

Wisconsin DNR Trail News 05/08/2008
There are five news items in this message.

1. New State Parks Director Named

Dan Schuller has been named as the new Wisconsin State Park System Director. He will begin on May 27 and brings with him 28 years of experience with DNR in the Lands program. For the last few years he has served as the Northern Region Land Leader in Rhinelander.

Schuller said of his appointment "I am truly humbled and honored to return to the Park's program in this role as Director. State Parks feature what's best about Wisconsin, rare natural resources, exciting recreation, and high quality services for visitors. I look forward to working with State Park staff to move the program forward building on that solid foundation."

2. Lightweight Utility Vehicle Pilot Program Underway

Lightweight utility vehicles -- also known as LUVs, UTVs or side-by-sides -- are now temporarily allowed on certain all-terrain vehicle trails in northern Wisconsin. Lincoln, Washburn, Sawyer, Florence and Marinette) counties have elected to enroll in the LUV Pilot Program, which ends on Sept. 30, 2009. Marinette County requires a special LUV sticker. Most of the trails that will be opened to LUVs are on county land. At least one State Trail will also be included in the pilot.

Details are available on each county's web site or from local county contacts. **Registration** is mandatory although no state fee is required at this time (**The registration is technically an annual County registration form**). Those interested in operating LUVs within these counties should visit the individual county's Web site or contact the county Forestry Department for all rules and regulations. Each county should have an online registration, which is required for each county you operate in; registration is free.

Passed as part of the 2007-09 State Budget, the pilot program is to be administered by the DNR in consultation with the Department of Transportation to evaluate use and effects of operating lightweight utility vehicles on all-terrain vehicle trails and routes.

According to Gary Eddy, all-terrain vehicle administrator for the Department of Natural Resources, the pilot program will be evaluated upon its completion: the DNR will review the data gathered during the program, consult with the counties and then forward the results to the legislature. Eddy says that "if things go well, the DNR will evaluate whether a statewide registration program is appropriate for these vehicles."

3. Leopold Designation Event Scheduled for June 5

Event will be held Thursday, June 5, 2008, 11:00 a.m. at the [Glacial Drumlin State Trail trailhead in Cottage Grove \(on Hwy N\)](#).

This winter, Governor Doyle signed into law the designation of the Wisconsin State Trail System as the "Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System". The event on June 5 will place the first sign for the Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System in the ground, and rollout important attributes of programs the department will undertake as part of the new designation. These programs include launching **Get Outdoors! Wisconsin...**a collective program of efforts to encourage children of all ages to enjoy the outdoors. **Get Outdoors! Wisconsin...** joins national and state efforts to celebrate June as Great Outdoors Month (<http://www.getoutdoorsusa.org/>).

Invited attendees include the Governor's office, regional legislators, County and Cottage Grove officials, Leopold Foundation and Center partners, Leopold family members, DNR Natural Resources Board members, members of the Governor's State Trail Council, DNR Administration,

Regional DNR leaders, and local citizens and trail enthusiasts. The designation of the State Trail System in honor of Aldo Leopold encourages the state to further promote worthwhile trail highlights in addition to the recreational value. These highlights include the interpretation of ecological, cultural, geological and historical landscapes.

State Trails provide an excellent way for citizens to spend time with family and friends, discover ways to improve health, and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. State Trails also create economic connections between communities. [National Trails Day](#) will take place on Saturday, June 7, to celebrate the full value of trails including the social, educational, environmental, health and economic benefits. By having this event in advance of National Trails Day, we hope to generate additional exposure for National Trails Day. No State Trail Pass is required to use state trails on National Trails Day.

4. New Safety Policy in Effect – Includes Volunteers

The Safety Training and Power Equipment Certification policy for Wisconsin State Park System staff and volunteers has been updated. The policy directs staff and volunteers in the safe operation of power equipment such as chainsaws, heavy equipment, and ATVs. The policy is intended to reflect existing manual codes, OSHA laws, and direction from the Department's Operations Management Team. It was also reviewed and edited by the Department Safety and Risk Management Program.

The policy requires volunteers to have the same (or, some cases allows equivalent) training and Personal Protective Equipment (e.g. safety gear) as Department employees. Volunteers must complete the [Power Equipment Safety Acknowledgement \(Form 2500-120\)](#) which is intended to operate as an understanding of liability and risk for the volunteer. Anyone not employed by the DNR wanting to use power equipment (a chainsaw, for example) in a state park system property will have to fill out and turn in this form to the property manager. Volunteers are vital to the State Park System. This new policy is intended to protect, guide, and provide safe parameters for them as for Department employees. Volunteers can participate in DNR safety trainings.

5. State Trails Council Ad Hoc Committee to Examine STC Structure

At their April 15, 2008 meeting, the Governor's State Trails Council (STC) agreed to establish a temporary (ad hoc) committee responsible for examining and proposing changes to the structure and organization of the State Trails Council in order to ensure that the STC is efficient, effective and inclusive of all citizens and trail user groups.

The committee will be composed of members of the current Council and public (non-STC) members who have experience with various trail user groups and knowledge of appropriate organizational models. The committee will be responsible for reviewing the [mission](#), structure, organization, and make-up of the STC and will make recommendations for improvements at the April 2009 meeting.

Anyone interested in applying to be on the committee should read [this](#) additional information about the committee and apply for membership by May 24. A link to the application appears at the bottom of the committee information page.

END Trail News, 05/08/2008

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