



NATIVE AMERICAN FISH & WILDLIFE SOCIETY

2025 Great Lakes Regional Conference

38th 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

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

WEDNESDAY, September 24, 2025

7:30 am – Conference Registration & Vendors

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

Location: Convention Center Hallway

7:00 am –

9:00 am

Breakfast on your own

8:00 am – Conservation Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) Training:

4:30 pm *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

Great Lakes NAFWS Concurrent Morning Sessions

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-nsn.gov

9:00 am –

9:30 am

1854 Treaty Authority Ma'iingan (Wolf) Monitoring

Morgan Swingen, Wildlife Biologist, 1854 Treaty Authority
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

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

Sault Tribe's Whitefish Initiative: From Start To Finish

Rusty Aikens, Biologist. Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians
raikens@saulttribe.net

Effective rusty crayfish removals to protect Manoomin (wild rice)

Matthew Santo, Invasive Species Specialist
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

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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/

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

Workshop: Wildlife Range Shifts and Tribal Lands

Ally Scott, Midwest Deputy Tribal Resilience Liaison
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

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

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

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

NATURAL RESOURCE SESSION

Location: Seneca/Mohawk
Moderator:

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

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.

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

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

Grand Portage Native Fishes Telemetry Project

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

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

4:30 PM

Dinner on your own

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

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

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

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

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

