



2019 ANNUAL MEETING

OF



THE MINNESOTA CHAPTERS OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY AND THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS

The Annual Meeting of Minnesota's The Wildlife Society (TWS) and the Society of American Foresters (SAF) will be held jointly at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center on February 19-21, 2019. See www.decc.org for more information about the meeting facilities. The event is expected to bring together 450 wildlife professionals, educators, students, and supporters from state, federal, non-profit, academic, and tribal organizations within Minnesota. Highlights will include a Plenary Session on how working together with other organizations, whether like-minded or not, has helped to advance forestry and wildlife management activities. With two full days of general concurrent sessions and special sessions on a range of topics (see the draft agenda), several workshops including identifying invasive species, Actions to Develop a Diverse Workforce, utilizing technology (photography, video, cell phone/tablet apps), and a field trip option that participants will be able to apply to their day-to-day work. There will also be poster displays, networking opportunities, student events, and a banquet to celebrate another year of hard work. There will be many opportunities to learn and reconnect with colleagues and we look forward to meeting with all of you.

Registration is now open online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fostering-partnerships-for-conservation>! An option for paying using a credit or debit card will be available at the meeting. Take advantage of early bird pricing (\$70 for students and \$110 for professionals) by registering before January 26, 2019. Registration after this date will increase by \$10. Onsite registration will be available at 10:00 am on Monday. Appetizers during Tuesday night's Welcome Reception and Fundraiser and Wednesday night's Banquet are included in the registration fee (See the menu on the registration page).

The Holiday Inn & Suites, Duluth Downtown, is offering **Lodging** at a discounted rate for Standard rooms at \$109 are available along with Two Room Suites (Bedroom/ Sitting Room with Pullout Couch) or their new Executive Level Rooms are available for your attendees interested in upgrading at \$139. To make your reservations or obtain additional information about your reserved rooms, please call their reservations manager at 218-722-1202. Extensive hotel information can also be accessed through their website at www.hiduluth.com. Just mention The Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society/Society of American Foresters and you will get that rate.

Please note, other hotels are available in the area but the Holiday is connected via the skyway to the DECC facility and it is a fantastic option for a February in Duluth!
Special Events

The annual meeting will kick-off Tuesday afternoon with an exciting **Plenary Session**, “Fostering Partnerships for Conservation” with presentations from Tom Landwehr (MNDNR), Dr. Jim Bowyer (U of Minnesota), and Todd Holman (TNC).

Tuesday evening’s **Welcome Reception & Fundraiser** will be the perfect time to catch up with colleagues and friends while enjoying appetizers. A silent auction and raffle will offer the chance to bid on or win a kayak, art prints, hand-carved decoys, and other great items. There will also be a bean-bag toss tournament fundraiser! Cash and checks will be accepted for the fundraiser. Appetizers during this event are covered with your registration fee.

Wednesday evening’s **Banquet** will be a celebration of all of your hard work over the past year and will feature a plated dinner with multiple options. The banquet is also our opportunity to honor the recipient of the Minnesota Award (the rest of the awards will be presented at the membership meetings). Tickets are included in the registration this year. Take this opportunity to relax and reflect on a great year!

Students will find a number of special events geared towards their professional development, including a student/professional mixer (open to all students), student leader breakfast, quiz bowl, and a paper and poster competition.

