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## Wind Technicians on Wildlife Conservation

A grandfather teaches his granddaughter how to bait her first hook. A father and son bed down in the woods with minimal gear for their annual hunt. An activity steeped in tradition often passed down from one's elders, hunting and fishing continue to be a way of life and popular recreational activities in most parts of North America. They embody the pioneer spirit of our nation's founders. They develop our senses and deepen our connection with nature. They are also where many of us learn compassion, respect and appreciation for the natural world around us.

For many, that respect and appreciation extends to conservation and protection of our resources. Any hunter will tell you, conservation and hunting go hand in glove. Yet, one might wonder, how does killing an animal support the delicate ecosystem? To better understand the hunter's perspective on conservation, we asked a few of our wind technicians, who are avid outdoor enthusiasts, to share their perspectives.

Josh (pictured below, right) is a technician at the Rugby Wind Farm in North Dakota, where he acts as the site's environmental, health and safety (EHS) coordinator. He served as a Marine in Iraq before moving to Pierce County to be closer to nature. As an avid hunter and fisher, Josh enjoys his work at the wind farm because it allows him to be outdoors and take in the native wildlife living nearby. During his time at Rugby, Josh has supported the state's wildlife studies on grouse numbers by helping identify and record the number of mating pairs witnessed in the area.

Josh says, "For me, conservation means preserving the resources that I was afforded as a young man for future generations. I'm proud to work for a company that took a proactive approach to wildlife protection by developing the industry's first avian and bat protection policy."

Along with EHS coordinators like Josh, Iberdrola Renewables appoints environmental coordinators (ECs) at each site who perform routine checks of turbines and the land at wind farms to ensure the protection of animals and their habitats.

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## ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOS:

In our spring 2014 issue of Landowner News, we asked readers to submit photos of their land, some of which have been featured on the Iberdrola Renewables Facebook and Instagram pages. With our appreciation to everyone who submitted, here are two photos that we think are the cream of the crop. Both were submitted by landowner, **Kathie Rocheleau**, at our Rugby Wind Farm in North Dakota.

Please keep those great photos coming! Email your images (with a caption and contact information) to: [photos@iberdrolaren.com](mailto:photos@iberdrolaren.com).



# 5 ?

**(Wildlife Conservation ... continued)**

Kody is the EC for Winnebago and Top of Iowa II Wind Farms in north-central Iowa, just 20 miles from where he grew up. In this role, Kody routinely monitors the sites' turbines to check for birds and bats, recording and reporting any findings. He finds it personally rewarding that his work contributes to the company's efforts to reduce avian and bat fatalities, while producing cleaner sources of energy in the fight against climate change.



Kody says, "I feel it's as much a part of my job as a hunter to protect wildlife and the ecosystem as it is to be the EC at the wind farms. Conservation is very important to help keep the numbers of animals and birds up and healthy. Taking older, weaker animals out of the herd actually supports the larger group's healthy existence. Without conservation, hunting wouldn't be as good as it is today."

Phil has been a maintenance technician at the Barton Wind Farm in northern Iowa for nearly two years. He is also a committee member of the local chapter of Pheasants Forever – an avian conservation group focused on habitat improvements, public awareness, education and land management policies and programs. During his time at the wind farm, he's enjoyed seeing the local pheasant numbers begin to return.



Phil says, "I like the thrill of going out and hiding in a blind, seeing something fly in and getting that, but I think it's important work because it manages the population and you have to have that. Our geese population has gotten so heavy around here, so you need to be able to control that. I'm also a big supporter of protecting the habitat. The work that organizations like Pheasants Forever do helps build the habitat back up. It's great when you see the benefits of getting the land back to its natural state so it's here for future generations."

Riley has maintained the wind turbines at Elm Creek II Wind Farm in Minnesota for more than six years. He's an avid hunter and enjoys fishing with his family. As a wind turbine technician and EC, part of his responsibility is spill kit prevention, ensuring that no oil makes its way into streams, creeks or lakes.



Riley says, "Conservation and hunting go hand in hand to me. Hunting is a great management tool. Also, it helps maintain populations of wildlife, the land use and its available habitat year to year. I've enjoyed fishing the waterways with my family every year, so I'm trying to help out so we can keep everything going for our kids and their kids."



At Iberdrola Renewables, wildlife and habitat conservation are as important as leading the transformation to a competitive, clean energy future. Since wind turbines share the land with deer, cattle, birds and other native species, the company works thoughtfully to protect them and their habitat, from permitting to operations. It's no surprise that this passion comes naturally to our wind technicians. To support this passion, Iberdrola Renewables began presenting wind farms and individual field technicians with wildlife program awards for those who display exceptional performance by embracing the company's environmental leadership. 🌱

## 5 Questions With Landowner Bill Beall

**Landowner News** recently caught up with Bill Beall, one of the landowners from our Barton Chapel Wind Farm in Texas. Bill has owned land since 1983 and leases just over 1,000 acres to Iberdrola Renewables for the wind farm. In addition to tending his cattle and hosting 15 wind turbines, Bill enjoys spending weekends there with his wife Sara and their first grandchild.



**Landowner News: What activities do you have on your land?**

**Bill:** Having grown up in the city, I always wanted a place in the country. So I decided that when I got old enough and made enough money, I would buy a place in the country. We stumbled on this place and bought some acreage back in 1983, and a few years later, got a couple of horses, four-wheelers, tractors and cows. These days, we raise a few cattle and use the land for family recreation, hunting and fishing. The turbine pads of course only take up minimal land, and the roads have made pieces of my property accessible that were totally inaccessible before.

**Landowner News: What made you decide to consider a wind farm on your property?**

**Bill:** I was talking to one of my older neighbors up here, who had grown up here and lived up here most of his life, and he said, "I think this would be a good thing." So I started doing some research and I drove out to West Texas to look at some wind farms and their turbines out there. Then, I called a few people who had them on their property. Finally, I decided—this actually helps the property because of the roads, the fences and all the improvements. Other than the construction period when there's people and equipment here, it's just very peaceful and turned out to be a very agreeable solution. I have one piece of land

that has a great view so I used to hike out there once a year and it would take an hour and a half through the brush and the trees to get there. Now there's a road and I can drive out there in five minutes, so I go much more frequently.

**Landowner News: What are your thoughts about renewable energy sources like wind power?**

**Bill:** Well, I've researched it rather thoroughly so I see renewable energy's place as a piece in the puzzle. So I guess sometimes I feel like a crusader for wind farms. Of all the renewable energy I think wind is the best, most viable form at this point in time. So, I defend wind farms to people who refer to them as a "federal subsidy." I say, no it's not a federal subsidy, it's a tax credit. Companies are just getting a break on the amount of taxes they pay for the first 10 years of the wind farm's existence. They create all these jobs and furnish all this tax base in the communities where they're built, and sometimes those people don't understand that.

**Landowner News: What's it been like working with Iberdrola Renewables?**

**Bill:** From the very start of the relationship to now, they've been very sensitive to all the needs of the landowners. I interacted with a really good plant manager who was just great to work with. He was a local here. If I asked him if something could be done he'd give me a straight yes or no or, I'll get back to you, and he would follow through with it every time. Now, I don't feel like I ever asked for the moon but when I would approach him with something, he almost always made it possible—I was very impressed.

**Landowner News: What types of animals are on your land?**

**Bill:** Well, we have about 50 head of cattle up here, counting calves. There are deer, turkey, wild hogs and an occasional mountain lion living here, which a couple of the wind farm employees have sighted. They keep me posted on anything unusual they see. Initially, I was a little concerned when they first started building the wind farm that it would affect the wildlife here, maybe run it off, but as soon as construction was over, they all came out. They were all still here. 🦋

## Kiteboarding 4 Cancer in the Columbia Gorge

Iberdrola Renewables participated in Kiteboarding for Cancer's 6-hour kite derby relay race this past July. Over 150 professional and amateur kites raced the course to raise money to send cancer survivors to Camp Koru. In addition to participating, Iberdrola Renewables sponsored the event to show support for the cause and local community, not far from where hundreds of our wind turbines are operating. The event took place on the Columbia River near the town of Hood River, Oregon.



Photo (L-R): Team Iberdrola Renewables: Mike Zulauf, Wes Heustess, Jacqui Bishop and David Morris.

Team Iberdrola Renewables wore matching hats, which helped teammates locate each other and track their progress on the course. Monique Menconi, director of asset management, did a stellar job of launching and landing the team's kites amidst a sea of spectators, surfboards and hundreds of other kites. George McLean, senior meteorologist, made several special weather forecasts for the team on the morning of the race – including the sage advice, "never bet against the Gorge," when a local forecaster said it would be a no-wind day. All participants took turns speeding around the course and had such a great time supporting the cause that they've already started planning logistics for next year's wind-powered event!

Stay tuned for next year's Kiteboarding 4 Cancer event. In the meantime, how do you play with wind? 🦋

## Safe Road Use During Fall Harvest



Fall harvest season is upon us, which means countless hours spent on tractors, combines and other heavy equipment used to manage area farmland. It also means large equipment will share the road with motorists as farmers and workers transport their yields. With extra patience, careful driving habits and properly operating equipment, we can decrease the potential of collisions.

Extra precaution is the responsibility of all drivers to ensure safe use of roadways during harvest. Rural area collisions can often be attributed to the speed differential between slower-moving farm equipment and passenger vehicles. Many passenger-driven vehicles don't have enough time to react if they do not recognize the farm equipment soon enough. Heavy equipment operators can enhance their visibility by ensuring that warning flashers, lights and slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems are in proper operating condition and clean before leaving the field.

Proper tire inflation, mirror adjustment and other equipment-related safety information can be found in the owner's manual for most equipment. For additional agriculture safety information, check out [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). 🦋



## Questions? Have a story to tell?

Questions or comments relating to *Landowner News*? Have a story to tell? Would you rather receive an electronic copy to save paper? We'd like to hear from you!

Contact *Landowner News* via email: [dlitchfield@iberdrolaren.com](mailto:dlitchfield@iberdrolaren.com) or regular mail: *Landowner News*  
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## Colorful Critter Pays a Visit to Ohio's Blue Creek Wind Farm

The Blue Creek Wind Farm in Van Wert, Ohio, recently discovered an unexpected trespasser in its substation, an area that is potentially dangerous for both people and critters. Fortunately, this story has a happy ending, thanks to one caring wind tech and the wildlife training provided to all of our field employees.

The trespasser was a peacock that had escaped from an enclosed pen and wandered into the fenced substation. Luckily for our feathered friend, a nearby landowner contacted us via Facebook, and the message found its way to our on-site maintenance staff. The Blue Creek team was able to act immediately by quickly sending a crew to help.

"The rescue embodied our legacy of caring; we kept the peacock safe and returned it to its owner," said Jerry Roppe, Iberdrola Renewables' Wildlife Permitting Operations Compliance Manager.

As the first in the industry to institute an avian and bat protection policy, Iberdrola Renewables protects birds and wildlife in and around wind farms every day. This story is a prime example of how our teams go the extra mile to care for wildlife and the environment.

Learn more about our wildlife protection promise at the Blue Creek Wind Farm by visiting [www.IberdrolaRen.com](http://www.IberdrolaRen.com).



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