

62nd Annual North Central Forest Pest Workshop

September 23rd - 26th, 2013; Frontenac, Minnesota



NCFPW 2013 Group photo

Overview

The 2013 North Central Forest Pest Workshop was held September 23-26 at the Villa Maria Retreat Center in Frontenac, Minnesota. The theme was made up of multiple topics.

Schedule

The meeting began on **Monday, September 23rd**, with registration and socializing in the evening. A fungal foray was held on the grounds of the Villa Maria in the afternoon. An evening icebreaker was held on-site, with a campfire out back behind the meeting space (Ursuline Hall).

Presentations began in Ursuline Hall at 8:000 a.m. on **Tuesday, September 24th**. Posters were available for viewing in Marian Hall throughout the day. The morning session included talks on EAB and other exotic invasive insects, native pathogens, and the first two talks of the student presentations. The afternoon started with short State and Provincial updates, then we had talks on silviculture and resistance breeding related to EAB, and then Heterobasidion root disease (HRD). After a full day of technical sessions, we enjoyed a fun run/walk through the bottomland forest to the shore of Lake Pepin. After dinner (on site), we had an organized discussion of biocontrol options for managing HRD, and also a campfire.

We began **Wednesday, September 25th** with the remaining eight student papers. After a coffee break, we loaded up on buses and headed out for the field trip. We had 3 stops on the field trip. We looked at invasive plants at a city park in Red Wing, then came back to Frontenac to spend the rest of the day in Frontenac State Park. On the upper area of Frontenac State Park, we discussed sampling for EAB, butternut canker, bur oak blight, fire/prairie management, aspen health, oak wilt, and various other maladies currently affecting tree health. We finished the field trip on a bottomland section of the forest, where we discussed walnut twig beetle/thousand cankers disease and American elm/Dutch elm disease. On Wednesday evening we gathered at Woodhaven Lodge (at Villa Maria) for the business meeting, dinner and a guest speaker from the National Eagle Center.

On **Thursday, September 26th**, we continued our indoor technical session with talks on recent landscape disturbances, including aspen decline, spruce budworm, and beech bark disease. We finished up with a couple more talks on additional aspects of EAB.

Link to detailed agenda: [AGENDA](#)

Highlights and notables

- There were 85 registrants and speakers who participated in all or parts of the meeting, including 13 students.
- Each participant received a NCFPW travel mug and a “Play, Clean, Go” bag including a boot pick (to stop the spread of invasives in our tracks!). Speakers were thanked with a gift of Minnesota wild rice, or with a “buckthorn blaster”.
- The meeting venue was the Villa Maria Retreat Center, which is nestled between Frontenac State Park and Lake Pepin on the Mississippi River. Marian Hall (photo upper right), which was originally the dormitory for the boarding school, sets an imposing and majestic feeling as you enter the site. Ursuline hall (photo below right) provided good space for our indoor technical sessions.
- The “fun run” (walk for most!) through the bottomland forest to Sand Point was a great chance to stretch legs after a full day of talks on Tuesday.
- The student paper session and competition was a great addition, resulting in higher student participation in the meeting. We want to keep this as part of the traditions! Congratulations to winner Kara Lorion, and runner up Derek Rosenberger. The participants and winners are listed [HERE](#).
- The weather for the meeting was fantastic, Wednesday (field trip day) was an absolute gift.
- The field trip was mostly local, providing more opportunities for time in the woods rather than on a bus. See photos on following pages for highlights of the field trip.
- The Business Meeting
 - Election of new Members-at-Large on the Board of Representatives:
 - 2014 meeting location will be Iowa.
 - Read the complete minutes, posted here: [MINUTES](#)

Registration details

Registration for the full Workshop was \$165, or \$200 for late registration. Student registration was available for \$100, and single day options were also offered (\$30 to 85, depending on day). Most registrations were received by credit card through “PayPal”, but people were also able to pay by check.

Housing was available on-site at Marian Hall, which was originally a dormitory for a girls’ academy and boarding school. Cost for a shared room for all three nights was \$120, for a private room it was \$181.



Marian Hall provided space for meals and lodging.



Lake Pepin, from Sand Point beach looking across to Wisconsin.



Interior of Ursuline Hall, where the technical sessions took place.

Thanks to the organizing committee

The Workshop Organizing Committee included: Val Cervenka- chairperson (MN DNR), Linda Haugen (USFS-NA), Jennifer Juzwik (USFS-NRS), Jana Albers (MN DNR), Mike Albers (MN DNR), Steve Katovich (USFS-NA), Brian Aukema (U of MN), and Richard Wilson (Ontario MNR). Additional assistance was provided by Joe O’Brien (USFS-NA), Paul Castillo (USFS-NRS), and Susan Burks (MN DNR).

Thanks to Joe O’Brien, Dana Richter, and Linda Haugen for providing photos for the webpage.

Images from the 2013 NCFPW Field Trip



The first stop was a portion of a city park in Red Wing that has multiple invasive plant issues. Monika Chandler shared information with the group about Oriental bittersweet (which was vining up the trees) and other invasive plants.

This site also allowed participants to share their knowledge about Japanese barberry, buckthorn, and black locust.



Lunch at the upper picnic area of Frontenac State Park provided great opportunities for participants to visit with colleagues and meet other forest health specialists while enjoying the views.



Images from the 2013 NCFPW field trip (continued)



Jeff Fidgen and Mark Abrahamson provided a demonstration of how to sample for EAB in suspect ash trees. Participants were able to practice their cutting and peeling on the samples they took down. No EAB were discovered.



On the overlook trail that goes East from the upper picnic area at Frontenac State Park, participants learned about Bur Oak Blight (BOB) from Jill Pokorny, Butternut canker research from Melanie Moore, and the restoration of historic fire regimes in the bluffs from Shawn Fritcher.



Images from the 2013 NCFPW field trip (continued)



On the trail that goes West from the upper picnic area, participants observed current forest health problems on the site as they walked out to an active oak wilt pocket. Jennifer Juzwik led a discussion on oak wilt, and Mike Albers addressed aspen decline.



Shawn Fritcher provided an introduction to history and management of the bottomland forest at Frontenac State Park. Why did the tour group cross the road??? To get to the bottomland forest, where Garrett Beier, Linda Haugen and Brian Aukema talked about American elm issues, and Jenny Juzwik and Kathy Kromroy talked about walnut twig beetle and walnut issues.



We closed out our field trip day with a dinner at Woodhaven Lodge, the highlight of which was an excellent talk by Scott Melhus of the National Eagle Center in Wabasha.