

November 3, 2011

Editor: Diane Brinson

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Aquino brings passion for outdoors to South Central Region director job

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New South Central Region director Mark Aquino grew up in Monticello in Green County, spending a lot of time outdoors hunting, fishing, biking and camping. He brought his passion for the outdoors to DNR in 2001.

"Unlike most of my DNR colleagues, it took me a while to figure out that I could make a living working on the natural resource issues that I love," said Aquino.

Aquino has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.



Mark Aquino sent daughter Rachel off on her first day of kindergarten in Mt. Horeb, this fall. Of course, little sister Laurel had to get in the shot, too.

After working for the Legislative Audit Bureau and Department of Transportation, Aquino came to DNR in 2001, where he worked in the field in the Facilities and Lands program in the South Central Region (SCR). In 2005, he became SCR's land leader, coming to the central office in 2009 to become deputy administrator for the Division of Land.

"My career path has given me many opportunities to work with a diverse group of state agencies, local governments, DNR programs, and external partners from a variety of perspectives. I'm really looking forward to the chance to work with an even broader number of organizations and DNR staff in my new role as South Central Region's director," said Aquino.

Aquino reports that he and his wife Kellie are enjoying introducing their daughters Rachel, age 6, and Laurel, age 3, to the outdoors.

"The girls love digging for worms and blue gill fishing for hours, touring the fish hatchery and birding, as well as watching me practice with my bow and target shoot."

When he's not spending time with his family, Aquino enjoys hunting and fishing with friends. He's also doing some habitat improvement work on their family farm in Green County, including all of the shade-tree-mechanic work on the old farm equipment they use.



Bill prohibiting Earn-a-Buck or early deer seasons awaits governor's signature

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

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The Assembly passed **SB 75** (Sen. Terry Moulton) prohibiting DNR from using Earn-a-Buck or early seasons for deer management in the future. Since the bill passed the Senate earlier, it awaits the governor's signature, making it law.

The ["2011 Bill Tracker"](#) reflects the latest legislative activity. Assembly committees are considering the following two new bills.

- **AB 325** (Rep. Joel Kleefisch) requires the catch-and-release only season for bass to begin the first Saturday in March and end on the Sunday prior to the first Saturday in May. The bill is in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.
- **AB 327** (Rep. Ron Rivard) changes ATV operating requirements for riders under 12 years old. The bill is under consideration by the Assembly Transportation Committee

The Senate recently passed the following three bills:

- **AB 48** (Rep. Jim Ott), which mandates the DNR make available printed maps of all Stewardship lands. This bill is now available for the Governor to sign.
- **SB 77** (Sen. Joe Leibham), which adds two new members to the State Trails Council. The Assembly will take this bill up soon.
- **SB 228** (Sen. Terry Moulton), which allows unloaded and uncased guns in vehicles. The Assembly will take this bill up soon.

The Legislature is also in Special Session. The agenda is about job creation. The bills I will be reporting on in the ["2011 Bill Tracker"](#) are **AB 24** and **SB 24**, the regulatory reform bills and a wetlands bill that still is being drafted.

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



Governor creates Office of Regulatory Compliance

By: Governor's Office news release

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Governor Walker on November 2, 2011, signed Executive Order #50 to bring stability and accountability to Wisconsin's regulatory process. The executive order was authorized by Act 21. Act 21 was passed during the Governor's January Special Session to reform the state's rules and regulations and to ensure that government was not holding business back through unnecessary rules with unintended consequences.

The new procedure will ensure that rules are able to be reviewed by the public, the Executive Branch, and the legislature.

The Governor's Executive Order creates the Governor's Office of Regulatory Compliance to help assure timely and proficient review of administrative rules. Under the regulatory procedure, agencies must provide a scope statement with a detailed description of a proposed rule and the statutory authority for the rule. They must also detail all of the entities that may be affected by the rule.

If a scope statement is approved, the agency must submit an economic impact analysis (EIA) to the State Budget Office (SBO) for review. The SBO will review all EIAs and provide an official report for any EIAs indicating an economic impact over \$20 million.

After the EIA is approved by the secretary of the Department of Administration, the rule is reviewed by the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse. The agency must then have a public hearing. Following the public hearing, the agency drafts the final rule language and submits it to the Governor's Office Regulatory Compliance. If the Governor approves the rule, it goes to the legislature for final approval.



Be “ReadyWisconsin” when clocks fall back this coming Sunday

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, November 6, as we “fall back” and set clocks back one hour. This is also a great time to check the things that keep us safe and ready for emergencies. “ReadyWisconsin” urges you to check these items:

- **Smoke Detectors:** Check and replace batteries if needed and make sure the devices around your house are working properly. The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that about 16 million homes in the country have smoke alarms that do not work. In most cases, the batteries are dead or missing. Nearly 2,700 people die and more than 15,000 are injured each year because of fires that started in their homes.
- **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors:** Make sure you have working CO detectors in your home. According to the Centers for Disease Control, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States, with more than 20,000 people visiting the emergency room and nearly 500 killed each year from overexposure to the gas.

In addition, all homes and duplexes in Wisconsin now are required to have carbon monoxide detectors. The new Wisconsin law requires detectors on every level of the home including the basement, but not the attic or storage areas. Any dwelling that requires a building permit will be required to have CO detectors directly wired to the electrical service with a backup battery. Existing buildings can use stand-alone battery-powered detectors.

- **Emergency Kits:** Everyone should have a basic emergency kit in their home with supplies such as food and water to last you and your family for at least three days. Other items like a battery-powered or crank radio, flashlights and a first aid kit should also be included. Daylight Saving Time is a perfect time to get a kit, and if you already have a kit, to check it to make sure food and other items are not near or past their expiration dates.

For more tips on how to prepare you and your family, go to the [“ReadyWisconsin”](#) website. You’ll find great information on how to get a kit and make a plan in case disaster strikes.



Office of the Great Lakes announces 2012 photo contest and writing project

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The [Office of the Great Lakes](#) announces its third annual photo contest and is soliciting photo submissions from DNR staff. Winning photos will be featured in the 2012-2013 “Wisconsin’s Great Lakes” annual calendar.



Gervase Thompson, fisheries technician in Brule, submitted this photo taken at "Lost Creek Falls" near Cornucopia, Wis.

The office also is seeking submissions for its Great Lakes Writing Project. Statements, short essays, poems or songs submitted to the project may be used in the calendar and other publications, websites and displays.

The deadline for submitting Great Lakes photos and writings is February 1, 2012.

"Some of our best photo and writing submissions have come from DNR employees. And we're hoping that will be the case again this year, especially in the category of Lake Protection Activities," said **Jo Temte**, water resources management specialist and contest coordinator.

The Office of the Great Lakes will consider photos taken in Wisconsin of Lake Michigan or Lake Superior and their tributaries, wetlands, and harbor towns, submitted in any of four categories:

- Natural Features and Wildlife;
- People Enjoying Wisconsin's Great Lakes;
- Cultural and Historic Features; and
- Lake Protection Activities

For contest rules and instructions for submitting photos and writings, visit the ["Great Lakes Photo Contest Instructions and Rules"](#) website.

For more information, email [Jo Temte](#) or call her at (608)267-0555.



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Titles:** "Employee Enhancement Newsletter" and "Supervisor/HR Supplement Newsletter"

Description: The October 2011 issue of [Deer Oaks Employee Assistance](#), (password "sowi") "Employee Enhancement Newsletter" addresses the important issue of feeling engaged at work, as well as offering tips on how to wake up refreshed before heading off to work. The month's "Supervisor/HR Supplement Newsletter" includes stories on diversity as a management asset and how to deal with workplace bullies. Read about how Deer Oaks supplements DNR's Employee Assistance Program in the [June 16 "Digest."](#)

Links: ["Employee Enhancement Newsletter"](#)
["Supervisor/HR Supplement Newsletter"](#)

- **Titles:** “EPA’s Permitting for Environmental Results (PER) Initiative”

“Response Attachment A”

“Response Attachment B”

“Response Attachment C: Technical Supporting Information & Issues Requiring Further Discussion”

Description: On July 18, 2011, DNR received a letter from Region 5 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enumerating 75 questions or concerns with Wisconsin’s authority to administer its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Following are letters, signed by deputy secretary Matt Moroney, and attachments responding to EPA’s concerns

Links: [“EPA’s Permitting for Environmental Results \(PER\) Initiative”](#)
[Response Attachment A](#)
[Response Attachment B”](#)
[Response Attachment C: Technical Supporting Information & Issues Requiring Further Discussion](#)

- **Title:** Testimony from Al Shea on regulatory streamlining

Description: **Al Shea**, administrator of the DNR Office of Business Support and Sustainability, testified before the Joint Senate and Assembly Committees on Natural Resources and Environment on October 26 regarding Special Session Senate Bill 24. This proposal focuses on further streamlining DNR’s regulatory measures.

Link: [Testimony from Al Shea on regulatory streamlining](#)

- **Title:** “Whooping crane updates”

Description: On October 21, eight young whooping cranes departed from the Horicon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge to join the 11th group of cranes to head for and spend their winter along Florida’s Gulf Coast. These young birds spent their first 10 to 14 weeks at the International Crane Foundation near Baraboo.

Link: [“Whooping crane updates”](#)

- **Title:** “Compensation Plan Town Hall, Q & A with Secretary Cathy Stepp”

Description: In this live Webcast, Secretary **Cathy Stepp** and Secretary’s Staff provide an overview of the proposed State employees’ compensation plan.

Link: [“Compensation Plan Town Hall, Q & A with Secretary Cathy Stepp”](#)



Secretary Stepp praises employees’ cleanup work following July blowdown

By: Guest Column by Secretary Cathy Stepp

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In the first hours after the vicious July 1 wind storm that hammered down vast stretches of timber in northwest Wisconsin, Northern Region employees of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources responded with selflessness, determination and intelligence.

Conservation wardens assisted the counties with search and rescue of boaters, ATV operators, and campers; checking homes, and assisting with clearing roads for emergency vehicles. They patrolled the St. Croix River and checked campsites for lost

campers.

The sun had barely risen the next morning when DNR foresters and volunteers from wildlife management had formed into three task forces composed of tractor plow operators and sawyers with chain saws. Coordinating with Burnett County Emergency Management, these crews along with town and country crews and private citizens helped clear roads throughout the area so that ambulances, fire departments, law enforcement and utility crews could provide emergency services.

At the same time, DNR pilots took to the skies, putting in a long day tracking storm damage from above, establishing GPS points and taking photographs, with the dispatch center keeping everyone in communication.

With the roads cleared in one day, work began on the largest timber salvage and forest protection operation this state has seen in more than 30 years. Assessing the damage was an intense undertaking. With help from central office staff, forest health specialists and, of course, our pilots who eventually mapped 130,000 acres of blowdown.

By July 9 a dedicated, full-featured ["Storm Recovery from July 1st, 2011 Storm"](#) webpage was in place to provide resources for the thousands of individuals with storm-damaged property. Customer service call center staff was briefed and ready to take calls from people with questions.

Forestry staff worked with local townships, fire departments, county emergency management, law enforcement, citizens groups and individuals to push ahead with cleanup and recovery.

Efforts to inform the public and to reach absentee landowners in three states have been creative and noteworthy. Communicators arranged a media flight day at Siren, which attracted TV crews from all three metropolitan markets surrounding the blowdown, including all four TV stations from Minneapolis-St. Paul. It was an inspired plan that was flawlessly executed. The resulting news stories did a compelling job of telling our story and getting our message out.

Gov. Scott Walker has been tremendously impressed with the work accomplished so far, and he is especially pleased by the collaboration among state agencies, the National Guard and local municipal leaders. He plans to brief the entire cabinet and use these efforts as an example of how state agencies can be creative and work well together to solve problems.

Speaking for myself, I couldn't be more proud of you.

Editor's Notes: *The following counties are in the Northeast Region: Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond Du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. The department sent this secretary's guest column to media in Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties, as well as the St. Paul Pioneer Press and the Duluth News Tribune.*



Explore your investment options for retirement now, for later

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The Wisconsin Deferred Compensation (WDC) Program will host the first of a series of meetings on investment options on Monday, November 7, in Middleton. Attend these free retirement presentations to learn more about investing for your retirement.

State employees have access to different savings vehicles to provide them

with a source of retirement income. Take the opportunity to learn more about investing in the stock market and Wisconsin Deferred Compensation Program (WDC) investment options.

The WDC is hosting, for the first time, joint meetings with representatives from Vanguard, Fidelity and Galliard to help prepare you for your retirement years.

Each meeting will run from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the following dates in November.

- **Monday, November 7**, Middleton–Cross Plains School District Performing Arts Center (behind the high school), 2100 Bristol St., Middleton
- **Tuesday, November 8**, UW-Green Bay, University Union, Phoenix, rooms A and B, 2420 Nicolet Dr., Green Bay
- **Wednesday, November 9**, Hamilton High School Auditorium, 6215 West Warrimont Ave., Milwaukee
- **Thursday, November 10**, Chippewa Valley Technical College, Business Education Center Auditorium, room 103, 620 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire

For more information on these meetings, call the WDC staff toll free at (877)457-WDCP (9327) or the WDC voice response system at (608)241-6604. Access to the voice response system may be limited or unavailable during periods of peak demand, market volatility, systems upgrades/maintenance or for other reasons.



Help 2011 “Partners in Giving” reach donation goal of \$100,000 and more

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Popular central office silent auction on for November 15

Inching ahead ever so slightly over the start of the 2010 “Partners in Giving” campaign, 2011 chair Julie Sauer, director of the Division of Customer and Employee Services, is challenging central office and South Central Region employees to exceed \$100,000 this year.

In 2010, DNR employees donated \$99,351.75. The department subsequently took first place among state agencies with 401 or more employees for “Per Capita Contribution” and for “Percent Participation.”

As of the first two weeks of the campaign, 86 donors have committed to contribute \$21,618.

Following in the tradition of previous campaigns, donors are eligible for weekly drawings of a prize of their choice. The winners so far:

- **Tim Simonson**, Bureau of Fisheries Management, won the first drawing and selected the \$15 Gander Mountain gift card.
- **Sharon Reeve**, Bureau of Air Management, chose the \$25 gift certificate to the Great Dane Restaurant.

Among other prizes for the 2011 campaign are:

- Annual state trail pass
- Lindt Lindor Assorted Chocolate Truffles

- Gail Ambrosius Chocolatier (and former DNR employee) chocolates and a bottle of wine
- Four tickets to the UW-Madison Women's Basketball game on January 22, 2012
- University of Wisconsin sweatshirt, size large

In addition to the "Bring Hope, be a Partner in Giving" posters hung throughout GEF 2, central office employees will notice smaller posters next to the elevators conveying a message about how their donated dollars can help. "With over 450 charities to choose from, it's sometimes overwhelming to look through them all to find a cause that you support," said Sauer. These posters may help identify the causes that employees are interested in. The first poster contains pictures of pets as examples of the beneficiaries of donations made to the humane society, animal rescue organizations, service dogs, etc.

Announcing the 10th annual silent auction



Diane Glodoski, Bureau of Community Financial Assistance, took home a collector's plate, in 2010.
WDNR Photo

Every year for the past 10 years, **Sherri Voigt**, from the Bureau of Finance, and her cohorts have organized and run a silent auction to raise funds for "Partners in Giving." A popular central office event, employees bid on unique items. This year's auction will be held on Tuesday, November 15 in room 213.

Voigt invites you to let your imagination run wild. Take a look at examples listed below of just some of last year's items, when thinking about what you could donate to the 2011 auction. She's already begun receiving unsolicited donations. Auction items can be goods brought in to take home the day of auction or items to be delivered later. Voigt will create a certificate for the deliverables.

A list of auction items (and auction guidelines) will be sent out and posted by November 14, so you can plan your bidding strategy.

Sample auction items donated in the past included:

- movie night kit (movie/popcorn/snacks)
- breakfast tray (with jams and mixes)
- wood carving
- matted and framed photos

- hand-knit scarf
- George Foreman grill
- dining gift certificates
- bi-monthly home-baked bread
- hand-crocheted kitchen towels
- coffee basket (with coffee/mugs/towels)
- mystery bag
- miniature decorated Christmas tree
- variety of homemade/canned food items



Jane Riley, Bureau of Wildlife Management, stopped by to bid on a basket of goodies during last year's auction.

WDNR Photo

If you want to contribute, but just can't come up with an idea, talk with Voigt about suggestions that have been made that you could donate or "build from."

If you have items you'd like to donate to the auction, email Voigt or call her at 267-9818 by Tuesday, November 8. She fully expects to have a room full of great items for the auction again this year.



Worth a thousand words...images of us at work (and play)

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Dan Hirschert, DNR's assistant big game biologist, and "Deer Hunt 201"1 show host Dan Small recorded a show segment on the hunting forecast, while the film crew recorded the action at



Charlie Luthin (L) executive director for the Natural Resources Foundation is

Milford Hills, near Lake Mills in Jefferson County.
WDNR Photo



When Roche-A-Cri State Park recently repaired a stairway on the Mound State Natural Area within the park, a helicopter was needed to deliver materials. Transporting materials on foot to the remote stairway is difficult. The department also used a helicopter to construct the stairway in 1993.
WDNR Photo

joined by DNR executive assistant **"Gundy" Gunderson**, American Transmission Company's (ATC) vice president for public affairs Randy Satterfield, and ATC manager Greg Levesque to acknowledge ATC's gift to public conservation and post an adoption sign at Lodi Marsh Wildlife and Natural Areas in Dane County on Monday, October 24.
WDNR Photo

Halloween brings out the spooky--and the goofy--among us



New Southeast Region director **Eric Nitschke** (far right) proved he has a sense of humor as he donned a Steve Urkel costume to join **Andrea Augle**, **Jamie Lambert**, **Jim Kasdorf**, **Sally Seeger** and **Fran Findley**.
WDNR Photo





Flanking Division of Forestry "suggestion box" **Darrell Zastrow** were (left to right) **Laura Wyatt**, **Carol Nielsen**, **Wendy McCown** and **Dana Dentice**.

WDNR Photo



Bureau of Legal Services director **Tim Andryk**, aka Badger buckets player Mike Bruczwetiz, gave a thumbs up to his staff of characters, including cowpoke **Laurie Ross**, court jester **Linda Haddix**, witch **Deb Johnson**, lumberjack **Quinn Williams**, Superwoman **Kendra Fisher** and hobo **Mike Scott**.

WDNR Photo



"**Dave Woodbury**", DNR's emergency management coordinator, was the theme for the Bureau of Law Enforcement as they donned costumes depicting different points in Dave's life: (left to right) **Keith Warnke**, **Steve Sisbach** (hippie Dave), **Erin Ridley**

Cruella Deville, aka Northeast Region director **Jean Romback-Bartells**, clutched one of "101 Dalmations" while roaming the halls of regional headquarters before reverting back to herself to attend a meeting with a local editorial board.

WDNR Photo



In attendance at the Plymouth Service Center's Halloween festivities were a dog pack, aka **Chris Lilek**; Lady Gaga, aka **Petwara Toyingtrakoon**; a demon wizard, aka **Roger Clark**; a pirate, aka **Laurel Last**; and a cowgirl, aka **Cheryl Roehre**.

WDNR Photo



The Bureau of Fisheries Management portrayed a diverse cast of characters on Halloween Day. Beginning on the floor on the left are: **Eric Eikenberry**, **Sonya Rowe**, **Jon Hansen**, **Theresa**

(baby Dave), **Wayne Ringquist** (official Dave), **Randy Stark**, **Todd Schaller**, **Darrel Waldera** (pirate Dave), **Julie Fitzgerald**, **Kris Frawley**, **Eileen Hocker**, **Karl Brooks** (cynical Dave's t-shirt reads "I know how you feel, but I just don't care.") and **Sherry Vanharen**.

WDNR Photo



Possessing spooky powers, witch **Sue Meyer** in Customer Service and Licensing stirred a cauldron of toil and trouble.

WDNR Photo



Bureau of Human Resources staff took Halloween "Back to the 80s." Pictured here (left to right): **Lorie Caffrey**, **Carrie Mickelson**, **Tom Joestgen**, **Bob Masnado**, **Rudy Bentley**, **Amber Passno**, **Jill Voeltz** and **Jamie O'Donnell**.

WDNR Photo

Stabo, **Sheila Ballweg**, **Kate Strom-Hirons**, **Joanna Griffin**, **Candy Schrank**, **Karl Schiedegger**, **Heidi Nelson**, **Brian Goodman**, **Kim Anderson**, **Paul Cunningham**, **Casey Henrekin**, **Tom Cichosz**, **Steve Hewett**, **Rachel Koehler**, **Jean Meyer**, **Mike Staggs** and **Joe Hennessy**.

WDNR Photo



One group from Southeast Region included a bevy of belly dancers: (front row) **Chris Gengler**, **Kim Sebastian**, **Pam Mylotta**, **Melissa Cook** and **Olivia Witthun**; (back row) **Heidi Jasso**, **John Torke**, **Owen Boyle**, **Kristina Betzold**, **Pat Iwanski**, **Frank Fuja**, "Casper the Ghost" and **Walt Ebersohl**.

WDNR Photo



Wisconsin joins other states in appeal to Supreme Court for relief from Asian carp

By: News release from Attorney General Van Hollen's office

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On October 26, 2011, Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen took another step to protect Wisconsin's natural resources from the effects of the Asian carp by joining the attorneys general of four other states -- Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania -- in a Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The petition asks the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the August 24, 2011, ruling in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in Chicago and order the following: require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to install block nets in the Little Calumet and Grand Calumet rivers, which are vulnerable to Asian carp invasion between the Mississippi River and Great Lakes Basins; and require the corps to expedite the completion of its study of permanent ecological separation at Chicago, between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins.

The 7th Circuit Court's decision affirmed a federal district court ruling which denied Wisconsin and other plaintiff states a preliminary injunction to stop the migration of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

"This petition is yet another step in the fight, and we'll continue to seek every legal option at our disposal to protect Wisconsin waters and the Great Lakes, now," Attorney General Van Hollen said. "The 7th circuit recognized the threat, but the corps needs to be compelled to act more quickly."

In September, Attorney General Van Hollen joined the attorneys general of 16 other states in a letter to the U.S. Congress, urging members to block the continued spread of damaging invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins.

The coalition believes a permanent ecological separation at Chicago is necessary to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, which travel in the ballast water of vessels and spread through the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River by way of Chicago-area waterways.

View the [full petition](#) initiated by the State of Michigan.



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

- A customer, George Swanson called me for help in getting his Wild Bait Harvest Permit, and I told him that he needed a Bait Dealer License before I can permit him for Wild Bait Harvest. The Bait Dealer License is administered by **Shirley Zwolanek**, customer service representative, so I gave Mr. Swanson her number. Well, he called back and told me that he now has his Bait Dealer License, and said that Shirley was "absolutely phenomenal...wonderful and very helpful."

When I get his paperwork, I now can proceed with processing his Wild Bait Harvest Permit application. *Thanks, Eric J. Eikenberry, microbiologist/fish health biologist, Bureau of Fisheries Management*

Departmentwide success story

- To **Paul Yeung, Richard Wulk, Andrew Stewart, Jeffery Johnson, John**

Stoffel, Joseph Brehm, William Baumann, Patrick Stevens and Tom Woletz regarding work on an air permit: “Dear Paul and WDNR staff: Thank you for your time and experience to carefully review, process and issue EOG's air permits. The final permits protect human health and the environment, and allow for the economic development of local sand resources. Some of this is pioneering work, and we appreciate the detail and extra effort it took to do it right! Regards, Susan Courter, Sr. Safety & Environmental Specialist, EOG Resources, Inc., Shared Services, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

- Thanks from a camping visitor: A woman from St. Louis who visited and camped in 19 Wisconsin state parks from August 24 to October 16 (while towing a 24-foot trailer by herself) wrote a letter in which she thanked **Ed Muzik**, manager at Big Bay State Park, and **Jerry Leiterman**, superintendent at the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest, for being “the most kind, wonderful people, who went out of their way to help me.”

Northeast Region success stories

- To **Diane Hansen** (environmental program association): “Thank you so much for your assistance! The link to the Bureau for Remediation & Redevelopment’s “On the WEB” (BOTW) database of activities where contamination has been reported will be of great assistance to my research. *Don R. Smith, CHMM, Senior Project Advisor, GaiaTech*
- **Jenna Borski**, Remediation and Redevelopment; **Lee Archiquette**, Waste and Materials Management; **Miles Winkler**, Watershed Management; **Scott Koehnke**, Watershed Management; and **Jean Romback-Bartels**, regional director: “I once again would like to say thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to meet as a team and move the Foremost project forward. We found great value and benefit in having all the stakeholders at one time around the same table discussing the process, challenges, expectations and schedules. I know our meeting will assist in expediting a successful end to the Foremost project. Thanks again. *Karen Harkness*
- Park ranger **Randy Holm** of Rock Island State Park received a [thank-you letter](#) from Patrick and Jane Murray for returning lost prescription and sunglasses

Secretary **Cathy Stepp**'s response to the Murrays: “Thanks for writing to me to recognize ranger Randy Holm for his assistance during your recent trip to Rock Island State Park. I'm glad to hear that Randy gave you a warm welcome and was able to return your lost glasses after your visit. Providing excellent customer service is our top priority at the DNR, and we always appreciate hearing that we're succeeding! I've shared your kind words with Randy and his supervisors.

“Wisconsin's state parks are jewels and knowledgeable, enthusiastic parks staff like Randy are one reason that visitors keep coming back. We're fortunate to have Randy at the DNR.

“I hope you'll enjoy many future visits to Rock Island and our other state parks. Thanks again for taking the time to share your positive experience!

- Secretary Cathy Stepp received a [letter](#) from the owner of a marine salvage company about the work of conservation warden **Mark Neal**. Neal was a member of a dive team that raised a submerged vessel from a lake on Chambers Island,

northwest of Peninsula State Park in the Green Bay waters of Lake Michigan.

Southeast Region success story

- Congratulations to **Michael Thompson, Sharon Gayan, James Schmidt, Kenneth Hein, May Vang, Marcus Smith, Gerald Medinger** and **Sally Seeger** from (then)acting regional director **John Hammen**: “It was again a very proud moment to be part of DNR as each of you played a significant role in a most impressive interaction on October 14 with our international visitors from Cambodia, India, Montenegro, New Zealand, Sweden and Turkey who were here under the auspices of the US State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program.

“I know this was an add-on assignment which meant considerable preparation and involved schedule and flex day changes for some of you. Despite those obstacles, each of you stepped up with flair and distinction to give these leading environmental experts a great story about DNR’s innovative initiatives in urban sustainability.

“I am sharing this message with those in your line of authority so they are aware of your special efforts.

“You did us proud - as you always do - thanks! Read the [news release](#) Marcus (Smith) sent out after the event. Posted to the web and distributed to Milwaukee-area media via GovDelivery. *John R. Hammen, Air and Waste Division program manager*

- Congratulations to hydrogeologist **Jim Delwiche** from *Secretary Cathy Stepp* in a letter to City of Brookfield Mayor Steven Ponto: “Thanks for writing to me to recognize Jim Delwiche’s work in reviewing public health issues related to the Waste Management Brookfield landfill. Providing excellent customer service is our top priority at the DNR and we always appreciate hearing that we’re succeeding. I’ve shared your kind words with Jim and his supervisors. Our employees value collaboration to enhance Wisconsin’s environment and grow our economy. I’m pleased that Jim helped contribute to the success of your review. We’re fortunate to have him at the DNR.”

- Kettle Moraine Southern Unit ranger-enforcement **Bart Tucker** earned the following gratitude from a neighbor of the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest: “I would like to express my appreciation for the caring eye of Officer Tucker on Saturday, September 3, 2011.

“At about midnight, he saw a moving truck at my home and thought that was suspicious. His thoughtful attention brought a Walworth County Sheriff to my home to investigate.

“While the moving truck was legitimate, the timely arrival of Officer Tucker and the Sheriff was hugely comforting. It is so wonderful to know there are such thoughtful officers patrolling the state forest (which we feel very fortunate to live next to).

“I wanted to officially recognize and bring to your attention Officer Tucker’s thoughtfulness and professionalism. Thank you!”

- Congratulations to hydrogeologist supervisor **Frances Koonce** and hydrogeologist **Dave Volkert** for their roles in the following success story from (then) acting regional director John Hammen: “On October 20, Remediation and Redevelopment staff attended a news conference announcing an agreement

between the City of Kenosha and the property owners of the Kenosha Engine Plant. The agreement will eventually give the city title to the property, easing liability concerns for all parties involved and clear the way for million of dollars in state and federal funds to be used for cleanup at the property. The deal reached was due to a successful negotiation process involving a number of individuals and state agencies, including staff with the RR Program, Wisconsin Department of Justice, U.S. EPA, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Treasury, city of Kenosha and other representatives. Secretary Cathy Stepp and Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen were among the keynote speakers at the event, which was covered by local Kenosha media and all major Milwaukee television stations.”

- Congratulations to hydrogeologist **Mike Zillmer** for his work on German History Month, and to customer service representative **Ben Woodford** for his presentation on German emigration to Wisconsin *from (then) acting regional director John Hammen*: “The original idea for holding a German History Month came from the organizers of Black History Month events in Southeast Region who were looking for a volunteer that had a connection to German culture in this area. Since eight generations of Mike’s family have lived in the Milwaukee area, it seemed logical that he was asked to get this event organized. Mike feels a real connection to our German settlers because his great great grandfather August Zillmer moved to Wisconsin from Germany in 1856, and owned 44 acres of land on what is now Sherman Boulevard and Center Street in Milwaukee. Around the same time, another great grandfather (Karl Mayer) moved from Germany to Richfield in Washington County, where he owned and operated a grist mill and wood saw mill on what is now a historical preservation property. Thirty-five staff members enjoyed the delicious German food, along with the presentation. The two presenters, E.J. Brumder and Ben Woodford did a great job of summarizing the interesting history of German emigration to Wisconsin and the history and cultural development in Milwaukee as a result of the German influence. Mike has purchased a number of books and plans to lend out these books to co-workers so that they may learn more about this aspect of our cultural development.”

- The Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit's Halloween Nature Hikes were a great success! The theme, the Forest Menagerie, was brought to life with 11 animal characters and an enthusiastic Ring Master. Just under 300 people participated on Friday, October 14, a good turnout considering the fierce winds and Brewers' playoff game that night. More than 600 people came out on a beautiful fall Saturday night to traverse the Forest Menagerie trail, play fun-filled games, create unique crafts and enjoy warm popcorn and apple cider. This event would not have been possible without the approximate **120 volunteers who worked with the forest staff, and the generous financial support of the Friends of the Kettle Moraine**. Over the two nights, \$632 in donations was collected.

West Central success stories

- Denise DeSantis with [“My Child with Cerebral Palsy”](#) has posted portions of a “Warden Wire” story about a Hunt of a Lifetime, initiated by conservation warden supervisor Jeremy Peery, on the group's website blog at [“My Child with Cerebral](#)

[Palsy.](#) The annual event for children with life-altering or terminal illnesses is entering its eighth year. The entire story can be found on the Bureau of Law Enforcement's ["Warden Wire."](#)

• Thanks to **Jim Storandt, Dale Kufalk, Justine and Darryl Hasz, Mike and A.J. Miller, Pete Wolter,** and **Phil Lepinski** for helping wrap up another season of highway trash pick-up late yesterday afternoon--a spooky accomplishment--nine bags of stuff! I believe that concludes 19 seasons for the Wi Rapids Service Center crew. Looking forward to next year!!" **Arvid B. Haugen, WCR regional forestry leader**

"For many years, current and retired Wisconsin Rapids employees have volunteered to help keep central WI roadsides clean. Yesterday it was the above named from forestry, fisheries, customer service, waste management and real estate--five divisions represented!" **Scott Humrickhouse, WCR regional director**

• Rib Mountain Race: A half-marathon held at Rib Mountain State Park on September 24 attracted 174 participants. The race route utilized the new walking path, volunteers staffed water stations, the Rib Mt. Fire ambulance and a roving physician on an ATV were on hand, and Police Explorer Post teenagers assisted with racer/vehicle traffic in the park. This event was sponsored by Eastbay/Footlocker and the City of Wausau Police Department, with proceeds benefiting Special Olympics of Wisconsin. A number of racers responding to an online survey commented about **enjoying running Rib Mountain** as a unique challenge to the half marathon.



Emergency Management announces Wisconsin's Winter Awareness Week

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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Are you ready for winter? November 7-11, 2011 is Winter Awareness Week in Wisconsin. The annual campaign, sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), its ["ReadyWisconsin"](#) preparedness program and NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) National Weather Service (NWS), is to remind people to be prepared for winter conditions that could threaten their safety.

"The number one thing to do: make sure you have an emergency supply kit in your car, it could save your life," says Tod Pritchard, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at Wisconsin Emergency Management.

NASCAR champion and Wisconsin native Matt Kenseth is once again teaming up with ReadyWisconsin to promote winter awareness. Matt is appearing in a number of public service announcements that will air on Wisconsin radio and TV stations statewide during the month of November. Kenseth is urging viewers and listeners to keep an emergency kit in their vehicles. He is also encouraging everyone to sign up to win a winter survival kit on the ReadyWisconsin website.

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. Examples of such deaths include traffic accidents on icy or snow-covered roads, prolonged exposure to the cold and indoor carbon monoxide poisoning. It is important to start taking preventive measures now for winter weather.

Now is the time to winterize your car and home, gather items for an emergency kit in

your car, and make sure you have a NOAA Weather Radio with fresh batteries. Additional winter weather tips and how to put together a winter emergency kit are available at the ReadyWisconsin website. In addition, there are numerous winter storm maps and a history of Wisconsin's winter weather produced by the NWS. For more information, safety tips, winter facts and maps, go to "[ReadyWisconsin's](#)" website.

For close-to-home information on the winter weather awareness campaign, contact your county emergency management director or your local NWS office.



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