

Hello all,

Autumn is upon us and the harvest weather is telling us to get out this weekend to enjoy the fall colors, a late season paddle or help your community by organizing a river cleanup. Head out to the New Ulm or Upper Minnesota Watershed area for a wide range of events and activities.



Fall weekends are also great for reading a new book. Check out *Dream Hunter: A National Wildlife Refuge Manager's Memoir* by Ed Crozier. Crozier worked as the first manager of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge from 1979 to 1988. The book can be purchased through the Friends of the Minnesota Valley at [www.friendsofmnvalley.org](http://www.friendsofmnvalley.org)

The Minnesota Environmental Initiative has been retained by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to design, manage, and facilitate a year-long stakeholder process to develop implementation strategies and timelines for Minnesota's new mercury TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load). For more information check out [www.mn-ei.org](http://www.mn-ei.org) or contact Kabby Jones, project manager at 612-334-3388 ext. 109 or [kjones@mn-ei.org](mailto:kjones@mn-ei.org)

"We need ORDINARY FOLKS" is an article written by Phil Hunsicker in the 1000 Friends of Minnesota's newsletter. Phil writes about why we need ordinary people like you and I to step up in our communities (thanks Lauren for passing it on):

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/weneedordinaryfolks.pdf>

#### **Events:**

Head for the Upper Minnesota Watershed this weekend starting on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> for the annual Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl to be held at 45 sites from Granite Falls to Clinton. For more information call 866-866-5432 or [www.artsmeander.com](http://www.artsmeander.com)

New Ulm is another good place to be this weekend. Check out the Oktoberfest celebration on Friday and Saturday at the Holiday Inn. Go out to Morgan Creek Vineyard on Saturday for the Grape Stomp. On Sunday check out the Farrier and Rope Maker at Harkin Store from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance will be holding its next quarterly meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the New Century Charter School in Hutchinson. We will be picking the "Clean Up the Minnesota River" issue for 2008. For more information [www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com](http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is holding series of public information meetings on "Minnesota's List of 'Polluted Waters.'" Meetings in the Minnesota Watershed include October 8<sup>th</sup> at the MPCA Marshall Office and October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Blue Earth County Library in Mankato. Both meetings go from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Check out more up-coming events click on the calendar at <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

#### **Grant Opportunity:**

The open application period for funding through the Clean Water Legacy Grant program by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will be from October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup>, pending final approval by the BWSR board: [http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/CWL\\_fundingMemo.pdf](http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/CWL_fundingMemo.pdf). The Minnesota River Board can be of assistance if you are looking for an approved organization when applying for Clean Water Legacy funds. For more information contact Shannon Fisher at 507-389-5690.

The Environmental Assistance Fiscal Year 2008 (FY08) Grant Round is now posted at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency web site: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html>. The deadline for submittal of Preliminary Applications is October 29, 2007.

Project Learning Tree has grant funding of \$200 to \$1,000 for teachers interested in environmental community action and service learning projects. The deadline for these grants is October 31, 2007. For more information go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/plt.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/plt.html)

**Water quality related articles:**

Small towns across Minnesota are looking to use wind, biomass and other types of renewable energy to supply their communities:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/smalltownsalternativepower.pdf>

The West Central Research and Outreach Center and University of Minnesota are looking to install a second wind turbine: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sparewindturbine.pdf>

U.S. Congressman Jim Oberstar wants to restore the Clean Water Act and is stirring up opposition among some county commissioners:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/restorecleanwateract.pdf>

According to a survey conducted by the Izaak Walton League, off-road vehicles are damaging wildlife habitat and disrupting outings for hunters and anglers:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/offroadproblems.pdf>

A new invasive aquatic plant called Brazillian elodea has been discovered in Powderhorn Lake in south Minneapolis: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/newinvasiveaquatic.pdf>

Preliminary plans and specifications have been completed for a new wastewater treatment plant and conveyance system in Willmar:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/willmarwastetreatmentplant.pdf>

Close to 100 water bodies in the Minnesota River Watershed have been added to the 2008 draft Impaired Waters list: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/impairedwaterslist.pdf>

\$470,000 has been provided by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources to protect rock outcrops on private property:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/easementsrockoutcrop.pdf>

A switch from biweekly to weekly recycling in Roseville increases the amount of recycled trash by 73 tons or 6 percent: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/reyclingdifference.pdf>

Farm Bureau is working to tell the story of agriculture to the general public by talking about how food gets to our table: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/agriculturestory.pdf>

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at:

<http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

**The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. The Watershed Alliance meets four times a year and encourages landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of this effort.**

Thank you, Scott