

March News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF Spring Auction Preview Week is Live



Our [Spring Auction Preview](#) is officially LIVE! [Click here](#) to view the full list of items and experiences.

Thanks to our generous WGF member donors and sponsoring organizations, we have a diversity of exciting opportunities and items available for auction. Many of the unique experiences will allow

winning bidders to celebrate and explore the connections between our natural wonders and the commitment we share to protect them. All proceeds will support Green Fire's work in 2023!

You can view the auction items, learn the details, and plan your bids beginning TODAY until Friday, March 24th. The auction bidding will go LIVE on the 24th and will be open until April 3rd. [Click here](#) to view the auction page.

Items to bid on include:

- **Fly-fishing** for trout with award winning conservationists.
- Week-long get-away to **southern Arizona**.
- **Artwork** by some of Wisconsin's most renown nature artists.
- **Grouse hunting** and **fishing** adventures.
- Multi-day **Northwoods stay at a remote island cabin** on the Turtle Flambeau Flowage.
- **Lunch and sheepherding fun** with WGF ambassador and professional dog trainer Patricia McConnell.



And so much more! See the full list [here](#).

Make sure to spread the word, encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to join in on the fun, and mark March 24th on your calendars! Stay tuned to all the

latest updates by following our [Facebook event here](#), and keep an eye out for WGF's on-air spots on [PBS Wisconsin](#) between March 20-26th.

[View the Auction Items Here](#)

WGF Encourages Public Engagement During Spring 2023 Budget Hearings



The Wisconsin Legislature's [Joint Committee on Finance \(JFC\)](#) has scheduled their spring 2023 public hearings on the state budget. [Click here](#) to view the Spring 2023 JFC hearing schedule.

We encourage all conservation-minded citizens to attend a hearing and testify on

conservation issues in Wisconsin. [Click here](#) to view WGF's guidance for anyone interested in testifying during the four spring JFC hearings as an individual. Please note that only WGF Work Group chairs or members designated as subject matter experts should testify publicly on behalf of WGF.

Photo: Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee in 2019. Credit: M.P. King, State Journal

Wisconsin's Green Fire has also put together a [2023-2025 budget summary and highlights document](#), outlining priority conservation issues aligning with Green Fire's priority focus areas included in the budget. Highlights include funding for PFAS response and standards, forest regeneration efforts, and Chronic Wasting Disease control and response. You can view the full summary [here](#).

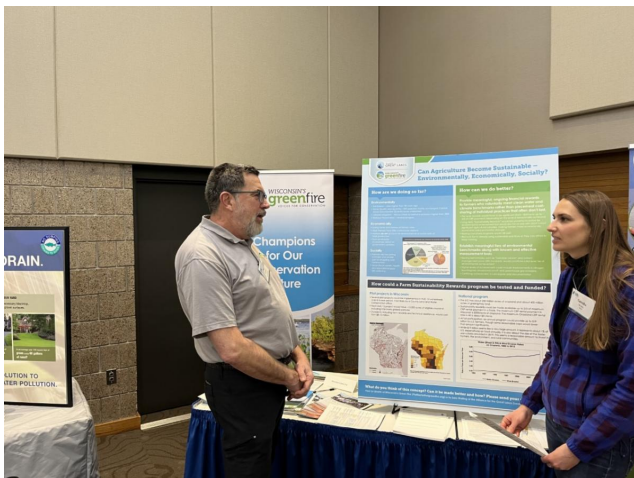
Green Fire will remain active in conversations with decision makers on budget priorities through the budget review process. Policy Director Paul Heinen recently met with Senator Robert Cowles, Chair of the [Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee](#), to discuss these issues and Green Fire's work (see photo on right).



Stay tuned for updates through the remainder of the legislative session as the budget approval process moves forward through the spring and summer.

[Read More Here](#)

WGF Agriculture Policy Experts Attend Statewide Conferences



In early March, Jimmy VandenBrook and Paul LaLiberte (pictured left) of WGF's Environmental Rules and Water Resources Work Group attended the [Wisconsin Land and Water Conference](#) in Wisconsin Dells, and the [Red Cedar Watershed Conference in Menomonie](#). During those conferences, Jimmy and Paul, along with WGF partner Sara Walling from the [Alliance for Great Lakes](#),

presented an [innovative proposal](#) to financially reward sustainable farming from the standpoint of nitrogen, phosphorus, soil loss and greenhouse gas emissions. Jimmy, Paul, and Sara asked conference attendees for professional insight and feedback to further refine the concept, and the proposal has been well received by Wisconsin's land conservation community thus far.

The proposal will also be featured during discussions with Senator Baldwin's staff and with Wisconsin DNR administration for possible funding of watershed scale pilot projects for the program.

[Click here](#) to view a poster summarizing the proposal.

[Read More Here](#)

WGF To Host PFAS in Wisconsin Workshop



WGF's Contaminants of Emerging Concern Work Group has been hard at work planning the **PFAS in Wisconsin – Policy and Practice for Local Government Leaders** collaborative workshop scheduled for May 2nd, 2023. This **invitation-only event** will prepare local leaders to understand, respond, and act to protect communities from the risks of PFAS contamination in Wisconsin. The workshop will cover topics including PFAS sources and pathways, testing, response management, state and federal regulation and standards, and legislative and policy needs to address PFAS in the state and across the country.

This event is open to local elected officials and managers from Wisconsin city, village, town, and county government. We expect [WisconsinEye](#) to livestream the event, keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates!

If you are interested in learning more, contact WGF Executive Director Fred Clark at fclark@wigreenfire.org.

[Read more about WGF's work with PFAS](#)

[Guest Blog: Wisconsin Agriculture 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 an excerpt from a guest blog post on WGF's website. You can view the full article [here](#).

Extreme rain events, wetter springs and falls, groundwater flooding, declining snow cover, winter "thaws," changing seasons, more frequent extremely hot days, and droughts are among the climate impacts stressing Wisconsin farms in the most recent report from WICCI.

"Disruption of farm operations due to volatile weather patterns is increasing health risk and anxiety associated with farming in Wisconsin. With extreme weather becoming more common, the food production systems that support a thriving economy are increasingly at risk," says the WICCI Agriculture Working Group.

Extreme rain events are washing away valuable topsoil, disrupting farm operations, damaging infrastructure, and challenging the conservation practices that have kept soil in place and helped protect water quality. While warming in the spring and fall can increase the growing season for some crops, warming during winter can also **reduce the formation of ice and snow** that cranberries and many other crops need to survive the winter. Warmer winters can also **allow pests that would otherwise be frozen out to overwinter more successfully**, and summer heat can **stress livestock and lead to drought**.

Additionally, increasing reliance on row crop agriculture has **increased greenhouse gas emissions**, reducing soil health and soil carbon storage capacity.

Yet, there is hope. Today **there is a move in agriculture toward keeping fields green year-round, including a shift towards increasing living cover on farm fields and promoting rotational grazing**. [Click here](#) to read more about WICCI's work to make Wisconsin's agriculture more climate resilient

Photo: A shift toward rotational grazing lowers the carbon footprint of the system by reducing grain needed for livestock and increasing stored soil carbon. Photo credit: WDNR

[Read More Here](#)

Get Involved in Wisconsin Conservation

[Apply for the Development Director and Staff Attorney for Native Nations Partnerships positions with Midwest Environmental Advocates \(MEA\)](#): The **[Development Director](#)** will cultivate and grow the community of supporters that make MEA's mission to provide legal services to communities with environmental concerns and seek to build their power possible. Read the full description [here](#).

The **[Staff Attorney for Native Nations Partnerships](#)** will focus on providing

legal support to Native nations and other Indigenous partners. This new position with MEA will provide legal resources and services that support recognition of Native nation environmental sovereignty and self-determination. The attorney will work on a variety of issues including oil pipelines, energy infrastructure, mining, wildlife rice stewardship and management, and climate resilience and adaptation. Read the full description [here](#).

Register for Wild Ones Native Plants Classes and Earn a Certificate in

Wisconsin Native Plants: Wild Ones Fox Valley Chapter is offering a series of courses on botany, conservation, ecology, and the uses of native vegetation for native plant enthusiasts to learn skills and increase knowledge to apply at home, work, or in their local community. The courses can be taken individually, or participants can take 40 hours of courses plus a 10-hour capstone project to earn a certification in Wisconsin native plants.

Learn more here.

Apply for the Water Policy Specialist Position with the University of

Wisconsin-Milwaukee Center for Water Policy: The UW Milwaukee Center for Water Policy is hiring a Water Policy Specialist who will work with the Center and its affiliated faculty to conduct applied law and policy research on wicked water dilemmas. Project topics will likely include water justice and equity; water infrastructure and climate resiliency; public access to coastal resources; and sustainable freshwater management practices, among other topics. The candidate must hold a J.D. degree by August 2023.

Read the full position description here, applications are due April 7th, 2023.

Wisconsin Conservation News

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's February 24th opinion article written by WGF's Fred Clark and Adrian Wydeven: [Make your voice heard on DNR wolf management plan, one that moves Wisconsin forward](#) (can also be viewed [here](#)).

WUWM 89.7's February 27th article featuring WGF's Adrian Wydeven: [Opinions vary dramatically, including among scientists on Wisconsin's proposed wolf management plan](#).

WXPR's March 16th article featuring WGF's Chemicals of Emerging Concern Work Group Co-Chair John Robinson: [EPA releases proposed rule for PFAS contamination with levels far below Wisconsin's current standard](#).

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!

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

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