



Minnesota River Weekly Update

August 13th, 2013

EPA Approves TMDL for Bluff Creek

The U.S. EPA recently approved the TMDL report for Bluff Creek in Chanhassen, a small tributary of the Lower Minnesota River. Bluff Creek begins at the headwaters located near Trunk Highway 41 on the north and discharges into the Minnesota River floodplain. The catchment area at the outlet of Bluff Creek in Rice Lake is 6.4 square miles, the total length of the main stem is 7.5 miles, and the creek is moderate to fully entrenched for most of its course. The watershed's upper reaches are a mix of forested upland and meadow. The middle reach is a mix of land uses and is rapidly urbanizing. The lower reach is steep valley walls, is highly sinuous, and lined with trees. The MPCA lists Bluff Creek as impaired for elevated turbidity levels and for impaired biota due to a low fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) score.

For the creek to meet to meet state water quality standards, significant reductions in sediment loads will be needed, as detailed in the [TMDL report](#).

Minnesota River group pursues 'National Blueways' designation

The Minnesota River could receive a boost from a national recognition program highlighting major river basins. The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance has nominated the Minnesota River to become a "National Blueway." The U.S. DOI established the National Blueways System in 2012 to promote a network of nationally significant rivers and their watersheds that are highly valued as economic, recreational, social, and ecological assets. A delegation from the Blueways nomination team will meet at noon, Monday, August 26 at the Joseph Nicollet Tower and Museum in Sisseton, SD. There will be a visit to the Little Minnesota River source at Sica Hollow State Park, followed by an open house/community listening session from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Community Room in Sisseton.

For more information about the event contact Patrick Moore at riverartisan@gmail.com or (320) 841-1487. For more information on the nomination visit the Minnesota [River nomination](#) website.

Mississippi River is first of state's 5 largest rivers to be monitored by MPCA

The Mississippi is the first of Minnesota's five largest rivers to be targeted by the MPCA water quality monitoring effort. MPCA monitoring crews are about half way through a 10-year effort to assess the condition of smaller rivers, streams, and lakes throughout Minnesota's 81 watersheds. The state's largest rivers -- the Mississippi, Minnesota, Rainy, Red and St. Croix -- will be sampled over the next five years. To see monitoring teams in action, you can watch short videos on [fish sampling](#) and [invertebrate sampling](#) on the [MPCA's Biological monitoring](#) webpage. For more information about these monitoring program activities, visit the MPCA's [Water quality condition monitoring](#) webpage.

DNR program accepting grant applications

The Minnesota DNR is accepting applications for its [Conservation Partners Legacy \(CPL\) grant](#) program. This grant program funds conservation projects that restore, enhance, or protect forests, wetlands, prairies, or habitat for fish, game, and wildlife in Minnesota. Grant requests may range from \$5,000 to \$400,000 with a maximum total project cost of \$575,000. Nonprofit organizations and government entities are eligible to apply, and a 10% match of non-state funds is required. The application system for both the [Traditional Over 25,000/Under 25,000](#) cycle and the Expedited [Conservation Projects \(ECP\)](#) cycle opened August 1st, 2013:

- New this year is the dedication of \$500,000 to projects located within the seven-county metro area or within a city of 50,000 people or greater. Apply through the O25K/U25K cycle for these funds. The traditional cycle closes Sept. 16
- For the ECP grant cycle, \$1 million is available. This program funds projects up to \$50,000 on public lands or water open to all seasons of hunting and fishing. The ECP application cycle is open continuously through May 14th, 2014, or until funds are awarded. Apply by Sept. 11 for the first round of ECP funding.

The Request for Proposal and Program Manual is now posted for both the Traditional [Cycle](#) and [ECP](#). For more information, send an email to lscplgrants.dnr@state.mn.us

MPCA/MSCA meetings in August will focus on permits for large feedlots

The MPCA and MSCA will host five information meetings around the state for cattlemen and women looking to expand their livestock operations. The meetings will focus on how a producer can obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit for a feedlot with 1,000 or more animal units. The meetings will provide producers with the opportunity to meet the MPCA staff and feedlot program engineers working in their region as well as delegated county feedlot officers. They will also afford an opportunity for producers to get practical information on the NPDES/SDS permit process, including application requirements and tips for navigating the process smoothly. Meetings are scheduled for:

August 12th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - Kandiyohi County Government Services Building, 2200 23rd St. N., Willmar

August 14th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - Lyon County Courthouse, 607 W. Main St., Marshall

August 15th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - MPCA Detroit Lakes office, 714 Lake Ave. Detroit Lakes

August 21st, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - MPCA Brainerd office, 7678 College Road, Baxter

August 22nd, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - MPCA Rochester office, 18 Wood Lake Drive, S.E. Rochester

To register for the meetings visit the [MSCA website](#) or call Joe Martin, MSCA executive director at (612) 208-6722

Yellow Medicine plans combined annual meeting, civic engagement event

The Yellow Medicine River Watershed District board of managers and staff have scheduled a civic engagement events in collaboration with our annual advisory committee hearing. The combined hearing and event are scheduled for August 22nd, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Taunton Senior Center in Taunton. The civic engagement objective is part of the Watershed Restoration and Protection project through MPCA. It will be facilitated by Toby Spanier and Barb Radtke, UM Extension staff. They will be assisting in the design and creation of an agenda and plan for the civic engagement event.

For more information visit <http://www.ymrwd.org/index.htm>

BWSR plans to open Clean Water grant applications Sept. 3

The Minnesota BWSR will hold a competitive grant application round this fall using funds appropriated from the Clean Water Land and Legacy amendment during the 2013 legislative session. The Board will consider authorizing the grant program at its August 29th meeting. If authorized, the grant application period will run from Sept. 3 - Oct. 4 with funds awarded at the Board's January meeting. Training materials on the application process and details of the request for proposals are being developed. Web-based trainings are planned for Aug. 21 and 22. [Online registration](#) for the training is now open.

Three funding categories from previous years will be requesting grant applications: Clean Water Assistance, Accelerated Implementation, and Community Partners Conservation Program.

MPCA seeks public comment for draft ballast water general permit

The MPCA is seeking public comment from now through September 11th, 2013, on its draft ballast water general permit. This state permit would continue the MPCA's regulatory role in helping protect Minnesota waters of Lake Superior from potential environmental and economic harm caused by aquatic invasive species carried in the ballast water of ships. The draft five-year state permit would affect 55-65 U.S.-flagged lakers (a 'laker' is a vessel that transits only the Great Lakes), 60 to 65 Canadian-flagged lakers, and 225 to 275 ocean-going ships that transit through, and discharge to, Minnesota water of Lake Superior.

A copy of the draft permit, fact sheet, and public notice are available for review at [MPCA's Public Notices](#) webpage, or for more information contact elizabeth.gawrys@state.mn.us

Articles

[Minnesota DNR opens 43 WMAs to livestock mowing, grazing](#)

August 1st, Pioneer Press

As many as 43 Wildlife Management Areas in Minnesota could have cover mowed down to stubble when the pheasant hunting season arrives. To feed livestock.

[Citizens voice concerns at listening session](#)

August 7th, Allison Geyer, Winona Daily

TREMPEALEAU, Wis. - Trempealeau resident Collin Hirner offered U.S. Rep. Ron Kind a simple solution to ending partisan bickering in Washington.

[Cities begin to plan for climate change](#)

August 8th, The Daily Circuit, MPR News

Last year was record-setting, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [2012 State of the Climate report](#).

[Water is the new water, and we can't take it for granted](#)

August 8th, JT Haines, MinnPost

NoCal and SoCal are grappling about piping water southward (LA Time), the Colorado River is 'severely threatened by human overuse' (MIT), and Waukesha Wisconsin wants to draw 9 million gallons of water per day from Lake Michigan because of 'a depleted aquifer and rising concentrations or carcinogenic radium in the water' (Triple Pundit).

[Swinging CO2 Levels Show the Earth is 'Breathing' More Deeply](#)

August 8, Richard Harris, MPR News

Plant life on our planet soaks up a fair amount of the carbon dioxide that pours out of our tailpipes and smokestacks. Plants take it up during the summer and return some of it to the air in the winter. And a new study shows that those 'breaths' have gotten deeper over the past 50 years.

[Backup farm bill being written, just in case](#)

August 6th, Don Davis, Forum News Service

REDWOOD FALLS, Minn. - Top agriculture member of Congress can be ready with a backup farm bill quickly, but it is not clear if it ever will see the light of day.

[Farmfest clouded by congressional farm bill gridlock](#)

August 7th, Mark Steil, MPR News

REDWOOD FALLS, Minn. - Farmer discontent with Congress seems to be growing almost as quickly as Minnesota's corn and soybeans fields. The unhappiness is aimed at lawmakers' inability to pass the central piece of the nation's agricultural policy, the farm bill.

[Researcher: 4 billion more people could be fed if farmers stopped growing animal feed](#)

August 8th, Stephanie Hemphill, MPR News

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Farmers could feed 4 billion more people if they stopped producing animal feed and biofuels and only grew crops for human consumption. That's the conclusion of a graduate research assistant at the University of Minnesota.

[Minn. firm's new water filter: bacteria](#)

August 8, Stephanie Hemphill, MPR News

ST. PAUL, Minn. - A rural Minnesota water company is experimenting with a new way of treating drinking water --using bacteria to remove the harmful pollutants.

[New study finds high levels of arsenic in groundwater near fracking sites](#)

August 9, Theodor Meyer, MinnPost

A recently published study by researchers at the University of Texas at Arlington found elevated levels of arsenic and other heavy metals in groundwater near natural gas fracking sites in Texas' Barnett Shale

[Minnesota wetlands losing out to farms](#)
August 9, Josephine Marcotty, StarTribune

In just five years, Minnesota has lost 312 square miles of valuable wetlands and the natural vegetation that surrounds them -- an area about 5.7 times the size of Minneapolis -- reducing a resource that provides vital habitat for waterfowl, minimizes floods and keeps agricultural chemicals out of rivers and streams.

[DNR attributes pine tree deaths to long-term drought](#)

August 11, Elizabeth Dunbar, MPR News

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- Pines and other conifers in northern Minnesota are dying in slightly larger numbers than usual.

[Beyond wild rice: When sulfate goes up, so do mercury, phosphates](#)

South Washington County Bulletin

Even if scientists, regulators, politicians and industry leaders find common ground on how much sulfate is too much for wild rice, the issue of sulfate in Minnesota waterways isn't going away.

Events

**Aug. 12th -
Aug. 18th**

Martin County Fair

Monday, August 12th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Fairmont, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Martin County Fair's](#) website

Middle Fork Crow open house

Tuesday, August 13th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: New building located south of Green Lake at 189 County Road 8, across from the Spicer DNR building

Brief Description: The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District will be showing off its new building at their annual open house. The open house will be from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., hosted by board members and staff: Margaret Johnson, administrator; Vanessa Glieden Henjum, watershed technician; Mike Behan, hydrologic technician.

For more information contact the office at (320) 796-0888

Murray County Fair

Tuesday, August 13th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Slayton, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Murray County Fair's](#) website

Steele County Fair

Tuesday, August 13th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Owatonna, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Steele County Fair's](#) website

Small scale CSA Management

Wednesday, August 14th, 2013 @ 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Alternative Roots Farm, 11197 130th St., Madelia, MN
Brief Description: John and Brooke Knisley own and operate Alternative Roots Farm where they offer CSA and farm shares. They specialize in heirloom vegetable production on their 4 acre farm and also have a fruit orchard. The Knisleys will be sharing information on their CSA production/harvesting/post-harvesting handling, using cover crops, raising small grains and flint corn, their native prairie buffer, and the orchard. All who are interested are welcome to attend this outdoor event.

For more information contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Geocaching in the Park

Wednesday, August 14th, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Bloomington
Brief Description: Have you heard about geocaching but haven't had a chance to try it? Geocaching is a family-friendly outdoor treasure hunt, where you use a GPS unit to find hidden surprises (caches). GPS units and instructions will be provided by Three Rivers Park District. All are welcome!

For more information or to register contact Erica (952) 358-2276 or at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org

Tri-County Fair

Wednesday, August 14th, 2013

Location: Mankato

For more information contact George Leary (507) 389-8381

Renville County Fair

Wednesday, August 14th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Bird Island

For more information and list of events visit [Renville County Fair's](#) website

McLeod County Fair

Wednesday, August 14th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Hutchinson, MN

For more information and list of events visit [McLeod County Fair's](#) website

Swift County Fair

Wednesday, August 14th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Appleton, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Swift County Fair's](#) website

From soil to oil - What's the buzz?

Thursday, August 15th, 2013 @ 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab, Morris, MN
Brief Description: The field day will begin at the Soil Lab then buses will take attendees to Swan Lake Research Farm just north of Morris. There attendees will learn about research being conducted on pollinators, oil seed plant species, and cover crops.

For more information contact Nancy Barbour at (320) 589-3411 ext.163 or at nancy.barbour@ars.usda.gov

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

Douglas County Fair

Thursday, August 15th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Alexandria, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Douglas County Fair's](#) website

Le Sueur County Fair

Thursday, August 15th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Le Center

For more information and list of events visit Le [Sueur County Fair's](#) website

Archery in the Park

Friday, August 16th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years, First we did it as a way to hunt animals and later 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 basics 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 the Creek Picnic Area.

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

scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

What lives in the river; macroinvertebrates

Friday, August 16th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: What in the world is a macroinvertebrate?

Macroinvertebrates are aquatic bugs that we can see with our eye, have no backbone, and live in our rivers, lakes and wetlands. Discover how these aquatic bugs are special and where to find them. We will collect macroinvertebrates from Minneopa Creek and identify each of them using a simple identification key. Please meet at the parking lot of the Creek Picnic Area.

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

The Coyote Conundrum: Change, Adaptation, and the Path Forward

Friday, August 16th - Sunday, August 18th, 2013

Location: Willow Lake Farm

Brief Description: Willow Lake Farm will open wide to welcome visitors for a long weekend of conversation, camping, field trips, home grown food, and music. In 2009 we discussed the geomorphological development of our landscape by following the movement of a drop of water through the Willow Lake Farm through time. In 2011 discussion followed the history of movement of people and cultures through the Watonwan watershed and how our human activity may have contributed to the condition of the landscape and the ecology. This year we will continue to explore who we are, how we got here and where we might be going. We will discuss human relationships with each other and with the landscape and maybe try to anticipate what conditions might be like on this farm and in this community in the future.

For more information and to register visit [Agroecology Summit Willow Lake Farm](#)

Teddy Bear Picnic on Cox House Lawn

Saturday, August 17th, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Location: E. St. Julien Cox House

Brief Description: The teddy bears are having a picnic! The Nicollet Historical Society is hosting a Teddy Bear Picnic on the lawn of historic Cox House. Bring a blanket (we'll have some extras) and your favorite teddy bear to the Cox House lawn for a fun time. Kids aged 2 and 7 will enjoy hearing a teddy bear story, crafts and a lunch fit for a bear! Space is limited and reservations required. Don't let your teddy bear miss it! \$12 for one child + adult, additional child may attend for \$8.

For more information and to RSVP contact Susan Carlin at (507) 382-5162 or at sdgcarlin@gmail.com

Causes of the U.S.-Dakota War and Battlefield Tour

Saturday, August 17th, 2013 and August 18th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. (program) and 2:30 p.m. (battlefield tour)

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: The causes of the USDA/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. \$5 admissions

For more information contact Nicollet County Historical Society at (507) 934-2160

Dragonflies

Saturday, August 17th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: A normal Minnesota summer can be filled with the sounds of buzzing mosquitoes, these annoying bugs that can ruin the fun of being outdoors. The sight of dragonflies swooping through the air is a welcome one because they eat our pesky mosquitoes. We will talk about how these insects have been around a long, long, long time and the typical dragonfly lifecycle. To find some of the dragonflies living in the park there will be a hike around the wetlands to see if we can capture some with the use of nets. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side of Minneopa State Park.

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

Archery in the Park

Saturday, August 17th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years, First we did it as a way to hunt animals and later 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 basics 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 the picnic area on the campground side.

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

What lives in the river; fish

Saturday, August 17th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: How well is the fishery in the Minnesota River Basin doing? Join us for a look at how the river's fishery has improved from the days of the 1950s when biologists found more peas and carrots floating in the river than fish. In this presentation, visitors will discover some of the more interesting fish that live in the Minnesota River and what is behind this improvement in both numbers and species diversity. There will also be some fun activities for children of all ages. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 382-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Archery in the Park

Sunday, August 18th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.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 hunt animals and later 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 basics 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 the picnic area on the campground side.

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

Bees and Honey

Sunday, August 18th, 2013 @ 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Honey was used as a sweetener instead of sugar. It could be found out on the prairie and could be made by the pioneers. Crystal Bock from Nicollet, will have information and equipment that she uses for making her honey. Our program will be from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information contact Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160 or the Harkin store at (507) 354-8666

Dakota 38 film screening and discussion

Sunday, August 18th, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center

Brief Description: The Treaty Site History Center will host a free screening of the documentary "Dakota 38." All are welcome for this very special event. After the film, there will be a discussion with Franky Jackson, the Director of the Renville County Historical Society and Museum, and James (JB) Weston of Flandreau, S.D., and Peter Lengkeek of Crow Creek, S.D., who were featured in the film. The film was inspired by a dream had by Indian spiritual leader Jim Miller. It remembers the 38 Dakota who were hanged on December 26th, 1862, as well as a group of Dakota who ride on horseback each year to Mankato to commemorate the executions. Learn more about the film at smoothfeather.org/dakota38/. This project is made possible by a grant provided by the Traverse des Sioux Library Cooperative and was funded in part or in whole with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund; as well as a partnership with the New Ulm Public Library and Brown County Historical Society.

For more information please call (507) 934-2160

**Aug. 19th -
Aug. 25th**

"Forever Greens" Third Crops

Tuesday, August 20th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: U of M St. Paul Campus, Research Plots on Fairview Ave., St. Paul, MN
Brief Description: Join Rural Advantage and U of M to view and discuss some of the Forever Green research plots on the St. Paul campus. Of particular focus will be hybrid hazelnuts (genomics, propagation techniques, nut production, and weed management), intermediate wheatgrass (genomics and yield), native prairie mixes (yields), prairie cordgrass, perennial sunflowers (genomics and yield), and perennial biomass crops (bioenergy yields).

For more information contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Agriculture Water Quality Projects

Thursday, August 22nd, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Darwin & Sandy Roberts Farm, 1838 260th Avenue, Granada, MN
Brief Description: Elm Creek is located in the Blue Earth River Watershed in south central Minnesota. The MPCA has placed Elm Creek on its Impaired Water List due to excess nutrients, excess soil, and high fecal coliform counts. Researchers from the University of Minnesota have put together a number of water quality options that farmers can place on their land to help with issues in Elm Creek. They are working with local farmer Darwin Roberts, the Martin SWCD, the NRCS, and the MDA to construct a few of these options for demonstration and research purposes. Currently a constructed wetland with tiling routed through it before reaching Elm Creek; two woodchip bioreactors; and a streambank stabilization project are being studied.

For more information on this event contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Traverse County Fair

Thursday, August 22nd - Sunday, August 25th, 2013

Location: Wheaton, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Traverse County Fair Premium Book](#)

Digital Photography for Children

Friday, August 23rd, 2013 @ 1:00 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 children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic shelter on the waterfalls side of Minneopa.

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

Biking in the Upper Minnesota Watershed at Lac qui Parle State Park

Saturday, August 24th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lac qui Parle Lake, Upper and Lower State Park

Brief Description: This up to 3-hour adventure offers something for everyone. Participants may choose from paved trails in the newer upper park, on the east side of the lake, to a 19 miles loop that provides the rider with a variety of hills and straight terrain, on very lightly trafficked county tar roads. Alternative 5 to 10 mile round trips will be available. The old lower park on the west side where LQP River comes into the lake has gravel roads and is nicely forested and beautiful old WPA buildings. The new upper park on the east side has tar loop roads, and spectacular views from high hills above the lake. There are hiking paths on both parks, with native prairie in upper park. A nice DNR interpretive center with many stuffed birds, and a variety of animal pelts, is handy on the east side.

For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/event/biking-in-the-upper-minnesota-watershed-at-lac-qui-parle-state-park/> or contact CURE at peg@cureriver.org

**Aug. 26th -
Sept. 1st**

Wild Edibles

Friday, August 30th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: People eat wild edibles for a number of reasons including as a legitimate way economizing their food costs, as an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, and in rare situations they can be essential for survival. We will talk about some of the more recognizable plants growing in the area like the common dandelion which can be used in salads or even as a coffee-like beverage. Meet at the parking lot of the Creek Picnic Area.

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

Geocaching 101

Saturday, August 31st, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Join the naturalist for this high tech treasure hunt and learn the basics of this new worldwide recreational sport. GPS units are provided. There will be chance to test your GPS skill on a critter activity before going out to find the park geocache. Limit of 20 people (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

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

Digital Photography for Children

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau 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 children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic shelter on the waterfalls side of Minneopa.

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

What lives in the river; fish

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: How well is the fishery in the Minnesota River Basin doing? Join us for a look at how the river's fishery has improved from the days of the 1950s when biologists found more peas and carrots floating in the river than fish. In this presentation, visitors will discover some of the more interesting fish that live in the Minnesota River and what is behind this improvement in both numbers and species diversity. There will also be some fun activities for children of all ages. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

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

Night Hike

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 9:00p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: There are many cool places to go exploring at Minneopa State Park. On this walk we will start out at the picnic areas on the campground side and head down into the Minneopa Creek Valley ending up at the confluence with the Minnesota River. Along the way we will stop to talk about some of the plants, wildlife, trees and geology of this area. A hike is a great way to experience the natural world around us and hear the sounds of bird chirping, water flowing over rocks and the wind blowing through the leaves. The total distance is around 2 miles and it will take us around an hour and a half. Be prepared for some steep and rough terrain. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side of the park.

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

**Sept. 2nd -
Sept. 8th**

Lac qui Parle County Fair

Thursday, August 5th - Sunday, August 8th, 2013

Location: Madison, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Lac qui Parle County Fair's](#) facebook page

Beginning Hop Grower Workshop

Saturday, September 7th, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Join the Minnesota Hop Growers Association (MHGA), University of Minnesota and Rural Advantage for a day jam-packed with information for the beginning hop grower. The workshop will be held at the University's SROC where hop research has been conducted for the last few years. Attendees will learn about history of hop productions and brewing, how to establish and operate a successful hop yard, harvesting and processing, economics, and marketing. There will also be time for discussion and networking. The experienced presenters will include hop growers, researchers, processors, and brewers. Registration fees (\$25 for members, \$50 for non-members, \$75 for registration and one year membership to MHGA) will include materials, refreshments, and lunch.

To register visit the MHGA website www.mhga.org

**Sept. 9th -
Sept 15th**

**Sept. 16th -
Sept. 22nd**

Agroforestry for Biomass Production and Nutrient Management

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Empire Wastewater Treatment, 2540 W. 197th Street, Farmington, MN 55024

Brief Description: The University of Minnesota, USDA National Agroforestry Center, and Metropolitan Council have collaborated on a project to evaluate the productive potential and the nutrient uptake of woody and herbaceous crops planted in the alley crop style. The research plots include switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, an alfalfa/intermediate wheatgrass mix, a native tallgrass prairie mix, and hybrid poplar and willow. There will be a "walk-n-talk" discussing the value of these perennial grasses.

For more information contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Project WET Workshop

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Hyland Lake Park Reserve Visitor Center, Lakeview Room, 10145 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN

Brief Description: This one-day workshop will train educators to incorporate Project WET activities into curriculum. Participants will engage in several fun, hands-on indoor and outdoor learning activities appropriate for use with students. WET activities are: correlated to Minnesota Academic Standards; interactive and hands-on; ideal for reaching different learning styles; flexible to be used in- or outdoors; easily incorporated into existing curricula. Costs \$15

For more information or to register contact Erica (952) 358-2276 or at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org

University of Minnesota SROC's Centennial Celebration

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: SROC, 35838 120th Street, Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Join the University of Minnesota in celebrating 100 years at the Southern Research Center in Waseca! There will be booths and activities for interests of all kinds. The Centennial program begins at 5:00 p.m. The picnic supper will be from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact Southern Research and Outreach Center at (507) 835-3620 or nelso191@tc.umn.edu

St. Peter Reads Announces the Fall 2013 Community Read

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus

Brief Description: Saint Peter Reads is pleased to announce the Fall 2013 Community Read in conjunction with Gustavus Adolphus College's *Reading in Common*. This year's book is Tore Murden McClure's *A Pearl in the Storm*. Join author McClure for a book lecture and discussion. This program is free and open to the public. Books are available at area libraries and select local merchants.

For more information find us online at <http://stpeterreads.wordpress.com> or call St. Peter Community and Family Education (507) 934-3048.

Job Announcements

AGRIC ADVISO, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Department:	Agriculture Department
Closing Date:	August 13th, 2013
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	This position exists to conduct inspections, perform investigations and take necessary actions to ensure compliance under the anhydrous ammonia inspection and permitting program, the chemigation inspection and permitting program, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), Minnesota's Pesticide Control and Fertilizer, Soil Amendment and Plant

Amendment Laws, M.S. 18B, 18C, 18D, and 18E and rules promulgated under both federal and state law.

The position will also review bulk fertilizer/pesticide permit applications for permitting purposes and bulk and non-bulk facility inspections and investigations for compliance with Minnesota Pesticide and Fertilizer Control Law, M.S. 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E and FIFRA, and rules promulgated under both federal and state law, to collaborate in facility compliance and enforcement actions, to provide regulatory and technical support to St. Paul program and field staff.

For more information and to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13AGR000091

FOOD INSPECTOR

Department: Department of Agriculture

Closing Date: August 18th, 2013

Location(s): Crookston, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This vacancy is located in the Dairy and Food Inspection Division, Food Section, and will be located in Crookston, MN.

This position is responsible for food and safety issues, sampling and general food inspection activities to determine compliance with federal and state food safety laws and rules, and the implementation and enforcement of state statutes, rules and policies for the Food Section within the Dairy and Food Inspection Division (DFID). The position will ensure a safe and wholesome food supply and protect against fraudulent practices and misbranding of food products.

For more information and to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13AGR000093

ASSISTANT AREA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: August 15th, 2013

Location(s): Marshall, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: Primary 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:

- To collaborate with the Area Wildlife Supervisor in:
- The administration of wildlife management programs of the Area Wildlife Office.
- Training, directing, evaluating, reviewing, and effectively recommending rewards and discipline for subordinate personnel assigned to the Area Wildlife Office.
- Planning and developing policies.
- Implementing environmental protection programs.
- Developing and implementing information and education program that the public will be better informed about wildlife issues.
- Implementing wildlife population management programs and policies.
- Implementing wildlife habitat management programs and policies on public lands.

For more information and to apply visit
<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000641

FISHERIES HABITAT SPECIALIST

Department:	Natural Resources Department
Closing Date:	August 16th, 2013
Location(s):	New Ulm, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	This position functions as the DNR Commissioners' delegate in administering aquatic habitat-related programs of the DNR, section of Fisheries in a multi-county region. This position primarily involves the Aquatic Plant Management Program (APM), the Aquatic Aeration Program (AAP), interactions with planning and zoning officials from local government units that deal with shoreline development, assisting with the Aquatic Habitat Program (AHP), and other special habitat projects within the 33 counties in the DNR Southern Region (R4). This position also provides assistance to other staff to protect, preserve, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat through the effective implementation of best management practices as they relate to fisheries management activities. The person in this position is the lead worker in planning and implementing the APM and AAP programs, effectively acting in a supervisory role in directing and guiding staff at the New Ulm office. This position also assists with AHP projects at the regional level and program consultation/assessment with the statewide AHP coordinator.

For more information and to apply visit
<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000643

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER

Department: Department of Natural Resources

Closing Date: August 19th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position will require occasional evening and/or weekend hours and frequent travel to Parks & Trails administered lands.

This position exists to:

- Provide professional technical support to the Division of Parks & Trails' statewide Development and Acquisition programs by managing high priority trail and water access facility construction projects, coordinating cultural resource review of projects and implementing real estate acquisition projects statewide. Incumbent will track project/acquisition expenditures, manage project timelines and coordinate with regional field staff, Lands & Minerals and Management Resources staff to complete work.

Responsibilities include:

- Manage trails and water access facility construction projects.
- Coordinate and implement the Division of Parks & Trails, trails and water access facility (new/rehab/infrastructure) development programs.
- Coordinate Division land acquisitions, leases, easements, licenses, permits and other interest conveying interests on or across Division lands for the state trails and public water accesses, assist for state parks & recreation areas.
- Administer, coordinate and initiate resolution to statewide land trespass issues so that the Division's interests are incorporated and addressed.
- Assure responsibility for safety in all activities.

For more information and to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000661

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT ECOLOGIST

Department: Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: August 20th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: This position exists to implement environmental review responsibilities in the Central Region within the Division of Ecological and Water Resources through analysis, evaluation, special investigation, intra- and interagency coordination, and development of recommendations. Actions taken are under the authority of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and related federal and state laws, regulations, policies or directives. The purpose of these actions is to avoid, minimize and/or compensate for adverse impacts to fish, wildlife and native plant resources resulting from federal, state, local government or private development projects.

Primary responsibilities include:

1. Conduct technical review of development projects region-wide, identify effects to natural resources, and provide mitigation recommendations so that adverse impacts to natural resources are avoided, minimized or compensated in a manner that provides long-term sustainability, consistent with Minnesota laws and policies.
2. Evaluate proposed projects region-wide that require permit applications, including necessary coordination, so that impacts to fish, wildlife, and native plant resources are accurately identified and avoided, minimized or compensated.
3. Provide coordinative services and technical guidance regarding environmental review processes to the Regional Environmental Assessment Team (REAT), and maintain a repository of project information, including project documents, comment deadlines and draft comments, so projects are reviewed accurately, openly and promptly.
4. Complete and submit required Department forms and records in a timely manner so that activities are accurately documented for fiscal and planning purposes, field office reference and public record.
5. Represent the Department in meetings or an intra- and interagency committees, task forces, etc., involving development interests, conservation/environmental organizations, other DNR Divisions, local units of government, and state and federal agencies.
6. To remain current on new information in terrestrial, aquatic and wetland ecology and related fields so that professional competence is maintained and enhanced and new information, techniques, methods and equipment are utilized in implementing all responsibilities of the position.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000629

MEAT INSPECTOR

Department:	Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	August 21st, 2013
Location(s):	Maple Grove, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	This position will be headquartered in the Maple Grove area with responsibility for inspections primarily in the Anoka, Hennepin, Wright, Carver, and Sherburne counties. Inspectors are required to live in their territory within 35 miles of the headquarters. Relocation may be required as a condition of employment.

This position within the Dairy and Food Inspection Division includes duties relating primarily to the Meat Industry at State Equivalent Meat and or Poultry Processing facilities providing a service to very small processors. Additional inspection work will be conducted at custom meat processors and some

limited retail inspections may be included in the duties. Responsibilities include ante-mortem and post-mortem slaughter inspections at meat and poultry operations, evaluating plant sanitation procedures and practices and verifying the effectiveness of the firms HACCP plan along with the monitoring of their Critical Control Points. Work is conducted at assigned licensed businesses with a focus on educating firm operators regarding existing and new regulations, and when necessary initiating regulatory actions. Flexibility with work schedule to accommodate slaughter operation start time and relief work is essential to the successful candidate.

For more information and to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13AGR000092

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: Entry-level Food Inspector positions filled through this job announcement generally work in slaughter plants. Our Food Inspectors:

- 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

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 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'

"I think that all good, right thinking people in this country are sick and tired of being told that all good, right thinking people in this country are fed up with being told that all good, right thinking people in this country are fed up with being sick and tired. I'm certainly not, and I'm sick and tired of being told that I am." -Monty Python

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.
