Open Water Rule Clarified for Mississippi Duck Hunt

A CROSSE, Wis. — Faced in recent years with an increasing number of complaints about open water duck hunting on the Mississippi River, state and federal wildlife officials are working on a pre-season rule clarification — and a fair warning.

“Duck hunting on the Mississippi River is becoming more popular, attracting hunters from throughout Wisconsin,” said Dave Dewald, conservation supervisor with the Department of Natural Resources at La Crosse. “As a result, competition for hunting spots is increasing. Unfortunately, last fall we got a lot of complaints that some hunters were not following the rules regarding open water hunting.”

Under Wisconsin law, open water hunting is prohibited with the exception of specified water bodies such as Lake Winnebago, in northeast Wisconsin and Lake Pepin on the Mississippi.

The purpose of the rule is to direct hunters to the edges of water bodies and allow large numbers of ducks to rest and feed in open water during their fall migration, said Kent Van Horn, DNR migratory game bird ecologist.

“This provides benefits to the ducks in conserving energy resources and benefits the waterfowl hunter by keeping the ducks near open water,” Van Horn said. “Last year we saw several cases where hunters were setting-up in open water and introducing dead or flattened emergent vegetation to the bottom. This means duck hunters on the Mississippi must set up their blinds within 100 feet of shore or within concealing rushes or other emergent aquatic vegetation.

In an attempt to secure an unfair advantage, some hunters have set up beyond the 100-foot line, claiming that any visible vegetation meets the letter of the law. Because Wisconsin territorial waters lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, both the Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have jurisdiction over hunting practices.

Don Neilman of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, manager for the federal refuge, said federal rules governing hunting in the refuge are designed to mirror state regulations. That means any state violation is also a violation of federal law.

“Last year we saw several cases where hunters were setting-up in open water and introducing dead or flattened emergent vegetation to the bottom for concealment,” Neilman said. “We consider such actions a violation of the open water rules.”

Guides who engage in this practice risk losing their federal permit to operate commercially within the refuge, federal officials said.

“Where people got into trouble last year was misinterpreting the open water definition,” Dewald said. “If a duck is flying over the river toward you, and there is no vegetation rising to a height to conceal you from that duck, then you are in violation of the open water rule. I explain to people that if they are in vegetation that doesn’t rise above the gunwales of the boat, then the vegetation isn’t concealing you at all. We are asking people to be reasonable about this.”

INFO CONTACT: Steve Dewald, 608-785-9970.

Cleanup Finished on Popular Blatz Pavilion Lagoon in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE — The popular Blatz Pavilion lagoon in Milwaukee’s Lincoln Park has reopened for boating and fishing after mud containing PCBs was removed from it as part of a collaborative project between the Department of Natural Resources and Milwaukee County Parks.

Planning continued for a future project to clean up the adjacent Lincoln Park Lagoon and channel.

“We are very pleased to complete this important first step in restoring recreational opportunities in Lincoln Park,” says DNR Secretary Matt Frank. “The park has long been an important recreational spot for the local community and we are very excited about the work that allows people to enjoy it again.”

Contact with Milwaukee River water is no longer a problem for people boating in the lagoon as a result of the project. People fishing from 3-naw lagoon who want to eat their catch should follow the fish consumption advice for that stretch of the Milwaukee River.

Frank says that the $1.3 million project was possible because of state Great Lakes Program Funds that Gov. Jim Doyle and the Wisconsin Legislature provided to address the significant sources of toxic chemicals that have contaminated fish in Wisconsin’s major tributaries to the Great Lakes.

“This project, like the Kinnickinnic River cleanup announced last week, demonstrates Governor Doyle’s commitment to providing the resources to successfully address the contaminated sediment sites in the state and restore our natural resources for people to enjoy,” Frank said.

On July 20, Doyle announced a $24.4 million project to clean contaminated sediment from the Kinnickinnic River in Milwaukee. The state is leveraging about $7.7 million of state funds, earmarked in the current state budget, to secure $14 million in federal funds for the cleanup. The city of Milwaukee also is contributing money.

The Blatz Pavilion site was identified as a priority cleanup site by the DNR and the local community following a 2005 report by PCFB in the Estuarine Impoundment in Lincoln Park in Milwaukee, according to Ted Bosch, project engineer from the DNR Southeast Region. The risks posed by the site included skin contact and potential water ingestion by park users, and the consumption of too many contaminated fish from the river.

Infants and children of women who have eaten a lot of PCB-contaminated fish may have low birth weights and delayed physical and learning development. PCBs also may affect reproductive function and the immune system and are also associated with cancer risk.

The DNR conducted an environmental investigation of the river but was not able to determine a source that was responsible for the PCB contamination.

The Blatz project removed an estimated 300 pounds of PCBs in nearly 4,000 cubic yards of mud from the lagoon bottom. About 2,000 tons of the mud with higher concentrations of PCBs were shipped out of state to a chemical waste landfill. About 3,500 tons of low level sediment were disposed in a local solid waste landfill, Bosch says.

The lagoon bottom was restored with sand and gravel and improvements were made to the lagoon waterfront, Bosch says. The DNR, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Milwaukee County, and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sanitary District all provided supervision for the contractor performing the work.

The experience DNR staff gained on other sediment remediation projects, including the Lower Fox River project, resulted in the success of the Blatz Pavilion lagoon project, according to Greg Hill who leads the DNR’s statewide contaminated sediment management program.

That expertise will be important as the DNR and Milwaukee County tackle the larger cold water cleanup project the must be done in the adjacent Lincoln Park Lagoon and channel.

The DNR is developing a project plan with Milwaukee County to design and implement this next project.

INFO CONTACT: Greg Hill - (608) 267-9032.
Testimony Before the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on the Regulation of Ballast Water in the Great Lakes

September 23, 2008

Chair Thomas, Members of the Natural Resources Board, Secretary Frank:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak before you today not only on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation but also the National Wildlife Federation, the Wisconsin Federation of Great Lake Sport Fishing Clubs, the Wisconsin Council of Sport Fishing Organizations, the River Alliance of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, Walleya for Tomorrow, Midwest Environmental Advocates, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Winnibago Land Conservation Alliance, Wisconsin Environment and Lakeshore Fisherman Sports Club Ltd about the regulation of ballast water discharges into the Great Lakes by international ships.

In December of last year groups petitioned the Natural Resources Board to use its current authority under the Wisconsin Clean Water Act to regulate these discharges. These organizations and their members have been greatly impacted by the scores of aquatic invasive species and viruses that have been discharged into Great Lakes waters and had serious adverse impact on fisheries and water quality.

We greatly appreciate Department staff appearing before the Board at your February meeting and relating their concerns with the direction of the petition and indicating to the Board the Department's intent to regulate the ballast water from international ships.

We appreciate the opportunity to update you on the issue and to encourage the Department in its efforts to have an effective regulatory program in place before the 2009 Great Lakes shipping season.

One of the concerns raised about a Wisconsin ballast water regulatory program was that it not be in significant conflict with regulations of your counterpart in Minnesota, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Seriously conflicting regulations could cause serious disruption in the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

Well, there is good news on that front. Yesterday, your counterpart, the Minnesota Pollution Control Board had before it the attached Minnesota Ballast Water Discharge General Permit regulating the discharge of ballast water into Minnesota waters of the Great Lakes. The several conservation and environmental groups that petitioned the Board in December strongly encourage you to have in place a Wisconsin Clean Water Act permit before the 2009 shipping season in order to avoid the situation whereby an international ship avoids the Minnesota regulations by discharging its ballast water on the Superior side of the Duluth-Superior Harbor.

At one point it had been hoped that there would be new Federal legislation establishing a strong system that would cause a consistent and effective discharge regulatory program throughout the Great Lakes. The House of Representatives has adopted a new regulatory program but it is very evident that the US Senate will not be doing so during the remainder of the current Congressional term.

In conclusion, Wisconsin law is clear that it is illegal for these international ships to discharge ballast water into the Great Lakes. The petitioning conservation and environmental organizations request that the Department fully assure that a sound regulatory program be put in place in Wisconsin waters of the Great Lakes prior to the 2009 shipping season.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you today.

Submitted by:

George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Executive Director Activity

Forest Service Closes 2294 Miles of Road

By George Meyer, Executive Director

On September 25th, the US Forest Service announced its decision to close 2294 miles of roads in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to motorized travel. This followed a two-year process of evaluation including an environmental analysis of the use of the roads. The roads will be officially closed in 2009 and will be shown on maps that will be issued in January 2009.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation objected to the Forest Service going forward with the road closures because there has been inadequate public involvement to determine the impact of the closures on hunting, fishing and trapping on the Forest. While the Forest Service held public meetings on the road closures, they were all held in Northern Wisconsin and there was no significant public outreach to the many thousand recreational users of the Forest in Southern and Central Wisconsin.

The Service has said that future comments from recreational users will be evaluated and additional roads may be opened in subsequent years. However any comments from hunters this fall who find that the roads that they use are going to be closed, will not be evaluated and potentially kept open in 2009, the first time they may be open would be in the 2010 fall hunting season.

The Service said that in 2009 education of users will be employed on the 2,296 miles that are going to be closed rather than enforcement. However when further pressed on the issue, a Service representative stated that if in 2009 an individual using a “closed” road continued to hunt on that road or returned to it, a citation would likely be issued.

As a result of the inadequate public involvement process is that it is likely that thousands of Wisconsin hunters are unaware that the Forest Service is closing the roads that they use for hunting access. The DNR has expressed concerns that the reduction of hunting access may reduce the deer harvest on the Forest.

The Wildlife Federation has slated Tony Erba, Deputy Superintendent of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to speak at the Federation’s October 11th Board meeting at 11 am in the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point. The presentation is open to all WWF members and the general public. The Federation will discuss its future actions, if any, regarding the road closures later in the meeting.

Great Lakes Compact Passes US House

On September 24, 2008, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Great Lakes Compact. The Compact is an agreement between the eight states bordering the Great Lakes to limit the diversion of water out of the Great Lakes Basin. The vote in the House of Representatives was 390 in favor of the Compact to 25 opposed.

The Compact now goes to the President’s desk for his signature. He has already indicated his support for the bill. All eight of the Great Lakes states need to adopt regulations detailing how it will be implemented in the individual states. As an example, in Wisconsin it has been stated that up to thirteen different sets of rules must be adopted to fully implement the legislation.

The Compact had previously been adopted by all eight Great Lakes state legislatures and signed by the eight Governors and passed by the US Senate. This is a phenomenal success over the last 1.5 years. This occurred because of the major public support for protecting the Great Lakes including the overwhelming support of anglers, hunters and trappers. Great job!
Ontario Joins Wisconsin In Wildfire Readiness

FOND DU LAC - Rosendale Dairy Inc. has received approval from the Department of Natural Resources for a Wisconsin Forestry Discharge Exclusion System (WFDES) permit for a new dairy operation located at N 8997 County Road M in the Town of Rosendale in Fond du Lac County.

Rosendale Dairy will be a new dairy operation to be located on 100 acres formerly used for row crops and forage production. The facility will require roughly 3,350 acres of cropland for landspreading manure.

The project is proposed to occur in two phases. The first phase, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008, will include construction of a firefighting barn, a milking parlor, a sand separator and handling facility, manure and feed handling storage facilities, leachate and runoff collection, and two stormwater management basins. The facilities will include 4,000 dairy cows and 150 beef steers for a total of 5,750 Animal Units.

This project will allow Wisconsin to continue to improve the environmental and public health benefits derived from using water bombers in the management of wildfires. Water bombers are substantially more effective in aquatic ecosystems than ground-based fire suppression strategies

EPA Tightens Engine Standards on Surf and Turf

WASHINGTON D.C. - Sept. 4, 2008 - From lawn mowers and wood trimmers, to personal watercraft and speedboats, gas-powered engines will soon contribute to relatively cleaner air for Americans.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set strict new standards for gas-powered lawn and garden equipment, personal watercraft, and marine engines, enhancing public health (especially by substantially reducing the amount of gas fumes, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and smog-forming pollutants emit-

EPA Release 9/08

EPA plans call for 11,500 animals by 2010

EPA analy and work with stakeholders, EPA determined this strategy was feasible and safe. This regulation also includes the first national standards for boats powered by stroke engines, personal watercraft and marine engines with single-cylinder engines powered by four or more stroke engines. EPA said Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

“With almost 25 million recreational boaters in the United States, this rule is an important first step toward improving air quality and the quality of life for the people who enjoy our waters,” Johnson said. “This action is also an important step in meeting our long-standing commitment to reduce emissions from non-road equipment.”

The rule will reduce the amount of nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions, which cause smog and fine particle pollution. The rule also will reduce carbon monoxide emissions from small boats and watercraft.

EPA’s new engine standards will allow Americans to cut air pollution as well as grass,” said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. “These standards help fight smog in our neighborhoods and waterways as we continue to improve the environmental landscape.”

This is the first time that EPA has used the same standards for small boats and lawn and garden equipment. EPA has set the same standards for boats with engines of 25 horsepower or less. For a full range of gas-powered personal watercraft and insect and outdoor equipment, the EPA’s rule takes effect in January 2010.

The rule requires that new engines manufactured after January 1, 2010, be certified to comply with the new standards. This rule also updates EPA’s previous standards for emissions from small boats and watercraft.

EPA also has established new national standards for more powerful engines on small boats and watercraft.

Analyses of the new standards showed that small boats and watercraft powered by engines of 25 or more horsepower will be able to reduce emissions of carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides by 93 percent and 70 percent, respectively, compared to current standards.

The new standards will also cut emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and hydrocarbons to zero. These emissions can contribute to the formation of smog.

The new standards will also cut emissions of particulate matter (PM) and sulfur oxides (SOX) to zero. These emissions can contribute to the formation of particulate matter and acid rain.

The new standards will also cut emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen oxides (NOX) to zero. These emissions can contribute to the formation of smog.
# 2009 Conservation Calendar

$100,000 in Retail Gifts and Prizes

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.wiwf.org

## Odds of Winning - 1 in 28 (365 prizes)

**$20.00 Donation**
A gift for all occasions

### This Month’s Prize Identification

| January 4 | Browning A-Bolt Hunter 30-06 |
| February 7 | Rem 750 308 |
| March 12 | Savage 16FXP3 300 wsm Combo |
| April 9 | Mossberg Silver Reserve 12 ga |
| May 11 | Browning 895 Stalker 12 ga |
| June 5 | Browning A-Bolt Med 325 wsm |
| July 15 | Benelli Super Nova Camo 12 ga |
| August 14 | Rem 552 BDL 22lr |
| September 14 | Henry Golden Box 12LR |
| October 9 | Rem 1187 Sportsman 12 ga |
| November 7 | Tikka T3 lite 55270 wsm |
| December 20 | Weatherby Vanguard Deluxe 30-06 |

### Calendar Sales Persons and Locations

- W.W.F. Office, W7303 County Road CS & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690
  - 608-635-2742, include $2.00 mailing fee

- **Rhode-Plymouth Field & Stream**
  - Plymouth
  - W.W.F. Office

- **At & Connie Pribnow**
  - 715-774-3301
  - Port Wing

- **WWF Office**
  - 608-635-2742
  - Poynette

- **$2.00 Shipping/Handling when ordered from W.W.F. Office**

### Calendar Sales Persons and Locations

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- **Sitka Blacktail**
  - Tikka T3 lite 55270 wsm
  - Portland

- **Weatherby Sportsman Deluxe**
  - 30-06
  - Portland

- **Benelli Super Nova Camo**
  - 12 ga
  - Portland

- **Henry Golden Box 12LR**
  - Portland

- **Rem 1187 Sportsman 12 ga**
  - Portland

- **Tikka T3 lite 55270 wsm**
  - Portland

- **Weatherby Vanguard Deluxe 30-06**
  - Portland
W.W.F. 2008 Scholarship Recipients

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point
College of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is a Wisconsin federation or organizations and individuals devoted to hunting, fishing, trapping, and other outdoor activities. They are also devoted to education, serving its members, the people of Wisconsin and the nation, for today and the future by becoming a stronger, more effective, and recognized force for the sustainable use and protection of natural resources. The WWF has a long history of promoting environmental education. They led the nation in distribution of Wildlife Week kits, sponsored teacher training programs for Project WILD, are starting a new youth conservation camp, and are also starting a program to financially assist students doing research in natural resources. – Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Recipients

Pictured are: (front row left-right) Eddie Shea, Joanna Bietka, Paul Cigan; (back row left-right) Ashley Oldakowski, Scholarship Committee Chairperson Betty Schneider-Borchert, and Lacey Hill.

William Aberg Scholarship
Lacey Hill
Saxon, WI
Wildlife Ecology & Management

This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of the late William J. P. Aberg, a founder of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the National Wildlife Federation, who was instrumental in the writing and passage of such basic conservation acts as the establishment of a citizen policy body to determine natural resource management policy, forestry protection and development through a state mill tax and forest-crop law, acquisition of Horicon Marsh, and acquisition of national forest areas in Wisconsin. He served with distinction for two terms on the former Wisconsin Conservation Commission, now the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board.

William Peterburs Jr. Scholarship
Joanna Bietka
Ashland, WI
Forest Management

Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management

William “Bill” Peterburs, long-time Associate Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, died on November 30, 1995. Bill, an avid waterfowler and outdoorsman, was known throughout the state and nation for his work to ban the use of lead shot in waterfowl hunting. He led the fight for steel shot at a considerable cost of time and money to himself and his family. He had a cause to fight for and won.

J. L. Schneider Memorial Scholarship
Paul Cigan
Chippewa Falls, WI
Urban Forestry

This scholarship is dedicated to the memory of the late J. L. Schneider. J. L. believed that you were never too old to learn, for no one man knew everything and we can all learn from each other. He was a dairy farmer who worked with the soil conservation department, a pioneer in strip and terrace farming. When he wasn’t farming he was teaching hunter’s safety for 35 years. He also taught 4-H nature study and worked at Poynette Game Farm, Marsh Haven, and Horicon Marsh on research projects and teaching about nature. J. L. firmly believed that education is a never ending experience and the earth was ours to protect and care for. J. L. was a man that people looked up to and admired.

Les Woerpel Scholarship
Guy Carlson
New Richmond, WI
Urban Forestry

“There is more to do than has already been done, and it needs to be done by cooperation, understanding and hard work. May the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation continue to grow and prosper so that these ends may be met.” – Leslie “Les” Woerpel.

Les was involved in conservation on the national level through papers authored on pheasant management, pesticide use, water and water rights, and was an avid proponent of the Wilderness and Multiple Use and Sustained Yields Acts. On the state and local level, his efforts helped establish the Chequamegon and Nicolet Forests and the George W. Mead Wildlife Area as well as the reintroduction of the prairie chicken in the Buena Vista Marsh. Les was commended by Governor Nelson and Knoules and by President Nixon for his leadership.

Richard Hemp Memorial Scholarship
Ashley Oldakowski
Sobieski, WI
Wildlife Ecology & Management

This scholarship is given to a student meeting the basic criteria of good academic standing, an anti-hunter, and majoring in Forestry or Wildlife. In addition, the student should be interested in the field of outdoor journalism.

Mackenzie Center Haunted Hay Ride

Friday and Saturday
October 24-25th, 2008

6:30 pm till 9:30 pm

$5.00 per adult
$3.00 kids age 8 and under

Admission includes snacks, campfire and the haunted hay ride.

Dress appropriately for the weather.

Location:
MacKenzie Environmental Education Center;
W7303 Co Road CS; Poynette, WI

Only 25 miles north of Madison! 608-653-8105
www.wiwf.org/education/mec

Hosted by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation,
The Friends of the Mackenzie Center and
the WI Dept of Natural Resources
### Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Affiliate Clubs & Organizations

<table>
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**American Wild Turkey Hunting Dog Assoc**
- BondUEL | Ashland/Bayfield County Sportsmen
- Washburn | Assoc. Con Clubs Trempeleau Co
- Whitehall |

**Badger Dachshund Club Inc**
- Franklin |

**Badger Fishermen's League**
- Menomonee Falls |

**Brice Prairie Conservation Association**
- LaCrosse |

**Brown Conservation All**
- Green Bay |

**Carter Creek Sportsmen's Club**
- Harford |

**Central WI Conservation Assoc**
- Sparta |

**Central WI Gun Collectors Assoc Inc**
- Suring |

**Central WI Shoot to Retrieve**
- Appleton |

**Challenge The Outdoors Inc**
- Green Bay |

**Columbia County Sporting Alliance**
- Portage |

**Crystal Lake Sportsmen Club, Inc.**
- Plymouth |

**Dane County Conservation League**
- Middleton |

**Dodge County Sporting Conserv Alliance**
- Mayville |

**Door Co Fish Farm & Game Club**
- Sturgeon Bay |

**Douman County Fish & Game Assoc.**
- Menomonee |

**Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club**
- Eau Claire |

**Farmers & Sportsman's Club**
- Sheboygan |

**Field & Stream Sportsmen Club**
- Fond du Lac |

**Fort Atkinson Wiscoservation Club**
- Fort Atkinson |

**Friends of MacKenzie Center**
- Pouyetta |

**GB Great Lakes Sport Fishermen**
- Green Bay |

**Great Lakes Sport Fishermen Ozaukee Chapter - West Bend**
- Mequon |

**Manitowoc County Fish & Game Protective Assoc - Whitelaw**
- Manitowoc |

**Mosinee Sportsman's Alliance**
- Mosinee |

**National Wildlife Federation**
- Ann Arbor |

**Oakland Conservation Club**
- Cambridge |

**Oconomowoc Sportman's Club Inc**
- Oconomowoc |

**Prairie du Chien Rod and Gun Club**
- Prairie du Chien |

**Prairie Sportsmen's Club**
- Sheboygan |

**Protective Assoc - Whitelaw**
- Whitelaw |

**Racine County Like Rifle Club Inc**
- Oak Creek |

**Richtfield Sportmen's Club**
- Richtfield |

**River Valley Chapter of the NWTF**
- Portage |

**Sheboygan Co Conservation Assoc**
- Plymouth |

**Slinger Sportman Club**
- Slinger |

**Star Prairie Fish & Game Assn**
- Menasha |

**Sparta Rod & Gun Club**
- Sparta |

**Trempealeau Sportsmen's Club**
- Trempealeau |

**Tri-County Sportswomen's Club**
- Fond du Lac |

**Twin City Rod & Gun Club**
- New Richmond |

**Waubeshe Co Conservation All**
- Neenah |

**Wisconsin Bowfishing Association**
- Stevens Point |

**Wisconsin Trapshooters Association**
- Blak River |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Appleton |

**Winnebago County Conservation Assoc**
- Winnebago |

**Winnebago Sportsman's Club**
- Green Bay |

**Wisconsin Waterfowl Association**
- Portage |

**Wolin Rod & Gun Club**
- Wilton |

**Wolin Wildlife Society, WI Chapter**
- Madison |

**Wolin Sportsman Club**
- Keshena |

**Winnebago County Conservation Assoc**
- Fond du Lac |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Appleton |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Goodland |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Milwaukee |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Sheboygan |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Edgerton |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Green Bay |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Lloyd |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Milwaukee |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Neenah |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Oshkosh |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Sheboygan |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Waukesha |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Washington |

**Wisconsin Wildlife Federation**
- Wisconsin |
Fish Passage Program Solves Dam Problems

As Wisconsin prepares to conduct public hearings on a proposal to remove trumpeter swans from the state threatened and endangered species list, wildlife officials are still cautioning waterfowl hunters that they need to be careful in identifying all birds before shooting.

"Accidental or intentional shooting continues to be a significant cause of death for our recovering population of trumpeter swans," says Sumner Matteson, an avian ecologist with the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Matteson says that about 120 endangered trumpeter swans nested in Wisconsin this year, and wildlife officials estimate the total population of free-flying trumpeter swans in the state at about 600. Many of the swans are immatures, so they have not yet developed their signature white feathers and have a more grayish plumage. Any person who misidentifies their game."

In addition to trumpeter swans, Wisconsin also has a growing population of about 70 endangered whooping cranes (21 more pending requests for introduction this fall) and both the swans and cranes will soon begin fall migrations.

Whooping cranes also have snow white plumage with the exception of black wing tips (wings appear entirely white, when not in flight) and a black mask. They are 5 feet tall with a 7 to 8 foot wing span, and weigh up to 17 pounds. Juveniles have a plumage that is heavily saddled with cinnamon-brown feathers.

Whooping cranes are currently found in wetlands in numerous central Wisconsin counties, National Natural Resources Office Visitor Requirements

The trumpeter swan recovery program has been so successful that the department is proposing to remove the species from the state threatened and endangered species list. A proposed rule will delete trumpeter swan from the Wisconsin endangered species list and the osprey from the Wisconsin threatened species list. A public hearing on the proposal will be held October 20 at 4 p.m. in Room 609, Natural Resources State Office Building, Madison — "The proposed removal of the osprey and trumpeter swan from the state list would not have been possible without the many conservation partnerships between private organizations, businesses, agencies, and federal and tribal governments that have helped restore populations of these birds. Both species are now listed as having "recovered species.""

The unintentional shooting of a protected swan or crane can result in fines and restitution costs exceeding $2,000; the intentional shooting of a swan can exceed $5,000 in fines and restitution costs. Additionally, hunters found guilty of shooting a trumpeter swan can lose their hunting privileges for up to three years.

Since the swan reintroduction program began, more than 30 Wisconsin trumpeter swans have been shot accidentally or intentionally in the Midwest, Matteson says. "Hunters have done a great job in learning the differences between swans and geese, but with the growing number of swans in the state, we need to remind them to stay vigilant in identifying their game."

The Trumpeter swan recovery program, which began in 1987 that involved collecting trumpeter swan eggs from Alaska, and then hatching and rearing the swans for release in Wisconsin. The trumpeter cranes are members of a growing population that has primarily remained within the lower two-thirds of the state along major Wisconsin rivers and wetlands, and in the corral near the rearing facilities at the Neal Holland National Wildlife Refuge.

New Department of Natural Resources Office Visitor Requirements

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will begin offering state-of-the-art facilities to visitors at the Natural Resources Office Visitor Centers across the state.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Expands Hunting and Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has added one national wildlife refuge to the list of areas open for hunting during the 2008-09 season and increased hunting opportunities at six other refuges.

The refuges in Wisconsin that allow hunting are Agassiz Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, shown below, which the Service managed the land in 2008 because of a lawsuit and subsequent court decision requiring some refuges to revise Environmental Assessments to incorporate cumulative impact analyses.

The Geese of Horicon

While geese are the main fall attraction, Volkert says, "Each fall Horicon Marsh state wildlife area attracts a special memory or creates a family heirloom. "I feel very blessed to be a natural resource assistant upland wildlife ecologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. "These events did not occur statewide, but probably did have an impact on local brood survival."

Each year, DNR staff report the number and size of game birds they observe in the field from June 15 through August 23. At the end of the survey period, these reports, known as the 15-Week Brood Survey are compiled and summarized by the wildlife research program.

Turkeys

Turkeys showed a 12 percent decrease in the number of broods seen per observer and an 8 percent decrease in the size of the broods seen. All of the DNR field personnel averaged 3.5 turkey broods seen during the survey period, down from 4.0 broods per observer in 2007.

"But this was still well above the long-term mean of 1.6 broods seen," Fandel notes.

The average size of a brood seen in 2008 was 4.5 young per brood, while in 2007 the average brood size was 4.9 young per brood.

"While statewide averages show only a slight decline in turkey brood production, heavy sustained rains early in the brood season, as well as the southeastern parts of the state likely had an impact on local production," she says.

Phoebens

Fandel says phoebas did not fair as well as turkeys from the early June rains and most of Wisconsin's primarily phoebe range was affected by these weather events.

"Pheasant numbers will be down this fall compared to last fall's hunting season. The number of pheasant broods seen per observer was down 42 percent from last year, and 52 percent below the long-term average," she says.

Average size of the brood was down as well with 4.5 young per brood in 2008 compared to 5.1 in 2007. The Rural Mail Carrier and the Spring Brooding Pheasant surveys both also showed a decrease in the number of brooding pheasants in the spring of 2008. Production is additionally likely impact ed by declining grassland habitat throughout the pheasant range.

Ruffed Grouse

The primary range for ruffed grouse, the Central and Northern forest portions of the state, were mostly spared from the heavy rain events of June. The average number of broods seen and the average size of the brood both increased 12 percent from 2007 levels.

DNR field personnel averaged 1.03 broods seen during the 2008 survey period, compared to 0.92 in 2007. Brood size was up as well with broods averaging 4.7 young per brood, 4.2 in 2007.

"There was also had an increase in the number of brooding ruffed grouse shown in the spring drumming counts," Fandel says. "While some areas of the state surely saw losses from spring rains, it appears that ruffed grouse numbers this fall will be better than in the previous three to four years and are well on their way to their cyclic high."
Corps of Engineers Logs Invasive Black Locust Trees on Goose Island, Wisconsin

S AINT PAUL, Minn. - A con-
tract for the US Army Corps of Engineers at St. Paul District bureau has awarded the logging of about 17 acres of southern end of Goose Island, Wis., in late September or October.

Black locust, a highly invasive species of tree, has become established on the island. "These non-native trees have no natural insect enemies or diseases here and crowd out native species," said Kurt Brownell, natural resources specialist.

The woody debris from logging will be gathered and incorporated into the soil to prepare the site for planting of native hardwood tree species in 2009.

The project is funded by a $38,500 grant the DNR received from the state budget times. The virus does not affect humans but it can infect and kill fish from the air next spring. Homeowners with gypsy moth on only individual yard trees can remove or oil the egg masses to help control next year’s population. Visit www.gypsy moth.wi.gov for instructions.

Federal Grant to Help Wisconsin Test for Deadly Fish Disease

M ADISON – The Department of Natural Resources has received a $13,174 grant from the federal government to sample fish in 2009 for viral fish disease.

"This is a good and usually indicates a lesser gypsy moth problem in 2009," said Bill McNee, another Regional Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator with the DNR. "However, not all communities had this mortality, and some may be spraying because their populations have actually risen." Most notably, populations have risen in south-east Wisconsin, Waukesha County, and north-west Brown County.

For more information visit [www.gypsymoth.wi.gov](http://www.gypsymoth.wi.gov) or call 1-800-642-MOTH (6684) for help.

October 2008

WISCONSERVATION

WRAP TEXT

The Department of Natural Resources offers a Suppression Spray Program to control flies in the eastern half of Wisconsin that are suffering from oil and paint moth trees can remove or oil the egg masses to help control next year’s population. Visit www.gypsy moth.wi.gov for instructions.

Now is the time for property owners to look for gypsy moth egg masses to prevent the population size next year. The egg masses are tan-colored, about the size of a nick-

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Environmental Enforcement

Marshfield DoorSystems, Inc. Agrees to Pay $30,000 Fine for Violating State Air Pollution Control Laws

MADISON – The Wisconsin Department of Justice has settled a lawsuit against Marshfield DoorSystems, Inc. for violations of state air pollution control laws at its Wood County door manufacturing facility in late 2006 and early 2007.

According to the complaint, filed at the request of the Department of Natural Resources, Marshfield DoorSystems installed new equipment at the plant in November of 2006, and when it conducted the required emission stack test the following month, it failed to meet the emissions limits in its permit. It implemented corrective measures in January of 2007, and when it conducted another stack test in March, the air emissions were found to be in compliance with the permit.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Marshfield DoorSystems has agreed to pay penalties and assessments totaling $30,000 for the violations. Marshfield DoorSystems will continue to work with the DNR to make sure that Wisconsin’s environmental laws are followed.

Assistant Attorney General Shari Eggleson prosecuted the case. The settlement was approved by Wood County Circuit Court Judge James M. Mason.

Jackson County Well Drilling Company to Pay $8,000 Fine for Improperly Constructed Wells

MADISON – The Department of Justice has settled a lawsuit against Jackson County Well Drilling, LLC, of Black River Falls for violations of state laws regulating well drilling operations.

According to the complaint, filed at the request of the Department of Natural Resources, Rush improperly constructed two wells located on the town of City Point, Jackson County, in March of 2007, including one on a private campsite. Rush subsequently corrected the errors in the campsite well test the following month, but when it conducted the required air emissions stack test the following month, it failed to meet the emissions limits in its permit. It implemented corrective measures in January of 2007, and when it conducted another stack test in March, the air emissions were found to be in compliance with the permit.

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Rush Well Drilling, LLC, of Black River Falls has agreed to pay the previous judgment of $9,000 in penalties and costs awarded to the State earlier this year—$20,000 to fund the tank removal and other site work.

According to the court’s order, Rihn was found in contempt of court at an earlier hearing, was referred to the Department of Commerce, and if Rihn does not pay these amounts September 5, the State is authorized to initiate collection procedures to take possession of and/or sell the defendant’s property in order to procure the funds necessary to do the tank removal and other site work.

Assistant Attorney General Shari Eggleson prosecuted the case. The settlement was approved by Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Robert Radcliffe.

Chippewa Falls Man Ordered to Pay Additional $20,000 to Fund Tank Removal and Contaminated Soil Remediation Costs

MADISON – A Chippewa Falls man was found in contempt of court earlier this week after failing to comply with court-ordered fuel storage tanks as required by Department of Commerce orders, Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen announced today.

Judge Steven Cray of Chippewa County issued the contempt order at the request of the Department of Justice, following a hearing at which the defendant, Brad Rihn, failed to appear.

According to the court’s order, Rihn failed to remove the tanks at his 304 W River Street property, in violation of a previous court order. The Department of Commerce estimates that the fuel could cost $10,000 to $20,000, depending on whether the tanks leaked and contaminated surrounding soils which will need to be cleaned up. The court’s order required that Rihn pay, in addition to the $9,000 in penalties and costs awarded to the State earlier this year, an additional $20,000 to fund the tank removal and any necessary contaminated soil remediation.

Under the court’s order, if Rihn does not pay these amounts September 5, 2008, the Department of Commerce is authorized to act as receiver of the West River Street property to retain consul-
tants to do the tank removal and other site work.

The State is authorized to initiate collection procedures to take possession of and/or sell the defendant’s property in order to procure the funds necessary to fund the tank removal and other site work and pay the previous judgment.

Assistant Attorney General Shari Eggleson prosecuted the case, which was referred to the Department of Justice by the Department of Commerce.

Green Bay Company Settles State Lawsuit over Environmental Violations for $330,000

MADISON – G&K Services, Inc., which owns and operates an industrial laundering facility in Green Bay, has agreed to pay $330,000 to settle state claims under Wisconsin’s air pollution control laws that it failed to remove the tanks at its Green Bay facility, which operated in violation of state air pollution control laws.

According to the complaint, these violations resulted in increased emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants, which can harm air quality and human health.

According to the Department of Natural Resources, G&K Services operated in violation of state air pollution statutes and its permit by burning 40 tons of municipal solid waste at its facility in late 2006 and early 2007. The complaint charges that G&K Services operated its incinerator in violation of state air pollution statutes and its permit by burning the wrong waste, failing to cover the drums, drying mud mops in prohibited dryers, failing to maintain and enforce required records and reports, failing to raise stack height high enough, and installing a new washer without a permit.

According to the Department of Justice, these violations resulted in increased emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter and hazardous air pollutants, which can harm air quality and human health.

According to the court’s order, Rihn was found in contempt of court at an earlier hearing, was referred to the Department of Commerce, and if Rihn does not pay these amounts September 5, the State is authorized to initiate collection procedures to take possession of and/or sell the defendant’s property in order to procure the funds necessary to do the tank removal and other site work.

Assistant Attorney General Shari Eggleson prosecuted the case. The settlement was approved by Business Operations Director, Marc Hammer approved the settlement.

EPA Cites Barron County, Wis., Waste-to-Energy Facility

CHICAGO (Sept. 8, 2008) – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has filed an administrative complaint against the Barron County Waste-to-Energy Facility, 575 10 1/2 Ave., Almena, Wis., for alleged Clean Air Act violations. EPA proposed a $42,553 penalty.

EPA alleges that the Barron County facility failed to comply with the mercury emission limit specified in its state operating permit and the federal plan for small municipal waste combustors.

EPA notified the facility of the alleged violations in March 2008 after receiving the results of stack tests conducted in 2006. EPA said the Barron County facility operates two incinerators capable of burning 40 tons of municipal solid waste per day.

The Barron County plant has 30 days from receipt of the complaint to file an answer and request a hearing. It may request an informal conference with EPA at any time to discuss resolving the allegations.

Exposure to mercury can permanently damage the brain and kidneys. Adults exposed to metallic mercury vapor may develop tremors, memory loss and kidney disease.

Information about EPA Region 5’s air enforcement program is at www.epa.gov/region5/air/enforce/index.html. Potential environmental violations may be reported at www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints.
Take Note!

Executive Director Activity. Page 3.

Calendar Ad. Page 5.


Horicon Marsh Fall Programs. Page 9.


Editor D. A. Gries

NOAA Answer FROM PAGE 8

Tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes are all types of tropical cyclones or storm systems characterized by a low pressure center with a closed surface wind circulation and numerous thunderstorms that can produce strong winds and flooding rain. These storms originate almost exclusively in tropical regions of the globe, and have a counter-clockwise rotation in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise rotation in the Southern Hemisphere. They are differentiated from each other based on maximum sustained winds:

• A tropical depression is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds below 39 miles per hour.
• A tropical storm has maximum sustained winds between 39 and 73 miles per hour.
• A hurricane is the strongest type of tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of at least 74 miles per hour.

Once a cyclone has been classified as a hurricane, it is categorized on the Saffir-Simpson scale from one to five, with five being most severe. The scale is used to give an estimate of the potential property damage expected along the coast from a hurricane landfall. Cyclones categorized as three, four, or five on the scale are considered major hurricanes with maximum sustained surface winds of at least 111 miles per hour.

The Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15 through November 30.

For more information on hurricanes, please visit NOAA’s National Hurricane Center Web site: http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/