Steve Kaufman** (forester), **Kevin Gilbert** (forestry technician), **Steve Michalko** (fire control firefighter), **John Lubbers** (forestry staff supervisor), **James Robaidek** (wildlife technician) and **Kate Lenz** (area forestry staff supervisor): I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their assistance and support during the spring fire season. With your help, we were able to cover critical vacancies and staff fire equipment in Oconto Falls and Peshtigo. Your efforts were also instrumental in providing a safe fire season. Once again, thanks for all your help.

- From forestry team leader Ron Gropp to his **staff at the Langlade ranger station** who coordinated a watershed protection tree planting project on the Upper Wolf River Fisheries Area to help slow runoff

into Nine Mile Creek, an important tributary of the Wolf River: The project planning process began two years ago in cooperation with the Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Local DNR fisheries, wildlife, and property management staffs. The first phase prepared the site for a day, followed by tree planting. In total, 29 people root pruned and hand planted roughly 1,400 trees and shrubs. In hopes to boost survivability from browse, 200 wire cage tree shelters were placed around the newly planted seedlings. A well deserved thank you to forester ranger **Dave Beer** and forestry technician **Ryan Brown**, both in White Deer, for their efforts in making this project a success.

- **Chris Semann** (forestry technician): THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! This made the last week of school even better. I read over the plan carefully, and agree with your silviculture recommendations. Our current superintendent has retired, and our current principal (Bob Eidahl) will be the new superintendent starting in July. This is good news for the school forest program. He backs everything I do 100% and wants to see the school forest program continue to grow. I have discussed the management plan with him, and he agrees that harvest needs to occur. He has also agreed to allow me to handle all harvest planning and details, but I assured him that I will be working closely with you (DNR) so it is done correctly. I really like the timeline showing the years we should accomplish everything; great for long range planning. I look forward to the other two plans, but am so happy to get started with this one. *Pat Arndt, Berlin High School, Green Lake County*

- **Robert Rosenberger** (water management specialist): On behalf of the Beecher and Upper Lakes Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District, I would like to thank you for attending our Special Meeting in Beecher, on May 1, 2010. Your presentation was clear and concise. District property owners were provided valuable information and asked questions to assist them with decisions about dredging for muck and debris removal. It is clear that you and Chuck Druckrey coordinate and work well together, which will help facilitate positive outcomes during this process. I hope can all continue to stay in communication as the permitting process unfolds and the draw down begins this fall. *Nancy McKenney*

- **Dave Misterek** (waste management specialist), **Jennie Easterly** (waste management specialist), **Rob McLennan** (basin supervisor), **Mark Stanek** (wastewater engineer), **Casey Jones** (wastewater specialist), **Crystal Schiefelbein** (water regulation & zoning specialist), and **Kathy Sylvester** (hydrogeologist): Thank you for taking the time to speak to the UW Oshkosh Environmental Studies students about many different aspects of protecting Wisconsin's natural resources. You complemented each other nicely in capturing the importance of several different DNR functions. It is fortunate that some students get the opportunity to learn directly from DNR employees; meeting face-to-face with the people who work every day to protect the natural environment is more impressionable than reading from a textbook or learning in a classroom. Understanding why the DNR is such an important branch of government is a crucial part of public relations; it ensures the continued protection of natural resources, which is ultimately the foundation of socioeconomic health. *Shannon Davis-Foust, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh*

- **Cheryl Bougie** (stormwater management specialist), wardens **David Allen** and **Darren Kuhn**: Thank you so much for taking time to listen and talk to me. I also want to thank David Allen and Darren Kuhn for everything they did to help me solve this problem. You all were great people to work with. *Joe Enderby*

- **Kathy Sylvester** (hydrogeologist): Such good news! This is a great idea and an excellent project for redevelopment (regarding a dry cleaner cleanup site). Thanks for all your efforts, you are doing a great job, and we appreciate the efforts of the WDNR for thinking outside of the box! *Donald P. Gallo*

- Warden **Chris Kratcha**: I know that the department used to have an educational program for fifth grade kids. Don't know if it is still active and don't know how much time wardens spend with much

younger students these days. Chris's approach may have been a first and perhaps could be a model for the future. I can tell you from experience that what Chris did with the little munchkins at SD had not only an immediate and positive impact but it lingered after he left and will continue to do so long into the future lives of those kids and hopefully their families. Never underestimate the lasting influence you can have on even the youngest of children. Chris went above and beyond at SD. Be proud of him and the job he does. My best to you guys and your troops! Mike Toney

- Warden **Nate Ackerman**: You really made my weekend being out enforcing our waterway and making the arrest in our channel. We had some campers this past weekend that were drinking, but causing no problems. Seeing you doing your job woke them up about going out in the boat fishing that night. Thanks so much Nate; it is really appreciated here by DeeDee, Suzanne, Don and I. I am very pro law enforcement, and I truly understand what the job is all about. Please know that our launch is always available for any Law Enforcement need. And, anytime you would need help with no one close, just have someone call and I will be there. *Rod at Rivers End Resort*

- Wardens **Mark Schraufnagel** and **Todd Wippermann**: On behalf of the Minnesota DNR Enforcement Division, I want to thank you for your assistance on May 23, 2010 to Minnesota conservation officers Mathy and Fairbanks regarding a fish over limit investigation case. Your timely response and thorough investigation is appreciated. The suspect statement that you obtained is a vital part of our prosecution and greatly enhances the chance for a conviction in this matter. Thank you for all that you do and for working with us on this case. *Colonel Jim Konrad*

- Warden **Dave Algrem**, Wautoma: Words cannot begin to express my sincere appreciation for your contributions to this year's Waushara Community Church Men's Ministry Kid's Fisheree. We consider this event to be total success, in fact, in addition to having the opportunity to share God's word through our youth minister to 49 kids and several adults, the kids caught 821 fish. We plan on continuing this event on an annual basis, and it will be held on the first Saturday in June to correspond with the free fishing weekend in WI. It is individuals and organizations such as yours that contribute so much in bringing a community together. If there is anything I could do to assist you, please feel free to contact me. *Jerry Miller*

- **Kevin McKnight** (hydrogeologist): Earlier this week, I first contacted you with respect to contamination on the VanHandel properties. Within minutes, you responded to my e-mail. I was pleasantly surprised. Later that day (after e-mails back and forth), we set an appointment for Friday (yesterday) afternoon. Upon my arrival, you made yourself available. We discussed the case and I was on my way. This note is to "thank you" for your prompt, courteous and professional attention to my questions/concerns. *Bill Roh, Winnebago County supervisor*

- (Conservation wardens) **Jeremy Cords** and **Mike Neal**, and (fisheries technician) **Brenda Nordin** : I would like to extend a big thank you to both of you for the presentation last night in Fish Creek. The time and effort you put into this program is greatly appreciated, and a big benefit for our club's class and instructors. I am extremely lucky to work with the dedicated group you met yesterday, not to mention the support I/we receive from both of you and Mike Neal. *David Frater, Great Northern Construction, Inc.*

- This project (demolition of the Crystal Spring Hatchery in Langlade County) involved many employees from three different regions. I wanted to show my appreciation and give my thanks to those who were involved in the completion of this successful project: **Jean Romback-Bartels** (regional land leader); **Steve Schrage** (construction engineer); **John Nelson** (regional field operations supervisor):



The hatchery property, now managed under Statewide Springs Pond, is open to the public.
WDNR Photo

Tanya Meives (fisheries technician and project leader); **David Seibel** (fish biologist); **Jeff Reissmann**, equipment operator; **Rick Halder** (fisheries technician); **Ben Rolling** (fisheries technician); **Ron Plank** (fisheries technician); **Carrie Stoltz** (water management specialist); **Gary Bartz** (property manager); **Eric Borchart** (wildlife technician); **Pete Segerson** (regional operations supervisor); and **Barney Propheroe** (equipment operator). DNR archeologist **Mark Dudzik** and construction manager **Chris Rehlinger** also played key roles in this project. **Neal Rosenberg**, *field operations team supervisor*

• This video was shot by DNR videographer and producer **Mary Familoe** and is being featured on the department's homepage and Mediasite. Here is the video

["First coolwater fish raised at the renovated Wild Rose Fish Hatchery"](#) Congratulations Wild Rose! **Lloyd Eagan**, *South Central Region director*

Success stories from the Northern Region

To whom it may concern: 30 years ago was the last time I had camped at **Amnicon Falls State Park**. We just returned this past weekend> I would like to thank and compliment all those through the years who have done an outstanding job maintaining this parks beauty! To say it was clean is an understatement! For those who think the hard work goes unnoticed, it doesn't! Again thank you all for the dedicated hard work it takes to keep this park clean and beautiful! *William Stock*

Success stories from South Central Region

• On another "milestone" note the Lake Mills hatchery recently completed their spring small walleye fingerling harvest/stocking and set a new hatchery record by raising 1.5 million walleye fingerlings. A fantastic job by **Steve Merson** (fisheries technician) and **crew!** *Lloyd Eagan, SCR director*

• Wausaukee Composites needed our help in making a decision about where to expand their wind turbine housing business. As you can see in the attached thank you letter your efforts helped them select Cuba City. The following DNR folks helped make this happen: **Eileen Pierce** (regional Air & Waste leader), **Bruce Baker** (Division of Water director), **Ken Johnson** (regional Water leader), **Al Shea** (Division of Air & Waste administrator), **Eric Rortvedt** (water resources engineer), **Tom Roushar** (environmental engineer supervisor), **Susan Lindem** (air management engineer), **Russ Anderson** (environmental analysis & review supervisor) and **Pat Henderson** (deputy secretary). Thanks for a job well done!

• But we're not done yet – Here's another note from Wausaukee Composites: Dear Lloyd and Team -

I am confirming that Wausaukee Composites has received Operating Permit 122061280-P01, issued for the Wausaukee Composites Cuba City manufacturing facility on June 14, 2010 by the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. We will maintain a copy on file at the Cuba City facility. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you and your team for your prompt and courteous response to this request, and for the significant contributions each of you made toward the successful accomplishment of this permit. We look forward to continuing to work closely with your team in the future. *Dave Lisle, President & CEO, Wausaukee Composites, Inc.*

- To **Ruth (Klassy)**, payroll & benefits specialist): I wanted to express my appreciation for all of your prompt and thorough help. Anytime I have had a question (and at times problems) with insurance coverage or other benefits, you have been there. Your help is always quick and done with such a positive attitude. *Janet DiMaggio, SCR hydrogeologist*
- **Bill Volkert** (educator at Horicon Marsh) received the following from Noel Cutright, with whom he conducts the holiday shows for Wisconsin Public Radio about Wisconsin birds. The email was intended for both of them: Hi Noel. Karen and I listened this afternoon to your entire program with Bill Volkert. We both thought it was among the best ones we've heard, and we're so glad the two of you regularly offer your time and knowledge to an obviously grateful listening audience. You handled the immediate and long-term issues regarding the BP disaster with appropriate insight and concern at the beginning of the program. And, as usual, you handled a great variety of calls helpfully and at moments with admirable tact and patience. Thanks. *Roger*
- Regarding an invasives inventory at Lake Ripley: Hi **Pam (Biersach-Pawolsky)**, water regulation & zoning specialist): This follow-up investigation would not have happened without the help of: **Sue Graham**, (water resources management specialist) (who made the initial communications and got the ball rolling); **Tim Asplund** (water resources management specialist) (who took the communications and coordination to the next level); and, John Lyons (research scientist)/**Dave Marshall** (DNR retiree) (who dropped what they were doing to come out and investigate) I just wanted to put in a good word for these individuals in particular. Hopefully, this whole goby scare will all prove in the end to be a case of mistaken identity. As of now, we don't have any plans to continue actively searching for them. If anything, the District may try to deploy some baited minnow traps at some point this summer. Both **Don Bush** and **John Lyons** have offered to let us borrow traps should we need them. Paul Deerlove, Lake Ripley Management District
- Hi **Woody (Myers)**, hydrogeologist program coordinator): Hey, I know it's really late, but just wanted to send along a well-deserved THANK YOU for participating in the Environmental Law Institute conference back on May 18-19. Sorry about the email tardiness -- I really appreciated you taking the time out of your busy schedule to come all the way down to Milwaukee and provide such a great perspective on petroleum and RR Program issues. Your presence made a big difference in the success of the event, so again, many thanks! *Drew Savagian, program coordinator in the Bureau of Remediation & Redevelopment*
- Hey there! I was talking to Kevin Connors from Dane County this afternoon about a wetland related compliance issue. At the end of the conversation, Kevin asked me to extend his sincere thanks to (water regulation & zoning specialists) **Cami Peterson** and **Dan Hunt** for all the hard work and wonderful guidance they have provided the county over the years. Kevin said that he knows our staff doesn't often hear good things because of the controversial nature of wetland and waterway regulations and so he wanted to make sure they (and we) know their efforts are noticed and appreciated. *Pam Biersach, Watershed Program Coordinator*
- Richard (Doty, Bureau of Technology Services director) and **Lloyd Eagan**: I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated **Chris Mattson's** (information technology specialist) help yesterday. On

Monday, June 21, our front line staff was working in Janesville. They had a lobby full of eager boat and ATV owners interested in renewing their registrations. Unfortunately, they were having problems printing titles, decals and documentation due to a problem with the interfacing of the computers and the printers. Thankfully, we are lucky to have a skilled and dedicated employee like Chris to lend assistance. Chris responded to their plea for help and traveled to Janesville. He quickly ascertained the problem and had the staff up and running in no time. "The rest of the day ran much smoother thanks to Chris' help." **Donna Leighton**, *customer services lead worker*; Thanks to Chris for his help!
Kurt A. Thiede, customer service program supervisor

- Following the Eagle tornado, warden supervisor **Richard Reed**, Waukesha, sent this memo regarding the work of conservation wardens **Michael Hirschboeck, Jason Roberts, Juan Gomez, Randy Dunkel, Jennifer Niemeyer, Douglas Zeihen, Mitchell Groenier, Nicholas Blankenheim, Steven Sanidas, Gervis Myles, Kevin Mickelberg, Paul Sandgren, Boyd Richter, Ryan Ellifson, Michael Dieckhoff, and Heather Gottschalk**; with copies to chief warden **Randy Stark** and warden supervisor **Jeremy Plautz**: Just wanted to say thank you to everyone for helping out in Eagle (following the Eagle tornado). Both the Eagle chief and the Waukesha sheriff wanted to pass along their thanks as well. Things have progressed and most of the efforts are currently focused on the subdivision around Sherman Rd. that was hardest hit. Wardens and rangers shouldered a significant part of this effort up to this point, but now that things have progressed we have moved our people back to normal duties.

Everyone's willingness to respond and do whatever was needed was truly appreciated. When the sheriff walks over with a smile and says "you guys are awesome" that should tell you how our efforts were received. Thanks again- hope things stay at a low rumble until the 4th. *Rick Reed*

- SCR director Lloyd Eagan received this compliment for her staff: Please communicate to South Central Region supervisors my thanks and appreciation for their superb performance in today's test of the alert notification system. The system is an important element in the DNR's and state government's Continuity of Government Operations structure. SCR supervisors demonstrated that the system in your region is in excellent shape. You will be pleased to know that 100% of your supervisors filed their morning reports by the 9:15 a.m. time we used as a cut-off point for calculating the report for the Department of Administration. Amazingly, 96% had their reports in by 9:00 a.m.

These kinds of exercises not only test our systems, like the phone alert system and e-mail lists, but remind us that there's relatively little pain in using that system. Having a user-friendly system is one of our goals.

These exercises also provide an opportunity for employees to offer suggestions on how the system might be improved. You have already forwarded one suggestion from a SCR employee. Thank you. Please communicate to your supervisors that their suggestions for improvements are always welcome. **Jeff Smoller**, *deputy Continuity of Operations manager*

Success stories from Southeast Region

- Thanks to **Travis Motl**, fisheries technician in Eagle; and **Josh Krall** and **Luke Roffler**, fisheries technicians in Waukesha. Two fishing stations and a fishing pier were installed along the shoreline of Whitewater Lake along an ADA (Americans with Disabilities) paved trail. Lakeland School brought 50 students to fish and with the help of Travis, Josh and Luke, the effort was a huge success: There happened to be a school of blue gill along the shoreline and each student was able to reel in a fish! The principal was very happy and would like to turn this into an annual event. With the assistance and

enthusiasm of the fish educators, made this a day the students will be talking about for a long time. *Kettle Moraine Southern Unit staff was responsible for the construction of three fishing stations. Josh, Luke and Travis ran the fishing clinic.*

- Congratulations to **Chris Lilek** (wastewater specialist) for words of appreciation from an environmental consultant in Michigan: I have found Chris to be an outstanding person; her professional demeanor, knowledge of the regulations, generous spirit, and consistent willingness to assist both my clients and me are attributes not often found. She represents the best characteristics of your agency and conveys your policies and rules in a manner that encourages cooperation.
- Congratulations to **Chris Gengler** (real estate program specialist) for receiving a Special Recognition Award from **Steve Miller**, director of the Bureau of Facilities and Lands at their statewide meeting. The award cited Chris's many years of dedicated service and commitment to the Southeast Region Facilities and Lands program: Her diligence, organizational skills, and attention to detail insure that the Region's Real Estate program is functioning in an efficient and effective manner.
- Thanks to Craig Helker (water resources management specialist) for standing in on short notice to deliver a presentation to the Elkhorn Rotary Club: Craig's presentation on the Great Lakes Compact was informative. He enlarged the background knowledge of the membership of the Great Lakes Basin, water recharge and threats from invasives.

Success story for West Central Region

James Thompson (Perrot State Park superintendent): My family visited Perrot State park on Memorial Day weekend. We picked site #35, 11 months before, and we're so very excited to visit. It's a beautiful park; we enjoyed it and will return again. We've never been to your park before, but heard several things from other campers about your park, the educational programs there, the cleanliness of the park, and the kindness of your staff. Every bit of it was true. It's well kept, the staff was excellent. Thank you for making the first camping trip of 2010 a special memory in our books!



DNR firefighters lending a hand on Manitoba fireline

By: Ralph Sheffer, South Central Region

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A 20-person crew of DNR forest fire suppression employees from around the state are providing pump and hose lay support for an approximately 130,000-acre wildfire in Manitoba, Canada. The department deployed its firefighting team upon receiving a request via the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact (GLFFC). The crew flew into The Pas, Manitoba and from there traveled another 60 miles to Cranberry Portage, where the fire is burning.



DNR firefighters have joined those fighting Northwest Fire #24 in Manitoba, Canada.
WDNR Photo

The firefighting crew, and a DNR representative who will serve as a liaison between the department and Manitoba to address any operational needs, were onsite by Tuesday, June 29. Their assignment will last 14 days. The crew was broken up into four five-person squads that will work with portable pumps and hand tools, and lay hoses to control the fire's edge and protect structures.

The Pas is a town in the northern region of Manitoba, approximately 320 air miles northwest of the provincial capital of Winnipeg and near the border with Saskatchewan. The Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact is made up of natural resource agencies in Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario, Manitoba and Wisconsin. The partnership created a formal association back in 1998, in order to promote effective prevention, pre-suppression and control of forest fires in the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. and adjacent areas of Canada. For more information, go to the "[Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact](#)" website.

Footnote: *Forest fire operations specialist Ralph Sheffer is stationed in Dodgeville.*



Bighead Asian carp found in Chicago area waterway system

By: Joint Illinois DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service news release

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After finding the first [Bighead Asian carp](#) in Lake Calumet along the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS), the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC) announced on June 23 that it will enact immediate measures to remove any additional Asian carp found during sampling efforts, including but not limited to electrofishing and netting. The fish was found above the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Electric Barrier System, designed to cut off the fish's path to Lake Michigan.

This capture represents the first Asian carp discovered above the electric barrier system and just the second in the CAWS.



Two examples of Asian carp lay on the table in front of Secretary Matt Frank as he talked with U.S. Rep. Tom Petri, in Washington D.C. in February. Frank had testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, which Petri sits on.

WDNR Photo

"We set out earlier this year on a fact finding mission, and we have found what we were looking for," said John Rogner, assistant director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). "This is important evidence and the more information we have about where Asian carp are, the better chance we have of keeping them out of the Great Lakes."

The Bighead carp was found in Lake Calumet, which sits between T. J. O'Brien Lock and Dam and Lake Michigan. A commercial fisherman found the fish in the northwest corner of the lake near Harborside Golf Course, approximately six miles downstream of Lake Michigan. The IDNR had contracted with this fisherman during routine sampling efforts in the area. The fish was 34.6 inches long and weighed 19.6 pounds.

Asian carp detected above lock and dam last winter

The first Asian carp was found on December 3 in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) below the electric barrier system and just above the Lockport Lock and Dam. The IDNR and USFWS first began intensive sampling operations on the CAWS on February 17 in an attempt to locate either Silver or Bighead Asian carp above the Electric Fish Barrier System. Read about Wisconsin DNR's role prior to this search in the January 14 "MyDNR Digest" story ["DNR a partner in battle to block invasive carp from Great Lakes"](#) and about the follow-up meeting at the White House in the January 21 story ["White House agrees to meeting on Asian carp threat to Great Lakes."](#)

Previous sampling actions throughout the last four months above the barrier hadn't produced any Silver or Bighead carp.

Additional sampling actions on Lake Calumet above [T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam](#) will include IDNR and USFWS fishery biologists supported by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and commercial fishermen. Use of commercial fishing nets and electrofishing gear will continue in Lake Calumet and additional resources will be deployed to begin sampling up the Calumet River leading to Lake Michigan. Electrofishing and sampling

efforts in Lake Calumet and the Calumet River will continue throughout the next several weeks.

During these activities, every effort will be made to minimize the impact to waterway users and provide as much advanced notice of any possible waterway restrictions.

Many concerned about impact on Great Lakes fishery

"This issue is an extremely high priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and we will continue to work directly with our partners and stakeholders to implement the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework using all available tools and techniques," said Mike Weimer, USFWS assistant regional director of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Program. "We remain firmly committed to achieving our collective goal of preventing Asian carp from becoming established in Great Lakes waters."

Sampling is an important and continued effort in the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework, which includes both short- and long-term actions to stop the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

Sampling and monitoring also will continue at five fixed sampling stations throughout the CAWS as detailed in the [RCC's Sampling and Monitoring plan](#) to search for Asian carp. Commercial fishing operations also will continue to remove Silver or Bighead carp in downstate waters where the fish are known to be present.

Several steps in the works to contain devastating invader

"The Army Corps of Engineers will continue to operate the locks and dams in the Chicago Area Waterway System for Congressionally-authorized purposes of navigation, water diversion and flood control. We will continue to support fish suppression activities by modifying existing structures such as locks as requested by other agencies to support this common goal," said Colonel Vincent Quarles, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District. "At this time there is no intention to close the locks."

Short- and long-term control efforts as part of the Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework include:

- Operations to reduce propagule pressure on barriers;
- Increased fish collection effort and population suppression;
- Evaluation of modified and structural operations in support of fish suppression activities;
- Emergency measures to prevent bypass of fish between (1) Des Plaines River and CSSC and (2) I&M Canal and CSSC during flood events;
- Increased biological control efforts; and
- Barrier operations

To view the entire control framework and to receive the latest updates on sampling efforts in the CAWS, log on to "[Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee](#)" website.



Secretary names Carrie Mickelson CAES Division administrator

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Secretary Matt Frank has announced the appointment of **Carrie Mickelson as** administrator of the Division of Customer and Employee Services, replacing Vance Rayburn, who retired on June 18.



Carrie Mickelson is the new administrator of the Division of Customer and Employee Services.

WDNR Photo

Mickelson had served as DNR's director of Human Resources during 2009, having joined the HR staff in 2008. She has more than 13 years of human resource management experience ranging from health care to transportation, most recently managing personnel for the Home Depot.

Among Mickelson's diverse responsibilities will be such challenges as overseeing completion of the department's webpage redesign, managing the new structure of the CAES Division, and recruiting top notch new staff to our agency as budgets allow. She'll also represent DNR in the consolidation of state agency human resources functions.

In addition to her active days at DNR, Mickelson keeps busy with her husband Luke and her two children--Alex, a junior at Lake Mills High School and Emily, an eighth grader in middle school.



"Partners fishing event" sees more bass than walleye this year

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

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Fishing on the "Big Chip" strengthens relationships

The walleyes may have been a bit absent, but the largemouth bass showed up at this year's annual "Partners Fishing Event" hosted by the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of the Chippewa Indians. Held this year on June 9-10 at The Landing on the Chippewa Flowage, the annual event again brought together tribal, local, state and federal officials, and citizens for some angling fun.



A few of the '97 Green Bay Packer Super Bowl champions took part in this year's "Partners Fishing Event." Talking fish and football were (left to right) players Dorsey Levens, Gilbert Brown and William Henderson, along with biologist and Joint Assessment Steering Committee chair Robert Jackson with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

WDNR Photo

The contingent from DNR included executive assistant **Mel Vollbrecht**, Northern Region director **John Gozdzialski** and fisheries staff. Also on hand were Natural Resources Board members Dave Clausen, John Welter, Gary Rohde and Preston Cole.

Gozdzialski noted that the event has been effective in strengthening relationships among tribes, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), and state and federal agencies. About 80 people participated, paired in fishing boats with someone from another agency.

The Tuesday evening fishing was windy, with short-lived showers. Few fish were caught. The next morning, skies began to clear and conditions improved. Anglers found more largemouth bass in traditional walleye waters, and the friendly competition centered on how many inches of bass each boat could land.

"It's a pretty loose event with people ribbing each other," said GLIFWC public relations representative Charlie Rassmusen. He pointed out that one theme that came out, as it seems to each year, is that the state and tribes have come a long way in their working relationship, producing big dividends for the fisheries resource, because so much has been learned about fish populations over the past thirty years ago.

When the fishing ended, the take included bass, crappies, northerns, walleye, bluegill and one 42" muskie caught by Charlie Wooley, deputy regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It's reported that Vollbrecht landed a few of those big bass.

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



Peregrine falcons nest, hatch and train young atop Madison power plant

By: Madison Gas and Electric news release

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Just east of downtown Madison, four peregrine falcon fledglings are spreading their wings. The birds, which were born in May atop a power plant owned by Madison Gas and Electric (MGE), now are learning how to fly.

MGE installed a falcon nesting box near the top of its power plant in 1999. The box sat vacant for nearly a decade. Then, in 2009 a pair of falcons occupied the box and successfully hatched three chicks.

The same pair returned this spring. Most peregrine falcons in Wisconsin are tracked

through a banding system. When the chicks are young, Wisconsin peregrine falcon expert Greg Septon takes the chicks from their nest, puts numbered bands on the birds and takes a blood sample for DNA. Septon has banded more than 500 falcon chicks in Wisconsin.

On June 1, Septon banded Madison's newest falcons, named after streets located near the plant: Blount, Livingston, Blair and Wilson. According to Septon, these long-endangered birds often choose power plants as nesting sites because they offer a solid, safe perch.

Peregrine falcons were nearly extinct in Wisconsin 40 years ago. A Midwest restoration project has helped increase the population of these endangered birds over the years. Video clips of the 2010 falcon season at the MGE Blount plant--from nesting and hatching to feeding, banding and fledging--can be viewed at ["Four Young Falcons taking Wing, Leaving their Nest"](#) in the "MGE My Home" online customer newsletter. A link on this page includes an interview with DNR's **Bill Smith**, from the Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Go to the Bureau of Endangered Resources' ["Peregrine Falcon"](#) webpage to learn more about the return of the population to the state.