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Nineteen-year veteran Dan Baumann to direct West Central Region

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In announcing the appointment of **Dan Baumann** as director of the West Central Region, Secretary **Cathy Stepp** referred to his skills and energy: "Dan is a strong leader with a big picture outlook. He is extremely skilled at reaching out and bringing DNR staff and the public together to form partnerships. His energy and can-do, positive attitude will serve the people of west central Wisconsin well. I am extremely proud to add him to DNR's management team."

Following an extensive military career, Baumann started his DNR career in 1992 as an engineering intern. The next year, he landed a permanent job as a water regulation and zoning engineer. In 2000, he was promoted to basin leader for the Bad Ax Basin, stationed in La Crosse. Baumann took on the regional water leader position in November 2003.



Tom and wife Sara at home with daughters Ellie, Katie and Abby.

Baumann attended UW-Center/Richland Center and UW-Madison where he earned a degree in civil and environmental engineering and has had extensive training in the military in leadership, planning, counseling, equal opportunity and affirmative action. Baumann is a native of Muscoda, where he grew up working on a dairy farm and spent lots of time on the Lower Wisconsin Riverway.

In his spare time, Baumann enjoys hunting, fishing, and trapping as well as spending time doing anything outdoors. Dan, his wife Sarah and three daughters Ellie, Katie and Abby reside in Eau Claire.

“It is a privilege to be able to serve the public, DNR staff and the resource in this new capacity. I appreciate the confidence that Secretary Stepp and her staff have shown in selecting me for this position, and I’m committed to filling the large shoes left by Scott Humrickhouse. The West Central Region is filled with special places and special people, and I am honored to be working for both of them in this new role,” Baumann said.

DNR’s West Central Region includes Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, and Wood counties. Former regional director Scott Humrickhouse retired earlier this year after 31 years of service to the state of Wisconsin.

Regional directors represent DNR with local government and organizations play a key role in consistently applying laws and DNR policies. Stepp notes that whenever regional directors hear businesses thinking of expanding or locating in Wisconsin, they are charged with leading a team to assist the business through permitting, assuring environmental concerns are addressed early on in the planning process to avoid delays and unnecessary costs.



Review security advice to be safe at work and at home

By: Tom Joestgen, Bureau of Human Resources

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Given the recent events in Aurora, CO, our initial thoughts go to those directly affected and their families. Then we naturally think about what could have been done to prevent such a tragedy. What would we have done if we were in that theatre? What plans were in place to protect employees and patrons at that theater?

Tragedies such as the one in Colorado heighten our awareness of our own surroundings

both at work and in the community. This is a time to review our work-related safety practices and think about having a plan for our own security and the security of others in a crisis.

Security conditions:

- Employees must carry their state-issued identification and be prepared to display it upon request.
- If you come across someone in a secure office area without a visitor pass or employee ID and you feel comfortable, ask where they are headed and offer to help them reach their destination or notify your supervisor.
- Never prop open doors to the outside and don't admit strangers through secured entrances.
- Know where the closest exits are should you have to leave the building quickly.
- Know where you're required to report in should there be a building evacuation.
- Be on alert for suspicious activity or tampering in the interior or the exterior of the building.
- Report any suspicious activity to a supervisor or contact the police.

For more information on how to respond to an active shooter or other workplace violence read ["Active Shooter, How to Respond."](#)

Violence or critical incident:

If you observe any person in a confrontation or threatening situation:

- Call the police 911 number (9-911 if using a state phone) if you're able. If you aren't able to make the call yourself, ask someone else to do it.
- Be a good witness by noting how the person looks (hair, height, weight, build, eyes), their clothing and any distinguishing characteristics.
- Move away from the threat if you can and put as many barriers e.g. desks, walls, doors, buildings, etc., between yourself and the situation as possible.

Suspicious package:

- Don't handle the object!
- Don't panic.
- Evacuate to a safe area.
- Call a supervisor and police for further instructions.
- Evacuate others from the immediate area of the package and close doors if available to put barriers between you and the package.
- All staff should pay close attention to official and personal mail, and follow appropriate ["Mail Safety Procedures"](#) (under "What's New" on the "Safety and Risk Management" webpage) for suspicious mail. For all suspicious mail or packages call 911.
- Don't touch the item; isolate the package; leave the area and immediately wash hands and exposed skin thoroughly with soap and water.
- The police will determine if a full evacuation of the building is required

- Seek medical treatment if exposed to hazardous materials.

Bomb threat:

- On another phone line, **immediately call the police at 911** for further instructions. It's possible police may be able to find the location of the caller if you do not hang up the phone which received the call.
- Ask the caller and write down what they say (a) the exact location of the bomb, (b) the time the bomb is set to go off, (c) the type of bomb and (d) who they are.
- Also record (a) the date and time of the call; (b) the caller's speech pattern, accent, emotional tone, or other distinguishing characteristics; (c) any background noise, and (d) the exact words of any critical statements made by the caller.
- Police will determine whether an evacuation is needed and determine the method of evacuation.

Chemical spills or gas leaks

- Spills or releases requiring emergency response are those that pose a significant safety or health hazard to people near the spill.
- Don't allow anyone to enter any hazardous area.
- For a chemical spill or gas leak that requires an emergency response, isolate the spill (don't attempt to clean up), **leave the building** and **call the police or the fire department**.
- Don't attempt to dial a telephone or a phone in the area of the spill and don't turn any electronics on or off.
- **Notify a facility manager.**
- Seek medical treatment if exposed to hazardous materials.

Medical emergency response:

- Assess the hazards prior to entering the scene if you didn't witness the injury. Do not enter an area to help someone if you can't do so safely. For example, electrical hazard, falling debris, chemical hazards, etc.
- Call emergency medical responders at 911. Be able to give your address and a description of the specific area in the building.
- Send someone to the main entrance of the building to escort the emergency responders to the exact location.
- Don't come in direct contact with blood or body fluids. Gloves and bandages can be found in the first aid kit.
- Know the location of the first aid kit and AED if you have one.

Power outage:

- Don't use the elevator.
- Don't panic.
- Locate a flashlight and spare batteries and use it as needed.
- Emergency lighting will illuminate hallways and stairwells.

- Wait for specific instructions.

Footnote: *Tom Joestgen is the department's risk manager.*



Just so you know, some service centers will be closed on July 30

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Several of DNR's satellite offices will not provide counter service on Monday, July 30, so that staff can receive training for this fall's hunting seasons. The locations affected are Ashland, Cumberland, Dodgeville, Ladysmith and Peshtigo. All other DNR service center [locations](#) will be open, but with limited services.

Call center hours will be shortened to 7 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. on Sunday and Monday ONLY. Full call center hours will be available through Saturday and will resume Tuesday.

Refer customers who wish to purchase fishing or hunting licenses, register their recreational vehicles or obtain burn permits to the [Online Licensing Center](#) webpage at 'dnr.wi.gov' under Quick Tasks, or call the DNR Call Center at 1-888-WDNR-INFO (1-888-936-7463).

You also can refer customers to the ["Sales Locations"](#) webpage where they can search for nearby authorized license agents' who provide these services.

All DNR service locations and the DNR Call Center will resume normal business hours on Tuesday, July 31. Monday was selected as the staff training day because it typically is a slower business day.



Help monitor Wisconsin's deer herd through summer observations

By: Jessica Rees, Bureau of Science Services

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Continued participation in the 2012 summer deer observation survey by DNR employees is critical to the success of the deer management program. Observations collected from department employees ([per Manual Code 2310.5](#)) while working in the field help monitor Wisconsin's deer reproduction.

Each year employees collect vast amounts of observation data. For example, the number of fawns seen with each doe are indicators of annual deer herd production.

Before including survey work in your work day, however, be sure to obtain approval from your supervisor.



The likelihood of seeing triplet fawns is pretty slim. Approximately 1.5% of fawns born in a given year are triplets. DNR Photo

During the summer of 2011, participating staff submitted 5,550 observations, a 52% increase in observations from the 2010 summer period. Additionally, 364 individuals participated last year, a significant increase from 217 the year before.

In 2011, observers reported seeing 9,943 deer. The fawn-to-doe ratio was 0.86, down from 0.96 in 2010. You can view past survey reports at ["Summer Deer Observations 2011."](#)

Participating in the survey is simple

- Record all bucks, does and fawns you see during your days in the field from August 1 through September 30.
- At the end of each month, send your observation data to the Wildlife Surveys Group or enter your observations via the online reporting site on the ["Assist in Wisconsin's Deer Management Program"](#) webpage.

You can find instructions on how to perform the survey and how to report your sightings, as well as a data sheet to record your observations, on the Bureau of Wildlife Management's Intranet webpage ["Summer Deer Observation Report."](#)

If you have questions about Summer Deer Observations, accessing the tally sheet, reporting your observations or the results of the survey, email **Brian Dhuey** [Brian Dhuey](#) or call him at 608-221-6342. You also can get more information by emailing me, [Jessica Rees](#) or by calling me at 608-221-6360.

Footnote: *Jessica Rees is a wildlife surveys technician.*



Fish contaminant data and advisories available to staff

By: Candy Schrank, Bureau of Fisheries Management

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Originally created in the mid-1980s, the Bureau of Fisheries Management recently updated DNR's fish contaminant database server to a ".net" system, making verified fish

contaminant results, sampling and collection site information accessible internally via the ["Fish Contaminant System."](#)



South Central Region fisheries Supervisor David Rowe and Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment Program Specialist Sonya Rowe gillnetting on Devil's Lake in 2011. DNR Photo

Staff can access the database at the ["Fish Contaminant Advisory and Monitoring Program"](#) website. Besides storing results and sample information, the contaminant file manager can track fish samples from collection to final field verification; schedule lab analyses; electronically receive results; and store advisory decisions.

Also new this year is an [online query tool](#) available to the public for determining consumption advice. This communication tool supplements the webpage and the printed "Choose Wisely" booklet. DNR created this tool using funds from a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

For more information about fish consumption advice go to the webpage ["Eating your catch—making healthy choices."](#) The July 10 news release ["Get specific advice for specific waters online and with one search"](#) offers detailed information to help assure that you're eating healthy when it comes to your take from Wisconsin's waters.

Footnote: *Candy Schrank is a toxicologist in the Bureau of Fisheries Management.*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title & links:** ["Coping with the 2012 Drought"](#)

["DNR's Drought Update"](#)

["ReadyWisconsin Drought Resources"](#)

Description: In response to numerous requests for a website to help the public deal with natural resources-related drought issues, staff from several programs pulled together to roll out a new webpage found by going to our Internet site at dnr.wi.gov and search on keyword "drought." If you have drought-related information you'd like included on the page, send a

request to Public Affairs Manager [Lisa Gaumnitz](#) in the Office of Communication.

Dave Woodbury in the Bureau of Law Enforcement issues updates on DNR-related drought matters. The report contains conditions on DNR-managed properties such as burning bans, public lands open to grazing and harvesting hay, etc.

Wisconsin Emergency Management also has created a website containing the many resources available to the general public. This "ReadyWisconsin" site isn't intended to replace the more specific drought information resources from other state agencies such as the departments of Health Services, Revenue, etc.

- **Title & link:** [List of DNR contacts and spokespersons updated](#)

Description: The Office of Communication has updated the department's list of subject-matter experts. From "ATV-UTVs" to "Wolves" and everything in between, you now can refer the public, media, legislators and others to a specific DNR employee via an email address or telephone number.

- **Title & link:** ["Air and Waste Division Success Stories April—June 2012"](#)

Description: When the Division of Air and Waste undertook its Smart Regulation regulatory improvements in 2003, managers and employees became accountable for assuring that the attributes of responsiveness, efficiency, timeliness, effectiveness and consistency are ever present in their program. The feedback from customers for April through June of this year is the most recent evidence of the success of this effort..

- **Title & link:** ["Education connection: connecting people with the environment"](#)

Description: The Office of Communication publishes this extensive list of resources available for educators. Included are publications and programs available for teacher training and classroom instruction. "Education Connection" targets educators exclusively. It isn't a list of all DNR publications. You're welcome to share "Education Connection" with educators you know, however.

- **Title & link:** ["Perspective Wisconsin: Reaction to Dr. James Kroll's Deer Management Report"](#)

Description: On July 18, host John Powell with WisconsinEye interviewed **Kurt Thiede**, director of DNR's Division of Land, and **George Meyer**, former DNR secretary now with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Hear their overall reaction to the report and how it will impact deer management in the years to come.



First-ever warden recruitment live chat features hiring, training, job perks and more

By: Joanne M. Haas, Office of Communication

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More than 300 viewed recruit online conversation

The Bureau of Law Enforcement's Training and Recruitment Section on Monday, July 16, held the agency's first-ever online live chat. The conversation focused on answering questions received about recruiting and hiring new wardens.



Office Associate **Ryan Marty**, (lower right) of the Office of Communications, spearheaded the technical side of the event, securing the software and training the participants. Jeff King dictated answers to Kris Frawley. Joanne Haas took this photo. DNR Photo

The two-hour afternoon session was billed as a live conversation with Assistant Training Director **Jeff King**. King, joined by Bureau of Law Enforcement Program Associate **Kris Frawley** and Public Affairs Manager **Joanne Haas**, led the team in answering questions about all aspects of the ongoing warden hiring process.

Those participating asked thoughtful questions, some asking follow-up questions as the online conversation grew. King also decided to go about 15 minutes beyond the posted end of the session to accommodate more questions.

The chat by the numbers

The chat attracted 309 page views and 182 clicks. This means 309 people viewed the questions. Afterward, King received a contact from a viewer who was an official from the state of Idaho. The official was so impressed with the warden chat that he told King of his intention to replicate it for his agency.

The 182 clicks came from those who either entered the conversation with a question or comment, or voted in one of the two polls run at the bottom of the page. Viewers could read the questions as they were posted and see the polls at the bottom of that viewing area.

Responses to polls reveal participants' interest in recruitment

The first poll asked how the person heard about the job announcement. The answers broke down this way:

- 62 percent from DNR website;
- 19 percent from a conservation warden;
- 10 percent from the media;
- six percent from other websites;
- three percent from organizations;
- none from schools.

The second poll asked if the person had applied for the warden position:

- 27 percent YES, they had applied;
- 20 percent NO, they hadn't applied;
- 40 percent, PLANNING ON IT;
- 13 percent undecided.

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



Take a few moments to complete the online Windows 7 post migration survey

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With approximately 2,300 of the department's about 3,000 computers migrated to Windows 7/Office 2010, the project team has made a post migration survey available beginning tomorrow, Friday, July 27. The team is seeking feedback from as many users as possible to monitor satisfaction and help improve migration processes.

If your computer has the new operating system and office suite, take the opportunity to let the team know about your experience during and after the migration. Although voluntary, the more users who respond, the more information gathered, the smoother future migrations could go.

Get to the survey by clicking on ["Windows 7 Migration Survey."](#)

The first opportunity to take the survey will be between July 27 and August 17. The project team plans to seek input again during a few weeks closer to the end of calendar year 2012. With more experience "under their belts," users will be even better equipped to provide the team information needed to assess whether improvements to the process have been effective.

Another survey has been shared via email with support staff (installers) whom are completing migrations, which will be used to improve migration processes.

The Law Enforcement laptop replacement efforts also have been completed. This was a large part of the migration that required the regional information management specialists (RIMS) to postpone the agency migration while they worked on these computers.

You also can share questions or concerns with the Windows 7 project team by emailing [DNR DL Windows 7 Project Team](#) at any time.



August Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine goes to the dogs

By: Natasha Kassulke, Office of Communication

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The cover story in the August issue of **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine, "Dog days for hunting," takes readers on a waterfowl hunt with Hank, a silver Labrador retriever, and his proud owner. It's a reminder that the joy of a hunt can come from simply sharing it with a friend.

Trapping takes the backseat to spending time with family in "Trapping memories." The author explains why time on the river makes him reminisce about the important people in his life.



The cover of the 2012 magazine. DNR image

"Sharing a passion for upland birds and bird dogs" takes a look at a popular Learn to Hunt pheasant program that contributes to the future of pheasant hunting in Wisconsin. Much of the program's success is because of the hard work of the [Friends of Poynette Game Farm](#).

An incoming sixth grader at DeSoto Middle School relives the thrill of "My first waterfowl hunt" in a story about the hunt with a mentor and his hunting dog, Marley. Find out why she has so many reasons to be smiling in her photos.

Landowners are asked to consider enrolling their land in the Voluntary Public Access program in "Finding hunting land is easier." But, the land use is for more than just hunting. The August 31 deadline to apply for the program is fast approaching.

"A chance for a Reel Recovery" explores a fishing program for men facing cancer. A program for women with breast cancer is dubbed Casting for Recovery. "Hunt, climb, canoe and make crafts" gives a shout out to the Women in the Outdoors program.

There's a lot to learn about state park upgrades including some high tech options for understanding the parks in "State parks get innovative accessibility upgrades."

Find out why some businesses are voluntarily cleaning up their properties and what it

means for the future of those businesses in "Volunteering to clean up? Who would do that?" Crickets get the last word in "Cricket talk." Find out how to make a fall date with a river in the "Wisconsin Traveler" column.

Remember to consider the magazine as a thoughtful, inexpensive gift that can share what you value about the outdoors with family, friends, customers and professional colleagues. Six colorful issues are delivered to readers' doors all year for less than \$1.50 a copy. Year-round, the magazine shares ways and places to enjoy the Wisconsin outdoors for only \$8.97. Subscribe toll-free at 1-800-678-9472, online at [Wisconsin Natural Resources](#) or by mail. Subscription blanks and single issues also are available from our circulation office at P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707. Have questions? Call me, Natasha Kassulke at 608-261-8446.

Footnote: *Natasha Kassulke is the editor of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.*



Water program establishes "Thomas P. Janisch Lifetime Achievement Award"

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On July 12, a small contingent from DNR's Water Program visited with the family of former DNR employee, **Thomas P. Janisch**, to present a posthumous award. Janisch, a 30-year veteran with the department died on January 23, 2010.



At Slaughterhouse Creek near Rhinelander Tom Janisch checked Hester-Dendy samplers (artificial substrate suspended in the water column to encourage colonization of macroinvertebrates) as well as using a YSI meter to measure conductivity at various locations in the stream (an indication of contaminant metals dissolved in the water). DNR Photo

Janisch was born in 1946 in Beaver Dam. After graduating from UW-Stevens Point in 1968, he spent most of his career at DNR as the state's contaminated sediment coordinator.

A plaque was presented to Janisch's 96-year-old mother, Mercedes Janisch of Beaver Dam, establishing the "Thomas P. Janisch Lifetime Achievement Award" in honor of her son's professional career and accomplishments.

Performing detailed technical review and analysis of some of the state's most complex contaminated sites, Janisch concluded his career with the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment where he co-authored statewide guidance for Wisconsin's Contaminated

Sediment Program.

Brothers Charles and William, and Janisch's uncle also attended the presentation, each one expressing their appreciation for the commemorative award and how much it meant to their family.

During the visit, retired Water Division Administrator **Bruce Baker**, Office of the Great Lakes Director **Steve Galarneau**, Sediment Remediation Specialist **James Killian**, and Water Resources Specialist **Lisa Helmuth** shared memories of Janisch with his family.

In presenting the plaque, Galarneau said, "It is my great pleasure to present you with this commemorative plaque as we establish the Thomas P. Janisch Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This award is presented to DNR water resources managers that are recognized by their peers for their conviction and dedication to the protection and restoration of Wisconsin's aquatic resources.

"The decision to create this award in Tom's name was in part to recognize his significant contributions to Water Resources for the DNR and to honor Tom for that unwavering dedication. Very few employees show the dedication to environmental protection that Tom exemplified over his 30-plus year career with the department.

"We are here today to represent many of our colleagues around the state and appreciate the opportunity to express to you our sincere admiration and gratitude for one of the most outstanding individuals we ever had the privilege to work with. It is our honor to see this award created in Tom's name."



Steve Galarneau (left) and Jim Killian, a member of the Sediments Management Section presented Mercedes Janisch the plaque establishing the "Thomas P. Janisch Lifetime Achievement Award" on July 12. DNR Photo

Lisa Helmuth remembered Janisch's professionalism and humor, "Tom's heartfelt devotion to natural resource protection was expressed in his analytical mastery of applied science, tireless monitoring, and compassionate yet humorous office demeanor. Tom was genuine in every aspect. His infectious laugh or smile brightened many days here at DNR, and his brilliant legacy is reflected in the countless resources that he helped restore."

Bob Masnado, chief of the Water Evaluation Section in the Bureau of Watershed Management, shared his thoughts following Janisch's death upon receiving a note from his

family early in 2011.

"Almost one year ago, Tom Janisch, a retired DNR employee, passed away unexpectedly. Staff from throughout the state who had worked with Tom sent notes to the family expressing not only their sympathy, but their tributes to the legacy Tom left behind. To nearly everyone who worked with Tom, be it in the field or in the office, he was the epitome of dedication to doing the right things to ensure clean water for all. The family chose not to have a memorial or funeral service at the time of his death. Today, however, I received a note from Tom's brother (Chuck) and was asked to share this with DNR staff. The note read as follows:

"In memory of Thomas P. Janisch who passed away on January 23, 2010: A sincere thank you to all of Tom's co-workers at the Bureau of Watershed Management and employees of the DNR for your Internet condolences. Though we have never met, your kind and thoughtful words of sympathy and acknowledgment of Tom's dedication to his life's work has helped us through the most difficult time of our lives. Forever grateful to all, the Family of Thomas P. Janisch"



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

- *Governor Walker's legislative director* sent this message to legislators and their staffs regarding DNR's recently-created webpage on the drought: "Members and Staff, I have been receiving many questions about the current drought the state is experiencing. Thanks to Secretary Stepp and her team at the DNR, there is a one-stop page I wanted to be sure to share with you to use a resource for the numerous questions you are receiving from constituents. The page ("[Coping with the 2012 drought](#)") can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/emergency/drought/>."

"In addition, if you are working from the DNR [home page](#) at <http://dnr.wi.gov>, you can input the term "drought" in the search window and be taken directly to this one-stop page. I hope you find this information useful." *Cindy Polzin*

DNR Spokesperson **Bill Cosh** added a kudo specifying those who worked on the page: "I wanted to thank **Lisa Gaumnitz** and **Lena Arvola** (both with the Office of Communication) for pulling the webpage together so quickly today and for the great work they did on creating such a tremendous resource page. Below is a message that the Governor's Legislative Liaison sent to all legislators and legislative staff."

Secretary **Cathy Stepp** wrapped up the complimentary email string: "Credit to all of you who came together swiftly; keeping the needs of our customers front and center when deciding content and design. Outstanding!"

- "Our ag runoff folks, particularly Bureau of Watershed Management's **Andrew Craig** and **Tom Bauman**, did a great job in identifying a potential drought related concern – manure spreading over deeply cracked fields, and asking us to write a press release with DATCP (Department of Trade, Agriculture and Consumer Protection).

"The release was picked up by the 75-station WI Brownfield network, by numerous state ag publications, and now by a national hog farmer media, ([National Hog Farmer, July 12, 2012](#)). The introduction is very positive. We will be linking to their release from the drought web page. Great work! *Lisa Gaumnitz, public affairs manager in the Office of Communications*

Gaumnitz also provided this link the UW-Extension regarding tax issues with drought damage: ["Extension Responds—Drought Resources"](#)

Northeast Region success stories

- **Dave Boyarski** and **Brad Eggold** (fisheries supervisors in Sturgeon Bay and Milwaukee): "I want to thank you and your staff for your support and coordination of our Lake Michigan field work last week on board the R/V Gaylord Nelson. **Tim Kroeff**, **Pat McKee** and most notably captain **Dick Pagel** were a huge help in the sampling effort. As I think I briefly explained, the measurements we took will be used to calibrate satellite sensors to measure future water quality conditions around the Great Lakes. One of the intangibles and best parts about these trips is the camaraderie and friendships that develop when people from differing backgrounds and geographic regions (in this case, China, Iran, S. Florida, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin) work together in close quarters for a week. It was a wonderful trip and Dick Pagel proved a great ambassador for the state!" *Steve*
- "We want to commend **Bill McNee** (Green Bay) for the fantastic job he's been doing for the Division of Forestry. His official title is Regional Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator but his responsibilities extend much further than that. Most recently Bill stepped in to take over the EAB (emerald ash borer) notification process when we were unavailable. He is a great partner to the Urban Forestry Program. He is always present at our regional networking group meetings. He assists our program with Tree City USA presentations every year. He is responsive to requests from those inside and outside the agency, providing quick and dependable customer service. He consistently goes above and beyond what's expected. Thank you Bill for everything you do – you are a G.E.M. – a team member that Goes the Extra Mile. We really appreciate it!" **Kim Sebastian** and **Olivia Witthun**, regional urban forestry coordinators
- Warden **Dave Algrem** (Wautoma): "Dave, You did a great job in the coordination of the shooting range project. I stopped out to see the finished product this past week, and was very impressed. It is first class. It will be much safer, and a lot more convenient for shooters using different distances. Now, if it would just cool down so I can go and try it out! Thanks for all your efforts on this endeavor." *Kevin Clark*
- Warden **Mike Neal** (Sister Bay): "This letter is in regards to a Warden Michael Neal. I was very upset when my kids text me from Newport State Park camping. They lost their keys and had no battery left in phone. I called police to check them and said they cannot go there. After talking to a nice girl at DNR she contacted the warden Michael and he called me right away. He was so kind and I knew he was tired but he assured me he will check them. The Warden went above and beyond his job and was just wonderful. He hiked to them and called me that there ok. I want to let you know as his supervisor how great he was and should keep this note in his file. Thank you again it is great to know our parks have such great employees. I do think a pay phone for things like this would help when office is closed. Thank You" *Michele Rifkin*
- "**Curt**, (**Wilson**, regional forestry leader) your two new foresters, **Chris Duncan** and **Mackenzie Siglinsky** in Oconto Falls are very professional and a pleasure to do business with (as Ryan Severson always has been as well). I had a MFL (managed forest lands) application with each of them this year. I figured every once in a while you should hear

something positive." *Don Peterson, President, Renewable Resource Solutions, LLC*

- A couple who visited Peninsula State Park wrote us the following: "Last week we visited Peninsula and played at the golf course. We have done this for many years and have always had a great experience. This year we were really impressed with the improvements which have been made to the golf course. The course was in great shape and the new plantings and landscaping contributed to the overall image, without detracting from the park-like atmosphere. Even the signage appeared to be either new or repainted, and looked great. A minor thing that impressed us and is illustrative of the improvements, is that even the "ground under repair" markings looked fresh and clean. We were glad to see that the food stand at the 10th Tee retained its original atmosphere, with good fresh simple food and personable young people staffing it.

"As you can see, we really enjoyed our experience. Thanks to all who were involved in keeping Peninsula State Park a good place to visit."

- A couple who visited Potawatomi State Park wrote us to thank Ranger **Mary Ripp**: "Through the past 7 years we have used Potawatomi State Park 18 times. My wife Mary Jo and I drive up from Sheboygan for the 4th of July for the past 6 years to spend 2 weeks of peaceful reading time. The quietness and cleanliness keep us returning. Mary Ripp is a tremendous asset to your Park and in our minds deserves most of the credit for our returning.

"This past week, our son and his family came up and tented on their own site. Our middle grandchild has some handicaps, one being slightly autistic. At the camp office when we registered, Mary Jo picked up your camp badge booklets for our grand kids. Connor in a two day period completed the booklet and earned the patch. Mary went out of her way on the night of the 4th with all her other duties to find him and personally congratulate him on this accomplishment."

"Again in closing please express our thanks to Mary and recognize the quality of service she brings to your Park."

- "The **Pike Lake Unit** of the Kettle Moraine State Forest offered a second program of three funded through the Affinity Grant, which was matched by the Friends of Pike Lake. On July 7, Schlitz Audubon presented a live raptor demonstration 'Beaks and Talons,' with a turkey vulture, great horned and screech owls, red tail hawk and a kestrel. Over 275 people attended and one commented 'Awesome!' It's always great to see so many people participating. I always love to learn but these days, I even love more to see families learning together. I'm glad so many people were able to enjoy the show! Thank you to the ranger staff and Schlitz Audubon!"

- Recent visitors to state parks and trails have sent in the following emails and comment cards, originally posted in the "Parks Shorts" newsletter from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation:

High Cliff State Park: "Great park...cleanliness great at bathrooms and sites."

Big Bay State Park: "Just want to extend a sincere congratulations and thank you to the **staff at Big Bay State Park**. We just spent 5 days at this facility and everyone that we ran into was wonderful and appeared to be very engaged in their jobs. People were very friendly, knowledgeable and most of all helpful. I can't say enough about the upkeep of the facility and the people that are employed there. Keep up the great work!"

Lake Wissota State Park: "We spent the week camping here, and were very impressed with the **office staff**. Every day we stopped and they took the time to help our daughters pick out wild cards and look at the caterpillars. No other State Park has made them feel as welcome or special. Thank you very much!"

Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit: "I have been coming to this campground since I was a little girl. Coming here with my two little boys and seeing the same excitement is one of the best feelings ever. I love this park and all the memories! Kettle Moraine is always very clean and well kept. We will be back!"

"About a month ago I stayed at Peninsula State Park, and listened to the pelican presentation given by (naturalist) **Kathleen Harris**. I simply want to comment that she gave an enthusiastic presentation that was informative to both children and adults. It was also impressive how well she handled a slightly disruptive child throughout the presentation who almost certainly had ADD. I would appreciate it if you could pass this comment to her supervisor. Thank you!"

"Outstanding cleanliness. **Kevin (Lind)** (and team) does a great job of keeping bugs to a minimum and all facilities clean and ready for use." *Tim Cavanaugh, Weborg WI*

"We have stayed at many state parks in Wisconsin and want to recognize **Emily (Anderson)** for the perkiest and most helpful ranger we have ever met. Thanks Emily!"
Kate Freese, Lockport, IL

- **Jenna Borski:** "Jean, Denise and I attended the ribbon cutting last Thursday at Eagle Flats (a contaminated Paper Mill site to an Energy Star Housing complex) because you were unable to attend (Leadership Academy), and I want to reiterate that it was a very special event. We heard 'thank yous' from all of the speakers, but one thing rang true across all of the thank yous issued. How much of a pleasure it was working with WDNR on this project and specifically about how helpful and instrumental you were in keeping this project moving, from opening statements from Mayor Hanna to John Thode (developer) to Karen Harkeness (City of Appleton Development director)! Clearly they appreciated your help on this project and the City is looking forward to working with you on their next redevelopment project. Thank YOU for all your hard work at this site. It is a pleasure being able to work with talented staff like you. You represent the department in a professional manner and your level of customer service is beyond expectations." *Bruce Urban, Air and Waste Program management*

- **Jennifer Borski:** "It was fun showing you the progress at RiverHeath. You were instrumental here from the beginning and we will never forget what you did to get this project underway. I am sending you the latest site plan. Thanks again for stopping." *Kris Oates, Community Director, RiverHeath, LLC*

- **Dave Minkey** (NER Air management engineer): "Thank you for your prompt review and issuance of the construction permit at Hickory Meadows." *Randy Frank, regional engineer, Veolia ES Solid Waste Midwest and Sherren Clark, SCS Engineers*

"Thanks for the timely approval. We appreciate your hard work to get this issued in time for construction, and also the well-written permit documents." *Sherren Clark*

- Warden **Andy Lundin** (Green Bay West): "My apologies for not getting an email to you sooner – last week was our full 9-5 pm programming week and with the holiday thrown in the middle, time got away from me! A BIG thank you from us for such a great event – the kids were

talking about it the whole way back to school and were able to share it with the entire group this last week. You all definitely sparked something in each of them; we've been getting a lot more questions to go fishing, canoeing, and they are even asking if we can go again. Again, thank you to you and the rest of the crew who were there – it was GREAT!" *Jessica Ward, Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay*

- "Deputy Wardens **Josh Loining** and **Sam Schroeder** (Wautoma team) did a great job and were recognized by fellow wardens for their 'above and beyond' difficult rescue of a white pelican on the Waupaca River near Gills Landing. The bird was transported to a local rehabilitator, however due to the bird's condition the bird had to be euthanized."
- "**Trish (Ossmann, regional public affairs manager)**, I can't thank you enough for taking on the chore of ensuring the Department was a prominent displayer at this year's Farm Tech Days in New London. Despite the many obstacles (busy staff, no staff, no money, drought conditions, significant rain on the days of the event, evacuation, heat, etc), you and your team of die-hards met the challenges with a smile and a positive attitude! What a tremendous resource you are and a true pleasure to work with. Your can-do attitude is infectious and makes grueling work worthwhile.

"Times like these make me wish there was more than a thank you that I can offer, but know that it is sincere and heartfelt. You are a gem! I hope you truly know how much you mean to us. Thank you!" *Jean Romback-Bartels, Northeast Region director*

Ossmann responded: "Thank you so much, Jean, but this was truly a **team** effort. All programs worked together very well. LE had a very strong showing at the event with their ATV/UTV trailer as well as their virtual shooting range. They fielded a lot of questions about the new ATV/UTV laws.

"Water and EE folks answered several questions about wells and spreading. Wildlife heard a lot of questions about the Lower Wolf River Bottom master plan and the deer research folks and VPA staff also answered many questions about their program. Waste and recycling did a great job having handouts for the kids and a very interactive and educational display. The presence of the fish tank also helped draw people into the area.

"This was a great event with wonderful exposure. As one staff member told me, just having a friendly face with the DNR asking how someone's day is going went a long way in better PR for the department.

"Thank you so much for taking time out of your day to stop by and see staff, the displays, and even help us tear down at the end. You being there meant a lot to all of us."

Southeast Region success stories

- Congratulations to Parks and Recreation Specialist **Tom Kroeger** and Visitor Services Associate **Nathan Paulus** of Lakeshore State Park from the Department of the Air Force: "On 02 June 2012, members of the 128th Air Refueling Wing, including Aircrew and Instructors from Aircrew Flight equipment, conducted Land and Water Survival Refresher training at Lakeshore State Park, Milwaukee. The use of the park and its facilities were critical to successful life sustaining training for our Aircrew. Please accept this letter of appreciation. We are especially grateful to you and Mr. Nathan Paulus for your flexibility and willingness to help. The assistance and park use, especially considering the unexpected short notice, was extraordinary. Without your support, this realistic and important training may have been postponed or canceled. Please

accept the enclosed photograph of the park and Milwaukee skyline taken during our training, as a token of appreciation. We hope to work with you again in the future.” *Shane A. Loomis SMSgt, WI ANG*

- Congratulations to Drinking Water and Groundwater Specialist **Patricia Iwanski** from Bureau of Legal Services Attorney **Judith M. Ohm**: “Thank you for your testimony in the case regarding 5 Corners Truck & Auto on Tuesday. You did an excellent job preparing for the hearing, including sending me all the relevant documents I needed to prepare for it. You testified in a very professional, thorough, and forthright manner and your testimony was invaluable to establishing the case for DNR. You also did an excellent job responding to the other attorney's questions during cross-examination. Your responses to his questions actually strengthened our case and he did nothing to discredit your testimony or diminish the strength of our case against 5 Corners. Thanks again for your testimony and thanks for all the work you have done to try to bring the water system into compliance before and after the time we issued the Administrative Orders against 5 Corners.”

- Congratulations to Engineer **Bizhan Sheikholeslami** of the Waste and Materials Management Program from the *Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)*: “The ASTSWMO recognizes Bizhan for outstanding contributions to the Association in furtherance of its goal to protect and promote the health, welfare, and safety of the American public and the environment.

- Congratulations to Conservation Warden **Mark Pearce** and Conservation Warden **Mike Clutter** from a private citizen on a recent ride-along: “I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to ride along with you and Mike. It was great to see your professional side and your lighter side together. It was very clear to see that you truly enjoy your job by the way you sized up the area before we approached each boat. I thought Mike did a great job interacting with the people and yet be professional. It was also a good feeling from my view point to see the sportspeople act so cooperatively. I truly believe that by removing that couch from the lake that you kept somebody from getting hurt or having equipment damage. In a small way you helped keep a resource clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. Again thank you, it truly was a pleasure” *John L. Wilde*

- Congratulations to Forestry Specialist **Bill McNee** from Regional Urban Forestry Coordinators *Kim Sebastian and Olivia Witthun*: (Bill is stationed in the Green Bay office but works extensively in the SER as well): “We want to commend Bill McNee (Green Bay) for the fantastic job he’s been doing for the Division of Forestry. His official title is Regional Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator but his responsibilities extend much further than that. Most recently Bill stepped in to take over the EAB notification process when we were unavailable. He is a great partner to the Urban Forestry Program. He is always present at our regional networking group meetings. He assists our program with Tree City USA presentations every year. He is responsive to requests from those inside and outside the agency, providing quick and dependable customer service. He consistently goes above and beyond what’s expected. Thank you Bill for everything you do – you are a G.E.M. – a team member that Goes the Extra Mile. We really appreciate it!”

- Congratulations to Wildlife Biologist **Marty Johnson** from *Mary Junbers*: “I just received a phone call from Kenosha County resident Mary Junbers to relate the ‘excellent service provided by Wildlife Biologist Marty Johnson’ in helping them relocate a hen mallard and her ducklings from a rooftop. She was calling simply ‘to express her thanks for all our staff does for the state of WI.’”

- Congratulations to SER Fisheries Management Supervisor **Bradley Eggold** and NER Fisheries Management Supervisor **David Boyarski** from *Senior Research Hydrologist Steven Greb* for their recent work in Sturgeon Bay: “I want to thank you and your staff for your support and coordination of our Lake Michigan field work last week on board the R/V Gaylord Nelson.

Tim Kroeff, Pat McKee, and most notably captain **Dick Pagel** were a huge help in the sampling effort. As I think I briefly explained, the measurements we took will be used to calibrate satellite sensors to measure future water quality conditions around the Great Lakes. One of the intangibles and best parts about these trips is the camaraderie and friendships that develop when people from differing backgrounds and geographic regions (in this case, China, Iran, S. Florida, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin) work together in close quarters for a week. It was a wonderful trip and Dick Pagel proved a great ambassador for the state!"

West Central Region success story

Regional Public Affairs Manager **Ed Culhane** received this note following posting of the department's news release "[Cougar photographed in Buffalo County](#)" on July 18: "Ed, On behalf of all our readers, thank you for saving a daily newspaper in a small town from the news-less doldrums of July." *Brian Voerding, editor, "Winona (Minnesota) Daily News"*



Bike and hike event highlights the Glacial Heritage Area

By: Andrew Savaigan, South Central Region

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On any given summer day, the [Glacial Drumlin State Trail](#) in southeast Wisconsin provides an outdoor canvas of wild sights and sounds--meadowlarks, mallards, cattails and prairie grass to name a few--that bikers and hikers would deem worthy of an artist's paintbrush.

Recently, however, visitors to the trail were able to glimpse a different kind of artistry, including paintings, wood carvings and pottery.



Painter Hal Koenig of Milwaukee displayed his talents along the Glacial Drumlin Trail. Photo courtesy of Kerry Denson

The unique offerings were part of Bike & Hike with the Artists, an event held June 30 to highlight the [Glacial Heritage Area](#), a network of state and local parks, preserves, wildlife and other conservation lands that extends into several counties around Jefferson.

The Friends of the Glacial Heritage Area and the Arts Alliance of Greater Lake Mills sponsored the event, which DNR promoted as a key partner in the creation of the Glacial Heritage Area.

"Bikers and hikers were able to interact with painters, sculptors and writers along the trail," said Mary Ann Jackson, Arts Alliance board member. She said the arts included carved

pottery, wood turning and bow making, watercolor painting, wood carving, nature writings and needle felting.

The artists worked along an eight-mile section of the Glacial Drumlin Trail between the town of London to just south of [Aztalan State Park](#). **Craig Kopacek**, DNR wildlife technician for the South Central Region, also hosted a wildlife display.

The goals of the Glacial Heritage Area include protecting and restoring native grassland, savanna, woodland and wetland habitats; improving water quality for the area wetlands, rivers and lakes; and incorporating significant historical and cultural elements for the enjoyment of all.

For more information, visit the [“Glacial Heritage Area”](#) (exit DNR) website or email the [Friends of GHA](#).

Footnote: *Andrew Savaigan is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*



Georgia angler catches Wisconsin-produced sturgeon

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The day after last Christmas, Angie Boatwright got more than she'd expected while fishing the Coosa River in Georgia. As a Georgia DNR fisheries biologist described Boatwright's intentions, "...she was armed with 30lb line with an 80lb leader and a heavy baitcaster, expecting to tangle with the big blues and flatheads the Coosa is known for." What she discovered on the end of her line instead was a 15-pound, 50 inch long sturgeon, spawned in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Services Section Chief **Ron Bruch** explained how a Wisconsin sturgeon ended up in Georgia waters.



Georgia resident Angie Boatwright posed for photos with the Wisconsin-"transplanted" sturgeon before returning it to the Coosa River. Photo courtesy of Angie Boatwright

"We've been cooperating with the states of Georgia and Tennessee, and the USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) Hatchery at Warm Springs Georgia, for about the last 10 years, annually providing lake sturgeon eggs from our stocks (primarily Wolf River) for their restoration program in the Tennessee and Coosa River Systems. Their program is quite

successful to date with more angler encounters such as the one chronicled happening on a regular basis.”

John Damer, fisheries biologist with the Georgia DNR described what transpired to Bruch as Boatwright set out to catch catfish “using live shad on the bottom.”

“When she hooked the fish she thought she had found what she was looking for, as it fought hard like a big blue cat. But, when the fish surfaced she knew it was no catfish, initially thinking she had hung a giant gar.

Once she brought the fish near the boat, she knew what she had because she’d seen sturgeon alert signs along the river. Boatwright also knew that sturgeon is a “catch and release” species, so she returned it to the river after taking measurements and photos.

Damer closed out his message: “To my knowledge, this is the largest sturgeon reported from the entire Coosa River system in over 30 years, and hopefully a positive sign of things to come!”



Produced by: Department of Natural Resources, Office of Communication

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Document Retrieval Date: Monday, July 30, 2012 at 11:50:27 AM