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Join your friends and colleagues at the State Fair

By: Kathleen Wolski, Office of Communication

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Be part of a long-running tradition

For more than 60 years, DNR has been an integral part of the Wisconsin State Fair. Our exhibit in the Natural Resources Park is one of the coolest places on the grounds. And, not only because of the shade trees and native plants and meandering stream that provide a relaxing oasis for fairgoers.



Wildlife technician Chris Cold, Ladysmith, helps visitors to his exhibit fill in their "Passport to Fun."

WDNR Photo

Our program exhibits are interesting, fun and educational, and they provide a great opportunity to interact with our customers in an enjoyable and relaxed setting.

Secretary **Matt Frank** has asked supervisors to support their employees in helping with outreach at the State Fair. Staff from programs that don't typically have an exhibit can sign up online at ["2010 Passport to Fun, State Fair Volunteer"](#) to help at the Information and Passport Welcome Counter.

The always-popular t-shirt printing activity tent, managed by our long-time partners, Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP), is also in need of help. This year's theme is "Paws and Claws." If you want to work this activity, email [Jody Weiler](#) RSVP or call her at (414)220-8654. Travel expenses must be covered by each employee's program.



Jeff Schimpff, Environmental Analysis and Review specialist in the Office of Energy, helped young Passport explorers at the Science and Energy display at last year's fair.

WDNR Photo

Come join the fun. Meet up with coworkers from across the state and talk with visitors from all walks of life. Show off your program's good work. Take time to get out and enjoy all the Fair has to offer: listen to music; watch a best of breed judging; sample some of Wisconsin's culinary delights. Try the newest deep-fried food served on a stick and watch the wonderfully wacky street performers and passers-by.

You'll find more information on the ["State Fair Participation"](#) webpage. See you at the fair.

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



Storm closes Turtle Flambeau Flowage while damage assessed and repaired

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

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Public advised to refrain from visiting for camping and fishing

While damage assessment continues from Tuesday night's storm on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage northeast of Park Falls, DNR will reopen boat accesses at Fishermans Landing, Springstead Landing and Murrays Landing that had been closed because of fallen trees. All camping in the flowage remains closed until further notice, however.



An aerial view of the many trees downed during the July 27 storm on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

WDNR Photo

"Our crews are going from campsite to campsite to do an assessment of the damage," said Northern Region Land's supervisor **Paul Bruggink**. "About 50 percent of the 70 campsites received damage, which varies from site-to-site." He added that about 50 of those campsites were occupied.

"We are getting outstanding cross program support from many local staff in the Woodruff/Mercer area," said regional land leader **Bill Smith**.

Tuesday night at about 8 p.m. a major wind event hit the flowage. At this time state officials aren't sure if it was a straight line wind or a tornado. Iron County Emergency Management, the Iron County Sheriff's Department and DNR employees worked through the night assisting and rescuing people camping on the islands. Several injuries were reported.

Three people from remote campsites were taken by boats to waiting ambulances. One person was evacuated by a Flight for Life helicopter. Response personnel also evacuated campers to local motels during the night.

Damaged areas extend from the Turtle Dam on the westside of the flowage, to a half mile east of Murrays Landing on the eastside. The area is about eight miles long and one to one and a half miles wide. Within this area trees are down, campsites are extensively damaged and some roads are impassable. There also reports of several watercrafts damaged from the storm.



A camper looked over the debris piled on top of his campsite after the storm hit on Tuesday night.

WDNR Photo

As part of the response, the Office of Emergency Management, the Iron County Sheriff's Department and DNR mobilized search operations into three divisions with four boats per division. The priorities for these crews were, in the following order:

- Search, rescue and evacuate.
- Safely deliver campers back into their respective sites to retrieve personal items and watercraft.
- Clean up the sites, i.e. evaluate hazards, cut trees.
- Repair damage to campsites. Some picnic tables and toilets were completely demolished.
- Reopen sites as conditions allow.

Iron County officials, in conjunction with the Towns of Mercer and Sherman, are conducting damage assessments to residences and public infrastructure in the affected area.

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



Jeremy Perry named Wildlife Enforcement Officer of the year

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The North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association (NAWEOA) has named Northern Region's Jeremy Peery, Ladysmith, as the nation's Officer of the Year at its national conference. Stationed in Rusk County for 10 years, he's been the only warden in that county for the last several.



Wendy Peery joined her husband Jeremy as he received the NAWEOA Office of the Year Award.

WDNR Photo

"Since arriving at his post, Peery has earned public respect for his work ethic, public involvement and enforcement program," said chief warden **Randy Stark**. "Jeremy has worked diligently to build a law enforcement program that balances enforcement and community needs, while exceeding expectations in many other facets of a warden's duties."

"Maintaining a consistently effective enforcement program requires a warden to hone a diverse array of skills. Not only has Peery accomplished this, he's given the same priority and effort to building strong community outreach throughout Rusk County

"Jeremy has been involved in the most emotionally moving program involving youths fighting life-threatening illnesses. In 2005, and again in 2009, Jeremy organized a hunt for two special youth enabling them to enjoy 'a hunt of a lifetime,'" said Stark. "Both hunters succeeded in harvesting animals."

Most recently, Peery was involved with several outdoor programs. In 2009, he partnered with Safe Hunters of Tomorrow (SHOT), a community action organization that he helped organize, on the sixth annual Youth Outdoor Field Day. The two also collaborated on the second annual "no kill" Learn How to Hunt Bears event, focusing on the experience of bear hunting.

Peery earlier this year received the [Haskell Noyes Award](#) This recognition was followed up with his nomination for the NAWEOA Officer of the Year Award, a competition of top wildlife officers from across the country



Department seeking public comment on draft chronic wasting disease plan

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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The public has an opportunity to comment on a revised draft "[Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan](#)" that would guide DNR's [chronic wasting disease \(CWD\)](#) management

efforts for the next 15 years.

"We'll be using research data along with our experience and knowledge gained over the past eight years in Wisconsin to guide our future actions as we fight to protect our deer herd and our deer hunting tradition," said CWD project leader **Davin Lopez**.

The 15-year CWD Response Plan reflects input from a diverse number of sources, including a citizen stakeholder advisory group, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, and an independent panel of experts in animal disease and other related fields from around the country that reviewed and suggested modifications to the plan.

"Nonetheless, no matter how strong the plan is, it will only be successful if it has the support and associated active participation of our partners and the public," Lopez said.

"Successfully controlling and managing CWD in Wisconsin will require a sustained effort over many years, likely far beyond this 15-year plan. It is very challenging for everyone involved, but the alternative of letting the disease spread uncontrolled is much and unacceptably worse."

Comments can be submitted using a form available on the website. Those without Internet access can call DNR at (608)264-6046 to request a hardcopy of the plan. The deadline for submitting comments is August 8.

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



[Play a role in hunting predictions and herd health by reporting deer seen](#)

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When DNR employees join in the Summer Deer Observations collected each year (per Manual Code 2310.5), they play a key role in estimating the fawn/doe ratio throughout the state in advance of the fall hunting season. Productivity of the herd is taken into account when the department makes its fall hunting predictions and assesses herd health.

For nearly 50 years, DNR employees have reported the location, deer type and number of fawns seen from dawn to dusk for the months of July, August and September.

New for 2010, observations only will be collected for the months of August and September. This change was recommended by the Sex-Age-Kill (SAK) audit committee to help improve accuracy of SAK population estimates.



Watch for fawns when observing deer in the field.

WDNR Photo

Wildlife and Forestry Research Section staff compiles this data, which then is made available to the public and researchers for planning upcoming hunting to population modeling.

Past survey reports have been made available online and can be viewed at ["Summer Observations 2009."](#)

For 2009, 328 department employees logged more than 5,000 summer deer observations. Observation totals included 1,234 bucks; 2,725 does without fawns; 770 fawns without does; 1,252 does with one fawn; 787 does with two fawns; and 50 does with three fawns. Observations were recorded across the state, with the most recorded in Deer Management Unit (DMU) 37 in Oneida County.

Last year, 14 department programs and two federal agencies participated in the observations. The Bureau of Wildlife Management entered 2,000 observations, topping all of the participating programs. Wildlife technician Karl Pilch, Mercer, contributed 123 summer deer observations, the most of all participating DNR employees.

How to become a deer observation contributor:

- No special effort is needed to collect this data. Just record the deer you see from dawn to dusk while performing your regular duties. Before including survey work in your day, however, get approval from your supervisor.
- At the end of each month, send in your observations to the Wildlife Surveys Group. The more data received, the more accurate our estimate of the population. Every observation helps.
- Instructions on how to perform the survey, a data sheet to record observations, and how to report sightings, can be found on the [Bureau of Wildlife Management's](#) website.

Any questions or comments about this survey should be directed to **Brian Dhuey**, research scientist and wildlife surveys coordinator, at (608)221-6342. The bureaus of Science Services and Wildlife Management appreciate all past and future contribution to this important effort.



Around the state, DNR employees shine

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Success stories from the Central Office

The [Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species](#) recently recognized two Forestry Division staffers and a DNR attorney for their work to control invasive species in the state. Sharing this year's "Invader Crusader" Awards in the Professional Individual category are invasive plants coordinator **Tom Boos** and invasive BMP specialist **Bernie Williams**, along with attorney **Peter Flaherty**.

Boos and Williams were recognized for their work in developing all four tracks of the voluntary BMPs (Best Management Practices) for Invasive Species. Flaherty was recognized for his "tireless efforts" in developing the state's Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule (NR 40), which went into effect in September 2009, creating "a foundation for major regulations and control of invasive species."

Find a complete list of 2010 "[Invader Crusader Award Recipients](#)" at the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species website and in a June 3 DNR [news release](#).

Success stories from the Northeast Region

- I would like to recognize a few folks for their work on beech bark disease. It has been almost a year since the first find of the beech scale was reported in Door County. At the public presentation in Door County last Friday, it was evident that a lot of very good work has been done on this issue. I would like to recognize the following folks for their work: (Forest Health specialist) **Linda Williams**: drafting the BMPs AND the silviculture guidelines rewrite; surveying for the scale; conducting training for the foresters; giving several presentations on beech bark disease, including a very informative and well received presentation at the public meeting. Linda is always so informative, it was impressive. (Gypsy Moth Suppression coordinator) **Bill McNee**: drafting the original silviculture guidelines; surveying for the scale; conducting training for the foresters. Bill has been surveying for several years prior to the find also. (Forest pathologist) **Kyoko Scanlon**: developing survey protocols; surveying for the scale; developing a guide for homeowners and a guide to ID the scale; conducting training for the foresters; developing a plan for identifying resistant trees. Being the liaison to our partners in extension and the forest service. (Even getting her husband to volunteer to fold all of those tri-fold handouts!) (foresters) **Chris Plzak** and **Bill Ruff**: surveying for the scale, answering questions from landowners about this issue, providing expertise related to management options, providing critical input into all the conversations related to next steps, setting up the public information session, giving an excellent presentation on forest management options, diving right into this issue with a professional approach. I was so pleased with their level of knowledge at the session last Friday and their honesty about what they know and what is not known. Chris and Bill have been excellent partners to work with; they really know their county and customers. **Bob Dahl**: providing critical input into discussions regarding regulatory options. Assisting with development of BMP's. Working with businesses to pursue voluntary compliance agreements. Bob has been a GREAT DATCP partner in this adventure. There is still much work to be done but we must celebrate all that has been accomplished in the last year. Super job everyone! It all came together so nicely last Friday. I just wish we had a few more witnesses! **Jane Cummings-Carlson**, forest health coordinator, South Central Region

- Warden **Darren Kuhn** (Kewaunee & Brown counties): We really appreciate your helping us out

(with the Urban Fishing Pond regulation compliance at the Wildlife Sanctuary). I know it's another pain which you didn't need, as you are already spread thin. But thanks a Bunch! *Frank and Ty*

- Warden **Ryan Volenberg** (Mishicot): I just wanted to pass on a quick message thanking, as well as commending, Ryan Volenberg for the assistance he provided associated with the sport trolling/trapnet boat accident we had off Sheboygan. Ryan did an outstanding job and devoted long hours assisting (warden) **Mike Clutter** (Plymouth) with the investigation of this accident. Given the high profile of this incident, I appreciate, and I know Mike appreciated, Ryan's willingness to come down and share his expertise relative to this unique situation. Now that the investigation is complete, it is clear that Ryan's assistance played an important role in ensuring the relative facts were documented associated specifically with the 10-50 as well as the related and remaining issue of trap netting offshore. It is clear to me the outfit is fortunate to have professionals such as Ryan out there giving 110%. **Joe Jerich**, warden supervisor at Plymouth

- Warden Darren Kuhn: As always, great job on the presentation yesterday. All eyes and ears were on you and the information you had to share with the students. I cannot begin to say how powerful the impact is of having wardens come in and address these classes. Whoever made this decision up your food chain really deserves an "attaboy" for this. It really does a wonderful job of having students meet the wardens and realize the stories they've heard are far from the truth. Enjoy your summer and thanks again. Sincerely, *Brack W. Gillespie*

- (Environmental engineer supervisor) **Rick Wulk**: I just wanted to drop you a note to say "thank you" for your presence and voice at the Kewaunee Law enforcement meeting. It is appreciated greatly. Let's hope that this is the first step in the right direction for Kewaunee County. (Kewaunee county is trying to enact an open burning ordinance) Thank you again. *Most Sincerely, Nancy Utech, Kewaunee county Board of supervisors.*

- (Remediation & Redevelopment's) **Bruce Urben, Denise Danelski, Annette Weissbach**; (Waste & Materials Management's) **Jim Zellmer, Lee Archiquette**; (Watershed Management's) **Jennifer Huffman**; (Fisheries Management's) **Scott Koehnke**; (Office of Communication's) **Tom Turner**; and (Water Program Management's) **Sara Walcisak**: You've been involved in the redevelopment of the PH Glatfelter site in Neenah in some way. The success story (below) could not have been possible without your contribution. Please see pages 1, 10, 11 and 18 of the forwarded issue of Future Neenah Magazine. This article was published a month ago. Since then, Plexus moved into their new location and now successfully operates their global headquarters at the site of a redeveloped brownfield.

The partnership with state government and our involvement in this enormous redevelopment effort is not mentioned in this particular article as the focus is on Plexus and welcoming them to downtown Neenah. However, we can stand in the background and admire this milestone, knowing that we've acted true to our agency's mission. While there is still environmental work to complete and the remainder of the redevelopment to unfold, we should take a moment to pause and acknowledge the positive difference we make. As reflected in this article, our efforts positively affect individuals' lives as well as the environment. For what it's worth, coming from a fellow State employee in Oshkosh, thank you for your unyielding standards, professionalism and teamwork. As sappy as that all sounds and as deep as it seems to be getting here, it is sincerely a pleasure to work with all of you for all of those reasons. In addition, Neenah received a \$700,000 BEBR Grant for this redevelopment in December 2009. [Press Release](#) is attached.

Jennifer Borski, Remediation and Redevelopment

Success stories from the Northern Region

• Kudos to the **Grantsburg Ranger Station**. I paid for my annual State Park windshield sticker at The St. Croix campground last Thursday. I received my sticker in the mail this morning. (Tuesday) Not counting the weekend that's 3 days!! The campground was in perfect condition. The vault toilets were odorless, and the water good enough to bottle. Please let the people in Grantsburg know they had a very happy customer. *D. Muzzy Spring Valley, WI*

• It is with great pleasure I write this memo to compliment the work Mr. **Heath Benike** (Fisheries Management) does for and with us. I am involved with the Walleyes for Tomorrow chapter and manage the walleye hatchery on Red Cedar Lake we operate in cooperation with the DNR. Early this spring, and throughout this summer, we have worked closely with Mr. Benike on the lake's fish survey being completed on Red Cedar Lake. Mr. Benike attended and spoke at our Friday evening, March 26th, hatchery volunteer rally meeting for preparing the spring spawn activities. Many questions were asked by our volunteers and Mr. Benike answered them completely and professionally. Thank you for giving us Mr. Benike as our Fish Biologist and key DNR contact. *Larry J*

• Compliment to **Pamela Toshner**, Lake and River Management coordinator: Thanks for sharing your expertise and passion for lakes. Your presentations was rated #1....I'm proud to be able to work with you. *Bob Korth, UW-Extension, on Pamela's participation in the 2010 Wisconsin Lakes Conference*

• Compliment to **Kris Larsen**, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network and Lake Grants: Kris trained Dan and Joyce to do water chemistry testing. "You are indeed most fortunate to have such a dedicated, diligent individual in your employ. We feel he went above and beyond our expectations. We look forward to working with Kris in the years to come." *Dan and Joyce A., Kirby Lake*

• Compliment to **Chris Saari**, Remediation and Redevelopment: I can't thank you enough for your help! The link provided enough information to satisfy the contingency in the sale of the property - mainly that the file on the contamination was closed. I did not have to do any further research. Many, many thanks! *Jean*

Plant Pest and Disease specialist **Bob Murphy**, who is also a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Entomology, was recently working in a remote area of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in rural Oconto County when he "happened to see someone on the ground as I was driving by. I thought it was an odd time for someone to take a nap on the ground." After he'd checked on two gypsy moth sites that were part of his research, he said, "I thought I better go back and check things out. I called out, 'Are you okay?' All I heard back was, 'Help me! Help me!'"

Murphy said he saw an elderly woman on the ground. "She had deer flies all over her and a bruised chin," Murphy said. "She said she thought her leg was broken." Murphy used his cell phone to call for emergency assistance.

The story that appeared in the weekly Oconto County Reporter and the sister newspaper the [Green Bay Press Gazette](#) provided details of what happened prior to Murphy finding the injured woman.

Murphy has been receiving congratulations from colleagues. In an e-mail to Forest Health staff, Forest Health coordinator **Jane Cummings Carlson** wrote, "Congratulations to Bob Murphy for being attentive and coming to the rescue" of Mrs. Peek. Regional Forest Health specialist **Linda Williams** wrote, "Great job, Bob! Heroes always say, 'I just did what anyone else would have done.' But there are so many people who would not have taken the time to double-check." From UW Entomology Professor Ken Raffa: "You're a genuine hero. Way to go! You should be very proud."

Success stories from the Southeast Region

- Congratulations to **Joe Lourigan**, Sturdevant, who worked with **Vera Starch** , central office(both with Waste and Materials Management), to make landfill feasibility reports and related Department documents available on the department's website and for his work on the proposed expansion of the Veolia Emerald Park landfill. Thank you so much for your efforts to get this posted on the website. It is very much appreciated. You have also been excellent with your communications during this entire process.

- To Southeast Region director **Gloria McCutcheon**: Dear Gloria: Thank you very much for sharing this fabulous article by Fred Klancnik and William Brose about Lakeshore State Park. I will make sure that is passed along to all the board members of Friends of Lakeshore State Park, as we have just come off the best Gathering Waters Festival we have done so far, with over 60 sponsors and some good funds raised to allow us to do an even better job next year. We are feeling very good about our efforts and now to have this article, which gives us a good understanding of the history of the park, will make us feel even better and more proud about how we contribute to its life in partnership with DNR. Personally I love the part about how the bridge became an important artistic focal point, branding point, and entrance to the Park, and I know you were helpful in that. As usual, congratulations. Everyone identifies with the Park when they see that beautiful bridge. Our Friends mission to bring people to the Park and to offer education and recreational opportunities and appreciation of the environment to people from throughout the City is ongoing; we estimate about 100,000 visitors per year. Now if we can only get a nice meeting and interpretive center nestled in among the berms near the boats that would cap it off for everyone. That will have to be another article. Sincerely yours, *Todd Montgomery, President, Friends of Lakeshore State Park*

McCutcheon then wrote to **Lakeshore Park staff** and some external partners about the magazine story: Lakeshore State Park is featured in a picture-filled, 11-page article about Milwaukee's lakefront in the July 2010 issue of [Civil Engineering](#) magazine. JJR, LLC, has worked on several lakefront projects in Milwaukee and was requested to submit an article. There are many reasons to take pride in Lakeshore State Park. The magazine editor called it a dazzling undertaking and a unique urban waterfront before listing its many features in her Editor's Note. Enjoy reading about the past and dreaming about the future.

- Congratulations to (Remediation and Redevelopment's) **Eric Amadi**, who received recognition from the SC Johnson Wax Company. Eric Amadi has been overseeing our Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Corrective Action work in Sturtevant for many years. We want to recognize Eric's long tenure with our project and especially his excellent recent support on the Waxdale Creek and Fire Training Area project reviews and closeouts.

Success story from the West Central Region

Written to regional staff: Major thanks to each of you for helping assemble, set up, staff and tear down our displays at Farm Tech Days. It's good for us to have a presence at this major event, and this year you made it possible. For those of you who worked Thursday, sorry about the rain ;-) With appreciation! **Scott Humrickhouse**, *West Central Region director*



Web redesign project making real progress toward hitting deadlines

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Work on redesign of DNR's external website is making real progress according to project manager John Bushman, with the Bureau of Technology Services. Each division's web coordinator is working with their managers and staffs to assure that their partners, regulated businesses and the public have easy access to information essential to interactions with the department.

"I've made upgrading our website a priority because it's a powerful tool in helping the public and our partners participate in natural resources and environmental efforts. Coupled with the Call Center, staff outreach through Green Tier and efforts like the deer project with hunters, we serve the public 24-hours-day with information they want and need," said Secretary Matt Frank.

During initial stages of the web redesign project, the department decided that information placed on the web would be organized by topics, rather than continue with a hierarchical structure. The new approach "will allow our customers to find information and interact with the agency in new and exciting ways not possible before," said Bushman.

[Division web coordinators](#) and managers are forming topic teams that will be responsible for aggregating, and to some extent, migrating existing web content into the content management system under the three main categories: Outdoors and Nature, Business and Government, and Environment and Health. The Department of Administration provided the web content management system, which could be available for content as early as mid-August.

If you take a tour of the most recent draft version of website found at the "[Wisconsin Naturally](#)" homepage, you'll find tabs for the three categories, as well as their related topics.

Web coordinators conferred with program managers to compile a list of business customers/contacts, partners, regulated entities, researchers, special interest groups, counterparts at other levels of government, members of the public, etc. to invite to anonymously complete usability surveys of the new website. "Initial survey responses have been generally positive with constructive feedback," said Bushman.

The general public as well as DNR staff are invited to participate in the survey, as well. A version of the survey is available [through a feature button on our external website](#).

A history of the web redesign project

In January 2009, DNR brought employees together from a variety of programs to begin developing an easy-to-use and dynamic Internet website. During the six-month project, the team brought new products and services online, as well as a web governance structure. The web coordinator positions were created under this new structure.

Today, take the time to learn more about the internal side of the [Web Redesign Project](#). You'll read about "Web governance," the "Google Search Appliance," "Google Analytics," "GovDelivery" and the new "Web Content Management System."



Lake Mills Fish Hatchery sets walleye production record

By: Steve Merson and Greg Matthews, South Central Region

The Lake Mills Fish Hatchery set a new record this spring by raising more than 1.5 million walleye fingerlings for stocking in lakes and rivers in south central and southeast Wisconsin.



(Left to right) Lake Mills Hatchery staff Paul Kruse, Jason Himebauch and Jesse Landwehr netting walleye out of a harvest kettle.

WDNR Photo

"A fantastic job by hatchery supervisor **Steve Merson** and crew," noted South Central Region operations supervisor **Bob Fahey**, Fitchburg.

Hatchery staff harvested walleye eggs from Lake Delevan in early April. The eggs hatched and were stocked into 20 ponds on the Lake Mills Hatchery grounds in late April. Staff sampled and analyzed water from each pond in the hatchery lab twice weekly. They then applied inorganic fertilizer as needed to keep the desired nitrogen to phosphorus ratio.

Staff also collected plankton samples and fish stomach samples to track food abundance. Water quality was checked daily, including dissolved oxygen, pH and turbidity. Staff added blue pond dye when natural turbidity disappeared to control plant and algae growth.

Hatchery employees weighed and measured fish from each pond twice a week to monitor growth and condition. Leading up to the June harvest, hatchery cool Water foreman **Jason Himebauch** tracked and ranked each pond's progress.

It's all in the numbers

The 20 ponds used for rearing the fingerlings had an average return (survival) rate of 90.5 percent, which was quite an accomplishment since "going into each year the production plan is to harvest a million walleye (from 20 ponds) with an average return rate of 60 percent," pointed out Merson.



Fisheries staff checked walleye fingerlings for weekly growth.

WDNR Photo

Staff from South Central and Southeast Regions stocked 1,507,058 fish in eight days. The old record from 2002 was 1,176,153 fish reared in 24 ponds with an average return rate of 68 percent.

In addition to Merson and Himebauch, staff contributing to the milestone production and stocking numbers were coldwater foreman **Jesse Landwehr**, fisheries technician **Paul Kruse** and LTE fisheries technician **Al Clark**, fisheries technician/laborer **Nelle Kempfer** and laborer **Charles Lisius**.

Footnote: *Steve Merson is a fisheries technician at the Lake Mills Fish Hatchery and Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*



DNR partners with Packers and others for “First Downs for Trees”

By: Tom Turner, Northeast Region

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In a project called “First Downs for Trees,” the Green Bay Packers have joined with Brown County, area municipalities, the Oneida Nation, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and DNR Northeast Region’s (NER) Urban Forestry Program to plant one tree in Brown County for each first down made by the Packers during their 2010 season.



Shown planting the first tree in the “First downs for trees” program are (left to right): Mark Murphy, Green Bay Packers president and CEO; NER director Ron Kazmierczak; Larry Borgard, Wisconsin Public Service Corp. president; Tim Bauknecht (kneeling in green), Village of Ashwaubenon forester; staff (in orange shirts) of the Ashwaubenon Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department; Jim Schmitt, mayor of the City of Green Bay; Tom Hinz, Brown County executive; and Michael Aubinger, Village of Ashwaubenon president

WDNR Photo

The Packers "Green Team," the green side of the famed "Green and Gold," came up with the idea and worked with DNR and Wisconsin Public Service to make it a reality. The "Green Team" hopes that at least 300 trees will be planted in the spring of 2011. At a kick-off event June 30 at Skyline Park in Ashwaubenon, the Packers unveiled the tree-planting program and the 300-tree goal, then planted the first tree in the "First Downs for Trees" program.

In expectation of the Packers reaching the 300-tree goal, Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy observed that the Packers have a pretty explosive offense that can deliver 300 first downs this season. The Packers had 335 first downs last season and have averaged 312 per season since 2005.

In optimistic support of both the team and the project reaching their goal, NER's director **Ron Kazmierczak** said, "We anticipate a lot more than 300 trees."

The Packers will pay for the trees, said their spokesman Aaron Popkey. DNR's **Tracy Salisbury** and **Olivia Witthun**, with the NER Urban Forestry Program, were instrumental in developing the project. Salisbury said they hope to use local nurseries for the trees that will be needed for the spring planting.

The "First Downs for Trees" project is an effort by the Packers organization to reduce the carbon footprint created whenever the team travels. According to the team, the Packers release about 450 tons of carbon each season through air travel.



Yamaha donates money to DNR for safety enforcement trailer

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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DNR's warden service recently received a Yamaha Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Access Initiative Award of \$15,909 to purchase a Recreational Safety Enforcement Trailer. The award was given as part of Yamaha's OHV Access Initiative promoting safe and responsible riding, as well as open and sustainable riding areas.



Wardens **Gary Eddy**, ATV/Snowmobile administrator in the central office, and Jeff King with the new Recreational Safety and Enforcement Trailer.

WDNR Photo

Two years ago, warden **Jeff King**, Darlington, sought the support of the Tri-County ATV

Club, Green County ATV Club, Tri-County Trail Commission and Midwest Motor Sports Dealership in Kieler to pursue a grant through Yamaha's Off Highway Vehicle Initiative. All the clubs and dealerships supported the idea of aiding the department's mission to provide a safe outdoor experience when on Wisconsin's trails and waterways by writing letters of support that accompanied King's application to Yamaha Motor Corporation, headquartered in California.

DNR wardens will use the new trailer around the state to support them as they enforce Wisconsin's Laws while on the trail or water. The trailer will be equipped with the tools necessary to process violations of all ATV, snowmobile and boating laws, with emphasis on operating while intoxicated (OWI) and loud noise violations, said King.

"This new trailer assists the department in achieving one of its primary goals, which is to enhance opportunity, safety and enjoyment of outdoor recreational experiences in Wisconsin," said King.

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



DNR partners with unions on behalf of conservation projects

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Secretary Matt Frank this week met with trades' representatives of the AFL-CIO in Madison. The Wisconsin AFL-CIO's conservation committee has asked local unions to consider donating their labor and skills to conservation projects. This first effort of its kind in Wisconsin would construct 80 of the netted deer traps, similar to the one displayed in the picture, below. Captured deer would be ear-tagged or collared to track movement and cause of mortality.



Pictured left to right: DNR Secretary Matt Frank; Jim Klatt, Union Sportsmen's Alliance and Central Flyway regional coordinator; Louis Pody, business representative, Plumbers Local 75; Todd Blair, business representative, Sheet Metal Workers' local 18; and, **Chris Jacques**, research scientist from the Bureau of Science Services.

WDNR Photo



South Central Region's emergency readiness drill successfully tests supervisors

By: Jeff Smoller, Division of Customer and Employee Services

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Each quarter, state agencies are required to conduct an alert exercise to test one of their emergency operations functions. DNR's exercises often test the ability of designated supervisors to quickly and accurately determine employee absences and indicate if critical functions aren't being performed.

On June 24, the South Central Region (SCR) came through with flying colors, with 96 percent of its supervisors electronically submitting their "Morning Reports" by the target deadline of 9 a.m. and 100 percent reporting by 9:15 a.m. SCR was the only DNR location performing the drill that day.

Regional director **Lloyd Eagan** prepared her region well for the exercise, according to agency Continuity of Operations manager **Carrie Mickelson**, director of the Division of Customer and Employee Services, in commending the SCR supervisors. She said the smoothness of the exercise should encourage other units called upon to participate in drills and that with each drill there's less effort required and a greater likelihood that if an emergency takes place, the agency will be ready.

Mickelson added that every exercise finds an item that needs improvement or correcting. In this instance, it was updating several home phone numbers that were identified by the "call-em-all system," which DNR contracts with to place alert calls to all employee's who are part of the drill. Those corrections already have been made by the Bureau of Human Resources. Also improved was the method of entering numbers into the "call-em-all system."

In addition, due to the SCR exercise, improvements were made in the "Alert Exercise Checklist" kept by DNR's COOP (Continuity of Operations) Management Team.

"The DNR and other agencies prepared for a flu pandemic that, thankfully, never happened," Mickelson explained. "Had we been hit, continuity of operations could have been severely affected."

"The flu or other kind of natural or human-caused disasters can happen in the future," she added. So we need to be ready. As the gulf oil-spill illustrated, you need to be prepared for the unexpected. That's what the "Continuity of Operations" effort is about. So thanks again to all in DNR who are helping us, step-by-step, to be prepared."



Department taking steps to control invasive red swamp crayfish

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Janesville man cited for using illegal crayfish as bait

The citing of a Janesville man has prompted the department to remind anglers to keep an eye out for a new invasive crayfish being illegally used as bait in Wisconsin.

Conservation warden **Mike Dieckhoff**, Janesville, recently cited the man under the state's new invasive species rule for using a live, prohibited species – red swamp crayfish – as bait. The citation carries a forfeiture ranging from \$295 to \$385.



Be on the lookout for the illegal use of the red swamp crayfish.

WDNR Photo

Fishing on the Rock River near Janesville, the angler told Dieckhoff that he bought the crayfish at a "Chicago area grocery store."

The Red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), native to the Gulf Coast from northern Mexico to the Florida panhandle and most often raised by southern fish farmers, is of particular concern "because it reproduces prolifically and can move overland, increasing its chances of spreading on its own," said Dieckhoff.

The species is dark red in color with raised, bright red spots covering the body and claws and a black wedge-shaped stripe on the top of the abdomen. They vary in length from two to five inches.

Red swamp crayfish feed on aquatic plants, snails, insects, fish, and amphibian eggs and their young. They can reduce amphibian populations through direct predation and competition for habitat and cause declines in native crayfish species.

It's illegal to possess both live crayfish and fishing equipment at the same time on any Wisconsin water, except the Mississippi River. It's also illegal to release crayfish into state waters without a permit.

"Your help is needed to stop the spread of this invasive species. If you see someone using crayfish as bait, contact your local conservation warden or the confidential DNR Hotline at 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)," said Dieckhoff.

"It's extremely difficult to control the red swamp crayfish and previous eradication efforts haven't been successful, but DNR is continuing to test possible solutions," said **Bob Wakeman**, water resources management specialist in Waukesha.



[Board member Christine Thomas named to federal conservation panel](#)

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Natural Resources Board member and former chair Christine Thomas has become one of 18 appointees to the federal Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, an advisory group created earlier this year to advise the U.S. departments of Interior and Agriculture on recreational hunting and shooting sports activities, as well as associated wildlife and habitat conservation. The two-year appointment began immediately.

Thomas, dean of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources, was named by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Secretary of

Agriculture Tom Vilsack to serve on the council. The new federal advisory council will help promote cooperation between sportsmen and women and state and federal government; and advise the two federal agencies on recreational hunting and shooting sports activities and associated wildlife and habitat conservation.



Natural Resources Board member Christine Thomas appointed to federal Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council.

WDR Photo

"It is an honor to be asked to serve and represent the citizens of the United States in securing the best possible future for the natural resources of our country and the conservation heritage that supports those resources," said Thomas.

"Maintaining and conserving wildlife habitat and water resources that are so important to America's hunting and angling heritage in the face of today's conservation challenges requires a coordinated effort among federal, state and local officials and partners in the private sector," said Vilsack. "The members of Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council will play a crucial role in our ongoing efforts to improve the health and management of America's public and private lands."

"Inspired by the legacy of President Theodore Roosevelt, hunters long have taken the lead in the conservation of our nation's wildlife and its habitat, and I am pleased so many of the leaders in our nation's hunting and conservation community have accepted an invitation to serve on the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council," said Salazar.

Thomas had served since 2006 on the council's forerunner, the Sporting Conservation Council.

UWSP chancellor Bernie Patterson commented on Thomas' appointment. "Dean Thomas' leadership on a range of conservation policy issues is a great source of continued pride for our university and the state of Wisconsin. We commend the Obama administration for recognizing the talent of one of UWSP's key leaders, who heads the nation's largest undergraduate program in natural resources."

Thomas was the first female tenured professor in UWSP's College of Natural Resources and the first woman to head the college. Thomas founded "Becoming an Outdoors Woman," an international organization that promotes women in the outdoors. Thomas has served on the Natural Resources Board since 2003, and this January completed her second term as its chair. In 2000, Thomas was named by the Wisconsin Outdoor Journal as one of the 20 most influential conservationists in Wisconsin during the 20th century.

Read the complete news release posted on the ["USDA News Room."](#)



Wyalusing and Yellowstone Lake state parks gets new electric vehicle

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Wyalusing and Yellowstone Lake state parks have received new energy saving electric vehicles, called an "E-Ride." Manufactured by E-Ride Industries, Princeton, MN, with about 20 percent Wisconsin-made parts, the vehicle will replace others powered by internal combustion engines.



Bob Hollander, laborer at Lake Kegonsa State Park looks over the new electric vehicle now used on park property.

WDNR Photo

The electric vehicle is less expensive to operate than a gasoline/diesel fueled machine. It runs for about \$0.02 per mile compared to \$.62 per mile operating costs on average for the vehicles they replace.

It also will produce 9,450 pounds per year less carbon dioxide compared to a three-quarter ton pick-up driven 8,000 miles per year.

Wyalusing and Yellowstone parks, along with Governor Dodge and Lake Kegonsa parks in the South Central Region, are among the 22 state parks receiving electric vehicles, which are street-legal with enclosed cabs, seat belts and all necessary lights. They're capable of traveling up to 25 mph with a daily range of 50 to 75 miles per charge.

Money to purchase the \$21,000 vehicles came from the Parks Heritage Account. The account is funded by payments and fees collected from utilities and other groups seeking easements onto Wisconsin State Parks for utility lines and communication installations.

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



Memorial fund set for Department of Agriculture secretary Rod Nilsestuen

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Rod Nilsestuen, secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, drowned while swimming in Lake Superior on July 21. Many at DNR have worked with Nilsestuen or his staff during his eight years in office. His family has established a memorial fund in the secretary's name.



A memorial fund has been established for DATCP Secretary Rod Nilsestuen.
WDNR Photo

"DNR lost a great friend and partner, and the agriculture community lost a true advocate who had a great vision for agriculture in Wisconsin," said DNR Secretary Matt Frank.

In lieu of flowers, the Nilsestuen family requests that donations be sent to the Rod Nilsestuen Memorial Fund, care of the Nilsestuen Family at 329 South Street, DeForest, WI 53532. Nilsestuen and his family were on vacation to volunteer for a "Habitat for Humanity" project when the accident occurred. Because of his charitable and giving nature to so many worthy causes, the family will direct contributions to charities close to Nilsestuen's heart.

Randy Romanski, deputy secretary at DATCP issued a [news release](#) on July 22 remembering Nilsestuen as a "visionary leader, inspiring innovator and a true champion for agriculture."

A statement from the Wisconsin Board of Agriculture is particularly timely for Nilsestuen's passing: "Sometimes Rod and the Board have reflected together on what one Board member once referred to as the dash--the life implied between the two dates on a tombstone. We grieve that Rod Nilsestuen's tragic and untimely death prompts us to reflect on his own dash, which was extensive, from the extraordinary accomplishments of public and private service, but equally from the humanity that shone in all he did."



Transplant Games coming to Madison as "Donor Registry" grows

By: Betsy Rossberg, Bureau of Drinking and Groundwater

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From July 30 to August 4, Madison will be host to the [National Kidney Transplant Games](#). Teams from all over the country will participate in the games to celebrate the "Gift of Life" organs they've received.

The March 25, 2010 "Digest" story "[Wisconsin launches new organ 'Donor Registry'](#)" reported on the need for organ transplants for Wisconsin citizens. More than 18,000 have registered with the online "Donor Registry" since it went public in April. This is a fantastic number of people registering for the "Gift of Life" in such a short period of time.

So, if you're looking for something fun and fulfilling to do July 30 to August 4, consider attending the Transplant Games to cheer on these special athletes who have others to thank for their lives.

Footnote: *Betsy Rossberg is an environmental program associate with the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, stationed in Sturgeon Bay.*



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