



NATURALIST NOTES

Minnesota Master Naturalist
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Winter 2013

Bears and Wolves and Rocks; Oh My!

Or maybe its rivers and pines and cameras! Or plants and stars and teaching! Whatever your interests, we have it at the 2013 Minnesota Master Naturalist Annual Conference.

The schedule is done and the registration materials are out. Now it's up to you select your sessions, fill out your form and submit your payment to attend! Or, even easier, go to the website at www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org, click on "Courses Available" and register online for the Annual Conference.

Bemidji is a beautiful area of the state and we are excited to be working with the Bogs 'N Logs Chapter to bring you the 2013 Conference. The pre-conference workshops and the field trips will provide you an opportunity to see first hand the beauty of this part of Minnesota. Whether its paddling on the Mississippi River, touring Itasca State Park, finding that perfect photo op, touring downtown Bemidji or participating in the other activities, you will see nature at its finest.



Don't let some of the session titles scare you; the variety of sessions allows you to learn more about something that really interests you; or



maybe teaches you about something new; or maybe is a presenter that you have wanted to hear for a long time.

Remember:

- Sessions are limited, so register early
- Apply for a scholarship, if needed
- Pick out your favorite photos or art projects and enter them in the phone/art/craft contest
- Solicit donations for the silent auction

The annual conference is a great way to meet others with the same interest in nature that you have, get re-energized for the summer volunteer season, talk to others about their volunteer service, meet state staff, offer suggestions for future conferences etc.

Information can be found on the website (www.minnesotamasternaturalist.org) under "Conference".

Hope to see you there!



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www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org

When you log in to the MN Master Naturalist website you'll notice a big change! We've spent numerous hours and emails with the tech person who works with our website to update it and, hopefully, make it more user friendly.

- You can now access the website on your smartphone to log in your volunteer hours as you complete them.
- Your dashboard is complete with courses completed, pins earned, hours logged.
- We will be adding and updating links to popular resources

Future plans including having a page for each chapter to include information on meeting dates, times, locations, upcoming events, etc.

We are working on adding features for sponsor sites.

We will be updating and adding more information to the website as time allows. Please check back often to see what changes have been made.

Please be sure to let us know if there are any changes that need to be made to your account at info@minnesotamasternaturalist.org



Advanced Training Opportunities

Want more offerings for advanced training? The Master Naturalist team is working with area nature centers, U of M faculty, and environmental groups to offer a variety of advanced training opportunities.

Possible upcoming training topics and sponsors include:

- Bell Museum
- Woodland Advisors
- Cedar Creek
- Shorelines
- Wetlands
- Sewage Treatment
- Phenology
- Monarchs
- Dragonflies
- Tree Care
- Invasive Blitz
- And others

Sessions will be listed on the Master Naturalist website as they become available. Check back often under "Courses Available" "Advanced Training".

Day-long trainings will be \$50 and include materials and food. Scholarships will be available in the amount of \$30 each with a limited number available at each site.

Remember, attending the Annual Conference fulfills your 8 required hours of advanced training.

Check out all of the silent auction donations on the website at www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org



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Celebrate Arbor Day



National Arbor Day is April 26th, 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



September 28, 2013

Helping Hands for America's Lands

2012 Service Pins

Your hours have been documented and the pins have been ordered. So, when do you get your pins?



2
0
1
2

To save on postage costs, we have decided to hand out annual and cumulative pins at the Annual Conference in May to those attending. Following the conference, the remaining pins will be mailed out. If you think you should receive a pin(s) and have not gotten them by June 15, contact the state office at info@minnesotamasternaturalist.org.

Be sure to check the Minnesota Master Naturalists blog for opportunities, classes, etc. Opportunities will be posted on the blog as they become available.

<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lothe013/mnats/>



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Remember To

CONTACT THE STATE OFFICE IF . . .

- You are temporarily inactive due to medical or family situations
- You have an opportunity for training, volunteer service, etc. in the 7-county Bertha Lewis Trust area: Brown, Blue Earth, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, Watonwan
- You have suggestions to make the website more user friendly or if there are components you would like to see added to the website

ALSO . . .

- **Keep your information up to date on the Master Naturalist Website. Go to “My Account” to log in.**
 - **Be sure to check that your personal information is correct. “Edit Account Details” under Account Overview**
 - **Complete the additional questions found in the interest survey. “Edit Interest Survey”**
- Please do not create a second account. If you do not remember your username or password, contact the State Program Office for help.
- Any items purchased at Amazon.com by going through the Minnesota Master Naturalist website means we earn a percentage of the total sales. The more items purchased, the higher the percentage. Encourage all your friends and family to use the link on the “Merchandise” pull down menu on our home page to take them to the Amazon.com website.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE STORE?

Fleece Vests! Two Styles . . . Two Colors!

Fleece Vest

Great for all seasons, polar-style fleece vest. Zip-thru collar, front zippered pockets, open bottom.
Sizes S-XXL
Olive Green/Khaki
\$35.00



Fleece Vest



High quality 16 oz anti-pill polar fleece with 100% polyester smooth lining. Front zipper pockets, open bottom hem with both side drawcord. One inside pocket with Velcro closure
Sizes S-XXL
Charcoal Gray
\$40.00

All merchandise will be available for sale at the 2013 Annual Conference.



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Invasive Blitz Volunteer Training

Calling all volunteers from the Minnesota Master Naturalist, Woodland Advisor, Forest Pest First Detector, Master Gardener programs! As you know, invasive species such as buckthorn, garlic mustard and wild parsnip pose serious threats to Minnesota's natural resources, ecosystems, and economy. We want YOU to join in a statewide effort to tackle the growing problem of invasive species.



Buckthorn



Garlic Mustard

Join us for a one-day workshop (qualifies as Advanced Training hours!) in which you will learn the impact of invasive species in Minnesota and be trained to identify and remove/treat selected problem species and provide follow-up management and monitoring. We will help you plan a local project that will mobilize organizations and clubs you belong to so you can host local invasive plant removal projects as part of an annual statewide "Invasive Blitz" event. You may even wish to adopt a local natural area (park, woodlot, camp, retreat center, etc.) you can regularly monitor and provide stewardship for into the future.

Who should attend: Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, Forest Pest First Detectors, Woodland Advisors, Tree Care Advisors, Shoreland Volunteers and others with in-depth knowledge of trees and plant identification who are willing to lead volunteer invasive species service projects.

All workshops have a registration fee of \$50 (scholarships available by contacting astrauss@umn.edu), take place from 8 am to 4 pm and include extensive take-home materials and lunch.



Wild Parsnip

Each training covers plants found in that area of the state.



Minnesota Master Naturalist Program Explore, Teach, Conserve

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SOCIAL NETWORKING

The Minnesota Master Naturalist Program has set up several sites that are accessible by volunteers and instructors.

Ning: <http://minnesotamasternaturalist.ning.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/group.php?gid=70589045637&ref=ts
or search for Minnesota Master Naturalists



Flickr: www.flickr.com/groups/736318@N25/



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2012 Minnesota Master Naturalist Summary

21 courses were offered

- 2 were canceled due to low enrollment
- 266 people participated in a course
- \$6500 was awarded for scholarships

2 instructor courses were offered

- 30 people participated in an instructor training course

6 advanced trainings were offered

- 2 were canceled (one was canceled due to lack of water)
- 91 people participated in the advanced training

115 participated in the annual conference
\$605 was awarded in scholarships

At the end of 2012, there were 1018 “active” volunteers and instructors, 296 “inactive” volunteers and instructors (several have moved out of state), and 3 volunteers that we know are deceased

As of 12/31/12

- \$18,112.27 was received in donations;
 - \$5,856.38 was received from the Bertha Lewis Environmental Trust Fund
 - \$1,000.00 was received from ANROSP for Public Lands Day
 - \$5,000.00 was received from Merrill Lynch as an anonymous donation

The silent auction held at the annual conference brought in \$1,867.50

Bertha Lewis Environmental Trust Funds subsidized \$8,460.04 of the 2012 annual conference costs, or 48.5%

For reporting purposes:

- 2011 hours: 38,662.7
- 2012 hours: 44,715.4

Get Off to an Early Start!

Don't be a slow poke! Get started logging in those 2013 hours now.

How do you earn this adorable 2013 painted turtle pin? Simply log 40 hours or more of service hours during 2013. Service hours include volunteer time, prep time, and travel time.



WHERE IS THE BLOG?

The new website is great, but I can't find the blog. How do I get there?

There are two ways to get to the blog.

- 1) <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lothe013/mnats/> OR
- 2) Go to the website at www.MinnesotaMasterNaturalist.org;
 - Click on “My Account” and log in;
 - Go to the “Stay Connected” box;
 - Click on the Blog logo



You can also get to NING, Facebook, and Flickr from the “Stay Connected” box



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