



# *Wisconsin* **Employee Suggestion Program**

Office of State Employment Relations:  
Jennifer Donnelly, Director

Employee Suggestion Board:  
Sandy Drew, Chair  
Gene Dalhoff, Member  
David Vriezen, Member

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- November 14, 2007**

**Madison, WI** – Office of State Employment Relations Director Jennifer Donnelly announces that 12 state employees are being honored by the State Employee Suggestion Board for their efforts in improving efficiencies and reducing costs in state government for fiscal year 2007. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will receive special recognition for its active participation in the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program.

A ceremony honoring the recipients will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 15 in the Governor's Conference Room in the State Capitol. Jennifer Donnelly and members of the State Employee Suggestion Board will give remarks and congratulate the winners.

The award winners are:

- ***Individual Suggester of the Year 2007:***

**BRYAN ROYSTON** (Department of Natural Resources) is being recognized for providing an automated solution that uses server-based technology and scripts to distribute software updates to remote users without the need for local staff intervention or loss of time. Cost Savings: \$45,900 per year; \$229,500 over 5-year period.

- ***Group Suggestion of the Year 2007:***

Members of the **FORESTRY EDUCATION SPECIALIST TEAM (FEST)** (Department of Natural Resources) are being recognized as Group Suggestion of the Year. DNR has a building ("DNR Park") located within the Wisconsin State Fair Park. Each year DNR staff participate in the State Fair by explaining DNR programs to visitors, selling hunting/fishing licenses, giving demonstrations and maintaining exhibits. One area of focus at DNR Park is invasive plant species and their threat to natural resources. Ironically, many plants in State Fair Park (including the area around the DNR Park building) are invasive plants. The team contacted State Fair Park and requested their permission to remove the invasive plants and replace them with other plant stock. DNR staff helped with removal of the invasive species plants and planting of new plants. This helps to send a message to State Fair visitors that DNR leads by example and takes the threats of invasive species seriously.

*MORE*

FEST Team Members:

Sue Swanson, Chair (DNR); Mary Ann Buenzow (DNR); Genny Fannucchi (DNR); Cindy Kohles (DNR); Ted Pyrek (DNR); Brad D. Johnson (DNR); Kim Sebastian (DNR); Bria Radtke (DNR); Mark Heyde (DNR); Kris Tiles (UW-Extension); and Adam Zirbel (Vernon County).

- ***Agency Coordinator of the Year 2007:***

**KEVIN HUGGINS** (Department of Natural Resources) is being recognized for his outstanding work as agency coordinator. Kevin worked diligently to maintain DNR's participation in the state employee suggestion program and his efforts yielded great success again this year. Kevin has won this award twice, once in 2006 for his efforts at DNR, and in 1993, while he was employed at the Department of Transportation.

- ***Agency of the Year 2007:***

The **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES** (Secretary Matt Frank) is being honored as Agency of the Year for 2007, for its continuing active participation in the Employee Suggestion Program and for the innovative ideas submitted by DNR employees. This is the second consecutive year DNR has won this award.

The Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program encourages state employees to become agents for change, initiating ideas on ways to improve services, enhance efficiency and saving money for the state. This program is designed not only to stimulate suggestions, but also to recognize employees for their contributions.

For further information, contact the statewide program coordinator, Robert Toomey, at the Office of State Employment Relations, by telephone (608) 266-0664, e-mail [Robert.Toomey@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Robert.Toomey@Wisconsin.gov).

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