

Wisconsin Conservation



Could Your Home Survive a Wildfire?

New DNR video showcases simple steps one homeowner took that saved his home

MADISON – Homeowners who live in or near storm-damaged areas in northwest Wisconsin (pdf) are urged to act now to protect their homes from wildland fires. State wildfire experts say with so many trees on the ground and drying, the potential is there for intense fires in 2012.

The Department of Natural Resources has recently completed a nine-minute video on the effectiveness of the Firewise program. The video features an Adams County homeowner whose “Firewise” house survived being overrun by the 3,400 acre Cottonville fire while neighbors all around him lost theirs.

When wildfires happen in Wisconsin, they cause great damage. But, by following a few basic protection tactics, you can safeguard your rural home and buildings.

The department has created a storm recovery web page listing resources available to homeowners for help with clean up. The page also features a home protection strategy developed by wildfire experts called, Firewise. People who have questions about dealing with storm-downed trees can also call the DNR call center at 1-888-WDNR-INFO (1-888-936-7463) for information seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and talk with a live customer service specialist.

“Homeowners who spend the time and energy to make their property Firewise will not only reduce the risk of a wildfire destroying their home or their neighbor’s home, it will also make it easier and safer for firefighters to protect homes in the event of a blaze,” said DNR’s Firewise program coordinator, Jolene Ackerman.

How Firewise works

“Key to the effectiveness of Firewise is an assessment of your property and the fire hazards within an area of 100 to 200 feet around buildings,” said Ackerman, “an area called the ‘Home Ignition Zone.’”

The DNR has a Home Ignition Self Assessment brochure (pdf) to get homeowners started.

“When beginning the Firewise process, start with the buildings on your property,” says Ackerman. “Clear debris off roofs and out of rain gutters. Prune all tree limbs, especially conifers (or evergreens), within 10 feet of roof edges. Don’t forget to keep decks swept off and clean out areas under them that have built up debris. Accumulated dead vegetation supplies the fuel for a flying ember to smolder and ignite a fire.

“Next, remove all flammable materials from within 3 to 5 feet around building foundations. This means removing annuals and cutting back perennials as they die-off in the fall. Remove excessive amounts of mulch and anything flammable that may be stored next to your siding.

“Clear fallen leaves, brush, and dried grass for 30 feet around buildings. Remove dead and dying trees and broken off limbs. Prune conifer branches to a height of 6 feet. Keep this 30-foot area maintained throughout next spring’s fire season. Store firewood and other combustible materials at least 30 feet away from the house and other buildings and clear a space at least 10 feet around them.

“Next, look at the vegetation in the zone that extends 30 to 100 feet beyond buildings. Remove as many fallen branches and trees as you can this fall. Start with the pines as they are considered to be the most flammable tree type in our state.

“Move this material to a local brush collection site or have it chipped on your property. Burning should be your last option. If you decide to burn, start piling the material now and wait to burn it when the ground is completely snow covered. Keep piles small and burn early in the winter rather than late winter to minimize the chance that embers could still be smoldering and flare up when the snow melts.

“Finally, clear fallen trees, shrubs, and limbs along your driveway. Keep tree limbs pruned 15 feet above your driveway to accommodate emergency vehicles, should one need to access your property. Remember - a firefighter cannot help save your home if they cannot get to it.

“These are just a few things you can do to protect your home and property. By taking action now, you are lowering the chance of losing your property to wildfire. Talk to your neighbors about the importance of preparing your properties now, before spring fire season.”

If you would like a Home Ignition Zone Assessment packet mailed to you, contact Jolene Ackerman (608) 267-7677, emailing jolene.ackerman@wisconsin.gov, or by writing to her at Box 7921, 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53703.

VHS Fish Disease Found in Yellow Perch from Lake Michigan

MADISON -- Recent test results show that healthy-looking yellow perch in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan were infected with VHS virus even though there was no fish kill.

That positive VHS result comes four months after the deadly fish virus was confirmed as the cause of a fish kill that left thousands of gizzard shad floating in the Milwaukee harbor ship canals.

Together, those 2011 findings show that VHS persists in Lake Michigan and remains an active threat to fish in the big lake and in nearby inland waters and fish farms, and that anglers and other boaters need to continue to follow the rules to prevent spreading VHS and other aquatic invasive species, Wisconsin fish health experts say.

Fish health specialists also say VHS seems to be following a common path that infectious disease takes in fish.

“We expect that VHS will periodically recur in the Great Lakes, much the same as any other animal and human diseases cycle over time,” says Sue Marcquenski, the Department of Natural Resources fish health specialist.

Michigan test results show that VHS returned in 2011 to an inland lake, Budd Lake (exit DNR) after three years of looking for, but not finding the virus. VHS caused a die off in that lake in late April and early May 2011 of largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegills, and pumpkinseed sunfish.

VHS, or viral hemorrhagic septicemia, does not affect people nor pets, but can infect several dozen species of fish and cause them to bleed to death.

Dr. Tony Goldberg, a UW-Madison veterinary epidemiologist conducting a VHS study in Lake Winnebago says, “I often get asked, ‘Why do we have to worry about VHS any more -- it’s gone?’ The answer is that infectious disease can cycle. You can get peaks of infection every few years, and then valleys. Just because we don’t see a disease for a few years doesn’t mean it’s gone. We may simply be in one of these down cycles and we could be on the verge of an upcycle.

“It’s also important to realize that we shouldn’t expect VHS to simply disappear. Invasive viruses are like other invasive species -- zebra mussels or Asian carp, for instance. Once they’re here, they are almost certainly here forever and we’re not going to be able to go back to the way things were,” he says. “It would be a mistake to let our guard down.”

Goldberg is one of the principal investigators in a multi-year study underway in the Lake Winnebago system to see whether the fish virus is still a threat there and to develop a faster, cheaper test to detect its presence. VHS was first detected in Wisconsin in Winnebago System waters in 2007.

VHS Found in Yellow Perch During Annual Spawning Assessment

The yellow perch tested for VHS were collected in June from the Green Can spawning reef offshore of Milwaukee. DNR was conducting its annual spawning assessment and wanted to test the fish for VHS because “we were observing low numbers of male yellow perch in the survey and those males were not sexually mature,” says Brad Eggold, DNR southern Lake Michigan fisheries supervisor.

VHS work was done in conjunction with other tests. The Wisconsin Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory in Madison notified DNR of the positive VHS result earlier this month.

The finding marks the second time VHS has been found in spawning yellow perch at the Green Can reef. The first detection was from fish sampled June 5, 2008.

VHS testing was not done in the intervening years of yellow perch from Lake Michigan; once the virus has been confirmed in a particular fish species from Lake Michigan, DNR directs its limited surveillance testing dollars to monitoring other waters to see if VHS has spread.

The yellow perch lab results show that VHS virus is still present and being shed by yellow perch during spawning. The prolonged spring and cooler early summer water temperatures may have created an extended window for VHS to infect fish in 2011, Marcquenski says.

Despite the yellow perch testing positive for VHS, DNR received no reports of dead or dying fish from anglers, Eggold says. “So at this time it’s hard to speculate on the impacts of VHS on the yellow perch population although having a continued threat from an invasive like VHS is not good for the fisheries in Lake Michigan,” he says.

Alewives test negative for VHS

Alewives that washed ashore Lake Michigan beaches earlier this summer do not have VHS, test results show. It may be a seasonal pattern, Eggold says.

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Wisconservation

WISCONSERVATION (USPS 108-190 ISSN 0164-3649) is published monthly for \$25 per year by Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, W7303 County Road CS & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690. Periodical postage paid at Oshkosh, WI and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: **WISCONSERVATION**, W7303 County Road CS & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690. All communications regarding advertising, editorial, circulation and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation matters should be sent to W7303 County Road CS & Q, Poynette, WI 53955-9690. Permission to reprint articles is normally given providing proper credit is given both publication and author. Views expressed by freelance writers are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the publication or the WWF.

\$25.00 of annual dues paid to Wisconsin Wildlife Federation entitles members to one year's subscription to **Wisconservation**. One year's subscription to non-members—\$25.00.

Printed by Ripon Printers, 656 S. Douglas St., Ripon, WI 54971.

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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: Wisconservation
2. Publication Number: 108-190
3. Filing Date: September 22, 2011
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$25.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):
W7303 Cty Hwy CS Poynette, Columbia, Wis 53955
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
Same
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address):
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, W7303 Cty Hwy CS Poynette, WI 53955
Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Daniel A. Gries, 617 11th St Menasha, WI, 54952
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address):
Same
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name: Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Complete Mailing Address: W7303 Cty Hwy CS Poynette, WI
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: None
Full Name: Complete Mailing Address:
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 3 (Instructions Page 3)) PSN 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

13. Publication Title: Wisconservation
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 22, 2011
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)			
(1)	Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	5000	4761
(2)	Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	4200	3961
(3)	Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	-0-	-0-
(4)	Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	-0-	-0-
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		4200	3961
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)			
(1)	Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	800	800
(2)	Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	-0-	-0-
(3)	Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)	-0-	-0-
(4)	Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	-0-	-0-
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		800	800
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		5000	4761
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		-0-	-0-
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		5000	4761
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		84%	83.22%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the October 2011 issue of this publication. Publication not required.
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Daniel A. Gries Date: September 22, 2011
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).
PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)

From the Calendar Chair

Well we are now 3 months into the 2012 calendar sales. I hope that everyone who has calendars has gotten some out to some new places to sell. Our goal this year is to sell all 10,000 with your help. If anyone is reading this article and wants to know where the profits from the calendar sales goes, well, it goes to help us work for clean waters, clean air, healthy environment, protect our hunting, fishing and trapping rights and for education. We do have a share in the Mackenzie Education Center that we support. So you see our monies earned go

to many worthwhile causes. If you still have not gotten your calendars as each director is to sell at least 25 please call the office and Jennifer will be happy to send you some, or if you need more they are available. Here's the number to call: 800-897-4161. Good luck and pass the word to your friends that these do make great Christmas presents or thank you gifts to land owners who are so kind to let you hunt on their property. Respectfully submitted by Lil Pipping, Chair.

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Take Note!

New Waterfowl Hunting Zone. Page 3

Agriculture Damage. Page 4

VHS Update. Page 5

Calendar Sales. Page 6

Environmental Enforcement. Page 7

Editor D. A. Gries

Mississippi River Waterfowl Hunting Zone

Beginning in 2011, Wisconsin has added a third duck hunting zone. The Mississippi River zone which has been a Canada goose subzone is now also a new duck hunting zone. The zone is defined by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks on the east and the MN state line on the west. There are a number of issues both veteran and new river hunters should know about in this new zone:

- When you are west of the tracks you are in the Mississippi River duck zone and when you are east of the railroad tracks you are in the south duck zone.

- The Mississippi River duck zone season dates are Sept 24 - Oct 2 and Oct 15 - Dec 4.

- Unlike fishing regulations which have special 'boundary water' rules, hunters need to be aware of the exact state boundary line separating WI from MN or IA. The main navigation channel is not always the state line, so review maps in the area you are hunting. You must be licensed by the state in which you plan to hunt and adhere to that state's regulations.

- No-wake, voluntary avoidance, and closed areas in addition to applicable Federal regulations on the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge. Please see the US Fish and Wildlife Service website and public use brochures for more info: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/uppermississippi/Hunting.html>

- Note the zone includes only areas west of the railroad tracks (some backwater areas and sloughs of the river are in the South duck zone). Some potential areas of confusion are near Trempealeau Bay and the mouth of the Black river/



Van Loon wildlife area.

- To get a better idea of the location of the railroad and state line in the areas you wish to hunt, we suggest the DNR WebView tool which is available online at: <http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=webview>

- Zoom in on the area you wish to hunt. As you zoom in further, the map will display the selected area as an aerial photo view.

- Click on the tan 'Layers' tab on the left to allow you to select different map layers such as railroads, state boundaries, roads/highways, smaller streams, civil boundaries, etc.

- Remember:
 - West of the Tracks – Mississippi River Duck Zone
 - East of the Tracks – South Duck Zone

Conservation Programs are Community Investments

As fall gets under way and hunters around Wisconsin ready themselves and their gear for another season in the field, preparations of a different kind are happening in our nation's capital. Congress is back in session, and members from both parties are preparing to cut federal spending and reduce the long-term deficit. However, conservation programs that have a direct and lasting impact on outdoorsmen are being disproportionately targeted. If farm bill programs like CRP and WRP are slashed, the economic and ecological impact will hurt communities around the state.

Conservation programs provide cost-effective ways to conserve wildlife habitat, prevent erosion, keep drinking water clean and promote outdoor recreation. In April 2011, Wisconsin landowners had 399,635 acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, and more than 50,000 acres in the Wetlands Reserve Program. The Duck Habitat initiative within the CRP is estimated to increase duck numbers by 60,000 annually across the nation. However, Congressional budget cuts would force enrollment to decline, leaving game animals with less habitat and ultimately leaving hunters with less game. Outdoorsmen and women have always been the leaders of the conservation movement, and we have a crucial political voice that must be heard

by our representatives in Washington, D.C., who need to understand the importance of these programs back home. Sportsmen are a key constituency, and when we speak up, politicians in Washington listen.

In Wisconsin alone, there are 1.2 million sportsmen using these resources, who have a \$3.1 billion impact on our state's economy and directly support 56,600 jobs. Each year, the amount of revenue generated by hunters and anglers matches that of the state's entire dairy industry. We put \$8.6 million a day directly back into our local economies, and programs like CRP and WRP help to keep more of us in the field. Conservation programs are community investments that benefit everyone.

Potential cuts to conservation not only threaten Wisconsin's outdoor legacy, but could hurt countless local economies and small businesses that depend on the outdoor sporting community. Cutting these programs would be a cavalier dismissal of the economic and environmental benefits that they provide. We must encourage our representatives in Washington to take a fair, balanced approach in the upcoming budget cuts and remember that our precious outdoor resources won't last forever.

—Sam Jefferies
Ducks Unlimited Volunteer

Horicon Marsh Fall Naturalist Programs

Weekly News Article Published: September 13, 2011 by the Central Office

HORICON, Wis. -- The Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area fall naturalist program is ready to kick-off its 2011-12 schedule.

"Horicon Marsh is an outstanding natural resource that thousands of people visit each year," said Bill Volkert Department of Natural Resources natural resources educator. "Public naturalist programs are offered in spring and fall at the height of the migration when wildlife is most active and visible."

"The naturalist programs help visitors understand the marsh, its wildlife and management. We want to connect people with our wildlife and enhance

their understanding and appreciation of our natural heritage."

The 32,000 acre Horicon Marsh includes an 11,000 acre State Wildlife Area, with the remaining land designated a National Wildlife Refuge. The marsh received the prestigious title of "A Wetland of International Importance" in 1991 and it's also designated a unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve and recognized as a Globally Important Bird Area.

Programs will be conducted at the International Education Center, located at N7728 Highway 28 between the cities of Horicon and Mayville. All programs are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

2011 Fall Horicon Marsh Naturalist Programs

Saturday, October 1 - 10 a.m. Horicon's Indian History; 1 p.m. Dabblers and Divers; WI Waterfowl

Sunday, October 2 - 11 a.m. Sharing Nature with Children; 1 p.m. Animal Adaptations

Saturday, October 8 - 10 a.m. Fall Migration; 1 p.m. The Geese of Horicon

Sunday, October 9 - 11 a.m. Intro to Geocaching (gps provided); 1 p.m. Wisconsin Mammals

Saturday, October 15 - 10 a.m. The Birds of Horicon; 1 p.m. Waterfowl Management

Sunday, October 16 - 11 a.m. Marsh Food Webs; 1 p.m. Fall Colors

Saturday, October 22 - 10 a.m. Muskrats, Mink & Other Marsh Mammals; 1 p.m. The Geese of Horicon

Sunday, October 23 - 11 a.m. Tracking Marsh Animals; 1 p.m. The History of Horicon Marsh

Saturday, October 29 - 10 a.m. Managing Wisconsin's Deer; 1 p.m. Wisconsin's Ice Age

Sunday, October 30 - 11 a.m. Birding Basics; 1 p.m. Winter Adaptations

Wild Turkey Harvest Registration Procedures

Starting with the Fall 2011 turkey season, hunters must register their turkey online or by phone. No in-person registration stations will be available. All harvested turkeys must be registered using one of the following two methods:

- Call the DNR's Harvest Registration Hotline at 1-888-HUNT-WIS (1-888-486-8947). The phone-in system will only accept touch tone entries.
- Use the online Harvest Registration System.

In addition to harvest date, time and location information, you will be asked to determine the age (adult or juvenile) and the sex (gobbler or hen) of your harvested turkey. In the field, refer to page 18 of the 2011 Wisconsin Small Game & Wild Turkey Hunting Regulations booklet for a graphic guiding you through the aging and sexing process. For an identification guide in color, see *Aging and Sexing Eastern Wild Turkeys*.

You also will be asked to record a harvest registration confirmation number on your hunting permit at the end of the call or online session. You will still have until 5:00 p.m. on the day after harvest to register your turkey.

USFWS Expands Hunting and Fishing Opportunities on 10 Refuges Across the Nation

USFWS Release 9/11

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the opening of Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota to big game hunting of deer and upland game hunting of turkey for the first time, while expanding hunting and fishing activities at nine other refuges. Notice of the final 2011-2012 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations published in the Federal Register on September 9, 2011.

More than 250 comments were received during the 30-day public comment period on the proposed expansion. Only 18 comments opposed the amended regulations.

"The National Wildlife Refuge System, a vital part of our shared natural heritage, offers Americans more than 320 hunting programs across the country. The Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to these programs – especially for youth and those with disabilities – wherever they are compatible with refuge purposes," said Service Director Dan Ashe.

Among the changes are:

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, CO, increases big game hunting by offering elk hunting for the first time. The refuge also allows migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and fishing.

Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, LA, adds waterfowl and coot hunting to its list of migratory bird hunting activities. The refuge also allows fishing.

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge, MS, adds duck and geese hunting to its migratory bird hunting activi-

ties; squirrel, rabbit and raccoon hunting to its upland game hunting activities; and deer and hog hunting to its big game hunting activities. The refuge also permits fishing.

Currituck National Wildlife Refuge, NC, opens to big game hunting of deer and hogs.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, MN, increases acreage for migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.

Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, MN/IA, increases acreage for migratory bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting, and expands the species for migratory bird and upland game hunting.

Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, UT, allows upland game hunting of turkey and big game hunting of elk for the first time. The refuge also allows migratory bird hunting and fishing.

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, MN, opens new areas to migratory bird hunting. It allows big game hunting of turkey and deer for the first time. The refuge is also open to fishing.

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge, TX, opens three new units to upland game hunting of squirrels and rabbits, and big game hunting of feral hogs and white-tailed deer. The refuge is also open for migratory bird hunting and fishing.

While definitions of hunting categories vary by refuge and state, migratory bird hunting generally includes ducks and geese. Upland game hunting may cover such animals as game birds, rabbit, squirrel, opossum and coyote. Big game hunting may include such animals as wild turkey, deer and feral hogs.

REMINDER:

Remember to report each
Canada Goose harvested within
48 Hours of the kill by calling –
1-800-994-6673

Successful Bear Hunters Reminded to Submit Rib Bones for Population Study

Successful black bear hunters are reminded that state wildlife researchers are asking them to provide scientists with a section of rib bone from their bear for analysis as part of an ongoing black bear population estimation survey.

This most recent three-year project to develop a second Wisconsin bear population estimate is based upon a "mark-recapture" technique. The first estimate was initiated in 2006 and completed in 2008 as part of a cooperative research effort between the Department of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. This second mark-recapture estimate will estimate the size of the bear population across its primary range in the northern and central parts of the state. The first phase of the current project, the "marking" phase, has been completed.

Results of a similar survey were reported in 2008. This second round of sample

collection is being done to support and verify the findings of the first study, which showed Wisconsin's black bear population to be larger than previous surveys, using different techniques, had suggested.

Marking Bears

"A primary component of this phase was the deployment of food baits in April and May," said DNR bear researcher, Dave MacFarland. "The baits consisted of peanut butter and marshmallows mixed with tetracycline, a compound that is detectable in bone tissue. These baits were placed in wooden boxes that were constructed and donated by the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association. The boxes are accessible by bears and are designed to discourage use by other animals."

More than 600 volunteers and DNR staff deployed and monitored 3,317 baits across 32 counties this spring, 940 of which were consumed by bears. Each consumed bait results in a "marked" bear as the tet-

racycline leaves a telltale ring visible in a cross section of the rib bone. "This was well within the number of marked bears we were seeking," added MacFarland. "This should ensure a solid estimate upon completion of the study."

The population estimation project is now entering the critical second phase, the collection of rib samples from successful bear hunters. Ribs will be analyzed to look for tetracycline exposure. The resulting data are incorporated into population models to estimate the number of bears in the state. Good participation from hunters is critical to the studies success.

Sample collection materials and instructions were provided to hunters who received Class A bear permits. Rib samples should be collected near the vertebrae, cleaned of all soft tissue, placed in the baggie provided and submitted to the registration station. Hunters can also mail their rib sample directly to Dave MacFarland, Wisconsin DNR, 107 Sutliff Ave, Rhine-

lander WI 54501.

"This research is a great example of what a partnership can accomplish," said Tom Hauge, director of the DNR Bureau of Wildlife Management. "The project and population estimate simply wouldn't have been possible without DNR staff, the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, and committed volunteers working together for the conservation of Wisconsin's black bears. We want to thank all who have helped with phase one of the project and to all the hunters that are helping by submitting rib samples."

Phase three of the project will be a second year of rib sampling from the 2012 bear harvest to maximize the 'recapture' of marked bears. The laboratory analysis of the ribs will be completed during winter 2012-13 and final a population estimate will be calculated. When completed, the population estimate will calculate the size of the bear population for the surveyed area as of September of 2011.

Agriculture Damage From Black Bears - who farmers should contact?

Weekly News Article Published: August 30, 2011 by the Central Office

Within the next several weeks the majority of corn across the state will enter the "milk stage." This is the period when corn is especially vulnerable to damage from bears that are attracted to the sweet milky white starches that accumulates in the corn kernel.

Wisconsin's Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP) is available to farmers experiencing damages to crops, apiaries, or livestock deprecations from bear. The program provides damage abatement assistance and partial compensation to enrolled farmers in exchange for them allowing hunting access during the state bear hunting season. In 2010, 268 farmers enrolled in the WDACP for bear damage abatement assistance.

Wisconsin laws do not allow a person to shoot a bear causing damage to crops under any circumstances without a permit. Conservation wardens, who are primarily responsible for enforcing these laws, do however have the authority to use discretion in cases where a bear is discovered in the act of attacking domestic animals or if human life is at risk. In these cases, persons who find themselves in this situation need to contact a conservation warden law or local law enforcement agency and leave the scene undisturbed. Intact evidence is crucial to applying common sense and discretion.

Shooting a bear without DNR authorization could result in charges being filed against individual who shot the bear. If a bear is shot in the act of threatening personal safety or in the act of killing, wounding or biting a live domestic animal, the

department will investigate on a case by case basis to determine if killing a bear before obtaining department permission was necessary and justified under the circumstances. In these situations the department should be contacted immediately and the bear carcass should not be moved unless otherwise directed by the department.

How to enroll

Farmers who suffer crop or apiary damage from bears and want to enroll in the WDACP should contact their county's wildlife damage specialist. The list of contacts in each county can be found on the DNR's website at: dnr.wi.gov, keyword search "WDACP Contacts."

In 2010 the Department issued 25 bear shooting permits to landowners for bears causing agricultural damage or nuisance problems.

For suspected bear deprecations, or any non-agricultural problem with bears, farmers and landowners should contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services toll-free line at 1-800-433-0663 for southern Wisconsin and 1-800-228-1368 for northern Wisconsin. When calling after normal business hours or on weekends farmers should leave a message with their contact information. Messages are checked periodically after hours and on weekends. The DNR partners with U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services to investigate bear depredation complaints and also for bear trapping and relocation services.

A list of properties enrolled in the WDACP that are open to bear hunting can be found on the DNR's website at dnr.wi.gov, keyword search "Damage Program." A list of properties where bear shooting permits have been issued can also be found on the same webpage

Turkey and Grouse Hunting Have Special Safety Concerns

Hunters need to keep safety in mind when hunting turkey and grouse.

"There's something very special about turkey and grouse hunting," says Tim Lawhern, administrator for the State Department of Natural Resources' Division of Enforcement & Science. "And with the enthusiasm that goes along with this type of hunting, we should all be mindful of making sure we return home safe and sound at the end of each hunt."

Here are some things Lawhern says hunters need to keep in mind when going afield after ruffed grouse and fall turkey:

- In grouse hunting, two is company and three is definitely a crowd. Any hunt with more than two will become difficult to manage from a safety aspect.
- Communicate. Grouse cover is thick and sometimes it will be difficult to see a hunting partner who might only be a few yards away.
- Plan your hunt and hunt your plan. Keep it simple. Know in advance how far and in what direction you will be going and when turns will be made.
- Advise someone else of where you will be hunting and when they should expect you back. Then, if something goes wrong, at least someone will know where to start looking.
- Know your safe zone of fire. If you are on the left, your safe zone is to the left and slightly forward. The opposite is the case if you are on the right. Always advance forward in unison and don't get ahead of or behind your partner.
- In heavy cover, shoot only at birds that are at least eight feet above the ground. Don't shoot at low birds that could have a hunter or a dog behind them!

- Wear blaze orange clothing and stay in visual contact with your partner at all times. If you lose sight of your partner, stop hunting, call, and listen until you locate each other.

- Turkey hunters need to be sure of their target - shooting into heavy brush without positive identification can lead to tragedy.

- Follow the four basic rules of firearm safety: TAB+K.

- Treat every firearm as if it is loaded.
- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
- Be certain of your target and what's beyond it.
- Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you're ready to shoot.

Lawhern suggests that hunters also consider wearing some type of eye protection. A good pair of clear or light-colored safety glasses can go a long way toward avoiding injury to eyes and sight.

Grouse and turkey hunters also need to be aware that there might be other hunters afield at the same time in pursuit of other types of game. Bow hunters may be perched in tree stands and other turkey hunters may be under a tree. Most of them will be wearing full camouflage and will therefore be very hard to see.

"Famed conservationist Aldo Leopold once wrote, 'There are two kinds of hunting: ordinary hunting, and ruffed grouse hunting,'" Lawhern says. "Don't let careless hunting practices spoil this special tradition."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim Lawhern - (608) 264-6133

2008-2010 Habitat Projects Pay Off for Trout Anglers This Fall

Anglers enjoying the last month of Wisconsin's inland trout season will find even better fishing opportunities this fall thanks to habitat improvement projects completed on dozens of streams in recent years by state fish crews and partners, state fisheries officials say.

A report detailing projects funded largely by the sale of inland trout stamps is now available online: Expenditures of Inland Water Trout Stamp Revenues, Fiscal Years 2008-2010. (pdf)

A project on Elk Creek in western Chippewa County provides a great example of how anglers will benefit this fall, says Heath Benike, Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist for Chippewa and Eau Claire counties.

"We stabilized and re-sloped highly erodible stream banks and installed a series of rock plunge pools and bank cover structures," Benike says. "Fish surveys this past summer revealed that the brown trout fishery was near 2,000 fish per mile with a solid number of fish in the 10- to 14-inch range with some bigger fish present."

The project is just upstream from Chippewa County Highway X. Anglers also will find a new parking lot on the east side of

Elk Creek near the start of the habitat restoration project, Benike says.

Anglers will see benefits on Pine Creek in southeast Pierce County. Recent acquisition and restoration of about 1 mile of the picturesque creek has helped boost brook trout populations to 7,000 to 8,000 brook trout per mile with an occasional large brown trout, according to Marty Engel, fisheries biologist stationed in Baldwin.

And anglers fishing Rowan Creek east of Poynette will benefit from a DNR project to enhance 1,500 feet of stream where habitat work had been completed 25 years ago. Several bank structures were reset and some new structures and weirs installed to improve the deepwater habitat. "This section of the stream already had good size structure of trout but the project will make it more fishable for anglers, as well as increase the habitat for trout," says David Rowe, fisheries supervisor in Poynette.

DNR Fisheries Director Mike Staggs says these examples and others in the report "document what's been a great success story -- the partnership between the users that pay fees and the DNR, counties, federal agencies, Trout Unlimited and other fishing clubs who improve the habitat."

"There are clear and demonstrable benefits to fishing as a result of these projects. And if anything, this report understates all of the work that is going on to improve trout fishing in Wisconsin," Staggs says. He notes that the report captures only work funded primarily through trout stamp sales and conducted by the DNR with partners.

The federal Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and many county governments and fishing organizations also undertake their own projects, often in partnership with DNR. One example is Trout Unlimited's Driftless Area Restoration Effort, which seeks to tap a variety of sources of funding to restore trout habitat in the driftless region including Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois.

Wisconsin created the inland waters trout stamp program in 1977 to provide more funding for improving and restoring habitat than the \$140,000 typically available before the program started.

With an increase to \$10 for the stamp starting in 2006, revenues from trout stamp sales have climbed to \$1.5 million annually. General license fishing fees

were also tapped for the habitat work: an average of \$411,812 per year from 2008 through 2010. Donations from fishing clubs and from individuals also help pay for the work.

Trout stamp fast facts

- DNR and partners improved habitat on more than 75 miles of trout streams and three spring ponds from 2008-2010, did maintenance work at the site of past habitat improvement projects, and contracted with federal wildlife officials to keep 2,250 miles of northern trout streams free of beaver dams to benefit trout.

- The amount of trout stamp revenue available for 2008-2010 increased significantly over the previous three-year period, to more than \$1.5 million annually, due to an increase in trout stamp fees starting in 2006.

- The number of trout stamps sold in 2008 increased 5 percent over 2007, and 2009 sales increased 7 percent over 2008.

- Through funding primarily from the sale of inland trout stamps, Wisconsin has now improved 865 miles of trout habitat in the state.

- Wisconsin has more than 13,000 miles of classified trout waters

Additional Walleye, Musky and Trout to be Stocked in State Waters

State fish hatcheries are producing bumper crops of fish for stocking this fall, leading state stocking trucks to deliver additional walleye and musky to dozens of Wisconsin lakes and streams this September and October.

"The fingerling production at the warm-water hatcheries has been very good this year and that's going to translate into great news for anglers down the road," says Dave Giebtbrock, statewide fish production manager for the Department of Natural Resources.

"We've produced large fingerling musky and walleye above our intended goals, and we're stocking nearly every site at full quota."

Some stocking has already occurred and more is on tap. Tables showing how many fish were planned for stocking are now available online on DNR's fish stocking web page. Read on for short write-ups from hatchery supervisors describing where their facility is in the fall stocking process. Stocking tables from 1972-2010 are also available.

Giebtbrock says that cool spring temperatures helped production of musky and walleye by keeping the water quality in the ponds at optimal levels, boosting survival. As a result, there were extra fish available to be stocked out at smaller sizes -- more than 3 million walleye were stocked out in late June -- and there are surplus fish available to be stocked at the larger size.

Most of the fish stocked or soon to be stocked are known as "large fingerlings," and range in size from 5 to 9 inches, depending on the species. They were produced from eggs collected from the wild this spring or from hatchery stocks this fall by DNR fish crews, were hatched at DNR hatcheries, and raised at those facilities for the intervening months.

How long before those fish are big enough to be legally kept by anglers depends again on the species and the regulations on the particular waterbody, Giebtbrock says. The splake being stocked in Lake Superior will likely only need a year or so to reach the 15-inch minimum length limit while it will likely be eight to 10 years before the musky reach the 40-inch minimum size limit set to go into effect in spring 2012 on most state waters.

The extra musky and walleye are stocked in waters where biologists have requested stocking. A formula is used that distributes the fish equitably among water bodies and makes sure the carry-

ing capacity of the water receiving the fish is not exceeded.

The vast majority of Wisconsin's lakes and rivers support naturally reproducing populations. Research has shown that stocking in these waters can hurt native fish populations, but stocking remains an important management tool for some waters.

DNR stocks fish to re-establish formerly self-sustaining populations, to provide research data on the effectiveness of stocking and other related practices, and to expand fishing opportunities for Wisconsin's anglers.

"It was an excellent year with excellent conditions overall, and hatchery staff made the most of the situation to produce large numbers of healthy, high quality fish for stocking," Giebtbrock says.

These reports were filed by supervisors and foremen at DNR hatcheries stocking fish this fall.

Brule River Fish Hatchery in Brule

We have two loads going out this fall, likely in the first week of October: 18,000 large fingerling Wild Rose browns for the Sturgeon Bay canal and 12,000 large fingerling Wild Rose browns for Milwaukee harbor. Everything else is going next spring. All fish are about 7 inches long now, probably will average 7-8 inches by stocking time. We also are finishing up a fin clipping operation on 100,000 Seeforellen browns destined for Lake Superior next spring. We had assistance from the Lake Superior fisheries management crew and the Les Voigt hatchery. - *Bill Gobin, hatchery foreman*

Les Voigt State Fish Hatchery in Bayfield

Most of our stocking takes place in the spring, but we are doing some stocking this fall. The first of October is when we start stocking. We'll be stocking lake trout into Lake Geneva, transferring lake trout into Green Lake co-op; and stocking splake in Lake Superior. Geneva Lake and Green Lake will each receive 25,000 lake trout; the splake quota is 80,000 for Lake Superior. It has been a pretty good production year. Starting in October, we'll be collecting eggs for splake and lake trout that will be stocked out next year. - *Darren Miller, hatchery supervisor*

Nevin State Fish Hatchery in Fitchburg

By the time this article is published, the Nevin hatchery will have stocked

over 16,000 fall fingerling wild brook trout averaging 4 inches. Some surplus fish have been stocked to conduct an ongoing study with fisheries research on brook trout survival in the streams. Nevin has also stocked 11,000 wild brown trout fingerlings. Overall the production year has been very good. The hatchery staff have been utilizing some new fish rearing techniques that have been paying off. - *Mike Aquino, hatchery supervisor*

Art Oehmcke State Fish Hatchery in Woodruff

We finished harvesting the musky ponds yesterday, Sept. 6, stocking out over 47,000 fingerlings. Our original musky quotas were for 25,264, so we had a surplus of around 22,000 fish. This year we took eggs from the Minocqua Chain of Lakes and had good success with spawning and hatching. We had exceptional survival of the musky fry in the ponds this year, almost double of what we normally have, that led to our increased production. We will go over the information and data we collected this season to see if something stands out, but it is usually a combination of the things such as the late spring, water temps and weather, hatching healthy fry, maintaining water quality the best we can, feeding adequate amounts of forage, and the best efforts of the hatchery staff that made it a truly outstanding season. - *Bruce Underwood, hatchery supervisor*

Thunder River Rearing Station in Crivitz

We haven't started distribution yet for the fall but anticipate beginning the first week in October. We have Wild Rose Brown Trout that are scheduled to go out to Lake Michigan in Door County, Manitowoc County, and Sheboygan County and will be approximately 7-8 inches. - *Amy J. Gardon, hatchery foreman*

Tommy G. Thompson State Fish Hatchery in Spooner

As of the end of today, Sept. 6, we have completed the harvest of eight musky ponds and have three remaining. At Thompson we stocked 110,000 fry and expect to produce between 50,000 and 55,000 large fingerlings measuring anywhere from 9.3 to 11 inches in length and which will give us an 8,000 to 13,000 fish surplus. I'd say that it was a good year because of the quality of eggs/fry that the

Thompson Hatchery crew collected, incubated, and hatched this past spring and the hard work that they put into rearing the fish (i.e. obtaining the necessary forage to feed them and also, providing the proper water quality conditions for the fish to survive and grow in the hatchery rearing ponds) during the summer months. - *Gary Lindenberger, hatchery supervisor*

Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery in Wild Rose

On Tuesday, Aug. 30, we harvested and stocked out our first large fingerling walleyes from Wild Rose. They were started in ponds on May 23. Because of the budget we had to harvest them earlier than we wanted. However, it was a very successful harvest with 10,267 fish stocked out into the Waupaca Chain of Lakes (7,263) and Shawano Lake (3,004). All fish were given a RV clip and hand counted. Our quota for this year was 7,000 large fingerlings. - *Randy Larson, fish propagation supervisor*

Fall stocking of northern pike large fingerlings began today, Sept 8, with 8,200 eight-inch long fingerlings going to four lakes in southeastern Wisconsin (Lakes Loraine, Ivanhoe, Pell Lake and East Lake Flowage). These are the first of 60,000 northern pike to be stocked this fall from Wild Rose. The northern pike are scheduled to go into 16 lakes and rivers in the southeastern half of Wisconsin. All northern pike at Wild Rose are fed dry pellets diets instead of minnows. This makes the northern pike less expensive to raise and allows Wild Rose to raise more fish for the same amount of money. - *Steve Fajfer, hatchery supervisor*

St. Croix/Osceola State Fish Hatcheries in St. Croix and Osceola

At the St. Croix Falls/Osceola Hatchery work unit, no fish have been stocked yet due to warm water temperatures in lakes and streams. When water temperatures cool the facilities plan to stock trout at these numbers with all quotas being met: 1,800 adult broodstock rainbow trout; 59,500 large fingerling rainbow trout; 850 adult broodstock brook trout; 70,000 large fingerling brook trout; 1,100 adult broodstock brown trout; and 200,000 large fingerling brown trout. - *Peter Jensen, hatchery supervisor*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dave Giebtbrock (608) 266-8229

2011 Surveillance Testing Shows VHS has Not Spread to New Waters

Weekly News Article Published: August 23, 2011 by the Central Office

Rules helping contain disease, keep other invasives out

VHS fish disease has not spread to new waters in 2011, a result state fisheries and invasive species officials credit to anglers and others following rules to prevent spreading the virus.

And they say those rules also will help protect against other aquatic invasive species and diseases, including the Asian carp recently caught in the Lower Wisconsin River and DNA detected in water samples in the St. Croix River.

VHS, or viral hemorrhagic septice-mia, does not affect people nor pets, but can infect several dozen species of fish and cause them to bleed to death.

DNR collected fish from 19 waterbodies throughout Wisconsin between April 12 and June 1 as part of its surveillance efforts to detect VHS. Tissue samples from 2,773 fish were submitted to three laboratories for the tests, which take a month. None of the fish were positive for VHS, according to Eric Eikenberry, a DNR microbiologist/fish biologist who coordinated the sampling.

Also, fish sampled from three lakes that supply DNR hatcheries with water were negative for VHS, as were DNR hatchery-raised fish tested before they were stocked or moved to other facilities.

While VHS was found in 2011 in waters where it's been found in the past and remains a serious threat, "we're pleased

it hasn't spread to new waters," says Mike Staggs, DNR's fisheries director.

"We appreciate the efforts that anglers and boaters have made to keep Wisconsin's fish healthy and we think it's absolutely helping contain VHS and will help prevent the spread of other aquatic invasive diseases and species."

That includes two other aquatic invasive species recently in the headlines, Asian carp and spiny water fleas. DNR announced last week that a bighead carp had been caught in the Lower Wisconsin River and the Minnesota DNR announced that silver carp DNA -- the fish known for its jumping behavior -- had been detected in the St. Croix River. Bighead and silver carp eat plankton and can potentially decrease populations of native fish that rely on plankton for food, including all larval fishes, some adult fishes, and native mussels, says Bob Wakeman, who coordinates DNR efforts to prevent and control aquatic invasive species.

For example, VHS rules that prohibit the harvest of bait from waters known or suspected to have the fish virus will help keep Asian carp out of Wisconsin waters. Without the ban, bait harvesters might accidentally catch a young Asian carp, which looks similar to gizzard shad and many minnows, and take it to another lake or river where it might escape, says Bob Wakeman, who coordinates DNR's efforts to prevent and control aquatic in-

Night Electrofishing Surveys to Begin on Lakes

OSHKOSH -- The mysterious lights cutting the night darkness on Wisconsin lakes in coming weeks will help shed light on future walleye fishing prospects.

State fisheries crews will be using electrofishing boats along the shoreline of Wisconsin's lakes to assess how well walleye that hatched this spring survived their first few months.

The process used to collect and assess the fish is shown in a new video, Winnebago Walleye Shocking. At the time the video footage was captured, Department of Natural Resources crews were looking for spawning walleye on the Winnebago system instead of the small walleyes they'll be looking for this fall.

The video is part of a foursome about Lake Winnebago's walleye fishery, one of Wisconsin's premier walleye fisheries, and how state fish crews and fishing clubs work to keep it healthy and an economic engine in the area. A 2006 study showed that walleye are anglers' favorite target on Lake Winnebago, and that fishing generates a total economic impact of \$234 million and supports 4,200 jobs in the surrounding area.

vative species.

And rules to drain water from boats, live wells, fishing equipment and containers before leaving a boat landing will help keep spiny water fleas from being moved elsewhere. These microscopic aquatic animals compete for the same food as small native fish and have been documented in three Wisconsin lakes so far. Lake Mendota, the site of the most recent discovery, was in the news recently when lake experts predicted worsen-

ing problems with toxic blue-green algae as the fleas decimate populations of a zooplankton that helped keep the algae in check.

"These are potentially serious threats to our lakes and rivers and fishing," says Wakeman. "All of the preventative steps will help, and they're all needed. If you just do one thing, you're missing the boat. All of these steps together can help protect our lakes and rivers and keep our fishing healthy."

Other new video segments show why the Winnebago walleye fishery is so important, how DNR and partners protect and restore habitat critical for walleye spawning, and catch up with fish biologists as they put radio transmitters in walleye to track where the fish move and when so they can better manage the species.

The night boom-shocking for young of the year walleye occurs when water temperatures drop below 65 degrees and is above 45 degrees, according to Kendall Kamke, fish biologist based in Oshkosh.

That's when the young fish start to head into the shore in search of warmer water and the bait fish plentiful in the shallow water.

Signs so far are that walleye hatched in the spring in Lake Winnebago have survived in good numbers; trawling surveys earlier late this summer to assess the overall health of the lake's fish species netted plenty of young walleye.

"We had abundant small walleye in the August round of trawling, so it looks like we'll have an above-average year-class," Kamke says. "How much above average we'll have to find out."

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

Wisconsin Department of Justice

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen Announces Judgment Requiring Waukesha County Developer and Owner to Pay Penalties and Restore Wetlands

Tuesday, September 06, 2011

MADISON – On September 2, 2011, the Waukesha County Circuit Court entered a judgment against Berg Construction Inc. and owner Cheryl A. Berg, requiring them to place \$6,000 in escrow to complete necessary wetland restoration work and to pay \$45,000 in forfeitures, surcharges, costs and attorney fees. The judgment came after the parties entered into a Stipulation and Order for

Judgment to resolve the enforcement action. According to the complaint filed by the Department of Justice, Berg Construction began grading approximately six acres of land owned by its President, Cheryl Berg, without first applying for a construction site erosion control and storm water discharge permit, and without first putting in place best management practices to prevent discharges of sediment to waters of the state.

A permit application would have triggered the identification and delineation of protected wetlands on the property.

According to the complaint, the proper plans were not implemented, and wetlands were not identified and delineated in or before 2007, when the DNR learned that construction had started. In addition, a detention basin at the site was not completed and consequently failed during a rain event, causing the discharge of an unknown amount of construction site sediment into the wetlands and into the Mukwonago River. Although some wetland restoration work was done by Berg Construction in accordance with a DNR-approved plan, this work ceased in 2009.

“The Department of Justice will continue to work with the Department of

Natural Resources to protect Wisconsin’s waters and make sure businesses that follow our environmental laws are not put at a competitive disadvantage,” Attorney General Van Hollen said.

According to the DNR, the Mukwonago River is one of the most biologically diverse streams in southeastern Wisconsin, and it provides critical habitat for a number of rare, threatened and endangered species of fish and invertebrates. Storm water runoff from construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality, and storm water flowing over a construction site can pick up phosphorus, other nutrients, and pollutants such as pesticides, petroleum products, chemical solvents, and general debris.

Assistant Attorney General Diane Milligan represented the State.

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen Announces Judgment Requiring Clark County Dairy to Pay \$13,000 in Forfeitures, Fees and Costs

Wednesday, September 07, 2011

MADISON — On September 1, 2011, the Clark County Circuit Court entered a judgment against Lynn Dairy Inc. and Lynn Proteins, Inc., of Granton, requiring Lynn Dairy to reimburse the Department of Natural Resources for its costs, to pay \$2,000 to the Department of Justice for its fees and to pay \$7,000 in forfeitures, mandatory court costs and surcharges to the Clark County Clerk of Courts.

“The Department of Justice will continue to work with the Department of Natural Resources to enforce Clean Water Act permit and spills law violations in order to protect Wisconsin’s waters and to ensure companies take preventive action to avoid discharges like this one,” Attorney General Van Hollen said.

According to the complaint, Lynn Dairy, Inc. and Lynn Proteins, Inc. are sister companies that process cheese and whey out of shared facilities in rural Clark County. The two companies (Lynn Dairy) have been jointly permitted under the Wisconsin Pollution Discharge

Elimination System (WPDES) program for more than 30 years.

In July of 2009, Lynn Dairy employees reversed the flow of water to dislodge a clog in their evaporator. They were unaware that the evaporator feed line connected to the roof drain, so they also did not know the reverse flow caused “permeate,” a thick cream substance, to discharge with cooling water into Cunningham Creek.

The DNR learned of the discharge through a hotline complaint. An unknown quantity of permeate had significantly depleted the water’s dissolved oxygen levels, and it had coated the creek bed with white sediment. The oxygen depletion killed non-game fish and aquatic insects for a 12-mile stretch downstream of the facility.

Although Lynn Dairy took immediate action to identify the cause, to prevent a recurrence and to clean up the Creek after learning of the discharge, the DNR spent approximately \$4,000 responding to it.

Assistant Attorney General Diane Milligan represented the State.

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen Announces Judgment Requiring Milwaukee County Company to Pay \$81,000 for Air Pollution Violations

Monday, September 12, 2011

MADISON — Mid-America Steel Drum Co., Inc., which owns and operates a drum reclamation facility in Oak Creek, will pay \$81,000 for violations of Wisconsin’s air pollution laws in 2008.

Under Wisconsin law, Mid-America Steel Drum Co., Inc. is required to obtain and follow construction and operation permits that control the emissions of air contaminants, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the facility.

“It is important that businesses manage their operations to ensure compliance with permit requirements designed to protect the public from harmful air emissions,” Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen said. “The Wisconsin Department

of Justice will continue to work with the DNR to ensure Wisconsin’s citizens and natural resources are protected through compliance.”

According to the complaint, Mid-America Steel Drum Co., Inc. operated in violation of state air pollution statutes and its permits by exceeding the emission limitation on the VOC content of the coatings that it applies to the exterior and interior surfaces of the drums, resulting in approximately 500 pounds of excess VOC emissions from July to October 2008, and by operating without a permit after failing to submit a timely operation permit renewal application, also in 2008.

Assistant Attorney General JoAnne F. Kloppenburg prosecuted the case.

U.S. Department of Justice

German Shipping Company Sentenced in Puerto Rico to Pay \$800,000 Penalty for Intentional Cover-Up of Oil Pollution

WASHINGTON – Uniteam Marine Shipping GmbH, a German corporation, was sentenced in federal court in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) and making false statements to the U.S. Coast Guard, announced Assistant Attorney General Ignacia S. Moreno and U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez.

The company was sentenced to pay a \$800,000 criminal penalty, to include a \$200,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund a community service project in the District of Puerto Rico. In addition, the company was placed on three years of supervised probation and will have to implement a comprehensive advanced training and verification program to continuously monitor vessel operations and train crewmembers to prevent pollution from any ship it operates.

“The Department of Justice will continue to prosecute shipping companies who break the laws that protect our oceans,” said Assistant Attorney General Moreno. “The penalty imposed by this sentence not only holds Uniteam Marine fully accountable for violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships, but also will fund projects that rehabilitate damaged marine ecosystems in Puerto Rico.”

Uniteam Marine Shipping GmbH operated a 16,800 ton, 603 foot ocean-going container ship named the M/V CCNI Vado Ligure that was engaged in global commercial trade. On May 10, 2010, the U.S. Coast Guard in San Juan, conducted an inspection of the vessel and

discovered an excessive amount of oil in the discharge lines of the vessel’s oil water separator, a pollution prevention device designed to prevent the discharge of oily waste. When the device is operated properly, there should be no oil in the discharge lines. Subsequent investigation revealed that from Jan. 8, 2010, until May 10, 2010, the crew on the vessel manipulated the oil water separator so that it failed to function properly and allowed the illegal discharge of oily bilge wastes directly into the ocean.

All discharges of oil or oily bilge waste from a vessel are required to be recorded in the vessel’s oil record book. However, none of the illegal discharges were recorded in the oil record book for the M/V CCNI Vado Ligure.

“This sentence should serve as an eye opener to vessel owners and operators that choose to violate federal and international environmental laws that destroy our marine environment,” said Capt. Drew W. Pearson, Sector San Juan Commander. “The U.S. Coast Guard is committed to protecting the maritime environment and works closely with our dedicated interagency partners and the U.S. Department of Justice to bring criminal environmental offenders to justice. This outcome would not have been possible without the outstanding investigative efforts and professionalism put forth by Sector San Juan pollution investigators and the Coast Guard Investigative Service who worked diligently with Department of Justice prosecutors to properly resolve this case.”

“Because we live on an island, the sea is without a doubt one of our most pre-

cious resources. This case should send a strong message that the Department of Justice and the United States Attorney’s Office will prosecute any entity which pollutes our environment to the fullest extent allowed by the law,” said Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez, U.S. Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will receive \$200,000 to fund projects aimed at the restoration of marine and aquatic resources in the District of Puerto Rico, including projects intended to protect and rehabilitate marine mammals and their habitat, including manatees.

During the period of probation, Uniteam will be required to implement an advanced training and verification program which will ensure that any ship

operated by Uniteam complies with all maritime environmental requirements established under applicable international, flag state, and port state laws. The program ensures that Uniteam’s employees and the crew of any vessel operated by Uniteam are properly trained in preventing maritime pollution. An independent monitor will report to the court about Uniteam’s compliance with its obligations during the period of probation.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service. The case was prosecuted by Marshal Morgan in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the District of Puerto Rico and by Ken Nelson in the Environmental Crimes Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice.

Former EPA Fugitive Sentenced to More than Seven Years in Prison for Asbestos Training Scam

WASHINGTON – The former owner of the country’s largest asbestos abatement training school was sentenced to prison 9/13/11, after having fled the United States after her trial in November 2008. U.S. District Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton sentenced Albania Deleon, 41, formerly of Andover, Mass., to 87 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. She was also ordered to pay more than \$1.2 million in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service and \$369,015 to AIM Mutual Insurance Company. No level of exposure to asbestos is safe, so removal by untrained workers, performed without the necessary safeguards, threatens the health of those workers and the public.

“Today’s sentence marks the final chapter in bringing Albania Deleon to justice,” said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Committing environmental crimes to make a profit that put workers and our communities at risk carry serious consequences.”

“Today, justice was served, and Albania Deleon has finally faced the consequences of her crimes. I hope that this sentence sends a strong message to anyone who might contemplate fleeing to avoid punishment, that we do not give up on fugitives, and we will take all necessary means and resources to apprehend and prosecute them,” said United States Attorney Carmen M. Ortiz.

In November 2008, following a three-week trial, Deleon was convicted of a broad range of charges including that she sold training certificates to thousands of illegal aliens who had not taken the mandatory training course. Deleon then placed these unqualified individuals in temporary employment positions as certified asbestos abatement workers in public buildings throughout Massachusetts and New England. Deleon was also convicted of encouraging illegal aliens to reside in the United States, making false statements about matters within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); procuring false payroll tax returns, and mail fraud.

From approximately 2001 to 2006, Deleon owned and operated Environmental Compliance Training (ECT), a certified asbestos training school located in Methuen. ECT normally offered training

courses on a weekly basis at its Methuen offices, however, many of the recipients of the certificates never took the required course. Instead, with Deleon’s knowledge and approval, ECT’s office employees issued certificates of course completion to thousands of individuals who did not take the course. These individuals filed the certificates with the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety in order to be authorized to work in the asbestos removal industry. Many of the recipients were illegal aliens who wished to skip the four-day-long course so that they would not forego a week’s pay.

Since ECT’s training course records were subject to inspection, Deleon sought to cover up ECT’s practice of issuing certificates to untrained applicants by having the applicants sign final examination answer sheets that already had been completed and graded, which she maintained in ECT’s files. Based on the evidence at trial and information supplied by the Division of Occupation Safety, ECT issued training certificates to over 2,000 untrained individuals.

Deleon is the fifth environmental criminal captured since the EPA fugitive website was launched in December 2008.

U.S. Attorney Ortiz; Michael E. Hubbard, Special Agent in Charge of EPA’s Criminal Investigation Division in Boston; Bruce M. Foucart, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; William Offord, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation; Scott Antolik, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations – Boston Field Division; James Ennis, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service; John Gibbons, United States Marshall for the District of Massachusetts; Anthony DiPaolo, Chief of Investigations for the Massachusetts Insurance Fraud Bureau; and Heather E. Rowe, Acting Commissioner of the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Safety made the announcement today.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lori Holik, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Mitchell of Ortiz’s Economic Crimes Unit and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter W. Kenyon, an EPA regional criminal enforcement attorney.

Wildlife Smugglers Arrested

August 30, 2011

Wifredo A. Ferrer, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Eddie McKissick, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), Office of Law Enforcement, Miami Office, and Dave Hubbard, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, San Antonio Office, announced today that an indictment was unsealed late last week as a result of the arrest of **Elias Garcia Garcia**, 52, and **Maria Angela Plancarte**, 52, both of La Feria, Texas, as they crossed the border from Mexico into the United States at Brownsville, Texas. The defendants appeared before a United States Magistrate Judge in Texas and were ordered detained pending their removal to the Southern District of Florida to face charges related to the interstate sale of jaguar skins illegally entered into the United States from Mexico, in violation of the Endangered Species Act, Title 16, United States Code, Sections 1538(a)(1) and 1540(b)(1), and the federal conspiracy statute, Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

According to the allegations in the indictment and statements in court, Garcia and Plancarte offered to sell jaguar skins to potential customers in person in Texas and by electronic means elsewhere. Additionally, the defendants made repeated road trips to South Florida, carrying jaguar skins to sell to Florida customers. On November 9, 2010, Garcia and Plancarte sold 2 jaguar pelts to undercover FWS agents in Texas for \$3,000 cash and offered additional future sales of up to 10

jaguar skins. Garcia and Plancarte are also charged with a second sale of jaguar skins to undercover FWS agents in Homestead, Florida, resulting in a payment of \$4,000 in cash, representing the purchase price of \$3,000 and an additional \$1,000 as a deposit against the future sale of up to 10 jaguar skins.

Further court proceedings will be scheduled in U.S. District Court in Miami, once the defendants arrive from Texas. The case is assigned to U.S. District Court Judge Joan A. Lenard. If convicted, the defendants each face a possible term of imprisonment of up to five years in jail on the conspiracy count, and up to one year on the two counts charging violations of the Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act, Title 16, United States Code, Section 1531, et seq., and regulations promulgated thereunder, makes it unlawful among other things, to deliver, carry, transport, ship, sell, or offer for sale any species of wildlife, or the dead body or parts thereof, listed under Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.11, and thus protected under the Act. The jaguar (Panthera onca) is listed as an “Endangered Species” under the Act, and subject to the prohibitions appearing in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 17.21.

Mr. Ferrer commended the investigative efforts of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which resulted in the criminal charges in this matter. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas Watts-FitzGerald. An indictment is only an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

2012 Conservation Calendar

Calendar Sales Persons and Locations

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

George's Shooting Supply	715-649-3441	Argonne
Main Street Ed's		Argonne
Dave Hraychuck	715-485-3362	Balsam Lake
Shirley Schroeder	920-887-1021	Beaver Dam
Ed Dolata	920-361-1262	Berlin
Ken Barbian	262-782-8286	Brookfield
Jennifer Evans	608-697-2211	Cambria
Chuck Matsyska	920-855-6052	Cecil
White Clay Lake Lodge	715-745-6254	Cecil
Dave & Tami's Marsh Inn		Collins
Cheryl Hurckmann	920-350-2237	Columbus
Rev's Windbreaker		Deerbrook
Robert Fischer	715-654-5650	Dorchester
Jack Nissen	262-370-8154	Dousman
Mike Rynearson	414-313-2079	Dousman
Lil Pipping	920-876-4312	Elkhart Lake
Frank Micale	920-723-7889	Fort Atkinson
Tom Dahlen	715-238-7814	Granton
Randy Teresinski	715-897-8832	Granton
Norb Moes	920-434-1999	Green Bay
Keith Pamperin	920-494-3990	Green Bay
Jim Kaddatz	262-488-2988	Greendale
John Nissen	262-719-5295	Hartland
John Wetzel	608-526-4238	Holman
Corky Meyer	262-379-6553	Kewaskum
Ed Coppersmith	920-388-4484	Kewaunee
Greg Kloss	608-788-0070	LaCrosse
Eric Olson	608-386-5363	LaCrosse
Firelight Lounge	715-276-7041	Lakewood
Danz Bar	715-674-2022	Laona
Silver Lake Inn	715-674-5678	Laona
Lois Whitcomb	920-836-2631	Larsen
Joe's Place	715-484-5601	Lily

Pat Kaiser	608-592-7974	Lodi
Big 4 Sportsman Club	715-674-3208	Long Lake
Jim Falish	920-866-9550	Luxemburg
George Meyer	608-516-5545	Madison
Al Phelan	608-241-7538	Madison
Deb Schotten		Mauston
Dan Gries	920-725-0052	Menasha
Doug Gries		Menasha
John Koester		Menasha
Louie Quella		Menasha
Bruce Terwilligar		Menasha
Tony's Bar		Menasha
Don Hammes	608-836-1205	Middleton
Brill Sportsmen Club	715-234-8985	Mikana
Carolyn Brown		Milton
Larry Laehn	920-540-9927	Milton
Jeanna Hrubes	608-943-8525	Muscoda
Twin City Rod and Gun Club House		Neenah
Wayne Winter	920-293-5011	Neshkoro
Tim Cimenski	414-762-6901	Oak Creek
Mike Arrowood	920-922-0905	Oakfield
Phil Janoska	262-844-0898	Oconomowoc
John Wagner	262-560-1230	Oconomowoc
Wade Jeske	920-846-0211	Oconto Falls
Craig Challoner	920-685-6185	Omro
Bob Kirk	920-685-5254	Omro
Dan Billman	920-564-6121	Oostburg
Dave Pettis	715-268-9444	Osceola
Betty Borchert	920-688-3122	Oshkosh
Doug Flourou	920-420-5840	Oshkosh
Dennis Reinhardt	715-597-3535	Osseo
Chris Starich	christarich@aol.com	Pewaukee

Old Mill		Phlox
Jerry Schul's Lodge	715-484-2703	Pickrell
Larry Vanderhoef	715-366-2453	Plainfield
Bob Chojnowski	715-344-0017	Plover
Jerry Knuth		Plover
Rice Lake Rod & Gun Club	715-859-6775	Rice Lake
Rice Lake Youth Cons Club	715-205-1871	Rice Lake
Larry Freitag	920-458-4117	Sheboygan
Jim Meinnert	920-565-2451	Sheboygan
Jean Reinemann	920-889-9865	Sheboygan Falls
Jon Schaefer	715-897-2327	Stratford
Bobbers		Stockbridge
Dick Baudhuin	920-743-2581	Sturgeon Bay
Steve Pease	262-719-9623	Sullivan
McMahon's Irish Waters	920-842-9845	Suring
Ralph Fritsch	715-850-2456	Townsend
Russell Harter	715-473-2166	Wabeno
John Nogalski	715-473-2227	Wabeno
Jim Weishan	715-473-6013	Wabeno
Backhaus Retreat	715-473-2217	Wabeno
Dave Chingway	920-261-0379	Watertown
Jim Huhn	920-261-3998	Watertown
Rick Lazarczyk	414-321-5160	West Allis
Russ Hiltz	715-632-2143	Wheeler
Scott Dempewolf		White Lake
Michael Steuck	920-323-9230	Whitetail
Gary Dieck	608-464-3290	Wionewoc
Slim & MaryAnn's		Zittau
Tashina Meyer		WI
J&H Game Farm	715-758-8134	WI
Ed Rollins	630-561-3099	Hoffman Estates, IL
Greg Bezdicek	701-225-3762	Manning, ND

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HAUNTED HAY RIDE

**Friday, October 21st, 2011: 6:30-9:30 pm AND
Saturday, October 22nd, 2011: 6:30-9:30 pm**

Join us for a fun and spooky hay ride around the MacKenzie Center property. Zombies, Witches, Graveyards, Ghosts and more! \$5 for adults, \$3 children age 3-8; includes a campfire with snacks too! Dress appropriately for the weather, costumes welcome. The MacKenzie Center is located at W7303 Co. Road CS, just 2 miles east of Poynette, WI and 25 miles north of Madison.

<http://www.wiwf.org/education/MEEC.php>

2011 WWF Print Now Available



"It's a Keeper"
Robert Gilbert

Edition Size: Signed and Numbered 400
Image Size: 17.5" x 22"
Price: \$25.00
Remarques are available for additional cost.
Shipping and Handling: \$5.00

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation 2011 Print of the Year

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Robert E. Gilbert was born in Forest County near Crandon, Wisconsin. He was raised on a small dairy farm. A logging operation helped to support the family.

Good hunting and fishing were close at hand. Many hours were spent in the woods near the lakes and streams. This presented the opportunity to develop a great appreciation of nature and wildlife which was not overlooked by Robert. The constant changes and moods created by the seasons, time of day and the weather were enjoyed and remembered.

Robert started his art training with a correspondence course and has worked as a sketch artist for Scott Paper Company. Now retired, and living in New London, WI, Bob is looking forward to painting his Forest County Memories.

Robert is the only seven-time winner of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation print contest - 1989, 1990, 1991, 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2011.

ORDER FORM 2011 "It's a Keeper"

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W7303 County Road CS & Q
Poynette, Wisconsin 53955
(608) 635-2742

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Master Card and Visa Accepted

September 2011 Calendar Winners



1	\$1000 Cash	Dennis Sellnow, Johnson Creek, WI	5182
2	Remington 1187 12 ga	Douglas Ringelstetter, Prairie du Sac, WI	9379
3	\$100 Cash	Josh Larson, Kaukauna, WI	7921
4	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Bob Lehmann, Sparta, WI	668
5	Ruger Hawkeye 30.06	Michael Crawford, Mauston, WI	5753
6	\$100 Cash	Kevin Galston, Baraboo, WI	2127
7	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Michael Dantizler, Menomonee Falls, WI	6526
8	Weatherby Vanguard 30.06	Chad Kent, Lindstrom, MN	9630
9	\$100 Cash	Tony Bomkamp, Muscoda, WI	80
10	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Jeff Court, Arundel, ME	124
11	Marlin 1895 45-70	Joe Lemankzyk, Grafton, WI	1300
12	\$100 Cash	Tom Lingnofski, Menasha, WI	188
13	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Tim Fenske, Cascade, WI	8677
14	Benelli Super Nova 12 ga.	Larry Tobin, Spencer, WI	7176
15	\$100 Cash	Doug Root, Fort Atkinson, WI	6418
16	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Joshua Harris, Sauk City, WI	4998
17	Mossberg Silver Reserve 20 ga.	Chad Nenno, Beloit, WI	7590
18	\$100 Cash	Butch Fryar, Rhinelander, WI	8244
19	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Richard Schultz, Verona, WI	5718
20	Henry Golden Boy 22lr	Dan DeWitt, Wisconsin Rapids, WI	2160
21	\$100 Cash	Greg Matthews, Wisconsin Rapids, WI	8910
22	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Jeffrey Niemuth, Neenah, WI	3736
23	TC Omega syn/blue 50 Cal	Ron Larson, Montfort, WI	6921
24	\$100 Cash	Lance Voeltner, Ellison Bay, WI	35
25	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Stephen Daye, Westfield, WI	7907
26	NEF A5 12 ga	Jack Schramm, Cohasset, MN	9081
27	\$100 Cash	Mike & Kay Anderson, Appleton, WI	6200
28	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Nancy Carroll, Mauston, WI	6559
29	Marlin 925	Scott Huebner, Appleton, WI	799
30	Gander Mountain Gift Card \$100	Dan Biertzer, Wytheville, VA	2231



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directions: Take Hwy 41 to Hwy 15 (Northland Avenue). Go west 1.5 miles towards Greenville until Mayflower Rd. (third road on the right). Go north on Mayflower for 5.5 miles and watch for signs at the intersections. The Outagamie Conservation Club will be on the right hand side.

**For more information: Sarah (920) 470-8126
nee d Community Service Hours?? Want to help?? Call me!!!**