



### **My Wild View:**

*"As I stalked to the edge of the pond, picking each step carefully, I moved between giant oak trees filled with falling acorns. Ahead, I could see over a dozen wood ducks chasing each other, splashing and feeding, while others rested in the branches of a fallen tree. Here in the upper Midwest, we're on record for one of the wettest periods in history, making flooded timber prime habitat for wood ducks. I'd gotten close enough to see several beautiful drakes, hens and young of the year. It was a rare moment of calm between wild weather patterns. Snow and freezing temps were forecasted overnight and, in a few days, these wood ducks will be headed south."*

**Welcome to the "Call of the Wild" Wildlife Forever E-newsletter.** Each quarter, we'll be providing you with project updates, conservation news and stories from the wild.

Through member contributions we work to ensure you, your family and future generations can enjoy wildlife...forever. I am grateful for your support and we need you now more than ever. **Please help pass on the legacy of America's natural resources by renewing your**

### **Staff Changes**

In August, Wildlife Forever welcomed Shari Olson as our new Office Manager.

In July, we welcomed a new Education and Communication Director, Julia Luger.



### **2020 Wildlife Forever Calendar**

The new 2020 Calendar was recently released and features beautiful wildlife photography

**commitment today.** [Membership and Planned Giving](#) also helps ensure your legacy of conservation lives on, forever. Call us at 763-253-0222 or visit us at [www.WildlifeForever.org](http://www.WildlifeForever.org)

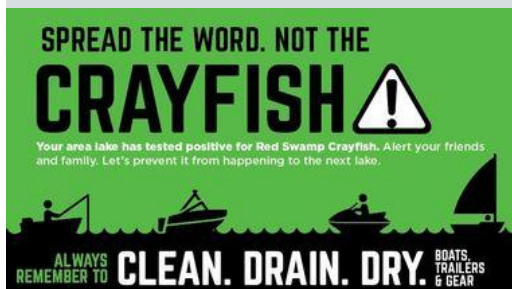
Send us stories or photos of your wildlife moments. We'd love to hear from you. Send to [info@wildlifeever.org](mailto:info@wildlifeever.org). We'll share them on the **Wildlife Forever Facebook** page.

Pat Conzemius  
President & CEO

## **Clean Drain Dry Initiative™**

The Clean Drain Dry Initiative works to spread the message about aquatic invasive species.

In early August, Wildlife Forever partnered with Bent Paddle Brewery in Duluth, MN, to host the first annual [Tails & Ales](#) event. This event featured fresh boiled invasive crayfish, education booths, a raffle and youth activities.



The Clean Drain Dry [Rapid Response Kit](#) was released at the end of July. It is a new tool to spread the word about invasive species infestations. This kit

offers striking colors and eye-catching icons to share the Clean Drain Dry Message.

Connect with the Clean Drain Dry Initiative on [Facebook](#).

and winning artwork from the 2019 State-Fish Art Contest.



Calendars make great gifts for your office, friends and family, visit [www.WildlifeForever.org](http://www.WildlifeForever.org) to order!



Wildlife Forever, the US Forest Service and the University of Georgia received an [award of excellence](#) from the Southern Regional Extension Forestry.

Since its creation, the [Wild Spotter](#) App has tallied 951 downloads and 497 reports of invasive species in 9 different National Forests.

# State-Fish Art

The 2019 State-Fish Art Contest was concluded at the EXPO in Hot Springs, AR this past August. The "Wall of Fame" was a big attraction at the EXPO this year. Voting for the **People's Choice Award** was popular and the public selected Ella Park's Largemouth Bass as the Winner for 2019.



Bass Pro Shops renewed Title Sponsorship of the State-Fish Art Contest for 2020. With support from Bass Pro Shops, the State-Fish Art Contest has reached over 6,000 youth from 14 countries in the last two years.



The 2020 contest kicked off September 1st and offers two new Award Categories.

The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation is the newest sponsor of the State-Fish Art Contest. The **Guy Harvey Award** offers students an opportunity to highlight the importance and diversity of state-fish that inhabit oceanic habitats.

The World Fish Migration Foundation and Wildlife Forever have partnered to educate youth about the importance of migratory fish and the free-flowing rivers they inhabit. The **Fish Migration Award** was created for students to feature migratory fish from around the globe.

Details about the 2020 contest can be found at [www.StateFishArt.org](http://www.StateFishArt.org)

## Don't Move Firewood Public Service Campaign

**Emerald Ash Borer is in Minnesota**



Wildlife Forever has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to manage the Don't Move Firewood campaign.

Billboards, print ads, TV and radio announcements throughout the state are helping share information to stop the spread of invasive species like the Emerald Ash Borer.

## The Cry of the Wild



[Watch the Video here](#)

# Prairie to the People™

On July 18th, Wildlife Forever Staff, in Partnership with the United Prairie Foundation, planted over 500 plugs of native prairie flowers and grasses at the Wildlife Forever Headquarters in White Bear Lake. This project is part of a larger **Prairie to the People™** Campaign.



The new prairie restoration plot has hatched over 30 Monarch Caterpillars and has been home to many pollinator species.

[Read more here](#)

## On The Ground Work

Our prairie and savanna restoration projects remove invasive trees and brush from public land. This fall, chainsaws and heavy equipment were deployed on this 160-acre site to remove trees invading historic remnant prairie. Did you know, only 1% of our Native Prairie remains?



Photo caption: Native flowers like this rough blazing star can be found scattered throughout this prairie wetland complex. Nicholson Wetland Protection Area near Fergus Fall, MN

Often it takes moments in nature to remind us of our connection to the land and water. In this video you'll see Bald and Golden Eagles. Join us in conservation!

**Support Wildlife Forever**

**DONATE**

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**Photo Credits**

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Doug Grann

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William Gamradt

**Wildlife Forever**  
**5350 Hwy 61 N. #7**  
**White Bear Lake, MN 55110**

**Tel: (763)-253-0222**  
**Email: [info@wildlifeforever.org](mailto:info@wildlifeforever.org)**