

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

Lac qui Parle's Beach Rocks

Saturday, July 7 from 1-4 at Lac qui Parle State Park there will be activities for the kids. All activities are aimed at giving kids a hands-on experience with Geology.

Activities will include:

1. Rock beach ball with Geology questions on it.
2. Drill Core Sampling. Using 4 different colors of clay and 2 clear drinking straws illustrate how drilling a core sample gives geologists a picture of what's underground.
3. Cookie mining- Have chocolate chip cookies, toothpicks, paper clips, etc... Children can use any types of tools that they choose. Children will want to limit the amount of impact the mining does to the cookie and just mine the chips.
4. Let's make a fossil. Use clay, items available in nature (leaves, twigs, flowers, etc...), and plaster of Paris to make their own fossil.

For more information, see

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Beach%20Rocks.pdf>

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>

Sunday July 15th Annual Picnic and TPE General Membership Meeting

To be held at Henry Panowitsch's farm near Good Thunder MN. An RSVP to the picnic Chairman Deanna Pomije is requested as she needs to plan for ordering the pulled pork. Please bring a dish to pass and contact Deanna at pomijelynn@hotmail.com with the number attending and what you intend to bring to share. Bring your lawn chairs and bug spray.

We have a full day planned with prairie tours in the morning, lunch at noon till 1:00 and then a general membership meeting for approx. an hour. From 10:00 till noon the TPE Board of Directors will be meeting at the farm, if you wish to sit in on this you are more that welcome. As this is an all chapter picnic and meeting you will have an opportunity to see what a well run organization this is. **NOTE: I will send out the directions via email as we get closer to the event**

Friends of Minneopa State Park Watershed Talk

The Friends of Minneopa State Park is hosting an informational talk by Scott MacLean, a Watershed Project Manager for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He will detail a study to begin next year on the Middle Minnesota River Watershed. This area includes the Minneopa

Creek Watershed. The talk will be at 7:00 o'clock on Thursday, July 19th in the basement of the North Mankato municipal building. This is at 1001 Belgrade Ave. The talk is free and the public is invited. Questions please call Tim at [507-388-7622](tel:507-388-7622) or email tpulis@hickorytech.net.

2013 International Low Impact Development Symposium

August 18-21, 2013

Saint Paul RiverCentre, Saint Paul Minnesota

The 2013 International Low Impact Development (LID) Symposium is being hosted in the Midwestern United States through a collaborative effort between many states, universities, and organizations. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Watershed, every state in the Midwestern United States is addressing urban water quality issues from combined sewer overflows to stormwater runoff. The 2013 International LID Symposium will bring together over 1,000 professionals to share their research, implementation, policy, financing, and education strategies to build and restore cities while protecting our environment.

Requests for abstracts will begin in Fall 2012. The three-day technical program, Monday–Wednesday, will include six concurrent tracks.

For more information, see <http://www.cce.umn.edu/2013-International-Low-Impact-Development-Symposium/index.html>

Bent River Outfitters

Bent River is your outdoor adventure outfitter located at 530 North Riverfront Drive in Old Town Mankato. We rent kayaks, canoes, snowshoes and stand-up paddle boards (SUP) and specialize in guided trips throughout the Blue Earth County river valley. We provide custom activities including corporate outings, team building events, friend and family trips, paddling lessons and much more!

If you would like to rent kayaks, canoes or SUP (stand-up paddleboards) for the hour, day or week, please check out our rates here: <http://www.bentriveroutfitter.com/packlist/rates/>

Lastly, click on our online events and clinics calendar to see fun things such as Happy Hour Paddles, Full Moon Floats, Paddleboard Parties, lessons and more:
<http://www.bentriveroutfitter.com/events-and-clinics/>

Please contact us at info@bentriveroutfitter.com or 507-388-2368 for reservations or questions about our services.

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/June2012.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:

Finance & Business Manager

Conservation Minnesota and Conservation Minnesota Voter Center are seeking a talented finance and management professional to help achieve our missions. We are looking for someone who is excited to be our finance department, our HR department, our office manager, and the go-to person to assist the board and executive director. We are looking for the glue that holds an effective, nimble and entrepreneurial organization together. The position is located in Minneapolis, MN.

Application Deadline: July 15, 2012

For more information, see <http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/finance-business-manager/>

Hydrologist 3

This position with the Water & Soil Resources Board will perform advanced professional water and soil conservation work. Provide leadership and hydrologic expertise for statewide wetland program management including scientific, technical, enforcement and policy issues. Provide scientific project oversight and program administration emphasizing wetland hydrology, soils and vegetation to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) staff and local government units statewide, with a primary focus on BWSR's Metro Region. This is accomplished through programmatic and scientific oversight, training, evaluation, advanced technical recommendations, direction and interaction with BWSR staff, BWSR board members, local governmental unit boards and staff, state and federal agency staff, and private individuals involved with and affected by wetland regulatory, banking and management programs. This position is located in St. Paul, MN.
Application Deadline: Jul 16, 2012

For more information, see

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/967ebee102bcece6b03a133142fc6418/View>

Water Quality and Waste Water Technology - Adjunct/TPT Instructor

St. Cloud Technical & Community College seeks an adjunct/TPT Water Quality and Waste Water Technology instructor dedicated to excellence in teaching who desires to become part of a creative, vibrant, student-centered learning community. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives. Faculty members at St. Cloud Technical & Community College are professionally active scholars who participate in departmental and campus-wide activities to enhance their disciplines, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and advance the college mission. The college is committed to reflecting a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds among its administrators, faculty and staff.

For more information, see

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/sctcedu/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=266725>

Environmental Scientist

Houston Engineering, Inc., a civil engineering, surveying and environmental consulting firm, has an immediate opening for an Environmental Scientist in the Maple Grove, MN location. This position requires a Master's degree in a scientific discipline including aquatic or terrestrial biology, ecology, limnology, natural resources management, soils, and zoology plus a minimum of 2 years of professional experience addressing environmental issues associated with water quality and water resources. Experience working on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies is desired.

For more information, see

http://www.latpro.com/jobs/2158100.html?wf=indeedfree&nocache=1&Lang=ENGL&utm_source=Indeed&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Indeed

Environment Technician

West Central Environmental Consulting has a Full Time position available in the Twin Cities Metro area for a mid-level environmental technician. Qualified candidates must be highly motivated, exhibit a strong interest in soil and groundwater contamination, and possess the willingness to learn and receive various training. Duties include assisting with on-site field investigations, soil/water sampling, boring/well installation, and being familiar with manual and mechanical equipment. Commercial driving license and OSHA 40 hour training is a plus

For more information see:

http://www.latpro.com/jobs/2158498.html?wf=indeedfree&nocache=1&Lang=ENGL&utm_source=Indeed&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=Indeed

Environmental Engineer

RockTenn, a leading manufacturer of paperboard, containerboard, consumer and corrugated packaging, is seeking to fill an Environmental Engineer role in our St. Paul Mill. This role reports to the Quality / Technical Manager and Boxboard Superintendent. This position will ensure compliance with applicable local, state, federal and corporate environmental regulations, rules and policies for the St. Paul Mills along with product and safety compliance of paperboard. Applicants must have B. S. Degree in Paper Science & Engineering, Chemical or Environmental Engineering or related degree; 2-5 year related work experience.

For more information, see

https://performancemanager4.successfactors.com/career?company=RockTenn&career_job_req_id=11406&career_ns=job_listing&jobPipeline=Indeed

Summer Jobs with Environment Minnesota!

Environment Minnesota is seeking summer interns to fill positions in such fields as education, marketing, and public relations, among others. The positions are full-time and will be located at the organization's office in Minneapolis, MN.

For more information, see <http://jobs.startribune.com/job/119306/summer-jobs-with-environment-minnesota/>

Events:

July 5 – 8 (Thursday – Sunday) is **North Mankato Fun Days**. Fun days is a four-day festival with parades (Saturday, July 7, at 11:00 a.m), carnival rides, live music, bingo and more. For more information, see <http://www.mnrivervalley.com/what/eventdetail.php?dayte=2012-07-05>

July 8 (Sunday) is the **Sunday Film Series** at the Bloomington Visitor Center. Watch *Green fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time* for free from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/beat-heat-sunday-film-series>

July 11 (Wednesday) starting at 8:00 a.m. is the **Online Presence Workshop** presented by MCAD students at the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce. The presenters have spent time thinking about how small Main Street Businesses in the Upper MN River Watershed can take advantage of latest technologies to drive traffic and interest to our towns. Free of charge but must pre-register by calling: [320-564-4039](tel:320-564-4039) or e-mailing: gfchamber@mvtvwireless.com. For more information see, <http://kkberge.org/you-are-invited-to-an-online-presence-worksho>

July 14 (Saturday) is the **Bike and Hike** from 7:30 – 8:45 a.m. at the Bloomington Visitor Center. Ride with a Ranger through some of the best habitat in the Minnesota River valley. By using designated trails you will minimize your impact on sensitive habitat, and by riding to the refuge you can reduce your carbon footprint. Be prepared for riding and hiking on gravel trails with frequent stops for wildlife observation. Bring your own bike and gear. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/bike-and-hike>

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

July 18 (Wednesday) is **Making Tracks: Over the River and Through the Forest Floodplain** at the Bloomington Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Sense the pulse of migrating and year-round residents of Long Meadow Lake while improving your powers of observation and your health. We'll take a long hike through the river valley and wind around the wetlands, exploring some of Minnesota Valley's best habitat. Come prepared for brisk walking with frequent stops. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/making-tracks-over-river-and-through-forest-floodplain>

July 14 (Saturday) is the **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2-4 p.m. at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The bus will leave at 2 p.m. and be back by 4 p.m. and will tour UMM's renewable energy facilities including a biomass plant, a wind turbine and a solar power site. To register and find more information, see <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=12253>

July 16 – 19 (Monday – Thursday) at the University of Minnesota, Morris is the **Nature Question Camp** for children who will be 4th or 5th graders this fall. This will delve into relationships with nature and answering such burning questions as “where does my old pop can go? Where does my food come from? How do plants grow?” and others. There will be singing, drawing, creating, shouting, and digging in the dirt. It should be fun! The cost is \$40 for the four days. To register and find more information, see <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=12253>

July 18 (Wednesday) is the **Lake Phalen Wildflower Walk** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Phalen Beach House in St. Paul, MN. This free tour will explore some of the Lake Phalen Shoreline areas, discussing plants and techniques used in the restoration initiative which began in 2001. For more information, see Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. For more information, see http://www.rwmwd.org/index.asp?Type=B_EV&SEC={69D046D7-774E-49B1-8ECD-B53407C9C84A}&DE={C20C6144-4567-4558-A96A-6AA1A246BEB0}

July 21 (Saturday) is the **Bird Walk** from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Rapids Lake Visitor Center in Carver. Walk refuge trails to search for birds and other wildlife as a new day comes to the refuge. This outing involves several miles of walking trails at a slow pace. Dress for the weather, bring water and bug spray. Bring your favorite field guide, binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. We will have a few extra binoculars to loan. We will also bring a spotting scope and CD

player for learning bird and frog calls. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/bird-walk-0>

July 22 (Sunday) is the **Sunday Film Series** at the Bloomington Visitor Center. Watch *Incredible Insects* for free from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/beat-heat-sunday-film-series-0>

July 27 (Thursday) is the **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2-4 p.m. at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The bus will leave at 2 p.m. and be back by 4 p.m. and will tour UMM's renewable energy facilities including a biomass plant, a wind turbine and a solar power site. To register and find more information , see <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=12253>

July 31 (Tuesday) is the **Farm Tour of Doug Albin's Farm** in Clarkfield being coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other agencies. Come see how one farmer is taking a collaborative approach to addressing issues of stream bank erosion and nutrient run-off on his farm. For more information, check out the following [link](#) which will *be active soon or e-mail Mark.Dittrich@state.mn.us*.

August 2 – 5 (Thursday – Sunday) is the **Dakota War History Ride**. Join 150 bicyclists, pedaling 150 miles on a three and a half day, HaveFunTour Trek along the beautiful Minnesota River Valley. What you know about Minnesota's history will come alive as historians share stories of life along the river and of the US Dakota Conflict of 1862. Must pre-register now by e-mailing: kerri@havefunbiking.com For more information, see <http://www.havefunbiking.com/news/newsarticle.php?id=1067&archives=yes>

August 11 (Saturday) is the **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2-4 p.m. at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The bus will leave at 2 p.m. and be back by 4 p.m. and will tour UMM's renewable energy facilities including a biomass plant, a wind turbine and a solar power site. To register and find more information , see <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=12253>

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:

[North Mankato company honored for prairie plantings](#) (Mankato Free Press). Tom Peterson didn't plant a native prairie around his business in order to hear the sparrows sing in the morning.

[Water planners say comprehensive strategy needed for river improvements](#) (Mankato free Press). While there have been numerous improvements to the Minnesota River basin in the past 20 years, water planners say a more focused approach is needed if improvement is to continue.

[DNR ramps up aquatic invasive species enforcement](#) (Mankato Free Press). The couple of boaters pulling out of Lake Washington near Westwood Marina Friday morning did pretty comprehensive boat checks before hitting the road.

[Minnesota sets baseline to measure quality of wetlands](#) (Pioneer Press). It took years to assemble, but Minnesota now has an inventory of wetlands by which to measure whether, and to what extent, they're being damaged or improved.

[Commentary: Keeping Asian carp out of Minnesota](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). They are big, they can fly, and they have come to Minnesota's waters.

[New online maps showcase metro-area recreation](#) (Pioneer Press). If you've ever wondered how many bathing beaches near your home also have fishing piers or which bike trails lead to volleyball courts, wonder no more.

[COLA to launch billboards on invasives](#) (Fergus Falls Journal). Otter Tail County will soon see new billboards informing residents about the dangers of aquatic invasive species and how to prevent the spreading of these destructive plants and animals.

[Penalties rise for invasive species violations](#) (MPR). Minnesota boaters face increased penalties starting Sunday if they violate aquatic invasive species laws.

[AIS inspectors have passion for protecting waters](#) (Fergus Falls Journal). "Pull the plug," is one of the messages Otter Tail County intern aquatic invasive species inspectors Brandon Davis and Brett Bowman want to send to the public.

[Our View: River cleanup needs renewed focus](#) (Mankato Free Press). Restoration efforts in the Minnesota River Basin are a mixed bag.

Nature reserves the right to inflict upon her children the most terrifying jests.
~Thornton Wilder

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.