

# The wild outdoors

TV show focuses on sportsmen, environmental issues

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Filming in nature these days is just as much about mosquitoes as it is about lights or action.

"I'm not going to blame you for a little shaky camera work," producer Dean Romano joked with his camera operator, who was swatting the flying pests while taping an episode of "Outdoor Wild" last week at Hawthorn Hollow.

"Outdoor Wild" is a 30-minute television show dealing with issues related to sportsmen, the environment and conservation, presented on Time Warner's local cable access Channel 14. Romano, of Kenosha, said he's produced about 100 episodes since 1996.

Romano, who works for a power-wash and cleaning service in Racine, said he wants to educate as well as entertain viewers about topics such as global warming, water pollution and invasive species.

"Our planet is delicate, and we're in the midst of some problems," he said. "We have to deal with them because we're causing those problems. If we destroy our environment, we ultimately destroy ourselves."

One invasive species, buckthorn, was the subject of a segment filmed Thursday, with Romano interviewing Carthage assistant professor of biology Tracy Gartner. She is studying the plant at Hawthorn, 880 Green Bay Road. Other seg-



KENOSHA NEWS PHOTO BY BRIAN PASSINO

Tracy Gartner, middle, and Dean Romano of "Outdoor Wild," a public access cable TV program, swat mosquitoes during an interview on the invasive plant species buckthorn at Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary on Thursday. Jimmy Holst works the video camera.

## Tune in

An "Outdoor Wild" episode filmed at Hawthorn Hollow Nature Sanctuary, 880 Green Bay Road, last week will air at 8 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. Saturday and then throughout the month of July on Time Warner cable access channel 14.

The show, hosted by Kenosha resident Dean Romano, includes interviews with Carthage assistant professor of biology Tracy Gartner about the invasive species buckthorn; graduate student Bob Jagla and assistant Chris Coleman about a turtle study; Joy Wolf, a University of Wisconsin-Parkside associate professor of geography, about landscape ecology and sanctuary director Joe Fonk. The show is 30 minutes.

ments filmed that day at the nature center involved a turtle study conducted by graduate student Bob Jagla and assistant Chris Coleman, and landscape ecology, discussed by Joy Wolf, a University of Wisconsin-Parkside associate professor of geography.

Romano said his favorite shows have included Earth

Day 2008 at Gateway Technical College, rain gardens at Hawthorn Hollow, hunting deer and following a USFWS agent return a black bear that was in an urban area to the wild. Ideas for future local shows include cross country skiing, a visit to Bong State Recreation Area, lakefront fishing, area parks, the Adopt-A-Highway program

**'OUR PLANET is delicate, and we're in the midst of some problems.'**

**Dean Romano**  
producer

and wildlife displays at Kenosha museums.

Jason Rimkus, media coordinator for Kenosha Community Media, which handles public access programming, said Romano puts a lot of time into the episodes.

"The show is great for our listings because we don't have a program like that," he said.

Videos, photos and various articles related to the show are posted on the Web

site at [www.outdoorwild.com](http://www.outdoorwild.com).

The producer said he's trying to interest the Public Broadcasting Service, a Milwaukee television station and national media in episodes that would take on a national perspective, possibly about the plight of the polar bear and melting ice in the Arctic.

Romano said most viewers respond favorably to his shows but a few friends have wondered why he has chosen some of the topics.

"They'll say, 'Why are you doing something on rain gardens? You're a sportsman!' But it's all about putting it in balance," he said.

Romano said he's not a fanatic.

"I just like to be part of the outdoors," he said. "I'm not a flower child. I'm a nature child."