

March News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF Planning Summer 2022 Wisconsin Field Forums



As a WGF member/supporter, we're inviting you to join our 2022 Wisconsin Field Forums!

Each of our summer field forums will feature Wisconsin's Green Fire member experts, together with partners, policy makers, and local stakeholders in the field, sharing ideas, learning from others, and exploring far-reaching solutions to priority conservation issues.

Each tour will include time in the field along with focused discussion on policy and practice. This year you can:

- Visit sites in **Wausau** affected by PFAs contamination.
- Visit farms and the farmers in **Monroe County** leading the development of regenerative agriculture and climate resilience.
- Explore the **Milwaukee Lakefront** to understand the Public Trust with water law experts and local water-leaders.
- Paddle the **Wisconsin River** while we recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.
- Walk the ground and understand the unique environmental risks around the proposed re-route of Enbridge Line 5 in **Ashland County**.
- Howl for wolves and understand wolf management issues at **Forest Lodge in Cable**.

Registration Information Coming Soon



March 8, 2022 was the last day that the State Legislature met this session. They will not return until January of 2023. In the meantime, we will elect a U.S. Senator, Governor, a new State Assembly, and new State Senators on November 8, 2022.

One conservation-related victory this session was [Assembly Bill 727](#), one of the

13 bills introduced in 2021 as a result of this year's statewide Speakers Task Force hearings. The bill creates a commercial nitrogen optimization pilot program, provides crop insurance premium rebates for planting cover crops, and creates a new hydrogeologist position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

[Senate Bill 91](#), recently signed into law, is another victory for conservation. SB 91 was supported by the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and allows the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to issue general permits for wetland, stream, and floodplain hydrologic restorations. Additionally, [Assembly Bill 693](#) moved unused Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund money into water infrastructure work in Wisconsin State Parks.

There were also positive developments in energy policy this session. Policy makers had robust conversations about renewable energy use and introduced bills promoting electric vehicle chargers, solar energy incentives, and distributed energy sources. Watch for more activity next session!

WGF and WI Wildlife Federation Seeking Stories of Extreme Weather in Wisconsin



America's hunters, anglers, and other outdoorspeople have a keen eye; they know the best spot to cast a fly in the rapids, prime habitat for grouse, and the right place to catch a gorgeous sunset or spot a morel mushroom. This keen eye also makes them acutely

aware of changes in the natural landscape around them, from early ice-out on prime ice fishing lakes to the crunch of dry vegetation during a bird hunt.

Through a partnership with [Wisconsin Wildlife Federation](#), we are hoping to hear from Wisconsin-based hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists to document experiences with extreme weather in Wisconsin and its impacts on hunting, fishing, and other outdoor experiences.

Hunters, anglers, hikers, foragers, bird watchers, and all other outdoor recreationists are welcome to share their stories with us! You are welcome to share your story via email, a phone chat, and photos. We also encourage film or photographs of specific locations where you have observed changes, and any historical photos of those location(s).

If you'd like to share your story or know of someone who might, please contact Heather Stricker (hstricker@wigreenfire.org).

[Read More
Here](#)

In Remembrance: WGF Honors the Legacy of Conservation Leaders

Many WGF members and supporters have made lasting impacts on Wisconsin conservation. To honor the contributions and legacies of WGF members, we will begin including a regular segment in our monthly e-newsletter. We begin by honoring the late John Haack, a dedicated and passionate natural resources educator who passed away in late 2021.



John Haack, retired University of Wisconsin Extension natural resources educator, passed away on November 29, 2021.

Some WGF members may remember John during the early part of his career when he worked at the Wisconsin Department of

Natural Resources in Spooner. Many remember John as a highly effective educator who worked in communities to build understanding and consensus around tough conservation issues. His kind, gregarious nature served him well in his Extension career and his influence touched the lives of many throughout northwestern Wisconsin. John's legacy as an educator is a great example of the Wisconsin Idea in action.

Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

[Comment on the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Quadrennial Planning Document:](#) The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin has released its Quadrennial Planning Document for public comment. [The plan](#) outlines goals for statewide energy efficiency and renewable resource programs (Focus on Energy), and covers topics including Decarbonization and Electrification programs, and low income alternatives to clean energy options. Comments are due at 1:30pm on March 31st through the Electronic Records Filing system [here](#).

Volunteer as a Community Stream Monitor with Rock River Coalition: The Rock River Coalition is recruiting volunteers to monitor water quality in streams through the Rock River watershed! As a volunteer, you will learn water quality sampling techniques to test and monitor a stream monthly between April and October - no experience necessary. Visit [RRC's website](#) to learn more.

Attend 2022 Deer Season Planning Meetings: The first round of County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) planning meetings will take place between March 21st-31st, where members will discuss county deer management decisions including population goals and antlerless deer harvest quotas. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting for the county where they hunt, and contribute feedback during the public comment period between April 9th-15th. View the meeting schedule and more information [here](#).

Celebrate Earth Day 2022 on April 21st with the Nelson Institute at UW-Madison: This year, the Nelson Institute will host a hybrid Earth Day event: "Water on the Rise." This is a day-long event featuring in-person and virtual options, and will explore how communities across the state, country, and world are facing and addressing important water-related issues. This event is free, but you must register [here](#).

Wisconsin's Green Fire in the News

The Center for Culture, History, and Environment (CHE) at UW-Madison's March 22nd podcast episode featuring WGF's Adrian Wydeven: [Who's Afraid of Wisconsin's Wolves?](#)

WPR's March 22nd interview with Adrian Wydeven: [What's behind a bill to delist gray wolves from federal protection.](#)

Wisconsin's Green Fire needs your support. Your donation assures that conservation issues are around the state are addressed with the best scientific information available.

**Give Today to Support Conservation
Tomorrow!**

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Wisconsin's Green Fire

Voices for Conservation