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Wild Rose Hatchery hosts congressional delegation tour

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Visitors learn about mass marking of Great Lakes Chinook salmon

On April 6, DNR staff at the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery was joined by staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to host a delegation of congressional aids on a tour of the mass marking (clipping and tagging) of Chinook salmon slated for stocking in Lake Michigan. From a federal budgetary perspective, the delegation was interested in the return on investment into the Great Lakes' fish stocking operation.



Southern Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor Brad Eggold (left) discussed the automated clipping and tagging process with Charles Bronte of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

WDNR Photo

Marking involves removing the adipose fin and inserting a small, uniquely-numbered wire into the snout of the fish. "Mass marking" means that a large number of fish were marked. The ultimate goal of the mass marking program is to mark all trout and salmon that are stocked in the Great Lakes.

DNR staff on hand for the informational briefing included Steve Hewett, Bureau of Fisheries Management; **Al Kaas**, Bureau of Fisheries Management; **John Nelson**, Northeast Region fisheries operations supervisor; **Steve Fajfer**, hatchery supervisor; **Brad Eggold**, fisheries supervisor, Milwaukee; and **Cheryl Peterson**, fisheries technician, Milwaukee.

The event focused on observing one of the mass marking trailers at Wild Rose as it marked Chinook salmon destined for stocking in Lake Michigan. The equipment in the trailer is capable of clipping and tagging 60,000 fish per eight-hour day.



Young Chinook salmon waited to be clipped and tagged.
WDNR Photo

The congressional staffers on hand were from the offices of U.S. senators Herb Kohl and Ron Johnson; and U.S. representatives Reid Ribble, Sean Duffy and Tom Petri.

Points of emphasis during the tour:

- Sport fishing has an economic value of \$7 billion annually.
- Scientific and budget importance of knowing the return we get on the fish stocked.
- Importance the Council of Lake Committees has placed on marking all fish stocked in Great Lakes to answer both management questions and budget allocation questions.
- Federal fiscal costs and accomplishments since FY 2008, including five automated marking trailers and one manual marking trailer, with three additional trailers in the 2011 budget. Of the five trailers, New York purchased one with state funds, and two were funded through the restoration act under for the State of Michigan.
- For federal fiscal year 2012: About \$4.8 million is required to complete capital equipment purchases; \$5.9 million is needed annually to operate trailers, purchase tags, and deliver tag recovery services and analyses.



A Fish and Wildlife Service mass marking trailer in operation was parked inside a hatchery building at Wild Rose.

WDNR Photo

- The importance of the project to all the Great Lakes' agencies, and the importance of managing such a program under base funding for the USFWS vs. the current progress accomplished using only add-ons.

DNR and the USFWS took the opportunity to introduce the congressional staffers to the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery and the coordination of funding sources that allowed the creation of this state-of-the-art facility.

To learn more about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Midwest Region mass marking efforts, go to ["Basin-wide Fisheries Management Mass Marking in the Great Lakes"](#) webpage.



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation honors three DNR conservationists

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State forester DeLong named "Conservationist of the Year"

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF), the state's largest conservation organization, has named Division of Forestry administrator **Paul DeLong** the federation's "Conservationist of the Year." The formal presentation of the award was made at the WWF's annual meeting on April 9, in Stevens Point.



"Conservationist of the Year" Paul DeLong (center) joined Smoky Bear and Bucky Badger to celebrate Arbor Day in 2010.

WDNR Photo

The WWF is comprised of 160 hunting, fishing, trapping and forestry-related

organization and is dedicated to conservation education and the advancement of sound conservation polices. Through its Conservation Achievement Awards, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation honors individuals, affiliates, businesses, organizations and others for their outstanding contribution to conservation and conservation products.

“Paul DeLong, DNR’s Forestry Division administrator and Wisconsin’s chief forester, has done an excellent job in leading Wisconsin’s highly successful forestry program and assuring the sound management of Wisconsin forests for both today and for future generations,” said Jack Nissen, WWF’s president. “Wisconsin’s forests are a major factor supporting Wisconsin’s fish and wildlife, our papermaking and printing industries, and our highly-important tourism industry.”

“Paul is a highly qualified natural resource professional who has shown the great skill for bringing diverse interests together to support Wisconsin’s forestry programs,” added Jerry Knuth, chair of the federation’s Forestry and Parks Committee. “The efforts of Paul and his forestry colleagues have provided outstanding fish and wildlife habitat for sportsmen and women in Wisconsin, and we are truly grateful for that.”

In accepting this honor, DeLong shared the recognition with those he works with in the Forestry Division and its partner programs: “The hard work and dedication of my colleagues here at DNR is in large measure responsible for these accomplishments and, therefore, they deserve to be co-recipients of this award. It takes a team effort to successfully accomplish our work here.”

Under his leadership, DeLong has overseen the completion of the Statewide Forestry Plan; has obtained the green certification of Wisconsin’s public and private forests; has worked to maintain large blocks of forestland and minimized development in the wildland-urban interface; has explored possibilities for expanding the use of forest biomass for energy; and addressed the increasing threat of invasive species in Wisconsin’s forests.

Warden Bayer lauded for work with youth, complex investigations

Jason Bayer, a DNR conservation warden who helped the Phillips Cub Scouts get hooked on fishing, allowed citizens to ride-along on shifts, and waded through complex game investigations in 2010 netted a top honor from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.



George Meyer (left), executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and chief warden Randy Stark (right), joined Jason Bayer and his wife Dawn following the federation’s presentation of the “Warden of the Year” honor.
WDNR Photo

Bayer, stationed in Price County, received the “Warden of the Year” award from the

62-year-old conservation organization.

Attending the ceremony, DNR chief conservation warden **Randy Stark** said Bayer "is a great example of how to carry out the department's mission to protect the people and natural resources of Wisconsin through a balance of enforcement, education, community involvement and good customer service.

While Bayer hosts an annual learn-to-hunt turkey program, he added a learn-to-hunt bear program in 2009. Twelve youth and adult novice hunters joined in that two-day event. Last year, Bayer repeated the program and it grew by five participants to 17. Bayer hosted a "Get Hooked on Fishing" event for the Phillips Cub Scout troop, as well as numerous safety presentations on hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle operation and boating.

"Warden Bayer also has had many complex, high-profile fish and game investigations in the last year," Stark added. "He responds to citizen calls for service in a timely and effective way. And he has no doubt protected the lives of many through his efforts, as well as safe-guarded the resources."

DNR retiree Dave Vetrano takes home "Water Conservationist" honor

"You know when you retire and people call you a "Rogue Biologist" you have really accomplished something for natural resources and are appreciated by the public," read the ceremony program. That is the phrase used to describe the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's 2011 Water Conservationist, **Dave Vetrano.**"



"Water Conservationist of the Year" Dave Vetrano is flanked by Wildlife Federation president Jack Nissen (left) and executive director George Meyer as he accepts his award.

WDNR Photo

Stationed in the La Crosse office, Vetrano worked as a fish manager for 33 years. Prior to completing his degree in fish management at UW-Stevens Point, he served in the Air Force as a B-52 crew chief.

Vetrano began his career at DNR as a seasonal worker, moving "through the ranks to become the fish manager with responsibility for fish management in a major part of Western Wisconsin's Driftless Area."

"In 1983 he pioneered the idea of stocking the local trout streams with fingerlings raised from wild trout rather than hatchery fish. This resulted in a survival rate improvement of 6-1 and made many of the streams self-sustaining once again."

Following on the heels of this successful innovation, Vetrano developed a new system for bank stabilization. Working on flood-prone streams in the hill country of Western Wisconsin, he created what is called the "Little Underwater Neighborhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotaxic Salmonids" or "Lunkers." The result was increased trout populations.

"Dave and his colleagues' efforts have added 400 miles to the region's list of classified trout waters. Western Wisconsin now has the finest trout fishing in the Midwest and arguably in the country."



Secretary Stepp reminds staff to submit nominations for PRIDE Awards

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Originally sent out as a message from Sec. Cathy Stepp on April 8. April 22 is the deadline.

Every employee enjoys and appreciates recognition, and it can be especially sweet coming from colleagues they respect and work with every day. One of the key defining traits of any successful organization is in how it recognizes and rewards its people.

We all know that recognizing, rewarding, and showing appreciation for loyalty, for performance, for innovation, for taking care of our customers is absolutely critical. Knowing you are having a positive impact, that others see it and that a colleague has taken the time and effort to recognize it can mean all the difference in someone's work life.

For three years now, our DNR PRIDE Awards program has provided an opportunity for you to recognize and appreciate your colleagues and their dedication to our work and core principles. I am pleased to announce we will continue this valued program and nominations are being accepted open till April 22, 2011 for the [2011 Secretary's PRIDE Awards](#).

The PRIDE acronym reflects the positive qualities demonstrated by DNR employees along the path to achieving our mission, and these key qualities are reflected in five award objectives: Partnership, Resource, Individual Achievement, Dream Team, and Excellence. These objectives embody the mission and goals of our agency in serving the people of Wisconsin and are combined into the PRIDE Awards.

I encourage you to recognize the hard work of your colleagues by submitting their names and a description of their accomplishments for these awards. Winners will be formally recognized in a special ceremony to be held at the State Capitol on May 11th.

2010 PRIDE Award winners were: **Carmen Wagner**, forestry hydrologist, Forestry Division; **John Olson**, furbearer ecologist, Land Division; **Jerry Ronspiez**, finance specialist, South Central Region, Customer and Employees Services Division; the **Kinnickinnic River Dream Team: Xiaochun Zhang, Marsha Burzynski, Sharon Gayon, Deborah Johnson, Rachel Sabre** and **Bizhan Sheikholeslami**; and **David Vetrano**, fisheries team supervisor, West Central Region, Water Division.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the DNR and the people of Wisconsin. I am proud to work with such a committed workforce, and I look forward to highlighting your efforts through the PRIDE awards.



A walk in the park: Fox Valley Tech maps Peninsula State Park

By: Kathleen Harris, Peninsula State Park

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Take a 102-year-old park that has several trails based on old logging roads. Mix in a variety of recreational pursuits (from horse trails, closed in 1964, to present-day mountain bike trails). Add 14 wells, miles of sewer lines, and a treatment plant that can process 50,000 gallons of sewage a day. You have the "recipe" for the infrastructure of Peninsula State Park, a complex infrastructure, to say the least.



Two students preparing to locate the trailhead and walk the trail with the units pre-set to take shots every 25 feet. All of the park's trails and roads were shot in this manner.

WDNR Photo

Recently, Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) students, enrolled in professor Bruce Cecka's Surveying II class, volunteered to help clarify the park's infrastructure, including the 40-mile trail system. Forty students spent two days at Peninsula using geographic positioning satellites (GPS) to map everything from roads to sewer covers.

"This graded project is a summative assessment," said Cecka. "Students learn how to collect data and draft GIS maps using ARC (Applied Regression Computing) software."

When preparing his students for Peninsula's 3,776 acres, Cecka told them to "Think of it as a walk in the park."

Proceeds from Friends of Peninsula State Park's sales of nature merchandise funded the group's meals.



Group photo of the FVTC students and instructors, along with Peninsula Park's maintenance mechanic **Chuck Smrz**, aka "the park encyclopedia."

WDNR Photo

Trails, roads and campgrounds in Peninsula are well-marked, but published maps reflect "best guesses" as to exact locations. Today's technology enables the park to collect data using state-of-the-art GPS units that take readings off of several

satellites. The units the students used were precise, with a sub-foot accuracy of six inches.

For some of the FVTC students, it was their first time at Peninsula. "It's gorgeous along the lakeshore," said natural resources major Andrew Krsnich. "This project has given me surveying experience, and a fun time."

Matt Jacob hadn't been to Peninsula since camping in Tension Bay Campground as a boy. He was part of the team that mapped Skyline and Highland roads. "There were a couple of spots where the cedar trees were thick, and the satellite reception bad." They got the job done, nonetheless.



The 22 GEO XH units used by the students to map the majority of the park, with sub-foot accuracy.

WDNR Photo

The collaboration between FVTC and Wisconsin State Parks is a win-win for all concerned. Students gain valuable real-life work experience, and Peninsula staff now can use high-tech data to improve maps for accuracy, safety and maintenance. An excellent use of tax dollars and donations to Friends of Peninsula State Park.

Footnote: *Kathleen Harris is a naturalist at Peninsula State Park.*



Department of Administration implements LEED guidelines for GEF 2

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The Department of Administration's (DOA) Division of State Facilities is committed to leading by example in improving the energy and environmental performance of existing and new state-owned buildings. By adopting [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings \(LEED-EB\)](#) guidelines and implementing sustainable practices in the facilities it owns and leases, DOA is cutting energy use and conserving resources.

DOA isn't requiring certification to the US Green Building Council's [LEED-EB Green Building Rating System](#) for its buildings, but is adopting minimum performance standards based on LEED tools and approaches, as well as measurement and reporting requirements.

LEED for Existing Buildings Rating System helps building owners and operators measure operations, improvements and maintenance on a consistent scale, with the goal of maximizing operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts. LEED for Existing Buildings addresses whole-building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance programs and systems upgrades. It can be applied both to existing buildings seeking LEED certification for the first time and to projects previously certified under LEED for New

Construction, Schools, or Core and Shell.

Much already has been done, e.g. bathrooms have been renovated to LEED standards; lights have been changed and more.

LEED-EB goals include:

- Diverting at least 50% of ongoing consumables (paper, toner cartridges, glass, plastics, cardboard, corrugated cardboard, food waste and metals) from the waste stream;
- Diverting 80% of used batteries from the waste stream;
- Diverting 75% of furniture, equipment, TVs and appliances from the waste stream through reuse or recycling;
- Recycling 100% of mercury-containing lamps;
- Recycling 70% of construction waste due to alternations or additions to the building.

Current efforts center on waste management. GEF 2 occupants are urged to read the following papers to learn more about each facet of waste management efforts.

- [SolidWaste Management: Facility Alterations and Additions Recycling \(MRc9\)](#)
- [SolidWaste Management: Durable Goods Recycling \(MRc8\)](#)
- [Solid Waste Management: Ongoing Consumables Recycling \(MRc7\)](#)
- [SolidWaste Management Policy \(MRp2\)](#)



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central Office success stories

- The following testimonials are addressed primarily to the Northern Forest field crew working on the deer population research project. The crew was comprised of Bureau of Science Services research scientists **Chris Jacques** and **Mike Watt**, and a UW-Madison graduate student, intern and field technicians; and

Dear Deer Researchers: Thanks for the opportunity to help learn more about the magnificent White Tailed Deer. My son Patrick and I appreciated how you made us feel as though we were part of your professional team. Your dedication and enthusiasm for your work left us wanting to return another day. Therefore, I'm certain you will see us in the coming fawning season. *May deer be with you, Ralph Fischer, Conservation Congress*

Just wanted to drop you a line to let you know how much we enjoyed being able to watch and participate with your team in the deer trapping project. It was a very good opportunity for us to learn more about what you were doing, how you do it, and what you hope to learn from it. We were very impressed with how professional, personable, dedicated, and knowledgeable all of the team members were and how willing you all were to answer our 11-year-old son, Hunter's, many questions and to let him observe. We also appreciated the team listening to our input (and sometimes venting!) regarding the decrease in deer numbers we've seen both as hunters and as owners of a local DNR registration station. *Thanks much, Peggy & Gary Thran*

Hunting is a big part of our life and much of the area economy is dependent on a quality deer herd. We believe that this study will provide valuable information that can only improve the deer population in the future. *Sincerely, Randy & Jackie Petit,*

Petit Realty, Winter, WI

- From **Kari Lee-Zimmermann**, DNR's Wisconsin Conservation Congress liaison: Wisconsin Conservation Congress would like to announce the recognition of the following individuals for their dedication and exemplary work in the natural resources arena. These recipients are chosen by the WCC Executive Committee based on the Congress' knowledge of their work, along with nominations from their coworkers/supervisors. The awards are given each year (on May 13, 2011) to department employees (staff) that have done an outstanding job of advancing Wisconsin's conservation and natural resource management initiative.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year: **Russ Fell** (conservation warden, Spooner); Wildlife Biologist of the Year: **Tom Meier** (biologist, Milladore); Fisheries Biologist of the Year: **Larry Claggett** (retired trout habitat specialist, Bureau of Fisheries Management)

- **Caitlin Carmody**, customer service representative in the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing received this compliment from an Illinois resident: Your customer service is incredible!!!! My crappy state could learn a thing or two from the fine folks of Wisconsin. I am much happier spending my registration dollars with you than the crooks of Illinois. Wisconsin is awesome. If you ever need a consumer referral I am happy to give one. Thanks again"

Northeast Region success stories

- **MacKenzie Hannon** (warden recruit, Winneconne): Having just returned from our spring break, I wanted to be sure and THANK YOU so much for your presentation here at Winneconne High School. It appeared the students were interested in all the information you had for them and the fact that you took the time to expose students to your chosen career is a tribute to your enthusiasm for what you do. Thank you again for taking the time to prepare and present to our students and good luck with your plans. *Denise Feavel, career specialist, Winneconne High School*

- **Jennifer Borski** (remediation and redevelopment hydrogeologist, Oshkosh): I would like to thank you for sharing your expertise and your presentation at the Wisconsin's Vapor Intrusion Guidance seminars in Brookfield and Kimberly WI. We at FET appreciate your participation. *Barbara Hurula, FET executive director*

- **Staff of the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery** hosted a congressional delegation on April 6. See complete story in this issue of the "Digest:" Hi folks. I don't have email addresses for everyone with the DNR who was in attendance yesterday, so hopefully **Steven F(ajfer**, Wild Rose Hatchery supervisor) or **Steven H(ewett)**, Bureau of Fisheries Management) won't mind passing on a big THANK YOU for me to all who helped coordinate and conduct yesterday's MM (mass marking) informational briefing and demonstration at Wild Rose.

We successfully conveyed a great deal of valuable information, and I received much positive feedback from each the congressional staffers that took part in the gathering. I think our guests walked away with a very positive assessment of the work we do, and we were able to get better understanding of their respective interests. My overall assessment is that we succeeded in taking advantage of the opportunity to communicate the role and value of MM, explain the connection between the economic and ecologic health of Great Lakes, and emphasize the strength of the partnership

between the DNR, GLFC and the Service (not just on MM, but so much more). I hope all who were in attendance feel the same way. I am also confident we'll be able to use this experience to make our message delivery to key stakeholders that much more effective in the future, and would encourage folks to keep sharing ideas to help us do just that. Thanks again! *Ryan Aylesworth, intergovernmental affairs liaison (External Affairs), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Midwest Region*

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to water management specialist **Andy Hudak**, Waukesha, from Northeast Region water supervisor **Rob McLennan** regarding feedback from customer: Janice just called me to let me know how much she appreciated the time you took to explain how the water regulation program relates to the issues on her property. She has had problems getting straight answers from the county and the town. Your thoroughness and professionalism stood out to her. I really appreciate your help in Winnebago County.
- Congratulations to wastewater specialist **Maureen McBroom**, Waukesha, from *Ruekert and Mielke, Inc.*: I just wanted to pass on a compliment for Maureen McBroom. Over the past several years, she has been a tremendous asset for the Department. She is great with communities as she helps move them through the MS4 permitting process. As you know, that's not always an easy task since she is essentially getting them to do something they really don't want to do. She is extremely helpful, returns messages almost immediately and is a joy to work with.

West Central Region success story

- At a recent meeting of the Clear Waters Chapter of Trout Unlimited at Gander Mountain in Eau Claire: Fisheries field operations team supervisor **Pete Segerson** (Black River Falls); biologists **Heath Benike** (Eau Claire), **Marty Engel** (Baldwin), **Dan Hatleli** (Black River Falls) and **John Sours** (Eau Claire); and fisheries team heavy equipment operator **Bob Herman** (Black River Falls) were all presenters this past Thursday evening at a TU chapter meeting in Eau Claire. Here is a note sent Saturday by chapter president Tim Meyer:

Fisheries Staff, Thanks again to all of you for donating a few hours this past Thursday to informing the public about the coldwater resources of this area. Many of our chapter and board members travel around Wisconsin and throughout the 4-state Driftless Area and we certainly do realize what a great group of WIDNR personnel we have here in our area. We hope our well-functioning group continues to partner on future projects. You can be sure that as Wisconsin citizens and taxpayers we support WIDNR fisheries and try to spread the word on the good work that is being done. Have a good year with the fish, friends. *Sincerely, Tim Meyer, Trout Unlimited Clear Waters Chapter president*

- To **Scott (Watson**, basin supervisor, Wausau): I've shared my appreciation with **Will (Stites**, water management specialist, Wisconsin Rapids) and **Brad (Johnson**, wastewater specialist, Wausau) but wanted you to know how much I appreciate the way these two professionals get the job done. Woodside ranch is moving forward again, and was recently in contact with some changes. Brad and Will were quick to respond, which helped the applicant move forward. I can't say enough about the great work they do! I'd be remiss if I didn't also acknowledge the fine support they get from their supervisor!! **Dan Baumann**, WCR water

leader

Background provided by Dan Baumann: Woodside Ranch is a new multi-sport, youth camp facility being built in Juneau County that includes 17 baseball fields, 7 soccer/lacrosse fields, dormitories and an indoor training facility. These DNR staff worked closely with the property owners to ensure project plans would meet stormwater, wastewater and water supply requirements and protect wetland resources. Their positive approach and ability to build trust with applicants from the start, led the way to a win for the environment, the property owner, and the local economy. Other key staff not mentioned below are **Tom Gilbert** (retired wastewater engineer), and **Paul Kozol**, water supply engineer, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater.



Council Grounds State Park, Fox River State Trail reopen after storm damage

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For the most part, Council Grounds State Park and the Fox River State Trail reopened to visitors on April 20, after crews cleared debris, completed damage assessments and made repairs suffered during severe storms that passed through the state on April 10. Some trails remain closed until further notice.

The National Weather Service confirmed that a tornado had moved through Marathon and Lincoln counties that day, and another was confirmed in Winnebago and Outagamie counties. They were among 10 reported across the state that Sunday.



An excavator with a "clam bucket" helped with the cleanup of downed trees. WDNR Photo

[Council Grounds State Park](#) is located one mile west of Merrill in Lincoln County. The park initially was closed for at least three to five days, until a damage assessment determined that it would remain closed longer. Upon closing the park, DNR issued the following statement: "We will work to reopen Council Grounds as soon as possible," said Dan Schuller DNR's director of state parks and trails. "We apologize for any inconvenience the closure may cause, but visitor safety is always our first priority, and we must be certain visitors will be safe when they visit the park." Brown County Facility and Park Management, which maintains the Fox River State Trail in Brown County, reported a section of the trail between Lasee Rd. and Wrightstown Rd. closed until further notice. Heavy rains washed out a trail section and culvert near Lasee Rd. Crews conducted necessary repairs

the week of April 18.

The [Fox River State Trail](#) runs along the Fox River from Green Bay in Brown County south to Hilbert in Calumet County. Visitors were told to plan trail outings accordingly, because detours weren't marked.

Initial assessment indicated a big job lay ahead

One of the first steps taken was obtaining logging contractors to remove the large timber. Although the park road was open for management purposes, dozens of trees 60 feet and taller lay alongside the road.



Trees came down near the CCC shelter picnic area during the storm on April 10, 2011.

WDNR Photo

"The very large tracked DNR clam was used and worked well, but with tree drops all over and the track rutting, we have a mess," said Schuller. "We'll also need a development project for the CCC picnic area in the park for restoration."

Because of dozens of trees down along the trails in and east of the park's Krueger Pines Natural Area, that part of the property remains closed.

Crews were assembled from around the state

Staffs from other parks, regional wildlife and forestry staffs, and Safety and Risk Management staff came together to help with the cleanup at Council Grounds.

Northwest District park supervisor **Tim Miller** thanked all who helped with the Council Grounds cleanup after the storm tore through the Merrill area. He described the scene encountered at the park, where "hundreds of trees were snapped off or tipped over, leaving a tangled mess and blocked roads and trails. The park closed to the public early Monday morning."

"As we have seen in the past with DNR emergencies, staff from various programs showed up and pitched in to gain access to the damaged areas of the park," said Miller. Sawyer crews, equipment operators, enforcement personnel and foresters all joined in to meet the challenge. Even the Friends of Council Grounds State Park did their part in providing food and hot coffee for the workers.

"**Sara Gossfeld-Benzing**, ranger-assistant property manager, who lives at the park residence, took charge of gathering information and developing a plan of attack.

Dawn Bishop, Council Grounds Park superintendent, experienced extensive damage at her own residence in Merrill and stayed in touch with Sara, as Dawn and her family

dealt with regaining control of their lives.”



Copper Falls State Park supervisor Ben Bergey operated a chainsaw to cut up branches littering the forest ground.

WDNR Photo

“**John Leighty**, fleet management leader in Madison, quickly supplied equipment and operators **Barney Protheroe** and **Patrick Kelly**, both from Wild Rose. Facilities and lands supervisor **Paul Bruggink**, Woodruff, and **Gary Bartz**, parks specialist, Antigo, sent land technicians **Jeff Kuba** and **Glen Cahala**, Antigo, with their skidsteer. **Ben Bergey**, supervisor, came from Copper Falls State Park to run a chainsaw, as did **Scott Erickson**, supervisor, and **Dave Hladilek**, park ranger from the Lake Wissota work unit.

“**Josh Spiegel**, wildlife technician, and **Rick Weide**, wildlife biologist from Merrill also assisted. **Bill Bursaw**, assistant property manager at Rib Mountain State Park, staffed the front gate to provide information to the public concerning the closure of the park.

“**Gary Osness**, forestry technician, and **Rich Lavalley**, forester ranger, both from the Merrill Ranger Station, spent many hours cutting fallen trees. Rich also spent a great deal of time setting up a timber sale with a local logger to clear much of the bucked up logs to expedite a faster opening of the park.

“Council Ground’s facility employees **James Giede** and **Jared Reimann** worked hard at various assigned tasks throughout the clean up.

“**Sue Krantz**, Northern Region safety coordinator, and **Tom Joestgen**, DNR risk management director, also aided with the operation by supplying needed safety equipment and support.

“Thanks to the extra effort of these DNR staff, we were able to reopen Council Grounds on Wednesday, April 20, with a few trails still remaining closed,” said Miller. “The State Park and Recreation program is extremely grateful for everyone who participated.”



Department bids farewell to more long-time employees

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The February 10 “[MyDNR Digest](#)” contained a list of DNR employees who had retired between October 1, 2010 and January 15, 2011. Since that time, many more of our colleagues have chosen retirement.

Following is an updated list through March of recent DNR retirees, their

former locations and their job titles. If you haven't already learned who replaced your colleague, call the person's former supervisor or the program's general phone number to ask.

- **Mark Andersen**, West Central Region (WCR), wildlife biologist
- **Andrew Anderson**, NER, facilities maintenance specialist
- **Kenneth Anderson**, Southeast Region (SER), construction representative
- **Amalendu Bagchi**, Madison, waste management engineer
- **Bruce Baker**, Madison, division administrator
- **James Baughman**, Northern Region (NOR), forester
- **Dennis Begalke**, WCR, wastewater engineer
- **Debra Benish**, Madison, accountant
- **Jim Bishop**, NOR, regional public affairs manager
- **Susan Brisk**, NOR, forester
- **Larry Bruss**, Madison, natural resources manager
- **David Christenson**, NOR, forestry technician
- **Kate Cooper**, Madison, natural resources manager
- **Michael Coshun**, NOR, fisheries biologist
- **Steve Crary**, Madison, operations program associate
- **Michael Degen**, Dodgeville, wastewater specialist
- **Dan Egan**, Madison, information technology data services specialist
- **Mark Endris**, NOR, regional program manager
- **Eric Epstein**, Madison, conservation biologist
- **Jim Federhart**, Madison, employment relations coordinator
- **Tim Fitzgerald**, NOR, forester
- **Peter Flaherty**, Madison, attorney
- **Jim Fratrick**, SER, water resources management specialist
- **Tom Gilbert**, Madison, wastewater engineer
- **Patrick Glasspoole**, WCR, forestry technician
- **Lance Green**, Madison, air management specialist
- **Mary Hamel**, Madison, natural resources educator
- **Daniel Helf**, Northeast Region, natural resources basin supervisor
- **Craig Hollingsworth**, SCR, forester
- **Joanne Howe**, Madison, office operations associate
- **John Huppert**, NOR, forester
- **Frank Iltis**, Madison, information technology services specialist
- **Wesley Jahns**, NOR, fisheries technician
- **Mark Johnson**, SCR, forestry technician
- **Anna Kazda**, NOR, environmental program associate
- **Ron Kazmierczak**, NER, natural resources manager
- **Michael Kitt**, NER, conservation warden
- **Steven Klock**, SER, wildlife technician
- **Susan Kocken**, NER, financial assistance specialist,
- **Terry Koehn**, NOR, hydrogeologist
- **Frank Koshere**, NOR, water resources management specialist

- **Hank Kuehling**, SCR, hydrogeologist
- **John Larkin**, WCR, forestry technician
- **Joan LeClerc**, NER, environmental program associate,
- **Betty Leitz**, NOR, office associate
- **Robert Lent**, WCR, forestry technician
- **Steven Lewis**, Madison, construction representative
- **Sandra Manthei**, SER, financial assistance specialist
- **Dan McCutchin**, NER, facilities repair worker
- **James McNelly**, SER, natural resources manager,
- **Douglas Meier**, Madison, administrative policy coordinator
- **Barb Miller**, Madison, information technology data consultant
- **Linda Miller**, Madison, financial assistance specialist
- **Michael Miller**, WCR, waste management specialist
- **David Misterek**, NER, waste management specialist
- **Sheila Mittelstaedt**, SER, information technology manage
- **Charles Olson**, NOR, wastewater engineer
- **Charles Pape**, SER, wastewater engineer
- **David Paynter**, NER, fisheries technician
- **John Pfender**, Madison, water resources management specialist
- **Scott Plaster**, NOR, fisheries technician
- **Patrick Powers**, Madison, management information chief
- **Dennis Pratt**, NOR, fisheries biologist
- **Frank Pratt**, NOR, fisheries biologist
- **Peter Prusak**, NOR, wastewater engineer
- **Michael Rankin**, WCR, forestry technician
- **Garry Rapala**, WCR, forestry technician
- **Darrel Richer**, WCR, natural resources property supervisor
- **Daniel Rogers**, NER, landscape architect
- **Jerry Ronspiez**, SER, financial specialist
- **James Savinski**, NER, wastewater engineer
- **James Schaefer**, NOR, forestry technician
- **Robert Schepper**, NOR, park manager
- **Edward Schmechel**, NOR, forestry technician
- **Randy Schott**, WCR, forestry area supervisor
- **Rosemary Schuller**, SER, payroll and benefits specialist
- **Bill Schwengel**, WCR, law enforcement supervisor
- **Paul Scott**, SER, real estate specialist
- **Mark Sesing**, SCR, water resources management specialist
- **Kevin Shurilla**, SER, water supply specialist
- **Gary Steffen**, SCR, forestry specialist
- **Tom Steidl**, Madison, attorney
- **Gordon Stevenson**, Madison, natural resources program manager
- **Thomas Stunkard**, SER, water supply engineer
- **Patricia Sullivan**, Madison, financial assistance specialist

- **Michael Talbot**, Madison, natural resources program manager
- **Thomas Tewes**, NER, wastewater specialist
- **Richard Thiel**, WCR, natural resources educator
- **Gregory Treague**, NOR, forestry technician
- **Tom Turner**, NER, regional public affairs manager
- **Jim Vennie**, Madison, water resources management specialist
- **Mike Wallace**, NOR, automotive/equipment technician
- **Jane Washburn**, Madison, natural resources program specialist
- **Thomas Watkins**, Madison, program and policy analyst
- **Arno Wendler**, WCR, park ranger
- **Jannie Wille**, SER, customer service representative
- **Gerald Wilson**, Madison, financial assistance specialist
- **Russ Wilson**, WCR, conservation warden
- **Todd Wippermann**, NER, conservation warden
- **Dave Wood**, SCR, conservation warden
- **Edward Zeitler**, NOR, facilities repair worker



Bear and fish culling bills taken up before Legislature recesses

By: Paul Heinen, Secretary's Office

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The Assembly Natural Resources committee passed and sent the Bear Bill **AB 24** (Rep. Erik Severson) and the Tournament Fish Culling Bill **AB 35** (Rep. Joel Kleefisch) to the Assembly Rules Committee before leaving for recess until May 10.

The Assembly Democrats objected to a final vote on the two bills, so they were held over for a vote in May.

The Joint Committee on Finance will begin executive sessions on the Budget Bill **AB 40/SB 27** on Tuesday, April 26. The committee won't meet on Thursday, April 28, but will meet every Tuesday and Thursday in May until they complete their work on the joint bill.

Go to the ["2011 Bill Tracker"](#) for the status of all DNR-related legislation.

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



Pitch in on spring cleanup day at the MacKenzie Education Center

By: Roxanne Burgard, MacKenzie Environmental Education Center

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Are you ready to get in shape for the upcoming summer? If you are, the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center can provide a good workout during this year's spring cleanup day.

Help get the MacKenzie Center grounds ready for school groups and other visitors by coming out on April 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Teams will be assigned a variety of tasks, including trail work, raking, branch trimming, window washing, etc. Groups of

workers are welcome.

To keep your energy up, the center will provide lunch. To give the staff a count of potentially hungry workers, respond to MacKenzie Center staff at (608)635-8105.

The MacKenzie Center is located 25 miles north of Madison. You can find directions and information on the center at the "[MacKenzie Environmental Education Center](#)" website.

Footnote: *Roxanne Burgard is the group facilitator at the MacKenzie Environmental Education Center.*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title:** "Air & Waste Division Performance Measures Report for 2010"

Description: In 2006, the Air & Waste Division identified new outcome-based and output-based goals and performance measures. Division administrator Pat Stevens recently released the 2010 status report, which provides information on the division's progress towards obtaining those goals and objectives.

Link: "[Air & Waste Division Performance Measures Report for 2010](#)"

- **Title:** "More electronics are being recycled because of E-Cycle Wisconsin"

Description: On April 14, a DNR news release announced that "Wisconsin households and schools recycled more than 24 million pounds of electronics in 2010 under a new statewide recycling program." According to a participant survey, the program is helping recycling businesses expand, while saving taxpayer money.

Link: "[More electronics are being recycled because of E-Cycle Wisconsin](#)"

- **Title:** "DNR announces proposed 2011 deer hunting season structure"

Description: On April 14, DNR issued a news release on the department's proposal for "...a 2011 deer season structure that promises a return to a more traditional hunting framework by eliminating the October antlerless hunt and allowing the first deer to be either sex in the [Chronic Wasting Disease](#) management zone."

Links: "[DNR announces proposed 2011 deer hunting season structure](#)"

- **Title:** "Snow Secrets"

Description: Lynn Levine, co-author of "Mammal Tracks and Scat: Life-Size Tracking Guide," has just published a new children's fiction environmental education book for 8-12 year olds called "Snow Secrets." With two main themes of motivating girls to study nature and stressing the acceptance of different learning styles, two sixth grade students work together to solve nature mysteries

Link: "[Snow Season](#)"

- **Title:** "The Natural Inquirer on Climate Change Research"

Description: The "Natural Inquirer" is an educational newsletter and activity guide published by the U.S. Forest Service and targeted towards middle school students. The Winter 2011 edition looks at climate change research about the short-term atmospheric cycle known as El Niño.

Link: "[The Natural Inquirer on Climate Change Research](#)"



Take heed when working and playing outdoors

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Whether your job at DNR takes you into the outdoors, or you work in an office and enjoy the sunshine on your off hours, the following information from the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "SunWise Program" should be taken to heart. These tips can save you from the short-term agony of a sunburn and the possibility of skin cancer.

The following resources are designed to help educate children and their families about the importance of sun safety:

- **"Don't Fry Day" Pledge and Resources**

To help reduce the rising rates of skin cancer, the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention has designated Friday, May 27 as "Don't Fry Day" (DFD). The council's goal is to encourage sun safety awareness by reminding everyone to protect their skin while enjoying the outdoors, on "Don't Fry Day" and every day. This year marks the third annual DFD, and educators are invited to take the DFD Pledge by teaching about sun safety in their spring and summer activities. Educators can sign up for the pledge at EPA's ["Take the Don't Fry Pledge"](#) webpage. Coloring sheets also are available on the website.

- **"Teaching Sun Safety to Kids: A Tool for Outdoor Recreation Staff"**

EPA created its award-winning online sun safety certification program ["Teaching Sun Safety to Kids: A Tool for Outdoor Recreation Staff"](#) especially for camp counselors, coaches, scout troop leaders, lifeguards and others who work with youth outdoors. The interactive training provides users with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to instill life-long sun-safe behavior in the youth in their care.

- **New Media Tools**

Check the UV Index, which predicts UV intensity levels on a scale of 1 (low) to 11+ (high), for a city or ZIP code at ["UV Index."](#) In addition, a UV Index "app" is available for downloading to smart phones, as a widget/gadget on webpages, and more. SunWise plans to launch a SunWise Facebook page. Join the conversation on sun safety, test your sun safety knowledge, become a "fan" of SunWise, and stay up to date on news and events related to sun-safe behaviors.

- **State-specific skin cancer factsheets**

EPA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have created factsheets with state-specific information about skin cancer incidence and prevention. Visit ["Skin cancer facts for your state"](#) to find PDF versions of the factsheets. If your state isn't listed, check back later, additional factsheets will be available as they're completed. For more information on any of the above resources, email [SunWise](#). In addition, visit ["SunWise, a program that radiates good ideas"](#) to find free education resources.



Kathleen Kennedy Townsend keynote at Wisconsin Women in Government banquet

By: Wisconsin Women in Government news release

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Dinner to be held on May 17 at the Monona Terrace in Madison

Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Maryland's first woman lieutenant governor, will be the keynote speaker at Wisconsin Women in Government's (WWIG)'s 24th Annual

Scholarship Recognition Banquet on Tuesday, May 17 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.



Kathleen Kennedy Townsend will be the keynote speaker at this year's Wisconsin Women in Government banquet on May 17.

WDNR Photo

"We are thrilled to have Kathleen Kennedy Townsend keynote this year's banquet," said Angela Arrington, WWIG President. "Kathleen Kennedy Townsend has led a remarkable life of public service and humanitarianism, as Maryland's first woman Lt. Governor, as an environmental attorney, and as a health care and education advocate. She is a true role model for women serving in government at all levels."

The eldest child of Robert and Ethel Kennedy, Townsend has taught foreign policy at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She currently serves on the boards of directors of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Civic Works, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, and the Institute for Human Virology.

Individual banquet tickets are on sale now for \$65 and can be purchased online at [Wisconsin Women in Government](#). Those interested in attending can also call (608) 848-2321 for more information. Sponsorships are also available, and information on sponsorship levels and how to reserve your table can be found at the same website. The banquet will begin with a networking and cocktail reception from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The dinner, program and keynote address will run from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., followed by the recognition program. New this year, the networking reception will feature a photo booth from Focus Photography and the banquet will feature a silent auction.

WWIG's annual dinner is the premier bipartisan political event in Wisconsin, attended by more than 1,000 state and local elected officials, business leaders, public servants and political enthusiasts. Since 1987, WWIG has raised money to support and encourage women to choose a career in government service. Each year, the organization awards scholarships to women pursuing undergraduate study in public service and administration and government affairs.



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

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