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Romback-Bartels reflects on time with DNR upon becoming regional director

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Editor's note: *On October 11, Secretary **Cathy Stepp** announced the appointment of **Jean Romback-Bartels** as director of the Northeast Region. She also appointed **Mark Aquino** to the director's post for South Central Region and **Eric Nitschke** to head up the Southeast Region. Stories on Aquino and Nitschke will appear in the November 3 issue of the "Digest."*

More than 18 years ago, I came to learn just how wonderful the people are who work for the DNR. Now, I have the pleasure of serving as a regional director.



Jean Romback-Bartels is the Northeast Region's new director.

My experience with the agency dates back to 1988 when I interned at Newville while working on my Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in Wildlife and Biology. I knew after that I never wanted to leave the DNR. But, they sent me packing back to school. I didn't get another chance to return to the

department until 1993, when I got an LTE (limited term employee) job in Horicon as a wildlife technician.

After receiving my first full-time position as a park ranger at Blue Mound State Park in 1993, where I met my husband Dave, I went on to work as a park manager at Potawatomi State Park in 1997. Supervising that park and three others in Door County was a great experience, preparing me to become a basin leader by the end of 2000.

In June of 2002, I was selected to be the land leader in Green Bay. I held that position and took on the role of acting regional director in November of 2010, when **Ron Kazmierczak** retired.

Dave and I live in Shawano where we raise chickens and enjoy spending time with our dogs (two chows and a lab) and several cats. Dave is an accomplished chainsaw carver. My son, Dale, is a junior at UW-Stevens Point pursuing a degree in environmental law enforcement.



Endangered Resources spreads the word on changes to Review Program

By: Stacy Rowe, Bureau of Endangered Resources

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The Bureau of Endangered Resources' [Review Program](#) serves many DNR programs, as well as external customers and partners, to assist them in meeting their responsibilities under the [endangered species laws](#) that support conservation of the rare plants, animals and habitats found in Wisconsin. To assure ongoing compliance, the bureau is spreading the word about recent updates to and current services of the Review Program.

"We work with landowners, businesses, communities, and other customers and partners to consider the potential impacts of land development, planning, and management projects on rare and sensitive species and habitats very early in the project planning process," opens the Review Program's webpage. "Our goal is a cooperative, partnership-based approach to land use and management in Wisconsin that proactively and effectively conserves Wisconsin's natural resources."



A threatened species, the Great Egret dwells in freshwater wetlands, rivers and streams adjacent to deciduous forests and willow thickets.

Recent updates to the Review Program

- [Endangered Resources \(ER\) Certification Training](#): The certification program provides qualified external candidates the opportunity to take training to become a Certified ER Reviewer. By taking the training and required exams, a reviewer is authorized to conduct and submit a proposed review of the potential impacts of a proposed project to the Review Program for approval.

The next certification training will be November 30, 2011 in Wausau.

- [Grassland and Savanna Protocol Management](#): Endangered Resources has finalized a new broad incidental take (IT) permit and a revised broad IT authorization for grassland and savanna management. A broad IT permit and authorization are being used to allow for more widespread and streamlined management, and an application or a permit fee isn't required. An annual report no longer is required, either.
- **Screening Guidance**: The document, ["Conducting Endangered Resources Reviews: A Step-by-Step Guide for Wisconsin DNR Staff,"](#) has undergone many changes, and you're encouraged to become familiar with it prior to reviewing your next project.

Current services provided by the Review Program

- [Endangered Resources \(ER\) Review](#): An ER Review evaluates the potential impacts on endangered resources of a proposed project, including state and federally listed species, high quality natural communities, and other rare resources. Reviews are required for all actions DNR conducts, funds or approves. Reviews also include specific recommendations to assure projects comply with the state's Endangered Species Law, as well as other applicable laws and regulations protecting endangered resources.
- [Voluntary Expedited Endangered Resources Review \(VEER\)](#): A VEER is a review that, for a higher fee, has a guaranteed turnaround time of seven business days. The option of a VEER is available if the project meets eligibility guidelines, and if Endangered Resources employees are available to conduct the review.
- [NHI Data Licenses](#): A NHI data license allows continuous access to the detailed NHI data for multiple projects, tasks, or purposes; and for a larger geographic scale or number of records. This product is most suitable for customers who would like access to the NHI data to plan projects and maintenance activities, or for research purposes.
- [One-time NHI Data Request](#): A one-time request of NHI data typically is limited to either a defined geographic location, or only seeks the records for a specific species or type of occurrence. This option is suitable for the planning phase of projects and research.

For more information on changes to the Endangered Resources Review Program, call the Review Program number at (608)-264-6057 or visit the ["Endangered Resources Review Program"](#) website.

Footnote: *Stacy Rowe is a certification coordinator in the Bureau of Endangered Resources.*



Innovation of nearly 100 years ago fuels today's warden

By: Joanne M. Haas, Office of Communication

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*Retired warden **Jack Daniel** crafts impressive exhibit on GEF2's top floor*

It's a room full of memories, and Jack Daniel is in the middle of it.

"Look at this!" Daniel said as he opened a plastic box to reveal a stunning black and white, signed photograph of the late baseball great Ted Williams posing with a prize fish and thanking a warden for a great day on the water.

Daniel turned in another direction, held up a pair of classic red-plaid trousers that wardens decades ago wore while working in the woods on a winter day. Nearby is a flawless DNR uniform from the 1930s, complete with the sharply-tailored lines of its inspiration, the Canadian Mounted Police, and made by the Milwaukee company Browning King.



Jack Daniel displayed a pair of old, plaid wool pants wardens wore decades ago when working outdoors during Wisconsin's bitterly cold winters. WDNR Photo

"And here's the original hat," he said, holding the 1928 model in his left hand.

Standing in a climate-controlled room filled with files, boxes, uniforms, notes and so much more, Daniel talked with a constant smile about a nearly complete warden history exhibit just outside the eighth floor, GEF 2 offices of the Bureau of Law Enforcement. He also talked about building a traveling warden history exhibit that he'd like to unveil at the Milwaukee Sports Show.

Nearly completed, the eighth floor hallway exhibit tells the story of the first chief warden, **Harlan MacKenzie**, whose innovative thinking nearly 100 years ago is in play today.

"What we're seeing today is a warden force that began in the 1920s," Daniel said.

MacKenzie joined the warden force in 1910, but took a break to pursue a professional baseball career, only to return in 1917 to a field warden position in Antigo and

Crandon. "He wrote the first warden manual. He set up the idea that the wardens would work with other programs. He was very well regarded, very professional and very innovative," Daniel said.

The idea of a warden history exhibit grew from discussions in 1979 at the 100th anniversary of the warden service, held in Wausau. The Warden Association and the Wisconsin Conservation Education Foundation Association later officially adopted the project.

Those who logged hours in the early years of this process were retired wardens **Jim Chizek** and **Harlan Steinhorst**, as well as former chief warden **Ralph Christensen**. "They deserve a lot of credit," Daniel said. He's building on the groundwork they created and the work keeps coming in, as do the donations.



Jack Daniel stood near the warden history exhibit on the top floor of GEF 2.
WDNR Photo

Daniel is working with other retired wardens who help him sort, assess and catalog into a database the growing amount of warden memorabilia donated by retired officers, family members, current wardens and others. All then is placed into protective weatherproof plastic boxes.

"Our goal is to write the history, the warden history," he said. "The people who are the most knowledgeable about the wardens are the wardens themselves."

For this former deputy chief warden with 38 years of service so far, Daniel has the enviable, and monumental, task of sifting through the memories of the many wardens who've worn the uniform and served on behalf of Wisconsin citizens and its natural resources.

Footnote: *Joanne M. Haas is the public affairs manager for the Division of Science and Enforcement.*



October 19: Only 12 shopping days left to buy sturgeon spearing license

By: Ron Bruch, Northeast Region

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As of October 19, you have only 12 days left to purchase your 2012 Winnebago or Upriver Lakes sturgeon spearing license. You can't buy your 2012 spearing license after Halloween on October 31, so if you don't have it by then--you'd better be scared.

As of 2 p.m. on October 19, our license sales by type were:

- Resident Lake Winnebago: 6,843
- Non-Resident Lake Winnebago: 87
- Resident Upriver Lakes: 365
- Non-Resident Upriver lakes: 9

We have a long way to go in sales the next 12 days to get to where we're normally at by November 1. Typically, most sturgeon spearers (like me) seem to wait until the last minute to buy their license. I just bought mine a few minutes ago. Last year, I and a few others missed the deadline.

Sales of Lake Winnebago spearing licenses aren't limited. For the upcoming 2012 season, we had 4,597 applicants for the Upriver Lakes lottery and, as in years since the lottery began in 2007, we authorized 500 individuals to purchase an Upriver lakes spearing license for 2012. You can't buy a license for both.

Also, when you buy your license make sure you ask for a "Sturgeon Spearing License." We've had some problems with individuals purchasing a hook and line license for sturgeon in the past, thinking they were purchasing a spearing license. The hook and line license is no good on the Winnebago System, and if you realize your mistake after the October 31 deadline, you're out of luck.

Predicting a bumper crop of sturgeon

The 2012 season should be another great year. The sturgeon population remains robust, and new population estimates support another increase in harvest caps for the 2012 season. I'm meeting with the Winnebago Citizens Sturgeon Advisory Committee on October 22 to discuss harvest caps for 2012 and some other current sturgeon spearing issues.

The 2011 season saw the following final sales:

- Resident Lake Winnebago: 11,714
- Non-Resident Lake Winnebago: 218
- Lake Winnebago 14 year old: 1
- Resident Upriver Lakes: 483
- Non-Resident Upriver Lakes: 7

Sturgeon spearing on the Winnebago System is unique in the world of sturgeon and outdoor recreation. The tremendous success of the sturgeon fishery and management program here in Wisconsin is acknowledged and respected by fisheries scientists around the world, and has led to a 46 percent increase in Winnebago sturgeon spearing license sales since 2007.

Overall, Wisconsin has one of the longest running active sturgeon management programs in the world, dating back to the 1890s. Statewide management of sturgeon stocks is directed by the Wisconsin Sturgeon Management Plan, which currently is being updated and is scheduled to be completed in mid 2012.

Footnote: *Ron Bruch is the Upper Fox-Wolf Fisheries Work Unit supervisor, stationed in Oshkosh.*

Editor's note: ["Author to speak about state's longtime ties to sturgeon"](#) ran in the October 14, 2011 edition of the "Eau Claire Leader-Telegram." Author Kathleen Schmitt Kline, a science writer from Madison, is the subject of this story, but the reporter also writes about DNR's Ron Bruch, co-author with Kline of the book **Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish.**



Legislature busy introducing and passing DNR-related bills

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

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With a recess scheduled to begin on November 3, both houses of the Legislature have been busy introducing and acting upon bills related to DNR, its customers and partners. Check out the current ["2011 Bill Tracker"](#) for a summary of the following legislation.

Recently-introduced bills

- **AB 316** (Rep. Pocan) adds \$13 million to the Recycling Fund.
- **SB 209** (Sen. Larson) adds \$13 million to the Recycling Fund.
- **SB 226** (Sen. Galloway) is the Sporting Heritage Bill.
- **SB 228** (Sen. Moulton) allows unloaded and uncased weapons in vehicles.
- **SB 229** (Sen. Larson) mandates economic analysis of proposed rules covering public health and the environment.
- **SB 231** (Sen. Moulton) mandates that Joint Finance review DNR expenditures of Pittman-Robertson funds.

Bills in Assembly committees for hearing

- Rep. Suder introduced **AB 301** (Assembly companion to **SB 231**), mandating that the Joint Committee on Finance review and approve any DNR expenditure from funds received from the federal government under the Federal Aid in Restoration Act, known as the Pittman-Robertson Act. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee has heard the bill.
- Rep. Williams introduced **AB 303**, which would allow a local unit of government to repeal its comprehensive land use plan. The bill is in the Assembly Urban and Local Affairs Committee.
- Rep. Steineke introduced **AB 311** (Assembly companion to **SB 226**), which is being called the "Hunting Heritage" bill. It contains a number of incentives for first-time hunters and anglers, and it creates a Hunter Recruitment and Retention Council. It also restricts some expenditures from the Stewardship Fund until DNR considers the affects on local businesses and the economy. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee has heard the bill.

The Assembly Natural Resources Committee passed the following bills, sending them on to the full Assembly for a vote:

- **AB 104** (Rep. LeMahieu) adds new requirements to becoming a member of the Natural Resources Board.
- **AB 158** (Rep. Mursau) bans non-residents from voting at Conservation Congress meetings.
- **AB 234** (Rep. Kleefisch) prohibits local units of government from banning hunting.
- **AB 301** (Rep. Suder) mandates Joint Finance Committee review of DNR expenditures of Pittman-Robertson funds.

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



Two water bureaus pilot program for upcoming retirees to pass along skills

By: Julia Riley, Bureau of Watershed Management

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Susan Sylvester, director of the Bureau of Water Quality, announces the new "Career Connections Program," an employee development pilot for staffs in the bureaus of Water Quality and Watershed Management. The program matches a mentor with certain experiences and skills with a mentee who is interested in developing those experiences or skills.

The mentee selects one of the following career connection goals to develop:

- Career exploration: exploring other jobs in water program areas;
- Career development: learning skills related to current job or move to the next level;
- Leadership skills; or
- Communication skills.

This voluntary mentoring program is open to full-time employees (FTEs), project employees and limited term employees (LTEs) who've been with DNR for at least two years and aren't on probation.

The Water Quality/Watershed Management program was adapted from DNR's Natural Career Connections pilot mentoring program that began this April. Sylvester commented on her participation in the department's program.

"I'm currently a mentor in the DNR Natural Career Connections program and see its value for both the mentor and mentee. I want to make this type of opportunity available to our staff to continue fostering communication, team building and leadership between the two new bureaus.

"I value our existing staff and believe the Career Connections Program is important in helping staff work towards developing and achieving their career goals with the department," said Sylvester. "I encourage our experienced professionals to volunteer as mentors and share their wealth of knowledge with others before retirement."

Mentor and mentee applications are due by October 28, and the program will run from December 2011 to May 2012.

For a full description, expectations, timeline and applications for the Water Quality/Watershed Management Career Connections Program, go to the ["Water Quality and Watersheds"](#) website.

Footnote: *Julia Riley is a water resources management specialist.*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Titles:** "Family Caregiver Resource Fair" (in Madison)

"Regional Area Agencies on Aging"

Description: Every day 10,000 people turn age 65 or older. Will you know what to

do for your loved one when they need additional help meeting their daily needs? Organized by the Madison North/Eastside Senior Coalition, this free fair in Madison on Saturday, October 22, will feature experts from organizations that provide services, resources and support for caregivers and seniors. You'll learn the skills of professional caregivers and how others in similar situations make life fulfilling for themselves and their senior. If you're not in the Madison area, click on the second link below for resources available statewide.

Links: ["Family Caregiver Resource Fair"](#)
["Regional Area Agencies on Aging"](#)

- **Title:** "Assembly Natural Resources Testimony (on) Assembly Bill 99"

Description: ["Legislature votes to repeal earn-a-buck program,"](#) published in the October 19, 2011 Wisconsin State Journal is just one of several media reports on the decision to do away with the component of DNR's deer management program that requires hunters to take a doe before shooting a buck. The department is using the information contained in Division of Land administrator **Kurt Thiede's** testimony on April 27 to respond to media inquiries. Director of the Bureau of Wildlife Management **Tom Hauge** is the [spokesperson](#) for the earn-a-buck issue.

Link: ["Assembly Natural Resources Testimony \(on\) Assembly Bill 99"](#)

- **Title:** "Forward Looking Infra Red Unit Operational; First training session completed"

Description: A "Forward Looking Infra Red" (FLIR) device now is available in the department's Aeronautics Section as an added tool to fight wildfires. Installed on DNR's Cessna 337 Skymaster, this equipment functions during the day or night to record fire activity in real time and download it to computers used by firefighters on the ground. The aircraft is a statewide asset available where and when it's needed. Read Aeronautics Section chief **John Jorgensen's** story on FLIR in the October 7 issue of the "ForesTREEporter."

Link: ["Forward Looking Infra Red Unit Operational, First training session completed"](#)



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

- From **Julie Sauer**, administrator of the Division of Customer and Employee Services (CAES) to the CAES Team: "I can't tell you how proud, amazed and thrilled I was today. The management team envisioned this Open House only 2 weeks ago, and you all put something together that was over the top! I've heard so much positive feedback and I believe that we garnered extra respect for all that we do in CAES!

"I also appreciate the time that took you away from your regular duties to prepare and then be available for the event. We are all very busy with what we do and this was an unexpected added event, but you really came through!

"The email below (next two paragraphs, which was emailed to (deputy secretary) **Matt Moroney** and (secretary) **Cathy Stepp**, sums up exactly what we were hoping for, and you made it happen!! One of the best comments I heard was when our guests said "When you do this next year..." They're already hoping we do it again!

"Wow. I continue to be amazed at what is happening with DNR! You have set the

vision of exceptional service and everyday I see ways in which our team is striving to meet the vision.

"I just finished participating in the CAES open house and wanted to thank you for the opportunity to meet and learn more about these supportive services. Not only was this a great way to learn about our agency, but it was an excellent way for DNR staff to identify how we can all work more efficiently together. The folks in CAES put a lot of effort into the open house, and I was blown away by what I was able to glean, their enthusiasm and dedication. It's great knowing more about what some of the folks I see everyday in the elevator are doing and how we can work best together. Kudos to CAES for its effort and kudos to administration for valuing this internal networking.

(Sauer's message continues) "I had hoped to spend more time with each of you, but decided it was more important to let our customers know how important they are to us, and that we would appreciate their attendance at our Open House. I went cube to cube from 8th floor down through 4th floor (before I ran out of time), introducing myself and inviting each person individually. (OK, I also bribed them by showing them some of the treats that you were offering). Many were unaware what was going on except for smelling cookies and seeing candy bar wrappers on the floor.

"I am the LUCKIEST division administrator to be a small part of such a great TEAM! Humbly, I thank you for everything you do every day!!"

From deputy secretary Matt Moroney on the CAES open house: "I agree it was amazing!! Great work all. I wish I had more time to spend in each area. I heard many positive comments in the elevator as well. Too bad Cathy and Gundy missed out."

Northeast Region success stories



• The storm ripped this tree from the ground by its roots.

WDNR Photo

A message of thanks from Bureau of Parks and Recreation director **Dan Schuller** to those who pitched in to clean up the damage caused to Door County parks following a powerful windstorm: "I'd like to thank everyone involved in helping to get the parks in Door County cleaned up and back in operation so quickly after the windstorm damage on September 29. The response from **staff at the affected properties and from throughout the system** was outstanding. All parks were reopened Thursday morning, October 6. We had assistance from Wildlife, Forestry, Law Enforcement, Fisheries, CAES and regional staff, as well as Parks staff from across the state.

"The high winds on Thursday night, September 29, gusted over 60 mph. This caused tree falls in all Door County parks (Rock Island, Newport, Whitefish Dunes,

Potawatomi and Peninsula) and on the Ahnapee Trail. Damage occurred throughout these properties in picnic areas, campgrounds and buildings and on roads and trails. Because of public safety concerns, we had to close these properties on Friday, September 30.

"For the next six days, everyone focused on tree clearing and advising visitors and campers of the status of the parks and their planned stays. While the focus for most was on cutting hazardous trees, other staff helped manage the hundreds of calls we received, the numerous media inquiries and, of course, the marshalling of resources from the Northeast Region and from across the Parks program. Bureau staff was in constant contact with Door County park staff to keep ReserveAmerica notices up-to-date and assist with staff and resource support.

This has been a tremendous challenge but, as I expected, department staff were up to the task. I can't thank all of you enough for coming together and helping these parks come back on-line. I'm impressed and truly amazed at the skills you applied and the generous assistance you offered in such a timely manner. Thanks again, this will be a great weekend. The Wisconsin State Parks System is truly one we can all be proud to be a part of.

- Warden **Robert Stroess** (Manitowoc) won the Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) Warden of the Year Award. Attached is [a photo](#) of Stroess accepting the award from Bryce Larsen, from WTA's district 8; and the [nomination](#). District 8 of the WTA nominated Bob for the award (based on information provided by warden **Ryan Volenberg**). The award was presented to Bob at the Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association Directors meeting on Wednesday Night September 28
- "I am writing you this letter to commend (warden) **Nathan Ackerman** (Green Lake). I have talked to Nathan a couple time in the recent days and years, but never had the opportunity to meet him in person. Nathan has always been very helpful in answering my questions and concerns over the phone. Anytime I speak to him, it is like talking to a fellow hunting buddy. Which makes him very approachable on all subjects. We need to have more (wardens like)Nathan Ackerman in the field. I hope to meet him soon, don't know when, but it will be wonderful to put a face to the name. He is a great guy." *Thanks, Fong Xiong*
- An excerpt from a letter sent to the department regarding warden **Alan Erickson** (Fond du Lac): "Another reason I am writing is that I was stopped by a game warden on August 10, 2011 on North Park Street at the bridge coming into Lakeside Park at about 11 p.m. The game warden just started working on the force and I would like to commend him also on the way he conducted himself. He checked everyone for valid licenses and then checked their fish. The warden checked everyone that was there in the same manner. Another guy who was fishing made the comment to me and said "That was the nicest game warden I ever met." I said to him I agree. I am a big hunter and used to be a fisherman all my life and I am now 55 years old. Could you please let this game warden know this?"
- "My family wanted to let you know the exciting news that FERC has approved our Pathway. It was our thought to contact Mr. **Robert Rosenberger** (water management specialist) in the Peshtigo office and work with him. To date we've been most impressed with his professionalism and helpfulness on this project and

had planned on meeting him up there on site to walk through our plan. WPS is adding that they want this 'plan and consult' done within 10 days of us breaking ground. That is why we thought working with a local staff person would be best for all concerned."

- Addressed to (water management specialist) **Scott Koehnke** (Shawano): "Thank you so much for presenting your Wetlands session for the Waupaca County Conservation Field Day. The students had a wonderful day and really learned a lot. We have received very positive feedback from the teachers about their impressions of the day. Educating today's students about conservation and the environment is truly important, and we thank you for taking time out of your job and daily life to bring your knowledge to them. You brought a great energy to your session and the students really seemed to enjoy it. Thanks again and we hope to see you again next year! *Sincerely, Jennifer Glad, administrative coordinator, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development*

- From Nick Meiers sent to Toyota Motorhomes Discussion Board: "On Thursday, September 29, Door County was hit by a wind storm that did a lot of damage. Most of the county was without power for several days. This county gets about 90 percent of its income from the tourist industry from campers, hotels, bed and breakfasts, and resorts. Emergency workers had to use endloaders to push hundreds of trees off the roads so that people could leave the area. Electrical crews from all over the state and Illinois worked almost around the clock for six days to get everything up and running again.

"My wife and I had reservations at Peninsula State Park starting on Thursday, Oct 6. We found out that everything would be reopened at 8 a.m. on October 6, so we decided to see how bad it was. I could not believe the amount of work that went into getting the damage repaired and roads opened. Every road was cleared, every trail in the park was repaired and cleared. The shower building in our campground had the roof repaired and every campsite was beautiful. The leaves were just past their peak color, but it sure was pretty.

"This is the first time that my wife has camped since she had a stroke 10 years ago (at age 43.) The Toy House was bought specifically to allow her to camp again. We had a great time camping and the weather was probably the best of the entire year. Highs in the 70s, lows in the 50s. Yes, those are the right temps. Hard to believe for October in Wisconsin.

"My wife was crying when we got home yesterday because she had such a great time and did not think that she would every be able to camp again with her limitations. Even if I only got to use the Toy House this one weekend, it would have been worth the price to see her enjoying everything this much. She wants to go out a couple of more times before we winterize the MH and put it away. Dawn is already planning some camping trips for next summer and a really long trip for 2013 (after I am forced to retire, at age 57).

"I wrote a letter of appreciation to the **staff at Peninsula State Park** thanking them for all the work that they did to get this beautiful park repaired and back in service.

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to water management specialist **Pamela Schense** from an appreciative customer for help with a pier on Delavan Lake: "Thank you for the information about the boats, yes I knew only two are allowed until 100 feet is

owned. My wife and I wish you all the best. I have been helped by the local zoning office and yourself, it is a pleasure to have such attention to our questions from Wisconsin government staff, and this is nonexistent in Illinois.”

- A big thank you to **all Southeast Region employees** that participated in the 2011 SECC Kick off event from **Heidi Jasso**, Milwaukee Area SECC coordinator. “I would like to thank everyone who came and enjoyed the food and refreshment, the entertainment provided by UPAF and the speakers from different organizations and umbrella groups. The event was a great success.”



Southeast Region employees turn out big time for adopted school

By: Marcus Smith, Southeast Region

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Regional staff fills stomachs and coffer for Learning Center

Would you like sprinkles with that donation?

Southeast Region (SER) headquarters staff was able to indulge their cravings for sweet and gooey treats on September 14, while continuing to provide financial support for the Frances Storms Discovery Learning Center. Following an ice cream social fundraiser, the region was able to donate \$212 to the school.



Caught in the act of fun at the region’s fundraising ice cream social were (left to right) student Jua Mahari, acting regional director **John Hammen**, principal Clayvon Byrd, and student Arianna Jackson. In the background, SER’s **Chris Gengler** is scooping a cone for **Ken Hein**.

WDNR Photo

The SER Adopt-A-School Committee sponsored the ice cream social. The committee consists of members **Andre Ash**, **Julie Atkisson**, **Pat Chung**, **Chris Gengler** and **Heidi Jasso**.

The Frances Storms Discovery Learning Center is one of two schools participating in the Adopt-A-School program. The other school is Madison’s Toki Middle School. The school’s “adoption” came about after an initial discussion between a member of the school’s governance council and a SER Adopt-A-School committee member. The school is both an elementary and middle level school, serving students from 6 to 14-years-old. It’s located at 2035 N. 25th St., approximately three miles west of SER’s headquarters.



WDNR Graphic

Why an ice cream social fundraiser? "We wanted to raise money for a school field trip. We thought an ice cream social would be fun, and something that the students could participate in with us," said committee member Chung.

The SER Adopt-A-School Committee is committed to remaining involved with students and faculty at the school. The committee recently completed its second annual school supply drive, donating about \$500 worth of supplies and \$150 in cash to the Frances Storms Discovery Learning Center.

Footnote: *Marcus Smith is the public affairs manager for the Southeast Region.*



Buy holiday pies to help DNR's adopted Toki Middle School

By: Elizabeth Kluesner, Secretary's Office

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Help Foundation for Madison's Public Schools Partner program

As a part of the central office's "Adopt a School" relationship with Madison's Toki Middle School, central office and South Central Region headquarters staff again will assist the Toki PTA (parent teacher association) with its sale of delicious Elegant Farmer pies, cherry crisp and fruit breads. All proceeds will benefit the PTA and help them invest in needed technology and equipment for Toki's classrooms.

The pie sale runs until October 28, and payment is due at the time you place your order. All items are \$15, a special discounted price for Toki. The yummy offerings are:

- apple pie
- caramel apple pie (to die for)
- pumpkin pie
- cherry crisp
- fruit breads: banana and pumpkin apple

You can place your order with the following people:

- **Elizabeth Kluesner**, located in the Secretary's Office, on the 8th floor of GEF 2
- **Carrie Morgan**, located on the 2nd floor of GEF 2, near column F3
- **Bill Zwolanek**, located at the South Central Region headquarters office, on Fish Hatchery Rd., in Madison

All pies will be delivered during lunch on November 18 to either room G09 in the central office or the break room at the SCR headquarters office.

Footnote: *Elizabeth Kluesner is DNR's director of Local and Federal Relations.*



Worth a thousand words: images of us at work

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On October 5, Division of Enforcement and Science administrator **Tim Lawhern** received a newly-commissioned badge from Gov. Scott Walker. Lawhern received the badge to represent being the first conservation warden to rise to this administrator position within DNR. Secretary **Cathy Stepp**, deputy secretary **Matt Moroney** and executive assistant "**Gundy**" **Gunderson** attended the ceremony. WDNR Photo



WDNR Photo

DNR employees **Cameron Bump**, West Central Region trails coordinator (tan hat, right of sign); **Jean Rygiel**, (tinted glasses, far right) property management section chief in the Bureau of Parks and Recreation; **Tim Miller**, (to Rygiel's left) northwest park district supervisor; State Rep. Kathleen Bernier (in front of Rygiel) from the 68th assembly district and others joined Wisconsin's first lady Tonette Walker for a photo shoot following her October 14 walk on the [Old Abe State Trail](#) in the West Central Region. Walker continued her monthly strolls to celebrate the beauty found along the state's recreational trails. Read about her first walk in the [June 30, 2011 "Digest."](#)

You also can read Walker's personal accounts posted on her [blog](#) after each of her walks.



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