

February News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF Announces Conservation Fellowship Positions



Wisconsin's Green Fire is hiring two [Conservation Fellows](#) to support the science and policy efforts of Wisconsin's Green Fire members and our work groups. The Fellows' work will support Green Fire's mission to advance science-informed analysis and policy solutions that address Wisconsin's greatest conservation challenges.

Each Fellow will provide coordination and support for our issue-focused [work groups](#). The [Land Resources Fellow](#) will provide support for the Wildlife, Forestry and Public Lands, Energy, and Climate Change work groups, and the [Water Resources Fellow](#) will provide support for the Environmental Rules, Public Trust

and Wetlands, and Contaminants of Emerging Concern work groups. **Each position is part-time (1 day per week on average), with flexible hours beginning as soon as March 1st and continuing until August 31st, 2023.**

We encourage anyone at a **junior level or above** pursuing a degree in natural resources conservation and interested in gaining hands-on experience and insight in priority conservation issues to consider applying for these flexible, part-time positions. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the positions are filled.

Learn more and read the full position descriptions [here](#).

Photo: Heather Stricker, WGF's 2021-22 Climate Change Fellow, and Jenny Washam, WGF's 2021-22 Communications Fellow, attend the Great Lakes Regional Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference in Hayward, WI.

[View the Full Position Descriptions Here](#)

First Legislative Hearing Held in 2023 Session



The [Wisconsin Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy](#) hosted the first informational hearing of the 2023 legislative session on January 31st. The hearing focused on PFAS or the "forever chemical," and featured testimony from invited guests including a University of Wisconsin professor studying PFAS in Green Bay, local units

of government facing PFAS pollution, and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff discussing their plans for statewide clean up efforts.

Senate Committee Chair Rob Cowles (pictured above) stated multiple times that both parties will need to work together to tackle PFAS. **PFAS is quickly becoming a bipartisan issue**, with leaders from both parties and Governor Evers agreeing that it is a statewide concern affecting Wisconsin households and water resources. Green Fire will be closely following the issue through the 2023 Legislative Session, and will continue to provide expert analysis and insight to inform and identify effective solutions.

Governor Evers Releases 2023-2025 State Budget



Governor Evers released the 2023-2025 State Budget on February 15th, including important investments that will help **all Wisconsin citizens enjoy cleaner water, fresher air, and more recreational opportunities**. The budget allocates funding to support critical conservation programs

that protect Wisconsin citizens and natural resources, including programs focused on ensuring clean drinking water and addressing "forever pollutants" in communities across the state.

The budget also adds funding for additional state agency staff who will help citizens get the resources they need to **protect themselves and their children's health**. It also makes long-needed changes to **increase transparency to the Joint Committee on Finance** in approving spending decisions for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund – reflecting broad citizen support for continued investments in conservation and public lands.

[Click here](#) to read the Budget in Brief summary and additional supplemental materials from the Governors office.

Learn More
Here

Save the Date: WGF Hosts Online Auction



Get ready! It's coming! Get your calendar out!

Wisconsin's Green Fire's first online auction is slated to take place from March 24 to April 2, right at the height of the "Oh, I so want winter to be over" season.

We have acquired a list of experiences that will leave you dreaming of things to do this summer and fall.

Here is a sample of a few items that will be available:

Artwork by some of Wisconsin's most renowned nature artists (see photo above)

- **Fly-fishing for trout** with award winning conservationists
- **Grouse hunting and fishing** adventures
- Week-long getaway to **southern Arizona**.
- Entertainment at **Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua** (see photo to right)
- Multi-day stay at a **remote island cabin** on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage

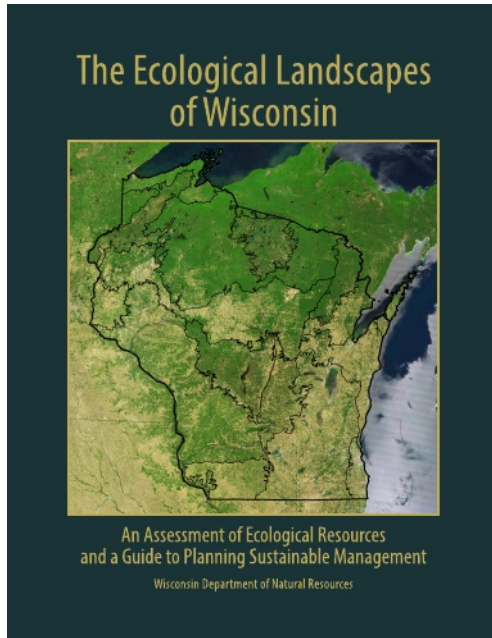


- **Nature walk in an old growth forest** with one of Wisconsin's most renowned naturalists
- How-to sessions in **canoeing and fly casting**.

And so much more!

Make sure to mark your calendars for March 24th, and keep an eye on our website for more details coming soon.

Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin Available on WGF Website



Land and water conservation planners, property managers, natural resources administrators, researchers, educators, and private landowners now have a **comprehensive reference to help identify, prioritize, and sustain Wisconsin's ecological resources.** *The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin*, now hosted on [WGF's website](#), provides a compendium of ecological, social, and economic information about Wisconsin's 16 distinct ecological landscapes, ranging from the prairies and oak savannas of the south to the kettle lakes in Wisconsin's northern forests.

The publication describes all the natural communities found in the state, how they have changed over time, the emerging challenges they face, and what management opportunities they offer. The publication further identifies the best areas in the state to manage for these natural communities, key habitats, aquatic features, and native plants and animals today.

The publication is hosted on Wisconsin's Green Fire's website[here](#), where each chapter is available for purchase. A portion of all purchase proceeds will benefit Wisconsin's Green Fire

View More
Here

Guest Blog: Wisconsin Wildlife Stressed by Climate Change



[The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Initiatives \(WICCI\)](#) is a nationally recognized collaboration of scientists and stakeholders working together to help foster solutions to climate change in Wisconsin. Wisconsin's Green Fire members serve on WICCI's Forestry Working

Group and Agriculture Working Group.

The following is a guest blog by Dea Larsen Converse:

The full blog post is available on our website [here](#).

Wisconsin is world-renowned for its diversity of wildlife. Our outdoor recreation and tourism economy, which is vital to rural communities, depends on access to this diversity of species. To Tribal Nations that live within our state boundaries, wildlife and subsistence hunting and gathering are essential to their spiritual, cultural, and physical well-being. The recently published report from the [Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts \(WICCI\)](#) shows that warmer winters, less snow, and new pests are stressing iconic Wisconsin species. **The last two decades have been the warmest on record in Wisconsin and the past decade has been the wettest.**

“Climate impacts are increasing the risk and harm to wildlife already stressed by habitat loss and degradation, pollution, and disruptions from non-native species. Aligning restorations and habitat management to provide food and cover for wildlife can help species adapt to changing climate conditions.”

--WICCI Wildlife Working Group

Climate change is leading to earlier springs, milder winters, and delayed falls. Many species are shifting their historic ranges and migration patterns in response to these changes. Not all species are able to adapt, however, leading to a mismatch between habitats and the migratory species that depend on them. **Reducing barriers to wildlife movement and creating resilient habitat spaces will be key for wildlife species as they try to adjust to climate change.**

But there is hope. The [WICCI Wildlife Working Group](#) recommends activities to help wildlife as the climate continues to warm, including adjusting harvest regulations for climate-vulnerable species. There is hope for the future but it's up to us.

Read more [here](#).

Photo: Warmer weather has disrupted loon reproduction by changing the availability of nesting habitat and increasing the risk of black fly outbreaks during the breeding season. An adult loon (*Gavia immer*) with chick. Photo credit: Jeremy Cohen

[Read More Here](#)

Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

Attend the League of Women Voters of the Northwoods "Introduction to Treaties, Tribal Sovereignty, and Ceded Territory" Presentation: On February 23rd from 6-7PM, the League of Women Voters of the Northwoods will host an in-person presentation featuring Jenny Van Sickle from the [Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission \(GLIFWC\)](#), who will discuss the basics of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights held by Wisconsin's tribal communities. The presentation will be at the Lake of the Torches Convention Center on the Lac du Flambeau reservation.

Learn more here.

Submit a citizen resolution on conservation issue of statewide concern:

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress will be accepting citizen resolutions between **February 15th - March 1st** on conservation issues with statewide implications. A resolution is more likely to be accepted by the WCC for further consideration if the issue has statewide impact, is practical and considers existing laws and statutes, and clearly suggests a clear solution and action steps to address the concern. **Members of the public are encouraged to reach out to the resolution review committee for further guidance in writing resolutions.**

[Learn more here](#), submissions are due March 1st.

Register for MadiSUN's Solar Training Program through RENEW Wisconsin on March 2nd: RENEW Wisconsin through the City of Madison's *MadiSUN* program is offering a **free eight hour *Intro to Solar Energy Work*** course for individuals interested in a career in solar. Participants will learn about the operation and installation of solar electric systems, an overview of how photovoltaic (PV) systems work, safety and installation best practices, and valuable job site skills for a career in the solar industry.

Registration is **free but required**, the training will take place 8AM - 4PM at Madison College's Commercial Avenue Campus (2125 Commercial Ave, Madison, WI) in Room 242. **Click here to register.**

Participate in Science Strikes Back 2023 Community Science Fair On March 16th, Science Strikes Back will host its sixth annual Milwaukee Community Science Fair at Escuela Verde from 5-8PM. This event is for **science enthusiasts of all ages** to present projects and learn from fellow scientists in the community. Projects must be related to one of six categories - Science of Climate, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math, and Weird Science - and presenters can be students, clubs, community organizations, or individuals. If you are not interested in presenting, consider **volunteering as a community reviewer or moderator.**

You can learn more about presenting or volunteering here, projects must be submitted by March 9th to be presented.

Wisconsin Conservation News

WisPolitics January 30th article: [Wisconsin's Green Fire: Releases newest conservation bulletin: An analysis of Wisconsin's 2022 Draft Wolf Management Plan](#)

WXOW January 30th article featuring WGF's Fred Clark: [Mississippi Valley Conservancy reaches 25,000 acres protected](#)

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!**

STAY CONNECTED

