



2107 Conference Pre-Conference Workshops

Full-Day (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Volunteer stewardship on Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs): a hands on and how to - Kelly Randal, Jim Smetana, Steve Poole

Scientific and Natural Areas (SNAs) preserve some of Minnesota's best examples of native plant communities and rare species. Often work is needed to keep them that way. That's where volunteers can help! This field trip will be a three part, full-day extravaganza. Part one: a how-to with tips and tricks for conducting volunteer stewardship projects such as invasive species removals, seed collections or other tasks. Part two: a tour of Lost Valley Prairie to see work done by volunteers. Part three: Hands-on invasive species removal to see for yourself how it is done. Very active. Box lunch included.

Wildlife Tracking - Jonathan Poppele, Donnie Phyllaier

Spend the day exploring the art and science of wildlife tracking. Tracking allows environmental educators to "show" elusive animals to students and visitors. It provides researchers and citizen scientists a low-cost, non-invasive way to survey wildlife. And it offers nature enthusiasts a lifetime of learning and deepening nature connection. On this field trip we will explore the fundamentals of tracking; survey river otter sign for the National Park Service; and help you get set up with resources to continue your own study of tracking, join (or start) a wildlife tracking club, or participating in wildlife tracking surveys. Moderately active. Box lunch included.

Birds, Biomes and Biodiversity: 75 years at Cedar Creek - Caitlin Potter

The University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is a 5600 acre ecological field station that is celebrating 75 years of ground-breaking and field-defining research this summer. Join naturalists, scientists and fellow nature lovers for a tour of the reserve, which will include a hike through natural examples of Minnesota's biomes and microhabitats, a visit to several of our long-term research experiments on biodiversity and global change, and an opportunity to bird-watch in our restored oak savannas and prairies. Come explore the U's historical and current ecological research while enjoying a day outside! Moderately active. Box lunch included.

Crow-Hassan Park Reserve - from forests to prairies - John Moriarty

The field trip will start at the district nursery where we grow over 60 species of native woody plants for restoration projects. The bus will then go to the trailhead and the rest of the tour will be in the prairie, which is a 1200 acres complex of grassland, wetlands, and fire managed woodlands. Walking will be on sand and turf trails with gentle terrain changes. The hike will be 3 to 4 miles. There are no facilities beyond the trail head. The hike will highlight prairie management, prairie restoration, seed collection, We will have demonstrations on radio telemetry on turtles and snakes, seed collection, bee surveys, coverboard surveys and small mammal trapping. Very active. Box lunch included.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Restoring native woodlands: Can you “set it, and forget it”? - Eli Sagor, Mike Reinikainen, Jeff Wilder

We will tour several unique wooded parcels in northern Washington County to hear stories of how private woodland owners are restoring functional native forest systems. Tour-goers will see the importance of following up with monitoring of installed conservation practices. The tour will focus on deer and rodent browse control, invasive species eradication (including buckthorn), tree planting (including site preparation), and related topics. This full-day tour will include presentations and stories from MN DNR foresters, a UMN Extension specialist, and of course the woodland owners whose stories will be shared as we walk their woods. Moderately active. Box lunch included.

Forest Pest First Detector Workshop - Gary Wyatt

The Minnesota Forest Pest First Detectors training program is designed to help identify the occurrence of emerald ash borer and other early detection invasive forest pests in Minnesota. First Detectors are the front line of defense against likely infestations of many different forest pests including gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle and Oriental bittersweet. Meeting, working with and educating the public about invasive forest pests are key activities of Forest Pest First Detectors. Everyone is welcome to attend First Detector workshops - even if you do not wish to become a Forest Pest First Detector! Box lunch included. Pre-registration is required to attend the Forest Pest First Detector workshop. Workshop participants should complete the online training modules below before attending the face-to-face workshop.

Partial-Day (10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.)

Tour of District Energy Saint Paul & Wood from the Hood - Nina Axelson

Tour District Energy St. Paul, the district energy plant that provides heating and cooling services to over 200 buildings in downtown St. Paul. Learn about the basics of district energy and CHP, the history of this plant and the renewable energy technologies and resources District Energy St. Paul uses to run the plant such as solar thermal, solar PV and biomass. Then tour Wood from the Hood a sawmill and finishing shop with the mission to "Reclaim discarded trees from urban neighborhoods to create beautiful, high-quality wood products." Moderately active. Box lunch included. NOTE: This tour returns at 2:30. Included in this opportunity/price is participation in one of the 2:30-5:00 pm walking tours. You must pre-register for both this tour AND a Friday afternoon walking tour.

Partial Day (2:30 to 5:00 p.m.)

The New Bell Museum + Planetarium - Denise Young, Robin Thomson

Opening summer 2018, the new Bell Museum + Planetarium will showcase University of Minnesota research, scholarship and education in natural science. Beautiful exhibits with cutting edge technology, nature dioramas, landscape views, a 120 seat digital dome theater and outdoor learning environments will foster scientific literacy for all ages and will serve as a vital interface between the University and the larger community. We'll also tour the University of Minnesota Insect Collection, including background and history of the collection, discussion of on-going collection projects and research, and viewing of collection specimens and assorted live arthropods. Participants will walk uphill 1 mile and back.

Research in the Monarch Lab: more than just butterflies - Kyle Kasten, Laura Lukens, Karen Oberhauser, Patrick Pennarola, Julia Leone

The U of MN Monarch Lab is more than just butterflies. We'll tour insect conservation research sites on and near the St. Paul campus, including lab and field sites. You'll have a chance to catch dragonflies, both nymphs and adults; look for monarch eggs, caterpillars, and adults; evaluate the amount of monarch habitat in a randomly chosen city block, and check out the diversity of butterflies and bees collected as part of a study on native prairie management. At each site, you'll learn about the practical implications of the science behind the fun. Participants will walk half a mile uphill and back.