

September News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

In this issue of **Compass Points**, you'll find an especial focus on responses to recent proposals at the federal level. (Though these public comment periods have passed, it's not too late to share your views with your elected officials!) Below, we also share a fond farewell message to Fred Clark. Keep scrolling for information on events, opportunities, and WGF in the news. **Thank you** for reading and being one of our voices for conservation! We love hearing from you and welcome your feedback or ideas.

- Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Fred Clark stepping back from work with WGF

After serving in many different roles within Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF), Fred Clark is stepping away to focus on other work.

We are grateful to Fred for all his work with WGF over the years! In this blog post, we give an brief overview of Fred's legacy with WGF, plus many comments from friends and colleagues.

Photo: Fred Clark



More on Fred's legacy with WGF

Opposing EPA's proposal to rescind the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding

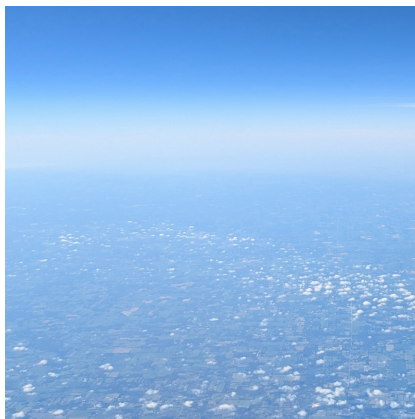


Photo: Atmosphere over the Midwestern US, July 2024. Photo by Carolyn Pralle.

WGF urged the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to keep the 2009 Endangerment Finding in place and to maintain the greenhouse gas emission standards for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines.

We [submitted comments](#) under Federal Register Number 2025-14572. Our main points centered around the extreme weather in the Midwest related to climate change, and concerns about air quality, diseases, biodiversity losses, and other threats to human health and our environment.

Read WGF's public comments to the EPA

Opposing the USDA's proposed rescission of the "Roadless Rule"

WGF joined with a majority of state and federal conservation organizations opposing the proposed rescission of a federal policy called the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, or "Roadless Rule" for short.

We [submitted comments](#) to the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) under docket # FS-2025-0001. Our main points centered around wildfire risks, Tribal sovereignty, and economic and legal concerns.



Photo: Hagar Mountain, Wisconsin State Natural Area #306, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, July 2025. Photo by Joshua Mayer

[Read WGF's public comments to the USDA](#)

Informational session on Neonics at WI Capitol

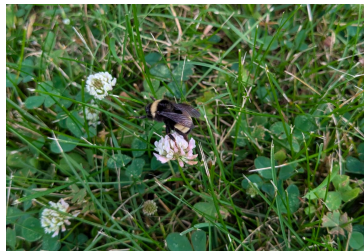


Photo: Yellow-banded bumblebee in Wood County, a rare species in Wisconsin. Photo by Carolyn Pralle.

WGF attended an [informational session](#) on Sep. 8, 2025 at the WI Capitol on neonicotinoids, a.k.a. "neonics." Although neonics are effective against common pests, they also harm pollinators like bees and butterflies, as well as human health risks.

The session was hosted by Rep. Snodgrass and Clean Wisconsin with speakers from UW Madison and UW Extension. WGF is taking a multidisciplinary approach to neonics across several of our Work Groups.

[Read about the neonics informational session](#)

Supporting the audit findings of WDNR properly managing the Fish and Wildlife Account

WGF supports the work and findings of the [Legislative Audit Bureau's Report 25-15](#) from August 2025 which confirms that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) properly managed Fish and Wildlife Account funds. [The bigger picture](#) is the need for sustained longer-term funding for conservation.



Photo: Doe and fawns, via Snapshot Wisconsin.

[Read our news release about the audit findings](#)

Opposing the ban reversal of DOD's incineration moratorium on PFAS



Photo: Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) containing PFAS at use in a fire at a city of Madison electric substation in July, 2019.
Photo credit: Wisconsin State Journal.

Alongside members of the statewide coalition on PFAS, we signed [a joint letter](#) opposing the Department of Defense (DOD) provision that lifts an existing moratorium on the incineration of PFAS-containing firefighting foam and other PFAS-containing waste. This kind of incineration puts frontline communities, servicemembers, their families, and veterans who live downwind at risk.

[Read more about the joint letter on PFAS incineration](#)

Green Fire Cafe - "Community Science" on Oct 1

WGF WELCOMES YOU TO:

GREEN FIRE CAFE

This month's theme: *Community Science*

*New in 2025! Join us for our monthly virtual "coffee klatch" to share stories, ask questions, and make connections.

WISCONSIN'S **greenfire**
VOICES FOR CONSERVATION

- Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025
- 3:00-4:00pm
- Monthly via Zoom
- Come as you are
- All are welcome!

wigreenfire.org/events

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

Join us next time on **Oct 1, 2025 at 3:00-4:00pm** for our theme of "Community Science." **Nitrate Watch** is one example. Come learn about more!

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

Our [Northern Lakes Toolbox Workshops](#) in September was a hit! **It's not too late to sign up for the workshop on Oct 1st & 3rd!**

These workshops are designed to help participants develop customized action plans tailored to their specific lake or lake association. Thanks to grant funding from the WDNR, we are offering these workshops at no cost to participants. **Contact Mike Meyer at mmeyer@wigreenfire.org to sign up.**

WISCONSIN'S **greenfire**
VOICES FOR CONSERVATION

NORTHERN LAKES TOOLBOX WORKSHOPS

Learn tools and techniques to customize a "take action" plan for your lake!

DATES: Vilas County - Sep. 10 & 12, 2025
Oneida County - Oct. 1 & 3, 2025

LOCATION:
Kemp Station, Woodruff WI

COST: Free! **SIGN UP** via email to: mmeyer@wigreenfire.org

[Read more about the Northern Lakes Toolbox](#)

Get Involved in Conservation

Some upcoming opportunities:

1. **Anytime** - Participate in our new [Nitrate Watch program](#) and get a free water testing kit. Don't forget to submit your data to the Clean Water Hub!
2. **Anytime** - Take action to [reduce lead in the environment](#) and protect wildlife this fall (from our partners at Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance)
3. **Sep 28 - Wisconsin Climate March** from 12-4pm at 715 State Street, Madison. The march is to show "public support for solar power, clean energy jobs, environmental justice, conservation and democracy here in Wisconsin..."
4. **Oct 18** - Join Dr. Patty Loew (Author and WGF Ambassador) for her book launch of [Seventh Generation Earth Ethics at Milwaukee Central Library](#) from 1-2pm

Seventh Generation Earth Ethics
Book Launch with Author **Dr. Patty Loew**



Saturday, October 18
1-2 pm | Doors open at 12:30 pm
Milwaukee Central Library
814 W. Wisconsin Ave. | Rotary Community Room

Born out of Patty Loew's thirty years as a journalist and historian, *Seventh Generation Earth Ethics: Native Voices of Wisconsin* highlights individuals who helped to sustain and nurture their nations. This collection of biographies, one from each of the twelve Native nations in Wisconsin, introduces some of the most important figures in ecological and cultural sustainability.

Bestselling author Patty Loew is Professor Emerita at Northwestern University and recently retired as the inaugural director of NU's Center for Native American and Indigenous Research. A documentary film producer and former broadcast journalist, Loew is a citizen of Mashkizibini (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) and the author of several books including *Indian Nations of Wisconsin* and *Native People of Wisconsin*. *Boswell Book Company* will be onsite with book sales.

Register online at mpl.org/calendar



Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Contact the City of Milwaukee ADA Coordinator, 414-286-3475 or adaaccommodations@milwaukee.gov no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event. 2025

10 job opportunities in conservation nonprofits in WI:

1. [Part-time Communications & Marketing Specialist](#) - Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance (Madison)
2. [Executive Director](#) - Central Conservation (La Crosse)
3. [Clinic Manager](#) - Raptor Education Group, Inc. (Antigo)
4. [Leopold Conservation Award - Western States Director](#) - Sand County Foundation (Remote)
5. [Agriculture Water Quality Outreach Specialist](#) - UW Madison (Altoona)
6. [Associate Director of Development](#) - The Nature Conservancy (Milwaukee)
7. [Executive Director](#) - Geneva Lake Conservancy (Fontana)
8. [Co-Executive Director](#) - Milwaukee Water Commons (Milwaukee)
9. [Environmental Science Educator](#) - Trees for Tomorrow (Eagle River)
10. [Development Director](#) - Wisconsin Conservation Voters (Milwaukee or Madison)

Visit the WGF events page

Open Call for Art and Writing Submissions

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

We're especially looking for **nighttime imagery and photos of the moon** this fall! Review our [submission guidelines here](#).



Photo: Sandhill cranes and moon by Robert Rolley.

Share your art or writing with WGF

WGF In The News

- **Sep 21** - *WisPolitics* - [Wisconsin's Green Fire: Opposes the EPA's proposal to rescind the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment finding](#)
 - Also published in *WisBusiness*
- **Sep 19** - *WJFW News 12* - [EPA opens comments for rescinding climate regulation laws](#) - TV interview with WGF's Keith Reopelle
- **Sep 9** - *WisPolitics* - [Wisconsin's Green Fire: Supports audit findings that confirm the WDNR properly Managed Fish and Wildlife Account funds](#)
- **Sep 5** - *Spooner Advocate* - [Wake boat legislation doubtful](#)
- **Sep 1** - *Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR)* - [Wisconsin's wake boat controversy, explained](#)
- **Aug 25** - *The Cap Times* - [Opinion | Bill Horvath an unsung hero of Wisconsin conservation](#)
- **Aug 21** - *Isthmus Magazine* - [Can Solar and Wildlife Coexist?](#)

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
September 26, 2025 | Background image of rattlesnake master by Tom Jerow*

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