



WISCONSIN GAME WARDEN

Fall 2008



— WISCONSIN —

GAME WARDEN

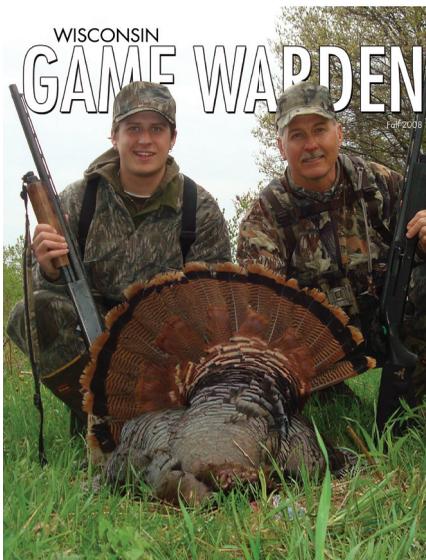
Fall 2008

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on the cover...

Marine Conservation Warden Mike Kitt of Marinette and his son, Josh, pose with a tom turkey harvested by Josh in Columbia County in May of 2007. Dad scored two days later, with another nice tom. See more game harvested by Wisconsin wardens and their family members in our regular feature, Fruits of their Labor. It can be found on page 15.

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the warden Pilots

Planes helped wardens patrol, spot shiners and more

By Jim Palmer

The first airplanes were delivered to the Wisconsin conservation warden force in 1960, spanking-new Champion Challengers. The light, utility aircraft were powered with 150-hp engines and equipped with law enforcement radios, public address pagers and skis for off-airport work in the winter. There were all sorts of plans for putting these new enforcement tools to work patrolling closed areas and state boundaries, spotting deer shining outfits for wardens on the ground, locating hunting and boating pressure areas, and finding lost hunters.

But the program, especially at first, was somewhat controversial. Small, maneuverable snowmobiles came on the market

about the same time and every warden wanted one. The chief warden said that the budget couldn't afford 150 Ski Doo's, and it followed that the wardens figured those costly new airplanes were the reason why there were no snowmobiles available. It took less than a year of remarkable success with the planes, however, and most field wardens were calling for air support on a regular basis.

It was convenient that law enforcement already had a warden in Hayward who was well qualified to fly the first Champ. Earle Gingles flew P-38s in the Pacific during World War II and P-51s with the Air Guard. He is still the best stick-and-rudder pilot I've known. About this time a second airplane was based

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WARDEN IN THE SPOTLIGHT

‘Truly blessed to be doing something I love’

Peery gives back to the community, children through learn-to-hunt programs

By Samantha Marx

Ever since he can remember, Rusk County Conservation Warden Jeremy Peery has loved the outdoors. And while some children want to be astronauts and professional athletes, Peery always wanted to be a warden.

“I was looking in old stuff from 1986 and found a little excerpt from my school newspaper that said I wanted to be a warden,” Peery said. “I’ve known this is a job I’ve wanted for a long time, and I’ve worked toward that goal since I can remember.”

Peery takes the love he’s always had for the outdoors to work with him every day.

“I get a smile on my face when I walk in the door and the same great smile when I walk out,” he said. “I get to interact with the public. I’m truly blessed to be doing something I love.”

Peery, who grew up on a small farm in Missouri, attributes his love for the outdoors to the incredible support of his grandfather. He can’t thank him enough for the guidance he gave him.

“My grandpa was a key role model to me,” Peery said. “He supported anything I wanted to do in the outdoors and kept me out of trouble and my nose to the grindstone.”

Peery’s dedication and curiosity for his chosen career led him to ride along on the job with agents from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Wanting the best possible education to further his understanding of the field, Peery asked the Missouri agents where he should go to school. They recommended the University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point.

In the fall of 1996 Peery transferred to UW-Stevens Point, where he founded and became the first president of the Student Law Enforcement Association, which still exists today. Peery said it is one of his proudest achievements since many of the wardens hired today have been members of the association.

In December 1998 Peery completed his education and was hired full time as



Jeremy Peery is a Wisconsin conservation warden and trapper. Here he displays some of his furs in this 2002 photo.

a conservation warden in Rusk County. Conservation Warden Supervisor Dave Oginski has been Peery’s supervisor since 2001, and said that Peery is a strong warden all around.

“Jeremy is less dependent on me or assistance from others,” Oginski said. “He handles everything and has a complete law enforcement program.”

Peery’s hard work has helped change the lives of many children and won him several awards. But he said the ability to give back to the community, and children in particular, is his greatest achievement to date. In 2004 he helped start Safe Hunters of Tomorrow, which teaches youth bear, deer, pheasant and turkey hunting techniques. The organization holds a youth outdoors field day, allowing children to participate in a variety of outdoor activities at no cost; the guns used are given away to the youth at the end of the day.

“I love to see smiles on the kids’ faces and I get to see them two, three or five years down the line and hear them talk about how it has changed their lives,” Peery said.

PEERY AT A GLANCE

- Married to Wendy
- Has a chocolate lab
- Enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family
- Favorite hobby is turkey hunting
- Volunteer high-school wrestling coach

Rick Nash, a business owner and resident of Rusk County for 32 years, has witnessed Peery’s giving nature firsthand.

Nash has been involved in various events that Peery has helped coordinate, such as a youth turkey hunt, which has been featured on the television show “Drury Outdoors,” and a youth bear hunt.

According to Nash, the youth bear hunt has a 100 percent success rate and has touched a lot of kids’ lives.

In addition, more than \$1 million has been raised in Rusk County for outdoor wildlife and recreation programs, and



“As an agency, the DNR training program is phenomenal. My training kicked in and I really didn’t have to think... It was truly a tragic day.”

Peery has a great deal to do with that, Nash said.

Another program that Peery is involved in is Hunt of a Lifetime. The program takes two children each year who have terminal illnesses and sets them up with free guided bear and deer hunts. This year was the fourth annual Hunt of a Lifetime.

“We have lots of volunteers and none walk away from there with dry eyes when they hear the kids talk about their stories,” Peery said.

Oginski witnessed the camaraderie and excitement that the children shared. “To listen to those kids set aside their troubles and be able to relax and come together was emotional for everyone,” Oginski said. “Assisting children is such an integral part, and their smiles and excitement that day are etched into my mind.”

While implementing community events is a big part of his job, he has also been involved in many serious cases. In 2004 Peery was the warden who apprehended Chai Soua Vang, who was later found guilty of killing six deer hunters. Peery attributes his success in the apprehension to his training.

“As an agency, the DNR training program is phenomenal,” Peery said. “My training kicked in and I really didn’t have to think. I hope ... no other warden would have to experience that. It was truly a tragic day.”

Other cases have also been rewarding. For three years, Peery and Warden Scott Bowe investigated a Chippewa County fur buyer and uncovered state and federal crimes. The man was convicted of state and federal charges, forfeited more than \$13,000 in illegal furs and fined more than \$15,000. In addition, he was prohibited from hunting or fur-related activities for 10 years.

In another case, Peery and Sawyer County wardens conducted a three-year

investigation into a septic hauler, resulting in the largest septage case in Wisconsin history. Five defendants were banned for life from engaging in any aspect of the septage hauling business and the owner was convicted of a felony federal criminal violation of the Clean Water Act.

In addition, Peery has worked criminal cases involving hunting deer at night with a light and thrill kills, as well as recreational vehicle enforcement.

Nash has seen Peery’s professionalism and seriousness and said he has goals and dreams that many members of the community look up to.

“Jeremy does what all wardens should do,” Nash said. “He’s not just a law enforcement figure, but he’s a leader.”

Peery attributes some of the best parts of his job to the camaraderie of his fellow wardens. “I’m just like a sponge when I’m around them. I just absorb as much as I can.”

Just like every job, Peery said being a warden is difficult at times. He said it’s hard trying to be everywhere at once and giving the public the response and attention they deserve on a smaller and smaller budget each year.

“Continually trying to do more and more with less and less money is hard,” Peery said. “My station is 950 square miles and it has the same budget as a

county with only 300 square miles.”

Despite the difficulties, Peery said he loves where he is and looks to the future with an open mind.

“When I started almost 10 years ago I never thought the job would be where it is today,” Peery said. “I’m open to any new opportunities the department has, but I’m having a great time here. I just hope I’m healthy enough to continue until my retirement age.”

SAMANTHA MARX is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh majoring in journalism.

PEERY’S TOP HONORS

- 2001 Wisconsin Trappers Association Warden of the Year
- 2004 Wisconsin Bow Hunters Association Warden of the Year
- 2005 Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association Warden of the Year
- 2005 Wisconsin Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation Warden of the Year
- 2005 National Runner Up to the National Wild Turkey Federation Warden of the Year

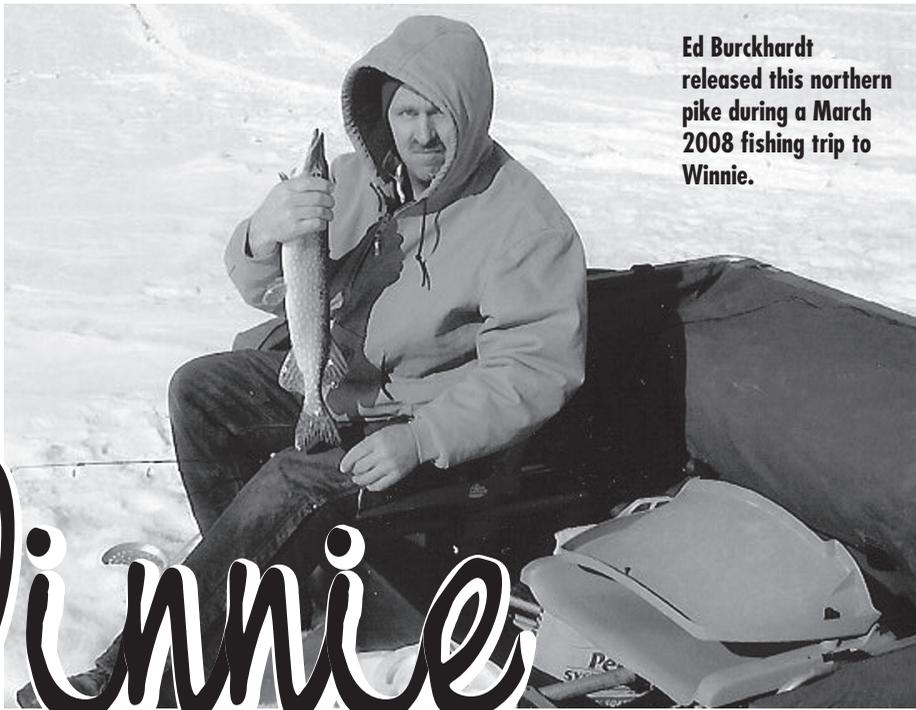


Warden Jeremy Peery, left, and recruit Warden Robin Barnhardt with a seized deer in November 2006.



There's rehab
and then there's
rehab on

Winnie



Ed Burckhardt released this northern pike during a March 2008 fishing trip to Winnie.

By Pat Harkins

My winter expeditions to Minnesota's Lake Winnibigoshish or "Winnie" have been going on for many years with whomever I can talk into taking a few days off. With the price of fuel, it's more relaxing and economical to make the six-hour trip from Minocqua to Winnie and spend a few extra days poking around like any good game warden does, rather than to be rushing back and forth in the wee hours of the night.

Besides, now I'm retired and not shackled to a job. But most retirees keep a busy schedule so it's still difficult to find people able to go on a Monday through Friday trip. Difficult, but not impossible.

I met Warden Tony Arhart at one of my fur-training programs many years ago. Tony and his wife, Barb, recently transferred from southern Minnesota to the Squaw Lake warden station, in the northwest corner of Winnie, and now live on Dixon Lake. Barb manages a rental cabin on the property that they call Fort Dixon. We've rented the cabin in recent years and I need to reserve the cabin a year in advance as it fills up most of the winter weeks with repeat clients.

Having been to Winnie in mid-January and mid-February of '08, I was in the process of lining up another crew for a trip in March. The January trip was with good friend and a former hunter education instructor, Jim Mecikalski (AKA Yukon) and two friends from Eagle River. Temperatures hit minus 25 each night. Daytime highs got up to zero! Fishing was decent and we all picked up our limits of perch or close to it. Considering the temperatures prevented moving around and the snow was getting to the point of being a pain as well, we did well.

The much-anticipated February trip, with warmer temperatures predicted, also turned out to be a very good trip and everyone picked up their limits of perch. Tom Long of Ashland and I each picked up a decent limit of crappie as well. Yukon, who was

also on the second trip, would likely have had his limit of crappie except that in trying to get a northern out of the hole, he was bitten on the fingers and left a blood trail to the truck. Tom Long said the northern actually came out of the hole to get a piece of Yukon. Nasty northerns! The nighttime temps were minus 30 all week, with daytime highs at minus 10.

Back to the March trip. Gary Homuth called and discussed the possibility of coming on the March expedition with another good friend of ours, Ed Burckhardt, who had brain tumor surgery on Jan. 21 in Madison. Ed, who is affectionately known as "Big Ed,"

is as tough as they come. He's a concrete man by trade and has a heart of gold. While coming out of his induced coma after the surgery, Ed was sitting in his "hospital finest loungewear" fidgeting with his hands. While none of the hospital staffers could figure out his actions, the first fishing friend who visited recognized that Ed was jig fishing, probably to kill the boredom since Ed couldn't talk yet. So with that information in hand, Gary consulted with Ed's wife, Laurie, and the plan was hatched to try to get Ed on the March

Winnie trip. Ed progressed in his daily rehab and was transferred to another hospital for therapy. Ed made it home in early March, with three days per week of rehab sessions at the hospital. Ed could now talk again and wanted to go fishing on Winnie.

So on March 10, Gary picked up Ed from Monday rehab and headed to Minocqua to meet up with me. We repacked all of our gear on my truck and we headed for Winnie. As retired Warden Ed Hill often said, "Is that the junk man or is it a 'kentuck' moving?" My truck looked the part with the flapping ragged blue plastic tarps. We arrived about 8 p.m., unpacked, socialized with our other crewmembers, Tom Long and Glen Grages, both of the Ashland area, ate and hit the hay. The trip was completed without incident except that I was getting the chills and not feeling up to speed.

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Tuesday arrived without me getting much sleep as I was feeling cold-like symptoms. I sucked it up and after a hearty breakfast, the five of us were off to Winnie, a short five-mile drive. The temperatures hovered in the 20s, but snow conditions looked tough so I put chains on the front of my diesel to break trail about two miles to one of our “secret” spots. This consists of “chewing” through the snow as far as you could go, backing up 100 yards and giving it full speed ahead again until you were stopped. Repeat, repeat, repeat! I’m surprised that the engine mounts hold the truck together at times.

The fish were at our “lucky spot,” but they were not the most cooperative. We all caught fish and Ed got a good start on his mental rehab as well. Ed landed a nice northern, which had to be returned due to the closed season, and also caught the nicest mess of perch that day.

Day one is usually a scouting mission, trying to figure out what is going on with the current fish bite. Tom and Glen left at 4 p.m. to fish the evening crappie bite on Dixon Lake, which was slow again. We all met back at Fort Dixon and had a fish fry with some of the day’s bounty. I was feeling progressively worse and went to bed. It was also an early evening for the rest of the crew.

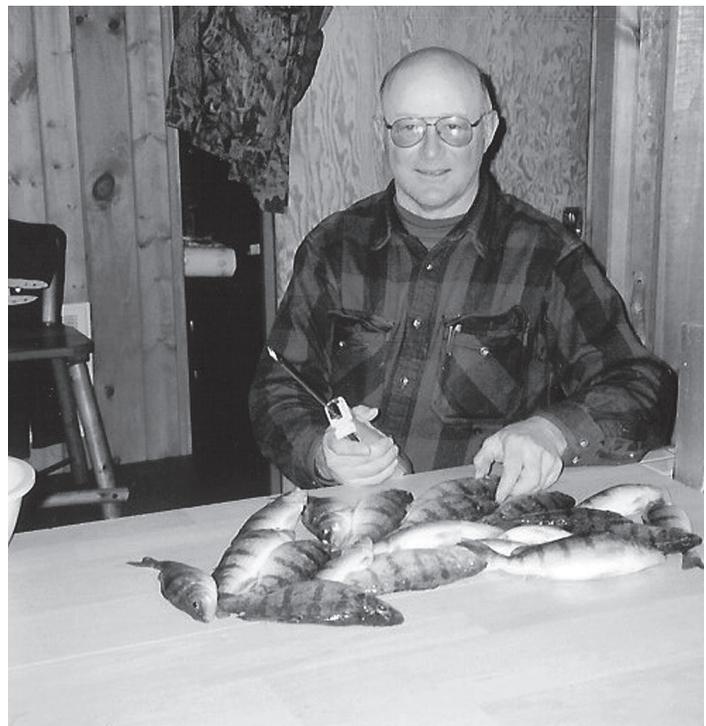
The temps were in the 30s again on Wednesday so the group decided to try a new lake about 30 miles away and I stayed in bed, sick and hurting all over. The crew caught perch, but mostly too small to keep. Gary and Ed went back on Winnie that night and got a few more perch to keep. Tom and Glen drove 27 miles to Bowstring to try again for some crappies and caught only three nice crappies; they just weren’t in the biting mode. Ed got another good day of mental rehab in, which was our primary goal.

Supper consisted of a fine lasagna meal provided by Ed’s wife, Laurie. Storytelling rounded out the day. Gary was now starting to feel ill as well. It looked like Ed was going to wind up taking care of us.

Thursday dawned with Gary down and out. You know it’s bad when Gary won’t get up to fish. But I was feeling somewhat



From left, Tom Long, Pat Harrison and Pat Harkins show off perch caught on Winnie in March 2005.



Pat Harkins fillets perch caught on Winnie in March 2004.

better so Tom, Glen, Ed and I headed onto Winnie, with Tom and Glen trying the far trenches. Ed and I got into the perch quickly in a different “secret spot” and Ed was soaking up his rehab and catching perch. With cell phones, the ability to communicate on the lake is much enhanced, so I called Tom and they soon joined us. We all caught perch until about 1 p.m. when things slowed. Ed and I decided to try to find some active fish, but we didn’t have much luck. The warm temperatures of the last week were melting down the packed snow and we were now able the drive around without chains. Tom and Glen left about 3 p.m. and Ed and I were also returning to camp about 4 p.m. when I decided to try the same spot where we started earlier. Ed and I quickly had five nice perch on the ice from the “empty holes” that Tom and Glen had just abandoned. What a great way to end the day.

Back at camp, Gary was up and feeling somewhat better. We all had a big meal of baked chicken, carrots and potatoes.

More stories, the ability to soak up the ambiance of the fireplace, the camp and the fellowship of good friends are really what it is all about. Fishing is just the vehicle to allow all of this to happen, the catalyst. When I plan these events, it seems they take forever to get here. Once you are living it, the week seems to speed by from Monday directly to Friday. I think next year, I might plan fewer but longer trips, especially when fuel hits \$6 or more per gallon.

After another restless night, Friday morning arrived and the crew packed up quickly for the long trip home. My truck again took on the junkman look as we headed east. While only Ed got his limit of perch on this trip, it’s not all about limits. I am very confident that we were able to provide some very quality mental and physical rehab for “Big Ed.” The best part is that the rest of us *all* got a big dose of rehab as well. Thanks, Ed

PAT HARKINS is a retired conservation warden living in Minocqua.



PILOTS: from page 3

in the southern area and a young warden, Don Beghin, was already trained and licensed.

Soon after him, Ken Corbett in Oshkosh and Harley "Putter" Peterson in Minocqua picked up the third and fourth Champs. Both wardens held commercial pilot licenses.

Dave Froggett was an undercover warden who drove a purple Corvette and had a background in stock car racing. He took Corbett's suggestion and began flight training. Dave was a natural and soon he, too, was qualified. With his assignment to the west-central region, each of the five administrative areas had a warden pilot and a Champion aircraft.

At first they made rules up as they went along, trying any scheme that sounded at all plausible. Winter came and there was an acute problem with dogs running deer in the northwest region. Gingles was successful at spotting the running dog packs, but he often couldn't get a warden out ahead of them fast enough to intercept the chase. So the door was removed from his Champ and a war-

The warden pilot program flew for about 15 years. The safety record was remarkably clean considering the kind of flying we did. Night flight in single-engine aircraft is not advisable, and we did a lot of it. Steep turns at low altitude and unnoticed power lines have claimed a lot of good aviators operating in this manner, but no warden pilot ever crashed.

den with a shotgun rode in the back seat. After a lot of low swooping dives and buckshot rattling through the woods, the procedure was rated a little too exciting for the citizenry and it was discontinued.

One weekend Beghin flew Dane, Columbia and Sauk counties, directing wardens to every car he spotted that was simply parked in an out-of-the-way place. The result was more than 50 arrests for unlawful possession of Canada geese, pheasants, squirrels and a mourning dove.

Although at first they hadn't planned on conducting rescue flights, Corbett became somewhat of a legend for snatching some stranded fishermen off a thin ice floe on Lake Winnebago. After the

8 Fall 2008



The first five warden pilots included, from left, Don Beghin, Earle Gingles, Harley Peterson and Ken Corbett. Dave Froggett is not pictured.

word went out of the rescue, he got called whenever people got in trouble on Wisconsin's largest inland lake.

When the boating law went into effect in Wisconsin, a field warden could get writer's cramp giving tickets for non-registration, lack of running lights or what today we call personal flotation devices. Back then they were buoyant boat cushions and those arrests were dubbed pillowcases. In each area, the warden pilots began flying over concentrations of boats and announcing over their paging system that boaters and fishermen would be cited for violations of the new rules. It was startling to watch the number of boats that immediately started for shore as soon as they heard the message.

Then, as now, the Department's needs varied from one end of the state to the other. In northeast Wisconsin, with its thousands of lakes, the Champ was eventually equipped with floats or pontoons. In addition to his law enforcement flights, Peterson spent most of one summer flying a limnologist from lake to lake, taking water samples for an extensive water quality survey. This was the first of several cooperative flights done for other departments.

The only airplane owned by the state of Wisconsin with photo-mapping capability was the southern area Champ. We had created a monster. It seemed like half the departments of state government had a need for mapping and Beghin was awash in requests for cooperative photo flights.

Probably the most success we enjoyed with the planes was catching

deer-shining outfits. With four wardens in squad cars scattered over an area of roughly 200 square miles, the flying warden could usually spot any outfit down below that was "working with a light." It was a challenge to direct a warden in a squad across the countryside by radio, positioning him so the stop could be made — a type of air-borne chess. I wish we had numbers of how many outfits were caught that way.

The aviation program worked as well as it did because the guys flying the airplanes were game wardens. They'd done the job on the ground, knew the law, recognized violations when they saw them, and knew how to work them. They also had the motivation that all wardens have — that ability to stick with it until you win.

The warden pilot program flew for about 15 years. The safety record was remarkably clean considering the kind of flying we did. Night flight in single-engine aircraft is not advisable, and we did a lot of it. We frequently flew for hours at treetop level doing surveys, searching for lost hunters or missing persons or fleeing bad guys. Steep turns at low altitude and unnoticed power lines have claimed a lot of good aviators operating in this manner, but no warden pilot ever crashed.

I'm sure we all had close calls. Corbett must have thrilled himself a time or two on that fog-shrouded lake. I believe he was the only one who ever flew close enough formation with a flock of Canada geese to get honker crap on his Champ.

Continued on next page



Froggett was forced to retire from flying far too early due to heart problems. He was a hard worker and willing to try anything. He also had a playful attitude, and we missed him.

Gingles was so good that perhaps he never came close. But I recall him landing at 3 o'clock one morning with less than a gallon of gas left in his tanks. He had a good shining outfit running in Price County and wouldn't quit until a warden made the stop.

Putter stretched it a little further on a deer shiner flight one dark night. The line boy who filled the tanks on the Champ shorted Peterson a few gallons and on his way home the engine quit. "It's really disappointing when that happens," Putter reported. By starlight on the snow he was able to make out a small clearing surrounded by woods. Somehow he managed to land dead stick in what turned out to be a plowed field with no damage to him or the plane. A safe landing after engine failure in the daytime is unlikely. Multiply the risk by 10 at night.

I was a second-generation warden pilot, leaving my field station in Superior in 1969 to replace the first of the original five to retire from flying. A few years later Wardens Darwin Krall and Dan Doberstein joined our air team, bringing to eight the total number of men who were once known as warden pilots.

In the mid-1970s, a few years after the Wisconsin Conservation Department was reorganized and became the Department of Natural Resources, law enforcement and fire control pilots were reclassified and grouped in the aeronautics section. The section chief was Ken Beghin, a former warden.

Although we kept our credentials, the original warden pilots had new titles and were no longer attached to law enforcement. Additional pilots were hired from outside the Department, different models of airplanes were added to our fleet and our flying job became a more varied, department-wide program. We flew patrols and surveys for every bureau of the Department, including our new environmental protection people. Passenger transport in twin-engine aircraft became a priority. We studied, trained and got airline transport pilot licenses and a pay raise, but it felt sadly like the end of an era to the warden pilots.

JIM PALMER is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden now living in Silver City, New Mexico.

LOOKING BACK

By Harland Steinhorst

125 years ago

- State law prohibits shining of deer.
- Out-of-state shipment of deer —manly via train — is also prohibited.

100 years ago

- Deer season went from Nov. 11-30 with 35 counties open. The bag limit was two deer per season. The estimated kill was 11,000 deer.
- First closed season on raccoons.

75 years ago

- The law was repealed that required the wearing of a license button on the outer garment.
- No open season for deer statewide. The season closed in 1925, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933 and 1935.

50 years ago

- Portable mobile FM two-way radios (pack sets) are issued to field wardens.
- White deer are now protected at all times.
- Rock County open for deer hunting; the season had been closed since 1906.

25 years ago

- Velcro pistol belt and security holster is issued to wardens.
- Motorboat noise level (decibel) standards are enacted statewide.
- First year of the deer back tag, carcass tag combination.

HARLAND STEINHORST is a retired Wisconsin conservation warden now living in LaValle.

OBITUARY

GAIL HALLINAN

Gail Hallinan, 68, of Mauston, Wis., died May 9, 2008 at the University Hospital in Madison. She was the wife of retired Special Warden Bart Hallinan.

Funeral services were held May 13, 2008 at the Conway-Picha Funeral Home in Lyndon Station, Wis. with the Rev. Jeffrey Fairchild officiating.

Gail was born Jan. 6, 1940 in Chicago, Ill., the daughter of John and Marion (Worrell) Auckland. In August of 1963 she married Bartley Hallinan in Chicago. They moved to the Mauston area in 1976 and she started working for Juneau County in 1977. She retired in 2001 as supervisor of the economic and child support services. Gail enjoyed working with stained glass making ornaments and decorations; she was avid about growing flower gardens around her home. In addition, one of her favorite pastimes was solving crossword and Sudoku puzzles.

She is survived by her husband, Bart; sons, Michael (Jacqueline) of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. and Bartley Jr. (Jodi) of Port Townsend, Wash.; grandchildren, Ariel, Bartley, Codi, Cassie, Alex, Aaron and Abigail; father, John Auckland of Mauston; a brother, Dwight (Allison) Auckland of New Ulm, Texas; nephews, Steven (Mary Ann) Lindgren, Jonathan (Lisa) Auckland and Jeffrey (Racquel) Auckland; and a niece, Kristin Webber. She was preceded in death by her mother, Marion, and a sister, Nancy Lindgren.





Club hosts pheasant program

By James Grudzinski

The Outdoors Forever Sports Club hosted a learn-to-pheasant hunt program at the Outdoors Forever Club property east of Mauston on Oct. 13, 2007.

Thirteen youth participated in the event with volunteer instructors providing training on firearms and hunter safety, an introduction to pheasant hunting, wildlife and habitat management, a hunting with dogs demonstration, and trap shooting. The students were paired up with a mentor and hunted pheasants in the afternoon. Each group of students hunted using a dog and volunteer dog handler.

The program was sponsored

by Outdoors Forever, Whitetails Unlimited, the Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Pheasants were donated by Outdoors Forever and the DNR, which also provided birds from the Poynette Game Farm.

The Wisconsin DNR sponsors learn-to-hunt programs for first-time hunters who are 10 years old or older and who have never participated in a learn-to-hunt pheasant program. Hunter education is not required since the programs aim to get youth interested in hunting first.

JAMES GRUDZINSKI is a Wisconsin conservation warden stationed in Mauston.

Cody's first turkey hunt: memorable

Ray Carlson of the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department was looking for a place to hunt spring turkeys in Unit 43. Ray's 12-year-old son, Cody, would be hunting turkeys for the very first time. Warden Nick Nice suggested some public lands in the Medford area, as well as a place for the Carlsons to park their camper.

The hunt started on Friday with Cody and Ray being in the blind at 4:30 a.m. At daybreak the turkeys started gobbling all around them. Cody got really excited because he had never heard a gobbler other than on videos.

Ray started calling and a gobbler responded and came in to about 40 yards from Cody, but the turkey stayed up on a knob and out of sight. Finally the gobblers wandered off and things got quiet. A couple of turkeys were sighted about 35 yards from the blind but only the heads were visible due to being just over a hill. Ray and Cody couldn't see any beards so they waited and called for the next opportunity.

Finally at about 10:30 a.m., Cody heard something rustling in the leaves over the hill so Ray started calling once again, this time trying some different calls like purring and clucking. After about 10 minutes, two heads poked up over the hill. The birds moved a bit to the left, which put them in straight line out from Cody. The first bird appeared out in the open, but was a hen. The second bird had a small beard.

It was a proud dad's moment to watch and guide his son on what would be perhaps his first turkey harvest. Ray told Cody to wait so he could get a good clean shot. Cody was shaking like a leaf! The jake finally stopped in an opening about 25 yards away. Cody squeezed the trigger. It was a good hit and the turkey was down.

Cody composed himself, and with his shoulders back and head up high, went to see his first harvested turkey. The struggling turkey now was still with father and son standing over it, taking in a very special moment in their lives. The jake weighed 13 pounds and had a 1 1/2-inch beard. Making the hunt even more memorable was that a three generation family of hunters — Cody, Ray and Ray's father, Ken — all harvested birds. The Carlsons hope to meet Nice in person and thank him.



IN BRIEF

WCEF grant funds volunteer T-shirts

A \$250 grant from the Wisconsin Conservation Education Foundation was used to purchase T-shirts for volunteers who helped with a musky patrol project at Kennedy Mill Dam in Polk County.

Warden Richard Thole said volunteers from the Amery community, Amery High School and the Polk County Sportsmen's Club patrol the area during the spring musky run to the dam. The muskies showed up in full force in mid-April and volunteers had a good time watching many fish.

An appreciation picnic was also held at the park after the spawning run was completed.





Washburn elementary students use archery equipment funded, in part, by a \$250 donation from the Wisconsin Conservation and Education Foundation. Without the donation, the school would not have been able to provide this experience for its students, according to Susan A. Masterson, district director/elementary principal for the Washburn School District.

Articles, photos sought for Spring 2009 issue

Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine is looking for interesting articles that deal with the great outdoors. The deadline for the spring issue is Jan. 15, 2009.

Possible topics include ecology, warden cases made, places to go, resource conservation methods, gotcha-type stories, animal rescues, history of the warden force, and articles dealing with the natural world.

Other possible story topics include vacations, recipes and the future of the warden force.

Aren't sure if your story is a good one? Contact Managing Editor Barbara A. Schmitz at (920) 235-0972 and ask.

Articles can be submitted to Schmitz at 1705 Graber St., Oshkosh, WI 54901, or e-mailed as a Word document to write2us@sbcglobal.net. When possible

include photographs to go with your story. They can be mailed or e-mailed to Schmitz. E-mailed photos should be at least 4" x 6" and 300 dpi or 8" x 10" and at least 72 dpi.

In addition, the magazine is searching for photos for *Fruits of their Labor*. Do you have a picture of your family with fish and game they've harvested in Wisconsin? Or how about one of you and some game? Send it in!

Photos can be mailed to Schmitz at the above address. They will be returned, if requested.

As before, photos can also be sent electronically to Schmitz. However, e-mailed photos should be at least 4" x 6" and 300 dpi or 8" x 10" and at least 72 dpi.

Contact Schmitz if you have any questions.

Let's go Hunting!

Find the words at the right in the puzzle below.

By Kathy Oginski

C I N O P R W O B U R K C U B
 S A L O V E R B A I T I N G S
 C P M A C R E E D A R R O W S
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| 5. TREESTAND | 20. ARROWS |
| 6. ARCHERY | 21. VELVET |
| 7. ACORN | 22. VENISON |
| 8. SCRAPE | 23. TRACK |
| 9. CABELAS | 24. GPS |
| 10. APPLES | 25. BOW |
| 11. ANTLER | 26. MINERALBLOCK |
| 12. ESTRUS | 27. FORKHORN |
| 13. CANDYBARS | 28. TROPHY |
| 14. WARDEN | 29. GRUNTCALL |
| 15. CABINSHOOTER | 30. DEERCAMP |



BOWE RECEIVES NOYES AWARD

Warden recognized for communication skills, work with youth

By Tracy Rusch

When he was just a boy, Conservation Warden Scott Bowe's grade school buddies laughed when he said he wanted to be a game warden. They didn't know who the local warden was, but they did know they didn't like him and they knew they didn't want Bowe to be one.

"I remember them giving me a hard time for wanting to be a game warden and I'd say, 'No, no. I'm going to be a good game warden,'" Bowe said.

Bowe lived up to the words he spoke years ago, and was chosen as the 2007 recipient of the Haskell Noyes Award—the highest award a warden can receive.

The 38-year-old Clark County native grew up on a dairy farm with his parents and four younger brothers, where they milked registered Holsteins and had a hobby farm on the side. He fished and hunted for deer and squirrels, though that came second to farming. As he grew, so did his love of animals. "The more I got involved in hunting and fishing, the more I thought that this would be a good career," Bowe said.

But beyond his homegrown interest in animals, Bowe credits part of his career direction to Mike Gappa, a retired wildlife biologist. "If there was one person at that stage in my life that was steering me toward the DNR, it was probably Mike Gappa," Bowe said.

Gappa led the 4-H club conservation tour that Bowe's dad took him and one of his brothers on, in which Gappa blew up a beaver dam. The experience left Bowe thirsting for more information.

As a kid, he would call Gappa with questions about wildlife and things that he saw in the wilderness. As an adult, Bowe has had the opportunity to bring his daughter, Bridget, 3, to see Gappa tag a bear and begin her own wildlife adventures.

"Mike introduced me into that line of work and it was kind of fun that I got to take my daughter out and kind of do the same thing with him again," Bowe said.

When he graduated high school, Bowe planned to attend UW- River Falls for a dairy science degree. But after he was



Warden Scott Bowe gives out Hardee's ice cream cone coupons to young anglers for wearing their personal flotation devices while on Otter Lake.

hired to work at Copper Falls State Park just five days after his high school graduation, Bowe's career path changed.

By the time he went to his adviser to schedule his freshman 1988 fall semester classes, Bowe decided he enjoyed working in the state park and declared the Scientific Land Management major, which is today known as Land Use Planning.

Throughout college, he worked six summers in state parks—three summers at Copper Falls State Park, two summers at Kinnickinnic State Park on the St. Croix River and one summer at Willow River State Park in Hudson.

But it was his position as a credentialed law enforcement officer at Kinnickinnic State

Park that brought back those childhood thoughts of becoming a warden. "The more I did the law enforcement, the more I enjoyed it," Bowe said. A few warden ride-a-longs and an exam later had him hooked and hired in 1994 as a conservation warden in Wisconsin Dells—his first assignment.

Who is Haskell Noyes?

Haskell Noyes, whose father was a lawyer and Superior Court judge in Milwaukee, was a World War I officer and prominent and influential member of Milwaukee's business and civic communities during much of his life.

More than 50 years after his death, Noyes is best known for being a lead advocate for the establishment of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission – the precursor to the Natural Resources Board – through the Conservation Act of 1927, securing land for the Kettle Moraine State Forest, and creating the Haskell Noyes Conservation Warden Efficiency Award.

The award includes a gold pocket watch with an inscription stating: "Faithful and Able Service." The watch has been presented to a warden by a member of the Noyes family every year since 1930.



He may have taken the roundabout way into his career but, today, he couldn't love his job more. He gets to be outside. He sees things most people don't. "I mean, they pay me to go out and ride around in a boat in the evening and check fishermen," Bowe said. "How much better can it get?"

But Bowe does much more than that. His job as a conservation warden includes nights and weekends full of natural resources law enforcement, education about rules and safety in the outdoors, investigations, problem solving, working with youth and more

He's been a field training officer for 11 years and a firearms instructor for about eight years. He's also an armorer for Glock handguns, Remington shotguns and SOCOM rifles.

Now, instead of getting hassled about the warden title like he was years ago, he's winning awards and the respect of many people. As the 2007 Haskell Noyes Award recipient, Bowe is considered No. 1 among the group of about 185 conservation wardens statewide.

On the same weekend that Bowe and his wife, Michele, were sharing in the excitement of becoming parents to their newest addition, Ben, Bowe was notified of his achievement. Bowe and Bill Schwengel, his supervisor and boss of six years, still chuckle at the story.

Schwengel, his wife Peg and his supervisor, Mark Burmesch, went to the hospital on the day that the Bowes were checking out to break the Haskell Noyes award news. To say it was an exciting weekend is an understatement.



It's not all work. Scott and Michele Bowe teamed up on this Wisconsin River sturgeon.



TOP: Scott and Michele Bowe pose with members of the Haskell Noyes family — Bob Banks, Cornelia Raab and Chris Noyes — during the Watch Party. Chief Warden Randy Stark stands far right. LEFT: Aaron and Adam Bembnister present Bowe with a "Where's Bowe" T-shirt.

"You hope that at some point during your career, you get good enough at your job that you're eligible to earn the reward and maybe get selected for it," Bowe said. "But I was surprised to get it and I feel really fortunate..."

Andrea Smith, Cornell and Lake Holcombe Community education director, works with Bowe in the Cornell and Lake Holcombe youth after-school programs and community education. But, unlike Bowe, Smith wasn't surprised that he was chosen.

She didn't know that the award existed at the time, but said that a better candidate couldn't have been chosen. "Maybe I'm a little prejudiced," Smith said. "I really didn't think there was anybody probably more deserving than him."

Smith first met Bowe through his wife, his fiancée at the time, and speech pathologist for the Cornell/Holcombe school system. Smith began working with Bowe when he was transferred from Wisconsin Dells to Chippewa County in 2002.

It's common knowledge that wardens have a stigma attached to their title—people think of them as the "bad guys," but Smith said Bowe has become a warden that people tend to trust and respect.

"And he's visible," Smith said. "He's not somebody that just shows up when you're breaking the law or violating. He's visible in the community—he shops here, he goes to church here. He talks to people when he's out and about, so I think that makes a big difference, too."

Through his work with the Pass It On program, which is a collaborative effort between Big Brothers Big Sisters, the DNR and local outdoor groups, Bowe schedules events for the kids and mentors them on anything from wood duck house building to ice fishing and bear hunting.

Smith said Bowe is good at his job with anyone he meets, but he has a soft spot for kids. "And having two children of his own has actually emphasized it even more, because he was really involved before he even had his kids," Smith said.

continued on next page





Scott Bowe says DNR Wildlife Biologist Mike Gappa, now retired, steered him to his career. So he was excited to bring along daughter Bridget, 3, to see Gappa tag a bear. The group pulled the bear and her two cubs out of a den so the mother could be tracked to her den site next winter.

BOWE continued from page 13

“Now, with the kids, I think it’s made him that much more passionate about it.”

Schwengel said that Bowe’s passion with the youth comes from knowing that what they learn now will affect the future. And he said that Bowe’s passion and dedication carry through in everything he does, including the traditional warden duties.

“He’s fair, yet firm and good natured,” Schwengel said. “He communicates with people very well because he has a good disposition and a sense of humor.”

There are times when humor doesn’t lie in the heart of a job, especially in accident investigations. “It’s rewarding to some degree, but investigating some of these accidents can be pretty difficult,” Bowe said. “Especially if you know it’s an accident that involves a kid, and then you have to deal with the families.”

They may be hard, but tough situations don’t send Bowe running for cover. “He’s not afraid to take on complex cases,” Schwengel said. “He’ll see them from start to finish and he’ll get it done.”

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In Schwengel’s eyes, Bowe is doing everything that defines success. If Bowe doesn’t know something, Schwengel said he seeks the answer and is willing to learn and to apply what he’s learned.

On top of being a good warden, having a soft spot for youth, a little humor and a good code of ethics, Schwengel said Bowe is a friend. “A friend is somebody that you feel comfortable working with,” he said. “And we understand each other’s jobs and that type of thing.”

Bowe’s down-to-earth and humble nature means he’s not the type to toot his own horn. While it is special to Bowe to have been selected for the award, he also thinks there are many wardens doing tremendous things in the field who are qualified.

Smith, however, had no problem filling in for Bowe by saying that he’s a blessing to the community. “He’s not just somebody that comes sneaking out of the woods and tries to catch you doing things wrong,” Smith said. “He helps people do things right.”

TRACY RUSCH graduated from UW-Oshkosh with a degree in journalism and is now a freelance writer.



FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR

a photo album



ABOVE: Retired warden Jim Blankenheim's hunting partner (AKA wife Suzy) with her 2008 turkey. **TOP RIGHT:** Jim Kincannon holds a northern pike and is surrounded by his granddaughters. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Marine Conservation Warden Mike Kitt of Marinette and his son, Josh, pose with a tom turkey harvested by Josh in Columbia County in May of 2007. Dad scored two days later, with another nice tom.



Majestic retirement

Editor's Note — Gordy Dahl writes: "One of the past issues of this magazine had an article written by Pat Lisi about his move West after his retirement from the Wisconsin DNR. It was such an interesting article that I thought maybe I should give it a try." His story follows.

Dahl keeps busy helping out Washington wardens

By Gordy Dahl

I retired in 2003, and we moved to western Washington in September 2006. We live about half way between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. Another retired Wisconsin warden, Tom Solin, lives about 10 miles from us, near Bellingham. One of the difficult things about relocating far

from Wisconsin is getting acquainted with new people. Tom has helped me make new friends here by inviting me to join a great group of people that he does volunteer work with. Tom and I now are both active doing trail maintenance work on the Pacific Northwest Trail, a hiking trail that runs from Glacier National Park to the

Pacific Ocean on the North Washington Coast. We work two Saturdays a month, from April through October.

Another good way to get acquainted in a new area is to get to know the local wardens.

The county we live in now is Skagit County. There are three wardens in this





A view of Baker River, upstream from the dam. The sockeye salmon will be spawning in this river during the fall.

county since the counties are much larger than the counties in Wisconsin. I have been fortunate to ride along with the senior warden in this county, Larry Bauman. Larry has been a warden for about 31 years, and has been stationed in this county since 1979. Washington's wardens are officially called fish and wildlife officers. They are a part of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Unlike Wisconsin, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is a department unto itself. The Washington Department of Natural Resources is actually the equivalent to Wisconsin's Bureau of Forestry. The wardens here also have general police powers, like the expanded warden authority in Wisconsin.

Larry taught me lots about the area, and I learned the rest by living here for two years. Skagit County is bounded by Puget Sound on the west

and the Cascade Mountains on the east. Most of the county is foothills or mountains, except for the Skagit Valley. This flat valley is fertile farmland, with vegetables, blueberries, raspberries, strawberries and potatoes being the predominant crops. The mild winters here provide excellent conditions for wintering ducks, geese and swans. Thousands of snow geese winter on the river delta. Duck and goose season runs into January. Last winter there were about 10,000 swans wintering here, and about two-thirds of those were trumpeter swans. Seeing a trumpeter swan in Wisconsin was a real treat. But here we see them all winter until they leave in the spring. Some of their main food sources are the potatoes and other vegetables left in the fields after harvest.

January and February bring bald eagles from this state and Canada. They come to the upper Skagit River to feed on the dead,

post-spawn salmon that are spread along the river. Last year there were about 800 eagles here during that time. The Skagit River has five species of salmon that spawn in it. Other smaller rivers, including one about 1 mile from our house, have salmon as well. Steelhead are also present in the rivers.

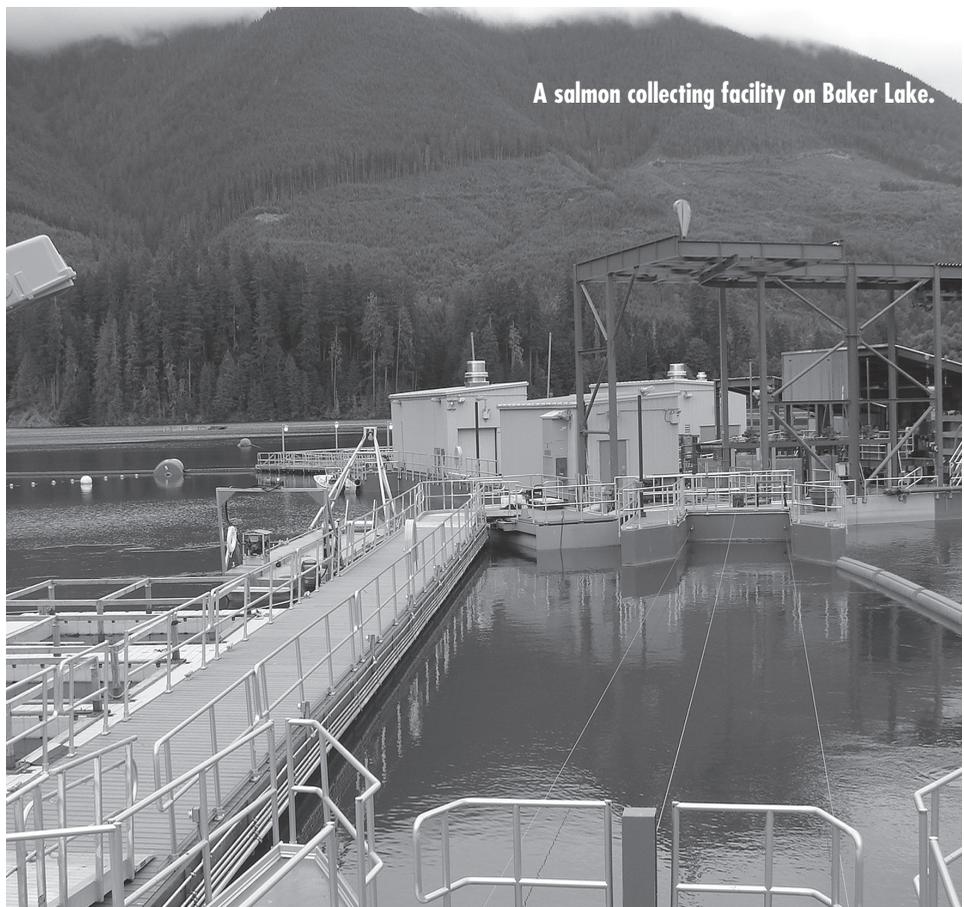
Puget Sound offers saltwater fishing for many species and marine mammal viewing, the most well known being the orcas. There are many small, high mountain lakes, with several types of trout. These lakes are accessible only from mid-July until late-October. My last fishing trip was about the middle of October, before the snow got too deep on the forest service road to the trailhead to the lake. This past winter there was such a large snow pack that it has been difficult to get into any high lakes. In mid July, I just got into a trout lake at 3,900 feet elevation. The lake was still ice covered, and there was about 2-3 feet of snow around the lake.

As far as big game goes, this area has black-tail deer on the west side of the

Cascade Range, mule deer on the east side, and some whitetail deer in eastern Washington. Black bear and cougar are present in good numbers. An elk herd, the Nooksack herd, is present just a few miles from our house. There are 10 elk herds in the state, but the Nooksack herd is the smallest with about 700 animals. This herd had been closed to hunting for several years, in order to bring the numbers back up. There are several reasons for the herd's decline in the past, and those reasons are debated a lot locally. I won't take the time to go into that issue here. This year hunting was allowed again, with 30 bull tags issued. I applied for a tag but was not one of the 30 lucky ones. A point system is in place, so I hope to be hunting a big bull elk in the next few years. In the meantime I am getting acquainted with the mountains and where I could find an elk. Other herds in the state have seasons that do not require a special tag.

It is late July now, and I had another day of riding along with Larry. This morning we went to Puget Sound. Larry timed it so that we arrived during low tide. Several species of clams are present, and many folks were digging this morning.

continued on next page



A salmon collecting facility on Baker Lake.



DAHL continued from page 17

Razorback clams are the most sought-after species. Crab season is also open now. Crabbing is only allowed Wednesdays through Saturdays. People either put out crab pots in deeper water, or wade along the shore at low tide and pick up the crabs by hand.

Today was Sunday so the season was closed for crabbing, but we spotted one man and two juveniles just leaving the shore with two buckets that contained seven Dungeness and red rock crabs. There is a minimum size limit on crab. Only two of the crabs would have been legal size. This particular fellow actually had a license with him, but it didn't belong to him and the person who had the license wasn't even in the area. It turned out to be an expensive day for the crabbers.

Next we took a ride up to where the Baker River enters the Skagit River. The sockeye salmon run was just about over, but there were still a few fish below the dam on the Baker River. The dam is owned by Puget Sound Energy, which operates a salmon trap on the down side of the dam where the salmon funnel into a system of enclosures. They are then loaded into a truck, and transported above the dam and released. They then continue up to several streams that enter Baker Lake and spawn.

On the lake above the dam, PSE operates a state-of-the-art collection system for the small salmon when they are big enough to make their way out to the ocean. This new system is only a year or two old. In the past, the fish went down through the turbines and many were killed. The new system collects the fish before they can get to the turbines, and they are trucked to a release site below the dam.

The next stop for today was on the northern end of Baker Lake. A large area of exposed cliffs usually has a number of mountain goats visible from a good vantage point. No luck today. There were no goats to be seen, but at least I know where to look now when I am in that area.

Next, we went to three lowland lakes and checked a number of fishermen. One fellow neglected to buy his fishing license this year.

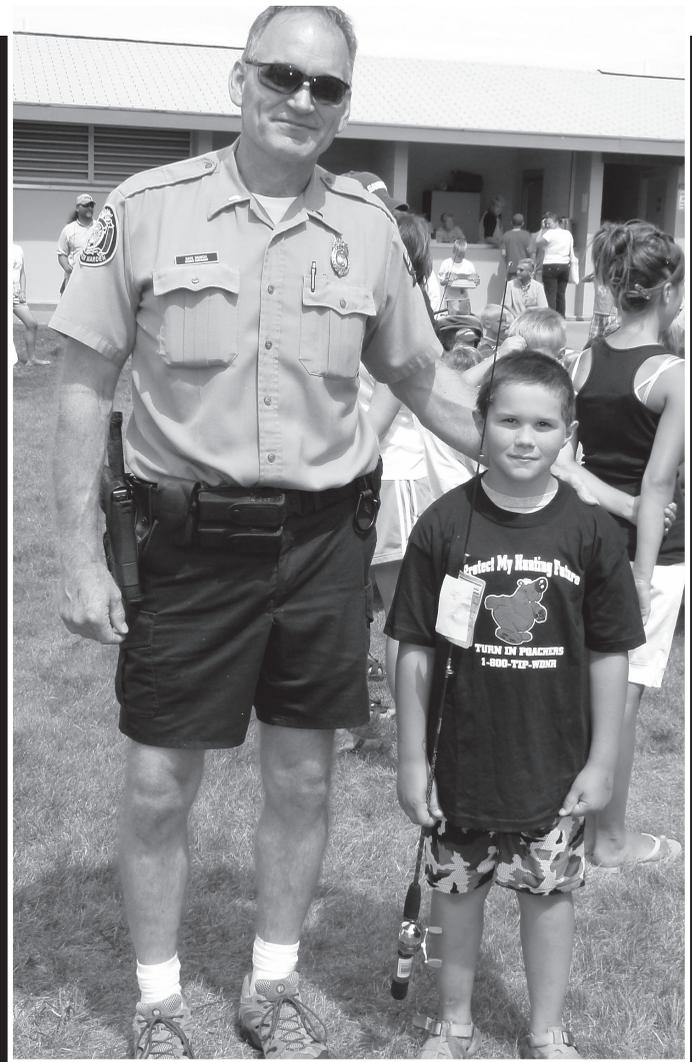
One new duty for the Washington wardens is boating enforcement. In the past, officers with the local sheriff's department and the Washington State Department of Parks enforced boating laws on inland waters. But this past winter the Fish and Wildlife wardens got into the boating enforcement game, and spent several days this spring being trained. They all have more than enough to do, as do the Wisconsin wardens.

Washington wardens also handle problem bear and cougar complaints. This often means putting out live traps and relocating problem animals. Last week Larry had to tranquilize and relocate a cougar from Bellingham. He also has a culvert trap out for a problem bear near a campground. Bear season opened on Aug. 1, so maybe a hunter will take care of that troublesome bear.

There are some interesting differences between being a Wisconsin warden and a Washington warden, but it all comes down to dealing with people, which is about the same no matter where you are.

Gordy Dahl retired in 2003 as an environmental warden in Eau Claire. He says if you ever are in Washington, he would be happy to show you around.

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Logan Koosman, 8, is lucky. He not only caught the biggest fish in his age class during the 62nd annual North Wisconsin Rod & Gun Kids fishing party in Ashland on Aug. 2, but he also received a fishing pole and T-shirt. About 156 children took part in the event paid for, in part, by a WCWA grant. Dave and Kathy Oginski donated the fishing pole and shirt on behalf of the WCWA.

IN BRIEF

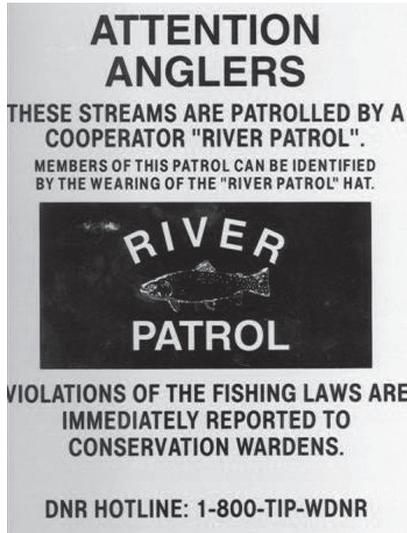
WGW Magazine seeks addresses; e-mail us when you move

If you've moved, don't forget to tell *Wisconsin Game Warden Magazine*.

The post office does not forward or return the magazines, so the Association has no way of knowing which members are not receiving their copies.

In addition, Kathy Oginski is looking for current addresses for the following people: Bruce Joanis, Mike Wiggins, Erwin Pagels and Tom Albers.

For address changes or address information, contact Oginski at kaoginski@cheqnet.net.



River Patrol keeps tabs on spawning fish on Michigan streams

By Joe Jerich

The River Patrol is a volunteer group of people who provide a neighborhood watch program for the tributary streams of Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties.

These streams experience significant spawning migrations of trout and salmon that attract thousands of anglers from across the United States. Along with these high numbers of anglers come a significant number of fishing regulation violations.

River Patrollers document and report violations they observe on the rivers to conservation wardens for enforcement. This patrol, which was established through the help of several sportsmen's clubs, has grown to approximately 400 members.

River Patrollers can be identified by the hat they are issued, as well as window stickers on their vehicles. Signs on the streams announce the existence of this citizen cooperator program.

The WCWA provided a \$400 grant for the program, which went into the operating budget to primarily pay for hats and new signs.

Joseph J. Jerich is a warden supervisor for the Sturtevant Service Center.



Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association

Our purpose

The Wisconsin Conservation Warden Association (WCWA) exists to further conservation efforts within the state, without unionizing or collective bargaining, and is dedicated to all of the men and women who have served as Wisconsin Conservation Wardens since 1879.

Our objectives

- Promote natural resources education.
- Promote the profession of natural resources law enforcement.
- Strive to enhance conservation warden/community relationships.
- Provide encouragement, recognition and support to all members in their profession.
- Increase awareness and understanding of conservation and environmental issues.

Why join the WCWA?

- Receive the official WCWA magazine with information, pictures and stories that revolve around Wisconsin conservation wardens, past and present.
- Help support the WCWA Scholarship Program at UW-Stevens Point.
- Help establish and maintain a Conservation Warden Memorial Program.
- Help establish and maintain a Conservation Warden Museum.

Membership categories

- *Regular Membership* — Active and retired, full-time permanent conservation wardens who have served part of their careers as wardens; past and present special and county conservation wardens; and active and retired law enforcement officers from other agencies.
- *Associate Membership* — Individuals, organizations and businesses expressing an interest in supporting the association.
- *Sponsor Membership* — Any individual or organization that wishes to provide additional financial support to the organization.
- *Corporate Membership* — Any business that wishes to provide financial support to the WCWA. Receive a free ad in this magazine with donation of \$500 or more.

I want to become a WCWA member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Regular and Associate Memberships

- \$20 for one-year membership
- \$200 for life membership

Corporate Sponsorship

- \$250-\$500 one year (\$500 or more includes ad.)

Sponsor Memberships

- \$25-\$99 one year
- \$100-\$499, five year with certificate
- \$500 or more, life membership with plaque

Memberships expire on June 30. Please make your check payable to the WCWA and send it to P.O. Box 44, Madison, WI 53701-0044. Your e-mail will not be shared with anyone. It is for the sole purpose of communicating with our members.





Some people ride bikes for exercise. Others ride for enjoyment or as a means of transportation. Then there's Wisconsin Recreational Safety Warden April Dombrowski.

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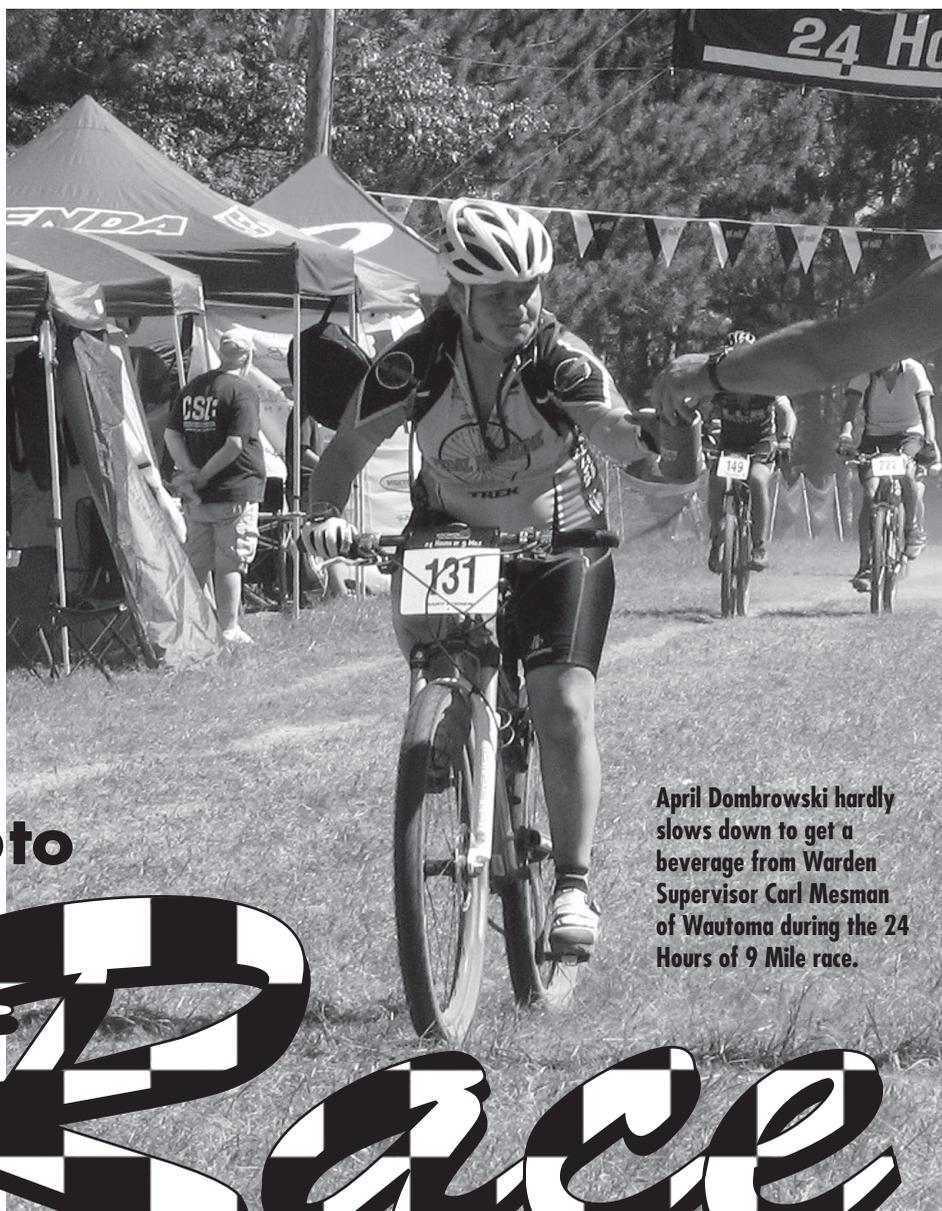
By Kathy Oginski

Back in October 2007, Dombrowski jumped on her mountain bike to start training for the coming year of racing events. She trains six days a week for anywhere from 1 1/2 hours to 4 hours per day.

It was on a particular day in June when she set out on her bike to pre-ride a racecourse with her team. She was on a switchback single-track section of the course when, as she tried to look ahead toward the next turn, her handlebar clipped a tree. Dombrowski was deflected into another tree and went sailing over the handlebars, stopping only when her body slammed, back first, into a third tree. She was able to walk out of the woods with help from her teammates and then headed to the local emergency room.

After several hours, the doctor gave Dombrowski the bad news — her back had been broken in three places and she would need to heal for at least eight weeks. At first, she thought the doctor was kidding her. After all, she had walked out of the woods. She thought that, at worst, she had pulled some muscles.

But as the truth of the doctor's words sunk in, emotions flooded through Dom-



April Dombrowski hardly slows down to get a beverage from Warden Supervisor Carl Mesman of Wautoma during the 24 Hours of 9 Mile race.

Race

browski as she realized the biggest race of the season, the 2008 USA Cycling 24-hour mountain bike national championship, was only six weeks away. She had been training for months; surely the season couldn't end this way, she thought. Even missing a few races would put her out of competition for 2008.

So Dombrowski went home on bed rest for one week. A week later the follow-up visit to the doctor was promising. He told her everything was healing nicely and there was no permanent damage.

Time heals all. Right?

Wrong! Determination sent Dombrowski onto the fast track of recovery.

With the doctor's encouraging news, Dombrowski and her husband, Tony, headed home with thoughts of the

24-hour race renewed. Tony helped April get on the training bike, knowing there was lots of hard work ahead. In just another week, Dombrowski was back on the trails preparing for the endurance race, despite some people's forewarnings that she would not be ready. (Never tell a warden that he or she can't do something.)

With the support of Tony, her teammates, friends and co-workers, as well as others she didn't even know, Dombrowski got the reinforcement she needed to finish the season.

America's Dairyland 24 Hours of 9 Mile race was held Aug. 2-3 in Wausau. Dombrowski had mixed feelings about being able to race; she wasn't sure she

Continued on next page





was physically and mentally prepared for the grueling race only six weeks after her accident.

But once on the starting line she knew she was in it to win. Off she went! The course was hard, with technical challenges, rock gardens, and a couple of long gradual climbs. Dombrowski crashed a few times on the rocks early on and it took a little energy out of her. But she was able to climb back on the bike and pull it all together.

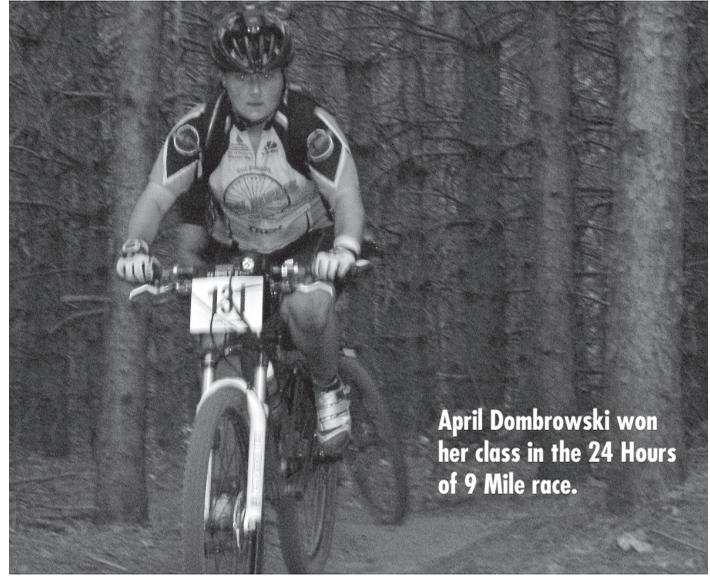
Twenty hours later, the race was over and Dombrowski had won in her class, coming in 154th overall. She had pedaled 156.2 miles and climbed 6,380 feet in elevation.

It wasn't her first win, however. Dombrowski has been competitively racing mountain bikes for five years. In 2007, she took first overall in the Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series. She also was ranked eighth overall in the Wisconsin Off-Road Series in the Expert Women Field and second in her age group.

But it was the 2007 24 Hours of Nine Mile where she placed second in her division that completely hooked her on endurance mountain bike racing.

For 2008, her record is continuing to be set. Just one week later, on Aug. 10, Dombrowski placed third in the Sunburst Showdown. And who knows what the rest of the season will bring

with the 12 Hours at Crystal Ridge in Franklin and the 12 Hours at Reforestation Camp in Suamico in the following weeks.



April Dombrowski won her class in the 24 Hours of 9 Mile race.

Sportsman's Club donates \$2,000 to DNR

The Taylor County Sportsman's Club took another step toward ensuring their legacy of protecting, encouraging and promoting the natural resources of Taylor County in August 2007 when they donated \$2,000 to the DNR.

The money will be used toward night airplane flights for enforcement of shining and shooting deer. This gift assists the Department of Natural Resources' mission to protect and enhance the natural resources of the state of Wisconsin, said David Oginski, conservation warden supervisor for the Park Falls team. The DNR strives to build strong relationships with constituent groups and supports conservation wardens' efforts at the local level.

The gift will enhance law enforcement efforts regarding illegal night hunting activities and related illegal harvest of game, Oginski said. Law enforcement effectiveness is increased through the use of aerial patrols covering large areas subject to illegal shining and shooting activity. Aerial patrols combined with additional conservation warden units on the ground during peak periods should reduce the poaching impact on wildlife populations in Taylor County and surrounding areas.

Oginski said the club understands the responsibility sportsmen have as caretakers of the natural resources. They've been supportive of DNR efforts and have a long history of community involvement, including providing assistance to Warden Nick



Conservation Warden Nick Nice, left, receives a \$2,000 donation from the Taylor County Sportsman's Club President Mike Riggle and board member Kurt Staab.

Nice and law enforcement efforts and public relations programs.

The DNR welcomes the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Taylor County Sportsmen's Club toward protecting our natural resources for current and future generations, Oginski said. Through the club's habitat improvement efforts, such as building and placing wood duck and bluebird nest boxes to building and placing fish cribs in area lakes, the organization has demonstrated leadership in conservation efforts, he added.



Shikar Safari names Dewald officer of year

DNR warden supervisor Steve Dewald, stationed in La Crosse, has received the Shikar-Safari Club International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award for Wisconsin.

The Shikar-Safari Club recognized Dewald's "selfless work ethic," his progressive approach to law enforcement and his efforts to promote and acknowledge high ethical standards among hunters. The award was presented at the February 2008 Natural Resources Board meeting.

Dewald played a key role in preserving public access to large blocks of the federal Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, 261 miles of outstanding fish and wildlife habitat bordering on four states. He was an active participant and a champion of hunters, fishermen and other wildlife enthusiasts as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service prepared updated comprehensive conservation and furbearer management plans for the refuge and considered whether it would be necessary to close critical habitat areas to the public.

"Steve Dewald focused on ensuring a balance is struck between providing the public opportunity to enjoy the resource, while still protecting the resource," said



DNR chief warden Randy Stark.

"Steve leads by example in many ways. He is progressive and visionary. He works hard to continuously improve the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement and adapt the organization to meet new challenges."

Dewald joined the department in 1980

as a law enforcement patrol officer. Two years later he became a field warden. He was promoted to warden supervisor in 1990.

He has negotiated law enforcement agreements amongst the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard and the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. He also served as Wisconsin liaison and helped craft law enforcement agreements between the states and the U.S. Coast Guard and between the U.S. Coast Guard and the Canadian Coast Guard. In addition, Dewald worked with the state Legislature to enact Wisconsin's double-hull barge bill to protect the Mississippi River from oil spills.

Each year Shikar-Safari Club International honors an officer whose efforts during the previous year show outstanding performance and achievement in the area of state wildlife law enforcement. Founded in 1952 to advance knowledge of wildlife worldwide, the club works to enhance and preserve wildlife and has placed particular emphasis on endangered and threatened species through the promotion of enforcement of conservation laws and regulations.

Hochhausen awarded for hunter ed programs

A Department of Natural Resources conservation warden who last year expanded hunting opportunities for the physically challenged and youth, and helped save a young hunter in 2006, has received state and international awards for his outstanding hunter education performance.

Warden Dale Hochhausen of Kansasville has received the State of Wisconsin and the International Hunter Education Association awards for Outstanding Professional of the Year in Hunter Education for 2007.

"Dale brings a spirit of community policing to his position and has rallied others to help undertake projects that are a benefit to the ultimate future of the sport of hunting," Warden Joe Jerich, Hochhausen's supervisor, said. "Dale's people skills and ability to build teamwork has had great results, and will have significant impact on the future of hunting and hunter education."

A basic hunter and bow hunter education instructor, Hochhausen teaches roughly six classes annually and has made innovative contributions to the program throughout his career. Most notably, Hochhausen has recruited hunters of varying physical abilities and youth through Shooting Sports and Learn to Hunt programs – including goose, dove, pheasant, squirrel and rabbit events.

He regularly speaks to the elementary school students in southern Wisconsin and participates in wild game cooking demonstrations, and helps at local events associated with the National Wild Turkey Federation Jakes youth program and Ducks Unlimited.

Also strong in the enforcement program, Hochhausen in 2007 investigated 35 complaints related to hunting issues and was involved in 32 arrests for hunting violations. In 2006, he also received a Lifesaving Award for his role in saving a missing youth hunter.

Niemeyer receives top waterfowl honor

Southeast Region Conservation Warden Jennifer Niemeyer was named the 2008 Wisconsin Waterfowl Officer of the Year during the Wisconsin Conservation Congress annual convention in May.

Niemeyer is a nine-year veteran of the DNR who successfully juggles duties as educator and enforcement officer. As a contributing writer for the *Kenosha News*, she has written extensively about dove hunting rules and promoted the DNR Violation Hotline. She works regularly with youth in waterfowling by participating in the Department's hunter education program and Greenwings program through her local Ducks Unlimited chapter.

As an enforcement officer, she has pursued violations of protected species shootings. With a beat that straddles the Illinois-Wisconsin border, she also works with her Illinois counterparts on inter-jurisdictional enforcement activities.

Niemeyer has also partnered with wildlife and water regulations staff on a variety of projects.



Kitch-iti-kipi: Michigan's largest spring

By Barbara A. Schmitz

Wisconsin has Sullivan Spring and Hickey Spring. Then there's Big Spring and Nursery Spring, too. The Lodi Marsh has numerous springs, while Devine Lake is spring fed and the Brule River originates from springs.

Yes, there's no doubt that Wisconsin has many springs. But none can quite compare to Upper Michigan's Kitch-iti-kipi, located in Palms Book State Park. Two hundred feet across and 40-feet deep, Kitch-iti-kipi is Michigan's largest freshwater spring with more than 10,000 gallons of water a minute gushing from fissures in the underlying limestone.

And did I mention it's pretty, too?

Visitors to the state park can take a self-operated observation raft across the clear, 45-degree Fahrenheit water. As you look over the sides of the raft or peer through its glass bottom, the water takes on an emerald green tint, and clouds of sand seem to bubble and dance around as hydrostatic pressure forces water through the narrow openings. But you see more than just dancing sand as you look down. You'll find ancient tree trunks, lime-encrusted branches and trout.

Legend has it that Kitch-iti-kipi was a young chieftain whose girlfriend got the best of him. He told her he loved her more than other women, but she wanted proof. As a test of his devotion, she required that he sail in the conifer swamp and catch her as she leapt from an overhanging bough. He died instead, and the spring was named Kitch-iti-kipi in his memory.

Another legend says that a drop of honey on a piece of birch



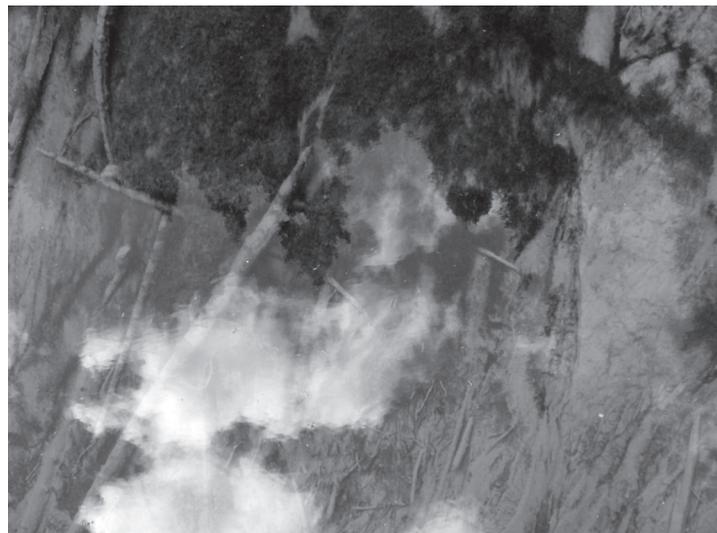
An observation raft takes park visitors over Kitch-iti-kipi's clear water at Palms Book State Park in Thompson, Mich.

bark dipped into Kitch-iti-kipi and presented to a loved one will make them true forever.

The state of Michigan purchased the spring and surrounding property for \$10 in 1926 from John Ballaire, and Ballaire personally escorted countless visitors to the bubbling pool until his death.

Kitch-iti-kipi is said to have many meanings in the Chippewa language, such as the Great Water, The Blue Sky I See and The Roaring, Bubbling Spring.

It is located just west of Manistique.



The white "smoke" in the lower left-hand is actually the billowing sand of the Kitch-iti-kipi. The pressurized water from the spring makes the sand at the bottom look like it is dancing or bubbling.

So where does the water come from?

Signs on the observation raft illustrate what happens.

- Rain and melting snow seep into the ground at higher elevations and the water at the top pressurizes the water beneath.
- The water then seeps into the cataract formation and is trapped by the waterproof bedrock above and below.
- The ground water moves slowly downward, dissolving soluble components of the bedrock and creating caves and tunnels.
- It is pressurized as more and more water seeps into the bedrock from the surface.
- Beneath the springs, the bedrock is cracked, allowing the pressurized water to squirt into the pond.





Fishing Fun Day is fun-tastic!



In June 2008, 60 third graders from Park Falls and Butternut participated in a fishing fun day at the Coolidge Springs Trout Farm near Fifield. Warden Dan Michels organized the event, which included a tour of the hatchery, a casting contest, a fish ID quiz, and trout fishing with each student able to catch and take home two trout. About 15 volunteers donated their time and talents to help keep hooks baited and lines untangled.



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