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Spring 2020



The Call of the Wild

A Wildlife Forever Member Newsletter



Into the Wild

Dear Members,

On behalf of our staff and Board of Directors, our thoughts are with you and anyone affected by the COVID-19 virus. This global crisis has uprooted and twisted nearly every foundation in our lives. There is fear, suffering and sacrifice, but also hope.

Just over a month ago, before the virus really took grip, I visited the Rowe Sanctuary near Kearney, Nebraska. Here, along the meandering banks of the Platte River, is North America's most critical stopping point for migrating Sandhill Cranes and waterfowl. Several years ago, Wildlife Forever funded projects here to improve the resting grounds and provide research for this iconic species, including the endangered Whooping Crane. The day before I arrived, one had

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been spotted in the area. Unfortunately, I was not lucky enough to see it, but as we watched thousands of birds take wing into a setting sun, the awe of wildlife and magnitude of migration was consuming. The scale of tradition, the flight and motion; somehow it grounded me.

In times of turmoil, wildlife, nature and the outdoors can provide hope and healing like nothing else. It teaches our youth and inspires peace in the diversity of wildlife and the habitats they need. It reminds us that conservation is no accident, how we are part of the experience, and that you, our dedicated Wildlife Forever members, play a huge role to ensure future generations can have their lives changed by nature.

I encourage you to go outside (follow the social distancing norms), get some sun on your face and breathe. While the fear of unknown change continues to evolve, I hope you can find joy and peace with a moment in nature or a memory of times outdoors with family and friends. Those days will return just as the Sandhill Cranes return home each spring, thanks to members like you.

Thank you for your continued and dedicated support.

Yours in Conservation,

Pat

P.S. [We are entering the final point of our Annual Membership Drive. Check out this year's FREE GIFTS!](#)

Clean Drain Dry Initiative™



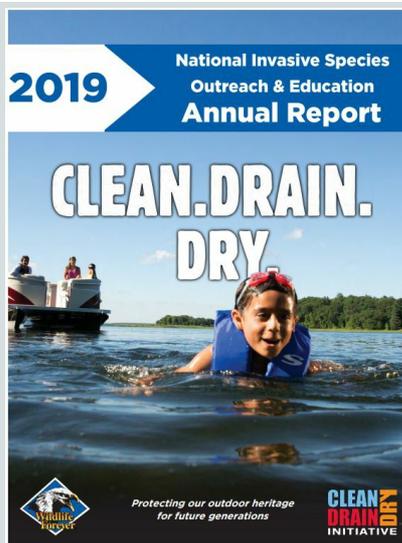
Green Lights Recycling



Wildlife Forever has partnered with Green Lights Recycling to help promote responsible recycling practices. Ever wondered what you should do with items such as spent light bulbs, batteries, and electronic scrap? Through **Green Lights Recycling** [Recycle & Restore](#) program, you can purchase prepaid mail-back containers to responsibly recycle materials from your home or business.

Our Partners

The Clean Drain Dry Initiative recently released the [2019 Annual Accomplishment Report](#). Our coalition of local, state and national partners reached **102 million impressions** in 2019.



With the summer season just around the corner, program staff are assisting our program partners to set-up outreach and education campaigns, helping to prevent the spread of invasive species.

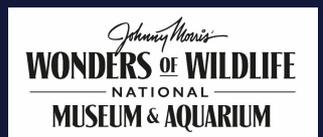
State-Fish Art™

The 2020 State-Fish Art contest is heating up as the new extended deadline of April 30th, 2020 is approaching. This contest year stands to be one of our largest and most diverse.



To date we have received more than 2,000 entries from 19 different countries. With the deadline extended, winners will be announced on May 29th, 2020.

Entries are now being accepted digitally. To enter,



artists in grades K-12 should send a scanned copy or photo of their entry to Info@WildlifeForever.org by April 30th, 2020. Details at StateFishArt.org

Prairie City USA®

Planning is underway for habitat restoration work on 387 acres of public land in North Western Minnesota this summer. Invasive species removal and native seed establishment will provide enhanced habitat for upland wildlife and public enjoyment through hunting and outdoor recreation. Currently, 15,000 native prairie plugs are being grown and will be transplanted to quickly reintroduce native species into the restoration project areas.

Last year 660 acres of native prairie were restored improving habitat for wildlife and pollinators.



Get Back to Nature

Our Partners at Bass Pro Shops and Cabelas encourage us all to get back to nature. Practice #ResponsibleRecreation and get outdoors today!



Youth Outdoor Education at Home

Our Partners at the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium have partnered with the Agents of Discovery to bring high-quality conservation education to youth learning from home. Visit [Wonders of Wildlife](http://WondersofWildlife) to learn more.

Download the Agents of Discovery App onto your phone or tablet and search "Monday Mission" to get started.

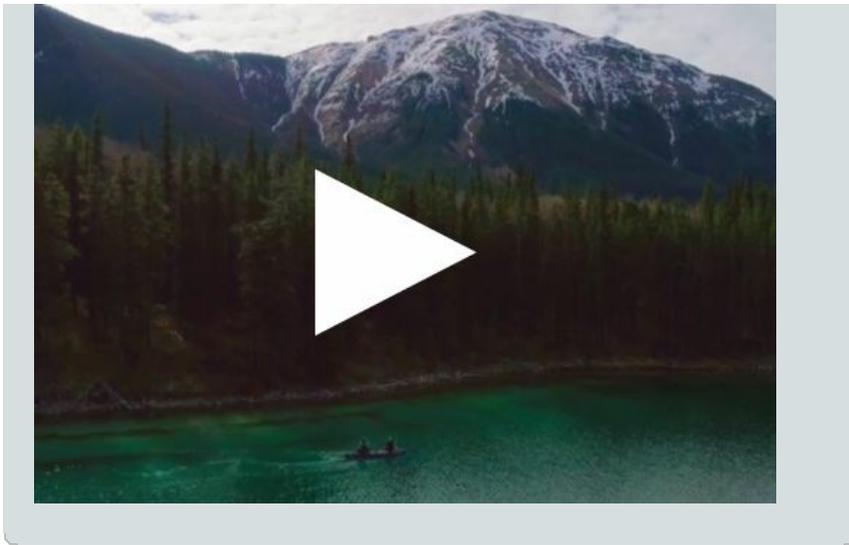


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Tel: (763)-253-0222
Email: info@wildlifeforever.org

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Wildlife Forever
5350 Hwy 61 N. Suite 7
White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110
US

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