

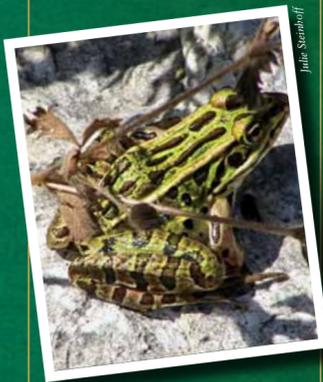


Collage by Thomas J. Senatori

WISCONSIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES HAPPEN YEAR-ROUND 2011



DNR File Photo



Julie Strabala



DNR File Photo



Don Blagov

JANUARY

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January gets us on track for a great year.

Tracking the timber wolf – Wisconsin's gray wolf population is considered one of the most closely monitored and managed animal species in the nation. It is amazing that nature brought the wolf back, but the landscape has been changed by humans. People can now keep track of wolf activity by signing up for an e-mail or wireless service that will send an alert anytime wolves attack hunting dogs or pets. From the DNR home page search for "dog depredation by wolves" and follow the simple instructions for subscribing to the alerts.

MARCH

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March sees spring march in.

Wetland awareness – On-line maps showing wetlands and potential wetlands are provided by DNR and its partners to help people verify if wetlands are present on a property. The maps are an easy, hands-on tool that allows people to sit at home and do their homework before buying a property. The on-line maps bring together and display two kinds of information overlaid against an aerial photo: wetlands formally mapped and officially recorded through the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory, and wet soil types referenced on federal Natural Resources Conservation Service maps.

MAY

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May is for birds and bird lovers.

Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail guide completed – The fifth and final segment of the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail is complete. This is just one of many positive contributions the DNR is making to the state's tourism industry.

Trumpeter swans and osprey removed from state endangered list – The successful reintroduction of trumpeter swans and the successful recovery of ospreys in Wisconsin are testament to conservation partnerships. In 2009, the trumpeter swan and osprey were removed from the Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species lists.



Ron Grubler

FEBRUARY

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February fishing is just fine.

Lake sturgeon stirring it up – The Lake Winnebago system is home to the world's largest self-sustaining lake sturgeon population. Keys to that success are Wisconsin's century-old sturgeon management program, regarded as an international model, and strong public involvement with that species management. Spearers took 1,820 fish during last year's spearing season. Sturgeon history was made on the first day of that season when the all-time record sturgeon, a 212.2-pound, 84.2-inch female, was harvested. It was a new state record. On that same day a second record was broken when the largest male sturgeon ever registered in the spearing season, 116.8 pounds, 71 inches, was brought in.

Improvements to the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery – Renovation of the hatchery's coldwater facilities to produce trout and salmon was completed in 2008 and construction on the coolwater facilities completed in 2009. The hatchery's award winning education center features large free-standing aquariums that house fish species raised right at Wild Rose, a fish identification wall and many interactive exhibits.



Mary A. Venek



DNR File Photo



Robert Queen

APRIL

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April has Earth Day, but every day is Earth Day for volunteers.

More volunteers and efforts in citizen-based science – Water quality monitoring, badger research, bat monitors, bird and butterfly counts, river protection, controlling invasive species and more. It is important to recognize the contributions thousands of volunteer citizen monitors make each year to conserving Wisconsin's natural resources. Wisconsin is an international leader in environmental stewardship and citizen-based monitoring has a long history here. Through the Citizen-Based Monitoring Partnership Program, the Department of Natural Resources works with community and school groups, conservation organizations and other agencies to gather critical information on plants, animals, water and other natural resources.

JUNE

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June means more places to make memories.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program – More than 580,000 acres have been preserved for public use over Stewardship's first 20 years; better than 90 percent is open for public uses like hunting, hiking and nature study.

Happy campers – Several new and updated facilities greeted park and trail users last year including a new campground at Harrington Beach State Park, additional campsites at Willow River State Park, more sites equipped with electric hookups across the state and new activities for the Wisconsin Explorer program for kids. Wisconsin state parks attract 14 million visitors annually and the State Park System properties remain affordable destinations and activity centers for families seeking healthy outdoor recreation opportunities.

Energy-wise electric cars – State park visitors are seeing electric vehicles at work on some park properties. The vehicles are less expensive to purchase and operate and greatly reduce carbon dioxide emissions compared to gasoline powered vehicles.



WISCONSIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES HAPPEN YEAR-ROUND 2011

Anytime of the year, "We're here for you!"

The public can contact the DNR Call Center seven days a week and year-round, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The center offers a toll-free number, an on-line live chat room, and customer service specialists speaking English, Hmong and Spanish. Highly trained staff responds to a wide variety of DNR issues, from clarifying regulations on hunting and fishing to restrictions on transporting firewood. Call 1-888-WDNR-INFo (1-888-936-7463) or visit the DNR's website at dnr.wi.gov

Dial in to an anonymous tip line. The DNR has added a text messaging option for the public to report hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational vehicle and environmental violations. Anyone with a cell phone with texting service can now send an anonymous tip to Wisconsin DNR from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. by texting the word TIPWDNR and the tip information to 847-411 (tip411).



DNR File Photo



DNR File Photo



DNR File Photo

JULY

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July is a time to celebrate success in stopping the spread.

Identify and control the spread of invasive species – We've made progress getting various land managers to agree on standards to identify and curb invasive species. We also made tremendous progress educating a wide range of outdoor users to identify invasives and take steps to break the chain and contain these species through boat launch watches, monitoring by conservation wardens, Water Guards, the WAVE program, firewood containment, bio-controls, steps to minimize chances of being a carrier, restrictions on importing and moving invasive species, and more.

SEPTEMBER

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September means back to school can be cool!

Archery in the Schools scores big with students – A record number of students competed in last year's National Archery in the Schools Program state tournament.

Green and Healthy Schools grow – The Green and Healthy Schools Program is a voluntary program available to all Wisconsin public and private elementary, middle and high schools. The program takes schools through environmental assessment and guides students and staff as they make improvements. More than 120 schools are enrolled in the program.

Recreation safety success – Because education is one of the most important tools we have to reduce injuries, accidents and deaths, the DNR sponsors recreational safety education classes on how to be safe, knowledgeable, and responsible in recreational pursuits. The law enforcement safety education program includes classes in hunting (gun and bow), boating, snowmobiling and operating an ATV. More than 25,000 students annually enroll in hunter education courses.

NOVEMBER

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November finds us hunting for a good time.

Hunting Mentorship Program is a hit – This law allows people interested in experiencing hunting, including those age 10 and older, to hunt under controlled conditions and under the close supervision of a mentor prior to passing a hunter education course. Hunting is deeply ingrained in the fabric of our state's culture and economy. In its first year, more than 10,000 mentored hunting licenses were sold to 10- and 11-year-olds.

Hunters donate deer to the hungry – Wisconsin hunters continue to demonstrate their generosity by donating thousands of deer to the Wisconsin Deer Donation Program, which distributes ground venison to food pantries. The venison donation program observed its 10th anniversary in 2009.

Ryan Del Ponte



Ed Callahan



Ed Callahan



Shane Ruzick



Shane Ruzick



Paul Peeters

AUGUST

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August can be a bear of a month.

Black bear population growth and extended range – In 1989, this population was estimated at 9,000. A 2008 bear population study estimated Wisconsin's current bear population at between 26,000 and 40,000 bears. In 2010 about 8,910 hunting permits were allocated, up 22 percent from 2009.

OCTOBER

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October is a breath of fresh air.

Forty years of cleaner air improvements – With each breath, Wisconsin residents have good reason to celebrate 40 years of cleaner air. Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the landmark Clean Air Act of 1970. Since that time, scientific understanding of air pollution and its health effects has grown and health researchers say people can benefit from even lower levels of air pollution. Technology to further reduce air pollution levels also is improving.

DECEMBER

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December is for digging up answers.

Research leads the way – Wisconsin DNR researchers have advanced a number of projects that help define how aquatic, land and wildlife resources are managed. Studies include evaluating wildlife vulnerability to changing climate, partnering on the Wisconsin Badger Genetics Project and leading the nation in using surveys for birds difficult to detect by normal survey methods.

All aboard to build a new research vessel

– The DNR and Wisconsin boat manufacturer Burger Boat Company signed a contract to build a 60-foot research vessel to expand Lake Michigan fishery study and survey work. This boat, named *The Coregonus*, is a state-of-the-art vessel with onboard laboratory equipment along with capabilities for scuba operations. *The Coregonus* will incorporate many safety features and improve vessel and crew safety. DNR fisheries staff worked closely with another Wisconsin company, SeaCraft, to develop the design.

