



Montana Society of American Foresters



Education Opportunities for service and/or participation

Cindy Peterson

2023

MT SAF supports many forest related community educational events and activities across Montana. Below is a summary of these programs for MT adults and youth as well as opportunities for member involvement.

MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY, FOREST STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOPS, Statewide	2
MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY MASTER FOREST STEWARD PROGRAM, Statewide (dates to be announced)	2
MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY MINI-COLLEGE, Missoula, March 4, 2023	3
PROJECT LEARNING TREE (PLT), Statewide (dates will be added, please see website calendar).....	3
WALK IN THE FOREST, Statewide individual opportunity to coordinate and lead.....	4
4-H – FORESTRY PROJECT, Statewide	4
MT TREE FARM, Statewide	4
MARY NAEGELI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000), Statewide, Deadline May 31 annually	4
SAF ANNUAL MEETING, Missoula, March 29-31, 2023, Holiday Inn downtown Missoula	5
UM FORESTERS BALL, MISSOULA, February 3, 2023.....	5
UM Schreiber Gymnasium	5
COMMUNITY FOREST DAY, Missoula, TBD IN 2023	5
FORESTRY DAYS AT FORT MISSOULA, Missoula, Saturday, April 29, 2023	5
Competition College Events Friday, April 28 Pro/Am combination.....	5
MONTANA FOREST LANDOWNER ANNUAL CONFERENCE, HELENA, May 5, 2023	6
Helena, Delta Colonial Marriott	6
MISSOULA FOREST DISCOVERY DAYS, Missoula, NEEDS NEW SPONCOR/PLANNER	6
THE FAMILY FORESTRY EXPO, Columbia Falls, May 7-12, 2023	7
MOUNT HELENA STUDENT FOREST MONITORING, Helena, non-forest and forested September 21, 2023	7
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, Fort Missoula, July 4, 2023	9
MT NATURAL RESOURCES YOUTH CAMP (MNRYC), Lubrecht Forest near Potomac, July 16-21, 2023	9
MONTANA FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK, Statewide, October 22-28, 2023	10

MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY, FOREST STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOPS, Statewide

Forest Stewardship for Professionals, natural resource professionals are invited to attend a landowner workshop and work in-training to become a Forest Stewardship advisor who may assist with workshops and visits with forestland owners.

Forest Stewardship for Loggers, Yellow Bay, April 18-20, 2023 (This intense workshop follows the format of the landowner planning workshop and is focused on an audience of loggers who provide services for forestland owners.)

Frenchtown, May 4-5 & 12, 2023

Bozeman June 8-9 & 16, 2023

Kalispell, July 13-14 & 21, 2023

Trout Creek, August 3-4 & 11, 2023

Corvallis, September 7-8 & 15, 2023

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/calendar/index.html>

Contact MSU Extension Forestry 406-243-2773, extensionforestry@montana.edu

Opportunity: *Be an Advisor and teach at workshops and/or visit with participants on their property to assist in planning and verifying plans, and/or help to get word out to family forest owners*

Montana has developed and tested a unique approach to teaching forest stewardship to NIPF owners. The Key is empowering forest landowners with personal knowledge of their property and the basic principles of forestry and environmental management.

The technique involves training owners to discover for themselves the intricate web of natural resources on their land.

The Process teaches landowners how to develop their own long-range Stewardship Plan. The Result is pride in a personally developed Stewardship Plan and the motivation to implement stewardship principles.

Key Elements of the workshop include skills development.

Participants learn to:

- Inventory their property resources.
- Set goals and priorities for their lands.
- Analyze resource trade-offs and understand environmental consequences of stewardship decisions.
- Develop their own Stewardship Plan.

Classes are taught by a team of natural resource professionals.

MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY MASTER FOREST STEWARD PROGRAM, Statewide (dates to be announced)

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/calendar/index.html>

Contact Peter Kolb 406-243-4705, peter.kolb@cfc.umt.edu

Opportunity: *Assist in teaching workshops in which you might have topic knowledge, attend a workshop to make connections with landowners and to add to your own knowledge base.*

Forest Stewardship workshops are the primary class with additional complementary classes offered as advanced topics. Landowners who attend 10 of the courses offered (seven core courses plus three elective courses) and complete this program will be recognized with a certificate.

These are also great classes to attend to learn more about topics you may be working with on a daily basis in your work duties.

MSU EXTENSION FORESTRY MINI-COLLEGE, Missoula, March 4, 2023

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/calendar/index.html>

Contact Christina Oppegard 406-243-2773, christina.oppegard@mso.umt.edu

Opportunity: Assist in teaching 2-hour courses in which you might have topic knowledge, attend a workshop to make connections with landowners and to add to your own knowledge base.

Forestry Mini-College is a one-day educational event for family forest landowners, forestry professionals and everyone interested in forestry, featuring a series of short classes on a variety of forestry topics and current issues.

Professionals from a variety of natural resources-based agencies and industries as well as researchers from Montana State University and The University of Montana, present twelve concurrent sessions for participants to choose topics of greatest interest.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE (PLT), Statewide (dates will be added, please see website calendar)

PLT professional development events to be announced and can be requested.

September 16-18, 2023, Missoula, MT Environmental Education Assoc. (MEEA) Conference

<http://www.montanaeea.org/services/annual-conference/>

October 20-21, Helena, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE) State Teacher Conference

<https://www.mfpe.org/2022-educator-conference/>

<https://www.plt.org/>

<https://forestry.msuextension.org/projectlearningtree/index.html>

Contact Cindy Peterson 406-243-4706, cindy.peterson@umontana.edu

Opportunity: Become a facilitator (teach educator workshops), attend a training to attain activity guides to help you teach youth, get the word out, and serve on the Steering Committee.

PLT Educator workshops are available to professionals as well as any adult who has an interest in teaching environmental education to youth, be it a classroom, scout or 4-H group, or their own children or grandchildren.

At PLT, we grow stewardship student by student, and we've been doing so for 35 years. Our award-winning curriculum resources help over half a million educators teach complex environmental issues. They can be integrated into lesson plans for all grades and subject areas to help students learn how to make sound choices about the environment. Our classroom curriculum resources help educators teach tomorrow's decision makers *how* to think, not *what* to think about the environment.

Project Learning Tree helps empower students to act to improve the environment at their schools and communities and neighborhood environment based on what they learn in the classroom. Our service-learning programs, like [GreenWorks](#) and [GreenSchools](#), provide powerful teaching opportunities to engage students in meaningful service through a process carefully integrated with learning objectives.



<https://www.plt.org/greenschools/>

Join us for a free webinar series. Register for upcoming webinars and view past recordings. PLT is a program of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

WALK IN THE FOREST, Statewide individual opportunity to coordinate and lead

(A guide for promoting forest & forest management) – developed by American Forestry Foundation (AFF) & Society of American Foresters (SAF)

<https://forestry.msuextension.org/projectlearningtree/activitybooklets/WalkInTheForestGuide.pdf>

Opportunity: *Download the publication and plan your own walk in the forest! There is often an activity planned in different areas of the state during the Forest Products Appreciation Week. Offer to be involved in teaching and/or organizing one in your area or just do one on your own.*

The above link is to a new publication that was created by the American Forest Foundation and Society of American Foresters to promote and assist foresters, family forest owners, and educators to plan for and have successful outdoor educational events. Share and print out this manual of ideas and make notes as you plan your walk in the forest!

4-H – FORESTRY PROJECT, Statewide

<http://www.montana4h.org/#projects:3>

Opportunity: *Become a Forestry or Natural Resource project leader or a liaison to a 4-H group. Project topics for natural resources include Forestry, Entomology, Wildlife, Outdoor Adventure, Shooting Sports, Sport Fishing, and Wind Energy.*

Forestry products abound in Montana—from the giant cedars in the west to the pines of the southeast and everything in between. Through the 4-H forestry project, you will discover how important these forests are to our state. You'll also learn about forest ecology and people's reliance on forest products. You'll explore the relationship between trees, people and communities.

MSU county agents would know if a local 4-H group has a Forestry Project Leader and help SAF members to become involved with local groups. There are curriculum support materials available for members and leaders.

MT TREE FARM, Statewide

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/montana>

<http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>

Contact Holly McKenzie 406-833-3960, holly.mckenzie@mt.gov

Opportunity: *become a Tree Farm inspector, serve on the MT Tree Farm board, national committees*

We work to give people the tools they need to be effective stewards of America's forests. Privately owned woodlands are vital to our country's clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational activities, and producing the jobs, wood, and paper products we all need.

MARY NAEGELI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP (\$1,000), Statewide, Deadline May 31 annually

https://www.treefarmssystem.org/stuff/contentmgr/files/2/6bf2fd84846178accfbdd546167352/files/2020_tf_marynaegelscholarship.pdf

Contact Cindy Peterson 406-243-4706 cindy.peterson@umontana.edu

Opportunity: *Get the word out to students, be a reference, and inform people about Tree Farm*

This is a \$1,000 scholarship offered to one student annually. Applicants must be a resident of Montana enrolled (for the first time) or attending any accredited institution of higher education, on a full-time basis, have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above, and must demonstrate an interest in forestry. Applicants must have a Tree Farmer or a Tree Farm Inspector as a reference.

SAF ANNUAL MEETING, Missoula, March 29-31, 2023, Holiday Inn downtown Missoula

March 29 will be business/executive meeting, March 30 the main event and banquet, and March 31 alumni breakfast and hopefully mill tour.

<https://montana-state-society-of-american-foresters.square.site/> Contact Justin Crotteau <
justin.crotteau@usda.gov

2023 Annual Meeting Hosted by Montana's Missoula Chapter

UM FORESTERS BALL, MISSOULA, February 3, 2023

UM Schreiber Gymnasium

Contact ForestersBall@gmail.com

Opportunity: *help the UM students with set up, procurement of trees/wood, and more*

Begun in 1915, the Foresters' Ball is a traditional swing dance with live music designed to raise scholarship funds for students at the University of Montana. Students spend a week building an 1800's logging town, complete with chow hall, chapel, jail, saloon (serving soda), slide, and one of the biggest dance floors in Montana. Live music and swing dancing are the name of the game.

COMMUNITY FOREST DAY, Missoula, TBD IN 2023

Contact Forestry Scholarship Association <https://www.fsamt.org/contact/>

Opportunity: *run or help at an educational/activity booth*

The Foresters' Ball is founded on a tradition of hard work, community support and involvement. The addition of Community Forestry Day to the Foresters' Ball builds on that foundation by creating a dynamic learning environment which is both attractive and appropriate for families and children of all ages.

Community Forestry Day is a new, interactive event at the Foresters' Ball, providing a venue for children and their families to engage in fun, experiential learning about the natural environment. Here, attendees can participate in hands-on demonstrations by a wide variety of presenters with strong ties to the natural world.

Community Forestry Day is presented through a partnership of the Foresters' Ball and Forestry Scholarship Association.

FORESTRY DAYS AT FORT MISSOULA, Missoula, Saturday, April 29, 2023

Competition College Events Friday, April 28 Pro/Am combination.

http://www.forestrydays.com/Forestry_Days/Homepage.html

Contact Scott Kuehn 406-546-9304 montanaforester@yahoo.com

Opportunity: *help with the sawmill, timers for the competitions, printing and posting posters around Missoula*

Every April the Missoula Valley of Western Montana comes alive with a timber sports event that you won't want to miss! That's when Missoula Forestry Days celebrates the skill and bravery of those who work in the time-honored tradition of logging. With everything from logging competitions to antique sawmill and horse logging demonstrations, this event has it all! The laid-back atmosphere of this fun and

family-oriented weekend draws thousands of enthusiastic onlookers and expert competitors. From the very young to the very old, there's something for everyone!

MONTANA FOREST LANDOWNER ANNUAL CONFERENCE, HELENA, May 5, 2023

Helena, Delta Colonial Marriott

Ties to the Land workshop on May 6th

<https://www.foreststewardshipfoundation.org/events>

Contact Ed Levert televert@kvis.net

Opportunity: Gary is working with a planning committee that includes SAF members primarily from the Eastside Chapter who is responsible for hosting the meeting this year and members of the Executive committee. Most of the involvement would be in volunteering with the planning committee. They can always use help at the registration table, seeking vendors and sponsors, and acquiring items for silent auctions. Anyone interested and helping can contact Gary.

Opportunity: Volunteer as a presenter or serve on the Forest Stewardship Foundation board

The annual Montana Forest Landowner Conference conducted by The Montana Forest Stewardship Foundation with support from Northwest Management, Inc. on an annual basis each spring in Helena, MT

The objective of the one-day conference is to provide continuing education for Montana family forest owners, professional foresters, accredited logging professionals and others interested in the stewardship of forest land. Participants attend from across the State of Montana.

Natural resource professionals, researchers, scientists and consultants present a wide variety of topics designed to educate people interested in expanding their knowledge of forest resource management.

MISSOULA FOREST DISCOVERY DAYS, Missoula, NEEDS NEW SPONCOR/PLANNER

Need new sponsor and coordinator, please consider taking the lead on this!!

Contact John Goodburn 406-243-4095, john.goodburn@umontana.edu (for information)

Opportunity: Volunteer to help as a station presenter or a guide, help on the planning committee

A new sponsor/lead is needed to continue the project, it has not been active for about four years. The Chamber of Commerce took the lead in the past for this project but has stepped away.

Over the course of three days Missoula's Pattee Canyon was abuzz with fifth graders having fun and learning about Montana's diverse forest resources. The Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce Forest Resource Committee hosted 425 fifth graders from local schools. Volunteer tour guides led students between four stations. Students got hands on experience in topics that included wildland fire, forest ecology, timber harvest, archaeology, wildland fire and wildlife. The three-day event was supported with the help of numerous volunteers and generous sponsors. Volunteers came from Roseburg, Weyerhaeuser, the Montana DNRC, Montana FWP, Be Bear Aware, and the US Forest Service. Many retirees from the private forestry sector and land management agencies were also on hand to share their knowledge. Financial support came in large part this year from a More Kids in the Woods grant from US Forest Service. Other long-time financial supporters include Roseburg Forest Products and Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.

THE FAMILY FORESTRY EXPO, Columbia Falls, May 7-12, 2023

<http://familyforestryexpo.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyForestryExpo>

Contact Elise Garner 406-892-5928 holly.mckenzie@mt.gov

Opportunity: *Get the word out to folks, be a presenter, help with set up/take down*

“We’re planning our traditional in-person event, **May 7-12 for the 5th grade class experience,** and **Saturday, May 13 for families.**

Families are also invited to participate in a self-guided experience to explore and learn on their own, May 13. During that time, pick up a self-guided trail map at the Expo site trail entrance or download one from our website.”

The Family Forestry Expo is an annual, week-long event that offers hands-on exposure to the role forests play in our everyday lives. The yearly event takes place through the dedicated involvement of over 20 diverse organizations such as local service clubs, forest industry, government natural resource agencies, conservation groups, professional societies, local businesses, many interested individuals and numerous local donations.

Come spend the day or a few hours and explore how the different parts of a forest are connected to make up a dynamic living system; and how people and all parts of the environment are dependent on one another. Natural resource managers and specialists are on site to provide information on a wide-range of forestry and forest management topics.

This year the Family Forestry Expo is scheduled in May with a theme, to be announced. The fifth-grade student portion of the event is held May on a Saturday, families are invited to share in expo activities from 9am to 3pm the following day at the Trumbell Creek Educational Forest, located about two miles north of the junction of US Highway 2 and Montana Highway 40, just west of Columbia Falls, Montana.

Family Forestry Expo for Area Students and Families

Last year, over 1,000 fifth grade students attended the Monday through Friday portion of Expo and about 800 adults and families attended the weekend event. The weekday program includes a wide range of topics including archeology, fisheries, plant identification, forest management, wildlife, riparian areas, low impact camping, fire, mill tour and 'tread lightly' mountain bike demonstration.

Weekend Schedule: On the weekend families enjoy a 'free loggers' lunch' from 11am to 1pm, grandstand shows at 10:30am and 1:30pm that include logging equipment demonstrations and Forest Service mule packing demonstration; plus, there are exhibits and educational stations along a forest path.

MOUNT HELENA STUDENT FOREST MONITORING, Helena, non-forest and forested September 21, 2023

<http://www.cfc.umt.edu/saf/events/vegetation-inventory.php>

Contact Liz Burke 406-495-3713, elizabeth.a.burke@usda.gov

Opportunity: *Help as a group leader or assistant or help in the planning process*

Sam Gilbert and the Eastside SAF Chapter of the MT SAF initiated an inventory project for Mt. Helena in 2002. The concept was to develop a project that, on a continuing basis, exposed young people to various aspects of forests and forestry. Specific goals were to show each class the variety of plants that occur in a particular forest, the ways that forests change over time and to introduce them to professional inventory equipment and techniques and to possible careers in natural resource fields.

The field site is City of Helena park land on Mount Helena. This area is located on the south side of the city. This area contains 830 acres, of which about 690 acres are forested. Plot centers are located in a

grid pattern to provide about one plot for each five acres. A Geographic Information System (GIS) was used to identify the coordinates for the plot centers and Geographic Positioning System (GPS) equipment was used to mark the plot centers on the ground. 147 plot centers have been identified and students were taught compass and pacing techniques to arrive at the plot centers. 122 of those plots have been inventoried over a five-year period. The concept is that in the fall of each year, the students will measure about 20% of the plots.

We are working with 7th grade students at C. R. Anderson Middle School in Helena, Montana. Mrs. Janet Erickson was the lead teacher during the first five years and she had an average of 155 students involved in the project each year. Upon her retirement, Mrs. Leslie Hagengruber took over with her average class size of 60 students. Cooperators with the Eastside Chapter have been an average of 15 natural resource professionals, technicians and volunteers from the Society of American Foresters, Helena National Forest, Montana Discovery Foundation, Native Plant Society, City of Helena, Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) and Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS). Field equipment was purchased with a grant from the U. S. Forest Service in 2003. Plot forms were modified by MSU Extension Forestry from material prepared for their Forest Stewardship training package. Training materials were copied and assembled by the Montana Discovery Foundation.

Over the first five years, 122 permanent plots were inventoried. In the sixth, seventh and eighth years, students remeasured the plots established during the first year three years. That process of remeasuring plots on a five year interval can continue indefinitely. Groups of four to six students coordinate with their natural resource advisor to collect the data on each plot. In recent years, the students have used GPS to relocate the plot centers.

Students have learned the plants that grow in our forested area, how to use the inventory equipment and the frequency that deer use the different forest conditions. Natural resource personnel talk to each group about different site conditions, tree growth patterns and forest disturbances such as fire, insects and noxious weeds. The students utilize the information they collect for up to 7 class periods as part of their math, science, computer and English training. By comparing the data they collect with the original information, they can evaluate growth or mortality. Several students from previous years have volunteered to help current classes. Some of the students have obtained summer jobs with the Helena National Forest forest plan monitoring project.

The City of Helena receives a copy of the data each year. This gives them the information about current forest conditions and how their forest is changing over time.

TEACHING THE SCIENCE OF WILDLAND FIRE, Missoula, Summer 2023

<http://www.firelab.org/project/fireworks-educational-program>

Contact Ilana Abrahamson for more information: ilanalabrahamson@fs.fed.us

Opportunity: *Become a Teacher (reach out to youth) or Facilitator (teach educators), using hands-on activities about wildland fire behavior, ecology, and management.*

Learn how to teach young people about the science of wildland fire by using lessons and materials from the FireWorks program in this free class provided by the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory. Conduct lab experiments, use botanical specimens, tell stories, and use role playing to increase your knowledge and teaching skills. You will participate in more than 20 hands-on activities that explore the physical science of combustion, influences of the environment on fire behavior, smoke dispersion, plant and animal adaptations to fire, fire history, modern-day changes in fuels and fire regimes, and strategies for managing wildland fire. By the end of the workshop, you will be able to use FireWorks to reach out to students and educators, increasing their understanding of physical science, biology, ecology, and wildland fire.

FireWorks, originally published in 2000, is now revised to include new science findings and link to current educational standards. The program includes separate curricula targeting the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels. Sixteen trunks are available for loan in Montana. See locations at

<https://www.firelab.org/project/fireworks-educational-program>

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, Fort Missoula, July 4, 2023

<https://fortmissoulamuseum.org/event/4th-at-the-fort-celebration/>

Opportunity: *help with the saw mill and/or other activities*

The Friends of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula are ready for Missoula's Annual 4th of July Celebration. The day starts out with a huge pancake breakfast 8:00 until 11:00, with entertainment and special events from 10:00 until 4:00.

Festivities include: musical entertainment at the gazebo by many local Missoula favorites throughout the afternoon. A welcoming ceremony will commence at 1:00, with a special historical oration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the women's suffrage movement. On hand throughout the day will be model trains; ham radios; children's games; crafts, food, special displays, tours of the lookout, schoolhouse and locomotive; demonstrations of the historic sawmill and telegraph, historical surveying, fire trucks; a visit to medieval times with the Society for Creative Anachronism; and lots more.

The Hayes Homestead Cabin will be open with lots of homesteading activities such as laundering, spinning wool, wheat grinding, and rope-making. High school students from the Missoula County Public Schools Ag Center will bring their four-footed friends to the corral for visitors to meet. Come and visit!

MT NATURAL RESOURCES YOUTH CAMP (MNRYC), Lubrecht Forest near Potomac, July 16-21, 2023

<https://www.montana.edu/extension/forestry/mnryc/index.html>

Contact Christina Opegard 406-243-2773 christina.oppegard@mso.umt.edu

Opportunity: *spread the word, become a counselor or instructor, serve on the board*

Themes

- * Biological Principles of Sustainable Ecosystems
- * Stewardship of Working Landscapes
- * Personal Growth and Leadership

Purpose

- 1) To introduce our youth to the variety of natural resources and systems found in Montana through explorations of geology, water, wildlife, range, forest, and soil resources.
- 2) To help students understand the concept of conservation by:
 - a) Sharing historical perspectives of natural resource use development.
 - b) Learning how the concepts of preservation, conservation, ecosystem management, stewardship, and sustainable use have developed.
 - c) Giving an overview of applied management practices and guidelines.
- 3) Provide students the opportunity to hear about different land use perspectives and ethics by:
 - a) Interacting with different instructors, disciplines and perspectives.
 - b) Encouraging students to interact with each other and share their own cultural, geographic and land-use backgrounds.
 - c) Participating in activities that provide for actual land management decision making and its consequences.

- 4) To enjoy meeting new people, participating in outdoor recreational activities and experience personal growth and leadership.

Philosophy

The future decisions of how our natural resources will be managed will be made by the youth of today. By providing youth an opportunity to learn about the scientific principles, economic realities, historical heritage, and social perspectives of today, we can help these future leaders in their quest to develop policies that are informed and progressive. It is our belief that in order to make thoughtful decisions, each person must know him/herself, must understand the values on which his/her beliefs are based, and must be willing and able to understand and respect the values and views of others in working towards conservation of our natural resources.

MONTANA FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK, Statewide, October 22-28, 2023

<https://www.facebook.com/MTForestProductsWeek>

Contact Tom Perry tom.perry@mt.gov 406-542-4210

Opportunity: *Be involved with the planning committee, offer a Walk in the Woods with a local school, join locals for the timber tours and more.*

Montanans across Big Sky Country will celebrate the third annual Montana Forest Products Week during the third week in October this year. Montana's Legislature established this week in 2011 to honor our forest products industry--extending appreciation for:

- Supplying **locally made wood product**
 - **Stewardship** of our private and public forest
 - Providing **gainful employment**
 - Maintaining **access** to public and private forests
-