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Be among first to tour new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area

By: Bob Manwell, South Central Region

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Years after closing, Badger Army Ammunition Plant opens as recreation area

The newly named Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, formerly known as the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, will be open for self-guided automobile tours between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 20.



A birds eye's view of the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. DNR Photo

This is the first time in many years that the property has been opened to the public.

Maps will be available at the entrance directing people through the massive property, where DNR will manage 3,800 of the 7,354 acres. Stops along the way will explain the purpose and history of facilities, structures and operations on the site.

In a Wisconsin State Journal article published today, October 18, DNR South Central Region Director **Mark Aquino** is quoted, "It has not really been open to the public, in general, to visit the property and see what's there, in some cases in decades."

A master planning process is underway, headed up by Program and Policy Analyst **Diane Brusoe**. Phase one of the process involved sharing a "Regional and Property Analysis" report with the public. Comments on the report are online at 'dnr.wi.gov' keyword "Sauk Prairie Recreation Area." Phase two which will develop alternatives for future resource management and recreation uses is underway and will be available to the public for comment when ready.

Footnote: *Bob Manwell is the South Central Region's public affairs manager.*



Erin Crain takes the helm of Bureau of Endangered Resources

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On October 15, Division of Land Administrator **Kurt Thiede** announced his appointment of **Erin Crain** to the position of director for the Bureau of Endangered Resources. Crain is a 20 year veteran of the department, originally serving as manager of DNR's library.

"It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce Erin Crain as the new director for the Bureau of Endangered Resources. Erin's vision for the program, poise, program knowledge, experience, professionalism and confidence as a leader is what led to our decision," said Thiede. He also recognized the talents of those from both within and outside the agency who had applied for the position.



New Bureau of Endangered Resources Director Erin Crain with her sons (left) Jack, 16, and Riley, 17. Photo courtesy of Jack Sullivan

"Erin shared that she is excited to begin to chart a course for a bright future for the ER Program," said Thiede, "one in which the program is recognized for its commitment to

scientific excellence, innovation and great customer service.”

Crain began her career with DNR in the Bureau of Information and Education, moving on from there to serve as a section chief in both the Science Services and Endangered Resources bureaus. Before joining state government, she worked in the research departments of brokerage firms in Milwaukee and Chicago.

Hailing from Milwaukee’s south side, Crain holds a bachelor degree in International Economics and graduate degrees in Ecological Restoration and Information Science. Growing up in a family of avid hunters and anglers, Crain’s earliest memory of environmental issues dates back to the late 60s when her parents, two organic gardeners, tried to explain the purpose of a compost pile to the city inspector. Today, Erin and her family live on White Pelican Farm in rural Wyocena, where they enjoy hunting, fishing and forest farming



Governor Walker releases first annual wildlife and fish accounts audits

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Audit finds DNR is using funds appropriately

The first in a series of annual audits of fish and wildlife accounts is complete, according to Governor Scott Walker, DNR and the Department of Administration. During his campaign, Gov. Walker made a commitment to require annual audits of fish and wildlife accounts to increase transparency and accountability.

“I’m pleased to see the findings of this audit show the Department of Natural Resources is collecting, reporting, and spending the money collected from the Waterfowl Stamp Program appropriately. It’s important to all sportsmen and women that the money in these accounts is being used as intended. In this case, to benefit the waterfowl population and its habitat.”

The independent audit, which was conducted by Wegner CPAs of Madison, found the revenue collected from the sale of the Waterfowl Stamps for the year ending June 30, 2011 was stated accurately and used for the appropriate purposes in accordance with Wisconsin law.

Revenue from the sale of Wisconsin waterfowl stamps totaled \$509,864 for the fiscal year. The money supported 19 waterfowl habitat projects in Wisconsin, as well as some projects in Canada that benefit migratory waterfowl. Examples of projects funded fully or partially by the Wisconsin waterfowl stamp program:

- **Meadow Valley Wildlife Area, Juneau County:** Work recently was completed on a damaged dike. The dike is now better equipped to manage water levels on the flowage, impacting 655 acres of marshland.
- **Wetland restoration, Fond du Lac, Outagamie and Rock counties:** Three restoration projects resulted in more ideal waterfowl conditions over eighty acres of land.
- **Germania Wildlife Area, Marquette County:** Work to repair the Duck Creek dike was

completed in the fall of 2011. As a result, the dike was able to hold up against heavy rain and flooding this May.

- **Horicon Wildlife Area, Dodge County:** Ongoing project aimed at eliminating invasive cattails in the Horicon Marsh to improve conditions for breeding and migrating birds.

The Waterfowl Stamp Program audit is the first review in a series of audits of fish and wildlife accounts. A copy of the audit is available at ["Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-upon Procedures."](#)



Have an easy, fun online chat to spread the word about your work

By: Joanne M. Haas and Ryan Marty, Office of Communication

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Can you hear me now?

What started out as an Office of Communication pilot has evolved into an easy, effective and fun way for any DNR program to get people talking about the work you do for the state.

It's called "live online chat." If it sounds like something you need to plan for and sweat over, forget it! This is simple stuff. All you do is talk about what you do. It really is that simple. We're not kidding.

This past summer, the Office of Communication sought permission from the Secretary's Office to do an online chat. It was granted, and we launched the pilot in July with the Bureau of Law Enforcement's warden recruitment chat, as part of their hiring process.



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. DNR photo taken by Joanne Haas

Six online chats later, the pilot chat program has been deemed a success. The online chat now is a permanent outreach opportunity for anyone in the department.

You're still not sure? Check it out; then book it.

If you're not clear what the online chat is all about and how to get organized, go to the DNR homepage and look for the ["Ask the Experts"](#) link under popular links. Click on it and open any

of the six listed chats. Read a transcript. Better yet, read parts of more than one. Each one has its own flavor because it was done with different people chatting about different topics.

Sold on it? Tell your program's [public affairs manager](#) (PAM) that you want to get on the chat schedule. Your public affairs manager will let you know the date and help you finalize the time.

You'll also need to arrive for the chat about 45 minutes before its scheduled start time, so Ryan Marty can prep you on how to operate the chat system. Again, this is extremely easy. We're not kidding.

OK, you've made the leap and now you're on the schedule. Now what?

Approximately two weeks before the chat, your public affairs manager will work with you to promote your chat. Your chat likely will be promoted in the "DNR News," on the DNR Internet homepage, to subscribers on GovDelivery lists and any other ways you can imagine. The Office of Communication will create and coordinate the promotion to make your chat a success.

Steps to prep!

Prepare to have fun! You'll learn about the system when you arrive 45 minutes early. We guarantee you'll be amazed how easy it is.

- If you have a laptop, bring it. If you don't, we can provide one.
- Bring your topic resources for easy reference during the chat. You'll need to quickly and easily copy-and-paste answers to keep the conversation moving. That brings us to the next point.
- Remember this is a conversation, albeit a digital conversation. Keep it lively. Talk your answers as you type. People don't speak perfectly; however, we do recommend correct spelling. Steer clear of "War and Peace"-length answers. If there's a lull in the conversation as you search for the links and copy during the actual chat that will translate into dead air, and you'll lose people. It's like radio and TV broadcasts, dead air is, well, dead.
- Sometimes you'll get questions that don't quite fit the topic. Jump over those and answer the ones that are on topic.
- Each chat has had its own ebb and flow, just roll with it.
- Think of some easy polls that readers can do if they don't have a question, and Ryan will set it up for you. Polls such as: Are you going to apply for the warden job? Where do you fish? How often do you go bird-watching? These simple polls can offer greater insight into your viewership and participants.
- Think about if you'd like a colleague or two from your program to help answer questions. We've had one person, two and three answering. Again, it's up to you and what works best for your chat.
- Finally, each chat has ended with a viewership that has grown by hundreds as more return to read the transcript. Some people simply can't break to join a chat for whatever reason, which is why the transcript becomes the greater message vehicle.

Give it some consideration, and we hope you'll join us for a chat soon.

Footnote: *Joanne Haas is a public affairs manager and Ryan Marty is a financial specialist, both in the Office of Communication.*



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

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Emerald Ash Borer mini-workshop a huge success

By Olivia Witthun, Southeast Region



DNR Forest Health specialist Bill McNee talked about EAB next to an infested tree that had been flecked by woodpeckers. DNR Photo

On a beautiful fall day, Southeast Region forestry staff conducted a workshop on the highly-destructive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) for nine communities without professional forestry staff who haven't yet experienced an infestation of the invasive beetle. Seventeen participants representing a total population of almost 100,000 residents and one non-profit organization attended.

DNR Division of Forestry's Plant Pest and Disease Specialist **Bill McNee** and Forester **Julie Peltier** joined me on October 8 as we partnered with Riveredge Nature Center near Newburg (Ozaukee County) to hold an afternoon workshop on the EAB.



DNR Field Forester Julie Peltier assisted Village of Fredonia forestry staff Tom Sheppard in identifying EAB galleries and larvae. DNR Photo

Indoors, DNR staff taught basic ash tree identification, EAB identification and discussed the current status of EAB in the state. A hands-on outdoor session soon followed. Because EAB was found at Riveredge Nature Center in 2008, workshop attendees were able to see a heavily-infested area with trees in various stages of infestation and decline. All of the typical EAB signs and symptoms were visible. Participants even got a chance to peel trees with a drawknife and find live larvae and galleries.

Footnote: *Olivia Witthun is an urban forester stationed in Plymouth.*



Online Windows 7 survey re-opened for those recently migrated

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The Windows 7/Office 2010 migration project team is seeking feedback from those DNR computer users most recently migrated to the new operating system and office suite. If your computer was migrated after August 17, the survey now is open to receive your views anytime between October 18 and November 9.

The July 26 "Digest" story ["Take a few moments to complete the online Windows 7 post migration survey,"](#) sought feedback from those whose computers migrated before July 7 through August 17. If you've already taken the survey, there's no need to take it again.

The results of these surveys, now that you've had experience with Windows7/Office 2010, are important. The project team will compare the more recent feedback with the results of the previous survey to track the success of improvements made based on the initial survey.

Here's a shortcut to the ["Windows 7 Migration Survey."](#)

Currently, approximately 194 machines are left to be migrated to the new operating system and office suite. Resources are available to assist with migrations and these services can be coordinated, by emailing the Windows 7 project team at

DNRDLWindows7ProjectTeam@wisconsin.gov.

The project team is beginning efforts to create a closure document, which will include lessons learned and feedback from the surveys; goals met from the project charter; and post-migration efforts.

The Windows 7 Migration Project is scheduled for completion by the end of this calendar year, although the team expects the actual completion date to be closer to November 1. The team will begin to decommission the XP environment and support beginning on January 2, 2013.



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Title & link:** ["2013-14 Biennial Budget Proposal"](#)

Description: This link replaces the version of the Biennial Budget Proposal originally linked to in the September 20 issue of the "Digest," updating numbers on page 35 regarding the Environmental Improvement Fund.

- **Title & link:** ["Every TV Matters: E-Cycle Wisconsin Training Video"](#)

Description: In an effort to better educate the electronics retailers of the state, the E-Cycle team created a training video for retail employees. This video is part of a toolkit DNR is distributing to electronics retailers across the state. If you have four minutes and want to know more about E-Cycle Wisconsin, watch out this video.

- **Title & link:** ["Whooping Cranes, Celebrating 40 years of protecting Wisconsin's natural heritage"](#)

Description: Learn about the four decades of work by many to bring back and stabilize the population of whooping cranes. Read about their habits and habitat. There's a crane cam to take you right into the world of these amazing birds. You can even follow them along their migration route beginning in mid-October from the TrikeCam inside the aircraft leading the way.

- **Title & link:** ["What steppingstones are you taking to retirement?"](#)

Description: Hosted by Employee Trust Funds, public employees contemplating retirement can gather important information from four presentations scheduled for November.

- **Titles & links:** ["Life Support—The Keys to Managing Your Stress and Your Health"](#)
["Increasing the Motivation of Your Workforce"](#)

Description: Beginning October 24, the Deer Oaks Employee Assistance Program will hold a series of employee webinars and a series of supervisor webinars. Employees can learn how better to manage their stress, bring balance to their lives and achieve greater health as a result. Supervisors will learn about tools they can use to improve their relationships with their employees.

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

Description: "Executive Summary: DNR continues to place importance on maintaining strong State-Tribal relationships. We have and continue to place priority on consultation at both the leadership and program/policy levels. Regularly scheduled meetings, gatherings, and consultations continue to build a respectful relationship between the State and Tribes.

- **Title & link:** ["Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin"](#)

Description: Employee Assistance Program Director **Jeff Carroll** passes along a schedule of presentations in October and November to assist those caring for loved ones suffering from Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

- **Title & link:** [Michigan DNR letter of thanks for wildfire support](#)

Description: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources thanks Wisconsin DNR Chief Forester Paul DeLong for providing resources to fight the Duck Lake wildfire, one of the largest in that state's history.

- **Title & link:** ["Respect for People"](#)

Description: DNR Director of Process Improvement Director **Kristy Rogers** passed along this posting from The Lean Enterprise Institute. The author conveys how Toyota managers show respect for employees, given the fact that the company "...made respect for people one of the pillars of the Toyota Way."

Watch future issues of the "Digest" for other articles about management systems, process improvement, organizational excellence, etc., that Rogers passes along.

- **Title & link:** ["Partners in Giving"](#)

Description: The 2012 campaign "Partners in Giving" is well underway. Check out this website to learn how charitable contributions to this "volunteer driven" effort can benefit so many, perhaps in your own community.

- **Title & link:** ["Office of Communication staff assignment updates"](#)

["Regional Public Affairs Manager \(RPAM\) and Public Affairs Manager \(PAM\) Map"](#)

Description: DNR's Office of Communication recently has undergone change in an effort to better assist the department's programs in communicating with Wisconsin citizens, businesses, outdoor enthusiasts, media, etc. Check out which public affairs managers in the

central office and the regions are assigned to work with which programs.

- **Title & link:** [“Testimony of the Department of Natural Resources State Fish Hatcheries”](#)

Description: Bureau of Fisheries Management Director **Mike Staggs** presented this testimony to the Senate Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism on October 16. During the full renovation of the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery, the department realized that it needed to conduct a systemwide review of the infrastructure of the entire Wisconsin State Fish Hatchery System. DNR contracted with HDR Engineering Inc. to complete the study, receiving the final report in January 2012. The Senate committee also addressed Fish & Game Management Administrative Rules and Fish & Game Management Programs Budget Support.

- **Title & link:** [“Wolf hunting and trapping”](#)

Description: This DNR webpage contains the number of wolves harvested, by zone and zone quota.

- **Title & link:** [“Natural Resources Board listening sessions set on plans for hunting and trapping in state parks”](#)

Description: This October 18 news release announces sessions at which the public can express their opinions on the proposal to implement a new law opening state parks to hunting and trapping. Natural Resources Board members will conduct the sessions.

DNR programs' internal newsletters

To better keep you updated on the work and happenings of the various department programs, this standing component of the “Links of interest...don't miss them” feature will bring you the most recent newsletters posted for program employees and their colleagues in other programs. This list is incomplete at this time, so be sure to check out other newsletters as they're added.

- [“Land Division Newsletter”](#)
- [“Floodplain and Shoreland Management Notes”](#)
- [“The ForesTREEporter”](#) from the Division of Forestry

[“The ForesTREEporter” archive of past issues](#) (see the “View a single past issue” box)



Keep away/upwind of potentially dangerous manure storage pits' gases

By: Gretchen Wheat, Bureau of Watershed Management

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DNR employees who do or may visit the site of a liquid manure storage pit, such as at a livestock operation, should be aware of the potential presence of deadly gases. If your work

takes you near such a facility, be sure to read on. Be aware that you don't have to enter a pit to be in danger of manure gas poisoning.

Deaths from manure gas most often happen when family members on small farms enter a manure storage tank to remove manure or repair pumps, without having the safety equipment and training needed to protect them. Taking one full breath of this gas is all it takes to cause death. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health even made a [warning sign](#) available for posting near manure storage facilities.



Typical agitation method used during liquid manure loading for land application to fields.
DNR Photo

Many people aren't aware of manure gas dangers or don't have a good understanding of the phenomena. Even those who know about manure gas can be unaware of the circumstances that can create a dangerous environment.

The four main gases produced by agricultural waste management systems are ammonia (NH₃), carbon dioxide (CO₂), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and methane (CH₄). The most dangerous is H₂S, even though it may be produced in smaller quantities than the other gases.

H₂S smells like rotten eggs at low concentrations, but most people can't smell it at higher concentrations because it quickly deadens the olfactory nerves. So, even if the smell of rotten eggs "disappears," the area may still be contaminated with this highly poisonous gas. Gas monitoring devices are available in small sizes that can be attached to a shirt, to warn against dangerous concentrations of manure gases.

Most people knowledgeable about manure gas danger believe the danger can be avoided by simply not entering manure tanks/pits unless wearing a self-contained breathing apparatus and taking other necessary precautions. This is true in most cases.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently published "[Manure Storage Safety, September 19, 2012,](#)" which illustrates how dangerous concentrations of manure gas also can occur outside a manure tank. Under certain circumstances, e.g. when agitating the manure tank on a day when there's little wind, a person standing outside of such pits can be overcome by these gases. Materials used for animal bedding can also be a factor, and likely was a factor in the incident the USDA reported.

It's recommended that manure tanks be agitated only when there's sufficient wind to disperse the gases. People generally should stay away and upwind from manure tanks, especially if a tank is being agitated. Pets and livestock also are susceptible to manure gas

dangers.

Incident nearly claims the lives of two young children

The situation that occurred in another state in September is an example of a normal activity with a commonly-used type of manure tank agitator, a pump that pulls material up from the bottom of the tank and sprays it on the top. Minutes after starting agitation, the farm owner noticed that his sons, ages two and four, who had been playing nearby, were lying on the ground, unconscious; one child appeared to be dead. He noticed the children before it was too late, quickly moved them away from the manure tank, and called emergency responders.



A child's shoe and tricycle lay next to the storage facility from which life-threatening gas poisoned two young brothers. Photo courtesy of Natural Resources Conservation Service

It's believed that the children were overcome by H₂S gas. Not only were the children near the manure tank and agitator spraying, they were more susceptible to poisoning than adults. It also wasn't a windy day, so the gases weren't being dispersed and diluted.

Another likely factor is that the farm was using a gypsum material (calcium sulfate) as part of the animal bedding mix, which may have caused increased production of H₂S gas. Wisconsin DNR hasn't issued any exemptions to allow the re-use of gypsum as animal bedding, and doesn't recommend the practice.

USDA's National NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) distributed the information about this incident with a request that it be shared widely with anyone who may work or be present around manure storage tanks. The department's agricultural waste, law enforcement and water regulation staffs all follow up on complaints and/or do site visits to farms with such pits. Even fisheries and wildlife employees working in the field may find themselves in the vicinity of such a facility.

Read more about the danger of exposure to manure storage pit gas

- ["Manure Storage Safety, September 19, 2012"](#) Another document about the above account.
- ["Slurry gas during agitation can kill in just 10 seconds"](#) published in the Independent.ie
- ["Slurry gas can be lethal farmers are warned"](#) published in "The Berwickshire News"

Footnote: *Gretchen Wheat is an agricultural runoff engineer located in the central office.*



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story



Jyme Lake wetland offered field experience during RAM 2.0 training. DNR Photo

- “**Cami (Peterson)**, **Pat (Trochlell)** and **Tom (Bernthal)** I just wanted to let you know I really appreciated all the time and effort you put into designing and teaching this class (RAM 2.0 Wetlands Rapid Assessment Methodology) at Kemp Station. I really liked the field example you set up at Jyme Lake wetland and the downstream basin. Getting out into the field really opened my eyes to the challenges of doing this kind of synergistic evaluation in a real wetland setting. You conveyed the complexity of evaluating the sometimes subtle impacts on hydrology, chemistry and biology in the environment from proposed human activities. Thanks for the work you did to present this training. I enjoyed it very much. Here’s a shot of Jyme Lake that morning.” **Susan Graham**, *Lake Management Coordinator, DNR South Central Region*
- “Woo HOO! This turned out GREAT! ([“Every TV Matters: E-Cycle Wisconsin Training Video”](#)) I can’t help but think this is going to have an positive impact with retail employees that sell computers. It packs a huge amount of information into 4 minutes without sounding preachy, regulatory or bureaucratic. It helps that this is something the big box stores (at least one of them) actually requested from us, so we know they are likely to show it to their employees.

“Thanks **Amalia (Baldwin)**, (and Waste and Materials Management’s **Sarah Murray** and **Marcy McGrath** and **Mary Farmiloe**, Office of Communication) for the outstanding work on this project.” **Brad Wolbert**, *section chief, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management* (See “Links of interest...don’t miss them”)

Northeast Region success story

A kudo for **Jennifer Borski**, Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist, Oshkosh: “Thank you very much for the requested technical assistance letter for the WOW Logistics property. I understand that you have a new attorney that is working on the lease liability exemption. Please let me know as things develop. Again, thank you for your work.” **Howard G Kameron**, *President and CEO, WOW Logistics*

Northern Region success story

In a message to Patrick O’Connor with the Department of Military Affairs, Wisconsin Emergency Management, received this compliment regarding the work of DNR’s Northern Region Science Services Manager **Bill Clark** and the **Northern Division Environmental**

Review Team: "I want to let you know that I have never had the pleasure of reviewing as many Sub-Grant Applications (SGA's) that contain a job specific DNR issued permit for culvert installations as I have here in Wisconsin.

"Often in other disasters, we in the Environmental & Historic Preservation Section (EHP) are accustomed to merely having the ability of conditioning our compliance reviews requiring the applicant to apply for and obtain a DNR issued permit. Because of the work of Bill Clark and his Northern Division Environmental Review Team, nearly every SGA has contained a job specific DNR permit issued to our applicants.

"Bill's efforts should be commended. His coordination work, expertise and voluntary efforts have accelerated our compliance reviews and ultimately the reimbursement to the applicants. Bill Kostelic, Environmental & Historic Preservation Lead, FEMA-State Joint Field Office, Superior

O'Connor passed the message along to Northern Region Director **John Gozdziwski**: "John, I wanted to pass on this note I received on Bill Clark and his team's commendable work supporting the recovery efforts of Ashland, Bayfield, and Douglas counties following the Presidentially Declared Disaster, DR 4076, for the June 19-20 severe weather and flooding event. I am sure you know how hard they work day in and day out accomplishing DNR's mission in northwest Wisconsin, but it is nice to hear that other recognize that too. Please pass on our gratitude for a job well done." *Patrick J. O'Connor, director, Bureau of Response and Recovery, Wisconsin Emergency Management*

Finally, DNR's Emergency Management Administrator **David Woodbury** in a note to Bill Clark and John Gozdziwski, with copies to the Secretary's Office and other program managers: "Many people are not aware that following federally declared disasters that local communities and state agencies must comply with appropriate environmental reviews and permits to receive federal disaster reimbursements. The Environmental Review personnel along with other Department personnel provide assistance with short timelines and still addressing planned workloads. This is a good example of how the Department has a direct and positive impact on the citizens and communities of the State. Thank you Bill and John for your efforts." *David Woodbury*

Statewide success story

"The Air & Waste Division (now the Air, Waste, Remediation and Redevelopment Division) launched its regulatory improvement effort "Smart Regulation" in December of 2003. As a part of this effort, managers and staff are accountable for assuring that the following attributes are reflected in our programs: Responsiveness, Efficiency, Timeliness, Effectiveness and Consistency. One measure of our success in implementing Smart Regulation is feedback we receive from customers. I'm pleased to forward some of the feedback received during the months of July through September, 2012: ["Air, Waste, Remediation and Redevelopment Division Success Stories"](#) **Pat Stevens**, administrator of the AWARE Division

West Central Region success story

This arrived following the October 13 deer hunt for handicapped hunters sponsored by Xcel Energy on the 4,000-acre Tyrone property in Dunn County.

To **Dave (Hausman, warden supervisor)** and **Ed (Culhane, regional public affairs manager)**: "Thanks again for participating in Saturday's event. A friendly note from one of the hunters who was glad you both were there as well." *Matt McFarlane*

"I liked the hunt; I think it was a great concept and I thought it was well executed.

"I think improving habitat around the blind sites might help. I think the food plots were a good idea. If I would have known about them I would have been glad to volunteer to help maintain them. My son does organic farming only a few miles away. It wouldn't have been hard to truck some water over there.



Hunters John Martinson, Chris Stanek and Mitch Hoyt were among those attending a pre-hunt meeting in a field tent on the Tyrone property. Stanek was accompanied by a friend and Hoyt by his daughter, who was there to "keep him out of trouble." DNR Photo

"Now that I know who to contact, if there were any concerns you want updated on, I could give you updates maybe even before the next hunt we could gather a little field research on movement, population, fresh trails and signs in general of patterns and habits as it differs from year to year.

"The mentors assisting the hunters were really great. They did a wonderful job. Having the DNR present was really a good idea as the rule book can be confusing at times. It was a very good asset to be able to ask questions and get clarifications on some of the more confusing aspects of the rules. It contributed to a more comfortable feeling during the hunt.

"For myself, accessing the land on the second day was a dream come true. I always used to hunt that land. I drove on it and was always very respectful.

"Even though I didn't see any deer, it was very enjoyable and serene. I'm hoping to be considered to (participate in) next year's hunt. I'm also going to let a couple of other disabled hunters in the area know about the program, especially one guy who was a more avid hunter than me and who hunted that land almost exclusively.

"Again, anything you need info on or you need maintenance on that would be within our ability, please let us know. And, as always, we will keep our eyes open for illegal dumpers and suspicious activities in the Tyrone area as we continue to enjoy the hunting and outdoor activities that the land provides. *Mike Dillon, Mondovi*

Editor's note: By way of further explanation, Ed Culhane added: "Matt McFarlane is a former DNR employee who now works for Xcel Energy. He is in charge of the 4,000-acre Tyrone Property and has received kudos for the magnificent job he has done restoring the

property during the past four years, working with DNR and environmental consultants. It was his idea, in partnership with a local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, to sponsor a deer hunt for the handicapped on the property. I was there as a volunteer mentor for one of the hunters. Hausman addressed the group on safety issues and rules before we went into the field.

"During the pre-hunt meeting, Mahlke told Hausman that DNR staff in Madison was responsive and helpful as they worked to set up this first hunt in what will likely be an annual event.

"The (DNR) folks in Madison were really accommodating," Mahlke said. "They returned calls quickly. They were really helpful."



Wisconsin among states receiving Forest Service awards

By: U.S. Department of Agriculture news release

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Grants for trees and clean water go to projects in Great Lakes states

Earlier this month, the U.S. Forest Service announced awards of nearly \$3 million in grants to improve tree canopy, forest cover and ultimately, water quality in six Great Lakes states, including Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Illinois and Indiana. The total of two grants for Wisconsin is more than \$212,000.

The grants are part of the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#), a cooperative effort between federal, tribal, state and local partners. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades.

"The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will improve the environmental health and economic vitality of the world's largest freshwater system," said USDA Undersecretary Harris Sherman. "The Forest Service, together with our partners, is working to improve America's treasured landscapes in more than 7,000 communities across the country."

The U.S. EPA-funded grants administered by the Forest Service will support community forestry efforts to improve the interception, evaporation, infiltration and storage of rainfall and storm water.

"Healthy forests and lands support healthy waters," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "These projects will put people to work increasing the number of trees, turning polluted industrial sites into beautiful parkland and improving habitat for wildlife."

A task force of 11 federal agencies is cleaning up toxins and areas of concern, combating invasive species, promoting near-shore health by protecting watersheds from polluted runoff and restoring wetlands and other habitats.

Wisconsin grants go toward:

- *\$48,399 for First Downs for Trees*: This unique partnership among the Green Bay Packers,

Department of Natural Resources, Oneida Nation, and the communities of Brown County will result in planting more than 1,300 trees to intercept and slow millions of gallons of annual stormwater runoff over the coming years.

- *\$163,907 for Chequamegon Bay Shoreland Restoration*: DNR will work with the City of Ashland to monitor and report on the ecosystem benefits of planting 240 native trees and other vegetation to mitigate the impacts of an expanded US Highway 2.



Flickr photo feature for October: See if you're old enough to recognize this man

By: Carrie Morgan, Office of Communication

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Recognize anyone in this DNR photo?

It's [General Dwight D. Eisenhower](#) (second from left) and his four brothers with muskies and a northern pike after a day of fishing at Pine Lake in Iron County, July 17, 1946. General Eisenhower later became our country's 34th president, serving from 1953-1961. Credit for the photo goes to DNR photographer at the time. Staber W. Reese

This photo and others were stored away in the photo files until the fisheries program needed old photos and decided to scan some of them. We've now posted a historical fisheries set on Flickr. Take a look. You'll find a [famous baseball player](#) in the archives, too.

If you've scanned, high-resolution photos that you think would make nice additions to the department's Flickr collection, email me at [Carrie Morgan](#) or call me at 608-267-5239. The collection is open to use by both DNR staff and the public. DNR asks external users to credit the agency for the photo.

You can read more about Flickr in the September 20 "Digest" story ["Flickr photo feature: More than 2,670 photos at the click of your mouse."](#)

Footnote: *Carrie Morgan is a DNR educator and Flickr administrator.*



Region honors brother and sister for largest organized hunt in nation

By: Ed Culhane, West Central Region

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"The Natural Resources Award is the only award we give each year, and we take it seriously." (Regional Wildlife Management Supervisor **Kris Belling** in presenting the award.)



Dale Petkovsek and his sister Mary Petkovsek proudly displayed their Natural Resources Award. DNR photo taken by Ed Culhane

On October 6, a crowd of about 200 hunters, mentors and volunteers crowded into Dale's North Mound Tavern in rural Clark County for West Central Region's annual ceremony recognizing a private citizen who on their own works to preserve the state's natural resources and the traditions important to the future of conservation.

This year, DNR gave the Natural Resources Award to Dale Petkovsek and his sister Mary Petkovsek who, for the past dozen years, have sponsored a deer hunt for a total of 657 disabled hunters. This hunt has achieved notoriety as the largest organized deer hunt in the nation, with about 100 private property owners enrolling their lands in the program each fall.

Dale and Mary not only showed up to receive their award, they celebrated by treating those in attendance to dinner.

Each year, DNR employees in the 19-county West Central Region are asked to nominate an individual outside the agency who they consider a hero. There are always several nominations, and a group of regional employees volunteer to choose the person or persons most deserving for the highest honor the region can bestow.

Dale and Mary, with the help of skilled mentors and volunteers, along with generous landowners are preserving and strengthening the best parts of Wisconsin's great hunting tradition.



Warden Adam Hanna (pictured) joined with Wildlife Technician Scott Krultz to nominate Dale and his sister Mary for this annual award. DNR photo taken by Ed Culhane

The nominators described this hunt as an “epic logistical undertaking.”

“Mentors assist disabled hunters with everything from climbing into a blind to field dressing a deer,” the nominators wrote. “For many people faced with disabilities, this program has changed their lives. The hunt provides participants an event to look forward to, a place to meet new people and an opportunity to share deer camp experiences.

“One cannot place a value on the shared experience of a deer hunt. One cannot place a value on the opportunity to enjoy life again after a tragedy. One cannot place a value on friendship and camaraderie. These experiences and emotions are a part of each fall for dozens of disabled men and women thanks to Dale’s vision and Mary’s amazing commitment.”

Footnote: *This story is based on comments Regional Public Affairs Manager Ed Culhane prepared for the award presentation.*



Deer Oaks new affiliation adds benefits to Employee Assistance Program

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As part of its ongoing effort to enhance the employee assistance program services provided to DNR employees and their families, Deer Oaks has announced a new affiliation with Work Place Options (WPO). WPO is the largest worldwide provider of wellness and work-life services and offers an array of legal and financial resources for employees.

EAP participants will continue to call the toll free number 1-866-327-2400 to access the same free, confidential services that they’ve always benefited from, as well as a few new services. Deer Oaks care coordinators will transfer calls directly to WPO’s legal and financial department.

Continued services include 30 minutes of free consultation time per issue with an attorney either over the phone or in person. An employee can get a 25% discount on the hourly rate for additional services.

Financial services now will be unlimited consultation available over the phone, including follow-up educational resources. The new ID recovery program offers a free 30-minute phone consultation, plus ongoing free monitoring via the Deer Oaks website. The website provides resources on legal and financial issues, legal forms, ID recovery, and a kit that can

be downloaded to prepare a simple will.

Employees and their family members can access information about the legal and financial services on the [Deer Oaks](#) website. Click on the "Work/Life" services icon, logon using "sowi" as username and password, click on "Work/Life Services," then scroll down and click on "Legal and Financial Services." Here you'll find the benefits available. As always, the username and password is "sowi," anytime you're requested to login.



New Lake Delton park provides long-needed boat launch

By: Bob Manwell, South Central Region

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On October 4, South Central Region Director **Mark Aquino** represented DNR at the [dedication](#) of Newport Park and Boat Launch in the Village of Lake Delton. The six-acre parcel was developed cooperatively with the village and is named after a former resort that occupied the site.



DNR Regional Director Mark Aquino (right) joined MSA Professional Services' Engineer John Langhans at the dedication of the new Newport Park and Boat Launch. DNR Photo

"For years, region fishery and law enforcement staff observed a need for a public boat landing on the Wisconsin River in the Dells area south of the dam and on the Lake Delton side of the river," said Aquino. "This location is useable even in times of low water levels and will be especially useful in late winter and spring for walleye anglers, and in the fall for sturgeon."

The new park is located off County Highway A where it intersects with Rivers Edge Rd. In addition to the new landing, the park offers residents and visitors picnicking, a beach front on the river, and accessible fishing. Landscaping was designed to maintain the natural character and scenic beauty of the dells.

Aquino was joined by Easton Dreher, representing Stewards of the Dells; John Langhans, MSA Professional Services; John Webb village president; and, Tom Diehl, village trustee.

Footnote: *Bob Manwell is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*