



WISCONSIN'S  
**greenfire**  
VOICES FOR CONSERVATION

Autumn 2018

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 4

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## *Fighting the Climate "Monster"*

### Innovation Can be Cause for Optimism

By Mike Meyer and Nancy Turyk

The science is settled—human activity is warming the planet through increased greenhouse gas emissions. Extreme weather events, such as we have seen in Wisconsin, are increasing in frequency and intensity. A recent Wisconsin Public Radio broadcast discusses the impact of climate change on North Central Wisconsin (<https://www.wpr.org/listen/1325166>). To access dozens of peer-reviewed scholarly treatments, just google "extreme weather climate change."

Despite the facts and occurrences of extreme weather, the public remains politically polarized over the need for action—and the current Wisconsin and federal administrations are back-peddling on energy policy needed to address the issue. Perhaps the disconnect between science and lack of public support is because we have been communicating the science with the wrong approach.

In a convincing article in *Forbes*, Solitaire Townsend summarizes the typical climate change morality tale as "man makes monster, then monster destroys man," that is, "with our avarice and vanity, we have created the horror that will...defeat us."

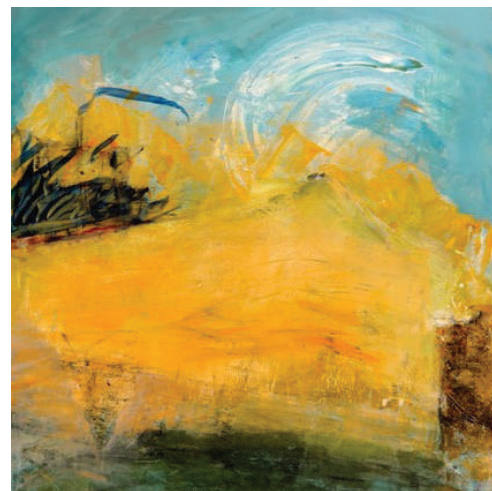
Townsend powerfully argues that the climate message, especially to younger folks, should change from one of unhappy ending to a message that promotes optimism and includes examples and illustrations of heroic efforts and successes to tackle this problem.

Townsend continues her article:

*The story starts when we find the courage to believe in something worth fighting for: holding onto hope even in the face of unimaginable odds...Then we harness the power of friendship and alliances. We love a plot twist where enemies become allies. And for climate change, we're going to need unexpected allies indeed. And the magic elixir of the heroic story has always been guile. Tricking the monster, inventing a solution, spotting a fatal flaw and exploiting it...Heroes invent and misdirect their way around unsurmountable odds. This is the most crucial part of our new climate story—and we've already found that magical way to trick ourselves out of the jaws of doom. Electric cars, solar panels, and wind turbines are just the start of the innovation explosion coming from carbon constraint. Renewable energy is the ultimate cheat of the climate monster's plans...*

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/solitairetownsend/2018/09/14/why-climate-storytelling-must-change/#455d3c827c72>

*continued on page 3*



Art credit: Jane Herrick, large detail *Fusion*

# President's Message

Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell



## WGF's Valued Volunteers

By Terry Daulton

At this year's annual meeting, to highlight WGF's accomplishments since our first meeting in 2017, I prepared 47 PowerPoint slides to show in 15 minutes. I took a deep breath, hoping I could share the stories of volunteer actions that resulted in plans, committees, work groups, databases, and fundraising. Reflecting today, one thread wove through all the slides and stories—a sense of wonder about WGF people.

Consider just a few of our major accomplishments. During the year, as WGF, we engaged in organizational planning, but it was board member ideas and commitment that made it roll out in an interesting way. It was Jerry Bartelt's thoughtful approach to science in advocacy and work group member insights that turned an abstract idea into the reality of WGF comments about bills in the legislature. Yes, we produced some great communications—and my favorites are member profiles that share their quirky stories of conservation commitment. What stands out is the human effort required to organize. To make a wildlife analogy, success as WGF requires that we act like a hive of bees or a colony of prairie dogs—that we continually communicate and coordinate.

From the 400 WGF members, perhaps 100 are engaged in work groups and on the board, and ~30 people take on the lion's share. Many of you have given small or tremendous amounts of time this past year—time you might have spent paddling a river or engaging in your favorite creative pastime. Thank you for all your contributions of time, expertise, and resources.

I would like to set three challenges: to our WGF leadership—*empower and engage our volunteers*, to our volunteers—*continue to remind us of your skills and interests*, and to all our members—*step forward to pester us and make sure that we take the time to involve you as volunteers! Know that you are welcome!* The cause of conservation and rewards of friendships await. Winston Churchill once said “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

At the meeting, I managed to reel through all 47 slides, but the first one is the one I end with here. A slide with images that showed Wisconsin's land, water, and wild life—to accompany a quote from Curt Meine: “We begin [to reclaim Wisconsin's conservation leadership] by defining boldly a conservation vision that can again connect our knowledge and our spirit, our love for land, and our respect for one another.”



Art credit: Royanne Goossen, detail *Maple*

## Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation

### Mission

Wisconsin's Green Fire supports the conservation legacy of Wisconsin by promoting science-based management of Wisconsin's natural resources.

### Vision

Wisconsin's citizens understand and support scientific and thoughtful long-term management of natural resources, and value the many benefits of clean water, clean air, and healthy ecosystems.

### Values

- We honor our strong and robust conservation heritage in Wisconsin.
- We believe that public policy, laws, and natural resource management should be informed by objective scientific understanding.
- We believe that robust and independent scientific research, knowledge, and education are necessary foundations for a fair and prosperous society.
- We are dedicated to the principle that all people and groups in our society have the right to clean water, clean air, healthy natural ecosystems, outdoor recreation, and land managed sustainably to produce economic benefit to everyone. We are dedicated to the principle that a sound environment and economy go hand in hand. We are dedicated to environmental justice.
- We support transparent governmental decision-making and fair and just treatment of all sides of issues.
- Our actions challenge policy makers to think beyond the short term and to act on behalf of future generations.

## Wisconsin's Green Fire: Voices for Conservation

### Board

Terry Daulton, President  
Jim Perry, Vice President  
Ron Eckstein, Secretary  
Fred Clark, Treasurer  
Thomas Hauge  
Paul La Liberte  
Bob Martini  
Michael Meyer  
David Mladenoff\*  
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\*incoming member newly elected

### Staff (part-time, contract)

Nancy Larson

### Newsletter Editor

Lucy Tyrrell

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Wisconsin's Green Fire  
P.O. Box 1206  
Rhineland, WI 54501

## Financial Campaign 2019-2021

Coming soon! Information for all members and supporters on how we'll build financial stability for increased effectiveness of Wisconsin's Green Fire.

## Your Input Needed

- Stories and photos of research and resource successes for "Profiles in Conservation" (see page 9)
- Photos of natural resources and conservation action in Wisconsin
- Letters to the Editor

Please send to [info@wigreenfire.org](mailto:info@wigreenfire.org)

## Words of Encouragement

"I am writing to say thank you for organizing and providing truthful information to the public on climate change and our natural resources. I'm not a scientist. But, I have six grandchildren who, along with their future offspring, will be here long after I am gone. I worry about what they will face because of this deadly game some politicians are playing with our planet. Your work is so important.

I wish I could afford to donate to your work. I am on a very low fixed income. I have shared information about your group and work with our local Indivisible group (Adams County Wisconsin Indivisible). We, too, are non-partisan...I posted your information on our Facebook page in the hopes of getting factual information out to people organizing to effect change and of connecting potential donors to your cause.

Again, thank you for your passion and the important work you are doing for every living thing on our planet!"

—Email sent to WGF from Vickie Hodge



Art credit: Royanne Goossen, detail *Sumac*

*"Fighting the Climate 'Monster'" (continued from page 1)*

To move the dial on climate policy, we need optimistic success stories and heroes to push our civic and business leaders (and eventually politicians) towards better energy policy. One example published in *Science* describes the idea of researchers Yan Li, Eugenia Kalnay, and colleagues, who modeled the impacts of installing a massive field of solar and wind power in the Sahara and Sahel regions of Africa—solar panels darkening the ground surface and wind turbines increasing air movement. The model showed increased rainfall in areas where the desert is currently expanding, production of about 82 terawatts of energy, and increased rainfall by ~150 percent. While the study also identified challenges such as engineering, costs, government cooperation, and cultural issues, it is a creative approach with potentially heroic outcomes! <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/361/6406/1019>

So, what can WGF and its members do to be heroes? We are all consumers of fossil fuel products. As individuals we can tell the CEOs  
*continued on page 9*



# North Woods Annual Meeting:

## Effective Communications Beyond the Echo Chamber

By Jim Perry

Attended by over 100 members, the Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) 2018 Annual Meeting (September 7-9) caused much philosophical pondering and also provided some concrete ideas on how to make connections.

We were out to learn “The Art of Effective Science Communications-Reaching Outside the Echo Chamber.” Echo chamber...it's not uncommon that we associate with like-minded individuals, and as such we often have a difficult time imagining why Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Science Services has been gutted, ground water is under assault, air quality standards are being diminished, Chronic Wasting Disease is not approached as a crisis requiring real action, or some legislators want to take enforcement actions out of the hands of our wardens.

Thus, we need to expand our thoughts beyond the comfort zone of those like us. Across economic and political boundaries. And especially outside the “white European male DNR” culture that many of us fit into.

We were primed for Saturday's meeting the evening before, inspired by Big Top Chautauqua's Blue Canvas Orchestra performance of Wild Woods and Waters. This collection of natural resources-inspired original compositions by Chautauqua's co-founder Warren Nelson really speaks to me, and it did to others as well. In his years as a DNR attorney, WGF's Michael Cain has argued many cases about our rights to water resources. He noted that Tom Mitchell's illustrated theatrical skit of fly-fishing with his father on the Willow River brought tears to his eyes. It depicted the epic legal battle of Frank Wade, who took on the private interests of a group of wealthy individuals wanting to claim the fishing, and the waters, as their own. The 19th Century Wisconsin Supreme Court decision laid a vital foundation stone in our cherished Public Trust Doctrine, which defines the waters of Wisconsin as a shared public resource.

One man had the resolve to action. His action affirmed my legal right to wade any navigable stream without fear of being arrested for trespassing. We all need that resolve to make such a difference.

Northwestern University's Patty Loew, known by most of us for her stellar work on Wisconsin Public Television, helped me start thinking of how we can bridge the cultural divide between the Indigenous Nations within the boundaries of



Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell

Keynote: Patty Loew

our state. It's humbling and disconcerting to realize my own cultural bias even when I don't want it to exist. And it also opened my eyes to the enormous talents that Native American youth bring to the table.

A panel of four additional diverse presenters built on Patty's foundational keynote, their messages ranging from intensely academic to the art of story-telling.



Photo credit: Jim Perry

Consider how we, as scientists, are logical thinkers, often with long term interests in mind, while legislators think in 2-, 4- or 6-year frames, depending on their term of office. Or, even how what's important to the preponderance of everyday citizens is how an issue affects their family, this week. We need to be thinking of that as we reach outside the echo chamber.

We will need to educate the media, get out of the confines of print and into the 21st Century with podcasts and more Facebook and Twitter posts.

I came away both humbled and inspired. I'm humbled because as I listened I realized how narrow my knowledge base is, but I am inspired to become one of many voices that continues to speak for the living organisms that cannot speak for themselves. And I hope you will join me.

And who thinks beyond today? The original Americans, who not only make decisions with the next seven generations that follow them, but who consider the rocks and the trees, the waters and the air, the animals around them to be sentient, and ancestral. We can learn from those closest to Mother Earth.

How would we act differently if we knew that Nature loved us?





Field Trip to Frog Bay Tribal National Park



Big Top Chautauqua: tentside food and friendship

Photo credit: Jim Perry

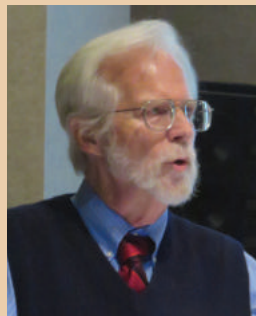
# 2018 Annual Meeting Photo Collage



Blue Canvas Orchestra performs "Autumn Fancy" in Wild Woods and Waters

Photo credit: Jim Perry

Morning panelists share key communications messages:



**Robert Griffin**  
*Professor Emeritus,  
Marquette University*

What will get people to think about science? Lasting change toward risks only occurs when individuals are motivated to listen and think, perceived risk is high, and information sources are trusted.



**Susan Hedman**  
*Counsel for Clean Wisc*

People like listening to stories. Use narrative to show how resource and health issues impact your audience. Describe solutions. Leave people with a sense that a happy ending is within reach, if they take action.



**Paul DeMain**  
*Editor, News from Indian Country*

He who has the best maps wins. Speak for those who cannot speak, like birds, thunderbirds...Don't lose the spiritual in the science.



**Dean Bortz**  
*Editor, Wis Outdoor News*

Be the source to connect new "press" with experts. Consider podcasts, Larry Mieller show on WPR, charter schools...to share your communications. Repeat your message.



Big Top musician plays the "Minnow-et" with fish face



Fun at Big Top

Except where noted otherwise, photos this page credit: Lucy Tyrrell

Group photo of annual meeting attendees outside Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center



Photo credit: Falon French



# Updates from Committees

## Communications

By Bruce Neeb

Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell



The WGF Annual Meeting was a great opportunity for many of us gain new insights regarding communications, including sense of place, sense of risk, and how we can involve youth in communicating with audiences we hope to reach. We gathered ideas like asking members to talk with friends and family about WGF's work to get their perspectives and see how they actually feel, and developing podcasts to share member stories about doing the science of natural resource management.

Communications Committee members are maintaining and developing new content for the web site and Facebook page, putting together our newsletter, tracking and responding to inquiries, and coordinating internal communications. We've done some work on a streamlined PowerPoint with presenters' notes. We assisted with a plan for commenting publicly on the late summer flooding within the context of climate change. We invite members to write letters to their local editors suggesting voters look for candidates who will consider the importance of science in the development of natural resources policy.

We helped edit comments on proposed rule changes and offered some assistance as two work groups began creating their large-picture communications plans. We ordered several hundred business cards with WGF logo and website address with space on the back for members to include personal contact information.

## Development

By Fred Clark

Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell



Thanks to work of our Development Committee, Green Fire is launching a three-year (2019-2021) development campaign to secure funding for an expanded level of operations. One use of these funds is bringing on additional support staff in 2019. Another important goal of the campaign is the creation of a Green Fire Action Fund to help us respond quickly to emerging issues. In pre-campaign conversations with potential donors, we've already received generous pledges

toward our goals. Later this fall, we'll provide additional information to kick off our three-year campaign—please stay tuned. Thanks to everyone who has contributed time, money, and talent to support Green Fire so far.

## Membership

By Jim Perry

Photo courtesy: Jim Perry



We were able to test our new membership software at the Annual Meeting, allowing those members who wished to renew for 2019 to make credit card payments. The general renewal call will go out later this fall, allowing both electronic and paper-copy renewals. We are hoping to gain much needed member background information from the many who joined with the abbreviated form during the end-of-year fund drive in late 2017. Membership as of October 1, 2018 is 404.

# Updates from Work Groups

## Air Quality

By Jon Heinrich

Photo courtesy: Jon Heinrich



Our work group has actively followed several developments on our priority issues:

*Air Quality Monitoring.* USEPA denied WDNR's request to remove an ozone monitor at Kohler Andrea State Park. Wisconsin legislative

action required WDNR to make the request even though this monitor has shown ozone levels above air quality standards (NAAQS). Removal of this monitor would eliminate information the public should have if ozone levels become unhealthy.

*Foxconn.* No permit has been issued yet for a glass manufacturing plant that Foxconn wants to place nearby. Glass plants burn a lot of fuel resulting in fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). High levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the air are a concern for people's health. As currently permitted (up to April 2018) without a glass plant, Foxconn will use 95 percent of the PSD increment for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration) increment is the amount of air quality in an area that can be "used" by new sources such as the Foxconn facility. It will probably be difficult,

*Work Group Updates continued on page 7*

*Work Group Updates (continued from page 6)*

if not impossible, to construct a glass plant near Foxconn without violating the PSD increment. Because of this, Foxconn may choose to alter operations at the Mount Pleasant plant or contract for glass manufactured elsewhere.

*Support for the Climate Change Work Group.* To meet our commitment to the Climate Change Work Group, we have initiated a report on the status and evaluation of the 2008 list of Wisconsin-specific actions (no cost, low cost, and high cost) designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Climate Change

*By Mike Meyer*

Photo courtesy: Mike Meyer



In the upcoming year, our work group will meet with the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) and other researchers to ensure we have the most current and projected information about climate change in Wisconsin and impacts on natural resources. This information will be shared with members in papers and possibly a summit. The CC Work Group will also share with members and the public positive examples of innovations and successes leading to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and will promote those which have potential for Wisconsin.

## Conservation Funding

If you are interested in leading this work group, please contact the WGF Board or Terry Daulton via [info@wgreenfire.org](mailto:info@wgreenfire.org).

## Environmental Education

*By Dolly Ledin*

Photo courtesy: Dolly Ledin



To determine WGF's role in education, we conducted a survey of a sample of WGF members. From the 90 responses, we learned we have good support for our goals. Sixty-nine percent of the respondents are willing to share a presentation (58% on a topic of his/her expertise, 29% a general talk on WGF). Forty-one percent want to be a mentor to a young conservationist, and 64% percent will provide consultations. When asked what roles WGF should play, more than two-thirds of members indicated that WGF should be engaged in presentations and consulting (92%), and in mentoring (68%). We received a wide variety of suggestions for our work group.

WGF members want to have a prepared presentation to use when giving talks about WGF. They also seek guidance on policies related to giving presentations and training on how to engage audiences. Members want to learn more about the process of influencing public policy.

In response to the survey results, we plan to collaborate in 2018-2019 with the Communications Committee to develop: a list of experts, a general presentation on WGF, guidelines for WGF presentations, evaluation tools for the impact of presentations, a system to track our education work, and a way to record impacts and feedback received. Like all other workgroups, ours will monitor and respond to policy changes in our area of expertise, i.e., K-12 Environmental and Science Education.

## Environmental Rules and Water Resources

*By Paul La Liberte*

Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell



With help from Jim Baumann, we prepared comments on behalf of WGF on two Wisconsin DNR draft documents:

- Triennial Surface Water Quality Standards Review
- Wisconsin River Total Maximum Daily Load Analysis

Read our comments posted at [www.wgreenfire.org](http://www.wgreenfire.org).

Because we focused on writing these comments, we had limited progress on our proactive efforts in the issue areas of metallic mining, high capacity wells, and CAFO/nonpoint source impacts.

## Fisheries

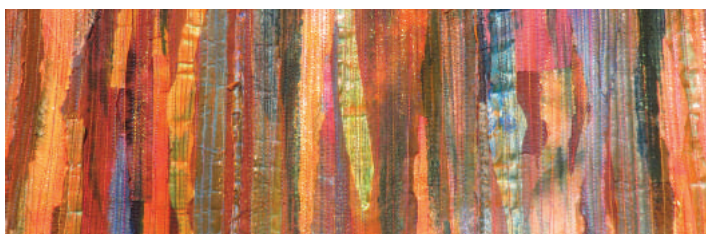
*By John Lyons*

Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell



Our work group has been working with anglers to review and comment on the WDNR's Draft 10-Year Inland Trout Management Plan. The review process for this long, complex, and important document will extend well into 2019.

*Work Group Updates continued on page 8*



Art credit: Dagmar Plenck, Detail *Strata* #42

## Forestry

By Ron Eckstein



I sent comments to the Wisconsin DNR after analysis and/or review of these documents:

- ATV/UTV trail proposals (with several alternatives) on the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest. *Recommendation: Select the route that does not conflict with nesting ospreys and sensitive areas.*
- Proposal to open 35 miles of logging roads on the Northern Highland – American Legion State Forest to motorized access during the fall hunting seasons. *Comment: These roads that WDNR selected to open did not impact wildlife habitat or forest biodiversity.*
- Chapters (1, 2, 3) of the federal Bat Conservation Plan being developed by Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. *Recommendation: Include management for mature forest and old growth.*
- Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape Master Plan. *Comment: The plan adequately addressed wildlife habitat and forest biodiversity.*
- Fall timber sale proposals for northern State Forests. *Recommendations: I made general recommendations for conserving forest habitat and forest biodiversity.*

I attended DNR's Silviculture Guidance Team meetings at Merrill, Medford, Stevens Point, and Rhinelander. This work includes revising portions of the aspen, red pine, and northern hardwood chapters of the Silviculture Handbook.

I attended a two-day Society of American Foresters meeting in Wausau. The theme was ecological forest management and restoration.

## Public Lands

If you are interested in leading this work group, please contact the WGF Board or Terry Daulton via [info@wlgreenfire.org](mailto:info@wlgreenfire.org).

## Public Trust and Wetlands

By Michael Cain and Ron Grasshoff



The Public Trust and Wetlands Work Group will be meeting in October to continue our work on our three priorities: legislative

involvement, education and outreach, and building our capacity to impact issues related to Wisconsin's waters and wetlands.

In view of the significant flooding that has occurred throughout Wisconsin this summer and fall, we have identified as a priority an effort to develop information to assist people in understanding how the loss of wetlands may be impacting the extent of, and the impacts of, flooding in Wisconsin and beyond. This work will be part of a larger effort by WGF to address, and attempt to document, identifiable impacts due to these weather anomalies so that decision makers can utilize this information as they assess future actions. We would appreciate input from Green Fire members who have information or ideas.

A second priority will be the development of educational materials, including a "white paper" on Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine, to assist in our education and outreach efforts. We would welcome ideas and participation from Green Fire members who wish to be involved in this effort.

Finally, are working to finalize our foundational document this fall to help guide our activities in the future. We will keep our core values in mind when developing our position on emerging issues related to wetlands and water resources, including, but not limited to, legislative initiatives. If you have an interest in these issues, please contact us via [info@wlgreenfire.org](mailto:info@wlgreenfire.org) and we will help you get involved!

## Wildlife

By Tom Hauge



Our Wildlife Work Group members submitted oral testimony at the Rhinelander public hearing and written testimony to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) about the proposed emergency early closures of the grouse hunting seasons. Instead of such a closure in 2018, we recommend

that the NRB postpone regulatory actions until the new Ruffed Grouse Conservation Plan is approved in January 2020. This would allow department staff, stakeholders, and the public to thoroughly review ruffed grouse population data, as well as data collected during the first year of surveillance for West Nile Virus in grouse. Wisconsin grouse range is comprised of diverse habitat types with differing population dynamics so fewer grouse documented in one area does not mean that all populations are in decline. The dialogue during the development of the new conservation plan is the best place to take into account all

*Work Group Updates continued on page 10*



*"Fighting the Climate 'Monster'" (continued from page 3)*

and boards of energy companies we are no longer satisfied with their product and are shopping for alternatives. (Look at the change effected when customers wanted streaming and cable companies switched to internet streaming.)

As Wisconsin citizens, we can lend support to industry efforts to transition to alternative and natural gas energy sources. For example, Alliant Energy, a public utility based in Madison, embraces advancing clean energy. Its 2018 Corporate Sustainability Report includes a section on Energy and Climate. Their core value is to "Act for Tomorrow." Pie charts showcase the transition of energy resources over 20 years (2005-2024). Between 2005 and 2024, coal drops from 43 to 23 percent while renewables increase from 5 to 33 percent. Coal, which is 33 percent of Alliant Energy's power supply now (data from 2017), will be eliminated by 2050, and carbon emissions will be reduced by 80 percent.

<https://sustainability.alliantenergy.com/energy-climate/>

As an organization, WGF could help re-assert a market-driven revolution for clean energy products and sources in our state. There is bi-partisan support for increased research into alternative energy.

<http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/partisan-maps-2016/?est=happening&group=dem&type=value&geo=cd>

We can encourage Wisconsin citizens to support practices and policy that promote a sustainable future— learning from the efforts of the 16 states, Puerto Rico, hundreds of cities, and nearly 2,000 businesses, that have committed to press ahead with climate action.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/15/climate/california-climate-summit.html?action=click&module=In%20Other%20>

We will also promote individual actions which can be taken to reduce carbon emissions as demonstrated in this short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q48BvprCFr0>

Art credit: Jane Herrick, *Fusion*



WGF's Climate Change Work Group has set an initial goal of bringing together Wisconsin's climate scientists and experts to identify the best niche for WGF, and to form effective partnerships with groups like the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI).

With a coalition of allies, we might be able to effect a change in course *for* clean energy here in Wisconsin. Such partnerships and change would be a proactive and empowering story, full of personality and perhaps even unlikely heroes as allies.

## Profiles in Conservation

### Tracking Wolves in Wisconsin

By Adrian P. Wydeven, WDNR for 33 years

During the time I headed up wolf recovery and management in Wisconsin from 1990 to 2013, I was able to see the wolf population grow from 34 wolves to 815 wolves (late winter counts)—fully recovered by both state and federal recovery and management plans.



Photo credit: Gus Smith

I probably did more than 10,000 miles of track surveys for wolves, and was involved in trapping and collaring more than 75 wolves. I initiated a volunteer wolf/carnivore tracking program in 1995, that likely has grown to be the most extensive citizen science program anywhere in the country for surveying state populations of wolves or other large carnivores.

Despite many miles of wolf track survey every winter since 1990-1991, it was not until 2013 that I actually saw wolves during a survey. While snow-tracking on skis on Apostle Island National Lakeshore and Red Cliff Reservation, I detected four wolves sitting on the ice of Lake Superior north of the Bayfield Peninsula. The wolves were apparently watching people visiting the ice caves near Cornucopia.

I also worked with cougars, lynx, American marten, moose, bats, and small mammals in Wisconsin. I spent my last year and half with the WDNR as a forest wildlife ecologist promoting forest practices that protected and enhanced wildlife habitat in forest ecosystems.

## Field Trip Success

By Ron Eckstein and Tom Jerow

Each year the Minocqua Chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association and Kemp Natural Resources Station sponsor a summer conservation field trip. Assisted by UW research biologist Susan Knight, we, as members of WGF, organized the September 2018 field trip to feature wetlands at Kemp Station on Lake Tomahawk. After our PowerPoint presentation on wetland values and the role of wetlands in regional ecology, we hiked with the 41 participants to three wetlands where we explored wetland soils, plants, wildlife, and hydrology.



Photo courtesy: Ron Eckstein



P.O. Box 1206, Rhinelander, WI 54501

Not a member?  
Please join  
Wisconsin's Green Fire

Download membership form:

<https://wigreenfire.org/make-a-difference/>

Additional donations welcome.

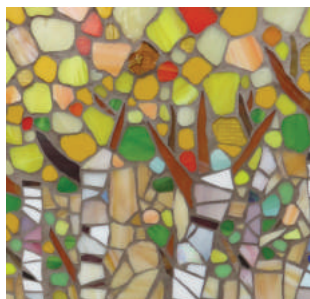
Make check payable to: *Wisconsin's Green Fire*

Send check to: WGF Treasurer  
P.O. Box 1206  
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501

Thank you for supporting  
the conservation legacy of  
Wisconsin.



Art credit: Jeff Nelson, Hudson River Inlay



Art Credit: City of Ashland Planning

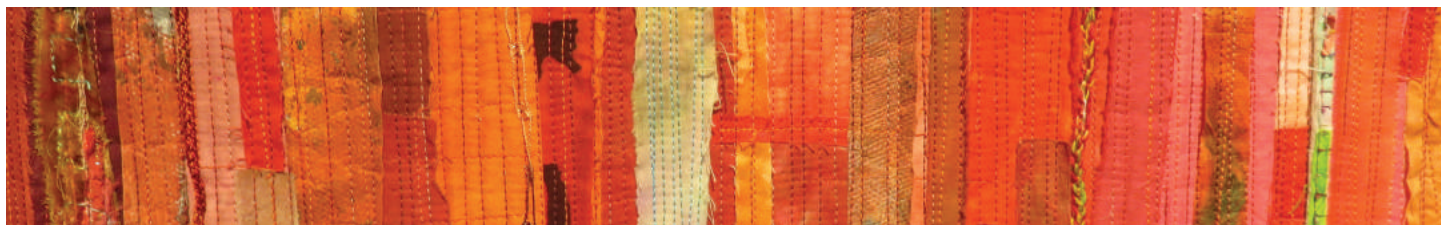


Photo credit: Lucy Tyrrell

#### *Work Group Updates (continued from page 8)*

the factors impacting Wisconsin's ruffed grouse populations.

We continue to be active on the chronic wasting disease (CWD) issue. Wisconsin now has 55 of 72 counties classified as CWD-affected. To reverse the ongoing spread of this disease, active management is required within our free-ranging, wild deer populations. Conversations with WDNR staff kept our work group abreast of their 2018 plans for surveillance, carcass transport, and captive cervid regulation changes. As we strongly support efforts to increase removal of CWD+ deer and thus slow the spread and increasing prevalence trends of the disease, we are weighing the pros and cons of the incentive program, CWD Payment for Positives proposed by retired WDNR wildlife biologist Mike Foy. <https://www.facebook.com/CWD.Payment4Positives>



Art credit: Dagmar Plenck, Detail Strata #12