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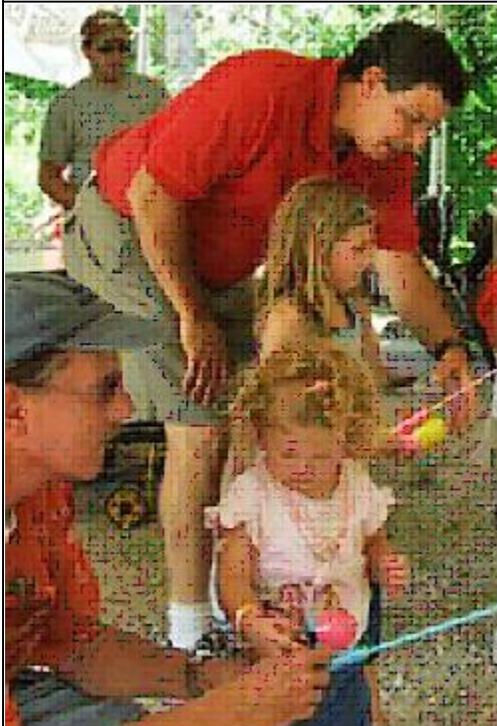
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Wisconsin State Fair 2013: there's still time to volunteer at DNR park

By: Carly Darrow, Office of Communication

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Volunteers and other adults guide youngsters as they try their hands at fishing at DNR's

State Fair Park. DNR Photo

Don't miss out on the creampuffs, sky glider rides and chocolate covered bacon on a stick that will be at the [2013 Wisconsin State Fair](#). There still are shift slots left to volunteer to work at the [DNR Park](#). Each day, the first shift runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the second shift from 2:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

You should volunteer because you get to...

- interact with and answer questions from the public
- meet DNR staff from around the state
- eat fair food

If these reasons sound fun to you, email me [Carly Darrow](#) or call me at 608-264-8976 to sign up to volunteer. You'll want to sign up before the cotton candy is gone!



New and improved policies of note...they could impact your work

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New policy allows buying ammunition and weapons with P-card

Jane Launderville, Bureau of Finance

Following up on a request she'd received, Customer and Employee Services Division Director **Kristy Rogers** contacted the Bureau of Finance seeking options for purchasing ammunition without seeking approval from a purchasing agent, including using a State of Wisconsin purchasing (P) card.

Finance staff undertook a thorough investigation of all policies and procedures pertaining to the purchase of ammunition. Reviewing the State Procurement Manual, the State Purchasing Card Manual and DNR policies, Finance determined there was no longer any value added to agents approving the purchase of ammunition and weapons.

Upon receiving the recommendation from Finance removing the requirement for purchasing agent approval, Rogers and Deputy Division Administrator **Shelly Young** agreed and instructed us to move forward.

Effective July 16, those DNR employees that need to purchase ammunition and/or weapons can do so using a P-card. Employee should always first check with vendors on the State of Wisconsin mandatory [contract](#) when purchasing ammunition..

Finance removed ammunition and weapons from the list of items that can't be purchased with a P-card. The Bureau of Finance also has updated the purchasing card manual and purchasing website to reflect this change. Each program that purchases ammunition and weapons should have a policy for receiving approval within the program to make such purchases.

Footnote: *Jane Launderville is chief of the General Accounting Section in the Bureau of Finance.*



Water Quality staff tours partner State Laboratory of Hygiene

By: Julia Riley and Kari Fleming, Bureau of Water Quality

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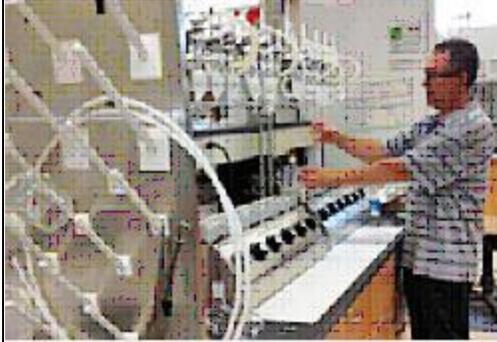
DNR staff received an overview of the Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) tests on fathead minnows (in tanks behind staff). (L to R back row): Suzy Limberg, Jason Knutson, Kari Fleming, Ron Arneson, Brian Weigel and Steve Geis; (L to R front row): Kendra Axness, Nasrindok Mohajerani, Jocelyn Hemming and Peggy Wischhoff. DNR Photo by Julia Riley

Staff from the Bureau of Water Quality recently toured the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) to learn how the water, sediment and fish samples the program submits are processed into data. Steve Geis, supervisor of the WSLH Organic Chemistry and Environmental Toxicology departments, and **Ron Arneson**, DNR Science Services' Laboratory coordinator, led the tour through the various laboratory stations that ranged from testing fish samples collected near nuclear power plants for potential radioactivity to testing for inert silica concentrations in lakes.

Established in 1903, the WSLH is part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and performs research and instruction related to public and environmental health protection. The lab's mission statement includes providing analytical services for DNR. The WSLH analyzes water, air, sediment, fish, wildlife and other types of samples collected by DNR staffs.

Kari Fleming, toxicologist for the Bureau of Water Quality, briefly discussed her role in helping to establish an annual budget and workplan for studies conducted in the Environmental Toxicology Department within the WSLH. On an annual basis, water quality staff selects 20 to 25 project sites to collect samples of wastewater effluent at discharge points to help determine compliance with permit limits and potential aquatic toxicity. These wastewater effluent samples are subjected to Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) tests that measure toxic effects using organisms representing different trophic levels and taxonomic groups.

The organisms most commonly used in WET tests in Wisconsin are the fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), a waterflea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*) and a green algae (*Selenastrum capricornutum*). These organisms are exposed to effluent samples for a specific time period. Acute tests last 48 to 96 hours and are used to determine the concentration of effluent that causes death to test organisms during a short-term exposure. Chronic tests last about seven days and estimate the effluent concentration that interferes with growth or reproductive potential.



WSLH's Steve Geis demonstrated how this Soxhlet extractor is used to extract PCBs from sample material. DNR Photo by Julia Riley

In addition to WET testing on wastewater effluents, the WSLH Environmental Toxicology Department conducts testing to determine the toxicity of sediment and surface water samples from sites such as Great Lakes harbors involved in remediation.

WSLH also conducts many types of research. A recent example was a study conducted in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey to test the toxicity of storm water runoff from deicing areas at various airports around the country. WET testing was used on a variety of deicing formulas to help determine less toxic variations.

Staff in the Environmental Toxicology Department has the expertise to identify freshwater algae in surface water samples to the genus level and to detect the presence of toxins released by blue-green algae in surface waters. Other staff in this same department has been involved in many projects to examine endocrine disrupters in the environment.

The WSLH Organic Chemistry Department houses state-of-the-art equipment for testing dioxin, a "clean room" with HEPA-filtered air to test low levels of metal concentrations in water samples collected through the Long-term Trend Monitoring project; enzymatic microbiology responses on surface waters and drinking waters; and PCB extraction.



The WSLH Water Microbiology Department processes approximately 300-500 water samples each day of the work week submitted by DNR staff, municipalities and non-community water supply systems. DNR Photo by Julia Riley

DNR sample data is entered into the WSLH's new Laboratory Information Management System. The Bureau of Water Quality's SWIMS (Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System) database is linked to the WSLH database and is updated nightly with new data. The SWIMS database holds chemistry (water, sediment), physical, biological (macroinvertebrate, aquatic invasives), and other data that is geolocated and available to view on the Surface Water Data Viewer, (SWDV) a DNR interactive webmapping tool.

For more information on Departmental Environmental Sampling and Laboratory Services, contact Water Quality Chemist Ron Arneson. For more information on DNR's WET program,

contact Kari Fleming.

Footnote: *Julia Riley is a water resources management specialist and Kari Fleming is a toxicologist in the Bureau of Water Quality.*



Take precautions as temperatures continue to climb

By: Department of Health Services news release, July 16, 2013

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State emergency management and health officials are urging people to “beat the heat” if they have to be outside or in non-air conditioned homes this week, and to check on older or isolated neighbors who may need assistance.

Temperatures will rise to the mid-90s, with heat indexes reaching a potentially dangerous 95-100 degree range.

Summer heat waves have been the biggest weather-related killers in Wisconsin. Most at risk are older adults and young children. Last year, 27 people died in Wisconsin as a result of heat-related issues. There has been one confirmed heat-related death in Wisconsin so far this year. An individual in their late 80s died in Juneau County last month.

General heat exhaustion symptoms include fainting, rash, fatigue and nausea. Skin can become clammy and moist or hot and dry. Heat stroke can come on rapidly and may progress to life-threatening illness within minutes. If heat-related symptoms appear, action should be taken immediately to reduce body temperature. This includes taking a cool shower, bath or sponge bath. Wearing wet clothing also has a cooling effect.

People who don't have access to air conditioning in their homes are encouraged to seek out air conditioned facilities such as a mall, library or senior center, or stay with family or neighbors who do have air conditioning.

Here are some tips to keep safe in hot weather:

- Never leave individuals, especially children or any household pets, in a parked car, even briefly. Temperatures in a car can become life threatening within minutes. On an 80-degree day, the temperature inside a car, even with the windows cracked slightly, can reach 100 degrees in less than 10 minutes.
- Keep your living space cool. Cover windows to keep the sun from shining in. If you don't have an air conditioner, open windows to let air circulate. When it's hotter than 95 degrees, use fans to blow hot air out of the window, rather than to blow hot air on your body. Basements or ground floors are often cooler than upper floors.
- Slow down and limit physical activity. Plan outings or exertion for the early morning or after dark when temperatures are cooler.
- Drink plenty of water and eat lightly. Don't wait until you're thirsty. Instead drink plenty of water throughout the day. Avoid alcohol or caffeine and stay away from hot, heavy meals.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing. Add a hat or umbrella to keep your head cool--and don't forget sunscreen.
- Don't stop taking medication unless your doctor says you should. Take extra care to stay cool and ask your doctor or pharmacist for any special heat-related advice.
- Taking a cool shower or bath will cool you down. A shower or bath will actually work faster than an air conditioner. Applying cold wet towels to the neck, head and limbs also cools down the body quickly.
- Check on neighbors throughout the day who may need assistance to protect themselves against dangerous temperatures.

For more information, visit the [“Ready Wisconsin Heat Awareness”](#) page and click on the Heat Awareness section, or visit the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [“Heat--Related Health and Safety Tips.”](#)



First emerald ash borer confirmed in Sauk County found at Mirror Lake Park

The destructive emerald ash borer (EAB) has been discovered for the first time in Sauk County, at Mirror Lake State Park. DNR forest health staff caught the beetle on a double decker purple panel trap at the entrance to the state park.

Staff then peeled trees of their bark and observed additional life stages and signs on a number of trees. There are 12 planted ash trees in this immediate area. Sauk County has been quarantined.



DNR used this double decker purple panel trap at Potawatomi State Park in 2011 to catch emerald ash borer beetles. DNR Photo by Bill Mcnee

This month, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) also has confirmed emerald ash borer in Elkhorn, Genoa City, Racine and Whitewater, all of which are in already quarantined counties.

Colleen Robinson Klug, forest health educator in the Division of Forestry, explained the reason for what seems like an increased number of EAB findings recently.

"We expected to find a lot of emerald ash borers this year. We also believe it's present in many areas where we haven't yet found it. The first find in Wisconsin was in 2008. Emerald ash borer effectively hides under the bark of an ash tree, doing damage, and it's difficult to spot them until the tree shows signs of decline. Now that we're a good five years into emerald ash borer presence in the state, it's expected that more and more will be found. Populations build, we have traps out now and more ash trees are showing symptoms that lead people to look further. Also more people are aware."

Also, given the number of years since EAB first entered Wisconsin, it has had some time to spread naturally, and by people inadvertently moving it to new areas in firewood or other ways.

"It's not a surprise for us to see more and more, and they'll show up in these summer months most of all," said Robinson Klug. "The goal is to slow the spread so we can build up our defenses and also prepare for the losses we'll have."

Because of federal budget cutbacks, DATCP has reduced its trapping program. DNR traps for

EAB on state properties with the highest risk of introduction and highest number or value of ash trees. Some municipalities also trap for the pest.

"We release bio controls each year, but it will take time for them to be effective and for us to measure that effectiveness," said Robinson Klug.

When it comes to state properties, tighter firewood regulations help. Originally, only wood from within 50 miles of the property could be used. Since then, the distance has been dropped to 25 miles and there's a proposal to tighten the law even further in the future, explained Robinson Klug. Quarantine laws also apply.

This year, state park properties with firewood for sale have all switched to providing either certified wood or wood from the property itself to reduce the risk of spreading tree-killing pests and diseases like emerald ash borer.



Links of interest...don't miss them

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- **Titles & links:** ["Asian Carp: keep invasive species out of Wisconsin" \(brochure\)](#)

["What is WDNR doing about Asian Carp" \(insert\)](#)

Description: These are two of the latest communication tools to help make the public aware of the threat to the Great Lakes of the invasive Asian carp. Learn more about the fish itself and steps being taken to prevent its potential damage of the Great Lakes fishery and economy.

- **Titles & links:** ["Petroleum Environmental Clean up Fund Award"](#)

["Petroleum contamination and leaking underground storage tanks"](#)

Description: Reprinted from the Northern Region's Management Team meeting notes: DNR has transitioned the web information for PECFA (Petroleum Environmental Clean up Fund Award) to DNR's website.

- **Title & link:** ["Implementation of Ferrous Mining Regulations, May 7, 2013"](#)

Description: Bureau of Waste and Materials Management Director **Ann Coakley** presented this PowerPoint to Office of Communication staff in May explaining the department's implementation of the new mining law and the permitting process.

- **Titles & links:** [Playing on WIDNRTV You Tube:](#)

["Boating Safety: "Navigation Right-of-Way"](#)

Description: Learn how to play it safe while boating and watch other seasonally-important DNR-produced videos now available on channel WIDNRTV You Tube.

- **Title & link:** ["Going Lean, Wisconsin's Public Sector Leans into Good Government"](#)

Description: Department of Administration Secretary Mike Huebsch explains the goal of Executive Order #66 that calls for state agencies to implement Lean government initiatives that improve core services, while eliminating waste and inefficiency. This article describes how other levels of government in Wisconsin have addressed this requirement. You can read about implementation of DNR's ["Lean Government Initiative."](#)

- **Title & link:** ["2013 Bill Tracker"](#)

Description: This document provides the status of DNR-related bills as they wind their way through the legislative process.

DNR internal program newsletters

To better keep you updated on the work and happenings of the various department programs, this standing feature brings you their internal newsletters.

Note to newsletter editors: Each issue of the "Digest" will include links to program newsletters. Be sure to submit new issues of your newsletter to "MyDNR Digest" Editor [Diane Brinson](#) for posting.

- ["Water Division Update July 2013"](#)

- [“SER Tales & Trails”](#) (Southeast Region’s newsletter)
 - [“AWaRe Division of Air, Waste and Remediation & Redevelopment”](#)
 - [“Landscapes”](#) (Division of Land newsletter)
- [“Land Division Newsletters”](#) (archives)
- [“Just in CAES”](#)
 - [“The ForesTREEporter”](#)
 - [“WDNR Wildlifer”](#)
- Bureau of Wildlife Management publications, including “Wildlifer” archives



EPA makes up to \$9.5 million available for Great Lakes restoration projects

By: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency news release, July 15, 2013

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a Request for Applications soliciting proposals from states, municipalities, tribes, universities and nonprofit organizations for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants to fund new projects to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Up to \$9.5 million will be available during the current funding cycle. EPA will award grants on a competitive basis for projects in the Great Lakes basin.

Applications are due by August 14, 2013.

"This round of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding will be used for projects that reduce exposure to toxic substances from fish consumption, control invasive species, and improve water quality in the Great Lakes," said EPA Great Lakes National Program Manager Susan Hedman. "The work funded by these grants will help to restore and protect waters that are essential to the health and jobs of millions of Americans."

A webinar explaining the grant application process will be held at 11 a.m., Eastern Time, on Tuesday, July 30. The Request for Applications and information about applying for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants is available at [“Great Lakes Restoration Initiative 2013 Request for Applications.”](#) More information about the initiative, including an interactive project map, is available at [“Great Lakes Restoration.”](#)



Around the state...DNR employees shine

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Central office success story

“Hi **Jane**, (**Launderville**, chief of the General Accounting Section): I think you are the supervisor of **Stacey Beattie**.

“Stacey had to return a TRIPS request to me today. She sent me a very nice email with an explanation of what I did wrong and how I could correct it. She let me know she’d be sending it back. I went back in and tried to fix it but wasn’t sure how. I called her on the phone. Again, she was very nice and patient and gave me great instructions. I know we must drive these guys crazy with the things we do. I was just really impressed with her interaction with me. I appreciate the great internal customer service! Thanks! **Amy Luebke**, *WDNR Wildland-Urban Interface specialist*

Northeast Region success story

“Hello **Debbie (Rohrbeck)**, Just wanted to officially say a big Thank You to **Dean Starks** for his ‘drop everything and work for you’ attitude. Last Thursday, July 11th, my MS WORD stopped working and then MS outlook oddly shut down in the middle of writing emails.

Kristie Ambrosius (another ‘Janie on the spot, always ready to help’) came down and worked with me for a while and decided a re-image was needed. Dean Starks worked on my

computer until 9:30 pm on Thursday night and then Friday he continued for another bunch of hours. So by Friday afternoon, I was up and running again. I was amazed and extremely grateful for Dean's instant access and the complete satisfaction I got in record time.

"We are so dependent on our computers that without them we are practically useless. I want to wholeheartedly commend Dean for all his help last week!

"I hope you have ways to reward hard working employees like Dean (and Kristie, too) that go out of their way and keep us able to do our jobs. Without our regional IT staff, always ready and able to "serve us," we might as well all go on vacation as this Agency could not function without them. Best regards" **Annette Weissbach**, Remediation and Redevelopment Program, Northeast Region Land Recycling coordinator

Northern Region success story

"Hi **Dave (Zebro**, regional enforcement leader): I received a phone call yesterday from a local business owner in the Phillips area who wanted to compliment **Jason (Bayer**, conservation warden) on his professionalism and his efforts to keep the waterways safe over the Fourth of July Weekend. The caller said he called Jason as well to express his appreciation personally.

"The caller said he heard several positive comments from patrons at his business as well. He said even though Jason's presence on the water probably negatively affected his business to some extent, it was worth it to keep the waterways safe.

"Great work Jason and **Bryan(Vergin)**!

"(I also cc'd Deputy Warden Bryan Vergin since I'm pretty sure he was there as well.)"

Scott A. Bowe, conservation warden supervisor, Park Falls Team

South Central Region success story

To Property Manager **Cindy Delkamp**, Parks and Recreation Southwest District, complimenting the work done by the **Military Ridge State Trail** and **Blue Mound State Park staffs**: "I am so impressed with the condition of the trail. Especially over the last couple of years the surface has been excellent, the low spots no longer flood, and the soft spots are no longer soft. After the recent rains, the trail was cleared and repaired with amazing speed.

"We have ridden the trail since it opened, and the Sugar River trail before that. These trails are a wonderful resource for the State, and you and the crew that maintains them are clearly dedicated to keeping them in super shape. We appreciate your work." **Jim and Ruth Sweet**

Southeast Region success stories

- **From Tim Lizotte**, Area Wildlife supervisor: "Wingshooting Instructors,

"Here is the Paul Smith article, thanks again for a great training.

"Our website is almost ready. Triangle wins the prize for being first, their clinic is August 24th.

[\("Pilot program aims to improve waterfowl hunters' skills" July 6, 2013 Journal Sentinel Online\)](#)

On the same topic: "**Tom (Hauge**, director Bureau of Wildlife Management) and **Randy (Stark**, director Bureau of Law Enforcement), I just wanted to drop a note. Over the years I have had the privilege to participate in numerous DNR sponsored clinics and train the trainer events and they all have been informative and enjoyable. This clinic however was by far the best. Both **Tim (Lizotte)** and **Doug (Zeihen)** did a fantastic job keeping the program on task and keeping the participants focused and engaged through the two days. Having two instructors that can work in unison and communicate effectively by sharing their expertise on a topic can be tough act. They did a fantastic job. I think that this clinic has great potential and I encourage the DNR to continue their support for future clinics of this nature. Let's face it when you can pull a group of knowledgeable folks together and no one has any complaints that says a lot. GREAT JOB Tim and Doug. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association greatly appreciates the invite to participate and will support this clinic 100%.

Thanks again, Mark." *Mark Kakatsch*

And, more: "Tim and Doug, more accolades!! You guys are doing an excellent job with this.

Thanks!!" *Randy Stark, chief warden*

From Executive Assistant **Scott Gunderson** to Lizotte: "Great article!"

- **"Dale (Rezabek)**, "Thank you for your presentation related to the DNR, the Fox River PCB program and the permitting process at Appleton Breakfast Rotary Club yesterday.

"From the comments we both heard, it was obviously well received.

"Rotary is a pretty neat organization, best known for its commitment to eradicate polio from the world and for its international youth exchange program, but there is a lot more to it as well.

"It was good to catch up with you; if you are ever in the Ballard Road area, stop by our office and I'll buy you cup of coffee!" *David Schwerbel, P.E., Larson Engineering, Inc., Appleton*



"It's your DNR" comes alive through partnerships

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"Paddle the Pearls" to share outdoor experience and give back

Diane Daulton, Northern Region

Ever wanted to experience some of Northern Wisconsin's special places, but didn't know where to start? "[Paddle the Pearls](#)" is a new project to provide outdoor opportunities, share environmental knowledge, and encourage volunteers who want to keep special places pristine and invasive free.



The ed-venture will journey primarily within the Fish Creek Estuary, paddling to its mouth at Lake Superior in kayaks similar to these. Photo courtesy of UW-Extension

The concept of "pearls" builds on our love for northwoods wetland gems, coastal estuaries, and pristine rivers. This summer series of two-hour on-the-water trips is designed to allow participants to explore and share ecology, natural history and culture, and learn invasives identification with experts.

Trips to a variety of unique habitats are led by **Diane Daulton**, Wisconsin DNR Lake Superior Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach specialist and Cathy Techtmann, UW Extension Environmental Outreach State specialist, in partnership with local experts.

Basic paddling instruction will be provided and those with an interest in monitoring their favorite "pearl" will be provided with tools and support. The cost is \$10/participant per trip.



Conditions permitting, adventurers will paddle Lake Superior's shoreline as far as the Whittlesey Creek Estuary and Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge. DNR photo by Diane Daulton

Dates and details can be found on the project website ["Environmental Outreach @ th NGLVC"](#) (UW-Extension's Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center) or search '[NGLVC-UWEX](#)' to find Environmental Outreach at the NGLVC and click on the "Paddle the Pearls" tab. The project is a partnership among UW-Extension, the Department of Natural Resources, the [River Alliance of Wisconsin](#), the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, the [Cable Natural History Museum](#) and [Solstice Outdoors](#).

Footnote: *Diane Daulton is DNR's Lake Superior Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach specialist.*



Water Column: Do your part while creating summer memories

By: Water Column: Do your part while creating summer memories

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What shapes our summer vacation is often permeated by memories, of "coming home" or up to the family cabin. Lots of folks share fond memories of the kids playing at the beach, the smell of a campfire, fishing from the old oredock, or the notorious "one that got away." One has only to drive north on Highways 63 or 51 on a Friday afternoon to see absolute proof that the tradition of families vacationing "up north" is still alive and well.

As kids growing up in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, our childhood was peppered with memories of family summertime visits to Chautauqua Lake where our grandparents, Doris and "Pike," lived. Red flares rimmed the lakeshore on the Fourth of July's eve and the splendor of fireworks was reflected in the glassy water. There were tall swings and even taller slides at the beach. In those days, an oars and an old-fashioned wooden row boat took us from the dock to the buoy where Grandpa's 34-foot cruiser, aptly named "Pike's Folly," waited to troll for wary muskies.



Now-a-days, innovative weed harvesters like this one use divers and vacuum suction to harvest only invasive plants like Eurasian Watermilfoil. Photo courtesy of Edward Greedy, Tomahawk Lake Association

Sometime in the 1960s, Pike drove to Michigan at the request of a friend, and returned with a "weed" harvester for Chautauqua Lake. According to his son, Richard Andrews, "Weeds were growing so fast that people were having a hard time getting to the marina to buy gas for the big cruisers that Chuck (Pike's friend) liked to sell."

Today, we don't know if the first weed-cutter was trolling for plants grown profuse due to unregulated nutrient inputs or if the problems with "weeds" in the lake signaled the introduction of invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil. Perhaps it was a combination of both. Incidentally, Chautauqua Lake still has a weed harvester, and boasts their "harvest" measured monthly in truckloads.

Last June, in one week, they reported 34 truckloads, a few of which were related to storm damage rather than aquatic plants. Chautauqua Lake still is battling Eurasian water-milfoil decades later, as well as curlyleaf pondweed and two much more disturbing invasive aquatic plants, hydrilla and water chestnut discovered more recently. The Chautauqua Lake Association's website suggests that if they reach the same funding goal as the last year, they'll only be \$150,000 shy of their goal. Harvesting plants can get to be an extremely expensive endeavor.

Here, in northern Wisconsin, we're lucky to be actively protecting lakes from invasive plants and animals. If you've seen volunteers at a nearby boat landing wearing the blue "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" t-shirts, you're witness to one of our most effective strategies...people who love lakes. Throughout summer, volunteers help keep boaters and other water-users thinking about that old expression, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

In addition to the hard work of volunteers through programs like "Clean Boats, Clean Waters" and the "Citizen-Lake Monitoring Network," DNR is doing its part, surveying about 200 lakes statewide as part of an Early Detection study.

The Early Detection project's goal is to collect enough data to determine if efforts to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species are working and to obtain a scientific baseline of how many lakes are currently affected. Lakes are randomly chosen so that by the end of the five-year study, the results will provide a representative picture of aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin waters. The study also will help detect invasive species early on so control efforts can be more successful.

This summer, DNR employees are conducting underwater surveys using dive flags, snorkeling gear, and rakes to comb the lake bottom in search of invasive plants or animals. They also tow windsock shaped nets behind boats to collect smaller organisms.

Some common invasive species DNR is looking for include: plants like Eurasian water-milfoil, curlyleaf pondweed, or purple loosestrife; animals including Chinese and banded mystery snails, faucet snails, zebra and quagga mussels; and easily-overlooked smaller animals such as spiny and fish-hook water fleas, or tiny New Zealand mudsnails. Readers can learn more about how to identify these plants and animals on DNR's ["Invasive species" website](#).

Lakes in this year's study are located in Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas counties. County Citizens and lake advocates are invited to volunteer with DNR for the Early Detection Project.

This summer while you're making memories of summer vacations, do your part and don't forget to:

- INSPECT boats, trailers, and equipment.
- REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles and equipment.
- Never MOVE plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

Footnote: *Diane Daulton is a Lake Superior Basin Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach specialist.*



Take note of upcoming happenings

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Native American dance demo, Honor Song at Peninsula State Park July 20

Kathleen Harris, Peninsula State Park

Join Gathering of Nation's Ron Preston, a San Carolos Apache and Headman Dancer, at [Peninsula State Park](#) on Saturday, July 20, for family friendly programs highlighting Southwestern Indian Dance.



Pictured here, Ron Preston will perform traditional Native American dance on Saturday, July 20. Photo courtesy of Ron Preston

Begin the day with a Sunrise Honor Song and Blessing at Eagle Terrace. Meet at the Terrace from 6:30 to 7 a.m. An optional on-your-own breakfast will follow at the Golf Clubhouse.

At 10 a.m. at the Nature Center, Preston will present a dance in full regalia, complete with colorful ribbons and loud bells. Park visitors will see several of his sacred artifacts and learn their meanings.

After the performance, from 11 a.m. to noon, visitors are invited to visit learning stations with themes related to traditional uses of plants, Native American games with a modern twist, and art following an Eagle Medicine Walk. Preston also will be featured at a campfire scheduled at the Nature Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

These events are free and open to the public, with donations appreciated to defray craft expenses. Friends of Peninsula State Park also support these events. If you don't already have a park vehicle sticker, you'll need to buy one. For more information, call the Nature Center at 920-854-5976.

Footnote: *Kathleen Harris is the naturalist at Peninsula State Park.*

