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**New Office of Business Support & Sustainability to help state's businesses succeed**

By: Andrew Savagian, Office of Communication

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Reaching out to help Wisconsin businesses achieve their economic and environmental goals is nothing new at DNR. Creating a proactive and enhanced effort to reach out to businesses across multiple sectors and among different agency programs, however, is definitely a new path for the department.

With the official launch this week of the Office of Business Support and Sustainability (OBSS), DNR has served notice that the "normal" way of working with businesses has changed.

In the a [news release](#) sent out October 30, OBSS Director **Al Shea** set the direction for the agency's new course. "The Office of Business Support and Sustainability will strengthen working relationships with key designated business sectors by supporting streamlining, economic development and innovation that yield both environmental and economic results."

Secretary **Cathy Stepp** added: We created this office to provide a focal point within the department to better balance job creation and economic vitality with the DNR's environmental and conservation mission."

The office was created by drawing together staff from the department's Energy and Environmental Analysis and Cooperative Environmental Assistance programs. The initial ten [sector development specialists](#) will focus on paper, printing, manufacturing, development/construction/building, energy, forest and wood products, agribusiness, green

manufacturing, transportation and sustainable communities.

### **Agency leaders weigh in**

Division administrators, regional leaders and field staff also will play key roles in working with the sector development specialists as they reach out to the business community.

Northeast Region Director **Jean Romback-Bartels** sees a strong benefit from working with the new office. "As a regional director, I get contacted regularly by businesses, economic development corporations and staff regarding a variety of business needs and questions. The sector specialists will narrow the search for assistance on these numerous issues by providing one person to go to for answers and improve our responsiveness internally and externally greatly. I look forward to working with all of them in the future."

Water Division Administrator **Ken Johnson** said he sees the sector specialists being valuable tools to help businesses navigate the department structure. "In addition, these positions should also help focus attention on special projects within the agency. Hopefully, this new focus and coordination will reduce everyone's overall workload and improve our environmental response to projects."

"Coordination is key to meeting the business community's needs," echoed **Pat Stevens**, Air, Waste and Remediation and Redevelopment Division administrator. "Companies and other businesses are used to dealing with DNR staff on a program-by-program basis. Having one point-of-contact for a key sector will save them time and help make us more efficient in the long run."

That principle of making it easier for business customers to reach the right people as quickly as possible will go a long way toward improving the agency's success rate, notes Northern Region Director **John Gozdziwski**. "This process serves as a gateway into the DNR. It will maximize the collective knowledge and expertise of our staff to assist businesses and help grow Wisconsin's economy!"

"Having sector specialists who can concentrate on the sometimes unique needs of a particular business, someone who understands the issues and has a historical perspective of a sector's needs, offers DNR and businesses new opportunities for communication, cooperation and environmental protection," said South Central Region Director **Mark Aquino**.

Southeast Region Director **Eric Nitschke** summed up the department's outreach goals: "Communication leads to a mutual understanding, mutual understanding leads to collaboration, and collaboration leads to success. Communication and collaboration when used together can make a wonderful stew; the Office of Business Support & Sustainability will be the cook that stirs the soup!"

To view the various DNR tools to support businesses in Wisconsin, go to the [DNR website](#) and type in key words "[sector](#)" to find business sectors and partnerships, or "[business](#)" to find other resources for businesses.

Look for more news and information from the Office of Business Support & Sustainability as each sector development specialist begins to reach across department "silos" and connect to various businesses and communities statewide.

**Footnote:** *Public Affairs Manager Andrew Savagian works with the Division of AWARE.*



## **Important Reminder: "It's Your Choice" open enrollment ends November 2**

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**Editor's Note:** All "It's Your Choice" open enrollment options will close tomorrow, November 2, 2012 for changes effective January 1, 2013. You must turn in any enrollments/changes no later than 4:30 p.m. this Friday.

### **Health insurance enrollment online**

Again this fall, employees are encouraged to electronically submit "It's Your Choice" enrollment changes via the "[myETF Benefits Online Health Insurance Enrollment System](#)" website. DNR's Bureau of Human Resources also will accept paper applications.

All permanent employees and Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) LTEs can review the 2013 "[It's Your Choice](#)" booklets online.

**Even if you're satisfied with your current health plan, you should carefully review the "[It's Your Choice 2013 Decision Guide](#)" booklet to learn whether there are major changes in your coverage and/or premium costs.**

No action is necessary if you don't want to change plans or change coverage.

**Check out premium rates for 2013**

The 2013 monthly premiums for permanent employees and LTEs with two concurrent positions will be as listed below:

- Tier 1 Single Rate is \$85 and the Family Rate is \$211 per month
- Tier 2 Single Rate is \$124 and the Family Rate is \$312 per month
- Tier 3 Single Rate is \$230 and the Family Rate is \$575 per month

### **Re-enroll to continue Employee Reimbursement Account (ERA)**

The Plan Year 2013 Employee Reimbursement Account (ERA) information is available online at the ["Employee Reimbursement Account Program"](#) website. **You must re-enroll each year that you wish to participate in the ERA program.**

Maximum contribution to the medical ERA is **reduced in 2013 to \$2,500 annually**. Any funds that you carry over from 2012 won't be included in the \$2,500 annual contribution limit.

It's important to **remember** that any 2012 election amount that is carried over into the 2013 grace period has the usual March 15 deadline to incur expenses and April 15 deadline to claim reimbursement. Submit claims based on your 2012 election prior to submitting any claims based on your 2013 election.

WageWorks has replaced Fringe Benefit Management Company for claims processing. You may enroll online at the [WageWorks](#) webpage. After you've completed the enrollment process, print your confirmation for future reference. Helpful tips, guides, video tutorials and FAQs also are available online on the WageWorks website. WageWorks customer service is available Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. central time at 1-855-428-0446.

### **2013 Anthem DentalBlue rates the same, benefit maximums have changed**

Anthem DentalBlue is holding an open enrollment. Monthly 2013 rates haven't changed from 2012 rates. There are changes to the annual benefit maximums, however. No action is necessary if you don't wish to change plans or levels of coverage, and coverage will automatically roll over into 2013.

For more information see the ETF ["Other insurance programs"](#) webpage.

**Once enrolled, you must stay enrolled in the dental plan for the entire calendar year. The deadline to cancel coverage as of the end of 2012 is November 30.**

### **2013 rates for EPIC Dental Wisconsin increasing**

Dental Wisconsin is holding an open enrollment. (This plan isn't connected with the EPIC Benefits+ plan.) Monthly 2013 rates have increased from 2012 rates. See the ["Dental Wisconsin"](#) brochure for details. Additional information can be found at the ["EPIC Life Insurance Dental Wisconsin"](#) webpage.

**Once enrolled, you must stay enrolled in the dental plan for the entire calendar year. Deadline to cancel coverage as of the end of 2012 is November 30.**

### **VSP Vision Service Plan rates will remain the same**

VSP Vision insurance is holding an open enrollment. Monthly 2013 rates haven't changed from 2012 rates.

For more information, see ["VSP Benefits Information."](#)

**Once enrolled, you must stay enrolled in the vision plan for the entire calendar year. Deadline to cancel coverage as of the end of 2012 is November 30.**

**Final reminder:** All "It's Your Choice" open enrollment options will close November 2, 2012 for changes effective January 1, 2013.

For additional information about any of the open enrollment programs, email [Amy Pamperin](#), Payroll and Benefits Specialist, or call her at 608-266-0850.



## **New DNR video highlights Neenah's award-winning brownfield redevelopment**

By: Andrew Savagian, Office of Communication

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A new video provides a snapshot into one of the state's award-winning [brownfield redevelopments](#): a mixed-use redevelopment including the Plexus Corporation's \$16 million headquarters, a \$7 million medical clinic and new parks and public amenities along Neenah's downtown waterfront.



The global headquarters of [Plexus, the Product Realization Company](#) is located on Neenah's revitalized downtown lakefront. DNR Photo

["Reclaiming and Rebuilding Neenah"](#) highlights the partnership between city officials, the Department of Natural Resources, developers and private partners as they revitalized the 100-year-old vacant Glatfelter paper mill property, located in the heart of the city's downtown business sector.

The project helped create new jobs and retain several hundred jobs.

"We're in the business of helping communities like Neenah achieve their vision of economic renewal for their downtowns," said **Darsi Foss**, DNR brownfields chief. "We are very proud of our partnership with the city and what they've achieved in such a short time."

Foss said the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program worked with the Community Development Authority of Neenah and its consultant on the cleanup and redevelopment of the former six-acre brownfield. The department lent technical oversight and liability assistance, along with more than \$525,000 in assessment and cleanup seed money.

"This video showcases how great public-private collaboration can result in a world class redevelopment worthy of national recognition," said Foss.

This October the city of Neenah received two awards for the Glatfelter site, the 2012 National Brownfield Renewal Economic Impact Award from Brownfield Renewal Magazine, and the "Adaptive Re-use of Urban Land Award" from 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin. The national award will be presented in Atlanta, Ga., during the Brownfields 2013 conference next May.

### **Remediation and Redevelopment employee praises video**



Former structures of the old Glatfelter paper mill were retained in the Neenah Legacy Park to provide a piece of the past to remind visitors, citizens and businesses of the tradition and history of the community's industries. DNR Photo

"All, I literally had chills and hair standing up on the back of my neck while watching this video for the first time. Then, I watched it again and had the same reaction. Incredible! You have successfully captured the facts of this

project and, quite remarkably, the emotions of this project. I found it evident through the narration and the visual display how dooming the exit of Glatfelter was to this community and how effectively they handled the challenge. Quite sincerely, I say 'well done!'

"And great quotes from Darsi!" **Jennifer Borski**, Northeast Region Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist

**Footnote:** Public Affairs Manager Andrew Savagian narrates the "Reclaiming and Rebuilding Neenah" video. His release was posted in the October 23 "Weekly News."



## Celebrate Wisconsin's Clean Water Act progress and heroes

By: DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp

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When you pull a walleye from the Wisconsin River, cruise along the Fox River or dine overlooking the Milwaukee River, it's hard to believe that 40 years ago waters had sludge so thick birds could walk across; that Green Bay dumped perfume into the East River to mask the stench, and that a sulfite liquor spill in the Oconto River discolored the paint on houses.

What a difference the Clean Water Act has made in Wisconsin! We have a lot to celebrate as a result of what **Ken Johnson**, our water leader and 36-year DNR veteran, calls "the most profoundly successful environmental law ever conceived."

The Clean Water Act required municipal and industrial wastewater dischargers across the country to get permits with stricter limits on the pollution they sent into lakes and rivers. It leveled the playing field among states. It provided municipalities and states with federal funding to upgrade wastewater treatment plants and hire needed staff, and its "citizen suit" provision allowed environmental watchdogs and other groups to sue polluters and the agencies regulating them. The law required permits for dredging or filling harmful to wetlands.

Wisconsin moved quickly and aggressively. DNR staffed up to meet the challenge, as did municipalities and industry. Citizen groups kept the pressure on. All of these folks made the Clean Water Act work for Wisconsin. That included pioneering a wasteload allocation approach that cleaned up our waters without halting the growth of cities or businesses.

As former Natural Resources board member John Brogan put it: "We proved that you could have fish and factories instead of fish or factories." By 1983, Wisconsin became the first state to issue permits holding dischargers to the higher "secondary" standard of treatment as we succeeded in removing much of the visible pollution. Levels of toxic and bacterial pollutants we couldn't see went down, the dissolved oxygen that fish need went up, and our waters started healing.

Numbers tell part of the story: mercury levels on the Mississippi River near Red Wing, Minn., decreased three-fold; Fox River paper mills cut pollution discharges from 425,000 to 22,000 pounds of solids a day; Milwaukee went from having as many as 60 combined sewer overflows a year to 2.5; and wetland loss slowed significantly from the 5 million acres drained or filled by the 1980s to about 1,400 acres a year in 1991, and to several hundred acres today.

Even more powerful to me are these measures of success: the smiling faces of people who flock to our lakes, rivers and wetlands; the fact that our cities and businesses are turning toward Wisconsin waterfronts, not away from them; and the clean water that flows out of the tap for residents who rely on the Great Lakes and Lake Winnebago for their drinking water.

Forty years in, the Clean Water Act is still protecting and restoring our waters, but there is more work to be done. Runoff pollution, invasive species and algae blooms are among some of the biggest challenges we face.

We are moving ahead to develop approaches that work for Wisconsin. In 2010, we became the first state to adopt phosphorus standards for rivers, lakes and streams. We are working with municipalities and industries as their discharge permits are re-issued to find flexible, cost-effective solutions to meet new permit limits. We are working with farmers to reduce nutrients from farm fields. These approaches will incorporate sophisticated modeling and monitoring, and will tap into the ideas and experience of the farmers, industry and municipal wastewater treatment plant operators on what works best.

For now, however, it's a time for us to celebrate and give thanks. I invite you to visit a special Clean Water Act feature "[Clear Progress: the Clean Water Act at 40](#)" on our website '[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)' (keyword "clean water") to learn more and

share your stories about Wisconsin's clean water heroes.

And the next time we sit on a pier watching a beautiful sunset, swim at our favorite beach or land a fish--big or small--we can remember that a lot of people worked very hard and creatively to make those experiences possible. Thanks for the memories!

**Footnote:** *This news release was posted on October 19.*



## Region enforcement specialist tells story of cross-program success

By: Bob Sloan, Division of Enforcement

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As a DNR environmental enforcement specialist, I have the honor and privilege of helping to protect our state's environment, making this state a better place to live, enjoy the outdoors and do business. In these positions, each of us has program liaison duties, serving as a source of cross-program expertise. We bring our enforcement-related expertise to DNR's various environmental programs, while bringing information on those specific programs back to the environmental enforcement program.

The cross-program experience is a win-win situation for everyone involved. Personally, in my liaison position with the invasive species program, the best part is that I get to work with a lot of dedicated, enthusiastic department staff, including the water guards/wardens during group checks and the Invasive Species Team.



Septage hauler Lynn Kupsch, Lynn's Honeywagon in Sarona, talks to DNR Wastewater Engineer Fred Hegeman (in black shirt) and Conservation Wardens Rick Rosen (to Hegeman's right), Paul Martin (to Rosen's right) and Jesse Ashton (front center) during Conservation Warden Septage Training held in conjunction with audits in northern Wisconsin a few years ago. DNR Photo

Recently, **Pam Buss**, the environmental enforcement liaison to the Septage Program and Statewide Residuals Coordinator **Fred Hegeman**, asked me to help assist with the West Central regional septage audits. These audits with septage haulers in Chippewa, Clark and Eau Claire counties were successfully conducted the week of October 8.

The audits were similar to those conducted the past four years in the Northern Region with the primary goal to look at the majority of septage haulers in a geographic region. The audits are primarily educational, but secondary enforcement action with the potential for the issuance of citations is an option for the more egregious alleged violations.

We evaluated 43 firms in some capacity in the recent audit. These included confirmation of out-of-business firms, sold businesses, etc. Twenty-seven of these firms were field audited, which included:

- Truck inspections and review of records, including vector attraction reduction methods employed for proper land disposal.
- Opportunity for haulers to interact with staff and ask compliance questions.

As a result of the audit, DNR recently referred one firm to the Wisconsin Department of Justice and another had been recently audited and found in compliance.

Overall, the audit results were unexpectedly better than anticipated, which did my heart good, because I usually deal with the "bad boys." We gave businesses a "grade" based on the audit results and team discussion, using the "Stepped Enforcement" process. Firms with moderate issues of noncompliance receive Notices of Noncompliance and an opportunity to change and/or upgrade their current practices. Firms with more serious alleged violations may be issued a Notice of Violation and Enforcement Conference Request, with the possibility of citation(s). The department also may conduct a second audit of some firms for re-evaluation and, if necessary, take appropriate

follow-up enforcement action.

The septage program has evolved to become more proactive the past few years, in large part due to the efforts of Fred Hegeman and the regional septage coordinators. DNR employees have attended numerous training sessions around the state, focusing on our conservation wardens.

In addition, the department provides numerous training sessions for septage haulers to help them meet their required continuing education credits and, perhaps most importantly, to help them achieve and maintenance compliance with regulations.

Fred Hegeman, Pam Buss, Certification Coordinator **Kelly Thompson**, West Central Region Septage Coordinator **Jeanne Calhoun**, Northern Region Septage Coordinator **Alison Canniff**, Northeast Region Coordinator **Heide Schmitt Marquez** and Lake Superior Ballast Water Inspector **Cordell Manz** all deserve a big "thank you" for the long hours they put in recently in supporting the West Central Region, as well as for all of their ongoing work on their "glamorous jobs." A special thanks to Wastewater Intern **Corey Larson** for all of the prep work he did for the recent audits.

**Footnote:** *Bob Sloan is an environmental enforcement specialist with the Division of Enforcement in Eau Claire, as well as the safety and risk management specialist for the region's Human Resources Program.*



## Board holding listening sessions on hunting and trapping in state parks

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The public will be able to present their views on a proposed plan to implement a new law opening state parks to hunting and trapping at a series of listening sessions that Natural Resources Board (NRB) members will conduct around the state in late October and early November. Act 168 will go into effect on January 1, 2013.

At the December meeting of the Natural Resources Board, the department will present a plan to implement the part of a new law the legislature approved earlier this year, Act 168 (known as the Sporting Heritage Bill), that expands hunting and trapping in state parks.

"The Wisconsin State Parks program has a long history of effectively managing a wide variety of activities in state parks -- including many properties already open to deer and turkey hunting -- and we are confident we can implement the new law to safely allow additional uses of our state parks by hunters and trappers while still providing the quality experience that hikers, campers, bikers, skiers and others have come to expect at Wisconsin state parks," said **Dan Schuller**, director of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Board Chair David Clausen noted the listening sessions are being held to get input on how to implement the law, not the law itself, which the legislature approved last session and Gov. Scott Walker signed in April.

Act 168 allows DNR to prohibit hunting and trapping within 100 yards of a designated use area such as a campground, picnic area or beach. A determination to prohibit hunting and trapping in any other areas of a state park, a portion of a state park, or during certain times of the year must be approved by a majority of the Natural Resources Board, and can only be approved to protect public safety or unique natural resources such as fragile plant or animal habitat.

While Act 168 allows hunting when any season is open, the department is proposing that the board allow hunting in parks from October 15 through the Thursday prior to the Memorial Day weekend.

"This would allow hunters and trappers to take part in virtually all major hunting seasons in parks, and it would avoid allowing hunting during peak times of park use by non-hunters, such as during the busy summer camping and fall color seasons," Schuller said. "In addition, the proposal offers maximum use of park areas, as park user numbers are lowest at this time."

The department also will seek to keep some properties closed to hunting, such as Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay and Lakeshore State Park in Milwaukee. Both of these properties are within city limits. At parks where some lands are located within municipal jurisdictions that have prohibitions on the discharge of firearms, hunting with a firearm wouldn't be allowed within those areas.

People attending listening sessions will be able to review maps designating which areas are proposed as open and closed to hunting, and will be able to comment to board members on the department's proposal to implement the law.

Two or three NRB members will attend each listening session. The board then will discuss the comments they

received at the listening sessions at their December 11 or 12 meeting in Madison. In addition to the listening sessions, the public may send comments by U.S. mail to Wisconsin State Parks, Act 168, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 or by email to [DNRWisconsinParks@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWisconsinParks@wisconsin.gov) by November 23. In addition, the board welcomes testimony and written comments at its December meeting on this issue. December meeting information will be located on the "[Natural Resources Board](#)" website.

The listening sessions all will begin at 6:30 p.m., and those attendees that would like to speak or submit written comments should sign up at the door on arriving at the session. Already completed, sessions were held in Fitchburg on October 29 and in Eau Claire on October 30.

**The dates and locations for each future session are:**

- **November 5, Merrill:** Merrill High School, 1201 N. Sales St., with board members Christine Thomas and Jane Wiley present.
- **November 8, Appleton:** The Bordini Center, Fox Valley Technical College Campus, 5 Systems Dr., with board members William Bruins, Terry Hilgenberg and Jane Wiley present.
- **November 13, West Allis:** Tommy Thompson Youth Center (State Fair Park), 640 S. 84th St., with board members Gregory Kazmierski and Jane Wiley present.



## Thousands tour new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area, formerly Badger Ammunition

By: Bob Manwell, South Central Region

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A crisp and sunny fall day greeted an estimated 2,500 or more people who took advantage of an opportunity to tour the newly named [Sauk Prairie Recreation Area](#), formerly known as the Badger Army Ammunition Plant.



Paul Zajackowski with the Parks and Recreation Program in the South Central Region gave directions to a visitor-on-two-wheels. DNR Photo

The gate to the facility was thrown open at 9 a.m. on October 20 to a steady stream of vehicles. Citizens could choose between two self-guided automobile tour routes or drive both tours if they wished and had enough time. Vehicles were still arriving at 3:15 p.m., when the gates were closed to new arrivals.

"I was impressed by the number of people that turned out to take a look at this property," said **Ryder Will**, maintenance supervisor/satellite properties manager at Devil's Lake State Park. "I was also very happy to help provide the opportunity for so many retired and former Badger Army Ammunition Plant workers to see how much the property has changed."

Many visitors stopped on their way out to say "thank you" for the opportunity to drive through the site. Some were former Badger employees such as Allen Dolan who worked at the facility for 35 years.

"Driving up to the gates brought on a flood of memories," said Dolan, "memories of people mostly; friends and coworkers, but also events."





King family members visited the grave of their ancestor Hosea King. DNR Photo

Others met at Badger, such as one couple who didn't leave their name but said they'd met at a dance held on the base, fell in love, married, and were reliving those years and events as they drove through. Still others were there to remember family members. Badger contains three cemetery sites including Pioneer Cemetery where four generations of the King family gathered to visit the grave site of Hosea King, 1718-1853, the first of their clan to settle in the area.

Bureau of Lands and Facilities staff is in the early stages of drafting a property [master plan](#), headed up by Program and Policy Analyst **Diane Brusoe**. "This was a true team effort that made many people very happy. I received countless 'thank yous' for this tour opportunity and almost as many people asking when the next tour would be," said Brusoe.



Diane Brusoe and Ryder Will were ready to meet visitors to the new Sauk Prairie Recreation Area. DNR Photo

Thanks also to the many central office and South Central Region employees who greeted, guided and watched over the many appreciative visitors:

**Kaylin Helm, Steve Miller, Carolyn Betz, Connie Scott, Craig Karr, Steve Schmelzer, Ryder Will, Diane Brusoe Jim Carter, Paul Zajackowski, Brigit Brown, Mike Mossman (and family), Jean Unmuth, Mark Aquino, Andy Haffele, Lydia Meisenburg, Jonah Moline and Jenny Hudson-Stanek**



## New DNR online map shows 1.1 million private acres open to the public

By: Governor's Office news release

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More than one million private acres classified as open for public use under a landowner-incentive program are easier for outdoor enthusiasts to find thanks to a new online state mapping tool Gov. Scott Walker unveiled on Tuesday, October 30. Earlier this year, the governor directed the DNR to develop a mapping system as a short-term solution, while the department develops a more comprehensive mapping application.

"The Managed Forest Law (MFL) is a valuable program for the overall health and productivity of our forests," said Gov. Walker. "MFL land plays an important role in Wisconsin's timber industry, the tourism industry, and in our state's rich hunting heritage. Lands enrolled as 'open' in this program must be accessible. The mapping tool will raise awareness about specific parcels of land that are open to the public."

DNR created the [web-based mapping tool](#) to help users find privately owned land open for specific recreational activities

under the MFL. This law is a landowner-incentive program that incorporates sustainable forestry practices, such as timber harvesting, wildlife management, water quality and recreation, while improving public access to these lands. "We understand some of the MFL land parcels are hard to find," said DNR Secretary **Cathy Stepp**. "This new tool was developed in response to immediate concerns that some of the lands are hard to find, especially for the upcoming hunting season. We have been working on a more detailed system that will digitize the tens of thousands of maps associated with the tax law programs. Nevertheless, because of the size of that project, we wanted to take action now to provide better information in the interim."

To access the mapping tool which also includes lands enrolled under the Forest Crop Law, visit [DNR's website](#) and type in keywords "MFL open land."

For information on Managed Forest Law and Forest Crop Law programs, go to ["Frequently Asked Questions about MFL-open and FCL Lands."](#)



## Upcoming events of note in early November

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### ***DNR forester will offer advice on forest management during forestry field day***



During the field day in 2009, Steve Holaday pointed to a tree subsequently cut down during a chainsaw operation and tree felling demonstration. The big trees were overcrowded and dead branches indicated that this particular tree was in poor health. DNR Photo

On Saturday, November 3, DNR Forester **Steve Holaday** will participate in the [Forestry Field Day](#) at the Bock Community Forest sponsored by the Middleton (Dane County) Public Lands Department.

Holaday will share his expertise regarding timber stand improvement and other forest management practices while guiding participants on a tour.

"I will tell people the benefits woodlands provide to people and wildlife, how to keep their woods healthy and productive, and when it is appropriate to harvest trees," said Holaday. "I'll encourage them to contact a DNR forester if they have woodland they want to manage, as well as encouraging landowners to work with a professional consulting forester when having a timber sale."

Read more about what's in store during what should be a fun and informative day in the Middleton Public Lands Department [news release](#).

### ***"Partners in Giving" central office fundraiser to happen on November 9***

If you've been working in the Natural Resources Building, aka GEF 2 and central office, you've undoubtedly noticed the fundraising sales and auctions held about this time each year. They've been highly successful, precisely because

generous employees use them to contribute to the ["Partners in Giving"](#) campaigns. Whether a seller or buyer or both, there's a role for almost everyone.

Division of Enforcement and Science Administrator **Tim Lawhern** reports that \$9,370 in donations came in during week three of the campaign, bringing this year's total to \$33,107.20. As in previous years, those employees turning in their pledge forms are entered into a drawing for prizes donated by others in the department. Three names are drawn each week, so odds are pretty good.

**A few of the currently available weekly drawing prizes include:**

- \$25 Gift Certificate for Great Dane from **Paul DeLong**
- \$25 Gift Certificate for Great Dane from **Ken Johnson**
- Blue earrings from **Laurel Steffes**
- \$25 Gift Certificate for Great Dane from **Tim Lawhern**
- 6-pack Craft Beer from **Lauren Fiecko**
- Quart of Honey (\$20 value) from **Kevin Wallenfang**
- 3 lbs. frozen ground Wild Canadian Moose processed at Black Earth Meats from **Megan Correll**
- Norske Nook pie from **Julie Sauer**
- Stainless Tumbler from **Mark McDermid**
- UW Women's Basketball Vouchers from UW Athletic Department

"We've had a few additions to the prizes but we could always use more," said Lawhern. "If you have something you'd like to donate for the cause just bring it to me or to **Hilary Bauman** in administration on the eighth floor. Thanks to everyone for your generosity and support."

To get the best response possible, the "Partners in Giving" coordinators decided to sponsor a garage sale/bake sale/silent auction to run concurrently from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, November 9. Room G09 on the groundfloor will serve as the venue.

Employees are asked to donate gently-used items for sale at \$1, \$5 or \$10 with the money going to the campaign. In addition, the bakers amongst us can donate their creations, which could serve as nourishment as you silently bid on auction items.

**Silent auction donations (so far)**

- Coffee for a week hand delivered by **Pat Stevens**
- Lunch with Secretary **Cathy Stepp**
- Lunch with Deputy Secretary **Matt Moroney**
- Lunch with Executive Assistant **Gundy Gunderson**
- UW Hockey Tickets from **Jim Feldhausen**

Bring your items and baked goods to G09 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on November 9. The committee decided that with employees on different schedules, this time period would allow most anyone to bring something to donate to the event.

Be on the lookout for signs and posters around GEF 2. If you have any questions about this event, email Executive Staff Assistant [Lauren Fiecko](#) or call her at 266-2243.

**An issue for DNR, check out UW-Madison series on fracking**

The Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the UW-Madison is offering a series of [Community Environmental Forums on fracking in Wisconsin](#). The first of the series "Fracking 101" was held on October 30.

Two subsequent forums are scheduled for November 12 and 27. All will run from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Mechanical Engineering Building on the UW-Madison campus.



**Links of interest...don't miss them**

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• **Title & link:**

["Behind the Counter"](#)

**Description:** Recognizing that all agency employees provide customer service, in a message to DNR employees, Secretary **Cathy Stepp** described the work of the department's customer service representatives as "a full time passion." Now you can hear their personal commentaries on the work they do and the reasons they do it.

- **Title & link:** ["DNR Lean Overview"](#)

**Description:** "Lean Six Sigma is a comprehensive and flexible system for achieving, sustaining and maximizing an agency's success." Brit Hall from the Waukesha County Technical College recently spoke to a gathering of DNR bureau directors and Lean Six Sigma Phase Two Project Team Members on October 16. This video is being made available to DNR staff as a way of orienting you in the Lean Six Sigma process. The video is about three hours in length.

- **Title & link:** ["Deer Hunt Wisconsin 2012, hosted by Wisconsin Public Television's Dan Small"](#)

**Description:** The fall deer show is as annual an event as the deer hunt itself. This is the link to the complete show. Check out the speed and chapters controls at the bottom of the video player window. These controls will help you quickly find content you're looking for if you choose to re-watch segments. The Office of Communications will be breaking the show into segments for posting to DNR's You Tube channel. You'll also be able to catch it on [Wisconsin Public TV](#) on November 1 and 3, and on the Fox Sports Network on November 8 and 11.

- **Title & link:** ["Business Plan to implement the Division of Forestry's Strategic Direction"](#)

**Description:** Division of Forestry Administrator and State Forester **Paul DeLong** distributed widely the "Business plan that outlines priority outcomes for the Division of Forestry's major programs." Later this fall, program staff will develop performance measures for these outcomes and arrive at steps to implement the program's five-year plan.

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

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

**Description:** Among the topics in this month's employee newsletter are: "Signs and Symptoms of substance abuse," "10 quick exercise tips for healthier living and improved overall health," "The benefits of physical fitness in reducing the risk of high blood pressure in people with a family history of it" and "Planning for periodic expenses instead of being surprised by them."

Among the stories included in the supervisor's newsletter are: "How to build the right team," "8 Tips to Embrace Change" and "Answer challenging, frequently-asked questions about employee/workgroup issues and making EAP referrals."

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

**Description:** Scroll down to a new feature on DNR's Internet homepage, a rectangular box near the bottom on the page homepage below the feature pictures/buttons containing a picture of a phone and reading "HOTLINES." The hotlines link also will remain in the footer, therefore continuing to display at the bottom of every DNR webpage. Just click on the red phone or "HOTLINES" for a full list and descriptions of DNR hotlines.

- **Title & link:** ["Deer hunters can help manage wildlife by participating in wildlife survey"](#)

**Description:** More than 1,100 deer were spotted during this year's Deer Hunter Wildlife Survey, which began in September and runs into January. The numbers tallied with the numbers from 2011 will assist with tracking population changes and improving herd management decisions. Read more about the survey in the July 26 "Digest" story ["Help monitor Wisconsin's deer herd through summer observations."](#)

- **Title & link:** ["Frac Sand Replay"](#)

**Description:** Tom Woletz, Air and Waste Program special projects coordinator took questions and comments during this online chat about frac sand on October 24. During the live chat, 423 people viewed it online, asking 185 questions. Those who've viewed the transcript of the chat bring the total views to 900.

- **Titles & links:** ["Friends of Wisconsin State Parks 2012 Gold Seal Awards"](#)

["Friends of Wisconsin State Parks \(blog\) Hero Awards-2012"](#)



Natural Resources Board member Jane Wiley was the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony. She is flanked by (left to right) Bureau of Parks and Recreation Director Dan Schuller, Secretary Cathy Stepp and Peter Biermeier, chief of the Recreation, Planning and Development Section. DNR Photo

**Description:** The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks presented Hero Awards at its 16th Annual Awards Banquet on October 12 at Heritage Hill State Historical Park in Green Bay. More than 100 Friends Group members and special guests were on hand.

Hero, President's and Gold Seal awards were presented and the Photo Contest Winners were announced. The photos are in the 2013 Friends of Wisconsin State Parks calendar, which is now available for sale at the [FWSP Store](#).

Natural Resources Board member Jane Wiley was the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony. She is flanked by (left to right) Bureau of Parks and Recreation Director **Dan Schuller**, Secretary **Cathy Stepp** and **Peter Biermeier**, chief of the Recreation, Planning and Development Section.

• **Title & link:** [“Automating notices to citizens and customers”](#)

• **Description:** “Digital Communities Webinars/How Technology can be Innovative, Transformative and Affordable” will present a complimentary webinar will offer suggestions for replacing paper and workload that local and state agencies, as well as businesses, use in the course of conducting business with citizens and customers. This webinar will offer techniques and technologies such as QR codes and communicating via mobile devices.

• **Title & link:** [“Attorney General J.B. VanHollen urges eligible purchasers of LCD flat screen TVs, monitors and laptops to file claims as part of billion-dollar settlement”](#)

**Description:** Described as the “...largest antitrust, all-cash class action recovery ever obtained for consumers...” those who bought LCD flat screen TVs, monitors and laptops from 1999 to 2006 could recover a total of about \$1.1 million. Receipts aren’t required, and the filing deadline is December 6. You might want to check this out.

#### **DNR program 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. At this time, this list is incomplete, so be sure to check out other newsletters as they’re added.

**Note to newsletter editors:** Each issue of the “Digest” will include links to program newsletters. Be sure to submit new issues of your newsletter to Diane Brinson, who will update the “Standing newsletters.”

#### **New this issue**

[“LE News”](#)

[“Just in CAES”](#) special issue introducing new employees in the Customer and Employee Services Division

#### **Standing newsletters**

[“Land Division Newsletters”](#)

[“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)



**Southeast Region presents Employee of the Year and Team of the Year awards**

Regional Director **Eric Nitschke** announced the winners of this year's awards at the Regional Leadership Team and Supervisors meeting held at Riveredge Nature Center on October 9.

### 2012 Employee Awards

- Air & Waste: **Tom Zelinski**
- Land: **Drew Starch**
- Water: **Ben Heussner**
- Customer & Employee Services: **Don Almquist**
- Enforcement & Science: **Steve Sanidas**
- Office of the Secretary: **Craig Webster**

### 2012 Team Award



(Front row) Chuck Gatling, Justin Blindert, Robert Leaverton, Angie Rusch, Renee Asmann and Brian Dart. (back row) Eric Nitschke, Robert Zinkgraf, Seth Fisher, Marty Johnson, Tom Isaac and Tim Lizotte. DNR Photo  
Southern Fox Area Wildlife Management Team members received the 2012 Team Award: **Brian Glenzinski, Chuck Gatling, Rachel Anderson, Seth Fisher, Brian Dart, Molly Groth, Marty Johnson, Craig Fenters, Doug Robinson, Eric Tarman-Ramcheck, Nate Symoens, Frank Hoffman, Tom Isaac, Angie Rusch, Bob Zinkgraff, Justin Blindert, Robert Leaverton, Renee Asmann**



## Warden, volunteers join to rid Lower Wisconsin River of dangerous debris

By: Joanne M. Haas, Office of Communication

A 1930s photo provided the only clue Conservation Warden **David Youngquist** had about the wicked, twisted steel beams that rose like claws from the Wisconsin River only to slither below the water's surface into eerie silent darkness.

"I can't believe no one was killed by it," Youngquist said of an ever-present danger that lurked for years near the Mazomanie beach island on the Wisconsin River, not far from his Spring Green station. Neither could Timm Zumm, the president of the all-volunteer Friends of the Lower Wisconsin River, also known as FLOW.



Volunteers from the FLOW gathered smaller pieces of steel that became more visible as water levels dropped during

the ongoing drought. DNR Photo

Zumm, who also lives in the Spring Green area, first spotted the large, rusty jagged steel beams and cables resting like a mine field when he was on the river about a decade ago. "I do quite a bit of paddling and am always on the lookout for stuff," he said.

Stuff would be too gentle of a word for debris that actually, as Zumm speculated, could have impaled a rider on an inflatable dragged behind a pleasure boat or flipped a canoe or kayak--or even have destroyed the watercrafts.

That all changed this late summer when Youngquist, who covers the Spring Green area, collaborated with volunteers from FLOW, area business owners and other DNR staffers to pull the remaining five tons of this jagged steel and rusting cable from the water.

This strong-man project had been on the warden's must-do list since he first eyed the unbelievable mess in 1999. And with the lower river levels due to the drought, the time was right to move.

### **A clue from the '30s**

There is no firm answer as to how this mangled steel ended up in the stretch of the river long known as one of the nation's most dangerous. It runs wild from the last dam at Prairie du Sac in Sauk County for more than 92 miles until it meets the Mississippi River on the state's most southwestern edge. Fallen trees, often invisible tree roots and brush, sandbars that form as fast as they dissolve and a quick current of sometimes five mph makes this river a challenge for all.

"I looked at a 1930s photo and saw the power line in this area," Youngquist said. "And there was a power pole on the Mazomanie Beach Island. Over time, the current kept pushing this downstream."

Zumm found that 1937 photo showing this stretch of river, not far from Ferry Bluff, that documented the utility line.

"Or, I was thinking it could have even been a telegraph line," he said. Whoever cut the steel, whenever it was cut and why it was cut likely may never be known.

What does matter is the river has been cleared. "This was a huge success," Youngquist said of the removal operation. "It was a team effort."

### **An army of helpers**

The first big push came in 2003 when Timm Zumm and other volunteers from FLOW worked with McFarlane's Hardware and Equipment store in Sauk City. Thanks to the use of the business's skid-loader, the group was able to remove about two tons that day, thinking that they'd removed 75 percent of the stuff.

"Now, looking back, I'm sure I had that wrong. I think we only removed about 25 percent that year," Zumm said, basing his newfound calculations on the pile that formed after the final push in September.



Pieces of steel and cable were pulled from the Lower Wisconsin River not far from the Mazomanie area. DNR Photo

That push by FLOW started in late August. A few days later on September 5, Youngquist picked up the gauntlet with **Dale Gasser** and **Cale Severson** of the DNR Fisheries Program. They brought back-up in the form of a 52,000-pound backhoe.

With this massive machine, they were able to pull more steel from the water and from the river's sandy bottom where it had taken root. It took about three hours to stack the steel like pick-up sticks on the sandbar. FLOW volunteers Jennifer Kerr and Roger Reynolds also helped with spotting steel and grabbing smaller pieces of the cable, steel and even some tires.

Next, Youngquist met with **John Leightey** of DNR Fleet to see what equipment would be needed to keep doing the

job until the river was cleared. Simple! More muscle.

That muscle came in the form of a larger backhoe that came with a clamp, a large hydraulic claw and tracks big enough to keep it atop the sand rather than sink into the wet foundation.

With that powerful machine operated by DNR Risk Management Specialist **Patrick Kelly**, the remaining steel was transported back to the parking lot, where dumpsters were waiting to receive it. This took about five trips back and forth to the parking lot to get all the steel off the sandbar.

In 90 minutes or so, they'd pulled enough steel to fill four large dumpsters donated by Gauger Salvage in Arena.

That was on September 10, when the last of the 5.27 tons was removed from the water. "Bill Gauger of Gauger Salvage was great to work with and very willing to help out as much as he could with numerous trips to the property with the dumpsters," Youngquist said.

Zumm says timing was on their side. "We had to get it done when we did because the water levels were so low. I like to say the great river spirit was with us to allow us to get it done, and in a timely fashion."

Another plus? No one was hurt in the process of removing this dangerous material.

What could make this better? No cost. Gauger Salvage was able to cover the expenses through its sale of the steel. "That covered all the expenses and meant no impact to anyone's budget," Youngquist said.

While the river is clear of the long-forgotten steel, the best part of the story for Zumm is this: "It's another great example of what can be done when an all-volunteer group works with the DNR. I can't say enough good things about Warden Youngquist and how we all worked together."

**Footnote:** *Joanne Haas is a public affairs manager in the Office of Communication working with the Division of Forestry and the Bureau of Law Enforcement.*



## An emergency kit in your car could save your life this winter

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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Gov. Scott Walker has declared November 5-9 as Winter Awareness Week in Wisconsin. The annual campaign, sponsored by Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) as part of its ReadyWisconsin preparedness program and NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), is to remind people to be prepared for winter conditions that could threaten their safety.

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

ReadyWisconsin will air television and radio public service announcements in November, urging viewers and listeners to keep an emergency kit in their vehicles. Wisconsin residents are also encouraged to sign up for a chance to win a winter survival kit on the [ReadyWisconsin](#) website. If you share a personal winter survival story on [ReadyWisconsin's Facebook](#) page, you'll get another chance to win.

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers because most deaths are indirectly related to the storm. For example, in the last five years Wisconsin has averaged 56,000 motor vehicle crashes during winter months. An average of 55 people are killed and 6,000 injured on icy or snow-covered roads.

Carbon monoxide poisoning also is a danger. According to the Centers for Disease Control, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States, with more than 20,000 people visiting the emergency room and nearly 500 killed each year from overexposure to the gas.

Now is the time to winterize your car and home, gather items for an emergency kit in your car, and make sure you have a NOAA Weather Radio with fresh batteries. Additional winter weather tips and how to put together a winter emergency kit are available at the [ReadyWisconsin](#) website.

In addition, the National Weather Service has produced numerous winter storm maps and a history of Wisconsin's winter weather. Get the maps and history in the [complete media packet](#).



## Secretary's Office reinstating photo ID requirement to beef up security

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**Editor's note:** Deputy Secretary **Matt Moroney** on Monday, October 29, sent the following message regarding security to central office employees.

I would like to provide you with a follow up to the recent building security incident on third floor in which an employee returned to her cube about 6 p.m. to find someone going through her purse. Unfortunately the unauthorized entrant was not apprehended.

No security system is perfect, but there are a number of measures we can put in place as a deterrent to unwelcome and unauthorized visitors. The message we sent last week resulted in some excellent staff suggestions. From those suggestions, and in order for all of us to tell who belongs and who does not, **we are reinstating the photo ID requirement for all employees and contractors in GEF 2--all will be required to display their IDs while in the building.**

This will be something new for many of you. Every DNR employee in the GEF 2 building should have received a photo ID that functions as their card access to the building.

#### **Effective immediately**

- Your photo ID must be visible for others to see.
- Stop by Human Resources if you have lost your ID or never received one. Besides issuing the photo ID, HR can also provide a lanyard or a clip to display it.
- Visitors must check in at the main desk on first floor to pick up a visitor pass. They will be identified by and must display a special ID clearly identifying them as a visitor.
- If you forget your ID, or a name pin, please pick up a temporary ID from the desk at the main entrance.
- As a reminder, staff entering the building by the greeter should use their ID to unlock the door and not to expect the greeter to unlock it.

#### **Other security reminders**

- Contact Capitol Police immediately regarding any suspicious activity. That number is 6-7700 for emergencies; 6-8797 for non-emergencies. (For fire or ambulance, dial 9-911)
- Emergency phone numbers should be posted by each phone. Your floor captain can assist you in getting the most current emergency action plan with the phone numbers you will need in an emergency.
- If you drive into the parking garage during non-traditional working hours, please make sure the garage door closes behind you without allowing other vehicles to follow you in. Likewise, when using your access card to enter by building doors, don't give access to anyone without an ID badge.
- There should be no bicycles in the garage level of the GEF 2-3 complex. This is both a safety and a security matter. Capitol Police will be contacted to have them removed.
- If you are a runner, please do not use the garage doors to exit or enter the building.

We are moving forward with better securing the "gerbil bridge" (skywalk) on the third floor and building access points from the garage level.

It's always good to periodically review our plans for building security. Thank you all for your interest and cooperation.



## **Reducing firewood carry-in distance for state campground users proposed**

By: Reprinted from "The Parks Shorts" newsletter

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DNR wants to reduce to 10 miles the distance from which a state campground user may carry in firewood. The Natural Resources Board gave the go-ahead at its October 24 meeting to prepare a draft rule change to take to public hearings. If ultimately approved, the new rule would take effect in roughly two years.

Chief Forester **Paul DeLong** explained that the increased presence of invasive pests such as the emerald ash borer, beech bark disease, and oak wilt was behind the recommendation to go before the NRB.

The current rule states only firewood originating from 25 miles or less may be brought onto a state forest or state property, or wood that comes from a vendor certified by the state as treating their wood to stop the transmission of pests or diseases.

DeLong explained that slicing the allowable travel distance for firewood onto state property to 10 miles will better protect trees, a valuable state natural resource important to the state's economy.

"This is the prudent step to take when it comes to the health of the state's forests," DeLong said. "It is important to

note private homes and private property would not be affected by the suggested reduction in the distance firewood may be transported. This only pertains to state lands--notably state campgrounds."

DeLong also stressed that the idea to reconfigure that distance limit from the current 25 miles to a new 10 mile limit is simply that, an idea. "This is up for discussion with the Natural Resources Board. It is not yet a proposed rule to be officially considered by the public or the legislature."

With the board's approval, the department is moving forward to develop a draft proposal and begin seeking public input on the idea.



## Around the state...DNR employees shine

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### Central office success stories

- A kudo for the **Neenah Remediation and Redevelopment video**: "A compliment for the "Reclaiming and rebuilding Neenah" video "Thanks **Darsi (Foss)**--it's a great video! I'll post this on our FB (Facebook) site in the next few days. Take care." *Gail Sumi, administrative assistant, League of Wisconsin Municipalities*

- Hello, **Mary (Vollbrecht)**, chief of the Groundwater Section) received this compliment after her staff helped a plastics manufacturer who is siting a new plant proceed to investigate water and energy options: "I just wanted to drop you a line to Thank You and the others within the department (**Brian Austin**-Underground Injection, **Randell Clark**-Geothermal Wells and **Larry Lynch**-Water Use) for the time you spent with us yesterday. We appreciate the open dialog and have some clear, (well, more clear) direction to pursue. Please extend my regards to the others in our meeting as well." *Josh Gray, president, GOEX Corporation, Janesville, WI*

### Northeast Region success stories

- **Jennifer Borski**, Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist: "Roxanne as Jennifer Borski's supervisor, I was not sure if you saw this yet or not but wanted to let you know Jennifer Borski played a key role in the success of the Glatfelter Redevelopment Project in the City of Neenah. Glatfelter was awarded the National 2012 Brownfield Renewal Economic Impact Award on Jennifer Borski's project. The public and private sectors worked together to bring over 500 jobs to this vacant site in the midst of an economic downturn. Jennifer did an excellent job all around and things wouldn't have moved along as quickly as it did without the attention she gave this project. She not only realized the importance of the environmental cleanup but also the importance of the economic development that went with it and was always available if an unusual circumstance arose which it often did. *Lynelle Caine, senior project manager, Stantec professional consulting services*

- **Kristin DuFresne**, Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist: "Thank you for forwarding the closure GB (Green Bay) and Western Closure Letter so quickly! You are a tremendous help as always!" *Jami D. Harrington, Business Development Specialist, City of Green Bay*

- Sent to **Roxanne Chronert**, Remediation and Redevelopment supervisor regarding **Diane Hansen**, Remediation and Redevelopment environmental program associate: "I just wanted to drop a note to let you know how much I have appreciated Diane's help with implementing the L6S process. As you know Diane was not an official RR Lean 6 Team Member, but I have asked her to review quite a few things lately (auto e-mail language, action code, language and other process flow documents). She has given Jim and me a lot of good and timely feedback. She is pretty humble about this kind of stuff and doesn't toot her own horn enough so..."TOOT, TOOT"! Give her a few extra stars for me on her PE and if she says she is swamped right now, it is all my fault!!! *Danielle Wincentsen, database manager, Remediation and Redevelopment*

- **To All Who Attended**: I'd like to thank the entire crew for the two days of marking on Oneida County Forest. Your assistance is much appreciated. Also, thanks again to Phil Puestow for his hospitality in feeding and housing the masses. We estimate approximately 275-300 acres were marked. Once again, I apologize for the quality of the wood, but hey, ya' can't fight Mother Nature!! (You can also blame Tim Friedrich - he's the one who picked this). We will try to get some decent wood for next year, although working in the Lynne/Little Rice block we are limited. Thanks again!! *Paul Fiene, assistant forest director, Oneida County Forestry Department*

- I was just looking at the notes for next Monday's DLT meeting. I think it is great that Bridgestone is providing a temporary drop off location for tires found on public lands. Sounds like a great deal for all, and kudos to Forester **Shelley Wrzochalski** for making the contact with Bridgestone! **Pat Stevens**, administrator, Air, Waste, and Remediation & Development Division

- Please accept my thanks (Northeast Region parks) for your participation and help with our Walk with Mrs. Walker hike to LaSalle Falls and reception at the Visitor Center. It was a beautiful day and the falls seemed very full and extra spectacular for this time of year. Mrs. Walker added very nice [blog](#) comments to her [website](#) this week and the Dept. of Tourism folks added some photos. We got good coverage of the event in the Daily News, Mining News and on the TV6 website. I also sent a news release to the newnorth News which has a large email distribution list throughout the 18 counties of northeast WI. Thanks again for being a part of our

friendly, welcoming Florence County group that day. I really appreciate your time. Take care” *Wendy Gehlhoff, director, Fond du Lac Economic Development Commission*

• “I just returned from a vacation to Door County. I was lucky enough to visit Peninsula State Park and Whitefish Dunes State Park. I wanted to let you know how much fun I had. I know there are a lot of things about both parks you have no control over: the beautiful fall colors, the incredible coast lines, the limestone bluffs, the amazing wildlife, but I still wanted to thank you for the great time I had driving and walking through the parks. The **rangers and staff** I talked to were very helpful and kind, the trails and roads were well marked and maintained. I cannot thank you enough for making my bird watching vacation a huge success, even with the freezing temperatures and bone chilling wind, this Phoenix native had a great time in your parks!

• **Kathy Sylvester** and **Raquel Sanchez**, Remediation and Redevelopment Program: “ **Roxanne (Chronert)** I am writing this message to make you aware of the outstanding efforts put forth by Kathy Sylvester and Raquel Sanchez the past two weeks in assisting John Krahling with sampling at the Milwaukee Solvay Coke & Gas Company site under the Superfund Site Assessment Program. Kathy and Raquel tagged-teamed and served as sample custodians on this extremely challenging site that required the use of a new and unfamiliar EPA software program called Scribe. This site was challenging due to the complexity of the sampling conducted and the use of multiple laboratories while trying to become familiar with the new software program. Kathy’s knowledge of the site assessment process and procedures and Raquel’s knowledge of computer programs were invaluable in this effort. Kathy and Raquel exceeded their responsibilities in an effort to assist a project manager in another region and should be recognized for their outstanding efforts.” **Loren A. Brumberg**, *Remediation & Redevelopment Program*

• **Annette Weissbach** and **Alan Nass**, Remediation and Redevelopment Program: “I wanted to thank you both (albeit belatedly) for your help in August concerning my client’s request for a liability clarification letter for the above site. While others in my law firm frequently interface with the DNR, I only do so periodically. It was such a pleasant experience. Throughout the entire process, you were available to answer procedural questions and help me to better understand the practical considerations at play. This allowed me to keep my client (the potential purchaser) meaningfully apprised of your progress and the anticipated conclusions. The liability clarification letter was delivered ahead of schedule and provided just the certainty my client needed to continue moving forward with the transaction. It is evident that you take pride in your work, and the end-result in this case is a very positive impression of the DNR for me and my out of state client. Good for you and good for the State of Wisconsin. Thank you again.” *Lawrence J. Glusman, Friebert, Finerty & St. John, S.C.*

• “Thank you to **Kristin Dufresne** and **Robert Klauk** (Remediation and Redevelopment hydrogeologist) for their help in overseeing a Leaking underground storage tank site in Marinette, WI. Both Kristin and Robert went above and beyond the call of duty in their handling of the numerous requests and assistance in discussions with a local attorney.” *Ted W. Hoff, ABR, CRS, GRI, SRES; Broadway Real Estate of WI, Inc.*

• **Annette Weissbach** (hydrogeologist): “A big THANK YOU for presenting to my Perspectives in Environmental Science and Policy graduate class on redevelopment issues--cleaning up and reusing contaminated properties in downtowns and areas already serviced by infrastructure. It’s really great for the students to get exposed to people working in the applied world. I think they learned a lot and really enjoyed what you had to share.” *Patrick Robinson, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*

• **Liz Victor**, Oshkosh Remediation & Redevelopment hydrogeologist: “Thank you again for your time and attention to the WE Energies Waldo Substation Final Closure Letter. Your assistance in getting this closed out has been greatly appreciated. Thanks again, *Frank Dombrowski, senior environmental consultant, WE Energies*

• A big thank you **to all** who assisted with timber marking on the Oconto County Forest. We certainly rely on the help of our neighbors to accomplish the marking. As of yesterday, we finished marking the last sale intended for the fall bid opening. I will send out the bid results sometime in December. Thanks again” **Ryan Severson**, *forester*

### **South Central Region success story**

“A well-earned thank you to the following people who helped make Saturday’s tour of the former Badger Army Ammunition Plant a huge success! This was a true team effort that made many people very happy. I hope you were able to hear some of the stories from people on the tour. Many memories! I received countless “thank yous” for this tour opportunity and almost as many people asking when the next tour would be. Final car count was 1,177; we had to start turning cars away by 3:15 to have everyone off the property by 4:00. I think we would have had a steady stream of traffic all weekend had we been open Sunday. Thanks again to everyone - it was a great day!”

**Diane Brusoe**, *wildlife and fisheries planner, Bureau of Facilities and Lands*

**Kaylin Helm**, **Steve Miller**, **Carolyn Betz**, **Connie Scott**, **Craig Karr**, **Steve Schmelzer**, **Ryder Will**, **Jim Carter**, **Paul Zajackowski**, **Brigit Brown**, **Mike Mossman** (and family), **Jean Unmuth**, **Mark Aquino**, **Bob Manwell**, **Andy Haffele**, **Lydia Meisenburg**, **Jonah Moline** and **Jenny Hudson-Stanek**

### **Southeast Region success story**

“Dear **Kettle Moraine Park and Ice Age Center**, I am so grateful for the kind hearted people that all were willing to take time out of their day to help a girl find her lost ipod. I recently visited the Kettle Moraine Park for a field trip

to study the landforms created by glaciers years ago. I forgetfully brought my ipod, which I wasn't supposed to bring. I ended up throwing it in my lunch bag and then I threw it away. Thankfully, when I got home I was proactive enough to call the Ice Age visitors Center and told them how I lost my ipod. At the time, I did not know that I had thrown it away, but when I did remember the whole incident, you were all kind enough to promise to look through the dumpster, where my school had thrown our trash. Days passed and eventually the ranger (note: **Kathi Kramasz**) of the park went down to Long Lake campground, looked through the trash and found my red ipod. I am so thankful that the folks down at Kettle Moraine Park and Ice Age Center were thoughtful enough to find my ipod. So, again thank you and I hope to visit there soon. Sincerely" *Natalie Brancaccio*

### **Statewide success stories**

• The DNR's Air & Waste 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: "[DNR Air, Waste, Remediation and Redevelopment Division Success Stories July—September 2012](#)" **Pat Stevens**, administrator of the Division of WASTE

• "I recently visited my local Gander Mountain retail location to purchase a Wisconsin small game hunting license in advance of a trip east in search of ruffed grouse and woodcock.

"Is this the first time you've purchased a hunting license in Wisconsin," the Gander Mountain clerk asked.

"I annually buy a fishing license during visits with my brother's family in Rhinelander, Wisconsin, but this was indeed the first Wisconsin [hunting license](#) of my life.

"It turns out Wisconsin has a fantastic promotion to help encourage hunter recruitment in which all first time hunting licenses are sold at a 50 percent discount. In other words, my non-resident small game hunting license cost me \$42.75 instead of the normal \$85 charge. In fact, Wisconsin residents buying their first adult small game license are only charged \$5.

"The following note appears on my license:

"Thank you for your license purchase. Wisconsin implemented a Recruitment Program that offers incentives to first time participants and the individuals who recruited them into hunting, fishing, and trapping. You paid a reduced license fee since it was either your first time purchasing this type of license or you haven't purchased one within the last 10 years. This recruitment program also gives you the opportunity to recognize the individual who encouraged you to participate in this activity. If you would like to designate the person who recruited you, call the DNR at 1.888.936.7463. Enjoy Wisconsin's great outdoors."

"Another nice nugget about Wisconsin is the fact their ruffed grouse hunting season remains open across the state's northern range through January 31st. That's an extra thirty days of late season bird hunting when compared to neighboring states Minnesota and Michigan's grouse season. I'm already planning a snowshoe hunt in January.

"Wisconsin can consider this bird hunter hooked for life."

NOTE: A pheasant stamp (resident or non-resident) costs an additional \$10. *Bob St. Pierre, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever's president of marketing.* You can read more from St. Pierre's blog "[The Pointer.](#)"

• Addressed to Water Resources Management Specialist **Scott Provost** and Program and Policy Analyst **Buzz (Patrick) Sorge**: "I'm proud to report that your Division is being awarded Outstanding Supporting Organization by the Wisconsin Association of RC&Ds ([Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council](#))

"We at Golden Sands RC&D nominated the **DNR Division of Water Quality** in honor of the amazing support that you two (and many of your colleagues) give to programs like ours. (See attached [nomination](#).) It is a partnership worthy of acknowledgement, and this award is just a token of our great appreciation.

"The Wisconsin Association of RC&Ds will be holding its annual meeting this Thursday, Oct 25th, from 10am - 1pm, with awards given out at 11:30am. We invite you to join us to receive your award on behalf of the Division. Please RSVP to me by end of the day Tuesday, so we know if you'll be coming." In sincere appreciation," *Amy Thorstenson, Executive Director/Regional AIS Coordinator, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.*

### **West Central Region success story**

Land Agent Lynne Tomlinson, received this [thank-you note](#) from the granddaughter of a Wisconsin property owner whose land recently became part of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area.



## First conservation commissioner's portrait now hangs in GEF 2

By: Tim Gary, Wisconsin State Assembly staff

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If you frequent G09 on the ground floor of GEF 2 during Natural Resource Board meetings or noon workout sessions, you may have noticed an addition at the far right end of the row of portraits hanging on the wall. Elmer S. Hall, the first and last one-man commissioner of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, has assumed his rightful place among those who led the commission, the Wisconsin Conservation Department and the Department of Natural Resources.



Great grandson Tim Gary hung Elmer Hall's photo on the wall of the Natural Resources Board's meeting room G09 on August 28, 2012. DNR Photo

Born in 1866 in New London, Hall served Wisconsin in a variety of local and statewide posts. You can read a summary of his illustrious career at the ["Green Bay Mayors Past"](#) website.

At the turn of the 20th century, Hall and his family of four daughters and a son were living in Green Bay. Two daughters, Esther and Bess, and his son Taylor each gave him a grandson. Grandsons John Bie, Bob Hall and Bill Gary shared Elmer Hall's history with their own children, including Ave Bie, Mike Bie, Susan Hall and me (pictured here). Hall's role in state government played a prominent part in that history.

For years, my father told me how his grandpa Hall was a man who worked and rose from railroad clerk, to Brown County clerk, to Green Bay mayor, to secretary of state, to conservation commissioner and to state senator. Of all those accomplishments, Dad's story always focused with pride on Grandpa Elmer's role as the first man to serve as a singular conservation commissioner from 1924 to 1927.

During the 2010 discussion of how Wisconsin appoints its DNR secretaries, I was tasked, as a researcher for State Rep. Don Friske, to find out how the commissioners and secretaries were hired and fired since 1927. Spending my days at the Wisconsin State Historical Society, I found a colorful and compelling history that filled in a clear understanding for me of both Hall and Wisconsin conservation for decades to come.

In 1926, the Izzac Walton League and others in the Bob LaFollette progressive political bloc pushed a statewide referendum to place conservation commission director appointments with a board instead of the governor. Under the new rules, Gov. Fred Zimmerman's newly-appointed commission passed over Hall, Aldo Leopold and other more qualified candidates in favor of Louis Nagler, Zimmerman's executive secretary (at the Department of Administration). News accounts of the day referred to the governor's decision as an unpopular and political appointment.

Nagler had limited natural resource management experience himself. Thus began a long history of behind-the-scenes political hiring and firing of commissioners and secretaries by Wisconsin governors. Due in small part to this research, the 2009-10 Wisconsin State Assembly upheld Gov. Jim Doyle's veto of legislation that would have returned DNR secretary appointments to the Natural Resources Board.



Attending the hanging of Elmer Hall's photo were (left to right) Ave Bie, great granddaughter; Mike Bie, great grandson; Susan Hall, great granddaughter; Tim Gary, great grandson; and Secretary Cathy Stepp. DNR Photo In my current role, I work as the committee clerk for the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rep. Jeff Mursau. While sitting in meetings of the Natural Resources Board with Mursau, I regularly noticed my great grandfather Hall, the first solo commissioner/secretary was missing from the wall of pictured officials.

Bob Hall, also a grandson of Elmer Hall, was an anthropologist with the Wisconsin Historical Museum who studied Native American history throughout the American Midwest. Bob was also our family historian and maintained a large archive of family photographs, letters, records and artifacts, including those of Elmer Hall.

Bob became seriously ill about a year ago, and I regretted not placing time or effort while he was well to get a portrait of Elmer Hall to DNR. As Bob's health deteriorated, I wrote him a letter promising to try placing Elmer's portrait, and our family's shared commitment to accurate history, within DNR.

My family and I give special thanks to **Paul Heinen**, DNR policy initiatives advisor, and DNR Secretary **Cathy Stepp** who both embraced my family's request to get the picture placed in memory of Elmer Hall as well as Bob Hall's significant contributions to Wisconsin and Native American history.

This, I can say, is history coming full circle for me, my family and in memory of all public servants: past, present and yet to be.

**Footnote:** *Tim Gary is Elmer Hall's great grandson, Bill Gary's son, Bob Hall's cousin and Committee Clerk for the Wisconsin State Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.*



## Be ready to fall back when Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday

By: Wisconsin Emergency Management news release

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Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, November 4, as we "fall back" and set clocks back one hour. This is also a great time to check the things that keep us safe and ready for emergencies. [ReadyWisconsin](#) urges you to check these items:

**Smoke Detectors:** Check and replace batteries if needed and make sure the devices around your house are working properly. The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission estimates that about 16 million homes in the country have smoke alarms that do not work. In most cases, the batteries are dead or missing. Nearly 2,700 people die and more than 15,000 are injured each year because of fires that started in their homes.

**Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** Make sure you have CO detectors and they are working. According to the Centers for Disease Control, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States, with more than 20,000 people visiting the emergency room and nearly 500 killed each year from overexposure to the gas. All homes and duplexes in Wisconsin are required to have carbon monoxide detectors on every level including

the basement, but not the attic or storage areas. Any dwelling that required a building permit on or after February 1, 2011 is required to have carbon monoxide detectors directly wired to the electrical service with a backup battery. Other existing buildings can use stand-alone battery-powered detector.

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

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



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