



Minnesota Master Naturalist

Big Woods, Big Rivers

Ney Nature Center, Henderson, MN

3/7/2022 - 5/16/2022

MISSION

The mission of the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Minnesota's natural environment by developing a corps of well-informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

In order to accomplish the mission, we have the following objectives:

- To increase your knowledge of Minnesota's natural and cultural history.
- To increase your ability to convey this knowledge in a variety of education settings and to a variety of audiences.
- To increase your ability to serve as a steward of the land.
- To help you become more knowledgeable, concerned and proactive about the natural environment.
- To help you become a life-long and self-directed learner

BENEFITS

- Knowledge and fellowship.
- The thrill of being a trendsetter.
- Support and assistance from Master Naturalist staff.
- Opportunities for personal and professional growth.
- Books and supplies including...
 - *Big Woods, Big Rivers – An Introduction to the Natural History of Minnesota's Deciduous*

3/7/2022 – Week One

- **Class:** What Is This All About?– An introduction to Minnesota Master Naturalist, ecology, and Minnesota's biomes
- **Reading:** Read Introduction & Chapter 1 of *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**

Because this is the first meeting, we won't yet test your outdoor survival skills. Dress appropriately for the weather, but most of the class will be spent indoors.

3/14/2022 – Week Two

- **Class:** Rocks, Ice, and Dirt – What made the Big Woods?
- **Reading:** Chapter 2 of *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**
This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, adventure, and eating. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors!

3/19/2022 – Saturday!!!! 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **Class:** Rocks and Trees Field trip
- **Reading:** Bring your favorite field guides.
- **Be prepared!**
Any special information regarding the field trip.
 1. We will meet at Chamberlain Woods SNA at 9am.
 2. Park on the side of the road east of the railroad tracks.
 3. Dress for the weather (it may be muddy!)

3/21/2022 – Week Three

- **Class:** The Forest for the Trees – Plant Communities in the Big Woods.
- **Reading:** Chapter 3 of *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**
This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, adventure, and activity. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors!

3/28/2022 – Week Four

- **Class:** Earthworms and Turtles and Deer, Oh My! – Creatures of the Big Woods.
- **Reading:** Chapter 4 of *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**
This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, adventure, and activity. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors!

4/4/2022 – Week Five

- **Class:** Fitting the pieces together – An Introduction to Ecology
- **Reading:** Chapter 5 of *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**
This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, brainstorming, and activity. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors!

4/11/2022 – Week Six

- **Class:** What did you say? – Communicating Your Message.
- **Reading:** Chapter 6 in *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**
This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, adventure, and activity. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors.

4/18/2022 – Week Seven

- **Class:** Runs, Riffles, Oxbows, and Kettles – Water in the Landscape
- **Reading:** Chapter 7 in *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.
- **Be prepared!**
This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, adventure, and activity. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors.

4/23/2022 – Saturday!!!! 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- **Class:** *Woods and Waters*
- **Reading:** Bring your favorite fields guides.
- **Be prepared!**
We will be visiting Nerstrand Big Woods State Park and the Cannon River Wilderness Area on this field trip, more info is to come!

4/25/2022 – Week Eight

- **Class:** Bigmouth Buffalo, Northern Leopards, and Wild Rice – Plants and Animals of the Big Woods' waters.
- **Reading:** Chapter 8 in *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.

- **Be prepared!**

This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, adventure, and activity. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors.

5/2/2022 – Week Nine

- **Class:** Past, Present, and Future – Humans and the Big Woods.

- **Reading:** Chapter 9 in *Big Woods, Big Rivers*.

- **Be prepared!**

This class will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and activity. We will be planning what to do, once you are on your own. As always, dress appropriately for the weather. You'll never know when we'll head outdoors.

5/9/2022 – Week Ten

- **Class:** Leaving the Nest – Becoming a Fully-Fledged Minnesota Master Naturalist. And Capstone Work Session

- **Reading:** None!

- **Be prepared!**

In this class session, instructors will be available to assist with any capstone issues or questions.

5/16/2022 – Week Eleven

- **Class:** Graduation – Being a Minnesota Master Naturalist.

- **Reading:** None!

- **Be prepared!**

In this class, you will present your capstone project to the other members of the class. Don't forget the lessons in Chapter 5! We may head outside, if any of the groups want us to. You are in charge.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Attend all the sessions of the Big Woods, Big Rivers Master Naturalist Course.
- 2) Complete a capstone project as part of the course.

- 3) Volunteer for 40 hours of supervised work on education and/or stewardship projects, per calendar year. Starting after your completed initial class.

NEY PROGRAM STAFF

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READINGS

Blair, R. B., D. Flinn, A. R. B. Rager. 2006. *Big Woods, Big Rivers – An Introduction to the Natural History of Minnesota's Deciduous Forest*. University of Minnesota Extension Service: St. Paul MN.

Strauss, A. L., Blair, R., Meyer, N., Oberhauser K., Rager, A., Flinn, D. (2010). *Big Woods, Big Rivers Linnaeus List: Characteristic plants, animals, and geologic features of Minnesota's deciduous forests*. University of Minnesota Extension Service: St. Paul.

