

### **Mussel Weekend on the Chippewa River**

Last Friday and Saturday, the Chippewa River Watershed Project and Minnesota River Watershed Alliance sponsored a Mussel Weekend. On Friday night we had an intimate and engaging conversation on the life of mussels and the restoration of the former “dead zone” of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. Mike Davis of the MN DNR led the discussion and showed some interesting images of floating sewage mats from the 1930s and how the Pig’s Eye Sewage Treatment Center has changed over the years.

On Saturday morning, an eager and enthusiastic group of 20 plus people showed up at the Hwy 40 monitoring site on the Chippewa River to look for mussels. Bernard Sietman and Mike explained how they monitor mussels and helped with identification. Both of them were impressed by the number of live mussels and different species found in a short stretch of the river. In one small spot, 10 live mussels were collected. Thanks to Kylene, Paul, Jenn and Madeline along with Mike and Bernard for all the help.

For some photos of the event go to: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/musselhike.pdf>

### **Pomme de Terre River Paddle**

On Sunday, the Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project along with Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) held a paddle on this prairie river in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed. A group of twenty or more people paddled from Larson’s Landing to Appleton City Park for a total of five miles. On this stretch of the Pomme de Terre, we saw a number of large trees that had fallen into the channel and a few shallow spots were it got tough to paddle. Everyone enjoyed themselves and even took on the series of rapids built a couple of years ago by the MN DNR. Thanks go out to Patrick, Brooke, Shaun and everyone who made this an enjoyable Sunday afternoon paddle.

To see some photos of the paddle go to:  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pommedeterrepaddle.pdf>

### **Minnesota River Celebration**

Gather at the Hilton in Mankato on September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday evening) for a “Voyage down the Minnesota River” presentation by Tim Krohn and John Cross of the Mankato Free Press and the chance to hear more about river and recreation opportunities.

- Social Hour starts at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and a taste of locally grown food.
- “Voyage down the Minnesota River” presentation starts at 7 p.m.
- MN River & Opportunities for Everyone at 7:30 p.m.
- Second presentation of “Voyage down the Minnesota River” at 8:30 p.m.

Come out and experience what Tim Krohn and John Cross observed on their journey down the Minnesota River in July and the people they met along the way. On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first paddle, they started out at the beginning of the river and ended 11 days and 335 miles at the confluence with the Mississippi River. For more information,  
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnrivercelebration.pdf>

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

September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 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. To register for the conference, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-lakepepin.html#events>

## **Job Opportunities**

### **Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) position**

In addition to the Training Program Coordinator position, BWSR is now seeking a State Soils Specialist (State Program Administrator) and a GIS Specialist. For more information, please go to [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers)

### **Watershed Administrator with Sauk River**

The Sauk River Watershed District, headquartered in Sauk Centre, MN is seeking qualified applicants to fill the position of Watershed Administrator. Responsibilities include providing day-to-day oversight and supervision of all activities and staff of the watershed district, serve as the public information officer for the district, and to work closely with the 9-member board of managers appointed by the five county boards served by the district. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/saukriverwatershed.pdf>

### **Agricultural Business Position**

University of Minnesota Extension is searching for an Extension Educator in Agricultural Business Management (ABM) who will focus on > /\*renewable\*/ /\*energy economics/\* . This unique position will be housed in the Department of Applied Economics on the St. Paul Campus. Please note that while the position is open until filled, the hiring committee will be reviewing applications after September 15th. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/extensionposition.pdf>

## **Events:**

Thoreau's Minnesota Journey - An Illustrated Lecture on September 14th, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.  
at

Ney Nature Center, Henderson, MN. Visit the Ney Nature Center on Sunday, September 14th during Henderson, MN's Heritage Days Celebration as we learn more about Henry David Thoreau's visit to Minnesota through a presentation by Dale Schwie. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thoreaupr.pdf>

September 18<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:shaun.mcnally@mn.nacdnet.net)

November 15<sup>th</sup> (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 10<sup>th</sup> by calling 507-389-4272 or sending an email to [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto: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://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

## Water Quality Articles

- [Mankato dentists work to limit mercury waste](#) (Associated Press). One of the biggest sources of dangerous mercury pollution in wastewater is no longer a problem in the Mankato area.
- [Why join a lake association? Here's some answers](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). For many Douglas county residents, our lakes are more than just a source of summertime fun, they're also serious business.
- [Trying to get the word out on wetland encroachments](#) (ABC Newspapers). Development may have slowed down the chances for encroachments and dumping on wetland, but wetland conservation officials are still concerned of the negative impacts that do happen and want to educate the public and what can and cannot be done.
- [Mooving over to organic](#) (Albert Lea Tribune). Dennis Lutteke began organic farming practices in the early 1980s because he and his wife were concerned for the health of their children.
- [GOP platform's new opposition to ethanol subsidies has ag world buzzing](#) (MinnPost). There's anxious buzz sweeping across corn country about an abrupt change in the Republican platform on corn ethanol that was adopted at the party's convention in St. Paul.
- [Dennis Anderson: Sportsmen get the word out](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The vote for getting dedicated funding toward state conservation is weeks away, and those who support it are working to educate voters.
- [Ethanol goes from golden child to scapegoat](#) (Associated Press). Ethanol's wild ride has brought it quickly from political golden child to scapegoat for everything from soaring food prices and world hunger to pork-barrel spending.
- [Steger blasts movement for more oil drilling](#) (Duluth News Tribune). Arctic explorer Will Steger said Sunday that the collapse last week of another Arctic ice shelf is yet another reminder of the already occurring impacts of global climate change.
- [Sierra Club's North Star Chapter bicycle ride will be in Chaska](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is taking its 13th "Conference on Wheels" bicycle ride through Chaska this year. The 25-mile "Tour de Chaska" is planned for Sept. 13 and will feature speakers who delve into land use and growth issues along the way.
- [Riverboat cruise puts 'The Big Muddy' before politics](#) (MinnPost). What happens when a couple of hundred Republican delegates trade the convention floor for a riverboat cruise in St. Paul? They put politics aside and get to thinking about something they often take for granted – the mighty Mississippi River.
- [Aging stormwater retention ponds trouble suburbs, homeowners and scientists](#) (Pioneer Press). Scott Costello measures the depth of the pond behind his White Bear Lake house every day. The water level has been dropping each year.
- In-Forum: [Water project decision delayed](#) (In-Forum). The federal government's seal of approval for a proposed \$660 million project to augment the Red River Valley's water supply remains bottled up, apparently by budget officials in the Bush administration.

FISHING BULLHEADS WITH LOUIS SIMPSON

By Robert Bly

1.

*I am writing these words with a pencil stub  
I found today pressed under dirt near the car tire.  
After midnight, I sit down on the stoop.  
No badgers are around, the tips of the grass do not move.*

2.

*The full moon passes under clouds in the south,  
Like a flashlight passed under a boat.  
The horse stands moodily by the lilacs.  
No branches move; the low bushes are still.*

3.

*Bullheads we caught at Marsh Lake Dam  
Thrashed around all day in a ten gallon pail.  
At supper, you and I saw they were still alive;  
We put them back into a creek nearby.*

4.

*What does this say? That persistence finally wins out?  
That cruelty diminishes after dark? It is summer.  
Late at night the farm resembles a houseboat  
Moored on a river, about to slip away!*

**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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