

## 2018 SCSC Science & Nature Conference Presenters

**The Bakken Museum** is a center of science and innovation in Minneapolis dedicated to inspiring a passion for science and potential to make the world a better place.

**Breeanna Bateman** is a watershed scientist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

**Al Batt** is a writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. He is a radio personality, book author and a columnist for newspapers and magazines. He is an avid birder, writes cartoons and speaks all over the world. His mother thinks he is special.

**Dr. Tyronne E. Carter, “Dr. Fun,”** is the director of marketing and curriculum design for America’s Fun Science, which offers hands-on science enrichment activities and STEM programs throughout the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. Tyronne is a licensed, experienced K–8 science teacher, licensed K–12 principal, and a member of both the National Science Teachers Association and American Society for Engineering Education. He is also a certified STEM instructor through the University of Colorado Engineering School and the University of St. Thomas Engineering Education program. The goal of America’s Fun Science is to instill in students an interest and understanding of the world around them through fun, hands-on STEM activities including utilization of the engineering design process.

**Katie Chapman** is the director of environmental education at Shetek Lutheran Ministries.

**Children’s Museum of Southern Minnesota** educators work as catalysts for building a stronger, more vibrant community around play so that all children in our region share in a bright future of opportunity and well-being.

**James H Dontje** is the director of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation at Gustavus Adolphus College.

**Bob Ebsen** is the education director at the Wildlife Science Center.

**Heidi Ferris** is from Growing Green Hearts, LLC. Growing Green Hearts is all about creative science education and environmental STEM. Together they connect people with nature and play while problem-solving to love our planet’s shared resources.

**James E. Gerholdt** has been working with reptiles for more than 50 years and worked in zoos for more than 26 years. He is a founding member of the Minnesota Herpetological Society and has taught classes at the Science Museum of Minnesota for more than 20 years. He currently maintains, under permit, three of the protected threatened species of Minnesota reptiles.

**Dr. Bruce Giebink, “Bruce the Bug Guy,”** is founder and manager of his own business, “The Bug Zone, LLC.” Bruce specializes in delivering a variety of educational programs about insects and related arthropods. After obtaining his doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he accepted entomology positions at Michigan State University (1988–1990) and University of Minnesota Extension Service (1990–1999). Prior to founding “The Bug Zone, LLC” in 2000, Bruce coordinated pest management and water quality programs as an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota.

**Jessie Hendrix** is a naturalist with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

**Petra Johnson** is from Growing Green Hearts, LLC where science is used to educate students to play, learn and love nature! They offer site visits for kids, environmental STEM trainings for teachers and nature play coaching for community groups to find wonder and hope in the interconnected systems around us while building leadership in students.

**Sue Knott** is an education specialist with Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom.

**Lee Ann Landstrom** is the retired director of Eastman Nature Center, Three Rivers Park District. She was an interpretive naturalist at Eastman and Dodge Nature Centers from 1980–2015 and a school-age instructor for the Science Museum of Minnesota. Lee Ann co-authored “Nature’s Yucky,” an award-winning nonfiction children’s book series. She has traveled the globe and particularly loves tropical rainforests for their biodiversity.

**Mike Lynch** is a radio meteorologist for WCCO for more than 38 years. He has also presented and educated many on astronomy and starwatching for more than 47 years.

**Livi Martin** is a naturalist with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

**Mad Science of Minnesota** is the world's leading science enrichment provider for preschool and elementary students. They spark imaginative learning through interactive sessions on many STEM topics.

**The Minnesota Zoomobile** and its team of trained naturalists travel to schools and community events throughout Minnesota and beyond, providing an educational and entertaining environmental experience to a variety of audiences. Zoomobile naturalists use live animals, biological artifacts, theater techniques, storytelling and audience participation to create a dynamic, personal and fun program for all ages.

**Dr. Rebecca Moen** is an assistant professor in the department of chemistry and geology at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She will be accompanied by biochemistry lab students and assistants.

**Alisha Paplow** is a naturalist and environmental education coordinator with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

**Jessie Petricka** is an associate professor of physics at Gustavus Adolphus College. The Gustavus Society of Physics Students will assist with the presentations.

**Erin Rupp** is the founder and executive director of Pollinate Minnesota.

**Melanie Schmidt** is the youth development program coordinator for Mankato Area Public Schools' Community Education and Recreation Department. She also coaches speech and debate and presents at student conferences across the state.

**Andrea Schneider** is the owner and operator of I Know My Way, LLC, Orienteering USA (OUSA) and a Certified Coach Level I. By training, Andrea is a physicist and plastics engineer, but by passion she is an orienteering coach, who learned to read maps well before learning to read books. She started competitive orienteering at the age of eight, and has coached her sons, one on the Orienteering USA National Junior Team and one on the National Team. Having enjoyed this sport for many years in the form of competition, mapping, teaching and coaching, Andrea recently founded I Know My Way, LLC, to bring the life skill of navigation to school curricula and field trips.

**Science Museum of Minnesota** educators are highly qualified instructors with varied backgrounds and specialties. Collectively, they are experts in biology, sculpture, designing computer games, forensic science, carpentry and much more.

**Art and Barb Straub** are retired elementary school instructors who volunteer at the Henderson Feathers Mini Science Museum and the J. R. Brown Minnesota River Center in Henderson, Minnesota. They have been active in environmental education for 55 years and desire to share the fantastic natural phenology of the Minnesota River Valley with anyone who is interested.

**Sheila Stevensen** is an American Society for Clinical Pathology certified medical laboratory technician with the Mayo Clinic Health System at the Mankato hospital laboratory.

**Stephene Studer** is a naturalist with the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

**Jerry Wenzel** retired in 2007 after teaching middle school life science for 35 years in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. He continues to inspire students with his science magic presentations in schools across Minnesota.

**The Works Museum** mission is to inspire the next generation of innovators, engineers and creative problem solvers. Dreams need doing and exploring engineering gives students the power to make stuff, break stuff and make it better! We need the imagination and skill of engineers to solve the problems and address the challenges of our modern world. Engineering fuels collaboration, persistence and problem-solving; critical skills for every student from every walk of life. The Works Museum welcomes you to explore engineering and stretch your imagination. Their exhibits, programs and design challenges engage students in science, technology and engineering and make learning memorable and fun. Learn more at [www.theworks.org](http://www.theworks.org).

**The Prairie Ecology Bus Center** programs serve pre-school learners through adults using a variety of on-site and outreach programs to educate about the environment, helping people develop a sense of place and appreciation for the communities in which we live.