

August News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

WGF Joins Nitrate Watch Program (You can too!)

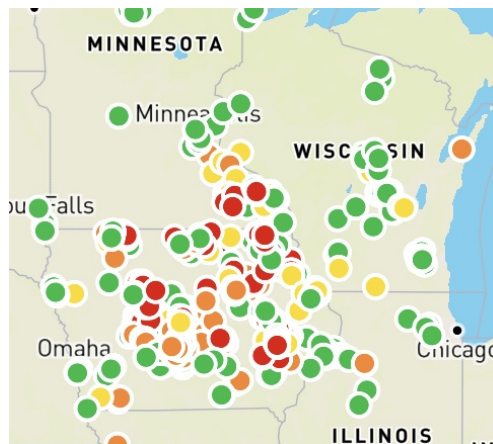
WGF is now a partner of the Izaak Walton League's **Nitrate Watch** program! This people-powered community science program allows anyone to **help gather data about nitrate in Wisconsin's waters**. Nitrate is the most common chemical contaminant creating health risks in Wisconsin's private wells. It also harms the water quality and ecological health of our lakes, streams and rivers.

Free of charge, anyone can **sign up for a kit of 25 strips** to test their own or their neighbors' private wells, their city water supply, or any lake, stream or river they care about. Testing is easy and quick - **click here for more info and tutorial videos!** List Wisconsin's Green Fire as your organization when you sign up so we can summarize the data from all around the state. As you can see from the map to the right, Wisconsin has some data but could use a lot more!

Learn more and watch for more updates as our Nitrate Watch program grows.



Wisconsin's Green Fire is now a Nitrate Watch partner with Izaak Walton League of America



Map illustrating current Nitrate Watch sites in Wisconsin. We could use a lot more data from around the state!

[Read more about WGF and Nitrate Watch](#)

Wake Boat Bill Expected Soon

Last week, we shared a new study from the [University of Minnesota](#) that shows how wake boats impact lakes, especially below the surface. The study **affirms our earlier recommendation** to limit wake boat use in waters less than 20 ft deep because of the dramatic impacts to the water column, fish, aquatic plants,

and sediments in the lakebed.

Now, we hear it's go-time in the Wisconsin Assembly. Sources indicate that a bill favored by the wake-boat industry is expected in the Assembly in early September, with possibly very short notice for a public hearing in Madison.

The Wakesports Reform Coalition anticipates this bill would not adequately protect Wisconsin's lakes and rivers from the negative impacts of wake-enhanced boating.



Video from our coalition partner Lakes at Stake "Wakeboats: The Hidden Threat to Wisconsin's Lakes"

We do not yet have the exact language of the bill, but we will share it with you when it is available. We encourage you to attend the hearing (date/time pending) and contact your elected leaders. **This is a powerful time to use your voice for conservation!**

[Contact your legislators today](#) to share your views on wake boats and what Wisconsin's lakes and rivers mean to you. **Stay tuned for more information** from us at Wisconsin's Green Fire as news about a wake boat bill unfolds. With nearly 100 organizations in the Wakesports Reform Coalition now, we at WGF continue to advance a science-based approach to protecting our lakes.

Contact your legislators

Enbridge Line 5 Pipeline Update

The contested case hearings on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) water permits for the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline reroute in Wisconsin began August 12 in Ashland, Wisconsin.

As you may remember, the permits for the pipeline's proposed reroute around the Bad River Reservation have been legally contested by multiple groups. Among the concerns are how the pipeline would impact wetlands, waterways and important sensitive species like manoomin.

Read more in this update by Nancy Larson, WGF's Water Resources Specialist. WGF has been following the pipeline reroute since 2019.



Ripening manoomin near Chippewa Lake, Bayfield County, 2024, photo by Don Behm

Ripening manoomin near Chippewa Lake, Bayfield County, 2024, photo by Don Behm

Read more about the contested case hearings

Recap of Prairie Day on August 16



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Prairie Day on August 16, hosted by Mark and Carrie Asplund at their beautifully restored prairie in Birnamwood, Wisconsin!

The rains didn't stop us from enjoying incredible and informative presentations by Neil Diboll, award-winning author and ecologist from Prairie Nursery and Marge Gibson's team of wildlife rehabilitators and education birds from Raptor Education Group, Inc (REGI).

[Learn more and view the event photo album](#)

Green Fire Cafe - "Transformation" on September 3

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

Join us next time on **Sep. 3rd, 2025 at 3:00-4:00pm** for our theme of "Transformation." As summer transforms into fall, what changes (positive, negative, and neutral) are you observing in the conservation world?

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



[Details and registration for Green Fire Cafe](#)

Northern Lakes Toolbox Workshops - Fall 2025



We are proud to announce the return of our **Northern Lakes Toolbox Workshops** in the fall of 2025. The workshops are designed to help participants develop customized action plans tailored to their specific lake or lake association.

The workshops are led by Dr. Mike Meyer, Jim Kreitlow, and Patrick Goggin. Thanks to grant funding from the WDNR, we are offering these small-group workshops at **no cost** to participants.

The workshops will take place at Kemp Natural Resources Station in Woodruff, WI. Our September 10 & 12 workshop for Vilas County has already filled up, but **we still have space in our Oneida County workshop on Oct. 1 & 3, 2025.**

Contact Mike Meyer at mmeyer@wigreenfire.org to sign up.

Read more about the Northern Lakes Toolbox

Gov. Invites WGF to Statewide Water Events

During the week of July 14, 2025, Governor Evers travelled around the state to talk with local officials about clean water infrastructure. Gov. Evers invited Wisconsin's Green Fire to attend meetings in Appleton and Madison. The water treatment projects we visited (and others) are funded with the help of State money from the governor's budgets and Federal money.

Photo: Tour of Municipal Well 15 in Madison. Left to right: Hannah Richardson of Clean WI, Peter Buress of Conservation Voters, Allison Warner of River Alliance of Wisconsin, Jim Baumann of WGF, Governor Evers, and Paul Heinen of WGF.



Read more about the water events with Gov. Evers

Get Involved in Conservation

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

1. [Co-Executive Director](#) - Milwaukee Water Commons
2. [Grazing Biologist](#) - Ducks Unlimited (2 full time positions, 1 in Barron, 1 in Richland Center)
3. [Online Fundraising Auction Coordinator](#) - Rock River Coalition
4. [Nature Preschool After School Educator](#) - Aldo Leopold Nature Center
5. [Education and Conservation Specialist](#) - Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center (WisCorps)
6. [Environmental Science Educator](#) - Trees for Tomorrow
7. [AIS Coordinator](#) - North Lakeland Discovery Center
8. [Executive Director](#) - Wisconsin Lakes
9. [Development Director](#) - Wisconsin Conservation Voters
10. [Director of Development](#) - Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance

For more ways to get involved in WGF activities, visit our [Events page](#) or [Contact Us](#) via email or phone.

More opportunities:

- Participate in our new [Nitrate Watch program](#) and get a kit of free water testing kit. Don't forget to submit your data to the Clean Water Hub!
- As you prepare for fall hunting seasons, sign up for a [hunter safety education course](#) via the WDNR.
- Take action and learn how to [reduce lead in the environment](#) with alternatives to lead ammunition and tackle (from Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance).

***Event Update* Fishing Trip - Dogs & Wolves Auction of Experiences**

From WGF Ambassador Dr. Patricia McConnell, who won the fishing trip with Tom Hauge during our April 2025 Auction of Experiences:

""What a perfect morning! Tom Hauge, the co-chair of WGF's wildlife workgroup and retired program director of Wisconsin's DNR, provided Jim and I a morning of fishing (3 trout!), interesting conversation, and a gorgeous setting at Devil's Lake. All thanks to our winning bid at WGF's auction of experiences. We couldn't have had a better time and be more grateful to WGF's effort to keep our air and water clean.



Photos of the fishing trip: Left to right: Jim Billings, Tom Hauge, and Trisha McConnell, Jim catches a nice trout, Trisha powers up with a donut for more fun on the lake, and 3 beautiful trout as the catch of the day!

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](#).

Photo: Sandhill cranes and moon by Robert Rolley.



Share your art or writing with WGF

WGF In The News

- Green Bay Press Times - Aug 20 - [Green Fire's response](#)
- Vilas County News-Review - Jul 27 - [Largest coalition in U.S.](#)
- Wall Street Journal - Jul 18 - [Water Sport or Crime? The Bitter Fight Over](#)

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**

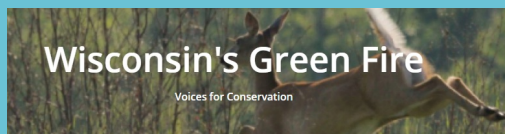
Looking for a gift idea?

- For greatest impact, give a [gift membership](#) in WGF!
- Shop our [logo-wear apparel](#) to show your support for WGF.
- Buy chapters of [The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin](#) 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
August 22, 2025 | Background image of rattlesnake master by Tom Jerow, August 2025*

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