



# Registration Packet

Everything you need to help prepare you for the conference

**November 9-11, 2018**

**Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center**

**Lanesboro, Minnesota**

# MNA Annual Conference 2018

For the past five years I had the pleasure of serving as Conference Coordinator for this amazing organization and the people who make up its membership. In those five years I had the joy of experiencing the incredible range of talent that our membership community brings to our field of work and I have learned so much!

Over those years, we have tackled some pretty substantial and thought-provoking topics such as inclusivity, accessibility, the role food plays in our lives and in the environment, the place technology has in outdoor education, and climate change. But there is one topic we haven't really focused on for the last several years: the 'basics'. Author and entrepreneur Jim Rohn says, "Success is neither magical nor mysterious. Success is the natural consequence of consistently applying the basic fundamentals." And it's true; what use is it to discuss the ways in which we can educate our visitors about climate change if we are missing some of the key skills and/or techniques to be effective teachers in the first place?

This year, that is what our conference is about: getting back to the fundamentals of how to be an effective naturalist. It is about making sure we are up to date on the latest research, and that we are using teaching techniques that stimulate and nurture curiosity. It is about making sure we are finding and using those activities and lesson plans that really get to the heart of what we are teaching. This year, our conference is about reminding ourselves that even the simplest of things can have a huge impact if we have the 'basics' down. So, let's take a step back from the big picture, start digging down, and get Back To Basics!



Ashley Smith

MNA Conference Coordinator

## Register Online!

Our registration process is completely online!

Please be sure to look at the Workshops in the Conference Guide before you register. You will be asked to pick your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices.

Check out our new website, renew your membership and register for the conference online at [www.mnnaturalists.org](http://www.mnnaturalists.org).

## What's Included

Full conference registration includes:

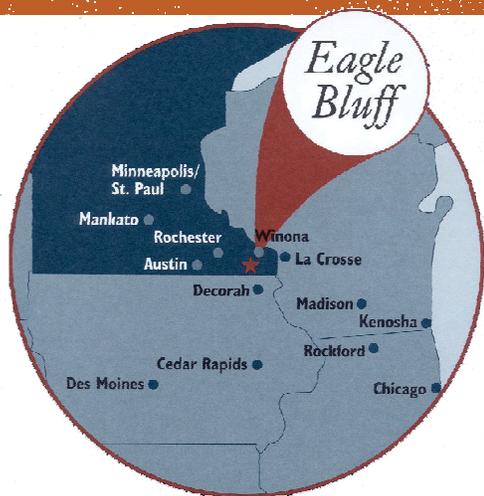
- Exciting workshops
- Concurrent and discussion sessions
- Evening entertainment and refreshments
- Dinner Friday
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday
- Breakfast and lunch on Sunday
- Lodging at Eagle Bluff ELC on Friday and Saturday night

The pre-conference fieldtrip is an extra charge, which includes:

- Enriching regional learning and exploration opportunities
- Lodging Thursday night
- Breakfast and lunch on Friday



# Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center



## Eagle Bluff ELC

28097 Goodview Drive  
Lanesboro, MN 55949

507-467-2437

## Driving Directions

### From the East:

- Take State Highway 16 to Lanesboro.
- Go north on Highway 250 (Parkway Ave) for about 1/2 mile until you are approaching downtown.
- Turn left on County Road 8 (Between Root River Outfitters and Mrs. B's Inn) and travel 2 miles.
- Follow brown directional signs to turn right on County Road 21 (paved) and travel 1 1/4 miles.
- Turn right on Goodview Drive (newly paved) and travel 2 1/2 miles to the Eagle Bluff Campus.

### From the North South or West:

- Take Highway 52 to Fountain.
- In Fountain follow brown directional signs to turn east on County Road 8 and travel 7 miles.
- Turn left on County Road 21 (paved) and travel 1 1/4 miles.
- Turn right on Goodview Drive (newly paved) and travel 2 1/2 miles to the Eagle Bluff Campus.

## What to Bring:

- Pillow, bed linens and blankets
- Clothing appropriate for the weather
- Headlamp, notebook, pen/pencil
- Towel & bathing products
- Water bottle and/or coffee mug
- Silent auction donations (proceeds benefit the MNA Scholarship and Grants Fund) and money (the silent auction accepts cash, checks, and cards).
- Photography and maple syrup contest submissions
- BYO beverages
- Anything you want to bring for social time activities (more details later in this packet)

## Conference Check-in

Friday, November 9; 3:30-8 p.m.

### Main Lobby

At check-in, conference participants will select roommates. Lodging is dorm-style; all rooms accommodate up to 8 people with one private bathroom.

**Auction Donations:** Bring silent auction items to check-in.

**Photo Contest Submissions:** Bring photo contest entries to check-in.

**Maple Syrup Submissions:** Bring maple syrup entries to check-in.

**Pre-Conference check-in will be held at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch. More information on the next page.**

# Field Trip

## National Eagle Center

Scott Mehus has been watching and studying Golden Eagles for over 20 years in Minnesota and will be sharing what he has learned so far. We will cover identification, when and where to find them, habitat use, prey requirements, what the annual Citizen Scientist Golden Eagle Survey is all about, it's findings and how you can participate. After the classroom discussion we will venture out and carpool to (hopefully) see some Golden Eagles. If we miss seeing them, we will see many other things including the wintering habitat that these birds rely on. After these sessions you should be ready to go out and find some Golden Eagles on your own.



## Whitewater State Park

### Guided Tour of a Ghost Valley

Join Whitewater State Park Interpretive Naturalist, Sara Holger, to learn about the unique landscape of the southeast Minnesota Driftless Area and how early land use practices caused catastrophic destruction in the Whitewater Valley. We'll tour several historic locations in the valley including a pioneer cemetery and a once prosperous farm site. We will wrap up at Weaver Bottoms along the Mississippi River to observe the migrating tundra swans with Ranger Ed Lagace of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Dress to be outdoors. Wear footwear for a short hike.



## The Plan:

Our day will start off by caravanning to Whitewater State Park, where we will spend the entire day. In the morning there will be a presentation by Scott Mehus of the National Eagle Center about the Golden Eagle research that has been happening there. Afterward, we will break for lunch and have a little time to explore on our own. In the afternoon we will be taken on a tour of the less seen areas of Whitewater State Park. Interpretive Naturalist Sara Holger will teach us about the unique geology and history of the area. The day will conclude with us heading to Eagle Bluff ELC just in time for dinner and the start of the Conference!

## Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch

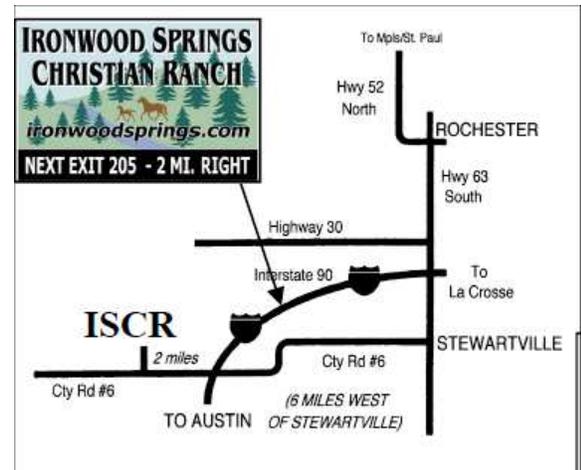
We will be staying at Ironwood Springs on Thursday night (November 8th). Just as with Eagle Bluff ELC, you will need your own bed linens/sleeping bag and pillow. A reminder that Dinner on Thursday night will NOT be included, but breakfast and lunch on Friday will be.

### From the Twin Cities...

Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch is located 1-1/2 hours from the Minneapolis and St. Paul International Airport in southeastern Minnesota.

Take Hwy 52 South through Rochester

- Exit on Hwy 63 South to Interstate 90
- Go West on I-90 3 miles to the first exit 205 (County Road 6)
- Turn right and go 2 miles and look for the Ironwood entrance. Look for our welcome sign and the big brown archway over our long paved driveway.



NAME OF SCHOOL/GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female  
Last Name First Name Middle Initial Age

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number  
Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address  
Mailing Address: Street, PO Box, Apt. #, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code  
City State

Emergency Contact  
Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to You \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address (if differs from above) \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity Level:** Are you capable of participating in physically strenuous activities? (i.e., hike up hills, put weight on joints, carry equipment, etc.)

- Yes  
 No, please explain:

**Medical & Behavioral Conditions:** Please include all conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, asthma, etc. Also include treatments such as casts, pacemakers, etc. applicable at the time you will be at Eagle Bluff.

**Allergies & Intolerances:** Please list your allergies to medications, insects, food, and explain. **All life threatening allergies must be communicated to your group leader or directly to Eagle Bluff prior to an Eagle Bluff visit.**

**Medications:** List all prescription medications you are currently taking and explain:

**AUTHORIZATION & RELEASE SIGNATURE (please read statement on back of page):**

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE DATE

**NOTE:** Failure to sign this form will prohibit you from participating in all Eagle Bluff activities. All medical information is kept confidential and all medical forms are kept for a period of five years. You are invited to request more information about Eagle Bluff programs, facilities, and policies at any time.

- Eagle Bluff does not have permission to take photos of me.  
 I do not wish to receive information about Eagle Bluff.

## MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE STATEMENT

### Agreement, Indemnification, and Assumption Of Risk

#### Message from Joe Deden, Eagle Bluff's Executive Director:

Our goal at Eagle Bluff is to provide safe learning experiences for all our participants. Our high ropes course, group challenge course, rock climbing wall, and all equipment are inspected regularly and are structurally sound. In addition, each participant receives safety instruction and an equipment check by a trained Eagle Bluff staff member. Each course has thousands of users every year and we have never had any major injuries. We adhere to the highest standards of safety and supervision in every class that we offer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call me personally at (507) 467-2437, extension 104.

#### By signing the front of this form, I agree to the following...

I acknowledge that my participation in individual and group initiatives, problem solving exercises, and personal growth and development training activities entails known and unanticipated risks that could result in physical or emotional injury, or death to myself, to property, or to third parties. I understand that such risks simply cannot be eliminated without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity.

**I also agree to comply with all Eagle Bluff rules and policies and to cooperate with Eagle Bluff personnel. I understand and agree that if I fail to comply with the rules and policies, I may be expelled from Eagle Bluff and sent home at my expense.**

I hereby wish to participate in Eagle Bluff activities and further agree to the terms herein contained. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Inc. (hereinafter collectively referred to as EBELC) from any and all claims, demands, or causes of action which are brought by myself and/or on behalf of myself against EBELC, and which are in any way connected with such use or participation. In the event that I file a lawsuit against EBELC, I agree to do so solely in the state of Minnesota, and I further agree that the substantive law of that state shall apply in that action without regard to the conflict of law rules of that state. I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

I hereby represent that I am in good health, that I have identified all medical conditions associated with myself, and that I have adequately informed EBELC personnel of any special instructions regarding my participation. I certify that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury or damage that I may suffer while participating, or else I agree to bear the costs of such injury or damage myself.

I authorize EBELC personnel to call for medical care or to transport me to a medical facility or hospital if, in the opinion of such personnel, I need medical attention. I further authorize appropriate personnel to render such medical treatment as is necessary for my health, in their professional opinion. I agree that once I am in the care of medical personnel or a medical facility, EBELC shall have no further responsibility for the situation and I agree to pay all costs associated with such medical care and transportation.

# ← Evening Entertainment →

## FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY

### People Bingo —

**8:00-8:30 Hall Outside Auditorium**

Are you someone, or do you know someone, who has the best animal impression? What about someone who has been bitten by a program animal? Find out during People Bingo! Whoever gets black out bingo first will win a prize.

### Casino Night —

**8:30-10:00 Auditorium**

Will Luck be your lady tonight? Play Black Jack, Roulette and Craps with the Dodge Nature Center Crew. Win “Casino Bucks” and use them to buy raffle tickets for the big raffle on Sunday afternoon or put them in a mini raffle to win prizes on Friday night!

### Climbing Wall —

**8:30-9:30 Rock Wall Room**

Try your hand at rock climbing at Eagle Bluff's indoor climbing wall. Do you think you can reach the top?



## SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY

### Maple Syrup Contest —

**7:00-8:00 Hall Outside of Auditorium**

Last year Wargo Nature Center won the Maple-Leaf trophy. Will you be the winner this year? Bring your maple syrup samples to compete. Everyone is welcome to taste the samples and vote for their favorites!

### Puppet Show Challenge —

**8:00-9:30 Auditorium**

Sign yourself (or a group) up for our Puppet Show Challenge. A puppet stage will be provided, BYOP (Bring Your Own Puppets), and you will get a MAX of 5 minutes to include all pieces of *one* of the scenarios posted at the conference, or to do a show pre-written by you.

## BOTH NIGHTS

### Auditorium and Hall Outside Auditorium

### Board Games —

Grab some friends, grab some people you've never met, and play some board games!

### Photo Contest —

Check out the Photo Contest submissions and vote for your favorite in each category.

### Silent Auction & Raffle —

Help support our scholarship and grants program by buying raffle tickets and bidding for items at the Silent Auction. Raffle tickets can be purchased at meal times. The drawing will be on Sunday at lunch. Silent Auction will close Saturday at 9 pm.

### Secret Item Game —

There are secret items out there, completely visible, on someone's person. If you can figure out what they, and covertly get your hands on one, you may just win a prize. More details will be given at Dinner Friday Night.



**Fri. & Sat. 8:00 - 12:00**

# Maple Syrup Competition

This year was a particularly good year for maple syruping. Enter your site's maple syrup (or even some of your own) in our maple syrup competition. Please bring at least 1 pint of your syrup and the completed form below to check-in.

Saturday evening conference attendees will be able to taste-test all the submissions and vote for their favorites!

## Maple Syrup Entry Form

Name/Site Name:

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Staff involved in the making of this syrup (if entering as a site):

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Name of Syrup (optional):

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Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

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Email:

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# Photo Contest



## MNA Amateur Photography Contest

MNA members are encouraged to start collecting photos to enter in MNA's annual member photo contest this year.

Members may enter one photo per category. Up to six submissions per person:

- Minnesota Landscapes and Skies
- Minnesota Fauna
- Minnesota Flora and Fungi
- Minnesota Macro
- Minnesota Monochrome
- Adventures in Interpretation

Submitted entries will be displayed and voted on by 2018 conference attendees.

Contest rules and entry forms are included in the following pages.

# Minnesota Naturalists' Association Amateur Photography Contest Rules

- Entries will be accepted on Friday, November 9, 2018, 3:30-8 p.m. at the MNA Conference Check-in only.
- Amateur photographers only (those that are not paid for taking photographs).
- One submission form must accompany each submitted photograph. Form is also available online at [www.mnnaturalists.org](http://www.mnnaturalists.org)
- Only photos taken within the state of Minnesota will be accepted.
- Limit **one** photograph submission per category (6 submissions total per person).
- Please do not digitally enhance photos in any way that alters what the original photo showed beyond basic techniques such as correcting color balance, exposure and sharpness. Dodging, burning, switching to black and white or sepia and cropping are all acceptable as well. Manipulation of subject matter or creating composite images is not allowed. Photos should accurately represent the reality of the photographed scene.
- Submissions must be brought to the 2018 MNA Conference Check-in for judging. Must be attending the conference to participate.
- Entries must be no larger than 8x10 hard copy prints without frames. Matte or glossy finish accepted.
- Photographer must verify and provide photographic release form if recognizable persons are included in the submission. If there are youth ages 17 and under, their parent/guardian must sign the photographic release form. Form is available online at [www.mnnaturalists.org](http://www.mnnaturalists.org) and in this Registration Packet
- Entrants must be willing to allow the Minnesota Naturalists' Association authorization to use the photos in future publications.
- First place entries in each category will be featured on the MNA Facebook page, and possibly in future Newsletters
- Winners must be able to provide a high resolution digital copy of winning submissions.
- Judging will take place at the 2018 MNA conference at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
- Winners will be announced on Sunday November 11, 2018 at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center
- Winners will be chosen by MNA Conference attendees. Must be present to win.



# Minnesota Naturalists' Association Amateur Photography Submission Form

Title for the Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

## Image Categories (circle, select one per submission):

Minnesota Landscapes and Skies

Minnesota Fauna

Minnesota Monochrome

Minnesota Flora and Fungi

Minnesota Macro

Adventures in Interpretation

I authorize the use of this photograph in future publications and for other uses related to the Minnesota Naturalists' Association.

\_\_\_\_\_

please sign

\_\_\_\_\_

date

\* There must be 1 submission form for each photo.



# Minnesota Naturalists' Association Photographic Release (for photos with recognizable persons)

## CONSENT FOR USE OF PHOTOGRAPH

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, authorize MNA to take and use photographs of: \_\_\_me, \_\_\_ my child(ren), or \_\_\_me and my children for the promotion of MNA and its functions, activities, and programs.

I understand that allowing MNA to photograph me, my child(ren) or both me and my child (ren) and present the photographs in promotional materials of MNA is completely voluntary and that I will not be paid for this use of the photographs. I give up any claim I might assert against any official, employee, agent or unit of MNA arising out of the use my pictures in promotional materials about MNA.

My permission to release this information about me and/or my child(ren) expires five years from the date this Consent is executed. I understand that I may revoke this Consent prior to five years by sending written notification to MNAmembership@gmail.com; however, the revocation will not apply to actions already taken by MNA in reliance on this Consent.

This Consent shall bind my heirs and assignees.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Photograph number/location/description:

No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Description/activity: \_\_\_\_\_



# Conference Schedule

## ← Friday →

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Dinner

6:45 pm - 7:45 pm - Keynote

8:00 pm - 12:00 am - Social Time

## ← Saturday →

7:00 am - 8:00 am - Breakfast

8:15 am - 9:15 am - Concurrent Session A

9:30 am - 11:00 am - Discussion Session

11:15 am - 12:15 pm - Concurrent Session B

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm - Member Meeting

2:30 pm - 3:30 pm - Site Tours/Informal Networking/Break

3:45 pm - 4:45 pm - Concurrent Session C

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Concurrent Session D

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm - 12:00 am - Social Time

## ← Sunday →

7:00 am - 8:00 am - Breakfast

8:00 am - 8:30 am - Packing Time

8:45 am - 12:15 pm - Workshop Session

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch



## **MNA Contact Information**

P.O. Box 9344

St. Paul, MN 55109

[www.mnnaturalist.org](http://www.mnnaturalist.org)