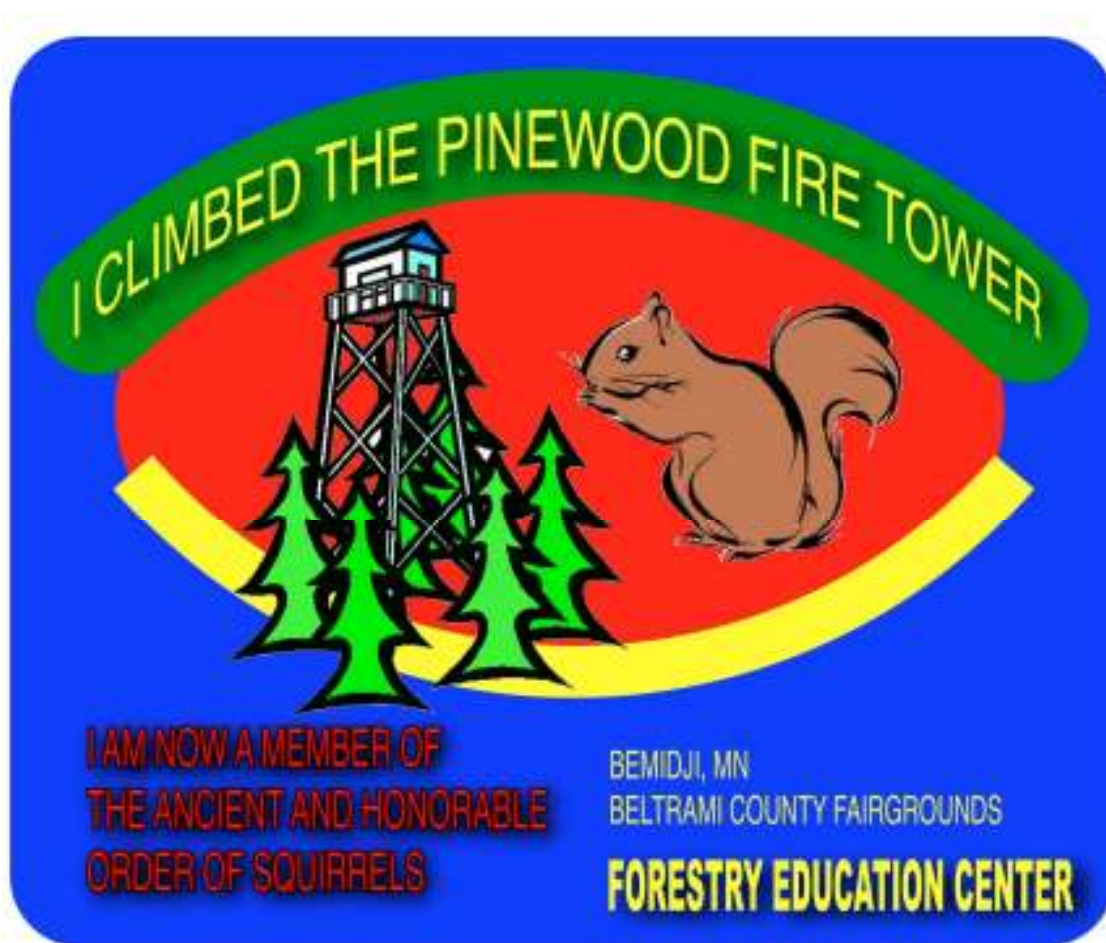


Minnesota Chapter report for 2018

Pequot Lakes Fire Tower in Northern part of the State will be having a renovation and later open to visitors....

The Fire Tower at the Bemidji Fairgrounds had over 1400 climbers during fair week and two hundred through the summer... During fair week we gave away shirt stickers, ran out at 1000.... I will not be doing stickers next year. \$\$\$ issue...



Inside the Forestry Education Center building we ran a 3min video on Western Fires on a 16x9 foot screen.. With large base speakers to make the fire heard... This video on the large screen put everyone on the edge of their chair...!!! The showing was a hit!!

From Lane Johnson:

The Cloquet Tower currently owned by the University of Minnesota. In September we had a new fence at the base of the tower installed to replace the old and much damaged chain-link fence. The new fence is 6ft high chain-link with a 4ft door. The door remains latched but unlocked at this time to allow for visitor access.

We have a fire tower safety assessment currently underway, and we are supposed to receive a report soon with observations and recommendations for making updates to the tower stairs and railings. We contracted with Collaborative Design Group (CDG), an engineering firm out of the Twin Cities for the assessment.

Once the safety assessment report is complete, we'll develop a list of next steps desired to keep the tower available for education and research. We have some very general plans to install a phenocam at the height of the observation cabin that can be live streamed online. In the future, it would be great to have some interpretive material in the observation cabin or at the base of the tower explaining the history of the landscape features visible from the tower.

In the near future, we need to get formal signage posted with use recommendations for tower visitors. Eventually we'll be able to officially advertise the tower as a destination. Right now, we are not advertising the tower as a public resource on our website, or in any informational hand outs.

Minnesota Report by Dave Quam