



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



GATHERING PARTNERS OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

2016

NURTURING
A HEALTHY

BIG WOODS

BIG RIVERS

B I O M E



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

May 20-22, 2016

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

Winona, Minnesota

Presenter Biographies

Eddie Allen has lived his adult life on the Mississippi River in Trempseau WI and is an original river rat. He is a riverboat historian and song writer and will share his insights through stories and music about this "River of Life" we are all on.

Andy Beebe is a forest ecologist with Audubon Minnesota, based out of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge office in Onalaska, WI. He earned a BS in Forestry and Wildlife Ecology and Management from Michigan Technological University. Prior to working for Audubon, he worked as a District Forester for Alcona and Iosco Counties in Michigan.

Moni Berg-Binder is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Her research interests include the fields of community ecology, evolutionary ecology, and invasion biology. She has several years experience studying ant-plant interactions and exploring the role positive species interactions play in biological invasions. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Mark Bergman comes from a technical background and has extensive experience in landscape and macro photography. He has been photographing, as a hobby, for over 45 years.

Charlie Blinn is an Extension Specialist and Professor with the University of Minnesota with a focus on forest management. Specific research areas include: assessing the impacts of applying forest management guidelines on timber harvesting productivity, evaluating the effectiveness of forest management guidelines to mitigate impacts within forested riparian areas, evaluating stream and wetland crossings options to assess their ability to support equipment without impacting the environment, and the influence of timber sale policies on bidding behavior. He also conducts Extension education programs for loggers and natural resource professionals which focus on a wide variety of forest management topics

James Francisco Bonilla is a certified master naturalist who lives in St. Peter, Minnesota on seven acres that include a 140-year-old farmhouse, barn and restored native prairies and woods. He is a writer, retired professor and a cultural competency trainer and consultant.

Stephan Carlson is a professor and teaches environmental education and interpretation classes for the U of MN's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences. He started his career as an interpreter with the WI State Parks at Perrot State Park 35 plus years ago. He brings a wealth of experience and insights about the parks natural and cultural resources.

A native of Minnesota, **Jeremy Darst** spent much of his youth fostering a passion for the great outdoors. This passion continues to this day as most of his free time is spent recreating outside. In true Minnesota spirit, he attended the U of M Twin Cities where he majored in Geology and Education. He has worked for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as an Interpretive Naturalist for the past 9 years and is currently a naturalist at Whitewater State Park.

Joel Dunnette has lead projects to collect seed and restore native prairie on well over 100 acres, involving over 100 species of native prairie and savanna plants. He is a past president of the MN Native Plant Society, and a passionate seed collector.

Jaime Edwards is the Nongame Wildlife Specialist covering SE MN. Her work focuses on bluff prairie and oak savanna restoration on public and private land. She has been with the MN DNR for 15 years. Prior to working in MN, she worked for the Iowa DNR as well as the WI DNR. She has a BS in Zoology and an MS in Vertebrate Ecology.

Lindsay Egge is the Citizen Monitoring Program (CMP) assistant. Lindsay's strong passion for the environment and love for all things Minnesota drove her to pursue a degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Minnesota. As an MPCA student worker in 2014, Lindsay monitored lakes and streams alongside water quality monitoring staff, gaining valuable hands-on experience that now helps inform her work in the CMP.

Elaine Evans has been the Captain of the UMN Bee Squad's Wild Bee Team since 2013. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota, where she studies landscape effects on native bee abundance and diversity. She is the co-author of "Befriending Bumblebees: A practical guide to raising local bumble bees." From 2007 to 2010, she worked for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, in their bumble bee conservation program.

Britt Forsberg is the program coordinator for the Minnesota Native Bee Atlas, a citizen science program developed to create an open, comprehensive database of native bee species in Minnesota. She uses her experiences leading youth and adults in inquiry science and the outdoors to help guide students to the realization that anyone can be a scientist. Britt holds a BA in Biology and Environmental Studies from Gustavus Adolphus College and an MEd in Family Education from the University of Minnesota.

Raymond A Faber is a professor of biology at SMU and a wildlife ecologist. I have studied Henslow's sparrows at Great River Bluffs State Park annually since 1994. Management that we undertook succeeded in building the nest season population to a high of 28 territories at one point.

Angela Gupta is a forester and Extension professor in southeast Minnesota. She's spent many hours in the woods and teaching tree and invasive plant identification. In addition to Angela, several other members of Extension's Forestry Team will participate in this field session, providing insight from several other foresters.

Monta Hayner is the current Chair of Fly fishing Women of Minnesota. she is a Master Naturalist volunteer and enjoys exploring all of the streams in SE Minnesota with her fly rod.

Brad Heins is an Assistant Professor of Organic Dairy Management at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN. His research and extension program focuses on best management practices for organic dairy production, management intensive grazing, supplementation strategies for organic cattle, crossbreeding, group rearing of calves in an organic system.

Terry Helbig attended Falcon Heights Elementary School, Fairview Junion Hlgh and graduated from Alexander Ramsey High School in 1965. I thought it would be neat to be a forest ranger and sit in a fire tower listening to records and reading comic books so I enrolled in the School of Forestry at the U of Minnesota graduating in 1969. Started work a week after graduation with the Department of Conservation as a District Forester and was assigned to the Lake City Forestry Office. Retired in 2012 as a Grand Poobah.

Sara Holger is an Interpretive Naturalist for Minnesota State Parks at Whitewater State Park. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies. Sara has worked in the naturalist field for over 20 years at a variety of sites including the Bell Museum of Natural History, Olmsted County Parks and Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park. Sara is a native of the Lake Minnetonka area but has called the blufflands area home since 1996. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her family collecting agates and fossils, kayaking the streams of the region, and exploring our public lands.

Emilie Justen has been a plant scientist with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture since 2013. Her work focuses on managing target plants on Minnesota's Noxious Weed List, which includes both public and private land.

Refuge Ranger **Ed Lagace** has been with the FWS for 26 years. Ranger Ed attended Winona State Teachers College from 1974 through 1980 majoring in Mass Communications with emphasis in photo journalism and Studio Art. Ranger Ed is the USFWS nonnotarized boat safety instructor. Ranger Ed is also certified as an ACA level 3 canoe and Kayak instructor with over 40 years of slack water and Whitewater experience.

Dr. Joshua Lallaman is an assistant professor of environmental biology at Saint Mary's University of MN. His research interest includes conservation of large river fishes, particularly highly migratory species such as lake sturgeon and paddlefish. Recent undergraduate research projects include assessment of threatened lake sturgeon and paddlefish populations, monitoring paddlefish movement and habitat use in the Mississippi River, and use of blood hormones to determine reproduction status of paddlefish.

Patrick Mader is one of seven children who grew up on a farm in Hennepin County. He has a background in agriculture, business, and education and a professional career as an elementary school teacher. He completed coursework to become a certified Minnesota Master Naturalist in 2014 is currently an author and authority on Minnesota sports history and participation of athletes in the Olympics.

Tim Martin is a Water Resource Science graduate student at the University of Minnesota. He is working on exploring alternative ways to collect fisheries management data. Previously, he spent seven years working in the GIS industry.

Scott Mehus has been watching and studying Golden Eagles in Minnesota for 20 years. Scott first became entranced with Golden Eagles after seeing them migrate over Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory in Duluth. Wanting to see more, he started exploring other areas where birdwatchers had been seeing them, he found Golden Eagles in those, and then in other areas as well. This led him to start the Wintering Golden Eagle Survey to help determine the size of this wintering species. These numbers then spurred a partnership with several organizations to further study these birds. Scott is co-director of this partnership called the Golden Eagle Project. Scott loves to share his enthusiasm for this magnificent creature!

Andy Meier is a forester with the US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. He works along the Mississippi River from the Twin Cities to Guttenberg, Iowa and is based out of the La Crescent, MN field office.

Rebecca Montgomery is an Associate Professor of Forest Ecology in the Department of Forest Resources in the College of Food, agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences at the University of Minnesota. She studies the response of forest vegetation to climate change including changing phenology. She teaches courses in Forest Ecology, Ecology of Manage Systems and Northern Field Ecology. She is a founding member of the Minnesota Phenology Network and enjoys gardening, hiking, international travel and anything related to being in or on the water

Eric North is a Research Fellow and Instructor at the University of Minnesota. His current research focuses on what tree rings tell us about urban tree growth. Eric is a founder of Brewing a Better Forest, a non-profit engaging citizens to water trees and an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.

Scott Oeth is a Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteer, a wilderness guide, an Eagle Scout, and outdoor writer. He is also a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), and Adjunct Professor teaching retirement and financial planning. Scott is affiliated with a Fee-Only, Independent Registered Investment Advisory firm, and has pursued an advanced specialty in philanthropy and charitable giving. Scott blogs about his outdoor adventures at www.BullMoosePatrol.com, and his financial professional bio is at www.Cahillfa.com.

Jonathan Osthus has worked for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture since 2009 when emerald ash borer was first discovered in Minnesota. His work focuses on statewide management of emerald ash borer through the use of biological control.

Jake Overgaard is an Extension Educator in Ag Systems at the University of Minnesota Extension in Winona County. Jake has a vast experience on working with landowners about forestry issues.

Rachel Peterson has a BS in forest management and 20 years of experience working within the Lake States forest products industry. As the new Executive Director of the Minnesota Logger Education Program and Program Administrator for the Minnesota Master Logger Certification Program, Rachel's goal is to provide outreach and education to loggers, foresters and private woodland owners. Efforts include the promotion of woodland management through sustainable and intelligent silviculture. Rachel has worked extensively with private landowners through the American Tree Farm System, as a Technical Services Provider for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and as an industry tree farm forester.

Danielle Quist has been playing, studying, and/or working on rivers and natural areas her entire life. Previous to joining the University of Minnesota Extension Services, she was an interpretive park ranger in Minnesota for the US National Park Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service as well as an AmeerCorps Volunteer with the City of Gresham, OR Park and Recreation Department. She received her undergraduate degree from Winona State in Environmental Science with a focus in biology and her Master of Science degree from the University of South Dakota in Biology with a focus on large river systems. She is a new addition to the Minnesota Master Naturalist program team and is thrilled to share her expertise on rivers and Minnesota's natural environment with you.

Linda Radimecky is an area naturalist officed at Afton State Park where she also teaches beginning fly fishing. She is the past Chair of Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota and enjoys fishing both from a boat and wading in a stream.

Mike Reichenbach has a more than 30 years of Forestry Extension programming experience and has a strong background on NTFP. Mike is an Extension educator interested in the intersection between forest landscape planning and family forest management; forest health; and maintaining working family forest lands. Mike is pursuing an Education Doctorate in Teaching and Learning at the University of Minnesota-Duluth and is studying the efficacy of collaborative learning as a tool to catalyze landscape scale change. Mike often teaches classes on family forest land succession planning, forestry income taxes and forestry property taxes

Tommy Rodengen has been a naturalist of the North Woods Great Lakes biome since 2003. He became Minnesota Master Naturalist instructor in 2011. He has worked at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and founded his own environmental consultancy -Creative Scientific. Tommy currently teaches at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN. Tommy pursues environmental sensor technologies as a passion and way to better know the natural environment.

Matt Russell is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist based in St. Paul and focuses on forest ecosystem health. His Extension programming is oriented to forest landowners and natural resource professionals and emphasizes forest management strategies to maintain healthy and productive forests.

Randy Schindle began working for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a forester in 1980. During the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in the early 2000's I planned and established over 500 acres of new forest on private lands using direct seeding of oak and other hardwoods. I have a BS degree in Forest Biology from Colorado State University. I am owner of 48 acres south of Mankato that has forest and native prairie restoration projects in the CRP Program. I have been doing hardwood timber stand improvement on oak and walnut stands on the property for many years.

Laurie Sovell coordinates the Citizen Stream Monitoring Program (CSMP) for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. She has degrees in Zoology and Fisheries Biology & Water Resources. Since launching the program in 1998, Laurie's work has focused on improved CSMP data quality, full integration of the program into the agency's watershed approach, and the inclusion of citizen science and public engagement in water quality protection and improvement in Minnesota.

Robert Strom is a Minnesota Master Naturalist Volunteer, a Nongame Wildlife Volunteer, and a member of the LoonWatch Speakers' Bureau. For the past 20 years he has been engaged in Loon conservation as a student, observer/reporter, and builder/ maintainer of nesting platforms in central Minnesota.

Stephen Thomforde is an ecologist who specializes in Forest, Grassland-Savanna, Shallow Water Lake, and Restoration Ecology. He has designed and implemented restoration projects on over 5000 acres throughout the Midwest. He has experience instructing at post-secondary institutions in Ecology, Restoration, and Botany. He has presented on restoration topics at international, national and regional conferences. His cutting edge research and practice is providing new insight into how we manage land to achieve both ecological and agricultural objectives. He's a WSU alumnus and has spent two decades wondering through the Coulee region.

Mike Waccholz is the Southern Region Marketing and Utilization Forester for the MN Department of Natural Resources. He has years of experience working in SE Minnesota's forests doing forest management and managing timber sales.

Jen Wahls relocated to SE MN in March of 2015 from the northern wilds of MN after she was offered the Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator position with the Wabasha Soil & Water Conservation District. She continues to develop the AIS program with a focus on the coldwater streams of SE MN. Her training in AIS started at age 11 or 12, 25 years ago, when she found zebra mussels while harvesting threeridge mussels on the MN side of Lake Pepin. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Outdoor Education from the University of MN Duluth. Her husband and their dog, Bill, have enjoyed the move "south" with the extended growing season and being nearer family.

Kevin Williams, retired curator of Education at the Bell Museum of Natural History, has been a beekeeper for over 20 years. While at the Bell Museum, he developed popular educational programs with invertebrates like Madagascar hissing cockroaches and began keeping bees on the roof of the museum to use in programs with elementary students.

Cindy Winslow is a board member of Fly Fishing women of Minnesota, and a Master Naturalist Volunteer.

Gary Wyatt promotes sustainable Agroforestry practices that are economical and protect our soil, water, wildlife and natural resources. Programs include: bio-energy crops, invasive species, eco-system services, tree selection, living snow fences, riparian buffers, woody florals, edible fruits/nuts from woody plants and windbreaks.

As an Extension Professor of Forestry, **Dr. Diomy Zamora** promotes Agroforestry practices for environmental and economic benefits for Minnesotans. Aside being a PI of the LCCMR Silvopasture project, Dr. Zamora leads the bioenergy program of UMN Extension. Dr. Zamora has more than 10 years of Extension experience in Minnesota.