

2006 OFWIM ANNUAL MEETING

Details

Conference Fees

Early registration is due by September 15, 2006

- **\$260** Members – early registration
- **\$275** Members – late registration
- **\$275** Non-members – early registration
- **\$290** Non-members – late registration

Meeting Registration Fee includes:

- Welcome Social – Monday, October 16 (light hors d' oeuvres and cash bar)
- Hacker's Ball – Tuesday, October 17 (hot and cold hors d' oeuvres and cash bar)
- Lunch/Business Meeting – Wednesday, October 18
- Banquet – Wednesday, October 18

Presenters will have the opportunity to showcase web-based applications "live" at the **Hacker's Ball**. Interested individuals should contact **Janet Hess-Herbert** (jhessherbert@mt.gov) for details on Hacker's Ball opportunities and requirements.

Hotel

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, MN

Room rates:

- \$105 (single)
- \$130 (double)
- \$155 (triple)
- \$180 (quadruple)

Call for hotel reservations: **612-370-1234** or **800-233-1234**. Mention "*OFWIM Meeting*". Room block held until September 19, 2006.

Field Trips

Field trips will be held on Monday October 16th.

The following are options being considered by the OFWIM Meeting Planning Committee. Participants who wish to may submit rankings for top 3 choices (1=highest) to Viv Hutchison (vhutchison@usgs.gov) (*Disclaimer: All information below quoted from websites.*)

Half-day Field Trips (Outdoor)

1. Fort Snelling – US Bird Sanctuary / Minnehaha Falls

Located in the heart of the Twin Cities, this 2,931 acre park offers extensive hiking, bike and ski trails that link to Minnehaha Park and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Ca-

noe on Gun Club Lake, play golf, swim in Snelling Lake, or hike on Pike Island where the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers converge. Interpretive exhibits and films on display in the Thomas C. Savage Visitor Center give visitors a good background on the history and resources of the park and area. Trails also allow visitors to hike up to the historic Fort Snelling for a view of military life in the 1820s.

2. Cedar Creek Natural History Area

The University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Natural History Area is like a miniature copy of Minnesota, with northern evergreen forests, deciduous woodlands, prairies, lakes, savannas, and even a few active agricultural fields. Over its long history it has become one of the world's classic ecological research sites, and it remains first and foremost dedicated to research. We welcome the public to learn about the University's work and to experience the diverse natural habits of Cedar Creek through guided tours and events.

Half-day Field Trips (Indoor)

1. Wildlife Science Center

The Wildlife Science Center is a non-profit, science-based education facility that is home to the largest captive population of privately maintained wolves in the United States. Over 25,000 people annually attend educational programs specializing in wolves and other Minnesota predators. Along with over 35 critically endangered red, Mexican gray, and other gray wolves, the Wildlife Science Center is also home to black bears, foxes, lynx, coyote, skunks, raccoons, a porcupine, and birds of prey.

2. Raptor Center at U of M

Established in 1974, The Raptor Center specializes in the medical care, rehabilitation, and conservation of eagles, hawks, owls, and falcons. In addition to treating approximately 800 birds a year, the internationally known program reaches more than 240,000 people each year through public education programs and events, provides training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world, and identifies emerging issues related to raptor health and populations. The majority of its funding comes from private donations.

Other interesting things to do in the Minneapolis area on your own:

Walking tour of Mississippi River

1 mile from hotel to Lock and Dam #1 and St. Anthony Falls:

- Tour Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam
- Walk across the hundred year old Stone Arch Bridge overlooking historic St. Anthony Falls. See historic flourmills.

Canoe Racing Practice

Looking for an interesting workout? Try Canoe Racing!

- Monday evening 5:30pm - 7:30pm
- East River Flats Park on the East Bank of the Mississippi River on the University of Minnesota campus.
- 10 miles of racing paddling with instruction – both down and upstream takes FREE!

Minneapolis Skyway System

Built to protect downtown workers and shoppers from the elements, the skyways have developed into little cities within cities with restaurants, shops and services. Minneapolis and St. Paul each have about five miles of skyways connecting numerous downtown blocks, making it easy to go from store to store without ever venturing outside.