



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

# 2025 Great Lakes Regional Conference

## 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration

September 21-26, 2025 Sponsored by: Oneida Nation of Wisconsin  
Oneida Casino and Hotel, 2020 Airport Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313

### **Sunday, September 21, 2025**

8:00 am – 8:30 pm Travel Day

### **Monday, September 22, 2025**

7:30 am – 4:30 pm **Conference Registration & Vendors**

*Coordinators:* Heidi McCann & Jennie Bills

*Location:* Convention Center Hallway

7:30 am – 2:00 pm **Conservation Officers Qualification/Competition Shoot**

*Coordinators:* Terry Metoxen, Henry Bearheart & Robert Romero

*Location:* (Shuttle at 7:00 am) Shawano County Landfill and Recycling Center  
1099 Rusch Road, Shawano WI.

6:00 pm – 12:00 am **GLNAFWS Directors Reception (All Invited) Come in and meet everyone!**

*Coordinators:* Terry Metoxen Reg. Dir. GLNAFWS, Don Reiter, Reg. Dir. GLNAFWS

*Location:* Grand Council Ballroom

### **Technical Trainings**

9:00 am – 3:00 pm **Wildlife Health Workshop**

*Coordinator:* Shailyn Wiechman, Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator, NAFWS

*Location:* Michigan Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm **Invasive Species Workshop: ½ Classroom/ ½ Field work**

*Coordinator:* Wade Reiter, Invasive Species Tech, NAFWS

*Location:* Tuscarora/Oneida Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm **Diversifying Funding and Increasing Financial Resilience in Tribal F&W Programs**

*Coordinator:* Megan Hawkins, Director of Operations, NAFWS

*Location:* Seneca/Mohawk Room

9:00 am – 3:00 pm **Handling of Raptors Workshop:**

*Coordinator:* Marge Gibson, Owner/Director Raptor Education Group, Inc.

*Location:* Huron/Ontario Room

12:30 pm - 7:00 pm **GLNAFWS Scholarship Golf Tournament - \$60 per person**

*Coordinator:* Terry Metoxen, Regional Director, Great Lakes NAFWS

*Location:* Thornberry Creek Golf Course, Oneida, WI 54155

## Tuesday, September 23, 2025

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7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Conference Registration & Vendors

*Coordinators:* Heidi McCann & Jennie Bills

*Location:* Convention Center Hallway

7:00 am – 9:00 am

### Breakfast on your own

*Location:* Grand Council Ballroom

9:00 am – 10:30 am

### CONFERENCE OPENING CEREMONIES

*Location:* Turtle/Bear Room

Master of Ceremonies:

Parade of Colors: **Oneida Nation Vets, Menominee Nation Vets, Mohican Vets**

Drum Group: **Second Island – Tyson Webster**

Invocation: **Randy Cornelius**

### WELCOME ADDRESSES:

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Chairman: **Tehassi Hill**

BIA Fish, Wildlife and Parks Branch Chief: **Drew Becker**,

USFWS Acting Deputy Regional Director - : **Brian Smith**

USGS Deputy Regional Director-Mississippi River and Great Lakes

Basin Science Midcontinent Region **John (JC) Nelson**

Great Lakes NAFWS Regional Director: **Terry Metoxen**

Great Lakes NAFWS Regional Director/President NAFWS: **Don Reiter**

Executive Director NAFWS: **Julie Thorstenson, PhD**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

### KEYNOTE ADDRESSES:

*Location:* Turtle/Bear Room

*Moderator:* Dave Conner, Red Lake

*Keynote Speaker:* **Jason Schlender, Executive Administrator**  
**Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission**

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

### 2025 GREAT LAKES NAFWS BUSINESS LUNCHEON

*Location:* Turtle/Bear Room

*Moderator:* Don Reiter, Regional Director, Great Lakes NAFWS

### AGENDA ITEMS:

- 1.) Call to Order.
- 2.) National NAFWS Update: **Julie Thorstenson, Executive Director, NAFWS**
- 3.) Financial Report: **Dave Conner**
- 4.) Great Lakes NAFWS Scholarship: **Ashley Mueller, Education Coord. NAFWS**
- 5.) Elections: **1 Regional Director (Terry Metoxen); 2 Regional Alternates**
- 6.) Resolutions and Other Business: **Terry Metoxen/Don Reiter, Reg. Dir. NAFWS**
- 7.) Motion to Adjourn

*\*All attendees welcome, but only NAFWS Individual Member eligible to vote*

2:15 pm – 4:00 pm

### FEDERAL UPDATES, FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & LEGISLATION

*Location:* Turtle/Bear Meeting Room

*Moderator:* Dave Conner, Red Lake

Updates & Funding Opportunities – Drew Becker, BIA Fish & Wildlife Biologist, BIA  
Funding Opportunities USDA - DVM, USDA APHIS

4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Lacrosse Game:**

*Coordinator: Terry Metoxen, Regional Director, Great Lakes NAFWS*

*Location: Where? (Maps at Registration)*

**(Please sign up for appropriate team)**

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Traditional Feast**

*Location: Grand Council Ballroom*

*Tribal Entertainment: TBD*

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## **WEDNESDAY, September 24, 2025**

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7:30 am – Conference Registration & Vendors

4:00 pm *Coordinators: Heidi McCann & Jennie Bills*

*Location: Convention Center Hallway*

7:00 am –

**Breakfast on your own**

9:00 am –

**Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) Training:**

*Location: Michigan Room*

*Presenter: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm: Master Sergeant Lucas Downs, Current Drug Trends*

**1:30 pm – 4:30 pm** Byron Black, ED Northwoods Wildlife Center, Raptor Handling Class

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### Great Lakes NAFWS Concurrent Morning Sessions

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**WILDLIFE SESSION**

*Location: Ontario Room  
Moderator:*

8:30 am –  
9:00 am

**Ma'iingan Conservation and The Legacy of Wolf 813**

Genevieve Adamski, Wildlife Biologist, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa  
[genevieve.adamski@redcliff-sn.gov](mailto:genevieve.adamski@redcliff-sn.gov)

9:00 am –  
9:30 am

**1854 Treaty Authority Ma'iingan (Wolf) Monitoring**

Morgan Swingen, Wildlife Biologist, 1854 Treaty Authority  
[mswingen@1854treatyauthority.org](mailto:mswingen@1854treatyauthority.org)

9:30 am –  
10:00 am

**Red Lake Wolf Presentation**

Dave Price, Wildlife Biologist  
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians  
[daprice@paulbunyan.net](mailto:daprice@paulbunyan.net)

**FISHERIES SESSION**

*Location: Tuscarora/Oneida Room  
Moderator:*

**Sturgeon Monitoring on the Lower St. Louis River**

Nick Bogyo, Fishery Biologist  
1854 Treaty Authority  
[nbogyo@1854treatyauthority.org](mailto:nbogyo@1854treatyauthority.org)

**Sault Tribe's Whitefish Initiative: From Start To Finish**

Rusty Aikens, Biologist. Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians  
[raikens@saulttribe.net](mailto:raikens@saulttribe.net)

**Effective rusty crayfish removals to protect Manoomin (wild rice)**

Matthew Santo, Invasive Species Specialist  
[msanto@1854treatyauthority.org](mailto:msanto@1854treatyauthority.org)

**ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE**

*Location: Huron Room  
Moderator:*

**Workshop: Wildlife Range Shifts and Tribal Lands**

Ally Scott, Midwest Deputy Tribal Resilience Liaison  
[ascott@menominee.edu](mailto:ascott@menominee.edu)

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[ascott@menominee.edu](mailto:ascott@menominee.edu)

10:00 am –  
10:30 am

## Great Lakes NAFWS Morning Break Session

10:30 am –  
11:00 am

### Oneida Nation's Water Quality Improvements and Wildlife's Approval

Alaina Noll, Oneida Nation Water Resources Specialist Oneida Environ, Land, & Ag. Division  
[oneida-nsn.gov/resources/environmental/](http://oneida-nsn.gov/resources/environmental/)

### A Modern Look at Lean Lake Trout Spawning Locations in the Apostle Islands

Ashley Huinker, Fish Biologist  
Red Cliff Natural Resources Dept  
[ashley.huinker@redcliff-nsn.gov](mailto:ashley.huinker@redcliff-nsn.gov)

### Workshop: Wildlife Range Shifts and Tribal Lands

Ally Scott, Midwest Deputy Tribal Resilience Liaison  
[ascott@menominee.edu](mailto:ascott@menominee.edu)

11:00 am –  
11:30 am

### Bird and Bat Monitoring on Oneida Nation Lands

Gary Casper, Oneida Nation of Wisconsin,  
[casper@mequonnaturepreserve.org](mailto:casper@mequonnaturepreserve.org)

### Water Protectors and Stream Resiliency: A Tribal-led response to land healing, community engagement and habitat connectivity

Brett Fessell, Restoration Section Leader – River Ecologist, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

### Workshop: Wildlife Range Shifts and Tribal Lands

Ally Scott, Midwest Deputy Tribal Resilience Liaison  
[ascott@menominee.edu](mailto:ascott@menominee.edu)

11:30 am –  
12:00 pm

### Oneida Bird Monitoring Program: Connecting Community Science, Oneida Knowledge and Land Management

Erin Giese, UW-Green Bay Cofrin Center for Biodiversity.  
[giese@uwgb.edu](mailto:giese@uwgb.edu)

12:00 pm –  
1:30 pm

## RED LAKE WALLEYE FRY - Marian Lussier and Family

Location: TBD

## Great Lakes NAFWS Concurrent Afternoon Sessions

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

### CLEO Training: Raptor Handling (3 Hours)

Location: Michigan Room

Presenter: Byron Black, ED Northwoods Wildlife Center, Raptor Handling Class

#### WILDLIFE SESSION

Location: Ontario Room  
Moderator:

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

### Building a Tribal Natural Resources Department Through Shared Values and Visioning at Lac Vieux Desert.

Dr. Lara Jacobs, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians

[lara.jacobs@lvd-nsn.gov](mailto:lara.jacobs@lvd-nsn.gov)

#### NATURAL RESOURCE SESSION

Location: Seneca/Mohawk  
Moderator:

### Habitat Suitability Modeling on the L'Anse Indian Reservation

Blake Chosa, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department

[bchosa@kbic-nsn.gov](mailto:bchosa@kbic-nsn.gov)

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm

### Fond du Lac AERI award to develop an indigenous conservation crew at FDL.

Hillary Olsen, Indigenous Partnerships Program Manager, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa

### Investigating potential impacts of groundwater exchange on manoomin (wild rice) in northern WI.

Cheyenne Nakutih, UW-Madison Center for Limnology. [ckoran@wisc.edu](mailto:ckoran@wisc.edu)

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

## Great Lakes NAFWS Afternoon Break Session

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

### Title TBD

Eric Clark, Biologist, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

### A Spatially Explicit Density Estimation for Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*) on the East Zone of the Hiawatha National Forest

Eric Clark, Biologist, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. [eclark@saulttribe.net](mailto:eclark@saulttribe.net)

### Bringing wild rice back to the Bay of Green Bay and Lake Michigan Lakeshore

Amy Carrozzino-Lyon, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay [carrozza@uwgb.edu](mailto:carrozza@uwgb.edu)

### Grand Portage Native Fishes Telemetry Project

Ryan Grow, Biologist, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

[ryan.grow@grandportage.com](mailto:ryan.grow@grandportage.com)

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm

**Branding as Stewardship: Amplifying Voices in  
Conservation and Community**  
**Jason Clark, eResources**  
**[bookings@twomilehighmarketing.com](mailto:bookings@twomilehighmarketing.com)**

4:30 PM

Dinner on your own

# THURSDAY, September 25, 2025

7:00 am – 9:00 am

**Breakfast on your own**

*Location: Grand Council Ballroom*

8:00 am – 10:00 am

## **Conference Registration & Vendors**

*Coordinators: Heidi McCann & Jennie Bills*

*Location: Convention Center Hallway*

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

## **CLEO Training (8:00 am – 12:00 pm) Legal Updates (4 Hours)**

*Location: Michigan Room*

*Presenter: Attorney General*

## **CLEO Training (12:00 pm – 4:30 pm) NAFWS Hunt Program (4 Hours)**

*Location: Michigan Room*

*Presenter: Ashley Mueller, Education Coordinator, NAFWS*

## Great Lakes Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Concurrent Morning Sessions

8:30 am - 9:00 am

### **American marten home range and habitat associations in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula**

Kevin Haynes, Wildlife Biologist

LTBBOI Natural Resource Department

[khaynes@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov](mailto:khaynes@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov)

9:00 am - 9:30 am

### **Defining and mapping coarse woody debris as functional habitat for American marten in northeastern Minnesota Using LiDAR**

Paul Keenlance, Grand Valley State

University, [keenlanp@gvsu.edu](mailto:keenlanp@gvsu.edu)

9:30 am - 10:00 am

### **Seasonal movement, resource selection and habitat availability for regionally endangered American martens**

Carly Wikston, UW-Madison

[cmscott5@wisc.edu](mailto:cmscott5@wisc.edu)

10:00 am -10:30 am

## **Great Lakes NAFWS Morning Break Session**

10:30 am - 11:00 am

### **A viability analysis for American martens in the Upper Great Lakes**

Jon Pauli, UW-Madison

[jnpauli@wisc.edu](mailto:jnpauli@wisc.edu)

11:00 am – 11:30 am

11:30 am-12:00 pm

12:30 pm -5:00 pm

**Oneida Nation Tribe of Wisconsin Scheduled Tours**

**12:30 pm - 5:00 pm TOUR 1:**

**TOUR 2: Invasive Species Tour**

**TOUR 3:**

**6:30 pm – 10:00 pm 2025 GREAT LAKES NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

**—  
38TH ANNUAL REGIONAL BANQUET**

**Location:**

Master of Ceremonies: Don Reiter, Great Lakes NAFWS Regional Director

**Retire Parade of Colors: Drum Group is Second Island – Tyson Webster**

**Silent Auction**

**Regional Awards**

- 1.) Patricia Zakovek Conservation Officer of the Year Award**
- 2.) Glen T. Miller Tribal Leadership Award (Chairpersons)**
- 3.) William Eger Biologist of the Year Award**
- 4.) Herman D. Lussier Great Lakes NAFWS Technician of the Year Award**

**2025 Great Lakes NAFWS Shoot Team Awards**

**Entertainment:**

**Cross Bow or Rifle Raffle (Please buy tickets at registration desk throughout week)**

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

