

1. <b>Rasmussen takes reins as deputy of Division of Water</b>	2. <b>State forester offers forestry program's strategic direction</b>
3. <b>Bike to Work Week June 6-10 centerpiece of DNR biking statewide</b>	4. <b>DNR's Niehaus receives Virginia Hart honorable mention</b>
5. <b>As weather warms up, state declares Heat Awareness Day</b>	6. <b>Work on budget bill expected to wrap up in few days</b>
7. <b>Endangered Resources seeks feedback on Natural Heritage Inventory portal</b>	8. <b>Another successful learn to hunt event in Clark County</b>
9. <b>Southeast Region publishes new Air Quality Advisory Guidelines for staff</b>	10. <b>Forester ranger creates factsheet to answer questions on burning</b>
11. <b>Around the state...DNR employees shine</b>	12. <b>Seven eagles rehabilitated after landfill poisoning returned to wild</b>
13. <b>Two centennials anchor June's Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine</b>	14. <b>Links of interest...don't miss them</b>
15. <b>Updating voice mail message good for internal and external callers</b>	16. <b>Nationwide tornado outbreak reminds everyone to be ready</b>
17. <b>DNR partners with Ice Age Trail Alliance and others to build trail</b>	

---

## Rasmussen takes reins as deputy of Division of Water

By: DNR Weekly News release

[Index](#)   [▼Next](#)   [▲Top](#)   [Print](#)

**Russ Rasmussen** has taken over as deputy administrator for the Division of Water. Rasmussen has worked for the State of Wisconsin for 19 years, spending the last 13 years with DNR in several capacities, most recently as the director of the Bureau of Watershed Management.

"I'm pleased that Russ accepted the offer of this leadership position, and I look forward to working closely with him," said **Ken Johnson**, Division of Water administrator. "Russ' experience in private business and government, his knowledge of water resources and issues, and his management skills are a great asset to the management team."

Rasmussen holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Edgewood College in Madison. He has 16 years of private sector experience.

"I'm excited to work with such a great staff and management team to continue to maintain and improve the water and fisheries resources that make Wisconsin such a great state in which to live," said Rasmussen.

Previously, Rasmussen worked for the Wisconsin departments of Administration and Transportation. He's been director of DNR's Bureau of Watershed Management since 2004.



## State forester offers forestry program's strategic direction

● Index ▲ Prev ▼ Next ▲ Top ⌂ Print

**Editor's Note:** Paul DeLong is the administrator of the Division of Forestry. He recently sent this message to Division of Forestry staff and the Department Leadership Team.

I am pleased to provide you with the final version of our "[Division of Forestry's Strategic Direction](#)." This document is the culmination of rigorous thinking and hard work by many, both within and outside the Division of Forestry, over the last year and a half. I want to thank those who participated in this process.

The completion of the "Strategic Direction" is a significant accomplishment and our new administration greatly appreciates the work done to complete it. **Cathy Stepp** and **Matt Moroney** have commented to me that they now have a much clearer understanding of the division's role, relative to others within the diverse forestry community, in protecting and sustainably managing the forests of Wisconsin. They also appreciate the work that's been done to make the difficult choices about how we intend to maintain or reshape the work of the division to most effectively fulfill our role.

I, along with the rest of the Forestry Leadership Team (FLT), greatly appreciated the questions, feedback, concerns and ideas expressed at the "statewide" meetings held back in January and the insights you shared during the comment period. The FLT reviewed staff comments, along with those from our external partners, and considered those comments when revising the strategic document. The linked "[Response to comments](#)" document explains a) why changes were made, b) defines terms and clarifies concepts that reviewers found confusing, and c) discusses intent statements and decisions that received a lot of comments, but weren't changed.

If you're interested in seeing [all the comments](#) submitted, they can be found on the Division's "Strategic Direction" webpage.

I know many of you are wondering how and when the Strategic Direction will be implemented. As I mentioned in my last "From the Chief" article, much work remains to be done before we do this. FLT is actively discussing how best to "operationalize" the final "Strategic Direction." This work will begin in June and will be the focus of activity for much of the rest of 2011.

Although we should have our path forward outlined by the close of the year, we are not planning to implement all aspects of the new "Strategic Direction" at once.

Instead, we will evaluate what can be implemented immediately and in the near-term, versus what might be most effectively implemented a little further down the road. I and the rest of FLT will continue to communicate with you as we determine how to implement actions.



## Bike to Work Week June 6-10 centerpiece of DNR biking statewide

By: Mitch Nussbaum, Bureau of Technology Services

● Index ▲ Prev ▼ Next ▲ Top ⌂ Print

Wisconsin "Bike to Work Week," which runs from June 6-10, is a statewide celebration of an inexpensive, healthful, enjoyable and environmentally benign form of transportation. DNR is a sponsor of the Bike Federation of Wisconsin's "Bike to

Work" programs.

Around the state, DNR employees are organizing bike-to-work events and challenging each other to use their bikes and leave their cars at home.



Mitch Nussbaum took this photo of his group, consisting of **Jim Baumann**, (blue jacket) Bureau of Watershed Management; and **Dan Joyce**, (behind Baumann) Bureau of Watershed Management at the intersection of John Nolen Dr. and North Shore Dr.

WDNR Photo

In Madison," Bike to Work Week" starts with the "["Ride the Drive"](#)" event on Sunday, June 5, when six miles of downtown streets will be closed to cars and open for biking and walking. It concludes with a "Clips of Faith Beer & Film" at [Olin-Turville Park](#).

In Milwaukee, the celebration features "Morning Commuter Stations" every day at locations downtown, at the Urban Ecology Center and along the Hank Aaron trail. It concludes with a "Bikes@Work Bike Fair" on Saturday, June 11, at the Urban Ecology Center. Other Bike Federation events are planned in La Crosse and Waukesha. For details, see the ["Bike Federation of Wisconsin"](#) website.

The Bike Federation also has invited workplaces around the state to a "Get Up and Ride Wisconsin Bike Challenge." DNR employees are encouraged to form teams with their co-workers and to record their biking miles on the Challenge website. A monthly prize drawing will award bike equipment and clothing to lucky winners. For more information, go to the ["Challenge"](#) website or the ["DNR Bike to Work"](#) website.

#### **"Bike to Work" events for central office riders kick off Friday before**

For Central Office, the main event is the "Bike to Work Day Ride" on Tuesday, June 7. Groups of DNR employees will ride to work from five directions, converging on GEF II at 7:45 a.m. for refreshments and free bike tune-ups, courtesy of Machinery Row Bicycles. For details and maps, check the DNR "Bike to Work" website again or contact me, [Mitch Nussbaum](#).

To prepare for "Bike to Work Week," the Bike Federation of Wisconsin will offer "tips for bike commuters" at noon on Friday, June 3 on the GEF plaza or in room G09 if the weather doesn't cooperate.

#### **Plenty of challenges to inspire riders to hit the roads**

By tradition, the start of good biking weather is also the time for bureau and regional commuter challenges, when DNR employees encourage each other to use non-polluting forms of transportation to work. Some examples:



The north and east side riders converged last year as they neared GEF 2. Included in the group were **Kristi Minahan**, (pale blue rain pants) Bureau of Watershed Management; **Andrew Craig**, (yellow jacket) Bureau of Watershed Management; **Fran Keally**, (blue jacket & red helmet) Bureau of Watershed Management; **Tim Cooke**, (red jacket) Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment; **Dave Siebert** (blue jacket), Office of Energy; and **Kelly Kearns**, (black jacket & yellow helmet), Bureau of Endangered Resources.

WDNR Photo

- DNR's Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis has challenged its staff to ride 5,000 miles between April and October.
- Bureau of Watershed Management staffers are tracking their bike miles. So far, almost 30 staff members are participating, and anyone interested is welcome to start. This year's goal is "as many miles as possible." Contact [Bob Masnado](#) for details.
- The Air and Waste Division and Southeast Region are competing for "fabulous prizes" in a "Take a Break from Exhaust Challenge." [Peter McMullen](#) is the SER contact, and [Martin Burkholder](#) is the contact in central office.
- The Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis is sponsoring a bike commute challenge from April 1 through October 31. They keep their log open year-round to tally miles commuted. Last summer, four participants (out of eight people in the office) totaled 2,318 miles, equal to the distance riding from Madison to Minneapolis to Seattle to Portland, and then south to a spot seven miles north of Grants Pass, OR. For further information, contact [Jeff Schimpf](#).

Wherever you are in Wisconsin, you can participate by:

- Biking to work
- Participating in the "Get Up and Ride" challenge, by [logging your miles](#) on the webpage.
- Sending [Cindy Hoffland](#) photos of DNR employees biking to work, to be

posted on the “Bike to Work” webpage. You’re welcome to contribute pictures to the webpage even if your workplace doesn’t have organized “Bike to Work Week” activities.

**Footnote:** *Mitch Nussbaum is an information systems specialist.*



## DNR's Niehaus receives Virginia Hart honorable mention

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

**Christine Niehaus**, property manager for the Turtle Flambeau Scenic Waters Area, stationed in Mercer, received a Certificate of Honorable Mention at the 28th Annual Virginia Hart Award ceremony held on May 26. Division of Land administrator **Kurt Thiede** accepted the award on Niehaus’s behalf.



Christine Niehaus received Honorable Mention for the 28th Annual Virginia Hart Award.

WDNR Photo

Sylvia Cantu Smith, training officer with the Department of Administration, and Sharon Hunter, Education Program supervisor at the Department of Public Instruction, shared the 2011 Virginia Hart Award.

The Virginia Hart award is given annually to a woman in state government in honor of exemplary performance in public service that improves the quality of life for the people of Wisconsin.

Niehaus is a 23-year veteran of the department, beginning as a forester responsible for 52,000 acres of state-owned land in Iron County. In 2009, she accepted a transfer to become the property manager of the “crown jewel” Turtle Flambeau Flowage.

The nomination paper refers to Niehaus as having an “untiring work ethic and unbridled enthusiasm” for her work. On the night of July 27, 2010, she pulled together her experience and willingness to go beyond her job description in response to a category 3 tornado that tore a swath eight miles long and one and a half miles wide through the center of the flowage.

As a forester, Niehaus had learned and applied the incident command system that the department draws upon in situations such as this, and assumed the role of incident commander. Most importantly, Niehaus’s timely, well-coordinated and cool-headed management following the destructive storm resulted in injuries, rather than deaths given the remoteness of campsites and visitors.

“From the rescue operations right into the damage assessment and recovery, it was a

seamless transition all based on personal self-confidence of her abilities," read the nomination in closing.

The Virginia Hart awards are given in honor of Wisconsin's first woman cabinet member. Virginia Hart served as secretary of the Department of Regulation and Licensing, chairperson of the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, and chair of the Labor and Industry Review Commission. Upon her retirement from state service in 1983, friends and colleagues established a fund in her name for recognizing a woman in Wisconsin state service each year. On March 24, 2007, Virginia Hart passed away at the age of 92, but her legacy lives on through this award.



## As weather warms up, state declares Heat Awareness Day

By: Division of Emergency Management news release

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

Heat can kill. That's why Wisconsin Emergency Management and the National Weather Service are reminding people of the dangers associated with extreme heat and promoting safety measures. Governor Scott Walker stressed the importance of this danger by proclaiming June 9 "[Heat Awareness Day](#)."

Heat is the number one weather-related killer in the United States. In 2010, excessive heat claimed 138 lives across the country.

In 1995, two major killer heat waves affected most of Wisconsin resulting in 154 heat-related deaths and over 300 heat-related illnesses. Summer heat waves have been the biggest weather-related killers in Wisconsin for the past 50 years, far exceeding tornadoes and severe storms.

### To help keep cool this summer, here are some tips to keep safe in hot weather

- Never leave children, the elderly, disabled persons or pets in a parked car, even briefly. Temperatures in a car can become life threatening within minutes. On an 80-degree day, the temperature inside a car, even with the windows cracked slightly, can reach 100 degrees in less than 10 minutes!
- Keep your living space cool. Cover windows to keep the sun from shining in. If you don't have an air conditioner, open windows to let air circulate. When it's hotter than 95 degrees, use fans to blow hot air out of the window, rather than to blow hot air on your body. Because warm air rises, basements or ground floors are often cooler than upper floors.
- Slow down and limit physical activity. Plan outings or exertion for the early morning or after dark, when temperatures are cooler.
- Drink plenty of water and eat lightly. Don't wait for thirst, but instead drink plenty of water throughout the day. Avoid alcohol or caffeine and stay away from hot, heavy meals.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Add a hat or umbrella to keep your head cool...and don't forget sunscreen!
- Don't stop taking medication unless your doctor says you should. Take extra care to stay cool and ask your doctor or pharmacist for any special heat advice.
- Infants should drink breast milk or formula to get the right balance of water, salts and energy. You may supplement your infant's fluids with an additional four

to eight ounces of water per day, but don't dilute formula beyond what the instructions call for, unless instructed by your doctor.

- Taking a cool shower or bath will cool you down. A shower or bath will actually work faster than an air conditioner. Applying cold wet rags to the neck, head, arms and legs also cools down the body quickly.

A complete version of this [release](#) contains additional important information, including the following:

- information about people at increased risk of heat-related illness
- symptoms of heat-related illness
- an explanation of the National Weather Service's "Heat Wave Program" in Wisconsin
- a chart of Wisconsin weather-related fatalities from 1982-2010
- graphics on heat waves in Wisconsin and the speed at which a closed automobile heats up in direct sunlight

For additional safety tips and information, visit the ["ReadyWisconsin"](#) website, where you also can stay in touch with "Ready Wisconsin" on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



## Work on budget bill expected to wrap up in few days

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

[Index](#) [▲Prev](#) [▼Next](#) [▲Top](#) [Print](#)

The Joint Committee on Finance is expected to complete its work on the 2011-2013 Budget in the next few days. It then will take the legislative bill drafters about a week to draft the bill. It's anticipated that the Assembly will take up the bill the week of June 13, after which it will be sent on to the Senate for its consideration.

The full Legislature will return on June 7.

Check out ["2011 Bill Tracker"](#) for the status of all legislation impacting DNR. The governor has signed a number of DNR-related bills recently, including:

- **SB 19** (Sen. Sheila Harsdorf), now Wisconsin Act 19, removes the mandate on municipal water disinfection.
- **SB 59** (Sen. Neal Kedzie), now Wisconsin Act 25, will delay the effective date for pier registrations now known as **Wisconsin Act 25**.
- **Special Session AB 8** (Assembly Organization Committee): this legislation revises the Administrative Rulemaking process found in **Wisconsin Act 21**.
- **AB 35** (Rep. Joel Kleefisch), now Wisconsin Act 24, allows fish culling during tournaments is **Wisconsin Act 24**.

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



## Endangered Resources seeks feedback on Natural Heritage Inventory portal

By: Drew Feldkirchner, Bureau of Endangered Resources

[Index](#) [▲Prev](#) [▼Next](#) [▲Top](#) [Print](#)

The [Natural Heritage Inventory \(NHI\) Portal](#) is the primary tool the Bureau of

Endangered Resources (BER) uses to provide access to the NHI Database, the state's main repository for occurrences of rare species and high-quality natural communities. Because the software that currently supports the NHI Portal will be discontinued in the next one to three years, Endangered Resources staff is exploring various options that will allow it to continue providing needed data to portal users in an efficient manner, while dealing with current fiscal realities.

If you're an NHI Portal user, you can help by taking a few minutes to answer some questions about your experiences with the portal. Go to the "[Survey for NHI Portal Users](#)"

**Footnote:** *Drew Feldkirchner is a conservation biologist. Email him at [Drew Feldkirchner](#) or call him at (608)267-5129 with any questions.*



## Another successful learn to hunt event in Clark County

[Index](#)   [▲Prev](#)   [▼Next](#)   [▲Top](#)   [Print](#)

### **Photos worth a million words**

**Conservation warden Adam Hanna**, stationed in Neillsville and a member of the Lower Chippewa Team, sent in these photos from a Learn to Hunt Turkey event this spring in Clark County. Donating their time to make this learning experience a success were the instructors and mentors, in association with the Southern Clark County Safety Instructors. He sent a special note of thanks to members of the Brotherhood Outdoors.



Brothers (left to right) Josh and Zach Anason proudly displayed their turkeys, backed up by (left to right) mentors Joel Fuecht and Mark Burns, and warden Adam Hanna. WDNR Photo

Hanna explained that this event drew the highest number of participants, at nine. The group consisted of adults and youngsters, men and women, and a variety of hunting/outdoors experience.

Mentor Joel Fuecht, who is a taxidermist, helped hunters preserve their memories of the outing by donating turkey fan mounts for all who killed turkeys.



Josh Anason shot his first bird, a two year old Tom, on private property that the owner opened up for the hunt.

WDNR Photo

"I enjoyed the variety and enthusiasm that this group brought. Four of our new hunters were able to harvest birds during the mentored weekend hunt," said Hanna. "Thanks again to all the mentors who took the time to scout and gain access to private lands for this year's hunt."



## Southeast Region publishes new Air Quality Advisory Guidelines for staff

By: Released by John Hammen, Southeast Region

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Next](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

### *DNR employees leading by example*

This spring, the Bureau of Air Management decided to discontinue announcing "Air Quality Watches" (based on previous day forecast) due to the potential for increases in the number of notifications under proposed revisions to the federal ambient air quality standards and to lessen confusion between "watches" and "advisories." The department will continue to issue "Air Quality Advisories," however.

Air quality monitoring and notifications are year-round activities due to the health impacts associated with ozone and fine particles. DNR has issued "Air Quality Watches and Advisories" since 2006 as a joint effort between the Bureau of Air Management and the National Weather Service.

The department issues an "Air Quality Advisory" when elevated levels of ozone or fine particles actually reach, or will likely reach, a level that's unhealthy for sensitive groups on the "Air Quality Index" at the orange level in specified counties. The department then notifies the National Weather Service, which in turn issues an "Air Quality Advisory" message to the media. Sensitive groups include active children and adults who spend long periods of time outdoors, the elderly and people with existing illnesses such as asthma, heart and respiratory diseases.

Southeast Region staff will receive "Air Quality Advisory" messages by phone, email

and posted announcements. Individuals can receive notices through a listserv sign-up at DNR's ["Subscribe to Air Management updates"](#) or by calling the Air Quality Hotline 1(866) DAILY AIR.

The Southeast Region encourages (staff) "Leading by Example" through campaigns like "Take A Break From Exhaust." This fun and easy activity allows individuals to keep track of their voluntary actions, accumulate points, and calculate the environmental impact of travel choices. The campaign runs from mid-May to mid-September.

The following guidelines suggest steps that you can take to reduce pollutant levels every day, but especially on "Air Quality Advisory" days. Work with your supervisor and consider taking voluntary steps in your work unit. Note: law enforcement, rescue work and critical resource protection activities are exempt from these guidelines.

#### **Air Quality Advisory workplace guidelines**

- Minimize vehicle travel. Consider meetings via conference call or Live-Meeting. If travel is required, use public transit if practical, carpool and/or use Ethanol-85 fueled vehicles. Postpone field work requiring vehicle travel, if possible.
- Refuel vehicles another day or late in the afternoon.
- Delay the use of gas or diesel powered equipment (i.e., lawn mowers, weed trimmers, chain saws, wood chippers, and leaf blowers) until the following day. If work must be done, do it later in the afternoon or use electricity-powered equipment.
- Postpone outboard motor use for non-critical activities until the following day, if possible.
- Delay use of oil based paints and solvents.
- Postpone prescribed burns to another day, if possible.
- Avoid vehicle engine idling. Turn off engine if idling for longer than 30 seconds.

#### **It all adds up to cleaner air**

We've seen improvement in our region's air quality and have an opportunity to lead by example with actions to reduce emissions that affect public health. We appreciate you doing your share for cleaner air.

For questions on the "Air Quality Advisory" program or air quality, contact one of the Southeast Region Air Monitoring-Transportation Team staff listed here:

- Air Quality Notifications: **Jessica Lawent**, (414) 263-8653; **Peter McMullen** (414)263-8751; or **Jerry Medinger** (414)263-8659
- Air Monitoring: **Anthony Bowers** (414)263-8553

**Footnote:** *John Hammen is acting director for the Southeast Region.*



## **Forester ranger creates factsheet to answer questions on burning**

By: Jed Kaurich, West Central Region

[Index](#) [▲Prev](#) [▼Next](#) [▲Top](#) [Print](#)

After being asked numerous times by landowners how they can dispose of structures and other "illegal-to-burn" items on their property, and asking my co-workers for advice on numerous occasions, I created ["Directions/Contacts Related to Illegal Burning Complaints & Burning of Structures"](#) for the forester rangers and conservation wardens in my area to use in responding to the public.

Overall, my goal was to provide myself and fellow rangers and wardens a simple-to-read process to work through, so that we could safely, efficiently and legally walk people through the steps they need to take before demolishing or burning a structure.

As I spoke with experts in different DNR programs, I updated my factsheet to include their changes and facts. I by no means will say this is perfect, but I hope it acts as a reference for everyone who may need some direction, as I did. One of our jobs is to help each other out.

I couldn't have compiled this information without help from Tom Woletz, West Central Region air and waste leader; Mark Davis, air management specialist in Madison; Bob Sloan, West Central Region environmental enforcement specialist; Troy Gansluckner, air management specialist in Baldwin; and Gary Bibow, Division of Forestry law enforcement specialist.

**Footnote:** *Jed Kaurich is a forester ranger stationed in Augusta.*

**Editor's Note:** *Jed asks that anyone with questions related to the burning or disposal of structures contact their region's Air and Waste specialists or supervisors, or the region's Environmental Enforcement specialist.*



## Around the state...DNR employees shine

[Index](#) [▲Prev](#) [▼Next](#) [▲Top](#) [Print](#)

### *Central office success stories*

- Received by **Laurie Fike**, wildlife damage abatement and claims specialist in the Bureau of Wildlife Management: I wanted to thank you for setting my son up to be able to hunt. He was able to tag a very nice deer. I can't thank you enough, my son was so excited for this opportunity. You helped make his leave from Afghanistan a very memorable leave. Thank you so much. *Bob*

Also, I would like you to know that Wayne Kok (enrolled in wildlife damage program in Dodge County) was great! He gave us no issues. He was as excited for Ryan as we were. He was more than happy to let us hunt and set us up in a very nice place. He also made our experience a great one. Thanks again, *Bob Todd and PFC Ryan Todd*

- The Bureau of Parks and Recreation received this note of "Appreciation for Storm Damage Cleanup Help at Rib Mountain:" Thanks to **Tom Joestgen**, section chief, Safety and Risk Management and his staff, from **Bill Bursaw**, property manager at Rib Mountain State Park, for their assistance in getting the tree damage cleaned up from the May 9 storm that came through Wausau.

Equipment operators **Patrick Kelly** (Fleet) and **Vernon (Barney) Protheroe** (Fisheries Management) were there for 3/4 of the day and accomplished what would have taken Bill and his staff a week to clean up. Having the proper equipment and the expertise of Patrick and Barney to operate that equipment was very valuable.

**John Leighty** and **Brian Marshall** at Fleet were very helpful in getting equipment and manpower lined up. Thanks also to **Shawn Sullivan** in Fisheries Management for the use of the Cat 307--it was most appreciated. The assistance provided allowed Rib Mountain State Park to get their hiking trails back open in a timely manner and prepare for the upcoming holiday weekend.

### *Northeast Region success stories*

- A huge "Thank You" to **Bill McNee** (gypsy moth coordinator) and **Eric Roers**

(forester) for assisting with Tree City USA, Tree Line USA and Tree Campus USA presentations in April! Bill and Eric presented a total of seven awards to Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Shawano, American Transmission Corp, Shawano Municipal Utilities, Wisconsin Public Service Corp. and University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh. With their assistance, the NER Urban Forestry program was able to personally present a total of 21 awards throughout the region. *Thanks again, Tracy*

**Salisbury** (*region urban forestry coordinator*)

- To **Paul DeLong** (Division of Forestry administrator) from (Secretary) **Cathy Stepp**: I pulled a quote out from a recent letter I received from a Mr. Kevin Marquette in the Shawano area. Please share with your staff. This is the good stuff, man!

I learned an immense amount from the DNR foresters and technicians I worked with in five counties. They are some of the most honest, down to earth, dedicated, and under-utilized professionals I've had the privilege of working with. For what my opinion is worth, they are the last line of defense we have in educating our present and even more importantly, our future landowners on sustainable forestry and wildlife management practices, as they are intertwined, and thus aid in preventing the mismanagement of our forests!

- To **Bill Ruff**, (forester, Sturgeon Bay); **Tom Vanden Elzen**,(forester, Oshkosh); **Mike Hanaway**, (water supply specialist, Mishicot); **Kyle Christianson**, (wildlife technician, Mishicot); **Sue Crowley**, (forester, Mishicot); and **Joshua Koelsch** (wildlife technician, Mishicot): Thanks for the assistance on planting the 1,200 trees at Collins today. Special thanks to Sue for getting this organized, things ran smoothly. I know you were all there because you enjoy getting dirty and the conditions didn't disappoint us. Thank for making us smile for the group photo.

**Aaron Buchholz** , *wildlife biologist, Mishicot*

- To **Jennifer Huffman** (waste management specialist, Oshkosh): Thank you for partnering with our efforts in environmental education. We appreciate the collection of brochures and incentives (rulers, pencils, stickers...) for our families.  
*UWO Headstart*

- A few months ago **Jamie Remme** (forester, Peshtigo) and **Jason Holmes** (forest technician, Peshtigo) visited our hunting land near Coleman and gave us some advice on how to manage our trees. I think sometimes the DNR gets a bad rap, but we have a high opinion of what you do. Thanks again. *Joe Lemerond*

- To **Jennifer Borski** (hydrogeologist, Oshkosh): Thank you so much for generously providing SURF (Sustainable Remediation Forum) with all of your time and energy these past few weeks and your extremely useful insights during the SURF meeting at Region 5 on Thursday and Friday. Comments about your presentations that I personally received during the meeting were overwhelmingly favorable. To say that "we couldn't have done it without you" is an understatement. Your contributions to SURF during the meeting added tremendous value to SURF, as an organization, and to its members. Your presentations and insights also confirmed to the people who attended the meeting that their on-going efforts to promote the use of sustainable remediation solutions are not being made in vain. I hope that you consider keeping in touch with all of us. *Steven Murawski, U.S. Environmental Law Counsel and member of SURF*

- To **Jeremy Cords**, recreational safety warden, Green Bay: Gentlemen I had to take the time to write this. Jeremy your presentation on the Policy and Procedures manual was one of the best I've sat in on, and you know I've listened to lot of them. Your explanations where easy to listen to and understand. The 2011 HE materials CD has so much more information that we as instructors can use. Jeff the Instructor Mini Manual you have composed is great. This should be printed and put in the hands of all instructors. It has to much information to sit in some file cabinet. The two of you worked so well together. Now if we can get more RSW's involved in the same way. And have this example followed be use instructors.

*WOW. WHEIA vice president, Norbert C. Moes*

- To **Andy Lundin**, warden, Green Bay: Thank you so much for coming to speak to our Criminal Justice 100 Class on May 12th. It was truly appreciated, and I know the students, and myself, were extremely excited to hear more about the DNR and your role as a warden. Thanks for taking the time to come! *Globe University CJ 100 Class, Melissa Matuszak*

#### ***Northern Region success stories***

- On the night of April 10, 2011, the Merrill community was devastated by a fast moving tornado...I would like to personally thank the efforts of **your staff** that assisted us both on the night of the tornado and in the week that followed. Most notably, warden **Rick Peters** who was with us from the beginning offering both his services for security as well as being instrumental along with **Rich LaValley** (forester ranger) in implementing the DNR incident management team. This team was led by **Phil Theiler** (area forestry leader) who also did an extraordinary job in managing this effort. Their performance and involvement was critical to our mission. I am humbled by the generosity of my fellow commanders as we responded to and dealt with the aftermath of the storm. *Jeffery Jaeger, Lincoln County sheriff*

Deputy secretary **Matt Moroney** was contacted by Representative Tom Tiffany who passed along his extreme pleasure for the DNR's responsiveness to the Merrill tornado. Great Job!! *Matt Moroney*

- Included in an e-mail received by **Jamison Wendel** (fisheries biologist) regarding **Amos (Melton)**, fisheries technician and **Brock (Paulson)**, fisheries technician on Long Lake on Saturday morning (May 21); we were very impressed with them and their knowledge of the local lakes in the area. I hope you have plans for those two in the future. I've been in(to) the DNR office over the years, and I felt like talking to Amos and Brock gave me more insight into the local fisheries than I had received in the past. Thanks for any help you can give me, and keep up the good work. *Steve Weigel, Apache Group, Territory Manager*

#### ***Southeast Region success stories***

- Congratulations to wastewater specialist **Maureen McBroom** from *Kettle Moraine Land Trust, Inc.*: Thank you very much. I appreciate the quick response and you can be assured that Department of Natural Resource's staff knowledge will be welcomed and appreciated as we prioritize and implement the watershed actions.

- Congratulations to water management specialist **Kathi Kramasz** for preliminary permit for Wade House Historic Site *from Graef-USA, Inc.*: We very much appreciate your efforts in arranging the time for the site visit and for assisting the Wisconsin Historical Society in working through the approval process. Again, a big thank you to you, Kathi, and the others involved for your responsiveness and assistance to the Wade House Historic Site with this timing crunch. I know that this took a lot of hard work on everyone's part to meet the tight schedule.

*Project manager for the Department of Administration, Division of State Facilities added:* Thank you for the fast turn-around. We appreciate the Department of Natural Resource's help and cooperation with this.

- Congratulations to environmental analysis and review specialist **Maureen Millmann** in response to citizen complaint about erosion: Thank you for looking into the erosion issue in the reconstruction of State Highway 83 in Waukesha County. All of us in the area are concerned about the waterways, marsh and wildlife affected by this project. My neighbors and I will continue to keep an eye on things as they progress and will document any irregularities we witness. Thank you for providing the numbers for the Department of Transportation management team as well.
- Congratulations to Hank Aaron State Trail manager **Melissa Cook** for the Menomonee Valley Passage being named an award recipient from The Daily Reporter: An urban project designed and delivered by Benesch has been named a Top Project of 2010 by The Daily Reporter, a Wisconsin publication dedicated to covering the building industry. The Menomonee Valley Passage project is one of 30 Wisconsin projects selected to be honored at the newspaper's annual Top Projects event this spring. The event will also coincide with a special magazine issue showcasing the top projects. The Menomonee Valley Passage, which involved the design and construction of a section of the Hank Aaron State Trail in Milwaukee's Menomonee Valley, officially opened in November 2010. The project successfully merged the area's natural, urban, cultural and historical elements, while creating accessibility for thousands of residents, from commuters to bicyclists and tourists. Spanning a project area of 0.6 miles, the passage re-established a historic connection from Milwaukee's south side neighborhoods to the newly revitalized Menomonee Valley, opening access to popular destinations including State Fair Park, the Petit National Ice Center, Miller Park and more.
- Congratulations to Sheboygan basin team leader **Vic Pappas**, water management specialist **Kathi Kramasz**, and stormwater specialist **Brooke Yanke** *from acting regional director John Hammens*: I am happy to share the good news that Sheboygan basin team leader Vic Pappas and his staff have issued the necessary permits that will allow Kohler Company to begin construction this week for the new Kohler Global Communications Headquarters. Stormwater specialist Brooke Yanke issued the stormwater construction permit and water management specialist Kathi Kramasz issued the water quality certification. It is particularly noteworthy that Vic and his staff took a very proactive approach when it became obvious that the previous work of the consultant had some deficiencies which were going to put the hoped for construction timeline in significant jeopardy. Rather than just watching and waiting, they jumped in and worked very closely

with the company and environmental consultant to address and resolve issues. You will recall we first started to raise awareness of this potential issue in March. Vic and his staff have worked very hard since then to help reach a positive outcome for all parties.

- The *Southeast Region Green Team* would like to thank **everyone who participated in the 2011 Earth Week Events**: Congratulations to **Saji Villoth** (environmental enforcement specialist) for winning this year's Commuter Challenge! Saji used the greatest variety of alternative transportation to work for Earth Week. The neighborhood clean-up was a success with a total of eight bags collected. Thanks to those that helped clean up the streets around the DNR! The office clean-up and shredding event was an opportunity for staff to clean cubicles and shred sensitive documents. The shredder service came and recycled/shredded five 95 gallon bins!! That means we have saved nine trees, according to the certificate that was given to DNR from Pro-Shred. Thanks to all who participated!
- Congratulations to transportation/urban planning specialist **Peter McMullen**: Peter responded to a request for air quality data from a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee graduate student, Andrew Krystowiak. Peter received this thank you: Once again, I really appreciate your help with all of this data. You have been very generous with your time. Thank you!

Air monitoring/transportation team supervisor **Jerry Medinger** added: Thanks for the good customer service, Peter.

#### *West Central region success stories*

- To **Will Stites** (water management specialist in Wisconsin Rapids): I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your assistance last week regarding the placement of a culvert in the ditch in front of my property in Mauston. In that no permit was required was great news and will speed the process of getting my driveway permit from the city. During the process of getting approvals for buildings, driveways and state approvals, I have found that it can be a slow process and I was very pleased with your very prompt assistance. It was much appreciated and I can now move forward with my efforts to meet the zoning requirements here in Mauston as a result. I wish all government agencies were as efficient. Thank you again. *Rocky Shepherd*
- Dear NR Program Manager **Rebecca Schroeder** (chief of the Ecosystems and Diversity Conservation Section in the Bureau of Endangered Resources): On April 13, 2011, **Dean Edlin, along with the LaCrosse and Madison burn crews and hand crews from Boscobel and Spring Green**, conducted a prescribed burn of approximately 200 acres of our land, Oak Coulee Woods. Mr. Edlin is to be commended for his leadership and organization of this burn. When weather conditions became favorable, the burn was called with little notification, yet Mr. Edlin was ready and well prepared. His forward-looking thinking was evident at every turn of the burn. He and his crew, along with assistance from the Boscobel hand crew, had prepared the over three miles of firebreaks to ensure safety from the beginning. Last fall he put in additional access roads that were used on several occasions to transport fuel and water to the crew during the burn. At the

end of the burn, he discussed with us plans for next year's burn.

Mr. Edlin's high level leadership qualities resonated throughout the burn. His interpersonal relationships within the DNR were evident in his comportment with crew members. He monitored progress of the burn through frequent, clear and concise communication with crew members. This radio communication gave us as landowners a bird's eye view of how the burn was progressing and provided us with confidence the fire was organized and progressing well. Mr. Edlin leads by example. Perhaps most impressive was this willingness to exhort the crew at the end of the burn to use the declining weather window to torch the interior areas. Efforts such as this have to come from the heart. The interior areas are particularly important for the control of Garlic Mustard and Eurasian Honeysuckles.

Oak Coulee Woods is experiencing a decline in the population of Garlic Mustard and Eurasian Honeysuckles. Due to the leadership, expertise and commitment of Mr. Dean Edlin, the biodiversity of Oak Coulee Woods is increasing. His knowledge and expertise of oak forest, oak savanna and management of planted prairies, has significantly improved the natural attributes of the site.

As landowners we admire the leadership and commitment of staff and the high quality of work of the Bureau of Endangered Resources in preserving the biota of Wisconsin. Thank you. *Sincerely, John Diekelmann MSLA Architect - Landscape Architect (Ret.), Nancy Diekelmann PhD, RN, FAAN, Helen Denne Schulte Professor Emerita, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing*

- I would like to express our gratitude for the assistance that **Craig Thompson** (regional land leader, La Crosse) and **Gregory Edge** (forestry area supervisor) have provided in improving the grounds at the La Crosse State Office Building. Craig procured trees from your nursery and Gregory helped layout and plant the stock. Both gentlemen have tremendous knowledge and should be commended. I always look forward to working with my friends at DNR. Thanks again. *David E. Jaloszynski, RPA, assistant director, Bureau of Facilities Management, Division of State Facilities, WI Department of Administration*
- Hi, **Scott (Bowe**, conservation warden, Cornell): Thank you for braving the cold weather with all of us at Angler "Ed-Venture". I felt like a Popsicle when I got home! I hope it's not too unprofessional but I am emailing a "thank you" rather than snail-mail. That way you can print off dozens and dozens of copies and post them all over your office!

Seriously though, thank you so much for being part of the event again this year and, more importantly, for ALL the wonderful things you do for Chippewa County and its residents. You're a great, positive representation of the WI-DNR! *Andrea Smith, Community Educator coordinator, Cornell/Lake Holcombe 21st Century Community Learning Centers*

- From regional director **Scott Humrickhouse** to (warden) **Scott Bowe**, (warden) **Cody Adams**, (warden) **Adam Hanna**, (warden) **Ken Thomson**, (warden) **Robin Barnhardt**, (warden) **Korey Trowbridge**, (warden) **Jeremy Peery**, (deputy warden water guard) **Justin Wershofen**, (regional water leader) **Dan Baumann**, (fisheries biologist) **Heath Benike** and (regional enforcement leader) **Mark Burmesch**: Sorry this is not real timely, but I do want to thank each of you for your fine work on the Governor's Fishing Opener. I heard positive feedback from several sources on the professional contributions DNR made

during the event. You represented the agency well, as always.



## Seven eagles rehabilitated after landfill poisoning returned to wild

By: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service news release

[Index](#) [▲Prev](#) [▼Next](#) [▲Top](#) [Print](#)

The largest and most successful rescue of poisoned eagles ever recorded came to a dramatic completion on Wednesday, June 1, at Antigo with the release of seven American bald eagles into the wild by the Raptor Education Group.

The eagles, poisoned at a landfill in Vilas County, were found on the ground and near death on April 9, 2011. The Raptor Education Group staff raced to the scene and transported the eagles to the Raptor Education Group rehabilitation facility in Antigo. An eighth eagle was found dead at the scene.

DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) launched an investigation, which is ongoing, and investigators cannot comment on the details of the case until it is complete. DNR is an important conservation partner to the USFWS.



"During the release of the seven eagles, one at a time, this 4-year-old not-yet-an-adult, took off low and came right at me. For real! I had to duck or it would have hit me in the head. I took this shot in the microsecond before I hit the dirt. I felt its wings as it passed over my back." Photo by **Ed Culhane**, DNR public affairs manager for the West Central and Northern regions. Culhane also provided the photos displayed on the USFWS's Flickr page.

"The cause of the poisoning has been determined and is no longer a risk to wildlife or the public," said USFWS special agent Steve Stoinski, the lead investigator.

After weeks of intense care, the eagles--three adults and four juveniles--have all recovered from the toxin and are ready to be released back to the wild.

"This was a situation where everyone from the person that saw the eagles in trouble and reported it, to the people that stood watch over the eagles until the Raptor Education Group Inc. team could arrive, down through the DNR and USFWS was vital to the positive outcome of this event," said executive director and wildlife rehabilitator Marge Gibson.

Gibson went on to say that, "It has been a humbling experience to have played a part of something that began so wrong, and ended so well. We hope this event will underscore to the public how their actions can affect wildlife in a profound manner."

"The Raptor Education Group did an excellent job rehabilitating these birds back to health and we are very pleased to see the eagles returned to the wild," Stoinski said.

The eagle release took place at the Raptor Education Group, Inc. facility at N2160 W

Rollwood Rd, Antigo. Check out [images](#) of the release. Learn more about bald eagle recovery and the USFWS role in meeting this mission at the "[USFWS Bald Eagle](#)" website. More information about the [Raptor Education Group](#) can be found at this website. Check out the work of the [Midwest Region](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to work with others--such as DNR--to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. USFWS considers itself to be both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. You can find more information about the USFWS's work and the people who make it happen, by visiting its "[Conserving the Nature of America](#)" website. Connect with the agency's [Facebook](#) page, follow its [tweets](#), watch it on [YouTube](#) and download photos from [Flickr](#).



## Two centennials anchor June's Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine

By: Natasha Kassulke, Bureau of Customer Service & Licensing

[Index](#) [▲Prev](#) [▼Next](#) [▲Top](#) [Print](#)

The June cover story of the [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine, "Devil's Lake delivers 100 years of stories," is timely as the state's most popular state park celebrates its centennial. A tour of the park by **Diane Pillsbury**, assistant naturalist, provides evidence of past activity from summer cottages to a quarry. Find out how to enter your Devil's Lake photos in a contest and look at a list of special events to plan a centennial visit.

Another reason to celebrate is featured in the story, "Growing up," which looks at the state nursery system as it also turns 100. Find out what it takes to reach the lofty goal of providing a consistent supply of high-quality seedlings at an economic price to landowners interested in reforestation.



The cover of this month's **Natural Resources Magazine**  
WDNR Photo

A "Watershed year" takes the pulse of Wisconsin lakes and looks to future management challenges. In time for watering gardens and the lawn, "Water conservation and efficiency," provides advice for how to save water and money.

"Carrying out the mission" takes readers underwater with the DNR dive team, while "Weevil warriors" explains how the invasive spotted knapweed can take over large areas and reduce forage and wildlife habitat. Read how efforts are being made to biologically control this dreaded plant.

As a bonus, the issue contains a poster featuring art work by Drew Wandschneider of Cedarburg High School. He won the "Garbage to gardens: Compost grows" poster contest, under the sponsorship of the department. The back of the poster features helpful information for getting started composting.

And spring finds "Creature Comforts" reminding people to leave wildlife alone and take caution in helping those pokey turtles cross the road. Traveler gets us in the mood for summertime – finally! Pedal, paddle or make like a pedestrian as you explore everything from light houses to kites and balloons.

Consider the magazine as a thoughtful gift--(hint, hint) Father's Day will be here before you know it--that you can share throughout the year. Six colorful issues are delivered to your door all year for less than \$1.50 a copy. Year-round, the magazine shares ways and places to enjoy the Wisconsin outdoors for only \$8.97. Subscribe toll-free at 1(800)678-9472, online at [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) magazine's website or by mail. Subscription blanks and single issues also are available from our circulation office at P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707.

If you'd like more information on the magazine, email me, [Natasha Kassulke](#), editorial, or call me at (608) 261-8446. You also can contact circulation editor [Karen Ecklund](#) or at (608) 267-7410.

**Footnote:** Natasha Kassulke is the creative products manager for the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine.



## Links of interest...don't miss them

● [Index](#)   [▲Prev](#)   [▼Next](#)   [▲Top](#)   [Print](#)

- **Title:** "Free Fishing Weekend June 4-5"

**Description:** This news release reminds those eager to cast a line, but who may not have a license, that the first consecutive Saturday and Sunday in June constitute Free Fishing Weekend on all state waters, including the Great Lakes and rivers bordering Wisconsin

**Link:** ["Free fishing weekend June 4-5"](#)

- **Title:** "Restoring the Land: Project Wild & Project WET Educator Workshop."

**Description:** On June 14-15, at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, teachers and other educators will learn how to adapt Project Wild and Project WET activities to their curriculum or other teaching settings. DNR employees who do outreach to children are welcome to attend but must register by the close of business today, June 2.

**Link:** ["Restoring the Land: Project Wild & Project WET Educator Workshop"](#)

- **Title:** "Secretary Stepp about DNR Charter Proposal"

**Description:** On May 17, the Secretary's Office held a town hall meeting on the proposal to make DNR a charter agency. You'll be required to login, using your email user name, without the word "accounts" and your email password.

**Link:** ["Secretary Stepp about DNR Charter Proposal"](#)

- **Titles:** "Trap net safety update for the Great Lakes" video

"Trap net safety on the Great Lakes" DNR webpage

"Net clippers required for anglers trolling with downriggers on Great Lakes" news release

**Description:** A new Mediasite video on the DNR homepage tells boaters how to navigate safely to avoid commercial trap nets. There's plenty of lake out there for everyone to enjoy. This safety message and a companion radio spot were produced by video producer **Mary Farmiloe** and the Bureau of Law Enforcement and are narrated by chief warden **Randy Stark** and warden supervisor **Chris Groth**, stationed in Green Bay. The department's website also contains a page on trap net safety, developed by **Carl Scheidegger** and **Alisa Santiesteban** has issued a news release on the newest requirements.

**Links:** ["Trap net safety update for the Great Lakes"](#) video

["Trap net safety on the Great Lakes"](#) DNR webpage

["Net clippers required for anglers trolling with downriggers on Great Lakes"](#) news release

- **Title:** "Conservationist Nina Leopold Bradley, 'The vision and force' behind Aldo Leopold Center, dies at 93"

**Description:** This story published in the May 30, 2011 issue of the Capital Times reports on the life and accomplishments of Aldo Leopold's daughter. Most noteworthy is the work and energy she put forth on behalf of the Aldo Leopold Center to assure that the public could experience her father's passion for nature.

**Link:** ["Conservationist Nina Leopold Bradley, 'The vision and force' behind Aldo Leopold Center, dies at 93"](#)

- **Title:** "Ferrous vs. nonferrous mining"

**Description:** This article from the May 19 issue of the "Ashland Daily Press" describes the difference between ferrous and nonferrous materials, and how that's pertinent to the proposed mine for northwest Wisconsin. A comparison is drawn between a proposed law for mining such ores in Wisconsin and the mining laws on the books in other states.

**Link:** ["Ferrous vs. nonferrous"](#)

- **Titles:** "Emergency Preparedness and Response/Social Media: Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse"

"CDC's 'zombie apocalypse' advice an Internet hit"

**Description:** These items appeared on the Center for Disease Control's website and Yahoo! to illustrate the importance of thinking outside the box when relying on the Internet to get a message out, whether about an attack of zombies or a natural disaster. "The tongue-in-cheek headline preceded a serious message: individuals and communities need to be prepared for natural disasters, whatever form they might take..."

**Links:** ["Emergency Preparedness and Response/Social Media: Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse"](#)



## Updating voice mail message good for internal and external callers

[Index](#)   [▲Prev](#)   [▼Next](#)   [▲Top](#)   [Print](#)

**Editor's Note:** *Office of Business Support and Sustainability director **Al Shea** recently sent the following message to his colleagues. If you haven't yet seen it, take a couple of minutes to read about expectations for voice mail greetings.*

One measure all DNR employees can take to improve customer service to the public and their co-workers is to have an updated voice mail message that greets your callers. In this day of cell phone usage by virtually everyone, such a message is courteous, time saving, and could prove to be important.

[Manual code 9551.1](#) lays out basic expectations for voice mail updates. I have excerpted the pertinent parts for reference below. Updating voice mail messages is an expected standard for the department.

### **Keep voice mail greeting current and useful to callers**

- The greeting should include the date, whether or not you are in the office, and, if you are out of the office, when you will return and whether you will be checking and returning calls.
- It is not acceptable to use a generic "I'm away from my desk, please leave a message" greeting; such messages give the caller no reliable information whether you are away for minutes, hours or days.
- In general, voice mail greetings should be updated on a daily basis when you are in the office. Weekly schedules leave a nagging doubt the person is really there.
- Weekly messages are acceptable if you are going to be out of the office for several days in a week.
- These messages should be brief. (For the week of August 14 I will be in the office on Monday and Wednesday, and out of the office Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.)
- Do not give a detailed day-by-day or hour-by-hour schedule; it is unreasonable to ask all callers to listen for that length of time.
- Where appropriate, your greeting may direct callers to another number. For example, if your absence is an extended one, you may direct callers to someone acting on your behalf. (For those staff who routinely receive calls from the news media, direct reporters on deadline to punch through to a receptionist so someone can immediately attend to their needs.)



## Nationwide tornado outbreak reminds everyone to be ready

By: Division of Emergency Management news release

[Index](#)   [▲Prev](#)   [▼Next](#)   [▲Top](#)   [Print](#)

People in Wisconsin and across the nation are witnessing the raw destructive power of tornadoes this spring.

**Here are some of the chilling recent and historic facts:**

- **April 10, 2011:** 15 confirmed tornadoes touch down across the State of Wisconsin. It's the sixth biggest single day tornado outbreak since 1844.
- **May 22, 2011:** 11 confirmed tornadoes touch down across Wisconsin. It's the tenth biggest single day tornado outbreak since 1844. The storms caused at least \$15 million in damage. One tornado traveled 70 miles from Monroe to Portage County, one of the longest tornadoes in Wisconsin's recorded history. Two of the tornadoes had wind gusts of 135mph.
- **Average annual Wisconsin tornado count for 1981-2010:** Twenty-three. There have been 26 confirmed tornadoes in Wisconsin in 2011 so far.

"The takeaway from all this, everyone needs a sense of urgency. When you hear the warnings, take action immediately. It is critical that we're all ready for more storms this spring and summer," said Tod Pritchard, Wisconsin Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

**Here are things you can do to protect yourself and your family:**

- **Emergency Weather Radio:** It's like having your own personal emergency siren. First the radio sets off an alert tone. Then it tells you what's happening, where the severe storm or tornado danger is located and where it's headed. You can purchase a radio at retailers across the state for under \$50.
- **Make a Plan:** Talk to your family about what to do in the event of severe storms and tornadoes. Designate a place to take shelter in your home, office and school. Find a spot in your basement where you can take cover under a table, work bench or stairs to protect you from falling debris. You should also cover yourself with blankets or a mattress to protect against falling or flying debris. If you don't have a basement, go to an interior room or closet in the house with no windows. Crouch down low and cover your head. If you're caught outside, seek shelter in a sturdy building or take refuge in a low-lying area.
- **Get a Kit:** In the event of a major storm, you may have to sustain yourself and your family for many hours before help arrives. Having an emergency kit with water, a first aid kit, flashlights extra batteries, prescriptions, some nonperishable food items and other critical supplies can help you survive. Plan for at least 72 hours without electricity.

For more information on tornado safety and storm preparedness, go to the "[Are you ready Wisconsin](#)" website. You also can get statewide tornado watches and warnings by joining us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



## DNR partners with Ice Age Trail Alliance and others to build trail

By: Adapted from letter issued by Ice Age Trail Alliance

[Index](#) [Prev](#) [Top](#) [Print](#)

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) expressed its gratitude recently to those who participated in the IATA Mobile Skills Crew trail-building event near Birchwood in southern Washburn County. As a volunteer-based organization, the Alliance and its partners at the National Park Service and DNR rely on volunteers to continue to be the driving force in its efforts to create, support and protect the [Ice Age National Scenic Trail](#).

The 2011 season opener for the Mobile Skills Crew program brought to common ground 10 years' worth of discussions about how to safely accommodate the unique needs of non-motorized and motorized user groups while respecting the right to choose a form of recreation without impinging on others.



A dramatic view of the northwest Wisconsin National Guard members and others who pitched in their time and sweat to construct the new two-mile segment of the Ice Age Trail. Photo by Randy Myren, IATA staff

Thanks to nearly 300 volunteers, including 126 National Guard members from northwestern Wisconsin, despite nonstop wind, spats of rain and unseasonably cool temperatures, a new two-mile segment of the Ice Age Trail near the [Tuscobia State Trail](#) is open for foot travel. You can view a map of the new segment by visiting the [Ice Age Trail Alliance](#) website.

All told, 308 volunteers contributed 3,500 hours hand-crafting sustainable tread, installing trail signs, plumbing the trail, building rock walls, feeding the troops (National Guard and otherwise), and so much more.

The Village of Birchwood loaned needed equipment and discounted camping costs at the Doolittle Park and Campground. More than 100 students from Barron, Lac Courte Oreilles, Birchwood, New Auburn, Shell Lake and Spooner school districts gained an introduction to and contributed to sustainable trail building. [Northwest Passage](#), UW Hoofers outing club and UW-Eau Claire service learning students also were part of this project.

Birchwood businesses welcomed volunteers and promoted the project. DNR Northern Region staff and Bureau of Parks staff from Madison helped support the project and the National Park Service provided funding.

"The Ice Age Trail Alliance strives to make sure that every volunteer's experience is memorable and rewarding," read the letter of appreciation sent to all supporters of this project.

#### **National Trails Week doubleheader currently underway**

From June 2–5, the Alliance is undertaking two projects — one at [Straight Lake State Park](#) in Polk County and one at the [Greenwood Wildlife Area](#) in Waushara County. For information on how you can help with these and future trail projects, visit the Alliance's online "[Mobile Skills Crew Events](#)" page. You also can support the Ice Age Trail by becoming an [Alliance member](#).



---

**Produced by:** Department of Natural Resources, Office of Communication

**Legal notices and disclaimers:** [Website Legal Information](#)

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

**Document Date:** Monday, June 06, 2011 at 2:16:32 PM