

Hi everyone,

As many of you already know DNR recently hired nine Water Guard Deputy Wardens (previously referred to as Boat Ambassadors) stationed throughout the state to help control the spread of AIS in Wisconsin. We had the opportunity to meet the Deputy Wardens at our Watercraft Inspection Training a couple weeks ago and they are all very enthusiastic and eager to join the fight against aquatic invasives.

We want to give you some basic information about the DNR Water Guard as your paths may cross. We'd also like to encourage you to get to know the Water Guard(s) stationed in your region and work with them to complement each others efforts.

Overall goal of the Water Guard: Help protect our native fish, wildlife and habitat by contributing to statewide efforts to control the spread of aquatic invasive species and VHS

How will these Deputy Wardens achieve their goal? The Deputy Warden's will achieve their goals through three major strategies: Enforcement, Education, and Community Collaboration.

Enforcement: Create a climate of compliance with laws designed to control the spread of invasive species and disease by creating a deterrence effect through physical presence at landing, investigation of complaints, and taking enforcement action against those violating the laws. Note: Not all Water Guard Deputy Wardens have enforcement credentials, however they can report violations to their supervisor.

Education: Increase public awareness of the threats invasive species and VHS present to our native fish, wildlife and habitats and inform the public of the individual and collective actions necessary to control the spread of invasives and VHS. We will do this through a presence at boat landings, and a variety of outreach efforts. The theme for the law enforcement booth at the Wisconsin State Fair will be invasive species.

Community Collaboration: Work collaboratively with local communities, organizations, partners such as the Clean Boats- Clean Waters Program, and other stakeholders in controlling the spread of invasive species and VHS.

How long will this program operate? They will be working in the field full time from June 1 through the Labor Day Holiday Weekend. Throughout the fall and into next spring, the LTE's will be available to work special projects related to AIS and VHS.

WHO ARE THE NEW DEPUTY WARDENS - AN INTRODUCTORY PHOTO

(See Photo Below)

Left to right in photo: Chris Hamerla-**Northeast Region-Green Bay**, Ryan Propson-**Southeast Region- Waukesha**, Greg Stacey-**Southcentral Region-Fitchburg**, Danielle Sippel-**Northeast Region-Oshkosh**, Kathy Oginski-**Northern Region-Spooner**, Justin Wershofen-**West Central Region-Eau Claire**, Ben Mott-**West Central Region-Wisconsin Rapids**, Mac Hannon-**Southcentral Region-Fitchburg** and John Preuss-**Northern Region- Woodruff**.

A BRIEF BIO ON OUR NORTHERN REGION NEW DEPUTY WARDEN

My name is **Kathy Oginski**. I have been fortunate to have been raised in Northern Wisconsin on Lake Superior, surrounded by an abundance of natural resources. An appreciation and enjoyment of these resources came early on from my parents and grandparents and those experiences have made all the difference in my life. It has been my pleasure to be able to pass on all that I have learned about preserving and managing our resources so that future generations can enjoy them as well. I have a degree in Correction Science from WITC – Superior.

Through this field of study I worked as an intern with the Department of Corrections Probation/Parole, with the Bayfield County Sheriff's Department as a jailer/dispatcher and finally as a Deputy Conservation Warden with the Department of Natural Resources.

If you have any questions about the Water Guard, please feel free to contact either Julia Solomon, Erin Henegar or me.

Christal Campbell

Aquatic Invasives Education Specialist
UW Extension & WI Department of Natural Resources
Phone: (608) 266-0061
Fax: (608) 262-2031
E-mail: christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov

