



John Schueller, right, presents the Confluence Award to Minnesota River Blueway project members (L-R) Cathi Fouchi, Patrick Moore, Ted Suss, Scott Sparlin.

Minnesota River Weekly Update

July 16th, 2013

Minnesota River Board Awards the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance the "Confluence Award" and Patrick Moore the "Tributary Award"

At its July 15th, 2013 meeting in Gaylord, MN the Minnesota River Board presented the "Confluence Award" to the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance in recognition of its work on the National Blueway nomination for the Minnesota River. The Confluence Award is presented annually to recognize groups and individuals who "demonstrate a capacity to bring people together to improve water quality." In addition, Patrick Moore, a member of Blueway project steering committee, received the Minnesota River Board's "Tributary Award" recognizing leadership and actions to help improve the larger basin's water quality."

MPCA proposes to remove 2 sites from, add 2 sites to, Minnesota's Superfund list

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is inviting public comment on the proposed additions of two sites to and the deletion of two sites from the Permanent List of Priorities (PLP), the state Superfund list.

For more information <http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/bulletins/82a0a6> and details on the sites visit http://www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/stateregister/38_01.pdf

Chippewa River Watershed Project Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Friday, July 19th, 2013 the Chippewa River Watershed Project Board of Directors will be meeting at 9:00 A.M. at Benson City, Council Chambers to discuss ways in which they can improve water quality and flooding problems within the Chippewa River watershed while promoting healthy agricultural, industrial, and recreation-based economy for the region.

For more information visit <http://www.chippewariver.com/>

Preliminary Draft Water Quality Variance Rule, Monday, July 22nd, 2013

A stakeholder meeting on a preliminary draft of the rules is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2013, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the MPCA office in St. Paul and will also be Webcast. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask questions about the preliminary draft rule and provide informal written comments (the formal) comment period occurs when the proposed rules are placed on public notice). More information about this meeting will be provided closer to the date.

For more information visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-permits-and-rules/water-rulemaking/water-quality-variance-rulemaking.html>

Forsman Farms proposes expansion to Wright County egg-laying facility

St. Paul, Minn. -- Forsman Farms has proposed an expansion to its existing egg-laying facility in Wright County. As a part of its responsibilities to conduct environmental review of projects such as this, the MPCA has prepared an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed project. The EAW is a review of how a proposed project could potentially affect the environment. The public is invited to comment on the EAW through August 7th, 2013.

For more information visit

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/bulletins/8317f3>

Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair 2013

The Eco Experience at the 2013 Minnesota State Fair will be filled with many new displays and interactive activities for fairgoers of all ages. The Eco Experience is the largest event of its kind and this year's additions provide something for everyone. A partnership between the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and over 120 organizations and businesses from across the state, the Eco Experience has become the second most popular exhibit at the fair.

For more information visit <http://www.ecoexperience.org/> or

<http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNPCA/bulletins/815030>

Presentations Wanted! MNA is Seeking Presentation Applications for this year's MNA Conference – Deadline August 30th, 2013

The Minnesota Naturalists' Association (MNA) is seeking presenters for the 2013 MNA Conference at Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, MN on November 15-17. This year's conference theme Drawn to Nature explores the dynamic relationships between the arts and nature.

The Minnesota Naturalists' Association (MNA) is a non-profit organization of professional environmental educators, park rangers, naturalists, interpreters and volunteers throughout the state of Minnesota and beyond. MNA exists to advance natural and cultural resource interpretation for the purpose of fostering wise stewardship of all resources.

Conference presenters qualify to attend the conference at a discounted rate.

For more information and to apply visit <http://mnnaturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/2013-Conference-call-for-presentations.pdf>

Or contact Katie Pata at (651) 554-6532 or katie.pata@co.dakota.mn.us

2013 Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC) will be September 25th – 28th, 2013

The 2013 Midwest Environmental Education Conference (MEEC) will be held September 25-28, 2013 at the Marriott Coralville Hotel Conference Center, Coralville, Iowa. The Iowa Conservation Education Coalition and the Iowa Association of Naturalists invite you to this! Teachers and naturalists throughout the Midwest will find the conference energizing, useful, and rewarding to attend. This regional gathering is meant to enlighten and inspire teachers, naturalists, and other environmental educators.

MEEC is a biennial event planned - on a rotating basis - by environmental educators in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, and Iowa. We are all affiliate members of NAAEE: the North American Environmental Education Association. Our conference is open to everyone who cares about a sustainable Earth and feels called to make it happen by teaching and inspiring others. We welcome attendees from states beyond the Midwest, as well as the provinces of Canada.

For more information visit <http://2013midwestenvironmentaleducationconference.wordpress.com/>

Articles

[Minn. sightings of monarch butterfly rare as population crashes](#)

Dan Olson, July 9th, 2013, MPR News

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. - "I'm hoping we see a Monarch today," Dave Kurst says as he searches for

[The Twin Cities need their trees](#)

Editorial Board, June 10th, 2013, StarTribune

Minneapolis lost more than 5,000 trees on public and private property, and St. Paul nearly 1,000 during waves of storms that started the night of

the butterflies black and orange wings. "This is the longest I've had to wait to see a Monarch in years."

[Minnesota has a trophy gray wolf population: Let's manage it that way](#)

July 11th, 2013, Outdoor News

Minnesota's wolf population is robust enough to have another wolf hunting and trapping season this fall, despite a 24 percent decline since canis lupis was last surveyed in 2008, state officials said Tuesday.

[High temperatures can bring harmful algal blooms](#)

Alexis Donath, July 15th, 2013, MPCA Bulletin

St. Paul, Minn. -- When summer sun shines and temperatures climb, conditions are ripe for Minnesota lakes to produce harmful algal blooms. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is reminding people that some types of algae can harm pets, livestock, and even humans.

[Minnesota scientists shed fresh light on our need to increase food production](#)

Lee Egerstrom, July 15th, 2013, MinnPost

A new global study by University of Minnesota researchers sheds fresh light on the need to increase food production in step with population growth by the year 2050 while also showing by example how scientists, farmers, food companies, the public sector and consumers must work together to achieve such goals.

[Oil spill specter shadows Minnesota rail towns](#)

Jenna Ross, July 16th, 2013, StarTribune

PARKERS PRAIRIE, MINN. - Christie Eichholz once thought that the trains passing just a few blocks from her house were filled with harmless grain. Then earlier this year, a train derailed a mile north of town, spilling 15,000 gallons of North Dakota crude oil into the snow.

June 20. Cleaning up the mess will take the rest of the summer; refilling the emptiness will take decades.

[Zebra Mussels found in 2 central Minn. Lakes](#)

July 14th, 2013, MPR News

BRAINARD, Minn. (AP) - State wildlife officials say adult zebra mussels have been found in Cross Lake and Lower Hay Lake -- two of the 14 lakes in the Whitefish chain in central Minnesota.

[Undercover of darkness, researchers capture, track loons in Minn.](#)

Dan Gunderson, July 15th, 2013, MPR News

OTTER TAIL COUNTY, Minn. - How do you sneak up on a loon? That's the question this night as wildlife scientists slide a boat into South Turtle Lake, a few miles east of Fergus Falls.

[What's Killing Minnesota's Moose](#)

Jessica Benko, July 15th, 2013, On Earth

The cell phone alert was designed to wake anyone from a deep sleep. "MORTALITY EVENT DETECTED," the text message read, accompanied by a cacophony of drums and bells blaring from the phone's speaker as top volume.

[Petition for ditch abandonment on County? Board Agenda](#)

Fritz Busch, July 16th, 2013, The Journal

NEW ULM - Brown County commissioners will take public testimony and consider a petition for partial abandonment of County Ditch 28 at 10:30 a.m. today in the courthouse.

Events

**July 15th -
July 21st**

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting

Tuesday, July 16th, 2013 @ 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Memorial Park in Fairfax, MN

Brief Description: The public is invited to attend a free picnic and farm tour starting at Memorial Park in Fairfax Minnesota and continuing from there to the Simonsen Discovery Farm.

Citizens from throughout the Minnesota River watershed will be gathering in Fairfax for the quarterly meeting of the Alliance which is dedicated to working together to advance a common sense plan for a clean Minnesota River. This month's meeting is being sponsored in part by the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center.

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass at the picnic at the park in Fairfax where an informal networking session will take place over food before carpools leave to learn

about the work being done by the Simonsen family to manage for water quality improvements to the river.

For more information, contact the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance blog site: <http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com> or call Brad Cobb: 320-943-4695.

“State of the River” Presentation (Mississippi River)

Tuesday, July 16th, 2013 @ 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Hayes Community and Senior Center, Apply Valley

Brief Description: At the presentation, the report’s principal authors will summarize a wealth of water quality and aquatic ecosystem data, highlighting key trends and emerging issues that impact the river, as well as provide an overview of potential solutions to protect the river and its watershed. The second half of the event will feature a hosted conversation with Trevor, Lark and local water quality experts, where participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions.

For more information visit http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/state_of_the_river-2013-07-16 and to sign up, please contact FMR Event Registrar Lindsay Hefferan at lhefferan@fmr.org or [651-222-2193 x24](tel:651-222-2193).

Friends of Minneopa Public Meeting

Thursday, July 18th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location North Mankato Municipal Building

Brief Description: The Friends of Minneopa State Park is hosting a general meeting open to the public on Thursday July 18th at 7:00 pm at the lower level of the North Mankato Municipal Building at the end of Belgrade Ave.

The theme of the evening is titled “Minneopa Potpourri”. There will be a short movie called ‘Minneopa Through the Seasons’, Merrill Frydendall will discuss the birds of Minneopa and there will be a talk called ‘Minneopa.

For more information contact Tim Pullis tpulis@hickorytech.net

Parent-Child Play Day

Friday, July 19th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m.

Location: Rasmussen Woods

Brief Description: Preschool and early school-age children and their parents are invited to a free Parent-Child Play Day. The event is directed by students and faculty from MSU-Mankato Family Consumer Science. No-cost activities will encourage children and their parents in play. Event will be held rain or shine.

For more information contact Heather Von Bank at (507) 389-5915 or heather.von-bank@mnsu.edu

Ecology Games

Friday, July 19th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Have some fun exploring the natural world around us through a variety of hands-on activities. We will play the Incredible Journey game by pretending you are a water drop moving through the water cycle made up of nine stations. In addition there will be that chance to identify 15 animal tracks and test your knowledge of what signs a variety of mammals live behind. Finally there will be macroinvertebrates to look at pulled from Minneopa Creek. Macroinvertebrates are aquatic insects that tell us how good or bad the water quality is in a stream. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side of Minneopa State Park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Digital Photography for Children

Friday, July 19th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic area on campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890

scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Paddling the MN River Watershed: One Day Chippewa River Trip

Saturday July 20th, 2013

For more information <http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/upcoming/> or (320) 269-2984

Cause of the U.S.—Dakota War and Battlefield Tour

Saturday, July 20th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. program and 2:30 p.m. battlefield tour

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: The causes of the US/Dakota War in 1862 were many and complicated. Independent

Historian John LaBatte will examine why some Dakota Indians wanted war while others opposed war. At least 9 of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the US/Dakota War in 1862. Historic Fort Ridgely is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield and is listed twice on the National Register of Historic Places. Join LaBatte for the 1pm program, and again for the 2:30 walking tour. \$5 admission, MHS and NCHS members free. A state park vehicle sticker is required for all.

For more information call (507) 426-7888 or (507) 934-2160

Paddling the MN River Watershed: MN River Trip from Memorial Park down to Upper Sioux Agency State Park

Sunday, July 21st, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.

Location: Memorial Park on Highway 67 just outside of Granite Falls

Brief Description: A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and bug spray and layer your clothes. You might want to wear shoes that can get wet.

For more information and to register visit

<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1 (877) 269-2873

Day in the Life of a Pioneer Woman

Sunday July 21st, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Pioneer women were an important part of the development of the territory of Minnesota and the state. The women of that time worked along side of their men while performing the duties of the house as well. Sewing, cooking cleaning, gardening, child rearing. Life was not easy for the women of the prairie. Through various displays, see how the pioneer women live, from the basic housekeeping to entertainment, the display will be all day.

For more information call the Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

**July 22nd -
July 28th**

WEI'S 2013 Organic Farm School: Moving the Good Food Revolution, "It All Comes Down to 'Humus'"

Monday, July 22nd, 2013

Location: Midtown Global Market Greenway Conference Room, 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Professor Pat Farrell (UMD - Department of Geography)

For more information visit <http://www.w-e-i.org/calendar> or call (651) 583-0705

Rapidan Dam Bike Ride

Tuesday, July 23rd, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Departs from the Centennial Student Union main entrance at Minnesota State University

Brief Description: The annual "Dam Bike Ride!", sponsored by Minnesota State University, Mankato's Student Activities Crew, from Centennial Student Union on the Minnesota State Mankato campus to Rapidan Dam and back. And, participants will have the delicious option of breaking up the ride with a slice of homemade pie at the Rapidan Dam Café. The 12-mile ride, which is open to the public free of charge, departs from the Centennial Student Union main entrance at 3 p.m., said Ashley Strom, coordinator. And while the ride is free, the pie does cost whatever the going rate for a slice of pie is at the Café, she added.

If it's raining on July 23, the ride will be moved to July 24. No registration is needed; just show up with your bike in time to leave at 3 p.m.

For more information contact Ashley Strom ashley.strom@mnsu.edu or (507) 389-6076

Tallgrass Prairie Walk

Tuesday, July 23rd, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.

Location: Linnaeus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus, St. Peter, MN

Brief Description: Learn which tallgrass prairie plants made horses run faster, which ones often started prairie wildfires, and where you can find tallgrass prairie remnants today. Join Arboretum Naturalist Scott Moeller for an informative walk through the tallgrass prairies of the Linnaeus Arboretum. This is a free program, but registration is required by calling (507) 933-6184

Tour the Gneiss Outcrops SNA

Wednesday, July 24th, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Location: Meet at Memorial Park on Highway 67 in shelter

Brief Description: Bring a sack lunch and meet at 5pm to visit about the area and learn a bit about the importance of the river valley to the Dakota people. Raised in the Ortonville area and currently residing in Belview, Robertson brings a bit of his own experience and love of the river valley to this outdoor adventure.

Bring a water bottle, bug spray, wear long pants and sturdy shoes for hiking. You may also want a hat and sunscreen. The group will meet at the Memorial Park shelter and then car pool to the hiking location.

For more information or to register call CURE at 1(877) 269-2873

Archery in the Park

Friday, July 26th, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years. First we did it as a way to compete against others. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basic of archery including safety, proper care of the equipment and how to shoot an arrow. Participants will be able to practice their new skills on a number of different targets including a white-tail deer and wild turkey. Please meet at staff housing area right before the contact station when you enter the park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Wolf Ecology

Friday, July 26th, 2013 @ 7:30 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: Wolves have been feared, sentimentalized and slaughtered, yet they somehow have managed to resist extinction. The wolf is a complex, controversial and colorful creature that was once found throughout Minnesota

before almost being wiped out. We will talk about some of the more interesting characteristics of wolves and read accounts of human interactions with this animal. Meet at the playground at the Day Use Area near the swimming pond.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Hope Tour Churning

Saturday, July 27th, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m.

Location: Hope Creamery, Hope, MN
Brief Description: The butter will be churning at the Hope Creamery during a tour hosted by the South Central Chapter of Sustainable Farming Association. Attendees will also be able to tour the SunOpta seed cleaning, conditioning and processing facility, learn about the importance of soil biology for productivity in your crop fields or garden, discuss certification and environmental criteria for organic growers and enjoy a picnic lunch! The event begins at 11:00 a.m. with registration starting at 10:15 a.m. at the Old Hope School. All activities are free to the public.

10:15 a.m. Registration - Old Hope School
11:00 a.m. Butter making tour at the Old Hope Creamery
12:00 p.m. Picnic lunch at the Old Hope School
1:00 p.m. Presentations on Soil Biology and Organic & Environmental Considerations at the Old Hope School
2:00 p.m. SunOpta Tour

For more information contact Linda Meschke at (507) 238-5449 or at linda@ruraladvantage.org

Water Cycle

Saturday, July 27th, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park
Brief Description: We know water is essential for us to live. Water is everywhere moving from one form to another and from one place to another. We see it in the falling rain, a flowing river, and steam rising from a warm surface. In this program you will become a water molecule, simulating the movement of water within the water cycle and showing how it doesn't flow equally across the landscape. In addition, we will also discover the role of heat and gravity in the water cycle. Please meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Wonderful World of Wetlands

Tuesday, July 27th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park
Brief Description: Wetlands are more than swamps or smelly bodies of water collecting trash and breeding mosquitoes. At one time thousands of wetlands of all sizes were an integral part of the tall-grass prairie landscape in the Minnesota River Basin. Benefits of wetlands can run the gambit like providing water storage, improving water quality and critical wildlife habitat. Come out to Minneopa State Park to learn about some of the cool creatures and plants that live in wetlands and take a hike around one. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890 or scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Christmas in July

Sunday, July 28th, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store
Brief Description: Harking store will celebrate a Scottish Christmas in honor of Alexander Harkin's native Scotland. There will be Scottish "goodies" for your sampling. There will

be decorations and the gift shop will have a tree up with items for Christmas.

For more information call the Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

**July 29th -
August 4th**

Harkin Store 34th Annual West Newton Day
Sunday, August 4th, 2013

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Find your old pictures of the area and stories for this and come share your bit of history with our visitors and us. We will also post contact information for those who want to find relatives or other information. We will be able to do copying for you and us.

For more information call the Harkin Store (507) 354-8666 or Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

**August 5th -
August 11th**

Summer Institute on Minnesota's Changing Climate
Tuesday, August 6th – Wednesday, August 7th, 2013

Location: Fort Snelling State Park, Saint Paul, MN

Brief Description: Dive into the classroom and outdoor components of the Will Steger Foundation's [Minnesota's Changing Climate](#) (MCC) curriculum. Program includes: A deep introduction to climate science and the impacts of climate change in Minnesota for teachers of grades 3-12

Paddling with professional park rangers, naturalists and Wilderness Inquiry guides on the serene Mississippi River

Hands-on phenology training and weather station activities in the park (and more!)

For more information or to sign-up visit <http://willstegerfoundation.org/summer-institute/summer-institutes-2013/2013-minnesotas-changing-climate>

IDEAg Farmfest

Tuesday, August 6th - Thursday, August 8th, 2013

Location: Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, MN

Brief Description: In its third decade, the IDEAg Farmfest continues to connect industry leading manufacturers/providers with decision making producers.

Farmfest is one of the largest agricultural events in the world and it brings the best products and services to an audience that is drawn from every Minnesota county and has many visitors from five neighboring states

For more information and to register visit <http://www.ideagroup.com/farmfest>

Game Fair

Friday, August 9th - Sunday, August 11th, 2013 and Friday, August 16th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Ramsey, MN

Brief Description: Game fair is a sporting event for the entire family. Held in the out-of-doors on 80 beautiful acres of wood and water. Game Fair has everything you need to celebrate the outdoors.

Game Fair 2013 will feature many favorite activities from years past as well as new exhibits, renovated grounds and new dog events.

You are invited to attend Game Fair 2013 will feature many favorite activities from a variety of expert sportsmen and sportswomen. Special exhibits include: archery, decoys, duck boats, art, dogs, dog accessories, taxidermy and all the latest in hunting equipment for the outdoor enthusiast.

For more information visit <http://www.gamefair.com/>

Paddling the MN River Watershed: Minnesota River Trip in Renville County
Saturday, August 10th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Skalbakken County Park in Renville County

Brief Description: A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and

bug spray and layer your clothes. You might want to wear shoes that can get wet.

For more information and to register visit
<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1(877) 269-2873

Girls Rule—Fishing with Diana: Kinney Landing
Saturday, August 10th, 2013 @ 8:00 a.m.— 11:00 a.m.

Location: Kinney Landing off of Highway 67 along the Minnesota River
Brief Description: An opportunity to learn the basics of river fishing from tying and baiting your own hook, casting and basic fish identification. Participants should bring a water bottle, bug spray, sunglasses, sturdy shoes that may get wet. CURE has a few rods available for use...be sure to let us know that you need one when you register.

For more information and to register visit
<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1 (877) 269-2873

Paddling the MN River Watershed: New Ulm Area Minnesota River Day Trip
Sunday, July 11th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.
Location: Riverside Park in New Ulm
Brief Description: A sack lunch will be provided. Bring a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and bug spray and layer your clothes. You might want to wear shoes that can get wet.

For more information and to register visit
<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1 (877) 269-2873

**August
12th -
August 18th**

The Real Lizard People: Skinks in the MN River Valley
Thursday, August 15th, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Location: Swede's Forest SNA
Brief Description: A chance to see a species of special concern in Minnesota, the five-lined skink (also known as Blue Devils) and to learn more about why clearing red juniper from granite outcrops helps the small, fast lizards. We'll also see some interesting historical small-scale quarry remains, cactus and other interesting flora. Wear sturdy shoes suitable for hiking, bring water, insect repellent and sunscreen. Binoculars if you have them. Meet at the Main office parking lot, Upper Sioux Agency State Park for a car pool to the SNA (limited rough parking at the site).

For more information and to register visit
<http://www.cureriver.org/calendar/category/programs/> or call CURE at 1(877) 269-2873

Job Announcements

AGRICULTURAL/CIVIL ENGINEER

Department:	Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	July 17th, 2013
Location(s):	Thief River Falls, MN; Moorhead, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>The incumbent is responsible for the engineering phases of all soil and water conservation work and the integration and coordination of technically sound engineering projects as assigned by the Area Engineer in the Minnesota Area Office.</p> <p>Participates in the preliminary examination of watersheds proposed for improvement and makes recommendations concerning their feasibility.</p> <p>Ensures that NRCS responsibilities for the inspection of completed project dams are fulfilled.</p>

Responsible for furnishing engineering technical guidance and assistance for CO-01 non-project activities including cost sharing programs in the counties for the respective area as assigned.

Maintains a close cooperation and coordination between NRCS and the technical staff of local and state conservation partners, RC&D areas, numerous special projects, and all other non-project activities.

Provides local coordination of gathering survey, land use, and hydrologic data for preliminary and final design of project and non-project activities.

Responsible to provide wetland hydrology evaluations for swamp buster determinations, appeals, and maintenance requests.

Assists the Area Engineer analyzing the engineering phase of the area conservation program. Evaluates equipment and materials, staffing levels, and expertise to assure adequate supervision of engineering work and utilization of personnel. Determines engineering training needs and assures that training is provided to NRCS and SWCD employees in their area.

For more information or to apply visit

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/346938700>

STATE WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 17th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position will plan, manage and direct the statewide Wildlife Action Plan program. Responsibilities include planning the overall implementation of the plan; administering the expenditure of federal and matching state dollars dedicated to the plan's implementation; ensuring expenditures are directed to targeted, measurable conservation outcomes that benefit rare wildlife species, representing the department and state in all regional and national forums regarding state wildlife action plans; ensuring the program is communicating effectively with key stakeholders; and ensuring the program is effectively coordinated and integrated with other Division of Ecological and Water Resources programs in each of DNR's four regions, and with other DNR division programs and external programs that have responsibility for work that influences wildlife species and their habitats.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>

Posting # 13DNR000598

MN WATER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Department: Conservation Minnesota

Closing Date: July 17th, 2013

Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: From our four "real" seasons to our 10,000 lakes, the Great Outdoors defines life here. It is where many of our most cherished memories are created with family and friends. Passing our experiences and traditions on to our children, being good stewards of our land and lakes — these are values that we all share. At Conservation Minnesota & Conservation Minnesota Voter Center, we turn

your love of Minnesota's Great Outdoors into the laws that protect it. We focus on solving the conservation problems that Minnesotans tell us are important, and provide people with information and opportunities to help.

Conservation Minnesota & Conservation Minnesota Voter Center are seeking a water protection enthusiast to develop and carry out a new grant funded program. This person will conduct aquatic invasive species (AIS) trainings across the state while building relationships with Lake and River association members. This position is currently funded for one year, though with success, we hope to renew the grant for many years to come.

Responsibilities include:

Act as a liaison between the organization and members of lake and river associations across the state.

Cultivate network of lake and river association members and engage them in issue campaigns.

Coordinate, promote, conduct, and evaluate AIS trainings around the state.

Conduct outreach activities and assist with member communications regarding AIS and other water related issues.

Work with partner organizations to promote trainings, activate network, and advance water quality related issue campaigns.

Represent the organization in multi-agency planning efforts for 2014 Lakes and Rivers Conference.

Assist lake and river associations with maintenance and hosting of their member websites.

For more information visit <http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/mn-waters-program-coordinator/> to apply send your cover letter and resume to Rebecca@conservationminnesota.org

ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST

Department:	Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	July 18th, 2013
Location(s):	Minneapolis, MN
Who May Apply:	Recent graduates from qualifying institutes
Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consults and advises management officials on all phases of the classification and position management process by assisting them in the structuring and planning of their organization's work.• Determines conflict of interest/ financial disclosure on a variety of positions ranging from grades 1-15 including GS and Wage Grade positions.• Makes position sensitivity designation determinations on a variety of positions ranging from grades 1-15 including GS and Wage Grade positions, makes determinations on the correct labor bargaining unit status.• Consults, effectively listens and ask critical questions to identify customer issues and concerns.• Maintains and ensures nationwide (headquarters-and field) position classification accuracy and consistency in interpreting and applying position classification standards.• Interprets issuances, directives, regulations, laws and procedures to ensure that a well regulated program is maintained.• Conducts position reviews as necessary to appropriately assess the proper pay plan, title, series, and grade level of a variety of position ranging from grades 1-15 including GS and Wage Grade positions.• Makes fine distinctions in the proper crediting of factor levels and ultimate allocation of grade levels to positions and communicates grade distinctions to management with supporting criteria and justification.• Prepares evaluation reports of positions reviewed and takes necessary action to ensure that positions are revised for accuracy and

completeness.

For more information and to apply visit

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/347262500>

ASSISTANT AREA WILDLIFE MANAGER

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 18th, 2013

Location(s): Nicollet, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position exists to assist the Area Wildlife Manager in planning, developing, and implementing DNR wildlife management programs, activities and policies by managing, preserving, and conserving wildlife habitat and populations on public and private lands in the area.

Core Activities:

Provide assistance in the implementation of wildlife habitat management programs and policies on public private lands so that maximum benefits for wildlife and the management of wildlife populations and habitat, and the public.

Aid in the implementation of wildlife population management programs and policies as well as environmental protection programs so that wildlife and habitat are not adversely affected.

Assist in the development and implementation an information and education program that the public will be better informed about wildlife issues, current DNR conservation efforts, and the management of wildlife populations and habitat.

Contribute to planning and development of policies so that wildlife habitat and wildlife populations are given consideration and protection.

Train, direct, evaluate, review, and effectively recommend rewards and discipline for subordinate personnel assigned to the Area Wildlife Office so that wildlife management activities can be efficiently implemented.

Assist in the administration wildlife management programs of the Area Wildlife Office so that resource management is smoothly and efficiently implemented according to plans, policies, and legal mandates.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13DNR000578

BACTERIOLOGIST

Department: PHL/Emergency Preparedness, Health Department

Closing Date: July 19th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: Only current employees of this agency

Responsibilities: This position provides validated molecular diagnostic tests for the BioWatch Program as part of the Laboratory Response Network (LRN). In addition, this position will perform a variety of other rapid methods (time-resolved

fluorescence and bio-plex) in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit; perform other LRN protocols; assist Clinical Microbiology units in performing molecular diagnostic tests including polymerase chain reaction, pulsed-field gel electrophoresis and other molecular biological or conventional methods; and perform a variety of tasks to support the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit. This position's primary responsibility is daily (365 days a year) analysis of the BioWatch samples, followed by LRN molecular diagnostic protocols.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13HEAL000327

HYDROLOGIST SUPERVISOR

Department: EH/Source Water Protection, Health Department

Closing Date: July 19th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The position is responsible for supervisory work in hydrology, hydraulics, geohydrology, geochemistry, groundwater protection, and water resources management. This position will supervise activities within the Source Water Protection Unit related to delineating wellhead protection areas, assessing the vulnerability of public water supplies, assisting public water suppliers with implementing source water protection plans, evaluating existing and proposed programmatic activities of the source water protection unit, and supporting the source water protection grant program. This position provides support to the Supervisor of the Source Water Protection Unit regarding:

- Daily supervision of staff hydrologists;
- Coordination of local, state and federal agencies with delineations and vulnerability assessments;
- Preparation of reports summarizing the activities of Unit staff;
- Development and implementation of data bases;
- Development of annual budgets and work plans; and
- Coordination of other unit staff and staff from other department programs with wellhead protection and source water assessment activities.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13HEAL000332

POLLUTION CONTROL COMPLIANCE COORDINATE

Department: Municipal Stormwater, Pollution Control Agency

Closing Date: July 19th, 2013

Location(s): Various

Who May Apply: Only to current employees in this agency

Responsibilities: Work in the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater (CSW) Permit and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Programs to ensure compliance with general permits/rules in order to protect and improve Minnesota's water quality and natural resources. Serve as enforcement team leader to ensure agency stormwater compliance and enforcement programs are carried out; is the key stormwater program resource in enforcement forums.

- Mentor and advise enforcement staff on the enforcement process and

on techniques to successfully fulfill the agency's compliance and enforcement duties.

- Coordinate compliance and enforcement efforts with state, federal, and local officials.
- Prioritize and coordinate all enforcement actions done with local government partners.
- Serve as liaison with the EPA on cases involving significant violations.
- Develop enforcement strategies and lead special projects assigned by the supervisor.
- Follow up on assigned complaints; perform some inspections of construction sites; review Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs); and perform audits of municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) programs as needed depending on section workload fluctuations.
- Develop and negotiate enforcement resolutions, coordinating with staff from the PCA, the Office of the Attorney General, and other state, federal and local agencies.
- Serve as criminal investigative liaison, coordinate civil and criminal search warrants, site surveillance, record seizure and other activities that may lead to civil or criminal prosecution.
- The position may also have responsibilities in the compliance and enforcement efforts in other programs, as assigned
- The position may be located in St. Paul or in Rochester. Location will be based on the successful candidate's current work location.
- The position requires 40% travel throughout the state.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13PCA000124

ASSISTANT AREA FISHERIES SUPERVISOR

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: July 22nd, 2013

Location(s): Montrose, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- Design, direct, implement lake and stream surveys in accordance with management plans and area needs.
- Prepare reports for special investigations such as creel surveys, technical journals and committee reports.
- Assist in preparation of lake and stream management plans, based on current conditions, historical data, sociological concerns, and biological and chemical indicators.
- Coordinate the stocking and harvest of game fish in designated rearing ponds and spawning areas and stock them in area lakes in accordance with lake management plans.
- Conduct personnel matters and to advise the Area Supervisor of personnel matters, and direct, conduct, and receive technical and professional training to increase personal and staff skills.
- Conduct and implement special fisheries management projects so that angling opportunities are improved.
- Protect critical fish habitat in area waters so that degradation of aquatic resources is minimized.
- Conduct an effective public relations and education program to inform the public of Fisheries operations and aquatic resources.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the Department's safety culture by being safe and encouraging safe behavior in the workplace; and to ensure a safe working environment for all employees.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13DNR000599

STATE TRAIL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

- Department:** Natural Resources Department
- Closing Date:** July 22nd, 2013
- Location(s):** St. Paul, MN
- Who May Apply:** Current employees of this agency who are eligible to bid for this job
- Responsibilities:** This position will require occasional evening and/or weekend hours and travel to Parks & Trails administered lands.

This position provides an important leadership and coordination role for the Minnesota State Trail System established in Minnesota Statute 85.015. In addition, the position is responsible for coordinating the horse trail pass program as well as duties associated with the management and operation of non-motorized trail recreation such as biking, hiking, walking, in-line skating, horseback riding, snow shoeing, dog sledding and other trail recreation pursuits.

Primary program responsibilities of the position include:

1. Coordinate and lead the development and implementation of policy, standards, and procedures for the operations, maintenance and administration of the State Trail System program. Work closely with Parks & Trails Division Area Supervisors and staff to coordinate and resolve issues regarding planning, policy, standards, procedures and budgets for State Trail System Programs. Draft legislation, present and discuss information before legislative committees and staff. Analyze and interpret impacts of proposed legislation and determine support or non-support, and testify on the position.
2. Coordinate and assist with the development of the biennial budget request, capital funding request, spending plans, and work planning for the State Trail System Program and non-motorized trail programs. Allocate program funds to regional programs and monitor expenditures. Control the bid solicitation process. Authorize expenditures and payments. Administer contracts.
3. Act as the lead advocate and coordinator for non-motorized recreation programs administered by the Parks and Trails Division, including the equestrian trails program.
4. Perform other tasks such as public relations, user group management, website content coordination and trail system mapping updates.
5. Provide field support for trails program operations and maintenance.
6. Assure responsibility for safety in all activities.

For more information visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000601

SW WATERSHED UNIT SUPERVISOR

- Department:** Pollution Control Agency
- Closing Date:** July 22nd, 2013
- Location(s):** Various
- Who May Apply:** Only to current state employees
- Responsibilities:** This position will supervise all staff activities in the Southwest Watershed Unit working within the Minnesota River, Des Moines, and Missouri River Basins. The Watershed Unit develops, manages, and supports Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) projects and strategies and Total Maximum Daily Load

(TMDL) studies, and federal 319 and state Clean Water Partnership (CWP) funded projects.

The position will be responsible for 1) managing fiscal and budgetary operations, 2) workforce planning, hiring, performance management, and all other administrative functions, 3) partnership development and local capacity building, and 4) providing technical watershed science assistance and support. The position requires 10~20% travel. The position will be located in either Mankato or Marshall based on candidate location and availability.

For more information and to apply <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13PCA000123

ANIMAL & PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, SUPERVISORY HUMAN RESOURCES SPECIALIST (PROCESSING SECTION CHIEF)

Department: Department of Agriculture

Closing Date: July 24th, 2013

Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- You are responsible for overall administration of the processing services to Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS), Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) and other client agencies. Assigns and reviews the work of staff to ensure timely performance, soundness, and value. Monitors the progress of work, including adherence to methods and procedures, and prioritization of the work, including the development of assignments and schedules. Gives advice or instruction to employees on both work and administrative matters. Initiates formal personnel actions for such matters as the retention of probationary employees, career promotions, and details of position responsibilities. Evaluates subordinates through annual performance ratings and initiates formal award recommendations based on job performance.
- The incumbent handles any employee conduct matters or complaints that arise. With approval of higher level management, issues formal warnings and reprimands as necessary.
- Initiates recruitment action for job vacancies.
- Provides technical guidance to Human Resources Assistants on a variety of complex problems encountered in work assignments.
- Interprets personnel rules and regulations, laws and procedures so that the processing program is maintained to conform to applicable statutes and laws. Provides advice to managers on personnel processing matters.
- Serves as the Agency's Processing representative on committees, meetings, or work groups, as appropriate. Monitors and tracks projects to ensure satisfactory progress and offers technical advice as appropriate.
- Formulates plans policies, procedures, goals and objectives related to personnel processing functions. Develops plans, policies, and procedures for the processing, quality assurance and reports activities of HRO and the integration of these activities into the overall administrative management program for the agencies serviced.
- Plans for and assists in or conducts briefings for program managers and staff, employee groups e.g., EEOC, etc., on program and legislative developments in the areas above.
- A key aspect of the job is the incumbent's responsibility for the integration of personnel processing functions into the total personnel management program of the Human Resources Operations and the agency. This involves extensive coordination and negotiation with other managers and officials of serviced organizations on major issues

involving policies and operating procedures.

For more information and to apply visit
<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/347422700>

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Department:	Will Steger Foundation
Closing Date:	August 2nd, 2013
Location(s):	Minneapolis, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support student leaders from 10 metro area high school environmental clubs to plan and facilitate student-led action projects related to energy conservation, renewable energy, waste reduction, and sustainability and to expand and sustain their local leadership teams.• Provide direct mentorship for the YEA! MN student co-chairs and youth steering committee members in the form of leadership development, assistance in political/community organizing, event planning, and support for resource access.• Maintain the YEA! MN member database and tracking system as well as the YEA! MN Facebook site and blog.• Work collaboratively with other adult mentors at specific schools and in specific metro areas as needed.• Coordinate with Will Steger Foundation Education Program staff to increase synergy between the Education and YEA! MN program areas with the goal of increasing climate literacy among YEA! MN youth Steering Committee members.• Work with Will Steger Foundation to directly manage and grow the YEA! MN program.

For more information and application process visit
<http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/program-coordinator-youth-environmental-activists-minnesota-yea-mn/>

WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR

Department:	Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	August 8th, 2013
Location(s):	Rochester, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position will be responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality in southeast Minnesota through the promotion, evaluation, and as indicated, development of crop nutrient best management practices (BMPs) and Alternative Management Tools (AMTs).</p>

This position will also provide educational opportunities and technical assistance to crop producers, agricultural professionals, and local government officials located in areas with known or potential water contamination from nitrates, such as municipal drinking water source water protection areas, areas of elevated nitrate in private wells, and state groundwater management areas. The scope of the position's work is guided by the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer

Management Plan. A majority of the work focuses on Olmstead, Wabasha, and Winona counties.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13AGR000057

WATER QUALITY COORDINATOR

Department:	Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	August 9th, 2013
Location(s):	Little Falls, MN; Staple Office, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This position will be responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality in Minnesota's central sands region through the promotion, evaluation, and as indicated, development of crop nutrient best management practices (BMPs) and Alternative Management Tools (AMTs). This position will also provide educational opportunities and technical assistance to crop producers, agricultural professionals, and local government officials located in areas with known or potential water contamination from nitrates, such as municipal drinking water source water protection areas, areas of elevated nitrate in private wells, and state groundwater management areas. The scope of the position's work is guided by the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan. A majority of the work focuses on Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties.</p> <p>For more information and to apply visit http://www.careers.state.mn.us/ Posting # 13AGR000058</p>

FOOD INSPECTOR - INTERMITTENT

Department:	Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	December 12th, 2013
Location(s):	Butterfield, MN; Cold Spring, MN; Austin, MN; Melrose, MN; Pelican Rapids, MN; Faribault, MN; Marshall, MN; Willmar, MN; Windom, MN; Worthington, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>Entry-level Food Inspector positions filled through this job announcement generally work in slaughter plants. Our Food Inspectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Examine food animals in privately-owned meat or poultry plants· Perform their duties before and after slaughter, guaranteeing that the product is not contaminated· Maintain sanitation procedures· Are a valued member of a dynamic team that ensures the product is fit to eat and compliant with Federal laws <p>Food Inspectors and Consumer Safety Inspectors (slaughter) are involved in ante-mortem inspection of livestock or poultry and post-mortem inspection of red meat or poultry. This inspection activity is performed in a noisy industrial environment with large moving machinery that cannot be stopped instantly. Workstations and walkway can be extremely narrow and slippery. Excellent stability and balance is required. Frequent physical activities such as walking, climbing, standing, and kneeling are required, including climbing and walking on catwalks. Various environmental conditions, ranging from sub-freezing</p>

temperatures to frequent summertime temperatures at 80 to 90 degrees are common, with extreme humidity. Inspection activity requires rapid, constant repetitive motion with both hands and wrists. Red meat viscera inspection requires palpitation of organs and slicing with extremely sharp knives. Accurate color vision is essential to notice subtle shades of product color in the detection of abnormalities that make a product unfit for human consumption.

For more information visit

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/331796400> or to apply visit www.FoodSafetyJobs.gov 'Food Inspector Online Application Process'

"There's so much pollution in the air now that if it weren't for our lungs there'd be no place to put it all."

-Robert Orben

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.
