

## October News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

### WGF Hosts Imbalance of Power Webinar



On Wednesday, October 19th, WGF hosted a webinar on our recent Opportunities Now report, [\*Imbalance of Power: How Wisconsin is Failing Citizens in Conserving Natural Resources and Protecting our Environment\*](#). The webinar featured panelists who discussed the broken environmental rule-making system, the effects it has

had in communities across the state, and opportunities for improvement. Panelists included:

- **Fred Clark**, WGF's Executive Director
- **Paul Heinen**, WGF's Legislative Liaison
- **Lisa and Tor Anderson** from Nelsonville, WI
- **Meleesa Johnson**, Director of Marathon County Solid Waste Department
- **Mark Thimke**, a retired environmental lawyer and co-chair of WGF's Contaminants of Emerging Concern Work Group

Read more and watch the full recording [here](#).

[View the recording here](#)

### WGF Finishes Regional Conservation Social Series



After visiting six communities across Wisconsin, WGF has wrapped up our fall 2022 Conservation Social series! In the last two weeks of September, we rounded out the series with socials in Washburn (left), Larsen/Appleton, Stevens Point, and Manitowish

Waters. We greatly enjoyed welcoming new and old faces, and sharing in the enthusiasm for conservation across Wisconsin.

In Larsen, we enjoyed a beautiful fall evening at WGF members Jim and Joy Perry's farm home (right).



In Stevens Point, WGF members Chris Mechenich, Meleesa Johnson (pictured left), George Kraft, Anna Haines, and Bill Fisher helped organize a social at Sunset Point Winery. We also welcomed members of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point WGF student chapter.

Our final social was at the North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters. Jeff Wilson (pictured right with Linda Parker) spoke about his experiences and adventures as a wildlife biologist in northern Wisconsin. Jeff, husband to former WGF Board President Terry Daulton, recently published a book [Wrong Tree](#), about these adventures.



Thank you to everyone who joined us at our socials this fall!

## Giving 101: Benefits of a Qualified Charitable Distribution

*By Bob Gurda, WGF Treasurer*

Can Wisconsin's Green Fire and I both benefit if I donate to WGF from my Individual Retirement Account?

Yes, yes, yes! And there is an easy method. More and more WGF members are catching on to this opportunity, so consider joining the party!

It's called a **Qualified Charitable**



Photo Courtesy Gary N-Ski

**Distribution (QCD).** It goes directly from your IRA to WGF, and you can use this method every year to make charitable gifts of up to \$100,000 per person.

For those of us who hold an IRA and are older than 70, early each year we are told how much we need to withdraw as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), which is generally treated as taxable income. However anyone required to make an RMD may use a Qualified Charitable Distribution to satisfy all or part of their RMD requirement, and avoiding taxes on the gifted amount. **So, both WGF and the donor benefit.**

Because this year's RMD is based in part on the value of your IRA account last December 31st, many people have discovered that their 2022 RMD is significantly higher than it was in 2021, despite the stock market having

taken some large losses recently.

**An increasing number of WGF members have taken advantage of the QCD method to satisfy part or all their RMD, helping WGF in the process.**

Consult your financial advisor or attorney to consider your options, and if you decide to use the QCD method, set the wheels in motion by early December to make sure there is time for the process to be carried out.

Read more on QCDs, RMDs, and how to use them to support WGF [here](#).

Support WGF Today

## WGF Celebrates 50th Anniversary of the 1972 Clean Water Act



The 50th anniversary of the 1972 federal Clean Water Act (CWA) was October 18th. In celebration of this anniversary, many WGF members have shared their reflections, experiences, and insights into how the CWA has positively affected water quality and water policy across Wisconsin.

Bruce Neeb, WGF member and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources retiree who served 27 years with WDNR's Information/Education (I&E) and Grants and Loans programs, wrote a [short piece](#) on his experiences seeing the CWA protect water and communities in western Wisconsin. *"When it comes to clean water, it's best to act before we pay the cost in terms of human lives."*

WGF's recent print newsletter, [Confluences](#), also centered around the CWA anniversary. In the newsletter, WGF members Bob Martini and Michael Cain shared their stories about implementing the CWA in Wisconsin. They share the legal aspects involved in protecting water, and the importance of weighing the opinions of decision makers, scientists, and the public to implement the most

effective protective measures. Read [their full reflections here](#), and an additional piece by Bob Martini [Fifty Years of the Clean Water Act Successes in the Wisconsin River Basin](#).

[Read More on WGF's Blog](#)

## Wisconsin Wild: Climate Change Stories of Wisconsin



### Wisconsin Wild

How extreme weather is impacting outdoors-people in Wisconsin

Wisconsin's Green Fire, in partnership with [Wisconsin Wildlife Federation](#), is excited to announce the launch of our Wisconsin Wild story map! This interactive map includes first-hand stories of changes in Wisconsin's landscapes and conditions

for outdoor recreation from the outdoorspeople who experience it firsthand.

The stories from Wisconsin-based hunters, anglers, maple syrup producers, and more document experiences with extreme weather in Wisconsin and its impacts on outdoor experiences. We hope to illustrate the effects extreme weather is having on all aspects of life, and encourage individual and collective action to mitigate these effects in the future.

[Click here](#) to read 12 Wisconsin outdoorspeople's stories from each corner of the state.

[View the Story Map Here](#)

## Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

**Save the Date for the Center for Water Policy's statewide conference, Phosphorus: Lessons from 10+ Years of Numeric Standards for Wisconsin's Waters:** On February 7, 2023 from 9:30am - 5:00pm CT, The Center for Water Policy will host a statewide conference at the Monona Terrace in Madison, WI on phosphorus standard implementation in Wisconsin. Speakers will present on phosphorus regulations, research, and on-the-ground management experiences, and the keynote speaker Dan Egan will speak about his forthcoming book, *The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World Out of Balance*.

Registration will open November 1st, [click here](#) to learn more.

**Attend Earth Day: Election Edition at Northland College and Appleton:** Join the Chequamegon Chapter of [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) & the [League of Women Voters of Ashland & Bayfield Counties](#) on Saturday, October 22nd from 2:00 - 4:00 PM for a panel and discussion on climate change and the upcoming election. WGF's Executive Director Fred Clark will be joined by eight other panelists representing a variety of environmental organizations, advocacy groups, and educational institutions during the event.

[Click here](#) to learn how to attend in-person and virtually.

Green Fire will also be at the Appleton Earth Day: Election Edition at Pierce Park in Appleton, WI from 12:30 - 2:30 PM for a similar event on Saturday, October 22nd. The Appleton-Fox cities chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, [ESTHER's Environmental Justice Task Force](#), the [League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox](#)

[Cities](#), and PopEarth are co-sponsoring the event

[Click here](#) for more information.

**[Apply for the Wisconsin Chapter of the Wildlife Society \(WCTWS\) Executive Board:](#)** WCTWS is seeking volunteers for three open Board positions beginning February 2023. The open positions are President-Elect, Treasurer, and Open Board Seat. Elected individuals would assist in WCTWS communications, outreach, training, and networking.

[Click here](#) to learn more and apply.

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## Wisconsin Conservation News

Wisconsin State Bar's *Wisconsin Lawyer* September 7th magazine article featuring WGF board member Michael Cain: [This Land is Your Land: Keeping Public Trust Lakebeds and Riverbeds Open for the Public](#)

Wisconsin Public Radio's September 29th article featuring WGF's Fred Clark: [Report: Power shift in the last decade has prevented policies to protect Wisconsin's environment](#)

Wisconsin Examiner's October 10th article featuring WGF's Fred Clark and Paul Heinen: [Report finds a decade of environmental neglect in Wisconsin](#)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's October 18th article featuring WGF's Bob Martini: [The Clean Water Act changed Wisconsin's waters. At 50, its supporters see success but progress still to go.](#)

WXPR's October 20th article featuring WGF's Fred Clark and Paul Heinen: ["No longer functional": Wisconsin's Green Fire calls for changes to the state's environmental rule-making process](#)

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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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Wisconsin's Green Fire 715-203-0384 | [info@wigreenfire.org](mailto:info@wigreenfire.org) | [www.wigreenfire.org](http://www.wigreenfire.org)

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Voices for Conservation

