

Minnesota River Celebration

Over 175 people gathered at the Hilton last Tuesday evening to talk about issues related to the Minnesota River and see a presentation by Tim Krohn and John Cross of the Mankato Free Press. Tim and John paddled down the entire length of the Minnesota River – 335 miles – from Big Stone to Fort Snelling (they did the same stretch ten years ago). People packed in to see the presentation and left impressed with the photographs and their adventure on the Minnesota River. They did a nice job with explaining how the river has changed in the last ten years and finding interesting characters to write about. Tim and John were kind enough to do three presentations in a row.

People were also excited to meet Colton Witte and Sean Bloomfield, who retraced Eric Sevareid's 1930 paddle up the Minnesota River to the Hudson Bay. In addition, there were a number of tables set up with people talking about river issues including Lawnscape and Water Quality, Saving the Granite Outcroppings, Citizen Efforts and Monitoring, and Fishing and Recreation Opportunities. Thanks to Chantill Kahler-Royer, Brooke Herling, Paul Wymar, Tom Kalahar, Joel Wurscher, and James Fett for leading the various discussions. Members of the Mankato Paddling & Outing Club came out to provide information on paddling opportunities in the area. I also want to thank Dee Czech, Susie Carlin and Patrick Moore for helping set up and greeting people. Finally, this event wouldn't have been possible without Su Beran – thanks Su.

Henderson's "Heritage Days"

Dream come true.....Last weekend we celebrated "Heritage Days" in Henderson...a yearly event. There's an interim minister at UCC in Henderville, we talked her into a "Tent Revival" at the park next to the river, and into coming down the river as an itinerant minister to serve the needs of the Hendersonites. She was cautious but went along with the plan. She didn't realize the beauty of the river, along with her reception by the townsfolk.....so 40 folks met her at the landing singing "Shall We Gather at the River," took her by horse-drawn wagon to the "revival tent." Lots of music and an inspiring sermon, about that time the Catholic priest came to the gathering, gave a good homily, lots more singing with a group of 125 sheltered by the rain. At any rate, folks were raving about it and want a repeat next year.....should be still be alive. Once it "happened," they were "sold." Onward and upward.

Big event during the summer for us was the visit with Cross and Krohn as they made their trip downriver. Four of our locals have now canoed the entire river in four summers, four segments.....lots of good press. Met a man and his son on the sandbar two weeks ago. They had canoed UPRIVER from Lake Pepin...took eight days and they were beat. Wife met them in LeSueur and took the pooped pair home. Peaceful on the river now with gorgeous autumn. We spend part of every day there now when we're not doing river programs.....life is GOOD!!!! By Barb and Art Straub

INTRODUCTION TO WATERSHED HYDROLOGIC & FLUVIAL SYSTEMS

- A Minnesota River Focus - An intensive 5-day course for impaired waters project staff! - The Minnesota River Board, along with the MN Pollution Control Agency and the MSM-Water Resources Center are pleased to announce a training opportunity for technical staff working on impaired waters studies and TMDL processes.

- **Dates:** October 24, November 13-14 and December 11-12
- **Location:** MN State University, Mankato

This geomorphic assessment, hydrology, and TMDL process training session is designed for TMDL coordinators, watershed staff, and graduate students within the Minnesota River basin that are working in impaired waters projects. The material covered in this training will be extremely valuable for TMDL processes already under way and those gearing up to start. Improving our

capacity to better understand sediment sources and watershed function can only improve the quality and credibility of the TMDL program.

For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/geomorphicbrochure.pdf>

Lake Crystal water quality project to host Open House to discuss project.

The Crystal Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study will host an open house in Lake Crystal on Monday, October 13th. The open house will be an informational and question and answer session for the general public along with interested groups and organizations. This will be an excellent opportunity to connect with local people to offer support or express concerns for issues in our area.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lakecrystalopenhouse.pdf>

A Magical Mystery Tour

By Tom Conroy, MN DNR

While I was working around the cabin preparing for the upcoming duck season, seven-year old Sydnie and her grandmother were searching for frogs and toads. They found that and more. I know Sydnie had discovered a critter of special intrigue when I heard the simultaneous squeal (Sydnie) and scream (grandmother). Seconds later, Sydnie was holding a garter snake. Her grandmother was behind a tree. Critters of all types fascinate Sydnie. Hopefully, it's a fascination that endures.

For the entire story go: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/magicalmysterytour.pdf>

Fishing in the Minnesota River Watershed

James Fett had a good weekend a couple of weeks ago while out fishing. To check out what he caught, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/jamesfettmnrivier.pdf>

Job Opportunities

Office Manager

The Minnesota River Board seeks an office manager for a flexible 18 hour/week position. Office is located at Minnesota State Mankato. Some duties include grant accounting, word processing, and ability to work with diverse groups. An interest in the environment and experience working with elected officials desired.

To apply for this position, or for more information, please visit the Department of Finance and Employee Relations website at <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> and search for Posting Number 08MNSC000902.

Program Manager

The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council (MAGC) has an immediate opening for a Program Manager to assist in all activities of the Council, including policy development, event planning, and office management duties. The Program Manager will also represent the Council in various meetings and public/private events. MAGC offers a dynamic but flexible working environment. The position offers a professional salary range, commensurate with experience. Attractive 401(k), vacation time, and merit-based bonus also included. The ideal candidate should be resourceful, friendly, interested in agriculture, and comfortable working in a small office environment. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnagriposition.pdf>

Executive Director

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) is seeking applicants for the position of Executive Director. As a member of the Society, you have an important role to play in this process. We are asking that you take every opportunity to make known publically of the open

Executive Director position. If you also know of any individual that might be interested, please take the time in making him or her aware of the opening. SWCS is seeking an individual who is committed to the conservation mission and who will provide strong leadership to the organization. This individual will be responsible for all aspects of the program, budget, and staffing. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors and serves as a key spokesperson for the organization. The Society will also be using a search firm in this process. But, we also want to send this information out through our email network to increase the dissemination of the announcement.

The position description is available on the [SWCS website](#), which includes a position summary, qualifications sought, and the application procedure. Thank you from the Society's Board of Directors and the Search Committee in helping us with this important process. Sincerely, Peggie James President

Communications Assistant - Minnesota Corn Growers Association

The communications assistant works with the communications director to develop and implement all communications, public relations and marketing efforts of the association. Responsibilities include but are not limited to coordinating development and distribution of press releases and all member communications; managing all aspects of association trade show activities, including selection, scheduling, set up and tear down; maintaining media contact and stakeholder databases; assisting with designing, printing and production of association publications and informational materials, assisting in maintaining and updating association website and maintaining archives and files for association's communications materials. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mcgacommasst.pdf>

Soil Conservation Technician Position

Here is a link to the USA Jobs Posting of the Soil Con Tech position in Wheaton, MN. Please share with anyone that may be interested. <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/jobsearch.asp?q=NRCS-MN-2008-1048+SCT&salmin=&salmax=&paygrademin=&paygrademax=&FedEmp=Y&tm=&sort=rv&vw=d&brd=3876&ss=0&FedPub=Y&SUBMIT1.x=83&SUBMIT1.y=17>

Colleen Oestreich; NRCS - ASTC-FO; 1004 Frontier Drive; Fergus Falls, MN 56537;
218.736.5445
218.736.7215 Fax; colleen.oestreich@mn.usda.gov

Watershed District Ditch/Permit Inspector Position Opening

The Sauk River Watershed District, headquartered in Sauk Centre, MN is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of Ditch/Permit Inspector. Responsible for documentation and budget of all permits submitted for inspection and maintenance of public ditches, construction activities and water quality trading projects assigned by administrator or permit engineer. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/saukriverpositionopening.pdf>

Grazing Specialist and Ag Engineer positions

FYI - There are some new MN NRCS vacancies posted on USA Jobs. There is a Grazing Specialist in Perham and Ag Engineer in Fergus. Please help spread the word about these openings and others throughout the state. See the link below for specifics:
http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/jobsearch.asp?q=&jbf574=AG16&lid=477&jbf522=&salmin=&salmax=&paygrademin=&paygrademax=&FedEmp=N&tm=&sort=rv&vw=d&ss=0&brd=3876&FedPub=Y&caller=%2Fagency_search.asp&SUBMIT1.x=82&SUBMIT1.y=12

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Grant Information

Environmental Assistance (EA) Grant Program

ST. PAUL - The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking preliminary applications for grants to be used to develop environmentally sustainable practices that prevent pollution and conserve resources.

About \$300,000 in grant money is available for projects that focus on global climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, emerging issues and behavioral change. Emerging issues encourage Minnesota businesses to produce "green" products and provide "green" resources by reducing or eliminating waste and the use of environmentally harmful substances. Behavioral changes focus on creating sustainable behaviors and processes to encourage resource conservation and a healthy environment.

The Fiscal Year 2009 Environmental Assistance (EA) Grant Program is a two-stage process. Preliminary applications must be received by Monday, Oct. 27, 2008. Since 1985, more than \$11 million in MPCA grants have been awarded to public and private organizations and partnerships. For more information including a complete request for proposal, instructions and forms, visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html>

Preliminary applications must be electronically submitted by 3 p.m., Oct. 27, 2008. For more information, call Mary Baker at 1-800-657-3864 or e-mail her at mary.baker@state.mn.us.

Events:

King Corn Documentary - Friday, October 10th, 6:30pm @ Treaty Site History Center

A documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. This is a Special Showing with filmmaker Ian Cheney!

In *King Corn*, Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, best friends from college on the east coast, move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from. With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they try to follow their pile of corn into the food system, what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat—and how we farm.

Brought to you by the St. Peter Food Co-Op, Gustavus English Department, Gustavus Greens, Renewing the Countryside, St. Peter United Methodist Fellowship, Locust Street B&B, and the Nicollet County Historical Society. For more information: 507-934-2160 or ben@nchsmn.org

October 2nd (Thursday) is an **Open House for the new, greener MPCA Mankato Office** at the Mankato Place Mall in downtown Mankato (12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2165) from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mpcaopenhouseflyer.pdf>

November 15th (Saturday) is the **Web of Life, Way of Life: Exploring Solidarity with Earth Conference** at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mankato Provincial House Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration is required by November 10th by calling 507-389-4272 or sending an email to lcoons@ssndmankato.org. Cost for the event is \$20 or \$15 for students. Look for morning coffee and locally grown lunch. This event is sponsored by Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry – a ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

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

Water Quality Articles

[Federal prosecutors probe possible price-fixing in tomato processing, egg product industries](#) (Associated Press). Federal investigators say food broker Randall Rahal liked to use a simple little test to see whether he could bribe purchasing agents at the country's biggest food companies to buy from the tomato processor he represented.

[Making hay?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnetonka Orchards' attempts to transport visitors to a different place and time are part of an effort to hold onto another vanishing bit of Americana: the family farm.

[Civic Caucus: Reject environmental constitutional amendment](#) (Minn Post). *The following statement on the proposed constitutional amendment for the outdoors, water and the arts was issued by the nonpartisan [Civic Caucus](#) on Sept. 9.*

[Arts and environment amendment adds intrigue to ballot](#) (Minnesota Independent). A proposed constitutional amendment to provide dedicated funding for the environment and arts during the next 25 years is proving to be one of the most intriguing statewide election battles, with two patchwork coalitions at odds over issues of constitutionality, taxes and civic priority.

[Campaigns spring up on both sides of amendment](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Hundreds of organizations representing sportsmen, environmentalists and artists have joined forces this fall on an estimated \$5 million statewide campaign to pass a constitutional amendment. But tax opponents are trying to derail the ballot measure, and they've launched their own statewide campaign.

[RE-fest lures more than 1000](#) (Austin Daily Herald). Green living was on Tim Penny's mind Saturday afternoon. After all, he was the keynote speaker at the 2008 RE-fest celebration of clean energy at Riverland Community College.

[Despite protests, wind tower will go up](#) (Mankato Free Press). Erection of a tower to measure wind speed in rural Nicollet County was approved Tuesday over the protests of a landowners group.

[Pawlenty's climate-change initiative: Is he backing away?](#) (Minn Post). As Minnesota and neighboring states gear up to implement major policies to reduce carbon emissions linked to climate change, Gov. Tim Pawlenty appears to be backing away from the high-profile initiatives he helped initiate.

[High corn prices create huge losses in ethanol industry](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). For ethanol companies, big moves in the price of corn can mean large profits or major losses. Corn is the raw ingredient of ethanol and to reduce the risk of big losses, many ethanol companies buy corn futures. Those contracts let them lock in a price for the corn they buy, but with corn prices all over the map this year, some companies have committed to paying prices that are too high. Their losses are adding up to tens of millions of dollars.

[Will green gas fuel the future?](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Rising oil prices are fueling a new race for alternative energy sources. A small Wisconsin company is drawing global attention with a new process that turns sugar into gasoline. The National Science Foundation says green gasoline represents a new generation of biofuels.

[Septic updates moving along in Florence](#) (Marshall Independent). The list of towns in southwest Minnesota with wastewater systems not up to state pollution control standards has been slowly shrinking the past few years. Soon, the city of Florence will be able to cross itself off the list, too.

[Recycling electronics: It's getting easier](#) (Minn Post). Getting rid of that old television – and with the coming of all-digital TV, it will be a common event – is not as easy as tossing it in the garbage

can. Several states, including Minnesota, have new electronic recycling laws and the myriad nature of the legislation is proving to be a challenge for industry.

[Eureka aims to complete recycling circle](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Throughout the metro, Eureka Recycling is taking on the big boys with a greater emphasis on education.

[State, industry agree to mercury compromise](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Key industries in Minnesota have agreed to reduce mercury pollution.

[Test soil for better economic and environmental results](#) (Hutchinson Leader). Prices for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are high, so corn and soybean growers need to make certain that fertilizer is placed correctly for the 2009 growing season.

[CHRIS NISKANEN: North Dakota hunting lands are disappearing](#) (Pioneer Press). With map in hand, I was giving a friend directions to a piece of private land opened to hunters under North Dakota's Private Lands Open To Sportsmen (PLOTS) program. We were hunting sharp-tailed grouse near Jamestown last week, and the detailed PLOTS booklet in my lap showed we should be driving past an accessible piece of land listed on the map.

[Amendment not shoo-in; much at stake](#) (Rochester Post-Bulletin). Hunters like it, anglers want it, conservationists and park lovers say they need it. But the biggest drawback to passing the proposed constitutional amendment that will be on the Nov. 4 ballot will be apathy or lack of knowledge, two backers said.

[B.J. Johnson: Fishermen make good ... leaders](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A candidate who truly knew the sport would have a presidential temperament -- though, eyeing the field, we're going to need a wider net.

[Golden Opportunity: Farmers preparing to bring in bumper crop for this year's bounty](#) (Faribault Daily News). There are farming areas, and then there are farming areas. The vast fields surrounding the city of Faribault are in the heart of the farming area, and it's turning out to be a good year to be here.

[County asks governor to suspend Green Acre Law changes](#) (Fillmore County Journal). The Fillmore County Board at their regular meeting on September 23 passed a resolution asking Governor Pawlenty to "suspend the implementation of changes to the Green Acres law that were implemented in Chapter 366 of the 2008 session." The request will be sent to the governor and legislators.

[Squash brings consumers and producers together](#) (Fillmore County Journal). On a sunny day in a field outside of Rushford, several so-called "city slickers" found themselves hunched over endless rows of squash, clipping the green and golden beauties off of the vines. This group of about 20 volunteers, mostly from the Twin Cities area, was participating in the first annual Squashfest.

[Want to know what countries are swimming in your kid's soup?](#) (TC Daily Planet). Maybe you've done this: plucked a Washington State apple from among bins shipped in from all over the globe. Or, if you're like me, you choose locally-made cheeses because they're fresh, in addition to being delicious. But have you ever pulled a bag of frozen scallops from the grocer's freezer, read "Product of XXXXX" on the label and quickly shoved it back onto the frosty shelf? I admit, I have.

[Tax amendment taking back seat on ballot](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Focused on other contests, Minnesota voters must also decide whether to raise taxes to fund the outdoors, environment and the arts.

[Sibley project a multi-part solution](#) (Mankato Free Press). Sludge pond covered, river riffles in the works. The planting of native shrubs is expected to start this winter. In a separate effort to make the river look more interesting, several boulders will be placed near the middle of the river. The boulders and the weirs also are expected to create fish habitat.

[Volunteers haul trash from Mississippi River](#) (Winona Daily Press). Sol Simon has pulled some pretty unusual stuff out of the Mississippi River. A washer, a dryer, a weather balloon, a bloated and skinned llama.

German Coalition Sues Bayer Over Pesticide Honey Bee Deaths <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/aug2008/2008-08-25-01.asp> (Environment News Service). The German organization Coalition against Bayer Dangers today brought legal action against Werner Wenning, chairman of the Bayer AG Board of Management, by filing a charge against him with the public prosecutor in Freiburg. The group accuses Bayer CropScience of "marketing dangerous pesticides and thereby accepting the mass death of bees all over the world."

If you could tomorrow morning make water clean in the world, you would have done, in one fell swoop, the best thing you could have done for improving human health by improving environmental quality – William C. Clark

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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