

**In this issue**

<b>1. July storms prove need for portable emergency weather radios</b>	<b>2. Acts of bravery often put wardens in risk of losing their own lives</b>
<b>3. Federally-funded wildlife internships mutually beneficial</b>	<b>4. Prompt response fixes pond's dike on Lower Wisconsin State Riverway</b>
<b>5. Links of interest...don't miss them</b>	<b>6. Around the state...DNR employees shine</b>
<b>7. National group taps Ben Tremel as region's top boating officer</b>	<b>8. Two Wisconsin schools receive PollinatorLIVE Greenworks! Grants!</b>
<b>9. Not everyone sights a bull elk while driving to work</b>	<b>10. Dog training, backtags and more changing for Wisconsin bear hunters</b>
<b>11. Two honored for contributions to DNR Hunter Education Safety program</b>	

**July storms prove need for portable emergency weather radios**

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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

Summertime in Wisconsin means outdoor activities such as camping, hiking and boating. It also can mean severe storms such as tornadoes, lightning and strong winds. That's why it's important to have a portable emergency weather radio to alert you and your family to potential severe weather.

Already this year, Wisconsin has had 31 confirmed tornadoes including one in northern Wisconsin the weekend of July 2-3. In addition, strong storms on July 1 caused one death and numerous injuries. A Park Falls couple believes a portable emergency weather radio saved their lives, and the lives of others, during a tornado outburst last summer.

Last July 27, Larry and Rita Krznarich were camping on the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage between Park Falls and Mercer. Just after 7 p.m., their emergency weather radio alerted them that a tornado was coming. They immediately told campers nearby and everyone took cover.

Larry was injured in the tornado, but Rita and others were okay. Everything at the campsite was destroyed. "There was debris in chunks flying through the air," said Rita Krznarich. "If you've ever heard one tree fall, you can imagine 50 trees all cracking and falling around you."

The Krznarichs believe that without the warning alert from their emergency weather radio giving them the chance to seek cover, they'd be dead. They're sharing their story in a powerful TV and radio public service campaign in hopes that more lives can

be saved.

In the public service announcement, Rita and Larry urge everyone to buy an emergency weather radio. "Ever since the storm, we've given weather radios to people as gifts. You can get them for \$20 or in that range, so there's no excuse not to have one or many."

Wisconsin Emergency Management and its ReadyWisconsin preparedness program are sponsoring this campaign. "That early warning from the National Weather Service via the emergency weather radio is a lifesaver," said Tod Pritchard, Emergency Preparedness coordinator. "Having a portable radio is essential if you're camping or hiking."

Along with the 30-second public service campaign, "[Are You Ready Wisconsin](#)" is posting a longer version of [Larry's and Rita's story](#), along with the stories of other tornado survivors from Kenosha and Eagle.

The "Are you ready Wisconsin" webpage "[Get ready for tornadoes](#)" contains a wealth of information on tornadoes and severe weather in Wisconsin. "[Emergency weather radios/Q & A](#)" answers common questions about these radios, and even tells you where you can buy them.



## Acts of bravery often put wardens in risk of losing their own lives

By: Joanne Haas, Office of Communication

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

*News release published on July 11, 2011*

They helped pull children from a burning van, belly-crawled on thin ice to drag a submerged snowmobiler to shore, helped nab an armed bank robber, and stopped a young woman from suicide.

They are Wisconsin conservation wardens. Mostly known as the group protecting the state's natural resources, the wardens are credentialed law enforcement officers whose mission includes the protection of the people of Wisconsin.

On July 11, 16 wardens were honored in a capitol ceremony for taking action at the right time on behalf of the citizens they serve – and sometimes facing the possibility of losing their own lives.

"We are proud of these wardens. They answered the call to duty with selfless service to help someone or protect the public," DNR chief conservation warden **Randy Stark** said at the ceremony where life-saving and valor awards were distributed by Gov. Scott Walker and DNR Secretary **Cathy Stepp**.

Stepp agreed, saying the wardens exemplify courage.

"These wardens truly made a difference in some people's lives. They risked their own safety and responded with quick professionalism without thinking of themselves first," Stepp said.

Gov. Walker also offered his congratulations during the ceremony in the Governor's Conference Room. "These outstanding public employees deserve to be recognized for going above and beyond their duty to serve Wisconsin's residents. I want to simply say thank you for your hard work and dedication to your job."

The wardens honored were selected by a panel of their peers who examined nominations submitted by supervisors from 2007 to present.

The valor award is presented to the warden whose bravery and courage went beyond the call of duty in an extremely difficult situation that also threatened the warden's life.

The life-saving award is presented to the warden who used actions intended to save a person's life. Each warden honored also received a plaque and a pin.

**The following wardens were honored with valor awards:**

- **Jeremy Peery** of Rusk County took gunfire while he pursued an armed bank robbery suspect in January 2010.
- **David Oginski Jr.** of Marinette County used his vehicle to intentionally incapacitate a stolen squad car in December 2009 to stop an armed man also considered suicidal.
- **Casey Krueger** and **Andrew Dryja** of Forest County assisted local law enforcement in the apprehension of an armed man shooting at a waterfront resort in July 2007.

**The following wardens were honored with life-saving awards:**

- **Michael Nice** of Richland County pulled aboard his patrol boat two struggling swimmers being overwhelmed by the strong Wisconsin River currents in July 2007.
- **Darren Kuhn** of Kewaunee County left his routine deer patrol when he heard the call about an occupied van on fire in the village of Luxemburg in November 2007. When warden Kuhn arrived, the van was in flames with six children trapped. He used his fire extinguisher to get to the trapped children until local fire department arrived. Four of the six children survived.
- **Joseph Frost** of Iowa County followed a trail of items floating from two capsized canoes until he spotted a rapidly tiring woman caught in strong Wisconsin River currents in July 2008. Warden Frost rescued the woman.
- **Casey Krueger** and **Paul Nadolski** of Columbia County risked their personal safety to free a driver from a vehicle being overwhelmed by the rising Fox River in June 2008.
- **David Walz** of Jefferson County performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a man found pulseless and not breathing by his daughter in October 2008.
- **Benjamin Herzfeldt** of Marathon County quickly constructed a rescue line of tow straps and a boat cushion to crawl on thin ice to pull to safety a man whose snowmobile had broken through the ice in March 2009.
- **Thomas Krsnich** of Brown County tapped his keen perception and implemented quick actions that prevented a woman from succeeding at suicide in October 2010.
- **Patrick 'Mike' Neal** answered a call for help for two unconscious men found on the ice in Door County in January 2010. Warden Neal performed life support measures on one man, while a local fishing guide worked on the other. The men were taken to shore in the warden's truck to a waiting ambulance for transport to the hospital for treatment of carbon monoxide poisoning. The ice fishermen survived.
- **Christopher Kratcha** of Door County performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on an unconscious driver pulled from the waters of Green Bay in August 2010.

- **Jason Higgins** and **Thomas Truman** of Winnebago County rescued two exhausted waterfowl hunters found clinging to their overturned boat on Rush Lake in October 2010. Neither was wearing a life preserver.
- **Paul Sickman** of St. Croix County on a July 2010 late night patrol rescued from the waters an exhausted woman barely staying afloat as she attempted to swim across the St. Croix River.

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



## Federally-funded wildlife internships mutually beneficial

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

For the second year in a row, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has awarded DNR \$75,000 to pilot an internship program to give young professionals experience working on their own wildlife management projects, while at the same time helping to meet the demands on DNR's programs.



An intern (right) and Wildlife Management's John Christian conducted a vegetation survey at Horicon Marsh.

WDNR Photo

**The overall goal of this pilot is to develop a national model for partnerships between the USFWS and state natural resource agencies. The department will hire ten interns for approximately 600 hours between late August and December.**

**The internships are funded in conjunction with the USFWS National Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Interns work closely with mentors (DNR biologists and University of Wisconsin faculty) and intern coordinator Jescie Kitchell**, research scientist with the Bureau of Science Services. Mentors supervise the interns, provide input on their internship projects, presentations, final intern manuscripts, and can serve as professional references. Interns gain valuable experience writing and presenting information, and are required to file a final report and make a presentation at the end of their term.

DNR's Bureau of Science Services is working with the bureaus of Wildlife Management and Endangered Resources, department researchers, the USFWS and University of Wisconsin faculty to develop internship projects for this fall.



This intern worked on banding Trumpeter Swans in the northwest pine barrens.  
WDNR Photo

You can see the final report and presentations from last year's summer internship program at "[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Internship Pilot Program 2010.](#)"

If you have questions about the program, email [Karl Martin](#), Wildlife and Forestry Research Section chief in the Bureau of Science Services, or call him at (608)224-7138.



## Prompt response fixes pond's dike on Lower Wisconsin State Riverway

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

**South Central Region (SCR) staff responded quickly to save recreational opportunities on Bakken's Pond on the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway following a washout that occurred when a hole developed in the pond's lower dike on July 3. Although there was no threat to people or property, a two-foot decrease in water levels could seriously impact recreational opportunities on the pond, including fishing, canoeing and site seeing.**



The spot on Bakken's Pond where a washout occurred on July 3.  
WDNR Photo

**It appeared that there was a build-up of material at the auxiliary spillway, which caused swirling water to undercut or erode the spillway, developing the hole in the dike. In situations where a dike is holding back water, once the water passes through the structure, it quickly erodes the dike and**

creates a large hole, in this case a hole that is approximately five feet deep and 12' to 14' wide. As a result, the water in Bakken's Pond quickly passed through the hole, resulting in a drawdown of the flowage of about two feet.

Fortunately, on July 4, concerned local citizens contacted Becky Roth and Bill Ishmael, DNR regional wildlife management staff in the area informing them of the quickly-decreasing water level.



A crew pushed dirt and rock into place to stop the flow of water, resulting in an increase in the water level of about six inches.

WDNR Photo

Thanks in large part to the help from a local contractor and **Ryder Will**, SCR parks and recreation specialist, Roth and Ishmael were able to apply a temporary patch (No, not Will's finger) to the dike, retaining as much water in the flowage as possible, and realizing about a six inch increase in water depth.

Engineers already are working with the department to provide a more permanent solution; however, the unplanned draining had a temporary affect on fishing on the flowage, as well as wildlife use and bird watching. Roth reported that there were no adverse impacts on the game fish themselves.



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

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

- **Title:** "Operation Migration, where Imagination and Innovation meet extreme science"

**Description:** Operation Migration has played a leading role in the reintroduction of endangered Whooping cranes into eastern North America since 2001. In the 1940s the species was reduced to just 15 birds. Operation Migration is a founding partner of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. The June 30 "Digest" included a link to the "[White River Marsh State Wildlife Area welcomes endangered whooping cranes](#)" story. Click on the following link to learn more about Operation Migration and the training of young crane colts to prepare them to take flight later this year.

**Link:** [Operation Migration](#)

- **Title:** "Phosphorus Pollution: A Drag on Wisconsin's Economy"

**Description:** "Clean Wisconsin: Your environmental voice since 1970" produced this video in an attempt to reach the population of Dunn County and the rest of Wisconsin on the impact of phosphorous pollution, including its impact on the state's culture. This is the second such video presentation produced by this group

**Link:** "[Phosphorus Pollution: A Drag on Wisconsin's Economy](#)"

- **Title:** "Monthly Hunting and Target Shooting Participation and Market Trends"

**Description:** The May 2011 Hunter/Shooter Trends Media Report gives a static picture of the results for a given month, providing insights and comparing results from one month to another, which is a good picture of industry trends and changes. The percentages reported reflect the percent of hunters who reported buying a product in the category or participating in the type of activity specified.

**Link:** ["Monthly Hunting and Target Shooting Participation and Market Trends"](#)

- **Title:** "Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning"

**Description:** "Northern Region Notes" recently included a piece on this article written by marine safety specialist Mario Vittone, US Coast. This and other articles written by Vittone have appeared in Yachting, Saltwater Sportsman, On-Scene, Lifelines and Reader's Digest magazine. During this time of year, a lot of us, our families and friends spend time on our state's waters. Take a few minutes to read the safety advice offered in this short, but potentially life saving, article.

**Link:** ["Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning"](#)



## Around the state...DNR employees shine

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

### *Central office success story*

- Operations associate for Project WILD, WET and Learning Tree **Kimberly Anderson**, Office of Communications, compiled the following comments received following a donation of teaching materials from the Project Learning Tree program to this year's Midwest Renewable Energy Fair. **Janet Hutchens**, state coordinator says, "Each year we partner with other organizations as they host events to share educational materials about our natural resources which also helps promote our statewide education programs. It is a partnership that benefits both organizations, event participants and the children they teach."

Dear Janet: Thank you for your help and involvement with the Energy Fair. And thank you for the Energy & Society Gift that I was so fortunate to win! I will put it to good use at Giese Elementary by making it available to the entire school. *John Kruse*

Dear Janet: Thank you to the DNR & PLT for donating the Energy & Society Kit! I am not yet a teacher, but will hopefully be one in the next year or two. When I do become a teacher, I plan to use it (the kit) to teach my students about energy and how to reduce their use of it. Thank you again! *Sincerely, Samantha Isberner*

Thank you for the Energy & Society Kit I won at the Energy Fair last weekend. I'm looking forward to using it in my classroom during the next school year. *Sincerely, Barbara Baird*

- This comment was written about natural resources educator **Amalia Baldwin**, Office of Communication, after she delivered a two-day Project WET and Project WILD workshop to teachers, at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge: It was really great that the lessons presented were for a variety of age levels. Amalia pointed out different adaptations that could be used for younger students.

### *South Central Region success stories*

- From a grateful boater rescued by warden supervisor **Dave Holmes** and deputy warden **Nathan Weyh** (both stationed at Poynette): David, Just wanted to thank you again for coming to our rescue yesterday and giving us a tow to Whalen Bay. We got back under the bridge and then our trolling motor decided to tank on us. Another kind soul towed us the rest of the way. Not a good day, but saved by folks like you! We are good to go now and got back out on the water today. Thanks for all you do and hope we meet again someday! *Larry Swaton*
- I am writing to bring to your attention the excellent work of warden **Mike Nice** (Dodgeville): Mr. Lyle Messenger notified DNR of illegal dumping in a wetland adjacent to his property in Richland County. It was his neighbor who did the dumping in May 2011, just two days before Mr. Messenger's wife died of cancer. His wife was very concerned about the illegal dumping, it was her dying wish that it be cleaned up.

South Central Region waste team supervisor **Dennis Mack** contacted the neighbor and sent a letter, requesting clean up. No action occurred. Encouraged by Mr. Messenger to pursue this further, warden Nice conferred with Dennis Mack, then contacted the neighbor personally and succeeded in persuading him to clean up the materials he had previously dumped in the wetland.

I spoke with Mr. Messenger this morning. He is very pleased to see this matter resolved. He says, "Hands down to Mike Nice, he got the job done."

Under current resource constraints we are quite limited in the amount of time we are able to spend on these smaller illegal dumping incidents. With a minimum of investment, warden Nice was able to effectively and efficiently resolve this matter to the satisfaction of all parties. This is a credit to his professionalism and the relationships he has developed over time within his community. I am sincerely grateful for his good work on this matter. *Eileen F. Pierce, SCR air and waste leader*

- **Kurt Thiede**, Land Division administrator, sent the following comments to **staff that participated in the Devil's Lake State Park centennial celebration on June 25**: "From the time I drove into the park on Saturday morning until the time my family and I left on Saturday afternoon, I couldn't have been more proud of the top notch, professional, courteous and competent DNR PR, LF and LE staff that made the Devil's Lake Centennial celebration a success. It was a unique day in that it was a mix of celebration, as well as passionate opinions. But, throughout the morning, it was the celebration of one our most beautiful parks that was the focus. That was possible because of the hard work and planning that went into the event, as well as the efforts by so many to make the day safe, orderly and fun. It was a concentrated effort over a few hours, but I know it is the same effort that is repeated every day in our parks and on our trails. I'd like to say "thank you" for all you do every day to make our parks, trails and recreational lands the beautiful, safe and enjoyable vacation destinations for families and individuals that they are. And, an extra "thank you" for the efforts you and your staff exhibited on Saturday, June 25."

**Dan Schuller**, director of the Bureau of Parks & Recreation also thanked park staff following their centennial celebration: "I want to thank you and pass on the appreciation of the bureau and Secretary's Office for the wonderful 100th anniversary event you hosted on Saturday the 25th. The weather was perfect, the program highlighted the park and its exceptional history, and you went out of your way to

make all feel welcome and part of something great. People came up to me at the reception and regaled me with some of their stories and memories of the park and their ties to it. The Governor and Secretary (**Cathy**)**Stepp** both commented to me on what a fine event you held.

I appreciate very much the recognition given to our partners and volunteers. I also want to thank you and recognize the professionalism and customer service you displayed with our guests. As I mentioned at the celebration, Devil's Lake and experiences enjoyed there make us happier and healthier people, and that's worth celebrating. Thanks again for all that you do."

- **Robert Nack** (director, State Game Farm, Poynette) expressed his appreciation to **hatchery staff**: Our hatch season is coming to an end with our final hatch on June 24. The game farm staff and I wanted to send a sincere thank you to all the volunteers that helped us sex chicks during the hatch season. Together we will hatch nearly 170,000 pheasant chicks this year....and had fun doing it! We provided 35,000 chicks to conservation clubs in the day-old chick program. I'll try to cover everyone that helped out and apologize if I missed anyone. You owe it to yourself to enjoy the hunting opportunities these birds provide in the fall. Thanks again!!!

DNR staff: **Krista McGinley, Sharon Fandel, James Christopoulos, Meaghan Proctor, Alan Crossley, Molly Lundberg, Edward Alt, Tim Lizzotte, Eric Lobner, Jes Rees, Jay Watson, Helen Hartmann, Jane Riley, Ellen Barth, Travis Anderson, Mike Dampf, Nick Morehouse, Brooke Hushagen, Mary Ann Buenzow, Derek Duane, Tim Marien, Erin Grossman, Courtney Schaeffer, Nicole Swenson, Kurt Thiede, Al Ramminger, Andrew Bubolz, Darren Ladwig** and **Sara Kehrl**

Non-DNR volunteers: Brady Greene, Kimberly Jo Cooley, Caroline Tietz, Eric Krueger, Kevin Wallenfang (and daughter) and Jamie Nack

### ***West Central Region success story***

- Griffith Nursery superintendent **Jim Storandt** submitted this [thank you letter](#) complimenting **nursery staff statewide** for helping with trees for Arbor Day.



## **National group taps Ben Trembl as region's top boating officer**

By: Joanne Haas, Office of Communication, and Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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

*Warden known for boater safety focus, water survival training programs*

DNR conservation warden **Ben Trembl** of Green Bay is known nationally for his dedication to ensuring the safety of all boaters -- and that includes his warden colleagues on the water beat.

Trembl's dedication to clearing the public waters of intoxicated boat operators and developing warden water survival training is the reason behind his top honor from the [National Association of State Boating Law Administrators \(NASBLA\)](#) and [Revere Survival Products](#).

The Northern Association of Boating Administrators named Trembl Boating Officer of the Year from its northern region. The award announced in late June symbolizes the highest level of achievement among boating law enforcement officers in the United

States.

"Ben's dedication to ensuring the public safety of enjoying the waters is part and parcel of how he does his job day in and day out," DNR chief warden **Randy Stark** said. "Ben also makes the time to do public events and talk with the media, so the communities have come to know and to trust him to be the valuable public servant he is."

A conservation warden since 2000, Tremel has demonstrated a well-rounded boating program including enforcement, education, public relations and interagency cooperation.

Tremel also has shown a strong boating safety initiative by increasing working relationships with other agencies that patrol his area (including the U.S. Coast Guard.) He's also one of the department's two certified water survival instructors, and has been critical in developing and providing water survival training to all of the wardens in the state.

Tremel has become a leader in the area of "boating under the influence" enforcement, a leading violation in death and injury accidents. In 2010, Tremel removed 17 intoxicated boaters from waterways in his patrol area.

The Boating Officer of the Year Award symbolizes the highest level of achievement among boating law enforcement officers in the United States.

As part of his prize, Tremel also received a trip to the NASBoatingLAs' annual conference on September 10-14 in Milwaukee, where he'll be honored at the conference banquet. Find more information on the association's ["Boating Officer of the Year Award"](#) webpage.

**Footnote:** *Public affairs manager Joanne Haas works with the Division of Science and Enforcement.*



## Two Wisconsin schools receive PollinatorLIVE Greenworks! Grants!

By: Christopher Tall, divisions of Air & Waste and Forestry

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

Congratulations to two Wisconsin education programs who've received [PollinatorLIVE Greenworks! Grants!](#) managed by Project Learning Tree.



Greenworks! logo

Grades 7-12 students from the Howard-Suamico School District in the Achieving in Life Alternative Program will be building a Hope Grows Garden with the assistance of community volunteers and district staff. Vegetables grown will be donated to an area food pantry.

The Goodman Community Center of Madison also received a grant to develop a garden, butterfly houses and beehive near an existing large community garden.

Project Learning Tree and PollinatorLIVE help engage students from around the country in creating gardens in their school or community to provide habitat for pollinators. The PollinatorLIVE program, supported by the U.S. Forest Service and the Prince William Network, enables students to develop gardens where pollinators can thrive.

Great News! Project Learning Tree has funding available for Greenworks! Grants. Keep an eye out for details on the "Project Learning Tree" webpage ["2011](#)

[Greenworks! Grant Program."](#)

**Footnote:** *Christopher Tall is a natural resources educator.*



## Not everyone sights a bull elk while driving to work

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

**Beautiful scenery and the occasional deer, wolf or bear sighting could be considered run-of-the-mill for wolf ecologist Adrian Wydeven** as he drives to work. As luck would have it, on June 22, he captured on his camera a bull elk at the junction of FR 335 and 77, east of Clam Lake in Ashland County.



Adrian Wydeven was able to capture a "straight on" pose of this bull elk while driving to work one day in late June.

WDNR Photo

Elk biologist **Laine Stowell**, Hayward, estimates the age of this bull as between five and eight years old. Close, if not full grown. A bull elk such as this one reaches their maximum body weight at seven years old, but not their full antler development until 10 years.

"He probably weighs about 800 pounds," said Stowell.

Stowell's work indicates that the herd is at about 174 animals that occupy 110 square miles of the 1,112 square mile elk range, 90 square miles near Clam Lake and 20 square miles near Butternut.

You can learn more about Wisconsin's elk herd in Stowell's latest quarterly report ["Clam Lake Elk News, April through June, 2011."](#)



## Dog training, backtags and more changing for Wisconsin bear hunters

By: Joanne Haas, Office of Communication

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

**Editor's note:** The June 30 issue of the "Digest" included a link to a [news release](#) issued by the Governor's Office regarding the new bear law, Wisconsin Act 28, which expands privileges for Class A and Class B bear hunting licenses, and bear carcass tag and back tag requirements. The Bureau of Law Enforcement subsequently issued the following news release specifying the major changes, as they relate to

enforcement of the new law.

Changes are coming for Wisconsin bear hunters under legislation signed into law this month by Governor Scott Walker. Several changes in bear hunting and dog training laws are now in place.

More dog training opportunities and a license-free weekend are among the changes that took effect on July 2. Bear hunters and dog trainers should note that the new law isn't included in the current bear hunting rules pamphlet printed in December 2010. However, bear hunters should review the changes on the hunting and trapping regulations on the ["Wisconsin Hunting Regulations and Hours"](#) page of the DNR website.

**The major changes include:**

- **Dog training:** One big change increases the opportunity to train dogs to track or to trail bear. The statewide bear dog-training period remains July 1 through August 31. The new law allows trainers to work with their dogs in bear-hunting zones A, B and D when the season is open for hunting bear with dogs. This combined training and hunting period will run from September 7 through October 4.
- **License-free weekend:** Previously, a hunter needed a Class B bear license to participate in bear dog training or place bait for bear hunting and dog training. The new law allows hunters to participate in these activities on one weekend each year without a Class B bear license. This free weekend will be the third Saturday and following Sunday of August each year. This year the free weekend will be August 20 and 21. All participants still must comply with all other rules that regulate these activities.
- **No license required for those under age 16:** Previously, youth under age 12 could participate in activities requiring a Class B bear license without needing to purchase or hold a license. This license exemption now includes those under age 16. The activities authorized by a Class B bear license have included allowing the license holder to place bait for bear, train dogs to track or trail bear, and assist a Class A bear license holder locate bear for the Class A bear license holder to harvest.
- **Do more with a Class B license:** The Class B bear license authority has been expanded to allow the holder of the license, as well as anyone ages 10-15 who don't need a Class B bear license, to shoot a bear in one specific situation. If a bear has been shot, but not killed by a Class A bear license holder and the killing of the bear is necessary to protect human safety, a Class B bear license holder may shoot to kill the bear. Both the Class A and B license holders must be members of the same hunting party and both must be present at the point of kill. A bear license holder must ensure that the Class A bear license holder immediately attaches their validated bear carcass tag to the bear. While youth under age 10 can participate in bear dog training, bear baiting and assisting a Class A bear license holder locate a bear, they may not possess a firearm for hunting or shoot a bear.
- **Mentorship and adult supervision rules apply:** Youth ages 10-11 must obey all the Hunting Mentorship Program requirements. All youth ages 12-13 and ages 14-15 that haven't completed hunter education must be within visual and voice contact of a parent or adult guardian to possess a firearm for hunting or to shoot a

bear.

- **Backtag changes:** A Class A bear licensee must attach their back tag to the center of their outermost layer of clothing above the waist where it is clearly visible while hunting bear. Class A hunters don't need to wear their backtags, however, when not hunting bear or when only placing bait or training dogs to track or trail bear.

Class B bear license holders will no longer be required to wear a backtag during any activity authorized by their license. Class B bear licenses sold after July 1 will no longer include a backtag. Class B bear backtags issued before July 2011 will serve as the person's license and must be kept and carried when participating in any activities requiring the license.

For more information on changes in Wisconsin's bear hunting law, call **Thomas Van Haren**, law enforcement regulations and policy specialist at (608)266-3244 or **Scott Loomans**, wildlife management regulations specialist at (608)267-2452.



## Two honored for contributions to DNR Hunter Education Safety program

By: Joanne Haas, Office of Communication

[◆ Index](#) [▲ Prev](#) [▲ Top](#) [☰ Print](#)

**Jeff Dauterman** and **John Bronikowski** thought it was time to bring the nearly 45-year-old Wisconsin Hunter Safety Education Program into the 21st century with updates that reflect a changed and time-strapped state.

So the two DNR recreational safety wardens recruited Hmong and Native American volunteer instructors and developed a time-efficient way to help people stay savvy about safety.



Jeff Dauterman (left) and John Bronikowski proudly displayed their awards as recognition for their updates to the hunter education program.  
WDNR Photo

Their innovation netted honors from their peers on the Hunter Education Team. Dauterman, based in Antigo, was named the Professional of the Year for 2010. Bronikowski, based in Sturtevant, won the Hunter Education Administrator Award for 2010.

Warden **Todd Schaller**, chief of the Recreation Enforcement and Education Section, referred to Dauterman and Bronikowski as representatives of the service-minded

Hunter Education Team.

**Tim Lawhern**, former DNR Hunter Education administrator now administrator of the Division of Enforcement and Science, said both wardens made significant contributions to the future of hunting and hunter education in Wisconsin.

"By keeping our program on the leading edge, they have maintained a tradition of excellence in our program," Lawhern said. "There are never enough thanks to be given to such valued employees."

Specifically, Dauterman worked to diversify the hunter education instructor group so it better reflects the ethnic quilt covering Wisconsin. His hands-on approach took several years to accomplish.

Meanwhile, Bronikowski realized that there are some who know well the lessons of hunter safety, but don't have the time to sit in a certification class. So, Bronikowski developed a test-out option under a pilot that DNR uses.

Test-out a cake walk? Not by a long shot. Those instructors who opted to test out of a classroom still had to display their knowledge of all the lessons of hunter safety programs. How hard is it? Two-thirds of those who took the opt-out route last fall failed. Those who fail can retake the test as often as they like or enroll in a class.

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



---

**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, July 18, 2011 at 11:43:23 AM