

<p>In this issue</p> <p>1. Urban forestry's Dick Rideout receives international arboriculture award</p>	<p>2. From bats to warblers, the August magazine covers it all</p>
<p>3. If you're considering retirement, presentations on benefits are scheduled</p>	<p>4. Around the state, DNR employees shine</p>
<p>5. View health insurance benefits from PC via new online service</p>	<p>6. Clean up spills to prevent serious injury</p>
<p>7. Division of Land's Salsa Day will raise money for Boys & Girls Club</p>	<p>8. Current and former DNR employees showing at wildlife exhibit</p>

[Secretary's Corner](#) | [Weekly News](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Outdoor Report](#)

Urban forestry's Dick Rideout receives international arboriculture award

By: Virginia Mayo Black, Division of Forestry

[Index](#) | [Next](#) | [Top](#) | [Print](#)

Wisconsin urban forestry coordinator **Richard "Dick" Rideout** has received the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) 2010 Award of Merit, the highest honor bestowed by ISA. Rideout was honored at the organization's July 25 annual conference in Chicago.

The award recognized Rideout for his "leadership, organizational skills, and dedication ... (which) have had a lasting impact on arboriculture and urban forestry throughout the State of Wisconsin, the Midwest, and nationally," according to the ISA presentation.



Dick Rideout's wife Debbie Cole joined him as he received the 2010 International Society of Arboriculture's prestigious "Award of Merit."

WDNR Photo

Dave Scharfenberger, a member of the Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA) and an ISA director, nominated Rideout for the prestigious award. Scharfenberger said Rideout "has been instrumental in involving municipal, utility, and commercial arborists in all of his activities. He sets high standards, creates links between diverse groups, and shows proven leadership in advancing the principles, ideals, and practices of arboriculture for Wisconsin, the Midwest, the nation, in the ISA, and the entire arboricultural profession." Accepting the award, Rideout said, "The (ISA) award would never have been possible without the influence, support, and encouragement of many mentors, colleagues and family."

According to the award nomination, Rideout's work has helped to create support for urban forestry in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. Rideout has advanced the principles and practices of arboriculture through such programs as the Urban Forestry Grants Program; strong support of the Championship Tree Program; Urban Forestry Distinguished Service Awards; and support of the Tree City, Tree Line, and Tree Campus award programs, as well as the statewide Arbor Day observances and activities.

Rideout's leadership impacted beyond state's borders

Rideout "is a leader in creating or initiating the development of key technical resources and references," reads the nomination, sharing a wide range of information through newsletters, workshops and other training activities. He has urged continued financial support of urban forestry activities and shared ideas on how municipalities can support their urban forests under challenging economic conditions. Rideout also helped establish a National Association of State Foresters program on urban forest health monitoring. Wisconsin's urban forestry program "is recognized as one of the best in the country" as a result of Rideout's leadership, according to Scharfenberger. "None of this was present before Rideout started with the state Department of Natural Resources."

Past recipients of the ISA Award of Merit include former President Richard Nixon; former First Lady Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson, Bob Skiera (Wisconsin's first urban forester and a member of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame), Robert Miller (who began the urban forestry program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources), and Ken Ottman (a member of both the Wisconsin Council on Forestry and the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, having worked in both the public and private sectors).

Rideout received the ISA recognition following his completion of the 500-mile STIHL Tour des Trees Ride for Research cross country bicycle tour, the largest fundraiser for The TREE Fund. Rideout has participated in the tour for eight years. His participation in the tour comes 11 months after he was injured when struck by an SUV while riding his bike home from work.

This year, Rideout requested that supporters ask that their donations go to support the Bob Skiera Building Bridges Fellowship, "which will support research and development tools to help arborists and urban foresters connect with the many professions that impact the urban forest, such as planners, engineers, public works, developers, builders, elected officials, etc." Rideout said Skiera was one of his mentors when both in the City of Milwaukee.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor's and a master's

degree in horticulture, Rideout was a University of Minnesota-Extension arboriculture specialist and forestry technical services coordinator for the City of Milwaukee before DNR hired him as the state's first urban forestry coordinator in 1990. He lives in Madison with his wife Debbie Cole and their two children.

Footnote: *Virginia Mayo Black is a Forestry Division communications specialist.*



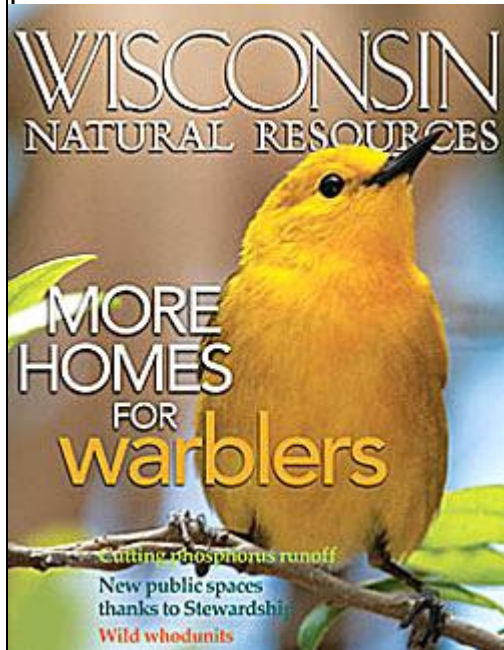
From bats to warblers, the August magazine covers it all

By: Larry Sperling, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

Pick up the August issue of the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine and meet 15 characters who do their detective work outdoors. Read our story "Wild Whodunits," to review the works of mystery writers whose sleuths are conservation wardens, scientists, park rangers, hikers and anglers.

Our story "Less P is key" looks at the health and environmental issues behind phosphorus rules that are under legislative review. The rules aim to stem the flow of phosphorus from agricultural runoff, urban stormwater, municipal treatment works and industrial effluents. We meet a property owner whose lakeside home is less livable due to summer phosphorus buildup in her lake. We also hear about changing municipal and agricultural practices to cut the flow of this nutrient to public waters.



The cover of the August 2010 **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine.

WDNR Photo

"Big dividends from our Stewardship investments" shows some of the campgrounds, trails and public lands we'll get as the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund enters its third decade. We visit a host of projects that will be underway in the next year to make outdoor walks, hunts, hikes and bike trips more fun.

Our center section "Going to bat for bats" describes strategies that slow the spread of

white-nose syndrome in state bat populations and monitor bats for this fatal disease. A brochure in our center spread encourages hunters to get involved in the mentored hunt program and provides some how-to tips to start programs in communities.

"New kingdoms for little birds in golden robes" showcases a pilot program our wildlife staff developed to provide artificial nest boxes for a rare cavity-nesting bird, the prothonotary warbler, that prefers lowland bottomland forests. In our second year of this program, we've had substantial success encouraging more nesting warblers.

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

For more information, contact me, **Larry Sperling** at (608)266-1510.

Footnote: *Larry Sperling is editor of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.*



If you're considering retirement, presentations on benefits are scheduled

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

Choose a site near your home or office

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) will offer free public presentations on Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits in September, October and November.

These WRS workshops are valuable opportunities for WRS members, spouses and others seeking general information on retirement issues and ETF-administered benefit programs. Those considering or planning retirement in the near future are encouraged to attend.

Topics covered during WRS presentations

- Requesting a retirement estimate
- Survivor benefits
- Calculating retirement benefits
- Health and life insurance benefits
- Annuity options
- Beneficiary designations
- Separation benefits
- Statement of benefits
- Taxes
- Additional contributions

All locations are handicap accessible. No reservations are needed. If you're unable to attend a presentation, you can watch the video and others at [ETF's website](#).

Cities, dates, times and locations

- **Fennimore:** Tuesday 9/28/10, 7-9 p.m., Southwest Wisconsin Technical College Fred Lenz Center,

1800 Bronson Blvd.

- **Fond du Lac:** Tuesday 09/21/10, 7–9 p.m. Goodrich Little Theatre, 72 W. Ninth St.
 - **Green Bay:** Tuesday 09/14/10, 7–9 p.m., Southwest High School Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Dr.
 - **Kenosha:** Tuesday 11/02/10, 7–9 p.m., Tremper High School Cafeteria, 8560 26th Ave.
 - **Madison:** Tuesday 10/05/10, 7–9 p.m., Madison Area Technical College Truax Campus Mitby Theater, 3550 Anderson St.
 - **Milwaukee:** Tuesday 11/16/10, 7–9 p.m. UW Milwaukee Union Wisconsin Room (2nd floor), 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.
 - **Rhineland:** Tuesday 09/21/10, 7–9 p.m. Nicolet Area Technical College Nicolet Theatre, College Dr. & Hwy G
 - **River Falls:** Tuesday 10/26/10, 7–9 p.m. UW River Falls University Center, 500 Wild Rose Ave.
 - **Spooner:** Tuesday 10/19/10, 7–9 p.m. Spooner High School Auditorium, 801 County A
 - **Tomah:** Wednesday 10/13/10, 7–9 p.m., Tomah Senior High School Auditorium, 901 Lincoln Ave.
- ETF has set tentative spring 2011 WRS presentations for Appleton, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison, Pewaukee, Superior, Wausau and one live broadcast.
If weather becomes severe, listen to local radio stations for possible cancellations.



Around the state, DNR employees shine

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

Northeast Region success stories

• On behalf of the WisDOT NE (Wisconsin Department of Transportation Northeast) Region Diversity Team, I want to thank you for Warden (**Andy**) **Lundin's** participation at the July 21, 2010 Menominee Tribal student visit to the WisDOT NE Region Office. Warden Lundin was very professional and did a great job presenting and interacting with the 10 students and four chaperones. Several DOT staff commented how Warden Lundin was one of the highlights of the day based on the content and the diversity of topics. Warden Lundin clearly explained the role of conservation wardens, the education necessary and a variety of job experiences. The tour of his duty vehicle and explanation of equipment used on the job was also very informative. We appreciate Warden Lundin's participation in the 2010 Menominee Tribal student visit. Thank you again! *Sincerely, Chris Culotta, transportation planner, WisDOT NE Region*

• To **Matt Schaeve**, Green Bay (environmental review and analysis specialist): Jason stopped by to give me an update on these projects. He was very appreciative of you working with him on these to get them turned around quickly. Sure not the way we like to have to do business, but it happens. So thanks for getting these turned around for us on short notice. *Mike Helmrick, environmental coordinator for the Department of Transportation's Northeast Region.*

Background: The project, which the Department of Transportation had proposed in early 2008 to complete six bridge rehabilitation and safety improvements in Manitowoc County, was put on hold when the economy took a turn for the worse. The projects resurfaced early this July, and DOT was eager to proceed. Unfortunately, there was no evidence of any Water Quality Certification or Final Concurrence letters ever being issued. Matt rearranged priorities to expedite this permitting process, and permits were issued shortly thereafter. These bridge projects are safely underway.

• To **Linda Williams** (regional forest health specialist, Green Bay): Just wanted to thank you for your

Northeast Region pest updates. You probably have no idea how widely they are read! It's an excellent resource for the Forest Service Front desk folks. We have people walk in all the time too with leaves, branches, bark. Keep up the great work! *Marjory Brzeskiewicz, botanist Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest*

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to (supervisor) **Paul Sandgren** and the (staffs of) **Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, Wildlife Management** in Waukesha and Sturtevant, **Endangered Resources** in Eagle and Kansasville, **Fish Management**, and **Fleet Management** for an appreciative thanks from Old World Wisconsin:

You and your team have been working at Old World Wisconsin for almost a month. It is truly difficult to express how much we appreciate everything you've done to help in this cleanup. You were there from the very beginning, the morning after the tornado. More than two thousand trees removed later, our parking lot and visitor green area look impressively cleared. It's nice to know that sister agencies have your back in a crisis.

- "I am pleased to announce this year's Preservation Award winners. Dan Kaemmerer, DNR community service specialist will receive the Leadership Award which is given to a public servant who has shown outstanding leadership in conservation. Dan oversees the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program in Southeastern Wisconsin, which preserves valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protects water quality and fisheries and expands opportunities for outdoor recreation. Dan's commitment to the Stewardship Program has helped not only the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, but other area land trusts and local communities find solutions to complicated land transactions for the good of the public. *Washington Land Trust, Inc.*

West Central Region success stories

- A big Texas thank-you to your employee, (laborer) **Marty (Kowalski)**, out of Perrot State Park. We were riding our tandem down the Great River Trail and had a blowout. A few minutes behind us Marty showed up. Though we had all the gear to fix the blowout, Marty stayed with us until we were sure that the tire patch was going to hold. Then, he gave us his cell phone number, and told us to call him if we weren't able to limp the bike into Onalaska, and the bike shop there, and that he would come back and give us a ride to the shop! My wife and I ride all over the country, and we've never had someone give us their cell phone (number) in case we ran into more trouble. We are so happy that you all employ such helpful and courteous people like Marty! This is the first time we've come up to Wisconsin to bicycle, but with such helpful folks we will be back, and we'll be sure to pass on this story to all we know! ***Adventure Cycling*** magazine just did a cover story on Trempealeau County and the great cycling there, but now we know that the best part is actually the friendly and helpful folks who live and work here. Please pass our "Thanks!" on to Marty, and let him know that we got to the Blue Heron Bike Shop OK, and that the owner of the shop got us back on the trail with a new tire and tube in no time. Ride On! *Howard & Rita Maher*

- To **Jeffery Johnson** (environmental engineer supervisor, Eau Claire): Hi Jeff, I just wanted to give you some positive feedback on working with (air management engineer) Sonny Zentner (Eau Claire). He has been recently working on the Greystone Title V renewal with us (and some previous permit modifications). I wanted to tell you what a pleasure it is to work with Sonny. He communicates well, let's us know the status of the permit, and works with us on permit language that clarifies requirements and makes sense to our operators, and is quick to fix any errors (if any) that we find in draft permits. He is also always professional and courteous. I just wanted to pass that along to you to let you know how much we appreciate working with Sonny. *Tina Mumm, environmental engineering specialist, 3M Environmental Operations, St. Paul, MN*



View health insurance benefits from PC via new online service

By: Betty McWilliams, Bureau of Human Resources

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) has announced the launch of a new self-service benefits system ["myETF Benefits - Electronic Benefit Management System"](#) to view your health insurance coverage online from virtually any Internet-connected computer. This system now is the primary source of your health insurance information and the method for making updates to your coverage.

You're now able to view, update, change and add health insurance enrollment and demographic information from any computer with Internet access. Via this system can set up your login and password, view your current health benefit information, read information on different benefit topics, and find historical changes.

DNR's Bureau of Human Resources invites you to try out the functions available with the system by accessing the webpage and viewing your personal information. Before you login into "myETF," however, make sure you have the latest Internet explorer version.

To determine which version of Internet Explorer you have on your DNR computer, open the "MyDNR" Intranet page, click "Help," and then click on "About Internet Explorer." If you don't have Internet Explorer version 7, you'll need to check with your information technology coordinator (ITC) or regional information manager (RIM) to have your computer upgraded to that version.

Here's where you'll find "myETF Benefits:"

- Go to ["Employee Trust Funds On-line Network for Members"](#) and click on "myETF Benefits" and read "Follow Instructions Online."
- Beside the "myETF Benefits" link, follow the step-by-step instructions to login and view your health insurance information. Go to the instructions directly at ["myETF Benefits – account set up, authentication and inquiry functions."](#) Go to a ["myETF" webinar](#) for further information.

Getting a login ID and password

- You'll be asked to enter a Wisconsin User ID (also known as a WAMS ID). Click the "Register Now" button and follow the on-screen instructions to set up your Wisconsin User ID and password.
- You'll also be asked for your ETF Member ID. This 8-digit number is most commonly found on your pharmacy benefit card. For all members except some local government retirees, this is your Navitus card. It's also printed on your January 1, 2010 Annual WRS Statement of Benefits. It's not the member ID number found on the card from your insurance provider, such as Dean, Physicians Plus, Unity or GHC.

If you have trouble using "myETF Benefits:"

- Read the instructions at ["myETF Benefits – account set up, authentication and inquiry functions."](#)
- Call me, Betty McWilliams, payroll and benefits specialist at (608)266-0850 or call ETF toll free at 1(877)533-5020. ETF's local phone number in Madison is (608)266-3285.

Footnote: *Betty McWilliams is a payroll and benefits specialist in the Bureau of Human Resources.*



Clean up spills to prevent serious injury

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

Recently, a department employee working in the central office slipped and fell in one of the kitchenettes. She slipped on water spilled on the floor near the sink. Pregnant, her intuition kicked in, and she took the brunt of the fall to protect the baby. Although it was a hard fall resulting in medical attention to ensure no serious injury had occurred, all are well.

This incident was a learning opportunity: Clean up all small spills, wherever they occur, including water splashed on the floor when washing dishes. Contact building maintenance if a flooding incident has occurred, e.g. pipe breaks. Ask that they bring hazard cones and wet floor signs.

Safety is a priority for all of us, and we need to do whatever we can to ensure our safety and that of our co-workers.



Division of Land's Salsa Day will raise money for Boys & Girls Club

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

The Land Division's Fun Committee invites one and all to bring your best salsa and chips to the first annual "Summer Salsa Day" to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County. The event is scheduled for August 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room G09 of the Natural Resources Building (aka GEF 2).



The 2009 Winter Salsa Day winners were (l-r) Laurie Fike, second place; Salsa King **Dick Steffes**, Bureau of Land; and **Adan Lara**, third place.

WDNR Photo

Get the best produce from your garden, favorite neighborhood tienda or farmers market, and whip up a summer treat. Fabulous prizes will be awarded to the top three winners! Salsa samplers need only bring cash to vote for their favorite salsas. The three salsas collecting the most cash votes will win fabulous prizes. Vote early and often!

Salsa makers should bring their salsa with chips to room G09 at 9 a.m. on August 25. Sign the entrant sheet and place the corresponding number next to your salsa. Containers will be placed by each entry to collect the cash votes. Bragging rights are priceless!

On vacation or have other commitments? Not to worry. You'll have another chance in

January to participate in "Winter Salsa Day."

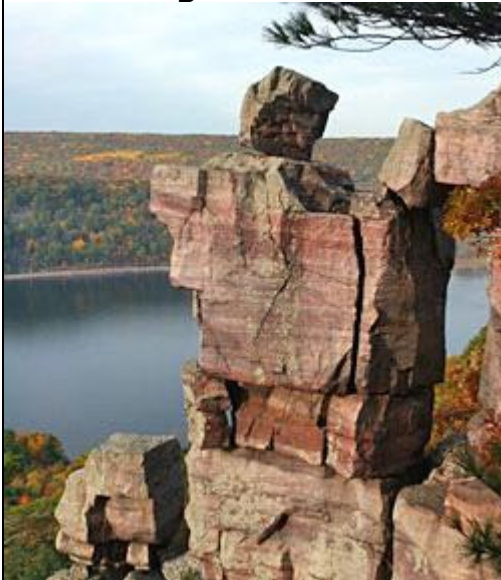
Committee members responsible for this fundraiser are: **Noah Balgooyen, Laurie Fike, Brad Koele** and **Erin Larson**, Bureau of Wildlife Management; **Stacy Rowe**, Bureau of Endangered Resources; **Sharene Smith**, Bureau of Land and Facilities; and **Joe Warren**, Bureau of Parks and Recreation.



Current and former DNR employees showing at wildlife exhibit

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

An August 29 reception for artists, including current and retired DNR employees, will kick off the "Guardians of Nature" exhibit of landscape and wildlife art sponsored by the [Beaver Dam Area Arts Association](#). The show will run through October 24.



Devil's Doorway at Devils Lake State Park is an example of photography that will be on display at the "Nature's Guardian" art show.

WDNR Photo

DNR retiree Dave Edwards organized this exhibit to feature the talents of department employees. Edwards worked for DNR for 28 years in the Waste Management and Environmental Enforcement programs.

Edwards described wildlife artwork, for the purposes of this exhibit, as original photography, paintings, drawings, wildlife mounts, wood carvings, jewelry and other similar pieces.

"Wildlife art exhibits are relatively common, but to the best of my knowledge this would be the first of its kind featuring the artwork of so many DNR folks," said Edwards.

To find the Beaver Dam Arts Association and the "Guardians of Nature" exhibit, go to ["Yahoo Maps"](#) for directions to 1605 N. Spring St.



Produced by: Department of Natural Resources, Office of Communication

Legal notices and disclaimers: [Website Legal Information](#)

For More information: Contact [Diane Brinson](#) - Digest Editor, Phone: (608) 266-5215

Document Date: Thursday, August 12, 2010 at 1:48:01 PM