

**December 28, 2005**

**Cranberry Creek donates canoe**

The Student Law Enforcement Association (SLEA) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) is now the proud owner of a Cranberry Creek Canoe. Located in Chippewa Falls, Cranberry Creek Canoe donated the canoe this fall.

“Our members have already utilized this wonderful gift,” said SLEA President David Oginski of Phillips. According to Oginski, SLEA and its members had a fall paddle and for many of its members this was their first canoe experience.

SLEA was founded in 1998 and now has 80 student members. Their main focus is to provide educational opportunities and practical law enforcement experiences to students wanting to pursue a career in law enforcement. “From boater safety to hunter education, our programs throughout the year give our students opportunities to interact with law and conservation enforcement personnel,” said Oginski. Many of SLEA’s members will seek careers in law enforcement including postings as conservation wardens, police, state patrol and private sector security.

“As an outdoorsman and conservationist, I feel that our donation to SLEA for soon-to-be conservation wardens is a worthwhile cause,” said Mike Reese of Cranberry Creek Canoes.

Oginski was looking to purchase a canoe and approached Reese at Cranberry Creek Canoes. The 12 foot 9 inch “paddler” canoe has already been put to good use with additional spring events already being planned. According to Oginski, the next Wisconsin Conservation Warden class begins January 3. The last warden graduating class in Wisconsin had five of ten graduates as SLEA members.

SLEA officers other than Oginski include Justin Bender of Earlville, Ill., vice president, Amanda Schramm of Deerbrook, secretary, Nick Webster of Stevens Point, treasurer, and Matt Dufek of Luxemburg, Web weaver. Their terms expire January 2006.