**2024 Summer Workshop**

***Wetlands that can’t be Peat:* *Exploring the relationship between bogs and wildlife***

**Speaker Bios**

**Sparky Stensaas, Executive Director, Friends of Sax Zim Bog**

**Bio:**  Sparky Stensaas is the founder and executive director of Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, a non-profit to preserve bog lands for future generations of birds and birders. A birder since age 13, Sparky is also a naturalist, publisher, wildlife photographer and now YouTuber (really?). He is the author of 6 books on the natural history of the North Woods. Sparky, his wife, Bridget, and two sons, Birk and Bjorn make their home under the big pines in the Nemadji Valley of Carlton County, Minnesota. You can see more of Sparky’s images at www.ThePhotoNaturalist.com and his videos on YouTube “Sparky Stensaas”

**Alexis Grinde Ph.D., AvianEcologist, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth**

**Bio:** Alexis leads six ornithologists in the Forest and Land Group at Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI). Alexis’s research focuses on conservation ecology including studying the large-scale impacts of environmental change on wildlife, biodiversity, and ecosystem function. Applications of my research include informing forest management decisions in relation to changing land use patterns and providing recommendations for conservation plans for species of conservation concern.

[Meet the Researcher: Alexis Grinde | Natural Resources Research Institute (umn.edu)](https://nrri.umn.edu/news/alexis-grinde)

**Steve Kolbe M.S.,  Avian Ecologist, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth**

**Bio:**  Steve Kolbe is an avian ecologist with a special interest in bird migration and movement, testing novel survey methodologies, and acoustic identification. His research focuses on the ways in which birds use their environment at varying scales throughout the annual cycle. In his free time, Steve enjoys watching and photographing birds migrating along the shores of Lake Superior.

[Meet the Researcher: Steve Kolbe | Natural Resources Research Institute (umn.edu)](https://nrri.umn.edu/news/steve-kolbe)

**Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Head Naturalist, friends of Sax-Zim Bog**

**Bio:**  Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus is the Head Naturalist at Friends of Sax-Zim Bog, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Sax-Zim Bog in northeastern Minnesota. Clinton plays a crucial role in educating the public about the bog’s unique ecosystem through various programs, field trips, and speaking engagements. He also conducts important scientific surveys including winter raptor and rare owl surveys.

**Jennifer Y. Lamb Ph.D., Associate professor of Biology, St. Cloud State University**

**Bio:** Dr. Jennifer Y. Lamb has a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Southern Mississippi. She joined the St. Cloud State Department of Biology in August 2018. Her scholarly work is focused on the ecology, natural history, behavior, and conservation of amphibians and reptiles. Her research group uses a variety of approaches, including genetic tools, to answer questions in these fields. Dr. Lamb's research has been published in several peer-reviewed publications. To learn more about her research, visit her lab group's website: [www.amphibianatic.com](https://www.amphibianatic.com/).

She teaches courses in biology at the undergraduate and graduate level, including Zoology, Conservation and Management of Animals, Comparative Animal Behavior, Herpetology, Careers in Ecology and Evolution, along with others. Dr. Lamb also collaborates with individuals within and outside of St. Cloud State to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in science.

**Alyssa Roberts, M.S., St. Cloud State University**

**Bio:** Alyssa recently graduated from St. Cloud State, as a Research Assistant and Graduate Student within the Department of Biology, under Dr. Jennifer Y. Lamb. Her graduate research included Using environmental DNA to detect the Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) in Minnesota. In addition, Alyssa is a natural resources professional that has been working as a seasonal biological science technician with the USDA Forest Service since 2016. She has extensive experience working with non-game wildlife including North American bats, invertebrates- specifically bumble bees, raptors, and herpetofauna. She has also been building her skills in surveying for rare vascular plants, fungi and lichens. Her ultimate career goal is to be a major contributor in improving conservation and management practices for wildlife.

**Maeve Rogers, Voyageurs Wolf Project Collaborator**

**Bio:** Maeve is a wolf researcher who has experience working with wolves in both Yellowstone and Voyageurs National Park. Maeve's journey in wolf research began during her time as a student at the University in Bozeman, Montana, where she actively engaged with wolves in and around Yellowstone National Park as a dedicated volunteer and intern for the park's wolf project. After graduation, she was offered a job with the Voyageurs Wolf Project. Since the spring of 2021, Maeve has been working as a Wolf Predation and Research Technician in northern Minnesota. Her job entails trapping and GPS-collaring wolves in order to gain valuable locational data that aids the project in studying wolf ecology. The project's main focus is to better understand the summer ecology of wolves in boreal ecosystems by looking at predation and reproductive behaviors. Her day to day includes visiting sites that collared wolves have spent time at in order to gain an understanding of what they were doing, investigating den sites, maintaining a large series of trail cameras, and more. Maeve was also a part of a collaborative effort to aid a local Minnesota rancher in mitigating recurring wolf conflicts on his cattle. As of recently, Maeve will be aiding the Voyageurs Wolf Project in expanding their Outreach and Education initiatives.

[Meet Maeve Tuley: Wolf Ecology Field Fellow — Voyageurs Conservancy](https://www.voyageurs.org/news/wolf-ecology-field-fellow)

**Stephen Sebestyen, Research Hydrologist, Northern Research Station**

**Bio:** Stephen is a research hydrologist with the USDA Forest Service in Grand Rapids, MN. He studies how water, nutrients, and pollutant solutes flow through the landscape and affect streams, lakes, or wetlands. He devotes portions of his time to research at the [Marcell Experimental Forest (MEF)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fresearch.fs.usda.gov%2Fef%2Fmarcell%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmelissa.l.gabrielson%40usda.gov%7C6fd87b95aaac4dbfa6d308dcc390bd2e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638600273626841167%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=APLoMG1aBILP9Vz%2B1h8DEFdJDamLtpoV13nirwEzTTg%3D&reserved=0) and is an investigator in the [SPRUCE Experiment](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmnspruce.ornl.gov%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmelissa.l.gabrielson%40usda.gov%7C6fd87b95aaac4dbfa6d308dcc390bd2e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638600273626847174%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6C6jHtBJwGOd1b0LW4DAUMzMIWhVaGoQ6sU5uHs2Bxw%3D&reserved=0) (Spruce and Peatland Responses Under Changing Environments), a large-scale experiment in which above- and below-ground temperatures are being manipulated in a black spruce-*Sphagnum* bog at the MEF.

[Stephen D. Sebestyen | US Forest Service Research and Development (usda.gov)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fresearch.fs.usda.gov%2Fabout%2Fpeople%2Fssebestyen&data=05%7C02%7Cmelissa.l.gabrielson%40usda.gov%7C6fd87b95aaac4dbfa6d308dcc390bd2e%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C1%7C0%7C638600273626853021%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=P4L8pDUI8jeX7vl2VNeAewD4sMPB7fEsVnalNBng6tY%3D&reserved=0)