

October News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

2020 Annual Meeting Wrap-Up



Our 2020 Annual Meeting: **Age, Race, Politics, and Conservation - Addressing the Elephants in the Room** was the highlight of September. We hosted 5 different webinars with over 400 attendees! Thank you to everyone who took the time to join us and participate in these engaging sessions.

If you missed out on one or more of our 4 main sessions, each one has been recorded and is available to watch on our [website](#) or by clicking on the session titles below.

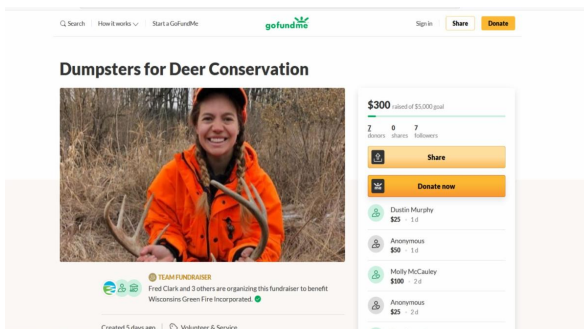
[Conference Welcome: Young Voices, New Members, and New Opportunities](#)

[Understanding Racial Equity and Inclusion in Conservation](#)

[Transformative Opportunities and New Challenges in Conservation](#)

[Keynote: Russ Feingold on Global Conservation, Policy, and Science](#)

Dumpsters for Deer Conservation



Wisconsin's Green Fire is raising funds to support a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Control Fund. This fund will directly support our efforts to slow the spread of CWD throughout the state by implementing the best practices for deer carcass disposal. Our goal is to support four drop-off locations in

2020, each estimated to cost around \$1250 in Dane, Iowa, Richland, or Sauk County's this season. And in turn, make proper carcass disposal easy and convenient for hunters. Please join us in supporting this important effort to protect our wild deer here and Wisconsin's great tradition of wildlife

Wisconsin's Green Fire - Our Changing North



WGF has been working with WFJW-Rhineland on an ongoing segment called *Our Changing North* focusing on the Northwoods and how it is being affected by climate change. So far, two segments have aired. One featuring WGF member Adrian Wydeven on [wolves](#), and the second with WGF member Ron Eckstein

focused on [old-growth forests, carbon sequestration, and wildlife](#). Click on the link and scroll to 13:05.

Also in the news, WGF member Frank Pratt is featured in a short piece aired on WFJW about walleye population decline and climate change in northern lakes. Watch the clip [here](#).

Foundations of Internalized Racism Webinar Workshop November 11 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Join us for the second in our series to better understand racial inequities and ways in which inequities exist in the field of conservation. This November 11 webinar will build upon our September 16 annual meeting program: [Understanding Racial Equity and Inclusion in Conservation / Racial Equity 101](#).

Foundations of Internalized Racism, led by August Ball of Cream City Conservation, will help participants understand why power dynamics exist amongst racial identities. As a follow up to the historical context set in Racial Equity 101, this session will guide participants in assessing the impact of race on individual socialization and examine our role and agency. This workshop will foster collective understanding of the implications of race, assess the ways we unintentionally uphold these dynamics in our policies, practices, organizational culture, partnerships, funding, decision-making, etc. This session will help participants create change, building a learning community grounded in vulnerability and trust that allows the collective to reflect, strategize and change.

Please note: this workshop requires that you have participated in or watched [Racial Equity 101](#), and that you complete pre-reading assignments. Links to these resources will be included in your registration confirmation email.

This learning series is hosted jointly by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Gathering Waters, and Wisconsin's Green Fire.

Public Asked to Help the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Prioritize Work on Water Quality Standards



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is offering the public a chance to rank which issues the WDNR should focus on over the next three years to protect water quality in lakes, streams, and rivers. This process is called the Triennial Standards Review and is required by the Clean Water Act. **You can vote on the issues most important to you.**

The WDNR is asking the public to complete an online form to rank 15 specific topics, indicating which ones should be the WDNR's top 5 priorities. The topic ranking form and a description of each topic are available at:

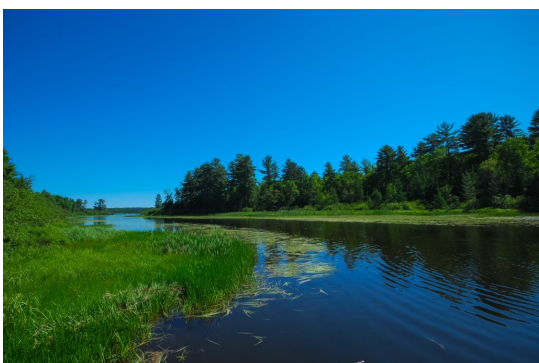
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/SurfaceWater/TSR.html>

What does Wisconsin's Green Fire think about these topics for water quality standards? A couple of the topics stand out to us as important current needs to set standards to protect lakes, streams, and rivers.

- **Nitrate / Nitrogen criteria.** See our [evaluation](#)
- **PFAS compound criteria**
- **Sulfate criteria (important to protect wild rice)**
- **Wild Rice designated use development**

The WDNR will hold a public hearing/webinar to describe the topics, answer questions, and take comments. The ranking form and any additional comments may be submitted until Dec. 4, 2020. The public hearing will be held online at 1 p.m. on Nov. 16. Details are available on [the WDNR's public hearings calendar](#).

Wisconsin's Green Fire Supports the Re-authorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund



The [Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund](#) (KNSF) was created in 1989 to preserve important natural communities, protect water quality and fisheries, expand outdoor recreation opportunities, and increase public land access across Wisconsin. In August, representatives from Wisconsin's Green Fire were able to speak with Governor Evers and Lt. Governor Barns about the

KNSF and [provide a letter](#) to identify additional program needs and offer up

suggestions on framing the case for continued funding of this important conservation program.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Submits 2021-2023 Budget Request



The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has submitted its [2021-2023 budget request](#) to Governor Tony Evers. We have worked closely with WDNR staff and other statewide conservation and environmental groups on several of WGF's priority issues, including Knowles- Nelson Stewardship Fund re-authorization, agricultural clean-up programs, and clean drinking water

protection. Over the coming months, we will continue to refine these ideas and work to include whatever items we can in what will be an austere budget for the next two years.

The next steps and timeline: The DNR will add items after the November election and make its final budget submission in December of 2020. The Governor will introduce the State Budget in January of 2021, and the Legislature will debate it and pass it by July 1, 2021.

Wisconsin's Green Fire needs your support now more than ever. Your donation and/or membership directly supports our operations and keeps our mission alive.

[Support Our Work](#)

Wisconsin's Green Fire 715-203-0384 | info@wgreenfire.org | www.wgreenfire.org

STAY CONNECTED



Wisconsin's Green Fire

Voices for Conservation

