



Wetland Science
Conference

2024

Wisconsin Wetlands
ASSOCIATION

Great Wetlands Make Great Waters

February 20-22, 2024 | Green Bay, WI





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Cover photo: Dr. Bob Howe

About Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy. We envision a state where wetlands are healthy and plentiful and support ecological and societal needs, and where citizens care for, appreciate, and interact with these natural resources. We are a non-profit, non-partisan, member-supported conservation organization.

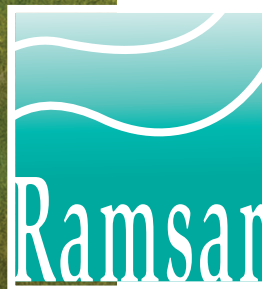
As a leader for wetlands in Wisconsin, WWA focuses on advancing wetland conservation. Our work prioritizes providing tools and expertise to help others protect, manage, and restore wetlands. We actively engage in opportunities to advance wetlands as solutions to critical water management concerns at a watershed scale in ways that can be adapted across Wisconsin and beyond.

If you are not yet a member of Wisconsin Wetlands Association, we encourage you to show your support for wetlands and for our wetland conservation programs by becoming a member today!

Learn more and join online at wisconsinwetlands.org

World Wetlands Day

February 2nd is World Wetlands Day, the annual worldwide celebration of wetlands that commemorates the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. On World Wetlands Day, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens around the world take action to raise public awareness of wetland values. WWA's Wetland Science Conference is held in celebration of World Wetlands Day each year. Learn more about World Wetlands Day at ramsar.org.



We work with Wisconsin wetland professionals and enthusiasts to nominate worthy Wisconsin wetlands for Ramsar designation, including the Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs (designated in 2012), the Door Peninsula Coastal Wetlands (designated in 2014), Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain (designated in 2015), and the Lower Wisconsin River (designated in 2020).

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Welcome to *Great Wetlands Make Great Waters*, Wisconsin Wetlands Association's 29th Annual Wetland Science Conference

Conference Advisory Panel

Tom Bernthal WDNR (retired)

Dan Collins Landscapes of Place

Aaron Feggestad Stantec

Sally Gallagher Jarosz WDNR

Tod Highsmith WWA Board

Mike Jones Stockbridge-Munsee
Community Ecology Department

Kelly Kearns WDNR (retired)

Tony Kuchma Oneida Nation

Lauren Leckwee Wisconsin Coastal
Management Program

Sarah Majerus Stantec

Jeff Mears Wisconsin Tribal
Conservation Advisory Council

Travis Olson University of Wisconsin
Division of Extension

Dan Salas Stantec

Travis Schroeder WDNR Bureau of
Watershed Management

Susan Schumacher WWA Board

Paul Skawinski UW Extension Lakes
Program

Pat Trochlell WDNR (retired)

Emily Tyner UWGB/Green Bay National
Estuarine Research Reserve

Nicole Van Helden The Nature
Conservancy NE Wisconsin Office

Dreux Watermolen WDNR Bureau of
Environmental Analysis & Sustainability

Bobbie Webster UWGB Coffrin Center
for Biodiversity

Amy Wolf UWGB Natural & Applied
Sciences

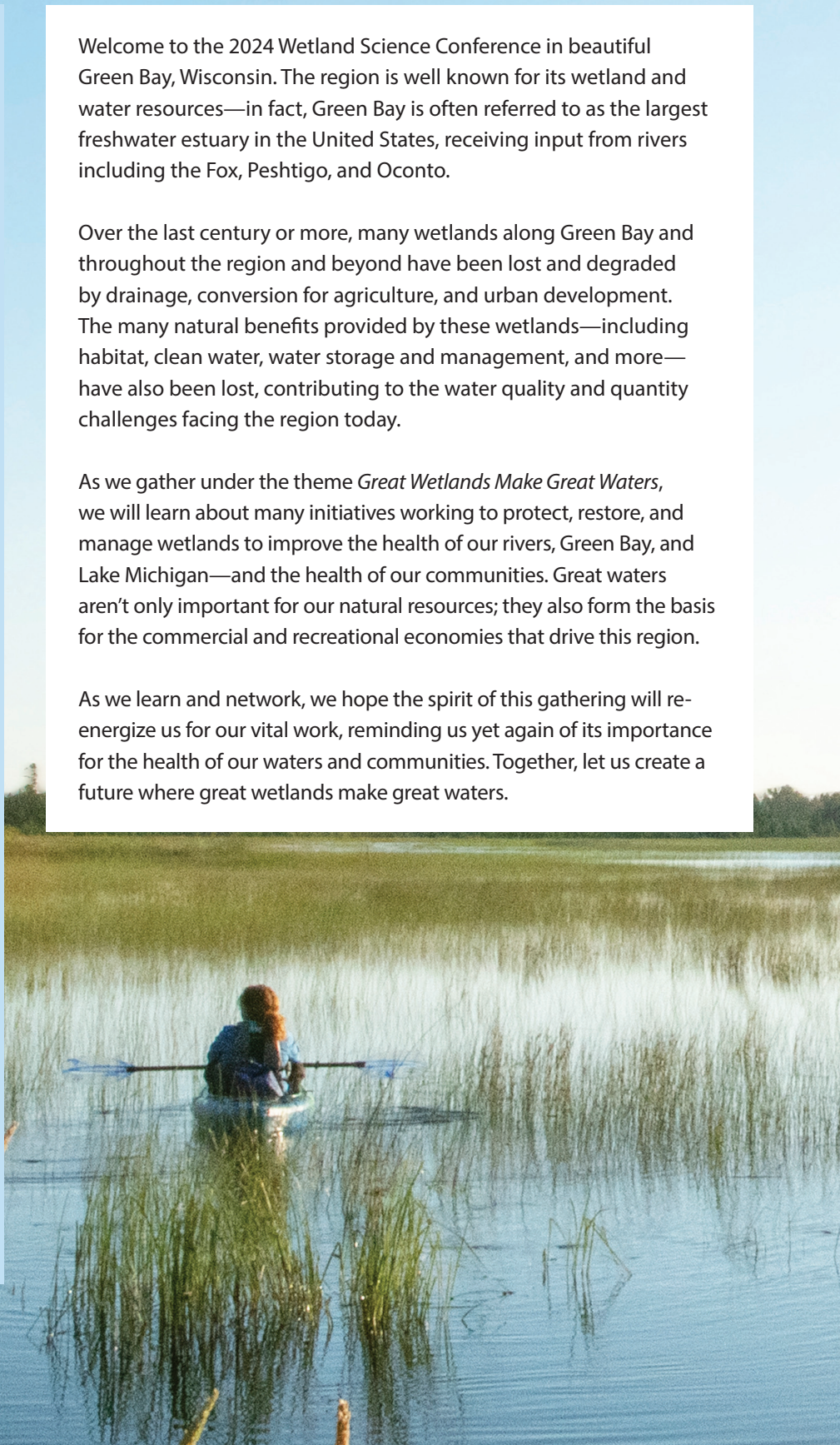
WWA staff supporting these advisors:
Tracy Hames, Katie Beilfuss, Emily Buck,
and Ginny Carlton.

Welcome to the 2024 Wetland Science Conference in beautiful Green Bay, Wisconsin. The region is well known for its wetland and water resources—in fact, Green Bay is often referred to as the largest freshwater estuary in the United States, receiving input from rivers including the Fox, Peshtigo, and Oconto.

Over the last century or more, many wetlands along Green Bay and throughout the region and beyond have been lost and degraded by drainage, conversion for agriculture, and urban development. The many natural benefits provided by these wetlands—including habitat, clean water, water storage and management, and more—have also been lost, contributing to the water quality and quantity challenges facing the region today.

As we gather under the theme *Great Wetlands Make Great Waters*, we will learn about many initiatives working to protect, restore, and manage wetlands to improve the health of our rivers, Green Bay, and Lake Michigan—and the health of our communities. Great waters aren't only important for our natural resources; they also form the basis for the commercial and recreational economies that drive this region.

As we learn and network, we hope the spirit of this gathering will re-energize us for our vital work, reminding us yet again of its importance for the health of our waters and communities. Together, let us create a future where great wetlands make great waters.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Keynote and Wetlands Party

Keynote Address

Wednesday, February 21, 9:00 am

Location: Turtle & Bear Clans Ballroom

Sponsored by We Energies Foundation

Wisconsin's wetlands in geologic time: How the last ice age shaped our wetland landscapes

Dr. Nelson Ham

Professor, St. Norbert College

It's long been known that the Wisconsin Glaciation played a prominent role in shaping Wisconsin's wetland landscapes, with important implications for wetland delineation, hydrology, ecology, and restoration. However, recent advances in geologic mapping, dating methods, and remote sensing have dramatically increased our knowledge of the last glaciation in Wisconsin and our understanding of the specific relationships between glacial landforms and wetlands. While the pattern of glacial landforms is generally the same across much of the region, important differences influenced the style of wetlands that formed in any one area. For example, high-relief, sandy moraines in northern Wisconsin allowed for the development of deep kettle bogs. In contrast, low relief, silty-clayey moraines in eastern Wisconsin encouraged the formation of shallow wetlands similar to the famous prairie-pothole region of the Great Plains. Wisconsin's glacial deposits even preserve evidence of "fossil" wetlands that were buried by late advances of the ice sheet. This presentation will explore the relationship between glacial history, landforms, deposits, and wetlands across Wisconsin.

About the Speaker



Dr. Nelson Ham has been a professor of geology and environmental science at St. Norbert College for 30 years. He earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in geology at UW-Madison, with research on modern glacier processes in Alaska and the origins of Wisconsin's landscapes. In recent years, he has turned his focus to the geology and environmental history of Wisconsin trout streams, especially the role of the fur trade and early logging in modifying stream hydrology with implications for stream restoration.

Join us for a Wetlands Party!

Wednesday, February 21 6:30-9 pm

Location: Throughout the conference center

Sponsored by Stantec

New this year, in place of our traditional banquet, we are offering an evening of activities, networking, and fun. This event is open to all conference attendees, so join us!

A simple pizza buffet supper will start at 6:30 pm and will be served in *both* the Iroquois Ballroom and the Wolf Clan Ballroom. The buffet will include wood fired pizzas, hot pasta bake, mixed greens, pasta salad, garlic bread sticks, and dessert bars. A cash bar will also be set up in the Wolf Clan Ballroom and outside of the Iroquois Ballroom.

Activities will include:

- A barn dance by the **Door County Folk Alliance & Barn Dance Band** on the Wolf Clan Ballroom stage from 7-9 pm. All dances are taught by a caller, and no previous experience is necessary.
- **Cornhole** and **Kubb** (a Swedish lawn game) starting at 7 pm in the foyer in front of the Three Clans Ballroom.
- A **collaborative art project** awaits your creative touch in the Bear Clan Ballroom
- **WWA's short wetland videos** will be playing on a continuous loop in the Michigan Ballroom if you're looking for a quiet activity.
- **Board games, cards, cribbage, and puzzles** in the Iroquois Ballroom.
- **Exhibits and posters** in the Wolf Clan Ballroom.

Plenary Session Keynote

Thursday, February 22, 8:30 am

Location: Turtle & Bear Clans Ballroom

Sponsored by Fund for Lake Michigan

Great wetlands: Reflections on the past, present, and future for Green Bay's coastal treasures

Drs. Amanda Banet, Bob Howe, and Amy Wolf
UW-Green Bay

Coastal wetlands are part of what makes the Green Bay region so important and special. Dr. Robert Howe and Dr. Amy Wolf will share their experiences as part of the community studying and caring for the region's wetlands with Dr. Amanda Banet in this interactive plenary presentation. Howe and Wolf will offer a virtual tour of some of the region's most vital coastal wetlands and share reflections on both past and future challenges and opportunities. How have past decisions and work set the stage for things happening with coastal wetlands today? How are decisions being made and work being done today setting us up for the future? What are some of the greatest challenges and opportunities with respect to wetlands in the region? What does the future hold for Wisconsin's coastal wetlands, and how can we help shape it?

About the Speakers



Amanda Banet became the Director of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity in June 2023. Mandy was a tenured associate professor at California State University, Chico, where she taught courses in ecology, ran a conservation biology and ecophysiology research program, monitored habitat restoration projects on the Sacramento River, and worked closely with the university's ecological reserves. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Indiana University, Bloomington, and a Ph.D. in biology from University of California, Riverside.



Robert (Bob) Howe was the founding Director of the Cofrin Center for Biodiversity and a Professor of Biology in the Department of Natural and Applied Sciences. He began his career at UW-Green Bay in 1984, teaching courses in environmental science, conservation, ecology, mammalogy, and ornithology. He maintained an active research program involving bird population dynamics, restoration ecology, forest ecosystems, endangered species, ecological indicators, and the ecology and conservation of Great Lakes coastal wetlands. He retired in 2022.



Amy Wolf is a Professor of Natural and Applied Sciences at UW-Green Bay. Her work focuses on the ecology of plant-animal interactions, including studies of host-specific insects, rare plants, and Wisconsin bees. She teaches courses in wetland ecology. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Green Bay in biology and environmental science and policy (respectively) and her Ph.D. in ecology from the University of California at Davis.

Lightning Presentations

Thursday, February 22

9:30-10:15 am

Turtle & Bear Clans
Ballroom

Sponsored by Wisconsin
Coastal Management
Program/NOAA

Immediately following the keynote presentation, stay seated for lightning presentations. Each presenter will have five slides and five minutes for their talk. Speakers in this session (in order of scheduled presentation):

- **Smale, Mike** Assessing the climate sensitivity and resiliency of Great Lakes coastal wetlands
- **Thomforde, Stephen** Canvasback ducks, wild celery, and nutrient regulation in aquatic ecosystems: Restoring keystone processes
- **Williamson, Caitlin** NRF's Diversity in Conservation Internship Program: Connecting students to careers in the environment
- **Jablonski, Marissa** A collaborative approach to wetland research
- **Loutzenhiser, Samantha** Life and death from above: Utilization of drones for wetland conservation
- **Beardmore, Ben** Assessing factors determining perception of natural beauty of Wisconsin wetlands

Program Highlights: Poster Session

Posters will be available for viewing from 8:00 am on Wednesday through 12:00 pm on Thursday in the Wolf Clan Ballroom. The Poster Session (when authors will be present to discuss their posters) will be held Wednesday, 5:00–6:30 pm.

Sponsored by GEI Consultants, Inc.

The code following the authors name is the author's poster number, which will also be displayed on the poster. Asterisks indicate the presenter is a participant in the student presentation competition.

Aleladia, Blessing*	(P17)	Investigating the effect of invasive plants derived biochar on heavy metal adsorption
Bednard, Eva*	(P11)	Assessing biochar's influence on soil nutrients and native plants in Great Lakes coastal wetlands
Carrozzino-Lyon, Amy	(P2)	Restoring manoomin on the Green Bay west shore through conservation partnerships & community outreach
Cerroni, Kyle*	(P13)	Modified <i>Phragmites</i> biochar for phosphorus and nitrogen removal in agricultural runoff treatment systems
Cole, Stephanie	(P8)	Development of wildlife habitat restoration design plans for the Tank Farm Marsh in an urban setting
Dean, Cortney*	(P9)	Beaver dam impacts on water quality, trout populations, and biodiversity: Challenges and early evidence
Dzyacky, Spencer*	(P6)	Looking into the effects of freighter wakes on wetland distribution within the St. Marys River
Finzel, Matthew*	(P1)	Indicator species of floristic quality in Illinois wetlands: Success story or a textbook preconception?
Greymont, Olivia*	(P15)	Student led stewardship: A path to restoring wetlands through volunteer workdays
Grubisha, Lisa	(P25)	Wild rice conservation genetics in the bay of Green Bay
Heindel, Gabe	(P19)	Form meets function: A practical approach to replicating streambank inventories to reach a wider audience
Joshi, Suprima*	(P4)	Conceptual design for urban ecology restoration, community engagement, and education at Ken Euers Nature Area
Kenton, Michelle*	(P3)	Identifying native jewelweeds using leaf traits: An effort fueled by citizen science and morphometrics
Little, Amanda	(P5)	Vegetation and hydrology of two black ash (<i>Fraxinus nigra</i>) swamps in western Wisconsin
McCabe, Nick	(P12)	Wetland restorations serving different purposes in different landscape settings
Michaels, MacKenzie	(P14)	Removing chloride ions and heavy metals from roadside bioswales on the Illinois Tollway with woody biochar
Nieset, Julie	(P18)	Spatial strategies for wetland mitigation success: Insights from Illinois landscape analyses
Palmquist, Madeline*	(P20)	Impact of hybrid cattail (<i>Typha x glauca</i>) on waterbird diversity at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge
Pfost, Mark	(P16)	A new partnership to benefit Wisconsin's public land wetlands
Rademacher, Sarah	(P22)	Adaptive management of invasive hybrid cattails (<i>Typha x glauca</i>) at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
Risdal, Alex*	(P24)	Evaluating the impacts of invasive cattail and European frog-bit on northern wild rice growth and germination
Thomforde, Stephen	(P10)	Wetlands, nitrogen, and restoration
Toczydlowski, Rachel	(P23)	Leveraging genetic tools and building partnerships to conserve Hine's emerald dragonfly
Wasilewski, Ellie	(P21)	Drought effects on Chicagoland macroinvertebrates
Winowiski, Sophia*	(P7)	Impact of invasive buckthorn on the soil mycobiome surrounding wetlands

WEDNESDAY, February 21, 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

7:30-8:45 **Breakfast (Iroquois Ballroom) Sponsored by American Transmission Company**
 9:00-10:20 **Plenary Session (Turtle & Bear Clans Ballroom) Sponsored by We Energies Foundation**

Welcome & Opening comments

Conference Keynote: Wisconsin's wetlands in geologic time: How the last ice age shaped our wetland landscapes
 Dr. Nelson Ham, Professor, St. Norbert College

10:20-10:40 **Break (Wolf Clan Ballroom) Sponsored by UW Biodiversity Conservation & Management Program**
 10:40-12:00 **Concurrent Sessions, Working Group, and Roundtable Conversation**

Turtle Clan Ballroom

Wetland Challenges (Invasives)

Moderator: Amy Wolf
 Sponsored by NES Ecological Services

10:40 A biomass conundrum: Investigating biochar produced from harvested hybrid cattail to manage wetland diversity
Ohowski

11:00 Reed canarygrass habitat suitability in floodplain forest understories of the Upper Mississippi River | **Delaney**

11:20 Assessing the competitive abilities of invasive wetland plants under variable light and water availabilities | **Huang***

11:40 Expansion of the European Frog-bit Collaborative: Applications in Wisconsin waterbodies | **Tucker-Silva**

Bear Clan Ballroom

Science Informed Wetland Policy & Regulations

Moderator: Susan Schumacher
 Sponsored by Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.

New general permit to promote hydrologic restoration of streams, wetlands, and floodplains | **Nedland**

Floodplain-related regulatory challenges and opportunities for wetland and hydrologic restoration in Wisconsin
Volkening

Wisconsin USDA agricultural mitigation banking | **Klimesh**

Mapping the impacts of the Sackett decision in Wisconsin: A risk assessment | **Bernthal**

Michigan Ballroom

Working Group

Tribal Wetland Programs
 Facilitator: Mike Jones

By invitation only

This session is made possible by the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation

Ontario/Huron Ballroom
Roundtable Conversation

Wetlands and Climate Change
 Facilitators: Josh Sulman, Craig Annen, Jason Granberg, Sarah Johnson, Ryan O'Connor

12:00-1:30 **Lunch - Provided (Iroquois Ballroom) Sponsored by Heartland Ecological Group**
 1:30-2:50 **Concurrent Sessions, Workshop & Roundtable Conversation**

Turtle Clan Ballroom

Wetland Flora and Plant Communities

Moderator: Mike Jones
 Sponsored by: J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.

1:30 Bryophytes as indicator species in Wisconsin peat-accumulating wetlands | **Wefferling**

1:50 Wetland seed mix design 101 | **Fritz**

2:10 Development of a rapid assessment method for Illinois wetlands | **Vembar***

2:30

Bear Clan Ballroom

Caring for Green Bay-Area Wetlands

Moderator: Emily Tyner
 Sponsored by: BioApp

Wild rice with fish: A winning recipe for restoration
Seilheimer

Using citizen-based volunteer bird monitoring to gauge the success of Oneida habitat restoration efforts | **Kuchma**

Oneida bird monitoring program: Connecting community science and Oneida culture, history, and language | **Giese**

Designation of a new National Estuarine Research Reserve for the bay of Green Bay | **Tyner**

Michigan Ballroom

Roundtable Conversation

Wisconsin's Women in Wetlands
 Facilitator: Sally Jarosz

Ontario/Huron Ballroom
Workshop

Identification of Wisconsin's Aquatic Plants
****Pre-registration required****
 Instructor: Paul Skawinski
 Sponsored by: UWSP Extension Lakes

2:50-3:20 **Break (Wolf Clan Ballroom) Sponsored by Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.**
 3:20-5:00 **Concurrent Session, Symposium, Workshop (cont.), & Roundtable Conversations**

Turtle Clan Ballroom

Effective Wetland Conservation Partnerships

Moderator: Travis Olson
 Sponsored by: Sterling Site Access Solutions

3:20 Reconnecting a Lake Michigan coastal landscape: Wetland, stream, and watershed restoration in Manitowoc Co. | **Crum**

3:40 Development of a restoration project in an urban/industrial setting: Tank Farm Marsh, LGBFR Area of Concern | **Unke Ehrenberg**

4:00 Mapping natural flood management opportunities in the Marengo River Watershed | **Rockwood**

4:20 Wetland restoration for water quality along Mason Creek
Majerus

4:40 Stream mitigation & wetland restorations: Better together! | **Jordahl**

Bear Clan Ballroom

Symposium: Restoring Green Bay

Moderator: Brian Glenzinski
 Sponsored by: Baxter & Woodman

Restoration efforts in the Lower Green Bay & Fox River Area of Concern | **Kupsky**

Restoration efforts through the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) program | **Soyk**

Enhancing wetland vegetation on the Green Bay west shore through restoration, monitoring, and outreach
Carrozzino-Lyon

Immediate avian response to restoration in Lower Green Bay | **Prestby**

Leveraging local programs for landscape scale impacts
Glenzinski

Michigan Ballroom

Roundtable Conversations

Mary Linton Wetland Poetry Session

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Wisconsin's Conservation Community
 Facilitator: Caitlin Williamson

Ontario/Huron Ballroom
Roundtable Conversation

Workshop: Aquatic Plant ID continued

WWA Policy Round-Up
 Facilitators: Erin O'Brien, Jennifer Western Hauser

5:00-6:30 **Poster Session and Social (Wolf Clan Ballroom) Sponsored by GEI Consultants, Inc.**
 6:30-9:00 **Wednesday night barn dance, casual buffet dinner, and networking activities Sponsored by Stantec**
(Wolf Clan, Bear Clan, Michigan, and Iroquois Ballrooms)

Join us for a wetlands party! New this year, in place of a banquet, we offer an evening of activities and fun, including a simple pizza buffet supper, cash bar, barn dancing, corn hole, and more.

THURSDAY, February 22, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

7:30-8:30 **Breakfast (Iroquois Ballroom)** *Sponsored by Hey & Associates, Inc.*
 8:30-10:30 **Plenary Session (Turtle & Bear Clans Ballroom)** *Sponsored by Fund for Lake Michigan*

Welcome

Plenary Address: Great wetlands: Reflections on the past, present, and future for Green Bay's coastal treasures
 Drs. Amanda Banet, Robert Howe, and Amy Wolf, UW-Green Bay

9:30-10:15 **Lightning Round Presentations (Turtle & Bear Clans Ballroom)** *Sponsored by Wisconsin Coastal Management Program / NOAA*

Assessing the climate sensitivity and resiliency of Great Lakes coastal wetlands | **Smale**
 Canvasback ducks, wild celery, and nutrient regulation in aquatic ecosystems: Restoring keystone processes | **Thomforde**
 NRF's Diversity in Conservation Internship Program: Connecting students to careers in the environment | **Williamson**
 A collaborative approach to wetland research | **Jablonski**
 Life and death from above: Using drones for wetland conservation | **Loutzenhiser**
 Assessing factors determining perception of natural beauty of Wisconsin wetlands | **Beardmore**

10:15-10:40 **Break (Wolf Clan Ballroom)** *Sponsored by raSmith*
 10:40-12:00 **Concurrent Sessions, Roundtable Conversation, and Working Group**

Turtle Clan Ballroom
Wetland Wildlife

Moderator: Dreux Watermolen
Sponsored by: TRC

Bear Clan Ballroom
Symposium: Wisconsin and Minnesota Wetland Monitoring and Assessment

Moderator: Sally Jarosz
Sponsored by: GAI Consultants, Inc.

Michigan Ballroom
Roundtable Conversation

Ontario/Huron Ballroom
Working Group

10:40 Dammed: The fur trade and its effects on forested wetlands | **Nelson***

Condition of wetland banks following initial establishment & active management | **Powell**

Wetland Invasive Species: Protecting our Natural Resources

Facilitators: Jason Granberg, Maureen Kalscheur, Madison Johansen, Matthew Puz, and Jared Urban

The Sackett Decision: Implications in Wisconsin

Facilitators: Erin O'Brien, Jennifer Western Hauser

11:00 Assessing how biotic and abiotic factors impact survival of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* zoospores | **Block***

Floristic quality benchmarks for rare and unique wetland plant communities | **O'Connor**

11:20 Weather weirding and urban amphibians: how two anurans respond to drought in Chicagoland | **Younquist**

New rapid floristic quality assessment tool | **Jarosz**

11:40 Restoring wetland biodiversity at the Willow Creek Preserve | **Casper**

Draft wetland functional assessment tool for WI and MN | **Pearce**

12:00-1:30 **Lunch - Provided (Iroquois Ballroom)** *Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Service Foundation*
 1:30-4:30 **Workshops, Working Group, and Field Trips**

Bear Clan Ballroom
Working Group

Michigan Ballroom
Workshop

Ontario/Huron Ballroom
Workshop

Practitioners' Working Group

Facilitator: Kaley DuCoeur

Black Ash Plaited Basket Making

****Pre-registration required****

Instructor: Liandra Skenandore

Introduction to Common Wisconsin Sedges

****Pre-registration required****

Instructors: Pat Trochlell & Steve Eggers
Sponsored by: Wisconsin Flowgate & Drainage

3:00

Field Trips (1:30-4:30 pm)
****Pre-registration required****

Meet at the Hotel Main Entrance at 1:20 pm to depart by bus.

Explore the natural areas of the proposed Bay of Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

Leaders: Emily Tyner, Bobbie Webster, and Amy Carrozzino-Lyon
Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited

Exploring winter wetland and grassland habitats on the Oneida Nation

Leaders: Tony Kuchma, Erin Giese, James Havel, and Lisa Lumley
Sponsored by Wisconsin's Green Fire

The Fewless Herbarium

Leader: Keir Wefferling
Sponsored by Alliant Energy

* denotes presenter is participating in the student presentation competition

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Roundtable Conversations

Wetlands and Climate Change

Wednesday, February 21

10:40 am–12:00 pm

Ontario/Huron Ballroom

Facilitators: Josh Sulman, Stantec; Craig Annen, Integrated Restorations, LLC; Jason Granberg, WDNR and WICCI; Sarah Johnson, Northland College and WICCI; Ryan O'Connor, WDNR and WICCI

This roundtable discussion will be an opportunity to share and learn what people are seeing, thinking, and doing related to climate change and wetlands. The roundtable will include wetland ecologists, researchers, educators, and managers from across Wisconsin with expertise in botany, hydrology, soils, invasive species, ecological restoration, natural areas, rare species, climate adaptation, and Great Lakes coastal systems. Join us for an engaging, broad-ranging discussion.

Wisconsin's Women in Wetlands

Wednesday, February 21

1:30–2:50 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Facilitator: Sally Jarosz, WDNR

Any conference attendee that currently identifies as a woman is welcome to join this discussion. Topics may include advice from women who are more seasoned, mentoring themes for women new in the field, ways to foster diversity in our work environments, and discussions about striking a work/life balance. The discussion will range from serious to more light-hearted. We hope for participants to include those who have been in the field for decades as well as those who are considering this field for their profession.

The Mary Linton Wetland

Poetry Session

Wednesday, February 21

3:20–4:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Facilitators: Alice Thompson, Mike Mossman, and Tod Highsmith

Mary Linton (1954–2021)—former WWA Board Chair, wetland scientist, and poet—founded this annual session in 2014 to provide a poetic interlude in the midst of the conference's scientific presentations. Join us to honor her memory as Tod, Mike, and Alice read poems by various authors of swamps and fens, turtles and frogs, rushes and redwings.

WWA Wetland Policy Roundup

Wednesday, February 21

4:00–5:00 pm

Ontario/Huron Ballroom

Facilitators: Jennifer Western Hauser and Erin O'Brien, WWA

Wetlands provide important solutions to our water management problems. Join WWA's policy staff as they provide an overview of how this foundational observation has shaped WWA's current policy priorities. Learn about policy accomplishments from the past year and upcoming initiatives all focused on helping integrate wetlands as solutions. The discussion will also include the opportunity to share your ideas and concerns about important issues needing attention.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Wisconsin's Conservation Community

Wednesday, February 21

4:00–5:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Facilitators: Caitlin Williamson, Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

This roundtable discussion will include a brief overview about current efforts to support Wisconsin's conservation community with diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts, followed by a discussion that will engage participants in reflecting on DEI within the context of their own organizations, and identifying actionable opportunities and considerations they can take away to advance this important work. Participants are encouraged to reflect on this topic in advance and will be invited to share as part of the group discussion. Anyone with an interest in and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is welcome to participate.

Wetland Invasive Species: Protecting our Natural Resources

Thursday, February 22

10:40 am–12:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Facilitators: Jason Granberg, Maureen Kalscheur, Madison Johansen, Matthew Puz, and Jared Urban, WDNR

Join WDNR experts to ask questions about how to report invasive species and how you can maintain and restore our waters and landscapes to reduce or mitigate the negative impacts of invasive species. Come share your experiences in conservation work and seek guidance from others.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Working Groups

Tribal Wetland Programs Working Group

Wednesday February 21

10:40 am–12:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Facilitator: Mike Jones, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Ecology Department

By invitation only.

This session is made possible by the Forest County Potawatomi Foundation.

This session will provide tribal wetlands staff with the opportunity to more formally interact, share ideas and best practices, and identify opportunities for collaboration and growth. This working group contributes to efforts to foster long-term collaboration, dialogue, and exchange of information that supports and encourages strategic, effective efforts to restore and care for wetlands in Wisconsin.

The Sackett Decision Implications in Wisconsin

Thursday February 22

10:40 am–12:00 pm

Ontario/Huron Ballroom

Facilitators: Jennifer Western Hauser and Erin O'Brien, WWA

In May 2023, the US Supreme Court issued a decision in *Sackett vs. EPA* that significantly narrowed the scope of wetlands and headwater streams protected under the federal Clean Water Act. Recent analysis suggests the decision eliminates federal protection for nearly 90% of Wisconsin's wetlands. The purpose of the workgroup is to share information and gather insights about the current and potential implications in Wisconsin. The discussion will be informed by short presentations by invited speakers on the extent of current federal protections, how state and local policies help bridge the gap, and wetland permitting trends pre- and post-decision. We will wrap up by identifying ongoing evaluation needs and actions that may be needed to track related developments at the state and federal levels.

Practitioners' Working Group

Thursday February 22

1:30–3:00 pm

Bear Clan Ballroom

Facilitator: Kaley DuCoeur, Ruekert & Mielke

This session will begin with a panel overview and then offer an opportunity for wetland practitioners—including consultants, federal, state, and local regulators, land managers, and others—to discuss current issues relevant to their daily work. The agenda will be set by the facilitator with the input of those who participated in similar sessions at previous WWA conferences.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Workshops

Pre-registration was required for workshops and capacity is limited. If you did not sign up for a workshop when you registered for the conference, please see the conference registration desk to find out if any workshops have space to accommodate you. If you are signed up for a workshop but can no longer attend, please let the registration desk know, as several workshops have waiting lists.

Demystifying R: Developing User-Friendly Workflows and Outputs for ANOVAs and Linear Models

Tuesday, February 20

1:00 pm–4:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Instructors: Dr. Brian Ohsowski, Madeline Palmquist, and Alex Risdal, Loyola University Chicago

Sponsored by USDA-NRCS

Harnessing the Power of AI Programs for Wetland Science and Conservation

Tuesday, February 20, 4:00–5:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Instructors: Jason Granberg, WDNR

Sponsored by Merjent

Identification of Wisconsin's Aquatic Plants

Wednesday, February 21, 1:30–4:00 pm

Ontario/Huron Ballroom

Instructor: Paul Skawinski, UWSP Extension Lakes

Sponsored by UWSP Extension Lakes

Black Ash Plaited Basket Making

Thursday, February 22, 1:30–3:00 pm

Michigan Ballroom

Instructor: Liandra Skenandore, enrolled tribal citizen, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

Introduction to Common Wisconsin Sedges

Thursday, February 22, 1:30 pm–4:30 pm

Ontario/Huron Ballroom

Instructors: Pat Trochlell, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and Steve Eggers, USACE (retired)

Sponsored by Wisconsin Flowgate + Drainage

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Field Trips

Thursday, February 22

Pre-registration was required for field trips and capacity is limited. If you did not sign up for a field trip when you registered for the conference, please see the conference registration desk to find out if any field trips have space to accommodate you. If you are signed up for a field trip but can no longer attend, please let the registration desk know.

Field trips will run in almost any weather (with the exception of hazardous conditions). Please dress warmly and wear sturdy boots. Transportation by school bus provided.

All field trips will depart from the Hotel Main Entrance; please arrive 10 minutes early to get checked-in.

Explore the Natural Areas of the Proposed Bay of Green Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

1:30 pm–4:30 pm

Field trip leaders: Emily Tyner, Bobbie Webster, and Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, UW-Green Bay.

Sponsored by Ducks Unlimited

Exploring Winter Wetland and Grassland Habitats on the Oneida Nation

1:30 pm–4:30 pm

Field trip leader: Tony Kuchma, Oneida Nation; Erin Giese, UW-Green Bay; James Havel, Robert E. Lee, Inc; and Lisa Lumley, WDOT

Sponsored by Wisconsin's Green Fire

The Fewless Herbarium

1:30 pm–4:30 pm

Field Trip Leaders: Keir Wefferling, Curator of Fewless Herbarium, UW-Green Bay

Sponsored by Alliant Energy

Thank you!

More than 100 experts and enthusiasts have contributed to the planning and content of this conference. We would like to thank all of the presenters, field trips leaders, workshop leaders, and working group leaders for sharing their expertise with the regional wetland and water resource professional community. While it is not feasible to acknowledge every contributor individually, we offer special thanks below to individuals who have made especially important contributions to this event.

Moderators, Facilitators, Field Trip Leaders, and Instructors

Thank you to the following partners for moderating, instructing, leading field trips, and/or facilitating conference sessions:

Craig Annen	Brian Ohsowski
Amy Carrozzino-Lyon	Travis Olson
Steve Eggers	Madeline Palmquist
Erin Geise	Matthew Puz
Brian Glenzinski	Alex Risdal
Jason Granberg	Susan Schumacher
Tracy Hames	Paul Skawinski
James Havel	Liandra Skenandore
Tod Highsmith	Josh Sulman
Sally Jarosz	Alice Thompson
Madison Johansen	Pat Trochlell
Sarah Johnson	Emily Tyner
Mike Jones	Jared Urban
Maureen Kalscheur	Dreux Watermolen
Tony Kuchma	Bobbie Webster
Lisa Lumley	Keir Wefferling
Mike Mossman	Jennifer Western Hauser
Erin O'Brien	Caitlin Williamson
Ryan O'Connor	Amy Wolf

Student Presentation Competition

Thank you to Susan Schumacher, WWA Board Member, for organizing the student presentation competition judges, to everyone who are judging the student oral and poster presentations, and to the students who are participating. Cash prizes for winners are sponsored by Westwood Professional Service and Natural Garden Natives.

Student Scholarship Program Sponsors

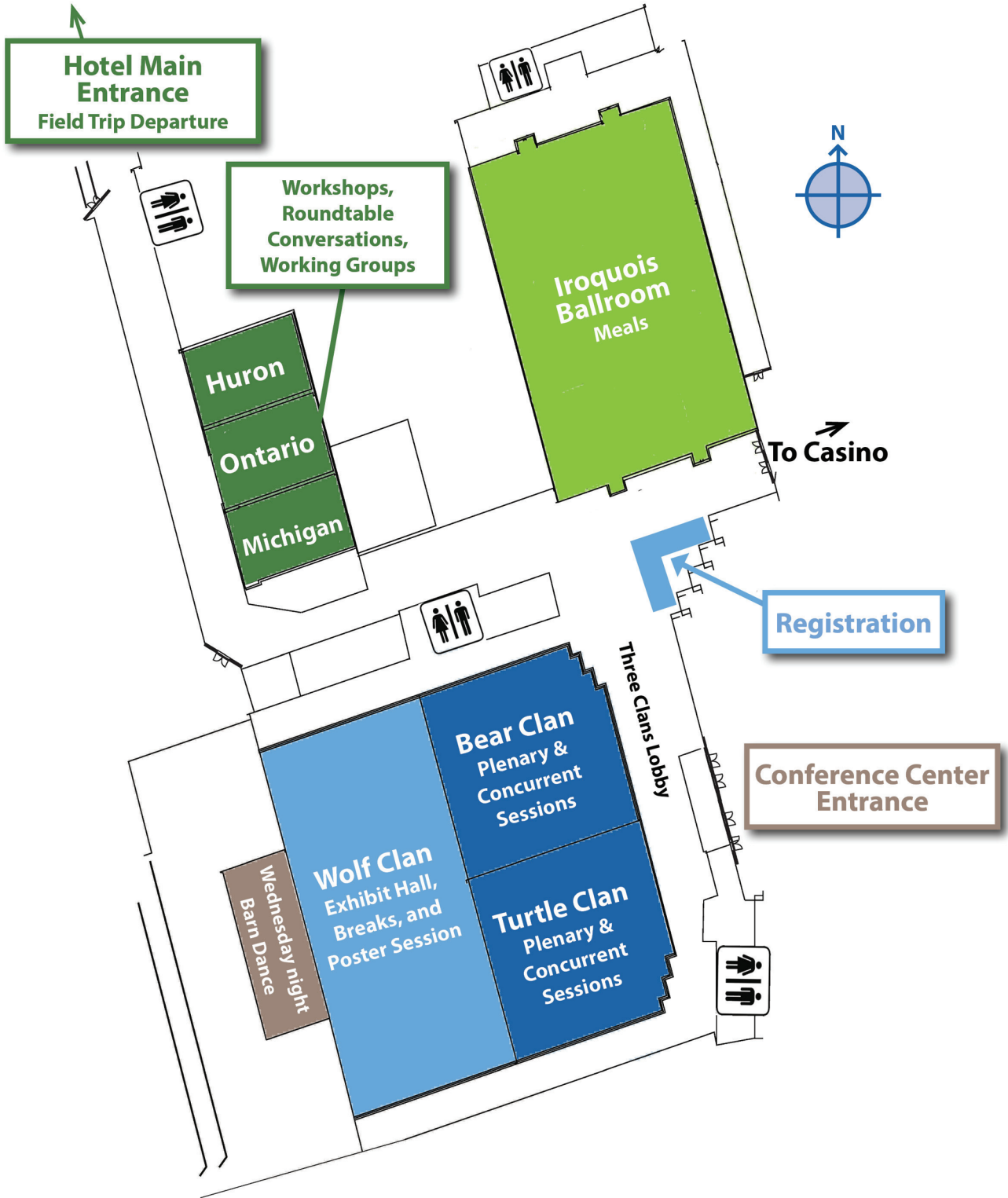
Contributions made by The Nature Conservancy and Westwood Professional Services allow us to provide financial support to many students who are attending our conference. Students receiving conference scholarships are denoted with a * in the list of volunteers below.



Volunteers

We thank the following volunteers for assisting us with the many and varied aspects of conference logistics (* denotes student scholarship recipient):

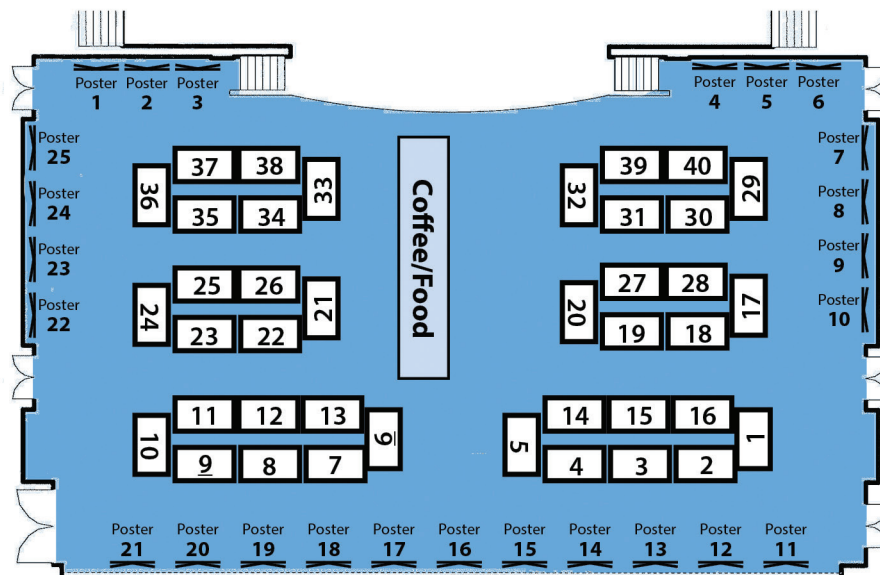
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Kaylee Houle*	Sophia Winowiski*



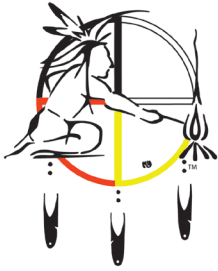
Exhibitors

Please visit these exhibitors in the Wolf Clan Ballroom and thank them for supporting this conference!

Baxter & Woodman	29	NES Ecological Services	6
BioApp, LLC	20	Nutrien Solutions	9
Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.	16	Onset - HOBO Data Logger	11
Custom Bridges & Boardwalks	28	Pheasants Forever	35
Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.	17	RES	32
GAI Consultants, Inc	10	Southern Wisconsin Bird Alliance	8
GEI Consultants, Inc.	33	Stantec	1
Golden Sands RC&D Council, Inc.	31	Sterling Site Access Solutions	40
Great Lakes Commission	4	University of Wisconsin Press	23
Heartland Ecological Group	5	USDA-NRCS	36
Helena Agri-Enterprises	14	UW Sea Grant	3
Integrated Restorations, LLC	12	UW-Stevens Point Extension Lakes	30
Interfluve	27	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources	2
Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin	26	Wisconsin Flowgate & Drainage	39
ISG	38	Wisconsin Land + Water	22
Johnson's Nursery, Inc.	19	Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts	15
KCI Technologies	24	Wisconsin Waterfowl Association	34
Merjent	21	Wisconsin Wetlands Association	18
Natural Garden Natives	13	Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Inc.	25
Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin	7	Wisconsin's Green Fire	37



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