



MINNESOTA  
NATURALISTS'  
ASSOCIATION

**NOVEMBER 3RD-5TH, 2023**

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center  
Finland, MN

# MNA Annual Conference 2023

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Welcome to the 2023 MNA conference! Get ready to plunge into the world of nature and environmental education, where our lineup of speakers will offer topics relevant to you ranging from specific micro subjects to expansive macro ones, covering everything in between. Whether you're a returning explorer or joining us for the first time, we're beyond excited to have all of you here. Buckle up for a weekend of learning, laughter, and maybe a little bit of snow on our boots. See you soon!

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

## What's Included

### Full conference registration includes:

- Workshops
- Concurrent and discussion sessions
- Evening entertainment
- Dinner Friday
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday
- Breakfast and lunch Sunday
- Lodging at Wolf Ridge for Friday and Saturday night

### Pre-conference Field Trip registration includes:

- A tour through parts of Superior National Forest, highlighting different study sites
- Lodging at Wolf Ridge on Thursday night
- Breakfast and lunch on Friday



# WOLF RIDGE<sup>SM</sup>

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

### Location

**6282 Cranberry Rd  
Finland, MN 55603**

Wolf Ridge is located in Finland, Minnesota, on Minnesota's scenic North Shore. The campus is approximately four hours from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and two hours from the Canadian border. The main campus is a 10-minute drive from Lake Superior and Highway 61.

### What to Bring

- **Clothing appropriate for the weather**
  - WR is typically 4 weeks ahead of the twin cities for the weather, so think December!
- Pillow, bed linens/blankets or sleeping bag
- Headlamp, notebook, pen/pencil
- Towel and bathing products
- Water bottle and/or coffee mug
- Name tag (at least one, feel free to rock your entire collection!)

#### *Optional:*

- High-visibility vest (if hiking off campus)
- Silent auction donation (proceeds benefit the MNA Scholarship Fund) and money (cash, checks, and cards accepted).
- Film Festival, Photography Contest, and Golden Maple Leaf submissions
- Beverages, snacks
- Camera (for photography sessions)
- Instrument (for musical bonfire)
- Puppets (for puppet performances)

### Conference Check-in

**Friday, November 3rd, 3:30 - 6:00pm**  
*Please note that dinner will be served from 5:15-6:00pm.*

Check-in will be at the MAC Lodge. At check-in, conference participants will select their room and roommates. Lodging will be dorm-style with 4 to 8 people per room. After moving in, we will direct you to the parking lot.

Please bring all submissions for Silent Auction, Photography Contest, Film Festival, and Golden Maple Leaf to check-in.

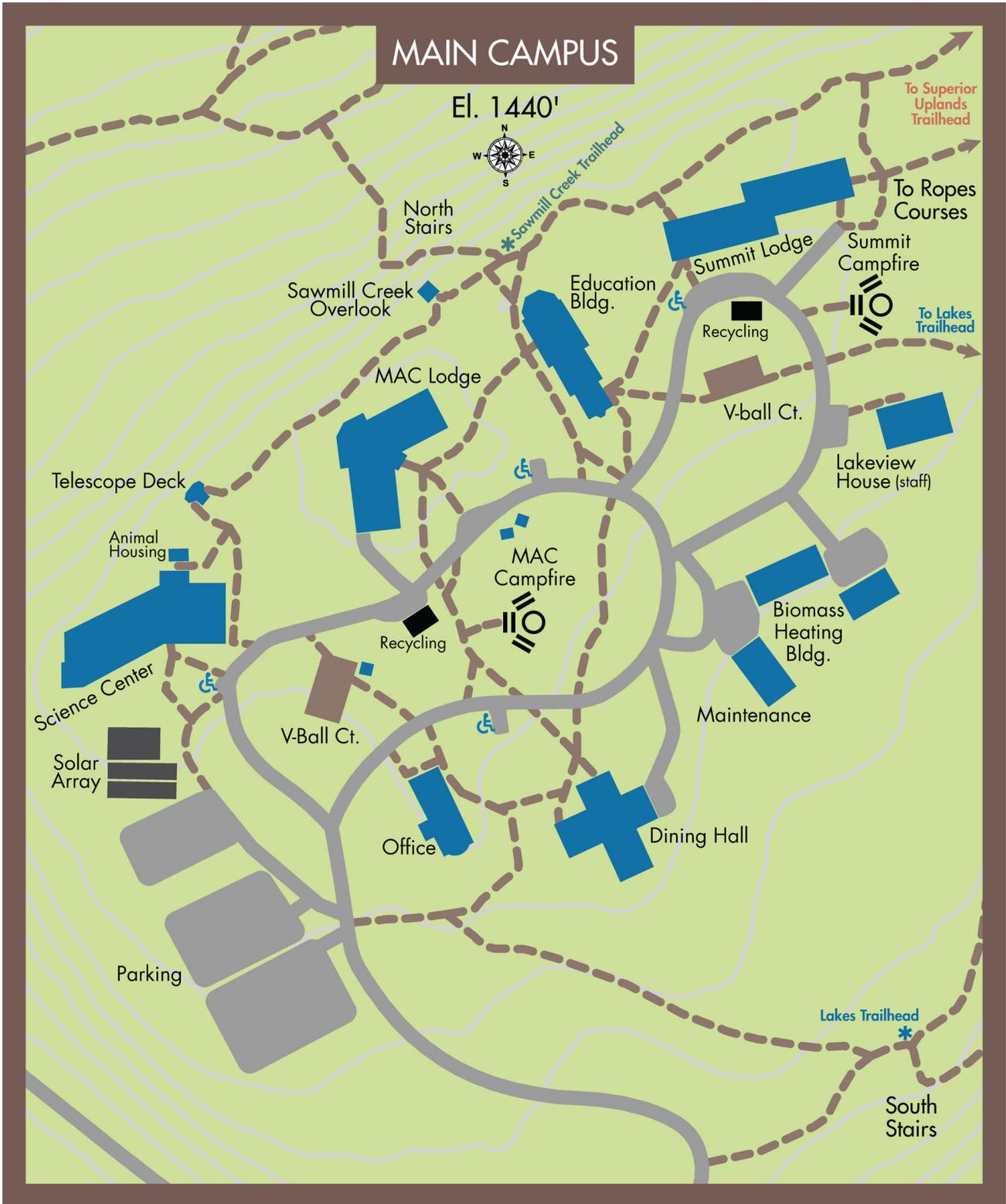
Pre-conference check-in will occur on Thursday, November 2nd. More details provided in email sent to field trip participants.



# WOLF RIDGE<sup>SM</sup>

ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

## Campus Map



# Pre-Conference Field Trip

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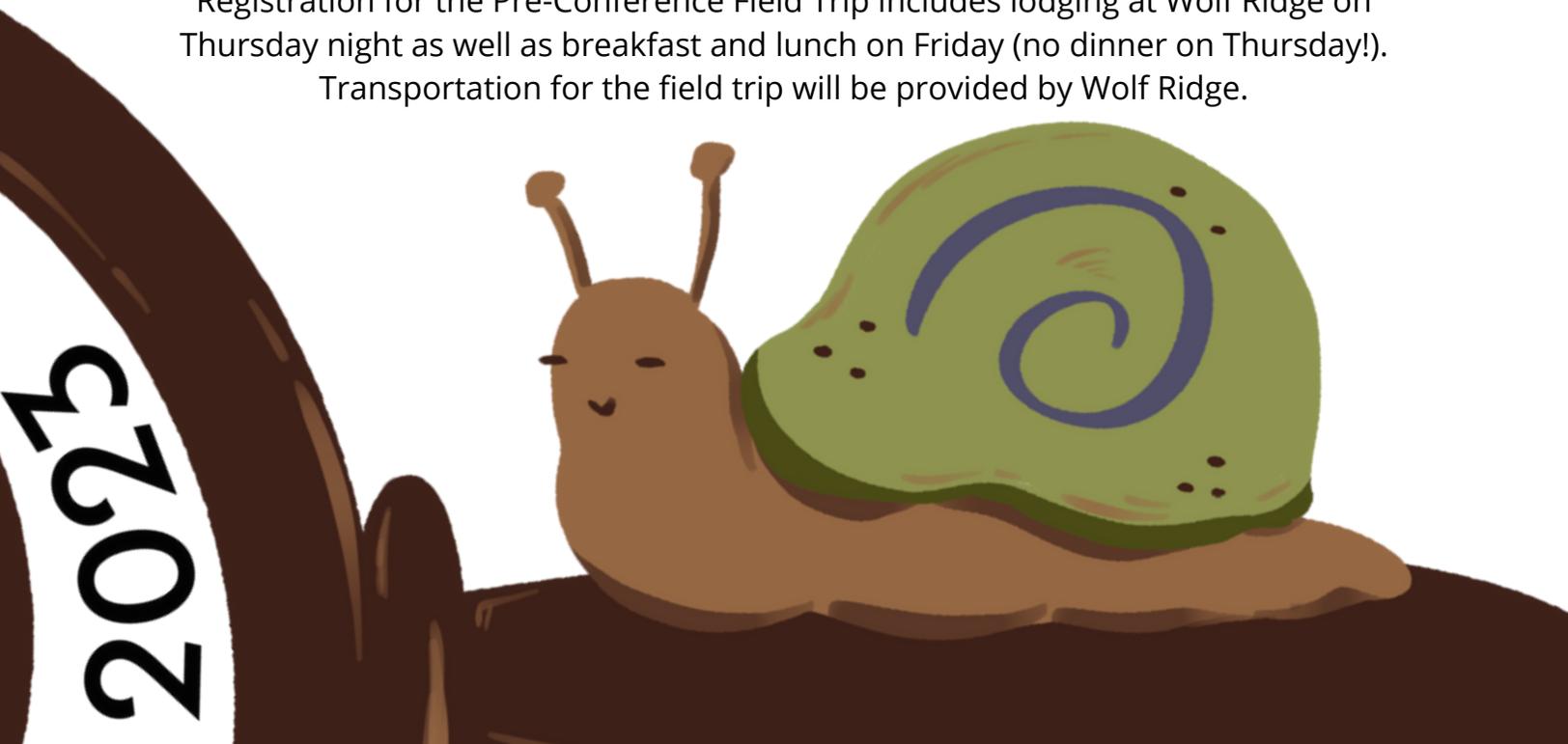
After breakfast at Wolf Ridge, we will hop in a van for a guided tour of parts of the Superior National Forest. On the tour, we will visit spots with different treatments (leave tree harvest, mechanical site prep, underburns, etc.) and talk about how forestry and habitat management work together and the impact on recreational uses. Led by Steve Robertson, an Interpretation and Education Specialist for the U.S. Forest Service.

## Superior National Forest

Established in 1909, the three-million acre Superior National Forest is the largest national forest east of the Mississippi River. The Forest is located at the southernmost edge of the boreal forest ecosystem and is home to thousands of clean lakes, rocky landscapes, iconic megafauna, colorful fall foliage and has a rich cultural history. Within the bounds of the Forest is the beloved one million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Bordered by Canada, Lake Superior and Voyageurs National Park, there's truly a superior experience waiting for you.

## Meals, Transportation & Lodging

Registration for the Pre-Conference Field Trip includes lodging at Wolf Ridge on Thursday night as well as breakfast and lunch on Friday (no dinner on Thursday!). Transportation for the field trip will be provided by Wolf Ridge.



# Evening Entertainment

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## FRIDAY NIGHT

### **Astrophotography Class**

Join us to explore astrophotography and see how to create a program encouraging others. The great thing is that night photography does not require a huge investment in specialized equipment. In fact, even entry level equipment can capture amazing night scenes. Presented by Don Tredinnick & Kurt Fagnant.

### **Bonfire Jam**

What better way to get to know people than by jamming with them by the fire? Bring your instruments or come to just enjoy the music. Hosted by Will Bjorndal.

## SATURDAY NIGHT

### **Maple Syrup Contest**

Are you a sugar maple purist or a boxelder fan? Bring your own syrup samples and join the competition! Everyone is welcome to gather in the Dining Hall to sample and vote for their favorite. Winner takes home the coveted Golden Maple Leaf.

### **Film Festival**

An evening of cinematic and performance excellence; enjoy films created by environmental professionals from across the state. There are no categories, there are no prizes, but we know there are some real gems out there to enjoy.

### **Puppet Shows**

Back by popular demand... the puppet show challenge! Pick one of the challenges from the list and create a puppet show that incorporates all of the topics. From ignoring imminent death, to having an interpretive dance, choose your challenge for a night of laughs.

### **Board Game Bonanza**

Bring your favorite board game to share and have a little friendly competition! Try your hand at your favorite game or a brand new one.

## ALL WEEKEND

### **Silent Auction & Raffle**

Support our scholarship program by buying raffle tickets and bidding on items at the silent auction. Raffle tickets can be purchased at meal times, drawing will be held Sunday at lunch. Silent auction will close Saturday at 9:00 p.m.

### **Photo Contest**

Submissions will be posted in the Dining Hall, make sure to check them out and vote for your favorite in each category. Voting will close Saturday at 9:00 p.m. with winners announced Sunday at lunch.

# Conference Schedule

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## FRIDAY

Check In	3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Dinner	5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Keynote	6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Bonfire Jam	7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Astrophotography Class	7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Social Time	7:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

## SATURDAY

Breakfast	7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Concurrent Session A	8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.
Concurrent Session B	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Concurrent Session C	10:45 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.
Lunch	12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Member Meeting	1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Break/Site Tours/Informal Networking	1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Concurrent Session D	3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Discussion Session	4:10 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.
Dinner	5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Evening Entertainment & Social Time	6:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

*Silent Auction closes at 9 p.m.*

## SUNDAY

Breakfast	7:15 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Packing Time	8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Workshop Sessions	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Lunch	12:15 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.



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*Please note: Times are tentative - please refer to final conference guide.*

# Puppet Show Challenge

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Sign-up yourself (or a group) for our Puppet Show Challenge. Sign-up will be available at the check-in table.

A puppet stage will be provided, BYOP (Bring Your Own Puppets), and you will get a MAX of 5 minutes to include all pieces of one of the following scenarios:

1. Puppets must use a prop, puppets must be on a quest, the Barbie movie must be mentioned
  2. A detective must be involved, 2 puppets must be highly annoyed with each other, must include a dance-off
  3. Puppets must interact with a naturalist, a song must be sung, someone must be put on trial
4. Puppets must talk about the naturalists they work with, there must be an interpretive dance, the puppets must be ignoring imminent death
5. Must talk about a crazy camper, a machine must be invented, "You know you're a puppet when..." must be said



# Golden Maple Leaf Competition

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Back again for 2023! Enter your site's maple syrup (or some of your own) in our competition, judged by our members. Please bring at least 1 pint of syrup and the completed form below to check in.

Tastings will be held Saturday evening to determine the winner!

## 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:

Email:

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# Film Festival

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Calling all filmmakers! Grab a friend or work individually to produce your own cinematic masterpiece, or choose a project already in your files. Submit your film to be featured on the big screen before 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 either online through the Google Forms link provided below until Monday, October 30th. Late submissions can be accepted at check-in via USB drive.

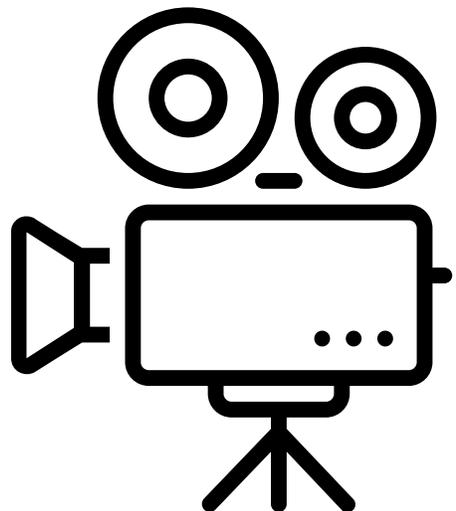
**Please follow this link to access the MNA Film Festival submission form:**

<https://forms.gle/xgyuSzhLe7ZYzAEC9>

## Form Questions:

1. Email Address
2. Who made this film? Include all filmmakers and producers!
3. What is the title of your film?
4. Please include a brief description of your film. What is it about?
5. 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:  
[mnaconference@gmail.com](mailto:mnaconference@gmail.com)



# Photo Contest

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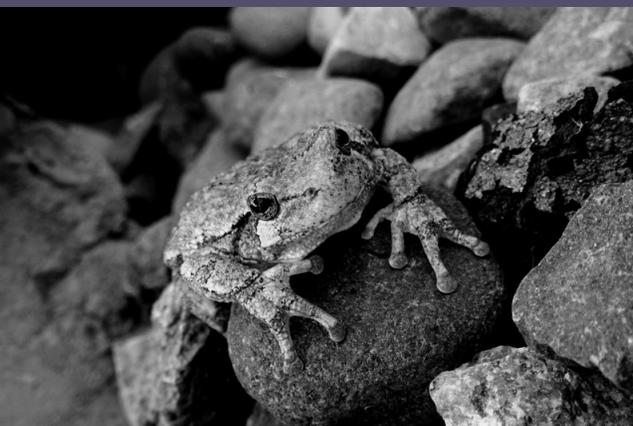
## MNA Amateur Photography Contest

MNA members are encouraged to submit photos for our annual photo contest.

You may enter one photo per category, up to six submissions per person. This year's categories are:

- Minnesota Landscapes and Skies
- Minnesota Fauna
- Minnesota Flora and Fungi
- Minnesota Macro
- Adventures in Interpretation
- Bad Taxidermy

Submitted entries will be displayed and voted on by conference attendees. Contest rules and entry forms are included in the following pages.



# Photography Contest Rules

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- Entries will be accepted on Friday, November 3rd at MNA Conference Check-in.
- Amateur photographers only.
- One submission form must accompany each submitted photograph. Printed submission forms will be available at check-in.
- Only photos taken within the state of Minnesota will be accepted.
- Limit **one** photo submission per category (6 submissions total per person).
- Please do not digitally enhance photos beyond basic techniques such as color balance, exposure, and sharpness. Manipulation of subject matter or creation of composite images is not allowed. Photos should accurately represent the reality of the photographed scene.
- Photographer must verify and provide photographic release form if recognizable persons are included in the submission. (attached below)
- Entrants must be willing to allow MNA authorization to use photos in future publications.
- Winners will be announced on Sunday, November 5th at Wolf Ridge.
- Winners will be chosen by MNA Conference attendees. Must be present to win.



# Photography Submission Form

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Title for the Submission:

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Photographer's Name:

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Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

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Email:

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Image Categories (circle, select one per submission):

Minnesota Landscapes and Skies

Minnesota Fauna

Minnesota Flora and Fungi

Minnesota Macro

Adventures in Interpretation

Bad Taxidermy

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

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signature

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date

\*There must be one submission form per photo



MINNESOTA NATURALISTS' ASSOCIATION

# Photographic Release

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## CONSENT FOR USE OF PHOTOGRAPH

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, authorize MNA to take and use the 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 for MNA is completely voluntary and that I will not be paid for use of the photograph(s). I give up any claim I might assert against any official, employee, agent or unit of MNA arising out of the use of my picture(s) in promotional materials for MNA.

My permission to release this information about my and/or my child(ren) expires five years from the date this Consent is executed. I understand 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: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph Information

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

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

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