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Editor: Diane Brinson

August 23, 2012

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DNR's innovative beach forecasting program receives prestigious award

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The Environmental Council of the States, or ECOS, has chosen DNR's [Beach Nowcast](#) program to receive a national State Program Innovations Award at its annual meeting on August 27.

Through the Nowcast program, DNR is working to improve the timeliness, accuracy and cost-effectiveness of water-quality monitoring at high-priority beaches. The program works with local health departments, as well as federal and other partners, to create and implement early-warning systems that can estimate, in real time, E. coli bacteria levels and the statistical probability of exceeding water-quality guidelines.



The Two Rivers kite show draws a large audience to Neshota Beach in Manitowoc County. DNR Photo

Because the results of routine water quality monitoring can take between 18 and 24 hours for samples to be cultured, beaches may be left open when they should be posted with a

swim advisory or closure, leading to increased human health risk. At the same time, posting an advisory or closure based on "yesterday's" lab results can adversely impact the local economy.

With the proposed elimination of federal funding for beach monitoring in 2013, nowcasts offer a potential substitute for sample-based monitoring in situations where the science shows models to be effective management tools.

Statewide analyses suggest that large-scale adoption of beach nowcasts could significantly reduce the number of beach management errors and reduce the overall number of closures and swim advisories.

The Bureau of Science Services reported last year that the number of missed advisories was down by 20 percent and incorrectly-posted advisories dropped by 50 percent at two pilot beaches using nowcasts.

This summer, DNR has helped to institute nowcasts at an additional five high-priority beaches on Lake Michigan. Combined with allied efforts by the USGS Wisconsin Water Science Center in Middleton, models have been developed and tested at another 20 beaches on Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, in preparation for expanded implementation next summer.

"DNR has been at the forefront of expanding beach nowcasting from a research endeavor to a management tool that is practical and cost-effective for local jurisdictions," according to a description of the program. "Since 2009, [we have] worked closely with the U.S. EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and the USGS to maximize the utility and ease-of-use of EPA's "Virtual Beach" modeling software and related online state and federal data systems."



Harrington Beach State Park is the site of a nowcast water quality assessment. DNR Photo

Wisconsin's Beach Nowcast effort is a collaborative undertaking. Working with local jurisdictions, DNR staff develops, evaluates, and modifies as needed nowcast models specific to their beaches. Hands-on training, technical assistance and coordinating the activities of numerous partners have resulted in local participation at a high level.

Information on water quality at beaches across the state, including all current advisories, can be found on the ["Wisconsin Beach Health."](#)

For more information on DNR's work with Beach Nowcasts, email Scientist [Adam Mednick](#) phone 608-261-6416, or Science Information Services Section Chief [Dreux Watermolen](#) phone

608-266-8931.



Call goes out for reports of game bird brood observations

By: Brian Dhuey, Bureau of Science Services

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With the end of the 10-week game bird brood observation period on Saturday, August 18, the Bureau of Science Services is asking that those of you who spotted bobwhite quail, gray partridge, prairie chicken, ring-necked pheasant, ruffed grouse, sharp-tailed grouse or turkey broods this summer now turn in your report.

DNR employees have helped conduct this survey for more than 25 years, providing long-term indices to game bird and mammalian abundance and distribution in the state. Results from the survey provide the Bureau of Wildlife Management valuable information that can be used to make predictions about the upcoming small game hunting seasons.



Game bird observations can turn up wild turkey with poults, such as these. WDNR Photo

The Bureau of Science Services expects to publish its preliminary report on observations in early September, so reports are needed as soon as possible. Report your observations using the [“Ten-Week Brood Observation Report,”](#) **completing all three pages.**

When you’re through filling out the form, either print and mail it to me at Brian Dhuey, SS/SOC, 2801 Progress Ave., Madison, WI 53716 or click the “Submit by Email” button to email it to me. Be sure to refer to your tally sheet when filling out either the e-form or the hardcopy reporting form.

In April, look for the final report in [“Wisconsin Wildlife Reports”](#) under the “Wildlife Surveys and Reports” section.

While the ten-week brood observation period has closed, Science Services staff encourages anyone recording deer observations to report them using the [“Summer Deer Observations”](#) form.

Footnote: *Brian Dhuey is the wildlife surveys coordinator in the Bureau of Science Services.*



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

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Dave Redell throws out first pitch to aid Bat Conservation Fund

By: Paul White, Bureau of Endangered Resources

On August 10, DNR Conservation Biologist **Dave Redell** threw out the first pitch at the Madison Mallards baseball game, a fundraising event for the [Wisconsin Bat Conservation Fund](#), one of the Natural Resources Foundation's endowment funds.



Dave Redell pitched the ceremonial first ball at the Mallards game supported by Paul White and Dave's wife Jennifer Schehr-Redell, who also works in the Bureau of Endangered Resources. DNR Photo

["The Wisconsin Conservation Endowment"](#) is comprised of numerous permanently endowed, individual named funds that are pooled, invested and managed as a whole, in order to provide long-term sustainable support for Wisconsin's conservation needs," reads the foundation's webpage. The Bat Conservation Fund is just one of several [endowed funds](#).

Redell himself set up two funds within the Wisconsin Bat Conservation Fund. The majority of the endowment, to which he personally donated seed money, was set up to use the earned interest down the road for funding positions totally devoted to bat conservation.

The other, more readily-accessible pot of money goes toward projects in immediate financial need, i.e. protecting sensitive bat hibernacula (shelter during hibernation); creating artificial bat roosts, such as the Devils Lake bat condo described in the December 1, 2011 "Digest" story ["Invitation out to thousands of bats to occupy new Devils Lake condo"](#) This fund also assists with state, federal and tribal partnership projects from white-nose syndrome research to creating the nation's first acoustic bat monitoring project.



Dave Redell chatted with the Mallards' catcher following his pitch. DNR Photo

Two dollars from each ticket sold in one section of the Mallards stadium were donated 50/50 to the Bat Conservation Fund and the Natural Resources Foundation. Fans also purchased more than 1,000 raffle tickets, according to foundation Communication Director Maria Sadowski.

"I have two pieces of great news," Sadowski reported after the game. "Given the dire situation with bats, our foundation decided to donate its half of the proceeds to you (DNR bat program). Also, Professor Rob Tanner of the UW-School of Business won the raffle and donated his winnings back to the bats. He'd recently been on a bat mist-netting field trip with Dave, and was incredibly impressed with him, and DNR's, commitment to bat conservation. So, your grand total for the night is \$824.50 to the bats!"

The Bureau of Endangered Resources also has 2012 bat festival t-shirts for sale for \$5. The proceeds will go to the bat program. To find out if your size still is available, email me at [Paul White](#) or Biologist [Heather Kaarakka](#).

Footnote: *Paul White is a conservation biologist in the Bureau of Endangered Resources.*

Department's archery event for Boys and Girls Club hits the bullseye

By: Linda Olver, Bureau of Law Enforcement



This young lady took shot after shot as long as there was an opening in the cue. Here, she proudly highlights her skill with a bow and arrow. DNR Photo

DNR held the second of two archery events this summer at the Dane County Boys and Girls Club on Tuesday, August 7. Fifty kids between the ages of seven and 16 participated, some who'd had their first archery experience with us last month and were eager for the opportunity to shoot again. For some, it was their first time.

There was a handful of kids who were so enthusiastic about shooting they didn't want to stop. Since there were about 35 fewer kids present at this event, the groups cycled through and shot more than the initial four arrows.



Keith Warnke, hunting and shooting sport coordinator in the Bureau of Law Enforcement had the full attention of Boys and Girls Club members eager to try their hands at archery. DNR Photo

Footnote: *Linda Olver is a shooting sports/hunter recruitment and retention assistant in the Bureau of Law Enforcement.*



Affirmative Action Committee sponsors two local festivals

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Southeast Region presence at African World Festival a success

By: Julie Atkisson, Southeast Region



(Right to left) Kimberly Thomas-Britt, Julie Atkisson and Allyssa Thomas-Smith staffed DNR's booth at the African World Festival in early August. DNR Photo

In spite of some inclement weather on the first of this two-day event August 4-5, the DNR's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee (AAAC) contribution to the African World Festival at the City of Milwaukee Lakefront was a success.

Festival guests, volunteer staff and vendors took home more than 2,400 pieces of literature, DVDs and give-away items regarding DNR programs, wetlands, fishing regulations and job opportunities.

Thirteen guests took the opportunity to log onto the State of Wisconsin ["Wisc.Jobs, the Official Employment of Wisconsin State Government"](#) website and register for their own "job cart." We collected contact information from those who stopped by for future followup.



Julie Atkisson assisted a guest signing up for a job cart on the Office of State Employment Relations website. She encouraged visitors to check out DNR job openings, in particular.

DNR Photo

We had a one-day volunteer partnership with the Inner City Sportsmen Club of Milwaukee. Customer Services Representative **Pamela Kinnie**, Information Technology Specialist **Kim Thomas-Britt** and her daughter Allyssa Thomas-Smith, and members of my family volunteered for both days. (A special "thank you" to Nina, Karrie, Logan, Thadius and John.)

Air Management Engineer **Andre Ash** and Conservation Warden **Gervis Myles** staged a mini-archery range at the event near the beautiful and wonderfully-cool lakefront. There also were other Basic Archery Instructors on hand to assist. More than 30 children and 12 adults participated in the demo range provided in partnership with the National Archery in the Schools Program.

Footnote: *Julie Atkisson is an office associate with the region's law enforcement program.*

Africa Fest gave young and old a chance to experience Wisconsin's outdoors

By: Delaina Siltman, Bureau of Human Resources



IT Specialist Anthony Lindsey and Conservation Warden Todd Schaller taught children how to cast a fishing line. DNR Photo

For the second year, DNR participated in Africa Fest, held annually at Warner Park in Madison. The goal of DNR's Affirmative Action Advisory Committee was to develop in children a curiosity of, and interest in, outdoor recreational activities to which they may not previously have been exposed. To say that we met our goal would be an understatement. The kids soaked up the information we provided and gladly joined in, over and over, the activities we offered.

DNR staff on hand offered furs for the children to touch and hold; samples of invasive species for the kids to examine; a waste sorting game to challenge them; a number of handouts; and the ever-popular fishing.

Ray Kumapayi, president of the African Association of Madison and Chair of Africa Fest Planning Committee, shared his thought on DNR's participation: "We were glad to accommodate you (DNR) and judging by the comments you received, Africa Fest was a

huge success for you, as it was for us.”



This young man proudly displayed his collection of DNR wildcards. DNR Photo

While the fish weren't doing a lot of biting in our area, the kids had a great time, with many of them getting their first experience casting a line. With the kids clamoring for more, we were able to educate parents on how to get a license and continue to enjoy this hobby with their children.

Many adults were as interested in the furs as were the children. Several of them were first generation Americans and unfamiliar with Wisconsin wildlife. And, while I think the majority of adults could identify the skunk fur, you'd be surprised at the number of children who couldn't.

One mom's comment about her son summed up the day pretty well: "Thank you for doing this; he will be talking about this for months to come."

Although we took a lot of photos, I collected the top thirty or so to share with you. You can find them for a limited amount of time at [Africa Fest 2012](#).



Internet Applications Producer Brent Alderman advised a young angler and his mom that keeping their fishing gear in good operating condition is "half the battle," as he untangled the line from the reel. DNR Photo

I would be remiss in not giving a special thanks to those who helped run the events: **Brent Alderman**, Office of Communication; **Sarah Biebesheimer**, Bureau of Human Resources; **Helen Hartman**, Bureau of Wildlife Management; **Anthony Lindsey**, Bureau of Technology Services; **LeVon McAllister**, Bureau of Technology Services; **Todd Schaller**, Bureau of Law Enforcement; and **Ka Yeng Vue**, Bureau of Law Enforcement. Thank you!

Footnote: *Delaina Siltman is an equal opportunity specialist.*



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title & link:** ["What to do if you see a sick deer"](#)

Description: **Erin Larson**, wildlife health data coordinator in the Bureau of Wildlife Management, recently announced implementation of changes to the sick deer contact webpage, adding: "Clinical signs of CWD" (chronic wasting disease) to a call- out box to make them more visible; text stating that a replacement tag will be issued for any sick deer based on evaluation by DNR staff; images of physical conditions that don't indicate that a deer is sick; and, links to other related pages. All county contacts information has been updated, as well.

- **Title & link:** ["Motivation for compliance with environmental regulations related to forest health"](#)

Description: DNR Social Science Researcher **Kim Peterson** and Invasive Insect Program Coordinator **Andrea Diss-Torrance** authored this article that appears in the current issue of the highly-respected **Journal of Environmental Management**. This work provides an excellent example of how social science can inform environmental management. The findings have important implications, not only for controlling the spread of forest diseases and invasive pests, but also for regulating natural resources in general.

- **Title & link:** ["America's Great Outdoors: Reversing Decades of Decline, the Number of Hunters and Anglers is on the Rise"](#)

Description: Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced in Milwaukee on August 15 that "Seeing more people fishing, hunting, and getting outdoors is great news for America's economy and conservation heritage." The secretary called for continued support of efforts to get people outside to enjoy hunting, fishing, etc., which contribute to local economies.

- **Title & link:** ["EPA announces funding for final cleanup of Sheboygan River"](#)

Description: Since 1987, the Sheboygan River "Area of Concern" has been on a list of toxic hot spots identified in the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Final dredging and habitat restoration work is now underway. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding of \$57 million is added to contributions from the state, the city and county to complete the work required to "delist" the river.

- **Title & link:** ["Ask the experts \(chat\): Birding with Andy Paulios and Kim Grveles" chat](#) (In

"Completed Events" box)

Description: Avian Ecologist **Kim Grveles**, Bureau of Endangered Resources, and Biologist **Andy Paulios**, Bureau of Wildlife Management, chatted online with "birders" about landscaping to attract birds, the impact of the drought on birds, fall migration, and much, much more. During the one hour and 42 minute chat, a total of 77 comments were exchanged. Polls were taken on favorite places to watch birds in the fall and what DNR could do to make birding more enjoyable.

- **Title & link:** ["Conservation is Patriotic and has Bipartisan Support, According to New Poll"](#)

Description: Conducted for the Nature Conservancy, this poll showed that regardless of political beliefs, four-in-five American voters believe that it's patriotic to protect our land and water.

- **Title & link:** ["Hit by natural disaster? The first 6 things to do for your community's relief effort"](#)

Description: Inland Massachusetts had become known as the place to hide from the wrath of Mother Nature, until a tornado ripped through part of the state in 2011. Two sisters from one town devastated by the storm decided to put together a "toolkit" of sorts to help others get through the immediate aftermath should their communities be hit.

- **Titles & links:** ["Deer Oaks Employee Enhancement Newsletter"](#)

["Deer Oaks Supervisor/HR Supplement Newsletter"](#)

Descriptions: In this month's employee newsletter, you can read about the connection between sleep and behavior problems in children, as well as growing old in the information age. Featured in this issue's EAP spotlight, is Deer Oaks' retiree assistance program. Most timely is the advice offered to save money when back-to-school shopping.

In this month's newsletter for supervisors, Deer Oaks discusses the five essential steps to delegating with confidence and leading with integrity.

- **Title & link:** ["Recreation.gov, Explore Your America"](#)

Description: As part of a national initiative to fuel the economy and create jobs by promoting travel and tourism, the Department of the Interior has undertaken a multi-year strategy to "...engage visitors with enhanced interactive content and more multimedia, mobile, trip-planning tools." This video highlights the 90,000 sites on public lands that the public can visit. You'll also want to check out the interagency ["Recreation.gov"](#) website if you're planning an outdoor adventure.

- **Title & link:** [DNR website "Keyword table"](#)

Description: These are the newest topic pages rolled out on [DNR's website](#) since the first of June. The Office of Communication encourages staff and programs to market their websites by using these keywords in documents, email messages, letters, at meetings, PowerPoint

presentations, etc.



No caption needed! DNR Photo

- **Title & link:** ["Reflections and Directions: Joe's map says tourism is doing well"](#)

["Report from Joe Jarosh"](#)

Description: Visitor Services Associate **Joe Jarosh** at Whitefish Dunes State Park records the first vehicle registering at the park from each state, each year. Folks from afar have come to recognize Jarosh and expect him to greet them on return visits. The Green Bay Press Gazette wrote this story on the state of Wisconsin's tourism industry, according to Jarosh. The report provides the history of this DNR employee's customer tracking system.



Madison serves as backdrop for EPA announcement of brownfields grants

By: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency news release

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On sunny, warm August 21, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Administrator Susan Hedman announced EPA brownfields grants totaling \$800,000 to clean up contaminated properties in the capital city. DNR Secretary **Cathy Stepp** and Madison Mayor Paul Soglin represented the state and the city.

The announcement took place at a brownfield site on E. Washington Ave. at the former Don Miller auto dealership. The city will use these funds to assess and clean up contaminated former industrial and commercial properties.

"It's easy to see how these brownfield projects are win-wins for everyone involved," said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. "We're excited to watch this project grow to completion, and with DNR's commitment to environmental cleanup and economic revitalization, we look forward to continued success in the brownfields arena."

"EPA brownfield grants help to revitalize neighborhoods and create jobs," said Hedman. "Cleaning up contaminated brownfield sites protects public health and fuels economic development."

"As the city works to develop brownfield sites throughout the Isthmus area, a partnership with the federal and state government is very instrumental," said Mayor Soglin. "I am so pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources understand the importance of these projects, and I welcome EPA Regional Administrator Susan Hedman to Madison."

The grants include:

- \$400,000 to clean up the former site of an automotive dealership and repair shop on E. Washington Ave. The city will provide another \$80,000 toward the cleanup;
- \$400,000 to conduct environmental assessments and plan future cleanups in the surrounding area.

The City of Madison previously received a \$400,000 cleanup grant for the E. Washington property from DNR's brownfield revolving loan program, which also is funded by EPA.

There are an estimated 450,000 brownfield sites in the United States. EPA brownfield grants have been used to clean up over 700 contaminated sites and to assess over 18,000 properties, primarily in low-income areas disproportionately impacted by environmental contamination.

For more information:

- Learn about Wisconsin's brownfields program, at DNR's ["Environmental cleanup and brownfields redevelopment"](#) webpage.
- See the complete list of grants at EPA's ["Brownfields Grant Fact Sheet Search"](#) by state.
- Find more information on this EPA program at its ["Brownfields and Land Revitalization"](#) webpage.
- Read about brownfields success stories across the country at ["Brownfields Success Stories"](#) webpage.



Photos of famed wildlife photographer Herbert Lange available on Flickr

By: Kathy Kahler, Office of Communication

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I had a bit of good news for Flickr in my mailbox recently. Last spring I wrote to wildlife photographer Herbert Lange to see if he would be willing to grant us permission to include 184 of his photos under our Creative Commons license, thereby making them available to the media and general public. When I didn't get a reply, we took the safe route and took

them out of public viewing, making them only available for DNR use.



Herbert Lange's photo of a pair of red fox pups peeks from between two trees. DNR Photo

Lo and behold, I received an envelope with Lange's signed agreement to make his photos available to the public on our [Flickr](#) site.

I've changed the licensing and permissions, so when anybody goes to our Flickr site, they'll see the "Herbert Lange" set, just like any of the others.

Lange's photos of mammals and birds have appeared in the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine for more than 25 years. The February 2005 issue of the magazine ran the story "[Get the picture](#)" in which Lange provides "Tips to improve your wildlife photos or get started in a new hobby."

Secretary **Cathy Stepp** has signed an "[Acknowledgement of Gift](#)" certificate recognizing Lange's contributions to Wisconsin.

If you haven't been to the DNR [Flickr](#) site, check it out and see the great photographs available for your use.

Footnote: *Kathy Kahler is a publications editor and contributing writer on the staff of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.*



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success stories

- The following string of email compliments are based on a presentation by Ecologist **Kent Van**

Horn, Bureau of Wildlife Management, at recent meetings of the Conservation Congress and the Natural Resources Board: "Wow! You have had lots of compliments today. Keep up the excellent work that you do."

"By the way, I thought the discussion and dialogue you had with the board today was fantastic as well. It is better to have those types of discussions rather than long presentations. Keep up the great work!" **Matt Moroney**, *DNR deputy secretary*

Addressed to (Secretary) **Cathy (Stepp)**: "...with the delay of my intended email to you it allows me to comment on one of your staff. At our recent WCC Migratory Committee meeting we got a summary on the upcoming year from Kent Van Horn. It was a filled with good news for the upcoming fall Duck season. BUT, I have to note one thing in addition that Kent has been working on. He noted that over the past couple of years he has looked into and reviewed Canada Goose tagging data for the Horicon Zone in an effort to possibly change the zone size. I am sure that this is just part of his job and an everyday type of operation, but it is great to see this happening without the public going nuts on the topic in order to prompt the action taken. In the past 5 years that I have had the opportunity to work with Kent on the Migratory Committee he has been extremely professional and very helpful to the committee. I know that normally supervisors hear of the negative about a staff person, but this is definitely the opposite. Kent has been and is an asset to the Wisconsin Migratory wildlife sportsmen/women along with the WDNR. We are very fortunate to have Kent in Wisconsin working on behalf of the Migratory Wildlife, the sportsmen/women and the WDNR" *Paul Gettelman, WCC delegate from Green Lake County*

- Addressed to the **Office of Communication staff**: "It's been a long week up here, and I took a few selfish minutes just to cruise our webpage and social media pages. All I can say is YOU GUYS ROCK! I am just so proud of your work. Thanks to you DNR looks tuned in, accessible, beautiful, and knowledgeable. I don't say it often enough, I am really privileged to have you as colleagues. You put the best face possible on this agency and its programs. And you know what our customers want and are providing it. Have a wonderful weekend." **Laurel Steffes**, *director of the Office of Communication*

- Ms. (**Natasha**) **Kassulke**: I am a soldier serving at FOB (forward operating base) Gamberi, near Jallalabad, Afghanistan. I am a huge fan of your publication, and was wondering if the magazine staff would mind sending us a copy of the magazine each month. Though we only have about 60 Americans here, it so happens that four of them are from the state of Wisconsin, and would really enjoy reading about our home state. Even if the copy is outdated by the time it reaches us, or has been paged through, it would be a huge morale boost! Thank you very much, and I hope you are having a great day! Very Respectfully, *Brandon L. Bonfiglio, CPT, IN, Aide-de-Camp, CJTF-1, TAC-1, FOB Gamberi APO AE, 09310*

Kathy Kahler, staff writer with the Natural Resources magazine, responded to the request and says that the magazine staff will continue sending copies until these troops come home. Captain Bonfiglio responded: "Thank you so much for the magazines. Even the soldiers who are not from Wisconsin enjoy reading about the state's natural resources, and I think you earned the state a few visitors when we get back. I appreciate the support; and, many thanks from all of us here at FOB Gamberi." *Brandon Bonfiglio*

- "Yippee! I had told Mayor Bosman when JFC (Joint Finance Committee) took action, and I saw him in Kenosha Saturday—he sang the praises of the **DNR staff** and even knew them all by name—thanks (for) all of the work (by) the DNR with this project!" *Paula McGuire, Office of Senator Wirch*

See "Weekly News" release ["Kenosha gets \\$1.5 million DNR brownfield loan for former engine plant"](#)

Northeast Region success stories

- To "**Kelli Bruns** (parks supervisor at Kinnickinnic and Willow River state parks) and **Erin Brown** (parks supervisor at Peninsula State Park): "Thank you for all of your help this year with the boat decontamination unit. It has certainly been a trial by fire and you two made it much easier to try it. From the point of concept to installation at Peninsula State Park you were great to work with. I realized this was going to be a learning process and challenges would certainly arise. From, where were we going to place the unit, to possible noise issues, to accommodating two LTEs (**Mike Montenero**, Peninsula State Park, and **Dave Farrow**, Whitefish Dunes State Park) you made this process enjoyable. Thank you. I hope you two realize how much I appreciated your willingness to work with us on this project. I am optimistic we are learning a great deal from the pilot project and will be able to use this information to guide our next few steps into the world of decontamination. Thanks again." **Bob Wakeman**, *Bureau of Water Quality, Waukesha*
- Conservation Warden **Andy Lundin** (Green Bay West): "Thank you so much for the opportunity to do a ride along with you. It was an awesome experience that I will never forget, and I really enjoyed getting a better idea of the important work that DNR wardens do. Your advice and experience was very helpful to me. Thank you again!" *Chelsea Wiegand*

Southeast Region success stories

- Regarding the accessible cabin at **Kettle Moraine State Forest**, Southern Unit: "Our family just returned from a weekend at Kettle Moraine Park. We stayed at one of your handicap accessible cabins as our father is confined to a wheelchair due to MS.

"We just want to thank you for offering such a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the park system. We haven't seen him this happy in a very long time. The cabin was wonderful and had everything we needed to get him situated. A very nice weekend and we sincerely appreciate that you offer the cabins at such a reasonable rate. We'll do it again as long as we're able."

- "I would like to give positive feedback on your manager of the Pike Lake Unit, **Rob (Wessberg)**, property supervisor). I camp there somewhat frequently and have come into contact with Rob on several occasions. He is always kind, friendly and courteous. This past weekend, I attended his "Dutch Oven" cooking demonstration and was just amazed that a park ranger would go above the call of duty to put on such a demonstration not only for the visitors of the campground, but anyone that wanted to attend (if they had a park sticker of course!). It's so neat to be able to camp in such beautiful state grounds, and have such an amenity as the weekend programming that Ron coordinates. The other week we camped there and attended the Astronomy show which was amazing to see Saturn and the rings around it in such detail. Weeks prior to that we attended the Wildlife in Need demo down by the beach area, again amazing, all of the information and animals were great. My kids loved it! I'd also like to comment quickly that I love the new "shared library" down by the restrooms in the campground, my kids love to take a book back to our site and read it together as a family. Very neat, never seen something like that before and it's just great. I commend Rob on everything he is doing for Pike Lake Campground and the unit itself. Thank You!" *Jennifer Mistele*
- **Brett Johanen**, ranger/assistant property manager, Kettle Moraine State Forest-Lapham

Peak Unit, Glacial Drumlin Trail, East sent this kudo into the Bureau of Parks and Recreation: "Dear **Lapham Peak Park Rangers and Personnel**: About a month ago we brought a large youth group out to hike your beautiful park. It was clean, beautiful, and so peaceful!

"Thank you for the wonderful job you all do in maintaining the park and facilities. It must be a huge undertaking, but you do a magnificent job! Thank you so much for all your hard work! And thank you for being so great to work with – your staff was so helpful." *Allison Malnar and the LDS Church Youth & Leaders*

- From Air Management Engineer **Andre Ash**: "**Julie (Atkisson**, office associate with the region's law enforcement program) really did an excellent job. (See "Affirmative Action Committee sponsors two local festivals" story in this issue) It was Julie's idea to have computers so people could apply on site, and I'm pretty sure this is the first time the DNR has ever setup computers at an ethnic festival to assist people with the states application process, so she also deserves a trailblazers' kudo.

"Julie did this as a member and representative of the DNR's AAAC, which stands for Affirmative Action Advisory Committee; hopefully we can expand on this next year.

Ash's original compliment to Atkisson: "Great Job Julie, having the computers for people to learn about Wisc.Jobs and actually providing the opportunity for them to apply for positions while at the fair is a very good idea and an excellent recruitment and outreach effort. I'm sure the AAAC will want to continue to build on this in coming years.

"Thank you and all of the booth volunteers for the good work and dedication." *Andre Ash, engineer in the Bureau of Air Management, Southeast Region*

- The Bureau of Parks and Recreation received these customer comment cards for [Lakeshore State Park](#) and [Rocky Arbor State Park](#). Right click on the image and rotate clockwise to read.

Statewide success story

DNR Spokesperson **Bill Cosh** received this compliment: "Please share this information with whoever should be informed."

"I worked the front desk at the DNR Exhibit at the State Fair yesterday. A woman made a point of telling me she really likes our web site. She thinks it is wonderful, easy to use, and full of excellent information. She said she moved up to Wisconsin from Texas, and her elementary-age daughter was working on a research paper for school on wolves last year. When her daughter was looking for information, she checked out our web site for her daughter and said she was amazed at how easy it was to find lots of useful information about wolves, as well as about all kinds of other wildlife. She said there was nothing like that in Texas. She wanted to pass that along, so I am passing it along to you and the Office of Communications and IT/Web staff." **Dale Rezabek, Wastewater Specialist, Bureau of Water Quality, Southeast Region**

West Central Region success story

"Just got off a "live chat" with your agent **Emily (St. Aubin**, customer service representative). I could not possibly be more pleased with the service offered by the WI

DNR, and with the service received today from Emily. Emily is definitely a wonderful and extremely knowledgeable person that would make ANY government service proud to say, "She works for us!!!" As a government employee myself (22 years US Army and now with the Zablocki VA), I cannot tell you how wonderfully refreshing it is to know this kind of service still exists anywhere today. Thank you for making my day. Sincerely, *Mike Janczy*"



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