Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation Outdoors Launches to Connect Hunters and Anglers with Conservation Solutions

Nation's largest conservation organization launches hunting and fishing website and brand

Denver, CO — The National Wildlife Federation, America's largest conservation organization, is launching today a new website and brand, National Wildlife Federation Outdoors, that will recognize the contributions of hunters and anglers throughout the organization’s history, its ongoing work, and especially in its state affiliates. This new platform will highlight how hunters and anglers have been and continue to be at the forefront of the federation's work protecting wildlife, public lands, and shared heritage for future generations.

"Since our founding 83 years ago, hunters and anglers of the National Wildlife Federation and our state affiliates have played — and continue to play — an absolutely essential role in recovering vulnerable wildlife populations, restoring critical habitat, and conserving special places," said Collin O’Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "Our success in contributing to new hunting and angling website will show our state affiliates and members how their contributions to conservation, as well as solutions to the greatest challenges facing wildlife and our sporting heritage today." 

It’s important for us to show our members how the National Wildlife Federation represents them, too, since we, as the Wisconsin state affiliate, represent primarily hunters and anglers, and how the policies we formulate and vote on each year drive the work of the federation,” said Dwayne Meadows, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife Federation. "National Wildlife Federation Outdoors provides that snapshot of the federation's work and keeps it relevant to today's hunters and anglers.

The website showcases the National Wildlife Federation’s hunting and fishing heritage, its programs, its coalitions, and its conservation policies most relevant to hunters and anglers, and the role and of its independent state affiliates — half of which primarily represent hunters and anglers in their states — which set the National Wildlife Federation’s conservation priorities through a grassroots resolution process. Hunters and anglers can also sign up to receive targeted information about conservation issues affecting them.

“We’re excited to showcase the awesome strength and impact of hunters and anglers across the Federation,” said Aaron Kindle, senior manager, western sporting campaigns for the National Wildlife Federation. “For years and years, the National Wildlife Federation and our state affiliates have tirelessly fought for the sporting community. This site, the reinvigoration of our sporting work, and the embrace of our sporting history and its conservation policies through a grassroots resolution process. Hunters and anglers can also sign up to receive targeted information about conservation issues affecting them.

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In addition to the website, National Wildlife Federation Outdoors hosts a podcast available on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, and Podbean, and hosts several social media outlets on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, with plans to launch a film series on Vimeo in the near future.

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President’s Report
June 2019

With my term as President of the Federation just beginning, I followed the tradition at the June Board of Directors meeting as President outlining my goals for the Federation for the next two years. The goals represent a blend of traditional hunting, fishing and trapping related measures along with a few that are aimed at the future of conservation in our state and country:

1. Support the reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. The acquisition of additional land is critically important to support the future of hunting, fishing and trapping.
2. Broaden our membership to more fully to include individuals of different ages, gender, races and outdoor recreational interests while still not losing our core values and mission supporting hunting, fishing and trapping in the state. There is strength in numbers and we will retain and expand our strength as an organization by broadening our ranks.
3. Support scientific management of Wisconsin’s wolf population by continuing to advocate for delisting of the wolf from the Federal Endangered Species List and return management to the state of Wisconsin.
4. Increase our efforts to protect fish and wildlife habitat through advancing clean and sustainable energy alternatives. Methods of production and distribution of energy has major impact on the quality of fish and wildlife habitat in Wisconsin and throughout the country.
5. Support the Federal Revising America's Wildlife Act which could bring as much as $20 million of funding into the state annually for managing and protecting fish and wildlife habitat for game, nongame and endangered species.
6. Support efforts to decrease waste going to our landfills and ending up in our waterways by reducing the use of single-use plastics. Single-use plastics are having a significant impact on our wildlife on a world-wide basis.
7. Increase outreach to our members by making an electronic news page to supplement our monthly newspaper, the Wisconservation. This will provide even more timely news about conservation efforts in Wisconsin.
8. Form a fundraising committee in order to assure that for the long term we will have sufficient financial resources to maintain our critical conservation education and sound conservation policy advocacy efforts.

On a last note, on June 6th through the 8th, First Vice-President Pat Quaintance, Wildlife Committee Chair Ralph Fritsch, CLC Coordinator Monica Banaszak, Executive Director George Meyer and I attended the National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting in St. Louis. The NWF has affiliates such as the NWF in virtually all of the country’s states and territories. The affiliates focus on the protection of fish and wildlife habitat on a national and international basis. Located in this month’s Wisconservation are the formal resolutions that were adopted at this year’s NWF Annual Meeting.

With that being said, take time to get out there fishing; break out your rifle, shotgun and bow and share your aim and above all take a young boy or girl out with you.

Craig Challoner
President
From A History of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

The first annual meeting of the Wisconsin Federation of Conservation Clubs opened under the temporary chairmanship of Sigmund Gem of Eau Claire at the State Paper Point in the Hardware Mutuals Auditorium (now SENTRY Insurance). About 100 delegations from clubs throughout the state were in attendance. The date was March 19, 1949. Saturday afternoon’s session, during which the Constitution was adopted gave an indication of the co-operative nature of the clubs making up the organization. The original proposed constitution was made to give the larger clubs additional votes in accordance with their larger memberships. It was agreed, however, again at the instigation of the larger clubs, that clubs should pay dues to the federation in proportion to their size, another generous gesture on the part of the big clubs, some of which have from 1,000 to 1,200 members.

At the November 1967 meeting of the Board of Directors Arthur W. Jorgenson, then Superintendent of I & E, Wisconservation Department, appeared before the Board and asked for help in promoting a Conservation Education Center for youths at Poynette. Wisconsin Wildlife Federation moved to transfer $1,000 to the Foundation Study Camp fund immediately to be used for promotional work in soliciting donations from all types of organization and all member Clubs. Estimates of the Poynette Conservation Education Center were that the project would cost about $120,000.

From Wisconservation

Contributors to the Endangered Resources Fund on the 1993 Wisconsin income tax form donated the fourth highest amount on record, $591,421. The Bureau of Endangered Resources established in 1982, relies primarily on donations to fund its work.

On Thursday June 13th, George, Clarissa, Monica and myself worked as a large list of applicants and all selected 14 members for the upcoming CLC Class 7. Applicants home states include Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, and Nevada. The Universities that the applicants attend are UW-Madison, Madison Tech, Beloit College, UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee, Northland College, UW-Stevens Point, and one class member attends Madison Central High School. The majority of applicants are ladies, and one is a junior in high school. Letters are being sent out to the new class members.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has three wildlife “traveling education trunks.” Each trunk contains curricula and hands-on materials such as pelts, skulls, tracks, books, games, and videos. All of our trunks are designed to help educators teach youth about the biology of the animal, its habitat, why the animal is important, about predator-prey relationships, and about why it’s important to protect wildlife habitat.

Wolf Trunk: This trunk features the Timber Wolf and includes pelts, fur swatches, replica skulls, replica scat, molds for making tracks, and tracks of prey species. It includes an IMAX video about wolves (that can be viewed on any video machine) produced by the National Wildlife Federation. The trunk also includes a detailed curriculum guide for grades K-12 that was developed by National Wildlife Federation education staff.

Whoooping Crane Trunk: This trunk features hands on materials to teach students about Whooping Crane biology, endangered species, and migratory birds. It includes: replicas of the crane skull, leg, and egg; feathers from Sandhill Crane and Whooping Cranes; samples of crane food; an adult costume and puppet that researchers use when0 reading young Whooping Cranes; leg bands that researchers use to mark and identify cranes in the field; a MP3 player with CD/DVD that includes the crane’s calls; video produced by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about its Crane Easter Partnership; and an instruction manual for educators. DNR’s Endangered Resources Bureau developed this trunk.

Small Mammals Trunk: This trunk features hands on materials to teach students about Wisconsin’s small mammals. It includes: replicas of scat and track replicas, skulls, pelts, interpretive materials as well as two field guides. These resources can be used to explore adaptations among mammals, tracking, taxonomy and many more topics.

We provide these trunks to teachers, clubs, and organizations for a two-week time period. We do not charge for the use of the trunk. To reserve your trunk, please call us at (608) 635-0069. We take reservations on a first come, first served basis.

June Board Meeting Guest Speakers

Fred Souba

On Saturday, Fred Souba, WI DNR State Forester/Division Administrator, addressed the Board about state of forestry on the 17 million acres of forests in Wisconsin. Mr. Souba noted that since the 1960s the amount of forested land in Wisconsin has increased, and nearly half of the forests in Wisconsin are owned by families. Other major forested land include the federal, state, and local governments. One major change has been paper company lands have been bought by investment companies. As a result, land access has changed making it more difficult to hunt in some of these lands. Mr. Souba spoke about an important WI Act 166 which changed the way timber harvests are reported. As a result, timber harvests and habitat projects have increased. Some of the challenges that foresters are currently facing include getting oak forests to regenerate, a decline in the birch and aspen forests and an increase in maple and beechwoods forests. Climate change is also posing challenges, and research is on-going to figure out how to regenerate forests as the climate changes. Currently a 10-year forestry plan is being developed. There will be several opportunities for stake holders to give input in the plan before it is finalized. Mr. Souba noted that, so far, the loss of the forestry mill tax has not resulted in a reduction of the forestry budget.

Tyler Huebner

On Friday night guest speaker, Tyler Huebner, who is the Executive Director of Renew Wisconsin gave a report to the Board on the current state of energy generation and future trends in energy use and generation. Wisconsin is somewhat behind the national trends in energy production. Currently, about half the energy in Wisconsin comes from coal and one-fourth comes from natural gas. A small percent of energy in Wisconsin is produced by renewable sources, and nearly half of the energy from renewable sources comes from out of state. That is changing due to the declining cost of wind and solar energy production. Wind energy costs have declined by 40%, and solar costs have declined by 80% in the last decade. Over the last two years, Wisconsin utilities have decided to develop wind and solar energy rather than other forms of energy production due to declining costs. Businesses and households are also installing solar on roof tops at an increasing rate due to the declining costs. Another potential source of energy in the state is hydropower, and research and development is on-going with mussels. Mr. Huebner also noted that by 2025 the up-front cost of an electric car will be equal to the cost of a gas powered car, and in the next six years over 200 models of electric cars will be available.

Dear Wisconsin Wildlife Federation,

Thank you so much for allowing my class to use and explore the bear trunk. It was absolutely incredible and so much learning happened! The ability to learn through hands-on opportunities was so rewarding for all students. Thank you again for creating these trunks and sharing with schools!

Sincerely,

Daniel Arguelles-Hath, Science Social Studies Teacher
Glenwood Elementary School-Greenfield
Wilderness Society sues administration for long-overdue FOIA documents on industrial mining near Boundary Waters Canoe Area

WASHINGTON, June 20, 2019 — Today, the Wilderness Society filed a lawsuit in federal district court in a number of counties around the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in northwest Minnesota to force the U.S. Forest Service to release documents that the public and the courts believe are overdue. The Wilderness Society is represented by public interest attorneys Maya Kane of Foley & Lardner LLP, and Matt Kibbe of Minnesota Environmental Law.

“Every since the abrupt and politically-driven cancellation of the proposed 20-year ban on mining activity in the watershed of the Boundary Waters, the Trump administration has fallen silent,” said Matt Kibbe of Minnesota Environmental Law.

The Wilderness Society has been waiting for responses to approximately two dozen outstanding and grossly overdue FOIA requests dating back to September 2018 that would “rescind the withdrawal” and “roll back the mining leases and other authorizations. The announcement followed a lawsuit by President Trump and Vice President Pence at the time, and we’re not going to back down until they rescind the withdrawal and roll back the ban,” said Matt Kibbe.

The FOIA requests – to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management – date back to September 2018 and demand information on industrial mining near the nation’s most visited wilderness area, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota. The organization has been waiting for responses to approximately two dozen outstanding and grossly overdue FOIA requests dating back to September 2018 that would “rescind the withdrawal” and “roll back the mining leases and other authorizations. The announcement followed a lawsuit by President Trump and Vice President Pence at the time, and we’re not going to back down until they rescind the withdrawal and roll back the ban,” said Matt Kibbe.

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Secretary Bernhardt Proposes Increasing Public Access to Hunting and Fishing on 1.4 Million Acres Nationwide

Proposed Changes in 45 National Fish Hatcheries

O ak Harbor, Ohio – Furthering the Trump Administration’s ef- forts to increase access to public lands, 25 Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt today announced from Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge a pro-posal for new or expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 74 national wild- life refuges and 15 national fish hatcheries managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) across more than 1.4 million acres.

“President Trump is committed to expanding public access on public lands, and this proposal is executing on that di- rective by opening and increasing access to hunting and fishing by the Fish and Wildlife Service at more stations and in more ways,” said Secretary Bernhardt. “Hunting and fishing are more than just traditional pastimes as they are also vital to the conservation of our lands and waters, our outdoor recreation economy, and our way of life. Fishing and hunting and hatcheries provide critical opportuni- ties for conservation across the country. Families across the country to pass on a fishing and hunting heritage to future generations and connect with wildlife.”

The proposal would increase the num- ber of units in the Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System where the public may hunt from 377 to 382, and the num- ber where fishing would be allowed would be increased from 312 to 316. The proposal would also formally open hunting on 15 hatcheries of the National Fish Hatchery System to hunting or sport fishing for the first time.

The proposal also outlines a comprehen- sive review and simplification of all refuge-specific hunting and fishing regu- lations in all 50 states to more closely match state regulations while continuing to ensure safe and compatible opportuni- ties. The Service worked closely with the states in preparing the proposed rule.

“Well managed hunting and fish- inger is the backbone of conservation in this country, but inconsistent or overly restrictive regulations can make it difficult for families across the country to pass on a fishing and hunting heritage to future generations and connect with wildlife,” said Secretary Bernhardt. “Hunting and fishing are more than just traditional pastimes as they are also vital to the conservation of our lands and waters, our outdoor recreation economy, and our way of life.”

New proposed refuge regulations include allowing for the opening of new areas at 74 National Wildlife Refuges in Wisconsin to hunting and fishing for the first time and the formal opening of lands at 15 National Wildlife Refuges in Wisconsin to deer and big game hunting. Inks Dam Na- tional Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin is announcing to fish hatcheries and the formal opening of lands on Iron River National Fish Hatchery in Wisconsin to migratory game bird, upland game and big game hunting. Johns D同一个 Nat- ional Fish Hatchery in Pennsylvania and Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery in Washington are proposing to formally open their lands to sport fishing. An up- date to hatchery regulations is also in- cluded in the proposed new rule.

“The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is excited by this announcement of a continuation of a commitment by the Department of the Interior to expanded access to public land and waters that enable people to experience fishing and hun- ging, on National Wildlife Refuges, in partnership with state fish and wildlife agencies,” stated Ed Carter, President of the Association and Executive Direc- tor of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. He added, “We need to get people into the woods, lakes, rivers, streams, and fish and wildlife resources, of our great nation. This is an important step in that direction.”

“The announcement today by Secre- tary Bernhardt is in tune with the news and builds off great progress in in- creasing access to refuge lands the last two years,” said nên Devaney, Senior Vice President, Delta Waterfowl. “Delta and our 52nd affiliate, United States, support outdoor recreation, fishing and hunting heritage to future generations and connect with wildlife.”

“The Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation applauds Secretary Bern- hardt for his efforts to expand public access to hunting and fishing opportunities within the National Wildlife Refuge System,” said Congressional Sportsman’s Foundation President Jeff Crane. “This announce- ment builds off momentum generated during the last two years through to- gethers, Secretarial Orders, and advances re- cently made at the refuge level submitted by the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conserva- tion Council to increase hunter and an- gler access to federal lands and waters, including the Refuge System.”

“A recent report on outdoor activities contributed more than $156 billion in economic activity in communi- ties across the country. This proposal, according to the Service’s National Survey of Fishing, Wildlife and Wildlife- associated Recreation, published every five years. More than 101 million Americans participate in fishing and hunting, 5% of the U.S. population age 16 and older — pursue wildlife-related outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing. The Service will seek comments from the public on the proposed rule for 45 days, beginning with publication in the Federal Register in coming days. The notice will be available at http://www. regulations.gov, Docket Number: FWS- NW-SBS-2018-0043, and will include details on how to submit your comments. A complete copy of the proposed rule is now available.

The Service intends to finalize the proposed changes in time for the hunting 2019-2020 hunting seasons.

Please visit the following links for all refuges and hatcheries in the proposal is available in the proposed rule and online.

Thank you to the WFF for making this possible. The Mishicot Sportsman Club and Francis Creek Sportsman Club thank you very much for all your help and support with the donation of practice ammo.

Organizations are expressing their gratitude for the work of the WFF.

Connor to our Conference 2 Trap Team on a great season! We won the Conference championship. Kyle took the Conference Overall High Average and 1st place in the male division, Crystal finished 1st place in the female division, and Parker got the 2nd place spot in the Conference for males.

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WISCONSERVATION July 2019

National Wildlife Federation Calls for Climate-Smart Infrastructure Investments at 83rd Annual Meeting

Federation Also Welcomes New Alaska Affiliate, Recognizes Conservationists, Elects New Board Leadership

S T. LOUIS – The National Wildlife Federation called for climate-smart infra- structure investments that will set the United States on a path to achieve net- zero emissions by 2050. The resolution was approved at the 83rd Annual Meeting.

The Federation’s Board of Directors also voted to welcome the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council as its newest and 52nd affiliate.

The National Wildlife Federation is America’s largest and most trusted conserva- tion organization. Its 52 affiliates lead critical conservation efforts in their states and territories and pass policy resolutions each year that guide the National Wildlife Federation’s work.

The resolution to advance climate-smart infrastructure investments reaffirms the Federation’s commitment to advance climate solutions for communities, jobs and wild- life that can thrive. In the face of the global climate crisis, a conservation infrastructure policy is a near-term opportunity for bipartisan collaboration on invest- ments in the low-carbon technologies and natural infrastructure that can provide a sustainable down-payment on our climate goals.

Affiliates also approved resolutions:

• Protecting habitat, wildlife and water resources around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining, specifically resolving to permanently protect 1 million acres of the Grand Canyon National Park
• To significantly reduce single-use plastic products in the American marketplace, building upon a 2018 resolution, promoting action at local and state levels, and supporting a national 50 percent reduction by 2025 for which alternatives are readily available and affordable.
• To urge the Environmental Protection Agency and state departments of Agricult- ural to suspend authorizations for dangerous volatile herbicides Dicamba and 2,4-D, to protect wildlife habitat that is already under the intense pressure.
• Supporting tribes on their lands to prevent wildfires, save lives and resources, and provide immense benefits to the environment, wildlife and outdoor recreation.
• To urge the Environmental Protection Agency and state departments of Agricult- ural to reverse federal land sales that do not meet local and state standards for environmental conservation in Southeast Alaska, using creative grassroots organizing, water qual- ity, habitat management, and provide new revenue opportunities for the state.

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council Joins National Wildlife Federation

The Southeast Alaska Conservation Council joined the National Wildlife Federa- tion today as the organization’s Alaska affiliate, following a unanimous vote of the Federation’s Board of Directors. The Juneau-based conservation organization, founded in 1970 and dedicated to protecting Alaska’s wildlife and natural resources, is the National Wildlife Federation’s 52nd state and territorial affiliate.

The resolution with the National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors was made in recognition of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council’s work for environmental conservation in Southeast Alaska, using creative grassroots organizing, water qual- ity, habitat management, and provide new revenue opportunities for the state.

Conservation Achievement Awards

The National Wildlife Federation Conservation Achievement Awards began in 1968. Since then, the National Wildlife Federation has celebrated individuals and or- ganizations that have made outstanding contributions to protecting wildlife through advocacy, communication and on-the-ground conservation.

This year’s awardees were:

• Affiliate of the Year: Arizona Wildlife Federation
• Affiliate Volunteer of the Year: Mike McKerman, South Dakota Wildlife Federation
• Conservation Achievement Award: Clark Bullard, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Prairie Rivers Network (IL) and former National Wildlife Federation Board of Directors Member
• Conservation Leadership: Dan and Connie Burkhardt, Katy Land Trust and the Minnesota Land Trust
• Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership, Affiliate: Bob Rees, Association of Northwest Steelheaders (OR)
• Charlie Shaw Conservation Partnership, Partnership: Lisa Moore, Board Chair, National Wildlife Federation Staff Lisa Moore, editorial director of National Wildlife Magazine.

Mishicot Wraps Up a Great Trap Season

Bill Houston took over as Board of Directors Chair from Kathleen Harrell, and affiliates elected:

Americas
Blue-green algae covers rocks with a substance similar in consistency to pea soup called 'cyanobacteria.' "Blue-green algae are in all lakes and rivers in Wisconsin, but they only become a problem when they grow to high levels, called blooms," said Gina LaLiberte, a statewide blue-green algae coordinator. Blooms tend to grow when there is a lot of organic material, high nutrient levels, and high temperatures. While blooms are typically peak from July through October, they can also occur in June or later in the fall if conditions are favorable. Actively growing blooms are usually green and have a "pea soup" appearance, but blooms may also appear as blue, white, red, or brown scums that may be foamy, sticky, or in mats or clumps. While not all blue-green algae make toxins, the presence of blooms in lakes, ponds or rivers may indicate a potential health risk. Most blooms are in the state are currently monitored for blue-green algae, so it is important for the public to learn to assess water conditions for themselves. "Choose the clearest water possible for small children and dogs, and avoid swallowing water that could contain other bacteria, viruses, and parasites," said LaLiberte.

One easy way to identify potential risk from blue-green algae is for an adult to wade into knee-deep water. If they can see their feet, the water is fairly safe. If the water looks bluish, or you can't see their feet, the water is toxic to the state. Dogs should always be rinsed off with clean water out of the water and consider having the whole family pursue another activity that day. If people have any doubts about the appearance of water, they should stay out. Public health officials also encourage people to shower off with clean water after swimming in any lake, pond or river. Dogs should always be rinsed off with clean water to remove algae from their coat. Animals have a higher risk of dying should they accidentally consume blue-green algae blooms because they are smaller in size and may swallow large amounts of toxins from the water or if they lick or scratch their coat. Symptoms in dogs can include lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea or even seizures. If your animal shows any of these symptoms, contact a veterinarian immediately.

People are also encouraged to report potential algae-related illnesses in both people and animals to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services by filling out the Harmful Algae Bloom Illness or Pet Poisoning Questionnaire at https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/be-algae/index.htm or by calling 808-265-1120.

To help track the occurrence of blooms around the state, blooms may be reported to the DNR through the bloom reporting site at DNRHABS@wisconsin.gov. We are particularly interested in reports of especially severe or unusual conditions. If you observe blooms, size, duration, location with lake, town, county, zip code, and photos for verification are particularly helpful.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency recently released final recreational guidelines for two blue-green algae toxins (gog/weg/recommended-human-health-recreational-ambient-water-quality-criteria-or-swimming-advise). The DNR is reviewing the guidelines and will consider using them to set state standards for swimming advisories, water quality criteria, or both. The DNR continues to implement strategies to improve water quality in all of Wisconsin's lakes and streams. This report from Governor Evers' Year's Clean Water: Water quality for Wisconsin residents and visitors is of highest priority for the DNR.

"Wisconsin's goal is ambitious: to add 120 million new stems of milkweed by 2038, which is asking residents to provide more habitat for monarchs this summer and in coming years. "The monarchs are back in our area and are searching neighbors for native plants, and we are asking our neighbors to do the same," said Paul Skawinski, co-chair of the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative Urban & Greenspace Collaborative.

Monarchs have arrived; now's the time to plant milkweed and native flowers to help them

MADISON - Monarch butterflies have arrived in Wisconsin after a 4,000-mile journey from the southern United States and are looking for milkweed to lay their eggs. Monarch butterflies provide a service to conservation biologists by asking residents to provide more habitat for monarchs this summer and in coming years.

The group, the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative, is working to help reverse an 80% decline over the last two decades in the eastern U.S. monarch population that has led Wisconsin and other Midwestern states to ask residents to provide more habitat for monarchs. The group advises that the best, most effective way to do that is to plant native milkweed, since milkweeds are the only source of food for monarch caterpillars to eat and is a limiting factor in the butterfly's population.

"Now is a great time to plant native species to help monarchs in Wisconsin," said Paul Skawinski, co-chair of the Wisconsin Monarch Collaborative Urban & Greenspace Collaborative and President of Wild Ones Central Wisconsin Chapter. Wisconsin is the home of monarchs. The state is searching for milkweed plant nurseries around the state have, healthy potted plants available, and some planting guides are free. Wisconsin's statewide native species partners and WDNR staff will talk with anglers and boaters at many lakes and river accesses, they will also hand out free ice packs to remind people that icing is the best way to keep fish fresh.

"Fishing success is tied to healthy river ecosystems. Anglers can help by not moving water that may contain tiny, even microscopic, species. Putting your catch on ice not only keeps the fish fresher and tastier, but it means you don't need to worry about trash, litter or invasive species. Photo credit: DNR"

MADISON - Drainagelive wells, bait buckets and milkcages every time you leave a boat launch is a way for anglers to help keep Wisconsin's waters healthy by stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species. Photo credit: DNR

"It's a great thing that the majority of lakes and rivers in Wisconsin don't yet have invasive aquatic species in them, but that makes it even more important that we protect our waters from those that do," says Todd Ambo, DNR assistant deputy secretary.

The following steps are required by law to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- INSPECT boats, trailers and equipment for plants, animals and debris.
- REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment, including livewells and buckets containing fish.
- NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a waterbody.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.
- ONLY use leftover minnows when either 1) fishing with them on the same body of water or 2) on other waters if no lake/river water or other fish have been handled in between.

To learn more about invasive species and their impacts to Wisconsin's waters and economy, view the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for "invasives."

Drain and clean in between to stop invasive species and protect Wisconsin's waters

Contact(s): Joanne Schierer, Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Specialist, 608-266-0961, OR Tim Campbell, 608-265-3727

Dogs do not move water that may contain toxic blue-green algae blooms.

While there are many factors for the decline in monarchs, habitat loss is considered the primary concern in the states where the monarch breeds. A coalition of non-governmental organizations and citizens has petitioned the United States Fish & Wildlife Service to list monarchs as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. That agency’s listing decision announcement was expected in summer 2018 but has recently been pushed back to December 2020.

Read a growing number of Wisconsin residents, utilities, farmers and highway departments are helping protect and add monarch habitat in "Make a Place for Monarchs" in the April 2019 Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine. [https://dnr.wi.gov/wrmag/2019/Spring/monarch.html]
Wisconsin ruffed grouse survey results indicate an increase in breeding grouse

**MADISON** — Roadside ruffed grouse surveys completed this spring show statewide drumming activity increased 41% between 2018 and 2019. This increase aligns with the generally increasing 4-year cycle. The large increase in 2019 has made up for much of the unanticipated decline seen in 2018. Drumming surveys and appears to put Wisconsin back on track for approaching the next cyclical high in the ruffed grouse population. For more information on the surveys contact DNR wildlife staff or search “ruffed grouse” on dnr.wi.gov and search keywords “reports.”

"Ruffed grouse are an important resource for Wisconsin’s outdoor enthusiasts and economy,” said Mark Witecha, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources upland wildlife ecologist. “As we enter the broad rearing season, weather conditions over the coming weeks will be critical in determining how many ruffed grouse see in the woods this fall, but increased drumming activity is a good sign that there were more breeding grouse on the landscape this year.”

Roadside surveys to monitor the number of breeding grouse have been conducted by staff from the department, U.S. Forest Service, tribal employees and numerous grouse enthusiasts and volunteers since 1964. The survey results showed a 41% increase statewide over 2018 levels. The central part of the state showed an increase of 35% in drumming activity, and the northern forest showed an increase of 48% in drumming activity. These two areas comprise the primary ranges in Wisconsin. The increase in drumming activity detected by the roadside survey occurred in the southeast part of the state (-17%) as well as the south-east (-50%), but these areas are not within the primary range for grouse. At that time of year, the wolf population is at its lowest point, so the results of these surveys are considered minimum counts. The population increases every spring with the birth of pups, then declines throughout the remainder of the year due to dispersal and various mortality factors.

"Although wolves remain classified as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently proposed removing wolves from the endangered species list. Such a move would restore management authority to the state and allow a more flexible approach to wolf management.

"While we can credit the Endangered Species Act with saving wolves, we need to retain their important role in our wildlife community; there's simply no biological rationale for maintaining current federal protections. Delisting would allow man-

Wisconsin’s wolf population remains healthy, stable

**MADISON** — Extensive monitoring efforts by more than 100 voluntary trackers and Department of Natural Resources staff suggest that Wisconsin’s wolf population is stable while monitoring has revealed no evidence of overpopulation or established population goals. Data collected during tracking surveys this past winter reveal an overwinter minimum wolf count of 914-978 wolves, similar to the 905-944 wolves detected during 2017-2018 count. The state’s wolf population had been increasing steadily since the early 1990s but appears to have sta-

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"Ruffed grouse rely on dense, young forest cover resulting from disturbances such as fire and logging," said Witecha. "Beyond actively managing state-owned lands, Wisconsin private landowners are working to provide suitable grouse habitat through collaborative efforts such as the Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership and Joint Funded Forests. These partnerships provide technical and financial assistance for delivering young forest management to private lands. Ruffed grouse and other wildlife species benefit from healthy and diverse forest communities."

The department is currently working with partners to develop a ruffed grouse management plan. This draft plan will be released for public review later this summer, with associated public meetings to be held dur-

Wisconsin’s wolf population remains healthy, stable

"Urban and suburban development is encroaching on the ruffed grouse habitat by a million acres a year. In the meantime, significant species like the rusty patch bumble bee and the monarch butterfly continue to decline," said Mary Phillips, National Wildlife Federation’s Garden for Wildlife senior director and National Pollinator Garden Network co-founder. "Efforts like National Wildlife Federation’s engagement in the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge have amplified awareness leading to local, state, and national efforts to support healthy and diverse forest communities."

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"Summer ruffed grouse surveys in spring 2019 showed statewide drumming activity increased 41 percent over 2018."

**CLC Representative Attends NWF Annual Meeting**

I n St. Louis, Missouri the 2019 Annual Meeting of the National Wildlife Federation was held on June 5th to June 8th, 2019. I, Monica Banaszak, an alumnus of the Wisconsin Conservation Association and the Ruffed Grouse Society attended the meeting alongside George Moore, Ralph Fritsch, Pat Quann, and Craig Challenger of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. It was my first NWF meeting and it was a dream come true for me. I learned a lot from these sessions. There was a day set aside for attendees to go on afternoon field trips in the area. I attended the one for the Missouri Botanic Garden. It was such a beautiful place. I highly recom-

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**2019 Calendar Donors**

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<td>Ecklund Motorsports</td>
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<td>Dave Plover</td>
<td>Plover, WI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>Becoming An Outdoor Woman</td>
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<td>Nicky Boy Charter Fishing Services</td>
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<td>Keith &amp; Judy Pamperin</td>
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<td>Bill Tallard</td>
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**W.W.F. “Kitchen News”**

**Ingredients**
- 1 lbs. hamburger
- 1 jar pizza sauce
- 8 oz shredded mozzarella cheese
- Sliced black olives
- Sliced mushrooms

**Directions**
- Brown burger. Mix burger and pizza sauce together in bowl. Spread mixture on sliced Kaiser Roll. Add other desired ingredients and top with mozzarella cheese. Place on cookie sheet and bake in 350° oven for 10 to 12 minutes.

**Pizza Burgers**

**Ingredients**
- Diced onions
- Diced green pepper
- Kaiser Rolls sliced

**Coleslaw**

**Ingredients**
- 1/2 head of cabbage
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 carrots
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1/4 cup oil

**Directions**
- Shred cabbage and carrot into large bowl. Place vinegar, oil, and sugar in small bowl and mix thoroughly. Pour oil mixture over cabbage and carrots and stir until all the carrots and cabbage are coated with oil mixture.

**20 Minute Chocolate Pie**

**Ingredients**
- 1 premade chocolate cookie pie crust
- 1 package chocolate mousse mix
- Milk
- 1 can Reddi Wip Cream

**Directions**
- The pie crust can be pre-baked for 10 minutes as per package instructions or the mousse can be added to the unbaked crust. Follow package instructions on making the mousse. Pour into pie crust and let sit for a few minutes. Top with Reddi Wip.

**W.W.F. Business Membership**

**Silver**
- Steve’s Southside Citgo, Watertown
- Paul R. Sommers, DDS, SC, Watertown
- Watertown Towne & Townes, Watertown
- Advanced Building Corporation, Verona
- Manitowoc Co Fish & Game Protective Assoc., Manitowoc

**Bronze**
- Best Sound Service, Watertown
- Keck Furniture, Watertown
- Dave’s Turf and Marine, Watertown
- Theder Home Services and Construction, Watertown
- Castle Rock Marine Inc., New Lisbon
- J & L Tire, Johnson Creek
- J & H Game Farm, Shiocton
- City Limits, Manitowoc
- General Beer-NE Division, Stevens Point
- Shooters, Plover
- Wild Wings, Campbellsport
- Carbo, Amherst Junction

**Support Businesses That Support Conservation**

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**WWF 2019 Banquet Dates**

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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>Brian Holoba</td>
<td>March 14, 2019</td>
<td>Crockett Bar &amp; Grill</td>
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<td>East</td>
<td>Gary Wilson</td>
<td>Sept. 5, 2019</td>
<td>Shooper’s</td>
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<td>West</td>
<td>Randy Tennesi</td>
<td>April 4, 2020</td>
<td>American Legion</td>
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<td>South</td>
<td>Jerry Lingafeldt</td>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>Michelle Groff</td>
<td>February 1, 2020</td>
<td>Fox Hollow Banquet</td>
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<td>Black River Falls</td>
<td>Ed Rolls</td>
<td>March 7, 2020</td>
<td>Caust Hill Rapper Club</td>
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<td>Ingham Hotel</td>
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<td>March 6, 2020</td>
<td>Hilton Garden Inn</td>
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<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>Wayne Thayer</td>
<td>January 25, 2020</td>
<td>Ho-Chunk Casino</td>
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**Wisconsin Conservation June 2019 Calendar Winners**

1. $100 Cash
   - Robert Oestreich, Merrill
   - 7983
2. Weatherby Orion Walnut O/U Shotgun
   - Clarence Brubii, Sheldon
   - 3566
3. $100 cash
   - Pete Sippel, Amberk, Jet
   - 3455
4. $100 gift card to Cabalas
   - Mark Gies, Oconomowoc
   - 9510
5. Cooler Bag Set/piece bone handle knife set with legs
   - Brian Martin, Clyman
   - 924
6. Arness 410 U/U Walnut W/5 Screw in Chokes
   - Tyron Wutaiv, Manitews
   - 8364
7. $100 Kwik Trip gift card
   - Ed Frank, Oxford
   - 7295
8. Bone Handle Knife Block Set with legs
   - Matt Schwai, Campbellsport
   - 5681
9. Arness 12 Ga Walnut W/5 Screw in Chokes
   - Hotel Meal, WI Rapids
   - 9704
10. $100 cash
    - Cody Becker, Rhem
    - 9099
11. Cooler Bag Set/piece bone handle knife set with legs
    - Jack Schownik, Greenwood
    - 2484
12. Winchester XSP Camlock 3.5” 12 Ga
    - Steve Schw, Whitewater
    - 10818
13. $100 Kwik Trip Gift Card
    - Brad Degen, Spuer
    - 6875
14. $100 cash
    - Mike Meyer, Watertown
    - 9548
15. $100 gift card to Cabalas
    - Chris Mattman, Oconomowoc
    - 10122
16. S&W 994 Pistol
    - Fred Douglas, East Troy
    - 10571
17. Bone Handle Knife Block Set with legs
    - Doug Halloran, White Lake
    - 1935
18. Arness 430 Walnut Shotgun W/5 Screw in Chokes Ken Krueger, St. Paul, MN
    - 3281
19. $100 Kwik Trip gift card
    - Richard Taylor, Shawano
    - 9007
20. $100 gift card to Cabalas
    - Bape Printers, Riper
    - 7430
21. Savage Model 911 17 HMR Target Rifle
    - Daniel McKinney, Germantown
    - 5882
22. Cooler Bag Set/piece bone handle knife set with legs
    - Karen Williams, Watertown
    - 8291
23. Box - Mission Bear Package by Mathews
    - Donald Stauffer, Oconomowoc
    - 8994
24. Remington 783 Rifle
    - Eric Weston, Pittsfield, IL
    - 302
25. $100 Kwik Trip gift card
    - Jim Lamps, Caledonia
    - 7100
26. $100 gift card to Cabalas
    - Jessica Eirman, Eau Claire
    - 7665
27. Brose 3000 Mag Shotgun
    - John Nohl, Onalaska
    - 267
28. $100 cash
    - Bill Crawford, Fond du Lac
    - 3250
29. Bone Handle Knife Block Set with legs
    - John Wagner, Ferrelle
    - 10467
30. $1000 Cash
    - Robert Oestreich, Merrill
    - 7983