

C*mpass Points

July News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

Supreme Court Ruling a Win for Balance of Power

The Wisconsin Supreme Court recently ruled unconstitutional 5 statutes that allowed the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) to "pause, object to, or suspend administrative rules for varying lengths of time, both before and after promulgation..." We see this ruling as a positive step for conservation in Wisconsin and the balance of power in our state government.



View of the East Gallery and WI Supreme Court in the Capitol, Madison WI. Photo by C. Pralle

Read more about what this ruling means, how it connects to WGF's 2022paper on the Imbalance of Power, and the work ahead.

Read more about the Supreme Court ruling

Register for Prairie Day | In-person Event on August 16



Sat., Aug. 16, 2025 | 12:30-3:00pm | Birnamwood WI | Register here

Join us for an afternoon exploring a restored prairie in Central Wisconsin.

- Free, family-friendly event. (Donations welcome!)
- Presentation and prairie walk with Neil Diboll, award-winning author and ecologist from Prairie Nursery.
- Meet real-life raptors with Marge Gibson of Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI).

When you register, you will get the full address and other event information. We encourage you to bring your own chairs and dress for the weather!

Register for WGF's Prairie Day Event (Free)

Green Fire Cafe - "Staying Cool" on August 6

We meet monthly via Zoom on first Wednesdays for our free virtual event series **Green Fire Cafe**.

Join us next time on **August 6 2025 at 3:00-4:00pm** for our theme of "Staying Cool." The theme is literal as we navigate summer heat and a metaphor for science-based work.

All are welcome at these online conservation socials to share stories, ask questions, and make connections.



Details and registration for Green Fire Cafe

Wisconsin State Budget 2025-2027 Highlights



Wisconsin Capitol at dusk, photo via Canva.

As of July 3, Wisconsin has a new state budget signed into law, including \$732 million for clean drinking water funding. Called a "mixed bag" by members of both parties, Motion 90 includes the Natural Resources budget items. Notably absent were the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program or PFAS funding. Click here for highlights from the budget by WGF's Policy Director Paul Heinen.

Read more about the WI Budget Highlights

A New Chapter for the U.S. Forest Service? Essay by Fred Clark and Paul Strong

The President's proposed 2026 budget for the U.S. Forest Service and his recent Executive Orders lay out a new vision for the Forest Service. This essay by Fred Clark and Paul Strong describes the proposed changes like upping harvest levels and slashing funding for managing



forest fires. Read more to learn what these changes may mean for our Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and Wisconsin's forest communities.



Map of US Forests and National Grasslands

Read the essay on changes to the US Forest Service

Metallic mining in Bend deposit: WGF joins partners in calling for Environmental Assessment



Image from our comment letter: Figure 7: Map of Existing Forest Trail/Roads and Drill Sites.

Action Opportunity - Comment Deadline July 31, 2025

A mining company is seeking permits to do more drilling for sulfide ore (for gold and copper) in the Bend deposit in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Alongside our partners (ELPC, Sierra Club, and River Alliance) we submitted formal comments calling for an Environmental Assessment (EA)

before the US Forest Service permits this exploratory drilling. Our concerns center around the sensitive wetlands, rivers, and rare wildlife in the area. We encourage you to submit your own comment by email, phone, fax, or mail.

Read more about the mining - Comments close July 31

Coalition to Protect WI Lakes Now Largest in U.S.

Our coalition to protect Wisconsin lakes from the damaging effects of wake-enhanced boating has grown to 80 organizations around Wisconsin, the largest coalition of its kind in the nation. To date, Wisconsin does not have statewide regulation specific to wake boats, though dozens of Wisconsin municipalities and lake associations have local ordinances. Is your organization on the list of coalition members? Join us!



Logos of various groups in the coalition to protect Wisconsin's lakes (not all member orgs. depicted).

Read more about the coalition and wake-enhanced boating



Get Involved in Conservation

10 Current Job Opportunities with Conservation and Science Non-profits in Wisconsin:

- 1. AIS Coordinator North Lakeland Discovery Center
- 2. Executive Director Wisconsin Waterfowl Assocation
- 3. <u>Director of Initiatives</u> Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts and Letters
- 4. Project Manager Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition
- 5. Executive Director Baraboo Range Preservation Association
- 6. Executive Director Wisconsin Lakes
- 7. <u>Development Director</u> -Wisconsin Conservation Voters
- 8. Director of Development Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance
- 9. Office Manager 1000 Friends of Wisconsin
- 10. Conference Coordinator Wisconsin Wetland Association

For more ways to get involved in WGF activities, visit our **Events page** or **Contact Us** via email or phone.

A bonus opportunity:

 Walk, Talk, & Sip: Climate Resilience - Join WGF's Nancy Turyk on Sept. 6th for a walking tour of two conservation properties in Portage County, focused on climate resilience and mitigation for prairies, forests, wetlands, and working lands. Tour ends at Central Waters Brewery!

Visit the WGF events page

Open Call for Art and Writing Submissions

Have you been inspired by Wisconsin's landscapes, waters, flora, fauna, and fungi?

We invite you to share your photos, poems, and other creative work with us to feature in our newsletters, website, and social media content. Review our submission guidelines here.

WGF Staff Highlight: Read a poem by WGF's Carolyn Pralle titled "The Raccoon," published in the <u>Summer 2025</u> issue of Prairie Promoter.



Ctenucha moth on Fireweed, Pot Lake, Bayfield County. Photo by Don Behm.

Share your art or writing with WGF

WGF In The News

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Jul 9 Wisconsin a leading battleground for wake-enhanced boating debate
- Wisconsin Examiner Jul 7 State budget omits stewardship funds,



includes \$1 million for timber industry groups

- Also published in <u>Iron Mountain Daily News</u> on Jul 12
- Fox 6 Now Jun 30 Published our news release on wake boats: Wake Boat Reform Coalition Release Largest in WI History
- S.O.H20 New website on PFAS resources and information links to WGF's website and papers on PFAS in drinking water

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

Click Here to Donate **Online**

Looking for a gift idea?

- For greatest impact, give a gift membership in WGF!
- Shop our logo-wear apparel to show your support for WGF.
- Buy chapters of <u>The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin</u> and get to know our state's lands and waters. WGF receives a portion of proceeds.

Newsletter edited by Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator July 18, 2025 | Background image of wild ginger and columbine at Schmeeckle Preserve by Carolyn Pralle, June 2025

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