

BALLOT

Candidates for the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council March, 2021

The Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of candidates for the Board:

____ **Jeb Barzen, *Incumbent Director, Chair* – Ecologist, Private Lands Conservation, LLC.**

Jeb Barzen has logged participation in over 618 prescribed burns since 1978 and was the incident commander for over 550 of these burns. He also participated in the original formation of what has become the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council.

____ **Matt Smith, *Incumbent Director* – Research and Conservation Manager, Riveredge Nature Center**

Matt Smith has worked as a restoration ecologist and consultant for the last 16 years. He currently serves as the Research and Conservation Manager for Riveredge Nature Center, owner of Resilient Ecological Services LLC, and board member for Milwaukee Audubon. His work has allowed him to conduct fire throughout the Midwest, inventory the old growth forests of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, manage and preserve indigenous cultural sites, create management strategies for listed taxa, and create habitat for neotropical migrant songbirds. Matt resides in Ozaukee County with his wife and two young children.

____ **Rob Baller, *Incumbent Director* – Vice Chair and Burn School Instructor, The Prairie Enthusiasts Prairie Bluff Chapter**

Rob Baller has over 30 years of experience on the fire-line as a crew member and burn boss working in both the private and public sector. Currently, he is the fire educator for The Prairie Enthusiasts and Dane County Parks and co-authored the Basic Fire Crew Primer for the WPF. Rob's main interest is fire crew education.

____ **Cory Gritzmacher, *Director* – Director of Conservation and Operations, Mequon Nature Preserve**

Cory Gritzmacher has been working in the Green Industry for over 25 years. He is an ISA Certified Arborist and a degree in Landscape Horticulture. Cory has been with the Mequon Nature Preserve for 5 years and is currently the Director of Restoration and Operations. Prior to the Mequon Nature Preserve Cory owned and operated Second Nature Landscape Company with a focus on native landscaping. He is excited to share his knowledge he has gained over the years and the opportunity to serve on the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council.

Nathan Holoubek, *Director* – Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Nathan Holoubek has worked in private and public sector land management for 15 years in the Midwest and Great Plains. He has conducted research on a wide variety of fire-related topics including behavior and its impact on forest (pine and oak), savanna, and prairie communities from Wisconsin's NW Glacial Plains to the Southern Lake Michigan Coastal landscape. He currently serves as a property and habitat manager in southeastern Wisconsin.

You may also vote for someone not on the nominating committee's slate.

 Write in Candidate: _____

The membership will vote on the candidates at the 2021 WPFC Winter Council Meeting, which will be on Friday, March 5, from 10:00-11:45 AM Via Zoom. As there are 5 open positions, please indicate 5 candidates that you wish to vote for. If you would like to vote and will *not* be attending the meeting you can return your ballot by email prior to **5:30pm, March 4, 2021** to wiprefirecouncil@gmail.com.

Continuing Board Members:

- Stacey Marion, Vice Chair – UW-Madison
- Clay Frazer, Treasurer – Eco-Resource Consulting/Pheasants Forever
- Jim Elleson, Secretary – Quercus Land Stewardship Services
- Jeb Barzen, Director – Private Land Conservation, LLC
- John Schwingel, Director – The Nature Conservancy
- UWSP Fire Crew Executive Team, Director(s) – UW-Stevens Point