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Incident management helped stave off flooding of the Portage levee

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Once again, South Central Region's (SCR) Dodgeville Incident Management Team (IMT) stepped to the plate in response to an emergency as they worked intensely for five days, September 25-29, to maintain the integrity of the Portage Levee.



(Left) **Jeff Roe**, urban forester, Fitchburg, and **Rick Livingston**, forester, Baraboo,

conferred at the Dodgeville Incident Management Team command post in Portage. Livingston, served as chief of the IMT Planning Section, and Roe was in the section's Resources Unit.

WDNR Photo

The 120 year-old structure was threatened by record high water flowing down the Wisconsin River, stemming from heavy rainfall upstream.

The Wisconsin River rose to an all-time high on September 28, cresting at 20.66 feet, topping the previous record of 20.50 feet, set on September 14, 1938.

"We were there to monitor and evaluate the integrity of the levee, make repairs if needed and (if) they could be done safely, and keep local authorities informed of any developments related to the levee," said **John Nielson**, SCR regional forester, Fitchburg. Nielsen served as incident commander for the first two days, followed by area forester **Aaron Young**, Dodgeville, who occupied the post for the last three days of the operation.

The 14-mile levee system, formally named the Caledonia-Lewiston Levee System and popularly called the Portage Levee, was constructed along the Wisconsin River in the 1890s by various groups of landowners who lived adjacent to the river.

Built from locally-available materials, mostly sand, without any engineering design or adherence to any standards, these structures could more aptly be referred to as "dikes," according to **Meg Galloway**, chief of the Dam and Floodplain Section, in the Bureau of Watershed Management.

The situation began to deteriorate on September 26, to the point where dam safety engineers believed that a part of the levee could collapse in the Blackhawk area of the Caledonia section located south and east of State Highway 33.

Local officials ordered about 300 residents to evacuate a nearby subdivision, even though residences there were not protected by the levee. The fear was that a breach would lead to a blockage of the access road leading in and out of the subdivision.



The boil in the Blackhawk area of the levee that at one time was a cause of great concern.

WDNR Photo

What threatened the Blackhawk section was a boil – water bubbling through the levee – and DNR crews worked round the clock either building a sandbag chimney around the boil or monitoring the situation.

During the course of the five-day event, SCR's IMT maintained 24-hour surveillance not

only in the Blackhawk area, but along other sections of the century-old levee. Altogether, DNR crews erected 14 sandbag chimneys on the levee and monitored seepage under the toe of the structure along a town road running parallel to part of the Caledonia section adjacent to Pine Island Wildlife Area.

Media coverage was intense, even more so than during the last event for which SCR's Dodgeville IMT was activated, flooding in Sauk County right at the time of the de-watering of Lake Delton.

That's because some media outlets, in particular the national media, compared the Portage Levee to the flooding in New Orleans, five years ago. It took almost two days to set the record straight, explaining the difference between a modern concrete and steel levee serving a major metropolitan area and a dike located in rural Wisconsin.



Sandbagging along the Caledonia section of the levee (left to right) **Scott Lancaster**, forester/ranger, Spring Green; **Mike Dampf**, wildlife technician, Spring Green; **Dan Goltz**, wildlife biologist, Boscobel; and **Fletcher Flansburgh**, wildlife technician, Boscobel.

WDNR Photo

Despite being saturated and in poor condition, the Portage Levee never breached or collapsed at any section. The river crested and then dropped rapidly, often by an inch per hour, on September 29. By 8 a.m. that morning, the Wisconsin River water level at Portage had dropped to 18.7 feet, almost a foot below flood stage. Only four of the 14 sandbag chimneys around boils were passing water, and small amounts, at that. The Dodgeville IMT de-activated that afternoon at 3 p.m. and returned levee management to property supervisor **Brian Hefty**, Dodgeville, who had called them in four days earlier. "We will continue to inspect the levee for the next week or so and agency dam safety engineers have been brought in to assess the structure's integrity," said Hefty.

The [list of DNR employees](#) staffing around-the-clock shifts onsite and from IMT command attests to the commitment to avert more destructive flooding. View the area of concern on the "[Portage Area Monitored Levee Map.](#)"

As of October 5, the Wisconsin River stood at 15.33 feet.

Footnote: *Greg Matthews, public affairs manager for the South Central Region, was a member of the IMT staffing the Portage Levee incident.*



DNR receives national honor for plant recovery initiative

By: Eric Ballas, Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment

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The Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program recently earned national honors for the department when it received one of four state program Innovation Awards from the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) for its new initiative to encourage the assessment and cleanup of closed manufacturing plants.

ECOS is a non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. This honor recognized the Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative (WPRI), a statewide effort to provide environmental and economic assistance to communities and companies struggling with closed manufacturing facilities. Air and Waste Division administrator **Sue Bangert** accepted the award on the DNR's behalf.



Brownfields and Outreach Section chief Darsi Foss, Sec. Matt Frank and Remediation and Redevelopment bureau director Mark Giesfeldt posed with the ECOS Award received for the WPRI effort.

WDNR Photo

"We are very proud to receive this award from our national peers," said DNR Secretary **Matt Frank**. "This initiative highlights ways the DNR can partner with Wisconsin's private industry to retain local business and protect the environment."

The initiative was launched in March 2010, by the RR program and offers technical assistance, along with financial and liability tools, for the cleanup and eventual redevelopment of shuttered factories and plants.

"Through quick action, we can help communities prepare these properties for a productive future and avoid creating brownfields that might languish for decades," said Frank.

The RR program launched WPRI in March of this year, due to the hard work of many RR staff members. Special recognition goes to Brownfields and Outreach Section chief **Darsi Foss**, Land Recycling Team leader **Michael Prager**, Local Government Brownfields specialist **Dan Kolberg**, Brownfields Program specialist **Melissa Enoch**, RR Outreach Team leader **Andrew Savagian** and **regional members of the Land Recycling Team**. Thanks also to RR bureau director **Mark Giesfeldt**, all **five regional Air and Waste Team leaders and the DNR Leadership Team**.

The initiative was launched from discussions with the Brownfields Study Group, a statewide advisory task force facilitated by the RR program. Both the program and its partners recognized the impact the recent economic downturn was having on manufacturing facilities in Wisconsin. With alarmingly high numbers of plant closings, the

group saw the need to reach out to impacted communities and owners of closing facilities and provide assistance, as well as draw upon resources from other DNR programs, and state and federal agencies.

The Environmental Council of States announced the award during its annual meeting in Whitefield, New Hampshire. The Council is a non-profit association made up of state agencies from across the nation with a role in protecting the environment. Other 2010 honorees include the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment.

Visit the ["Wisconsin Plant Recovery Initiative"](#) website to learn more about this award-winning effort. For even more information, email program coordinator [Michael Prager](#) or call him at (608)261-4927.

Footnote: *Eric Ballas is a marketing specialist with the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment.*

Annual call goes out for Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring volunteers

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As Max Olson, CWD processing center manager, said in a recent email to department staff, "It's that time of year again!" If you've been interested in helping with the department's efforts to monitor and manage Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Wisconsin's deer herd, now is the time to step forward.



(Left) Erin Holmes, CWD technician in black Earth took a sample from the head of a deer in 2009 at the Barneveld registration station, assisted by Travis Anderson, wildlife biologist in Dodgeville.

WDNR Photo

With deer bow season underway, DNR is in the midst of the CWD sampling. As happens every year, the Black Earth sampling center can use a few extra hands. Olson is looking for help with deer aging, deer check-in, sampling, data entry, and field sample entry. Former Wisconsin governor, U.S. senator and founder of Earth Day Gaylord Nelson is quoted on the front cover of the department's ["Wisconsin Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan: 2010-2025:"](#) "The ultimate test of man's conscience is his willingness to

sacrifice something today for generations tomorrow, whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

If you'd like to volunteer, email [Max Olson](#) or call him at (608)767-2090. He'll provide you with information on shifts, location, time reporting, etc. Be sure to get approval from your supervisor before signing up.



Warden Martin Stone receives boating safety award

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Department of Natural Resources conservation warden **Martin Stone**, Fennimore, received the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boating Safety Award recently for his foresight and leadership in boating enforcement efforts on the Mississippi River. Stone has been stationed in Grant County since 2002.

The Boating Safety Award was first presented in 1992. It is awarded to a state or local government individual who is involved in boating safety but does not serve as a boating law administrator, and who has demonstrated outstanding performance in any area of the program, including but not limited to enforcement, education, search and rescue, navigational aids, or registration and titling. The award is sponsored the National Safe Boating Council, a longtime partner of NASBLA.



Warden Marty Stone (left) received the NASBLA Safe Boating Award from Boating Law administrator Roy Zellmer.

WDNR Photo

NASBLA is a national nonprofit organization that works to develop public policy for recreational boating safety. NASBLA represents the recreational boating authorities of all 50 states and the U.S. territories.

“The Boating Safety Award given to Warden Stone by NASBLA is an esteemed honor and signifies high respect not only for Marty but upon the entire Wisconsin Conservation

Warden force,” noted DNR boating law administrator **Roy Zellmer**, Madison. Serving roughly the northern half of Grant County, warden Stone works the majority of his boating enforcement on the Mississippi River, which has heavy recreational boating traffic, as well as significant commercial barge traffic. In recent years, the recreational traffic in the area has changed dramatically due to an increase in the use of large offshore powerboats that are capable of speeds from 60 to 100 miles per hour, powered by one to three V-8 engines.

With this significant traffic change on the river, Stone rose to the challenge and became the leader in boat enforcement and noise violations on his stretch of the Mississippi River. His knowledge of the three SAE standard testing procedures is unparalleled. He has organized interagency noise and intoxicated boater checks on the Mississippi River for more than five years. During these checks, Stone uses sound level meters and range finders to concentrate on moving violations.

In addition to working well with local Wisconsin wardens and sheriff’s departments, he has coordinated patrol efforts with officers from the state of Iowa and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This willingness to work with officers from other agencies has contributed to a close and effective working relationship between all agencies on the river – focusing on boating safety. The number of boats encountered and cited for various violations has significantly dropped in recent years because of his efforts. The high speeds of these boats and the corresponding use of alcohol have led to some fatal accidents on the river. Stone has always done a good job investigating these incidents as well as providing emergency first aid to the victims.

Detecting intoxicated or impaired boat operators has always been a priority for Stone. He routinely arrests more intoxicated boat operators on the Mississippi River than any other enforcement officer. Recognizing that on-water enforcement can address only some of the heavy drinking that goes on, Stone uses many innovative tactics to prevent, detect, stop and arrest impaired boaters, including “beach sweeps” to reduce the illegal use of alcohol and drugs on river islands by boaters.

Footnote: *Greg Matthews is South Central Region’s public affairs manager.*



Links of interest to DNR employees

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Environmental & natural resources management websites

• **Title:** “Great Lakes Restoration Site of the Month, Current Recipient, EEK! Environmental Education for Kids”

Description: The Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) is a partnership that provides one place online for people to find information relating to the binational Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region of North America. GLIN offers a wealth of data and information about the region's environment, economy, tourism, education and more. “EEK!” is DNR’s online magazine for children in grades 4-8, offering environmental information, activities and a wide variety of resources for students and educators.

Link: [“Great Lakes Restoration Site of the Month”](#)

- **Title:** Great Lakes Restoration grants

Description: During 2010, President Obama announced \$475 million in new funding for his Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. The Initiative targets some of the most serious threats to the Great Lakes: invasive species, non-point source pollution and contaminated sediment.

Link: ["Great Lakes Restoration"](#)

Mediasite Presentations

- **Title:** "Lake Michigan research vessel construction"

Description: The Research Vessel Barney Devine has served Wisconsin anglers well for more than 70 years, helping DNR conduct research and enforcement to keep fishing strong on Lake Michigan. See how DNR is teaming up with the same Manitowoc boat company that built the Barney Devine to build a brand new boat to use on the big pond. Watch for more Mediasite to come on this... Length: 2:28

Link: ["Lake Michigan research vessel construction"](#)

Partnerships

- **Title:** "Hunter's Network of Wisconsin"

Description: Published by the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, "The Hunter's Network of Wisconsin" uses online technology to provide new hunters, mentors and youth with information about mentored hunting and "Learn to Hunt" events. The network hopes to provide information and educational opportunities to those who are interested in hunting, but may not know how to get involved.

Link: ["Hunter's Network of Wisconsin"](#)

Radio broadcasts

- **Title:** "Can there be clean air and economic growth?"

Description: A National Public Radio show, this July 30, 2010 segment of "Marketplace" addresses the relationship between global economic growth and levels of pollution, which today aren't necessarily "mutually inclusive."

Link: ["Can there be clean air and economic growth?"](#)

DNR reports

- **Title:** "2010 Survey of Sustainable Efforts of Businesses in Wisconsin"

Description: This is the second year that this report has been published. Persons interested in a hardcopy of the report can contact **Mark McDermid**, director of the Bureau of Cooperative Environmental Assistance.

Link: ["2010 Survey of Sustainable Efforts of Businesses in Wisconsin"](#)

"You Tube"

- **Title:** "Sebastian the Goose Encourages Natural Shorelines"

Description: "Sebastian the Goose" encourages saving natural shorelines by addressing the annoyance that shoreline property owners perceive about geese pooping on their property. Co-produced by the UW-Extension St. Croix Basin Educator and UW-Madison students, this project also garnered some regional and statewide media attention. This feature and the next one from Larry the Bullfrog are part of a larger shoreline preservation project supported by DNR underway in Burnett County.

Link: ["Sebastian the Goose Encourages Natural Shorelines"](#)

- **Title:** "Larry the All-American Bullfrog"

Description: As has Sebastian the Goose, Larry the Bullfrog has received rave reviews, portraying an important message about preserving natural shorelines in a fun way. People have been sending these

to friends, lake associations, showing at talks, embedding as links on websites and blogs, getting picked up by the media, etc.

Link: ["Larry the All-American Bullfrog"](#)



DNR wardens aid in arrest of poachers in Montana

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Nine Wisconsin hunters convicted for deer hunting violations

Nine Wisconsin hunters were among 12 persons convicted recently as part of a multi-year investigation of illegal hunting activities in Montana. The total amount of fines, bond and restitution collected in the case was \$17,416.

The 12 defendants also lost a total of 63 years of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges in the 34 states participating in the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials.

"Those revocations also apply in Wisconsin," said Wisconsin conservation warden **Paul Nell**, Horicon. Along with conservation warden **Kyle Kosin**, Fond du Lac, Nell assisted Montana officials with the investigation.



DNR wardens Kyle Kosin (left), Fond du Lac, and Paul Nell, Horicon, look upon a number of firearms, antlers and mounts seized in a case involving illegal hunting activities in Montana.

WDNR Photo

"The investigation could best be described as an evolving case, with us interviewing a suspect and then just like that another name would pop up," noted Nell. "The probe took two years and the convictions were the product of great cooperation between Montana and Wisconsin."

Besides assisting with the investigation, the Wisconsin wardens seized a number of firearms, antlers and mounted deer and antelope heads.

Two of the defendants were from Montana and another from North Dakota. All of the Wisconsin defendants lost their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for between two and ten years. Those involved and deposed in Montana were:

- Michael L. Leinen and Ron M. Leinen Jr., both of West Bend: The elder Leinen was assessed \$1,270 in bond forfeiture and restitution for using another person's license and killing a white-tailed buck without a license. The younger Leinen also used another person's license and possessed an unlawfully killed antelope. He forfeited a \$1,005 bond.
- Scott Vercauteren and Lanna Vercauteren, both of Campbellsport: Lanna loaned a license to

another person and forfeited a \$235 bond. Scott killed three mule deer bucks, a turkey and an antelope without licenses, as well as using other people's licenses and failing to properly validate a license. Total bond forfeited and restitution, \$5,040, and both lost hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for three years.

- Scott Morenzi, of Fond du Lac: For possessing an unlawfully killed mule deer buck, Morenzi forfeited bond and paid restitution in the amount of \$1,035.
- Larry Morenzi, of Kewaskum possessed an unlawfully killed white-tailed buck and mule deer buck, for which he forfeited bond and paid restitution of \$2,070.
- Dennis G. Wittkopf and Scott D. Wittkopf, both of Fond du Lac, each possessed two unlawfully killed white-tailed bucks and each paid \$2,070 in forfeited bond and restitution. Tammy Wittkopf, also of Fond du Lac, possessed a single unlawfully killed white-tailed buck. She paid \$1,035 in forfeited bond and restitution. Tammy and Scott Wittkopf each lost their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for 10 years.

Footnote: *Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

- I would like to personally thank **Eric Eikenberry** (microbiologist in the Bureau of Fisheries Management). Eric has been a marvelous, cooperative helpful person. Eric has efficiently worked through many issues with the buyer, attorneys, and myself (seller) as we are in the process of selling our Fish Farm and renewals for Natural Water Body Permits are pending. Thanks for all your help Eric. *Robert Ulbricht, Castroville Fish Farm (St. Croix County)*

Northeast Region success stories



Southwest High School student retrieved a bike during "Cleanup Day."

WDNR Photo

- The **Northeast Region** recently worked with Southwest High School in Green Bay to orchestrate a

"Cleanup Day" on Long Tail Point. Longtail is a spit of land jutting two miles from the west shore into the bay of Green Bay. The "Cleanup Day" took place September 16 (during the goose closed season) and was sponsored by Outdoor Life magazine and a local Yamaha dealer. This activity is the result of Outdoor Life and "Save-a-Stream" support and will be featured in the December-January issue of Outdoor Life. *Joe Brooker, the Associate Principal of Southwest High School complimented the DNR, saying, "The thanks go to all of you at the DNR who were so supportive. Without your guidance and support this could not have occurred."*

- **Sue Kocken** (environmental grants specialist, Green Bay), **Chris Halbur** (government outreach supervisor, Green Bay): Thank you so much for taking the time to attend the Lake Michigan Shorelands Alliance meeting yesterday. We really appreciate it. The session on NR 52 was extremely informative, and I know the land trusts found your materials and the discussion to be really useful. It seems like the more that the land trusts can understand the combined NR 51/52 processes outlined in your handout (and how this will impact the timing of projects), the better off we'll all be. *Mike Carlson*
- Chief (**Randy Stark**), I had the pleasure of meeting with warden **Joe Paul** (Lakewood) yesterday morning upon finishing up a morning grouse hunt. I found warden Paul to be very professional and courteous while doing his job and checking to make sure that I was properly licensed and safe with my firearms. I have had several encounters with him as I often fish and hunt in his area of responsibility and find this to be his style. The job of a warden is a tough job that is not suited for everyone and it is reassuring to know the likes of Joe are out there making sure that the outdoors are a safe place for me and my family to enjoy and that he is taking care of those who choose not to follow the rules. Unfortunately the job of a warden is only going to get tougher as evidenced by the recent drug grow operations that were taken down in the national forest by Mountain several weeks ago. Hopefully, the politicians don't slash you budget too bad, I for one support every tax dollar spent on your agency. Keep up the good work recruiting new Wardens like Joe. *Best wishes, Ron Bouchard-Menasha*
- **Carrie Webb** (lakeshore water management specialist, Green Bay): I thought you would like to see the finished product at Egg Harbor Marina. I've attached two graphic boards, one showing the graphic we produced to convey how the marina would look compared with an aerial of how it actually looked (pretty similar) and another graphic that shows the marina before improvements and after improvements. We have heard many good things from the Village and its residents on how spectacular the marina turned out. We even received a letter from Bonnie Cady voicing her approval of the marina. Thanks for working through the process with us and the Village. This is something we can all be proud of. *Bill Brose, P.E.*
- **Keld Lauridsen** (hydrogeologist), **Roxanne Chronert** (hydrogeologist), **Kristin Dufresne** (hydrogeologist) and **Diane Hansen** (environmental program associate), all in Green Bay: I just received a call for the RP/seller of the VNS Industrial Machine - Former site. He wanted to say thank you to us for the quick review of his site's closure request. The property transfer has been completed due to our quick review. Thanks for all the help in making this happen!
- **Rod Lange** (fisheries technician, Green Bay), **Mike Baumgartner** (fish propagation technician, Kewaunee), **Neal Rosenberg** (field operations supervisor, Crivitz), **Dave Rowe** (fisheries biologist, Green Bay), **John Nelson** (field operations supervisor, Winnebago), **Steve Hogler** (fisheries biologist, Mishicot), **Steve Surendonk** (fisheries technician Mishicot), **Mike Donofrio** (fisheries supervisor, Peshtigo), **Steve Fajfer** (operations supervisor, Wild Rose), **Randy Larson** (fish propagation supervisor, Wild Rose), **Rick Klett** (fisheries technician, Wild Rose), **Bob Hoodie** (equipment operator, Winnebago), **Tom Schlavensky** (fisheries technician, Winnebago), **Bob Lauer** (fisheries technician, Winnebago) (**and others**): Congratulations to all those involved in the successful production of Great Lakes spotted musky fingerling at the Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility.

This is the first stocking of musky in Green Bay since the discovery of VHS in 2007. The disease risk due to Green Bay source spotted musky gametes in our hatcheries was too high and production was discontinued. The limited number of spotted musky brought in from Ontario in recent years was dedicated to establishing the three inland broodstocks in Elkhart, Anderson and Archibald lakes. These lakes will be a future source of gametes for our hatcheries. This season, our Fisheries staff developed a safe, low risk approach to producing a portion of the spotted musky stocking quota for Green Bay. They set up and adapted the Dana Farm at Besadny to hatch and rear fingerling. The production totaled 2,791 fat, sassy, and quality fingerling, stocked in 5 locations around Green Bay. The fish will contribute to the ongoing reestablishment of this native species. The anglers will also reap the benefits of fishing for this trophy species and the ultimate goal of a restored population. **George Boronow**, regional fisheries coordinator, Green Bay

South Central Region success stories

- Michelle (Gerrits, Department of Transportation) & **Mike (Halsted)** (environmental review and analysis specialist, Fitchburg): I'd like to thank you for your presentation on site reclamation given to the DNR's NR135 Nonmetallic Mining Advisory Committee (NMAC) on September 8, 2010. Your timely participation was appreciated by the NMAC and others. Given the number of questions and the lively discussion I feel safe saying it was well received! I know I got a lot out of it and enjoyed the chance to work with you! *Regards, Thomas L. Portle, reclamation specialist, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management*
- Hi **Bev (Pozega)**, Wyalusing State Park): I hope you have had a chance to recover from your busy schedule with the Volunteer Jamboree. I want to thank you for taking the lead on this event and making it such a great success. It was obvious that you had put in many hours in preparation, planning and coordination to pull this event off. You and all of the park staff and volunteers deserve a huge "thanks" from the parks program for your work. I really enjoyed spending the day with the group and hearing their concerns as well as their successes. I have already heard back from a few managers who had volunteers at the event and they had nothing but great things to report! Nice work, I really appreciate your efforts.
Hi **Jim (Thompson)**, Wyalusing State Park): Please take a moment to pass along to the staff and all the volunteers at Wyalusing who helped with the Volunteer Jamboree a huge THANK YOU from me and the parks program. The property looked fantastic, the staff was always friendly and upbeat, the program was well organized and the volunteers were having an absolutely great time at the event. I know how much extra work is needed behind the scenes to make these events a success. This was a big success and folks seemed to have a great time.
I know everyone is being asked to do more in these tough times of staff vacancies and adding a big event in on top of that would test many staff's strength. It is obvious that the staff and volunteers at Wyalusing are a very dedicated, hard working and team oriented group. You all should be very proud of the work you are doing and it shows in the success of the event as well as in the overall operation of the property. Thank you all so much, you have made the park system proud! **Dave Borsechnik**, property supervisor, Stoughton
- **Catherina (Nooyen)**, recreation safety specialist warden, Fitchburg): Once again you came through big time for us (by providing the ATV Education trailer.) We experienced our most successful NWTF Jakes event to date with 68 participating youth, 41 parents and 22 volunteer instructors. Every kid went home with a door prize. Your support is noteworthy and underscores the professionalism of the

DNR staff we are privileged to work with. Thank you on behalf of our chapter and 68 happy kids! *Bill Meddings, Local chapter treasurer of the National Wild Turkey Federation*

• **Dave Holmes** (warden supervisor, Poynette), **Kevin Mickelberg** (regional enforcement leader, Milwaukee), Kevin L, **Barb Wolf** (regional enforcement leader, Fitchburg), **Sara Kehrli** (wildlife biologist, Poynette), **Bob Nack** (area wildlife supervisor, Poynette) and **Derek Duane** (property supervisor, MacKenzie Environmental Education Center, Poynette): Hi all, we finished the Learn to Hunt this afternoon and Gerv, (**Gervis Myles**, warden, Milwaukee) **John Plenke** (recreational safety warden, Waukesha) and I wanted to say thanks to all who helped make it happen. The facilities at the Mackenzie Center were perfect and working with Derek and Roxanne was a pleasure. We owe Dave Holmes a huge thank you for helping coordinate things and lining up mentors and instructors for the dog demo. The mentors were really the key to this succeeding and it was a fantastic experience for all- they really did a great job. We'll be passing our thanks on to them as well. Sara and Bob- Mud Lake was perfect- thank you. We may not be ready for "professional" bird catching status, but you guys have it set up so even us amateurs can make it work. We had a lot of room to spread out and the close proximity to the Mackenzie Center really helped make things run smoothly. We had no issues with other users and actually met some really friendly folks out there. Most of the mentors knew the area well, and were awesome at both picking out locations and stocking birds. Paul Smith from the Journal Sentinel came up this morning and went on the hunt with us as well.

We had 15 new hunters-8 kids and 5 adults, none of which had ever killed a bird. We were able to harvest 5 of the 30 birds. Everyone experienced flushed birds, got to pull the trigger, and we even had a few experience the look from the dogs of ..."can't believe you missed that one." Lots of smiles and a whole bunch of stories for future trips! Putting this together in Columbia County for a group from Milwaukee had it's challenges, but it really did come out well and was a great experience for all involved. Again, thank you. **Rick Reed**, conservation warden supervisor, Waukesha

Southeast Region success stories

• Congratulations to **Randy Reading** (air management specialist, Milwaukee) for a thank you message from a Milwaukee resident. I just wanted to say thank you again to all involved, and for your individual efforts. I'm able to have my windows open again and with no smell or headaches.

Anonymous

• Congratulations to **Ben Heussner** (fisheries biologist, Waukesha) who received appreciative comments from the Phantom Lake Management District. I just wanted to take a moment to thank you personally for all the support you've shown to Upper and Lower Phantom Lakes. We completed the private stocking of some perch and a small number of pike. With your help the permitting process was quick and smooth. We also noticed a WDNR boat stocking pike. We're also excited to be getting the stunted bass from Eagle Springs. *Thanks again from all of on the Phantom Lakes and the Phantom Lakes Management District Board for your efforts with the fishery on the Phantoms.*

• Hi **Gervis (Myles)**, conservation warden, Milwaukee): Job well done!!! Thanks a bunch for your leadership on this issue. Excellent article on this event. (["City kids take field in DNR Learn to Hunt event"](#)) The comment in the "comment section" is a testament to the effectiveness your efforts...a life changed. How could someone ask for a better ratification of the work you do makes a difference? You should be extremely proud. Keep up the good work. *Thanks, chief warden Randy Stark*

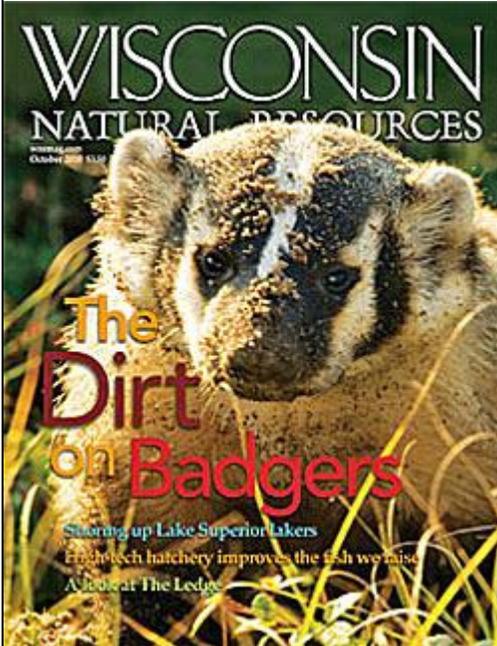


By: Karen Ecklund, Bureau of Customer Services and Licensing

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In this month's issue the **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine, retired DNR wildlife technician **Al Cornell** shares how a night of banding wood ducks led to some wet woodies warming up on the floorboards of his old pickup truck.

You'll go underground with badgers and learn about a UW-Milwaukee project that's using fur samples and sophisticated genetic analysis to monitor the movements and breeding habits of these elusive mammals. If you want to **see** a badger, just come along with us!



Read how the state got its nickname from miners in the October issue of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

WDR Photo

Join us on a visit to the new coolwater portion of the Wild Rose hatchery where the next generations of northerns, walleye and lake sturgeon are getting a healthy start. You'll see how innovation can raise quality fish while saving water, saving energy and substantially cut pollutants.

Cast out your nets and haul in a boatload of information on how lake trout are managed on Lake Superior. Learn how two remote fish refuges off the Apostle Islands were key to sustaining wild fish stocks of native "lakers."

Celebrate the unique qualities of the Niagara Escarpment, the hard rock that shaped the physical character of east central and northeast Wisconsin. This formation, that arc from eastern Wisconsin towards the northeast all the way to Niagara Falls, is a focus for future wind power exploration and provides some unique business opportunities. Escarpment rock areas create the right microclimate and soils to grow very fine red wines that could rival the best wine-growing conditions in France.

Subscribe to **Wisconsin Natural Resources** magazine now for only \$8.97, and you'll receive these stories and more in the October issue. Let us deliver six colorful issues to your door all year for less than \$1.50 a copy. Remember friends and loved ones with a

gift subscription for the upcoming holidays. Subscribe toll-free at 1(800)678-9472, online at [Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine](#) or by mail. Subscription blanks and single issues also are available from our circulation office on the second floor of GEF2, next to pillar F4, in Madison.

For more information, call me at (608)267-7410 or email me, [Karen Ecklund](#).



Visit the annual Besadny Fisheries Facility open house October 9

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The annual salmon run soon will be underway at DNR's C.D. "Buzz" Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility located along the Kewaunee River in Kewaunee County. The staff invites you and your family to its annual open house, this year scheduled for Saturday, October 9.

Open between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., fish hatchery staff will guide tours of the facility at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The open house is a great opportunity to learn about the history of Lake Michigan fisheries and the salmon egg collection process. Visitors will want to take a special walk to the underwater viewing windows, where they can watch salmon jump the manmade fish ladder. There will be activities for old and young alike throughout the day. Don't forget to bring your camera.

Throughout the day, Besadny fisheries staff will demonstrate the egg collection process, which provides the raw materials that support the Lake Michigan sport fishery. Most Wisconsin tributary streams lack the potential to support substantial reproduction, so adult trout and salmon must be collected each year and spawned. Approximately three million trout and salmon are stocked into Lake Michigan tributary streams to support this internationally recognized "put-grow-and-take" sport fishery.

The DNR's [Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility](#) is nestled in a secluded area along a quiet stretch of the Kewaunee River. The facility is ideal for showing students, fishery professionals, and the public how the DNR provides a diverse sport fishery for anglers.

The Besadny facility encourages tours, wildlife viewing and numerous positive educational experiences for people of all backgrounds. For more information, call (920)388-1025.

To learn about the Secretary C.D. "Buzz" Besadny, read the April 24, 2008 "Digest" story ["Late DNR Secretary Besadny inducted into Conservation Hall of Fame."](#)



DNR on board considering parkway status for Wisconsin and Fox rivers

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Northeast Region land leader Jean Romback-Bartels has taken a seat on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Heritage Association, which currently is considering

designating the Fox and Wisconsin rivers corridor as a Heritage Parkway. As such, the parkway will develop a viable strategy for future protection of the critical resources found within the corridor.

The parkway designation is needed to encourage preservation of our cultural and natural resources, said Rombach-Bartels. "It will provide an umbrella under which many organizations can come together to create a common vision that is based on our unique history and the gift of our abundant natural resources."

Rombach-Bartels explained that DNR's involvement will include membership on local teams, as well as the spot on the overall board of directors.



A voyageur canoe trip on the Wisconsin River.

WDNR Photo

"It's an excellent way to ensure the department's mission is incorporated into the fabric of this effort," she noted. We have several state properties within the boundary of the Fox Wisconsin Rivers Heritage Parkway, and we need to stay true to their master plans while finding opportunities to incorporate the parkway's educational component and trail system into our management objectives."

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway is a statewide initiative raising the awareness of the cultural and natural resources along these two significant Wisconsin waterways.

Citizen-formed parkway links public land use, culture and history

Local citizens formed the initial parkway in 1991 because of their mutual interest in linking public lands, including state parks, natural areas, and scenic riverways, that exemplify and promote cultural, historical, recreational, and natural resources of the rivers.

This non-contiguous, lineal parkway will consist of cultural and natural resource sites, with core areas located along the Fox and Wisconsin rivers and within their associated communities. All will be connected by a network of water and terrestrial trails, said Rombach-Bartels.

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway study area is comprised of two rivers—the Fox River (Upper, Lower, and the Winnebago Pool Lakes that join them) and the lower portion of the Wisconsin River. The Lower Fox and Lower Wisconsin currently are listed within the National Rivers Inventory. The parkway incorporates approximately 1,444 square miles, consisting of 329 square miles of water and 1,115 square miles of land cover. The area runs through fifteen counties: Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Iowa, Marquette, Outagamie, Richland, Sauk, Waushara and Winnebago.

Boundary delineations primarily were set by the course of the rivers and based upon the historic route of Marquette and Joliet. The boundaries further were defined through

examination of the natural and cultural resources associated with the history of the rivers, and the proposed interpretive themes.

Within the parkway's boundary, several other plans or projects are underway, including the [Ice Age Trail](#), Niagara Escarpment Greenway Plan, State Trunk Highway 60 Scenic Byway Plan and the [PCB Remediation Plan](#).



Wisconsin receives Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants

By: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency news release

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Nancy Sutley, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, traveled to Milwaukee on September 27 to highlight several local projects that received funding in the first round of grant awards under the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative](#).

"The Great Lakes greatly influence Milwaukee's environment, culture, and economy," said Sutley. "These grants are part of our commitment to making restoring the Great Lakes a national priority. Working together, we will protect this essential resource for the benefit of Milwaukee, communities throughout the region, and the Nation as a whole."

The grants, totaling roughly \$4 million, were awarded to the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage district. They will support projects that will:

- establish "pollution diets" for the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, and Milwaukee River Watersheds and the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern;
- reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Green Tea Basin on Lincoln Lake, a tributary of the Milwaukee River;
- restore a habitat on a portion of the Kinnickinnic River channel and floodplain in Milwaukee; and,
- remove of a fish passage barrier between Lake Michigan and the Menomonee River watershed.

These funded projects will advance the goals and objectives of the [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan](#), which the [Great Lakes Interagency Task Force](#), consisting of representatives of 16 federal agencies and the Great Lakes governors, unveiled in February.

The Great Lakes provide some 30 million Americans with drinking water and underpin a multi-billion dollar economy. Since February 2009, President Barak Obama has proposed significant funding as part of his Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades.

The task force developed the initiative action plan, which covers FY 2010 through 2014, to implement the president's initiative. It was released to the Great Lakes area governors in February 2010 and calls for aggressive efforts to address five urgent priority focus areas:

< concern; of areas spot hot toxic and toxics up>

- combating invasive species;
- promoting near-shore health by protecting watersheds from polluted run-off;
- restoring wetlands and other habitats; and
- working with strategic partners on outreach.

The plan also provides accountability by including measures of progress and benchmarks for success over the next five years.



Southeast Region helps turn landfill into photovoltaic lab

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When the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) cut the ribbon at its 32-acre, 540 kilowatts Photovoltaic Educational Laboratory on Wednesday, September 15, DNR waste management engineer Bizhan Sheikholeslami, Waukesha, was proud of his role in making it happen. He worked with MATC by reviewing their plans and then approving the project. He and regional director **Gloria McCutcheon were on hand to take part in the celebration.**

The outdoor lab is located near Estabrook Park and the Milwaukee River in Milwaukee. MATC and Johnson Controls collaborated on the project, the largest operating photovoltaic facility in Wisconsin, believed to be the first entirely portable photovoltaic facility in the United States.

"The MATC and Johnson Controls Inc. project consists of 2,590 solar panels – all of which are mounted on concrete slabs that could be moved to a different location at some point," reported the [Journal/Sentinel Online Business Blog](#). "The lab is capable of generating up to more than 500 kilowatts of electricity, or enough electricity over a year's time to power more than 100 typical homes."

Among the purposes for this site is showing that a portable solar energy facility can produce energy for an area under redevelopment.

This state-of-the-art training center will cultivate the next generation of clean energy engineers. It also will train technicians, electricians, designers and professionals in this renewable and clean energy technical economy. It has the first public television transmitter in the country, which will approximate energy grid neutrality.

MATC owns the project site, which sits atop the former City of Milwaukee Bluehole Landfill.



Breast cancer survivors cast for recovery by fly fishing

By: Theresa Stabo, Bureau of Fisheries Management

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DNR fisheries educator Theresa Stabo (right) teamed up with Pat S. as she learned how to fly fish during the Casting for Recovery event near Siren.

WDNR Photo

On a mid-September day, 14 breast cancer survivors and their "River Helpers" assembled on Knapp Creek near Siren in northwest Wisconsin to fly fish for trout during a Casting for Recovery Retreat. Casting for Recovery (CFR) is a national organization that engages women in the sport of fly fishing as a means of spiritual, emotional and physical therapy.

Although the weekend retreat included presentations by health care professionals, it primarily gave the women a chance to learn about trout and their ways, how to tie knots and flies, identify bugs, and cast - all alongside their shared experience of having survived breast cancer. The Hartford Insurance Company, the first to insure women who may have breast cancer as a pre-existing condition, sponsored the retreat. CFR contacted me two years ago looking for a way to hold a retreat in Wisconsin, and I was happy that their outline satisfied our license waiver requirements. Local fisheries biologist **Heath Benike**, Barron, signed off on the waiver and approved the stocking permit to increase the odds of success for this novice group of anglers.

The privately-owned Seven Pines Hatchery stocked the stream with 100 rainbows to mingle with the wild and wary brown trout. About 12 to 15 fish cooperated and were caught and released, including a few chubs. Some of the hatchery fish were exceptionally eager to please and were caught more than once.



Volunteer river helper Joe S. showed Debbie D. the proper way to cast a line during the weekend fly fish retreat.

WDNR Photo

I had come to take pictures and observe how this application of our license waiver was working. The program exceeded our requirements and offered an added dimension of stress reduction. The tranquil waters acted like a soothing balm and it was rewarding to watch the women relax, establish their own rhythm and enjoy themselves. To fish is to hope and the Casting for Recovery retreat offered hope with every cast.

Footnote: *Teresa Stabo is an educator in Fisheries Management and "had the honor of being a River Helper when a volunteer didn't show up."*



Landowners' investments restore native species

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

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Signs of change on the landscape

As you hike or drive your favorite fall color route this fall, you may notice some new [Landowner Incentive Program](#) signs along the countryside. These signs designate changes that are happening on the landscape. You're looking at acres where landowners are committed to making a change by managing their lands to benefit rare species.

"Some people might be amazed to learn about the high level of interest from landowners in managing their property for rare and at-risk species," said **Heidi Nelson**, DNR Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) coordinator.

"The demand for this program shows that Wisconsin's conservation legacy continues, thanks in large part to the strong commitment by landowners to maintain our state's natural heritage for future generations."

Through generous support from the Natural Resources Foundation's C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program, LIP participants are able to display signs on their property, noting that a voluntary restoration effort is in progress.

"These signs will provide a visible symbol of the department's appreciation for their efforts," Nelson said, adding "We hope the signs will elicit curiosity among neighbors about native habitat management and interest in improving their land for the benefit of at-risk plant and animal species."

These signs will be available to landowners working with LIP, a DNR program which provides cost-share grants to individuals and organizations to create and manage habitat on private lands for species that are rare or declining in the state. LIP will be accepting pre-proposals until October 15, for next year's round of cost-share assistance. Funding for this round will go specifically to projects in the state's Driftless Region.

The Landowner Incentive Program covers up to 75 percent of the total cost of the project, with the landowner contributing the remaining 25 percent either out of pocket, or as in-kind labor. The annual grants are awarded based on set criteria, including number of rare species that will benefit from the work, and if the project will complement other restoration work occurring in the same area.

In addition to financial assistance, participating landowners will receive technical advice and assistance with management plans from the DNR. Management activities often funded by LIP include prescribed burns, planting native vegetation and controlling invasive species.

For more information about the program, past projects, future grant cycles, or general habitat management information, visit the "[Landowner Incentive Program](#)" website. You also may email program coordinator [Heidi Nelson](#).

Footnote: *Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.*



2011 Anthem DentalBlue available online

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Enroll by October 29, 2010

This fall, "Anthem DentalBlue" insurance enrollment information is being distributed to employees electronically. Simply click on "[Anthem's DentalBlue & Other Dental Coverage](#)" to view the dental information.

During the open enrollment period employees may elect to:

- enroll in single, two-person or family dental coverage;
- change from single, two-person or family coverage to another level of coverage;
- change from one of the three offered Anthem plans to another Anthem plan; or
- enroll domestic partners or eligible adult children to age 27.

Changes will become effective on January 1, 2011. No action is necessary if you don't wish to change plans or levels of coverage.

Once enrolled, you must stay enrolled in the dental plan for the entire calendar year. If you're currently enrolled in "Anthem DentalBlue" and don't want the coverage in 2011, you must notify your regional payroll and benefit specialist or **Betty McWilliams, HR/8 by December 1. The same will be true in 2011 and beyond, if you decide to drop coverage.**

The [plan summary](#) contains important and useful information about the three offered Anthem plans.

Monthly 2011 rates haven't increased and remain the same as 2010 rates.

There's a 90-day waiting period for new enrollees before basic services (e.g. fillings) or major services (e.g. crowns, bridges, dentures) are covered under the "Preferred PPO" or the "Supplemental Plan." There's no waiting period for "Dentacare HMO."

If you wish to enroll or make changes:

- To enroll, complete the "Anthem DentalBlue" "Group DentalBlue Application."
- To cancel complete the "Anthem DentalBlue" "Group DentalBlue Application," checking the cancellation box
- Return the completed application to your regional [payroll and benefits representative](#) or to Betty McWilliams, HR/8 DNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 no later than 4:30 pm on October 29, 2010.
- To receive paper copies of "Anthem DentalBlue" information or applications, contact your regional payroll and benefits representative. In the central office, email [Betty McWilliams](#) or call her at (608)266-0850.



Dental Wisconsin new from EPIC Insurance

Beginning with the 2011 coverage year, EPIC Insurance is offering the new **"Dental Wisconsin"** plan. This plan isn't connected with the EPIC "Benefits+ Plan," but is a separate dental plan that provides two options for an employee to choose from.

Under "Dental Wisconsin," the two options are named "PPO" and "Select:"

- "PPO," or "Preferred Provider Plan," provides a higher benefit if you receive services from an in-network dentist and a lower benefit if you receive service from an out-of-network dentist. The monthly premium for "PPO" is higher, but covers cleanings and exam.
- The "Select" plan allows you to see any dentist, has a lower monthly premium, but doesn't include coverage for cleanings or exams.

The "Dental Wisconsin" brochure provides a detailed description of the "PPO" and "Select" plan options.

You may enroll in "Dental Wisconsin," EPIC's "Benefits+" and "Anthem DentalBlue" if they choose. Within "Dental Wisconsin" and "DentalBlue," however, you must choose among the options offered.

This new dental plan will be available to employees during this fall's open enrollment period, October 4 through October 19.

To enroll, complete the **"Dental Wisconsin Enrollment Form"** and return it to your **regional payroll and benefits specialist** or **Betty McWilliams**, HR/8 DNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707; use inter-D to mail to McWilliams by 4:30 p.m., October 29, 2010. Hardcopies of this information also are available from your regional payroll and benefits specialist, or by emailing [McWilliams](#), or by calling her at (608)266-0850.



Enroll in VSP Vision Care by October 29

This fall, VSP "Vision Care" insurance continues to provide coverage to state employees. If you're currently enrolled in VSP, you'll automatically have coverage for 2011. VSP is sending materials about **"Vision Care"** to employees' home addresses.

During the open enrollment you may elect to:

- enroll in VSP vision insurance for 2011; or,
- cancel coverage for 2011.

Your coverage will become effective on January 1, 2011. Once enrolled, you must remain enrolled the entire calendar year.

You may enroll online, by telephone at 1(800)400-4569, by fax, or by mail directly with VSP. Don't send the application to your payroll representative.

To cancel coverage for 2011, you must submit a written request (an email is fine) to your **regional payroll and benefits specialist** or to **Betty McWilliams** in the Bureau of Human Resources (608)266-0850.



2011 Employee Reimbursement Account drug coverage changes

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Annual enrollment period October 4 to November 12, 2010

This fall, the Plan Year 2011 [Employee Reimbursement Account \(ERA\)](#) information is available online. You'll notice that beginning on January 1, 2011, you can't receive reimbursement for most over-the-counter (OTC) drugs and medicines unless you have a prescription or "Letter of Medical Need" from your physician.

You must re-enroll each year to continue to participate in the ERA program. Enrollment becomes effective January 1, 2011. LTEs aren't eligible to enroll in the ERA program.

The "myFBMC Card" reimbursement option will continue in 2011. Employees may use this payment card to pay for eligible medical expenses. If you still have your "myFBMC" payment card for your 2010 expenses, it can be automatically reloaded with your 2011 dollar amounts. No action on your part is required. The cards are good for two years and have an expiration date on them. If you need a card for 2011, call 1(800)342-8017. Remember, most OTC drugs will no longer be eligible for coverage.

During the ERA open enrollment period October 4 through November 11, you may elect to:

- enroll to have between \$100 and \$7,500 deducted on a pre-tax basis for eligible medical expenses.
- enroll to have a maximum of \$5,000 per family deducted on a pre-tax basis for eligible childcare expenses.

Enroll online or by telephone by 9 p.m. on November 12. Here's how:

- Go to ["Welcome to my FBMC.com"](#) to enroll online. After you've completed the enrollment process, print your confirmation for future reference.
- Or, call 1(800)847-8253 to enroll by telephone. Stay on the line until you have received your confirmation number.



This year, submit "It's Your Choice" health insurance changes online

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Enrollment period runs from October 4 to 29

New this fall, employees can electronically submit "It's Your Choice" enrollment changes via the new at ["myETF Benefits Online Health Insurance Enrollment System."](#) DNR's Bureau of Human Resources also will accept paper applications. "It's Your Choice" provides an opportunity for currently-insured subscribers (active employees, annuitants and former employees who have continued their coverage) to:

- change health plans;
- enroll or drop coverage for adult children or domestic partners and their children from family coverage;
- and/or change from single to family coverage without a waiting period for pre-existing conditions.

Changes made during this enrollment period will be effective on January 1, 2011.

All employees enrolled in health insurance will receive links to two booklets:

- The ["It's Your Choice 2011 Decision Guide"](#) provides employees with the key information they need to make health plan decisions.
- The ["It's Your Choice Reference Guide"](#) contains detailed, technical information such as the "Uniform Benefits" certificate of coverage, and required state and federal notifications.

During the enrollment period, employees who as of October 1, 2010 are covered by a state health insurance plan may:

- enroll or drop coverage for domestic partners and their domestic partners' eligible dependents;
- enroll or drop coverage for eligible adult children (married or unmarried) up to the end of the month in which they turn age 26;
- enroll or drop coverage for eligible unmarried adult children up to the end of the month in which they turn age 27;
- change from one plan to another; and,
- change from single to family coverage.

Even if you're satisfied with your current health plan, you should carefully review the "It's Your Choice 2010" booklet to learn whether there are major changes in your coverage. Even employees wanting to continue in their current health plan should do the following:

- Verify that their current plan is available in your area for 2011;
- Verify that selected physicians, clinics, and/or hospitals still are available under your plans for 2011,

Review changes in benefits by reading the ["Important Changes"](#) for 2011, as well as the individual plan description found in the booklet.

Some important plan and program changes include:

- Federal law eliminates health plan lifetime dollar maximum amounts.
- Plan now allows enrollment for your married child until the end of the month in which they turn 26.
- The plan eliminates a pre-existing condition waiting period for late entrants younger than age 19.
- The new health plan "WEA Trust PPP" is found on page 70 of the ["Decision Guide"](#) is offered in 24 eastern Wisconsin counties.
- GHC of Eau Claire no longer has providers in six counties.
- The "Health Tradition Health Plan" no longer will offer Luther Midelfort and Red Cedar providers.
- Changes to the Dean Health plan dental benefit.

With the new year will come new premiums

The 2011 monthly premiums for non-represented, project and LTE employees will be as listed below. Represented employees with unsettled contracts will see their premium continue at their current rate.

- Tier 1 Single Rate is \$36 and the Family Rate is \$89 per month
- Tier 2 Single Rate is \$79 and the Family Rate is \$198 per month

- Tier 3 Single Rate is \$188 and the Family Rate is \$471 per month

If you wish to make health insurance changes during the "It's Your Choice" enrollment period:

- Use the dedicated and secure ["ETF Online Network for Members"](#) website. You'll find step-by-step information on how to submit an electronic application in the "It's Your Choice: Decision Guide" under the ["Important Changes"](#) section on pages 4 and 5.
- However, if you prefer, you may submit paper ["Group Health Insurance Application/Change Form"](#) to your [payroll and benefits specialist](#) by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 29, 2010.

No action is necessary if you don't want to change plans or change coverage. If you'd prefer to have a paper copy of the 2010 "Decision Guide" or "Reference Guide" booklet, email [Betty McWilliams](#) or call her at (608)266-0850. Regional staffs should contact their regional payroll and benefits specialists. HR also will send library copies of the booklets to many DNR offices for employee reference.



All in retirement system eligible for EPIC medical coverage

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All permanent and limited term employees (LTEs) enrolled in the Wisconsin Retirement System are eligible to enroll in EPIC.

Enroll in EPIC during the October 4 through October 29 open enrollment period, and your coverage will begin on January 1, 2011.

EPIC "Excess Medical," "Dental" and "AD & D" now is rolled into one coverage called ["Benefits+."](#) The benefits under this title don't change, except to allow employees the opportunity to add the "Vision Benefit Extension."

If you currently carry "Benefits+" (formerly EPIC "Excess Medical and Dental"), you may continue to carry the coverage you have today, with no changes to the premium or the coverage. You may choose, however, to add the new "Vision Benefit Extension" for an additional cost.

Benefits+ without Vision:

- Single \$16.70
- Two person \$33.40
- Family \$50.10

Benefits+ with Vision:

- Single \$20.70
- Two person \$40.47
- Family \$60.49

If you're not currently enrolled in EPIC, you may elect to enroll in "Benefits+" through EPIC's [Wisconsin State employees Group Enrollment Form \(2011 Special Enrollment Form\)](#). All eligible employees may elect to enroll in Benefits+ with or without the Vision Extension.

If you choose to enroll through the special enrollment opportunity, you'll have special dental maximum levels and an additional waiting period for orthodontic benefits. Members currently insured with EPIC won't have a waiting period or limited dental maximum, but may elect to add the "Vision Extension".

Review the ["Special Enrollment"](#) brochure for more detail. Hardcopies are available from your [regional payroll and benefits specialist](#) or [Betty McWilliams](#), in the Bureau of Human Resources at (608)266-0850.



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