

“Assessments of Willmar area lakes to be done this year” by Tom Cherveney, West Central Tribune
Not since Willmar Mayor Ole Reynolds and Kandiyohi County board chair Virgil Olson stood before the cameras and supposedly sipped water from a dipper pulled from Foot Lake in 1983 has water quality in the lake gotten this kind of attention.

Roughly every two weeks during May through September, Cory Netland and his staff with the Hawk Creek Watershed Project launch a flat-bottomed boat on the lake and submerge probes to collect samples of the water at various depths. They used another device to collect lake sediment, too. The samples are cooled and shipped immediately to a laboratory in Duluth. Technicians analyze the water samples for the nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll A, suspended solids and (gulp), the fecal coliform they may hold.

For the rest of the article: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/willmarlakesassessment.pdf>

“Loyola senior earns grant for river, fish study” by Tanner Kent, The Free Press
Standing knee-deep in the Big Cobb River, Lina Wang fits right in.

Wearing camouflage waders and rubber gloves, she strings a net across gently rippling water. The suckers and darters and mudpuppies that catch in the mesh couldn't care less that Wang is still weeks away from starting her senior year at Mankato Loyola High School.

And the two Minnesota State University graduate students who accompanied her into the field could hardly care that their colleague is several years their junior.

To the water and fish that have captivated her attention since she was a young girl, and to the fellow scientists who have helped coordinate the study, Wang's work has real value.

But to the state and federal water control agencies that are watching her study closely, and especially to the American Fisheries Society that has now given her a second research grant, Wang's work is not just real valuable.

For the rest of the article: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/loyalseniorearnsgrantforriver.pdf>

Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study

Envision 2020 is looking for volunteers to work on a new task force to provide input to the Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study (MATAPS) on goals and strategies for developing trails within a multi-modal transportation system.

The first meeting is scheduled for **Sept. 17th, 8-9 am at the new Bike Shelter building in Riverfront Park** off Rock Street in Mankato.

If interested, please contact E2020 Transportation Committee Chair, Joe Duncan at joedu@bolton-menk.com

APPLY NOW FOR ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Saint Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency today announced it has opened the application process for its annual Governor's Awards for Pollution Prevention. Bestowed since 1991, the awards honor superior environmental achievement by Minnesota businesses, nonprofits, government and institutions. The deadline for applications is Sept. 15, 2009.

Pollution prevention reduces or eliminates the generation of pollution at the source. Examples include using non-toxic chemicals instead of toxic ones, changing processes to reduce the need for polluting materials and using innovative design that reduces or eliminates waste.

Minnesota businesses, nonprofits and government agencies are eligible, as well as partnerships of any of these. Projects may focus on industrial or commercial pollution prevention, sustainable community development, green building, renewable energy or other areas.

Applications are evaluated based on benefits to the environment, economic efficiency, innovation, leadership and commitment, and the project's suitability to be a model for others.

For an application and more information, go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/p2/govaward.cfm> or telephone Peder Sandhei at 651-757-2688, e-mail govawards.pca@state.mn.us

Big Stone II passes final regulatory hurdle - Associated Press

The utilities planning to build a coal-fired power plant in eastern South Dakota say the project has passed its final regulatory hurdle.

Big Stone II's project manager announced today that the Department of Energy's Western Area Power Administration approved the project's Environmental Impact Statement earlier this month. It was the last step in the permitting phase for the power plant.

The EIS allows the plant to interconnect with substations in western Minnesota.

Five utilities serving customers in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa and Montana hope to build Big Stone II near Milbank, S.D.

The utilities will decide this fall whether to move forward with the plan. If they do, the project would cost about \$1.6 billion with construction starting late next year.

Ethanol plant fined \$100,000 for pollution violation – Minnesota Public Radio

Winnebago, Minn. (AP) — Owners of an ethanol plant in Winnebago have agreed to pay a \$100,000 fine after pleading guilty to a federal charge of violating the Clean Water Act.

Corn Plus also agreed to make a \$50,000 contribution to benefit Rice Lake.

Federal and state pollution officials charged the company Aug. 3 with discharging wastewater into the lake from 2005 to 2007. They say the water contained the pollutant biological oxygen.

The company processes corn into ethanol fuel. It pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of negligently discharging polluted wastewater, which carries a maximum fine of \$200,000.

A message left with the company's attorney on Friday was not immediately returned. (August 21, 2009)

Job Announcements:

Events Programming Coordinator

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) are seeking a full-time Events Programming Coordinator to help further our mission to catalyze community-scale clean energy projects. CERTs have brought together regional teams and technical resources to assess key opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy and are now working to foster local energy projects through networking, education and outreach forums, project planning resources, and limited seed grant funding. Learn more at www.CleanEnergyResourceTeams.org.

Staff from three of the CERT partnering organizations – the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (UM Regional Partnerships), the Southwest Regional Development Commission, and the Green Institute – provide coordination to the seven regional CERTs. The partnering organizations are seeking someone to aid with outreach, scheduling and implementing regional clean energy forums.

The events programming coordinator will work cooperatively with the CERTs coordinators across the state on a variety of event, meeting and conference coordination responsibilities including but not limited to the following:

- Schedule and organize CERT steering committee conference calls and meetings
- Coordinate speakers and venues for CERTs events in all seven regions – quarterly team meetings, workshops, and tours
- Help create meeting agendas, press releases and flyers for CERT regional events
- Coordinate with all regional coordinators to plan multi-region events and forums
- Implement robust outreach for both media and target audiences for all CERT events
- Assist in preparing all handout materials, making travel arrangements and procuring needed technologies (projectors, video cameras, etc.) for all CERTs events
- Create meeting summaries, add new CERT members to list serves and add presentations (and perhaps video clips) to the website after CERT events
- Follow up with speakers after CERT events
- Plan virtual workshops/webinars that would allow individuals from all regions to participate in brief technology-specific forums
- Support the biennial CERTs conference as needed

Applications are due September 4th, 2009. For a more detailed description of the job posting, or to apply, please go to the University of Minnesota's employment website:

<https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=82464>. Questions may be directed to Lissa Pawlisch, CERTs Coordinator at 612-624-2293 or pawl0048@umn.edu.

Director of Conservation Programs – Minnesota

Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever are seeking an individual with the talent, passion and desire to promote and grow the Nation's leading upland wildlife habitat conservation organization. Pheasants Forever (PF), with its new division Quail Forever (QF), is a non-profit with over 650 chapters, 125,000 members and a \$36 million annual budget.

Minimum Qualifications:

- The team members we desire are innovative and creative thinkers with a proven track record of success and following through with their ideas.
- B.A./B.S. in Natural Resources, Accounting, Education, or Marketing. M.S. or extensive experience with job responsibilities preferred.
- Demonstrated grant writing, administration and implementation experience.
- Innovative and resourceful self-starter able to work with minimal supervision.
- Ability to develop, manage and implement programs/projects from start to finish.
- Demonstrated organizational & motivational skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Job Description & Primary Responsibilities:

- Write, administer and manage grants and programs that deliver the Pheasants Forever habitat mission in Minnesota. This could include NAWCA grants, Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, LSOHC grants, and others.
- Create and build new and innovative conservation partnerships in Minnesota and pursue program funding from private and public granting entities.
- Assist PF and QF in liaison with local, state and federal governmental entities.
- Work as a team with Minnesota PF Staff, chapters, and partners in assisting with state wide conservation initiatives (including state meeting, build a wildlife area, state habitat workshops, district meetings etc.) that contribute to the goals and objectives of the Minnesota Conservation Plan/Strategy

Starting Salary: Dependent upon qualifications; **Closing Date:** September 4, 2009; **Anticipated Start Date:** October 1, 2009; **Application** (Word documents via e-mail are preferred): Send a cover letter

outlining your interest and qualifications, resume, three references and salary requirements to: Joy Eastman; Pheasants Forever, Inc.; 1783 Buerkle Circle; St. Paul, Minnesota 55110; Direct Dial: 651-209-4917; Fax: 651-773-5500; E-mail: jobs@pheasantsforever.org

Events:

September 4th & 5th (Friday & Saturday) is Riverblast at Riverside Park (located at Center Street and the Minnesota River) in New Ulm. There will be music, bike tours, horse drawn trolley rides, the Riverblast Flotilla Parade, food and refreshments along with much more. **Don't forget there is camping on site right in the park and *no coolers or dogs at the blast site*.** See you all at the BLAST <http://www.Riverblast.org> for more info.

September 12th (Saturday) is a **Mussel Hike on the Chippewa River** starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Lentz Landing on Highway 40 northwest of Montevideo. DNR Mussel Experts, Bernard Sietman and Mike Davis will give a close-up view of the native species. Learn about mussels and get a chance to wade the river and get a hands-on experience. Be prepared to get water. Call with questions 320-269-2139.

September 13th (Sunday) is the **Rally for the Valley 5K Fun & Kids Run** starting at 9:30 a.m. at Fort Snelling State Park. This is a USATF-certified race course; outdoor recreation for the whole family along with scenic setting and wildlife viewing. Register now at active.com or contact Mary Anderson at mary@andersonraces.com. Sponsored by the Friends of Minnesota Valley.

October 6th & 7th (Tuesday and Wednesday) is the **Nobel Conference – H2O Uncertain Resource** at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. This conference will examine the current state of world water resources. Immediate threats to the health of rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters, oceans, and all forms of aquatic environments will be confronted by leading scientists. Environmental ethics and potable water as a basic human right will be examined alongside human tragedy resulting from contaminated resources. For more information, <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2009/>

October 26th – 27th (Monday and Tuesday) is the **Water Resources Conference** at RiverCentre, St Paul. The Minnesota Water Resources Conference presents innovative and practical water resource management techniques and highlights research about Minnesota's water resources. For more information, <http://wrc.umn.edu/waterconf/index.htm>

November 7 (Saturday) is the **Crisis as Opportunity: Redesigning the Good Life Conference** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mankato Provincial House Conference Center (170 Good Counsel Drive. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thegoodlife.pdf>

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Star Tribune: Rise of wolves putting Minnesota pets at risk](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Complaints - and fears - about attacks on dogs are increasing along with wolf numbers in northern Minnesota.

[Signup begins for CSP](#) (Minnesota Outdoors). The signup period for a federal conservation program, which underwent a facelift in the most recent "farm bill," has begun.

[Heard it through the grapevine](#) (Owatonna People's Press). A new trend is taking root in the heart of beer country. More and more people are growing grapes and making homemade wine in Steele County and Minnesota at large.

[Commentary: Does the local-food movement make a difference? It sure helps](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Buying locally grown food connects us to our roots. And since you're putting it in your mouth, wouldn't you like to know where it comes from?

[Commentary: Does the local-food movement make a difference? Not really](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Local food has many joys, especially at this time of year, but saving energy and boosting the local economy are not among them.

[Funding definitions the focus of debate](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). When there's \$70 million in funds to spend on conservation and habitat, time spent discussing the definitions of three words - protect, restore, and enhance - might seem a waste.

[Arts, outdoors projects to be delayed due to low sales tax receipts](#) (St. Paul Capitol News). Minnesota voters in 2008 agreed to increase the state sales tax to pay for the arts and outdoors projects. Now the Minnesota economy is having a say on how quickly the money flows into state coffers to pay for such things.

[Celebrating hummingbirds in Henderson](#) (Mankato Free Press). Henderson civic leaders sponsored the event to draw attention to the importance of the river valley to song birds, especially during this time of migration.

[Our View: We can all help restore bird numbers](#) (Mankato Free Press). The joy of a vacation to a new destination is universal: Discovering the unique features of the area, absorbing the natural resources and beauty.

[Mussel hunt a lesson in water quality](#) (Mankato Free Press). Mussels are known as the aquatic "canaries of the coal mine" because they only thrive in good quality water.

[Mississippi River canoe expeditions give urban kids a taste of the outdoors](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Mississippi River canoe expeditions give urban kids a taste of the outdoors and help organizers test their concept of an 'Urban Wilderness Canoe Area.'

[Project Energy: Don Shelby Meets With Famed Global Warming Author](#) (WCCO TV). Don Shelby had the opportunity recently to sit down with an important environmental author.

[Nick Coleman: Pawlenty goes equatorial on the polar cap](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Still, he was friend on climate change for a spell, and it helped, says Will Steger.

[Zebra mussels spotted in Mississippi River in St. Cloud](#) (St. Cloud Times). The invasive aquatic animals were discovered during a routine cleaning and inspection of the water treatment plant's intake station, Utilities Director Pat Shea said.

I thank you God for this most amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees, and for the blue dream of sky and for everything which natural, which is infinite, which is yes. – e.e. cummings

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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