

## Linda Parker

Forest Ecologist on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Linda Parker is the Forest Ecologist on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest where she is responsible for several large programs including ecology, botany, and climate change. Serving in this position since 1991, Linda provides leadership and expertise on rare plants, non-native invasive plants, fire ecology, landscape ecology, natural areas, ecological restoration, pollinator management, and climate change adaptation.



Linda was a pioneer of the Climate Change Response Framework and has co-authored numerous publications on climate change impacts and mitigation opportunities. Linda also helped develop an approach to climate change adaptation in the Western Great Lakes region. A field project demonstrating this approach on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest was recently recognized by the American Society for Adaptation Professionals as a Prize for Progress Finalist.

Linda worked with Dr. Bob Howe, Dr. Amy Wolf, and others from University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and US Forest Service to coordinate and conduct breeding bird surveys on the Nicolet National Forest for 30 years. She also coordinated a similar effort on the Chequamegon National Forest in partnership with the University of Minnesota-Duluth and the Natural Resources Research Institute. These long-term surveys recently received national awards from Partners in Flight and Wings Across the Americas.

In the early to mid-1990's Linda Parker led a team of field ecologists in an effort to identify and protect natural-area quality ecosystems on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This work led to the designation of nearly 185,000 acres in 251 natural areas, including 104 new State Natural Areas.

After graduating with honors with a double major in Biological Resource Management and Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in 1985, Linda then received a Master of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She began her career with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the Bureau of Research where she wrote a feasibility assessment for the reintroduction of elk, moose, and caribou to Wisconsin and later, a management plan for elk reintroduction.

Linda received the US Forest Service Celebrating Wildflowers award in 2007 for her highly successful Botanical program, including rare plant protection, identification of wildflower viewing areas, and establishment native plant gardens and nurseries. She was a co-recipient of the 2009 Wings Across the Americas Butterfly Conservation award, a co-recipient of the 2008

Director's Award for Excellence in Botany, and a co-recipient of a US Department of Agriculture group award for excellence. She is a two-time recipient of the White Lady's Slipper Award from the Aldo Leopold Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology.

In addition to her regular duties, Linda also frequently serves on incident management teams that manage the response to emergencies including natural disasters and wildfires. Her past assignments, as a wildland fire fighter or a public information officer, have taken her to wildfires California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, and numerous assignments around the Great Lakes.

Linda has been married to John Krause, also an ecologist, for 28 years. They have two sons, Tristan (24) and Collin (20), who were frequent "field assistants" for their parents.