

MN WOW!

Session Descriptions

Keynote Presentations

Conservation of Minnesota's Big Woods Lee Frelich

Minnesota's Big Woods are highly fragmented and many of the remnants also have invasive species such as earthworms and buckthorn, and high deer populations. These problems lead to the question: can all of the native species survive on a small fraction of the original area? Examine how to quantify this problem and discuss potential solutions for the case of native plant species, which provide the base of ecosystem function.

Nature's Best Hope Doug Tallamy

Recent headlines about global insect declines, the impending extinction of one million species worldwide, and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check about how ineffective our current landscape designs have been at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us. Such losses are not an option if we wish to continue our current standard of living on Planet Earth. The good news is that none of this is inevitable. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can—and must—take to reverse declining biodiversity and will explain why we, ourselves, are nature's best hope.

Sessions

Choosing the Best Trees to Plant Eli Sagor, Extension Specialist, University of Minnesota

There are a wide variety of potential trees to plant, but which ones are the best for you? Join this session to learn about factors to consider when deciding which trees to plant and how to think about trees in a future climate.

Highlights of Minnesota's Forest Products Industry Kristen Bergstran, Timber Utilization & Marketing Consultant, MN Department of Natural Resources

This presentation will cover changes to Minnesota's primary forest products industry in the recent past, forest resource status and trends, current state of the industry, and potential wood products of the future.

Know Your Land for Management Decisions Brian Huberty, Minnesota Forestry Association

Find the answers for the basic questions of your woodlands: who, what, where, when, and how many? Discover many of these answers and where they may be found through aerial images, maps, and other sources. Geology, soils, waters, forest cover through time will be highlighted.

Providing for Pollinators in Your Woodlands Sarah Foltz Jordan, Sr. Pollinator Conservation Specialist and Karin Jokela, Pollinator Conservation Planner, Xerces Society

Pollinator populations in Minnesota are threatened by many factors, including habitat loss, pesticides, and disease. This session focuses on the ability of woodlands to provide essential habitat for pollinators, including foraging, nesting, and overwintering resources. Key tree, shrub, and understory plants will be highlighted, along with woodland enhancements and management practices that can benefit native bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Encourage Native Species/Controlling Invasive Plants Cheryl Culbreth, Owner, Landscape Restoration, Inc.

Restoring native plant and wildlife habitat in your woodland includes control of nonnative invasive plant like buckthorn and garlic mustard. This session provides many recommendations to expedite your woodland restoration project while minimizing time and/or dollars spent.

Financial Assistance Programs for MN Woodland Owners Andy McGuire, Forestry Incentives Coordinator, MN Department of Natural Resources

Learn about the variety of financial help available to Minnesota's woodland owners. Most programs are for landowners with 20 acres or more but cost-share assistance is available to small woodlot owners.

Wild Edible Plants that Might be on Your Property Randy Schindle, Cooperative Forest Management Forester, MN Department of Natural Resources

Learn about common and some not so common wild edible plants that grow in Minnesota.

Herbicide Use to Control Unwanted Plants Gary Wyatt, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota

Learn about common techniques and best practices when using herbicide to control unwanted plants. This presentation will focus on woody vegetation control and discuss commonly used herbicides for landowners.

Managing Your Woods with Emerald Ash Borer Matt Russell, Extension Specialist, University of Minnesota

Emerald ash borer is currently found in 23 of Minnesota's 87 counties. Many woodland owners are currently dealing with EAB on their property, or may soon given the spread of this invasive insect. Join this session to learn about the current status of EAB in the state, how to manage your woodland in the face of EAB, and get tips on which trees to consider planting to replace ash.

Chronic Wasting Disease: Separating Fact from Fiction Ryan M. Rothstein, Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist, Stearns Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

With so much misinformation being spread online about chronic wasting disease, it can be difficult to know what to believe. This session will shed light on what we know—and don't know—about this deadly disease.