

Culvert Failure in Maine

Here is a good example of what happens when a culvert fails spectacularly under some decent flood conditions. Enjoy the video and be sure to watch it all the way through. It only gets better (or worse if you prefer) as you go. This is classic documentation of piping failure. Probably 72' CMP (+/-), Mitered inlet, minimum 3' cover. This occurred Saturday August 16, 2008. Location - Minot, Maine.

<http://www.wmtw.com/video/17144859/index.html>

CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP TOURS HIGHLIGHT WATER QUALITY ACTIVITIES

Check out what's going on with the Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership! Join us for two upcoming tours that will highlight current and potential water quality activities going on in the watershed.

- ☑ On Wednesday, Sept. 17th we will tour the drainage ditch and wetland treatment basin system at the University of Minnesota's SW Research and Outreach Center (SWROC) in Lamberton. With this new three-step system, SWROC diverts their drainage runoff into a series of wetlands and is measuring the amount of water quality improvement after the final basin. We will be meeting at Lake Crystal Area Rec Center (LCARC) at 8am and return around 2pm. Lunch and transportation will be provided.
- ☑ To see what we've been doing closer to home, join us on Sunday, Sept. 21st for a tour of urban and rural Best Management Practices (BMPs) that have been installed in the Crystal Lake watershed. We will be meeting at 2pm at the LCARC and start out by touring some of the rain gardens that were installed last summer in Lake Crystal. The second half of the tour will include some of the nutrient management and working-lands BMPs that are being used by local producers. Crystal Valley Co-Op will be co-sponsoring the event and will be explaining the soil testing and custom-rate nutrient application that the CWP is cost-sharing in the watershed.
- ☑ Both tour events are free and open to the public. RSVPs are required to reserve a space. If you would like more information about either event or would like to sign up for the tours, please contact Sarah Duda at 507-389-2299 or sarah.duda@mnsu.edu.

National Geographic – Grassroots Movement

A recent NASA analysis of satellite imagery shows that nearly 50,000 square miles of turf are under cultivation in the United States making grass the single largest irrigated crop in the country. The health of all that grass depends directly on the health of the soil in which it grows. Paul Tukey, author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, suggests these ways to keep lawn soil in good shape.

- **Follow Directions:** Home application of pesticides and fertilizers often vastly exceeds that of agricultural use in pounds per acre. If you choose to use lawn chemicals, make sure to apply the correct amount. More is not better – and can be harmful to plants, pets, and people.
- **Water Wisely:** The best time to water is early morning. Watering at night may encourage mold growth or disease. Try to water once a week, rather than daily.
- **Plant Clover:** Until a pesticide company started marketing it as a weed in the 1960s, clover – which is actually a legume – was an essential part of commercial grass seed mixtures. It still should be. Nodules on clover roots store nitrogen and deliver it to the soil around the plant more efficiently than synthetic nitrogen fertilizers.
- **Mow High:** For most grass species, set mower blades to cut at a height of about three inches. Higher grass prevents weeds and helps soil retain moisture. And leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing. They work as a natural fertilizer and will decompose within a few days.

For a different view on the fascination with the perfect lawn:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/yardwork.pdf>

Training Program Coordinator position

The Board of Water and Soil Resources is hiring a Training Program Coordinator. This new position involves comprehensive coordination of training for BWSR and its clientele, including soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, counties, other local governments and other agency staff involved in programs administered by BWSR and its partners statewide. Please go to the BWSR website for the posting and position description: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers. And please pass this along to anyone who might be interested. Thank you, Jon Fure; Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources; 651-296-0884; jon.fure@state.mn.us and www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Catfish Corner

Michelle Mettler, of Cleveland and Le Sueur County Environmental Services, caught this catfish on the MN River at St Peter and the 50 pound scale was not enough! Check out the photos at, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/catfish.pdf>

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

September 23rd and 24th 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>

Rally for the Valley 5K Fun Run

It's almost time once again for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley's annual Rally for the Valley 5K Fun Run. This year's event, like last year's run, will be held at Fort Snelling State Park on Sunday, September 28th. The course is USATF certified. The run will start at 9:00 a.m. at the park's pavilion. The cost is \$20 per person for pre-registration prior to September 19th and \$25 after September 19th and up to the day of the Rally. Parking passes can be picked up at the park entrance on the day of the event. Co-sponsors include Anderson Race Consultants, REI Bloomington, and Saturn. All participants get a free t-shirt. To register online, go to www.active.com or www.andersonraces.com

Events:

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.nacdn.net

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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Water Quality Articles

[Council largely mum on chickens](#) (Mankato Free Press). Chickens, Becky Rossow and the rest of the Mankato Chicken Coalition believe, fit just as well in the backyard as they do in the farmyard.

[Voters seek provisions in Farm Bill](#) (Owatonna People's Press). Put your money where your mouth is. That was the challenge that two local voters gave to politicians Monday during a roundtable forum about the 2008 Farm Bill. Specifically, the two wanted legislation that would encourage locally grown produce.

[Chris Niskanen: Legacy Amendment crosses political lines](#) (Pioneer Press). Garry Leaf, a Republican, has been crisscrossing Minnesota for months, touting the importance of a state constitutional amendment that would raise the sales tax by three-eighths of 1 percent to pay for natural resources, clean water, parks and arts projects. The amendment is on the Nov. 4 ballot.

[Poll rejecting sales tax amendment disputed](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A measure to raise funding for arts and wildlife finds little support in poll, but critics called the wording flawed.

[6 more senators seek end to oil drilling impasse](#) (Associated Press). Six more senators on Tuesday joined a bipartisan group of 10 senators backing a bill they say will break the stalemate over offshore drilling in Congress.

[Big Stone II plant gets PSC approval](#) (Fargo Forum). A \$1.27-billion expansion of the coal-fired Big Stone electric generating plant in northeastern South Dakota is the most prudent way to meet the need for more base-load electricity for North Dakota customers of Otter Tail Power Co. and Montana-Dakota Utilities, regulators said Wednesday.

[Despite Michele Bachmann's presence, GOP Platform Committee rejects drilling in ANWR](#) (Minnesota Independent). The Republican Party Platform Committee's rejection today of a plank urging drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is a major embarrassment for committee member Michele Bachmann.

[Gasoline sales in Minnesota drop; E85 demand rising but leveling off](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). In an effort to promote use of ethanol-based E85 by motorists, the American Lung Association of Minnesota is pointing out that retail sales of gasoline in July 2008 declined more than 9 percent in Minnesota from the same month a year ago.

[Xcel, N.Y. reach deal on carbon disclosures](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). In an apparent environmental first, Xcel Energy Inc. has agreed to spell out the potential impact of global climate change on its fortunes and that of its investors, according to a deal announced Wednesday by the utility and New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

[State audit: DNR misspent \\$300,000](#) (Pioneer Press). The Department of Natural Resources didn't follow internal and state policies on numerous levels, DNR Commissioner Mark Holsten

admitted after a legislative audit concluded the agency misspent more than \$300,000 of taxpayer money and broke state laws by co-hosting a 2007 conservation officers conference.

[It may not be the Brooklyn Bridge, but a span's for sale in Bloomington](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The city will hold a second meeting about selling the old Cedar Avenue bridge, but so far, no agency's beating a path to their doorstep.

[Weed with bite is eating acres across state](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Kerry Saxton is in the third year of a war he's not sure he can win, and he's got the scars on his left forearm to prove it. His enemy? Parsnip.

[Wild parsnip: A weed to watch](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). **How to identify it:** In its flowering stage, it stands 4 feet high on stout stems. Clusters of small yellow flowers are up to 6 inches wide. It grows alongside roads and ditches but spreads to grassy areas.

[Reported wild boar was likely an escaped pet pig](#) (Detroit Lakes Online). A pig that was likely the inspiration for reports of a wild boar roaming the Detroit Lakes area was shot Tuesday morning by a woman protecting a group of horses, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

[Northern Greenland glaciers showing fractures, large break; Is it global warming or natural?](#) (AP). In northern Greenland, a part of the Arctic that had seemed immune from global warming, new satellite images show a growing giant crack and an 11-square-mile chunk of ice hemorrhaging off a major glacier, scientists said Thursday.

[Peterson talks farm bill with Land Stewardship Project members](#) (Redwood Falls Gazette). Land Stewardship Project members, its staff and the media met with U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-Congressional District 7) at the Bruce and Sherry Plaetz farm near Wa-basso this past Wednesday to discuss the 2008 farm bill and the implementation of key initiatives that support beginning farmers, land conservation, local food systems and family farm livestock production.

[GE investing \\$141M in Dakotas wind farm](#) (Associated Press). A large wind farm on the border of North Dakota and South Dakota has gained a major corporate investor. GE Energy Financial Services is investing \$141 million in the \$381 million Tatanka Wind Farm that began making electricity July 25.

[Wind turbine project still up in the air](#) (Mankato Free Press). A group of rural Nicollet County landowners is opposing a plan to establish a wind farm project in their area.

[Andy and Paula Hill: Living green and off the grid - Working with the sun](#) (Ely Echo). "Going Green" is not only practical; it's easy, especially if you Go Green first. Andy Hill and his wife Paula went green seven years ago, way before this energy crunch began and they say it's been cost effective.

Driving toward the Lac qui Parle River by Robert Bly

I
I am driving; it is dusk; Minnesota.
The stubble field catches the last growth of sun.
The soybeans are breathing on all sides.
Old men are sitting before their houses on car seats.
In the small towns. I am happy,
The moon rising above the turkey sheds.

II
The small world of the car

*Plunges through the deep fields of the night,
On the road from Willmar to Milan.
This solitude covered with iron.
Moves through the fields of night.
Penetrated by the noise of crickets.*

III

*Nearly to Milan, suddenly a small bridge,
And water kneeling in the moonlight.
In small towns the houses are built right on the ground;
The lamplight falls on all fours on the grass.
When I reach the river, the full moon covers it.
A few people are talking, low, in a boat.*

Silence in the Snowy Fields, 1962

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,

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