

Minnesota River on the rebound by Chris Niskanen, St. Paul Pioneer Press

GRANITE FALLS, Minn. — One of the best parts of this job is "discovering" some unsung Minnesota treasure and singing its praises. In some cases, the intent is to prod St. Paul policymakers to lift a finger to see that the treasure survives for future generations. Yet the case already has been made — often — to preserve the Minnesota River. My plea here is for more Minnesotans to consider this river's fishery. It is truly unsung, amazing and worth improving upon.

For the entire story: [Minnesota River on the rebound](#) (Pioneer Press)

A Fish Tale

Joel Wurscher of St Peter caught this catfish on the Minnesota River on May 28th of this year at 10:50 p.m. on a bullhead. The fish weighed 34lb and measured at 44 inches, his biggest of the year so far. Joel called the DNR Fisheries office in Hutchinson because the fish had a tag on it and found out from Brad Koenen that this catfish had been tagged nearly 70 miles away - west of New Ulm. When they trotlined and tagged the fish on 6/9/1998 (just about 11 yrs ago) it measured out at 38 inches and 27 lbs. He also estimated the fish to be around the 20 year old mark. Joel cautions not to take the tag off any fish you catch because it doesn't help with the study. For a photo of the fish go to:

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

STOLEN CANOE ALERT

Times must be tough. Someone has stolen a canoe from CURE. We need your help in finding it. Click on: <http://sites.google.com/a/cureriver.org/stolen-canoe/> to see a flyer showing what the stolen canoe looks like. We have a hunch that the canoe was stolen by a local individual or group of individuals and that they might try to use it soon. We need this canoe (and many more like it) to fulfill our mission to get people and families who can't afford a canoe, out on the rivers. Thanks for your help. Our faith in the goodness of people remains intact. Sometimes we just don't think about what we are really doing. It takes a community to create a sense of accountability. We know we have that kind of community here in the Upper MN River Watershed. So we are asking you now to help us to keep doing what we do. Your Friend, Patrick J. Moore; rivervoic@cureriver.org; 1-877-269-2873.

p.s. CURE just spent the last 3 days helping more than 25 high school students experience the beauty of the Upper MN River Watershed on an expedition led by High School Biology Teacher (and founding CURE Board member) Butch Halterman from Big Bend/Hagen to Watson MN on the Chippewa River. The transforming power of the river was evident on the student's faces as they basked in the beauty and wildlife of this gentle prairie stream. We could have used the stolen canoe. Please help us find it or send a donation to help us replace it!

Conservation Practices Bus Tour

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is sponsoring a Conservation Practices Bus Tour featuring projects and programs of our Local Conservation Partners on June 25 (Thursday) in the Lower Mainstem sub-basin area in Swift and Chippewa Counties. The tour will be from 9:00 am-2:00 pm and will start at the Big Bend Church. This tour offers an excellent opportunity to see practices, programs and dollars that are available to landowners in the Chippewa River Watershed. Please see the attached flier for additional details. The tour and lunch are free. Preregistration is requested as bus space is limited. Please distribute or forward this to others that you think may be interested. Thanks, Jennifer Hoffman; Watershed Specialist; Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120.

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

Lac qui Parle Watershed Paddles

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership is sponsoring a canoe trip around Del Clark Lake on Friday June, 19th. We will meet by the beach at 1:00 p.m. Strawberry sundaes and floats will be served after canoeing. We will explore the Canby Creek inlet, riser and emergency overflow areas and enjoy the scenic views of Del Clark Lake. If you have your own canoe, please join us. Another canoeing opportunity will be held Friday June 26th at 9:00 a.m. leaving from Veterans Park in Dawson. We will be exploring the Lac qui Parle River as it is before the dam is removed later this summer. Please call Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 to reserve a canoe for either of these canoeing opportunities.

What's in Your Water?

In 2008, America was hit with the revelation that trace amounts of antibiotics, anti-depressants, hormones and other pharmaceuticals had been found in the drinking water of 41 million Americans. Pharmaceuticals are never completely absorbed in the body. Small amounts of drugs end up in human waste, which ends up in wastewater. Also, many Americans dispose of their unwanted drugs by dumping them in the sink or flushing them down the toilet. Even after the water has been treated at a wastewater treatment plant, released to the environment, and then re-treated at a drinking water treatment plant, trace amounts of the chemicals remain.

There are no drinking water treatment standards for pharmaceuticals, and the chemicals easily bypass common drinking water treatment methods. Although the concentrations are small (we're talking parts per billion or trillion), it is possible that long-term exposure to a low-concentration mixture of these chemicals could have negative impacts on human and ecosystem health.

There is no question that the pharmaceuticals being detected in the water of Americans are due to increased overall use and disposal of pharmaceuticals nationwide. The story is no different right here in Minnesota -- a recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota's Water Resource Center showed that Minnesotans are currently flushing 25 percent more pharmaceuticals and household chemicals down the drain than they did thirty years ago. To conduct the study, samples were taken from diverted household wastewater in three states (Minnesota, Florida, and Colorado) for one year beginning in 2006. Caffeine was found in 100% of samples taken, salicylic acid (the main component of aspirin) in 50%, and endocrine disruptors (found in birth control pills and hormone therapies) were found in 85% of samples.

So what's a Minnesotan to do? While there is really no way to control the pharmaceuticals being excreted from your body, there are a few simple guidelines disposing of your unused pharmaceuticals in a way that will minimally impact the environment and human health.

First of all, DO NOT flush or pour... this is extremely important. Check to see if your local police department or household hazardous waste collection program take pharmaceuticals. If you have no other options, mix the pharmaceutical with kitty litter, coffee grounds, or some other undesirable substance to discourage consumption, and place the mixture back in the original container (crossing out the patient's name and information). Wrap the container in opaque material and dispose of it in the trash.

You can do your part to keep Minnesotans' drinking water safe. For more information on safe prescription disposal, check out the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's guidelines](http://www.conservationminnesota.org) on the subject. (Conservation Minnesota <http://www.conservationminnesota.org>)

Conservationists eye prairie grass as power source

Mankato, Minn. (AP) — A conservation group is trying to determine whether prairie grass in southern Minnesota could be used to produce electricity. The Nature Conservancy will take grass from about 300 acres of native or restored prairies in Nicollet, Le Sueur, Sibley and Rice counties to a new biomass plant in Shakopee and figure out the cost of producing energy from the land. Besides finding a new way to produce energy, a spokesman for the group says the project is a way to protect tallgrass prairies - a nearly extinct ecosystem. Christopher Anderson says Minnesota is down to less than 1 percent of the prairie land it once had.

The University of Minnesota and local soil and water districts are also helping with the project. (Associated Press) --- Information from: The Free Press, <http://www.mankatofreepress.com> (June 11, 2009)

Hobo Costumes Sought for Montevideo Rail Fair June 21

The Milwaukee Road Heritage Center (MRHC) of Montevideo is hosting an Open House and Hobo Festival on Sunday June 21st from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Historic Milwaukee Road Depot on Main Street Montevideo. The event is being sponsored in conjunction with the annual Fiesta Days Parade which begins at 1 p.m. Parade goers are encouraged to come early to save their seat along the parade route and then stroll over to the railroad yard for guided tours, hobo music, food, a hobo secret symbol scavenger hunt and a model railroad exhibit. The event is free and open to the public.

Area youth are being encouraged to dress up as hobos and attend the event. Prizes will be awarded for the best hobo costumes. The model railroad exhibit under construction will be open for public viewing on Sunday. Families with young children will delight in seeing the model trains go round the track. Children will also have the opportunity to look for secret hobo signs on the rail yard grounds and along Montevideo's Main Street. Prizes will be awarded to those who are able to locate all of the signs.

Jerry Ostensoe will play train songs and hobo tunes at the Historic Milwaukee Road depot during the event. Cans of Lem Kaercher's Hobo Soup will be on sale for a \$1.00 and tour goers will be encouraged to eat the soup "right out of the can" in the time honored hobo tradition.

The purpose of the Open House is to introduce Montevideo area residents to the historical importance of the Milwaukee Road Railroad yard. The rail yard features a world class collection of historic buildings and cars that attract visitors from throughout the nation. Anyone can join the MRHC. For more information visit <http://www.montevideomrhc.org> For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/trifestaflyer.pdf>

Hello WaterFront subscribers,

The June edition of WaterFront is now posted at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/waterfront/index.html> In this issue:

Funding Updates

- Grant details on the way

Worth Noting

- Concerns over medications in surface waters
- Get the word out on getting the lead out

Project Update

- Site specific standards proposed for Byllesby Reservoir

Events

- Presentation on impact of emerald ash borer
- Mississippi Forum: Connections between agriculture and water quality

Redwood River Canoe Trip - Cancelled

The **Redwood River Canoe Trip** for June 18th (Thursday) has been cancelled by the Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) due to low water levels. For additional information, http://www.rcrca.com/canoe_trip_home.htm

An inexpensive way to stave off global warming? How white roofs could have a green impact

David A. Fahrenthold, [Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com)
Sunday, June 14, 2009

Could climate change be staved off by making the United States look like the set of "Mamma Mia!"?

That was suggested in a recent talk by Energy Secretary Steven Chu -- although, because he was speaking to Nobel laureates, he did not mention the ABBA musical set in the Greek Islands. He said that global warming could be slowed by a low-tech idea that has nothing to do with coal plants or solar panels: white roofs.

Making roofs white "changes the reflectivity ... of the Earth, so the sunlight comes in, it's reflected back into space," Chu said. "This is something very simple that we can do immediately," he said later.

Chu has brought increased attention to an idea that -- depending on your perspective -- is either fairly new, or as old as Mediterranean villages, desert robes and Colonel Sanders' summer suit. Climate scientists say that the reflective properties of the color white, if applied on enough of the world's rooftops, might actually be a brake on global warming.

(More [here](#). Related articles: "How white roofs shine bright green" ([CS Monitor](#)), "Obama's climate guru: Paint your roof white!" ([The Independent](#), UK), "Obama's green guru calls for white roofs" ([The Telegraph](#), UK), "Steven Chu: White Roofs to Fight Global Warming" ([Wall Street Journal](#).)

The Effects of Climate Change on the Antarctic Peninsula

"There is mounting evidence that the global climate has changed over the past 50 years. The west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula provides one of the most dramatic examples of climate change on Earth. All modern climate records show a rapid warming trend there over the past half century. In addition to warming, there has been large increases in ultraviolet radiation and changing precipitation patterns in this area. Dr. Christopher Ruhland's research over the past 15 years has focused on examining the response of terrestrial ecosystems on the Antarctic Peninsula to this rapidly changing environment."

Come out to the Elks Nature Center in Mankato on July 15th (Wednesday) at 7:00 p.m. to hear about "The Effects of Climate Change on the Antarctic Peninsula" sponsored by Minnesota Environmental Partnership. For more information contact Jeff Brand at 507-934-4821 or jeffbrand@mepartnership.org

Hooves and Wings

Hooves and Wings - A farm tour that is about grass-based farming, bird habitat and food for people will be held at Moonstone Farm, Montevideo, MN on Thursday, July 9 at 4:30 PM.

What would happen if we considered the health of the land, and the birds and other creatures that share that land with us important and necessary parts of our farms rather than obstacles and competitors? How would that change the way we raise our food? What would it mean for the choices we make about the way we eat? What would it mean for conversation policy? You are invited to Moonstone farm to learn about the multiple benefits of a diversified, grass-based farm and what YOU CAN DO, to help advance a more sustainable food system.

On Thursday, July 9th starting at 4:30 Land Stewardship Project, Pheasants Forever and Sustainable Farming Association will tour Moonstone Farm to see how they manage the landscape for not only the production of cattle but for a healthy environment that benefits our region's wildlife and water quality.

Walking tours, led by Moonstone farmers Richard Handeen and Audrey Arner with regional birding experts will provide a great opportunity to see firsthand this unique working landscape.

After the tour here will be a local food dinner served, for which a free will donations will be taken.

Moonstone Farm is located at 1960 40th Street SW. From MN Highway 7 and US 59 NW of Montevideo take 40th Street SW 2.2 miles.

Attendance is limited for this special on-farm event, please register. Call Land Stewardship Project for reservations and if you have any questions, Tom Taylor; Community Based Food Systems Organizer;

Land Stewardship Project; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2105 X 10;
ttaylor@landstewardshipproject.org; www.landstewardshipproject.org

Job Announcements:

Campus Sustainability Fellow

College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University invite applications for a full time, 40 hours a week fellowship position. This position is limited to 12 months from the date of appointment. This position is responsible for assisting two committees with developing and implementing a plan to bring each campus to carbon-neutrality. Each committee holds responsibility for advising the presidents on all aspects of campus sustainability, including energy, transportation, building, waste/recycling, water, food, purchasing and all other aspects of campus operations. The Fellow will support that work through data collection and analysis, project development and implementation, campus education and outreach, and by coordinating communication among the many units responsible for discrete elements of our sustainability plans. The Campus Sustainability Fellow exists to provide a job-based learning opportunity for a recent graduate of CSB/SJU interested in a career in campus or corporate sustainability. This position provides for advanced development of sustainability knowledge, development and application of analytical and organizational skills related to sustainability, and hands-on experience working with multiple stakeholders in a complex operating environment.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts or Sciences required; preferably in environmental studies, natural science, economics, or related field. Familiarity with greenhouse gas audits and/or campus sustainability issues is desirable. Grant writing experience is desirable. Strong oral and written communication skills is required; must have a desire to increase skills and knowledge of campus sustainability through on the job training, individual study, classes, and workshops.

Qualified individuals should submit a letter of interest, resume, a list of professional references and official letter or transcript verifying degree completion to: *College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University; Human Resources - Position #HRW2009036; 37 South College Ave; St. Joseph, MN 56374; employment@csbsju.edu <mailto:employment@csbsju.edu>

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until filled. Women and people of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply. College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University are EEO/AA employers. /Constance Carlson/ Program Manager, /Saint John's Bible/ Enterprises Liturgical Press – SJU; PO Box 7500; Colledgeville, MN 56321; Phone: 320.363.2094; Fax: 320.363.3278; www.sjbible.org

Grant Opportunities:

President's new service initiative on volunteers

President Obama will soon be announcing a Summer of Service campaign which offers a new and exciting opportunity to help you build up your roster of volunteers and raise awareness about volunteer monitoring and watershed stewardship. This week the President will be encouraging nonprofit organizations with a need for volunteers to register at www.serve.gov. On June 22, the President and his Cabinet will officially launch the Summer of Service and encourage Americans to volunteer for their communities. The President will direct potential volunteers to www.serve.gov to find local opportunities for service.

EPA is using this opportunity to promote volunteer monitoring and watershed stewardship. It is our hope that this Presidential initiative will encourage many more people to work to protect their watersheds.

Please consider registering your program at www.serve.gov. You may get contacted by a number of volunteers eager to help your organization. Think through what opportunities you might have for this summer, including monitoring workshops and events, debris cleanups, riparian restoration, community education, storm drain marking and other activities. If you want to sign up, you should do so as soon as

possible, as a surge of web traffic is expected starting this week by both organizations and individuals looking to get involved in volunteering this summer. However, if you're not quite prepared for a whole new cadre of volunteers, or for reporting the results of your summer volunteer activities at www.serve.gov, you may not want to sign up at this time. One of the goals of this effort will be sustainable volunteerism, so if you're not ready to sign up this summer, you can always do so later on.

Please go to www.serve.gov to register your program or for more information. Thanks for all you do, every day. If you have questions about this initiative, feel free to contact Alice Mayo at mayio.alice@epa.gov

MPCA seeking proposals for Section 319 grants through July 15

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is accepting proposals for Section 319 grant funding. Proposals will be accepted from local governmental units and other entities interested in leading a nonpoint source pollution control project. The MPCA anticipates more than \$6 million for grants this year, contingent upon Congressional appropriation. The complete RFP and proposal form are available at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html>. The RFP can also be requested via e-mail at: CWP-319.grant.program@pca.state.mn.us.

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

Events:

July 15th (Wednesday) is a presentation on the "**Effects of Climate Change on the Antarctic Peninsula**" by Dr. Christopher Rhuland at the Elks Nature Center in Mankato. The event will start at 7pm, followed by a discussion afterwards.

July 21st (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** at the Hutchinson Event Center. It starts at 6 p.m. with food and a chance to network. The formal meeting begins at 7 p.m. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu

July 27th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Annual Meeting** at Redwood Falls Community Center. The formal business meeting starts at 9 a.m. with guest speakers in the afternoon. More information will be forth coming.

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Web users turn trash into treasure](#) (MN Daily). Items such as "tons of styrofoam!," or a "Leather sofa and recliner," or a "1913 Schiller upright grand piano" would be destined to create landfill waste, but instead they are offered online, free for pickup in the Twin Cities.

[Spending the Lessard Amendment money: What the legislature did](#) (Twin Cities Daily). The majority of state voters approved a sales tax increase in November 2008 with some uncertainty as to how the anticipated revenue would be spent. A new law provides the answer.

[Environmental groups hold Minn. gov's race forum](#) (Pioneer Press). A coalition of environmental groups in Minnesota is asking candidates for governor what they would do to protect the environment.

[Scientists hopeful mussels will come back](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Scientists are finding signs of hope in efforts to reestablish native mussels in the Mississippi River downstream from the Ford Dam.

[After 85 years, protecting refuge still a challenge](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge turns 85 this month, and biologists are still hard at work to protect it.

[Stimulus funds will improve, extend Carver County bike rail trail](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The \$3.5 million will be used to build bridges in two spots where the popular west-metro trail intersects with busy roadways. It will extend to Lake Waconia.

[Nature Conservancy to use grass for energy](#) (Associated Press). A conservation group is trying to determine whether prairie grass in southern Minnesota could be used to produce electricity.

[Doppler radar sees wind farms today](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Sioux Falls NEXRAD clearly shows echoes from wind turbines along the Buffalo Ridge northeast of the radar site today. These echoes can be mistaken for showers or thunderstorms.

[Despite tough winter, so far, so good for pheasants in '09](#) (Outdoor News). Pheasants in Minnesota did a good job of weathering a winter that proved to be more like winters of old, and till now, have had a spring conducive to pulling off a good hatch.

[Outdoors Journal: June is turtles' birthing time](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The month of June is egg laying time for Minnesota's eight turtle species. At this time females become gravid (swollen with eggs) and each will seek a proper place on land to dig a hole in which to lay their eggs.

[State finalizes agreement to protect 187,000 acres of forest](#) (Outdoor News). More than 187,000 acres of industrial forest land in north-central Minnesota will be protected under an agreement signed last week by the DNR and Blandin Paper Company.

[Cargill gets first experience selling carbon offsets](#) (MinnPost). Carbon cap-and-trade hasn't come to the United States yet, but a Minnesota company in Canada is getting its first experience tracking and selling carbon emission offsets.

[Governor's race: First candidates' forum is green and organic and Dem all over](#) (MinnPost). You couldn't get any more organic or green than a gaggle of gubernatorial candidates did Thursday night.

[Good Question: What Happens To Old TVs?](#) (WCCO TV). Even though you don't need to buy a new TV to get digital over-the-air television, many Americans have been doing just that. So, what happens to all the old television sets?

[McKnight Foundation makes a grant to MinnPost](#) (MinnPost). The McKnight Foundation awards MinnPost a grant of \$60,000 a year for two years for general operating support.

[Coming to a town near you: Lessard-Sams council](#) (Outdoor News). The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council is set to hit the road.

[New pollution agency tool helps car buyers choose green](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). People buying a car now have a new tool to help figure out which are easiest on the environment.

[Peterson taking a stand for biofuels](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson is fighting against his party's cap-and-trade emissions proposal, in defense of Minnesota's ethanol industry.

[Nonprofit aims to add 17,000 parkland acres in 7-county area](#) (Pioneer Press). The Twin Cities region has long been touted for abundant park space, but a new organization has its sights set on acquiring even more.

[Breakfast on the Farm highlights importance of agriculture](#) (Morris Sun Tribune). Anyone who eats has a vested interest in agriculture, says the head of the state's largest farm organization.

[Paul Austin: Outdoors council should take full advantage of '50-year Vision'](#) (Pioneer Press). These are difficult economic times, with state deficits, cuts in government programs and inadequate resources to meet many of the state's basic needs.

If people destroy something replaceable made by mankind, they are called vandals; if they destroy something irreplaceable made by God, they are called developers. – Joseph Wood Krutch

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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