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Fisheries Management breaks down barriers and makes connections

By: Theresa Stabo, Bureau of Fisheries Management

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Department reaches out to improve relationships with Latino and Hispanic communities

The Bureau of Fisheries Management's Aquatic Resources Education Program is exploring opportunities to connect with Latino and Hmong anglers and potential anglers with limited or no proficiency in English. The goal is to improve our understanding of the barriers they encounter when buying a fishing license, as well as put them at ease with our complex fishing regulations, and help them understand their role as stewards of a resource we all share.



One young angler took pride in the trout that he landed during his fishing club's outing in Fitchburg.

WDNR Photo

Latino and Hmong immigrants represent fast-growing segments of Wisconsin's population, it's important that they feel welcome in the community of anglers. Many recent arrivals are low-income subsistence anglers, which points to environmental justice and knowledge of fish contaminant issues.

This first year, the program focused on Latino communities, and will expand to include Hmong and other communities of color, next year.

We created our own opportunity to place interns at ethnic community centers to establish youth fishing clubs. They would serve as Summer Fishing Coaches and introduce children and their parents to the joys of fishing. We realized, as well, that the interns could provide information that would help clear the license-buying hurdles.

We enlisted the aid of Dr. Andrea-Teresa "Tess" Arenas, director of the Office of Service Learning and Community Based Research in the College of Letters and Sciences at UW-Madison to help us identify a student who would serve as the summer intern, as well as an organization to serve as host.

For the summer of 2011, Jannet Arenas (no relations to Tess Arenas) served as the primary intern, and Centro Hispano of Dane County provided space. Midway through the project, it became apparent that one intern couldn't provide adequate supervision to meet the demand, so a second intern, Victoria Shanahan also was placed at Centro Hispano. Together, they served 30 youth and their families over the course of the summer.

The result can best be summed up in the words of Dr. Arenas who, along with Fisheries Bureau director Mike Staggs, accompanied the group on their last outing.

"My student led the project by designing the curriculum around the DNR's Junior Angler Program and the course readings that I had assigned. The summer program

included hands-on projects, fishing trips, art, games, etc.”



Centro Hispano Fishing Club Picnic was held at the Jenny & Kyle Pond in Fitchburg.
WDNR Photo

Upon arrival at a pond, the kids enthusiastically poured out of the 15-passenger van. In a combination of English, Spanish and “Spanglish,” the excitement was off the charts! The intern kept the young anglers, ages 5 to 15 under control, while letting them have the time of their lives.

Staggs, who came along to check out the program was amazed when he heard one 5-year-old boy yell, “hey, you have to put him back in the water ‘cause he is too small to eat!”

When a 9-year-old boy caught a fish, he yelled for the “measuring crew” who quickly ran over with tape measures to ensure that the fish was a keeper.

The fishing tip of the day? Buy American. All the brand new China-made reels jammed, tangled and twisted. All of the 23-year-old rods and reels I’d brought from my angler education collection, still worked fine. They were the same model and brand, but made in the USA.

A total of five “keepers” were in the Styrofoam cooler by the end of the day. Then, Jannet pulled the group together to determine who would take a fish home to cook. The kids negotiated the serious task of dividing the pescado (fish). It was determined by the kids that the fish should go to those who hadn't taken a fish home in the past or who were sure that they'd really clean, cook and eat the fish. Very sensitive negotiations took place. I was stunned.



Father and daughter teamed up at the Centro Hispano Family Fishing Outing on Lake Wingra.

WDNR Photo

All of the kids were upset when a fish was injured and bled to death. They learned a valuable lesson about fish swallowing hooks with live bait on them. So, when they were negotiating who took a fish home, they didn't feel good about eating this one. "It suffered enough already; I can't eat it," said 8-year-old Javier, with the saddest tone I'd ever heard. Franco said, however, that "we can't waste this fish either, that is bad too."

After all these discussions about sharing the bounty, the kids moved from being diplomats to being kids again. They were tired, hungry, thirsty and ready for the ride home. I honestly can't remember if anyone took the bleeder home, but all the fish were gone when Jannet unloaded the van at Centro.

See the You Tube video "[Fishing Club](#)" to get a real feel for the day.

Footnote: *Theresa Stabo* is the department's aquatic resources education director. Her words of advice: *Community connections are everything. I found Dr. Arenas through **Bridgette Valdez-Kogle**, of the Bureau of Waste and Materials Management. **Carrie Morgan**, of the Office of Communication, introduced me to Bridgette. The DNR is a vibrant community with an infinite number of vital connections. Keep them "well oiled."*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title:** "The Rhythm of the River"

Description: DNR research scientists **John Lyons** and **Mike Mossman**, as well as **Jean Unmuth**, South Central Region water resources management specialist, are featured in this Wisconsin Public Television documentary on the Lower Wisconsin Riverway. Broadcast on several dates in September, this program will give you the opportunity to "Explore the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, a unique slice of our state that flourishes under a public/private land management plan." Click on the "Program link" on the lower right side of the webpage to preview this program.

Link: ["The Rhythm of the River"](#)

- **Title:** "Boaters, anglers be on the lookout for underwater hazards on Lake Michigan"

Description: Boaters and anglers enjoying those late season outings on Lake Michigan are urged to be on the lookout for underwater hazards, including commercial fishing trap nets. From the August 30 "Weekly News."

Link: ["Boaters, anglers be on the lookout for underwater hazards on Lake Michigan"](#)

- **Title:** "DNR fall hunting forecast available"

Description: The ["2011 Fall Hunting and Trapping Forecast"](#) now is available. Hunters, trappers and wildlife enthusiasts will find information on upcoming season structures, deer research, wildlife populations, district hunting outlooks and much more. Read more at the "Weekly News" story posted on August 30.

Link: ["DNR fall hunting forecast available"](#)

- **Title:** "August 2011 Wildlife Management Report"

Description: This report will raise the awareness of DNR staff and stakeholders regarding wildlife management activities, accomplishments, challenges and plans. The Bureau of Wildlife Management's goal for these reports is that they help build a coalition working toward the shared vision of producing abundant wildlife for all who appreciate how wildlife contributes to their quality of life.

Link: ["August 2011 Wildlife Management Report"](#)

- **Titles:** "DNR responds to emerald ash borer beetles found in La Crosse County"

"Emerald ash borer found in county"

Description: The media reports that the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) finds of emerald ash borer (EAB) bring to nine the number of counties where it's been found. A DATCP trapper recently discovered eight of the invasive insects on three separate traps in Racine County. A few days later, confirmation arrived of six beetles discovered on a survey trap in La Crosse County. Wisconsin counties where EAB has now been discovered are Brown, Crawford, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Vernon and Washington. For more information about EAB, visit the DNR ["Emerald Ash Borer"](#) webpage or the DATCP ["Wisconsin's Emerald Ash Borer Information Source"](#) page.

Links: ["DNR responds to emerald ash borer beetles found in La Crosse County"](#)
["Emerald ash borer found in county"](#)

- **Title:** "Forestry Goes to the Wisconsin State Fair"

Description: "The ForestREEporter," the Division of Forestry's internal newsletter reports on the program's stint at this year's Wisconsin State Fair. As is always the case, visitors to DNR's State Fair Park and Smokey's School House left with a lot more information than they asked for. Read all about it.

Link: ["Forestry Goes to the Wisconsin State Fair"](#)

- **Title:** "Tick-borne illnesses rising"

Description: This "Wausau Daily Herald" August 22 story alerts its readers to the presence of illnesses, other than Lyme's disease, carried by ticks. The numbers of cases are up significantly. Learn why by clicking on the following link.

Link: ["Tick-borne illnesses rising"](#)



Project WET/WILD/Learning Tree training begins with downpour

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A thorough downpour and bolts of lightning made travel to this year's Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training at the Pyle Center in Madison rather exciting. The energy from the storm seemed to stay with the crowd throughout the day, even after the sun pushed through the clouds.

The event began with an icebreaker that got all 28 facilitators in attendance talking so enthusiastically that it was hard for Project WET assistant coordinator and workshop organizer Amalia Baldwin, to be heard over the din. After breaking the ice, facilitators settled in for a professional development experience.



Facilitators participated in an aquatic invasive species activity developed by Crystal Campbell, DNR's aquatic invasive species educator.

WDNR Photo

UW-Madison doctoral candidate Sharon Jaffe started the training with a demonstration of carbon dioxide's effect on temperature and followed with a summary of how climate change has been understood over time.

University of Wisconsin science writer and future Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) coordinator Carolyn Betz complemented Jaffe's talk by opening a discussion on changes in climate that facilitators have witnessed in their own lives.

Participants all received the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts' 2011 report ["Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptations"](#) and watched a clip of Stella Leopold talking about her phenology work.

DNR air management educator **Lindsay Haas** rounded out the morning by demonstrating one of the activities in DNR's Climate Change Activity Guide. Facilitators had time to share ideas on how they have used or are planning to use climate change in their workshops.

In the afternoon, PLT/WILD/WET team **Janet Hutchens** (state Projects WET, WILD and Learning Tree coordinator), **Kim Anderson** (Project operations associate),

Christopher Tall (forestry and air management educator), and Baldwin took turns sharing Project updates before releasing the facilitators, in teams of three or four, into the wilds of the UW-Madison campus for a PLT/WILD/WET inspired scavenger hunt. Everyone came back invigorated and with a better understanding of their colleagues.

DNR aquatic invasive species educator **Christal Campbell** focused facilitators on aquatic education by sharing an adaptation of a Project WET activity with an invasive species twist. Facilitators then had time to share other adaptations they've done or plans they have for future workshops.

Hutchens wrapped up the day with many "thank yous." Most facilitators hit the road afterwards, but a few stayed behind for socializing at the Memorial Union terrace and dinner. Facilitator Jim Lubner (UW Sea Grant) summed up the day best by saying, this was a fantastic way "to network with long-time friends and colleagues and meet new people. Thanks for a terrific workshop. It was definitely well worth attending." Facilitators go on to deliver Project WET, Project WILD and Project Learning Tree workshops around the state to inspire teachers to bring environmental education into their classrooms. If you're interested in becoming a facilitator, email [Janet Hutchens](mailto:Janet.Hutchens@dnr.wisconsin.gov) or call her at (608)261-8453.



Secretary Stepp issues statement on extending comment window for delisting gray wolf

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While we fully support soliciting input from the public on conservation policies, I am disappointed to see yet another delay on delisting gray wolves in Wisconsin. This additional comment period will, however, give Wisconsin, our neighboring states and partners another opportunity to make our case for a defensible and scientifically supported federal delisting effort.

We will again submit strong comments regarding the recognition of two species of wolves in the Great Lakes region. Simply put, clouding the delisting by recognizing the existence of two physically indistinguishable species of wolves in Wisconsin is not defensible.

Over the winter of 2011, Wisconsin had a wolf population of 782-824 members, the most wolves ever counted in the state and probably more than have existed here since the 1800s. We now exceed the federal delisting recovery goal of 100 total wolves eight times over.

The public grows weary of the delays and government inaction. While DNR is committed to long-term conservation of wolves in Wisconsin, it's critical that we be allowed to manage wildlife populations within our borders, including problem wolves. [Ten dogs](#) have been killed by wolves since July 1.

In addition, our farmers and ranchers are suffering intolerable livestock depredation from wolves. Last year alone, 47 farms lost at least 75 livestock animals and saw injuries to six more. It's time to get this done. We hope this is the last bump on the much-too-long federal road to delisting.

For more information on wolves and the proposed wolf delisting, go to the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) website. For Wisconsin-specific information on the gray wolf, visit ["The Gray Wolf \(Timber Wolf\) in Wisconsin"](#) website.



Conservation Congress announces changes to hearings and meetings

By: Conservation Congress news release

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The [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) announced that there will be changes to DNR's Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings, the annual joint meeting with DNR that historically has focused on proposed changes to fish and game rules.

"The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Council voted today to move forward with the annual spring meetings in April, but with a slightly different format," said WCC chairman Rob Bohmann. The 2012 spring meeting will be held April 9.

"In light of Act 21, which requires some changes to the department's rulemaking process, and a recent charge from the governor to the Congress to review regulations for possible areas of simplification and obstacles to participation, at this year's spring meeting, we will be holding a town hall meeting format for part of the meeting and asking citizens to bring their ideas for regulation simplification and areas of conservation concern."

The Spring Hearings and WCC County Meetings are held annually the second Monday in April in all 72 counties of the state, on the same day. Traditionally, the meeting is an opportunity for citizens to comment and participate in a non-binding vote on proposed rule changes DNR forwards, along with advisory questions forwarded by the Congress, itself. It's also an opportunity for citizens to bring forth their ideas for change in the form of a resolution.

"This year the WCC will still have advisory questions for citizen input and will take resolutions from citizens, but we are encouraging other user groups and conservation-minded individuals to come and engage in a county-level conversation about issues facing Wisconsin's natural resources," said Bohmann. "We are looking to the future, how we can be more responsive and engaging to the public, and broaden the scope of issues we review."

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress looks forward to continuing to partner with the DNR and gather citizens' input to more effectively manage our natural resources.



Online information available for landowners with storm-damaged trees

By: Bob Manwell, Office of Communication

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On July 1, a blowdown associated with a major storm that swept through northwest Wisconsin downed trees in six counties, encompassing 130,000 acres. The majority of the damage occurred in Burnett and Douglas counties.

Northern Region area forestry leader **Steve Runstrom** offered an image to help better understand the enormity of the task at hand: "If you were to load all the downed wood onto standard tractor-trailer logging trucks at roughly 10-12 cords per truck and parked those trucks end-to-end, the line of trucks would stretch 1,704 miles."

There is an urgency to clear out this timber in advance of the spring 2012 fire season. Getting the word out to landowners is a major undertaking, however. For that reason, the Division of Forestry has established the Internet site ["Storm Recovery from July 1st, 2011 Storm Salvaging Damaged Trees."](#)

After surveying the damage on August 24, Gov. Scott Walker issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency.

In addition to DNR staff on the scene, about 64 National Guard soldiers, personnel from the departments of Corrections and Transportation, along with state and county Emergency Management Services and county sheriff's departments will assist landowners with disposing of their timber.

The webpage provides resources for finding consulting foresters, loggers, maps of damaged areas, arborists, samples of timber harvest contracts and much more.

Landowners with questions also may call the DNR Information Line at 1(888)936-7463 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., seven days a week.

Following is background information on the July 1 straight line (non-tornado) winds, measured at between 60 mph and 100 mph, which leveled thousands of acres of private and public forests in six northwest Wisconsin counties.

More than 130,000 acres affected in:

- Ashland County: 868 acres
- Bayfield County: 1,724 acres
- Burnett County: 80,671 acres
- Douglas County: 38,060 acres
- Polk County: 2,037 acres
- Washburn County: 6,858 acres

Land records show roughly 74,000 acres in private ownership:

- 2,100 private landowners with more than 5 acres
- Approximately 4,000 total private land ownerships
- Minnesota residents own nearly half of the private land impacted

Most recent previous similar events in the region:

- 1999: Minnesota Arrowhead and Boundary Waters Area
- 1977: Sawyer and Price counties

The major concerns:

- The downed timber represents a huge potential source of fuel for a wildfire.
- Many homes and second homes are scattered throughout the blowdown area.
- In addition to clearing downed trees, there are other important steps homeowners can take to protect their homes from wildfire. Go to DNR's ["Firewise"](#) website.
- The downed timber provides a breeding ground for a major forest pest outbreak that likely would spread to nearby, standing healthy trees, increasing the damage caused by the weather event.
- The downed timber still has value to the landowner, but that value will decline over time if the wood isn't salvaged.

Footnote: *Public affairs manager Bob Manwell, who works with the divisions of Forestry and Lands, prepared this information as a factsheet for the media.*



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success stories

- From public affairs manager **Bob Manwell**: On Friday Aug 26, I facilitated a visit to view DNR photographs for Denise Clearwood, a local architect and member of the Spring Harbor PTO. The PTO group is organizing a design competition to raise money for Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Clearwood was seeking "forest scenes" as a backdrop to her group's project.

Thanks to **Traci Brewer** (information technology coordinator, Bureau of Community Financial assistance) who was kind enough to set up a spare laptop plugged into the external hard drive, which **Kathy Kahler** ("Wisconsin Natural Resources" magazine editor) and others have been loading with our photo archives in the cube next to mine. I showed Ms. Clearwood how to navigate the photo file structure and left her with a blank CD to download images. She was delighted.

- **Lisa Gaumnitz**, public affairs manager for the divisions of Fisheries Management and Water, received the following kudo from Tess Arenas, director of the Office of Service Learning and Community Based Research in the College of Letters and Sciences at UW-Madison): As the faculty who designed the curriculum for the Environmental Studies course for intern Jannet Arenas, I need to let you know of the outstanding work of DNR's own **Theresa Stabo** (natural resources educator, Bureau of Fisheries Management). Ms. Stabo contacted me to: 1) identify a student or two who could take a course with me and earn academic credit and lead the Fishing Club at a non profit agency 2) I identified Centro Hispano as I have placed other students there and have also run programs there for girls at risk. 3) Stabo was instrumental throughout the design and implementation of the program as my student intern and her assistant were new at this. 4) In another life, I managed all diversity policies and programs for the UW System's 26 campuses for 20 years, so I have many other community-of-color contacts, which we will use to expand to 4-5 new sites in 2012. 5) Stabo and I will be joined at the hip over the next year as I identify new student interns, offer a spring course to prepare them to design the club curriculum so that is it culturally specific, and then place them in the non profits in communities of color. Stabo will be in every meeting, negotiation, and will co-supervise the interns in summer 2012 with the non profit staff.

I support the DNR's diversity efforts and feel it is important to note that that commitment is also evident in the work of Theresa Stabo. I just wanted to be sure that everyone in DNR knows the commitment and energy Stabo gives to this exciting multiplayer endeavor. *Sincerely, Dr. Andrea-Teresa "Tess" Arenas*

Northeast Region success stories

- Dear Mr. (**Carl**) **Mesman** (warden team supervisor): An unfortunate event occurred on September 4, 2011. My husband was arrested for OWI on our boat on the Wolf River. Again, this incident was a learning experience, and we were 100% responsible for this incident. This letter, however, is not about our poor choices that day that led to his arrest. This letter is in reference to the two DNR wardens/sheriff's deputies that handled our situation.

After being pulled over on the Wolf River in a no wake zone, Officers (conservation wardens) **Bryan Lockman** and **Steve Sullivan** did routine testing on my husband,

Chuck. Again, I recognize our poor choices caused this situation. Upon noting that his BAC was above the legal limit, he was arrested for Boating Under the Influence. I was immediately in tears, and our guests were frightened as well. We are (usually) upstanding citizens. We were in an unfamiliar county, and night was fast approaching.

My concern was not only for my spouse, but also for me, our two adult passengers (from Milwaukee) and also for our boat. The officers treated all of us with the utmost dignity and respect. Though my husband was taken to the hospital, and then the jail, I was kept abreast of his whereabouts by the other officer. Our boat was taken to Gill's Landing, where our attending officer assisted in tying it, and assured me that the area is usually safe to leave a boat overnight. Of course there are no guarantees to safety of an unattended boat, however, he did quell my fears at the time.

Finally, Mr. Lockman greatly assisted us by giving telephone directions to an elderly friend that lives near Waupaca to pick us up at the landing. Without his assistance, I truly have no idea how she could have found us in that remote area in total darkness. Please note that the officers never minimized the situation. They were professionals that let us know that a serious offense was committed. However, their demeanor, compassion, and caring showed through and assisted to make the night less challenging than it could have been.

Though I am less than pleased with the fine and citation, I am happy to know that your officers are human, and have been instructed to treat offenders with dignity. We truly appreciated their assistance on that very poor night. *Thanks, Diane*

- On behalf of the Beecher and Upper Lakes Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (BLD) Board of Commissioners (BOC), I wish to recognize and thank (**Christopher**) "**Chip**" **Long**, inland fisheries biologist, for presenting to the District Board of Commissioners and property owners on July 23, 2011. Chip provided an informative presentation about the results of the 2010 fish survey on Beecher Lake. Chip was a pleasure to work with. He promptly returned my correspondence (e-mail and phone), was readily available to consult, and was flexible to accommodate District property owner needs. Chip is clearly a subject matter expert with enthusiasm and dedication. His attention to detail, engaging presentation skills, and courteous demeanor are a shining example of excellence in public service. The fish survey results now provide us with information to improve our fish management decision-making. With the pending draw down of our lake to mitigate Eurasian Milfoil, we are concerned about our fish population and habitat. This survey will provide a baseline. We are very grateful for the opportunity to work with Chip Long, you, and others at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. We look forward to continued collaboration. *Nancy McKenney, chair, Board of Commissioners*

- **Amy Callis** (wastewater specialist): Thank you for getting the Maple Leaf Dairy materials together for me! I appreciate that your schedule is very busy, so taking the time for this is really appreciated. I also appreciate that you have such a great memory! I had several last minute questions and your ability to answer right on the spot was great. *Russ Tooley*

- A big "THANK YOU" to **Tracy Salisbury** (forestry specialist), **Elizabeth Dierickx** (forestry specialist), **Bill McNee** (regional gypsy moth suppression coordinator), **Kim Miller** (forestry specialist), and **Olivia Witthun** (forestry

specialist) for helping with the Wisconsin Arborists Association's Summer Workshop on August 19th in Ashwaubenon. On behalf of the WAA program committee, your assistance is much appreciated. I heard many positive comments from those who attended and directly from the speakers. Your assistance helps foster the urban forest and its health in Wisconsin. *Rich Hauer, associate professor of Urban Forestry, UW-Stevens Point*

- **Jennifer Borski** (hydrogeologist): I just wanted to let you know that The Landing finally closed. Riverwalk is next and I expect it to close sometime in September. Thank you again for all of your help, guidance, and leadership on this project. We would not have gotten through it without your support. *John Thode*

- **Kathy Sylvester** (hydrogeologist): Kathy, thank you for the FAST response! You are a tremendous help in getting this grant coordinated. *D'Arcy Gravelle, PG vice president, Environmental Division, Key Engineering Group, Ltd.*

Northern Region success stories

- Just wanted to drop you an email to let you know what a wonderful experience I had while staying at Lake of the Pines Campground in Flambeau State Forest last week. The park was well maintained and I was very impressed with the cleanliness of the rest rooms. I had a chance to meet several of your staff members during my stay. I can not remember all their names, but **Diane (Stowell), Laurie (Young)** and **Andy (Ortery)** were so helpful. You could tell they have a caring spirit and take pride in their jobs. So often we only here those "negative comments." I just wanted to let you know what a great job your staff is doing. We are already planning our next trip. Please feel free to share this with your staff and I apologize if I have any of the names wrong and for those names I left out. Thanks again for a great relaxing week. *Susan L Bartsch , Cary, ILL.*

Referring to this kudo, **James Halvorson**, superintendent of the Flambeau River State Forest had this to say: "Our **LTE staff** on the forest have always done a great job. This is only one of many positive comments I have received over the years concerning their work. In addition **Phil Brown** (ranger and repair worker) works our river sites. He was not mentioned, but also has done a good job and we have received positive comments."

South Central Region success stories

- Sent to **Ryder (Will)**, parks & recreation specialist, Dodgeville): I just want to let you know that I really appreciate the job you did putting the Water Trail Map together. It is a great tool for the Riverway and its users. Thanks for your efforts. *Don Greenwood, Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc.*

- Governor Dodge State Park superintendent **Kathy Gruentzel** received an email *from a recent camper* praising the outstanding customer service provided by visitor services associate **Emily Neal**. Emily went out of her way to provide duplicate camping receipts, with a detailed explanation of the confusing parts of the paperwork, and did it within 24 hours of the customer's request. The grateful camper concluded:

"I am impressed by the work, and the speed from SW to NE WI. This kind of work is beyond what's expected. I'm looking forward to other stays at Governor Dodge. THANK YOU!"

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to **Marcus Smith** (Southeast Region public affairs manager) and **Mary Familoe** (video producer, Office of Communication) *from J.D. Smith, chief of the Communication Section*: Marcus and Mary developed and posted a contemporary walleye video on the DNR homepage. Marcus narrates the video. Nice job Mary Familoe and Marcus Smith!! Very cool new walleye video posted on our DNR homepage.
- Congratulations to northern wildlife area supervisor **Dale Katsma** for receiving the 2011 Leadership Award *from the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust, Inc*: I have some good news to share. Dale Katsma will be receiving Ozaukee Washington Land Trust's 2011 Leadership Award for his efforts coordinating the North Branch Milwaukee River Wildlife and Farming Heritage Program. This is the second year in a row that one of DNR's best and brightest has been recognized for their work (Land and recreation grant specialist Dan Kaemmerer won last year). The award was presented at our Annual Dinner on August 14, at the Forest Beach Migratory Preserve. If you can, please share this with all your friends and colleagues. We would like to show Dale how much we appreciate all his great work.
- Naturalist **Beth Goepfinger**, Richard Bong State Recreation Area, received a letter *from a "newly-minted" Eagle Scout* who raised funds and placed new memorial plaques and emergency location plaques on more than 30 of the park's memorial benches. He wrote: I would just like to thank you for the opportunity you have given me. By allowing me to update the plaques at Richard Bong Recreation Area, you have given me the opportunity of achieving my goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. By becoming an Eagle Scout, I hope to open doors for my future, and look forward to giving back to the community as much as I can. I hope you appreciate the new plaques as much as I appreciate your patience, understanding and fantastic attitude. I hope that the signs will last long and make the recreation area a safer and more enjoyable place for people.

Beth adds that Eagle Scouts have been a fantastic resource for the park, which has developed an ongoing list of projects, an expectations letter, a thank you letter and an appreciation certificate. Approximately 50 scouts have achieved Eagle Scout rank from projects at the park, including revamping shelters, installing stairs on the trails, installing boundary signs, working on picnic tables, re-building a boardwalk, cutting brush, and building turkey and duck hunting blinds. If you are interested in the documents used at the park or have other questions, contact Beth Goepfinger.

- Congratulations to environmental services supervisor **May Vang** and program assistant **Sally Seeger** *from Licensing and Information Section chief Kevin Huggins*: On behalf of (the Bureau of) Customer Service, please accept our sincere appreciation and thanks for your assistance yesterday staffing the front counters to allow staff the ability to attend our Customer Service Statewide meeting. It is important to our staff to be able to get the training they need and the face to face communication with other Customer Service staff members. Thank you very much.
- Thank you to **all Southeast Region staff** for the generous donations to the Frances Storms Discovery Learning Center and especially the committee members for their efforts, **Andre Ash** (electronics engineer), **Pat Chung**

(environmental enforcement specialist), **Heidi Jasso** (environmental program assistant), **Julie Atkisson** (office associate) and **Chris Gengler** (real estate program associate). An Ice Cream Social and fundraiser is planned for Wednesday, September 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., SER Headquarters, in the lunchroom and Room 139.

West Central Region success stories

- Chief ranger **Jason Fritz** (Bureau of Parks & Recreation) received the following letter *from a Minnesota resident*: “On July 19 we were starting our day with a hike to the falls at Willow River State Park. It was our first visit to the Wisconsin State Park system. We were refugees from the Minnesota State Park system. At 9:30 a.m., Hope fell. We did something stupid, we were off the designated trail, she lost her footing; today she is in Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

The reason I am writing is the response of the first officer on the scene. The professionalism, skill, humanity and compassion of officer **(Andrew) Hovick** is demanding of a response. We cannot in good conscience let it go with no mention. His response to Hope as a first responder for first aid and the way he took care of us as we left the park to follow her to the hospital and then as we checked out later after breaking camp was service at a level that far exceeded our expectations and made what we had to do far easier. His performance of his duty allowed us to clear our minds and focus on the immediate needs of Hope. We want to publicly thank Officer Hovick and commend him as highly as possible.”

Fritz added: “Officer Hovick has demonstrated the exact type of professionalism we strive so hard to give on a daily basis. The fact it was noticed and the people took the time to write in, tells how exceptional it was. Great job and keep up the good work!”



Voigt tribes recognize retired attorney Lutz for decades of collaboration

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Editor’s note: This story is reprinted from the fall issue of [“Mazina’igan,”](#) a publication of the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission. This event took place in Reserve, WI on July 7.

An honor song performed on the GLIFWC drum, a colorful Pendleton blanket accompanied by a framed certificate of appreciation. Throw in hearty handshakes and words of humor and approval. And you’ve got: “something unimaginable 25 years ago,” said retiring Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources attorney **Mike Lutz**.



Bearing a Pendleton blanket presented by the Voigt Intertribal Task Force is attorney Mike Lutz, retiring chief counsel for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Task Force honored Lutz on July 7 at Lac Courte Oreilles with a drum song and a framed resolution of appreciation held (here) by Mic Isham, GLIFWC Board of Commissioners chairman. GLIFWC executive administrator Jim Zorn (left) said that Lutz played a major role in building trust and good relations between the state and Ojibwe treaty tribes.

Photo courtesy of Charlie Otto Rasmussen, GLIFWC

The former DNR chief counsel, who 20-odd years ago routinely quarreled with tribal officials over the scope of treaty rights, received gifts and high praise from the Voigt Intertribal Task Force. In a unanimously approved resolution, the Task Force commended Lutz's work in building bridges between GLIFWC and the DNR after the legal dust settled from years of litigation.

"I think this is a recognition (by treaty tribes) that the DNR understands the importance of strong tribal relations," said Lutz. "I recognize the significance of the drum song. For me, it's a remarkable honor."

Since 1980, Lutz has served with six DNR secretaries, from **Tony Earl** to the current appointee, **Cathy Stepp**. As legal council for Native American affairs, Lutz developed basic strategies for each executive that detailed treaty rights fundamentals and (the) value of cooperatively managing natural resources with Ojibwe tribes.

"I always felt that it was important to educate the DNR secretaries on the Chippewa* treaty right and encourage them to develop positive relations with the tribes," Lutz said. "There's been some really nice accomplishments, and there's a lot more the state and tribes can do together in the ceded territory."

In recent years, the Wisconsin State Legislature enacted the 2007 GLIFWC Warden Bill with an endorsement and assistance from Lutz. The bill enhances safety for both GLIFWC conservation officers and the general public in the ceded territory. As a result of the bill's passage, all GLIFWC and DNR wardens receive identical training and carry out combined exercises throughout the year.

***Note on language:** since the treaty-making era of the middle 1800s, the name Chippewa is often used in legal circles rather than Ojibwe or Anishinaabe.



Wisconsin top state for forestry industry jobs and products

By: Governor's Office news release

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If there was ever any question that Wisconsin is a major player in the forest products industry, a recent study by the [American Forest and Paper Association](#) puts that question to rest. According to the association's June report Wisconsin is number one among states in forestry jobs employing 56,533 workers, and in economic value of wood and paper products shipped at a combined total of \$16,201,241,000.

In recent years, all of Wisconsin's state- and county-owned forests and much of the privately-owned forests have been [third-party certified](#) as being sustainably managed according to widely accepted forestry practices and standards. National and worldwide demand for certified forest products is growing steadily, and manufacturers are eager to find sources of certified wood for their products.

"Wisconsin's national leadership in forest certification has helped propel us to the nation's top spot as employers and producers of forest products," said Gov. Scott Walker.

"Certification has without doubt helped the state's forestry industry weather the recession and compete in the global marketplace. The forest industry has been and continues to be one of Wisconsin's great economic engines and this report verifies that fact. I look forward to further conversations with industry leaders on how we can maintain this momentum by building stronger relationships and putting the tools in place for even more growth in forest-based jobs and products."

The badger state holds a comfortable lead over the second place state, Pennsylvania, in forest jobs, besting that state's forest employment by more than 3,300 jobs, also holding a \$2.2 billion lead in shipped forest products.

"Wisconsin and the forest industry have been linked since the days of settlement, when Wisconsin forests supplied lumber that built the great cities of the upper Midwest," said DNR Secretary **Cathy Stepp**.

"The paper industry also grew along with Wisconsin and today, more than 100 years later, we remain a leader in forest-based jobs and forest products. Productive, well managed forests also provide abundant wildlife populations, clean air, clean water and a variety of recreational opportunities."

"Wisconsin has aggressively sought certification for its forests," added Stepp. "State, county and private forest owners enrolled in the ["Forest Tax Laws"](#) program have practiced sustainable forest management for decades. Gaining certification was relatively easy and is a great testament to our long term vision for Wisconsin's forests and the jobs they support."



Wisconsin's first responders highlighted in emergency preparedness campaign

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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As our nation remembers the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Wisconsin first responders are encouraging families to be prepared for future disasters and emergencies as part of a new statewide public service campaign.

A public service announcement (PSA) entitled ["A Time to Remember. A Time to](#)

[Prepare.](#) features first responders from across Wisconsin and will air on TV stations statewide in September. Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) produced the spot through its "ReadyWisconsin" preparedness program.

"Recent deadly tornadoes in Wisconsin and the widespread destruction of Hurricane Irene show the importance of being prepared," said Emergency Management administrator Brian Satula. "We never know when emergencies and disasters will strike; that's why it is important to be ready now."

Preparing for emergency events requires individuals and families to be self-reliant for up to three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or other local services. Preparing can start with three important steps:

- Get an emergency supply kit.
- Make a plan for what to do in an emergency.
- Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of information that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency.

For additional preparation tips and other safety information, visit the ["ReadyWisconsin"](#) website. You also can sign up for a chance to win an emergency kit.



As fall floor period approaches, two new DNR-related bills were introduced

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

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Members of the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly will return for their fall floor period on Tuesday, September 13. In the meantime, two new DNR-related bills have made it into the "hopper."

Rep. Joel Kleefisch introduced **Assembly Bill 231**, which would allow DNR-licensed bird hunting preserves to have the same liability, nuisance and zoning protections currently afforded sport shooting ranges.

Rep. Kleefisch also introduced **Assembly Bill 234**, which would allow bow hunting within municipal boundaries.

For a complete review of legislation that will impact DNR's work, go to the ["Bill Tracker."](#)

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



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

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