

Southeast Region Urban Forestry Coordinator

The Wisconsin DNR has announced the appointment of Al Zelaya as the Southeast Region Urban Forestry Coordinator for



Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington and Waukesha Counties. Al started his new position on Monday, July 9, and succeeds John Van Ells who retired in 2003.

Al is a well-rounded urban forestry professional. He has a

Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from DePaul University and is just completing his Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with a specialization in Urban Forest Management from the University of Illinois. His numerous professional certifications include, but are not limited to, Certified Arborist in Illinois by the International Society of Arboriculture; Municipal Forester Institute graduate, Society of Municipal Arborists; ArborMaster training certificate in Precision Felling and Climbing modules; Wildland Firefighter and Prescription Burn certifications from the Midwest Ecological Prescription Burn program.

Al has utilized his academic training, professional memberships and certifications to strengthen and expand his knowledge of emerging urban forestry issues and best management practices.

South Central Regional Urban Forestry Assistant

Kathy Gonzalez is the new DNR Regional Urban Forestry Assistant for the South Central Region. Kathy fills the position



previously held by Michael LaBissoniere.

Kathy has always been interested in people's relationship to the land. She received a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of

Texas-Austin and a master's degree in Community Forestry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Kathy spent much of her college years leading ecotourism trips for youth to Latin America, always working with community-based projects. In graduate school, she joined UW-Cooperative Extension to support forest landowner conferences across the northern Wisconsin region. After graduating, Kathy spent two years in Puerto Rico, serving as a technical advisor for the USDA Forest Service, International Institute of Tropical Forestry. Most recently, she served as the interim Natural Areas Coordinator at Friends of Troy Gardens, on the north side of Madison.

Kathy will be working with Jeff Roe out of the DNR South Central Region Service Center in Fitchburg. She can be contacted at (608) 275-3227 or Kathryn.Gonzalez@Wisconsin.gov.

Scott Hassett Retires, Replaced by Matt Frank

Scott Hassett, Secretary of the DNR, left his post to write, travel, and consult on environmental and regulatory issues. Governor Jim Doyle replaced him with Matt Frank, effective September 1, 2007.

2007 WAA Legislative Summary

by Jeff Treu

2007 Assembly Bill 36 – relating to grants for catastrophic damage caused to urban forests. The bill authorizes DNR to provide match-free urban forestry grants to communities in catastrophic storm situations. Approved by the governor on 5-30-2007.

2007 Assembly Bill 181 – an Act to create 443.015 of the statutes, relating to continuing education for architects, landscape architects, professional engineers,

designers of engineering systems, and land surveyors. Referred to Committee on Rules 5-31-2007.

SB-248 Authorizing the creation of local park districts was referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (Senate) 7-31-07. Otherwise ineligible, an amendment to include Urban Forestry Grants is supported by DNR and Urban Forestry Council.