

# Lake Country

## THIS MONTH

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# TURTLE RESCUE

*Hartland Fire Department saves turtle from road*

By Karen Pilarski  
kpilarski@conley.net.com  
262-5132657

**H**ARTLAND — This time of year female turtles are leaving their aquatic habitats and venturing out to lay eggs. They can be found near roadways, water and sandy areas.

Jonathan Quint, a firefighter/ paramedic with the Hartland Fire Department, has been with the department for eight years and enjoys helping the community and being able to serve. One form of serving is dealing with animal or creature complaints.

“Usually it is animals getting trapped. In the springtime, we get a lot of ducks in the storm drains,” Quint said.

The department has also received calls about deer in pools.

Turtles are not an uncommon sight in the Lake Country area and especially around the fire station in Hartland. The fire department sits right along the Bark River and there is a turtle sanctuary nearby.

“Every year around this time we get people that call us about a turtle by their house stopping traffic,” he said.

People like Quint will move the turtles out of the roadway.

On June 5, a person stopped in front of the fire station to report a big turtle.

“We looked outside and sure enough there was this big, soft-shelled turtle. The river right there runs underneath the road and it was just sitting in the road,” Quint said.

Quint put on some gloves and picked up the creature. It was moved to a safe area back in the wild.

“They are kind of scary. I don’t want to lose a finger if it is a snapping turtle. This one wasn’t a snapper,” he said.

The speed limit by the fire station is 25 mph but occasionally a turtle gets hurt by an unsuspecting driver.



Photo courtesy of Hartland Fire Department

Jonathan Quint, a firefighter/paramedic with the Hartland Fire Department, helped a turtle cross the road near the fire station on June 5.

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### Keeping turtles safe

■ Drive with caution near wetlands and rivers. Slow down, be alert and reduce distractions.

■ Report roadways where turtles are crossing or are dead on the road. Fill in the short online form on the DNR’s Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program website.

■ Report suspicious illegal activity associated with turtles to the DNR’s Violation Hotline by calling or texting 1-800-847-9367.

■ Help protect Wisconsin’s native turtles by keeping wild turtles in the wild.

Learn more at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/newsroom/release/57841>.

See **TURTLES**, PAGE 2A



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# Turtles

From Page 1A

“Some of those turtles are pretty big, too, and if you are going fast enough you could do damage to the turtle and your car. It can also cause an accident,” he said.

Quint added if he is free he likes to take weird animal calls.

“It’s interesting and it’s Wisconsin wildlife,” he said.

## Looking for a place to nest

Rori Paloski with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources said turtles typically come out of overwintering or hibernation in April.

“Starting in late May and in through early July the female turtles are nesting. People usually see them May 20 through July 5,” she said.

Some species of turtles will nest within a few feet of water and other species like painted and Blanding’s turtles go a quarter of a mile up to a mile away from water to nest.

“What they are looking for is a dry area like sandy or ... easy soil they can dig into and lay their eggs” Paloski said.

People see turtles in their yards or crossing roads trying to get to their nesting area and back into the water when they are done. After turtles lay the eggs it takes two to three months to hatch. Hatchlings may hatch from their eggs and stay on the ground and not emerge from the nest until the following spring.

“We always get questions about every April of people seeing tiny little turtles going back to the water,” Paloski said. The mom turtle doesn’t stay with her eggs and offers no care toward them.

The DNR and Hartland Fire Department want people to stay safe. Paloski said if people can safely pull over they recommend moving the turtle off the road.

“Most importantly in terms of moving the turtle, is to move it in the direction that they were heading. They move from their water to their nesting site and the nesting site back to the water. They are heavily imprinted on that nesting area. Don’t move the turtle too far,” she said.

Turtles are opportunistic feeders. After they are done laying eggs they are focused on staying safe and eating or foraging.

## Help keep turtles safe

The Wisconsin Turtle Conservation Program is a DNR citizen-based monitoring program “aimed to better catalog species’ statewide distributions and to document high turtle mortality infrastructure locations to better manage and conserve Wisconsin’s turtles,” according to the DNR website.

Paloski said it can be a simple reporting of a turtle that already crossed the road and doesn’t need any help.

“Unfortunately, we have a lot of road kills. What we are trying to do with that program is get information on our highest mortality or highest crossing area,” she said.

The DNR started working with the Department of Transportation on some of the high crossing areas.

“If they are doing construction in the area, we can put in an underpass for the turtles which helps direct them,” Paloski said. She added people think it is just a little turtle but those add up.

“That’s another thing people can do for the roads,” she said.

For more information on the conservation effort visit <https://wiatri.net/inventory/witurtles>. For information on protecting turtle nests visit <https://widnr.widen.net/s/eaanvfkng2>.



Photo courtesy of Anna Bussewitz

Gus Bussewitz of Stone Bank holds a turtle found in his yard.

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**Jim Baumgart** - Freeman Group Ad Director 513-2621  
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# Dream job now streaming

*Ocon grad hired  
as software  
engineer  
for Netflix*

By Katherine Beck  
kbeck@conley.net.com

Graduating from college tends to generate feelings of both excitement and nervousness as pressure mounts to put that degree to good use. But for Dana Schneck, she knows where she'll be working and it's a company nearly everyone is familiar with: Netflix. Despite getting hired as a software engineer fresh out of college, Schneck is still a little nervous about moving to California and leaving her friends and family in Oconomowoc.

"All in all, I think the feeling of excitement towards having all sorts of thrilling new experiences at this upcoming job, learning more and growing in my career, and meeting tons of new people overshadows the slight apprehensiveness I feel," Schneck said in an email. The 2019 Oconomowoc High School and 2023 University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate will start her new job on July 10, but first she is traveling around Italy with her boyfriend for two weeks. She completed a bachelor's of science in computer science, along with certificates in graphic design and Chinese professional communication.

Schneck hasn't been on this education road alone. She received the Thomas Mount Future Leader Award from the Oconomowoc Scholarship Fund that helped her to "focus more on my education, allowing me to succeed academically and attain the high goals I had set for myself."

She also said her elementary school art teacher, Mr. Beirl, and her computer science teacher, Ms. Tomski, helped her to be creative and to understand the diverse field of computer science.

"Every year, high achieving students with financial need are awarded scholarships



Photo courtesy of Dana Schneck

Dana Schneck will begin a job as a software engineer at Netflix in July.

through the Oconomowoc Scholarship Fund and hearing their success stories at the end of their college journey is very rewarding," said Jolene Pipp, Oconomowoc Scholarship Fund president. "Many of our alumni recipients communicate to us their appreciation for the scholarship which allows them to focus on their studies and reduces the stress of paying for tuition."

While working at Netflix, Schneck said she wants to continue to grow her design and programming skills while gaining more experience in the industry. Her long-term career goal is to have a job that allows her to combine her passion for design and computer skills that also gives her the opportunity to have a positive impact on the world.

"Later on down the line, I'd maybe like to shift from a more technical, programming heavy role to a more design focused one instead to lean even more into my creative side," she said.

Schneck is also looking forward to exploring California, including hiking among the Redwoods and going to the beach.

As the next class of Oconomowoc High School students prepare to graduate, Schneck advises them to slow down and enjoy life and time with friends.

"Remind yourself that you are resilient and are capable of so much," she shared with the graduating seniors.



Dana Schneck completed a bachelor's of science in computer science, along with certificates in graphic design and Chinese professional communication, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this year.

Photo courtesy of Dana Schneck

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# ‘Hello, Dollies’

Recently, I was invited to examine a lifetime collection of beautiful antique and vintage dolls. The three following examples shown here continue to represent areas of interest to the doll-collecting world.

In the early 20th century, both European and American companies had to convince consumers to spend money on imaginative play. One advertisement included, “Wise parents select quality dolls for their girls.” The use of new materials also intrigued buyers: “Our doll’s heads are made of bisque with composition bodies.”

Commercial companies wanted not only to sell dolls but anything related to dolls. Product lines were tailored to include clothing, doll-sized furniture and additional doll friends.

Original “flat-soled” high-top shoes were removable. These antique shoes can be rare because most were lost with play. In today’s market, an antique pair of button-down, kid-leather shoes can sell for more than the doll. Shoes really do make the outfit!

1.) The head, neck and blond curly hair of this antique beauty is bisque porcelain. No wonder she won a rib-



BARBARA EASH  
Antiques

bon at the Chicago Regional Doll event several years ago. Never a bad hair day!  
**Value: \$350**

2.) This doll is from the Ideal Toy Company named “Saucy Walker.” There were no buttons or keys to wind (and of course no batteries). A child had to hold and move the doll’s arms while walking with her.  
**Value: \$150**

3.) “Wanda the Walking Wonder” by the Advance Doll Company, circa 1950, was a windup 18-inch doll that could walk unassisted. Both Wanda and her complete yellow outfit are in mint condition. **Value: \$275**

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