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Water Quality Professionals Assembly

The Minnesota River Board invites you to attend the Watershed Professionals Assembly on June 27, 2012, at the City Center Hotel in Mankato.

2012 Assembly Highlights:

- * MRAP 20 Years Later: What do the results mean?
- * Biocriteria in Water Quality Assessment: How is it used?
- * Water Quality Progress in the MN River Basin
- * How have we done?
- * What milestones are priority?
- * The Future of Federal Conservation Programs
- * Conservation certainty and assurance?
- * What happens if federal funding is cut?

Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Chris O. Yoder, Research Director for the Center for Applied Bioassessment & Biocriteria at the Midwest Biodiversity Institute, presenting "Integrating Biological Criteria and Tiered Uses into Water Quality Management."

Registration Fee is \$35 (\$10 discount for registrants from Minnesota River Board Member Counties*) Please register by June 22. You may pay at the door or will receive an invoice. To register for the event:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dGt6N2FoN3BOTGRaR0JwR2MxTW9la0E6MQ#gid=0l>

For additional information and a full agenda visit:

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/org/mrbd/pdf/Watershed%20Professionals%20Assembly%202012%20Announcement.pdf>

<http://www.minnesotariver.org> or contact Susan Carlin at 507-389-6279 or susan.carlin@mnsu.edu.

Paddle the Minnesota River during Henderson's Sauerkraut Days!

Explore the Minnesota River and either High Island Creek or the Rush River (depending on water levels) by joining members of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance for a couple of paddles on June 23rd (Saturday). These paddles are being held in conjunction with Henderson's Sauerkraut Days on June 22-24.

Choose from two routes: We will be paddling the Minnesota River from the Le Sueur to Henderson for a total of almost eight miles. As a more family-friendly river, this stretch will pass by the confluence of the Rush River as it flows in from the west and a hot spot for bird watching including many Bald Eagle nests. A second and more challenging paddle will be offered in the morning (depending on water levels) on either High Island Creek or the Rush River. This route will require more expertise for paddlers with tougher conditions (including Class I rapids), hazards and faster flows.

After the paddle at around 3:00 pm, the Watershed Alliance will be presenting a patch or decal to anyone who has paddled the entire length of the Minnesota River; or paddled at least three

tributaries plus a stretch of the Minnesota River; or paddled 23 tributaries and three stretches (upper, middle and lower) of the Minnesota River.

The Minnesota River Paddler Program is designed to help connect or reconnect with the Minnesota River and its many tributaries. By offering three different patches/decals, the Watershed Alliance hopes this will be a fun way to motivate people to explore some or all of the rivers found in the Minnesota River Basin. The three patches/decals are: MN River Tributary Paddler, MN River Extreme Paddler and MN River 335 Paddler. More information can be found at <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

The Role of Seepage and Preferential Flow on Streambank Failure and Ephemeral Gully Erosion with Dr. Glenn Wilson, Research Hydrologist with the USDA Sedimentation Lab (Oxford, MS)

July 12, 2012. Presentation at 1:00 pm, followed by discussion
Minnesota State University, Mankato, Centennial Student Union, Room 238 (Nickerson Room)

Parking vouchers and refreshments provided by the MSU Mankato Water Resource Center and Minnesota River Board. Park in Paylot 4 across from the Centennial Student Union (Parking map: <http://www.mnsu.edu/maps/university/3dperspective.pdf>)

RSVP to shannon.fisher@mnsu.edu is appreciated, but not required. Please see the attachment for more information.

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Glenn%20Wilson%20Presentations%20Announcement.pdf>

The Key to Successful Designs & Installations: The Soil

June 26-27, 2012

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
2117 West River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55411

Presented by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

For more information: <http://www.asla-mn.org/jobseducation/the-key-to-successful-designs-a-installations-soil>

Cover-crop Cost-share Dollars Available

Rural Advantage, in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa, is seeking agricultural producers interested in utilizing cover crops. Funding is available for up to \$20 per acre for up to 20 acres [\$400 maximum per farm]. Participating farmers may plant the cover crop(s) of their desire. A demonstration aspect and simple reporting will be required. Funding for the project runs from Fall 2009 to Fall 2012. Farmers from all areas of Minnesota are welcome to participate.

For more information, contact Jill Sackett, UMN Extension Educator–Conservation Agronomist, at the Rural Advantage office. 507-238-5449 or sacke032@umn.edu or <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/June.2012.cc.RA.UMNE.Press.Release.pdf>

Support the Completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail

Make your voice heard! Sign a petition calling for the development of the Bloomington Refuge Corridor and the restoration of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and pass it along to other individuals and organizations urging them to also sign the petition.

This petition supports building the missing link of the Minnesota Valley State Trail from Ft. Snelling to Bloomington Ferry Bridge, approximately 18 miles through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—our nation's largest urban wildlife refuge in the middle of 3 million people! This will provide excellent recreation opportunities, bird watching, wildlife habitat, and nature viewing. And it will provide people with a connection to the river so they can see firsthand the environmental challenges it faces from excessive sedimentation, channelization, draining of wetlands, and frequent flooding.

The petition and information about the trail and bridge can also be found at a newly renovated web site: <http://www.minnesotavalleystatetrailadvocacy.com/>

Job Announcements:

Natural Resource Technician (Parks)

This position is only open to existing employees of the MDNR and is for Minneopa State Park in Mankato, MN. The job closes June 22, 2012.

Responsibilities include: Provide lead work direction to seasonal park operations and maintenance staff, plus other supplemental work crews and volunteers, implement visitor services and public relations activities including collection and documentation of fees; operation of the park reservation system; posting of information on bulletin boards and kiosks; assisting with special events; and interacting with park visitors to provide information/help, park's development, rehabilitation and maintenance programs including custodial and maintenance activities for buildings, facilities, trails and grounds, installing/maintaining park signs; operating and maintaining fleet/non-fleet equipment and maintaining park utilities, enforce park rules and applicable state laws as a trained Minnesota State Park Ranger. This includes implementation of emergency procedures and actions in the event of an emergency; implementation of enforcement activities; enforcement of self-registration and compliance with permit requirements; collaboration with other enforcement agencies and completion of incident reports and violation notices, assist with implementing park's resource management program, including identifying resource-related concerns/problems; implementing the control and elimination of problem species; application of pesticides and other chemicals; assisting with prescribed burns; assisting with the protection of cultural resources, soil stability and other geologic resources, ensure a safe park environment that includes; maintaining and updating park emergency plans; use of proper Personal Protection Equipment; compliance with work safety policies and practices; maintaining a hazard-free work place in compliance with OSHA requirements; properly storing and care for hazardous materials; instructing and training other staff in proper safety techniques and methods.

For more information:

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/7a492d7321bcec7d3f13a2c2ffabaf81/View>

USDA Supervisory Research Plant Pathologist/Research Geneticist (Plants)

The incumbent serves as Research Leader of the Cereal Disease Research Unit that conducts basic and applied research to reduce losses in wheat, oat, and barley to major diseases including leaf rust, stem rust, crown rust, and Fusarium head blight (scab). The unit's research is focused on monitoring and characterizing races of cereal rust pathogens; identifying features essential for cereal fungal diseases (e.g. rusts and scabs) pathogenesis; and identifying resistance genes and developing effective strategies for deploying host-resistance genes to control cereal diseases including rust and scab. The application process closes June 29, 2012 and the position is in St. Paul, MN.

For more information: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/317057200>

Events:

June 21 - 23 (Wednesday-Friday) is **Western Fest** in Granite Falls. This includes Annual PRCA Rodeo Action, Street Dances, Beer Garden, and Celebration. For more information, see <http://www.granitefallschamber.com/>.

June 23 (Saturday) is **Solstice River XVI** at 8:30 p.m. at the Stone Arch Bridge in downtown Minneapolis. This annual performance honors the Mississippi River around the longest day of the year. Come to the Stone Arch Bridge and watch the landscape come alive with dancers on rooftops, kayaks, and riverbanks. For more information: <http://www.hamline.edu/education/cgee/solstice-river.html>

June 25 (Monday) is **The Clean Water Act After 40 Years: What Has It Accomplished? How Do We Fulfill Its Promise? Lecture** in the theater of the Student Center on University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus at 7pm. For more information contact Patrick Sweeney at 763-219-1261 or psweeney@freshwater.org or visit <http://freshwater.org/index.php/about-the-society/whats-new/515-save-the-date-lecture-on-clean-water-act-set-june-25>

June 29 - July 1 (Friday - Sunday) is **Dawson Riverfest 2012**. Events include a Boat Parade, Softball Tournaments, Riverfest Parade, and many more activities! For more information, see http://www.dawsonchamber.com/event_calendar.htm

June 29 (Friday) is the **Open Space & Open Paddling Listening Session** from 3:30-6:30 p.m. *What can we do to promote the Dawson and the Lac qui Parle River area as a quality of life destination?* (Drop by any time—come and go as you please). There will be free canoe & kayak rides as well as free hot dogs & lemonade. (To be held in conjunction with Canoe Races and River Parade held for Dawson's Riverfest) For more information, see <http://www.curemriver.org/events.html>

July 11 (Wednesday) is the **Minnesota – South Dakota Friendship Tour**. The tour leaves from Ortonville Lakeside Park and will run from 8:00am - 3:30pm. Explore the Whetstone and Yellow Bank Rivers, learn about the flood retention project, and more! Reservations are required by July 3rd to Deanna Lunberg at deanna.lunberg@midconetwork.com or [320-839-3411](tel:320-839-3411). For more information: http://neglwatersheds.org/images/July_11_poster.pdf

July 16 (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 (600 South 5th Street). For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Heavy May rainfall leads to more pollution in Minnesota rivers](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota state agencies and environmental groups have made reducing farm field runoff into fields a major priority.

[DNR: Invasive species violation rates unacceptable](#) (Pioneer Press). A crackdown on the spread of aquatic invasive species isn't getting through to enough Minnesota boaters, the Department of Natural Resources said Monday.

[Minnesota Waters begins new partnership with Conservation Minnesota](#) (Alexandria Echo journal). Two non-profits devoted to protection of the state's lakes, rivers and natural resources – Minnesota Waters and Conservation Minnesota – have reached agreement to continue their work as one organization.

[More boaters violate invasive species law](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). About 20 percent of boaters stopped by DNR officers this year have violated laws designed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

[Commentary: COLA works to keep lakes clean](#) (Park Rapids Enterprise) What a great spring, or should I say extended spring? I actually put my dock into Little Sand Lake on March 31, 2012.

[Minnesota Court of Appeals allows AT&T cell tower near Boundary Waters](#) (AP). Reversing a lower court, the Minnesota Court of Appeals says AT&T can build a 450-foot cellphone tower with flashing lights that would be visible within parts of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

[Water quality improving but not in the clear](#) (Alexandria Echo Journal). A 10-year comprehensive plan with more than 200 projects on the waiting list dominated discussion of the Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) presentation at a recent Douglas County commissioners' meeting.

I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars.
~Walt Whitman

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.