

September News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF Hosts Conservation Socials in Madison and Milwaukee



We kicked off our [fall 2022 Conservation Social series](#) this week in Madison and Milwaukee! On Tuesday, September 13th, WGF members and partners gathered on the shores of Lake Monona in Madison to discuss PFAS and other chemicals of emerging concern. Madison District 12 Alder Sayed Abbas (pictured left), Michael Mucha from the [Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District](#), Peter

Burress from [Wisconsin Conservation Voters](#) (below), and Joe Grande from the [City of Madison Water Utility](#) each discussed what is being done to address PFAS in Madison and across Wisconsin.

The discussion then moved to the Goodman Community Center for our Madison Conservation Social. Attendees included WGF members, leaders, students, community leaders, and friends from various partner organizations. We filled the room with folks meeting and connecting with new and old friends, and learning from WGF's legislative liaison about top conservation policy topics in Wisconsin (see photo below).



On Wednesday, September 14th, we spent the evening at City Lights Brewing for our Milwaukee Conservation Social! This social centered around the theme "Building our Conservation Partnerships - Stronger Together," highlighting the strong



relationships WGF holds with our partners in Milwaukee and across the state.

Members of WGF's [Aspiring Conservation Professionals \(ACP\) Work Group](#) also joined us in Milwaukee (some pictured below). The ACP Work Group hopes to continue visiting campuses across Wisconsin in the coming months to encourage students and aspiring conservation professionals to join WGF's growing membership!



These events were the first two in a series of six regional Conservation Socials this September. These socials are free and open to the public, but we recommend registering ahead of time!

Click the links below for more information and to register today:

- [Washburn - South Shore Brewery and Tap House](#) (Wednesday, September 21st, 5:30-7:00 PM)
- [Appleton - North Loop Farm](#) (Thursday, September 22nd, 5:00-7:00 PM)
- [Stevens Point - Sunset Point Winery](#) (Wednesday, September 28th, 5:30-7:00 PM)
- [Manitowish Waters - North Lakeland Discovery Center](#) (Thursday, September 29th, 5:30-7:00 PM)

We hope to see you in September!

[Register Today](#)

Become a Mentor with WGF's Conservation Pathways Program!

This October, WGF will



launch the [Conservation Pathways Scholarship Program](#), a year-long program with a cohort of six students from [Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College](#) and [Nicolet College](#) in Northern Wisconsin. The scholarship program seeks to engage and support young people from all backgrounds and abilities in conservation and environmental careers. Centered on inclusion, the program aims to connect with

students historically excluded or underrepresented in conservation and environmental fields. **WGF's vision is to facilitate a growing community of diverse conservation professionals in Wisconsin, where students can gain a sense of belonging and succeed in these career fields.**

One of the program's key offerings is mentoring support. We intend to pair each student with a junior and a senior mentor to ensure a well-rounded and diverse knowledge base. **Mentors can expect to spend a minimum of 4 hours per month with their student match. Additionally, mentors will need to participate in a 90-minute Mentor Support Session to learn how to best support their mentee and create a rewarding experience for all.**

To learn more about how to become a mentor and what to expect, please contact Sarah Peterson, WGF Science Director, at speterson@wigreenfire.org.

[Learn more about Conservation Pathways Program](#)

WGF and Partners Hold Cross-Cultural Partnership Discussion



On Wednesday, September 21st, WGF, along with the [Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society](#), the [Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council](#), and the [Native American Fish and Wildlife Society \(NAFWS\)](#), will host a roundtable discussion at the NAFWS Great Lakes Regional Conference in Hayward, WI. The discussion will offer space for participants to identify opportunities, challenges, and action steps in fostering cross-cultural partnerships, collaboration, and communication between conservation organizations - including NGOs, federal,

tribal, state, and academic entities.

WGF will also have a table at the conference, and we welcome anyone who is attending the conference to stop by and consider attending the Wednesday session!

Please [click here](#) for more information about the conference, which runs from September 19th-22nd, 2022.

[Learn more about the Conference](#)

Save the Date: WGF 5th Annual Meeting



Our 2022 Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 15th from 4:00 - 6:30 PM** via Zoom. The theme for our meeting will be the celebration of WGF's fifth anniversary,

reflecting on how we have grown since our founding in 2017. We will be sharing updates on WGF's work in the past year, re-visit conservation successes across the state, and look forward to future plans in the coming year.

Keep an eye out for registration and more information coming soon on [our website](#).

[View All Upcoming WGF Events Here](#)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Preston Cole Praises WGF

We were gratified recently when Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Preston Cole reflected on Wisconsin's Green Fire and our work on behalf of conservation across Wisconsin. Thank you, Secretary Cole, for your kind words!

"Wisconsin's Green Fire members include many dedicated natural resource professionals who continue their work as volunteers providing meaningful advice and expertise. Green Fire is one of our valued partners, and your work helps me as Secretary and my staff make better decisions and work more effectively with the programs and issues we are dealing with every day."

-WDNR Secretary Preston Cole

Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

Attend Lac Court Oreilles University Extension Nature Field Trips: LCO Ojibwe University is hosting two nature field trips in September, both open to the public! **The first** is to Hawk Ridge on Saturday, September 17th from 10am - 5:30pm to observe migrating raptors outside of Duluth. **The second** is to the Blue Hills Felsenmeer State Natural Area on Saturday, September 24th from 9am-5pm to observe the felsenmeer, or "sea of rock," and alpine-like plant communities. These trips are free, with lunch provided by LCO Extension. Transportation is provided but limited.

Registration is required for these trips, visit LCO Extension's [website here](#) for more information.

Attend Wisconsin Master Naturalists' Wisconsin Summit for Natural Resources Volunteers: The Wisconsin Master Naturalist program is hosting its annual Summit on October 6-8th in Waukesha, WI with the theme "Nature and People: Nurturing Each Other." The summit is for anyone interested in volunteering in natural resources, and will offer field trips, presentations,

workshops, hikes, and other in-person networking sessions. This event is a great opportunity to meet fellow conservation enthusiasts and learn about other opportunities to become involved in Wisconsin conservation!

Registration closes on Monday, September 19th. Learn more and claim your spot [here!](#)

Attend the Project North Festival in Rhinelander, WI and visit WGF's table:

On September 16th and 17th, Project North will bring art, music, and environmental sustainability to the Northwoods of Wisconsin! This two-day festival has a special focus on preserving and protecting environmental health, and will feature an EcoVillage, tables and booths, panel discussions, and demonstrations from organizations and individuals focused on environmental stewardship in Wisconsin. Stop by WGF's table in the EcoBooth section and say hi to a few of our board members!

Learn more about Project North [here](#).

Wisconsin Conservation News

Wisconsin Examiner's September 5th article featuring WGF's Fred Clark:

[Environmental groups ask Army Corps of Engineers for review of Line 5 reroute](#)

Milwaukee State Journal's September 9th commentary by Fred Clark and WGF

Board member Don Behm: [President Biden's climate bill will accelerate](#)

[Wisconsin's response to a changing world](#)

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

Give Today to Support Conservation Tomorrow!

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Voices for Conservation