

# **Minnesota River Weekly Update**

## **September 7, 2012**

**To include your news release in the next edition of the Minnesota River Update, please send it to [mnrriverupdate@gmail.com](mailto:mnrriverupdate@gmail.com).**

### **MPCA invites comments on water quality report for Crystal Lake**

Monday, Sept. 10, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Robinson Park in Lake Crystal

Reducing nutrient levels is the focus of a water quality study for Crystal Lake in Blue Earth County in south-central Minnesota. Excess nutrients in the lake are causing algal blooms and having a negative impact on recreational opportunities. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) invites the public to submit comments on the report of the Crystal Lake water quality study through Sept. 26, 2012. The agency also encourages local residents to attend an open house on the study on Monday, Sept. 10, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. at Robinson Park in Lake Crystal.

For more information: <http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/MNPCA-5104d0>

### **Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Photo Contest**

Deadline for entering photos is November 2, 2012

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership is sponsoring a Photo Contest. All Photos must be from the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank watershed and be taken within the last 3 years. Select photos will be published in a 2013 calendar and may be used on our website and brochures with credits given. Cash prizes awarded with the first place photo receiving \$50, second place \$30 and third place \$20. Judging will be completed by the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership TEAM which consists of partnering agencies from Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties.

You do not need to live within the watershed to submit a photo. Digital photos are preferred. There is a maximum of 3 photos per person. Picture ideas include scenic views of rivers and lakes, fun water activities, wildlife, or seasonal pictures. Use your imagination. Contest entry form with map of the watershed can be downloaded from our website at [www.lqpybwatershed.org](http://www.lqpybwatershed.org) click on Clean Water Partnership button or if you need form mailed to you contact Mary Homan at [320-598-3319](tel:320-598-3319) or [mary.homan@lqpc.com](mailto:mary.homan@lqpc.com).

### **Great River Race**

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012

Every great city needs a Great River Race! London has one, and now so does the Twin Cities. Gather your team of nine colleagues or friends and race a 24" Voyageur Canoe on the Mississippi River. Corporate teams, friends, families and nonprofit organizations can join the 7-mile friendly competition from Hidden Falls to Harriet Island. A post-race celebration and awards ceremony with live music and a picnic lunch will be held at Harriet Island (Kelley's Landing) from 11 am to 1 pm.

The Great River Race benefits the Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) program, a creative outdoor education initiative that works to reduce the achievement gap in partnership with public schools and youth serving organizations by providing enriching nature-based learning to more than 10,000 students each year. Each team races on behalf of a local school in an effort to win that school a \$5,000 UWCA scholarship.

For more information: <http://wildernessinquiry.org/greatriverrace/>

### **Steven Blondo discuss the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862**

Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Please come to the Treaty Site History Center on Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to hear archaeologist Steven Blondo discuss the U.S. – Dakota War of 1862. The event is free and all are welcome. It is held in conjunction with Minnesota Archaeology Week. Blondo

will discuss recent archaeological investigations at a number of 1862 sites including Fort Ridgely, Birch Coulee, and New Ulm. A question and answer period will follow. The Treaty Site History Center is located one mile north of downtown Saint Peter at Highways 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic. The Center features a national award-winning exhibit on the Traverse des Sioux Treaty of 1851 and its consequences, as well as local history, and a full-service research archive. Please contact the Society at [507-934-2160](tel:507-934-2160) or [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org) for more details.

### **Expiring Conservation Reserve Program Options**

Landowners evaluating options for expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres should consider opportunities to keep sensitive acres in grasslands or perennial vegetation that preserve soil, water, and wildlife resources. Many CRP lands border ditches, waterways, streams or rivers that could be eligible for federal, state or local buffer programs that would offer continued protection to these sensitive areas. In the last 20 years, over 1 million acres in Minnesota have been enrolled in CRP. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program has provided a source of income to landowners with sensitive lands while protecting and preserving soil, water and wildlife resources. All current contracts expire on September 30 of the last year of the contract.

For several perennial vegetation options for expiring CRP lands, see [http://www.extension.umn.edu/agroforestry/components/expiring\\_crp\\_updated\\_9final.pdf](http://www.extension.umn.edu/agroforestry/components/expiring_crp_updated_9final.pdf)

### **A SIP OF SCIENCE - The Surprising Life of Native Mussels**

**Sept. 12, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Aster Cafe, Minneapolis

Freshwater mussels are one of the most endangered animal groups in North America, but the role of these mollusks in freshwater ecosystems, including our own Mississippi River, is vital to the survival of other animals and to the stability of the food chain. Freshwater mussels improve water quality in rivers and streams, allowing greater light penetration for algae and other organisms to grow, and they act as excellent indicators of environmental changes.

Join mussel researcher Mark Hove in a discussion of these aquatic creatures, including how mussels help not only rivers but people, the anthropogenic impacts on mussels, and mussel conservation. For more information: <http://www.nced.umn.edu/content/sip-science-0>

### **Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota climatologist**

Thursday, October 4, 2012

The Environmental Committee at Minnesota State University, Mankato, is pleased to announce that Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota climatologist and weekly commentator on Minnesota Public Radio's "Morning Edition," will speak at MSU on Thursday, October 4, in Ostrander Auditorium from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. His topic is "Climate Change Implications for Minnesota." Dr. Seeley is the author of Minnesota Weather Almanac and co-author of Voyageur Skies: Weather and the Wilderness in Minnesota's National Park, winner of the Northeast Minnesota Book Awards for photography. He has been involved in numerous projects to explain Minnesota weather to the public and to students. In 2012 he received the University of Minnesota President's Award for Outstanding Service.

## **Camp Release Dakota War Dialogue & Memorial Walk September 23 in Montevideo**

**Sunday, September 23, 2012**

**1:00–5:00 p.m.**

Observe the 150th Anniversary of the final act of the U.S. Dakota War, the release of 269 captives to Colonel Henry Sibley starting on September 26, 1862. The event is "designed to encourage participants to reflect and converse with one another about our past, and how we move forward, together, as a united Minnesota" according to Chippewa County Historical Director, June Lynne.

For more information: <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html#dakota-war-dialogue>

**Restoring the Soil Resource: Insuring for Resiliency and Profits,” the state-wide video-conference workshop on soil health**

**Friday September 21, 2012, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m at 7 sites across Minnesota**

For more information: <http://landstewardshipproject.org/events/item/24>

**2013 International Low Impact Development Symposium**

August 18-21, 2013

Saint Paul RiverCentre, Saint Paul Minnesota

The 2013 International Low Impact Development (LID) Symposium is being hosted in the Midwestern United States through a collaborative effort between many states, universities, and organizations. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Watershed, every state in the Midwestern United States is addressing urban water quality issues from combined sewer overflows to stormwater runoff. The 2013 International LID Symposium will bring together over 1,000 professionals to share their research, implementation, policy, financing, and education strategies to build and restore cities while protecting our environment.

Requests for abstracts will begin in Fall 2012.

For more information, see <http://www.cce.umn.edu/2013-International-Low-Impact-Development-Symposium/index.html>

## **Events:**

September 17 (Monday) is a Minnesota River Board Meeting from 9:00am - 12:00 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23rd Street NE) in Willmar. For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu)

November 19 (Monday) is a Minnesota River Board Meeting from 9:00am - 12:00 noon. Place and location to be announced. For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu)

Water is the driving force of all nature

~Leonardo da Vinci

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 Basin.