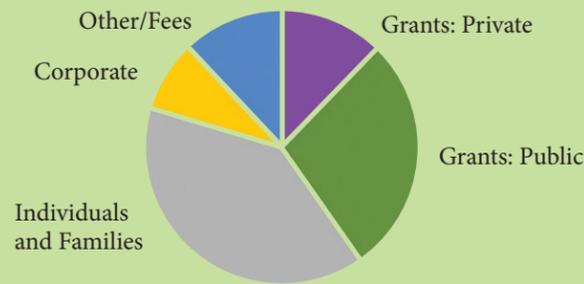


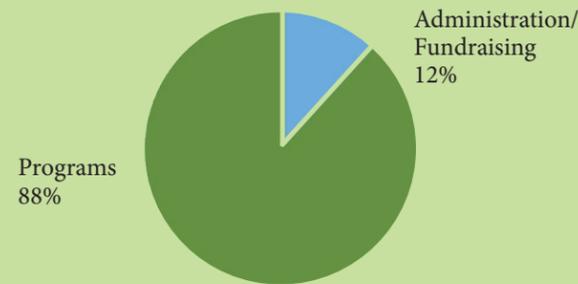
FISCAL YEAR 2016

July 2015 - June 2016

Total Revenue: \$506,806



Total Expenses: \$457,492



HERITAGE CIRCLE

Members who gave \$500 or more

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Anonymous (4) | Elizabeth Middleton Estate |
| Rusty Barton | Bruce Moore |
| Eric Bialk | Ursula and Gerd Muehllehner |
| Mike Borden | David Musolf and Roger Packard |
| Lynn Broaddus and Marc Gorelick | Anna Pidgeon and Volker Radeloff |
| Jack and Bobby Brose | Kate Redmond |
| Marsha and Peter Cannon | Tim Putra and Debra Scharff |
| Doug and Sherry Caves | Kurt L. and Laurie Schmude |
| H. J. Hagge Foundation Fund,
a component fund of the Community
Foundation of North Central Wisconsin | Gary and Penelope Shackelford |
| Scott Froehlke | Jim and Rose Sime |
| Karen Grimmer | Carl Sinderbrand and Maryann Sumi |
| Robert S. Hagge Jr. and Elke Hagge | Scott A. Straus |
| Tracy and Victoria Hames | Cathy Techtmann |
| Duncan Highsmith and Ana Araujo | Tim Thousand |
| Deborah Kern | Martin J. and Karen Voss |
| Al G. Lustig and Janice Watson | Andreas Waldburg-Wolfegg |
| Tod Maclay | Mark and Kathy Wendling |
| Michael McLain | Kristin Westad |
| Melanie McMurray | Thomas Wolfe and Patricia Powers |
| | Peter T. Ziegler and Susan Byerly |

LARGE GIFTS, GRANTS, AND SPONSORS

\$2,500 or more

- | | |
|--|---|
| Anonymous (3) | Elizabeth Middleton Estate |
| Brookby Foundation | USDA Natural Resources |
| Cardno | Conservation Service |
| US Environmental Protection Agency | Oneida Nation |
| Fund For Lake Michigan | Patagonia - Chicago, Magnificent Mile Store |
| H.J. Hagge Foundation Fund,
a component fund of the
Community Foundation of
North Central Wisconsin | Kate Redmond |
| Robert S. Hagge, Jr., and Elke Hagge | Stantec |
| Tracy & Victoria Hames | Tim Thousand |
| Madison Community Foundation | Andreas Waldburg-Wolfegg |
| McKnight Foundation | We Energies |
| | Wisconsin Coastal Management Program |
| | Wisconsin Environmental Education Board |

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- Jim Ruwaldt
- Carl Sinderbrand
- John Wetzel

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- Katie Beilfuss
Outreach Programs Director
- Chelsea Johnson
Communications Manager
- Jacob Lakowske
Office Manager (2015-16)
- Susan Kilmer
Member Services Assistant
- Kyle Magyera
Local Government Outreach Specialist
- Erin O'Brien
Wetland Policy Director
- Julia Slotnick
Conference and Event Intern
- Drew Wieglus
Office Manager (2015)



214 N. Hamilton St. • Suite 201 • Madison WI 53703

www.wisconsinwetlands.org

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education, and advocacy.



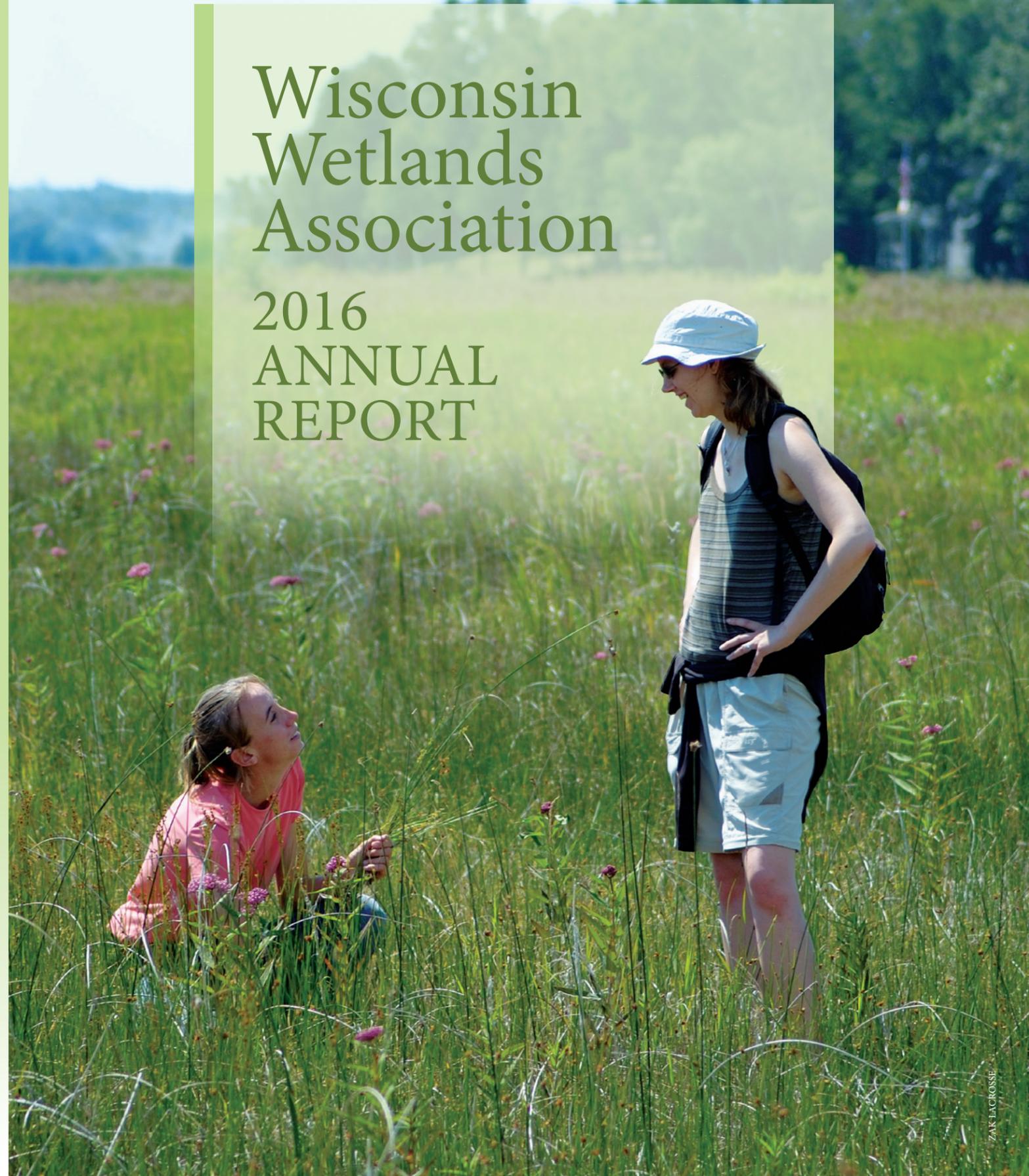
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Wisconsin Wetlands Association

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear wetland supporter,



Tracy Hames
Executive Director

You know that wetlands are solutions to problems facing our water, land, wildlife, and communities. And because of your dedication to and passion for wetlands, this message is catching on across Wisconsin. Wherever I travel throughout this wonderful state, I meet new friends who understand that wetlands matter.

In this report, you'll see some of what Wisconsin Wetlands Association has been up to this year to help enhance and serve our growing family of wetland protectors and advocates. Together we're bringing about change where it's really needed — on the land, in the water, and within the hearts and minds of the people of Wisconsin.

So whether you admire wetlands from a boardwalk or chest-deep in your waders, thank you for speaking up for wetlands in Wisconsin. Your support is making a difference. Together, we're spreading the word of why wetlands matter, and putting wetlands back to work for our communities and watersheds.

Tracy Hames
Executive Director



MONIKA BLAZS

Keynote speaker Robin Wall Kimmerer exchanges ideas with conference attendee.

Promoting wetland science, practices, and tools

In February we hosted our 21st annual Wetland Science Conference in Green Bay, Wisconsin. More than 350 scientists, practitioners, and students joined us to:

- Share presentations on the latest in wetland research and restoration.
- Tour local wetlands on guided field trips.
- Network with wetland professionals and enthusiasts from Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest.



BROOKE NIMMER

Field trip participants with wild rice they harvested with us at the Rhinelander Flowage.

Getting our boots wet with wetland supporters across the state

Nothing's better than a day spent getting our boots wet with people who love wetlands. Thanks to all who joined us on our field trips this year. Trips included:

- Ricing in the Rhinelander Flowage with our guides Scott and Ann Eshelman and Peter David.
- Exploring the recently designated Wetlands of International Importance in Door County by co-sponsoring this year's Door County Festival of Nature.
- Visiting the healthy wetlands of the Penoque Hills with our guides Bill Heart and the Bad River Tribe.



ERIN O'BRIEN

WWA's Local Government Specialist, Kyle Magyera, explains wetland features to a local planning official at a workshop.

Working with communities

To keep our wetlands healthy, we need informed, engaged communities. That's why we expanded our local government program this year to help communities care for wetlands.

We did this by:

- Delivering our wetland workshop to 60 zoning and planning professionals from 35 counties.
- Releasing a publication for land use decision-makers that shows how wetlands can be used to help achieve community goals like flood control and healthy water.
- Publishing the *Model Wetland Conservation Ordinance* to help communities adopt wetland-friendly policies and practices.

Speaking up for wetlands at the Capitol

Political support for wetland protection has waned considerably in the last six years, and this past year was particularly tough. We saw an aggressive push to weaken state wetland protections, a disregard for federal wetland policies, and an alarming lack of understanding of the importance of so-called "isolated" wetlands. All total, four bills with provisions that would harm wetlands were introduced. Responding to these proposed bills required an unprecedented effort from us and our partners.

Fortunately, only one of these four bills (SB 459/AB 600) became law, and the version enacted was much improved from the original. Unfortunately, the other three remain in play for next session. While not every vote went our way, our solution-oriented, non-partisan approach to improving wetland policy continues to earn the respect of key legislators. This will help us make the case for wetland protection next session and beyond.

Despite the political challenges facing wetlands, we remain energized by your support and engagement. **You inspire us to keep fighting for wetlands.**



MONIKA BLAZS

WWA's Wetland Policy Director, Erin O'Brien, speaking up for wetlands at a legislative session.

Helping UW-Extension educators talk about wetlands

Communities across Wisconsin need wetland training and support. To meet this need we launched a collaboration with the University of Wisconsin-Extension's (UWEX) Environmental Resources Center and Center for Land Use Education to help build their capacity to create and deliver wetland education to communities. Our collaboration kicked off by assessing existing UWEX wetland programming and the needs, opportunities, and barriers to including wetlands in ongoing work. Most importantly, we found that UWEX educators want to increase their knowledge on how to communicate the benefits of wetlands to the audiences they serve.

In response to this finding, we planned and hosted a workshop on wetland communication and outreach for UWEX educators. The workshop included field learning to highlight the role of wetlands in watersheds, lectures on wetlands and water messages, and discussions on barriers to and opportunities for wetland program delivery. All participants are receiving post-workshop support to help them explore and implement wetland program ideas.



JAMES ANDERSON

UWEX educators touring wetland sites during a two-day workshop about wetlands and how to communicate their benefits.

Supporting landowners caring for and enjoying their wetlands

For Green Bay natives Bob and Terri Eckberg, owning land wasn't something they wanted to put off. Soon after graduating high school, Bob purchased land on the west shore of Green Bay, a property with a mix of forest and wetlands. Over years of exploration, discovery, and play, Bob and Terri and their three sons have learned a lot about their land and how to care for it.

Now, Bob and Terri's six grandchildren have joined the Eckberg tradition of learning from and enjoying the woods and wetlands. Whether it's locating animal tracks or learning how to catch a frog, seeing their children and grandchildren enjoy the property continues to be a blessing — and motivation — for Bob and Terri.

"You come to realize everything comes around the wheel," Bob said. "What you do now someone is going to inherit."

For the Eckbergs, that's not an abstract concept. They plan on passing their forests and wetlands on to their children and grandchildren, ensuring many more generations of turtle spotting, dirt digging, and memory making.

Of the wetlands that remain in Wisconsin, 75% are owned by private landowners like Bob and Terri. We work with landowners all across the state to teach them how to identify, learn about, and care for their wetlands. Through workshops, our *My Healthy Wetland* handbook, and newsletters, we're engaging landowners to ensure Wisconsin's wetlands remain healthy and protected.



BOB ECKBERG

Three generations of Eckbergs explore, discover, and enjoy their property, including their wetlands, on the west shore of Green Bay.