



Minnesota River Weekly Update

October 8th, 2013

MPCA water quality report for Mississippi River - Twin Cities show need for improvement

The MPCA has released a water quality monitoring and assessment report for the Mississippi River-Twin Cities watershed that shows poor water quality throughout much of the watershed. Due to the density of industry, housing and roads, lakes and streams in the watershed are showing signs of stress, such as high levels of bacteria and nutrients, eroding streambanks, and loss of sensitive aquatic species. The watershed encompasses a large portion of the metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The watershed is home to more than 1.8 million people across 99 cities, more than 500 species of wildlife and fish, and numerous kinds of aquatic invertebrates. To view the monitoring and assessment report, visit the MPCA's [Mississippi River-Twin Cities Watershed](#) webpage. This report is one of about 80 being developed over the next decade by the MPCA for all of Minnesota's major watersheds. Some highlights of the report include:

- Based on water clarity and levels of algae present, 84 lakes assessed support aquatic recreation, such as swimming and boating, while 87 assessed do not.
- Fifty-one lakes were found to have fish with high levels of mercury, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and/or PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate). Because of this, fish consumption advisories are recommended for lakes across the watershed.
- Eight previously impaired lakes have been restored, and are considered healthy.
- Based on monitoring the amounts and types of fish and bugs found in streams, two streams assessed support aquatic life, while 21 assessed do not.
- Due to high levels of bacteria, only one stream assessed supports aquatic recreation, while 17 assessed do not.

Minnesota agencies collaborate to send cleaner water downstream

A statewide plan now in development aims to get various agencies and groups working together to be more efficient and effective. The strategy goals are a 35 percent reduction in phosphorus and 20% reduction in nitrogen by 2025. A draft strategy is open for public review and comment through Dec. 19, on the web at www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1146. Comments and ideas from all corners are needed to help make it the best plan possible and put it to work. As a headwater state, Minnesota sends water in three major directions. And it's only neighborly to do what we can to ensure that water doesn't carry too much pollution. Surface water

leaving Minnesota flows north to Lake Winnipeg, east to Lake Superior, and south to the Gulf of Mexico, where the ultimate goal is to reduce the level of nutrients coming from the Mississippi River by 45 percent. Minnesota's state-level strategy will be completed by the end of 2013. Involvement of interested citizens and organizations is vital. Success depends on actions from many people around the state. For more information on the strategy development process and opportunities to provide feedback, visit the website <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/zihy1146> or email nutrientreduction.pca@state.mn.us

Comments invited for water quality report for Lura Lake

Reducing nutrient levels is the focus of a water quality study for Lura Lake in southern Blue Earth and northern Faribault counties. Nutrients can fuel algal blooms and decrease recreational opportunities. The MPCA invites comments of the study report through Oct. 22. The study, called a TMDL, focuses on achieving the level of nutrients, or load, that the lake can accept and still meet water quality standards for aquatic recreation. The TMDL is a part of a nationwide effort under the federal CWA to identify and clean up pollution in streams, rivers and lakes. The phosphorus standard for Lura Lake is 90 ppb, but water monitoring over nine years shows level of about 191 ppb, a violation of the standard designed to ensure that lakes are swimmable and fishable. Meeting the standard will require a significant reduction in nutrients entering the lake from the surrounding land, as well as in-lake treatments. Compounding the water quality issues are infestations of curly-leaf pond weed and Eurasian milfoil, which are not native to Lura Lake. The draft report is posted online. The deadline for comments, which must be in writing, is 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 22. Submit comments to Paul Davis, 12 Civic Center Dr., Ste 2165, Mankato, MN 56001, or paul.a.davis@state.mn.us. Davis can also be reached by phone (507) 344-5246

Invasive Species in Rural Landscape

Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

Three workshops have been scheduled in, Montevideo, Owatonna and Windom to discuss invasive species which may cause damage to rural areas. These include: Emerald Ash Borer (affecting Ash trees in windbreaks and rural areas), Thousand Cankers Disease (affecting Black Walnut found in native woodlands, communities and windbreaks), Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (affecting over 300 plants including apple trees, grapes, corn and soybeans) Spotted Wing Drosophila (a fruit fly affecting raspberries and other berry plants) plus woody invasive plants, Buckthorn (a small tree which is host to the over wintering soybean aphid and found in windbreaks and woodlands) Exotic Honeysuckle (invading native woodlands) and Oriental Bittersweet (an extremely invasive perennial vine changing the understory of windbreaks and woodlands). Workshop topics will include history, life cycle, identification, damage and control. Free handouts will also be available.

The workshops will be held from 6 - 8:30 p.m. on the following days:

- **October 22, 2013:** Chippewa County Courthouse, Montevideo, MN
- **October 24, 2013:** Cabela's, Owatonna, MN
- **November 6, 2013:** DNR Office, Windom, MN

The cost of attending the class is \$20, which can be paid at the door. Pre-registration is required. Register for this class online at z.umn.edu/invasivespecies or email Kathy Eckwright or call (507) 389-6972. For additional class offerings visit www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/upcoming-events/

Request for Proposal process now open for monitoring grants

The request for Proposal (RFP) process for Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network (WPLMN) grants is now open. Grants under this program are funded by the Minnesota Clean Water Fund. Grant contracts will be competitively awarded and authorized by the MPCA with up to \$950,000 in available funds for this grant round. All applications must be submitted through the SWIFT e-supplier portal and must be received no than October 25, 2013. Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.

In order to view the RFP and the accompanying materials, applicants are required to have a SWIFT Vendor ID and Supplier Portal Account. Detailed registration directions are available on the [SWIFT e-supplier](#) portal. If you need technical assistance for the SWIFT e-supplier portal, please contact SWIFT help desk line: (651) 201-8100, option 1.

The primary objective of the WPLMN is to obtain spatial and long-term pollutant load information from Minnesota's rivers and streams. The program utilizes state and federal agencies, universities, and local partners to collect water quality and flow data to calculate pollutant loads. The RFP seeks local partners to collect water quality data and compute pollutant loads at select sites in the Red River, Rainy River, and Lake Superior Basins in Minnesota. Water quality samples will be collected across a full range of flow conditions with greatest emphasis given to periods of moderate and high flow. Water quality data will be paired with stream flow information to yield estimates of contaminant loading from within a watershed.

MPCA is responsible for carrying out and overseeing the monitoring of Minnesota's lakes and streams using Clean Water Legacy funds. WPLMN grants channel these funds to local organizations to assist with these activities. Additional information on the program can be found at the [MPCA's WPLMN](#) webpage.

Watershed Network Fall meeting Nov. 12 at New Ulm

The Watershed Network fall meeting is tentatively set for Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the New Ulm Pizza Ranch. This is a great opportunity to learn and network with colleagues from water management organizations and agencies, in an informal setting. This will be the ninth meeting since spring of 2009. Ideas for program topics are welcome. For more information visit the [Watershed Network](#) website.

MPCA needs your data for lake and stream assessment

The MPCA will conduct surface water assessments - determining whether water bodies meet state water quality standards - for these watersheds in early 2014: Leech Lake River, Pine River, South Fork Crow River, Zumbro River, Red Lake River, Red River - Grand Marais Creek, and Lake of the Woods. MPCA is interested in obtaining all available water quality data for these watersheds for use in the assessment effort. If you manage a water quality monitoring project in any of these areas, please submit your data, which will help the MPCA assess the condition of these waters and build a national database of water quality. To be included in the assessment effort, data must be received by the MPCA and uploaded to the agency's water quality data management system (EQuIS) prior to data analysis. Be advised that steps involved in data storage for any project can span more than a month. Information on how to submit data is available of the [MPCA website](#).

2013-2014 Data Submission Timeline:

- Through Nov. 1, 2013: Submit project lab and field data
- Dec. 2, 2013: Begin final data review
- Dec. 16, 2013: Complete final data review for assessment related data
- Jan. 15, 2014: Data finalized and ready for the 2014 assessment process

For additional information contact the MPCA EQuIS Team: [Nancy Flandrick](#) (651) 757-2361 (St. Paul, Rochester, and Mankato Regional Offices), [Jean Garvin](#) (651) 757-2378 (Willmar, Marshall, and Detroit Lakes Regional Offices), [Lynda Nelson](#) (651) 757-2601 (Duluth and Brainerd Regional Offices), or [Stuart Arkley](#) (651) 757-2567 (EQuIS Project Manager).

ARTICLES

Could Mississippi River, conservation meet water needs of northeast suburbs?

Elizabeth Dunbar, Sept. 30, MPR News (with audio)

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Water demands are rising. The aquifer is stressed. Where do you get more water?

Mussel Field Day on the Minnesota River with Bernard Sietman

Kylene Olson, Oct. 1, CURE

A group of 16 river enthusiasts gathered at Memorial Park on the Minnesota River in Granite Falls this past Saturday for a Mussel Field Day with Bernard Sietman from the MNDNR, one of two specialists in the state of Minnesota that work with freshwater mussels. Who knew that freshwater mussels were the most threatened animal in North America.

New insecticides do unintended harm beyond honeybee die-offs, report finds

Ron Meador, Oct. 3, MinnPost

Most people who follow news of America's honeybee predicament know by now that the new insecticides known as neonicotinoids, or neonics, are widely agreed to be playing a key role in the massive die-offs of these critical pollinators.

Frogtown getting greener as 'crazy idea' puts down roots

Matea Wasend, Oct. 4, TC Daily Planet

When 70 people come together to talk ideas, to-do lists, can get lengthy. "Trails for walking and biking," said City Parks Planner Kathleen Anglo, reading off of her notes. "Restrooms, lighting, public art, multicultural festivals. On the farm, people suggested greenhouses, a commercial kitchen for food production, beehives, on-site composting, a seed library..."

Environmental board prepares silica advisory team

Forum News Service, Oct. 5, The Jamestown Sun

RED WING, Minn. - The state's Silica Sand Technical Assistance Team is just about ready to begin advising local governments on mining and related impacts. The Minnesota Environmental

Another sunken freighter found in Lake Superior

Oct. 6, MPR News

DULUTH, Minn. (AP) - The group that found a sunken freighter off the shore of Marquette, Mich., this spring has found a second one in Lake Superior that sank more than 60 years ago.

Quality Board is scheduled to vote on formally establishing the team at a meeting Oct. 16 in St. Paul.

[See inside a Minnesota bat cave](#)

Jennifer Simonsen, Oct. 6, MPR News

Thousands of Minnesota's most common bats make their winter homes here. So do a handful of the less common big brown bats and tri-colored bats, also known as eastern pipistrelles.

[White-nose fungus imperils Minnesota bats](#)

Stephanie Hemphill, Oct. 6, MPR (with audio)

FORESTVILLE/MYSTERY CAVE STATE PARK, Minn. - Thousands of bats return to this dark refuge each fall to hibernate and wait out the winter. Mystery Cave has sheltered them for centuries. This fall, though, something in the cave threatens to kill them all.

[Mankato Paddling and Outing club to discuss pollution threatening state's waters](#)

Oct. 7, St. Peter Herald

Minnesota's rivers and streams are at risk of becoming polluted and unsafe - places to avoid rather than enjoy. The Mississippi River originates here, but by the time it flows through Minnesota and the agricultural lands of the Midwest and meets the Gulf of Mexico.

[Applications for Minnesota wolf hunting and trapping licenses drop by almost half from 2012](#)

Associated Press, Oct. 7, Star Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS — Applications for wolf hunting and trapping licenses have dropped by almost half this year compared with last year when Minnesota held its first wolf hunt since the animals were removed from the endangered list.

[University of Minnesota Students Win National Sustainability Leadership Award](#)

Matt Hodson, Oct. 7, UMM News

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL - The idea of Minnesota youth taking extensive leadership to inform policy makers regarding environmental concerns seems abstract, perhaps even revolutionary. Yet, that's exactly what a team of students from the University of Minnesota's Morris and Twin Cities campuses did. Now their work is receiving national recognition.

[Researchers suspect BWCA was 1st Minnesota settlement](#)

Associated Press, Oct. 7, Pioneer Press

Researchers at St. Cloud State University say they have reason to believe that a site in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness was home to a settlement as long as 16,400 years ago, which would make the habitation the oldest in Minnesota.

[Minn. farmers get lost in budget standoff; crop policies revert to '49](#)

Kevin Diaz, Oct. 7, Star Tribune

Crop policies could revert to 1949 law, meaning price hikes for shoppers. When the clock struck midnight on Tuesday, ushering in a massive federal government shutdown, the calendar also flipped back to 1949 for Minnesota farmers like Kevin Paap.

EVENTS

Oct. 7 - Oct. 13

The Biology and Management of Asian Carp: Lessons for Minnesota

Tuesday, October 8, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Student Center Theatre -- UMTC-St. Paul Campus, 2017 Buford Ave.
Brief Description: Please join us for an insightful public lecture on Asian carp and the threat they pose to Minnesota lakes and rivers and the Great Lakes. The lecture is given by Duane Chapman, a research biologist who is a national expert on efforts to control and prevent the spread of Asian carp. It will be followed by a "Q & A" session with Mr. Chapman and panelists Christine Goepfert (National Parks Conservation Association), John Anfinson (National Park Service), Brad Parsons (Minnesota DNR), and Peter Sorenson (Minnesota

Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, UMN).

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center is co-sponsoring Chapman's presentation with the Freshwater Society, the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences, and the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources. [Please register to attend.](#)

MPCA to present nitrogen study at Mississippi forum

Thursday, October 10, 2013 @ 4 - 6 p.m.

Location: McKnight Foundation, 710 2nd Street South, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401

Brief Description: David Wall, a hydrologist and study coordinator with the MPCA, will present the agency's "[Nitrogen in Minnesota Surface Waters](#)" study at the Mississippi River Forum Friday, Sept. 20, in St. Cloud and Thursday, Oct. 10, in Minneapolis.

Nitrogen is an essential component of all living things, but too much nitrogen in water can harm fish and aquatic life, pollute drinking water wells, and – once it leaves Minnesota via the Mississippi River – contribute to the oxygen-depleted "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. A number of Minnesota's water bodies have elevated nitrogen, particularly in the southern third of the state. Earlier this summer, the MPCA released a comprehensive study that describes the sources, pathways, trends, and potential ways to reduce nitrogen in our waters. The study found that nitrate concentrations in the Mississippi River increased by 87-283 percent (depending on location) between 1976-2010, and that agricultural-related sources contribute more than 70 percent of the state's waters' nitrogen loads. The forum will focus on the findings of this ground-breaking study, as well as what's next for Minnesota's efforts to address this pollution source.

There is no charge to attend the forum, but an RSVP to lark_weller@nps.gov is required

Haunted Corn Maze and Feed Mill

Friday, October 11 - Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Farmamerica, Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Visitors will take a trolley ride from Farmamerica's parking lot to the haunted areas. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Flashlights and maps of the maze are available on site, as are hot drinks and refreshments. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult and it might be too scary for the little ones. After finding your way out of the Haunted Corn Maze, go through the Haunted Feed Mill if you are brave enough. Beware of the bats, ghosts, witches, and things that go bump in the night. It is truly frightening! KEEZ radio will be broadcasting live from the Haunted Corn Maze and Mill on Friday Night October 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Be sure to come along and say "Hi" to the DJs. Admission is \$8.00 per person.

For more information visit [Farmamerica's](#) website.

Fall Vendor and Craft Expo

Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: New Creation World Outreach Church Gym

Brief Description: Join The Healing Touch Medical Mission Organization at their

4th annual Fall home business vendor and craft expo! Get your holiday shopping down early and support a great organization at the same time! This year there will be events for the kids! Treat your sweet tooth with a treat from the bake sale. Admission is free.

For more information contact [The Healing Touch](#).

FHFAR Awareness Event

Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Dog Park, St. Peter, MN

Brief Description: Faith, Hope and Forever Animal Rescue is a local foster based animal rescue serving southern Minnesota. Please stop by so we can share information about the rescue, meet adoptable dogs & puppies, find out about volunteer opportunities and drop of needed supplies.

For more information visit the [FHRAR website](#) or email [Sandi Braun](#) or call (507) 327-9660

Maker Fair

Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Blue Earth County Fairgrounds Commercial Building, Garden City, MN 56034

Brief Description: Maker Fair 2013 is an all handmade and home grown autumn shopping event featuring arts, crafts, baking and seasonal produce from local artisans and growers in South Central Minnesota. This second annual event will also have drawings, onsite concessions, a free kids make-and-take craft station and free shopping bags to the first 50 adult shoppers.

For more information email [Sarah Krosch](#) or call (507) 549-3887.

Fall Fest @ the Arb 2013

Saturday, October 12, 2013 @ 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Brief Description: Come and join in the fun-filled day. Live music, food concession. Robotics demonstration at 11 and crowd pleasers, the border collies, return at 1 & 3 p.m. for an agility and herding demonstration. Amber returns with her snakes at 2 p.m. Enjoy the alpacas, nature discovery activities, juggling, hayrides, scarecrow displays, local artisans' work and more.

For more information email [Shirley Mellema](#) or visit the [Event Website](#).

Horses-Horseshoes-Leather-Transportation

Sunday, October 13, 2013 @ 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: The 1870's Harkin Store was a bust place with different kinds of transportation coming to the store for supplies. The program will be information and a picture display of the different types of transportation. leather worker, Dan Cochran, will have a display of his wares and talk about his work. The program will be from 1 - 4 p.m. Come and see the store and hear about the riverboat town of West Newton.

The admission to the program is included with the store admission. The Harkin Store is only open a few more days. We are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during Octoberfest in New Ulm and also during MEA weekend. The shop is having a discount sale.

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

Oct. 14 - Oct. 20

Mankato Paddling and Outing club to discuss pollution threatening state's

waters

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Belgrade Methodist Church, North Mankato, MN

Brief Description: Samantha Chadwick, Environment Minnesota advocate, will discuss pollution threatening Minnesota's rivers, lakes and streams. A state report released this summer found that 27 percent of monitored rivers and streams in the state have unsafe levels of toxic nitrates, 73 percent of the nitrate in Minnesota's rivers and streams comes from agricultural cropland. Join the discussion to hear about the state of Minnesota's waterways and advocacy opportunities for citizens who enjoy our rivers and waterways.

Environment Minnesota is a statewide citizen-based environmental organization, dedicated to protecting our air, water and open spaces. They investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help the public make their voices heard in the debate over the quality of our environment and our lives.

The public is invited to this free program. There will be refreshments.

For more information contact Alice Laukkonen at (507) 388-7008.

Haunted Corn Maze and Feed Mill

Friday, October 18 - Saturday, October 19, 2013 @ 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Farmamerica, Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Visitors will take a trolley ride from Farmamerica's parking lot to the haunted areas. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Flashlights and maps of the maze are available on site, as are hot drinks and refreshments. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult and it might be too scary for the little ones. After finding your way out of the Haunted Corn Maze, go through the Haunted Feed Mill if you are brave enough. Beware of the bats, ghosts, witches, and things that go bump in the night. It is truly frightening! KEEZ radio will be broadcasting live from the Haunted Corn Maze and Mill on Friday Night October 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Be sure to come along and say "Hi" to the DJs. Admission is \$8.00 per person.

For more information visit [Farmamerica's](#) website.

Community Design Workshop with MCAD: Activate Vacant Space

Saturday, October 19 - Sunday, October 20, 2013

Location: KK. Berge Building, 807 Prentice Street, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: As a part of MCAS's ongoing Greater Minnesota Arts Initiative, we're coordinating a weekend design workshop in southwestern Minnesota called "Activate Vacant Space." It has two objectives: to visually brainstorm ideas for interior and exterior vacant or underutilized spaces in the Upper Minnesota River Valley, and to develop 1-2 projects for implementation this fall.

We'll have some case studies and other resources on hand, and will integrate community participants and MCAD faculty and students to have diversity of skills and voices on each team. There are 10 to 12 of us coming out from MCAD and we are bringing Dan Handeen from the U of MN too! We 'd love to have you as part of the process. ([Example projects](#))

At the workshop, we will brainstorm a bunch of ideas, pick a couple good ones to develop further and then allocate \$4,000 towards implementing one or two of them. Implementation can be by community members of MCAD representatives, or a combination. Meals and social activities will also be a part of the weekend's activities.

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) in collaboration with CURE will be hosting a workshop in October. We are still looking for community participants and would like to allocate the rest of the stipends ASAP. Please

email [Sarah](#) with the following:

1. Name and contact information
2. Any conflicts/commitments on Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20. Project will be approximately 6-8 hours on Saturday and 4 hours on Sunday
3. Amount of stipend you request (if any)

For more information email umrv@mcad.edu or call (612) 741-6074

Northern Slaves: How the U.S. Army Brought Slavery to Minnesota

Saturday, October 19, 2013 @ 3 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center

Brief Description: Walt Bachman, historian, retired trial lawyer and author of *Northern Slave, Black Dakota: The Life and Times of Joseph Godfrey* (pond Dakota Press 2013) will share his ground-breaking research documenting how the U.S. Army pay system rewarded military officers for using enslaved people as servants in "free" states and territories. These policies and practices brought slavery to Minnesota and shaped Joseph Godfrey's extraordinary life story. Godfrey grew up in bondage serving Minnesota's fur-trade elite and, as a fugitive from Minnesota slavery, was conscripted to join warriors in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

For more information contact the Treaty Site History Center at (507) 934-2160.

Lonesome Ron's Round-up

Sunday, October 20, 2013 @ 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Our last program has been so popular with musicians and people who enjoy their music. The gathering of folk, country, and bluegrass musicians to bid "happy trails" to the season and the colors on the Minnesota and the harvesting of the crops, in on October 20 from 1 - 4 p.m. All area musicians are invited to just come and participate. Come and enjoy the season's last program and a heckuva sale in the gift shop. While the Harkin Store originally closed its door in 1901, we will be back as usual next season in May. Come learn more about the riverboats, railroads, and grasshoppers that contributed to the store's demise over 100 years ago, if not this year hopefully next season.

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

Minnesota Water Management Framework

Sunday, October 20, 2013 @ 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: White Bear Lake Unitarian Universalist Church

Brief Description: Doug Thomas, Senior Policy & Advisor at the MN Board of Water Soil Resources (BWSR) will discuss Minnesota's Water Management Framework. Time permitting, guests may also visit the Maplewood Mall's stormwater retrofit.

For more information contact the [Izaak Walton League](#) or call (651) 221-0215

Oct. 21 - Oct. 27

Green Ideas and Ham

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 @ 8 -9:30 a.m. * doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Location: Red Stag Supperclub, 509 1st Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: In our second forum of the fall season we'll be discussing community solar. Right now Minnesota is dependent on dirty, polluting sources of energy. It's time to switch to clean, renewable sources of energy, like solar

and wind. Luckily, this past spring Minnesota passed a solar standard that will bring 30 times more solar energy to the state by 2020 -- a victory that Environment Minnesota staff, allies and supporters like you played a large role in winning. Utilities like Xcel Energy will be expanding their solar programs under the new law, and one way to make sure that solar power is harnessed locally, in our own communities, is through the new community solar program. We'll be hearing from our engaging and knowledgeable partners John Farrell, from the Institute for Local Self Reliance, and Ken Bradley, the CEO of Minnesota Community Solar. [Please join us for a conversation about how we can bring more community solar to Minnesota.](#) The forum includes delicious breakfast. The cost is \$15 for each attendee.

Please join us! [Reserve your seat today.](#)

Invasive Species in Rural Landscape

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 @ 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Courthouse, Montevideo, MN

Brief Description: Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

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The cost of attending the class is \$20, which can be paid at the door. Pre-registration is required. Register for this class online at z.umn.edu/invasivespecies or email [Kathy Eckwright](mailto:Kathy.Eckwright) or call (507) 389-6972. For additional class offerings visit www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/upcoming-events/

Invasive Species in Rural Landscape

Thursday, October 24, 2013 @ 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Courthouse, Montevideo, MN

Brief Description: Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

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1st Annual Co-op Jubilee Fundraising Concert LSP

Saturday, October 26, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Historic Masonic Theatre, Winona, MN

Brief Description: Co-op Jubilee is about two cooperative businesses - Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union and Bluff Country Co-op - partnering to enhance our community. Our aim is to offer education, entertainment and support to our community through workshops and a benefit concert.

This year's Co-op Jubilee concert will feature Red House Records recording artists The Pines. Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door. Tickets go on sale September 1st and can be purchased at [Bluff County Co-op](http://BluffCountryCo-op.com) and [Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union](http://AffinityPlusFederalCreditUnion.com). All proceeds from concert will go to the Land Stewardship Project.

For more information visit the [Bluff Country Co-op](http://BluffCountryCo-op.com) website

Oct. 28 - Nov. 3

Frac Sand Mining: Could it Happen Here?

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: White Bear Lake Unitarian Universalist Church

Brief Description: This is a rare opportunity to hear about frac sand mining from individual, community, regulatory, business and public policy viewpoints. Don Shelby will be moderating. This is a free discussion!

For more information contact the [Izaak Walton League](http://IzaakWaltonLeague.org) or call (651) 221-0215

Nov. 4 - Nov. 10

Invasive Species in Rural Landscape

Thursday, October 24, 2013 @ 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Courthouse, Montevideo, MN

Brief Description: Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

Three workshops have been scheduled in, Montevideo, Owatonna and Windom to discuss invasive species which may cause damage to rural areas. These include: Emerald Ash Borer (affecting Ash trees in windbreaks and rural areas), Thousand Cankers Disease (affecting Black Walnut found in native woodlands, communities and windbreaks), Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (affecting over 300 plants including apple trees, grapes, corn and soybeans) Spotted Wing Drosophila (a fruit fly affecting raspberries and other berry plants) plus woody invasive plants, Buckthorn (a small tree which is host to the over wintering soybean aphid and found in windbreaks and woodlands) Exotic Honeysuckle (invading native woodlands) and Oriental Bittersweet (an extremely invasive perennial vine changing the understory of windbreaks and woodlands). Workshop topics will include history, life cycle, identification, damage and control. Free handouts will also be available.

The cost of attending the class is \$20, which can be paid at the door. Pre-registration is required. Register for this class online at z.umn.edu/invasivespecies or email [Kathy Eckwright](mailto:Kathy.Eckwright@umn.edu) or call (507) 389-6972. For additional class offerings visit www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/upcoming-events/

Duane Ninneman to give Keynote Address at 8th Annual Earth Conference

Saturday, November 9, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Conference Center

Brief Description: Climate Change: no matter how fervently the naysayers deny it and cling to an unsustainable economic reality, a drastic human-made change in climate is upon us. Rising temperatures, shrinking ice caps, depleting coastlines...there seems to be no end to the crisis.

The time for action is now! We need to move past disbelief, apathy, and the fears holding back ecological balance and recognize climate change for the moral issue that it is. We as individuals are connected with all creation on Earth. Where do our morals and ethics come into play in climate change?

In this conference we will delve into the science and get to the heart of the moral issues surrounding climate change. We will focus on how we can move ourselves further than simply changing a light bulb or shopping with reusable bags.

For more information contact [Center of Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry](#) or at (507) 389-4272.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGRICULTURE ADVISOR, AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS

Department:	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date:	October 8th, 2013
Location(s):	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	This position exists to provide project management to and the cleanup of sites contaminated with agricultural chemicals using the authorities established under state and federal laws. Contaminated sites must be investigated and cleaned up to prevent adverse effects on public health, welfare and environment.
	For more information and how to apply http://www.careers.state.mn.us/ Posting # 13AGR000098.

STREAM HABITAT SPECIALIST

Department:	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	October 10th, 2013
Location(s):	Various
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	*THIS POSITION MAY BE LOCATED IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: Lake City, Lanesboro, or Waterville as they are best suited to the geographic focus of the work. **THIS POSITION IS OF A LIMITED DURATION AND ANTICIPATED TO CONCLUDE

AFTER THREE (3) YEARS.**

The position exists to identify, plan, design, and oversee construction of Outdoor Heritage-funded stream habitat projects across two DNR regions. The position occasionally serves as crew leader for stream habitat assessment of potential project locations; identifies, designs and implements habitat development and maintenance projects; maintains project budgets; oversees construction by outside contractors or department crews; completes reporting required by grant funding; works as the lead agency contact with non-DNR partners conducting stream habitat work to ensure that projects meet department goals; and coordinates with Area and Regional staff to locate stream habitat maintenance, restoration and enhancement projects, and to generate grant proposals.

Primary Responsibilities include:

- Identify project locations for stream habitat development or maintenance so that priority locations of stream habitat work can be proposed for Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF).
- Design stream habitat development or maintenance projects to improve habitat conditions and angling opportunities.
- Oversee the implementation and construction of the DNR's OHF-funded stream habitat projects.
- Serve as department lead in coordination with non-DNR entities (Trout Unlimited, sportsman's clubs, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, local governments) on their OHF stream habitat project planning and implementation to ensure that DNR goals are being met.

For more information and how to apply visit
<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000764.

FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR

Department:	The Nature Conservancy
Closing Date:	October 10th, 2013
Location(s):	Minneapolis, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>The Finance Manager for the MN, ND, SD chapter will be responsible for: Supporting all areas of finance including the management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maintenance and reporting of all financial data related to the tri-state Chapter. This includes annual budget development, monitoring and maintaining all financial information, (including the accounts payable system, funds received and receivable, and expense reimbursements), and processing of internal financial forms● Reviews government and private grants accounting transactions, ensuring appropriate match transfers are completed● Monitors monthly accounting reports and key asset and liability account

balances, including advances to partner NGOs, monitors endowment and loan budget centers

- Provides recommendations related to finances in the overall organizational planning, policy development and implementation.

Duties may encompass a wide range of detailed accounting/financial transactions including general and subsidiary ledger entries, financial report preparation and reconciliation, budget preparation and monitoring, tax reporting, accounts payable, the preparation/processing of various accounting forms and reports such as journal entries. S/he communicates quarterly via ad hoc reports and analysis to management. S/he serves as a liaison between the MN, ND, SD Chapter and the Conservancy's Worldwide Office to ensure accurate processing of income, expenses and transfers. S/he provides back-up administrative assistance to the operations department. The Finance Manager is supervised by the Director of Finance and Operations, and has no direct supervision of other staff. S/he must be able to function productively as a member or leader of a work team and be able to work with and communicate with a wide range of people including the public, program leadership, donors, and others. S/he must consistently demonstrate professional, positive, and approachable attitude/demeanor and discretion and be able to provide a variety of information to staff and others to assist workflow throughout the organization. The Finance Manager must be able to travel for training or enrichment a few times each year and be willing to work longer hours during busy seasons.

For more information and how to apply visit www.nature.org/careers job ID # 41450 or email them at applyhelp@tnc.org.

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

Department:	Renville County SWCD
Closing Date:	October 11th, 2013
Location(s):	Olivia, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District has a position open for a full-time conservation technician. Experience in conservation delivery preferred. Four year degree in natural resources or related field with Arc GIS experience preferred. This position provides a variety of administrative and technical assistance to support all aspects of the programs and activities of the Renville County SWCD, The position holder will work with the Wetland Conservation Act, State Cost-share program, act as technical coordinator for Renville County Local Water Management, will complete eLINK reporting, grant writing, ArcGIS, and review mining reclamations and rain garden designs for Renville County. Assist with SWCD outreach and education program. Specific duties of this position are expected to change as the needs of the area change. The NRCS, Clean Water Partnership, FSA and others.

For full description and application instructions visit www.renvilleswcd.com or contact the office at (320) 523-1559 (click to view the [job announcement posting](#)).

FARM BILL TECHNICIAN

- Department:** Renville County SWCD
- Closing Date:** October 11th, 2013
- Location(s):** Olivia, MN
- Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers
- Responsibilities:** Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District has two positions open for technicians to promote and implement Federal Farm Bill Conservation Programs and State of Minnesota Easement Programs. Full-time grant-funded positions with benefits. Work with NRCS, FSA, and BWSR to promote and implement conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill, RIM and other related wildlife conservation programs. Activities will include program promote, contract coordination, conservation planning, conservation plan modification, site assessment and reporting. Provide technical assistance for wildlife habitat enhancement techniques to private landowners and public organizations.

For full description and application instructions visit www.renvilleswcd.com or contact the office at (320) 523-1559 (click to view the [job announcement posting](#)).

DAIRY INSPECTOR

- Department:** Dairy & Food Inspection Division, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Closing Date:** October 14th, 2013
- Location(s):** Sauk Centre area, MN
- Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers
- Responsibilities:** This position will be headquartered in the Sauk Centre area with responsibility for Western Stearns and Southern Todd counties. This position exists to carry out the responsibilities and programs of the Dairy Division to assure safe and wholesome milk and dairy products for the consumer and to maintain interstate markets for Minnesota's Dairy Industry. This position performs routine food-safety based inspections for dairy farms and processing plants so that the public health is protected by ensuring safety of dairy products.

For more information and how to apply <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13AGR000100.

HYDROLOGIST 3

Department: Transportation Department
Closing Date: October 14th, 2013
Location(s): St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities: This position will provide advanced professional hydrogeologic expertise regarding soil and ground water contamination identification, determination of areal extent and magnitude, and treatment. This work enables projects to proceed without delays resulting from contamination, while ensuring protection of the environment, full compliance with regulatory requirements, and minimization of future environmental liability.

For more information and how to apply <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting #13DOT000479.

GROUNDWATER SPECIALIST

Department: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date: October 14th, 2013
Location(s): Spicer, MN
Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities: This position will provide groundwater technical expertise for groundwater quantity and quality issues in West-Central and Southern Minnesota. The position will increase the capacity of the EWR Division to assist with local water supply management in agricultural regions (specifically in the irrigated sand plains of central Minnesota) in the face of growing stress on groundwater resources and associated impacts to domestic well users, municipal water supplies and surface water resources. This position will implement the Department's responsibilities described in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103G.287 and Minnesota Rules 6115.0810. The position provides expert technical analysis regarding the nature, distribution, appropriation, and sustainability of groundwater. This position helps address the water availability concerns and is responsible for water use conflicts which arise from increased water demands from water supply systems, including municipal water supplies, irrigation and other agricultural supplies, and commercial and industrial supplies (including ethanol plants). This position will provide technical assistance for Groundwater Management Areas for Central and Southern Minnesota.

For more information and how to apply <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting #13DNR000750.

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATIVE/ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Department: Land Stewardship Project
Closing Date: October 16, 2013
Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture and to develop sustainable communities. We have offices in Minneapolis, Lewiston and Montevideo. LSP is a membership organization dedicated to creating transformational change in our food and farming system. LSP's work has a broad and deep impact, from new farmer training and local organizing, to federal policy and community based food systems development. At the core of all our work are the values of stewardship, justice and democracy. We offer a great benefits package and a supportive and friendly work atmosphere.

The person in this position provides administrative, clerical, and accounting support to the Director of Administration and Finance, as well as manages the Minneapolis office, and gives general administrative and program support to the organization. The person is the initial point person both internally and externally for the organization.

For more information and how to apply visit the [job announcement](#) webpage.

WATERSHED TECHNICIAN

Department: Heron Lake Watershed District

Closing Date: October 18, 2013

Location(s): Worthington, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) has an opening for a full-time Watershed Technician housed in the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District office in Worthington, MN. The main responsibilities for this position are best management practices implementation, conservation practices and programs promotion, surface water monitoring program implementation, rules and regulations application, education assistance, and the pursuit of funding.

For more information and how to apply view the [job announcement](#) webpage or contact Jan Voit at the HLWD office, P.O. Box 345, Heron Lake, MN 56137 or (507) 793-2462.

FISHERIES HABITAT SPECIALIST

Department: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Closing Date: October 22, 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 how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000762.

SWCD PROGRAM MANAGER

Department: Brown Soil & Water Conservation District

Closing Date: October 23, 2013

Location(s): Sleepy Eye, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The Program Manager serves as a full time permanent employee of the Brown County SWCD and will provide leadership and management as well as perform necessary technical and administrative duties to carry out various conservation programs including, but not limited to, State Cost Share Program, easement programs, monitoring programs, District Tree Program, WCA, and various educational programs.

For a full list of job duties, qualifications and to apply visit [Brown County SWCD](#), email [Vanessa Gausam](#) or call (507) 764-2553.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Department: Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

Closing Date: November 15, 2013

Location(s): Hackensack, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities:

- **Program Implementation and Management:** Leads conservation program planning and project implementation through outreach, civic engagement, negotiation of easements and acquisitions, and collaboration with other conservation organizations. Maintains a close working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies as needed

to implement conservation programs.

- **Board Support:** Works closely with the board to keep it informed, maintains corporate records, and participates in standing committees and fundraising activities.
- **Fundraising:** Directs and conducts fundraising and membership development activities and seeks financial support, grants, contracts and other assistance from individuals, foundations, corporations, and public agencies. Manages LLAWF database.
- **Communication / Public Relations:** Corresponds and conducts outreach with area lake associations, regional county government, business community, community groups, etc. through newsletters, press releases, website and other communication channels.
- **Finance:** Jointly with the treasurer manages LLAWF's financial health, including preparation of monthly financial reports, drafting the annual budget, managing grants, and submitting state and federal financial reports.
- **General Administrative:** Handles LLAWF correspondence and routine administrative matters in a timely fashion.

For more information and how to apply visit [MEP Partnership Job Announcements](#).

"IT TAKES A NOBLE MAN TO PLANT A SEED FOR A TREE THAT WILL SOMEDAY GIVE SHADE TO PEOPLE HE MAY NEVER MEET." - DAVID TRUEBLOOD

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.