

Wisconsin celebrates 20 years of deer donation program

Each year, hunters, meat processors, and food pantries help families in need by working closely with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and its partners to donate thousands of pounds of venison to food pantries. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the Deer Donation Program, and to celebrate, hunters who donate a deer will receive a commemorative ballcap while supplies last.

"Whether it is harvesting an extra deer or donating the only deer they shoot, Wisconsin hunters

have historically shown their willingness to help others by donating deer to the Deer Donation Program," said DNR Wildlife Damage Program Assistant Liz Tanner. "As deer hunters begin preparations for this hunting season, we are encouraging them to again consider the Deer Donation Program."

Wisconsin's Deer Donation Program began in 2000, and since then, more than 92,000 deer have been donated, translating to more than 3.7 million pounds of venison distributed to food pantries across the state.

"There are a couple of ways hunters can help," Tanner said. "Hunters can donate a deer at one of the participating meat processors or, when they purchase a hunting license, they can make a monetary donation to help cover venison processing costs."

Hunters are advised to plan by knowing where participating processors are located and whether the deer needs to be tested for CWD before donation. Hunters should also call the participating processor

before dropping off a deer to make sure the processor is prepared to accept the deer.

The Department would like to thank all the deer hunters and meat processors that have participated in the deer donation program over the years. For more information about the DNR's deer donation program, a list of participating meat processors, CWD sampling requirements and more on how to help, visit dnr.wi.gov and search keywords "deer donation."



Photo credit: Kyle Peterson
Hunters can give back this year - and get a 20th anniversary ball cap - when they donate a deer to the Deer Donation Program.

The Haunted Forest from page three

yell louder than a sonic boom. The tree, however, had no intention of letting him alert the others. It clutched his throat and squeezed, as if warning him to keep quiet or else. Danny's heart sank. He was doomed.

The hay wagon came to a stop at the edge of the woods. He wanted at least to warn the others to stay away so no one else would end up like him and Wink. The tree held him tight around the throat, nearly choking him to death. Not a sound could he utter.

Then Danny heard voices, eager, excited voices - voices of kids unaware of the danger so

close to them. He saw six or seven giggling kids dressed as witches and ghouls, pirates and ghosts climb down from the wagon. One girl held a lantern.

"Come on, let's go in," she said to the others. "It'll be fun. They say this place is haunted."

He heard nervous giggles. He heard excited whispers.

"Go back! Go back!" Danny wanted to shout. But the tree's grip grew even tighter until Danny nearly lost consciousness.

He saw the kids edge nervously into the woods. He heard them talk in hushed tones, just above a whisper. Then he heard a

blood-curdling scream from below. He saw the kids dart out of the woods just as they had come in.

"Hey, where's the lantern," he heard a boy shout to the girl.

"I dropped it when I felt that branch touch me," she said.

"But it has kerosene in it. It might burn," he said.

"Well I'm not going back in there!" she said adamantly. "No way!"

Just then Danny caught a whiff of smoke.

He heard the trees begin to wail and moan. Now they were the ones scared.

He saw the kids pile back into the wagon and leave.

The trees' wailing grew louder as the fire began to spread along the forest floor. It spread to saplings and then up the trunk of a large maple. The snapping fire seemed to have a life of its own as it raced in a frenzy from tree to tree, branch to branch. The smoke grew thick and Danny began to cough and gag. His eyes stung and he could barely see as flames licked at the trunk of the huge black ash that held him and Wink.

One by one, he heard skeletons fall through the branches of the burning

tree. Finally, the tree let go of Wink, who crashed through the smoke and flames and burning limbs. Then Danny fell, branches smashing against his ribs and legs and shoulders as he plunged through the blazing ash.

He landed with a thud as flames danced around him. If he was hurt, he'd worry about it later. He raced among the trunks of burning, screaming trees toward the faint glow of the moon, which he knew to be west of the road.

At his feet moved an animal, his dog Wink! Danny reached the road and looked back at the

trees, which were now tall columns of fire. He began to feel a sharp pain in his legs and ribs. He didn't care. He limped away quickly with Wink trotting at his side.

He returned the next day to see nothing but charred stumps, still smoldering as a cold rain fell. Fearing the trees no more, he walked slowly amid the stumps, kicking at the black, brittle remains.

As he turned to leave, he spotted a silver watch covered with soot and ash. He brushed it clean and looked at a name inscribed on the timepiece: Phillip Howell.

Business Spotlight



Tri-County Communication Services

Laurie LaFleur, MS CCC-A, M.A. CCC-SLP
ASHA CERTIFIED AUDIOLOGIST & SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

Audiological Services - Hearing Aid Sales & Service - Speech and Language Services

P.O. Box 33
US 2, Florence 54121

715-528-4350 888-528-4350
www.tricountyaudiology.com

CAT ADVOCATES
FLORENCE, WI

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN
Adoptable Cats now available!
Call for volunteer opportunities

www.cat-advocates.org
Email: florencetr@aol.com
www.facebook.com/florencetr

Sarah Giddings
920-227-7918

PIA PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE AGENTS

EDWARD J. SMITH-Owner
AMY COLLINS-Office Manager
DONNA VANZILE-Agent
LINDA CLINE-Agent
LISA ALLRED-CSR
CHERI WILLSON-Health & Life Specialist

NORTHWOODS INSURANCE AGENCY
Specializing in Seasonal Property & Cabins
100 S. Lake Ave, Crandon, WI 54520
(715) 478-2215 or 1-800-365-6258
FAX: (715) 478-5485
E-Mail: northins@newnorth.net
www.northwoodsinsurance.com

Knepper's Service
715-528-5999

Full Service Oil Change Synthetic blend
5 qt. limit **\$18.95**

Full Service, Full Synthetic Oil Change Dexos 5 quart limit \$34.95

3461 US 2 Florence, WI • Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Gregory P. Seibold
Attorney at Law

"Your borderland legal resource."

- Real Estate
- Estate Planning
- Probate
- Personal Injury
- Business Planning
- Litigation/Appeals
- Creditor/Debtor
- Employment

Seibold Law Firm, LLC
441 Central Ave.
Florence, WI 54121
715.889.4235

Seibold Law Firm, PLC
1112 Carpenter Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
906.779.2343

Visit us at: seiboldlaw.com Licensed in Wisconsin and Michigan