

Minnesota Bound – Citizen Monitoring Program

On the July 20th show, Paul Wymar of the Chippewa River Watershed Project and Laurie Sovell from MPCA were featured on the Minnesota Bound - <http://www.mnbound.com/c-56-.aspx> program talking about the Minnesota Stream Citizen Monitoring Program.

It Takes a Village to Raise a Turbine: Making the Case for Community-Owned Windpower

A look at building community owned and power cooperatives to keep from sending electricity over transmission wires to power homes and businesses far way.

<http://www.socialfunds.com/news/article.cgi/2538.html>

Livestock Grazing: For Love and Money

BUTTERFIELD, MN – During the 1980s the economy was battering farmers, money was hard to come by and it sure wasn't growing on trees. Dan and Terese Hall raise cattle and sheep southwest of Butterfield. They got involved in managed intensive grazing in the mid-80s when they turned 10 acres of alfalfa into a pasture. By 1993 they stopped row-crop farming and now have about 200 acres of grass pasture.

For the rest of the article, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/forloveormoney.pdf>

Lab makes renewable diesel from E. coli poop

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, California – Fossil fuels that keep our planet running – oil, natural gas and coal – were created from the decomposition of plants, plankton and other organic material over millions of years. Today, scientists all over the globe are working to create fuels with the same properties but without the pesky 100 million-year-wait. And “renewable petroleum” is now a reality, on a small scale, in some laboratories.

For the rest of the article, <http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/08/12/bug.diesel/index.html>

Events:

August 15th (Friday) is the **Bioenergy Crops & Water Quality Agroecology Summit** at Willow Lake Farm from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is for agriculture and conservation educators. Topics include: Water and nutrient holding capacity of perennial bioenergy crops, Cover cropping and bioenergy crops, and Climate change and the future of bioenergy crops. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bioenergycropswaterquality.pdf>

August 28th (Thursday) is the **Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project Summer Bus Tour and Open House** at the Sibley State Park – Cedar Hill Picnic Area – from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/shakopeecreekopenhouse.pdf>

August 29th & 30th (Friday & Saturday) is **RIVER BLAST 2008** at Riverside Park in New Ulm. Look on www.riverblast.org to see a YouTube video link, and pictures of last year's event; along with the application to participate in the float flotilla.

August 31st (Sunday) is the **State Parks of Minnesota: A Photo Journey** starting at 7:00 p.m. in the AV room at Fort Ridgely Historic Site commissary. Go on a Minnesota vacation with photographer, Doug Ohman as he explores many of the states most interesting state parks. Doug has visited all 66 parks and has stories, history and personal adventures to share. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dougohmanpressrelease.pdf>

September 5th and 6th (Friday & Saturday) is the **Mussel Weekend in the Chippewa River Watershed**. Come out on Friday evening at 7 p.m. to hear Mike Davis of the MN DNR talk about the wonderful world of mussels in the Assembly Room of the Chippewa County Courthouse,

Montevideo. On Saturday morning we will be gathering at 9:00 a.m. for a mussel hike in the Chippewa River at the Highway 40 bridge. Be prepared to get wet. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/musselpresentation.pdf>

September 7th (Sunday) **Paddle the Pomme de Terre River** with the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) staff. Meet at the Appleton City Park at 1:30 p.m. to start the adventure. For more information, <http://www.curemriver.org/events.htm>

September 18th (Thursday) **Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project Public Meeting** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Old #1 Bar and Grill Southside (412 Atlantic Avenue), Morris. Come and find out about the new Pomme de Terre Watershed Turbidity TMDL project and get an update on the approved Fecal Coliform TMDL and implementation plan. For more information, contact Shaun McNally, Coordinator at 320-589-4886 ext. 109 or shaun.mcnally@mn.nacdnet.net

September 23-24 is the **Third Annual Lake Pepin TMDL Technical Conference: Creating a Blueprint for Restoration** at the AllTel Center in Mankato. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is hosting a technical conference to review the science behind the process. Latest modeling results will show the extent of sediment and phosphorus reductions that will be needed from upstream tributaries to meet water quality standards on the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin. Stakeholders and water resource managers from each part of the Lake Pepin watershed are invited to attend. Email norman.senjem@pca.state.mn.us for more information.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

[Water Quality Articles](#)

[In Scott County, soul of the land may be at stake](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Will the land remain rural or become part of suburbia? A day of touring farms gave officials a look at what's happening.

[Company fined for transporting zebra mussels through MN, VT](#) (KSTP). A North Dakota company has now been fined by Vermont and Minnesota for transporting zebra mussels through both states.

[Farmers, lawmakers debate impact of biofuels on food, other prices](#) (West Central Tribune). Emotions are rising nationally as leaders debate the question about whether biofuels such as ethanol are driving up food and other prices.

[Steve Morse: A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect Minnesota](#) (Winona Daily News). I am writing in support of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. As a former state senator from the area, outdoors enthusiast and father, I want all Minnesotans to know about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to vote on this very important constitutional question.

[Rep. Peterson pleased with EPA's ethanol decision](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota DFL Rep. Collin Peterson said he supports the EPA's decision not to reduce the federal ethanol mandate. The EPA denied a request from Texas that it reduce the amount of biofuels required to be blended into gas.

[Editorial: Bacteria to the rescue?](#) (Pioneer Press). Rock-Tenn is a publicly traded paper-recycling company. Its St. Paul mill is big, handling about 1 percent of the paper recycled in the United States. It employs some 475 people here, and the jobs pay well. A year ago, the mill lost the energy source it had relied on for nearly 25 years — steam from the coal-fired power plant on the

river five miles away. Since then, it's been burning fuel oil and natural gas in boilers right there at University Avenue and Vandalia Street on St. Paul's western edge.

[Heating and cooling from the ground up](#) (Pioneer Press). When Apple Valley's new municipal liquor store is completed this fall, it will have aisles for wine and liquor and two beer coolers — one for six-packs and a walk-in 'beer cave' to load up on cases.

[Chasing insects in Minnesota's wild places](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Kyle Johnson has been chasing butterflies since he was five years old, growing up in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He's now chasing his masters degree and trying to compile the first comprehensive list of insects in Minnesota bogs.

[Carp is an invasive species that is tough to control](#) (Worthington Daily Globe). Just how does the greatest idea at the time turn into the worst decision ever made?

[Toxic menace removed, public stuck with the bill?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). In March, city inspectors stopped at an old metal finishing shop on the North Side of Minneapolis to have a look around. Heavy snows pressed down on a partially collapsed roof. Inside the building was a witch's brew of chemicals in 180 containers, the caustic products and residues of 30 years of metal plating and finishing. They were stored in such a haphazard way, and the building was so dilapidated, that the city inspectors called for help.

[Recycle: To sort or not to sort?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The thought is a natural one for those going through the chore of sorting their recyclables: Do I have to do this?

[City law really gets their goat](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minneapolis residents want to be able to tend goats, pigs and bees in their city, as their St. Paul neighbors can.

[Krebs column: Unplug the Internet as state parks offering](#) (St. Cloud Times). When I first heard the state Department of Natural Resources announce a few months ago it was going to try to entice people to camp by offering free wireless internet access at Itasca State Park, I had one thought: What a waste!

[Column: I admit it: I'm an Earth doomer. Are you?](#) (Worthington Daily Globe). Oh, I don't really know. Ever since a column last week I have been asked, "Why are people so against bottled water?" Battling bottled water is a popular cause. San Francisco has banned the sale of water in bottles. Seattle will not permit bottled water in city facilities or at municipal events.

[USDA raises harvest estimates for corn, soybeans](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). After months of rising food prices, there may be some relief coming, with farmers on track to produce the second-largest corn crop and fourth-largest soybean crop in history.

[Vote Yes Minnesota draws wide crowd](#) (Mankato Free Press). So, a pheasant hunter, a symphony orchestra director and a sustainability expert walk into a picnic shelter. It's not a joke. It's a news conference conducted at Sibley Park by Vote Yes Minnesota, the unusual coalition urging passage of a constitutional amendment that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot.

[Xcel wind power proved to be a July bargain](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). John Dunlop's electricity bill last month tilted toward windmills.

[Grease lightning: A bus that runs on vegetable oil](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A bus that runs on vegetable oil is the symbol of 12 college students' nationwide sustainability tour.

The trouble with water – and there is trouble with water – is that they're not making any more of it. They're not making any less, mind, but no more either. People, however, they're making more of – many more, far more than is ecologically sensible – and all those people are utterly

dependent on water for their lives (humans consist mostly of water), for their livelihoods, their food, and increasingly, their industry. Humans can live for a month without food but will die in less than a week without water. Humans consume water, discard it, poison it, waste it, and restlessly change the hydrological cycles, indifferent to the consequences: too many people, too little water, water in the wrong places and in the wrong amounts. – Marq de Villiers, Water, 2000

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. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

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.

Thank you,

Scott

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