



WSNetwork News

December 15, 2002

News on issues of common interest to Wisconsin's sporting, conservation, and environmental communities.

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Maude Barlow and Robert Glennon to headline Feb. 14 WSN 'Year of Water' forum

Council of Canadians Chair **Maude Barlow** and Univ. of Arizona law professor **Robert Glennon** are the confirmed headliners for the "Year of Water" forum that kicks off the WSN annual conference Feb. 14 at UW-Stevens Point.



Barlow has been called the "Joan of Arc of those opposed to the sale of Canadian water." She says, "Water is an essential need, a public trust, not a commodity. It belongs to everyone and to no one."

Glennon is the Morris Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy at James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Glennon's recent book *Water Follies* includes a chapter on the citizen fight against Perrier's siting of a bottling plant in Wisconsin. For more information about the WSN annual conference, contact the WSN at wsn@chorus.net.

Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line

SOUL encouraged with Doyle's positions on A-W line and PSC reform

A story in the Dec. 11 Madison *Capitol Times* reports that leaders of Save Our Unique Lands have reason to be happy with the incoming Doyle administration regarding the Arrowhead-Weston line. SOUL President Tom Kreager was quoted as saying, "...we're hoping that he'll at least be willing to communicate with us. Whereas McCallum pretty much blew us off right from day one."

According to the story, "Kreager points out...the new governor also said he wants to take a closer look at Arrowhead, which was approved just a year ago by the Public Service Commission. Especially after American Transmission Co., the line's planner, revealed to everyone's shock last month that projected costs for the line have more than doubled to a whopping \$396 million and that ATC will recommend that consumers pick up the increased costs."

Read the complete story at <http://www.madison.com/captimes/news/zaleski2/38507.php>.

SOURCE: *Madison Capitol Times*.

***Pioneer Press*: MN Xcel electricity decision momentous**

A guest column by Steve Hoffman in the Dec. 2 St. Paul *Pioneer Press* calls attention to the proposed Xcel Energy agreement to import power from Manitoba Hydro. “The agreement will bind Xcel’s ratepayers for 10 years and will cost \$1 billion. It is the largest single so-called ‘resource decision’ that the commission has made in recent history.

The decision is controversial due, in part, to the enormous environmental impacts and socioeconomic consequences that have resulted from the projects conceived and built by Manitoba Hydro.” Read the complete story <http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/news/opinion/4632059.htm>.

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DNR Independence and PIO Restoration

Doyle to replace Bazzell, push for PIO restoration

The Dec. 3 *Wisconsin State Journal* reports that Governor elect Jim Doyle will replace DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell. The story reported that “although Doyle did not name specific candidates, he said he would hope to find a secretary in the mold of the late C.D. ‘Buzz’ Besadny, who headed the agency from 1980 to 1993. Besadny, Doyle said, displayed a total devotion to the state’s natural resources, had a deep appreciation for the importance of hunting and fishing in Wisconsin and was tough but even-handed when enforcing environmental regulations.”

The story continued, “In addition to these changes, Doyle said he intends to pursue a couple of other environmental initiatives he hammered on during his campaign. He said he will propose to the state Legislature that the Public Intervenor’s office be restored. The office, eliminated by Thompson, represented Wisconsin residents on environmental issues.” Read the complete story at http://www.madison.com/wisconsinstatejournal_local/38023.php.

SOURCE: *Wisconsin State Journal*.

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Doyle Natural Resources Board appointees floated

The Dec. 8 newspaper *Central Wisconsin Sunday* reports that Gov. elect Jim Doyle is considering a number of Natural Resources Board appointees available to him in coming months. “Possibilities for the Natural Resources Board include

- Christine Thomas, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point;
- Mike Dombeck, a UW-SP professor and former head of the U.S. Forest Service; and
- Stan Gruszynski, a former Stevens Point state representative.

Former DNR Secretary George Meyer of Madison also is mentioned. When asked, Sen. Kevin Shibilski of Stevens Point said he would be interested in the DNR secretary's job. Other names being bounced around include Dane County executive Kathleen Falk and former Sen. James Baumgart of Sheboygan."

Mongin Green Bay TU 'member of the year' for DNR/PIO survey work

The 2002 [Green Bay TU] Member of the Year award was presented to Paul Mongin. During the past year, Mongin has been involved in all facets of chapter activities. He is currently serving as Vice President, is a member of the banquet committee, and regularly attends work projects. Additionally, he is a chapter delegate to the Brown County Conservation Alliance and serves as one of Brown County's delegates to the Conservation Congress. In this capacity, he was the driving force behind a letter sent to all legislators and [candidates] asking their stance on the proposals to restore the Public Intervenor Office and return the DNR Secretary's position to being appointed by the Natural Resources Board.

SOURCE: Gary Stoychoff, Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited, gnjstoychoff@itol.com.

Doyle DNR transition team taps Ambs, Ela

From the *E-Digest*: Governor-elect James Doyle's transition director, Michael Morgan, has appointed two people to a Department Analysis Team that will manage Department of Natural Resources transition issues:

- Todd Ambs, executive director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin, a nonprofit river protection advocacy group, and
- Jonathan Ela, Madison, who established the Midwest Office of the Sierra Club and for 12 years served as the organization's principal staff representative in a nine-state area. He also serves on the Sierra Club's National Political Committee and chairs the group's National Voter Education Committee.

Ambs and Ela are being given office space during the transition at DNR headquarters in Madison on the sixth floor of General Executive Facility 2, says Secretary Darrell Bazzell.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-11-02.

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Factory Farming

Suits filed against Baldwin dairy for Rush River spills

Two lawsuits were filed last week against Jon De Farm, a 1,550-cow dairy operation in St. Croix County, for a history of manure spills and runoff into the Rush River. The Wisconsin Department of Justice on Nov. 12 filed an environmental lawsuit against the Baldwin area dairy farm for alleged violations of the state water pollution control laws. The lawsuit was filed at the request of the Department of Natural Resources in St. Croix County Circuit Court and has been assigned to St. Croix County Circuit Court Judge Scott Needham. According to the DOJ, the farm violated its Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by allowing manure to be discharged into a tributary to the Rush River several times in the past two years.

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A lawsuit also has been filed against the farm by the Midwest Environmental Advocates in Madison, on behalf of the Western Wisconsin Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America and the Sierra Club's John Muir Chapter.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-4-02.

Final EPA feedlot rule due out this week

On Dec. 13, 2002, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman is expected to sign the final rule on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) one "watered down" by the Bush administration after the proposed Clinton-era rule met with poultry and livestock industry protests. Just which feeding operations the rule covers has been a controversy. The rule, expected to be publicly released by Dec. 16, will be available online at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/afo/cafofinal-rule.cfm>. Contact: EPA: Robin Woods, (202) 564-7841, <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/anafolaw.html>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-11-02.

CAFO air emissions report released by NAS

On Dec. 12, 2002, the National Academy of Sciences [released] its report, "Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations: Current Knowledge, Future Needs." While odors are the most obvious air emission from CAFOs, they also emit greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Contact: Bill Kearney, 202-334-2138, news@nas.edu.

SOURCE: *Tipsheet* 11 December, 2002, via 12-11-02 WDNR "Basin Briefs."

Study: small dairy operations more efficient

From the November 27 *Country Today* at <http://www.thecountrytoday.com/news1.htm>: While large-scale dairy farms generate more income and more losses perhaps smaller operations (with 50 to 75 cows) are the most efficient, according to Gary Frank, UW Center for Dairy Profitability ag economist. Net farm income from operations with 50 to 75 cows was \$586 per cow, followed by \$533 per cow for operators with herds of 76 to 100 cows. According to Frank, dairy expansion give operators the chance to have time off and a more substantial bottom line. According to Frank's research, small farms have \$27,000 available for family living expenses, but farms with more than 250 cows could draw out \$232,000 for family living. And while producers with herds of 50 to 100 cows obtain the most return on units of milk sold, Frank said, "The problem is there is not enough units. (Information about milk production costs and benchmarks by county can be accessed at the UW Center for Dairy Profitability web site at: <http://cdp.wisc.edu>.)

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 11-27-02.

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Residents suspect farm manure cause of crypto outbreak

From the December 1 *Duluth (MN) News Tribune* (Associated Press story): Some Milwaukee residents who were affected by the city's cryptosporidium outbreak in 1993 believe that cow manure from dairy farms was the source of the outbreak. That view is also held by Jeffrey Wennberg, who led the drinking water committee for the National League of Cities and is one of the nation's leading experts on water issues. "I don't know of anyone who has proposed a reasonable alternative explanation," according to Wennberg. The livestock farms came under suspicion for 3 reasons:

- hundreds of farms operate near the rivers and streams that empty into Lake Michigan;
- cryptosporidium is known to thrive in the intestines of livestock and other animals; and
- Wisconsin has a history of manure runoff problems.

A July 1994 report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* came to a slightly different conclusion, suggesting slaughterhouses and human sewage also could have triggered the outbreak. Area farmers vehemently dispute any notion that farm livestock could trigger as massive an outbreak as Milwaukee experienced. More at <http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthtribune/news/local/4641485.htm>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-4-02.

CAFO newspaper series available online

The Dayton Daily News has prepared a multi-part series on CAFOs. See the series at <http://www.activedayton.com/ddn/project/farm/>.

Ag pollution scientists face harassment

The Des Moines *Register* reports this week that "University and government scientists studying health threats associated with agricultural pollution say they are harassed by factory farmers and trade groups and silenced by superiors afraid to offend the powerful industry." One scientist interviewed claimed to have received death threats after issuing a warning about manure pollution in a stream.

Others reported that the USDA prevented them from publishing their research or speaking to the public about studies linking factory farms to potential public health issues, like antibiotic-resistant bacteria or outbreaks of *Pfisteria*. In its defense, the USDA claims that the incidents occurred because the research in question or the presentation venue did not fit "the mission" of the research unit to which the scientists belonged. However, many can't help but look to the cozy relationship between the USDA and industry groups like the National Pork Producers Council, which has offices in the same building as one researcher's Agricultural Extension Research lab. According to the "Register, "The Agricultural Research Service takes in money from farm groups and other private sources equal to about 9 percent of its \$1 billion annual budget." The full article is available at <http://desmoinesregister.com/business/stories/c4789013/19874144.html>.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

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Tyson calls for repeal of 'country of origin' labeling

Country-of-origin labeling, like the packer ownership ban, was a farm bill measure supported by family farmers and opposed by multi-national agribusiness; unlike the packer ban, it survived through to enactment of the farm bill. Now the measure, which begins as a voluntary measure, and becomes mandatory on October 1, 2004, may face renewed attack. John Tyson, chairman of Tyson Corporation, this week called on the next Congress to repeal mandatory country-of-origin labeling. Calling the measure a trade barrier, Tyson stated, "We should not, in my opinion, throw up our own trade barriers to foreign agricultural goods. In this category, I have to say that the country-of-origin labeling mandate in this year's farm bill truly puzzles me." Tyson is the largest meat producer in the United States. Story at www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=top-News&storyID=1851695.

SOURCE: Scotty Johnson, sjohnson@defenders.org.

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Forest Fragmentation

Dec. 16 meeting focuses on WI forest management guidelines

A new forestry management guidelines publication that provides a comprehensive summary of sustainable forestry techniques for foresters and other resource specialists is the topic of an open house meeting that will be held in Green Bay on Dec. 16.

The public will have an opportunity to learn about, review and comment on a draft DNR publication, titled "Wisconsin Voluntary Site-level Forest Management Guidelines." Professional resource managers will probably use the guidelines most, but landowners and loggers should also find it helpful for managing the types of forests found in Wisconsin.

The first open house meeting will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. on Dec. 16, at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, 1660 East Shore Drive, Green Bay. It will start with a short background presentation, after which participants will have the opportunity to talk with DNR staff working on the project. Visitors will be able to leave written comments with foresters who will be staffing stations set up for each chapter of the publication. In addition to accepting comments at the meetings, the DNR will accept comments on the FMG by mail or via the web site above. The deadline for submitting comments is March 31, 2003. For more information, contact Paul Pingrey, WDNR, (608) 267-7595.

For more details about this and future open house meetings and copies of the 250-page first edition of the publication, visit the Forest Management Guidelines page of the DNR Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/Private/FMG/index.htm> or contact the DNR Forestry Division, 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707 (phone 608-267-7494). Most DNR Service Centers will also have the publication.

SOURCE: WDNR.

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Bush administration seeking federal EIS limitations

The *LA Times* reported on 11-3-02 that the White House wants to reinterpret the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to produce environmental impact statements for projects they undertake, fund, or issue permits for. NEPA also requires agencies to hold public hearings on projects, and to consider alternatives to the proposed projects. The administration, saying it is cutting bureaucratic red tape, wants to exempt projects that it claims would have no major effect. Under this new interpretation, comprehensive environmental reviews would become much less common. For example, the White House has proposed exempting 10 large fire-reduction projects in federal forests, which environmentalists say are actually an excuse for large timber harvest. The administration also wants to exempt new oil and gas exploration projects on federal lands. These types of projects could cause irreparable damage to public lands. NEPA is a critical avenue for public input on the management of public lands, and should not be weakened.

SERC *Wildlines Report* #48, December 2, 2002.

New report on invasive forest “pests” available

Scott Schlarbaum, Professor of Forest Genetics in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife & Fisheries of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and Faith Campbell, Ph.D. director of American Lands’ Invasive Species Program have issued an update to their 1994 report on alien invasive species that attack North American trees.

The report, titled *Fading Forests II Trading Away North America’s Natural Heritage*, focuses on prevention issues: Why are introductions of insects and pathogens occurring more frequently? What can Americans (and Canadians) do to prevent even more pests from threatening our forests? We also discuss how the USDA Forest Service can better protect forests from those pests that have already become established. You may download the report from <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/Schlarbaum/selection.htm>. The Recommendations and Conclusions are in Chapter 4 and summarized further in the Executive Summary.

SOURCE: Lois Norrgard, lnorrgard@americanlands.org.

Groundwater Protection

WSN exhibits at Midwest Environmental Education Conference

The WSN and Wisconsin’s Environmental Decade had displays at the Midwest Environmental Education Conference held at St. Charles, IL, Nov. 22-23. Over 500 environmental educators and teachers from seven states attended the conference which is held annually. This year a leadership clinic was held with the conference. The WSN showed the video *Wisconsin’s Blue Gold* and handed out materials on groundwater.

In addition to the numerous panels they had outstanding speakers, including our own Ron Zimmerman from UW-SP, Scott Russell Sanders, author and teacher at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, and Juan Ortiz, businessman and inspirational speaker. A number of WI organizations and people attended the conference. It was an informative conference and many allowed us to talk with environmental educators from around the region.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno.

Georgia debating water as either public resource or commodity

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From the December 11 *Athens (GA) Banner-Herald*: Foreshadowing a discussion that will be picked up by the Georgia Legislature this winter, a panel of experts are debating whether the state should treat water as a public resource or a private commodity. “If we get to where water permits can be bought and sold, the few and economically powerful will decide how water in your river basin is used and where it goes,” according to John Sibley, president of The Georgia Conservancy and a representative of the Georgia Water Coalition. The coalition has forwarded a report to Gov.-elect Sonny Perdue and state legislature recommendations substantially different than ones made by a legislative study committee in August. According to the legislative panel, the state should allow water-permit holders in areas where water has been fully allocated to sell their water rights. A representative of the Georgia Agribusiness Council said current state laws and regulations were sufficient to prevent any dire scenario from happening. More at http://onlineathens.com/stories/121102/new_20021211036.shtml.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 12-11-02.

United Nations enshrines water as a human right

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has issued a declaration stating that access to water is a human right and a public commodity fundamental to life and health. The declaration, signed by 145 countries, further states that these signatory nations have an obligation to move expeditiously and effectively toward the full realization to their right to water.

The importance of this Declaration is that over one billion people now lack access to a basic water supply, while several billion lack access to adequate sanitation, a primary cause of water contamination and diseases linked to water. By the year 2025 some three billion people will suffer from water shortages. Many say that water issues will fuel national and regional fights in this millennium just as oil did in the last. This declaration makes it clear that the UN will not stand by and ignore this vital global issue.

SOURCE: Hiroshi Kanno, HiroK8@aol.com.

UN launches international year of freshwater

The International Year of Freshwater 2003 [was] launched on December 12 at a special event at the United Nations, with participation by acclaimed activist Alex Matthiessen, who is the Hudson

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Riverkeeper, and legendary folksinger Pete Seeger, performing with an international children's chorus. The Year was declared by the UN General Assembly to galvanize action on the critical water problems the world faces.

SOURCE: United Nations.

PA adopts industry-friendly water bill

From the 11-27 Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*: The Pennsylvania Legislature passed a bill last week that would give representatives of water-intensive industries the power to veto any future restrictions on water use. One component of the bill orders the establishment of a 24-member Statewide Water Resources Committee that would be packed with representatives of industries that use lots of water. This committee would be given the right to veto future water-use plans that could impose restrictions on consumption. The bill now goes to Gov. Schweiker, who plans to sign it. PA's environmental activists have been vigorously opposing the passage of this bill.

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Mercury Reduction

Group calls for more disclosure of energy sources

Consumers need full access to appropriate information for competitive markets to work properly. Environmental disclosure laws require electric utilities to disclose information regarding the source of the electricity they provide to their customers. Usually, these laws require that utilities disclose exactly how much of the electricity they distribute is produced from oil, coal, nuclear, natural gas, hydro-power, renewable and/or other sources of energy. Some of the laws also require disclosure of the environmental impacts of the energy mix – in particular, the associated emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide and mercury. The information is required to be presented in a clear and easy to understand manner so that customers can easily identify the source of the electricity they are consuming. Disclosure programs help these customers make a direct correlation between their consumption habits and the negative environmental and human health impacts associated with fossil fuel combustion. Over 25 states have some form of environmental disclosure law. For more on how your state can promote consumer education and consumer choice, visit <http://serconline.org/envirodisclosure/>.

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Metallic Mining

Montana judge upholds McDonald gold mining ban

A story by Mike Dennison in the *Helena Tribune* reports, “District Judge Jeffrey Sherlock of Helena this week issued a harsh blow to any prospects of developing the dormant McDonald gold mine near Lincoln, firmly upholding a 1998 voter-enacted mining ban. Sherlock said the 1998 ban on open-pit, cyanide heap-leach gold mines does not violate constitutional contract rights and is not taking any property, because the mine developers never had any “property” to take.

His order issued late Monday dismissed the lawsuit brought by the mine developers and other mining interests. State solicitor Brian Morris on Tuesday called the 23-page order a “big win for the state” and the people’s right to regulate the mining industry or any industry.

SOURCE: via Zoltan Grossman.

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Shoreland/Wetlands

Publication describes how to participate in shoreland rules rewrite

The publication “Changing Wisconsin’s Shoreland Development Standards How You Can Get Involved” is now available. The publication tells the general public how they can get involved with the rule revision process. The publication is number WT-749-2002 and is available at DNR Region Headquarters and service centers, Water Management Specialists, Fisheries Guidebooks, Darwin distribution center, and public libraries

SOURCE: Toni Herkert, WDNR, (608) 266-0161.

Reporter removed from shoreland zoning committee

A *Rhineland Daily News* story by Heather Schaefer reports, “Citing a conflict of interest, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources asked an area radio reporter to step down from the committee advising the agency on revisions to a key shoreland zoning rule, the *Daily News* has learned. The reporter, Ken Anderson of WRJO radio station in Eagle River, is a 20-year veteran of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, who was asked to represent the WCC on the NR 115 committee back in September. Anderson was ready to add his expertise (he holds a Masters as well as a Bachelors degree in Natural Resources and has 25 years experience working as a resource agent for the UW-Extension) to the rule revision process when he was informed the agency had asked he not be part of the panel.

According to sources within the Department of Natural Resources, a phone call from Gregg Walker, General Manager of the *Lakeland Times* newspaper, alleging first amendment violations

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and unfair advantage, prompted the agency to ask the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) to find someone else to serve on the committee in place of Anderson.” Complete story at http://www.rhinelanderdailynews.com/display/inn_news/news1.txt.

SOURCE: *Rhineland Daily News*.

Farm Bureau convention attendees support discovery farms

Farmers attending the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation’s 83rd annual meeting this week in Middleton have indicated their support for the research and education programs being done by the Discovery Farms Program and the UW-Platteville Pioneer Farm and indicated their continued support for the rewrite of the nonpoint pollution control program. They urge adequate cost sharing to implement management practices. Convention members also adopted a resolution supporting aquaculture being classified as water-dependent and for the DNR to streamline paperwork and eligibility in order to expand this segment of Wisconsin agriculture. The press release can be accessed at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation’s web site at <http://www.wfbf.com/New%20Site/News%20releases/resolutions.htm>.

SOURCE: WDNR “Basin Briefs,” 12-11-02.

Beach water testing open houses underway

More than 170 public beaches line Wisconsin’s Great Lakes coast. State and local health and environmental officials want to know which beaches people think should be a priority for testing because of the beaches’ popularity and higher risk of contamination and how they want to learn about swimming conditions. People can comment on these and other questions at one of eight public open houses scheduled for December and January in communities along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior.

These sessions will not address causes of the highly publicized beach closings in summer 2002 in Door County and elsewhere along Wisconsin’s Lake Michigan coast. Rather, public input from these open houses will help complete a plan under development since 2001 to meet federal requirements for states to improve monitoring and public notification at their coastal beaches.

The open houses all begin at 4:30 p.m. and run until 8:30 p.m. Sessions have already been held in Racine, Milwaukee, and Ashland. Dates and locations have not yet been set for Kenosha, Manitowoc, and Port Washington, but the following two sessions have been scheduled:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 15, Green Bay**, Brown County Library Auditorium (Basement), 515 Pine St.
- **Thursday, Jan. 16, Sturgeon Bay**, Sturgeon Bay High School Commons (North side), 1230 Michigan St.

SOURCE: WDNR, Toni Glymph (608) 264-8954 and Ben Vail (608) 266-0152, vailb@dnr.state.wi.us.

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Call for nominations for 2003 National Wetlands Awards

The National Wetlands Awards Program honors individuals from across the country that have demonstrated extraordinary effort, innovation, and excellence through wetlands programs or projects at the regional, state, or local level. Awards are given for the following categories: Education/Outreach, Science Research, Volunteer Leadership, Land Stewardship and Development, and Outstanding Wetlands Program Development. The deadline for submitting nominations is January 10, 2003. Organizations and federal employees are not eligible. To download the nomination form, visit <http://www.eli.org/nwa/nwaprogram.htm>. For more information about the National Wetlands Awards Program, please e-mail wetlandsawards@eli.org, or contact Erica Pencak at (202) 939-3822.

SERC *Wildlines Report* #48, December 2, 2002.

Merrill students among hundreds testing Wisconsin River, tribs

Merrill High School Students, who are taking water samples from the Prairie River, will be adding their data to that of hundreds of other students from 17 other school districts up and down the Wisconsin River as part of the Wisconsin River Education Network, according to a November 25 article in the *Wausau Daily Herald*. The effort is coordinated by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Watersheds Center and funded by a UW System Grant of \$45,200 under the Eisenhower Professional Development Program. One of the project's goals is to build a network of 7th-through 12th-grade teachers and link them to other water resources partners, according to Wes Halverson, the Watersheds Center director. In addition to linking teachers with resources, it is hoped the program will improve educational experiences available to junior and senior high school students and to engage their curiosity and creativity in the conservation of water resources. More at URL <http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/wdhlocal/276404191383243.shtml>.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 11-27-02.

DNR hoping new runoff controls will help southern WI fisheries

"These rules are absolutely necessary for Wisconsin to continue cleaning-up our lakes and rivers and to protect the gains we've made," said Department of Natural Resources Secretary Darrell Bazzell last September in announcing the new administrative rules. "We hope they will allow Wisconsin to build on the significant progress in cleaning-up our state's waterways as a result of controls on point sources."

On a local level, and especially for that part of southwest Wisconsin located south of State Highway 18, the paramount question is whether the new rules, aimed at curtailing 'non-point source pollution,' will improve water quality and reduce fish kills.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-4-02.

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President signs the Great Lakes Legacy Act

President George W. Bush signed into law the Great Lakes Legacy Act on Nov. 27, 2002 authorizing appropriations to mitigate pollution in the Great Lakes. The Legacy Act authorizes an appropriation of up to \$54 million each fiscal year from 2004 through 2008. The funding is to encourage innovative technologies and research in the clean up of contaminated sediments, and to provide public information programs at the clean up sites.

SOURCE: WDNR "Basin Briefs," 12-4-02.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEC changes will affect nonprofits working with federal candidates

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) recently finalized the "coordinated communications" regulations as a part of its ongoing rulemaking under the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. These regulations treat certain communications related to federal candidates as in-kind political contributions. Corporations, which include the majority of most nonprofits, are banned under federal law from making such contributions.

Nonprofits that pay for communications related to federal candidates violate these new rules if a communication contains specific "content standards" related to the election or defeat of the candidate and are made in a way that matches one of the rule's "conduct standards." More information on these new rules can be obtained from the Alliance for Justice.

SOURCE: John Pomeranz, pomeranz@afj.org.

Doyle holding last of budget outreach sessions

Governor-elect Jim Doyle is holding six budget outreach hearings across Wisconsin giving people a chance to offer their advice on how to deal with the state's budget deficit. Remaining hearings include:

- **Monday, December 16**, 10:00 a.m., UW-Eau Claire, Davies Center, Tamarack Room, 105 Garfield Avenue, Eau Claire.
- **Monday, December 16**, 1:00 p.m., Western Wisconsin Technical College, 304 Sixth Street North, La Crosse.

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Trap Hills/Wild UP meeting Jan. 25

Here are the logistical details for our Trap Hills/Wild UP Strategy Meeting on Saturday, January 25, 2003, in Marinette, WI. Next week, I'll initiate a final discussion about the agenda, and attempt to incorporate into it the suggestions that folks have floated so far. This is a working meet-

ing. Anyone is invited, but should come prepared to brainstorm or hang with the flow, and to take on work related to our agenda items, if you possibly can. RSVP to Susan Czopek, washozo@pyramid.net by January 10.

The meeting will take place 10:30-4:30, Saturday, January 25, at Stephenson Public Library, 1700 Hall Ave., Marinette, community meeting room

SOURCE: Susan Czopek, washozo@pyramid.net.

DOT announces 25-year planning program

The Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation is seeking public input and involvement to develop a successful transportation plan for the next 25 years. Interested citizens are invited to participate through local meetings and hearings, newsletters, a web site, a speakers bureau, and information displays. For more information, visit www.dot.wisconsin.gov/protects/state/connections2030.htm.

SOURCE: WDOT.

The Badger Fly Fishers featuring Gary Borger Feb. 8

The Badger Fly Fishers in Madison will host their annual fundraiser, the Spring Fly Fishing Opener, on Feb. 8 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline highway (highway 12). Our featured speaker will be Wisconsin's best known fly fishing expert and author, Gary Borger. It will be an expanded event this year. We will have fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial exhibitors, raffles, prizes, a lively auction, and an evening banquet. In addition, representatives from various rod companies will be there with the latest examples of their finest rods available to be test casted indoors at our event. Gary Borger's program right after lunch will be his famous casting demonstration and clinic "Presenting the Fly." There should something for everyone who loves fly fishing! Admission for the day is \$10.00 at the door.

SOURDCE: Rich Ludt, (608) 833-7918, www.badgerflyfishers.org.

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WSNetworkNews is published twice monthly by the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Inc., a network of Wisconsin hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and other groups with an interest in protecting and preserving Wisconsin's natural resources.

The WSN's Board of Directors consists of representatives from the following organizations: Concerned Citizens of Newport, ECCOLA, Federation of Fly Fishers, Izaak Walton League of America, Lake Superior Greens, Madison Audubon Society, Muskies, Inc., Northern Thunder, Pheasants Forever, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin State

B.A.S.S. Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin's Environmental Decade, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The WSN's mission is to build a cooperative network that strengthens Wisconsin's stewardship ethic for the betterment of its people and natural resources.

Editorial contributions to this e-newsletter are welcome. Send news of your group's activities relating to the WSN's priority issues to State Coordinator Todd Hanson at wsn@chorus.net.

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