



## 2107 Conference Session Presenters

**Axelson, Nina**, Vice President of Public Relations, Ever-Green Energy

Nina Axelson oversees public affairs for Ever-Green Energy and its affiliates. Axelson's role includes community energy planning and authoring studies, including reports for the Department of Energy and International Energy Agency. This work also features education programming, including the development of a local education and sustainability platform. She also leads major initiatives for the organization, including project development and oversight of the nation's largest solar thermal installation. Prior to joining Ever-Green, Axelson worked in community and business development with a focus on energy and the environment. Axelson holds a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from the University of Minnesota.

**Bergman, Mark**, Minnesota Master Naturalist

The presenter has been an avid nature photographer for nearly 40 years. He concentrates on landscape and macro photography and teaches classes at the Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center just outside Duluth, assists DNR Naturalists in a number of State Parks, and works with a number of photography clubs.

**Carlson, Stephan**, Professor, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Stephan Carlson is an Extension Educator with the MN Master Naturalist Volunteer program and teaches University courses in Environmental Interpretation for the last 30 years. He has worked as a Naturalist for State and non-profits and is a National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Certified Interpretive Guide and is a Certified Interpretive Trainer.

**Clough, Brian**

Brian Clough is a Research Associate based in St. Paul and focuses on forest biometrics and modeling. His research focuses on using forest inventory data to model how forests are changing as their environment changes.

**Evans, Elaine**, Entomologist, University of Minnesota

Elaine Evans has been the Captain of the UMN Bee Squad's Wild Bee Team since 2013. She recently completed her PhD at the University of Minnesota, where she studied 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.

**Forsberg, Britt**, University of Minnesota

Britt Forsberg is the program coordinator for the Minnesota Native Bee Atlas, a citizen science program developed to create a state-wide database of native bee species in Minnesota that will be open to researchers and public alike. As chief wrangler, she recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to support their work with the Bee Atlas and leads outreach efforts.



**Gupta, Angela**, Extension Professor, University of Minnesota Extension

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.

**Hartley, Phil**, Minnesota Master Naturalist

Phil Hartley is a Minnesota Master Naturalist (2014) living near Two Harbors, Minnesota. Phil is a volunteer site-host at Sugarloaf Cove Nature Center along the North Shore and is also a volunteer naturalist for Superior Hiking Trail Association sponsored hikes. Phil is an avid nature and landscape photographer who roams the parks, trails and state and national forests of Minnesota's Arrowhead region.

**Holger, Sara**, Founder/President, Project Get Outdoors, Inc.

Sara holds a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is the mother of three amazing children and has over 20 years experience as an environmental educator. By day, she works as an Interpretive Naturalist for Minnesota state parks. She volunteers in her spare time with Project GO, training community action groups and youth-serving organizations how to implement sustainable and accessible after-school programs that connect under-served children to nature mentors and outdoor learning within their neighborhoods.

**Holm, Heather**, Pollinator Consultant, Author, Environmental Educator

Heather Holm is a horticulturist and biologist by training, as well as a writer, designer, and publisher. In addition to taking part in native bee research projects, she informs and educates audiences in the Midwest and Northeast, through her writing and many presentations, about the fascinating world of native bees and the native plants that support them. Her first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, published in 2014, established her as a knowledgeable resource on the subject of the interactions between native bees and native plants and her latest book, *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide* is a comprehensive guide to the common and uncommon bees that occur in the Midwest and Northeast.

**Jenks, Andrew C.**, Research Fellow, University of Minnesota

Andy has 17 years teaching experience teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus; at last count, he has taught over 3,000 students. Andy also serves as the President of the Banadad Trail Association, a major cross-country ski trail along the Gunflint Trail near Grand Marais, MN. Andy also is avid wilderness paddler and kayaker with many wilderness trips in the US and Canada. Andy also serves on the Board of the John Francis Foundation, a non-profit which focused on wilderness safety education and rescue. He also serves on the Board of the Northwood Volunteer Connection and has over 40 years' experience in outdoor navigation.

**Jordan, Cathy**, Director of Research; Associate Professor, Children & Nature Network; University of Minnesota

Dr. Cathy Jordan, pediatric neuropsychologist by training, is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota and Research Director for the Children & Nature Network. She is a current member, and former chair, of the Minnesota Children and Nature Connection. Her work focuses on promoting child health, learning and development through play in nature and nature-based education. She is the PI of a National Science Foundation grant titled "The Science of Nature-Based Learning Collaborative Research Network".

**Kasten, Kyle**, Research Technician, Monarch Lab

Kyle graduated from Carleton College with a B.A. in Biology. Starting as an AmeriCorps volunteer, he spent the summer of 2015 conducting a survey of milkweed species and monarch larvae use of roadside habitats in the upper midwest. Now working as a member of the Monarch Lab research team, Kyle collaborates with private companies, landowners, and government agencies to study the effectiveness of prairie restoration projects in creating monarch butterfly habitat in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

**Keefer, Sarah**, Naturalist, Sky Glory Sanctuary

Sarah received her BS in Biological Science and Wildlife from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her decade with the National Park Service includes professional interpretation on climate change in coastal Alaska to supervision of a habitat restoration program in Minnesota.

With a focus on stewardship and sustainability, she chairs her city's natural resources commission, owns and advocates for electric vehicles, instructs and supports programming for the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program, and manages her small monarch waystation.

**Krebsbach, Jeff**, Electric Car Enthusiast, Sand Jay Inc

Jeff is your average electric car enthusiast. When he isn't commuting in his zero-emission vehicle, he can be found at his home office, helping companies use technology to improve their existing processes and deliver better solutions.

**Larkin, Daniel**

Daniel Larkin specializes in aquatic and wetland plant management and restoration. His work with MAISRC involves research and extension outreach on risk assessment, control, and post-treatment restoration of aquatic habitats impacted by Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, non-native Phragmites, starry stonewort, and other invasive plants.

**Larson, Lisa**, Minnesota Master Naturalist

Lisa Larson is a Digital Learning Specialist with the Minnesota Historical Society, where she uses Aris to create games for school field trips. She's currently working with the Aris team on an augmented reality game project. She holds a Doctor of Education in Instructional Technology and Media. She's an experienced trainer and instructional designer with 15 years of experience in the learning technology field.

**Leone, Julia**

Julia joined the Monarch lab in 2015 to pursue a PhD in Conservation Biology. She studies remnant prairies and the effects that burning and conservation grazing have on pollinator communities, particularly butterflies. Julia graduated from St. John's College in Annapolis, MD in 2012 with a B. A. in Liberal Arts and spent several years as a lab and field technician with the University of Minnesota and the U. S. Geological Survey studying pollinators. She worked as a Naturalist at the Washington Island Art and Nature Center in Wisconsin throughout highschool and college and grew up raising honeybees and making maple syrup. She is excited to be working with so many wonderful people in the Monarch lab who are dedicated to research, conservation, and education!

**Lukens, Laura**

Laura recently graduated from the University of Minnesota (2015) with a B.S. in Biology. As an undergrad, Laura completed an independent research project in the Monarch Lab studying the host range of parasitoid wasps, and continued as a research assistant for two years. She now works as part of a research team studying monarch habitat restorations in rural Minnesota and Wisconsin as well as monarch conservation in urban landscapes.

**Meier, Holly**

Holly Meier is a graduate research assistant in the Department of Forest Resources and a Natural Resources Science and Management - Economics, Policy, Management, and Society Graduate Student. Her interests include climate change mitigation and adaptation, pro-environmental behavior and decision making, conservation, and sustainability.

**Montgomery, Rebecca**, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources  
Rebecca Montgomery is an Associate Professor of Forest Ecology in the Department of Forest Resources in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Science 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 MN Phenology Network and enjoys gardening, hiking, international travel and anything related to being in or on the water.

**Moriarty, John**, Senior Manager of Wildlife, Three Rivers Park District

John Moriarty is the Senior manager of Wildlife for Three Rivers where he leads prairie and animal restoration efforts. He has received numerous grants from the State for those projects. He has been involved with urban wildlife management for over 25 years. John has been active with reptile and amphibian management and is currently working on a LCCMR grant on Turtle use of Medicine Lake and snake restorations at Crow-Hassan. He is the author of several books including Amphibian and Reptiles in Minnesota (U of MN Press, 2014)

**Oberhauser, Karen**

Karen often feels like she's got the best job in the world, to be able to work every day with such an amazing group of students and staff. She's been studying monarchs since 1985, and devotes most of her time now to trying preserve habitat for monarchs and other critters. She is a Professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology; is a co-chair of the Monarch Joint Venture; teaches the undergraduate Conservation Biology at the U of M; and is excited that the Monarch Lab is now involved in bee, dragonfly, and Karner Blue Butterfly research.

**Pennarola, Patrick**

Patrick joined the Monarch Lab as a PhD student in 2015. A "Nutmegger" by birth, his career in entomology began at the University of Connecticut, where he earned his B.S. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology as a member Dave Wagner's Caterpillar Lab. He then spent two years working on various projects with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Interested in insect conservation and public outreach, Patrick has found a welcome community in the Monarch Lab. His current research involves understanding differences in prairie pollinator communities due to management practices. Above all, Patrick hopes to help get people of all ages and backgrounds excited about insects!

**Perry, Vanessa**, Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

Vanessa Perry is a graduate research assistant in the Department of Forest Resources and a Natural Resources Science and Management PhD candidate. Her interests include community and individual natural resource decision making, water resources, applied social science research, community engagement, and climate adaptation.

**Phyllaier, Donnie**

Donnie Phyllaier is an avid tracker with close to two decades of experience as a volunteer naturalist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He currently serves at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge where he leads regular programs for both the general public and the Refuge's Environmental Education Interns. Donnie is an active member of the Minnesota Wildlife Tracking Project and holds a Level III Track and Sign certification through CyberTracker Conservation.

**Poppele, Jonathan**, Founder and Director, Minnesota Wildlife Tracking Project

Jonathan Poppele is an independent naturalist and award-winning nature guidebook author. He has been studying wildlife tracking for over 20 years and is the author of a national series of guidebooks to Animal Tracks. Jonathan earned a master's degree in conservation biology studying animal tracking as a tool for citizen science research and has taught biology, ecology, and writing at the University of Minnesota. He is the founder and director of the Minnesota Wildlife Tracking Project ([www.mntracking.org](http://www.mntracking.org)) and holds a Level III Track and Sign certification from CyberTracker Conservation.

**Potter, Caitlin**, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, University of Minnesota

Dr. Potter is the education and outreach coordinator at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. Her background is in wildlife ecology, and she holds a B.S. in Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology as well as a masters and Ph.D in ecology and evolutionary biology. She studied wildlife, conservation and animal behavior all over the world (mostly monkeys in Ethiopia) before finding her true passion doing environmental education! Now, she runs school field trips and public events at CCSR, works with scientists to get their results into the hands of students, and organizes several citizen science projects.

**Randall, Kelly**, Outreach Coordinator, Scientific and Natural Areas Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Kelly Randall has been employed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources since 1989. He is currently the Outreach Coordinator for Minnesota's Scientific and Natural Areas Program. This position covers a broad spectrum including volunteer engagement, web and social media management, map making, newsletter editing, and graphic design work.

**Reinikainen, Mike**, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Mike Reinikainen is a Forester with the MN DNR's Cooperative Forest Management Program and spends much of his time providing technical advice to private landowners working in their woodlands. Mike has also worked in forestry as a private consultant as well as with the University of Minnesota and Hennepin County. His motivation is understanding how and why our woodlands function the way they do, and he has a passion for sharing that information with folks working in their woodlands.

**Russell, Matt**, Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist, University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources and Extension

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.

**Sagor, Eli**, Extension Specialist, University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center

Eli Sagor manages the University of Minnesota's Sustainable Forests Education Cooperative, based at the Cloquet Forestry Center. He has served as an Extension educator or specialist focused on forest ecology and management since March 2000.

**Shepard, Jenn**

Jenn Shepard is a graduate research assistant in the Department of Forest Resources and a Natural Resources Science and Management graduate student. Her interests include collaborative management of natural resources, adaptive governance of complex environmental problems, and natural resource conflict management.

**Thomson, Robin**

Robin Thomson earned her B.A. in Biology from Gustavus Adolphus College and her Ph.D. in Entomology from the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on the systematics, taxonomy, and biodiversity of microcaddisflies (Trichoptera: Hydroptilidae) from around the world. In addition to her curation and research efforts in the Insect Collection, Dr. Thomson also teaches the undergraduate course Environmental Science & Society spring semesters.

**Weber, Megan M.**, Extension Educator, Aquatic Invasive Species, University of Minnesota Extension/MAISRC

Megan Weber is an extension educator in the field of aquatic invasive species. Her current focus is the development of a new aquatic invasive species citizen science program (AIS Trackers). Megan's educational background is in marine biology and environmental studies and she her professional background includes monitoring, response planning, and control of invasive mussels.

**Weiblen, George**, Scientific Director, Bell Museum & Planetarium

George Weiblen is Scientific Director of the Bell Museum + Planetarium and a professor in the Department of Plant & Microbial Biology at the University of Minnesota. Keith Baker is Curator of Birds and Genetic Resources at the Bell Museum and an Associate Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution & Behavior at the University of Minnesota. They study plants and birds respectively.

**White, John G.**, Nature Photographer/Artist, Minnesota Master Naturalist

A former professional newspaper and magazine photojournalist, for the past several years I have been exhibiting both my Art of Erosion and Prairie impression shows in galleries throughout Minnesota. I'll be participating in my fourth Upper Minnesota River Arts Meander this October, along with another calendar of having works in juried art shows and in one-man exhibits. As of now I have three such exhibits set for 2017.

**Wilder, Jeff**, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Jeff Wilder is a Forester with the MN DNR Cooperative Forest Management Program mainly focused on providing technical assistance to private woodland owners. Jeff has been with MN DNR Forestry since 2004 spending his first 11 years working in the Silviculture Program for State lands. Prior to that he worked as a private consulting forester for 7 years. He has a particular interest in forest stand improvement practices and the ecological processes of forest plant communities.

**Wyatt, Gary**, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

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.

**Young, Denise**, Executive Director, Bell Museum + Planetarium

Denise Young is the Executive Director of the Bell Museum + Planetarium. She holds an Ed.D. from UNC in curriculum and instruction, M.S.A. in school administration/educational leadership and B.A. in early childhood education. Prior to her role at the University of Minnesota, Denise was Director of Education and Planning for the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill where she established the education department and assembled a large, diverse team to provide science education experiences to early childhood through adult audiences.

**Zamora, Diomy**, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension

Diomy Zamora 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.