

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

Conservation Applications of LiDAR Data Training Workshops

The final "Conservation Applications of LiDAR" training workshops, organized by the University of Minnesota, will be held in July and August this year. Public or private professionals needing this low-cost training should sign up now. These workshops address the use of LiDAR-acquired high resolution elevation data in soil and water conservation, hydrology, wetland mapping, and engineering. They are designed for people who regularly use GIS or CAD-Civil 3D software in their work and plan to use Minnesota's new high resolution digital elevation data. No further workshops will be available through this project except as arranged by specific user groups.

Remaining sessions:

July 25	9:00-4:00	Morris, MN	Basics of Using LiDAR Data
August 14	9:00-4:00	St. Cloud, MN	Basics of Using LiDAR Data
July 12	9:00-12:00	Mankato, MN	Terrain Analysis
July 26	9:00-12:00	Morris, MN	Terrain Analysis
August 15	9:00-12:00	St. Cloud, MN	Terrain Analysis
July 12	1:00-4:00	Mankato, MN	Hydrologic Applications
July 26	1:00-4:00	Morris, MN	Hydrologic Applications
July 31	9:00-4:00	Mankato, MN	Engineering Applications
August 2	9:00-12:00	Mankato, MN	Wetland Mapping
August 8	9:00-12:00	Morris, MN	Wetland Mapping

For registration and more information, see <http://tsp.umn.edu/lidar>.

Sunday, July 15th, Annual Picnic and Prairie Enthusiasts 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.

For more information, see <http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org/>

Wednesday, July 18th, Lake Phalen Wildflower Walk

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. Come learn to identify native plants and here the story of how this wetland was restored! The walk will take place on Wednesday, July 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and begin at the Lake Phalen Beach House in St. Paul, MN. Registration is limited, so sign up right away. To register, please call Shelly at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, (651) 792-7965 or email shelly@rwmwd.org.

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}

Thursday, July 19th, 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.

Thursday, Jul 26th, Hazelnut Walk-n-Talk

Join University of Minnesota researchers, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension for an afternoon of hybrid hazelnut discussion. The Hybrid Hazelnut Research Update Walk-n-Talk will be held Thursday, July 26, 2012, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Rosemount Research and Outreach Center at UMore Park in Rosemount, Minnesota. Attendees of the walk-n-talk will learn about the mound layering and the stem cutting propagation techniques as they are guided by researcher Lois Braun. All are welcome to attend this free event. No pre-registration is required. This is an outdoor event. Please dress accordingly.

For more information, see

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Rosemount.Hazelnut.RA.UMNE.Press.Release.pdf>

Conservation Drainage Informational Sessions

If you are an agricultural producer, ditch and tile contractor, watershed professional, elected official or a citizen interested in clean water, you will have the opportunity to learn about the very latest drainage technology design which has the ability to save ground water, reduce rural runoff to local waterways, improve tile drain water quality and potentially increase crop yields.

Sessions will be held:

Thursday, July 26	Sleepy Eye, MN	Railway Bar meeting room, 300 1st Ave. North.
Monday, August 13	St. Peter, MN	Traverse de Sioux Treaty History Center
Wednesday, August 15	Hanska, MN	Community Center

All sessions begin at 7 P.M. and end at 8:30 P.M. There is no charge and free refreshments will be available. Each session will be given by Brian Hicks, who has implemented Conservation Drainage technology on his farm for several years.

For more information, contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or yasure@lycos.com or see

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/ConservationDrainageFlyer%202012.pdf>

2012-2013 Farm Beginnings course

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is now taking applications for the 2012-2013 Farm Beginnings course. Farm Beginnings courses will begin this fall and LSP is providing participants two options for getting involved in one of the most successful beginning farmer training initiatives in the country. Classes will be offered in Morris, MN. The application deadline for the 2012-2013 Farm Beginnings course is Aug. 1.

In 2012, LSP's Farm Beginnings program is marking its 15th year of providing firsthand training in low-cost, sustainable methods of farming. The course is tailor-made for people of all ages just getting started in farming, as well as established farmers looking to make changes in their operations. Farm Beginnings participants learn goal setting, financial planning, enterprise planning, marketing and innovative production techniques.

Classes are led by farmers and other agricultural professionals from the area. The classes, which meet approximately twice -- monthly, run until March 2013, followed by an on-farm education

component that includes farm tours and skills sessions. The fee is \$1,500 per farming partnership (flexible payment plan and partial scholarships available), and early-bird registrants are eligible to attend on-farm education events this summer and fall.

Over the years, more than 500 people have graduated from the Minnesota-region Farm Beginnings program. Farm Beginnings graduates are involved in a wide-range of agricultural enterprises, including grass-based livestock, organic vegetables, Community Supported Agriculture and specialty products.

Besides Minnesota and Wisconsin, Farm Beginnings classes have been held over the years in Illinois, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and the Duluth-Superior area. New Farm Beginnings courses have recently been launched the Hudson Valley of New York.

For application materials or for more information, contact Nick Olson at [320-269-2105](tel:320-269-2105); nicko@landstewardshipproject.org, or see www.farmbeginnings.org

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.

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/>

Expiring Conservation Reserve Program Options

Landowners evaluating options for expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres should consider opportunities to keep sensitive acres in grasslands or perennial vegetation that preserve soil, water and wildlife resources. Many CRP lands border ditches, waterways, streams or rivers that could be eligible for federal, state or local buffer programs that would offer continued protection to these sensitive areas. For the last 20 years, over 1 million acres in Minnesota have been enrolled in CRP. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program has provided a source of income to landowners with sensitive lands while protecting and preserving soil, water and wildlife resources. All current contracts expire on September 30 of the last year of the contract.

For several perennial vegetation options for expiring CRP lands, see

http://www.extension.umn.edu/agroforestry/components/expiring_crp_updated_9final.pdf

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>

7th Annual Green Gifts Fair Team Member

Come be a part of our planning team this year for the 7th Annual Green Gifts Fair. The team meets monthly and includes the following position roles: Educational Demos / Stage Manager, Promotional / Auction Coordinator, and Eco Fashion Show Coordinator. These are unpaid internship positions requiring 15 hrs/week. The positions are located in Minneapolis, MN Please email your resume and a cover letter by July 20, 2012 to Heidi Meyer, Green Gifts Fair Coordinator to heidi@doitgreen.org.

Application Deadline: Jul 20, 2012

For more information, see <http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/7th-annual-green-gifts-fair-team-member-july-dec-2012/>

Hydrologist 1

The purpose for this position is to support senior staff in the Source Water Protection Unit with 1) delineation of wellhead protection areas and the associated assessments of well and aquifer vulnerability for public water supply wells, 2) development and implementation of wellhead protection plans, and 3) preparation of topical studies relating to the protection of drinking water. This request is to establish a temporary unclassified Hydrologist 1 position for a three year period to assist the Source Water Protection Unit staff with meeting the MDH goal of having wellhead protection plans completed for all community water supply systems that use groundwater by the year 2020. This position is location in St. Paul, MN.

Application Deadline: Jul 23, 2012

For more information, see

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/4e197e881c45e311fa03bf1b78697960/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 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 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 27 – 29 (Friday – Sunday) is **Catfish Derby Days** in Franklin, MN. Fishing Contest; Softball, Volleyball, Chess, Bean Bag, Waterball; Pedal Pull Tournaments; Street Dances; Parade; Pageant; Food/Beverages; Raffle. This festival runs from July 27-29. For more information, see http://home.mchsi.com/~franklin/catfish_days.htm

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:

[River adventures tailored for anyone, even newbies](#) (Mankato Free Press). It's five minutes into my "Happy Hour Paddle" down the Minnesota River on a Friday afternoon, and so far all I've managed is to get my sandals stuck in the mud, to flop down awkwardly into my kayak and let the current do the rest of the work.

[Our View: Outstate parks need more from legacy](#) (Mankato Free Press). A battle again is brewing between the Twin Cities metro area and the rest of outstate Minnesota, this time over how to divvy up the nearly \$40 million annually in the Parks and Trails Legacy Fund.

[Heat blamed for fish kills in southern Minn. lakes](#) (Pioneer Press). The recent heat wave is blamed for killing thousands of fish in several southern Minnesota lakes.

[Dave Orrick: Minnesota duck numbers down, but North American numbers at all-time high](#) (Pioneer Press). Duck hunters will have plenty of data to contemplate as they await the fall season. This month, two reports were released with differing conclusions about the status of waterfowl populations affecting our flyways.

[Minnesota's battle against invasive aquatic species gets a funding boost](#) (Pioneer Press). A panel of citizens and legislators is poised to endorse almost \$34 million in new conservation and environment projects, with much of it aimed at combating a growing invasive species problem threatening Minnesota.

[5 states to continue suit demanding Asian carp fix](#) (Pioneer Press). Five states are moving forward with a lawsuit against the federal government demanding steps to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes, despite recent congressional action, the Michigan attorney general's office said Thursday.

[DNR's Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine releases new app](#) (Alexandria Echo Journal). A new application (app) released by the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine brings four wild and natural Minnesota places to the touchscreens of iPad users.

['Women Caring for the Land' event kicks off meetings](#) (Alexandria Echo Journal). "I realized many people had the same questions and concerns that I had" was a common response from the 11 women who attended the first Women Caring for the Land meeting held May 17 at Sacred Heart Parish in Glenwood.

[We're awash in heat - and that's just the lakes](#) (Star Tribune). Shallow lakes in southern Minnesota, including at least two in the metro area, have warmed to a rare 90 degrees -- well beyond the temperatures of water-park pools -- thanks to long, hot days and clear skies.

[Research murky on danger of Asian carp invasion](#) (Star Tribune). As scientists aboard a research boat activate an electric current, the calm Illinois River transforms into a roiling, silvery mass.

A flower is an educated weed.
~Luther Burbank

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.