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## DNR supports formation of new Hmong American Sportsmen Club

By: Eileen Hocker, Bureau of Law Enforcement

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Chief conservation warden **Randy Stark** delivered the keynote speech at the August 29 opening ceremony of Wisconsin's newest conservation organization, the [Hmong American Sportsmen Club of Sheboygan](#). He challenged the new club to use its formation as a launching pad to accomplish great things, such as participation in Wisconsin conservation policy development.

At the Sunday morning gathering, Stark described the founding of the Hmong American Sportsmen Club as a major milestone in Wisconsin conservation history.



DNR's chief warden Randy Stark talked with Chasong Yang, Sheboygan Hmong Association Center executive director, following the opening ceremony for the new club.  
WDNR Photo

Club leaders Cher Pao Vang and Sam Vang followed Stark, laying out their club's goals as they pertained to hunting, fishing, conservation, community outreach, and showing respect for nature. Both are DNR-certified hunter education instructors who've regularly conducted hunter safety classes for the Hmong community since 2007.

The two also are key members of a local Sheboygan county "Harmony in the Woods" committee that

includes DNR wardens **Mark Pearce**, Plymouth, and **John Plenke**, Waukesha; and Sheboygan County Conservation Association representatives Dave Taylor and Lil Pipping, (recent past president of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation).

The committee has given presentations to several Sheboygan County gun clubs over the last two years about local Hmong hunting and cultural traditions, in efforts to ease tensions following the January 2007 murder of a Hmong hunter by a white hunter. The committee actively supported Vang and Vang in their quest to organize a local sports club chapter among their own community.



Bureau of Law Enforcement's Eileen Hocker (4th from left) and Randy Stark (8th from left) joined the members of the new Hmong American Sportsmen Club.  
WDNR Photo

Sheboygan Hmong Association Center executive director Chasong Yang reminded the audience of the unfortunate, violent incidents among Hmong and Caucasian hunters in both 2004 and 2007 that precipitated the initial statewide Hmong/conservation leaders' partnership summit in July 2007, which DNR facilitated. He stressed that sometimes good things come out of bad, and commended DNR and other conservation groups for continuing the partnership so all could witness this day.

The new club's membership is an intergenerational mix of the Hmong community, ranging in ages from the mid-twenties through the fifties. Many are bilingual in Hmong and English. The club's first event will be a multi-cultural "Learn to Hunt" for pheasants scheduled for Sunday, September 12.

Go to Green Bay's WBAY-TV report ["Sheboygan Opens Hmong Sportsmen Club"](#) for more on this unique organization.

**Footnote:** *Eileen Hocker is the diversity outreach coordinator for the Bureau of Law Enforcement, as well as a member of the "Harmony in the Woods Committee."*



## Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area celebrates 80 years

By: Bill Volkert, Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area

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On Saturday, August 21, Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area celebrated its 80th anniversary. With a long and varied history, Horicon Marsh was dammed and flooded in 1846 to create what then was claimed to be the largest manmade lake in the world. The dam was removed in 1869, returning it to a marsh.



As part of the 80th anniversary celebration, the Bachhuber Flowage area of Horicon Marsh was opened to canoe traffic so visitors could have the unique experience of traveling these waters via DNR's voyageur canoes.

WDNR Photo

Today, Horicon Marsh is recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area and a Wetland of International Importance. Efforts to restore this vast wetland and give this marsh a second chance have been met with great success.

To celebrate 80 years of conservation efforts, the special event was held to commemorate this success and the anniversary of the first state wildlife area. Nearly 200 people attended a day filled with hayrides to tour the property, voyageur canoe trips into the marsh, historical displays, and exhibits featuring waterfowl and furbearer identification and management, among others.

### **Diversity of uses dotted the history of the marsh**

When the dam was removed in 1869, returning the land to a marsh, the abundant duck population lured market hunters who devastated its waterfowl population.

In the early 1900s, an effort was undertaken to ditch and drain the marsh in an attempt to convert it to agriculture. When this failed, the idea was abandoned, and eventually the peat soil caught fire resulting in a series of fires that burned on and off for twelve years.

What we see of Horicon Marsh today is a restored wetland. The Izaak Walton League initiated a campaign in 1921 to urge public support for the restoration of the marsh. In 1927, the State of Wisconsin passed into law the Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge Bill, which provided public funds for a period of ten years to purchase the land and construct a dam to re-flood it.



On hand to assure everyone enjoyed the 80th anniversary of Horicon Marsh were: (front, left to right) **Brenda Kelly**, wildlife biologist at Horicon; **John Christian**, wildlife technician at Horicon; **Jeff Bahls**, wildlife technician at Horicon; USFWS Naturalist Erin Railsback at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge; **regional wildlife program manager** Eric Lobner, in Fitchburg; and volunteers Raynie Schwoch and

Jessica Mueller; (back, left to right) **Chris Cole**, wildlife technician at Horicon; USFWS wildlife biologist Wendy Woyczik at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge; DNR game farm supervisor **Bob Nack**, in Poynette; **Liz Herzmann**, natural resources educator at Horicon; laborer **Patrick Raab**, in Poynette; **Tom Luehring**, wildlife technician at Horicon, **Charlie Kilian**, wildlife biologist at Lake Mills; **Bill Volkert**, natural resources educator in Horicon; volunteer Brett Noordhof; Horicon program assistant **Jennifer Wirth**; **Tyler Heise**, laborer in Poynette; wildlife management area supervisor **Doug Fendry**, in Fitchburg; volunteer Brad Shaucha; and Natasha Siegel, wildlife intern at Horicon.

WDNR Photo

In 1930, Wisconsin designated Horicon Marsh its first state wildlife area. Land acquisition continued until the late 1930s, when funds ran out. Nevertheless, the marsh had demonstrated such a recovery and potential for conservation that it gained national attention. In 1941, the federal government began acquiring the remainder of the marsh, designating the northern two-thirds of Horicon Marsh as a national wildlife refuge.

While we've seen tremendous success in bringing Horicon Marsh back to life, much remains to be done to maintain the ecological integrity and health of this wetland.

Non-point runoff is a serious threat that results in dense cattail growth and abundant carp, among other problems. Partnering with conservation organizations and working with neighbors will be essential in addressing these watershed problems. This event was a means by which the department can connect with its partners, celebrate successes and focus on the future work yet to be undertaken.

**Footnote:** *Bill Volkert is a natural resources educator at the Horicon Marsh Education Center.*



## DNR firefighters gain new perspectives from battling Manitoba fire

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Regardless of their locations on The Pas wildfire in northwest Manitoba, Canada, DNR's firefighters laid thousands of feet of hose in remote areas; walked on "dozered" trees over miles of peat bogs; camped and did laundry on rock outcroppings; and got a lot of experience working with helicopters.

And, from listening to them, there's no putting a price tag on the value of the unique firefighting experience gained, skills developed and lessons learned.



DNR's crew pictured with one of Manitoba's water bombers: (left to right, first row) Ken Hayes, Kent Glazer, Adam Stegmann, Matt Schoonover, Joe Schwantes, Chris Widstrand and Mike Rankin; (left to right, middle row) Paul Stearns, Jim Ulmaniec, Paul Kloppenburg, Scott Lancaster and Bec Mouw; (left to right, back row) Jake Bonack, Derek Jochimsen, Joe Danowski, Jake Elder, John Hunt, Jeff O'Flanagan, Chris Schmitz, Jay Riewestahl and Bob Focht

WDNR Photo

A hand crew of 21 DNR fire control staff arrived home on July 13, two weeks after joining firefighters from Manitoba, Ontario, Minnesota and Michigan to battle a 140,000 acre fire near The Pas and Cranberry Portage. The Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact agreement among the provinces and states makes it

possible for the members to help one another in suppressing and preventing wildfires.

“Requests such as this come as a compliment to our fire control program, and we are always willing to help provided we can safely spare the needed staff and equipment here at home,” said Secretary **Matt Frank**. “When we see our neighbors in need, it’s important for us to provide what resources we can, and the Compact allows us to do just that.”

**Bob Focht**, forester ranger from Spooner, served as liaison between DNR personnel and the Manitoba command center. Fire line crew bosses included **Scott Lancaster**, forester ranger in Spring Green; **Jay Riewestahl**, forester ranger stationed in Spooner; **Joe Danowski**, forester ranger in Prentice; and **Jim Ulmaniec**, forestry technician stationed in Grantsburg.

Those comprising their crews were, from:

- *Northern Region*: **Jacob Bonack, Derek Jochimsen, Paul Stearns, Ken Hayes, Adam Stegmann, Jeff O’Flanagan** and **Rebecca Mouw**;
- Northeast Region: **Joe Schwantes**;
- South Central Region: **Jacob Elder** and **Paul Kloppenburg**;
- West Central Region: **John Hunt, Michael Rankin, Ken Glazer, Chris Schmitz, Chris Widstrand** and **Matt Schoonover**.

### **A fire is still a fire on different sides of the border**

When fighting fires in Wisconsin, crews travel mostly by fire engines and pick-up trucks. The tractor plows (dozers with fire plows mounted behind) cut a furrow around the perimeter of the fire, downing vegetation that could become fuel, and clearing a path from which the hand crews can fight the fire.”

In Manitoba, the crews routinely received briefings about safety zones and escape routes. The escape route was usually back down the hose line to the safety of the lake or bog. Wisconsin’s crews had practiced this procedure, but had little first-hand experience with it on large fires. As crew 148 boss Lancaster explained it, “It’s effective and acceptable, just different. We had to be flexible and adapt.”

Focht drew a visual of Manitoba’s “dirty burn,” which wasn’t contiguous and crept along the ground. “These were boreal forests of black spruce mixed with jack pine growing on rock outcroppings surrounding swamps. Black spruce needles accumulate for years on the ground where fire can build heat as a surface fire, then torch individual trees and build into a crown fires in the tops of the trees.”



What appear to be holes in the canopy in the west division of the fire when spotted from above are “dirty” burned areas that were “clean” in the middle, where fire stopped at water’s edge.

WDNR Photo

He explained the hazardous nature of this kind of a fire because not everything within the fire line completely burns. Black spots are surrounded by green fuel that can still burn if conditions are right and embers creep in. All-black is much safer because there no longer is unburned fuel.

One of the biggest differences between firefighting in Wisconsin and Manitoba is the bedrock outcroppings surrounded by sphagnum moss-covered peat bogs, all of which is interspersed with lakes and streams. Our mechanized equipment just wouldn't be effective, since everything was either bedrock or wet.

This kind of terrain is similar, however, to the peat bogs found in northern Wisconsin, which is one of the reasons our firefighters' experience in Manitoba was valuable.

### **DNR's crews worked, slept and ate on the fireline**

In Manitoba, with barely-passable to no-roads-at-all, helicopters flew DNR crews of five and their gear into remote locations, where they set up camp near a water supply and a hose line. From the air, trees and bogs were all they saw for as far as the eye could see, said Lancaster.

Wisconsin DNR's contingent was broken into four, five-person crews. [Crews 148 and 149](#) camped and worked the same fire line. Crews 150 and 151 paired up. The "camping trip" lasted 14 days, with the first workdays as long as 16 hours, cut back to 12 hour days before heading home.

Camps were set up on rock outcroppings or near bogs to use the water for fighting the fire. Drinking and cooking water were flown in by helicopter. When dropped at their campsite, the firefighters would install a pump that would transport water for up to four miles of hose line, said Lancaster. The person who worked the pump also cooked the evening meal.

Crew boss Lancaster said that the two crews he worked with laid about 24,000 feet, or four miles, of hose—high for even Manitoba's standards.

A helicopter would drop hose ahead of the crews that they then would connect to either in-line or tandem pumps. Those same helicopters would drop supplies to the crews every few days.

"They (Manitoba) are so efficient at running hose line, using packs with 400 feet of a simpler, universal hose that the crew would lay and put nozzles on as they walked," Focht said.

Although the Manitoba command structure terminology is the same as that found in the Incident Command System (ICS) used in the states, Lancaster said that although command established objectives, daily "marching orders" didn't come down from the top. A crew would decide what tactics and strategies to use that day, while they ate breakfast.

"Aerial surveillance occurred at night using infrared sensors, and if they didn't detect any hotspots, they'd declare that area 'out.' The surveillance crews would give GPS way points of hotspots to the division supervisor, who would set the crew's priorities for the day."



Forester ranger Joe Danowski (left), Prentice, and forestry technician John Hunt, Wausau, waited on a rock outcropping for a helicopter pick-up. A dozer had downed the trees to make a fire break, or "Cat Guard" in Canadian terms. This view is representative of about 75% of the fire line.

"A division supervisor in charge of a geographic area would fly over during the day, get a status report from the ground, report on hotspots in need of attention, and ask for a list of items needed," said Riewestahl, who was assigned to be boss of crew 150. "They would pick up crew bosses and fly them around for a better view, including the location of safety spots."

A division could be up to 20 miles long, with crews working two-to-three mile areas on foot. If they needed to travel greater distances, a helicopter would pick them up and drop them off at a cleared 'helispot' or in a tree-free marsh to attack the fire.

After the second or third day on a line knocking down hotspots, the crew would get a helicopter ride further out on the fire.

### **Planes work in conjunction with helicopters**

To effectively fight the Manitoba fire, they relied heavily on aircraft, which included twin-engine planes with pontoons working with helicopters. In addition to transporting crews and doing reconnaissance, fifteen helicopters with buckets dumped water on the fire.

Focht explained that to stop the spread of the fire, CL-215 aircraft carried about 1,400 gallons of water and CL-214s about 1,600 gallons. "They'd skim lakes and drop their payload on the fire. It's effective at knocking down the running fires."

"The helicopters were used on hotspots in the fire-within-the-fire or outside the control line. The aircraft do a good job of stopping or slowing a running fire, but they don't completely put the fire out."

Hand crews using portable pumps and hoses follow the planes to further water down the duff (decomposing needles and leaves) and moss. Aircraft can stop the forward movement of a fire, but it would continue to burn down into the duff, which can hold heat for months, reignite and rapidly spread when weather conditions were dry and windy.

Riewestahl talked about the day that a Minnesota crew's pump broke down, and aerial support had to suppress the tall flames. They were working on one side of a lake, and the DNR crew was on the other side. An extra 10 to 20 acres burned before an attack bomber could knock the fire down with several bucket drops. Crews weren't put out on fast moving ground fires until after the water bombers had knocked down the flare up.

### **Hot and dry weather kept fire smoldering**

Although temperatures did climb into the 90s, most were in the 80s. Because of the dry spring conditions in northern Manitoba, the fire would "peat in" and smolder in the duff, tree roots and logs. Depending on daily weather conditions, the fire had the potential to burst into flames, run across the ground, eventually climbing into the trees and "crowning" in the forest canopy.

"Canadian crews had initially contained the fire, then because of dry weather it rapidly built up, jumped to crown and blew across the only road that went through that area, consuming about another 140,000 acres of wildlands," said Focht.

"It was difficult to completely extinguish the fire. If a hotspot flared up, a helicopter would move a crew to the vicinity, where they'd set up a new camp."



A dozer cleared out an area for the helicopters to land. A re-fuel site for the helicopter, it's also where crews 148 and 149 were dropped and picked up for several days on the fire.

WDNR Photo

Focht described one situation where a fire jumped the road and destroyed a dozer and a couple of vehicles parked next to a helicopter landing pad.

Eventually, the Manitoba Department of Conservation incident command turned the job over to a local fire control officer and crews to keep an eye on until winter, when the snow will put out any remaining hotspots.

### **Wisconsin crews gained professional development experience**

Focht explained who was chosen for the Manitoba assignment. The number from a particular DNR region would depend on the number that needed to stay behind to fight a fire should one break out in their region.

"Each person has a different goal that they're working toward as far as training and advancement. You'd assign an experienced boss to each crew, along with a trainee crew boss, and others working towards higher level positions," he said.

Focht explained further that because DNR's crews are good at initial attacks on in-state fires, few fires get so large that a division incident command organization is necessary. Fires in the western states can become that large.

That makes it difficult for a forester ranger to become qualified to be a supervisor. Once qualified, that person has to perform as a supervisor once every three years. Because a firefighter can't go out west or out-of-state more than once a year, it can take a while to meet that requirement.

Jake Bonack was a trainee crew boss on The Pas fire. He emphasized the need to be flexible when working on a fire out-of-state, in order to gain the most experience and training. He said that Manitoba division supervisors rated Wisconsin's crews highly.

"One of the most valuable technical competencies we gained was really pushing the pumps to the limits. We set up literally miles of hose lays. Using GPS skills also was appreciated," said Bonack. "We never got lost, but the GPS sure helped to reduce some walks and provided additional safety."

Near the end of their stint, the last five days two of the members of crews 150 and 151 stepped in to get crew boss training. They learned a "new piece of ground," said Riewestahl setting up camp, determining priorities and assigning duties.

DNR's firefighters also experienced Canadian wildlife they'd not seen before, learning about the impact of the fire on their habitat.

To read more about The Pas fire go to the [Manitoba Resources Officers](#) webpage.



## Around the state, DNR employees shine

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### **Success story from the central office**

- Hi **Bernie**, (**Bernadette Williams**, Bureau of Forest Management): I just wanted to thank you again for coming and giving your presentation (to the Dodge County Master Gardener Meeting) on invasive species to our group. You did a great job, and I received a number of emails the next day from members saying how much they enjoyed having you here. I for one will continue to dig up my myrtle and burn it. Thanks so much for the great job. *Carol*

### **Success stories from the Northeast Region**

- Warden **Darren Kuhn**, Green Bay: Your presentation and question/answer session for the “Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations and Hunting Safety on the Lower Bay” meeting last night at the Green Bay Wildlife Sanctuary was greatly appreciated. Your background knowledge and expertise were just what was needed. From comments of attendees, I also know that you made great strides in communication for your Department of Natural Resources (and) for the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for the work you do so well for all of us! *Sheilah Cradler, president, Nicolet Drive Neighborhood Association*
- **Ben Baumgart** (forester, Waupaca) did a fantastic job with the recent timber theft case. As you are aware, this case took over a year to conclude due to a variety of events. Throughout that year, Ben was at every pre-trial, and attended several meetings with ADA Fassbender to make sure ADA Fassbender understood both the complexity of this case but also how the landowners felt when they were not paid in full for their timber. Ben also submitted ADA Fassbender with a booklet of the entire case. (reports, photos, subpoena information, statement etc) The booklet was very professional and well prepared. ADA Fassbender told us he "appreciated this" as this saved him lots of time and allowed him to review the case more efficiently. Ben also did a great job while providing testimony. This was Ben's first time "on the stand" but no one would have ever guessed that. Ben was prepared for this case and knew pertinent information intimately. Because most of the people were not familiar with some of the "timber vocabulary" (pulpwood, saw timber etc.), Ben made it a point to define these terms when he was on the stand. Ben also established an excellent working relationship with the property owners and I believe they would have not pursued the theft charges if it weren't for Ben to assist them through the "legal process." It also appears the property owners are willing to pursue a civil lawsuit, in an attempt to claim unpaid timber. *Warden Ted Dremel (Waupaca)*
- **Craig (Leitzke)**, wildlife technician, Wausaukee): Many thanks for your prompt response to my request for the removal of that leaner tree, which I envisioned causing me many problems. Also,(for) the work you did last year repairing the DNR gate to my property. In spite of what many people say and think of the DNR, I for one am glad that we tax payers have the DNR working for us. Thanks again Craig. *Dick Strauss*

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

- Hi (Capital Springs Park manager) **Kevin (Swenson)**: Thanks so much for helping us with this great project for the elderly and handicapped. It was a fabulous day. We had 65 people. We ate at Schubert's in Mt. Horeb. They are famous for their malts. The food was delicious, too.



Volunteer driver Mary Ihlenfelt led the caravan of golf carts traveling the Military Ridge Trail on a sunny August day.

WDNR Photo

Everyone had a great time. A lot of these people live in adult family homes and do not get out much. This was the highlight of their day- week-- probably the whole summer. The trail from Riley to Mt. Horeb was very scenic. Everyone talks about this trip the whole year. Thanks for letting us use the trails. Here are some pictures from the event. Thanks again. *Joan Mohr, formerly recreation director for the City of Fitchburg. (This outing of 16 golf carts marked the sixth year of tours sponsored by the city)*

- I really enjoyed going to MG&E's Co-generation facility on the UW campus with four members of a visiting Chinese Delegation. Thanks to **Barb Pavliscak** (air management engineer, Dodgeville) for providing a technical presentation on air pollution control in Wisconsin and **Yonggang Su** (air management engineer, Fitchburg) and **Xiaochun Zhang** (water resources engineer/modeler, Bureau of Watershed Management) for their wonderful translation and tour guide services. **Lloyd Eagan, South Central Region director**
- I've had a couple of meetings and conference calls related to implementation activities in the Glacial Heritage Area. It is great to have **Paulette Harder's** (natural resources manager in Southeast Region) assistance in keeping this project going. We are having a few growing pains, but we are starting to build momentum in that project and it is going to be great. <>
- I participated in the 80th anniversary celebration at Horicon Marsh Wildlife Area. We never did get a picture of the entire gang – we were too busy organizing and attending to visitors, but the event was a huge success. We had nearly 200 people show up. The day was perfect, the ceremony went well and folks were pleased with the variety of activities we had available. Thanks to all the staff who contributed to the success of that event. *Lloyd Eagan*

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

- **Scott Humrickhouse**, West Central Region director, sent this in: Attached is an article "[Flooding affects nearly all of Pierce County](#)") concerning the flooding in Pierce County last week. Just wanted to share that warden **Brad Peterson** (Baldwin), played a key role and was summoned by the Sheriff's Dept. to use the county's new airboat since their main Deputy that is trained with it was unavailable. Brad was ready to respond since earlier in the year he became familiar with the operation of the airboat and was able to use it to remove a family safely from their home in Martel. Although Brad felt most were not in a life or death situation, you never know when a home's foundation can wash out, etc. Warden Peterson was definitely able to and ready to respond. *David Hausman*



## **Governor's Northern Tour highlighted support and restoration**

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

## Secretary and DNR staff took part in Gov. Doyle's last "Up North Tour"

August in the northern part of the state proved to be a busy month for Secretary **Matt Frank**. Following the Natural Resources Board meeting in Superior on the 10th and 11th, the Secretary joined other cabinet members on Governor Jim Doyle's last eight-day "Up North Tour."

Without a doubt, the first day was the longest day. At 10 p.m. on Thursday August 19, after a long day on the road, Sec. Frank Department of Tourism Secretary Kelli Trumble, and **Mark McDermid**, director of the Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance, climbed aboard boats at Star Lake in Vilas County. For the next three hours, they learned how wildlife researchers catch, band, do health checks and put radio transmitters on loons.

### Loon tagging will collect data on migration and other habits

"This event was incredible, just incredible," Frank said later. DNR Science Services researcher **Mike Meyer** led the team that included research technicians **Brick Fevold** and **Andrew East**, both in Rhinelander; John Borgan and U.S. Geological Survey's Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center's Kevin Kenow. After locating the birds with bright lights, the crew "musky" netted a total of three adults and one chick.

The last loon took the longest to catch as it dove and swam in elusive maneuvers to avoid capture. The bird was no match for the researchers, who since 1992 have captured over 3,000 loons in Wisconsin, this past summer 200 alone. The payback, Wisconsin now has the largest banded population of loons in the U.S.



Sec. Matt Frank (far right) smiled as he watched one of the youngsters aboard the boat with him reel in his catch on Boom Lake near Rhinelander.  
WDNR Photo

The researchers attached geolocators (small dataloggers) to the bands of the adult Star Lake loons. When retrieved next year, these dataloggers will report migration routes, wintering areas and foraging patterns during October through December when the birds migrate through the Great Lakes onto their wintering spots on the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Coast.

### Secretary and staff make fishing memories with youngsters

The next morning, Northern Region waters leader **Tom Jerow** joined Sec. Frank to captain one of four pontoon boats on Boom Lake, near Rhinelander. Also on board this boat were three area youths who spent the morning fishing with them. Other boats carried Sec. Trumble, Department of Children and Families secretary Reggie Bicha, along with their young anglers.

Assisting the anglers and providing information on fishing and water safety were wardens **Tim Price**, Eagle River, and **John Preuss**, Woodruff; fisheries biologist **John Kubisiak**, Rhinelander; and retired fisheries biologist **Bob Young**.

Despite a wind and threat of rain, 15 youngsters enjoyed an outing with the state's top administrators, including Gov. Doyle. Although the governor didn't fish, he "talked fishing" with each youngster.

### **Tornado damage, trail dedication and wild rice next on the itinerary**

That same day, Sec. Frank briefly toured Springstead Landing on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage, hit hard by a tornado in July. Wind damaged a one-mile-wide by eight-mile swath down the center of the flowage. A few island campers were injured during the storm, and the department had to close some of the heavily-damaged island campsites indefinitely.



Participating in the ribbon cutting that opened the Stower Seven Lakes Trail were Mary Aasmundrud, DNR parks director Dan Schuller, Polk County Parks and Recreation coordinator Deb Peterson, Sec. Matt Frank, Kate (Stower) Schlosser, Liz Stower, Joseph Schlosser holding son Adam, and president of the trails friends group Bill Zager  
WDNR Photo

About 350 people gathered in Amery on Saturday to dedicate the opening of the Stower Seven Lakes Trail. Sec. Frank commended the partnership of hikers and bikers that helped make the 14-mile trail possible. He reserved special thanks for former state legislator, Amery mayor and the trail's namesake Harvey Stower, who passed away this year and who had dedicated himself to promoting the natural resources of the area.

Department staff at the dedication included Bureau of Parks director **Dan Schuller**; Northern Region (NOR) director **John Gozdzialski**; NOR lands leader **Bill Smith**; parks supervisor **Jean Riegel**; state trails coordinator **Bridget Brown**; **Peter Biermeier**, chief of the External Relations and Planning Section in the Parks Bureau; and NOR financial assistance specialist **Ed Slaminski**. Natural Resources Board member Dave Clausen also was on hand.

Following the Amery event, it was onto the north to the Bad River Band of the Chippewa Indians reservation near Odanah, in Ashland County. Accompanied by NOR warden supervisor **Dave Zebro** and tribal wardens, the Secretary took a boat tour of the Kokagan Sloughs, where he learned about the rich native American wild rice culture.

### **Tour was occasion to unveil Stewardship Fund purchases**

Sec. Frank caught up with Gov. Doyle on Sunday morning to announce a Stewardship Grant purchase of 76 acres of land north of Washburn. Known as the Houghton Falls Nature Preserve, the purchase protects a scenic gorge, water carved rock cliffs, waterfalls and 2,100 feet of frontage on Lake Superior. The Trust for Public Land received the award and conveyed the property to the town of Bayview to manage for hiking, nature study, hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, photography and swimming.

The next day, Sec. Frank toured Copper Falls State Park with park ranger **Rich Bark** and real estate specialist **Steve Bade** to view park facilities and consider an important link for the North Country Trail.

It was then onto Madeline Island for a meeting with other cabinet members and the governor.

A backdrop for the next event, high winds heralded in Tuesday morning with white caps on Lake Superior's Chequamegon Bay. From the overlook at Bayview Park in Ashland, Gov. Doyle and secretaries

Frank and Trumble met with city and Northland College officials to announce new efforts using federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funds to protect the lake and critical habitats. The group then drove south to Cable, where they rendezvoused with area tourism officials for an eight-mile canoe paddle down the Namekagon River.



Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association board members joined officials on the banks of the Totogatic River after the Governor's news conference: (left to right) Fred Blake, Earl Cook, State Rep. Nick Milroy, State Sen. Bob Jauch, Gov. Jim Doyle, Sec. Matt Frank, Wayne Sabatke, Barb Robinson and Pat Shifferd

WDNR Photo

The state's newest wild river, the Totogatic, was the site of next day's agenda item. The acquisition of more than 2,000 acres of land, including 12 miles of shoreline, was made possible through nearly \$4 million dollars in Stewardship funds. The land was purchased from Wausau Papers, with help from the Conservation Fund and the Doris Duke Foundation, which donated \$400,000 for the project.

On the final day of the tour, another Stewardship purchase was unveiled, this time on the shore of the Nemadji River in Douglas County. The Nemadji River Corridor Protection Project proposes to purchase 3,995 acres from Wausau Timberlands. A Stewardship grant will help fund the project that will protect six miles of undeveloped frontage along the river. It's the largest, unprotected single-ownership tract on the waterway.

### **Tour winds down with announcement of Lake Superior monitoring grant**

Finally, the tour wound down as Gov. Doyle and Sec. Frank announced at [Superior's Wisconsin Point](#) that the University of Wisconsin-Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) is a finalist for nearly \$972,000 in federal funding to work with DNR to monitor the condition of coastal wetlands, tributaries and near-shore waters of Lake Superior off Wisconsin's northwest corner.

Money for the project is part of the \$161 million federal GLRI grant available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. GLRI will fund projects that address the most important Great Lakes priorities, enabling scientists to work with the DNR to begin implementing the agency's Lake Superior Near-Shore Monitoring Plan. The plan will establish 71 permanent monitoring sites for collecting biological, physical, and chemical data that will enable a long-term look at the ecological condition of the coast, so they can prioritize problems and manage and protect the resource.

At the conclusion of the day's program, everyone headed for their cars and the trip south. Before leaving, Sec. Frank thanked the NOR staff for its help with the "Up North Tour."

**Footnote:** *Jim Bishop, public affairs manager for the Northern Region, wrote this account and photographed Gov. Jim Doyle's last tour of the region.*



### **Science Services research seminar series runs through December**

By: R. Chris Welch, Bureau of Science Services

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

Watch for additional email announcements and flyers with detailed information on each presentation. You can view the entire schedule and join the live webcasts on the ["Fall 2010 Science Services Seminar Series"](#) webpage.

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

**Wednesday, September 22:** "Climate Change and the Future of Inland Trout Distribution and Management in Wisconsin" by **Matthew Mitro** of the Fish and Habitat Research Section. Co-authors: DNR research scientist **John Lyons** and Jana Stewart, geographer with the U.S. Geological Survey.

**Wednesday, October 13:** To be announced

**Wednesday, November 10:** "A Way Forward in Surveillance for Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin" by **Chris Jennelle** of the Wildlife and Forestry Research Section.

**Thursday, December 9:** "A Few Pointers on Writing Effective Survey Questions: Easing the DNR's Survey Manual Code" by **Jordan Petchenik** of the Science Information Services Section.

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

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



## DNR's first "First Shots" gun shooting seminar draws big class

On July 18, DNR partnered with the National Shooting Sports Foundation and the Millford Hills Hunt Club near Johnson Creek to host Wisconsin's initial "First Shots" hands-on shotgun shooting seminar. Milford Hills Hunt Club organized and promoted the event.



A class photo of the July 18 "First Shots" shooting seminar includes DNR Law Enforcement staff (left to right, first row): Brenda VonRueden, Todd Schaller, Tim Lawhern and John Plenke Jr.  
WDNR Photo

DNR Law Enforcement hunting education administrator and master instructor **Tim Lawhern** provided and oversaw the training, which brought in the maximum number of 62 participants of men and women of all ages and different ethnicities. More sat on a waiting list.

"We provided a 30-minute classroom session on firearms safety, the basics of shotgun selection (how to know when a shotgun fits you), a simple and understandable method of shooting moving targets, and a

brief overview of the day's events,"recounted Lawhern. The program ran from 9 a.m. to just past noon.



Tim Lawhern taught a young student how to shoot an incoming clay pigeon. His instructions: "Blot the rock and pull the trigger." He swears it works every time.

WDNR Photo

Many attending, including experienced shooters, praised the experience and training. In addition to Lawhern, hunter education program assistant **Brenda VonRueden**, recreational safety warden **John Plenke** and recreational education and enforcement section chief **Todd Schaller** were on hand to assist.

"There will be other events, including rifle and muzzle shooting. We'll hold them around the state, wherever we can form partnerships," Lawhern said. If shooting ranges and clubs are interested in sponsoring a "First Shot," they should email [Tim Lawhern](#) or call him at (608)266-1317.



## Wisconsin company wins contract to repair the Hack Noyes

By: Governor's Office news release

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The \$111,000 in assistance to Lake Assault Boats, LLC to support their efforts to create 14 jobs also means that much-needed repairs will be made to DNR's research vessel, the [Hack Noyes](#). Department of Commerce Secretary Aaron Olver made the announcement in Baldwin on behalf of Governor Jim Doyle on August 24, as part of the governor's eighth annual "Up North Tour."



DNR research vessel the Hack Noyes, named after former head of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, Haskell P. Noyes.

WDNR Photo

At the event in Superior, Sec. Olver also announced that DNR has signed a contract with Lake Assault Boats to repair and upgrade the 64-year-old DNR research vessel, the Hack Noyes. The DNR contract totals \$451,362, and will include upgrades to the boat's electrical, steering and navigation systems, as

well as new upper and lower decks.

"The Hack Noyes is the workhorse of the DNR's management of fish populations and fishing in Lake Superior," said Secretary **Matt Frank**. "Modernizing this vessel will help us continue our mission to monitor and to protect the state's aquatic resources on western Lake Superior while providing a safer working environment for the crew."

State funding for the project comes from the Economic Development Tax Credit Program overseen by the Department of Commerce.

Lake Assault Boats was founded in 2003 in Minnesota as a fishing boat manufacturer, producing customized boats for firefighting, police, emergency response, homeland security and other governmental agencies. The company was purchased and moved to Superior in 2007, and now is located within the operations of Fraser Shipyards on the Duluth/Superior harbor. As a part of the relocation, Lake Assault Boats now does all design and engineering work inhouse.



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