



Compass Points

October News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

In this issue of **Compass Points**, you'll find information about our fall fundraising appeal, fisheries and climate news, updates about our work on PFAS, forestry, and more. Don't miss the **events info** about Green Fire Cafe, Conservation Trivia, and the WI Conservation Retreat! We also include some conservation opportunities and job listings. **Thank you** for reading and being one of our voices for conservation! Let us know what you think, including suggestions for content in future issues of Compass Points.

- Carolyn Pralle, WGF Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Fall is our most critical fundraising season



If you're reading this, you've probably also been seeing our emails and social media posts about our [Beaver Moon themed fall fundraising appeal](#). Fall is our most important time of year for fundraising. Gifts from people like you comprise more than three-quarters of our annual budget. (Find more details in [our Annual Reports](#)).

Two things that make WGF special: 1) our deep bench of pro-bono technical experts who power our work groups, 2) our generous community of supporters like you. (Special thanks to those who represent both!) **For all who have already donated** to support our work advancing science-based conservation, thank you! If you haven't yet, please make time to donate today.

[Click here to support Wisconsin's Green Fire](#)

Guest Post: Necropsy Experience for Ella Ordens



As Halloween approaches, we're sharing a story about how a seemingly spooky topic—learning to do a necropsy, i.e., an autopsy for animals—became a great learning experience for a future veterinarian.

The story comes from Tom and Judy Ordens, two WGF supporters who made this experience possible for their granddaughter, Ella Ordens, through a WGF fundraiser in Spring 2025.

Photo: Judy, Ella, and Tom Ordens, photo courtesy of Judy Ordens

[Read about Ella's Necropsy Experience](#)

Fisheries Professionals Issue a Call for Action about the Climate Change Crisis



["Now is the time to combat detrimental, human-caused climate change if we wish to conserve the world's aquatic ecosystems and fisheries."](#) This quote is the opinion of 30 past presidents of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). WGF experts on fisheries and climate (e.g., Bill Fisher, Keith Reopelle, Nancy Turyk) urge our community of voices for conservation to take actions.

Photo: Walleye (Sander vitreus), photo by USFWS-Mountain Prairie via Flickr

[Read the Call to Action on Fisheries and Climate](#)

A Busy Week at the Capitol for WGF



During the week of October 6, 2025, Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) leaders [testified at the Wisconsin State Capitol](#) on multiple bills. The main topics were on forestry and PFAS. Meleesa Johnson, Executive Director, testified "for information only" on the sustainable aviation biofuel bill, SB 456 (*see picture above by Sarah Barry*). John Robinson, Chair of WGF's Contaminants of Emerging Concern Work Group testified in opposition to the PFAS bills, SB 127 and SB 128.

[Read about WGF's testimony on forests and PFAS](#)

Even more happening behind the scenes

With so much happening at the federal and state levels, many parts of our work aren't publicized on the WGF website or social media. Below, we list some examples from the past month. Several other longer-term projects are also underway.

- **US Forest Service** - We sent a comment letter to District Rangers of Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest about technical recommendations for the [North Branch Vegetation Project](#). Our comments are about boreal birds, stands older than 1917, hemlock regeneration and other concerns.
- **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)** -
 - Comments on NR 809 regarding PFAS
 - Comments on the Draft Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan
 - Participating in the Beaver Management Plan Committee
- **Wisconsin Legislature**
 - Participating in a panel at the State Capitol on "Why Forestry and Forest Products Matter in Wisconsin."

Do these topics intrigue you? Would you like to get more involved in the behind-the-scenes action on our work groups? [Contact us!](#)

Green Fire Cafe - "Supermoon" on Nov 5



We meet monthly via Zoom on first Wednesdays for our free virtual event series **Green Fire Cafe**. Join us next time on **Nov 5, 2025 at 3:00-4:00pm CT** for our coffee-klatsch style gathering. This month's theme is the "Supermoon."

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

Details and registration for Green Fire Cafe

Conservation Trivia - Dec 9, 4:30-6pm in Madison

Are you our next conservation trivia champion? Join Wisconsin's Green Fire for our second annual evening of Conservation Trivia at the Delta Beer Lab in Madison, WI.

Sign-in starts at 4:00p.m. Trivia begins at 4:30p.m.

Click here to register (\$10 per person). We recommend you form a team of 4 to 6 players. Make sure to indicate your team name when you register!



Register for Conservation Trivia (\$10)

4th Annual WI Conservation Retreat - Jan 5-8, 2026

For the fourth year, we are collaborating with the UW-Oshkosh Student Environmental Action Coalition to host the **Wisconsin Conservation Retreat** for students and professionals. During this 3-night, 4-day event, you can enjoy networking, skill-building, and fun winter activities!

- Student rate: \$140 | Professional rate: \$175
- Optional: \$50 Project WILD certification (includes lesson book)

Registration here by Dec. 1, 2025. Email SEAC@uwosh.edu with questions.

Join us January 5-8, 2026!

4th Annual Wisconsin Conservation Retreat

Bringing Students and Professionals Together

Are you passionate about conservation? Do you want to build your professional network, gain educational and communication skills, and have winter fun in Wisconsin's Northwoods? **This retreat is for you!** For our 4th annual event Jan. 5-8, 2026, we've expanded to 3 nights, 4 days of activities. College students (undergrad and graduate) of all majors and backgrounds are welcome. We encourage professionals from diverse career paths in conservation to attend, too!

Location: 5400 North Black Oak Lake Road, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540

- **Student Rate:** \$140
- **Professional Rate:** \$175
- **Optional:** \$50 Project WILD certification (Includes lesson book)

Fees covers all lodging and meals. Bring your own sleeping bag, bed linens, pillow and towel. Additional donations are welcome!

Email SEAC@uwosh.edu with questions or concerns.

Register by 12/01/2025: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/uwoseac/1916184>
This retreat is organized jointly by UW O SEAC and Wisconsin's Green Fire.

THE MISSION OF THE STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION IS TO ENCOURAGE AND ENGAGE MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN TO TAKE STEPS TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT. SEAC PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY AND BECOME LEADERS.



WISCONSIN'S
greenfire
VOICES FOR CONSERVATION



SCAN HERE

DEADLINE:
Dec. 1, 2025

Register for the Wisconsin Conservation Retreat

Get Involved in Conservation

Some upcoming opportunities:

- **Nitrate Watch:** Calling all community scientists! Join and get a free kit of 25 nitrate test strips. You'll become part of our growing group of volunteers around Wisconsin collecting water quality data.
- Help [reduce lead in the environment](#) and protect wildlife this fall (from our partners at Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance).
- [Nominate an Environmental Educator for the 2026 WAEE Award.](#)
 - Do you know an inspiring educator, administrator, student, student group, eco-justice advocate, WAEE member, or community leader who's making a difference in environmental education? Nominate them by January 10th, 2026.
- Nov 11 - [Climate and Utility Justice Lobby Day.](#) Consider joining Citizen Action and allied groups for a lobby day at the State Capitol focused on three bills related to climate change and economic justice in Wisconsin.

10 job opportunities in conservation nonprofits in WI:

1. [Executive Director](#) - Central Conservation (La Crosse)
2. [Leopold Conservation Award - Western States Director](#) - Sand County Foundation (Remote)
3. [Associate Director of Development](#) - The Nature Conservancy (Milwaukee)
4. [Executive Director](#) - Geneva Lake Conservancy (Fontana)
5. [Co-Executive Director](#) - Milwaukee Water Commons (Milwaukee)
6. [Development Director](#) - Woodland Dunes Nature Center and Preserve (Two Rivers)
7. [Community Program Educator](#) - The Nature Place (La Crosse) - AmeriCorps Position
8. [Regional Biologist I](#) - Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (Green Bay)
9. [Preserves Manager](#) - Driftless Area Land Conservancy (Dodgeville)

Special highlight: ["The Hidden Impact of a Northwoods Research Station"](#)

Wisconsin is home to many important research facilities like Trout Lake Station, the subject of this short documentary film. At research stations like this, scientists and educators collect irreplaceable long-term data and serve as hubs of information and action for local communities and beyond. We highly recommend watching it!



[Visit the WGF events page](#)

Open Call for Art and Writing Submissions

There is still time to submit art and writing for our fall issue of Confluences! We invite you to share your 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

- **Oct 20** - Wispolitics - [Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Lakes at Stake Wisconsin, Wisconsin's Green Fire: Advance balanced, science-based wake-enhanced boating policy](#)
 - Also published on *State Affairs*
- **Oct 7** - WPR - [Wisconsin lawmakers, regulators clash over PFAS protections in GOP bills](#)
- **Sep 29** - Wispolitics - [Wisconsin Climate March: Rallies clean energy advocates at the State Capitol](#)

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](#)

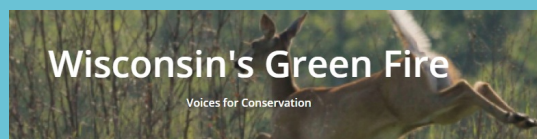
Looking for a gift idea?

- 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
October 24, 2025 | Background image of fallen maple leaves by Carolyn Pralle.*

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