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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Original Wisconsin Ducks Return to Restored Lake Delton
Splash Down into 63rd Season**

WISCONSIN DELLS, Wis. (May 1, 2009) – The popular Original Wisconsin Ducks are once again splashing down into Lake Delton this summer to give passengers an up-close view of the restored waterway. Severe storms last June brought a deluge of rain to the area, swelling the lake and resulting in a shoreline breach that drained all of its water in just a few hours. This meant the Ducks could no longer include a Lake Delton water entry in the hour-long amphibious tour.

Following the June 9, 2008 event, work began almost immediately to repair the breach and get Lake Delton on its way to recovery.

“Lake Delton is as beautiful as ever thanks to the amazing cooperation between local and state leaders to bring the lake back in less than a year’s time,” said Dan Gavinski, general manager of Original Wisconsin Ducks. “It’s a testament to the community spirit that exists here in Wisconsin Dells.”

Original Wisconsin Ducks is a classic Wisconsin Dells attraction that has entertained generations of family vacationers. Part scenic tour, part adventurous amusement ride, the Ducks take passengers on land-and-water tours of the area. The 8½-mile route begins on land, splashes down into the scenic Wisconsin River, climbs back out of the water and then makes a second splashdown into the pristine Lake Delton.

Last summer’s breach cut across the main path a Duck tour takes to make its Lake Delton loop, causing the operation to regroup and reroute tours. Summer of 2009 unveils a rebuilt dam with increased capacity and new spillways, a refilled lake and repaired Duck trails that were also damaged.

“Once again Original Wisconsin Ducks’ passengers will get a front-row seat to the action,” Gavinski said. “Our tour takes visitors downstream to see the repaired breach and newly constructed berm from the river side. Then it’s back up on shore to take a look at the beefed up dam before making a splashdown into fresh new waters of Lake Delton and look at the new levee and rebuilt County Highway A from the lakeside.”

Original Wisconsin Ducks is including facts and information about the breach and repair work into its normal tour script so that passengers can gain a greater understanding of just how the event impacted the area. Many of the Ducks’ drivers witnessed last summer’s breach and can offer first-hand accounts about the effort to save the lake and how the drain out happened.

The novel capabilities of the Ducks are what have drawn visitors to one of the state’s most popular attractions for more than six decades. The distinctive Lower Dells region provides a stunning 600-acre picturesque backdrop for the Ducks to perform their land-to-water maneuvers. The exclusive wooded Duck Trails have historical significance; derived from old lumber roads, an ancient stagecoach run and the primitive streets of the city of Newport, which was once located here. This exceptional stretch of the river running through Wisconsin Dells is one of the most spectacular geological sites in the country; the beautiful rock formations carved out by glaciers and shaped by wind and rain over time.

During the one-hour adventure, the Duck lumbers through the flourishing, shady woods and climbs to the tops of the area’s famous bluffs, offering passengers breathtaking views. Along the way visitors will see the historic Dawn Manor on the shores of Lake Delton, once home to the prominent Raab family, whose legacy was to preserve the land for all to see and enjoy. That desire to share the scenery with others is also what prompted the start of the Original Wisconsin Ducks tours in 1946. Due to the varied terrain, a Duck seemed the perfect way to show off the landscape without disturbing it.

That’s a big part of why Gavinski and others are working hard to maintain the legacy of these distinctive amphibious vehicles. Their hardy nature is what won Ducks praise during World War II. From 1942 to 1945 General Motors built 21,200 Ducks to carry troops and supplies. They proved invaluable, going from the battleship, to the beach and beyond without missing a beat.

Today, Original Wisconsin Ducks maintains the nation’s largest fleet of these exceptional vehicles. The operation thrives so that generations of visitors can keep coming back for a nostalgic tour on a historically significant amphibious Duck.

With more than 90 vehicles, Original Wisconsin Ducks is the largest “flock” of amphibious tour Ducks in the United States. There are about a dozen Duck tours nationwide with only about 300 operational Ducks combined. Original Wisconsin Ducks’ 2009 season runs mid-March through early November, weather permitting. For more information about Original Wisconsin Ducks, please call (608) 254-8751 or visit www.wisconsinducktours.com.

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