

Catfish caught in the Minnesota River

Joe Queen, Nick Johnstone and Cole Mettler were fishing at the 99 bridge in St. Peter when Nick caught a 40 pound catfish. To see photos of the catfish, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/catfishstpeter.pdf>

What Does Climate Change Mean for Minnesota?

- The state has warmed about one degree during the last 100 years. As the warming continues, Minnesota may look more like Missouri.
- Precipitation has increased 20 percent since 1900. This fits with the scenario that predicts a generally wetter and more humid Minnesota climate.
- We may lose our northern coniferous forests and our cold-loving creatures, such as trout and moose.

What Is Minnesota Doing?

In February 2007, Governor Tim Pawlenty signed into law bipartisan legislation that set a renewable energy requirement in Minnesota of 25 percent by the year 2025.

What Can I Do?

- Run all errands in one trip rather than several.
- Turn off and unplug from the wall lights, TVs and other electronic devices when not in use.
- Replace regular incandescent bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescents.
- Take public transportation or ride your bike (by avoiding just 10 miles of driving per week, you would eliminate about 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year.)
- Wash your clothes on cold and dry some loads outside on a cloths line.
- Bring your own reusable grocery bag.
- Attend the 2008 Eco Experience for more energy-saving tips.

This comes from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Eco Experience

Job Announcements:

District Wildlife Conservation Technician – Polk Soil & Water Conservation Service

The Technician is primarily responsible for promoting, and assisting landowners with enrollment of land into buffer practices and conservation programs. This would include promoting the enrollment of land into the program, determining eligibility of the land, and working with the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Agency to get contracts drawn up.

This position is a 40 hour/week, grant funded position with funding temporary up to 12 months. Starting salary is \$12.77/hour GS 4-1, negotiable depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include vacation, sick leave, holidays, and retirement plan contributions (PERA – Public Employee Retirement Association). For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/popeswcdtech.pdf>

Water Resources Specialist – Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD)

The RCWD is seeking a full-time Water Resources Specialist. The position is responsible for providing technical assistance to support the District's water resources protection and management activities including planning, permitting, program management, and project/program implementation.

Bachelor of Science degree or equivalent in Water Resources or related field is required. The applicant must have good skills in a variety of software programs including database

management, Excel, Word and Access. The salary range is \$34,400 to \$56,600 DOQ and experience, plus benefits.

Interested candidates must send a cover letter and resume by August 8, 2008 to: Theresa Stasica, Office Manager, Rice Creek Watershed District, 4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, Suite 611; Blaine, MN 55440 or email to: tstasica@ricecreek.org. For questions call 763-398-3070.

District Technician and Office Assistant – Cass County Soil Conservation District

The Cass County SCD in Fargo, ND currently has 2 open positions for employment due to employees resigning and moving to different areas.

- District Technician – Overall operation of the Tree planting operations
- Office Assistant – Will assist the Operations Coordinator and other office personnel in the daily operations of the office.

For further information, please see our website: www.cassscd.org. Wayne S. Stautz, Operations Coordinator, CASS Co SCD; 4660 Amber Valley Pkwy; Fargo, ND 58104-8612; 701-282-2157 ext 3; wayne.stautz@nd.nacdnet.net

District Technician and Program Assistant – Koochiching Soil & Water Conservation District

This full-time position (District Technician) performs a variety of technical work to support the programs and activities of the Koochiching SWCD. Primary duties include providing technical assistance and information on SWCD programs and activities, data management, and assisting in the planning and reporting procedures concerning SWCD, state and local programs. Salary is \$13.00 to \$16.88 per hour (\$27,040 to \$35,111 annually) plus benefit package (paid holidays, vacation, sick leave, insurance allowance, and retirement plan). Application deadline is August 15, 2008. For full job announcement, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/koochichingtech.pdf>

This part-time position (Program Assistant) assists with district financial operations as needed. The position coordinates the Volunteer Rain Gauge Monitoring Program, assists with District tree program and quarterly newsletter. They will also implements basic office duties, assist with District promotional and educational activities. Salary is \$10.00 to \$12.18. Application deadline is August 22, 2008. For full job announcement, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/koochichingprogramasst.pdf>

For more information may be obtained by calling 218-283-1174 or email pam.tomevi@mn.nacdnet.net

Events:

Bioenergy Crops & Water Quality Agroecology Summit – Willow Lake Farm

This field day on August 15th (Friday) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. is for agriculture and conservation educators. With its native grasses, wetlands, ponds, and waterways, Willow Lake Farm (93532 520th Ave.; Windom, MN 56101) is well-situated to demonstrate the water quality benefits of bioenergy crops. Topics include:

- Water and nutrient holding capacity of perennial bioenergy crops,
- Cover cropping and bioenergy crops,
- Climate change and the future of bioenergy crops

Speakers include Tony Thompson and Mark Seeley, Climatologist with University of Minnesota. In addition, Paul Porter will demonstrate his oil seed press and U of M drainage and water quality expert, Craig Schrader, will display the conservation drainage system on Willow Lake Farm. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bioenergycropswaterquality.pdf>

RIVER BLAST 2008

Don't forget to mark your calendar for River Blast – August 29th & 30th 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 (an updated one is forthcoming if it's not already there.)

The web site will be including ideas on how to build a stable vessel and have decided that one of the easiest ways to do that are to: use a boat and decorate it; put two canoes together and run plywood or planking between them; or use barrels. We have found that while inner tubes can work, if it gets too heavy, they have failed for some.

State Parks of Minnesota: A Photo Journey

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. The program is on August 31st starting at 7:00 p.m. in the AV room at Fort Ridgely Historic Site commissary. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dougohmanpressrelease.pdf>

Third Annual Lake Pepin TMDL Technical Conference: Creating a Blueprint for Restoration

This will be held on September 23-24 at the AllTel Center in Mankato. As the time approaches for submitting a draft Lake Pepin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to the Environmental Protection Agency, 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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Water Quality Articles:

[Our View: Don't gut, improve CRP](#) (Mankato Free Press). The argument by some farm groups and members of Congress that the Conservation Reserve Program should be gutted to allow more crop production is fundamentally flawed.

[USDA: No need for 'early out' of CRP](#) (Outdoor News). Conservationists hoping the Conservation Reserve Program wouldn't be further eroded by an "early out" option breathed a collective sigh of relief Tuesday when U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced his agency would not offer penalty-free release from CRP contracts.

[VIEWPOINT: Country needs energy 'moon shot'](#) (Grand Forks Herald). If ever there were a time for Democrats and Republicans to work together, it's now. We have a full-blown energy crisis with oil prices bouncing from \$120 to \$140 per barrel, gasoline about \$4 per gallon and projected increases of 30 percent to 50 percent for the price of natural gas and home heating fuel this coming winter.

[Their View: We can do more than just drill for more oil](#) (New Ulm Journal). U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann has joined the growing list of those who insist we must drill for oil wherever it may be in order to lower fuel prices. Well, a lot of oil experts dispute that. The easy-to-reach oil has been tapped, they say. If we do drill everywhere we can, the U.S.'s oil supply is still on a downward turn.

[Group questions pesticide's health effects](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking a second look at reports of human health effects from certain pesticides, following an investigation by a public interest group. The Center for Public Integrity,

based in Washington, found that increasing numbers of people are contacting poison hotlines after being exposed to the pesticides. The pesticides are widely used in agriculture, mosquito control, and consumer products. In Minnesota, officials say there are probably more cases of health effects than are reported.

[Al Meyerhoff: Pesticides' bad buzz](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune (originally published in the Los Angeles Times). Some scientists believe that pesticides applied to seeds ultimately kill or paralyze honeybees, who pick up residues that have traveled systemically through the plant. Bees, by the way, are part of the economy. It's not hard to get these products to the market. Bees suffer as a result. We do, too.

[Pervious parking lots filter water](#) (Duluth News Tribune). St. Scholastica and Hope United Methodist Church are installing environmentally friendly pervious parking lots this week. The parking lots allow rainwater and other substances to be absorbed and filtered, preventing them from running off into streams and lakes.

[Senators Call For Perjury Inquiry For EPA Chief](#) (National Public Radio). Democratic senators are calling for a perjury investigation into comments made by the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. The senators claim EPA chief Stephen Johnson lied to Congress and folded under White House pressure on global warming policy.

[Down on the Farm -- Local foods are best](#) (Morris Sun Tribune). The main crop of strawberries is finished, but the raspberries are ripening. The sweet corn is three weeks late this year. It will be worth the wait.

Although the best-tasting stuff is local, the average bite of food we eat travels 1,500 miles before it gets to our mouth, according to an area local foods promoter.

[Touring the wheat fields](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). This week people from around the country are walking through wheat fields. The annual wheat quality tour provides a pre-harvest estimate of crop yields and that's of interest to more than just farmers. Wheat prices have been at record high levels, driving up the cost of breakfast cereal, bread and pasta.

[Farmers to pay penalty for planting on conservation land](#) (Duluth News Tribune). Farmers will not be permitted to plant crops without penalty on lands previously set aside for conservation under the federal Conservation Reserve Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday.

[Judge set to rule on CRP haying, grazing lawsuit](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Given a federal judge's unenthusiastic response to USDA action regarding the Conservation Reserve Program and a penalty-free haying and grazing option, some in the conservation community believe a CRP "early out" option - brought about by high livestock feed costs and other factors - is unlikely this year.

[Huge chunk breaks off storied Arctic ice shelf](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A 1.6 square-mile chunk has broken off Ward Hunt Ice Shelf - the largest remaining ice shelf in the Arctic - threatening the future of the giant frozen mass that northern explorers have used for years as the starting point for their treks.

['Dream team' want Le Sueur River to come clean](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Researchers from across the country are trying to find out why the Le Sueur River is so dirty.

[Deep aquifers, deep questions](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota is famous for its lakes and streams, but some of the state's most important water sources are underground. These aquifers are a major source of water for household and industrial use. So far there's no shortage of underground water, but there is a shortage of information about the aquifers. Several groups have launched efforts to fill in the gap.

[11 cities seeking places to raise wind turbines](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Residents in Anoka and 10 other cities across the state could soon be looking up to the whipping blades of a wind turbine towering over their communities.

[Charles Krauthammer: She thinks she's saving the planet](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). She's really just being parochial on drilling. Does the environment somehow matter less elsewhere on Earth?

Climb up on some hill at sunrise. Everybody needs perspective once in a while, and you'll find it there. – Robb Sagendorph

Some people worry that artificial intelligence will make us feel inferior, but then, anybody in his right mind should have an inferiority complex every time he looks at a flower. – Alan C. Kay

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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