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Will Wawrzyn receives John T. Curtis Award for excellence

By: Friends of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboretum

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Restoration led to the removal of a dam and a silted-in, algae-choked, little-used impoundment

"The concept of ecological restoration is a hot topic among environmentalists as well as citizens who wince at the destruction caused by modern "improvements." Thus reads the opening paragraph of the [Friends of the UW-Arboretum's](#) webpage announcing this year's recipients of the Leopold Restoration Awards. Southeast Region's **Will Wawrzyn**, Milwaukee, received the prestigious John T. Curtis Award for Career Excellence in Ecological Restoration for his untiring commitment to the Milwaukee River Basin.



"I was just blown away" was Will Wawrzyn's response upon receiving the 2010 John Curtis Career Excellence Award. A colleague said the response was "the kind of comment one would expect from a guy who can gently reason with a great many people." Here, he posed with former DNR executive assistant Linda Bochert, a Friends of the Arboretum member and president emeritus of the Friends of the Arboretum Board of Directors.

WDNR Photo

More specifically, Wawrzyn is recognized for promoting dam removal as a tool for improving the function and value of the near shore waters of Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee River watershed. A fisheries biologist for the Milwaukee River Basin, he has been able to accomplish such changes through communications and building alliances, and encouraging the collective will to see the projects completed.

The Milwaukee River flows through much of Milwaukee, which is home to a dense and demographically diverse human population. Many of its inhabitants have described "natural" areas near the river as often polluted, unpleasant and possibly unsafe. Some restorationists have written off such areas as not worth their time.

"[Will] demonstrates that land and water are connected, that restoration benefits everyone, and that with patience and persistence almost anything is possible," said DNR regional wetland biologist **Joanne Kline**, who nominated Wawrzyn for the award.

Once a dam is removed, or sometimes modified, and an urban stream enhanced, Wawrzyn explained, more natural conditions begin to take shape: water quality improves, fish and other wildlife can resume more natural activities such as traveling and spawning, wetland habitat becomes normalized, and people living nearby can make better use of adjacent lands and the river itself. All this, and better flood control!

Wawrzyn usually takes an entire watershed into account when working on a project. In the case of the Milwaukee River, he saw the potential for flood control. Through his work, he convinced DNR to make it a policy to disallow permits for concrete-lined stream channels. Such channels were common as a means of straightening streams to function as a path for urban stormwater flow. The result occasionally led to disaster.

"These are but a few of the activities that led to Will's seminal influence around the country, especially in halting the building of dams and encouraging their removal,"

reads the Friends of the Arboretum website. Along the way “fisheries were enhanced and rare species increased, whereas nuisance aquatic species declined.”

John Lyons, of the Fisheries and Aquatic Research Section and recent recipient of the Midwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ Fisheries Biologist of the Year Award endorsed Wawrzyn’s nomination: “...many groups that initially opposed dam removal have come to see it as a wonderful benefit. A stellar example of this was the removal of the North Avenue dam on the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee.

“Had it not been for Wawrzyn’s work, the North Avenue dam could well still be in place. Instead, today this reach of the waterway now is a highly-valued natural resource and a popular destination for many.”



Will Wawrzyn with Joe and Jacky Kelley, Friends of the Arboretum volunteers at the University of Wisconsin Great Lakes Research Facility on the Milwaukee harbor.
WDNR Photo

Award represents Leopold’s drive for excellence on behalf of natural habitats

The Leopold Restoration Awards annually recognize excellence in ecological restoration that positively affects the habitats for plant and animal communities in Wisconsin. Sponsored jointly by the Friends of the Arboretum and the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and administered by the Friends of the Arboretum, four awards honor those “who have advanced the science and practice of restoration ecology.”

John T. Curtis (1913-1961) was a UW-Madison ecologist. His 1959 “The Vegetation of Wisconsin” is a reference for ecological restoration and is the foundation upon which the Arboretum is managed, to this day. Curtis was an educator who inspired students with his broad knowledge and enthusiasm for details. He worked tirelessly to increase knowledge of Wisconsin’s plant life and conserve our natural heritage.” The Arboretum’s Curtis Prairie, named for the Wisconsin ecologist and teacher, was the world’s first restored prairie.

Wawrzyn received the Curtis award of \$2,000 and an engraved plaque at the awards dinner on October 14.



Bureau of Finance announces new purchasing Intranet website

By: Shelly Young, Bureau of Finance

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The Bureau of Finance is excited to announce its redesigned purchasing Intranet website. The improved site contains a simple and clean design with easy access to

information on:

- all levels of purchasing and printing,
- all forms needed in the purchasing/printing process,
- specialized purchasing,
- commonly purchased goods and services and more.

Agency purchasing staff reviewed the limited web information currently available, determined where holes existed in the information, developed new materials and links to fill those holes, and then incorporated everything into one easily-accessed site.

The new "[Finance Purchasing Section](#)" website is available on the Bureau of Finance Intranet page. Click on, copy and use the link in the shortcut above or select the Finance program page using the drop down "Select a Program Page" search function on the "My DNR" home page. From here, select "Purchasing" from the list of topics on the left navigation bar. Once on the site, create a shortcut to your desktop, making the site an easily-accessed resource for any purchasing-related needs.

The DNR Purchasing Section understands that the procedures and rules for purchasing goods and services can be complicated. Purchasing would like all staff to check out the new site, which it believes can be:

- a resource for answering basic purchasing related questions,
- a resource for training staff on purchasing system details, and
- the first place to go for purchasing assistance.

Staff time is valuable and limited agency-wide. Use of the improved site can help employees save time obtaining information needed to handle procurement quickly and efficiently.

The Bureau of Finance encourages the use of this new resource and plans to reach out to staff statewide. Supervisors who would like to request a presentation on the site's content or use for their staff can email [Richard Straub](#) in the Bureau of Finance Purchasing Section or call him at (608)261-6415.

Footnote: *Shelly Young is the director of the Bureau of Finance.*



Science Services' Bartelt receives Wildlife Society's Special Award

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Karl Martin named North Central Section representative to The Wildlife Society's national governing council

Jerry Bartelt, with the Bureau of Science Services in Madison, has received the Wildlife Society's Special Recognition Service Award for his work promoting sound wildlife research and management. In his nomination, Wildlife and Research Section chief **Karl Martin** credited Bartelt's work as providing "...a scientific basis for decisions and guidance on issues ranging from Chronic Wasting Disease, hunting regulations, contaminants," and many more pressing issues.



Darrel Zastrow (left), assistant director of the Division of Forestry, and Jerry Bartelt both were successful during a turkey hunt in Tennessee.
WDNR Photo

"An active member of the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, Bartelt served as president of the state chapter in 2000-2001, contributing in numerous ways to the chapter's functions throughout his career," Martin added.

"Management of agricultural, wetland, working forest and natural ecosystems, and setting priorities for broad conservation initiatives needed to ensure healthy ecosystems in the state and region" exemplify the breadth of Bartelt's contributions.

Joining the staff of the agency in 1978 as a wetland biologist, Bartelt went on to become an ecological research group leader and chief of the Wildlife and Forestry Research Section.

Heading up the Wildlife and Forestry Research Section for 17 years, Bartelt's work supported the department's mission, as well as the goals of the bureaus of Forest Management, Forest Protection, Wildlife Management and Endangered Resources to assure healthy ecosystems.

Bartelt's expertise reached beyond to multi-agency and public teams. His role extended beyond his scientific perspective and knowledge to roles of leadership and guidance. Among his numerous affiliations were the department's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan Science Team; the Interagency CWD Research Team; and the Wisconsin Agricultural Ecosystems Research Workgroup

A true test of Bartelt's reach is the fact that the many reports and professional, peer-reviewed publications he contributed to have been used by scientists, other agencies, private landowners and the general public.

In an agency with so many staff dedicated to natural resources stewardship, Bartelt's work ethic and commitment to this mission are really unrivaled. He regularly logs long hours on committee work and administrative tasks. More importantly, he truly leads, in his quiet, competent and effective way. Coworkers rely on his ability and willingness to do what is necessary to "get the job done", done well, and with consideration to coworkers, customers, the public, and the natural resources we are charged to protect and maintain. He sincerely cares about these resources, whether game, nongame, common or rare, and he imparts this holistic approach in all phases of his work.

"He encouraged innovative research within his Wildlife and Forestry Research Section, not by dictate, but by questioning, listening, evaluating, helping and trusting his scientists and technician," Martin wrote. "His work inspires many people within and outside the department, who generally find it assuring when he is on a team dealing with an issue important to them."

Martin chosen Society's North Central Section representative

Assuming the position held by DNR wildlife biologist **Alan Crossley** for the previous three years, Karl Martin is now the North Central Section representative to The Wildlife Society's national governing council.

This is the first time that two DNR employees have served in this position in consecutive years. The late DNR Secretary C. D. "Buzz" Besadny served on the professional society's governing council as president.



Kroeplin named Trappers Association Warden of the Year

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Conservation warden **Nate Kroeplin**, Fitchburg, has been recognized as the 2010 Warden of the Year by the Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA).

Warden Kroeplin, whose area of responsibility encompasses northern Dane County, was presented the award by Virgil Schroeder of Cottage Grove, WTA president, at a Board of Directors meeting in Marshfield.



Nate Kroeplin, this year's recipient of the Wisconsin Trappers Association's Warden of the Year Award.

WDNR Photo

"Nate is a great choice because he is dedicated to excellence. He is extremely knowledgeable in trapping laws and techniques and is often called upon by neighboring wardens for advice and ideas regarding enforcement situations," said conservation warden supervisor **Jeremy Plautz**, Fitchburg. Among the accomplishments leading to Kroeplin's nomination for the WTA honor, many pertain to education:

- Coordinating a trapping enforcement school for Wisconsin conservation warden recruits, biologists and wardens from other states.
- Conducting training sessions for local wardens regarding cable restraint use and regulations.

- A good working relationship with local trappers and WTA.
- Several arrests annually, including issuing citations for trapping during the closed season, illegal dryland conibears and fur tagging violations.

Warden Kroeplin, a Minoqua native, joined the Wisconsin warden force in 2000 and has been based at Fitchburg since April, 2002.

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

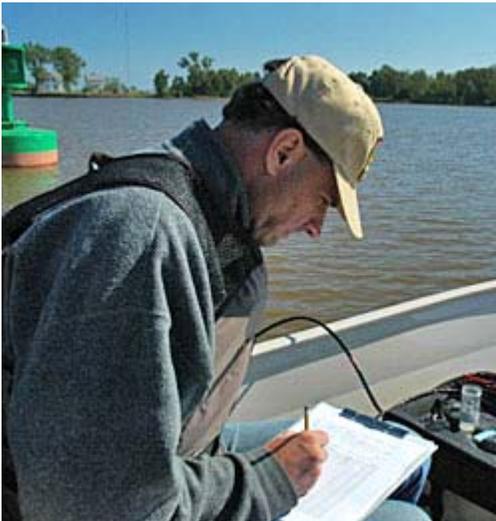


Lake Superior designated National Estuarine Research Reserve

By: Governor's Office News Release

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Recent designation of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve will raise the national profile of Wisconsin's Great Lakes' resources and capture additional federal funds to study and provide community outreach. Governor Jim Doyle announced this action on October 26.



Water resources management specialist and Lake Superior Bi-National Program coordinator John Jereczek, Superior, recorded location and water quality data being collected in Superior Bay.

WDNR Photo

The Governor nominated the [St. Louis River](#) for the federal designation in 2008.

The act of designating the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve is important as it moves Wisconsin toward long-term protection, explained the governor. "This designation helps protect the unique freshwater estuary systems of Lake Superior, North America's largest freshwater resource."

State agencies including DNR, citizens, local and tribal governments, and conservation organizations supported and worked hard for several years to achieve this federal designation.

One of the significant outcomes is an annual \$500,000 in federal funding to conduct research, education, and management activities that address important issues for coastal communities and further protect the St. Louis River and Lake Superior.

The St. Louis River will join a national system of 27 research reserves, building on existing private, local, state and federal investments in natural resource protection,

research and education. The St. Louis River is the largest U.S. tributary to Lake Superior and forms the headwaters of the entire Great Lakes system. Its waters and wetlands are nationally significant and provide critical habitat for birds, fish and plants.



Water resources management specialist **Frank Koshere**, Superior, annually leads a Natural Resources Foundation field trip on the St. Louis River above Fond du Lac, MN. **Brock Woods**, Wisconsin purple loosestrife control coordinator in Madison, paddled the far left wooden kayak, which Koshere built.

WDNR Photo

The Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve is centered on existing public land in the 12,000 acre St. Louis River estuary. Research and education are the primary missions of the reserve. University of Wisconsin – Extension will operate the reserve in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin – Superior, DNR, Douglas County and the City of Superior.

Gov. Doyle has chaired the Council of Great Lakes Governors since 2004, spearheading efforts to protect, preserve and improve the Great Lakes for future generations. Identifying priorities to protect the Great Lakes became the foundation for the work of the [“Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan”](#)



Links of interest...don't miss them

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DNR Newsletters

- **Title:** “Science Times Center for Excellence—providing expertise for science-based decisionmaking”

Description: The newsletter for the Bureau of Science Services staff and their customers is published monthly by the Science Information Services Section.

Link: [“Science Times”](#)

DNR-related TV features & news stories

- **Title:** “Deer Hunt 2010”

Description: “Deer Hunt 2010” will air November 11 at 8 p.m. on [public television stations](#) across the state. DNR sponsors the hour-long program, which will be hosted by public TV’s Dan Small.

Link: [“Deer Hunt 2010”](#)

- **Title:** “A fishy mystery at Wild Rose Hatchery”

Description: A WAOW.com story begins: “There’s something fishy going on at the Wild Rose Hatchery, in the spirit of Halloween Junior CSI Investigators are solving a murder mystery.” View the TV story about how the community became involved in

solving a fishy murder. **Joan Voigt**, naturalist educator guide at the hatchery, heads up the investigation.

Link: ["A fishy mystery at Wild Rose Hatchery"](#)

Mediasite

- **Title:** "Restocking Lake Tomah"

Description: Two new videos document restocking of nearly 6,000 largemouth bass as part an ongoing "extreme makeover" of Lake Tomah in Monroe County.

Link: ["Restocking Lake Tomah"](#)

News from the governor's office

- **Title:** "Governor Doyle Breaks Ground on Charter Street Biomass Project"

Description: News release issued by the governor's office: "Charter Street Biomass Heating Plant project. The \$251 million project is one of the largest biomass projects in the nation and will create construction and clean energy jobs."

Link: ["Governor Doyle Breaks Ground on Charter Street Biomass Project"](#)

- **Title:** "Governor Doyle Announces \$32.5 Million in Funding for Transportation Enhancement and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects"

Description: News release issued by the governor's office: Governor Jim Doyle today announced \$32.5 million for 56 transportation enhancement and bicycle and pedestrian facilities projects statewide. Includes \$864,780 for Hank Aaron State Trail Connections Project; address bike/pedestrian trail system gaps with 5,890 ft. of linear trail.

Link: ["Governor Doyle Announces \\$32.5 Million in Funding for Transportation Enhancement and Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects"](#)

Newspaper stories

- **Title:** "North Branch Beaver Creek gets a fish-friendly culvert"

Description: "Trout Unlimited" story on how DNR worked with Trout Unlimited, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Town of Beaver and DNR trout stamp money to purchase the appropriate size culvert for the fishery of Beaver Creek.

Link: ["North Branch Beaver Creek gets a fish-friendly culvert"](#)

DNR on "You Tube"

- **Title:** "Peninsula State Park Nicolet Beach Shower/Restroom Construction"

Description: "You Tube" features of the construction of a shower/restroom building at Nicolet Beach at Peninsula State Park.

Link: "Peninsula State Park Nicolet Beach Shower/Restroom Construction" [seven minute version highlights](#). Two-minute version [fast motion, with fewer highlights](#).

DNR Weekly News

- **Title:** "Volunteers needed to help monitor wolf population in the state"

Description: People interested in volunteering to locate timber wolves and other forest carnivores in the coming year can learn how to track wolves at upcoming training sessions and ecology courses.

Link: ["Volunteers needed to help monitor wolf population in the state"](#)

Retired conservationists

- **Title:** "The South Central Wisconsin Association of Retired Conservationists" website

Description: The Association of Retired Conservationists was organized by a group

of Wisconsin Conservation Department retirees in the 1960s. When the State's executive branch was reorganized in 1967, the Legislature created the DNR by combining the Department of Conservation and the Department of Resource Development.

Link: ["South Central Wisconsin Association of Retired Conservationists"](#)



Brownbag will focus on role of hunting in conservation movement

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On November 17, chief warden Randy Stark will deliver a brownbag presentation on the historic role of hunting, both in Wisconsin and nationwide, to the conservation movement. ["Exploring the Role of Hunting in the U.S. and Wisconsin Conservation Movements,"](#) will highlight the contributions and events since the 1800s that have been pivotal in managing natural resources.

The brownbag will take place at the University of Wisconsin's Science Hall on North Park St., in Madison. Email [Brad Shaw](#) or phone him at (608)890-1878 for more information.

Editor's Note: I occasionally receive notices from properties and programs about upcoming events that could be of interest to "MyDNR Digest" readers. Following is one such event. Help me make this new "Digest" feature a place to find fun, interesting and educational happenings that you'd like to share with others. Send your announcements to me, Diane Brinson for posting in the "Digest" on payday Thursdays.



Heath Van Handel Memorial Forest honors downed DNR pilot

By: Bob Manwell, Office of Communication

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At its meeting on October 27, the Natural Resources Board (NRB) recognized the life and dedication to duty of deceased DNR pilot **Heath Van Handel** by naming a parcel of DNR-managed land west of Appleton the "Heath Van Handel Memorial Forest."



Division of Forestry administrator Paul DeLong (left), Joyce Van Handel and Roger Van Handel were on hand at the NRB meeting when the board designated 40 acres in Outagamie County as the "Heath Van Handel Memorial Forest." Van Handel died in September 2009 while aiding firefighting efforts as a pilot.

WDNR Photo

"Heath lost his life in April 2009 while providing air support to a wildland firefighting operation," said Secretary **Matt Frank**. "He was a respected public servant, dedicated to protecting our citizens and our natural resources. This forest will serve forever as a living reminder of Heath and his passion for both flying and natural resources."

"We feel honored that the department and the Natural Resources Board are making this dedication in Heath's name," said Joyce Van Handel, the pilot's mother speaking on behalf of the family. "Heath was very involved in raising and caring for his children and the fact that this forest will be an educational resource for area schoolchildren is something I know he would have supported."

Van Handel's wife, Jennifer, two sons, Matt and Brett and parents Joyce and Roger Van Handel reside in Appleton. Van Handel was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Madison in Wildlife Ecology and received his pilot's training at Kansas State University.

The approximately 40-acre parcel is located off Highway JJ in the Town of Greenville, Outagamie County.

Read more about Van Handel's life and dedication to his work in the April 9, 2009 "MyDNR Digest" story ["Pilot Heath Van Handel died while on fire control duty."](#)

Footnote: *Bob Manwell is a public affairs manager for the divisions of Land and Forestry.*



Office of the Great Lakes announces 2011 photo contest and writing project

By: Jo Temte, Office of the Great Lakes

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The [Office of the Great Lakes](#) has launched its third annual [photo contest](#) and is soliciting nominations from DNR staff. Winning photos will be featured in the 2011-2012 "Wisconsin's Great Lakes" annual calendar. The Office of the Great Lakes also is seeking submissions for its Great Lakes Writing Project.

The deadline for submitting photos and writings about the Great Lakes is February 1, 2011.



"Determination" by Eric Poggemann took first place in the Natural Features and Wildlife category for the 2010-2011 calendar.

The Office of the Great Lakes will consider photos taken from Wisconsin of Lake Michigan or Lake Superior submitted in any of four categories:

- Natural Features and Wildlife;

- People Enjoying Wisconsin's Great Lakes
- Cultural and Historic Features
- Lake Protection Activities

Last year, three DNR employees were among the photo contest winners and two submitted writings.

"We hope that even more DNR employees will submit photos and writings this year, especially in the category of Lake Protection Activities," said Office of the Great Lakes director **Steve Galarneau**. "We'd really like to have some nice shots of habitat restoration, sediment clean up, fisheries and other work being done on Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, their tributaries and wetlands. Photos from project sites would be a great way to show people progress in restoring the Great Lakes"

For contest rules and instructions for submitting photos and writings, visit the [Office of the Great Lakes](#) website.

For more information, contact me at [Jo Temte](#) or at (608)267-0555.

Footnote: *Jo Temte is a water resources management specialist with the Office of the Great Lake.*



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

- Hey **Dick (Steffes)**, real estate director Division of Land), congratulations on your recognition from National Geographic, Eastman Kodak and The Conservation Fund. We here deeply appreciate the great work you do, and at the national level they obviously do too! We're proud to be on your team. **Scott Humrickhouse**, *West Central Region director*

Northeast Region success stories

- **DNR staffs from multiple programs** did an excellent job responding to a recent manure spill that reached the Kewaunee River. The coordinated and timely response minimized impacts to the environment; it appears fish were not affected by the release. *Anonymous*
- **Bill McNee**, gypsy moth coordinator in Green Bay: Thank you for the wonderful presentation on insects to attract backyard birds and the great handouts. People were talking afterwards about the insects various birds eat--like earwigs! *Bonnie O'Liske, Aegolius Program Planner*
- **Jennifer Borski**, (hydrogeologist in Oshkosh): The Glatfelter project continues to move along, and we have completed a ton of work in the past year. As you know, Plexus has moved in and is extremely happy to be part of the project. They are a great addition to the site and to our downtown. I would like to personally thank you for your assistance with this project, thus far. It has been a challenge trying to understand all the environmental issues and your help in this process has been greatly appreciated. *Chris A. Haese, City of Neenah*

Other NER DNR staff that contributed to the ongoing redevelopment of the former P H Glatfelter Co. mill: **Scott Koehnke** (water management specialist in Shawano), **Jennifer Huffman** (stormwater management specialist in Appleton), **Jim Zellmer**

(waste and materials management supervisor in Green Bay), **Len Polczinski** (retired), **Bruce Urben** (Air Management, Waste and Materials Management, and Remediation and Redevelopment program manager), **Annette Weissbach** (hydrogeologist in Green Bay), **Denise Danelski** (waste management specialist in Green Bay), and **numerous DNR staff from the central office** are assisting, as well.

- 2010 Fixmer Award goes to **Tom Albrecht**: Forester Tom Albrecht is the winner of the 2010 Fixmer Award from the [Forest History Association of Wisconsin \(FHAW\)](#). The award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to an organization, agency or corporation within the forest products and resources community. Albrecht, an FHAW co-founder, past president, treasurer and board member was recognized for his dedication, his experience and his organizational knowledge, as well as the integral role he has played promoting Wisconsin's forest history education and publications. He also has served as the Society of American Forester's president of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame.

The FHAW award is named after Frank Fixmer, a co-founder of FHAW, who served as Mosinee Paper Corporation's first forest manager from 1944 to 1978. A co-founder and director of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Fixmer was inducted into the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame in 1997.

- **Tim Mella** (real estate specialist), **Kris Hess** (real estate specialist), **Chris Halbur** (government outreach team supervisor), **Mike Neal** (warden), and **Chris Groth** (warden supervisor) all of Green Bay: Thanks for the hard work and extra effort in securing the Wagon Trail parcel for the citizens of WI, or at least shepherding it through its first hurdle. It is on to the review by Joint Finance now, but the real victory came yesterday when the board voted for the full proposed parcel purchase. Thanks a million folks! **Jean Romback-Bartels**, NER Land Leader

- I wanted to share with you that **Heath's (Van Handel)** parent's Roger and Joyce attended the (Natural Resources Board) meeting and were formally recognized by the NRB and were warmly given a very healthy standing round of applause by everyone in the room (a big crowd of almost 100!). They were very appreciative of the Board's efforts and had many kind words for all of the DNR personnel that they have met and worked with. They appear to be doing very well. In early October they traveled to Emmetsburg, MD for The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation annual tribute weekend where Heath's name was added to the Roll of Honor. They spoke very highly about this experience and were especially appreciative of **Chris Klahn's** (cooperative fire specialist in Montello) participation and the special opportunity to meet and share with other family members who had similar experiences. I also want to express a real and heartfelt "thank-you" to **Luke (Wuest, pilot in Oshkosh)**. You may not know that Luke took on the task of being the "official" liaison between the DNR and the family. He has done a wonderful job taking on this difficult (almost impossible!) and ongoing task. Recently, he has visited the property with both Jenny (Heath's wife) and again with the Van Handel's. Thanks Luke! Our work is not done. Now that the property naming has been approved we will be working to develop a sign and kiosk on the

property. More on this as it develops... Please fly safe. **John Jorgenson**, DNR
Aviation Section chief

- **Kevin McKnight** (hydrogeologist, Oshkosh): Thank you for coming to Sheboygan County. Please pass along my thanks to **Darsi Foss** (Brownfields and Outreach Section chief) as well. The presentation was well received and I am so pleased about that. This morning I was talking to Atty. Carl Buesing, Corporation Counsel and he conveyed that he too was pleased with the presentation. Thank you, again. *Laura Henning-Lorenz, Sheboygan County Treasurer/RPL*

- **Sue Kocken** (environmental grants specialist, Green Bay), **Chris Halbur** (government outreach supervisor, Green Bay): We just received our final payment check from Stewardship Fund for Murphy Pasture purchase. Thank you for your support and assistance. Without the Stewardship Program and your do diligence, projects like this would be much more difficult to complete. *George K Pinney, director*

- **Mike Donofrio** (fisheries team supervisor, Peshtigo): I just want to thank you again for talking to my Ecological Methods & Analysis class. I really appreciate your enthusiasm and expertise and know that the students do as well. *Amy Wolf, UW-Green Bay*

- **Chris Halbur**: I would like to thank you for your participation in the WI Coastal Management Council meeting in Kewaunee. Your presentation on the Mashek Creek acquisition site was informative and outlined a fortuitous confluence of funding circumstances. The bright sunny day certainly showed off the beauty of the site. We appreciate the time you spent to prepare, present and lead the tour. We look forward to the official acquisition and working with you in the future. *Mike Friis*

Northern Region success stories

- Compliment for **Sandra Wickman** (water resources management specialist, Rhinelander), **Alex Smith** (fisheries technician, Spooner), and **Pamela Toshner** (water resources management specialist, Spooner): Thanks for the excellent work you do! The outstanding work you do with our Northern Lake communities is greatly appreciated and is making a difference--isn't it nice when our partners notice and share their appreciation. You're the best! **Jeff Bode**, *Lakes and Wetlands Section chief*

- Calling about one of your employees - it's a good call. Ranger **Jay (Riewestahl)**, Spooner) over at the ranger station, helped me out with some Managed Forest Law legal issues last week. I was totally impressed with what he did. He went way beyond what he needed to do. Cleared up some issues for me, the DA, the sheriff's dept and I was really happy with what he did. I know you guys always hear when somebody doesn't do something right so I thought you ought to hear when somebody does something well. Have a good day. Thank you. *Mr. Edwards*

- Compliment for **Rhonda O'Leary** (air management engineer, Superior), and **Neal Baudhuin**, environmental engineer supervisor, Rhinelander): Although we have yet to wrap up the 2009-10 Murphy violations, which I assume we'll do very

soon, here I want to acknowledge and thank you both for all the excellent and hard work you have put into this successful effort and outcome. You and EPA did the heavy lifting in this case, and your expert involvement, reviews, thoughtfulness, creativity and dedication were indispensable to an outcome that will improve air quality for Wisconsin and other citizens. Please make sure this commendation makes its way to your personnel and performance evaluation files. Again, thanks so much for your work and dedication. People like you make me proud to be a public servant. *Thomas J. Dawson, assistant attorney general, Department of Justice*

Please send this wherever it needs to go so Rhonda gets a HUGE AttaGirl or AttaWoman! You wouldn't believe how many times the US attorney in DC said/sent thanks and appreciation for her work throughout this long process [Murphy Oil]. *Neal Baudhuin, environmental engineer supervisor, Rhinelander*

South Central Region success stories

- A compliment from "[Happy Campers at Wyalusing State Park](#)"
- **Susan Lindem** (air management engineer, Fitchburg) has been working on a high priority project for Wausaukee Composites in Cuba City. This has been a high profile permit. See the exchange below: The draft permit(s) for the proposed expansion at Wausaukee Composites - Cuba City are in peer/compliance review. I have also sent a copy of the draft permit to Jack Verdegan at WC for his review. We hope to go to public comment with the project by the end of this week.

Thanks Sue. I called Dave Lisle (company president) with this news, and he was very happy. *Lloyd Eagan, South Central Region director*

Susan. You rock! Thanks for representing the Department so well! *Al Shea, Deputy Secretary*

- Hi **Kathy (Dax)**, fisheries technician, Fitchburg): I heard from the Bureau of Legal Services that your tour was fantastic! Thanks for taking the time to show these folks around and being such a good representative of SCR. **Kenneth G Johnson, SCR water leader**
- Good afternoon **Carol (Schweiger)**, risk management specialist, Fitchburg): Thank you for providing the final segment of Basic Safety Training for the SCR Remediation and Redevelopment staff this morning. You did a very nice job on the presentation. The material was well organized and your presentation style very engaging. Thank you so much for ensuring our staff is well trained on basic safety. Have a great day. *Eileen F. Pierce, SCR Air and Waste leader*

Southeast Region success stories

- To **Paul Sandgren** (Kettle Moraine State Park-Southern Unit supervisor, Eagle) and **Brian Glenzinski** (wildlife biologist, Waunakee): Thanks for your time and efforts to lead the Fox Basin Team's field visits on the Scuppernong River Restoration sites and Rainbow Springs property. My staff gained a great deal from the visit and the information shared. *Jim D'Antuono*
- Lakeshore State Park manager **Tom Kroeger** received the 2010 State Park Hero Outstanding Land Manager Award from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. The award recognizes the hard work Tom and his staff have undertaken to

establish and maintain the beautiful prairie on the park, his support for park events and his education efforts.

- Thank you to **Jerry Medinger** : I want to thank you for your excellent presentation on Air Quality in southeast Wisconsin. The presentation was informative, interesting, and thought provoking. The audience enjoyed learning what Greener Oconomowoc can promote locally to improve air quality in the Oconomowoc area. *Greener Oconomowoc*
- **Kohler-Andrae State Park** received a 2010 Gold Seal Award for Best Candlelight Event from the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks.
- Just wanted to say "Thank you" for **all the staff** and camp hosts that were at Ottawa State Park on Halloween weekend. The weekend was fantastic. Keep up the good work, and looking forward to camping there again in 2011.

West Central Region success stories

- You should know that our own **Jim Boettcher** (hydrogeologist, Eau Claire) received the Outstanding Employee award at last month's Wastewater statewide meeting! And, **Paul LaLiberte** (basin supervisor, Eau Claire) was nominated for the same award. Great work guys - we're proud to be on your team! **Scott Humrickhouse**, *West Central Region director*
- In a message to the **Wisconsin Rapids service center staff**: Your Service Center Team reports that your "Alternative Service Delivery Plan" that was implemented earlier this year seems to be working, and that "all of the assignments have been performed very well." Thanks to each of you for stepping up and helping make lemonade out of this lemon we've been handed. Your response is constructive and much appreciated! **Scott Humrickhouse**, *West Central Region director*



Work on new Spooner Service Center begins this month

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

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Work on the new DNR Service Center in Spooner is expected to begin this month. Construction at the site, located immediately behind the current building on Highway 70, will take about 12 months to complete.

"We are excited about the prospects of getting underway," said Northern Region director, **John Gozdziwski**, "and we are looking forward to moving into one of the most energy efficient buildings built in the area."



Earth-moving equipment that will soon be put to use arrived at the DNR Service

Center at Spooner on November 3. By Thanksgiving Day, contractors plan to have the cement footings poured for the new service center, which is being built directly behind the current facility.

WDNR Photo

The structure replaces the current building, which is neither energy efficient nor energy code compliant, and is too small for the demands of DNR's northern operations. Gozdzialski said that consultants recommended that a new facility was the most cost-effective alternative in achieving important energy and space goals now and in the future.

"The building is designed and to be constructed to meet or exceed the requirements for Gold Level certification of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating system," Gozdzialski said. He explained that LEED is an international standard created to define green buildings by establishing a common measurement and promoting integrated whole building design.

Some of these energy innovations include a high efficiency HVAC heating and cooling system using natural gas in an under floor distribution system. The building will be built on risers about 18 inches up from the concrete slab allowing room for the HVAC, electronics and telecommunications.

There has been a DNR presence in Spooner since 1913, when the fish hatchery was built. Through the years, the department has added programs and staff to meet the needs of area citizens and visitors.

"This new building emphasizes both our commitment to meeting the natural resources needs of northern Wisconsin and the residents and visitors who depend on those resources," Gozdzialski said.

Most of the offices for the 73 staff will be open-air cubicles, with some private offices for administrative staff. Gozdzialski pointed out that the new building will provide enough space for current staff, but more importantly, staff who currently are working in another rented building, ultimately saving operating budgets.

The new building will have 18,100 square feet of office space, a lobby and customer service area. Building materials will be mainly wood and quarry stone with a metal roof. The cost is estimated at \$5 million.

Gozdzialski noted that staff will remain in the old building during construction, which will be demolished once the new facility is completed. Visitors and employees to the current Spooner Service Center should observe new parking signs and areas, as much of the former employee parking will be used for construction activities for the next 12 months.

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



"Partners in Giving" off to a great start

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The second week of this year's "Partners in Giving" campaign closed on a high note, with contributions from 46 employees totaling \$13,235. This brings the grand total raised to \$29,553, due to the generosity of 98 contributors.

Judy Gifford, information technology specialist in the Bureau of Drinking and Groundwater, won a 2011 park sticker. **Eric Rortvedt**, water resources engineer in

the Bureau of Wastewater, selected the tickets to the UW Women's basketball game in January.

If you're planning to submit a donation for the 2010 "Partners in Giving" campaign, your name will be entered in a drawing for one of the remaining prizes:

- Parks trail pass
- Wollersheim Wine
- Lindor Truffles
- Alterra Holiday Blend coffee
- Gail Ambrosius Chocolates
- Set of Janet Flynn note cards and poster
- Hardcover 5x7 inch notepad
- Hand-crafted pearl earrings
- Fall wreath
- Handmade surprise gift from DNR administration
- 2011 Bass Daily Planner & Fishing Guide

Reminder: silent auction coming up, soon

On Wednesday, November 17, the Bureau of Finance will hold its ninth annual "Partners in Giving" silent auction in room 213 of GEF 2. Throughout the day, employees will bid-some several times-to take home their personal treasure(s). Some awesome items have been donated for the auction, but more are needed. Contact Sherri Voigt at (608)267-9818.

Northeast Region planning holiday fundraisers

The Northeast Region headquarters in Green Bay is holding a Thanksgiving food/money collection, and will be collecting gifts/money for "Adopt a Family for Christmas." The food/money drive is underway, and staff will begin donating toward an adopted family in early December.

DNR employees in the South Central Region participate in "Partners in Giving," while employees in the other four regions can make contributions to the statewide SECC effort.



Council Grounds enforcement staff improves customer service while saving steps

By: Sara Gossfeld-Benzing, Council Grounds State Park

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The steps program at Council Grounds State Park saved 112 patrol vehicle miles this year, even though we had one more LTE ranger than in 2009. The goal of assigning a pedometer to all law enforcement staff was to promote energy conservation, provide better customer service, and encourage our officers to remain fit.



Sara Gossfeld-Benzing holding one of the pedometers used for the Council Grounds "Steps Program."
WDNR Photo

Last year, I purchased inexpensive pedometers and made a monthly chart, where each ranger tallied their steps at the end of each day. At the end of each month, we totaled all the steps for each person. Whoever had the most steps at the end of the month won a small gift that I personally purchased.

The park has saved 112 miles on patrol vehicles this year on the "Steps Program," and we have one more ranger on staff this year. In August alone, two officers walked a total of 246,652 steps. One officer totaled 10,746 steps in one day!

Everyone had a great time participating in the "Steps Program's" friendly competition. Our customers loved to see the rangers walking around and found them much more approachable outside their squad cars.

Footnote: *Sara Gossfeld-Benzing is a ranger-assistant property manager at Council Grounds State Park.*



ICE phone number reaches contacts in case of emergencies

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It's a standard procedure these days for paramedics at the scene of an accident when they come across a victim's cell phone. They go to the phone's list of contacts to find an "ICE" phone number. An "In Case of Emergency" contact number can help emergency services reach someone if you're injured or become seriously ill.

Even better, add a name along with the number, e.g. "(xxx)xxx-xxxx Jane," so the emergency responder has the name of the person on the other end of the line. For more than one ICE name simply attach the contacts' names to the number or enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3, etc.

Many phones now offer ICE as an option and may highlight them on the

phone's contact list.

"We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends," read the email.

The concept is catching on quickly across the country, as a result of an ICE campaign. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be called during an emergency under the contact name ICE.

A paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, victims almost always had cell phones on them or close by. He thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally-recognized name for this purpose.

Many children carry cell phones, and an ICE number could be especially important for them, in case they're unable to remember who should be called in an emergency. The person carrying the phone may require special medical attention, which a contact could quickly provide to an emergency responder.

It could take a matter of a minute to add an ICE number to a phone. The time such a number could save in an emergency could be critical to a person's well being. Read how one British paramedic came up with the idea for this emergency response tool in the USA Today story "[In case of emergency, put your cell on ICE.](#)"

Editor's note: Much of the information for this story was taken from an email message.



Former parks director and wife create endowment for state parks

By: Camille Zandoni, Natural Resources Foundation

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Former director of Wisconsin's State Parks **Dave Weizenicker** and his wife Joyce recently made a giant contribution toward Wisconsin State Park's future by designating a major gift in their estate to make the parks more accessible. Weizenicker was director of Wisconsin State Parks from 1981 to 1998.

The Weizenickers established the endowment to better assure that all citizens will have the opportunity to get out and explore their parks, trails, forests and recreation areas. Seniors and those people with disabilities oftentimes have limited access to these properties, which include scenic overlooks and rest stops that showcase some of Wisconsin's most spectacular natural gems.



Former director of Wisconsin State Parks Dave Weizenicker and his wife Joyce still enjoy our parks, forests and trails in retirement.

WDNR Photo

"My wife and I have long had a personal interest in hiking in Wisconsin's State Parks to get off the beaten path," said Weizenicker. "Since we are now members of the 'senior group,' we especially appreciate trails that are accessible to us, and which offer a means for us to sit, reflect and give thanks for the beautiful world around us".

"This is a wonderful gift for Wisconsin's State Parks, and it will have a measurable impact improving accessibility for seniors and those with special needs," said current State Parks director **Dan Schuller**. "We're grateful to Dave and Joyce for having the vision and foresight to make such a worthwhile investment in our park's future."

While serving as parks director, Weizenicker steered the formation of the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks, the first umbrella association of state park friends groups in the nation. Since that time, more than 70 local friends groups have been formed to support their local state park properties.

The David and Joyce Weizenicker Endowment Fund for State Parks is managed through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Distributions from the fund will be designated to local state park friends groups who will match the gift, thereby doubling its impact on the ground.

"We are honored to manage this fund, and are very pleased that David and Joyce chose to dedicate such a transformative gift to Wisconsin's State Parks," said Charlie Luthin, executive director of the Natural Resources Foundation. "We look forward to applying this fund towards the development of accessible trails, overlooks and rest stops, and know it will help many generations of future park visitors to better enjoy and explore our state parks."

"We always reflect back on our years and experiences with Wisconsin State Parks," said Weizenicker. "The parks profession was very beneficial and dear to me and my family, and I'm happy that my wife and I can give back in our senior years knowing that the expert (state) park staff and friends groups who share our interests will carry out the mission of the endowment."

The Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin is a 501c-3 non-profit organization. For more than twenty years, the foundation has worked with citizens, businesses, non-profits and the government to promote the protection and enjoyment of Wisconsin's public lands, waters and wildlife. Learn more at the [Natural Resources](#)

[Foundation](#) website.

Footnote: *Camille Zanoni is the director of Member Relations for the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.*



Update on Kou Xiong as he awaits kidney transplant

By: Jackie Frase, West Central Region

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Not long from now, it will be a year since the "MyDNR Digest" brought you the story of West Central Region's customer service representative **Kou Xiong's** journey to better health and a better life. In January, you read how he escaped Laos as the Vietnam War wound down, coming to the United States.

Kou's story of survival "[Call goes out to help West Central's Kou Xiong with transplant](#)" and prosperity took an unexpected detour when undetected viruses in the kidney he'd received six years ago caused the vital organ to fail.

When Kou stopped by the regional headquarters recently, he told of other health problems complicating his life while he awaits another kidney transplant. A vein in the arm used for his dialysis three days per week had undergone painful repair.

He'd also had some breathing problems, but looked good and more rested since he'd stopped working. Kou soon will travel to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, for a regularly-scheduled exam of his overall health.

If you'd like to send some words of encouragement to Kou, his address is 4323 12th Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54703. I believe that he'll be glad to hear from his co-workers.

Read about Kou's visit to regional headquarters in May in the "Digest" story "[Kou Xiong and family express their gratitude as he awaits transplant.](#)"

Footnote: *Jackie Frase is the region's Customer and Employee Assistance IT/Liaison team supervisor.*



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