

2020 Incoming WGF Board Member, Bryan Pierce



Experience: Bryan Pierce comes 18 years working with all aspects of non-profit management as the founder, first president and first executive director of the Northwoods Land Trust. Prior to that he was a tenured faculty serving as the Vilas County UW-Extension Resource Agent (for 9 years plus 2 years in Oneida County). He worked on many lake issues including shoreland zoning, served as coordinator for the county's recycling grants and hazardous waste collections, worked on county and town comprehensive land use planning and outdoor recreation planning, was the department head for the county advertising department, and also worked on economic and community development issues. Prior to UW-Extension, Bryan worked in environmental education at Trees For Tomorrow Natural Resource Education Center, Starrs Cave Nature Center in Burlington, IA, the Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Upham Woods Education Center and Central Wisconsin Environmental Station.

Education: Bryan has a B.S. in zoology from UW-Madison and a M.S. in Natural Resource Management/Environmental Education Emphasis from UW-Stevens Point

Personal: Bryan and his wife, Gail Gilson-Pierce, have lived in the Eagle River area for over 30 years. Their home is adjacent to the Blackjack Springs Wilderness Area where they walk or snowshoe daily with their Brittany Cricket. Gail is a full-time artist with her paintings and fabric art represented in galleries in Door County. She worked for Trees For Tomorrow for 17 years as a naturalist educator, assistant director and executive director, and was a partner in the Woolly Lady hand dyed wool fabric business. Bryan spends a lot of time exploring wild lakes, scenic rivers, trout streams and other wild places canoeing, kayaking, hiking, horseback riding, camping, hunting and fishing. His goal is to make sure there will always be such places in the future.

2020 Incoming WGF Board Member, Jodi Habush Sinykin



Experience: Jodi Habush Sinykin is an environmental attorney, specializing in water and wildlife matters, retained as a water policy expert by Midwest Environmental Advocates since 2003, appointed to numerous state advisory committees, including the Groundwater Advisory Committee established under 2003 Wisconsin Act 310 and the Legislative Council’s Special Committee on the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact. She collaborates with state and regional partners to watchdog the Great Lakes Compact’s implementation, testified on many occasions before legislative committees, is a frequent speaker on environmental matters, and author of policy reports and published law journals.

She has also worked as policy advisor and lobbyist with state humane societies and legislators to enact Wisconsin’s “Puppy Mill Bill” to regulate sub-standard breeding facilities. With coalition of scientific experts and plaintiffs, filed suit in opposition to Wisconsin’s 2012 wolf hunt relating to inadequately regulated use of free roaming dogs to hunt wolves; ongoing collaborations with wildlife biologists, advocates, state park activists, and conservationists to advance science-based wildlife policies in keeping with Public Trust principles. Beginning in 2014, she began work with UWM’s School of Freshwater Sciences, teaching graduate level water law and environmental justice classes and serving as a Center for Water Policy Water Fellow.

Education: University of Michigan, B.A. 1989; Harvard Law School, JD 1992,

Personal: An avid nature enthusiast, Jodi begins every day with a walk along Lake Michigan or the Milwaukee River in the happy company of her two dogs. Together with her husband Dan and four children, she enjoys family time spent playing Catan, eating delicious food (ala Dan), traveling to beautiful places, or simply hunkering down with a good book. Jodi is active in the Milwaukee community, and is a proud supporter of a number of local and state organizations as an involved board and committee member.

2020 Incoming WGF Board Member, Robin Schmidt



Experience: Robin Schmidt worked for the WI DNR in Madison for more than 30 years, initially as a hydrogeologist in the Remediation and Redevelopment program working on Superfund sites and the spill response program. She worked for the WI Dept of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection for 6 years as their Emergency Response/Homeland Security Liaison and returned to the DNR to manage the Environmental Loan program providing financing to municipalities for water infrastructure projects. She also served on the Dane County Board for 10 years representing the City of Monona/east side of Madison.

Education: Robin received a B.S. in geography and environmental policy from UW-Madison a M.S. in Land Resources from same.

Personal: She and her husband moved to the LaCrosse area upon retirement, with ready access to biking, kayaking, art and tennis. She is currently the Vice President of the League of Women Voters of the La Crosse area and is committed to community engagement and environmental protection.