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DNR wildland firefighters in Texas to help suppress massive fires

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Texas fires have consumed more than one million acres

On the morning of Monday, May 2, Trent Marty, chief of the Forest Protection Section, reported that DNR's "equipment and personnel arrived safely in Texas Sunday." The Division of Forestry had received a request for assistance on April 28, and the next day Gov. Scott Walker issued a [news release](#) announcing that Wisconsin would be sending firefighting equipment and personnel to the Longhorn state.

Specifically, the department sent a "heavy dozer, four complete heavy units and a type 6 engine, with a strike team leader and a strike team leader trainee," said Division of Forestry administrator and state forester Paul DeLong. He summed up the situation in Texas as "beyond comprehension, with more than 1.5 million acres having burned in the past few weeks."

Forty-three states and the Virgin Islands have been fighting back the flames of several Texas fires, fanned by high winds and re-ignited by lightning strikes. A prolonged drought combined with unsafe debris burning and sparks from equipment have been blamed for the initial start of the fires.

"The state requesting the aid pays all expenses associated with the aid including equipment transport, operation, and maintenance and all salary and fringe costs for staff accompanying the equipment," read the governor's news release.

In making a decision to provide assistance, the Forestry Leadership Team stated that its priority is to meet "Wisconsin forestry workload objectives" this year.

DeLong enumerated the factors that went into his program's decision to lend a hand:

- Wisconsin has had a strong state-to-state partnership with Texas over the years in assisting each other during times of need.
- The immediate and long-term prognosis of the fire situation in Texas is dire.
- So far this year, Wisconsin has experienced unprecedented below-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation, keeping fire danger low.
- The short-term weather forecast for Wisconsin indicates continued cool and moist conditions.
- Forestry's leadership team evaluated progress made on its priority workload

objectives, determining that the program is, for the most part, on target to meet those objectives.

- The team identified a couple of potential workload concerns and committed to assuring that this work is accomplished, even if it means reallocating resources around the state.
- The Texas fires will provide key required experience and training to staff.

"Texas has come to our aid in previous years during drought-related active fire seasons in Wisconsin," DeLong explained. "It's great to be able to return the favor and continue our very beneficial mutual aid relationship."

For more information on the current fire situation here in Wisconsin, visit DNR's ["Burning Permits"](#) webpage.



Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers throw long one for urban forestry

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On April 27, the Green Bay Packers fulfilled their commitment through the "First Downs for Trees" program to plant a tree in the Green Bay area for each first down they make during the regular football season. To date, 319 trees have been planted in such communities as Green Bay, Ashwaubenon and De Pere. The Oneida Tribe and Brown County also received trees from this program.



Packers' president and CEO Mark Murphy (right) lifted a shovel of dirt to plant one of the 12 trees donated to Red Smith Park in Green Bay.

WDNR Photo

"There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from the municipalities, the Oneida Tribe and Brown County. Everyone wants a "Packer" tree planted in their community," said Tracy Salisbury, DNR urban forestry specialist in Green Bay.

With a tremendously successful first year, the Packers have agreed to fund First Downs for Trees for the upcoming football season.

The goal is to help reduce the 450 tons of carbon emitted by the Packers' air charters

to regular season road games.

The Green Bay Packers and Wisconsin Public Service Corp. approached Northeast Region's urban forestry staff Salisbury and **Olivia Witthun** (now the regional urban forestry coordinator in the Southeast Region) about donating and planting trees in an effort to reduce the team's carbon footprint.



Students from Red Smith School in Green Bay proudly participated in the First Down for Trees event in this once-barren park.

WDNR Photo

"Not only will these trees help reduce the Packer's carbon footprint, they will reduce storm water runoff, create energy savings through natural summer cooling, increase property values and improve the overall quality of life in the communities," added Salisbury.

Go to the ["Super Bowl XLV Green Bay Packers"](#) website for the team's story on the event at Red Smith Park. The team issued the news release "Packers Green Team announces 'First Downs for Trees'" [news release](#) in 2010, heralding the start of the program.



Department gears up for migration to Windows 7/Office 2010

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The Bureau of Technology Services (BTS) is gearing up to move the department's computer network users to the next generation in desktop services, Microsoft Windows 7 and Office 2010.

The Windows 7/Office 2010 Project Team has steadily moved forward developing project plans to migrate all desktop, laptop and tablet devices (PTD, personal technology devices) from Windows XP/Office 2003 to Windows 7/Office 2010.

"Microsoft Windows 7/Office 2010 product suites installed on servers and PTDs offer efficiencies in managing DNR's complex network of servers, computers, PTDs and printers," said Richard Doty, director of the Bureau of Technology Services. "The agency also should see some cost savings as we deploy and implement new feature offerings."

Deployment of Windows 7/Office 2010 is tentatively scheduled to begin on

July 1, with completion projected to occur by December 30.

Test lab and training available to make transition smooth

In preparation for the migration, BTS has designed and opened a test lab, located in room G11 in GEF II, where all machine models, DNR developed software applications and third party software packages are being tested. BTS staff and the programs' information technology coordinators (ITCs) continue to work with employees to complete this process.

"We've identified a number of ways to deliver training to users," said Doty. "Desktop training tools will be available to make the transition easier."

View project communication in Windows 7 Migration SharePoint

All project communication is available to you to view in a folder on the [Windows 7 Migration SharePoint Setup](#) site. If you're asked to login once you're at the site, provide the following information:

- **User:** your DNR network logon ID, e.g. doej
- **Password:** your logon password



Further requirements for LEED qualification for GEF 2 now available

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In the April 21 issue of "MyDNR Digest," the story "[Department of Administration implements LEED guidelines for GEF 2](#)" described the commitment to comply with standards for existing buildings by adopting [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Existing Buildings](#), developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

DNR is required to publish those policies that will apply to GEF 2 and the La Crosse State Office Building, as it did in the April 21 "Digest." DNR facility designer Kim Guthrie provides the following additional policies for your review.

- [Sustainable Purchasing Policy](#)
- [Sustainable Purchasing Extended Policy: Ongoing Consumables](#)
- [Sustainable Purchasing Extended Policy: Furniture](#)
- [Sustainable Purchasing Extended Policy: Reduced Mercury in Lamps](#)



Governor nominates board members to six year terms

By: Governor's Office news release

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Upon confirmation, will represent agriculture, hunting and business

Gov. Scott Walker has announced three appointees to the [Natural Resources Board \(NRB\)](#). If confirmed, these appointees will represent the farm, hunting and business communities.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau President William Bruins, Wisconsin Hunters' Rights Coalition co-founder Greg Kazmierski, and Shawano businessman Terry Hilgenberg have been nominated to serve six-year terms. The Wisconsin NRB sets policy for the DNR.

"Everyone in Wisconsin has a stake in our natural resources – for recreation, for quality of life or business. It's critical that the state Natural Resources Board represent all our interests when it makes tough decisions about managing our

environment. I'm confident these people will help make sure that happens," said Gov. Walker.

William Bruins, Waupun, owns and operates the Homeland Dairy family farm in rural Fond du Lac County. Since 2003, he's served as president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest general farm organization with more than 22,000 members. Since 2010, he also has served on the Waupun Area Board of Education. Bruins has been a member of the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Board of Visitors and has been involved in a number of agricultural stewardship committees.

Gregory Kazmierski, Mukwonago, is the owner and operator of Buck Rub Outfitters, Ltd., an archery range and retail store in Pewaukee. He grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm in Mukwonago, and in the 1970s he was a licensed well driller. Kazmierski is a co-founder of the Wisconsin Hunters' Rights Coalition, current president of the Safari Club International Dairyland Committee of the Wisconsin Chapters, and is a former Wisconsin Bowhunters Association board member and chapter president.

Terry Hilgenberg, president of the family-run Hilgenberg Realty with offices in Shawano and Green Bay, has had a 35-year career in real estate marketing, development and investment. He is the past vice chairman of the Wisconsin state Real Estate Board, past regional vice president of the National Association of Realtors and past president of the Wisconsin Realtors Association. Hilgenberg has been active in Shawano local service groups including Rotary, Optimist and Chamber of Commerce, and contributed to rewriting the Shawano County Shoreland Zoning and Animal Waste and Disposal ordinances.

Bruins, Kazmierski and Hilgenberg replace outgoing NRB chair **Jonathan Ela** and members **Gary Rohde** and **John Welter**, whose terms expired on May 1.

The new appointees are expected to attend the next NRB meeting set for May 24-25 in Madison.

Chapter 15 of the Wisconsin Statutes delineates the formal duties of the seven-member board. The governor appoints the board members, with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Three members must be selected from the northern and southern portions of the state and one member serves at large. Terms expire on May 1.

Board meeting [dates and locations](#) are listed on the Internet. [Meeting agendas and materials](#) are posted two weeks prior to each meeting.



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Northeast Region success stories

- **Chris Lilek** (hydrogeologist, Plymouth): Thank you for the time you took to meet us there to get a first hand look at the site (Wisconsin Power & Light, former Manufactured Gas Plant, in Fond du Lac). We're very pleased with the growth and efficacy of our phyto system and we appreciate your support of the work we've done. *Jill Stevens, Alliant Energy Corporation*
- **Randy Larson (fish propagation supervisor, Wild Rose)**: Thank you for giving the Yahara Fishing Club members a tour of the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery on Friday, April 15th. We were all so impressed with the new facility and how generous you were with your time and expertise. At 2 1/2 hours, we really got a good understanding of how the DNR stocks the waterways of Wisconsin. We all

really appreciated the tour and learned so much! *Ann Puser*

- **Casey Jones** (wastewater specialist, Oshkosh): Thanks for your follow up. Your common sense approach and constant communication with us has been great to see and work with. We enjoy our land for many things other than just farming so we want to make sure we are always doing what is best for us and our neighbors. Keep up the good work! I know your plate is constantly full. *Kurt Duxbury, Quantum Dairy*

- **David Allen**, conservation warden (Green Bay): I want to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation for all your efforts on March 23 & 24 in support of our agency's operations. More specifically the search for a missing elderly male subject on the county and state owned land in the township of West Kewaunee. Your willingness to assist in challenging circumstances made the difference, not only for our agency, but for the family of the victim as well. Your sense of duty and professionalism were evident to everyone associated with this call, and reflects not only on you personally, but on the Department of Natural Resources as well. For those of us that have had the pleasure to work with you in the past, this was not a surprise, but rather another reinforcement of our confidence in your abilities. Again, thank you for your assistance, and please feel free to call on the Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department if ever there is a need. *Sheriff Matt Joski and Chief Deputy David Cornelius*

- **Chris Kratcha**, conservation warden, Sturgeon Bay: On behalf of the Door Kewaunee Business and Education Partnership and Sevastopol School District, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your participation in the job shadow program. Thank you, specifically, for hosting Josh Paul at the DNR to job shadow. Please relay my thanks to any of your employees who assisted with the job shadow. We believe strongly in the benefits of exposing area high school students to potential career opportunities in the hopes that they are able to make informed decisions about their futures. We do realize that it would be impossible for us to offer this program without the commitment that you have contributed to this experience. We appreciate the time you and your employees took out of your busy schedules to host Josh. With much appreciation, *Stacie Tess Administrative Assistant Door Kewaunee Business & Education Partnership*

Northern Region success stories

- All too often while performing daily job functions, the only feedback an employee receives is when they are involved in a controversial issue or their decisions and actions are brought into question. This is probably never more true than when working for an agency that is continually under the public microscope such as the Department of Natural Resources. Criticism can seem to be never ending while accolades are generally nonexistent. It is with that thought in mind that I would like to pass on my sincere appreciation for all of the work **Marty Kiepk**, Northern Region fisheries technician, has done on the Turtle Lakes Chain, Vilas County. Over the course of the last year, Marty has been directly involved in a fish survey that is now nearing completion on our chain of lakes. He has performed spring netting, young of the year recruitment assessment, summer creel census and winter creel census. In addition he has provided several very informative articles for each of our last three newsletters. He has also made a

presentation at last years Turtle Lakes Association Annual meeting (on the 4th of July weekend!) and has willingly accepted an invitation to present the final report at this year's annual meeting (also on the 4th of July weekend!). He has interacted directly with hundreds of fishermen and riparian owners. He has done all of this with a smile on his face and always with the offer to do more. After all of these encounters, I have yet to have heard one negative comment regarding Marty. ALL the feedback has been positive. The Department should be proud to have an employee such as Marty within its ranks. *Mark Schuelke, president, Turtle Lakes Chain Association*

- I would like to let you know how appreciative and thankful the citizens of the Merrill Area, Lincoln County and the tornado disaster victims are for your agency's assistance this weekend. Our community was ripped apart by an F3 Tornado on Sunday April 10th. We knew 100s of volunteers would descend on the damaged area this weekend. We were fearful the volunteers, if left unmanaged, could be a serious problem. Your Forestry Strike Team, headed by Mr. **Phil Theiler** (area forestry leader, Woodruff), coordinated a massive volunteer effort both Saturday and Sunday with a command post at the Merrill High School. Problem Solved! The coordinated volunteer system was an unbelievable success. The men and women that made up this team are shining examples of professionalism. I cannot thank them enough – but I tried. Please let Mr. Theiler and his “team” know that they did great work! *Brian M. Sladek, director, Lincoln County Emergency Management*

I want to express my sincere thanks to you [Phil Theiler] and the other department staff that served on the IMT in Merrill last weekend. I know that all of you gave up precious family time to assist a community in a time of great need. The note from Brian speaks to why I am so very proud to work with individuals like you and the other IMT members. Your service and dedication to the people of this state is awesome and greatly appreciated. *DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp*

This was truly a TEAM effort. Thank you all for a job well done. *Phil Theiler*

There were many NOR staff from various programs that pitched in to gain access to the damaged areas of Council Grounds State Park as well as providing support to the citizens of the Merrill area. It would be difficult to list all of the NOR staff that provided support both directly and indirectly in this effort. Any list would most likely result in missing someone for this recognition. With this in mind, we applaud the efforts of all those involved.

Go to [“Volunteers cleanup tornado destruction”](#) for a Newswatch 12 story on DNR's help with the cleanup.

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to waste management specialist **Melanie Burns** (Milwaukee) from the *clerk for the Town of Random Lake*. Melanie helped her complete the Town's Annual Report for their recycling program. The following note was received with the submittal of their annual report: Melanie, Thank you so much for your help with this. The Department of Natural Resources needs more dedicated, helpful employees like you! Thanks again!
- Congratulations to environmental program associate **Heidi Jasso** (Milwaukee) from the *Regional Office Administrator of the Wisconsin State Public Defender's office*: As chair of this year's State and University Employee Combined Campaign

(SECC), I wish to acknowledge Heidi's contribution to our board this year. Her participation as a member of the board is key to the success of our efforts in raising funds for this year's campaign. We would not be able to function without the hard work of our board members. The creativity and determination of our board has allowed us to operate under budget. In addition to her work on the board, Heidi has been an invaluable member of the training sub-committee. The SECC raises nearly \$250,000 for various non-profit agencies throughout Milwaukee, Wisconsin and nationally. I thank you for allowing her to actively participate in our endeavors.

- Thank you to waste management engineer **Rob Grosch** (Waukesha) from the *(Southeast Region) Green Team*: Thank you very much Rob for the donation to the Southeast Region Green Team. Rob participated in a neighborhood clean-up activity as part of Earth Week events at the Waukesha Service Center and found a ten dollar bill amidst the trash. He could have kept it and bought himself a nice lunch, but he gave it to **Nancy Gloe** for the Green Team. We will keep it safe and use it for a "green" purchase in the near future. Thank you very much.
- From **John Hammen**, acting regional director: Wednesday, May 4, is State Employee Recognition Day. The Regional Leaders and I hope you enjoy this day and take pride in your many accomplishments. You have every reason to be very proud of your work.

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch will be visiting Southeast Region Headquarters at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday to meet and greet staff at your work stations throughout the building. I hope you will be available to meet her and share a story about your latest project. Whether you work at a busy front desk, behind-the-scenes, or on high profile projects, the work you do is meaningful.

Just within the last few days there has been media coverage of stories accentuating the meaningful work you accomplish every day. The joy and excitement on the faces of the schoolchildren from Neeskara Elementary School and Hawley Environmental School celebrating Arbor Day at Hawthorn Glen Outdoor Education Center, the father with his young child fishing at an urban pond, and the planting of 200,000 trees at the Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit are but three recent examples that reflect the long-term value and importance of the mission you undertake every day.

How about the 273 volunteers who spent a very un-spring like Saturday teaching fishing skills to 927 eager youth at our 27th Annual Kids' Fishing Clinic or the unbridled civic enthusiasm in Oak Creek as they envision the future of 250 acres of previously contaminated lakefront land along the Lake Michigan. Many of you are working on permits that will protect our natural resources while resulting in new and expanded job opportunities throughout the area. The work you do truly does make a difference.

Thank you for what you do every day throughout the year. We welcome this opportunity to add our thanks and appreciation.

- Fisheries supervisor **Sue Beyler**, Waukesha, received a complimentary [letter](#) from Milwaukee Chapter of Muskies recognizing the work of fisheries biologist **Ben Heussner** to stock muskies in the Pewaukee River.

West Central Region success stories

- From **Bill Evans**, hydrogeologist supervisor to **Tom Woletz** (air and waste

leader), *Scott Humrickhouse* (regional director) and **Mark Giesfeldt** (director, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment): I thought it was worth sharing this compliment (from Wilson, below) with you due to the effort and complexity involved with this cleanup and successful redevelopment of this industrial site in Prairie du Chien.

Dave Rozeboom (hydrogeologist, Wisconsin Rapids) provided technical oversight for the chromium and PCP investigation and cleanup at Quality Wood Treating. **Loren Brumberg** (waste management specialist, Eau Claire) provided redevelopment assistance and will be drafting the certificate of completion providing future property owners with an exemption to environmental liability of the pre-existing contamination.

Thanks Loren and Dave Rozeboom: As always, it was a pleasure working with you and your staff! Your practical approach to issues is most appreciated. I look forward to more successful associations with you on other Brownfield development sites! *Best regards, Scott C. Wilson, PSS, vice president, Wisconsin Environmental Services, Ayres Associates*

From Tom Woletz: It seems anything Dave and Loren are associated with goes well, if not beyond well.

From Scott Humrickhouse: Dave and Loren - excellent work, as always. Thank you!

From **Pat Stevens**, Division of Air & Waste administrator: Dave and Loren, thanks for your great work!

- To regional director **Scott Humrickhouse: Steve Courtney's** (area forestry leader, Wisconsin Rapids) **Incident Management Team** job did a great job assisting with the recent tornado response in Adams County. While it was a "short team", they were more than up to the task.

This was one of the first real incidents for **Kent Glazer** (forester, Stevens Point), safety officer; Rob Dix, assistant safety officer; and **Deb Dix**, medical unit leader (environmental enforcement specialist, Wisconsin Rapids).

While it was truly a team effort, Steve Courtney's leadership was a driving force. *Thanks, Bob Sloan, WCR risk management specialist.*

See thank-you letter [letter](#) from Martin Hillert, Jr. chief executive officer of the Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative.



Spring sturgeon spawning: the pictures tell it all

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Everyday, DNR fisheries supervisor and lake sturgeon "expert" Ron Bruch files his report on the previous day's sturgeon spawning activity in the northeastern part of the state. Rather than reading a summary of the large amount of work going on to protect and propagate this historic fish, you can learn a lot by looking at some of the many photos that document this annual ritual.

Worth ten-fold a thousand words

Watch sturgeon spawning on one of the underwater cameras at [Wolf River Cams](#). You'll see spawning sturgeon moving back and forth in front of the camera, kicking up debris as their eggs settle on the river's bottom.



The four "Sturgeon Horsemen" with combined sturgeon tagging experience exceeding 175 years. (Left to right) retired fisheries employees **Mike Penning**, **Dan Folz** and **Jack O'Brien** are part of the sturgeon crew everyday. Retired Division of Lands employee **Mike Primising** joins the crew for a day or two every year, providing pearls of wisdom and keeping everyone grounded in sturgeon reality.

WDNR Photo



(Left to right) **Ryan Koenigs**, a fisheries biologist stationed in Oshkosh, is working on a graduate degree on age validation of walleye, which will change the way walleye age is estimated and the age data interpreted throughout North America. Here he is seen working with fisheries biologist **Ron Bruch**.

WDNR Photo



(Left to right) **Bob Marin**, fisheries technician(probably the best dip netter on the planet, per Ron Bruch), watched for a sturgeon to net. Volunteer **Tracey Galicia** (retired firefighter and fisheries surveys volunteer) holds the net. Behind the net is **Jack O'Brien**, fisheries technician, who has done sturgeon fin bone aging for over 40 years. Carlos Echevaria, US Fish and Wildlife Service pulled a netted sturgeon up the bank at Riverside Park on the Wolf River in New London. A supervisor of a warm springs federal fish hatchery in Georgia, Echevaria and his crew have joined DNR the

past 11 springs to collect lake sturgeon eggs for sturgeon restoration in Georgia and Tennessee.

WDNR Photo



(Left to right) DNR retiree **Dave (Red) Paynter** and fisheries technician **Paul Cain** wrestled with a male lake sturgeon while attempting to get a length measurement.

WDNR Photo



Wardens honored for outstanding service statewide

By: Joanne Haas, Office of Communication

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2010 Chief's and Regional Awards announced in all regions

They're life-savers, educators, investigators, communicators and community leaders. Conservation wardens do a lot in a day--not to mention an entire year. Warden **Bob Lee** of Plymouth turned a combination trespass/hunting violation case into a bridge-building kitchen talk with a group of out-of-country hunters who knew nothing about Wisconsin laws.

Wardens **Michael Hirschboeck** of Racine, **Juan Gomez** of Kansasville, and **Mitch Groenier** and **Doug Zeihen**, both of Waukesha, all responded quickly to the community of Eagle, shortly after a devastating tornado ravaged the area. The wardens searched for missing residents and used all-terrain vehicles to stop armed looters from threatening property owners at damaged homes.

These wardens and more of their colleagues recently were honored with regional and Chief's Cup awards for outstanding performances in 2010. Read about their accomplishments, by region.

West Central Region

- **Outstanding Overall Program Award: Paul Sickman**, stationed at Hudson after serving Baldwin and Kenosha, for his dedication to safety programs; collaboration with law enforcement agencies to solve key investigations; life-

saving techniques; and community involvement through organized hunts and fishing events; and writing a local column.

- **Outstanding Public Education Award: Barry Fetting**, based in Marshfield after also serving Clark County, for his work instilling a conservation ethic among area youth by speaking at schools, coordinating outdoor activities and volunteering for community events.
- **Outstanding Investigation Award: Eric Grudzinski**, stationed in Mauston after serving Wausaukee, for assistance in investigation into suspected cougar attacks on domestic animals.

Northern Region



Warden supervisor Dave Zebro presented Nick Nice the Heritage Award and the Best Overall Program Award for his work in the community.

WDNR Photo

- **Heritage Award, Best Overall Program Award: Nick Nice**, stationed solo in Taylor County, for doing the work of two field wardens through his original Community Warden program fueling local involvement in protecting and promoting the outdoors among all ages.
- **Outstanding Arrest Award: Andy Dryja and Brad Dahlquist**, stationed in Langlade County, for their “never give up” team attitude and work with the public in the flawless investigation leading to the arrest of a long-time poacher.



Andy Dryja and Brad Dahlquist received the Outstanding Arrest Award for their investigation and the arrest of a poacher. Dryja also received the Recruit Training Award for organization of the fall 2010 training.

WDNR Photo

- **Best Public Relations Program: Jill Schartner**, based in Drummond, for her wide-ranging work with youth to adults in the schools, lake associations, learn to hunt events, snowmobile safety outreach efforts, community groups and Girl Scout camps.



Jill Schartner, Best Public Relations Program award recipient, was joined by Dave Zebro.

WDNR Photo



Dave Zebro recognized Kelly Crotty with the Outstanding Safety Program Involvement honor for program management and work with volunteer safety instructors.

WDNR Photo

- **Outstanding Safety Program Involvement (Ed Manthei Award): Kelly Crotty**, stationed in Florence County, for keen attention to all facets of the safety program.

Chief's Cup awards:



The chief warden honored warden Jeff Dauterman for his work organizing a banquet attended by 230 volunteer safety instructors and their guests.

WDNR Photo

- **Recreational Safety Warden: Jeff Dauterman**, based in Antigo, assisted local conservation wardens in organizing a volunteer safety instructor banquet for instructors in Wood, Portage and Marathon counties. More than 230 instructors and their guests attended.



Dave Oginski received a commemorative cup from Randy Stark for his work with John Windt and Matt Mackenzie on a potential CWD case following the escape of deer from a deer farm near Ashland.

WDNR Photo



Chief warden Randy Stark joined John Windt and Matt Mackenzie at the awards

banquet.
WDNR Photo

- **Deer Farm Investigation: John Windt** of Pence, and **Matt MacKenzie** and **Dave Oginski**, both based in Ashland, all played key roles in handling an unprecedented potential chronic waste disease situation involving deer escapes from a roughly 900-acre deer farm with faulty fencing. The wardens worked with surrounding landowners, as well as wildlife biologists, to resolve the situation that ended with final tests showing no disease.

- **Felony Mistreatment of Animals Case: Amie Egstad** and **Pat Quaintance**, both based in Bayfield, completed a thorough investigation of a case of felony mistreatment of animals causing death that led to jail time for the suspect along with penalties that included license revocations, probation and fines.



Conservation wardens Amie Egstad and Pat Quaintance investigated a case of animal mistreatment and death that culminated in the punishment of the perpetrator.

WDNR Photo

- **Panfish Overbagging on Chippewa Flowage: Sue Miller** of Hayward and **Tom Heisler** of Winter investigated an anonymous tip about panfish-overbagging on the Chippewa Flowage that led them to two groups of Milwaukee anglers and 2,238 panfish caught by 13 fishermen. The case is pending and involves possible revocation of fishing privileges.



Randy Stark presented Chief's Cups to Tom Heisler and Sue Miller for their investigation of panfish overbagging on the Chippewa Flowage.

WDNR Photo

- **Animal Poachers in Northwest Counties: Jesse Ashton**, based in Luck, spent two years building a case of illegal animal poaching against two groups operating in Barron, Burnett and Polk counties. Ashton also organized a group of wardens to assist in the investigations and suspect interviews. The case ended in 2010 with fines and restitutions worth \$13,569 and 29 years of license

revocations.

- **Warden Training: Tim Otto** of Antigo dedicated hours as a firearm instructor for his colleagues at Ft. McCoy training centers. His goal is to make the force better, safer and ready.



Tim Otto received a Chief's Cup from Randy Stark in recognition of time spent instructing fellow wardens of the use of firearms.

WDNR Photo

- **Deer Poaching Turns Marijuana-Gun Case in Marathon County: Ron Nerva** of Tomahawk and **Rick Peters** of Merrill went to a Wausau house to investigate a deer poaching complaint and discovered more than 100 marijuana plants growing in the basement. Working with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department, the wardens were instrumental in the offenders' arrest on charges of various drug violations, in addition to the illegal deer poaching.

<mailto:~~>"



Wardens Rick Peters and Ron Nerva, with chief warden Randy Stark, were instrumental in the arrest of deer poachers who also were growing marijuana in their home.

WDNR Photo

- **Recruit Training: Andy Dryja**, stationed in White Lake, hosted the 2010 recruit fall training in the Antigo area, taking it upon himself to organize high-quality training for the new wardens.
- **Learn to Bear Hunt in Price County: Jason Bayer**, based in Phillips, organized the second annual bear hunt, attracting 17 students who harvested nine bears. Assisting Bayer were wardens **Heather Gottschalk**, Poynette; **Joe Frost**, Dodgeville; and **Mitch Groenier**, Waukesha; along with DNR wildlife biologist **Pat Beringer**, Park Falls.



Randy Stark joined Jason Bayer as he received a Chief's Cup for organizing the second annual bear hunt in Price County, last year.
WDNR Photo

South Central Region

- **Overall Law Enforcement Program: Nathan Kroeplin**, based in Dane County, for his successful development of a well-balanced program of enforcement, education, community involvement in conservation, and teamwork with fellow wardens statewide.
- **Chief's Cup Awards: Paul Nell**, Horicon, was recognized for his investigations of violations in the septic hauling business that led to filing six charges in Dodge County. **Nick Webster**, Monroe, for his exceptional work with the snowmobile program, including assisting stranded motorists during the February 2011 blizzard.

Northeast Region

- **Marijuana Grow Investigation: Joe Paul**, based in Lakewood, worked with county, state and federal authorities to break an illegal marijuana plant operation, leading to arrests and the subsequent eradication of about 25,000 plants.
- **Amberg Bank Robbery: Dave Oginski Jr.**, based in Wausaukee, kept a calm demeanor while bird-dogging a suspected bank robber's vehicle until it was safe to make a high-risk felony stop with a Crivitz officer, only 12 minutes after the robbery.
- **Deer Research Award: Mark Schraufnagel**, stationed in Shawano, for contacting every landowner in several townships in the Eastern Farmland Area to secure 85 approvals to conduct DNR deer research, and for assisting the research project's helicopter crew to identify approved private property areas and those off limits.
- **Thrill Kill Case: Andy Lundin** and **David Allen**, both stationed in Green Bay, and Bob Stroess of Manitowoc, followed a tip about a wildlife killing competition that resulted in the arrest and penalties against 12 males in two counties.
- **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Rescue: Mike Neal**, stationed in Baileys Harbor, upon hearing radio transmissions from the Door County sheriff's department, started life-saving measures on two unconscious individuals found on the ice. Neal, with the help of a local fishing guide, loaded the two into a truck

and got them to shore and a waiting ambulance. Both survived.

- **Charter Boat Arson Investigation: Ryan Volenberg**, based in Mischoot, helped crack a case involving a series of boat fires at Kewaunee Harbor by arranging an interview with an informant and the state Department of Criminal Investigations.

- **Thunderbird Game Farm Case: Steve Daye**, conservation warden based in Green Bay, collaborated with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agent on a two-year investigation to build a strong case against a long-time habitual violator of wildlife regulations. The suspect is facing charges in state and federal courts.

Southeast Region

- **Overall Award: Mark Pearce**, stationed in Plymouth, for handling nearly 200 hotline issues and complaints while keeping the “Harmony in the Woods” initiative front-and-center in Sheboygan County and maintaining a community profile with volunteer instructors.

- **Captive Animal Investigation:** Milwaukee-based wardens **Nick Blankenheim**, **Gervis Myles** and **Steve Sanidas** and **Rick Reed** of Waukesha assisted the Milwaukee Police Department in a sexual assault case turned animal hoarder situation involving hundreds of amphibians and reptiles, including numerous endangered alligators and crocodiles. The wardens were charged with the responsibility for and physical removal of these animals.

- **Diversity Learn to Hunt Pheasants: Gervis Myles**, Milwaukee, and **Dave Holmes**, Poynette, collaborated to organize the hunt for inner-city Milwaukee children, their teachers and mentors.

- **Marijuana Grow on State Land: Mike Clutter**, Plymouth, took the lead with a multi-agency response to two marijuana sites in the Kettle Moraine State Forest that led to the arrest of two suspects at gunpoint. Clutter also is leading an effort to train a dog to detect marijuana on the stem.

- **Culture Bridge in Multiple Gun-Deer Season Violations: Bob Lee**, based in Plymouth, responded to a trespassing complaint involving several hunters in search of turkeys. Lee met with the suspects from out-of-country around the kitchen table, under the pretense of explaining Wisconsin hunting rules once he realized they had no knowledge of state laws or hunter education requirements. Even though he ultimately did issue some citations, Lee gained new allies by using community warden principles to gain compliance by treating these individuals with respect and compassion.

< Respond to Read Response Emergency Three Awards: Cup >

- **Eagle Tornado: Michael Hirschboeck** of Racine; **Juan Gomez** of Kansasville; and **Mitch Groenier** and **Doug Zeihen**, both of Waukesha, responded quickly to Eagle, shortly after a devastating tornado ravaged the area. The wardens searched for missing residents and used all-terrain vehicles to stop armed looters from threatening property owners.

- **2010 Snowstorm: Michael Hirschboeck** of Racine, **Randy Dunkel** of Sturtevant, **Nick Blankenheim** of Milwaukee and **Doug Zeihen** of Waukesha rushed to aid stranded motorists and State Patrol troopers trapped by the winds and blowing snow on the interstate when Racine, Kenosha and Walworth

counties were slammed by 27 inches of snow in nine hours.

- **Racine/Kenosha Tornado:** **Michael Hirschboeck** of Racine, **Juan Gomez** of Kansasville, **Randy Dunkel** of Sturtevant and **Jason Roberts** of Sugar Creek rushed into action after a fall tornado raced across Walworth, Racine and Kenosha counties, downing power lines in the path of homebound commuters, trapped residents in their homes, and toppled semitrailer trucks traveling the interstate.

Footnote: *Joanne Haas is a public affairs manager working with the Division of Enforcement and Science.*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title:** "Earth Day Education Fair Slideshow"

Description: **Elisabeth Olson**, recycling and waste reduction educator in the Bureau of Waste and Materials Management, compiled this slide show from photos taken at our second annual DNR Earth Day Environmental Education Fair held in the central office on April 18. Photos in the slide show were taken by Chris Tall, educator in the bureaus of Forestry Business Services and Air Management, and Theresa Stabo, education and outreach coordinator in the Bureau of Fisheries Management.

Link: ["Earth Day Education Fair Slideshow"](#)

- **Title:** "Firefighters from 43 states battle Texas wildfires"

Description: This link on the National Association of State Foresters website takes you to a "New York Times" story on the partnership among states and the Virgin Islands to gain control of wildfires sweeping across Texas. Read "DNR wildland firefighters in Texas to help suppress massive fires" in this issue of "MyDNR Digest."

Link: ["Firefighters from 43 states battle Texas wildfires"](#) (Scroll down and click forward to page 2)

- **Title:** "2011 Citizen Resolution Status"

Description: This report contains the results of the resolutions introduced in each county at the 2011 spring hearings conducted by the Conservation Congress. The Congress's Rules and Resolutions Committee determined which committee would review each resolution.

Link: ["2011 Citizen Resolution Status"](#)

- **Title:** "State activates dead bird reporting hotline to track West Nile virus"

Description: The Wisconsin Department of Health issued this news release on May 2 announcing activation of the statewide, toll-free "Dead Bird Reporting Hotline at 1-800-433-1610" so the public can help health officials track the West Nile virus (WNV). Birds are an early indicator of the presence of the virus, which is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes.

Link: ["State activates dead bird reporting hotline to track West Nile virus"](#)

- **Title:** "Keeping the North the North"

Description: This story in the October 2005 issue of the "Wisconsin Natural Resources" magazine "reflects on a decade of preserving the flavor and character of 'the North,'" as described by the Northern Region's management team. This article

followed a public involvement effort in 1994, resulting in the development of a report, "Northern Initiatives: A Strategic Guide for DNR Management in Northern Wisconsin in the Next Decade (1996-2006)."

Link: ["Keeping the North the North"](#)

- **Title:** "Cheese brine helps de-ice Polk County Roads"

Description: Bob Germer, a DNR waste and materials management specialist in Spooner explained how the cheesy composition works: "...the wetness around the salt crystals actually allows the salt to melt on its own, so they get a quicker response to road clearing than if they were just putting down straight salt and sand." A technical support manager for the Polk County Highway Department worked with the DNR to arrive at a win-win that both keeps the roads clean and is safe for the environment.

Links: [Cheese brine helps de-ice Polk County Roads"](#)

["Positive results from dairy salt brine test on winter road"](#)

- **Title:** "Beyond the Trees: Stories of Wisconsin Forests"

Description: The United Nations declared 2011 the [International Year of Forests](#), making it the perfect time to enjoy a new book on Wisconsin's state and national forests. Nature writer Candice Gaukel Andrews is the author of "Beyond the Trees: Stories of Wisconsin Forests," published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press.

Link: ["Beyond the Trees: Stories of Wisconsin Forests"](#)

- **Title:** "Science Times"

Description: The Bureau of Science Services periodically publishes this e-newsletter containing information on the science behind the department's policies. The current issue contains news the many recent Science Services staff publications and presentations; science and technology happenings; staff accomplishments; and updates and announcements.

Link: ["Science Times"](#)



Three new DNR-related bills introduced; NRB nominees named

By: Paul Heinen, Secretary's Office

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In addition to the introduction of a bill in the Assembly and two in the Senate, Gov. Scott Walker nominated three new members to the Natural Resources Board. The Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee is expected to vote on their confirmation in the near future. Read about the nominees in the "Digest" story "Governor nominates board members to six year terms."

For a summary of DNR-related legislation in the current session, go to ["Bill Tracker."](#)

- **AB 104** (Rep. Daniel LeMahieu) requires that at least one Natural Resources Board member have an agricultural background and that at least three members hold hunting, fishing or trapping licenses.
- **SB 75** (Sen. Terry Moulton) sets parameters for deer hunting seasons.
- **SB 77** (Sen. Joe Leibham) expands the membership of the State Trails Council to eleven members.

The Joint Committee on Finance continues voting on the 2011-2013 Budget.

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



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