



## 2107 Conference Special Events

### Bioblitz

Join us for this years Bioblitz!

It's as easy as taking a picture of any observations made during the weekend and uploading them to iNaturalist. Throughout the conference, we will be sharing live updates and answering any questions about the iNaturalist platform.

Top contributors will be announced after the closing of the bioblitz. Everyone attending the conference is encouraged to participate, but this bioblitz is open to all who are interested! Help identify the biodiversity within the Saint Paul Campus by taking part in this year's Gathering Partners Bioblitz.

### 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 21st.

## Silent Auction



A silent auction will be held during the conference. The silent auction will open on Friday morning and close Sunday at 9:30 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. 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

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



## Bowling

Gopher Spot, the bowling alley at the Student Center, has been reserved for conference participants on Friday from 8:00-10:00 p.m. There is no additional charge to bowl during this time.

## Green Fire Movie

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time will be shown in the Northstar Ballroom in the Student Center on Friday evening. This documentary explores Leopold's career and his influence—how he shaped the modern conservation movement and continues to inspire projects that connect people and the land.

## Master Naturalist Chapter Leaders Meeting

All Minnesota Master Naturalist chapter leaders are invited to attend this meeting on Friday evening in the Student Center.



## Square Dance and Lessons

Saturday evening the Grit Pickers will entertain the crowd with music and square dance lessons. Be sure to have your dancing shoes on!

## Master Naturalist Instructor Meeting

Minnesota Master Naturalist trained instructors are invited to attend this meeting on Saturday evening in the Student Center. This is your opportunity to ask questions and find out the newest information for instructors.

## Vendor and Exhibit Booths

Local businesses, conference partners, participants 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. Each group is 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 to display materials, complete the registration at <https://www.regonline.com/2017SpringConfExhibit>. A link can also be found at [www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org/AnnualConference](http://www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org/AnnualConference).

