

# Minnesota Naturalists' Association

Annual Conference 2019



OUTGROW THE BOX

Registration Packet

Everything you need to know for the conference

**November 15-17, 2019**

**Audubon Center of the North Woods**

**Sandstone, Minnesota**

# MNA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

Hello MNA!! I'm Mary Morris, your new Conference Coordinator!

As a naturalist who has come up the ranks in the last several years, Minnesota Naturalists' Association has played a vital role in my development as an environmental educator and as a member of the amazing network we have here in Minnesota. Conference Coordinator is a big job, and though I often joked about my palms starting to sweat when I thought about it (and I'd be lying if I didn't admit they were sweaty all year long), I am honored and privileged to serve in this capacity. Our annual conference is such a delightful mix of life-long learning, sharing new and big ideas, reuniting with former coworkers, and embracing the fun of our field. It has been one of my favorite weekends of the year since I started attending, and I have loved being a part of, and now leading, the planning committee that makes it all possible.



In conversations with MNA members and our planning committee, it was clear that we are ready to reconvene on some of the big, gigantic questions and issues that face our field and our society: diversity, equity, climate change, etc. But this year, I invite us to focus a bit less on the practical and tangible and a bit more on big ideas, big questions, and the shape of our future. We must stay grounded in our commitment to Think Outside, but at the same time, dare to stretch out of our own comfort zones and Outgrow the Box that we have thrived in for so long. We won't find all our answers and solutions in three days, but our request is that we all come to the table with open hearts and minds, ready to start the conversations, mull over new and difficult ideas and dream the crazy dreams that just might get us there.

Whew! That was serious! But don't worry – one of the reasons I love this line of work is that we are great at blending the serious and the silly! So, while you are busy digesting sessions on emotional intelligence and thinking critically about invasive species rhetoric, don't forget to kick back and enjoy learning about MN cryptids, building forts and competing to take home such prestigious awards as the Golden Maple Leaf, the \$\$\$ Tree and the best-lookin' photography trophies around!

## Register Online!

Our registration process is completely online!

Please be sure to look at the Workshops in the Conference Guide before you register. You will be asked to pick your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.

Check out our updated website, renew your membership and register for the conference online at [www.mnnaturalists.org](http://www.mnnaturalists.org).

## What's Included

### Full conference registration includes:

- Exciting workshops
- Concurrent and discussion sessions
- Evening entertainment and refreshments
- Dinner Friday
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday
- Breakfast and lunch on Sunday
- Lodging at Audubon Center of the North Woods on Friday and Saturday night

### Pre-conference fieldtrip registration includes:

- Enriching regional learning and exploration opportunities
- Lodging at Audubon Center of the North Woods on Thursday night
- Breakfast and lunch on Friday

# AUDUBON CENTER OF THE NORTH WOODS



## Audubon Center of the North Woods

*Experience Your Environment*

### Audubon Center of the North Woods

54165 Audubon Drive  
Sandstone, MN 55072  
320-245-2648

## ACNW Location & Driving Directions

Audubon Center of the North Woods is located only six miles from Interstate 35, 90 miles north of the Twin Cities (about 1 1/2 hours) and 60 miles south of Duluth (about 1 hour).

- From Interstate 35, exit on the Sandstone Exit 191.
- Go west on County road 61 just over 2 miles
- Turn right (west) on County Road 27 and go about 100 feet
- Turn left (south) at the 'T' intersection with Grindstone Lake Road, and go just over 3 miles
- Turn right (north) on County Road 17 (Fox Road) and go 250 feet
- Turn left (west) at Audubon Drive. Follow this road for 1 mile to the main campus

### What to Bring:

- Pillow, bed linens and blankets
- Clothing appropriate for the weather
- Headlamp, notebook, pen/pencil
- Towel & bathing products
- Water bottle and/or coffee mug
- Silent auction donations (proceeds benefit the MNA Scholarship and Grants Fund) and money (cash, checks, and cards accepted).
- Photography, Film Festival and maple syrup contest submissions
- BYO beverages, snacks packed in labeled container (must be stored in Dining Hall)
- Anything you want to bring for social time activities (more details later in this packet)

### Conference Check-in

**Friday, November 15; 3:30-8 p.m.**  
**Blanding Dining Hall Entrance**

At Check-In, conference participants will select roommates. Lodging varies from dorm-style to shared rooms in smaller houses/lodges.

**Auction Donations:** Bring items to Check-In.

**Photo Contest Submissions:** Bring entries to Check-In.

**Film Festival Submissions:** May be submitted online during registration period or via flash drive at Check-In.

**Maple Syrup Submissions:** Bring maple syrup entries to Check-In.

**Pre-Conference Check-In** will occur at ACNW on Thursday, November 14th in the evening. More details provided in registration email.

# FIELD TRIP

## The Plan

After a lovely breakfast at the Audubon Center of the North Woods, we will head out to the Hinckley Fire Museum for a guided tour. Next, we will make our way to St. Croix State Park for a bag lunch in the Trail Center, a chat with the State Park Manager, and some time to explore the park. We will meet with DNR staff for a brief introduction about Scientific and Natural Areas at the Trail Center, before finishing our day with a guided exploration of the Kettle River SNA. We will return to Audubon with plenty of time to complete check-in for the full conference and get settled before dinner!

## Hinckley Fire Museum

First there was the timber. Then came the people to harvest the trees and the railroads to supply them. On September 1st, 1894, in just a matter of hours, history was changed forever.

A quarter-million acres burned in just four hours. A half-dozen communities burned the ground. The official death toll was 418, not counting hundreds of Native Americans who lived in and around the town and others who were never found. Learn about this significant MN historical event and the history of the area during a private tour.



## Kettle River Scientific and Natural Area

Add the Kettle River, Wilburn and Fox Creeks, and several small lakes occupying former river channels, and it is hard to imagine a more richly diverse example of the state's natural heritage. This SNA is known for its impressive array of bird species, including the Louisiana Waterthrush, a state-listed species of special concern. Rare native plant species documented here include bog bluegrass and American water pennywort.

Of special geologic interest is the Douglas Fault. Fracturing and uplift along the fault line has brought bedrock of widely varying ages together, putting 700 million year-old Hinckley Sandstone on a level with ancient basalt of the Chengwatana Volcanics, associated with the 1.1 billion year-old Mid-Continental Rift System.

## Meals, Transportation & Lodging

Registration for the Pre-Conference Field Trip includes lodging at Audubon on Thursday night, breakfast and a bag lunch on Friday (no dinner on Thursday!), and transportation from Audubon to all Field Trip locations. If you choose to arrive on your own on Friday morning, you will still need to pay the full rate. Please note that Audubon will have a school group present on Thurs-Fri, so leave any alcoholic beverages stashed away and be mindful of other Audubon guests! Thank you!



# Audubon Center of the North Woods

Experience Your Environment

## Liability Release Form

Please send completed and signed form to:  
Audubon Center of the North Woods  
PO Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072  
Phone: 320-245-2648; Fax: 320-245-5272  
Email: schools@audubon-center.org

### **Form MUST be signed for each individual before program participation**

*It is the school's/group's responsibility to collect signed liability releases from each adult participant and from a parent/guardian of each youth participant (if applicable) and submit all releases to the Audubon Center.*

### Assumption of Risk and Liability Release

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

School/Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Participant is a:  student  parent  teacher  other \_\_\_\_\_

I will be participating /  I authorize the above-named participant to participate in the program at the Audubon Center of the North Woods. I acknowledge and am aware that this program involves certain inherent risks which I expressly accept and assume. These risks may include (but are not limited to) physical injury, emotional injury, paralysis, permanent disability, illness, death or property damage due to inclement weather; walking on uneven trails; canoeing; cross country skiing; snowshoeing; rock climbing and belaying on an indoor climbing wall; a high ropes course activity; field trips to non-ACNW sites; and other peoples' actions. Following appropriate medical consultation, I have determined that my child's/my health is adequate to participate safely in this program (except as indicated on the Student or Adult Health Form). In the event of an emergency, I authorize treatment by emergency medical personnel. I understand such risks simply cannot be eliminated, despite the use of safety equipment, without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity.

Accordingly, I hereby voluntarily release and forever discharge ACNW, including its directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, participants, and all other persons or entities acting for them on behalf of myself and my children, from any and all liabilities to me with respect to injury, sickness, disease, loss or damage. This release applies to any and all liabilities to me or my estate of any description, whether arising from ordinary negligence or otherwise, and whether involving fees and expenses of any kind. In the event that some other person or entity seeks compensation for these released liabilities, I or my estate will indemnify and hold harmless ACNW for all sums reasonably incurred in response to that claim. This release is to be interpreted and enforced under Minnesota law.

By signing this document, I understand and agree that if I am hurt or if my property is damaged during my participation in this activity, I may be found by a court of law to have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit against the parties being release on the basis of any claim for negligence. I have had enough time to read this agreement and consult with legal counsel if I so chose to do so. I understand that this activity may not be made available to me if I were to choose not to sign this release. I have read and understood this document and I agree to be bound by its terms.

Parent/Guardian or Participating Adult Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(required)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please note: Failure to sign this form will prohibit you/your child from participating in all Audubon Center of the North Woods activities. You are invited to request more information about our programs, facilities, and policies at any time.

- Audubon Center of the North Woods does not have permission to use any photos taken during the visit in publicity materials
- I do not wish to receive information about the Audubon Center of the North Woods

# EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

## Friday Night Only

#MNAC.A.S.H.

8:00—9:30 *Start @ Dining Hall*

Let's spend some time getting to know each other and our host site. Get a team together for the Minnesota Naturalists Association Conference Audubon Scavenger Hunt, extra points if you include someone you just met, someone who is new to the field (3 years or less), someone who has been in the field for a long time (15+ years), and someone currently employed at Audubon Center of the North Woods. You have 60 minutes to complete as many of the tasks as possible, with photographic or video proof. Highest point total wins.

### Ecology of D&D

8:30—9:30 *Int'l Classroom @ Crosby Lodge*

Play an approximately one hour game of Dungeons and Dragons 5<sup>th</sup> edition that is used to teach students environmental education. No previous experience needed. Character sheets and dice will be provided. You can use your own 2<sup>nd</sup> level character if you want as long as it is made ahead of time.

Please sign-up at Check-In in Blandin Dining Hall!

## Saturday Night Only

Maple Syrup Contest

7:00—8:00 *Dining Hall*

Last year the Lowry Nature Center won the Maple-Leaf trophy. Will you be the winner this year? Bring your maple syrup samples to compete. Everyone is welcome to taste the samples and vote for their favorites!

Climbing Wall Open

7:00-8:00 *Barn Loft*

Try your hand at rock climbing at Audubon's indoor climbing wall. Do you think you can reach the top?

Film Festival

8:00-9:30 *Dining Hall*

Join us for an evening of grit and glamour at MNA's first Film Festival! Bring your friends, peers, and colleagues to enjoy films created by environmental professionals from across the state. There are no categories, there are no prizes, but it is guaranteed to be an unforgettable evening. Who knows, we may even discover the next Lenny Pepperbottom...

Fri. & Sat. 8:00-12:00

## Both Nights

*Dining Hall and Crosby Lodge*

### Silent Auction & Raffle

Help support our scholarship and grants program by buying raffle tickets and bidding on items at the Silent Auction. Raffle tickets can be purchased at meal times. The drawing will be on Sunday at lunch. Silent Auction will close Saturday at 9 pm.

### Photo Contest

Check out the Photo Contest Submissions and vote for your favorite in each category.

### Board Games

Grab some friends, grab some people you've never met, and play some board games!

### Secret Item Game

There are new secret items again this year! They are completely visible, on someone's person. If you can figure out what they are, and covertly get your hands on one, you may just win a prize. More details at Friday Dinner.

### At-Will Campfire

Is one of your favorite things just kickin' around the fire with friends? Head out behind Crosby Lodge and get a fire going in the fire pit! Check in with ACNW staff or Conference Committee members for a fire starting kit.

# Let's Make it Rain \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The MNA Board has got a challenge for you! Put together the silent auction box that brings in the highest donation at this year's silent auction and earn the right to display the coveted \$\$\$ Tree trophy!!

## 2019 Guidelines:

1. One box with dimensions adding up to no more than 36" (12"x12"x12").
2. Box may be displayed open or closed, but all items must fit inside with box closed.
3. Organizations may submit more than one box, but each box will be considered as an individual entry

Submit boxes at Check-In as part of the Silent Auction.

Thank you for your help in making \$\$\$ grow on trees to benefit MNA's scholarships and grants programs!



# Maple Syrup Competition

Back again for 2019! Enter your site's maple syrup (or even some of your own) in our maple syrup competition. Please bring at least 1 pint of your syrup and the completed form below to check-in.

Saturday evening conference attendees will be able to taste-test all the submissions and vote for their favorites!

## Maple Syrup Entry Form

Name/Site Name:

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Staff involved in the making of this syrup (if entering as a site):

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Name of Syrup (optional):

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Address:

City:

State:

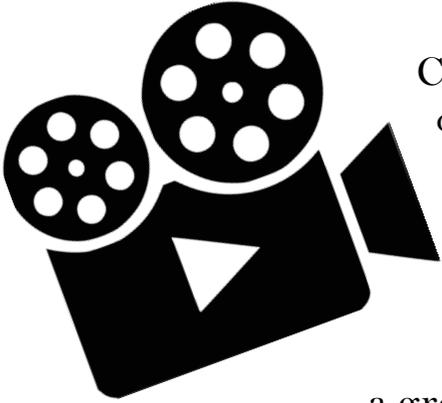
Zip:

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Email:

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# Film Festival



Calling all filmmakers! MNA is excited to announce its first official Film Festival at this year's annual conference. Grab a friend or work individually to produce your own cinematic masterpiece, or choose a masterpiece you already have in your file full of masterpieces, then submit it to be featured on the big screen in front of an audience of colleagues and peers. There are no categories, there are no prizes, just a group of like-minded professionals coming together to celebrate the work we do and the creativity we share.

Films may be up to 7 minutes long and should be submitted online through the Google Forms link provided below from September 9th to November 8th. Late submissions will be accepted on Friday, November 15th (the first day of the conference) via USB drive at Check-In.

Please follow this link to access the MNA Film Festival submission form on Google Forms: <https://forms.gle/RxmFGRXCejZaBkRa8>

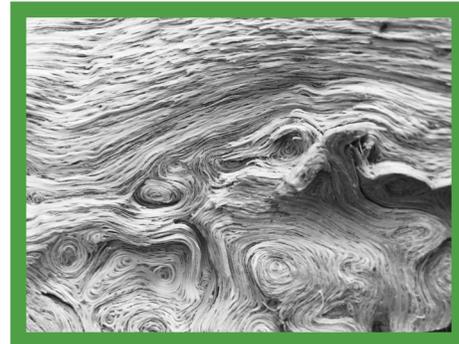
## Form Questions:

1. Email Address
2. Who made this film? Include all filmmakers!
3. What is the title of your film?
4. Please include a brief description of your film. What is it about?
5. Please include any additional information you feel the audience might need or like to know prior to the screening of your film.
6. Who should we contact with questions about this film? (Name, email, phone and preferred method of contact)
7. Upload film submission

Any questions about the film festival can be sent to  
Lauren Kitrell at [lkitrell2@gmail.com](mailto:lkitrell2@gmail.com).



# PHOTO CONTEST



## MNA Amateur Photography Contest

MNA members are encouraged to start collecting photos to enter in MNA's annual member photo contest this year.

Members may enter one photo per category. Up to six submissions per person:

- Minnesota Landscapes and Skies
- Minnesota Fauna
- Minnesota Flora and Fungi
- Minnesota Macro
- Adventures in Interpretation
- NEW!! Taxidermy Antics

Submitted entries will be displayed and voted on by 2019 conference attendees.

Contest rules and entry forms are included in the following pages.



# Minnesota Naturalists' Association Amateur Photography Contest Rules

- Entries will be accepted on Friday, November 15, 2019, 3:30-8 p.m. at the MNA Conference Check-in only.
- Amateur photographers only (those that are not paid for taking photographs).
- One submission form must accompany each submitted photograph. Form is also available online at [www.mnnaturalists.org](http://www.mnnaturalists.org)
- Only photos taken within the state of Minnesota will be accepted.
- Limit **one** photograph submission per category (6 submissions total per person).
- Please do not digitally enhance photos in any way that alters what the original photo showed beyond basic techniques such as correcting color balance, exposure and sharpness. Dodging, burning, switching to black and white or sepia and cropping are all acceptable as well. Manipulation of subject matter or creating composite images is not allowed. Photos should accurately represent the reality of the photographed scene.
- Submissions must be brought to the 2019 MNA Conference Check-in for judging. Must be attending the conference to participate.
- Entries must be no larger than 8x10 hard copy prints without frames. Matte or glossy finish accepted.
- Photographer must verify and provide photographic release form if recognizable persons are included in the submission. If there are youth ages 17 and under, their parent/guardian must sign the photographic release form. Form is available online at [www.mnnaturalists.org](http://www.mnnaturalists.org) and in this Registration Packet.
- Entrants must be willing to allow the Minnesota Naturalists' Association authorization to use the photos in future publications.
- First place entries in each category will be featured on the MNA Facebook page, and possibly in future Newsletters
- Winners must be able to provide a high resolution digital copy of winning submissions.
- Judging will take place at the 2019 MNA conference at Audubon Center of the North Woods
- Winners will be announced on Sunday November 17, 2019 at Audubon Center of the North Woods.
- Winners will be chosen by MNA Conference attendees. Must be present to win.



**MINNESOTA NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION**

# Minnesota Naturalists' Association Amateur Photography Submission Form

Title for the Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Image Categories (circle, select one per submission):

Minnesota Landscapes and Skies

Minnesota Faun

Minnesota Flora and Fungi

Minnesota Macro

Adventures in Interpretation

Taxidermy Antics

I authorize the use of this photograph in future publications and for other uses related to the Minnesota Naturalists' Association.

\_\_\_\_\_

please sign

\_\_\_\_\_

date

\* There must be 1 submission form for each photo.



**MINNESOTA NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION**

# Minnesota Naturalists' Association Photographic Release (for photos with recognizable persons)

## CONSENT FOR USE OF PHOTOGRAPH

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, authorize MNA to take and use photographs of: \_\_\_me, \_\_\_ my child(ren), or \_\_\_me and my children for the promotion of MNA and its functions, activities, and programs.

I understand that allowing MNA to photograph me, my child(ren) or both me and my child (ren) and present the photographs in promotional materials of MNA is completely voluntary and that I will not be paid for this use of the photographs. I give up any claim I might assert against any official, employee, agent or unit of MNA arising out of the use my pictures in promotional materials about MNA.

My permission to release this information about me and/or my child(ren) expires five years from the date this Consent is executed. I understand that I may revoke this Consent prior to five years by sending written notification to [MNAmembership@gmail.com](mailto:MNAmembership@gmail.com); however, the revocation will not apply to actions already taken by MNA in reliance on this Consent.

This Consent shall bind my heirs and assignees.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph number/location/description:

No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Description/activity: \_\_\_\_\_



**MINNESOTA NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION**

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## **Friday**

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Dinner

6:45 pm - 7:45 pm - Keynote

8:00 pm - 12:00 am - Social Time

## **Saturday**

7:00 am - 7:45 am - Breakfast

8:15 am - 9:15 am - Concurrent Session A

9:30 am - 11:00 am - Discussion Session

11:15 am - 12:15 pm - Concurrent Session B

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - Member Meeting

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Site Tours/Informal Networking/Break

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm - Concurrent Session C

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Concurrent Session D

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm - 12:00 am - Social Time

## **Sunday**

7:00 am - 7:45 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - 8:30 am - Packing Time

8:45 am - 12:15 pm - Workshop Session

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch



**MINNESOTA NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **MNA Contact Information**

P.O. Box 9344

St. Paul, MN 55109

[www.mnnaturalist.org](http://www.mnnaturalist.org)