



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



GATHERING PARTNERS

OF NATURAL RESOURCES

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2016
NURTURING
A HEALTHY
**BIG WOODS
BIG RIVERS
BIOME**



May 20-22, 2016

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Winona, Minnesota



You are invited to attend the 2016 Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Conference, May 20-22, at Saint Mary's University, overlooking the beautiful city of Winona, Minnesota. The conference theme is Nurturing a Healthy Big Woods, Big Rivers Biome.

The main campus of Saint Mary's University sits at the top of a hill overlooking the valley below. The 350 acre campus features rugged bluffs, a trout stream, and hiking trails. The 47 buildings include residence halls, a student center, central plaza, state-of-the-art Performance Center, indoor recreation/fitness center, indoor swimming pool, track, multi-purpose courts, dance studio, indoor ice arena, and a beautiful chapel.

From its sculpted bluffs to its mighty river and all the places in between, Winona, Minnesota, has unparalleled beauty mixed with a cool urbanity and old-world charm that proves that yes, you really can have it all in one enchanting place.

The planning committee has put together a stimulating conference with optional pre-conference workshops, on-site and off-site sessions, keynote speaker, fun events and down time to network and socialize. We hope you will join us as we explore the natural resources found in southeastern Minnesota.

Conference Hosts:

University of Minnesota Extension Forestry Resources
University of Minnesota Extension Minnesota Master Naturalist

Conference Partners:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Forestry Association

Conference Sponsors:



People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**Minnesota
Invasive
Species
Advisory
Council**

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Complete conference information can be found on-line at z.umn.edu/gatheringpartners or www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org/annualconference/

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

- ◆ Registration should be completed online at: <https://www.regonline.com/2016SpringConf>
- ◆ (credit card, check and EFS payments accepted)
- ◆ Pre-conference workshops and off-site field trips will be limited in the number of participants able to attend.
- ◆ During registration, you will be asked to **pre-register only for pre-conference workshops and off-site field trips. There is an additional charge for these options.** You will not be asked to pre-register for on-site educational sessions.
- ◆ **If you are unable to register on-line**, complete a hard copy Registration Form for each person attending the conference. Checks should be made payable to "University of Minnesota".

REGISTRATION COST

Conference Registrations received by April 30.

\$150.00	Full 3-day on-site conference - Friday evening-Sunday, includes 6 meals, on-site sessions, socializing)
\$50.00	Friday evening on-site - includes dinner, keynote, socializing
\$75.00	Saturday on-site - includes 3 meals, on-site sessions, awards program, socializing
\$35.00	Sunday on-site - includes breakfast, lunch, on-site sessions

Optional:

\$60/\$32	Lodging
\$30.00	Friday half-day Pre-Conference workshops
\$50.00	Friday full-day Pre-Conference workshops - includes lunch
\$25.00	Saturday field trips

Beginning May 1, 2016 a late registration charge will be added to the registration fee

Registration closes May 6, 2016.

CANCELLATIONS

Before May 6 will receive a refund of the registration fee paid less \$35 for processing fees.
May 6th or later are not eligible for a refund.

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Pre-Conference	Friday, May 20	8:30-11:00 a.m.	Registration Open	
		9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Full-day Workshops	
		12:30-5:30 p.m.	Registration Open	
		1:00-5:00 p.m.	Half-day Workshops	
		5:00 p.m.	MFA Membership Meeting	
		5:00-6:30 p.m.	Exhibit/Display Viewing	
Conference	Friday, May 20	6:30 p.m.	Welcome and Dinner	
		8:00 p.m.	Keynote Speaker	
		9:00 p.m.	Socializing	
	Saturday, May 21	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Registration Open	
		7:00 a.m.	Breakfast	
		8:00 a.m.-noon	Off-site Field Trips	
		8:00-9:15 a.m.	Concurrent On-site Sessions	
		9:30 a.m.-noon	Concurrent On-site Sessions	
		Noon	Lunch	
		1:15-5:15 p.m.	Off-site Field Trips	
		1:15-2:30 p.m.	Concurrent On-site Sessions	
		2:45-4:00 p.m.	Concurrent On-site Sessions	
		4:00-6:00 p.m.	Exhibit/Display Viewing	
		6:00 p.m.	Banquet	
		7:00 p.m.	Awards Program	
		8:00 p.m.	Socializing	
		Sunday, May 22	7:00-8:00 a.m.	Registration Open
			7:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8:00-9:15 a.m.	Concurrent On-site Sessions			
9:30 a.m.-noon	Concurrent On-site Sessions			
Noon	Lunch and Closing Remarks			



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Karen Oberhauser, Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Education Specialist with the University of Minnesota.
2013 White House Champion of Change for Citizen Science

LODGING

Dorm style lodging is available at Saint Mary's University.

SKEMP HALL: No air conditioning, no elevator and rooms are on three floors. Bathroom facilities can be found on each floor. First floor rooms will be reserved for those participants who are unable to walk up and down stairs. Please indicate during registration if you need a first floor room.

HILLSIDE and PINES HALLS: Air conditioning, elevators, and private bathrooms.

GILMORE HALL: Air conditioning, elevators, and private bathrooms for every two rooms.



DORM LODGING COSTS	SKEMP HALL	HILLSIDE/PINES/GILMORE HALLS
SINGLE OCCUPANCY PER NIGHT	\$32.00	\$60.00
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY PER NIGHT	\$16.00	\$30.00

If you prefer to lodge elsewhere, a list of local accommodations can be found at <http://visitwinona.com/directory-entry-type/places-to-stay/>

SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

A silent auction will be held during the conference. The silent auction will open on Friday morning and close Sunday at 8:00 a.m. Items may be picked up and paid for following lunch on Sunday. New items may be added daily. Proceeds from the auction will go to the organization(s) associated with the donor and will be used as the organization chooses. All attendees are encouraged to bring a donation for the silent auction. All items will have a "BUY IT NOW" option for those who will not be attending the entire conference. Popular items include gift baskets, nature items, homemade items; basically, anything that you would like to bid on! Payments of cash, check and credit card accepted.

STORE

A store will be open throughout the conference featuring Minnesota Master Naturalist and Forestry merchandise. Items include apparel, caps, field bags, journals, and a variety of other items. Payments of cash, check and credit card accepted.

PHOTO CONTEST

Are you an avid lover of nature? Do you like capturing the beauty of nature in photos? If you answered yes to these questions, you should submit a photo to the Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Conference photo contest! This contest is open to photographers of all skill levels and up to 3 submissions per photographer can be entered. All photos must be taken in Minnesota.

There are six categories that you may enter photographs in:

- **Plants** - photographs of terrestrial and aquatic plants that photosynthesize and grow here in Minnesota
- **Wildlife** – photographs of animals (i.e. birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish) that live in Minnesota during all or a portion of their life.
- **Scenery** – photographs of landscapes and beautiful scenes (e.g. rainbow over lake superior, sunset along the Mississippi River bluffs, etc) within Minnesota
- **Projects/Play** – photographs depicting people playing or working in Minnesota’s natural environment.
- **Macro** - photographs of small items larger than life size (e.g. a zoomed in photo of an insect)
- **Digitally Enhanced** – photography that is abstract and edited using Photoshop, paintbrush, etc.

Bring your 8x10 printed photo(s) with matboard(s) to the conference registration desk by Saturday at noon. All entries must be original work of a conference participant. Photographs can be color or black and white. You must submit a photo contest entry form with your photo which will be provided at the conference registration desk. Staff will hang the photos up in the designated area under the categories indicated on the form. All conference participants will be able to vote for their favorite photo for each of the categories. Popular vote wins! Winners for each category will be announced during lunch on Sunday, May 22nd.

EXHIBIT BOOTHS AND DISPLAY TABLES

An exhibit/display area will be open throughout the conference.

Conference partners and presenters are welcome to sell merchandise at the conference. These items will not be available at the store, but will be sold by each group or individual. You are responsible for collecting money, sales tax (if applicable), etc. Tables will be located in the exhibit area.

If you would like to have an exhibit booth or a table to display materials, complete and return the Exhibit Booth/Display Table Application Form found on the Minnesota Master Naturalist website at www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org/AnnualConference.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING

Suggested clothing:

Rain gear and boots	Good footwear	Warm jacket	Hat and gloves
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Suggested personal gear:

Water bottle	Flashlight	Toothbrush and paste	Medications
Writing materials	Camera	Binoculars	Sunglasses
Insect repellent	Journals	Cell Phone	Sunscreen
Field Guides	Backpack	Laptop/Ipod	

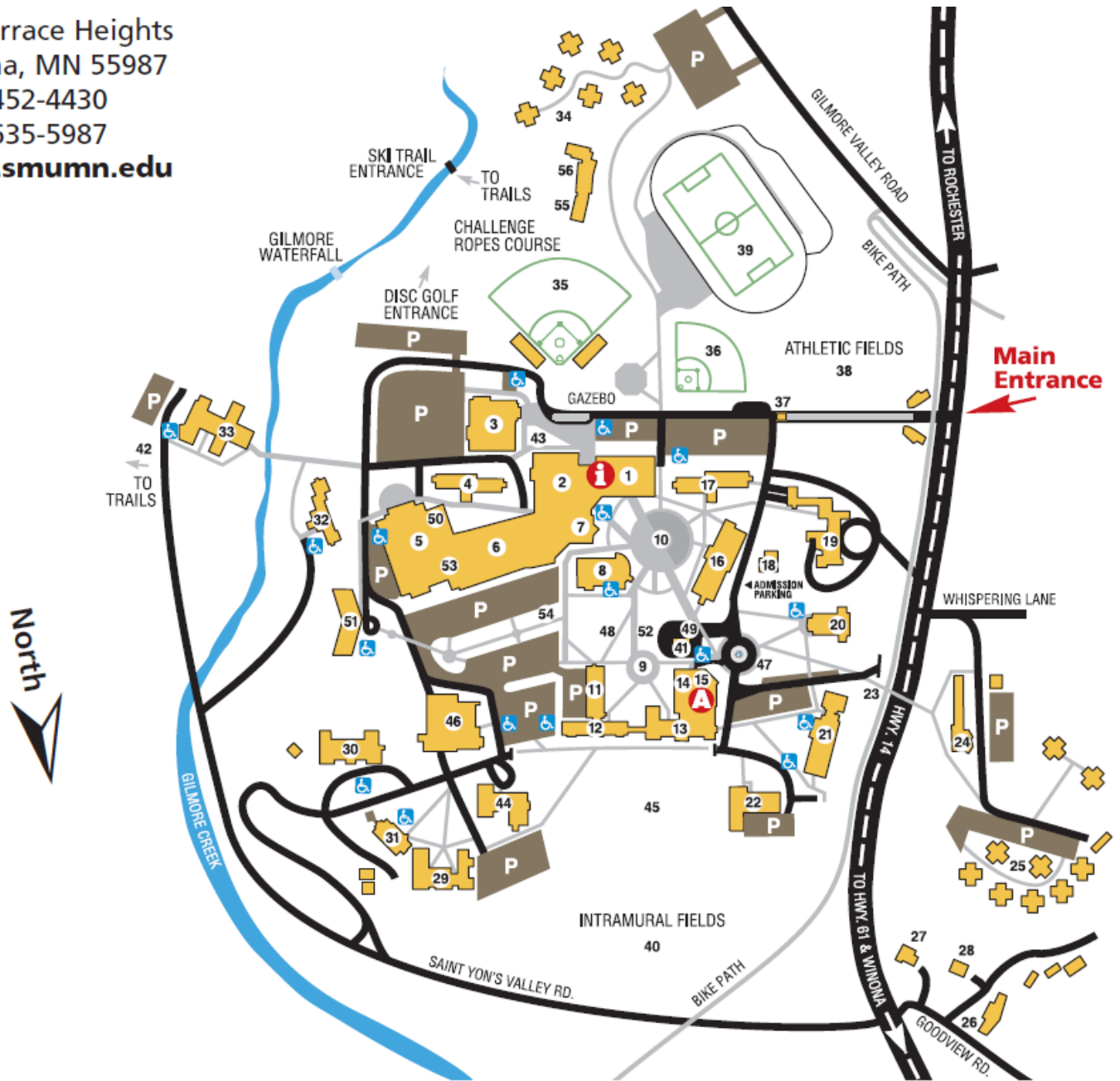
Remember, this is mid-May in southeastern Minnesota - pack appropriately!

MINNESOTA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (MFA) MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The MFA membership meeting will be held in conjunction with the Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Conference. The meeting will be held Friday, May 20, at 5:00 p.m. and is free to attend.

Saint Mary's University Campus Map

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