

August 10, 2020

Are you interested in learning more about how science shapes policy in Wisconsin? Would you like to help engage the public in science and influence conservation policies? **...then check out Wisconsin's Green Fire!**

Read on to learn more about Wisconsin's Green Fire, see how *you* can get involved, and sign up for our free [September programming](#).



Photo credit: Ron Eckstein

### **About Wisconsin's Green Fire:**

Wisconsin's Green Fire (WGF) is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to promote the science-based management of natural resources throughout the state. **Our volunteer members represent extensive experience in natural resource management, environmental law and policy, scientific research, and education.** Members and staff work together to analyze proposed natural resource legislation and policy, produce issue papers and educational materials on conservation and natural resource issues facing Wisconsin, provide testimony on policy, and answer questions from citizens and the media. We welcome members of all ages and backgrounds. **Membership for students is free.**

### **Our Challenge and Why Your Voice Matters:**

As an organization comprised of predominately retired and late-career environmental professionals, we recognize that we do not adequately represent the future of natural resource management in Wisconsin. **We are interested to hear from you – the next generation of conservation leaders – and to exchange experiences, perspectives, and insights through conversation.**

### **What's Going on in September?**

This September our annual meeting will consist of five virtual meetings - **and you're invited!** We hope that you will join us for any or all of these meetings, outlined below. We especially hope you'll join us on September 9th which is specifically geared towards students and student organizations. All events are free and open to the public.

## **Wisconsin's Green Fire 2020 Annual Meeting**

### **“Age, Race, Politics, and Conservation—Addressing the Elephants in the Room”**

**Registration:** <https://wigreenfire.org/annual-meeting/2020-programs/>

*For more information please contact Dolly Ledin at [daledin3@gmail.com](mailto:daledin3@gmail.com) or Sarah Wilkins at [swilkins@wigreenfire.org](mailto:swilkins@wigreenfire.org)*

#### **1) Conference Welcome: Young Voices, New Members, and Opportunities with WGF**

*Wednesday, September 9, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.*

In this introductory webinar, join WGF leaders in learning more about who we are and what we do. Although this introductory webinar is a great introduction for anyone new to WGF, we extend a special invitation to student conservation groups and college students. Student leaders will share their projects and ideas on how WGF can more effectively collaborate with young, aspiring professionals and student organizations. *We want to learn about your organization's work related to environmental concerns, conservation, and policy. If you would like to share a brief summary of your organization's work during this session, please contact Dolly Ledin at [daledin3@gmail.com](mailto:daledin3@gmail.com) or Sarah Wilkins at [swilkins@wigreenfire.org](mailto:swilkins@wigreenfire.org).*

Register [here](#).

#### **2) Understanding Racial Equity and Inclusion in Conservation**

*Wednesday, September 16, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.*

In this special interactive workshop, we'll work to better understand racial inequities, and especially ways in which inequities have existed in the field of conservation. August Ball, Founder and CEO of Cream City Conservation, will present on the history and concepts behind racial inequities and lead our interactive discussion. Wisconsin's Green Fire is co-hosting this unique program with our allied organizations Gathering Waters and the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. August will challenge us to look at race on personal and societal levels to help us integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into our work. Check out Cream City Conservation at <http://www.creamcityconservation.org/>.

Register [here](#).

### 3) **Transformative Opportunities and New Challenges in Conservation**

*Wednesday, September 23, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.*

The COVID-19 pandemic, the associated economic downturn, and a heightened awareness of racial and environmental justice have brought new challenges and new opportunities to conservation work in Wisconsin. Our panel of legislative and agency leaders will help us unpack some of today's biggest trends, predict what we can expect in 2021 and beyond, and help us identify opportunities for WGF to make a difference in conservation.

Our panel includes Senator Rob Cowles (R - Green Bay), Senator Janet Bewley (D - Mason), Senator LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee), Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay), and Wisconsin DNR Assistant Deputy Secretary Todd Ambs.

Register [here](#).

### 4) **Keynote: Russ Feingold on Global Conservation, Policy, and Science**

*Friday, September 25, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.*

Former U.S. Senator Russ Feingold is a member of Wisconsin's Green Fire because he supports our unique role in conservation in Wisconsin. Russ will share insights from his long career as a statesman and his more recent efforts as Global Ambassador for the Campaign for Nature. From the campaign to save biodiversity in Africa to the growing threats to conservation closer to home, Russ will help us navigate our work in a global context in challenging times.

Register [here](#).

### 5) **Annual Meeting Summary Session: Updates, Breakout Sessions, and Business Meeting**

*Saturday, September 26, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.*

This session caps off a full month of diverse programs. Now come meet our staff and members and learn more about our work! We will distill and discuss what we've learned over the past year and how we can be most effective. We will share our thoughts on future directions for Wisconsin's Green Fire and ask for your input using breakout groups.

Register [here](#).



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