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Call out to help save Wisconsin's bats from deadly disease

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Historically, bats have gotten a bad rap. Well, that is except for the one that "molts" into a human and drives a batmobile at warp speed. Nevertheless, DNR has been working on protecting Wisconsin's population of cave bats from falling victims to the fatal fungus white-nose syndrome.

On behalf of those bats inhabiting caves and mines, the department now is running a TV spot, "[Wisconsin Bats—white nose syndrome](#)" as a way of recruiting help from the public. After all, mosquitoes are no friend of humans, but are the "cuisine of choice" among bats.

"We produced this announcement about white-nose syndrome to carry our message and answer the public's questions," said retired DNR employee Susan Foote-Martin, now a contractor working on the project.



A bat with white-nose syndrome.

WDNR Photo

Foote-Martin explained that bats are important to the environment because they eat insects that make people sick and hurt crops and forests. To learn more about the value of bats, visit the Bureau of Wildlife Management's "[Saving Wisconsin Bats](#)" Internet site.

The spot has been airing since September 13, and it will continue to run through September 27, on every radio and TV station across the state.

"When **Erin Crain** (chief of the Ecological Inventory and Monitoring Section in the Bureau of Endangered Resources) asked me to work on this, I jumped at the chance to be able to do something positive for bats. Erin is succeeding in her mission to educate everyone about this awful disease," said Foote-Martin.

Everyone worked together to make project successful

"I worked with **Mary Farmiloe**, video producer in Customer Service and Licensing, who is well respected in the field of broadcasting and media production in Wisconsin. She was generous with her time and talent, and squeezed us in to her tight production schedule."

"**Dave Redell**, bat biologist, and **Paul White**, bat and mussel biologist, both with the Bureau of Endangered Resources, also were on board with the project, assisting with messaging, providing knowledge and expertise, and helping with filming onsite on one very late night."

"**Dawn Hinebaugh** (natural areas conservation biologist) made sure that we got our links to the correct bat page on DNR's homepage. (Office of Communication's) Bob Manwell (public affairs manager) and (public outreach specialist) Kathleen Wolski helped craft the script that was used in the production," said Foote-Martin. "**Laurel Steffes** (director of the Office of Communication) got me the right contacts with the Wisconsin Broadcasting Association."

Foote-Martin concluded by emphasizing to others that important projects like building awareness can be done, and that the talent to do this caliber of work exists within the department.

For the latest news from the department, find "[Steps underway to protect Wisconsin's bats from deadly disease.](#)" in the September 21 "Weekly News." The issue came before the Natural Resources board as a "[Request for emergency order](#)" on September 22.



DNR and partners made music festival on the Mississippi safe

By: Steve Dewald, West Central Region

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Conservation warden **Mike Cross**, La Crosse, has seen a lot during his tenure on the Mississippi River. So, when the city of Prairie du Chien announced that potentially 15,000 to 20,000 country music fans were also coming to the river in August of 2010, he obviously was concerned that this event would be more than a single officer could handle.



DNR conservation warden Mike Cross coordinated law enforcement during the "Country on the Water" fest, using a department boat to assure safety and minimize law enforcement actions.

WDNR Photo

Vessels from personal watercraft to commercial barges and towboats share the meandering channels. In recent years, large numbers of high speed off-shore racing boats have brought speed and excessive boat noise concerns to the river as well. Cross began planning for "Country on the River" in June. To prepare for such an event from a law enforcement perspective takes a lot of coordination with other agencies, particularly on the Mississippi River where concurrent jurisdiction is shared by federal, state and local authorities.

Several planning meetings involving Iowa's DNR, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Iowa's Clayton County sheriff's department were held to prepare for the event. The strategy that ensued: plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Strategies implemented to reduce the risk to public safety on the water, included establishing a temporary slow-no-wake zone, mooring restrictions, staffing of multiple shifts of officers, set-up an Intoximeter (digital breathalyzer) near the command center, and news releases to the local media.



Boats from the various law enforcement organizations lined the shore of the Mississippi River at Prairie du Chien during "Country on the Water."

WDNR Photo

The preparations paid off. The on-the-water problems were minimal, even during peak visitation to the festival grounds when 14,000 people partied only a block off the river. Officers made a single boating OWI arrest on the water. As fights on the fest grounds began to overwhelm local police staffing, however, the "water force" of state, federal and county officers quelled the crowd. This included escorting out those visitors remaining at the end of the evening.

Event organizers reported \$250,000 in beer sales during the two nights. To end such an event where alcohol is sold without any serious problems, with visitors on the water, was a direct result of the excellent planning and coordination of law enforcement on the Mississippi River.

Warden Cross is to be commended for bringing together law enforcement partners to assure that visitors were safe and the natural resources were protected.

Footnote: *Warden supervisor Steve Dewald is stationed in La Crosse.*



Links of interest to DNR employees

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Editor's Note: *Every once in a while, I run across links to Intranet or Internet sites that I can't just pass up—and want to pass along to you. They're not part of a story, but worthy of note. I hope that you'll find them valuable. If you'd like to pass along a link to your fellow "Digest" readers, email it to me at [Diane Brinson](mailto:Diane.Brinson). I'll need them the Friday before the week we get paid, so they'll appear in the "Digest" on payday Thursdays.*

Mediasite Presentations

- **Title:** "Wisconsin Bats--White-Nose Syndrome"

Description: This public service announcement features Wisconsin Bats, White-Nose Syndrome and how you can help. Length: 35 seconds

Link: ["Wisconsin Bats--White-Nose Syndrome"](#)

- **Title:** "What about you? Do you want to give Turkey hunting a try?"

Description: Joe Sprenger is an employee and this is his second go-around as our Star Turkey hunter permit salesperson on the homepage. Length: 1 hour and 16 minutes.

Link: ["What about you? Do you want to give Turkey hunting a try?"](#)

- **Title:** "Environmental Markets"

Description: Dr. Stephanie Gripne, director of the Initiative for Sustainable Development, University of Colorado Real Estate Center, Leeds School of Business discussed ecosystem services and markets. Length: 1 hour and 17 minutes

Link: ["Environmental Markets"](#)

Newsletters

Editor's note: *Save the links to any newsletter you'd like to see on a regular basis. I won't include those links in subsequent "Digest" issues.*

- **Title:** "The Compass"

Description: "The Council of Great Lakes Governors' quarterly newsletter, 'The Compass' provides an update on the Governors' high performance agenda and ongoing work through the Council." See opportunity to subscribe

Link: ["The Compass"](#)

- **Title:** "Science Times," September 2010, Edition #10-09

Description: The e-newsletter for Bureau of Science Services staff and customers.

Link: ["Science Times"](#)

- **Title:** "ForesTREEporter," September 21, 2010, Volume 4 Issue 9

Description: The e-newsletter for Division of Forestry employees

Link: ["ForesTREEporter"](#)

Publications

- **Title:** "Wisconsin's Waste and Materials Management Program 2009 report"

Description: This 12-page annual report begins with a call from bureau director **Anne Coakley** to partners to sustainably manage Wisconsin's waste and materials during these economically-challenging times.

Link: "[Wisconsin's Waste and Materials Management Program 2009 report](#)"

Websites (DNR and others)

- **Title:** "Recycling Education & Outreach" website

Description: The recycling program has many resources for education and outreach efforts that will help teach and implement waste reduction and recycling in Wisconsin schools and communities.

Link: "[Recycling Education & Outreach](#)"

- **Title:** "Yahoo Style Guide: Finding a Consistent, Concise Voice Online"

Description: Struggling to find a consistent voice online, or not sure about how to achieve appropriate language usage? Here's Chris Barr discussing his Yahoo Style Guide, a book and online resource.

Link: "[Yahoo Style Guide](#)"

Media Reports

- **Title:** "Bridging a divide: Hmong American Sportsmen Club aims to improve relationships with white hunters"

Description: Newspaper story behind the founding of the first Hmong conservation club, the Hmong American Sportsmen Club. Refer to September 9 "MyDNR Digest" story "[DNR supports formation of Hmong Sportsmen Club](#)"

Link: "[Bridging a divide](#)"



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success stories

- From Mick Skwarok, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP): I just wanted to thank you all again for a good day's work on Monday. We got some great shots and I know we're going to have a really nice set of videos when it's all over.

Mary (Farmiloe), video producer, Bureau of Customer and Employee Services): I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate all the things you do to keep projects like this moving forward. Just when I think that I have most of the "i's" dotted and "t's" crossed, you come up with ideas and suggestions that completely blow my stuff out of the water for the better. *Mick Skwarok, DATCP Emerald Ash Borer communications specialist, on video shot for public service announcements sponsored by both agencies. Skwarok worked as a forest health educator with DNR from 2000-2006.*

- Bureau of Law Enforcement's **Mark (Pearce)**, **Eileen (Hocker)** and **John (Plenke)**: Absolutely fantastic work here!!! You folks have really done a great job working with the Hmong community and the local sportsman's clubs in Sheboygan County in creating a more inclusive and diverse conservation community. This is extremely important to conservation and the future of hunting going forward. When I think of how far we've come in the past few years, you should be very proud of your efforts, and the leadership exhibited by the Hmong community and the local conservation community, Lil, the Alliance, the Koenig Club and others.

The photos in the link below tell the story. And the front page "above the fold" story in

the Sunday "Sheboygan Press" did a good job outlining the issue and how people are working together toward the common cause. Job well done, and a great example of exercising adaptive leadership. *Randy Stark, chief warden and director of the Bureau of Law Enforcement.* Photos from the "[Sheboygan Press](#)" Full story "[Bridging a Divide](#)"

- To **J.D. Smith** and **Laurel Steffes** with the Office of Communication: Just want to tell you that **Kathleen Wolski** (outreach specialist in the Office of Communication) did an outstanding job of cat herding and facilitating our web group. She did a great job of keeping us on course, sorting through changes, problems, etc. and in the end we came up with a great product. *Thanks, Steve Sisbach, chief of the Environmental Enforcement & Emergency Management Section in the Bureau of Law Enforcement.*
- The Madison Chain of Lakes has had a good muskie population for years and it seems to be getting better. This Chain has been heavily stocked by the Wisconsin DNR for decades, since there is no known natural reproduction in any of these waters. We are blessed with a group of DNR personnel who are fishermen and take great pride in their work. I'm talking about **Mike Staggs**, (director of the Bureau of Fisheries Management); **Kurt Welke**, (fisheries biologist, Fitchburg); **Scot Stewart**, (regional fisheries program manager, Fitchburg); **Tim Simonson**, (lake sampling coordinator, Bureau of Fisheries Management); and **Scott Harpold** (fisheries technician, Fitchburg) of the DNR to name a few of these dedicated DNR workers. The DNR has been conducting surveys, doing research, and stocking muskies from both the Wisconsin strain of muskies and the Minnesota Leech Lake muskie strain in our local waters for years. *Gary Engberg's "Local Column River Currents"* Read the entire column "[The Early Fall Muskie Action on the Madison Chain of Lakes](#)"

Northeast Region success stories

- **Amy Gardon** (fishing technician, Crivitz): I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to help out at the hatchery this summer, the experience far exceeded anything that I had originally anticipated (it was awesome!); also, if you need help this fall with anything just let me know. Next, due to some scheduling changes, I will be able to get my B.S. by the end of the semester! One of my advisors allowed me to incorporate the work over the summer into a Senior Thesis/Research (EVN SCI 491) course. I will only have to add one more parameter to the "internship/volunteer" work (besides the journal and the paper). I am meeting with my advisor this week to hash out some of the details. I'll let you know what comes of the meeting. Anyways, I just wanted to drop in to touch base again and to let you know how grateful I am for everything that you have done for me this summer. *George R. Gocht, UW-Green Bay intern*
- **John Nelson** (fisheries operations supervisor, Winnebago), **Neal Rosenberg** (fisheries operations supervisor, Neilsville), **Mike Baumgartner** (fish propagation technician, Kewaunee), **Paul Peeters** (fisheries supervisor, Sturgeon Bay) and **Steve Fajfer** (operations supervisor, Wild Rose): I was out at Strawberry Creek couple of weeks ago with my older brother and his hockey playing friend from Latvia (St Norbert grad now playing in the UK), who is also interested in fish. Got to tell you guys how proud I was showing off that facility. That place is a first class facility you should all be proud of, even dressed in late summer pond scum. You guys and your crews did a heck of a job pulling off the recent renovations. Sure Markie would share my feelings. *Thanks, Mike Toney, retired fisheries supervisor*
- **Annette Weissbach** (hydrogeologist, Green Bay): On behalf of The Boldt Company, we would like to thank you and the DNR for assisting Boldt and one of its customers in responding to a potential contamination issue in Door County. Several weeks ago, you participated in a teleconference with Boldt and our customer to provide guidance in handling a fuel oil contamination issue with a property our customer was considering to purchase. As a Green Tier Participant, we feel that this collaborative working relationship with the DNR has benefited our customer and allowed his project to move

forward. We appreciate the ability to resolve issues in this manner and look forward to building this relationship into the future. Again, thank you. *Bob DeKoch*

• **Joe Henry** (regional biologist, Green Bay), **Bobbie Winebar** (wildlife biologist, Green Bay), **Joe Tucker** (conservation biologist, Wautoma), **Denise Krentz** (wildlife technician, Wautoma), **Paul Bruett** (conservation biologist, Wautoma), and **Dave Wittlinger** (wildlife technician, Florence): A BIG THANKS to you for helping us treat Phragmites for the last three days. Your assistance was greatly appreciated and in spite of getting rained out a day early we were able to finish 90% of what we set out to do. Your help saved the Upper Green Bay watershed team weeks of monotonous spraying. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! *Aaron McCullough, Wildlife Management, Wausaukee*

• **Jim (Holzwart**, wildlife biologist and property manager, Berlin), I wish to commend you and your crew, especially **Jeff (Lang**, wildlife technician) on the good job Jeff is doing on keeping buckthorn and other less desirable weeds and trees under control. For Jeff to do a good job he had good equipment made available to get the work done. Jeff has a good knowledge on handling the equipment, in knowing the good and bad weeds and trees. I have heard many local people comment on the good job Jeff is doing in keeping mother nature under control. Please keep Jeff on the Grand River Refuge. *Walter Walker (Kingston, WI)*

Northern Region success stories

• Over the past 8 days, **John (Gozdzialski**, Northern Region director) and I (**Bill Smith**, Northern Region Land leader) have attended many events with Governor Doyle, Secretary (**Matt Frank** and many other members of the Governor's Cabinet as they have traveled across Northern Wisconsin. At each stop, our partners have been very complimentary of the department, and in particular our local Northern Wisconsin staff. Governor Doyle and Secretary Frank repeatedly praised local staff work, our partnerships and our service to the public. For all of you who were unable to attend an event, I want to pass on those words of appreciation and recognition to you and all of your staff. You are doing a great job.

I pass on a very special thanks to each of you who were involved in planning and setup for these Northern Tour events. Again, DNR really shined with well-organized events, beautiful sites and strong local support. When our guests left for Madison earlier today, Governor Doyle and Secretary Frank were very pleased, and they asked me to convey their special appreciation to all of the staff involved in tour events. Our staff was an excellent host, gracious, helpful and very flexible to adjust to last minutes changes. Thanks very much for all your help.

Lastly, I offer a very special "thanks" to **Deb Benson** (office operations associate) for being our "go-to" person, keeping everything coordinated, communicated and on-course for the Tour. Despite some long days, many unforeseen changes and a whirlwind of activities...she is still smiling and helpful.

• Hello Laurel (Steffes, director of the Office of Communication), just a quick note of thanks for the exceptional support from **Jim Bishop** (public affairs manager for the Northern Region) throughout the Governors/Secretary's Northern Tour. Jim not only supported DNR events very well, but he also provided local perspective to the staff/events from outside the agency. His "traveling podium and speaker system" was much in demand throughout the tour, and he did a good job of mobilizing local media to the events. He has been on the road with long days and many miles for the past week, straight thru the weekend events. He could use a big "Thanks" and a short break. A big "Thanks" to Jim, you and your staff. *Bill Smith, Northern Region land leader.*

• Compliment to **Sandy Wickman**, Water Resources Management specialist, Rhinelander: On behalf

of the Oxbow Lake Association and Presque Isle Town Lakes Committee, I'd like to extend our sincere gratitude for your time this past Saturday (7/24). The group that had the privilege to receive your "hands-on" training was truly impressed with your sincere kindness, passion and expertise. You're a very special person, a great steward of the North woods, and an inspiration for others to follow. *Otto, president of the Oxbow Lake Association*

- Compliments to **Alex Smith**, Critical Habitat Coordinator and Fisheries technician, Spooner (Alex worked on finalizing the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes critical habitat designations in July.): Many thanks for all of your work on this very important effort!! You did a GREAT job at the POA (Property Owners Association) meeting, and I have been meaning to tell you that! *Carol L.*

Other compliments for Alex submitted by **Pamela Toshner**, Water Resources management specialist, Spooner): She has been told "Alex is a natural" and "did an excellent job" with his presentation by the Bayfield County AIS Coordinator and two Eau Claire Lakes POA board members. One final note: One of the Property Owners Associations from the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes passed a resolution formally commending Alex Smith and Pamela Toshner for their critical habitat work.

- Compliment to **Josh Kamrowski**, ranger on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage (Josh rescued a man and his wife that were camping during the recent tornado. His wife was injured and transported to a hospital.): "I just wanted to take a moment and thank you ever so much for risking your safety to come out and rescue my wife from the island we were camping on (C-3). I will never forget that evening. Things were very chaotic at the time. I do remember looking up and seeing nothing but lightning across the sky. I know it was a very dangerous situation to be out on the water at that time, and I sincerely appreciate your brave efforts to come rescue us. I can tell you I have never been through such hell when that tornado hit, and I was never so glad to see you and those rescue guys come through that twisted mess of trees. Next year when I return I'll try and find you so my wife and I can thank you personally. I don't know who the other guys were that rescued us; let them know I am forever grateful to all of you. Thanks again and perhaps I'll see you sometime in the future." *Dan H.*

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to the **staff at Lakeshore State Park** for creating a memorable experience. Dad had a great time on the Fishing Has No Boundaries outing on September 11. After a morning on the boat with no luck, Dad won a dollar for catching the first fish. It was our first major outing since his stroke on June 13. I evened the score by catching the biggest fish, my first sturgeon. The tally for our day was about 12 perch and a 34 inch sturgeon! If made for a great day! *Anonymous*

- Congratulations to **Kathi Kramasz** (water regulation & zoning specialist, Plymouth) and **Vic Pappas** (basin supervisor, Plymouth) for their assistance in helping to reroute a road. A senior engineer from Sargento Food, Inc. wrote: Kathi and Victor, I want to thank you both for your help in expediting approval for us for this project! Many employees who know we are working on this are looking very forward to having the car and semi-truck traffic separated. It will be a much better situation once complete.



South Central Region sets CWD archery deer registration stations

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Know where to register deer you take in SCR region and CWD zone

The department has set [bow deer registration stations](#) for the two archery hunting

seasons in the 11-county South Central Region (SCR) and the chronic wasting disease-management zone (CWD-MZ) in the southern part of the state.



A whitetail buck enjoys a fall day in the grass.

WDNR Photo

Check the ["2010 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations"](#) booklet for detailed information. Most of the SCR and southeast Wisconsin are located in the CWD-MZ where the bow season runs from September 18 to January 9, under the Earn-a-Buck prerequisite.

Earn-a-Buck in the CWD-MZ

If you hunt in the CWD-MZ, you first must shoot an antlerless deer before you can harvest a buck during both the archery and gun seasons. Archers also must wear blaze orange anytime there is a gun season in the CWD-MZ.

Register your deer by evening of following day, at the latest

If you kill a deer in the CWD-MZ, you must register it no later than 5 p.m. on the following day. You also must go to a registration station within the unit of kill or an adjacent unit within the CWD-MZ.

Donated deer processed and turned over to food banks

If you'd like to donate your deer from the CWD-MZ for a food bank, you can do that by dropping it at a participating meat processor, as well as at DNR-operated registration station. Last year, hunters donated about 1,100 deer to feed those in need.

Should you need more information...

You can get the latest information before your hunt from the on ["Chronic Wasting Disease in Wisconsin"](#) website. You're strongly advised to verify the hours of operation of a registration station by calling ahead before bringing in your deer.

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



Rebecca Wallace Award nominations are due by November 1st

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The department is accepting nominations through November 1 for the ["2010 Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award."](#) This annual award is given to a DNR employee nominated for:

- making the greatest contribution toward either improving relationships with external partner agencies and organizations on mutually-shared environmental quality issues, or
- for mentoring DNR staff.

The Natural Resources Board (NRB) established the Wallace Award in memory of water program manager Rebecca Wallace, who died with her husband in an automobile accident in 1997. The first Wallace award was given to **Karen Voss**, West Central Region, in 1998. Subsequent award recipients were **Janet Beach Hanson**, 1999; **Eileen Trainor**, 2000; **Kathy Bartilson**, 2001; **Ron Preder**, 2002; **Nancy Larson**, 2003; **Laura Herman**, 2004; **Tom Lovejoy**, 2005; **Carol Bentzler**, 2006; **David Zebro**, 2007; **Cheryl Bougie**, 2008; and **Sandy Manthei**, 2009.

All department permanent or project employees are eligible for the Wallace Award. The awards committee encourages nominations from both individuals and groups of employees, e.g. a team, a section, a work group.

The recipient of the 2010 award will receive a print by retired DNR graphic artist **Jim McEvoy** at the December 8 NRB meeting in Madison. Follow the "[Rebecca Wallace Memorial Award Nomination Format](#)" on the Intranet. Email nominations to [Mary Brown](#), or send a hardcopy nomination to her at GEF 2, AD/8. If you have questions regarding the nomination, call Brown at (608) 261-7599.



Hearings continue while legislature on recess

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

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Although the legislature is on recess until January 3, 2011, the Senate Committee on Environment has scheduled hearings beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29 on proposed DNR rules. Hearings are scheduled to be held in room 411-S. of the Capitol. No bills will be heard until the full legislature reconvenes.

Hearings scheduled for September 29

- **CR-10-059:** Registration and reporting process for water withdrawals.
- **CR-10-060:** Water conservation and water use efficiency for water withdrawals.
- **CR-10-061:** Water withdrawal fees in the Great Lakes basin.
- **CR-10-046:** Asbestos project inspection and notification revision fees.
- **CR-10-047:** Fees for reviewing applications for construction of air pollution sources.

Committees will meet to hear agency rules and may meet to have informational hearings, but no more bills will be heard.

Footnote: *Paul Heinen is the policy initiative advisor for the Secretary's Office.*



Central office flu shot clinic scheduled for October 8

By: Marty Karow, Bureau of Human Resources

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DNR once again will sponsor a seasonal flu shot clinic to be held in GEF 2 on Friday, October 8. Home Health United (HHU) will be on hand to administer the vaccinations. This year, the single flu shot will cover both the seasonal flu and H1N1.

State employees in Madison who are interested in receiving a flu shot can sign up for the clinic, which will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in room G09 on the ground floor of the

Natural Resources Building. This year, HHU has added WPS to the insurance coverages that they'll accept.

November through January is the most common period for the spread of the flu. According to state Department of Health and Family Services, employees can help minimize their chances of catching the flu by being vaccinated.

As with any medication or health care, you first should talk with your doctor if you have any questions or concerns. As before, the shots will be mercury free, but keep in mind that the mercury-free shots do contain a small amount of latex. If you're allergic to latex, you'll have to request to receive the flu shot that isn't mercury free.

For further information, email me at [Marty Karow](#), call me at (608)246-7988 or see the "[Have You Had Your Flu Shot Yet](#)" poster.

Footnote: *Marty Karow is a risk management specialist in the Safety and Risk Management Section.*



Show Stewardship pride and support with anniversary clothing

By: Laurel Steffes, Office of Communication

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Are you proud of Wisconsin's [Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program](#) and the Wisconsin landscape it's preserving for our kids and grandkids? If so, a new line of Stewardship clothing let's you show that pride to the world.

Wisconsin is blessed with ecosystems and natural resources that not only provide recreational opportunities and personify our historical landscape, but support forestry, tourism and a host of family-supporting jobs. To protect these natural assets, 2007 Wis. Act 20 reauthorized the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program at \$86 million per year. The Stewardship Program is the primary funding source for land acquisition for conservation and public outdoor recreation in Wisconsin. The program was established in 1989, it has been invaluable to Wisconsin's outdoor heritage ensuring that the last pristine parts of Wisconsin are conserved. Over the last 20 years, Stewardship has helped land trusts, local governments and the state protect almost 580,000 acres for outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and endangered species.

In addition to funding state land purchases, the Stewardship Fund provides matching grants to local governments, local land trusts, hunting and fishing organizations and other non-profits, effectively doubling the state's buying power and leveraging private dollars into land acquisition and protection.

Building on the legacy of Muir and Leopold, and the legacy of the program's namesakes Gov. Warren Knowles and Sen. Gaylord Nelson, the Stewardship Program reaches into every corner of Wisconsin to provide public places for our citizens and visitors to recreate and to connect with Wisconsin's natural world.

A new line of clothing sporting the Stewardship 20th Anniversary logo is now available from a Wisconsin business, Company Casual. Go to [Company Casuals](#) website to order your sweatshirt, embroidered golf shirt or screen printed t-shirt for yourself, your family and your organization. Items are available for as little at \$8.32 plus shipping.

Show your pride and remind your friends how that favorite hunting, hiking or wildlife site came to be by wearing the Stewardship logo. Wisconsin is dedicated to conservation and to passing along the beautiful places we enjoy today to future generations. Remind people how we get that done with a Stewardship apparel item.

Footnote: *Laurel Steffes is the director of the Office of Communication.*



2010 Wisconsin Book Festival focuses on environmental issues

By: Mary Duke, Wisconsin Book Festival

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The Wisconsin Book Festival annually celebrates Wisconsin's rich literary heritage by bringing some of the finest writers in the country to our state. This year's festival features an intriguing array of events focused on environmental issues.

Some of these environmental events include:

- "Moral Ground: A Townhall Meeting on Why It's Wrong to Wreck the World" Thursday, September 30, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 PM, Promenade Hall at the Overture Center, Madison
- "Climate Wars: The Fight for Survival As the World Over-Heats" Friday, October 1, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., Madison Public Library Main Branch
- "Happy and the River," Sunday, October 3, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Playhouse at the Overture Center, Madison

To learn about this year's festival, go to the Wisconsin Book Festival "[Beliefs](#)" homepage. If you'd like to hang the full-color, 11" x 17" poster of the Book Festival's environmental events at your location, contact me at [Mary Duke](#) and include your mailing address and the quantity you'd like to receive.

Footnote: *Mary Duke is the publicist for the Wisconsin Book Festival.*



Prevent your medicine cabinet from becoming a safety hazard

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We read about it in the newspapers and hear reports on TV. Teenage drug abuse that started with prescription drugs medicines stolen from a medicine cabinet. Medical journals report nearly 10,000 accidental ingestions of opiates by children six-years of age and younger. The Center for Disease Control says that prescription and over-the-counter medications account for almost seven out of 10 emergency room visits for childhood poisonings.

Getting rid of unneeded medicines from our homes helps reduce access to drugs that could be abused or taken accidentally. Flushing medicine is bad for the environment, and measurable amounts of drugs end up in downstream drinking water. Throwing medicines in the garbage, especially narcotic drugs like OxyContin, just isn't safe because the drugs can end up in the wrong hands and used illegally.

Since 2008, MedDrop events have provided people a safe, environmentally friendly place to get rid of unneeded medicine. The next event will be Saturday,

October 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at three Madison-area locations:

- **Madison:** Sennett Middle School, 502 Pflaum Rd.
- **Middleton:** Middleton High School, 2100 Bristol St.
- **Sun Prairie:** West Side Community Building, 2598 W. Main St.

Bring outdated or unwanted prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines in the original container. Personal information may be marked out. Volunteers will dispose of both the medicine and the containers, protecting patient confidentiality. This is a free, drive-through, drop-off service for all area households.

For more information, and to register for MedDrop event alerts, visit the [MedDrop](#) website.



DNR welcomes Middleton firm to Green Tier program

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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On September 13, Standard Imaging, Inc., a leading supplier of radiation calibration and quality assurance instruments for health care, joined the ranks of Wisconsin companies committed to exceed the standards for environmental regulations. Secretary **Matt Frank** congratulated company officials, commending them for their commitment to continually improving environmental performance.



Attending the Green Tier ceremony were (left to right): Middleton mayor Kurt Sonnetag; South Central Region director Lloyd Eagan; DNR Secretary Matt Frank; Standard Imaging president and CEO Ed Neumueller; Standard Imaging's chief regulatory officer Ray Riddle; DNR Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance director Mark McDermid; and South Central Region hydrogeologist Larry Lester.

WDNR Photo

"It is exciting to see Standard Imaging commit to superior environmental performance," Sec. Frank said. "As one of the growing number of forward-looking participants in Green Tier, I congratulate Standard Imaging for your leadership."

During a ceremony located at the plant in Madison, DNR administrators joined local and state officials, employees and business guests in celebrating the plant's accomplishments and its commitment to a greener, more sustainable economy.

"Standard Imaging is proud to be a Tier 1 participant in Wisconsin DNR's Green Tier program," said the company's president, Ed Neumueller. "This validates our

environmental management system efforts and supports our goal to be a good corporate citizen.”

Green Tier is a program aimed towards rewarding environmentally responsible businesses in Wisconsin, and the first program of its type in the nation. Qualified businesses and associations make legal commitments to superior environmental performance through agreements with the DNR.

In exchange, these businesses are given incentives to achieve superior environmental performance. Green Tier makes it easier for good environmental actors to perform even better, allowing the DNR to focus its resources on facilities that aren't meeting environmental requirements.

Standard Imaging easily qualified for the Green Tier program based on the significant investments and changes the company already has made that not only result in a sustainable future, but also provide “considerable positive results for our environment,” according to Neumueller.

The firm's new 27,000 square foot corporate headquarters incorporates geothermal heating and cooling. The company recently installed tracking solar panels in its effort to achieve its goal of receiving 10 percent of its electrical energy from solar power. Additional steps include reducing radiation exposure and paper usage, increasing the use of local suppliers, and engineering future products to accomplish pre-determined environmental and economic goals.

Visit [Standard Imaging's](#) website to learn more about the company. To learn more about the program, go to the “[Green Tier](#)” website. Here you'll find, among other things, the webpage listing “[Applicants and Participants](#)” in the Green Tier program.

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



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