Support the WWF's Conservation and Education projects by making a donation with the donation envelope included in this issue of Wisconservation!!

With COVID impacting our Banquets and Calendar Raffles, now is a great time to keep the WWF strong with a donation. See the envelope for details.

DNR Confirms CWD In Wood County Wild Deer; Renews Baiting And Feeding Bans

Wisconsin RAPIDS, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirms the first wild deer to test positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in southern Wood County in the Town of Port Edwards, within ten miles of Juneau and Adams counties. As required by state law, the DNR will renew the baiting and feeding bans in Wood, Juneau, and Adams counties.

The CWD-positive deer was an adult buck harvested during the 2020 gun deer season and tested as part of the department’s disease surveillance efforts. State law requires that the DNR enact a ban on the baiting and feeding of deer in counties or portions of counties within a 10-mile radius of a wild or farm-raised deer that tests positive for CWD. Because the deer was harvested within 10 miles of Juneau and Adams counties, bans in those counties will also be renewed.

The DNR will continue surveillance near the CWD positive detection location. Collecting CWD samples is important for assessing the disease status. The Wisconsin DNR began monitoring the state’s wild white-tailed deer population for CWD in 1999. The first CWD-positive deer was an adult buck harvested in Adams County.

As ever, successful CWD management depends in part on citizen involvement in the decision-making process through local County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC).

The upcoming Wood County CDAC meeting to discuss deer population objectives will include additional information on the new CWD detection. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. Additional details regarding the Wood County CDAC can be found at this link [https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/hunt/CDAC/Find.aspx]. (Select Wood from the drop-down menu.) Preregistration is not required.

CWD is a fatal, infectious nervous system disease of deer, moose, elk and reindeer/caribou. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases. CWD occurs only in members of the cervid or deer family - both wild and captive. The Wisconsin DNR began monitoring the state’s wild white-tailed deer population for CWD in 1999. The first positives were found in 2002.

President's Report

January 2021

Winter greetings to all of you, and I hope all are healthy and doing well.

As we approach the one-year mark of the Covid-19 crisis, it’s a good time to look back at the past 12 months, and despite the pandemic, realize that we have adjusted and adapted to our rapidly changing world.

Many individuals and organizations have accomplished much over the last year and now is the time for us to honor them. We will be taking nominations for individuals and organizations that have stood out in their passion and dedication for conservation. If you know of anyone or any organization that you feel should be recognized see the write up in this month’s Wisconservation and send it to the WWF office by April 1st. The conservation awards will be presented at our yearly awards banquet.

We are hoping to have our annual meeting in person this year. Place and time are dependent on the status of the health situation. I am looking forward to seeing many of you again in person. The annual meeting will be when I hand over the gavel to my successor. But more importantly, this is when George Meyer, our executive director, after a lifetime of conservation work, will be stepping aside to tackle his next adventure in life, which is the position of full time grandpa. I can’t even imagine what the Federation would have looked like without his guidance over the last 25 years. Whatever our new executive director is, they have some big shoes to fill. And a personal thank you to you George for your encouragement and patience with me over my last five years on the executive committee, I always look back to those days that I worked with you.

On a sad note, recently former president and board member Chuck Matyska of Cecil Wisconsin passed away. Chuck distinguished himself in conservation and many sporting organizations. He will be sorely missed.

February brings the annual sturgeon spawning season to Lake Winnebago and the upper lakes. All who spear are hoping for cold weather to “make ice” for this Wisconsin winter tradition. However ice is never 100% safe, so be careful out there, and contact one of the local clubs for ice conditions.

District 5 has a number of raffles being held right now. On Feb 25th we will be raffling off a quarter of beef at The Trading Post Bar in Mount Morris. We will have a Crossbow and another quarter of beef to be raffled on March 13th at Turner Tap in Omro. Help support the federation by purchasing a ticket, and please support the establishments and local businesses that support us.

White March is a slow month for outdoor recreation it’s a good month to prepare for the upcoming fishing and turkey seasons. Remember it’s time to renew your hunting and fishing licenses. While the conservation Patron license may cost more, to me it’s more convenient and a safeguard from finding yourself in the field without the adequate license or stamp, not to mention the added perks of a Patron’s license.

Lastly I look forward to the day when we can get back with our family and friends and look back at this year as just a bad dream, but until then I hope you all stay safe and healthy.
Elevated Levels of PFAS Found in Rainbow Smelt

A new fish consumption advisory for smelt in Lake Superior is now in effect. Photo credit: iStock/KirsanovV

MADISON, Wis. – Based on recent sampling results, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) are recommending a PFAS-based fish consumption advisory for Lake Superior. Due to the high levels of PFAS found in the samples, the DNR and DHS are updating the recommended rainbow smelt consumption advisory from an unrestricted amount to one meal per month for Lake Superior.

The sampling completed by the DNR found elevated levels of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), particularly the compound PFOA, in rainbow smelt in Lake Superior. PFAS are a group of over 5,000 human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers and stain-resistant sprays.

The legacy contaminants have made their way into the environment in a variety of ways, including spills of PFAS-containing materials, discharges of PFAS-containing wastewater to treatment plants and certain types of firefighting foams.

The risk of health problems increases with the amount of contaminated fish you eat. Following this advisory will help protect you from excess PFAS exposure in fish. The advisory could change if more fish data become available.

Currently, the DNR and DHS are unaware of any other PFAS-based consumption advisories for Lake Superior.

Fish Tissue Results

In mid-December, the DNR received results from the contaminant samples taken from Lake Superior. Rainbow smelt, lake whitefish, lake trout, and siscowet are low in PFAS is the best way to reduce your risk while still maintaining the health benefits of fish consumption.

Some health risks associated with PFOS, one of the thousands of PFAS compounds, include lower birth weight, possible links to increased risk of kidney and testicular cancer, harm to the immune and reproductive systems, increased cholesterol levels, and altered hormone regulation and thyroid hormones.

The DNR also received sample results from bloater chub, cisco/lake herring, lake whitefish, lake trout, and siscowet lake trout in Lake Superior and crappie, yellow perch, channel catfish, carp, northern pike, walleyes, and musky from the St. Louis River. The PFOA levels found in these fish do not warrant a consumption advisory change at this time.

Recently, it has come to our attention from Wildlife Federation members that they have been informed that Wisconsin hunting regulations no longer allow the use of shot larger than T shot to be used in harvesting species such as bobcat and coyote. From discussions with DNR staff in Wildlife, Law Enforcement and the Secretary’s Office, we have been informed that the prior authorization to use such shot was removed in a housekeeping rule revision package that was designed to simplify regulations.

In discussions with staff, we have been informed that this change was inadvertent and that there is not a public safety or resource management policy reason to restrict the use of shot larger than T shot for specific designated species.

The Federation is asking: 1. that the Natural Resources Board with the able assistance of Department staff restore the former shot provision in an expeditious manner legally possible and 2. that, in the interim period, the Department use enforcement discretion to not enforce the prohibition of shot larger than T shot for appropriate species.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely yours,

George Meyer
Executive Director

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Traveling Education Trunks (K-12)

These travel 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.

Bear Trunk: This trunk features the Black Bear, Grizzly Bear and Polar Bear and includes pelts, replica skulls, replica ears and molt hair for making tracks. The trunk includes stories about bears and an IMAX video about bears (that can be viewed on any video machine) that was produced by the National Wildlife Federation. The trunk also includes a detailed curriculum guides for grades K-12 that was developed by National Wildlife Federation education staff.

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 guides for grades K-12 that was developed by National Wildlife Federation education staff.

Whoopee Crane Trunk: This trunk features hands on materials to teach students about Whoopee Crane biology, endangered species, and migratory birds. It includes: replicas of the crane skull, leg, and egg; feathers from Sandhill and Whoopee Cranes; samples of crane food; an adult costume and puppet that researchers use when working with crane. This trunk was developed by National Wildlife Federation education staff.

Reserving a trunk:
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) 635-0600. We take reservations on a first come, first served basis.

Noisycreek71@gmail.com
DavidDebiV@charter.net
bill@adashunjones.com
George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

THREIVENT FINANCIAL & PHILANTHROPY

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has been receiving periodic donations from Thrivent Financial’s “Choice” Program for several years now. Many of our members who have investments with Thrivent Financial may be eligible to direct Choice Dollars to your church and/or non-profit organizations found on Thrivent’s Approved List. The WWF and the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame are both on that list. A quick phone call to Thrivent will tell you about your Choice Dollars available and allow you to direct those funds. Simply call Thrivent at (800) 847-4836; hit option #5 and say Thrivent Choice. If you have questions about the “Choice” program, WWF Board member Marco Mascitti is a Thrivent Agent and is happy to answer any questions about Thrivent and the “Choice” program. He can be contacted at mascettmarco@yahoo.com (608) 513-8816.

December 21, 2020
Doctor Frederick Prehn
Natural Resource Board Chair
Secretary Preston Cole
Department of Natural Resources

Dear Chairman Prehn and Secretary Cole:

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its December 12, 2020 Board of Directors’ meeting passed the following motion for your consideration:

“The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation respectfully requests that the Natural Resources Board in conjunction with the staff of the Department of Natural Resources, in as expeditiously a manner as possible, reinstate a hunting regulation allowing the use of shot larger than T shot for the purposes of hunting appropriate species such as bobcat and coyote.”

Recently it has come to our attention that Wisconsin Wildlife Federation members that they have been informed that Wisconsin hunting regulations no longer allow the use of shot larger than T shot to be used in harvesting species such as bobcat and coyote. From discussions with DNR staff in Wildlife, Law Enforcement and the Secretary’s Office, we have been informed that the prior authorization to use such shot was removed in a housekeeping rule revision package that was designed to simplify regulations.

In discussions with staff, we have been informed that this change was inadvertent and that there is not a public safety or resource management policy reason to restrict the use of shot larger than T shot for specific designated species.

The Federation is asking: 1. that the Natural Resources Board with the able assistance of Department staff restore the former shot provision in an expeditious manner legally possible and 2. that, in the interim period, the Department use enforcement discretion to not enforce the prohibition of shot larger than T shot for appropriate species.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely yours,

George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Reserving a trunk:
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) 635-0600. We take reservations on a first come, first served basis.

Craig.challoner@gmail.com
Debi@verhageindy.com
George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has three wildlife “traveling education” trunks available. These educational trunks feature a variety of small mammal items that are popular local traditions of Wisconsin wildlife. They are currently available and allow you to direct those funds. Simply call Thrivent at (800) 847-4836; hit option #5 and say Thrivent Choice. If you have questions about the “Choice” program, WWF Board member Marco Mascitti is a Thrivent Agent and is happy to answer any questions about Thrivent and the “Choice” program. He can be contacted at mascettmarco@yahoo.com (608) 513-8816.
Application for WWF Youth Outdoor Skill Day Program Grants

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) has created a grant program to support local organizations in creating and/or operating local youth focused outdoor skill events. The WWF will give grants up to $250.00 to local organizations sponsoring such an event.

Requirements and additional Information:
1. To qualify for up to a $250.00 grant; the event must include instruction and participation in at least two outdoor skills such as hunting, fishing, or trapping. However, WWF recognizes that outdoor skills include a wide range of other activities so please include them in this application.
2. If the event focus is on one particular skill; application is still encouraged, but note, that grants with one skill may only be awarded up to $100.00.
3. The applicant would be responsible for providing any additional information about the event so the WWF Education Committee can properly evaluate it.
4. The Education Committee will give preference to WWF Affiliated clubs in the issuing of the grants.
5. WWF Youth Grants are awarded and budgeted on an annual basis.

6. **NEW** Deadline for Applications for the 2021 WWF Fiscal year = April 1, 2021
   a. Applications will be reviewed by the WWF Education Committee at the April committee meeting, held in conjunction with the WWF Annual Meeting.
   b. Applicants will be notified shortly after as to their status.

Please complete this application form and submit it to:
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Attention: Education Committee/Youth Grants
PO Box 460
Poyntette, WI 53955-0460
(608) 635-0600
Email: office@wiwf.org
Subject line: Education Grant application

Applicant Information
Name of Sponsoring Group: ____________________________
(this is who your potential grant check may be issued to: please make sure it is a recognized organization)
Is this group a WWF Affiliate Organization? circle one YES / NO
Name or Title of Event: ____________________________________________
Is this a Learn-To-Hunt (LTH) event? circle one YES / NO
Date(s) when event will take place: ______________________________
Location where the event will take place: _____________________________
Name of Contact person: _________________________________________
Location where the event will take place: _____________________________
Mailing Address of Contact person: _________________________________
Phono Number of Contact person: _________________________________
Email of Contact person: _______________________________________

Please provide a brief description of the event’s activities including the two required components (or one plus extras) of hunting, fishing or trapping. Attached any posters, brochures, etc. for your event as appropriate.

How do you plan to use the grant (up to $250) in this event?

What is your target date for receiving grant funding if approved? ________________________________

Applicant Signature: ____________________________ date: _______________

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Wisconsin Conservation February 2021

Conservation Leadership Corps

Interested in being a leader in conservation?
Interested in having your voice heard on conservation issues by Wisconsin and National policymakers?
The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has created a Conservation Leadership Training Program just for you!

Students in the Conservation Leadership Corps will receive training in conservation leadership, conservation policy development and how to advocate for sound conservation policies. Training will be provided by experienced conservation leaders.

Training will provide an excellent opportunity to network with state, federal and private conservation organizations.

All your expenses for involvement in the program will be paid for by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. At the successful completion of the program you will receive a $250 scholarship to further your conservation education!

We welcome applications from high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors. Please visit our website: www.wiwf.org for further details. You may also contact the WWF Conservation Leadership Corps Coordinator at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com or George Meyer, WWF Executive Director at georgemeyer@uds.net with any questions or to express your interest in the program.

General Information on the Conservation Leadership Corps

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) is in the process of its eighth year as an exciting program to assist in the development of future conservation leaders in Wisconsin, known as the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps. (CLC). WWF has based the CLC on a highly successful and similar project developed by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, our counterpart organization.

The CLC is designed to provide expert training for seniors in high school along with college freshmen, sophomores and juniors to develop leadership skills and techniques to allow students the ability to analyze as well as develop conservation policies in his or her subject of interest. Students involved will also gain experience advocating their conservation resolutions at the Annual Meeting for WWF. Successfully written and presented conservation resolutions may be adopted by WWF to serve as official policies.

Training will be provided by current and former natural resource professionals in both public, non-profit as well as private sectors. Students will be presented with real-world experience and will receive feedback from professionals with the conservation policy process. Such interactions will be valuable to participants in relation to school success, future career aspirations, and involvement in organizations.

It is anticipated that the ninth year of the program will take place during the 2021-2022 academic year. Events will be scheduled for three weekends throughout the year. Conservation resolution presentations conducted by those involved would be made at the Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Federation in April 2022. Selected CLC candidates must attend at least three of the four events. All expenses encountered while participating in the CLC program will be covered by WWF. At the successful completion of the year, each participant will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment for the training program, a letter of commendation for their resume portfolio and a $250 scholarship to advance their continuing education.

Interested CLC candidates should fill out the application on this page and send it to the CLC Coordinator, at CLC.WWF.Coordinator@gmail.com by May 31st, 2021. Candidates will be selected by June 15th, 2021. All applicants will be notified of the results. More detailed information on the program will be provided to those selected over the 2021 summer.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

---The deadline date for applications is May 31st, 2021

Please answer the following questions and limit your response to TWO pages in length:

1. What is your personal and professional interest in conservation?
2. What would you say are the high points in your life related to conservation, either from an educational, personal, or organizational standpoint?
3. Why do you want to be a member of the Conservation Leadership Corps with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation? What would you like to get out of the experience?
4. What is the concept of a Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps important?
5. What role do you see conservation organizations have in the future of conservation in Wisconsin?
6. Will you be willing and able to attend a majority of the training sessions?

Background and Contact Information:
Please include this information as part of your application:
Name: ____________________________
Street Address: ____________________________
City, State and Zip Code: ____________________________
Email Address: ____________________________
Telephone Number: ____________________________
Present School: ____________________________
Year in School (please specify whether high school or college): ____________________________

RANGER RICK SUBSCRIPTION
ONLY $19.95

Order Now at: www.nwf.org/wiwfkidsgift
The Federation’s Awards Committee solicits/invites your participation to nominate person(s)
and organizations for the 2021 W.W.F. Conservation Achievement Awards Program!

CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
For the outstanding overall conservation efforts and achievements in any field of natural resource management, for a significant contribution to the cause of conservation, or for meaningful progress or achievement toward a solution of a major conservation problem in the state during the past year. Nominees from all other categories can be considered for the Conservatorist of the Year Award.

HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR
For outstanding efforts by an individual volunteer or organization over an extended period of time in the education of hunter safety. Also such efforts by an individual or organization that has developed an innovative and successful method of educating novice hunters in hunter safety.

CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
For outstanding contributions to the conservation of natural resources by an organization in the state for an extended period of time. Statewide or local organizations including sportsmen’s clubs or civic organizations are eligible. The recipient should have demonstrated keen interest in projects and programs within the state which deal with significant natural resource or issues.

CONSERVATION COMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR
For outstanding conservation efforts by a person, group, newspaper, magazine, radio, television station or a form of social media in the state. The recipient of this award may be any recognized communication medium within the state that has accomplished a high degree of public awareness of the importance of natural resource conservation.

CONSERVATION LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR
For outstanding legislative accomplishment during their career which has made a significant contribution to the preservation and management of our state’s natural resources.

WILDLIFE OR FISHERIES CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
For outstanding efforts and accomplishments in making a significant contribution to the management and/or restoration of wildlife resources in Wisconsin.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
For outstanding contributions to the conservation of our land or water. Recipient could be a landowner, administrator, technician or organization involved with such things as watershed management, soil conservation measures, wetlands or estuarine conservation, wild rivers protection and protection of surface or groundwater water quality or quantity standards.

WARDEN OF THE YEAR
For outstanding efforts relating to environmental and conservation law enforcement, community outreach and educational programs.

OFFICIAL CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS!
For presentation at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

What is a resolution?
• A formal, written motion which follows a specific format.
• A formal, written motion which follows a specific format.
• A formal, written motion which follows a specific format.
• A formal, written motion which follows a specific format.

What topics should resolutions deal with?
• Issues pertaining to natural resources and their management or the environment.

Who can submit a resolution?
• Any member of the WWF Board of Directors.
• Any individual associate or sustaining member – please contact an Associate Director or District Director to submit on your behalf.

How should a resolution be submitted?
• Typed on official organization letterhead preferred.
• Signed by the author and/or officer of the submitting organization.
• Mailed to the WWF office.

Mail your resolutions to:
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Attn: Resolutions
PO Box 460
Poynette, WI 53955-0460

Contact the office for additional information or for specific writing format guidelines.
(800) 897-4161
Pine grosbeaks are among the “winter finches” arriving in great numbers in Wisconsin. Some researchers as a “superflight.” It’s not uncommon for one or two of these northern species to overwinter in the eastern United States, providing a brighten the Wisconsin landscape, even in these divisive times. This Great Lakes Restoration Initiative increase will fund showed steady restoration jobs to help people recover from the economic toll of the pandemic, preserve jobs dependent on waters free from pollution and invasive species like Asian carp, and invest in the communities that have suffered most from environmental harm in our region.”

Winter Brings Bounty Of Boreal Birds To Wisconsin

ADISON, Wis. — With more people spending time at home, birdwatching has become a welcome respite during the pandemic. Heading into 2021, birds continue to brighten the Wisconsin landscape, including some numbers in some notes not in pine. Pine siskins, evening grosbeaks and other “winter finches” have descended out of the Canadian boreal forest into the eastern United States, providing birdwatchers welcome excitement that promises to take some of the chill out of this winter season. Two of these northern species to overwinter in Wisconsin this fall, this season has already seen unusually good numbers in six or seven species, an event dubbed by researchers as a “superflight.” First came red-breasted nuthatches and purple finches in late summer, then droves of pine siskins in early fall, and soon after both were white-winged and red crossbills. Later, November and early November brought more evening grosbeaks than any year in recent history. Pine grosbeaks and Bohemian waxwings weren’t far behind in the north woods, while redpolls soon spread statewide. Many of these species are attracted to backyard feeders, especially as winter progresses and local supplies of natural foods are exhausted. The single best seed to offer is black oil sunflower, which has the high fat content and attracts the most species. Small finches like siskins and redpolls, however, prefer nyjer (thistle), while white millet and suet can be great foods are exhausted. The single best seed to offer is black oil sunflower, which has the high fat content and attracts the most species. Small finches like siskins and redpolls, however, prefer nyjer (thistle), while white millet and suet can be great additions for ground-feeders and woodpeckers, respectively. In addition to food, a hoisted water dish that is deep enough for birds to drink from but not bathe in is great for attracting winter finches and resident species. Every week or two, clean all food and water sources to minimize diseases like salmonellosis to keep birds healthy. Find more tips for winter backyard bird feeding on DNR’s Birding and Bird Conservation webpage.

Michigan Signs Agreement to Advance Brandon Road Project to Stop Asian Carp

AN ARBOR, Mich. — In a press conference today, the State of Illinois and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced they have signed a preconstruction engineering and design agreement for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project that will help block invasive Asian carp from advancing from the Illinois and Des Plaines Rivers through the Chicago Area Waterway System and into Lake Michigan. The project was approved by Congress in the recently passed Water Resources Development Act. The State of Michigan has agreed to provide $8 million of the approximately $10 million needed to split ownership of the project.

“This is a desperate move by Enbridge Energy to keep its dangerous pipeline posing an unacceptable risk to the Great Lakes and the communities, jobs, drinking water, and wildlife dependent on them,” said Mike Shriberg, Great Lakes Regional Executive Director for the National Wildlife Federation. “Enbridge knows it has a weak case because it relies on trying to take away Michigan’s ability to protect its own waters. Enbridge has repeatedly violated its easement and cannot operate Line 5 with due care and under the public trust. Enbridge has no excuse for those illegal actions other than shutting down the Straits portion of Line 5, as the Governor and Attorney General have asserted Enbridge’s failure to defy the Governor and the law only re-iterates that they cannot be trusted with the Great Lakes.”

Enbridge Refusal to Comply with Michigan Order to Shut Down Line 5 a Desperate Move

NN ARBOR, Mich. — Enbridge Energy announced today that they will not comply with the State of Michigan’s order to shut down the flow of oil through the twin Line 5 pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac by May 2021. The state of Michigan revoked Enbridge’s easement last March, shutting the pipeline due to multiple irreparable violations and a lack of due care in its operations.

“Enbridge refuses to respect the Great Lakes or the communities that have suffered most from environmental harm in our region.”

Winter Brings Bounty Of Boreal Birds To Wisconsin

ADISON, Wis. — With more people spending time at home, birdwatching has become a welcome respite during the pandemic. Heading into 2021, birds continue to brighten the Wisconsin landscape, including some numbers in some notes not in pine. Pine siskins, evening grosbeaks and other “winter finches” have descended out of the Canadian boreal forest into the eastern United States, providing birdwatchers welcome excitement that promises to take some of the chill out of this winter season. Two of these northern species to overwinter in Wisconsin this fall, this season has already seen unusually good numbers in six or seven species, an event dubbed by researchers as a “superflight.” First came red-breasted nuthatches and purple finches in late summer, then droves of pine siskins in early fall, and soon after both were white-winged and red crossbills. Later, November and early November brought more evening grosbeaks than any year in recent history. Pine grosbeaks and Bohemian waxwings weren’t far behind in the north woods, while redpolls soon spread statewide. Many of these species are attracted to backyard feeders, especially as winter progresses and local supplies of natural foods are exhausted. The single best seed to offer is black oil sunflower, which has the high fat content and attracts the most species. Small finches like siskins and redpolls, however, prefer nyjer (thistle), while white millet and suet can be great additions for ground-feeders and woodpeckers, respectively. In addition to food, a hoisted water dish that is deep enough for birds to drink from but not bathe in is great for attracting winter finches and resident species. Every week or two, clean all food and water sources to minimize diseases like salmonellosis to keep birds healthy.

Find more tips for winter backyard bird feeding on DNR’s Birding and Bird Conservation webpage.

More than ever, our deep connections to nature bind us together. This is why it’s critical we respond to the accelerating wildlife crisis that affects us all, from removing imperiled pollinators that sustain the foods we eat, to heeding early warnings (ca- suary in the coal mine) about the air we breathe, water we drink, and our collective health. The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the close link between our health and wildlife — and highlighted the need for wildlife protections that pre- vent zoonotic diseases from wreaking havoc in the future. In the midst of the global health and climate crises, we’re helping families and caregivers provide meaningful educational opportunities and outdoor experiences for children, including free Ranger Rick digital con- tent, Eco-Schools curricula, and classes for Wildlife resources. And faced with the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic, exacerbated by ongoing environmental injustices, on Black, Brown, and Indigenous com- munities, we have redoubled our ef- forts to dismantle systemic racism. We are still early in this journey, but we are taking steps to continue evolving into a truly inclusive and antiracist conservation organization. Thanks to your investment, the National Wildlife Federation and our 53 affiliates have achieved incred- ible bipartisan victories for wildlife and people — including the historic Great American Forest Act — by laying the foundation for a green eco- nomic recovery that employs millions of youth in restoration and resilience jobs through a 21st century Civilian Conservation Corps.

Please join us in celebrating our shared victories as we continue our mission to unite all Americans to en- sure wildlife thrive in our rapidly changing world. We’re all in this togeth- er and we’ll be with you every step of the way.

Collin O’Mara President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation

Wisconsin Conservation February 2021

Funding authorization increases from $300 million to $475 million over the next five years.

“The passage of the Great Lakes Re- storation Initiative Act of 2019 is a major bipartisan victory for the Great Lakes, our economy and our way of life,” said Mike Shriberg, executive director of the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center. “The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is highly success- ful in protecting our drinking water, our fish and wildlife, and the millions of jobs dependent on a healthy Great Lakes ecos- system. This increased potential invest- ment is a result of bipartisan cooperation from the Great Lakes delegations in Con- gress. We particularly thank Senators Stabenow (D-MI) and Portman (R-OH) and Reps. Joyce (R-OH), Huizenga (R- MI), Dingell (D-MI), and Kaptur (D-OH) for working together as co-chairs of the Great Lakes Task Force to get this done. The Great Lakes are great units, even in these divisive times. This Great Lakes Restoration Initiative increase will fund showed steady restoration jobs to help people recover from the economic toll of the pandemic, preserve jobs dependent on waters free from pollution and invasive species like Asian carp, and invest in the communities that have suffered most from environmental harm in our region.”

“Michigan providing $8 million toward project to build gauntlet of technolo- gies blocking Asian carp from the Great Lakes.”

“Enbridge Refusal to Comply with Michigan Order to Shut Down Line 5 a Desperate Move”
Gary Eldred


Inducted 2021

“I had been a hunter, fisherman, and trap- per since I was twelve. I deeply enjoyed these outdoor activities and spent as much time as I could pursuing them. In the process, I be- came a skilled amateur naturalist and devel- oped a strong interest in conservation. While in my mid-twenties, I was fortunate enough to read Aldo Leopold’s ‘Sand County Alman- ac.’ It was one of the first books on nature or conservation, especially the chapters on land ethics, began a subtle transformation of my thinking.” – Gary Eldred

Eldred became as a volunteer and teaching him- self along the way. Gary Eldred has dedicated most of his life to the effort of identifying and protecting prairies. He is unique in being both a farmer and a conservation leader. In the case of Gary Eldred, the self-appointed role was instrumental in preserving and re-establishing thousands of acres of prairies in Wisconsin.

While working as a county roads maintenance worker, Gary Eldred became exposed to the fieldwork of parks, forestry, wildlife activities and the protection of endangered and threatened prairie plant communities. During his free time, he would travel around Green County hunting and fishing. Eldred discovered numerous small, isolated tracts of rare plant communities along the way. In 1974, While working seasonally on a state-owned bike trail in Green County in 1974, Eldred opened the door to a county your partner, the purchase of prairies (through owner- ship or conservation easement) to ensure long-term preservation. He has worked with a variety of landowners, farmers, and corporate entities to share the importance of native landscapes.

Eldred has taken his love of prairies to pen and paper, drawing accurate, exceptional- ional, and distinctive prairie plant life. Eldred has been a proactive conservationist dedicated to prairie protection and actions. Eldred has written stories and booklets about the wondrous world of native landscaping and native landscapes. Eldred also wrote articles and booklets about the wondrous world of native landscaping and native landscapes.

Quotes about Gary Eldred

“Gary is one of the great conservationists of our time. He is a renaissance man – artist, writer, scientist, organizer, and leader. He moves seamlessly from field to boardroom, educat- ing about, protecting and restoring prairies and savannas. Networking by Eldred brought in two other nearby prairie groups and led to a change of name to The Prairie Association of Wisconsin. Eldred has nearly 1,000 members and 16 chapters in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. He owns and manages over 2,100 acres and has protected over 100 acres of prairie through conserva- tion easements. And the number of prairie acres protected continues to grow. Early in his tenure, Eldred has been a part of multiple protected surveys of eleven counties in Wisconsin and three in Iowa. Sometimes driving every road in a county to look for prairie remnants. Eldred has gone door to door to educate property owners on the importance of the American prairie ecosystem. In some instances, it took years to gain landowner support for restoration action. Many times, I have been amazed by Eldred’s patience and persistence in securing those very places. His motivation came from deep commitment to Aldo Leopold’s prin- ciples of ecological conscience to “save the parts.”” – Richard Henderson, TPE Board of Directors

Biden Administration Reassesses U.S. Leadership to Confront the Climate Crisis

Day One Executive Actions Affirm Biden’s Commitment to Rebuild Economy by Restoring Public Lands, Strengthening Public Health Protections, Re-Enter Paris Climate Agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Biden is re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement and re-establish U.S. lead- ership in strong environmental solutions to help save the planet and protect wildlife. The Biden administration has made a significant commitment to environmental protection and restoration. The Biden administration has made a significant commitment to environmental protection and restoration.

“While we have experienced the worst floods, droughts, and wildfires in recent history, we must move forward with remarkable accomplishments.” – Richard Henderson, TPE Board of Directors

Five High-Impact Conservation Solutions for 2021

Mule deer are one of many iconic American wildlife species that would benefit from the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act—a priority for the National Wildlife Federation in 2021. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act would invest in proactive, on-the-ground efforts by states and tribes to recover at-risk wildlife and combat cropland conversion of prairie habitat in the Midwest and Great Plains.

I T was a year of reckoning with all the problems facing our nation, then 2021 is the moment to embrace the bold, brave solutions we need. The issues facing the Americas—COVID-19 pandemic, its resulting mass unemployment levels, climate change, racial injustice, and a biodiversity crisis—are interconnected and need action now. Here are the National Wildlife Federation’s five top conservation priorities for 2021.

1. Create Conservation Jobs

Youth unemployment due to COVID-19 and the nation’s run-down conservation and recreation infrastructure are two separate problems with one efficient solution: a National Youth Conservation Corps.

During the Great Depression, Americans faced one-in-a-lifetime unemployment levels. As part of his New Deal program to revamp the economy and American livelihoods, President Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC enlisted over 3 million young men to work in land, forestry, conservation, and recreation.

An updated 21st-century CCC will:
• Improve degraded wildlife habitat
• Restore and reconnect forests, grasslands, and wetlands
• Clean up waterways
• Build a green recovery
• Make communities more resilient to climate impacts, and
• Redeem environmental injustices.

By recruiting youth of all backgrounds for these projects, we can get one of the hardest-hit segments of the working population back on the job and rebuild the out- doors for all.

2. Confront Climate Change

The disasters we’ve experienced the past few years—hurricanes, floods, wildfires—are anything but natural to mitigate climate change, we need to transform every sector of the American economy, including transportation, energy, manufacturing, and agriculture, to pollute less. As we move toward net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, investments in natural climate solutions and natural infrastructure will lessen the ef- fects of extreme weather events.

Additionally, Congress must ensure that surface transportation infrastructure legis- lation advances clean transportation, promotes resilience, and leads us toward a net-zero emissions transportation sector and economy.

3. Advance Environmental Justice

Decades of unjust environmental policies have made Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities more vulnerable to environmental degradation. Policy and laws that green up our economic growth and protect natural environments. Under new executive orders, the Biden administration has made significant investments in environmental justice.

According to a report from the Center for American Progress, Black, Latinx, Indige- nous, Asian, and low-income communities are also “far more likely than white families to live in an area that is deprived of the benefits that nature provides, including nearer places that allow them to get outside safely and access clean water, clean air, and a diversity of wildlife.” Environmental justice is limited to reducing pollution and toxins—it also involves securing access for everyone to green space and the quality of life improvements that it provides. Additionally, recreationists of color and varying abilities may experience harassment, microaggressions, and violence while recreating in green spaces and parks.

Watch a National Wildlife Federation Creating Safe Spaces roundtable recording to learn more about how we can make the outdoors welcoming and safe for all people.

4. Restore America’s Conservation and Environmental Legacy

Bedrock environmental laws like the Clean Water Act and National Environmental Policy Act have taken a hit under the Trump administration, which has made over 100 regulatory rollbacks during the past four years. President-elect Biden must reinstate both environmental rules and safeguard the health of wildlife and humans alike. One-third of North America wildlife populations are imperiled or vulnerable, and the time to save them is now. The Recovering America’s Wildlife Act and North American Grasslands Conser- vation Act will invest in proactive, the-ground efforts by states and tribes to recover at-risk wildlife and combat cropland conversion of prairie habitat in the Midwest and Great Plains.

5. Prevent Future Pandemics

COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease—it’s caused by a virus passed from animals to people. Restoring wildlife habitat, closing wild animal markets, and ending unregulated trafficking will prevent future zoonotic diseases.

From the waters of the Great Lakes and the mighty vistas of the West to commu- nities most impacted by it. Local leaders must also commit to supporting Black, Indigenous, and Latinx environmentalists.

As the country continues to recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, Black, Latinx, Indige- nous, Asian, and low-income communities are also “far more likely than white families to live in an area that is deprived of the benefits that nature provides, including nearer places that allow them to get outside safely and access clean water, clean air, and a diversity of wildlife.” Environmental justice is limited to reducing pollution and toxins—it also involves securing access for everyone to green space and the quality of life improvements that it provides. Additionally, recreationists of color and varying abilities may experience harassment, microaggressions, and violence while recreating in green spaces and parks.

Watch a National Wildlife Federation Creating Safe Spaces roundtable recording to learn more about how we can make the outdoors welcoming and safe for all people.

Tell Congress to take action toward saving America’s wildlife by support- ing the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.
Support the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
We need your help!
You can make an immediate difference by joining or renewing your membership with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and by making a donation today. Your gift will help to support environmental education, protect fish and wildlife habitat, as well as support strong conservation policy for fishing, hunting, trapping, shooting sports, and other outdoor sporting and recreational opportunities in Wisconsin.
Your gift no matter what size, will make a difference.

Visit our website at www.wiwf.org/donate
Thank you for your commitment to Wisconsin’s natural resources.

Notice from the Editor:
Wisconsin conservation will be published in the following months: February, April, June, August, October and December.

December 2020 Calendar Winners

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WWF “Kitchen News”

Dolmathes (Stuffed Grape Leaves)

**Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup mint
- 1 1/2 cups onion
- 1 1/2 cups large grape leaves

**Sauce**
- 1 cup broth

**Directions**
- Mix butter, rice, eggs, salt, pepper, mint parsley, onion, and 1/2 cup oil in a large mixing bowl. Mix Well.
- Place about a tablespoon of meat on the bottom side of the leaf, at the wide part of the leaf, and roll up.

Beet eggs until thickened. Stir in lemon juice. Pour in broth and stir vigorously. When Dolmathes are done, pour sauce over them and serve immediately.

Gebratenes Kaninchenfilet (Pan-Fried Rabbit Tenderloin)

**Ingredients**
- 1 skinless, boneless rabbit tenderloin
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon ground sesame seed

**Directions**
- Heat the oil in a cast iron skillet and sear the tenderloins on all sides over medium heat.
- Melt the butter in another skillet and add the garlic, carrot zest and orange zest, and let them infuse for a few minutes.
- Turn the meat into the seasoned butter and coat well. Cut the meat into medallions and served drizzled with butter. Serve with root vegetables.

Bulgogi (Korean BBQ)

**Ingredients**
- 1 kale radish sliced
- 2 tablespoons sesame oil

**Sauce**
- 1/2 cup broth

**Directions**
- Mix all marinade ingredients and pour over beef. Marinade for 3 to 4 hour.
- Cook on outdoor grill over high heat for 1-2 minutes per side.

**WWF Business Membership**

Support Businesses that Support Conservation

**Silver**
- Steve’s Southside Citgo, Watertown
- Paul R. Sommers, OSL, SC, Watertown
- Watertown Trade and Auctions, Watertown
- Advanced Building Corporation, Verona
- Manitowoc Co Fish & Game Protective Assoc., Manitowoc
- Health in Motion Physical Therapy, Rhinelander

**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
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- General Beer-NE Division, Stevens Point
- Shooters, Plover
- Wild Wings, Campbellport
- Carbos, Amherst Junction
- Noisy Creek Adventures, Rhinelander
- Z’s Hound Haven, Merrill