

Minnesota River Weekly Update February 28, 2013

To include your news release in the next edition of the Minnesota River Update, please send it to mnriverupdate@gmail.com.

Events:

The Next Generation to Highlight CURE 21st Annual Meeting

Saturday February 9th, 2013

Granite Falls, MN - Prairie's Edge Convention Center

The 21st annual meeting of Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) will be held on Saturday, February 9th from 4 - 10 p.m. in the new location of the Prairie's Edge Convention Center & Casino just south of Granite Falls off of Hwy 23. After 21 years, the organization has grown to the point of needing a larger venue to meet and celebrate the growing community of Minnesota River enthusiasts. Pre-registration is required by calling [1-877-269-2873](tel:1-877-269-2873) or by e-mailing dixie@cureriver.org.

This event will focus on ***"The Next Generation"*** and will feature brief presentations by "Kayak Kate" Eggers and current CURE board president Joshua Preston. They will share how their involvement with CURE has made a difference for them personally. Kate is a senior at Gustavus Adolphus and Josh is a senior at the University of Minnesota Morris.

Highlighting the evening will be skit about CURE, the Next Generation and personal stories about the Minnesota River. The skit is being created by Ashley Hanson and Andrew Gaylord of the Meandering River Walk Theater Production. Hanson and Gaylord will be hosting a Minnesota River **Story Swap Workshop starting at 3:30 p.m, at Prairies Edge**. The public is invited to come to the meeting early to share stories that will be gathered and incorporated into the special performance that evening.

At 4:00 p.m. the public is invited to participate in the **CURE World Café**. Topics for discussion include Upstream/Downstream Dialogues; Scenic Rock Outcrop Protection; Dam Removal/ New Rapids; Renewable Energy Policy Initiatives. Anyone interested in getting in-depth updates about CURE's work in these areas is invited to attend.

The Annual meeting will formally will begin at 5:00 pm with a **Social Hour** featuring the music of the Stermer Brothers of Montevideo followed by a banquet meal at 6:00 p.m., program and board elections at 7:00 p.m. and an awards ceremony at 8:00 p.m. The evening will conclude with a kayak sweepstakes giveaway at 9:00 p.m.

A sell out crowd is expected, so CURE office manager Dixie Tilden is encouraging everyone to register by February 4 deadline. Cost of the meeting is \$30 for adults, \$15 for students & children if registration is made by Feb. 4. After February 4, the cost for adults is \$35.

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) is a grassroots non-profit organization governed by a democratically elected 15-member board of directors. It is the one of the largest and oldest citizen organizations working in the Minnesota River Watershed. This past year CURE has worked with others to bring national attention to the Minnesota River Watershed through a National Blueways Nomination process. CURE has convened dozens of dialogues and events involving more than 1,000 citizens who are now involved with projects designed to improve water quality and develop the potential of the river to attract youth and new investment to the region.

For more information, visit www.cureriver.org.

Talking "Soil Health"
Monday February 11th, 2013
Fairmont, MN

Join Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension for the first of four Third Crop Producer Meetings this winter. The topic of soil health will kick-off the 2013 season. The "Soil Health" Third Crop Producer Meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Fairmont, Minnesota, from 10am to 3pm on Monday, February 11, 2013.

The first speaker of the "Soil Health" Third Crop Producer Meeting will be Joe Kristoff, the Area 5 Resource Soil Scientist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Kristoff will explain what a soil needs to be considered healthy and what we can do to get it there. Carissa Spencer, the Minnesota State Agronomist with NRCS, will follow with her presentation on the different programs and events that the Minnesota NRCS will be focusing on in 2013 in order to increase soil health around the state. The third speaker will be Kristine Moncada, a researcher at the University of Minnesota. Moncada and partners have been conducting research along Elm Creek in south central Minnesota. She will be discussing the importance of nurse/cover crops and good soil health to the quick establishment of prairie plants.

After lunch, the Third Crop Producer Meeting will resume with a discussion of the benefits of including alfalfa in a corn-based cropping system. Matt Yost with the University of Minnesota will be talking on this subject and sharing his research from his on-farm plots which focused on the alfalfa nitrogen credit. One of these on-farm research plots was on the Jerry Ackermann farm in Jackson County, Minnesota. Ackermann will be sharing information about his farming operation which includes raising alfalfa, corn, and soybeans, utilizing strip-tillage, and using cover crops. The last speaker of the day will

be Jill Sackett with University of Minnesota Extension. Sackett will be giving a summary of Rural Advantage's piece of a recently completed cover crop demonstration project as well as sharing farmer experiences from around Minnesota.

The Knights of Columbus is located at 920 East 10th Street in Fairmont, Minnesota. Registration and refreshments will begin at 9:30am. The morning session will run from 10:00am to 12:00pm and the afternoon session will run from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. There will be an hour break for lunch on your own. The workshop is FREE of charge and pre-registration is not necessary.

For weather related cancellations, contact either the Farm Information Line or Rural Advantage. University of Minnesota Extension Farm Information Line, [1-800-232-9077](tel:1-800-232-9077)
Rural Advantage, [507-238-5449](tel:507-238-5449)

Prairie Enthusiasts Conference-Kids Program

March 16, 2013

10Am-3PM

Minnesota State University, Mankato- Centennial Student Union, Hearth Area

What: A prairie festival for Mankato area families to learn about and celebrate prairies. There will be a series of booths where kids and families can come explore hands-on activities and a series of kid-friendly talks about prairie, local ecology and history.

Time	Topic	Presenter
10-10:30	Superstore on the Prairie	Chrystal Dunker Prairie Ecology Bus
10:30-11	Dragonflies	Kurt Mead Minnesota Odonata Survey Project
11-11:30	Snakes	Jamie Edwards Nongame Wildlife Specialist, MDNR
11:30-Noon	Wild about Wildlife	Scott Kudelka

		Minneopa Area Naturalist, MDNR
12-12:30		
12:30-1	Scrambled Animals	Chrystal Dunker Prairie Ecology Bus
1-1:30	Dakota Stories of the Land	Gwen Westerman Author and Professor Minnesota State University, Mankato
1:30-2	Bumble Bees	Elaine Evans Author, Befriending Bumble Bees
2-2:30	Little Owl on the Prairie	Scott Moeller Interpretive Naturalist, Linnaeus Arboretum
2:30-3:00	Giants of the Prairie: the North American Bison	Art & Barb Straub Educators and River Enthusiasts

DESCRIPTIONS		
Time	Topic	Presenter
10-10:30	Superstore on the Prairie No, we're not talking about shopping at a Walmart or SuperTarget. Years ago when the pioneers were settling the area, they and the Native Americans relied on prairies and wetlands to supply their needs. Learn what native plants were used for band-aids and diapers, floor mats and mattresses, hairbrushes and deodorant, and much more!	Chrystal Dunker Prairie Ecology Bus
10:30-11	Dragonflies	Kurt Mead

	<p>Kurt Mead, author of the award winning field guide, <i>Dragonflies of the North Woods</i>, will introduce you to the dragonflies, amazing and beautiful, winged predators. Where do the babies live? Where are they in the winter? Bring your own questions to Kurt's talk and he'll answer them, some of them truthfully!</p>	Minnesota Odonata Survey Project
11-11:30	<p>Snakes</p> <p>Want to learn about snake species in Minnesota and how to identify them? Minnesota DNR wildlife specialist Jamie Edwards will share interesting stories and fascinating facts about snakes.</p>	<p>Jamie Edwards</p> <p>Nongame Wildlife Specialist, MDNR</p>
11:30-Noon	<p>Wild about Wildlife</p> <p>What candid climbs trees to escape predators? What mammal has a second eyelid (nictitating membrane) to protect its eyes when digging? What animal has 50 teeth, more than any other mammal? Experience the amazing world of mammals and some of the unique characteristics of wildlife found here in Minnesota.</p>	<p>Scott Kudelka</p> <p>Minneopa Area Naturalist, MDNR</p>
12:00-12:30		
12:30-1	<p>Scrambled Animals</p> <p>Furs and skulls and tracks - <i>Oh, My!</i> Our critters are all mixed up and need your help! Join a Prairie Ecology Bus Center Naturalist and help unscramble all the mixed up animal parts and figure out which mammals they come from. They're super cool and they live in an area near you!</p>	<p>Chrystal Dunker</p> <p>Prairie Ecology Bus</p>
1:00-1:30	<p>Dakota Stories of the Land</p> <p>Where do some of the names for our rivers and towns come from? From the first people to live in this place we call Minnesota—the Dakota. Hear some of the stories Dakota people tell about the land and learn more about why it is so important to them.</p>	<p>Gwen Westerman</p> <p>Author and Professor</p> <p>Minnesota State University, Mankato</p>
1:30-2:00	<p>Befriending Bumble Bees</p> <p>We often see bumble bees at flowers busily gathering pollen but don't get a chance to see them otherwise. We'll learn about how bumble bees live, what they do, and how they make our world a better place.</p>	<p>Elaine Evans</p> <p>Author, Befriending Bumble Bees</p>

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2:00-2:30	Little Owl on the Prairie Just when you thought all owls liked trees and nighttime, we'll learn about an owl that hunts the prairie by day. We'll talk about other owls you might see near where you live, as well as what clues to look for to find them. We'll even get up close and personal with some mounted owl specimens to discover what makes all owls such amazing hunters.	Scott Moeller Interpretive Naturalist, Linnaeus Arboretum
2:30-3:00	Giants of the Prairie: the North American Bison During the past hundreds of years, thousands of American Bison roamed the prairies in this area. Often they died or were killed in the area of our rivers, to be preserved by mud and silt covering. As the river banks are worn away by rushing waters, bones and teeth become exposed. Gain hands-on experiences with bison bones, specimens gathered over the years from the Minnesota River sandbars.	Art & Barb Straub Educators and River Enthusiasts

The Prairie Enthusiasts, Inc.

"Pollinators: Future of our Food and Native Plant Communities" 25th annual Prairie Conference and All Chapter Banquet

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Minnesota State University, Centennial Student Union Building, Mankato, MN

Co-Hosted by the Many Rivers Chapter of TPE and The Water Resource Center

Our Co-hosts have organized an excellent program for the annual event. The theme, *"Pollinators: Future of our Food & Native Plant Communities,"* celebrates our 25th year since incorporation. The annual conference and banquet brings together enthusiast from throughout the Midwest to celebrate our prairie heritage.

We are excited to have **Tom Landwehr**, Minnesota Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. Tom will present the opening presentation *The State of the State of Minnesota Prairies and Grasslands*.

Tim Krohn, Writer and Canoeist will be the noon speaker. Tim has been a journalist for over 30 years and will share his experiences canoeing 335 miles down the Minnesota River in 1998 and again in 2008.

Following the opening presentation, there will be concurrent sessions including a Water Tract, Prairie Tract, and Animal Tract. The sessions will cover such topics as: Wildlife, Prairie Restoration and Maintenance, Grassland Birds, Dragonflies, Orchids, Reptiles and Amphibians and Befriending Bumble Bees.

For the first time we offer a tract for families and kids co-sponsored with The Water Resource Center. This will feature a day long tract that will include family friendly topics.

There will also be ample time to see and catch up with old and new friends during a **social mixer**, followed by the **annual all-Chapter Banquet**.

We are pleased to announce our keynote speaker **Eric Mader**, the Assistant Pollinator Program Director at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and Extension Professor of Entomology at the University of Minnesota. Eric will present on how native pollinators play a critical role in both prairie ecology and agriculture. This intersection between nature and farming provides a unique framework for engaging farmers in the conservation of native biodiversity. In his talk Eric will provide a virtual tour of progress being made, lessons learned (including economic costs and benefits), and how this work can support broader conservation objectives like water quality protection and reduce pesticide use.

TPE Photo Contest (Main Level)

Finalists from the 4th Annual TPE Photo Contest will be on display during the conference. Attendees will vote for their favorite photo and the winner will be used for the cover of our 2012 Annual Report. Full details and contest rules are available on our website, www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org.

Raffle and Silent Auction (Ballroom)

Once again attendees can participate in the annual Raffle and Silent Auction fundraiser for our Chapters. Raffle tickets will be for sale and auction items can be viewed throughout the day ending at 4:00 PM.

Vendor, Chapter and Poster Displays (Main Level)

Vendor, Chapter and Poster displays will be open all day. Contact Brooke Hacker, hacker_brooke@yahoo.com for abstract submission for the poster presentation. Deadline for submission: February 15, 2013.

TPE Sales Items (Main Level)

Visit TPE's merchandise table offering tote bags, t-shirts, hats, books, our ever-popular Parsnip Predator and other items. Buy on site and save the shipping and handling charge!

TPE 2013 Conference Program

8:00 – 9:00 am	Check-In Registration (Main Level Front Doors) Continental breakfast Purchase raffle tickets and peruse raffle and auction items Visit vendors and poster displays
9:00 – 9:10 am	Welcome from Jack Kussmaul, TPE President (Ballroom)
9:10 – 9:55 am	The State of the State of Minnesota's Prairies and Grasslands (Ballroom) Speaker: Tom Landwehr, Minnesota Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources
9:55 – 10:10 am	Break

10:00 - 4:30
pm

Visit vendor and poster displays and the raffle/silent auction. Check out TPE merchandise table.

10:10 – 10:55 am

Children's programs start in the Hearth Level (Lower Level)

Concurrent Sessions (Room 255A & 255B, Ostrander Auditorium, Room 238)

Water Tract

Prairie Tract

Animal Tract

Room 255A & 255B

Ostrander Auditorium

Room 238

Rock Outcrops and Calcareous Fens in the Prairie: Hot and Cold Spots for Some of Southern MN Rarest Plants

Fred Harris, MN DNR Plant Ecologist. Fred has worked for the MN DNR since 1992 primarily in NW MN, the MN River Valley, and the Prairie Coteau.

Planting and Maintaining Urban Prairies

John Pauley, Prairie Restorations Inc. John has managed Prairie Restoration's farm and office for 15 years. Prior to that he worked for the MN DNR for 10 years. He has designed and planted hundreds of prairies, including a 20 year restoration at his residence near Cannon Falls, MN.

Grassland Birds of Minnesota

Emily Hutchins, MN DNR Private Lands Wildlife Specialist. Emily earned her B.S. in Wildlife Management from the U of MN, Crookston, and her M.S. from MNSU, Mankato. Her thesis involved studying the effects of reed canary grass invasion on avian communities and nesting success in southern MN wetlands.

11:00 – 11:45 am

Concurrent Sessions (Room 255A & 255B, Ostrander Auditorium, Room 238)

Water Tract

Prairie Tract

Animal Tract

Room 255A & 255B

Ostrander Auditorium

Room 238

The Perennial Land

Lansing Shepard, Author. A former

Native Plantings for Beginners

Prairie Moon Nursery. Prairie

Wildlife Monitoring and Reporting at Wind Projects in the Midwest Jerry Roppe, Permitting Compliance

writer for the Christian Science Monitor who specializes in conservation, environmental policy, and natural history. Recent projects include the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and U of MN's Bell Museum of Natural History.

Moon Nursery has been in native seed business for over 30 years. They will discuss approaches to site prep, seeding, and maintenance of native plantings from gardens to any sized acreage.

Manager, Iberdrola Renewables. Iberdrola Renewables established a Wildlife Monitoring and Reporting System focusing on post-construction bird and bat fatalities. Short term and long term impacts of the project will be presented.

12:00 – 1:20 pm

Lunch (included in conference fee). **(Ballroom)**

Speaker: Chris Kirkpatrick, TPE Executive Director, TPE Update

Speaker: Tim Krohn, Writer and Canoeist, A Journalist with the Mankato Free Press for 30 years, Tim covers environmental issues, business and other areas. In 1998 and 2008, Krohn along with photographer John Cross, paddled the 335 mile length of the Minnesota River providing stories and photos for each of the 12 day trips. The award winning series drew more intense interest from readers than any other project the long-time journalist has worked on.

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

1:30 – 2:15 pm

Water Tract

Room 255A & 255B

Dragonflies of Minnesota

Kurt Mead, Author of the award winning, *Dragonflies of*

Prairie Tract

Ostrander Auditorium

Orchids of Minnesota Rosemary & Malcolm McFarlane, Minnesota Native Plant Society. View the collection of nearly all the native

Animal Tract

Room 238

Reptiles and Amphibians of MN Prairies Jaime Edwards, MN DNR Non-Game Wildlife Specialist. Jaime has worked for 12 years in the SE Region of MN on bluff prairie and

	<p><i>the North Woods</i>, Kurt is the founder and coordinator of the MN Odonata Survey Project (MOSP). Kurt will present about the ranges and distributions of dragonflies and damselflies.</p>	<p>orchids of MN photographed and researched by this couple whose passion for orchids have taken them from border to border.</p>	<p>savanna habitats to benefit Species in Greatest Conservation Need. Prior to this she worked for the IA DNR and WI DNR.</p>
2:15 – 2:30 pm	<p>Break (Ballroom & Main Level) Visit vendor and poster displays and the raffle/silent auction. Check out TPE merchandise table.</p>		
2:30 – 3:15 pm	<p><u>Water Tract</u></p> <p>Room 255A & 255B</p>	<p><u>Prairie Tract</u></p> <p>Ostrander Auditorium</p>	<p><u>Animal Tract</u></p> <p>Room 238</p>
	<p>Integration of Native Prairie Filter Strips into Row Crop Agriculture</p> <p><u>Pauline Drobney, Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge</u>. Pauline will present recent research on integrating perennial filter strips into agroecosystems, the benefits of using filtration strips for attenuating runoff and reducing sediment loads.</p>	<p>Managing for Structural Diversity on Restored Prairies Throughout the Minnesota Valley Wetland Management District.</p> <p><u>Mike Malling & Alisha Maves, USFWS Private Lands Biologists</u>. Mike & Alisha work in the Minnesota Valley Refuge and Wetland Management District and will discuss strategies for managing prairies to enhance habitat for grassland bird species.</p>	<p>Befriending Bumble Bees</p> <p><u>Elaine Evans</u>. Elaine has been studying bees for over 15 years through the U of MN and with Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. She is currently working on a PhD examining bee biodiversity in the prairie pothole region of North Dakota and leading bumble bee surveys in the Twin Cities parks.</p>
3:15 – 3:30 pm	<p>Break (Ballroom & Main Level)</p>		
4:00 pm	<p>Raffle and silent auction ends.</p>		
3:30 – 4:15 pm	<p>TPE Chapter Leadership Roundtable (Room 255A & 255 B) Come and listen to TPE chapters share their experiences, expertise, and discuss how to effectively carry out our mission to perpetuate the future of prairies, savannas, and associated ecosystems.</p>		
4:00 – 5:30 pm	<p>Poster Presentations (Main Level) Poster presentations will be given.</p>		
4:00 – 5:45 pm	<p>Social Mixer (Cash Bar) (Ballroom)</p>		

Enjoy a beverage talk to the vendors; take part in the poster presentation; purchase an item at the TPE merchandise table. Visit with presenters and get answers to your questions.

Silent Auction/Raffle winners announced from 5:00 – 5:45 pm. Pick up items at that time.

TPE 2013 Banquet Agenda (Ballroom)

6:00 pm	Welcome from Jack Kussmaul, TPE President
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Banquet
7:00 – 7:20 pm	Announcements, Awards – Chris Kirkpatrick, TPE Executive Director
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Keynote Speaker: Eric Mader: Assistant Pollinator Program Director for the Xerces Society

In addition to working for the Xerces Society, Eric is an Extension Professor of Entomology at the University of Minnesota. Eric's professional background includes crop consulting for the native seed industry where he provided weekly insect and disease scouting on hundreds of plant species grown for prairie restoration efforts.

Lodging in Mankato, MN

2013 TPE Annual Conference and Banquet

Saturday, March 16, 2013

A block of rooms has been reserved at the following hotel in Mankato under the name THE PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS.

AmericInn Hotel & Conference Center
greater Mankato Area is a host

The

(2 Blocks from Student Union Building)
many hotels and restaurants. The

to

240 Stadium
Road
walking distance

AmericInn is within

Mankato, MN 56001
conference. For a complete listing

to the

[507-345-8011](tel:507-345-8011)

of

lodging accommodations in the area

RATE: \$80.99/night plus tax
view the website below.

please

(Single/Double Occupancy) Single or

Double Queen beds.

Elizabeth Moat, Manager agreed to this price if your reservations are made before February 15, 2013.

To reserve a room at these rates, be sure to tell reservations you are with The Prairie Enthusiasts group. **Motel block release date is February 15th, 2013.**

For a complete listing of motels and restaurants in the Mankato area, please visit: www.visitgreatermankatoarea.com
or contact them at: [507-385-6662](tel:507-385-6662) or 800-657-473

Driving Directions to Centennial Student Union

From the North

Travel south on Hwy 169 to Mankato. Take the Riverfront Drive exit. Turn left/east onto Riverfront Drive. Turn right/south onto Stoltzman Road. Turn left/east onto Stadium Road. Turn left/north onto Ellis Avenue, turn left/west into the Visitor's Pay Lot #4.

Must enter from Ellis Ave.

From the South

Travel north on Hwy 169 to Mankato. Take the Riverfront Drive exit. Turn right/east onto Riverfront Drive. Turn right/south onto Stoltzman Road. Turn left/east onto Stadium Road. Turn left/north onto Ellis Avenue, turn left/west into the Visitor's Pay Lot #4.

Must enter from Ellis Ave.

From the East

Travel west on Hwy 14 to Mankato. Take the Hwy 22 exit. Turn left/south on Hwy 22. Turn right/west County Road 83/82. Turn left/south on Victory Drive. Turn right/west on Stadium Road. Turn left/north onto Ellis Avenue, turn left/west into the Visitor's Pay Lot #4.

Must enter from Ellis Ave.

From the West:

Travel East on Hwy. 14 to Hwy. 169 South. Take the Riverfront Drive Exit. Turn left (north) onto Riverfront Drive and continue to Stoltzman Road. Turn right (east) on Stoltzman Road and continue until you get to Stadium Road. Turn left onto Stadium Road and continue up the hill to Ellis Ave. Turn left on Ellis Ave and park in the Visitor's Paylot on the left.

Registration: 2013 TPE Annual Conference and Banquet

Saturday, March 16, 2012

Attendee
Name
(Please
Print):

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email
Address: _____ Phone: _____

		# of People	Total
TPE Member Conference Registration	\$60.0		
Fee (includes lunch and breaks)*	0 x	_____	_____
Nonmember Conference Registration	\$85.0		
Fee (includes lunch/breaks/TPE \$25 12-	0 x		
month membership) <i>\$25 membership will</i>			
<i>be waived for government</i>			
<i>employees attending for continuing</i>			
<i>education. Gov. ID required.</i>			

Student Conference Registration Fee (includes lunch and breaks)*	\$25.00 x	_____	_____
Kids & Family Tract (Must Register # Attending) Names & Ages	Free	_____	_____
TPE Saturday Evening Banquet*	\$25.00 x	_____	_____
TPE Membership (\$100 shooting star (preferred membership) \$15 student; \$25 little blue stem; \$40 big blue stem; \$65 pasque flower; \$200 blazing star)	\$_____ x	_____	_____
Late Registration Fee** (add \$10 per person after March 1 st)	\$10.00 x	_____	_____
		Total:	_____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, March 13, 2013.

*Please register as early as possible.
Date: Friday, March 1, 2013.

**Early Bird Deadline

Make checks payable to: The Prairie Enthusiasts

Questions on Registration: Chris Kirkpatrick [815-541-3494](tel:815-541-3494) or e-mail at executivedirector@theprairieenthusiasts.org

Mail Form and Check to: PO Box 1148, Madison, WI 53701-1148

I prefer registration confirmation by: _____ mail _____ email

To register on-line, using your credit card, go to www.ThePrairieEnthusiasts.org

***BANQUET ENTREE SELECTION:** (write guest names next to selections—choose one for each attendee):

Roasted Chicken _____
Florentine _____

Crispy Sauteed Breast of Chicken Topped with a Creamy Spinach Mixture and Mozzarella

Pan- Seared Pork Tenderloin with Apples & Onions _____

Pan-Seared Pork Tenderloin with Granny Smith Apples, Diced Red Onions and Orange Marmolade

Vegetarian - Spaghetti
Squash _____

With Sofrito and Vegan Pinto Beans

Mail Form and Check to:

TPE

PO Box 1148

Madison WI 53701-1148

Early Bird Registration Date: Friday, March 1, 2013

Final Registration Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

The Status of the Minnesota River

- Revisiting the Minnesota River Assessment Plan-20 years later
- Biotic indices and their use in water management
- Perspectives on the progress in the Minnesota River Basin

Status of the Farm Bill & the Future of Federally

- Funded Conservation Programs
- Launch of innovative conservation programs
- Agriculture and the future of conservation

Speakers will include:

Rep. Jean Wagenius
Gene Merriam, Freshwater Society
Don Baloun, NRCS
Benjamin Lundeen, MRAP Study

St. Paul • Brainerd • Detroit Lakes • Duluth • Mankato • Marshall • Rochester • Willmar
www.pca.state.mn.us • Toll-free and TDD [800-657-3864](tel:800-657-3864)

St Peter 2nd Annual Book Festival
Saturday, April 6, 2013
10:00 AM

St. Peter Reads is hosting the 2nd Annual Book Festival to take place Saturday, April 6, 2013, at the Community Center in St. Peter. This year will build on the limited schedule in 2012 and will feature a full day of programming. The day will bring authors and readers together for a chance to connect in a setting that will encourage and foster easy access to both emerging authors as well as some returning favorites.

Brunch starts at 10:00 a.m. and features a Minnesota favorite author of the up-north based Cork O'Connor mystery series, William Kent Krueger. Krueger steps away from that series this year, with an amazing stand alone novel, *Ordinary Grace*, that will be released on March 26th. Food will be catered by the Gustavus Adolphus College Dining Service, and each table will be visited by at least two other authors during the Moveable Feast, which follows Krueger's keynote. Reservations are required and may be done through the St. Peter Community Education office, [507-933-3048](tel:507-933-3048) / stpeter.registryinsight.com, or by visiting stpeterreads.wordpress.com.

The afternoon programming will fill the Community Center gym with authors and publishers, eager to visit about their work. Two panels will be held; one with novelists, Erin Hart, Thomas Maltman and Peter Geye; the other with writers for the middle grades, including Sheila O'Connor and Tim Kehoe, toy inventor. Family friendly story times and crafts will run from 2-4 p.m. in the Senior Center, next to the gym. The entire afternoon of events is FREE and open to all.

The St. Peter Reads team is excited to offer this regional event and is grateful to the Legacy Fund, St. Peter School District, Friends of the St. Peter Public Library, St. Peter Public Library and the Nicollet County Historical Society, the Book Mark, and the City of St. Peter, for helping to make this event possible. Please call [507-933-7588](tel:507-933-7588) for visit stpeterreads.wordpress.com for more information.

Here are a few things we know you'll want to bid on:
Twins Game Basket, Wine Basket, 2 tickets to Music in The Zoo concert, Brunch by Ann Burkhardt at POI for up to 10 people, Homemade Wine & Cookies, 1 year of 1 dozen eggs from the farm every month, Gourmet Dinner for 8 @ choice of place, and MUCH more!

If you have something to donate, or a good idea for our silent auction, please contact Toni Jelinek at tjelinek21@comcast.net

Job Announcements:

The Heron Lake Watershed District is accepting application forms, letters of interest and resumes for two summer intern positions. This is a seasonal environmental position. Job requires physical labor outdoors in all weather conditions. The interns will be expected to work with local, state, and federal government entities and local organizations. Qualified applicants must be enrolled as a full-time college student. For a complete job description and application form, please contact Jan Voit at [507-793-2462](tel:507-793-2462), jan.voit@mysmbs.com, or www.hlwdonline.org. Employment will begin mid-May. Some flexibility exists depending upon the end of the school year. Salary: \$8.00 per hour. Interested applicants may send a completed application form, resume, and cover letter describing work experience and reasons for wanting to work as a summer intern to:

Jan Voit

Heron Lake Watershed District

PO Box 345

Heron Lake, MN 56137

Application deadline is February 14, 2013.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

The MN DNR has a large variety of internship positions available for summer 2013. Deadlines are approaching.

For more visit <https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting>

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. -Frank Lloyd Wright

[River-board to hear recommendations](#)

The [Minnesota River Board](#) meeting to discuss prospects for a basin-level management entity was cancelled Feb. 11, and may be rescheduled to the next regularly scheduled meeting March 18. For the full article click on the title above.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

February 5th, 2013

Comments are invited on environmental review for landfill expansion in Blue Earth County

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is inviting comments on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet prepared for the proposed expansion of the Ponderosa Sanitary Landfill in Blue Earth County. The M-P-C-A also invites comments on the permit for the landfill, which is up for renewal. Comments, which must be in writing, are due by 4:30 P-M on March 6.

Blue Earth County is proposing to expand the landfill, located six miles southwest of Mankato, by sixteen acres, with twelve-point-four acres for disposal space and the rest for haul roads and stormwater controls. The expanded disposal area will be lined and include a system to collect and treat any rainwater or snow melt that contacts the buried waste. These measures will help prevent contamination of groundwater and the nearby Blue Earth River. As with the current landfill area, the facility will use a system of wells to detect any contaminants in groundwater.

The landfill accepts about 46-thousand tons of waste a year.

For details, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

February 1st, 2013

MPCA completes 64 enforcement cases in fourth quarter of 2012

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency completed 64 enforcement cases in 39 Minnesota counties during the fourth quarter of 2012. These penalties totaled just over 730-thousand dollars.

For all of 2012, the M-P-C-A completed 214 cases totaling just over two-point-seven-million dollars. Nearly 10 percent of that money was spent toward the completion of supplemental environmental projects.

A complete list of all enforcement actions can be found on the agency's web site at www.pca.state.mn.us.

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.

The Minnesota River Board maintains the Minnesota River Update. To include your news release in the next edition of the Minnesota River Update, please send it to mnriverupdate@gmail.com.