

### **Water Quality Testing of Lake Crystal**

Some of the staff (Sarah Duda and Scott Bohling) at the Water Resources Center, MNSUM are featured in a Mankato Free Press article about testing the water of Lake Crystal as part of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. Lake Crystal Clean Water Partnership coordinator Sarah Duda and Graduate Student Matt Ribikawski have been working hard to get the public to focus on improving water quality in this chain of lakes – Crystal, Loon and Mills in Blue Earth County.

- <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mustestingarealakes.pdf>

### **Pomme de Terre Watershed Project and TMDL studies**

A series of articles on the Pomme de Terre Watershed and TMDL studies are being featured in the Morris Sun Tribune. The articles are written by Shaun McNally, project coordinator for the Pomme de Terre Watershed located in the Stevens SWCD office. The first one is titled: Watershed 101.

- <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pommedeterrewatersheds.pdf>

### **Black Flies**

It is that time of the year. Black flies are emerging and causing havoc. Dave Craigmile and party paddled the Lac qui Parle River near Dawson on Saturday evening and got eaten up these nasty pests. Dave was kind enough to send me a link on black flies in Minnesota. Enjoy,

- <http://www.extension.umn.edu/yardandgarden/ygbriefs/e601blackflies.html>

### **New rules open up CRP land for haying, grazing**

New rules for Conservation Reserve Program land could open up a million acres of Minnesota grassland for hay harvesting and livestock feeding. The change by the federal Agriculture Department is aimed at helping livestock operators, who have been squeezed by rising feed prices. In Minnesota, hay prices have more than doubled in the past two years. Minnesota Farm Service Agency Director Perry Aasness said the state is short of its usual forage supply because of drought last year. Nationally, the CRP program gives landowners money in exchange for setting aside 32 million acres of land that would be prone to erosion. Sign-up for the new rules begins next week and grass-cutting can begin Aug. 1, which is after the bird-nesting season ends. (*Associated Press - 06/01/2008*)

### **Maple River Clean Water Partnership Technician**

The Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a full-time technician for the Maple River Clean Water Partnership. Duties will include existing CWP work plan, advise landowners on installing and maintaining practices, conduct field demonstration tours and outreach in classrooms. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mapleriverposition.pdf>

### **Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District looking for District Technician**

Applications for a District Technician will be accepted by the Grand Forks County Soil Conservation District until 3:00 p.m. on June 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday). Soil conservation technicians apply knowledge of soil conservation methods, techniques, practices, and agricultural land use. This position will be working with district and NRCS staff. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/grandforksswcd.pdf>

### **Water Facts**

For those who haven't seen this fact sheet on water usage, it is quite interesting.

- [http://media.mgbg.com/wkrg/photos/weather/downloads/Water\\_Facts.pdf](http://media.mgbg.com/wkrg/photos/weather/downloads/Water_Facts.pdf)

### **Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota**

Check out this web site about events related to improving, restoring and protecting our water.

- <http://cleanwateraction.org/mn/events.html>

## **Events:**

June 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is a **State Conservation and Preservation Plan Public Forum** from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Best Western North Mankato (111 Range Street). The public will have a chance to provide input on draft recommendations for conservation and preservation of Minnesota's environment and natural resources. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/statewideconservationpreservationplan.pdf>

June 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Puttstock Music Festival** at Putting Green Eco Center in New Ulm. For more information on the event, <http://www.puttinggreen.org/programs/events.html>

June 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is a **paddle on the Lac qui Parle River** sponsored by the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership. For more information contact Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 or [mary.homan@lqpc.com](mailto:mary.homan@lqpc.com)

June 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Nature Across the Curriculum: Using the Environment to Motivate All Learners workshop** at the Centennial Middle School & School Forest in Lino Lakes, MN. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/natureacrosscurriculum.pdf>

June 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is a **Hike at the Gneiss Scientific & Natural Area (SNA)** near Granite Falls. Please meet at the Hardees parking lot (147 Highway 212 E.) at 9:00 a.m. We will drive out to the site from there. For more information on the Gneiss SNA go to <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/snas/sna01071/index.html>

June 17<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is a **Grass and Grazing – A Renewable Resource Tour** sponsored by the Big Stone SWCD and others. The tour begins at the Hilltop Café (U.S. Hwy 12 & U.S. Hwy 75) in Ortonville with registration from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. with boarding the bus at that time. For more information call 320-839-6149 ext. 3.

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

**City residents greener than country cousins** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Bloomington metro areas saw their carbon footprint from transportation and residential energy use increase 3.87 percent between 2000 and 2005, according to a study by the Brookings Institution, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cityresidentsgreenercountry.pdf>

**Uncertainty over conservation programs in the farm bill** (Minnesota Public Radio). The new farm bill adds nearly \$8 billion to conservation programs. Much of the new funding is aimed at encouraging conservation on existing farmland. Some groups say there's not enough emphasis on protecting wildlife, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbilluncertaintyconservationprograms.pdf>

**Groups tout Great Lakes restoration as buffer against global warming** (Duluth News Tribune). Great Lakes environmental groups and researchers released a report that restoring the Great Lakes ecosystem would help buffer the region against ill effects from global climate change, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greatlakesrestorationglobalwarming.pdf>

**S.D. county board supports Big Stone II** (The Daily Journal). This letter from the Grant County Board of Commissioners states their support for the proposed Big Stone II power plant and transmission line project, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/sdcountyboardsupportsbigstoneii.pdf>

**Ethanol blends: Renegades' recipe for a cheaper fuel** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Some Minnesotans are boldly burning ethanol blends in their old cars, challenging the U.S. Clean Air Act and manufacturers' warranties, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ethanolblendrenegades.pdf>

**Ethanol: the next generation** (Minnesota Public Radio). The recently passed farm bill offers incentives for those who produce what's likely to be the next generation of ethanol. It's called cellulosic ethanol and made from a variety of sources, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ethanolnextgeneration.pdf>

**Global warming to affect livestock, other ag now** (Mankato Free Press). Climate change is increasing the risk of U.S. crop failures, depleting water resources and contributing to outbreaks of invasive species and insects, according to a federal report, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/globalwarmingaffectlivestock.pdf>

**Going green worth the cost for Ramsey company** (Anoka County Union). Vision-Ease Lens (VEL) introduced its newest initiative – and it's green. The Ramsey manufacturer changed over to a 100 percent renewable energy, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/goinggreenramseycompany.pdf>

**Pioneer Editorial: Keep state waters safe for drinking** (Bemidji Pioneer). According to the Bemidji Pioneer, "We must begin taking care of our surface water resources, which can start with the constitutional amendment voters face this fall to raise the state's sales tax, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/keepwaterssafefordrinking.pdf>

**Can a greener economy help solve poverty?** (Minn Post.Com). Facing up to the twin dilemmas of our times – high energy costs and global warming – will require a new kind of economy: a greener economy, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greenerconomy-poverty.pdf>

**Minn. Indian tribe buys up land to restore prairie** (Chicago Tribune). A small patch of prairie next to a condominium complex in suburban Minneapolis has painstakingly restored at great cost by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux tribe, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/minnindiantriberestoreprairie.pdf>

**Rybak pushes self-service bike program for commuters** (Finance and Commerce). The mayor has been meeting with Louisville-based Humana as well as RBC Dain Rauscher and other businesses to secure financing and infrastructure support for a self-service bike program that could distinguish Minneapolis nationally, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rybakselfservicebikeprogram.pdf>

**Sea of grass, under siege** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The booming farm economy is putting prairie acres under the plow, threatening crucial and vanishing habitat for the prairie chickens, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/seaofgrassundersiege.pdf>

**Best Buy to test free in-store program to recycle old TVs, computers, other outdated gadgets** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Under pressure to help dispose some of the electronic waste it helped create, Best Buy Co. is testing a free program that will offer consumers a convenient way to ensure millions of obsolescent TVs, old computers and other unwanted gadgets don't poison the nation's dumps, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bestbuystore recyclingprogram.pdf>

**Conservation tillage is a low-risk way to reduce soil erosion** (Hutchinson Leader). Many things affect the impact of agriculture on soil and water quality in Minnesota, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationtillage soilerosion.pdf>

**Tom Friedman: Keep 'em high** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Gas has finally reached a cost that might get us to change our habits, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/friedmankeepemhigh.pdf>

**Wendell Anderson and Arne Carlson: The state we love needs our protection** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Amendment gives Minnesotans a chance to safeguard their legacy, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/governorsandersoncarlsonwater.pdf>

**Charles Krauthammer: The radicals are back, now wielding the environment** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Rather than bow before this arrogation, let's take useful steps that aren't destructive, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/krauthammerradicalsareback.pdf>

**DNR: Isanti County landowner must pay for truck-mud mess** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A landowner let modified trucks with giant tires chew up his 9-acre property near Isanti, and the DNR said he must pay to restore damaged wetlands. He could also face fines and jail, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/landownerpaytruckmudmess.pdf>

**MATTERS AT HAND: We all have a stake in Lake Winnipeg** (Grand Forks Herald). Most of us probably know the Red River runs north, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mattersathandlakewinnipeg.pdf>

**N.D. coal: Not a ton of friends left** (Bismarck Tribune). The farther east and west we go, approaching the coasts, the fewer friends of coal we'd encounter, coal as a fuel for generating electricity, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ndcoalnottonoffriends.pdf>

**Ex-CEO sounds energy policy alarm** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). With a new book, a Minnesota entrepreneur is on a one-man mission to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/soundsenergypolicyalarm.pdf>

**Solar power can be a decision for the future** (West Central Tribune). It would take a sharp accountant to crunch all of the numbers involved in the decision that Rebecca and Graden West made a few years ago, but they sought no such help, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/solarpowerfuturedecision.pdf>

**Is corn boom expanding Gulf of Mexico's 'dead zone'** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Some fear an ethanol-fueled harvest in the Midwest may be behind the hard times for marine life at the other end of the Mississippi River, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cornboomexpandingdeadzone.pdf>

**Drivers slowing to save on fuel** (Fargo Forum). Everybody passes Dan Sargent on the freeway, but he doesn't mind, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/driversslowingsavefuel.pdf>

**Looking for a hybrid?** Prepare for a long wait (Minneapolis Star Tribune). High gas prices have you coveting a hybrid car? Be prepared to pay. And wait . . . and wait . . . <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lookingforhybridlongwait.pdf>

**ND, SD boards favor Minn. power line construction** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). New electric transmission lines in west-central Minnesota would allow North Dakota to export more wind-generated power, North Dakota's Industrial Commission says, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ndsboardsfavortransmissionlines.pdf>

**Proposed coal-burning power plant is subject of debate today** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Both sides in the debate over a proposed coal-burning power plant near the South Dakota-Minnesota border make their arguments on Tuesday before the Minnesota Utilities Commission in St. Paul, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/proposedcoalburningplantdebate.pdf>

**PUC verdict nears on Big Stone II as testimony begins today** (West Central Tribune). Both sides of the Big Stone II power plant project are squaring off in St. Paul as the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission hears final testimony on the Big Stone II power project, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pucverdictbigstonethursday.pdf>

**Roads or fields? Farmer stands to lose** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A Rice County farmer, set to have a prime field taken by the government, questions whether a \$7 million road project is fully justified, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/roadsorfields.pdf>

**Editorial: A significant step for 'product stewardship'** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Best Buy recycling program sets example for nation's retailers, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/significantstepproductstewardship.pdf>

**Third oil shock may lead to solutions** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). In the early 1970s, a fourfold rise in price of oil almost brought the world to a standstill,  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thirdoilshockmayleadsolutions.pdf>

**Steve Chapman: What goes up must come down - - even oil** (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Call me crazy, but I think supply and demand will continue to work its magic,  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/whatgoesupmustcomedownoil.pdf>

*To find the universal elements enough; to find the air and the water exhilarating; to be refreshed by a morning walk or an evening saunter; to be thrilled by the stars at night; to be elated over a bird's nest or a wildflower in spring – these are some of the rewards of the simple life. – John Burroughs*

**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.

Thanks,

Scott

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