



## Mid-Winter News from Wisconsin's Green Fire

Visit our Website



### **WGF's Science Director Position: Apply by February 7, 2020**

Wisconsin's Green Fire is hiring a [Science Director](#) to help guide our growing portfolio of environmental and conservation efforts. The position is open now and we are accepting applications through **Friday February 7th**.

The WGF Science Director will work with our staff, professional members, and partners leading efforts to address Wisconsin's most complex natural resource and environmental challenges.

***Do you know someone who would be a good fit for this important new position?*** We invite you to review and circulate this announcement to your colleagues and to networks of people you think might include qualified candidates.

[Link here for our full position description and application instructions.](#)

## Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality Introduces 13 Bills



In 2019, the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality held 14 public hearings around the state to hear about citizens' priority issues concerning water quality in Wisconsin. The Task Force developed 13 bills

in response. [See our summary.](#) The bills represent a first step to address the problems and provide modest funding increases to some existing programs. Overall the Task Force's package of bills still leave a large gap in what needs to be done to meet the public's concerns for water quality. The bill package does not solve long term, deep rooted water quality problems in Wisconsin. The issues that the public spent hundreds of hours testifying on will need to be addressed in the future, possibly as soon as the 2021-2023 State Budget. Wisconsin's Green Fire is already working on it.

Hearings on these 13 bills start the last week of January and all 13 bills are expected to pass the Assembly by March of 2020. It is unclear which bills may be taken up and passed by the Senate.

Wisconsin's Green Fire will not be taking formal positions on the bills in the package but will be available for legislators if they have questions about the natural resources and water quality issues and programs covered in the bills. If you have any questions about the bills or the process in the remaining two months of this legislative session, please contact Paul Heinen at 608-692-0279 or [pheinen@wgreenfire.com](mailto:pheinen@wgreenfire.com).

### Northeast Sands Master Plan

WGF member  
Ron Eckstein appeared  
before the Natural  
Resources Board (NRB)  
at its January 22, 2020  
meeting in support of the  
NE Sands Master



Plan. Elements of the proposed plan that provided for modified forest management in a State Natural Area and along a wild river corridor were being contested. Ron and Wisconsin's Green Fire partner Matt Dallman of the Nature Conservancy, asked the

NRB to approve the plan, which reflected extensive negotiations by DNR staff and local stakeholders to balance forest production and conservation. Many thanks to Ron for his efforts representing WGF on DNR Property Master Planning issues - he is without a doubt one of our strongest *Voices for Conservation*.

## Science Strikes Back - Community Science Fair in Milwaukee

A poster for the Science Strikes Back 2020 event. The poster is blue and yellow. It features the text "SCIENCE STRIKES BACK 2020" in large yellow letters. Below this, it says "February 5th, 2020" and "5 - 8 pm @ Escuela Verde 3628 W Pierce St Milwaukee, WI 53215". It also mentions "Cost: Free Admission". There is a small illustration of a hand holding a lightbulb. Contact information for Isabelle Herde, Program Director, is provided: "Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center Phone: (608) 254-6461 Email: isabelle.herde@wisc.edu". Logos for Escuela Verde, Upham Woods, and Extension are shown. A photo of children working on a project is included. At the bottom, it says "For more information, visit our website at www.sciencestrikesback.com".

**SCIENCE STRIKES BACK 2020**  
February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
5 - 8 pm @ Escuela Verde  
3628 W Pierce St  
Milwaukee, WI 53215      Cost: Free Admission

**SAVE THE DATE !**

CONTACT: Isabelle Herde  
Program Director  
Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center  
Phone: (608) 254-6461  
Email: isabelle.herde@wisc.edu

Hosted by: ESCUELA VERDE UPHAM WOODS Extension

A community science fair open to all for a night of fun, food and learning!  
**Participate**  
Submit an entry to be one of our presenters. Entry cost is \$25 per group.  
Become a Sponsor · Become a Judge

For more information, visit our website at  
[www.sciencestrikesback.com](http://www.sciencestrikesback.com)

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.

The purpose of Science Strikes Back is to bring a collection of curious people together to engage in questions and scientific investigation. We place the emphasis on inquiry rather than perfecting the scientific process and we find this opens the door to novice scientists as well as experienced researchers to share their discoveries in a community event

fueled by curiosity and passion rather than strict academics.

**When: 5-8 PM Wednesday February 5, 2020**

**Where: 3628 West Pierce Street, Milwaukee, WI**

## US Fish and Wildlife Service Parasitologist Names New Species after Sue Marcquenski

Sue Marcquenski, WGF member and retired DNR fish health specialist has a newly discovered fish parasite named for



her. [This Wisconsin Public Radio story explains.](#)

USFWS LaCrosse biologist Eric Leis, discovered two new species and named them for people who influenced his career: a science teacher, and Sue Marcquenski from DNR. Sue's namesake found in Lake Onalaska is *Henneguya*

*marcquenskiae*, a myxozoan. This honor speaks to Sue's dedication to mentoring other biologists. Congratulations Sue.

### **Wisconsin Humanities Council Launches Statewide Discussions on Wisconsin's Water Future**



The [Wisconsin Humanities Council](#) is organizing [Beyond the Headlines – Wisconsin's Water Future](#). This statewide program will bring Wisconsinites together in a series of regional explorations of the role that quality journalism plays in telling our critical and complex water stories.

These stories are local, emotional and tied to community and family identity. They are often the product of forces greater than local communities can control. In many ways, these are stories of communities practicing resilience in the face of repeated catastrophic disasters.

Three dates have been set and others will follow:

- April 25, 9-1 La Farge High School
- May 8, 1-5 Northwoods Center at Nicolet College, Rhinelander
- May 29, 1-5 Triangle Sports Area Chalet, Green Bay

WGF and our members are supporting these important community discussions. Stay tuned for more details on these and other sessions.

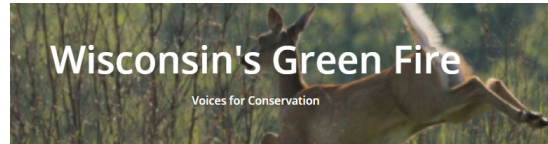
### **Wisconsin Academy Launches Climate Breakfast Series**

This spring, the [Wisconsin Academy](#) of Sciences, Arts and Letters is hosting a [climate breakfast series](#) focused on key areas for climate action in Wisconsin in 2020. These breakfast conversations are designed to foster discussion and peer learning among experts, practitioners, and climate-concerned citizens regarding local solutions to global environmental challenges. Registration for the breakfasts at the Academy's office in Madison is [now open](#).

The series builds on discussions and connections kindled at 2019 climate events, including the Climate Fast Forward Conference co-sponsored by WGF.

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