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Outgoing and incoming regional forestry leaders combined 60 years of experience

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

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Tom Duke appointed forestry leader, as Mike Luedeke retires

Tom Duke, area forestry supervisor out of Antigo, has assumed the position of Northern Region's forestry leader. On November 7, he replaced retiring **Mike Luedeke** who had served more than 30 years with DNR.

Duke has more than 29 years of professional forest management experience, beginning as a forester stationed in Marinette County in 1981. He served as Luedeke's assistant forestry leader during the past five years.



Out with the old, and in with the new. Retiring NOR Forestry leader Mike Luedeke, shared a stories with his replacement Tom Duke during a retirement gathering at the Spooner Service Center.

WDNR Photo

Regional director **John Gozdzialski** said of Duke: "Tom's leadership skills were most recently utilized as the planning team leader for the Flambeau River State Forest Master Plan, which was approved by the Natural Resource Board in September."

During his tenure, Duke has accomplished much on behalf of the regional and statewide forestry programs, including:

- Led the Flambeau River State Forest master planning process, which completed the plan in just over two years due to the collaboration among the forest's staff, central office forestry staff, and other programs.
- Worked with the Marinette and Langlade counties'forestry departments, helping coordinate and run hardwood marking camps in both counties over a 20-year period.
- Contributed to each of the entry level forester hiring processes since 2000. Some of the many foresters and managers hired through these processes. now are stepping into leadership positions in the division.

Duke has served as one of the acting Forestry program leaders since this March and now officially will sit on the Regional Management and Forestry Leadership teams. He enjoys traveling, camping, biking and hunting with his wife, Sharon and their nine children.

Luedeke shared his confidence in Duke as he handed over the reins: "Tom brings a solid background in all aspects of the Division of Forestry, and his 29 years of experience will provide strong leadership for the department's Forestry program in the northern 18 counties. This region has many great supervisors, as well as field teams, that will continue to provide high-quality forestry, fire protection and recreation services to the citizens of Wisconsin, and will help resolve future challenges over how to provide such services."

Duke compliments ability of his staff to overcome challenges

"Mike's leadership has served the region extremely well, and we will all greatly miss his presence. I am very excited about what's ahead for the division of forestry, and that seems a little strange given our fiscal

and vacancy crunches," said Duke.

"Nevertheless, I have personally seen over the last five years a tremendous work ethic and passion for sustainable forestry in our Northern Region forestry staff--and that gives me great optimism that we can overcome the hurdles in our path and continue to sustainably manage the great forest resources in the region. Thank you to everyone for your great support and your confidence in me as I begin this new position."

Footnote: *Jim Bishop is Northern Region's public affairs manager.*



CWD tests negative for deer in Ashland area

By: Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection news release

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The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) has announced that final disease (CWD) results are negative for a white-tailed deer on a northwestern Wisconsin hunting preserve near Veterinarian Dr. Robert Ehlenfeldt announced today, November 18. This means that the deer did not have CWD.

DNR still asked Ashland and Bayfield County hunters to help with disease surveillance despite the "good news" that chronic wasting disease wasn't detected.

"We have a (surveillance) plan in place and it makes sense, given our findings that deer have been moving in and out of the shooting preserve for some time, that we continue with our health check on the wild deer herd within a 10 mile radius of the preserve," said DNR wildlife biologist **Todd Naas**, Ashland.

"The...deer season is really the best opportunity for local hunters to step to the plate and assist in rapidly and efficiently collecting these samples," he added.

The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA, reported the test results late Tuesday, November 16. Ehlenfeldt released the quarantine that had been in place since November 4 for the hunting preserve and an associated deer breeding farm.

NVSL pathologists ran tissue samples through what they described as "an exhaustive process using all diagnostic techniques available" and didn't detect CWD.

The three-and-a-half-year-old buck was routinely tested after being killed by a hunter October 18 in Bayfield County. Initial screening tests at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) reported positive on November 4. Following standard procedure, WVDL sent the samples to the national laboratory for confirmation. Screening tests for any disease are deliberately over-sensitive, so they do sometimes yield false positives.

The hunting preserve and farm in question has a long record of negative CWD results, with nearly 130 animals tested in the past five years. Animal health regulations in Wisconsin require that all farm-raised deer and elk 16 months and older, including those in hunting preserves, must be tested for CWD when they die or are killed. There is no live test for CWD.

To date, more than 27,600 farm-raised deer have been tested in Wisconsin. Of those, 97 were positive for CWD on eight farms and hunting preserves, 82 on a single Portage County operation, where legal action delayed destruction of the herd for more than three years after the initial case was found. One of the infected animals was an elk, the rest white-tailed deer. All infected herds have been destroyed. There hasn't been a new case of CWD detected in a farm-raised animal for two years.



Links of interest...don't miss them

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Multi-media: 2010 deer hunting season

- **Title:** "DNR Deer Hunt 2010 Aired on Outdoor Wisconsin"

Description: Sponsored by DNR and narrated by Wisconsin Public TV's Dan Small, host of "Outdoor Wisconsin," this annual show reviews what every hunter needs to know and shares tips that might be new even for the most skilled veteran deer hunters. Click on the "chapters" icon just to the right of center below the video player window for a handy list of the program segments you may want to preview or watch.

Links: ["DNR Deer Hunt 2010 Aired on Outdoor Wisconsin"](#)

- **Title:** "Wisconsin Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey"

Description: Each year, the department compiles the results of observations reported by DNR employees and the public of deer and other mammals and birds. This information is used to monitor the number and location of these species for management purposes.

Links: ["Wisconsin Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey"](#)
["Preliminary deer hunter wildlife survey results"](#)
["Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey Observations 2009 vs 2010"](#)

- **Title:** "Deer Hunters Ready for the Season"

Description: Channel 12's "Upfront" narrated by Mike Gousha featured an interview with DNR Secretary **Matt Frank** on what hunters can expect during this year's gun deer season. Frank declines to project the number of deer this season because of numerous variables.

Link: ["Deer Hunters Ready for the Season"](#)

- **Title:** "Killer Hike"

Description: "Hunting is the act of hiking with a bomb in your hands" begins the account in **Backpacker Magazine** of a hiker's first deer hunt.

Link: ["Killer Hike"](#)

Media website

- **Title:** 2011-2012 Wisconsin Senate and Assembly members

Description: Published in the "Wheeler Report," lists names and party affiliations of Legislature, which will be in session beginning on January 19.

Link: ["Wheeler Report 2011-2012 Wisconsin Senate and Assembly members,"](#) suitable for hanging on your bulletin board.

State government website

- **Title:** "Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week November 8-12, 2010"

Description: News release from the Division of Emergency Management announced Governor Jim Doyle's declaration of November 8-12 as the time to learn and think about how to remain safe when treacherous weather returns this winter.

Link: ["Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week"](#)



Sightings of bobcats in southern Wisconsin leads to research project in 2011

By: Becky Roth, South Central Region

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First South Central Region (SCR) wildlife staff told you about the increase in bear sightings in southern

Wisconsin. Now, SCR can report with confidence that it's also seen an increase in sightings of [bobcats](#), including evidence of a breeding population, from trail camera photos to trapped cats, prompting the department to take a closer look at southern Wisconsin's bobcat population.



Bobcats will stalk their prey, quietly moving in as close as possible before pouncing.
Internet photo

While currently rare in the southern part of the state, historically bobcats were found all over Wisconsin. Once considered a varmint, their numbers decreased through unregulated harvest. In 1970, conservation efforts began with the regulation of bobcat hunting, increasing numbers of the animal to the current population estimate of 2,100 in northern Wisconsin, north of state highway 64.

With increased sightings in the southern part of the state, DNR will launch a research project in spring 2011, which will focus on establishing a population estimate for bobcats south of highway 64. This project will use scat-detecting dogs to locate these cats.

Once a population estimate is reached, the department may recommend hunting opportunities for the rest of Wisconsin.

A recent Iowa State University research project looked at the genetics of bobcats and discovered that southern Wisconsin's bobcats are more closely related to those found in Kentucky and Tennessee, rather than those in northern Wisconsin. This would explain a deceased, tagged bobcat from Iowa that was found in Columbia County in 2009.

Bobcat sightings are increasing in SCR and, in response, DNR has set up a reporting system online for the public to send in their sightings and submit trail camera pictures. Go to "[Report Black Bear and Bobcat Observations](#)" to learn how you can help.



An adult bobcat is about twice the size of an average house cat.

Internet photo

You also can assist department staff working on this effort by encouraging members of the public to report their sightings. If you have any questions about bobcats in Wisconsin or this research project, email me [Becky Roth](#) or call me at (608)588-3432.

Footnote: *Becky Roth is a wildlife biologist stationed at Spring Green.*



Electronics recycling program eases disposal of old “gadgets”

By: Bridgette Valdez-Kogle, Bureau of Waste & Materials Management

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Cell phones, computers, televisions and other electronics are a daily part of our lives. But the more electronics we use, the more used electronics we need to get rid of. Old electronics are one of the fastest growing components of the waste stream in the United States. In Wisconsin alone, we contend with millions of pounds of obsolete or unwanted electronics each year.



This electronics drop-off diverted 236,000 pounds of waste away from the landfill.

WDNR Photo

Wisconsin residents used to be able to throw away their outdated or broken electronics. But, trashing electronics isn't done without consequences. Electronics contain harmful chemicals like mercury, lead, cadmium and other heavy metals, as well as chemical flame retardants. When disposed of improperly, these pollutants can pose a risk to human and environmental health.

Electronics also contain valuable reusable materials, including steel, gold, silver, copper and plastic. Properly recycling these materials keeps them out of our landfills and in the production cycle, reducing the need to mine new materials.

Under Wisconsin's electronics recycling law, passed in October 2009, state residents no longer can place many electronics in the trash. Today, they have new opportunities to recycle their electronics.

Wisconsin statutes also now mandate that electronics manufacturers register with the state and pay to recycle a certain amount of televisions, computers, printers and other consumer electronics each year. To implement the law, DNR created the [“E-Cycle Wisconsin”](#) program, which establishes a statewide network of registered electronics collectors and recyclers.

The ban on landfilling or incinerating electronics joins similar bans for many other recyclable materials, including appliances, yard waste, paper, cans and bottles. See the [“Recycled Material Disposal Ban”](#) webpage for information on those items that no longer can be sent to landfills.

Currently, there are more than 325 registered collection sites around the state, covering 64 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. In the first six months of the program, about 10.5 million pounds of electronics were collected, and during the current program (fiscal) year, we project that almost 30 million pounds will be collected.

E-CYCLE WISCONSIN



dnr.wi.gov/ecyclewisconsin

The "E-Cycle Wisconsin" program logo.
WDNR Photo

You can find an electronics collection site near you at ["E-Cycle Wisconsin registered collection sites by county."](#)

The E-Cycle Wisconsin team members in the Bureau of Waste and Materials Management are **Sarah Murray**, communications and program assistant, Madison; **Marcy McGrath**, waste management specialist, Green Bay; **Cynthia Moore**, program manager, Madison; and **Bridgette Valdez-Kogle**, communication specialist, Madison. The team works to ensure that the E-Cycle program goes smoothly and that the public knows about their recycling options.

To obtain a copy of the E-Cycle Wisconsin program brochure or a flier listing covered electronics, click on the email link at the bottom of each of the program's webpages.

Footnote: *Bridgette Valdez-Kogle is a communications specialist with the Recycling and Solid Waste Section.*



Regional staff nurturing prairie diversity outside LEED-certified headquarters

By: Sally Hronek and James Harbaugh, Northeast Region

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As a result of a recent donation, Northeast Region (NER) staff in Green Bay is nurturing significantly more diverse native prairie plantings at the regional headquarters facility. This green space blends naturally with the building, Wisconsin's first state office building to receive [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#) Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.



Al Naas worked hard planting plug groupings.
WDNR Photo

The benefits of native landscaping are numerous. The NER prairie has increased the property's biodiversity, been seasonally dynamic, and offers an educational forum for staff and Green Bay residents. Hopefully, as the green space evolves, the public will come to appreciate and be inspired to "go native," or at the very least consider alternatives to the traditional mowed lawns and formal static plant beds.

Over four years, employee team took on challenges

In 2006, a handful of NER headquarters employees formed the Prairie Team to facilitate the success of the native planted areas, while promoting the prairie concept and its benefits to staff and the general public.

During the first few years, volunteering employees overcame the challenges of establishing the property's green space. First, by using good property management strategies, the Prairie Team diligently faced off and defeated numerous weeds, such as Canada Thistle and Queen's Anne Lace. This gave the prairie plants the time they needed to grow a firm footing.



Kelley O'Connor, Brad Pyle and Al Nass planted plug groupings along the interpretive trail.
WDNR Photo

This success wasn't the end of the challenges, however, compounded exponentially by the surrounding urban area's local residents and municipal ordinances. Even internally to the headquarters itself, opposition to the perceived unsightly mess threatened to stall the project.

Letters, phone calls, walk-ins, letters to the editor--all pleaded that the department submit to the social norm and plant a well-manicured lawn, as was expected of every property owner. Through perseverance, internal and external education, and a lot of hard work, the native plantings survived the gauntlet of "speed bumps" imposed by humans and nature, and are showing signs of being a success.

Private nursery plugs holes to assure sustainability

Another challenge to the sustainability of the area emerged due to a lack of native species diversity. Weed species, mostly controlled with ongoing good property management strategies, flourished. But, as the most dominate species of natives established a strong foothold and provided a pleasant landscape, there was definitely room for improvement.

In an attempt to improve on the native plant diversity, the Prairie Team contacted a Wisconsin nursery known to be an industry leader in native plants sales. Because it's a standard business practice to germinate more plants than are needed in case of an unanticipated failure, the nursery agreed to donate the surplus (slotted for disposal) plugs to the NER headquarters. This partnership resulted in more than 30,000 plugs of more than 75 species.



Just a fraction of the first pick-up of 30,000 plugs donated to the NER headquarters prairie.
WDNR Photo

From mid-June to late-August, volunteers made the biweekly, 200-mile round trip drive to pick up the plants. Volunteers donated more than 700 hours of their own time to care for the plants, prepare the planting locations, and painstakingly hand plant the individual plugs.

Although, the vast majority of plants were incorporated into the prairie itself, many were planted in groups. The team devised "group plantings" to assure that the massive number of donated plugs was used.

The plots were laid out along an existing public interpretive walking trail located on the headquarters property and connected to a neighboring public park trail. Each plot holds a large number of the same plants for easy identification, and to highlight the different species of plants. The long-range plan is to install educational signs for plant identification near each grouping.

This year's weather couldn't have been better, assuring that the plants received a weekly watering during what normally is a dry period. In a couple years, the fruits of the volunteers' labor and the donation by the nursery will be a welcome addition to the landscape.

Over the years, the regional headquarters' informal Prairie Team has received help from the following employees who donated their time and labor: **Annette Weissbach**, Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist; **Al Nass**, Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist; **Sally Hronek**, Air Management engineer; **Brad Pyle**, Air Management engineer; **Denise Danelski**, Brownfields Outreach specialist; **Kelley O'Connor**, Lakeshore Watershed supervisor; **Cheryl Bougie**, Stormwater Management specialist; **Amy Callis**, Agriculture specialist; **James Harbaugh**, Wildlife Management technician; **Mark DeBaker**, Water Supply specialist; **Jeff Pritzl**, Wildlife Management supervisor; **Diane Hansen**, Remediation and Redevelopment program assistant; **Carol Crawford**, Air Management engineer; **Crystal Schiefelbein**, Water Management specialist; and **Jay Schiefelbein**, Environmental Enforcement office operations assistant.

Footnote: *Sally Hronek is an Air Management engineer, and James Harbaugh Wildlife Management*

technician.



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success stories

- A compliment sent to Dan Small, narrator of the ["2010 Deer Show:"](#) Please express my thanks and appreciation to all of the cast and crew of tonight's show. I believe this year's version was the finest in many years. The visuals were top rate, the content was informative and well presented, and the walking through the woods format was a great idea. *Best Regards, Randy Mielke, Eagle*

Several DNR employees can take credit for the production of the "2010 Deer Show:" video producer **Mary Farmiloe**, Bureau of Customer Services & Licensing; staff specialist **Keith Warnke**, Bureau of Wildlife Management; hunter education administrator warden **Tim Lawhern**, Bureau of Law Enforcement; warden **Todd Schaller**, Bureau of Law Enforcement; wildlife biologist **Jeff Fleener**, Bureau of Wildlife Management; regional enforcement leader **Barb Wolf**, Fitchburg; wildlife area manager **Don Bates**, Dodgeville; and coordinator, public affairs manager **Bob Manwell**, Office of Communication.

As of November 12, more than 1,000 viewers had watched 33% of the "2010 Deer Show," even before the department promoted the show. Use of a chapter navigation tool may account for viewers opting to not watch the entire one-hour webcast.

- **Jane Lauderdale**, Bureau of Finance section chief, received the following regarding **Scott Wardell**, purchasing agent: Just wanted to take a minute to commend Scott Wardell. A few weeks ago, I put together a two-sided tax bill flyer to promote fire prevention and we were making a large run of 100,000. Our goal was to get them in the hands of the townships before the Thanksgiving holiday so they could get them stuffed in their tax bill mailings. Scott made a point to get my print request pushed through in a timely manner and he kept in good communication with the printer and voila, they have arrived with days to spare!! I do not think this would have happened without Scott's persistence. Bottom line is Scott was GREAT! He really helped our program out and we really appreciate it! *Catherine Koele, wildfire prevention specialist, Bureau of Forest Protection*

Northeast Region success stories

- **Diane Hansen** (environmental program associate, Green Bay): Thank you again for all of your help. It is good to know the information, and I appreciate that you were so prompt. I really expected to make a call and to have to wait for something in the mail. WOW! You are good! Thanks again. I hope you have an enjoyable weekend. *Mrs. Terie Johnson, Special Education Teacher, Lance Middle School*

Terie and her husband are interested in purchasing property just south of a farm and were interested in any contamination issues associated with the area. Hansen involved both **Casey Jones** (agricultural run-off specialist, Oshkosh) and **Laurel Braatz** (drinking and groundwater specialist, Sturgeon Bay) who were so prompt in their response that Hansen was able to provide the information to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson within a couple of hours.

- Warden **Mike Disher** (Chilton): Thank you Mr. Disher for your insight on our job shadow recently. It was very helpful in understanding exactly what you do, and in helping to steer me in the right direction toward a future career. Thanks again and have a great fall season. *TJ Hemauer*
- I want to send a big **Thank You** to everyone who was able to free up some time from your busy fall schedules to come help us mark timber on the Marinette County Forest this year. The Marinette

County Forestry Department and the Wausaukee Ranger Station deeply appreciate the assistance. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as we had fairly decent weather (considering all the rain that's fallen this summer) and a variety of hardwood (and one pine) stands to work in. As it turned out we marked 5 different timber sales over 6 days for a total of about 620 acres on the Marinette County Forest this year. We may have a few small sessions with local folks to finish off some other small pine, oak, and hardwood sales into the winter. I would also like to thank Marinette County Forestry for providing all the fixings for our two big lunch days. Again thanks for all of the help and we hope to see you again next fall! **Joe Schwantes**, forester, Wausaukee

- **Jennifer Borski** (hydrogeologist, Oshkosh): First and foremost, thank you very much for taking the time and effort to review our City of Neenah Site Assessment Grant pre-submittal application. It is very much appreciated. The grant applications were sent Fed Ex on Friday afternoon, prior to receiving your comments, as we were informed applications needed to be to Madison today. Although the time line was pinched a little at the end, I will take the blame for not getting the draft application to you sooner for your input. Again, thank you so much for taking time out of your schedule to review the application. It gives me some piece of mind to know that you believe the application is solid with the exception of the PAH issue. Hopefully we will be successful in our efforts! *Chris A. Haese, director of Community Development and Assessment, City of Neenah*

- Thank you so much **Linda Williams** (forest health specialist, Green Bay) **Ron Jones** (forestry area supervisor, Appleton) and **Sue Crowley** (forester, Mishicot) on behalf of the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association for hosting a Landowner Café, giving a presentation, and leading a field station during the 2010 WWOA Annual Meeting in Mishicot. There were many good comments about the presentations and based on meeting evaluations members felt their knowledge of this topic was improved by attending your presentations. Again, thank you for very generously giving of your time and expertise to help educate some of Wisconsin's most active woodland owners, WWOA members!

- **Annette Weissbach** (hydrogeologist, Green Bay): I thought I would share with you one of the projects we have completed at the Fox River Academy-Environmental Charter School in Appleton (Installation of a solar panel Project). The tour of the Green Bay WDNR office you gave me was inspiration for several of the Fox River Academy projects we worked on. Bryan Wayner, Omni and Associates-Appleton.

Northern Region success stories

- Since 1999, the Lake Association of White Lake and the White Lake School District have co-sponsored an Adopt-A-Lake program for students. The program involves students in hands-on activities that run year round with the focus on using the lake as an outdoor classroom. **Eric Borchert** (wildlife technician, Antigo) has conducted a learning center each September since 2000. These centers have always been informative and enjoyed by students. Eric has a knack for keeping the students involved and making the session fun. We want you to know how much we appreciate Eric helping with this program each year. It takes a lot of work to prepare and conduct these learning centers. Please give Eric a special "pat on the back" on our behalf. *Lake Association of White Lake, Inc. Board of Directors*

- Compliment for **Tom Jerow** (water leader, Rhinelander), **Nancy Larson** (basin supervisor, Superior), **Bill Smith** (regional land leader, Spooner) **Fred Strand** (wildlife area supervisor, Superior) and **Dan Schuller** (director, Bureau of Parks & Recreation): As of this afternoon (dedication held on October 26), the State of Wisconsin is now a proud member of the National Estuarine Research Reserve Program! We have joined 27 other sites, and only the second on the Great Lakes, in this unique national system. THANK YOU for your effort, dedication and commitment in bringing this invaluable resource of Wisconsin and NW Wisconsin into the national spotlight! Together we have

recognized the value of this important resource ensuring it will serve as a special educational and research area for decades to come. Your support is greatly appreciated....we should be extremely proud of this accomplishment! Thank you. **John Gozdziwski**, *Northern Region director*

Compliment for John Gozdziwski, Tom Jerow, Nancy Larson, Bill Smith, Fred Strand, Dan Schuller: On behalf of Secretary (**Matt Frank**, **Mary Ellen (Vollbrecht)**, executive assistant) and myself, I am writing to congratulate you on this tremendous accomplishment. We know that a lot of hard work went into supporting this important designation and we greatly appreciate it. Good things like this don't happen without persistence and dedication, and you should be very proud to have been instrumental in achieving only the second such reserve in the Great Lakes! **Al Shea**, *deputy secretary*

- Reported by "Bottom Line News & Views:" A mentor who participated in a Learn to Bear Hunt Program had nothing but high praise for the commitment and effort put forth by warden **Jill Schartner** (Drummond). The mentor wished to remain anonymous, but wants the public to know how "very professional and thorough" Schartner is, and that her emphasis on safety issues and proper and effective training methods and techniques are second to none. The mentor also stressed how good Schartner is with young kids at the rifle range.
- Compliment for warden **Russ Fell** (Spooner): Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to host an NRA Day Program in your local community. We look forward to working with you in the future to promote the shooting sports. *Amanda (NRA Day Program Coordinator)*

South Central Region success stories

- Dale Parker (landowner and member of the Walnut Council who hosted the field day), **Bill Carlson** (forestry team leader, Dodgeville), **John Nielsen** (regional forestry leader, Fitchburg), **Jake Elder** (forester, Richland Center) and **Paul Kloppenburg** (forester, Baraboo): Thank you for the excellent field day that you produced last Saturday for the Wisconsin Walnut Council. This has to (be) one of the better field days that I have experienced since I have been attending such events over the years. Many of the attendees voice the same sentiment to me, as well. The lunch that Lola prepared was such a treat and surprise. Thank you for your effort. *JOO John Ouellette*
- The Natural Resources Board approved the Capital Spring Recreation Area Master Plan at their October meeting. Congratulations to all those in Dane County and DNR who worked on this collaborative partnership. I couldn't agree more with **Kevin Swenson** (park manager, Capital Springs Centennial State Recreation Area) and Darren Marsh (Dane County Parks): To **Loren Ayers** (citizen-based monitoring coordinator, Bureau of Endangered Resources) **Brad Bates**, (assistant property manager, New Glarus Woods) **Percy Mather** (waste management specialist, Fitchburg): Congratulations to everyone involved in the Capital Springs master planning process. As of 1:45 p.m. this afternoon, the Natural Resource Board unanimously approved the master plan for Capital Springs. Earlier this summer, the Dane County Board approved the master plan. The process is finished.

So what's next? It won't be for a few years until we see development of the state land, but the completion of the master plan finally opens the door for just that. We will begin the design, development and financing of the items listed in the master plan.

I personally want to extend my appreciation to everyone involved. It has been a long and, at times, difficult road, but in the end we all came together. *Sincerely, Kevin Swenson, park manager, Capital Springs Centennial State Recreation Area*

I concur with Kevin's comments (that) congratulations are in order. I would also like to note the excellent presentation made to the State Natural Resource Board this afternoon by **Jeff Prey** (Bureau of Parks program and planning analyst), Dan Schuller (director, Bureau of Parks) and the closing remarks made by

Matt Carlson. It was nice to hear the glowing remarks from the NRB. *Darren Marsh, Dane County Parks West Central Region success story*

- **Paul (Laliberte**, acting water leader, Northeast Region; basin supervisor, West Central Region): Thanks for taking this on for us. We really are needing and appreciating your expertise. Your assistance these past several weeks has been just what we've needed, and I thank you for your sacrifice (being away from home, etc). I hope that you too have found some worth in your work here. **Jean Romback-Bartels**, Northeast Region land leader.

Paul, great to hear this. We really appreciate you stepping up and helping out our colleagues in NER. **Scott Humrickhouse**, West Central Region director

Paul temporarily filled the vacant NER water leader position and has been working on (among other things) the region's wastewater permit backlog, specifically the need for limit calculations and Source Reduction Measures.



“Partners in Giving” campaign brings in \$58,347 by end of week five

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More than 180 central office and South Central Region headquarters employees have raised \$58,347.34 by the end of the fifth week of the “Partners in Giving” campaign. In that week alone, another 29 contributors donated or made a commitment of \$9,254.14. The last day of the campaign is November 30.

Drawing winners for weeks four and five were:

- **Percy Mather**, South Central Region: 2011 Trail Pass
- **Kathleen Thompson**, Bureau of Watershed Management: Wollersheim wine
- **Joe Renville**, Bureau of Legal Services: Alterra Coffee - Holiday Blend
- **Winston Piotrkowski**, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing: Lindor Truffles

Prizes remaining:

- Vouchers for four tickets to UW Women's basketball on Sunday, January 23
- Set of Janet Flynn note cards and poster
- Notepad
- Fall wreath
- Handmade surprise gift from administration
- 2011 Bass Daily Planner & Fishing Guide



Amazing construction progress

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Most of the exterior painting has been completed on the new research vessel, the R/V Coregonus. You can really start to get a feel for what the vessel will look like. At the time this photo was taken, the Coregonus was within a plastic "paint booth." The hull is "Blueprint Blue" and the pilot house/superstructure is "Pillar White."



R/V Coregonus under construction.

WDNR Photo

The center windshield on the pilot house can be heated to prevent icing. The Coregonus will replace the aging research vessel the Barney Devine, which DNR uses to conduct research on Lake Michigan. See how DNR has teamed up with the same Manitowoc boat



Coregonus's lab

WDNR Photo

company that built the Barney Devine to build the new boat in the Mediasite video [“Lake Michigan research vessel construction”](#)

Teak wood, which is highly resistant to decay, is being used on the underlying wood support for the interior waterproof walls of the R/V Coregonus's lifting station/lab area

Neither sleet, nor snow will slow Northern Region headquarter's building



As with life in the northwoods, weather doesn't stop building construction.

WDNR Photo

Steady progress is being made, even in the snow, on the new Northern Region headquarters in Spooner.

Construction began on November 5 and the support base was poured on November 16.



Disabled veterans complete a successful deer hunt

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Although it's held disabled deer hunts for three years, this October the Northeast Region held its first hunt for disabled veterans. Participating in the hunt, which ran from October 2-10, were a World War II veteran and a veteran of the Vietnam War.

DNR warden Ted Dremel, Waupaca, visited the Wisconsin Department of Veteran's Affairs home in King in search of disabled veterans who might be interested in participating in a hunt. This hunting program enables disabled Wisconsin residents to enjoy outdoors activities. DNR public lands managers, private landowners, organizations, companies and others act as sponsors of these hunts by allowing hunters access to their properties.

For this particular hunt, Dremel served as the hunters' assistant. An employee of the Rudolf Ranch Game Farm, which donated the hunt, joined the small hunting party.

Likely his last, WWII veteran's hunt is emotion-filled



Jim O'Donahue's hunt was filled with emotion.
WDNR Photo

The Rudolf Ranch Game Farm is located north of Ogdensburg in Waupaca County and was the location for the hunt. Jim O'Donahue was the first to fill his permit, and it was clear that the experience was an emotional one for him, according to Dremel.

Eighty-three years old and gregarious, O'Donahue fought in World War II, has been married for 61 years, and raised five children, all of whom served in a branch of the military. Bad hips, bad knees and a bad heart limit him to walking "about a city block" before he needs to rest. O'Donahue and his wife live at the Waupaca/King veteran's home.

O'Donahue hadn't hunted or shot a deer for 14 years. Getting a deer this year was especially rewarding and emotional for him, because he felt that this probably was the last deer he'd shoot or hunt.

Warden Dremel described O'Donahue as someone who takes a lot of pride in skinning and butchering his deer, refusing any offers of help from the warden.

Vietnam vet also hunted the Rudolf Ranch

Disabled Vietnam veteran Bill Smith also hunted and harvested a deer at the Rudolf Ranch Game Farm. He described it as "a great hunt." Now retired, Smith worked in the Milwaukee County Jail as a lieutenant for about 18 years.



Patience paid off for Bill Smith
WDNR Photo

Smith patiently waited about an hour and a half before he was able to get off a good shot at a deer. He'd seen two does walking through the woods. When the deer was broad side, about 70 yards away, Smith took his shot. Dremel described the vet's reaction as "mater of fact."

"I had as much fun on this hunt as Jim and Bill," said Dremel. "Perhaps next year we'll have greater interest among the veterans."

Representative of Wisconsin's outdoor heritage

Dremel summed up the hunting experience as embodying the reason that deer hunting is such an integral part of Wisconsin's outdoor heritage:

"The hunters' appreciation of being out in the field on a cool, crisp day experiencing all the sights and sounds makes the hunt successful. The harvesting of a deer is the bonus for the trip. DNR and the Rudolf Deer Farm were able to make memories for Jim and Bill that they and their families will always remember."



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Sharing a ride instead of driving alone prevents air pollution and saves the average commuter \$200 per month. [Rideshare Etc.](#) is the Madison area's alternative commuting program, with the mission of encouraging sustainable transportation.

The Madison Area Rideshare Etc. campaign has launched a new website for commuters including bus, vanpool, carpool and bike route options displayed on interactive maps. The goal of the program is to reduce traffic congestion, pollution and solo auto commuting by matching individuals based on their specific circumstances.

rideshare / etc



With winter weather just around the corner, commuters throughout the Madison area are invited to create a password-protected account by filling in work hours, work and home address (information which is suppressed in the database), and then run a search of transportation options. The database displays on the maps available partners or services such as Metro Transit, State Vanpools or bike routes near the commuter.

The City of Madison and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation jointly sponsor Rideshare Etc Online. There is no charge or obligation upon opening an account to explore commuting options.

The Rideshare website also includes incentive information like the "Commute Mode Tracker" to calculate savings, as well as other helpful commuting links.

There's even a free "Guaranteed Ride Home" service that commuters can use if an emergency arises while they're at work without their vehicle. Participants can receive up to six free vouchers per year, with a maximum value of \$75 per voucher. You join the commuting option of your choice and call 266-Ride or email [Rideshare](#) to obtain a voucher by mail. Then, if the need arises, you can call Union Taxi, which will accept the voucher for payment.

To participate in the Rideshare Etc., commuters can log onto the [Rideshare registration](#) webpage or call 266-RIDE (7433) for staff assistance.



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