

***Minnesota Conservation Volunteer***  
**Guidelines for Writers**

**Queries and Essays:** For features (1,200 to 1,800 words) and field notes (200 to 500 words), we'd like to see a query before you write your article. Describe it in a letter or e-mail to the editorial staff. Briefly summarize the story and explain why it would be of interest to our readers. By doing this, you make sure that the story idea is new and well suited to *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*. We often make suggestions to help you shape the story to the magazine's requirements. For essays (such as A Sense of Place, 800 to 1,200 words), please send a complete manuscript for our review. Warning: We receive more essays than feature pitches, so we only publish writers who fully understand essay mechanics and style. For all articles, keep the tone casual, use quotes and anecdotes liberally, and feel free to use first-person narration as a device for pulling your reader into the story.

**Payment:** We typically pay \$0.50 per assigned word for original features and essays of average length and difficulty, and \$100 for e-rights to features, essays, and reprints (available indefinitely in archives).

**Editing:** Don't be surprised if your story is extensively edited; most *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* stories are. We expect the author to vouch for facts, names, and quotations included in the story. To ensure accuracy, we may call sources in the story to verify facts. Audience: As you write, keep our readers in mind. Nearly without exception, they live in Minnesota and look to *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* to provide information about their state. This bimonthly magazine of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources circulates to more than 165,000 subscribers in Minnesota—including all schools and libraries in the state—and has a readership of nearly half a million. It is uniquely supported by donations from its readers.

If you have questions about submitting your work to the magazine or about subject matter, please contact managing editor Michael Kallok. We'll be glad to discuss your work with you and its possible use in *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer*.

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