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## Governor signs biennial budget, including DNR spending and program items

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Gov. Walker chose Fox Valley Metal Tech, Inc. in Green Bay as the site where he signed the [biennial budget bill](#) into law. Before the signing, he delivered ["Remarks by the Governor on a Balanced Budget and Moving Forward Together"](#) to those in attendance.

Following are some highlights from Wisconsin Act 32 pertaining to DNR's biennial budget :

- Maintains hunting and fishing license fees and parks admission fees at current levels to ensure that even in times of economic challenges access to Wisconsin's abundant natural resources are kept affordable.
- Requires the Stewardship program to focus only on the best value purchases by reducing bonding authority by \$234 million through fiscal year 2019-20, saving Wisconsin as much as \$80 million in total debt service costs.
- Modifies the formula for aids provided in lieu of property tax payments for lands purchased through the Stewardship program, saving the state \$190,000 in fiscal year 2012-13, but reducing future payments by half or more. Total payments for aids in lieu of property taxes are estimated to be \$13.2 million in fiscal year 2012-13.
- Ensures a balance between environmental protection and local costs by specifying that the Department of Natural Resources may not enforce an administrative rule for nonagricultural performance standards for runoff from urban areas if the provision has a reduction in total suspended solids exceeding 20 percent.
- Reduces bonding authority under the Working Lands program by \$12 million and repeals the conversion fee for rezoning from a farmland preservation district. This will allow landowners to decide for themselves the best use of their property

without paying a penalty if the use of the land will change.



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

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- **Title:** "Wisconsin State Nurseries 1922-2111: Plant a Legacy"

"Wisconsin's State Forest Nurseries, beginning tomorrow's forests today"

**Description:** Over the past 100 years the Wisconsin state nursery system has produced more than 1.5 billion tree seedlings planted in Wisconsin. Check out the department's nursery centennial website for photos, collectible stamps and events in celebration of this major milestone.

**Links:** ["Wisconsin State Nurseries 1922-2111: Plant a Legacy"](#)

["Wisconsin's State Forest Nurseries, beginning tomorrow's forests today"](#)

- **Title:** "2011 is the centennial year for Devil's Lake State Park!"

**Description:** Founded in 1911, Devil's Lake is the third oldest state park in Wisconsin, the largest, and the most visited. Various activities happening this summer commemorate the past 100 years. Check out [event information](#) and [history section](#) for more details.

**Link:** ["2011 is the centennial year for Devil's Lake State Park!"](#)

- **Title:** "Spokespersons"

**Descriptions:** The Office of Communication has verified and received feedback on a revised list of employee and non-DNR experts who are the contacts for a variety of DNR programs, policies and issues. The currentspokesperson's list is posted on the Office of Communications Intranet page. Improvements include: alphabetized and simplified topics listings; verification of current spokespersons following retirements and other staff changes; access to spokespersons through email by clicking on the name (including non-DNR employees); and, the list now prints as an organized chart.

**Link:** ["Spokespersons"](#)

- **Title:** "Nature is a classroom"

**Description:** DNR's new Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree brochure is now available for distribution to youth leaders, conservation educators, camp directors, nature centers, and teachers around the state. Janet Hutchens, state coordinator for Project WILD, WET and Learning Tree notes that the early childhood program has expanded its reach to serve many northern counties, including Vilas, Washburn, Polk, Barron, Marathon and Shawano, as well as surrounding areas. She points out that facilitators are "just waiting for a ready audience." Email her at [Janet Hutchens](#) or call (608)261-8453 for copies of the brochure.

**Link:** ["Nature is a classroom"](#)

- **Title:** "Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery blooms in new video and audio slideshow"

**Description:** The Bureau of Fisheries Management worked with DNR video producer **Mary Farmiloe** to create a moving story of the renovation of the century-old hatchery that today consists of a state-of-the-art facility. The video, which will be featured at the hatchery's visitors' center, aims to give people an up-close look at the facilities. Public access is limited to reduce the threat of diseases being spread through hatchery operations, and to reduce stress on the fish. **Alisa Santiesteban**, a communications specialist with the Bureau of Fisheries, created the video script and

**Al Kaas**, fish culture section chief, served as executive producer.

Link: ["Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery blooms in new video and audio slideshow"](#)

- **Title:** "Walk with Walker"



Pausing for a break during the first lady's first trail walk were Tonette Walker (wearing hat), Bureau of Parks & Recreation director **Dan Schuller**, Department of Tourism secretary Stephanie Klett Wisconsin Tourism Secretary (left), and High Cliff State Park superintendent **Carolyn Morgen**.

WDNR Photo

**Description:** The first lady of Wisconsin, Tonette Walker is celebrating the natural beauty, sights and sounds of the state with a walk along a trail each month, followed by a report on her blog. The first Walk with Walker was along the Forest Management Trail at High Cliff State Park. As there will be with each blog report, a scenic photo of the property is featured.

Link: ["Walk with Walker"](#)

- **Title:** "Fly Fishing"

**Description:** Many of us are involved in efforts to get kids outside, away from TV and computers, to get exercise and, most importantly, to connect with nature. To manage and protect our natural resources in the future, kids have to value and know them. Wisconsin Public Radio recently aired a piece from Wisconsin Life featuring a man describing how his grandfather introduced him to fly fishing and how it has shaped the man's life. We need more people like his grandpa.

Link: ["Fly Fishing"](#)

- **Title:** "Kayaks for disabled are opening up the waters"

**Description:** Published in the June 20, 2011 issue of the "Baraboo News Republic," this story and graphics feature use of the newly-acquired kayaks outfitted to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities. Natural Resources Foundation communication director Maria Sadowski and DNR accessibility coordinator **Andy Janicki** hosted a trip for people with disabilities. The story became one of the top "hits" on Google's "Madison News" page.

Link: ["Kayaks for disabled are opening up the waters"](#)

- **Title:** DNR Internet homepage buttons

**Description:** When you and the public visit DNR's Internet homepage, you'll find buttons to programs' webpages or a DNR News release in the "Features" column in the middle of the page. For example, today you'll find such buttons as "Why did the turtle cross the road" and "Every fish has a tale, take the pledge & tell us about it."

Link: [DNR Internet homepage buttons](#)

- **Titles:** "Boating OWI"

"Boating best enjoyed sober: Operation Dry Water on deck"

**Description:** The Bureau of Law Enforcement is conducting its "Operation Dry Water" campaign this summer. Visitors to DNR's Internet homepage will find a button linking them to the recent news release "Boating best enjoyed sober: Operation Dry Water on deck." Just to the right of the button is a link to the "Boating OWI" public service announcement narrated by warden supervisor **Tyler Strelow**, Dodgeville, and produced by video producer **Mary Farmiloe**, Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing.

**Links:** ["Boating OWI"](#)

["Boating best enjoyed sober: Operation Dry Water on deck"](#)

- **Title:** "Water Guards 2011" map

**Description:** ["Boat inspectors will patrol for invasive aquatic species on holiday weekend"](#) ran in the June 16, "Digest." This map pinpoints the location of each Water Guard and their area of responsibility on the July Fourth holiday and throughout the boating season.

**Link:** ["Water Guards 2011"](#)

- **Title:** "Cool Jobs: Parks Naturalist"

**Description:** Published in the NRA's "Insights for Young Shooters" online publication, "Cool Jobs: Parks Naturalist" features Peninsula State Park naturalist **Kathleen Harris**. Harris, who says everyday is an adventure, was recognized in 2010 by the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks for having the "Best Children's Program."

**Link:** ["Cool Jobs: Parks Naturalist"](#)

- **Title:** "White River Marsh State Wildlife Area welcomes endangered whooping cranes"



This enclosure includes a wet pen/dry pen with metal fencing, netting and electric wire to keep the young cranes safe from predators.

WDNR Photo

**Description:** The White River Marsh State Wildlife Area, located in Green Lake and Marquette counties, has become the "second home" for ten crane chicks who are the newest generation to join the Whooping Crane Eastern Project as it reintroduces these magnificent birds to eastern North America. Read this news release from Operation Migration, which includes comments from DNR Sec. **Cathy Stepp**.

**Link:** ["White River Marsh State Wildlife Area welcomes endangered whooping cranes"](#)

- **Title:** "Mayors Choose Racine, Wisconsin as 'The Best Tasting City Water in America'"

**Description:** Using convention coagulation/filtration plus membrane filtration to assure that its water drawn from Lake Michigan is clean and safe, Racine beat out 73 communities to receive accolades for its good tasting water. One hundred mayors

participated in a blind taste test. Racine mayor John Dickert received a check in amount of \$15,000, along with bragging rights for having "The Best Tasting City Water in America."

**Link:** ["Mayors Choose Racine, Wisconsin as 'The Best Tasting City Water in America'"](#)

- **Title:** "Does Life Online Give You 'Popcorn Brain'?"

**Description:** Channel 3000.com, a Madison television website, posted this CNN story on the impacts on the human brain of spending large amounts of time on the computer. "Popcorn brain" is what one researcher labels the "...brain so accustomed to the constant stimulation of electronic multitasking that we're unfit for life offline, where things pop at a much slower pace."

**Link:** ["Does Life Online Give You 'Popcorn Brain'?"](#)



## Department partnerships successful in obtaining funding for fisheries research

By: Jen Hauxwell, Bureau of Science Services

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The Bureau of Science Services has received word that its scientists and collaborators were successful in securing \$567,115 from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's [Upper Midwest Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative \(UMG LLC\)](#) to conduct research in support of Wisconsin's fisheries.



In October 2008, researcher John Lyons surveyed for fish using a backpack electroshocker in the Siskiwit River in Bayfield County. Photo courtesy of Mary Kay Lyons

Wisconsin belongs to the UMG LLC, one of a nationwide network of partnerships working to "develop regional and continental strategies to design and target site-scale efforts for fish, wildlife, and plant species." The Upper Midwest cooperative is comprised of the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York and Vermont, and the Province of Ontario.

Congratulations go out to **John Lyons**, **Matt Mitro** and **Matt Diebel** (all research scientists in the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Research Section) on their outstanding proposals.

The money received this year will be committed to the following projects:

- "Regional Decision Support Tool for Identifying Vulnerabilities of Riverine

Habitat and Fishes to Climate Change.” Project collaborators represent: Wisconsin DNR (Lyons and Mitro), U.S. Geological Survey, Michigan Institute for Fisheries Research, Michigan State University, The Nature Conservancy, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The two-year total for this project is \$400,000.



This culvert on Hwy 70 in Florence County acts as a barrier to fish, which can prevent spawning migrations and make populations more vulnerable to disturbance events, such as floods. U.S. Forest Service employee Mark Fedora documented the problem. WDNR Photo

The goals of this project are to understand the potential impact of various climate scenarios on important fish species, assess vulnerability, and identify potential management actions and adaptation strategies to protect and enhance Wisconsin's fisheries. The results will be integrated in a decision support system for use by stakeholders. The adaptation strategies identified may be used to investigate strategies for reestablishing ecological connectivity where stream habitat types may be fragmented by climate change impacts.

- Re-establishing ecological connectivity between the Great Lakes and their tributaries: prioritization in a complex system. Project collaborators represent: Wisconsin DNR (Diebel), UW-Madison, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan DNR, Michigan State University; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, and the University of Kent, in the United Kingdom. Over two years, funding will total \$167,115.

Ecological connectivity between the Great Lakes and their tributaries is widely impaired, and many agencies and organizations are currently investing in restoring these connections to enhance target fish and wildlife populations. The project will provide specific guidance for restoration at scales from individual watersheds to entire basins, refine methodologies for spatial analysis of barriers, and provide a systematic framework for comparing costs and benefits of barrier removal.

All of the work described above advances the efforts of the working groups of the [Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts \(WICCI\)](#)

**Footnote:** *Jen Hauxwell is chief of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Research Section.*



## Conservation agencies nationwide face leadership challenge

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**Already nearly one-third of today's natural resource leaders are retiring. According to research conducted in 2004, at least 77 percent of state fish and wildlife agency senior leadership will retire by 2015, and more than half of federal conservation leaders even sooner.**

**"Training alone is insufficient to develop the extraordinary leadership called for in our uncertain times," said Sally Guynn, executive director of the National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) in Washington, D.C. "The institute is a unique, comprehensive learning experience designed to challenge assumptions, teach skills, facilitate high-trust networking, and strengthen confidence. It is not a redundant program; it is a remarkable experience to prepare an extraordinary leadership capacity for the future."**

**Julie Graziano**, program and policy analyst in the Bureau of Forestry Business Services, recently graduated from the Conservation Leadership Institute after an eight-month experience to address one of the nation's most significant conservation challenges—preparing and retaining leaders. She was one of 36 fellows from across the country selected to participate in the award-winning institute.

"Leadership development is paramount to ensuring that the legacy of natural resource conservation will continue in the future and the adaptive leadership model I experienced at NCLI is a game changer," said Graziano.

The NCLI was created to equip tomorrow's conservation leaders in adaptive leadership based on the latest leadership thinking and practices. Each fellow learns from some of the nation's most influential conservation leaders and experts, working together on solutions to priority leadership challenges facing their respective organizations, explained Graziano.

Following an 11-day onsite training, the fellows reconvened in Arizona to present the results of their leadership challenge projects. They individually experimented with what they'd learned, carrying out real-world, "in-the-trenches" applications within their respective organizations.

Graziano continues to work on her leadership challenge to identify the relationship between the Division of Forestry's organizational culture and how it helps and/or hinders the current strategic direction work in the Forestry Program.

The [National Conservation Leadership Institute](#) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization supported by some of the nation's most passionate conservation interests, said Graziano. Current sponsors include the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Boone and Crockett, the Pope and Young Club, Dallas Safari Club, The Campfire Fund, The National Wild Turkey Federation, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The Conservation Fund, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.



## Budget and DNR-related bills signed as Legislature heads into recess

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

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Gov. Scott Walker signed the [2011-2013 Budget Bill](#), now Wisconsin Act 32, on June 26, in Green Bay. With the passage of the budget, the [Legislature](#) now is out of session until September 13. Committees will continue to hold hearings during the summer, but no floor votes will be taken.

To read the details of the budget bill and other DNR-related legislation acted upon, go to the ["2011 Bill Tracker."](#)

### Recent legislative highlights

- **SB 72** (Sen. Terry Moulton), the [Bear Bill](#), was signed into law as **Wisconsin Act 28**. The law expands privileges for Class A and Class B bear hunting licenses, and bear carcass tag and back tag requirements.
- **SB 75** (Sen. Moulton) and **AB 99** (Rep. Tom Tiffany), Deer Season Hunting Bills, both passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. These bills will prohibit DNR from establishing certain restrictions on hunting antlered deer and regulating the establishment of fall open seasons for hunting deer with firearms. Because the Legislature is out of session, the Deer Season Rule passed by the Natural Resources Board will be in effect. The bills and the rule are nearly identical, so there would have been little difference had the bills passed.

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



## Shawano Ave./Taylor St. intersection in Green Bay closing July 5

By: Wisconsin Department of Transportation news release

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*Construction of a multi-lane roundabout shuts intersection through October*

**Editor's note:** If traveling to the Northeast Region headquarters, take note of route changes.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) office in Green Bay has notified the driving public that the intersection of Shawano Ave. and Taylor St. will begin closing to through traffic on July 5, as work starts on the next stage of construction of a multi-lane roundabout. The intersection is scheduled to reopen to all traffic by October 1.

Starting July 5, eastbound WIS 29 will close to through traffic from US 41 to Fellows Dr. On July 6, westbound WIS 29 will close to through traffic within the same limits. Taylor St. also closes to through traffic July 6, between Dousman and Badger streets. A signed detour route for WIS 29 is US 41 to I-43 to US 141.

Motorists who travel Shawano Ave. should take Dousman St. to Cardinal Ln. as an alternate route during construction.

Shawano Ave. will be reconstructed from the northbound off-ramp of US 41. A portion of Taylor St. also will be rebuilt.

Work on the \$3.3 million project began on May 2. During that time, a bypass road was built from the intersection of Taylor and Badger streets, connecting to Shawano Ave. to the northwest. The bypass road allows for through traffic between Shawano Ave. and South Taylor St. during the closure of the intersection.

All lane restrictions are weather dependant and subject to change. Use extreme caution and remain alert when driving through any work zone.



## Around the state...DNR employees shine

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### *Central office success stories*

- **Kevin Huggins**, chief of the Licensing and Information Section in the Bureau of Customer Service & Licensing, wrote the following about **Adrienne Casper**, DNR call center lead: We're here for you...through hail, tornados and threat of bomb: The call center staff deal with a wide range of unusual cases, but the evening of Wednesday, June 8 certainly proved challenging for some customer service staff. The extremely hot and humid night had an uneventful start, but then some severe storms started approaching the Madison area leading to a number of thunderstorm warnings and a tornado watch.

The Capital Police received information suggesting that a bomb had been planted in GEF2. As the building was being evacuated – Adrienne Casper, the Call Center Lead, was concerned about how our customers were going to be served. Adrienne decided she would get home as quickly as she could; and log back into the phone system in order to keep the call center operating. She was challenged on her ride home with a severe thunderstorm, hail storm and a confirmed tornado touchdown.

"Adrienne's commitment and dedication to our customers is exemplary. Not only did she manage the bomb threat and get staff evacuated safely, she made sure someone was there for our customers. I commend Adrienne for going above and beyond for our customers!"

The Bureau of Customer Service's call center/hotline is open 15 hours (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.) per day, seven days per week, receiving over 370,000 customer contacts per year. It also manages the Law Enforcement Hotline and Spill line.

- From **Lisa Gaumnitz**, public affairs manager in the Office of Communication, regarding production of the trap net safety radio and TV spots: Thanks much to everyone for great work on a tight deadline, especially **Mary Farmiloe**, video producer in the Bureau of Customer Service and Licensing, who got the scripts in order, produced and directed the pieces, videotaped in some very challenging conditions, and hustled to get web versions and FTP site versions done. Thanks also to **Laurel Steffes**, director of the Office of Communication, for quick reviews of scripts and pieces.

**Karl Scheidegger**, fisheries biologist, and **Alisa Santiesteban**, communications specialist, both in the Bureau of Fisheries Management, **Paul Holtan**, DNR News and Outdoor Report editor, and **Cheryl Peterson**, fisheries technician, all worked very quickly to get various pieces up on different parts of the web. **Joanne Haas**, public affairs manager, did a great job in getting **Chris Groth**, warden supervisor and marine warden team leader in Green Bay, and **Dave Oginski**, conservation warden supervisor stationed in Ashland, lined up for on camera interviews; and Groth and chief warden **Randy Stark** turned in star performances in the spots.

- A job deserving recognition! Dear Mr. **(Mike) Staggs** (director, Bureau of

Fisheries Management): I am writing this correspondence to you as a land and homeowner, with Timber Coulee Creek traversing my backyard. I'm also a trout fisher and am particularly concerned with the long-term health of Wisconsin's fisheries and wildlife resources.

The foresight of the DNR in Wisconsin over the last 60 years with respect to the systematic rehabilitation and creation of the trout fisheries, particularly in and around Vernon County, has created one of the finest array of fishable trout waters and trout populations in the entire US. Not only do these fisheries provide opportunities to local fishers, but people come from far away to the resource as a destination fishery. During the course of the fishing seasons, it's interesting to see the license plates on parked cars along the access points to Timber Coulee Creek. The farthest ones I've seen are Alaska to the west, Maine to the east, and there's a generous sprinkling of plates from the western US. Of course the majority are from Wisconsin followed by Illinois and Minnesota and Iowa.

The last three years of record flooding along our creeks created measurable damage to the bank stabilizations and structures designed many (25 to 30) years ago to create the holding and spawning areas so vitally needed to keep the fishery healthy and to also provide habitat for all the creatures that rely on the creek environment. In my own "backyard" there were no less than nine (9) different structures (wing dams, log diversions, mats, etc.) systematically peeled back, uncovered and degraded over the course of four floods. Through the efforts of the DNR and your team of very talented and experienced people, specifically **Mike Leonard**, fisheries management technician (La Crosse), **Todd Mathison** and **Craig Erickson** machine operators (both in La Crosse), they were able to recreate an environment far superior to that which was taken away by the storm events.

I know you realize their value. You can be proud of the work that has been accomplished. I'd urge you to come to Timber Coulee Creek and see what this knowledge and experience means to the DNR, the overall environmental resource, the land owners and the fishery. *Respectfully yours, Robert D Sholiton, Westby WI*

In response to Sholiton: I very much appreciate the feedback and the kind words about our staff and their efforts. I agree that we have a top flight group of professionals who are dedicated to making fishing here in Wisconsin better. I will pass along your feedback to our administration also. Thanks again! *Michael Staggs*

#### ***Northeast Region success stories***

- To **Christine Lilek** (hydrogeologist in Plymouth): It is nice to work with an agency that is so interested in its projects! My experience w/the regulators in other states make me long for the days when I had more active projects in WI, a state where the regulators actually return phone calls! They actually read the submittals & come to meetings w/questions! Wisconsin regulators have those kind of professionally courteous behaviors. *James Vondracek, Ashland Inc.*
- To **Heidi Springborn** (conservation biologist, Green Bay) and **Joe Henry** (regional ecologist, Green Bay): I attended the [Phagmites](#) informational meeting last night in Suamico. I want to commend each of you and those in your respective agencies for seizing the opportunity and acting quickly to grab the federal money available to try and control the Phagmites growth in our area! I also want to thank each of you for taking the time to explain the project and answer our questions!. Not an easy task when you are dealing with the public; but you all did an outstanding job! Keep up the good work! *Steve Van Lannen*

- **Roxanne Chronert** (hydrogeologist program coordinator, Green Bay) and **Mary Gansberg** (water resources management specialist, Green Bay): We had a spill in Outagamie County on Friday June 17, when Roxanne and Mary Gansberg responded and took some water samples. It was nice to have them in the field assisting on Friday afternoon. It should be noted that Roxanne went above and beyond by being available after hours, checking her e-mails, and assisting me with questions from a newspaper reporter. Roxanne was out having supper Friday evening with her family, but brought her computer and responded to my e-mails around 7 p.m. and then after 9 p.m. This help was much appreciated.

**George Protogere**, warden supervisor, Green Bay

- Thank you **Kathy Sylvester** (hydrogeologist, Oshkosh): Your prompt response (to a Dry Cleaners Environmental Response Program variance request) is really appreciated and makes this critical cleanup project work efficiently. *Don Gallo, Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C.*

#### ***Northern Region success story***

- *Thanks from the Boy Scouts:* The committee chair for the Lincoln County Jamboree wrote the following to **Sara Gossfeld-Benzing** (ranger/assistant property manager at Council Grounds State Park) and **Dave Benish** (camping program manager): "I wanted to follow up with both of you concerning our "Lincoln County Jamboree" that the Boy Scouts had June 3-5 at the Council Grounds. From all three troops, I want to convey the huge "THANK-YOU" to both of you and your staff for all that you did. The above-and-beyond service shown to us was awesome to say the least. We've camped all over the Midwest at state campgrounds and have never experienced such an over-the-top response from the staff like yours! The kids and many of the adults are still buzzing about the great time they had and hope to do it again next year."

The jamboree committee chair also told Sara that there "is no doubt in my mind that you were responsible for the success of the event!"

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

- Congratulations to spills coordinator/hydrogeologist (Milwaukee) **Scott Ferguson** from associate professor *Linda J. Laatsch with Marquette University*: On behalf of the students in our Public Health course, I would like to thank you for addressing this group again this year on the topic of Hazardous Wastes. You discuss issues that most students have never even considered. And, you always have interesting new stories to tell each year! The students are asked to evaluate each quest speaker: some of their comments follow: Great job! Very interesting presentation! The many examples and visuals were helpful in understanding the material. Interesting and provided excellent examples of what the Department of Natural Resources does and the cases they are involved in. We do appreciate your taking time out of your busy schedule to share your expertise with our students.

- Congratulations to hydrogeologist **Pam Mylotta** (Milwaukee) from acting regional director **John Hammen**: Pam attended a Health Department meeting with daycare parents regarding the Milwaukee Fabricare remediation project. Pam, thanks for attending this public meeting on a beautiful Saturday. Your

presence was important to the parents and others involved. Thanks for the comprehensive follow-up report.

Bureau director of Remediation and Redevelopment **Mark Giesfeldt** added: Pam, ditto to John's recognition. Thanks for all you do!

- Congratulations to water management specialist **Jennifer Jerich** (Waukesha) from *Joe Duff, CEO of Operation Migration Inc.* and wildlife biologist **James Holzwart** (Plymouth): Many thanks go out to Jen Jerich and Kyle Zibung on "going the extra mile" to get this accomplished and reviewed in such short order. (Jerich helped Holzwart obtain the required permits for the project.)

I would like to add our thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on the development of a new site (at the White River Marsh Wildlife Area for the release of whooping crane chicks in Wisconsin). This is all very exciting and a new hope for the Eastern Population.

Southeast Fox Basin team leader **James D'Antuono** added: Excellent internal customer service!

- Congratulations to water resources biologist **Marsha Burzynski** (Milwaukee), fisheries biologist **Ben Heussner** (Waukesha), and hydrogeologist **Mark Drews** (Waukesha): Marsha, Ben and Mark graduated from the 2010-2011 Department Leadership Academy at a ceremony held on Tuesday, June 14 in Madison. Deputy secretary **Matt Moroney** and Aldo Leopold Foundation executive director Buddy Huffaker were the featured speakers for the event. Acting regional director **John Hammen** attended the event.
- Acting Southeast Region director **John Hammen** forwarded a copy of a Wednesday, June 15, broadcast interview to the Secretary's Office and Air and Waste Division administration, along with the following comments: WUWM Public Radio ran a 12-minute feature story about the 250-acre redevelopment project along the lakefront in Oak Creek. While Department of Natural Resource staff is not directly quoted on-air in the story, Consultant Kathy Huibregtse does give very positive credit to the **Remediation and Redevelopment Voluntary Party Liability Exemption program** as a major factor in the renewed success of this redevelopment effort. **Central office and Southeast Region Remediation and Redevelopment staffs** have developed a strong partnership with Oak Creek and the other responsible parties and continue to provide exemplary technical assistance and service to help everyone achieve significant milestones. The program aired on Public Radio's Lake Effect Program.
- Congratulations to the Southeast Region Remediation and Redevelopment staff, primarily hydrogeologist supervisor **Jim Schmidt**, hydrogeologists **Eric Amadi** and **Margaret Brunette**, along with central office Brownfields and Outreach Section chief **Darsi Foss** and grants specialist **Shelley Fox**. Air and Waste deputy division administrator **Suzanne Bangert** responded: Thanks for sharing this story - really good work on this significant parcel of property along the lake. Kudos to the staff that have been working with them here in Madison and in the region to provide the assistance needed to get the land back into productive use.

Division administrator **Patrick Stevens** also praised the team: Great Work!!

### ***West Central Region success stories***

- From Division of Forestry deputy director **Darrell Zastrow** to **Jim Storandt** (Griffith Nursery supervisor, Wisconsin Rapids), **Jeremiah Auer** (assistant nursery manager), **Pat Murphy** (regional forestry staff supervisor) and **Arvid Haugen** (regional forestry leader): I had the day off and went to the Brewers game on Wednesday and actually saw you two on the field behind homeplate receiving thanks for the seedlings. (I was way down on the first base side, middle deck – I waved.) This was a great success! Thanks for all your work and the work of the team. Pat deserves a huge "congratulation" and job well done for having this effort come together.

Seventy-five hundred spruce seedlings were handed out after the Brewers game on Wednesday to promote tree planting. Pat did most of the coordination to pull this off!  
*Arvid Haugen*

Outstanding!! Thank you Pat, Jim & Jeremiah - a great project! *West Central Region director Scott Humrickhouse*



### **Spring/summer fire season summed up: calm here, turbulent in South**

By: Adapted from "Forestry Notes" newsletter

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As of mid-May, DNR fire control staff had suppressed 413 fires covering 395 acres in DNR protection areas. Widespread precipitation hastened green up conditions across the state, which reduced the risk of wildfires. Because Wisconsin's fire season was relatively mild, the department was able to assist the Texas Forest Service and the state of Georgia with DNR personnel and equipment.

The fourth deployment of DNR staff to operate equipment departed for the Longhorn State on June 22. Since January, Texas has battled more than 10,000 wildfires burning 2.3 million acres. Currently in Texas, the department has four type 4 engines, a 750-gallon water tank mounted on a three ton truck, one type 6 engine 160-gallon water tank mounted on a 1 ton 4X4 truck, four JD450 crawler tractor plows with specialized fire equipment, and one JD750 heavy dozer. Twelve specially-trained firefighters staff this equipment.

Due to the extreme weather conditions and fatiguing workload, every two weeks the department rotates fresh personnel to staff the equipment. Also, four type 6 engines and eight firefighters assisted on the Honey Prairie Fire in Georgia.

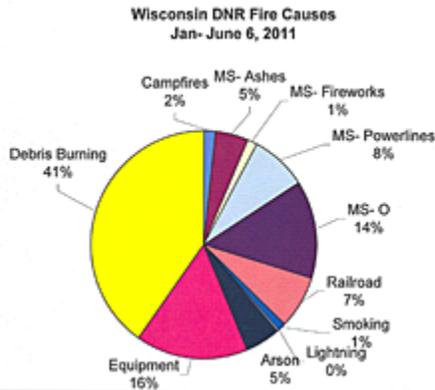
Staff and equipment departed for Georgia on June 21 and 22. On June 15, the "Florida Times Union" newspaper story "[Smoke, ash covers the First Coast as Georgia fires burn](#)" reported the impact of South Georgia and Florida fires on those living north, along the southeast coast of the U.S.

Wisconsin is reimbursed for the costs of out-of state firefighting assistance, which gives DNR personnel valuable training and experience. Assistance is provided through Wisconsin's cooperative agreement with the USDA Forest Service.

See the ABC News June 20 report "[Wildfires Ravage 6 States: Arizona, Texas, California, New Mexico, Colorado and Georgia](#)" to get a sense of the enormity of these fires.

#### **Facts about Wisconsin wildfires for 2011**

*Catherine Koele, Bureau of Forest Protection*



Wisconsin DNR Fire Causes  
WDNR Graphic

- 3,303 burn permits issued online (lots of seasonal residents are using this feature)
- 2,648 burn permits issued over the phone
- 1,091 burn permits issued from a DNR Service Center
- At this time of the year, "[Burning Permits Current Fire Danger](#)" (WIS-BURN) is the second most-visited page on the DNR Internet website, right behind the [DNR homepage](#)
- The average amount of time a customer spends on the WIS-BURN site is about four minutes

**Footnote:** Catherine Koele is a forest fire prevention specialist in the Bureau of Forest Protection.



## Local Milwaukee businesses honored for improving air quality

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Four Wisconsin businesses were honored recently by Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air (WPCA) for their voluntary efforts to improve air quality, more proof that corporate environmental responsibility is growing.

The awards were presented during the 2011 Clean Air Extravaganza at Waukesha County Technical College on May 26. DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp gave closing remarks. Southeast Region's acting regional director John Hammen presented the awards.



Coming together to recognize the newest Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air members were (left to right) DNR Sec. Cathy Stepp; Bill Weisgerber, Milwaukee County Transit System; Jim Fenzel, Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc.; Mike Stahl, Beloit Frito Lay, Inc.; Vickie Bence, Godfrey & Kahn, Attorneys At Law S.C.; John Hammen, DNR acting Southeast Region director; Jim Zisser, Beloit Frito Lay, Inc.; and Peter Beitzel, Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

WDNR Photo

The Clean Air Extravaganza is an event to celebrate the accomplishments of Wisconsin businesses and organizations that are improving air quality by reducing emissions from their facilities and fleets, improving energy efficiency, providing employee commuter options, and developing ways to educate the public about air quality issues. The WPCA is a coalition of over 300 businesses, community organizations, schools and government agencies committed to improving air quality through voluntary action. The following companies are the 2011 WPCA award winners:

- **Beloit Frito-Lay** for their well-rounded and innovative approach to energy conservation.
- **Milwaukee County Transit System** for their variety of efforts extending beyond their bus fleet operation.
- **Roundy's Supermarket's, Inc.** for their comprehensive and continuous improvements companywide. Roundy's also is in the department's Green Tier Program.
- **Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. Attorneys at Law** was presented with the Commuter Champion Award for their extensive offering of commuter benefits to their employees.

Although DNR's Air Management Program involvement in WPCA includes coordinating the group's annual event and awards program, department staff isn't directly involved with the individual actions that earned these companies their awards.

DNR does take actions that indirectly support the efforts of WPCA members. For example, the department provided a grant to Frito-Lay to cover part of the cost of some of its truck idle controls. Regional air management specialist **Jessica Lawent** helped the County Transit System obtain a grant, along with the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest, to fund their engine repowers/replacements to a cleaner model. Also, **Mike Friedlander**, program and planning analyst in the Bureau of Air Management worked with Roundy's on some of its initiatives.

More information about the award recipients is posted at ["Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air."](#)



## EPA announces partnership for first-ever Great Lakes Week

By: EPA Region 5 news release

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other participating organizations announced on June 15 the details of the first-ever [Great Lakes Week](#), scheduled for this October.



Kenosha Daybreak

Photo courtesy of John Glowacki

The theme of Great Lakes Week is “Working Together, Taking Action.” The intent is to bring representatives of the U.S. and Canadian governments together with a broad coalition of public and private groups to highlight efforts to implement solutions for the lakes’ most pressing problems.

“For the Great Lakes to care for us, we need to take care of them,” said Cameron Davis, senior advisor for the Great Lakes to EPA administrator Lisa Jackson.

“Government efforts alone cannot restore the lakes. Great Lakes Week will bring together businesses, environmental organizations and government agencies to take action to protect our shared resource.”

EPA coordinates the efforts of 15 federal and bi-national agencies as part of President Obama’s [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\)](#). Great Lakes Week advances the GLRI, the largest investment in the lakes in two decades. The lakes provide jobs, recreation and drinking water for more than 30 million people in the Great Lakes basin. Great Lakes Week represents a new partnership to improve the places around the basin where people live, work, learn and play.

The week’s activities will focus on progress that’s been made in restoration efforts and innovative solutions to challenges affecting the Great Lakes. Hosting the annual meetings and conferences of various organizations in one place will make this one of the most wide-ranging Great Lakes summits in history.

“There is no higher priority than clean water and this historic joint meeting reflects the fact that it’s time for everyone--the public, industry, environmental organizations and government--to come together with a commitment to restore and protect the Great Lakes,” said Lana Pollack, U.S. Section chair of the International Joint Commission.



## Fourth of July weekend: Play it safe

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management

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### *Injuries from fireworks a major concern for the holiday*

The Fourth of July and fireworks just go together. With the holiday weekend approaching, this is a great time to remember that fireworks can cause serious injuries and death if not properly used.

- In 2009, doctors treated 8,800 fireworks-related injuries in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.
- Thirty-nine percent of those victims were under the age of 15.
- Fifty-three percent of the injuries were to extremities like hands, arms and legs.
- Eighty-four percent of the injuries involved fireworks that federal regulations permit people to use.
- Eighteen thousand fires were started by fireworks, resulting in 30 injuries and \$38 million in direct property damage. (Courtesy National Fire Protection Association)

But you can protect yourself and your family by knowing these simple facts and tips:

- NEVER allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Young children often suffer injuries from sparklers which burn at about 2,000 degrees, hot enough to melt some metals.
- Adults igniting the fireworks should always wear eye protection and never have any part of the body over the firework.
- Only buy fireworks from reliable sellers.
- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Always have water handy (a garden hose or a bucket).
- Light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from buildings, dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Light only one firework at a time.
- Never throw or point fireworks at other people or animals.
- Keep your pets indoors to reduce the risk that they will run loose and get injured. Many animals have very sensitive ears and can be stressed or frightened due to the lighting of fireworks.

The best advice is to leave the fireworks displays to trained professionals. Then sit back and "ohhh...ahhh" as you enjoy the show!

For more safety tips and information, find ReadyWisconsin on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).



## Young falcons fledge and leave nest atop Madison utility

By: Madison Gas & Electric news release

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In the early morning of Saturday, June 18, after a few approaches and wing tests, the last of the peregrine falcon chicks fledged from the nesting box atop the Blount Street power plant in Madison. The video camera caught only the first and last falcon fledges during daylight hours, with all fledging occurring within a span of roughly 36 hours.

The peregrine falcons born Mother's Day weekend marked the third consecutive year falcons have nested and produced young at the site in downtown Madison.

In late May, this year's brood received tracking leg bands and had blood samples drawn in order to more accurately monitor their travels and identify their DNA.

The birds stayed close to the nest for about a month, then headed off on their own. Adult falcons typically find a home within 200 miles of their nesting place if a steady food supply exists. Some will travel more than 1,000 miles from their nest.

After near extinction in Wisconsin, the falcon population has been flourishing. The birds are on the state's endangered species list. MGE installed a specially built box near the top of the power plant in 1999. Power plants have played a major role in the repopulation of falcons in Wisconsin. More than half the falcons hatched each year in the state come from power plant nests.

For video clips tracking the birds in the nesting box, go to [MGE's website](#). Those biking on the path between Blair and Livingston streets can see the box from their vantage point on the ground.

MGE generates and distributes electricity to 139,000 customers in Dane County, and purchases and distributes natural gas to 143,000 customers in seven south-central and western Wisconsin counties. The company's roots in the Madison area date back more than 150 years.



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