



Professor George Weiblen is the Science Director of the Bell Museum at the University of Minnesota. He holds tenure in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology and teaches in the College of Biological Sciences. He graduated from Minneapolis South High School which is close to the location of George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis Police. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from Reed College in Portland, Oregon and Master's and PhD degrees from Harvard University.

He has focused on the biodiversity of Papua New Guinea for 30-plus years and is fluent in Melanesian Pidgin. He and his collaborators manage the largest long-term forest plot in Oceania as part of the Forest Global Earth Observatories network. ForestGEO monitors how thousands of species and millions of trees are responding to global change. His genetic research examines figs, mulberries, nettles, hops, and hemp. His laboratory maintains the first Drug Enforcement Administration registration for *Cannabis* genetic research in the United States. He has co-authored more than 80 peer-reviewed scientific articles including several in *Science* and *Nature*. His work has been supported by more than 25 grants and research contracts totaling over \$5 million dollars from sources including the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

Professor Weiblen was recognized in 2017 as the University of Minnesota President's Community Engaged Scholar for his efforts in public engagement and science communication. He is a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer and a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He is also an Eagle Scout, born and raised in Minnesota. He was baptized, confirmed & married at Central Lutheran Church, of which is a member. He enjoys backcountry botanizing and adventurous eating.