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August 9, 2011

Editor: Diane Brinson

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DNR playing a key role in fight against the drought of 2012

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Editor's note: On Friday, August 10, the department issued the news release ["Fire danger subsides, burning restriction to be lifted."](#)

Although not as bad as the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, this year's desert-like conditions place the drought in the list of top competitors. On July 9, Gov. Scott Walker declared a state of emergency for 42 Wisconsin counties experiencing the worst drought since 1988. DNR programs already were in the thick of it, doing what they could to help mitigate the impacts of blistering temperatures and way-below-average rainfalls.

On July 26, USA Today ran a story ["Comparing droughts: 1934 and 2012"](#), placing the possible cost in dollars and cents of this year's weather emergency at \$12 billion.

Emergency Management Administrator **David Woodbury** in the Bureau of Law Enforcement coordinates the department's duty officers and drought response team, preparing daily updates on DNR-related drought efforts. The report includes burning bans on DNR-managed lands and burning restrictions in affected counties; DNR-issued water permits; fish kills; and fire danger. Click on the latest ["DNR Drought Report."](#)



State Natural Areas Biologist **Matt Zine** issued two permits allowing cutting of hay on 55 acres of the Avoca Prairie State Natural Area. Sand bars in the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway that borders the natural area can be an indicator of low water. Wildlife Management Technician **Meg Ziegler** took this aerial photo while flying a trumpeter swan survey down the Wisconsin River. DNR Photo

“The number of DNR employees working on this effort far exceeds those sitting on the response team and includes employees from every program,” said Woodbury. “I’ve not heard one of these people say ‘no’ when asked to do something, even if it’s meant putting their regular duties on the backburner for a short while.”

Many of those responding to unusual job “add-ons” work on DNR-managed properties opened to applications for emergency haying and grazing of livestock. Farmers raising cattle have been particularly hard hit, watching their hay fields and grazing lands dry up.

Wildlife Biologist **Alan Crossley**, who coordinated the Division of Land’s response to farmers’ needs, summarized the work of DNR property staff.

“During the first two weeks of issuing permits, department staff issued 203 emergency haying permits for 4,393 acres and three emergency grazing permits for 40 acres. Although phones were ringing off the wall the first week or two, I think our property managers realized that some of our neighboring farmers could use the help. It wasn’t the greatest hay in the world, but we were able to provide it in a manner that still honored the purposes for which our properties were acquired.”

Steve Ales, Private Water supply Section chief, explained the process for obtaining approval for high capacity wells during the drought.

“The Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater has an emergency approval process for high capacity wells. The primary criteria are situations where animals need water and where crops are drying up. If folks are in these situations and need an emergency high capacity well, they should contact the bureau and we’ll help them with the process.”

DNR website keeps public in-the-know about impacts on natural resources

After receiving numerous inquiries for a website to help the public deal with natural resources-related drought issues, staffs from several programs pulled together to roll out a new webpage [“Coping with the 2012 drought.”](#)

Since June 5, the department has responded to 50 fish kills. In one extreme situation, the

[Thunder River Rearing Station](#) in northeast Wisconsin had to euthanize more than 16,000 brown trout fingerlings. Fed by a nearby creek at lower-than-normal water levels, hatchery runways became crowded and a parasite infected some of the population.

At this time of the year, and given the extreme temperatures, people are drawn to the state's waters to swim, fish and boat. Low water levels and high water temperatures have created conditions that support water-borne diseases that can make people and pets sick. The spread of [blue-green algae](#) has become a serious health issue. Learn more by viewing the department-produced "[Blue-green algae](#)" video on the DNR homepage.

State agencies reports come together on Emergency Management's website

The Division of Emergency Management's "[Wisconsin Drought Resources](#)" website packages the many resources available to the general public to cope with the drought. This "ReadyWisconsin" site doesn't replace, however, the more specific drought information resources from other state agencies such as the departments of Health Services; Revenue; Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; DNR, etc.

The "ReadyWisconsin" site covers 18 topics, from health resources to economic remedies to weather predictions and power outages. For a recap of DNR's reports to the media on managing the state's natural resources during the drought of 2012, see all department news releases since June 22 on the "[State Agency Press Releases](#)" webpage.



New Castle Doctrine gives landowners right to use force for unlawful entry

By: Tim Andryk, Bureau of Legal Services

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Important safety issue for employees working in the field

Employees working in the field need to understand the ramifications of the recently enacted Castle Doctrine Legislation (2011 Wisconsin Act 94) giving private property owners the right to use force against a person who has unlawfully and forcibly entered their home or dwelling.

An 18-minute video "[Castle Doctrine 2011 Wisconsin Act 94](#)," featuring DNR Attorney **Mike Lutz** and Bureau of Law Enforcement Training Director **Jeff King**, offers advice on safely entering private lands in light of this new law. Other states have enacted similar legislation.

Briefly, the Castle Doctrine authorizes a property owner to use force against a person who has unlawfully and forcibly entered their home or dwelling and the area immediately surrounding the dwelling including the yard, garage and driveway or parking area.

Lutz responds to questions from King about the specific requirements and definitions under this law. They offer a number of suggested approaches for addressing concerns with this law, and generally recommend that DNR employees provide advance notice before entering private lands, properly introducing and identifying themselves.

If case you may be working on private lands or receive questions about the Castle Doctrine, be sure to watch this video. Get additional information or further interpretation of the law as

it applies to your work by contacting your supervisor or the [DNR attorney](#) working with your program.

Footnote: *Tim Andryk is director of the Bureau of Legal Services.*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title & link:** [“Newsmakers: Wisconsin Retirement System”](#)

Description: On July 26, Wisconsin Eye’s Steve Walters interviewed Department of Employee Trust Funds Secretary Robert Conlin about the much-anticipated study of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), which is comprised of 778,000 members. Hear Secretary Conlin comment on “...the only retirement system in the nation with 100% funding.”

- **Title & link:** [“Blue-green algae video and article available online”](#)

Description: August typically is the month when annoying and potentially deadly blooms of blue-green algae are at their peak. Another result of the hot, dry weather this summer, the algae has appeared earlier and on more waters. To alert the public of the health threats to people and pets, Office of Communication Producer **Mary Farmiloe** produced, directed, shot and edited the video that, along with a news release, was posted in the Weekly News on August 7. She worked with Public Affairs Manager **Lisa Gaumnitz**, Office of the Great Lakes Water Specialist **Jo Temte**, Bureau of Science Services Scientist **Gina LaLiberte** and South Central Region Public Affairs Manager **Andrew Savagian**.

- **Title & link:** [“Elk restoration survey now available to public”](#)

Description: Via this survey, members of the public now can share their experiences with and opinions about the restoration of Wisconsin’s elk herd. The online survey can be found on [Wisconsin DNR](#) 'dnr.wi.gov' under keywords “elk reintroduction.” The survey is open from August 1-31. Information DNR receives will help in determining whether the department will attempt further wild elk reintroduction state.

- **Title & links:** [“Wisconsin’s Wolf Hunt”](#)

[“FAQs for the Wolf Hunting and Trapping Season”](#)

Descriptions: On July 26, Wisconsin Public Radio’s Glen Moberg aired this weekly "Recent Travels" show focusing on "Wisconsin's Wolf Hunt" and featuring DNR Division of Land Administrator **Kurt Thiede** and Mike Wiggins, chair of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Wiggins has asked for additional areas to be set aside as wolf sanctuaries. Hunters can purchase licenses from August 1-31.

Thiede has received numerous inquiries from the media regarding the upcoming wolf hunt and trapping season. This frequently-asked questions document answers the most commonly posed questions about licensing, seasons, wolf population and more.

As of August 9, hunting license application sales remain strong at a total of 8,374. Wisconsin resident sales account for 8,208 of that number, while 166 non-resident licenses have been purchased.

(The Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies, Dane County Humane Society and Wisconsin Humane Society have filed a lawsuit in Dane County Circuit Court regarding the use of dogs for wolf hunting.)

- **Title & link:** ["Hero Nominations—2012"](#)

Description: The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks is accepting nominations for its coveted end-of-the year awards. You can submit the name of an Outstanding DNR Land Manager, an Outstanding Friends Group and/or an Outstanding Individual Friends Member. The deadline for submitting nominations is August 31, 2012.

- **Titles & links:**

["EPA approves Wisconsin's phosphorus program"](#)

["Wisconsin's phosphorus rule approved by EPA"](#) (July 25, 2012)

Description: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved Wisconsin's program to reduce phosphorus levels in the Great Lakes and Wisconsin's inland waters. In an effort to "achieve phosphorus reductions more economically," DNR is allowing those holding discharge permits to work together to achieve required levels for a watershed.

- **Title & link:** ["Landscapes"](#)

Description: This issue of the bi-monthly newsletter from the Division of Land is chock full of everything from the director's message, to program hot topics and personnel news. Administrator **Kurt Thiede's** column topic is about the long history of integration in the agency.

- **Title & link:** ["Fishing in the Neighborhood program reels in new anglers"](#)



Fishing in the Neighborhood (FIN) club leaders wet a line at their May training retreat on the Wisconsin River. DNR Photo

Description: **Theresa Stabo**, DNR's aquatic resources education director, has been working with the UW-Madison Office of Service Learning and Community Based Research to recruit and train interns to work with Latino, Hmong and Native American community groups. These interns introduce young people and their families to fishing opportunities in their communities. In return, the older students get community service hours, great for

helping to build a young person's resume.

- **Title & link:** ["Avoid spreading a plant that's threat to bats"](#)

Description: If you've ever snagged the common burdock on your clothing while walking outdoors, you've likely come to think of the plant as a real nuisance. Bats hung up on a burdock while out during the night looking for food will find it impossible to disengage themselves, ultimately dying of starvation. You can help protect our beneficial bats by taking simple steps to avoid spreading the plant.

- **Title & link:** ["Waters & Woods: Fishing with the Secretaries"](#)

Description: DNR Secretary **Cathy Stepp** and Department of Tourism Secretary Stephanie Klett teamed up to fish Delavan Lake for an episode of John Gillespie's "Waters & Woods." The episode aired August 4-5 in Milwaukee, Green Bay, Northern Illinois, Northern Indiana, Minnesota and North and South Dakota. The agencies sponsored the episode together as a way to further promote fishing in Wisconsin.



Retirement system benefits presentations scheduled for September to November

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Find a [location](#) near you to learn more about Wisconsin Retirement System

The Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) will offer free public presentations around the state on Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits in September, October and November. These WRS workshops are valuable opportunities for WRS members, spouses and other individuals to obtain information on retirement issues and other ETF-administered benefit programs. Although all those considering or planning retirement in the near future are encouraged to attend, the information is useful to all WRS members.

Topics covered during the presentations

- requesting a retirement estimate
- calculating retirement benefits
- annuity options
- separation benefits
- taxes
- survivor benefits
- health and life insurance benefits
- beneficiary designations
- additional contributions

If you're not able to attend one of the sessions, you can watch the online video of the presentation from the convenience of home. Look for the video "Your WRS Benefits" on ETF's ["Video Library"](#) webpage.



DNR social media ride sometimes scary, but wildly successful

By: Trish Ossmann, Northeast Region

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Eight months ago, the Office of Communication embarked on a journey into the sometimes scary world of social media. We grabbed hold of the opportunity, and it's taken us on a wildly successful ride. We want to take a moment to update everyone about where we stand with the tools we have in place. Click on each social medium's link, below.

[Facebook](#)

Current fans: 6,360

A series of really strong wildlife posts helped substantially boost the number of Facebook followers to more than 6,300. The post most popular to date is that of an eagle which flew into the grill of a pickup truck going 60 mph in Waupaca County in June. Thanks to the quick work of the driver, Conservation Warden Ted Dremel, a veterinarian, and wildlife rehabilitator, the eagle lived. When we posted the story on our page, our followers shared it on their pages. It literally went viral. The two major TV stations in Green Bay picked it up, as well as CNN.

In July, we also received a call from someone at Facebook who wanted to discuss advertising. They said they were amazed at the success of the page, especially when they learned we launched last November. They said most government agencies struggle to achieve 2,000 followers, much less doing so in eight months.

We've also installed a new feature on the Facebook page: "Cover it Live" chat. On July 16 we used "Cover it Live" on our website to host a chat about open warden positions. We're currently looking at new topics for chat opportunities, and when we do our next one people can participate from our Facebook page as well.

We'd also like to remind staff to not comment on the DNR Facebook page in a professional capacity. If you think a comment should be responded to or would like to suggest how to respond, email those to dnrfb@wisconsin.gov and our administrators will reply, when appropriate, from the DNR account.

[Twitter](#)

Current followers: 1,956

News outlets from around the state now are following DNR's Twitter feed. It's instrumental in sharing DNR's breaking and weekly news. It's being used to inform followers of public meetings and burn ban notices; promote the Natural Resources Park at the Wisconsin State Fair; and share photos, such as the recent fire at Devil's Lake State Park.

Some of our followers are using Twitter to ask specific questions like, "How do I get a recycle bin," and a DNR Twitter administrator will reply.

In comparison, Missouri's DNR Twitter account has 884 followers, and it started nine months before ours.

[YouTube](#)

Current subscribers: 339 (people who are notified when a new video is posted)

Current video views: 72,564

If you haven't visited our YouTube channel yet, you're missing out. Most programs already have videos up on the site. We try to upload a new one at least once a week. Videos can range from funny to educational, and their release often coincides with an appearance in the homepage video window on our website.

Getting your program's videos on YouTube is easy. Here is what you need to do:

- If you have a finished video: Fill out a DVD/Videotape Duplication order form (8500-116), which you can find in the e-forms section of the "MyDNR" Intranet page under "IT Works." There is a flat fee of \$50 to convert the file from its current format, then prepare and upload it to YouTube. Remember, YouTube videos have to be short at about three minutes or less.
- If you want to produce a new video: Fill out a Video Project Proposal form (8500-152), which you also can find in the e-forms section of "MyDNR" under IT works. The cost of producing a new video depends on what you would like done. Video Producer **Mary Farmiloe**, in the Office of Communication, can assist anyone with questions about the process or cost of creating a video product.

[Flickr](#)

Our Flickr site now contains 2,659 high-resolution photos for public use. The site has been viewed more than 76,294 times.

Flickr is like a giant photo album. These photos are free for public use with no restrictions. Media especially like this site when they're working on news articles and need a photo to go with their reports.

How to include your projects on social media

If you have something you're working on you think would be good for any one of these social media tools, contact your [RPAM \(regional public affairs manager\)](#) or [SPAM \(senior public affairs manager\)](#). Office of Communication staff meets every Thursday to discuss options and placements for social media. Items given the green light are put onto a shared calendar, which can be found at DNR OFC OF COMMUNICATION. Anyone in the agency can see this calendar, but only Office of Communication staff can add items to it.

Footnote: *Trish Ossmann is the public affairs manager for the Northeast Region.*



Worth 1,000 words...images of us at work

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Southeast Region Wildlife Management Technician Bob Zinkgraf and former DNR employee Ed Alt used a DNR airboat to help lake property owners push the bog back to its original location. Photo courtesy of Tony Novak

Staffs from DNR's bureaus of Wildlife Management and Fisheries Management, as well as Water Division, recently spent several long days helping residents along Lake Lorraine's shores save a high-quality floating bog, moving it back to its original location and out of the way of those wanting to navigate the lake. The bog contains a diversity of native wetland plants and provides important fish and wildlife habitat.

A combination of high water and windy conditions caused the bog to break loose and break up on July 11, 2011. If not pushed back to its original location, the bog would have been excavated, destroying the habitat.



Wildlife Biologist Brian Glenzinski and former DNR employee Brian Laughlin used their boat to nudge bogs on Lorraine Lake. Photo courtesy of Tony Novak

Tony Novak, president of the [Lorraine Lake Restoration and Protection Association](#) reported on the effort, which was successfully completed almost a year to the date its start.

"It has been a very expensive project, many man hours with many ups and downs during this past year. Bottom line, bog is staked and we all did it together. Super teamwork made us a winner," said Novak. The other option would have been to excavate it from the lake, destroying the habitat.

DNR contributed to the effort by obtaining a \$5,000 federal grant to pay for hand cutting the bog into smaller pieces with old ice saws and pushing them back to the west bay of the lake. DNR staff used a department airboat and other boats, as residents pushed with their

pontoons and boats in a true side-by-side team effort.



Property owners with pontoons and boats helped move the bogs to an area of the lake where they can continue providing quality fish and wildlife habitat. Photo courtesy of Tony Novak

Hoping to stabilize the bog in place, the lake association hired a contractor to insert pipes through the bog and into the lake bottom. The association sees the bog, now in several pieces, as offering an opportunity for kayakers, canoeists and anglers to observe wildlife and enjoy good fishing in the waters of the bogs.

DNR employees involved in the year-long project, which actually will continue into the winter, were: **Heidi Bunk, Rick Dauffenbach, Molly Groth, Pam Schense, Chuck Gatling, Brian Dart, Seth Fisher, Eric Tarman-Ramchek, Bob Zinkgraf, Brian Glenzinski** and **Rachel Anderson**. LTEs **Brian Laughlin** and **Ed Alt** have left the department, but also worked on the project.



Department follows up on last year's successful school supply drive

By: Elizabeth Kluesner, Office of the Secretary

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DNR has provided K-12 (kindergarten to 12th grade) environmental and natural resources education for decades. So, when the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools asked us to partner with them to adopt a local middle school, it was a natural fit.

During the 2010-2011 school year, the department adopted Toki Middle School on Madison's west side. Last year, DNR central office and South Central Region employees volunteered at Toki; raised money and collected books for the library; conducted onsite Project LEAF programming for Toki science classes; and provided transportation funding and naturalists for Toki students to have a field trip to Devils Lake State Park.

During the 2011-2012 school year, the department continued to volunteer at Toki and support the students. The National Archery in the Schools Program participated in Toki's physical education program and gave the kids a chance to try archery. DNR provided field trip support (thanks to a successful chili cook-off and ice cream social) and is looking into the possibility of designating the Toki Woods as a school forest.

We're kicking off the third year of this exciting partnership with another school supply drive for Toki Middle School students. The drive began on Monday, August 6 and will end on Monday, August 20. There are collection bins and supply lists by the elevators on each floor

of the GEF II office building and at South Central Region headquarters.

- [6th grade school supplies list](#)
- [7th grade school supplies list](#)
- [8th grade school supplies list](#)

Consider donating something from the school supply list so that the kids at Toki can start the school year off on a strong note. Again, this year, backpacks are a much needed item. Last year's supplies were used to help many families at Toki.

If you have any questions, contact me [Elizabeth Kluesner](#) or [Carrie Mickelson](#), director of the Bureau of Human Resources.

Footnote: *Elizabeth Kluesner is the department's federal and local government liaison.*



Former DNR educator Dennis Yockers named WILD Facilitator of the Year

By: Janet Hutchens, Office of Communication

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In 1984, former DNR employee Dennis Yockers became the department's first [Project WILD](#) state coordinator. For the first time, Project WILD at the national level will recognize a facilitator from each state, and Yockers will receive the honor for Wisconsin.

Launched in 1983, Project WILD bestowed its "Facilitator of the Year" awards at its annual Coordinator's Meeting in May. Current DNR educators Janet Hutchens and **Carrie Morgan**, along with former department educators **Al Stenstrup** (Project Wild coordinator after Yockers) and **Dolly Ledin**, nominated Yockers as Wisconsin's outstanding facilitator.



Former DNR Project Wild Coordinator Dennis Yockers and former Assistant Project WILD coordinator **Dolly Ledin** led educators in an activity that they can incorporate into their curriculum. DNR Photo

Now a professor at UW-Stevens Point, Yockers will receive this and a certificate plaque at a future event. The following nomination was included in the awards banquet booklet:

"Dennis is Wisconsin's first state coordinator for Project WILD. He and his assistant conducted over fifty Project WILD workshops in their first year. This enthusiasm continued and included training for teachers, other non-formal educators, and facilitators. The team

also led a number of workshops for wildlife managers and other natural resource professionals to help them use WILD activities in their outreach and education efforts. This model was somewhat unique and was developed above and beyond the usual WILD trainings. These workshops helped attendees become better communicators and educators. They also helped to create opportunities for collaboration between educators and resource professionals around the state.

"Dennis was a leader in introducing Project WILD at the pre-service level. He trained university faculty in Project WILD so they could take their students through WILD as part of their methods classes. This innovation has been very successful and sustainable for the program. He continues to inspire students with Project WILD through his pre-service courses at University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, helping them prepare to bring the environment into their future classrooms.

"Dennis has become involved in the green schools movement and participated in the Forests for Every Classroom teacher training, where he led a field trip to a natural area-complete with Project WILD activities. He integrates WILD activities into all appropriate teaching situations. Even when he's not doing WILD workshops, he promotes the program. He is also a champion of the WILD schoolyard program, encouraging development of outdoor classrooms and restoration efforts with in-service teachers. He advocates for "naturalizing" school sites and has trained and implemented work at multiple school sites where they have established "prairie" or 'native woodlands' right on the school grounds.

"Dennis' long-term commitment to Project WILD has spanned throughout his professional career. He is a leader within our statewide network, always looking for ways to bring Project WILD to new audiences, motivating other facilitators, and involving students more deeply. Dennis deserves to be recognized at both the state and national level for his career contributions to the success of Project WILD."

Footnote: *Janet Hutchens is DNR's current Project WILD coordinator.*



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success stories</P

- Public Affairs Manager **Lisa Gaumnitz** recognized those who worked on the new video about the dangers of blue-green algae: "Lots of thanks to go around: Great work by **Mary Farmiloe** on this video to produce, direct, shoot, polish the script and edit the piece on a tight time table and while juggling lots of other projects.

"**Jo Temte** got the ball rolling, got the interviews lined up, did the interviews, transcribed them and worked on the script. **Drew Savagian** was the voice talent and honed the script. **Gina LaLiberte** was great on videotape and has been a tremendous resource for all of us and for the media."

- Hi **Kate (Strom Hiorns**, policy coordinator, Bureau of Fisheries Management): "Thank you for your prompt reply. We appreciate the great work by our Wisconsin fisheries biologists and DNR. We have the best fishing in North America! Thanks again!" *Ann and John Faucher, Johnny's Little Shop of Bait, New London, WI 54961*

- “Well done on your summary (regarding the Town of Jackson West Shore pipeline spill, Washington County), **Steve (Ales)**, private water supply section chief, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater). The news media present were TV 4, 6, 12, 58, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Patch, NPR (Susan interviewed Steve afterwards), and a few other reporters that I did not recognize. It cannot be understated the positive impact our staff have had during the West Shore pipeline spill. By my count, at least 20 people personally came up to **Zoe (McManama)**, Southeast Region) with questions and thanks for her and DNR’s efforts. John Fenton, one of the immediate neighbors to the break location, made a point of telling me how much he appreciated our staff and specifically Zoe’s efforts to assist them during this crisis. My compliments to Steve, Scott (**Ferguson**, Southeast Region), Zoe, Marty (**Nessman**, Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater) and our partners from DHS and Washington County for a very well-run and informative meeting, as well as for all of their efforts on the pipeline break in the past few weeks.” *Regards, Eric Nitschke, Southeast Region director*

Northeast Region success stories

- The Headwaters IMT held a logistics training session on April 11th, the one year anniversary of the Merrill tornado. (Forestry leader) **Phil Theiler** heard from *Brian Sladek, Emergency Management Director for Lincoln County*: “It was one crazy 12 months! I actually didn’t finish up the disaster fund reimbursement process until February! I sure hope with the first anniversary having come and gone, this story can now be laid to rest. I’ve done enough TV/radio/newspaper interviews to last me a long time! The rebuilding process has been unbelievable. Thank you for the kind words. You and your team came through ‘big time’ for us and got the rebuilding process started in a fantastic manner.”
- “I just want to let you know **Bob Germer**, waste management specialist, from Spooner DNR gave a presentation to my 2nd grade Girl Scouts back in December. He was SUPER! He kept their attention and taught them a lot about recycling. Our daughter has been in overdrive since! He is so perfect for the position. I can’t imagine how he does it. Making the recycling topic such fun and keeping the girls on track like he did! What a great program and perfect match up for it!” *Melanie Kondziella, Brownie Girl Scout leader*
- Compliment for **Jim Jung**, conservation warden, and **Jeremy Holtz**, wildlife biologist, who spoke at a hunter’s safety course held at the Rhinelander Service Center: “I am writing this to express my appreciation and gratitude for the work you do, and more specifically the use of your facilities for Hunter Safety Training. I think it would be fair to say part of the reason most of us live here is because we love the outdoors and the recreation it offers. Without proper education, policing and your tireless efforts in conservation, the Northwoods would not be the place it is today. The future of hunting and all other activities lies with the children. Allowing your premises to be used to educate them (and us as adults) is helping to ensure a safer future for all of us. On a personal note, my stepson has just turned thirteen and I am finding that enrolling us both into hunter safety has been a good bonding experience, and on completion will provide years of enjoyment for us both.” *Roger Dobson*
- “I was interested in purchasing some land in the MFL (managed forest lands) program in Washburn County, WI. I knew nothing about the program and stopped at the Spooner Ranger’s office to learn more. To my good fortune, I talked to **Amy Morales** (forester). To say that she was helpful is to very much understate the interaction with Ms. Morales. She carefully walked me through the program including

all that I must do in acquiring the land. Ms. Morales is an exemplary employee of the DNR. She deserves to be commended for her dedication to serving members of the general public that need her help and the help of the DNR." *D. Randall King*

- I just want to let you know that **Sue Miller**, conservation warden, was a BIG help this spring spearing season. Sue worked really well with both Lauren and myself. I want to thank her for her time. Both Sue and Lauren worked some long nights. I think this shows that GLIFWC (Great lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) and WDNR can work together. Sue helped us on some good cases this year, and we both shared some good information with each other. *Mike Popovich, GLIFWC Western District supervisor*
- Kudo for **Greg Matzke**, fisheries biologist, and **Brad Shucha**, fisheries technician: "At the District 4 Conservation Congress meeting, the Florence County delegate [John Aschenbrenner] publicly commended Greg and Chad for their excellent work. Just wanted to let you know." *Jean Romback-Bartels, Northeast Region director*
- Good words for **Kevin Gauthier**, water resources management specialist: "I want to really thank you for all you did this year with convention planning. Stepping up and taking care of several streams (3) was more than ever expected. You did a fantastic job from start to finish. I sure hope your supervisor takes note of this! I really do mean it when I say that each year gets a bit easier because of people like you. I'll be on your team any time, so if I can ever help you out – let me know." *Kim Becken*
- Compliment for Area Forestry Leaders **Steve Runstrom** and **Larry Glodoski**, and Park and Recreation Specialist **Neal Kephart**: "Many thanks for taking time from your busy schedules to assist us with our regional training (Emergency Transportation Operations) last Thursday in Spooner. Your presentation was outstanding as evidenced by the attached evaluations. You should feel very proud as to the high level of expertise, dedication and capabilities your agency has in protecting our citizenry and natural resources. If we can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us." *Dennis Drazkowski, WisDOT program manager*
- **Ed Slaminski**, financial assistance specialist: "Once again 'Thank you' for all your support. I cannot tell you how great this is for our Apple River Protection and Rehabilitation District program. Hopefully we can begin the process of managing the weed issue. Please know every dollar in grant helps us so much. Until last August, when we raised the taxes, we were a district without any funds. Thank you again." *Roland Peterson*
- To Conservation Wardens **Matt MacKenzie** and **John Windt**: "For the past seven years the wardens have organized a deep fried whitefish dinner. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you. What a wonderful thing you do to make this event happen! We here (senior citizen complex) and the tenants 'always' enjoy the fish fry very much." *Jan*
- "Thanks to **Mike Zeckmeister** (regional program leader) for doing a great job on the (CWD) briefing." *Tom Hauge, director, Bureau of Wildlife Management*

"Additionally, Chris McGeshick, VTF member from the Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, left me a voice mail message indicating that Mike did a very good job in presenting the information and fielding questions. Nice job Mike!" **John Gozdzialski**, *Northern Region director*

- "I would like to thank **Kyle McLaughlin**, water regulations and zoning specialist, **and the DNR** for making my first experience with the DNR a very positive one. Kyle

McLaughlin was very professional, yet he made sure he explained everything to me in a language I could easily grasp. From the beginning I became comfortable that I understood what was expected of me and the contractor doing the work. He explained how I would have to deal with the Army Corp of Engineers as well as the Indian Tribe DNR representative. I went from being a nervous wreck; to a home owner that was confident I would accomplish my goals and meet all of the requirements to protect the lake and shoreline. In the end I now have a rip rap wall that will stop the serious erosion of the shoreline that was endangering our VERY old and large pine trees near the water's edge. Once again, THANK YOU." *Howard Hoth*

- Compliment for **Melissa Enoch**, program specialist, and **Chris Saari**, hydrogeologist: "I would like to express the City's thanks to you and others from the DNR and EPA who made the project (City of Superior Brownfield Project) not only happen, but also allowed it to morph and run super smooth. Thanks for all your hard work and I hope we can all work on another project very soon." *Jason Serck, Planning & Port Director, City of Superior*
- **Jonathan Wright**, air management program, received this letter in response to recent interactions regarding renewal of the Neenah Paper-Appleton Mill air pollution control permit: "It is refreshing to have received the level of support and guidance you provided our company and our consulting environmental engineer, Tim Mattson. As you know, we were in somewhat of a dilemma with regard to the timing of our project. Identifying an appropriate and effective solution in a timely manner was essential for our production plan.

"Your immediate response to our needs, and guidance throughout the entire process, was greatly appreciated. I speak for all of our employees in telling you that your efforts and attention to this matter are commendable.

"In addition to being carried out in a timely manner, the project was completed without compromising the safety of the environment or the prevailing regulations.

"It is this type of partnership that will make Wisconsin a better place for all to live and will encourage much needed business and economic growth.

"We thank you again for your effort and diligence. It has not gone unnoticed." *David Paulus Jr., mill manager, Neenah Paper - Fox Valley Facilities*

- **Dave Minkey** and **Jonathan Wright** received this complimentary note regarding the Manitowoc Public Utilities Air Construction Permit: "Thank you for the work you did on preparation of this permit and for your consideration of these final comments. The comments you received during the 30-day comment period confirm the work you and Jonathan did were of a high quality. If you have any questions regarding these comments please call and we look forward to the issuance of the final permit shortly." *Tom Reed, director, Manitowoc Public Utilities*
- "Hello Ansul Project Team (Dick Sachs, **Cheryl Bougie, Jim Killian, Stephen Galarneau, Robert Rosenberger, Sandy Miller, Steve Jaeger, James Schmidt, Paul Luebke, Bruce Oman, Chris Halbur, Greg Sevener, Andy Hudak, Tammie Paoli, Mike Donofrio, Greg Tilkens, Michelle Farley, Jonathan Wright, John Huff, Mark Dudzik** and **Vic Pappas**). In case you haven't heard, dredging activities at the Ansul site began on Tuesday, July 10th. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the assistance you have provided to make this sediment dredging project a reality. I know some of you have waited a long time to see this project

move forward. Through your efforts DNR was able to issue all of the permits, approvals and variances in a timely manner and prior to the project start date. This would not have happened without your input, cooperation and dedication. I'd also like to thank you for all the patience you've provided to me while I've learned about each of your respective programs. It has been a pleasure getting to know you and working with you on this project. Thank You!" *Kristin DuFresne*

- (Hydrogeologist) **Jennifer Borski**: "Thanks for all your good work in seeing the Eagle Flats, LLC project through its various challenges, including the most recent phytoremediation approval." *Randy Stadtmueller, Stadtmueller & Associates - Eagle Flats* "Thanks for your help. I'm sure you've heard it before, but you are a credit to the Department." *Stephen Meer, The Sigma Group*
- "(Hydrogeologist) **Kristin DuFresne** has been very generous and fair with the City of Green Bay in regards to the extension to submit the final reimbursement claim. With the retirement of one of the City's Assistant City Engineers and a 14 month hiring freeze to date, I just couldn't find the necessary time to prepare all final project documents necessary to officially close out the project. This was a large project that entailed the efforts of three Public Works contracts and City Staff over approximately a three year period. The final package would require that these individual projects be compressed into one final document. If the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment needs to expend these funds or make them available for another project, I understand. The loss of these funds certainly hurts. It has however, been an extreme pleasure to work with the Bureau on the H & R Landfill project and creating a dual use facility that many baseball and softball enthusiasts have and will continue to enjoy for many years to come. Thank you for helping to make this a HUGE success for the community!" *Jon Mueller, City of Green Bay*
- **Potawatomi State Park**: "I am writing to you on behalf of my entire family to say 'Thank You' to the staff at Potawatomi State Park for their service. We have visited Potawatomi State Park several times in the past but for the first time we were able to camp there spending seven nights at the park, and we had a wonderful time. You can read the entire [letter](#)."
- **Point Beach State Forest**: "**Melanie [Kozlowski]** did a great job handling multiple calls, guests, and questions, without a single hesitation! "

Northern Region success stories

- *Customer Service Representative* **Teri Heathcote**, Superior, penned this compliment for Waste and Materials Management Specialist **Bob Germer**, Superior, for delivering the contact information for the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services' fuel tank regulation specialists: "Awesome, awesome, awesome!!! You are the guy!! Thanks so much. I saw the email come across my screen just as I was getting the tel # from the caller's wife. So, looking up the info on this attachment, I was able to provide the name and phone number and therefore, we both provided good customer service!"
- Conservation warden **Ben Trembl** received a [thank-you note](#) from the Marinette County sheriff to be passed along to other DNR employees involved in recent marijuana eradication.

South Central Region success story

"Hello! Our entire family would like to thank you all SO much for the handicapped accessibility at Governor Dodge State Park. We have enjoyed the outdoors and camping for many years, but it has become more and more difficult because my husband, Paul, has mobility problems due to early-onset Parkinson's Disease. We recently spent a full week in our pop-up at a handicapped accessible site at Governor Dodge, and our time was so much more enjoyable because Paul didn't have to struggle with his walker or wheelchair over grass or gravel; because of the grab bars and walk-in accessibility of the handicapped bathroom; because the Cox Hollow Lake beach has handicapped parking and a paved walkway; because there is handicapped parking and a paved walkway to the Stephens' Falls overlook; and because the amphitheater has handicapped parking and a paved walkway.

"We had a bunch of information about things to do in the area, but we spent almost all of our time somewhere in the park, we enjoyed it so much, and it was so relaxing. When Paul needed to rest, the kids and I explored the trails, and we didn't have to worry that he would have a problem. Thank you so much for an absolutely beautiful park that makes it possible for people who have had to limit their activities to feel a bit less limited, and still enjoy camping! With sincere appreciation *from Paul, Linda, Stephen and Michael Uhl*"

Southeast Region success story

Jessica Lawent and **Peter McMullen** with the air management program received this kudo regarding the "Green for Life" event: "On behalf of the Northwestern Mutual Green Initiatives committee, I would like to thank you for participating in our Green for Life event and sharing your valuable information with our employees. I realize that this was not only a significant commitment of your time, but also a lot of work went into organizing your booth and meeting with our employees during this event. I also realize that there are often people behind the scene that support such events, and ask that you pass along my appreciation.

"You have certainly made a difference! We have received a lot of wonderful, positive feedback thanks to your involvement. Employees enjoyed learning about our community and how we can participate in the many initiatives for a greener environment.

"I hope that you also found this time to be valuable and benefited by getting your story out to our employees...Thank you so much for your generous time and making our Green for Life event a success!" *Kevin Hanus, Facility Operations Director, Restaurant Services, Northwestern Mutual*

Statewide success story

"Dear **Cathy, (Stepp)** It isn't often that folks quietly working behind the scenes are recognized for keeping the department humming, but I'd like to do just that in the case of **Cindy Casey, Mary Hunter, Kim Sebastian, Jeff Soellner, Quinn Williams** and **Kevin Wissink**.

"Due to a key grant manager vacancy, we had to find a way to update our 2013 urban forestry grant application materials so funding could be offered to the state's communities and nonprofits. Urban Forestry Coordinators Cindy Casey and Kim

Sebastian stepped up, and with sage advice from Grant Manager Jeff Soellner they updated the materials to better fit Forestry's new Strategic Direction. These updates required many changes to the application forms. (Records and Forms Officer) Mary Hunter, an IT Professional with DNR Forms and Records, not only made the needed changes (and quickly made countless corrections to mistakes we made along the way), she completely redesigned the forms, making them electronically fillable, much more user friendly and much more efficient for our customers and staff to use. Attorney Supervisor Quinn Williams almost instantaneously reviewed and approved the new forms. And finally, IT Professional Kevin Wissink, our half-time Web Wizard who is single-handedly keeping Forestry's web presence alive due to another key vacancy, rearranged his schedule to get all the grant materials posted on our web page so our communities could use them.

"Our customers will never know all the work that went into letting them simply click a few buttons to apply for a grant, but I do, and I thought you should know, too. I'd like to give all these folks a heartfelt and profound thank you. Our communities and our urban forest resource are the beneficiaries of their dedicated work." **Dick Rideout**, urban forestry coordinator, Division of Forestry

West Central Region success story

To **Cindy Casey-Widstrand** (urban forestry coordinator, Bureau of Forest Management, Eau Claire) regarding a project that would assist homeowners in properly planting and maintaining trees issued by the city of Tomah and managing community ash trees in the face of emerald ash borer: "You've opened my eyes greatly. Thank you. I've written a note to the mayor and city manager about my correspondence with you and John DuPlissis. I truly appreciate you taking the time to provide me with some great insight and information. You are, indeed, a wonderful credit to your profession." *Dave Harnisch, U.W.-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, Tomah*



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