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

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

Saturday, July 28, Fort Ridgely Documentary Film, "Reel Injun"

Join us for a very special FREE screening of the thought-provoking documentary film "Reel Injun" at Fort Ridgely Historic Site on July 28th at 2pm. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. There is no admission charge for the film; however, a state park vehicle sticker is required for all.

For more information, please call 507-426-7888 or 507-934-2160 or see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/July%2028%20Program%2C%20Ridgely.pdf

Wednesday, August 1st, Increasing Garden Productivity Walk-n-Talk

Join International Ag Labs, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension for an early evening discussion on how to increase the productivity, nutrient density, and taste of your garden fruits and vegetables. The "Tips for Increasing Garden Productivity Walk-n-Talk" will be held Wednesday, August 1, starting at 5:30pm at the Fairmont Community Gardens. The gardens are located in the back section of Heritage Acres in Fairmont.

Growing good-tasting and nutrient-dense produce starts with good soil. Jon Frank with International Ag Labs will be giving tips and techniques for increasing soil health in order to increase your garden productivity. Learn about the importance of soil testing, what to do for nutrient deficiencies, how to increase the soil organic matter, and much more. During this walk-ntalk, Jon will also demonstrate how to measure soil energy using a conductivity meter. This simple meter will let you know when to fertilize and when not to. The evening will also include a walk-through of the plots at the Fairmont Community Gardens.

Those with plots at the Community Gardens are encouraged to attend, but ALL are welcome to 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/Garden.Productivity.RA.UMNE.Press.Release.pdf

Friday, August 3, What Lives in the River; Macroinvertebrates

What in the world is a macroinvertebrate? Macroinvertebrates are aquatic bugs that we can see with our eye, have no backbone and live in our rivers, lakes and wetlands. Come out to Fort Ridgely State Park at 7 p.m. to discover how these aquatic bugs are special and where to find them. We will be taking a short walk down to the Fort Ridgely Creek to find some

macroinvertebrates and identify what they are at the same time! Meet at the parking lot of the Creek Picnic Area. You can either help collect the macroinvertebrates out of the river or watch from shore. Contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890 or by email at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us.

For more information, see

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/calendar/app?jsp=/templates/event.jsp&id=31027

Saturday, August 4, Ft. Ridgely Presentation, Christian Indians and the US/Dakota War The program will be presented by John Labatte in the commissary building at the Fort Ridgely Historic Site on August 4, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. John will share the missionaries' influence on the Dakota Indians and the role the Christian Dakota played in the Dakota War of 1862. At 2:30, he will present a Battlefield Tour of the August 1862 battles on the Fort Ridgely parade ground. There is an admission charge for events and exhibit. Minnesota Historical Society and Nicollet County Historical Society members receive free admission. A state park vehicle sticker is required for all.

For more information, please call 507-426-7888, or 507-934-2160, or see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/For t%20Ridgely%2C%20Aug%204%2C%202012.pdf

Monday, August 6th, Deadline for Seed Grant Proposals

The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) seeks proposals for seed grant funds. These grants are designed to provide limited financial assistance for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects requiring technical assistance. Project funding can support technical assistance services (i.e. labor costs only, such as for a consultant, design professional, installer, or student labor), for projects in all seven Minnesota CERT regions: Central, Metro, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and West Central. The primary objectives of this funding are to encourage the implementation of community-based energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Minnesota and to provide a forum for community education about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and their economic, ecological, and community benefits. Please submit all proposals electronically to rfp@cleanenergyresourceteams.org no later than 4:00pm on Monday, August 6.

For more information, see http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/rfp

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:

Monday, August 13 St. Peter, MN Traverse de Sioux Treaty Site History Center Wednesday, August 15 Hanska, MN Community Center

All sessions begin at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm. There is no charge and free refreshments will be available. Brian Hicks, who has implemented Conservation Drainage technology on his farm for several years, will present each session.

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 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 August 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.

For application materials or for more information, contact Nick Olson at 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.

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

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. In 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:

Administrative/Project Assistant

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is seeking a part-time Administrative/Project Assistant. Duties and desired skills include bookkeeping, payroll, and receptionist duties, strong knowledge of Microsoft Office and QuickBooks, website maintenance, effective communication skills both orally and written, willingness to assist with District Programs, as well as being able to work independently with a minimum of direct supervision. The position is located in Ortonville, MN.

Application Deadline: August 2, 2012

For more information, see

http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Job Announcement Admin Asst 2012.pdf

Cooking & Nutrition Program Manager

The Community Design Center of Minnesota is looking for a part-time Cooking & Nutrition Program Manager to lead our education and training program in culinary arts, nutrition education and youth development. This position is part of a dynamic work environment in which a small staff collaborates to help St. Paul youth and families develop skills related to healthy eating, ecological stewardship, agriculture, entrepreneurship, community service and leadership. This is a 20 hours per week year-round position that will begin in late August/early September. Please send a cover letter, resume and contact information for three references to Tamara Downs Schwei at admin@comdesignctrmn.org.

Application Deadline: August 8, 2012

For more information, see http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/cooking-nutrition-program-manager/

Education, Outreach, and Communication Coordinator

The Rice Creek Watershed District is looking for an Education, Outreach, and Communication Coordinator. This employee will coordinate and implement the RCWD's Education, Outreach and Communication Programs; implement education, outreach and communication activities as required in the District's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System requirements; complete education and outreach activities as identified in approved TMDL studies and implementation plans; and finally, work with landowners, county /city staff, media and other stakeholder groups to make the public aware of RCWD's requirements, projects.Please send resume by email or mail to Theresa Stasica at tstasica@ricecreek.org.

Application Deadline: August 10, 2012

For more information, see http://ricecreek.org/index.asp?Type=B_JOB&SEC={FF38CECD-8281-4829-B858-7E6C96D9FC6F}&DE={C968078E-0BBA-4C3F-B916-5C6C985BD628}

Membership/Administrative Coordinator

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness is seeking a Membership/Administrative Coordinator to be responsible for coordination of all office operations and database management. The individual must be passionate about working well with other members of our small team and willing to fully embrace the mission of the organization. He or she works closely with the executive director, board of directors and the policy, communications and northern communities directors, as well as volunteers and interns. The Membership/Administrative Coordinator is also responsible for shepherding important projects from start to finish, including grant applications and member events. The position is located in Minneapolis, MN.

Application Deadline: August 16, 2012

For more information, see

http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/membershipadministrative-coordinator/

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.

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

Water Research Associate

The Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota is looking for a new Research Associate to conduct research related to the development of effects-based monitoring tools, including molecular, biochemical, and/or histological measurements made in wild-caught or caged fish as well as cell-based or cell-free in vitro systems, and their application to monitoring of chemical contaminants in the Great Lakes. This is expected to include collection of biological and environmental samples in laboratory and/or field settings as well as the development and application of novel laboratory methods as needed.

For more information, see http://careers.swe.org/jobs/4848586/research-associate

Senior Environmental Services Engineer

G&K Services is looking for a Senior Environmental Services Engineer to create the next generation of environmental stewardship in the industrial laundry industry. Use your skills, experience and talents to achieve environmental goals while driving profitable growth at an organization with over a century of success and operations across the USA and Canada. As a Sr Environmental Systems Engineer you will lead projects developing, implementing, assessing and continually improving the elements of our enterprise-wide environmental management system.

For more information, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work): https://gkservices.taleo.net/careersection/gk.careersection.external.001/jobdetail.ftl?job=60000&s rc=JB-10040

Events:

<u>July 27 – 29 (Friday – Sunday)</u> 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. For more information, see http://home.mchsi.com/~franklin/catfish_days.htm

<u>July 31 (Tuesday)</u> is a **Farm Tour of Doug Albin's Farm** in Clarkfield. Come see how one farmer is taking a collaborative approach to addressing issues of stream bank erosion and nutrient run-off on his farm. This is one of multiple Conservation Drainage Workshops and Field Tours coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other agencies. For more information, see http://z.umn.edu/drainagefieldtour or e-mail Mark.Dittrich@state.mn.us.

<u>August 1 (Wednesday)</u> is a **Tour of Tamarack Swamp** from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Tamarack Nature Preserve in Woodbury, MN. The Watershed District and the City of Woodbury invite you to join us for a tour of the swamp, one of the most unique and diverse wetlands in the Twin Cities. Please RSVP to <u>sdoucette@ci.woodbury.mn.us</u> or 651-714-3538. For more information, see http://rwmwd.org/index.asp?Type=B_EV&SEC={69D046D7-774E-49B1-8ECD-B53407C9C84A}&DE={4B3AC7D7-59C3-46D0-A582-D21792ACECFF}

<u>August 1 (Wednesday)</u> is a **Full Moon Canoe** from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center in Spicer. Come with your friends or family to enjoy the solitude of a Prairie Woods wetland while watching the sun set and the moon rise all in the same evening. Canoe, paddles, life jackets and instruction provided by Prairie Woods ELC. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/full-moon-canoe

<u>August 2 (Thursday)</u> is **Save on Solar Kiester!** from 6:00 – 8:00pm in Kiester, MN. The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society is offering a free class in which participants will learn the basics of energy efficiency, solar hot water, and solar air heat technology, how the group purchase program works, rebates, incentives, and financing. Everyone will get a chance to meet

the installers and talk to them one-on-one about their project. It is recommended that participants get a site assessment before the workshop so they can bring it along to demonstrate their site better to the installers. For more information, see http://mnrenewables.org/classes-and-workshops

<u>August 2 – 5 (Thursday – Sunday)</u> is the **Dakota War History Ride**. Join 150 bicyclists, pedaling 150 miles on a 3.5 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

<u>August 3 – 5 (Friday – Sunday)</u> is the **Upper Sioux Community's Annual Powwow** in Granite Falls. This fun-filled event goes from August 3-5 and is fun for all ages. Contact the Upper Sioux Community or local chamber of commerce for more information. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/upper-sioux-communitys-annual-powwow

<u>August 5 (Sunday)</u> is the **Big Sunday Canoe Cruise** from 1 – 3 p.m. at Long Lake in Kandiyohi County. Just out for a Sunday cruise....IN A 34 FOOT CANOE. Come help row, row, row our boat as we cruise around local lakes. We will provide the boat, life jackets, paddles, and nature interpretation all you have to do is provide the motor. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/big-sunday-canoe-cruise

August 6 (Monday) is the public forum **Climate Change in Schools: The Next Evolution** from 7-8 p.m. in the Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Join the Will Steger Foundation for a free public forum with Dr. Eugenie Scott and Will Steger, Dr. Eugenie Scott is the Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education and will address the state of climate change education in schools. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/climate-science-schools-next-evolution

<u>August 7 (Tuesday)</u> is the **Community Listening Session** at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Club in Granite Falls. Do you have a dream for Sustainability in Western Minnesota? If we can't imagine a positive future we won't be able to create it. Everyone is welcome. Space is limited. Free meal starts at 5 p.m. – listening session begins at 6 p.m. RSVP to Dixie or Sarina by calling 320-269-2984 to get your name on the list.

August 7 (Tuesday) is **Making Tracks: Below the Bluff** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead in Bloomington. 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. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/making-tracks-below-bluff

<u>August 7 (Tuesday)</u> is **MASWC Board of Directors Meeting** at the MASWC Office in St. Paul. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/maswcd-board-directors-meeting

<u>August 7 – 11 (Tuesday – Thursday)</u> is **University on the Prairie** at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton. You will explore a variety of career opportunities in science-based areas important to this region through interactive learning in classrooms, labs, and the great outdoors. The three days of learning, activities, and fun will end with a closing celebration for participating students and their families. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/university-prairie

<u>August 9 (Thursday)</u> is the **Ney Environmental Education Foundation Board of Directors Meeting** at 6 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/ney-environmental-education-foundation-board-directors-meeting

<u>August 10 (Friday)</u> is the **GBERBA Executive Meeting** at 1 p.m. at the Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, in Mankato. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/gberba-executive-meeting

<u>August 11 (Saturday)</u> is a **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The bus 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

<u>August 11 (Saturday)</u> is a **Bird Walk** from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. 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. Bring your favorite field guide, binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. We will have a few extra binoculars to loan. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/bird-walk-1

August 11 (Saturday) is **Defined by Nature: Natural and Cultural History of the Twin Cities** from 10-11 a.m. at the Bloomington Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Explore the natural history that created this unique urban network of wildlife and human habitat. Whether you're downtown, at home, or in the suburbs, discover how you can appreciate and enjoy our diverse and easily accessible natural areas, and learn about the long history of natural resource conservation in this major metropolitan area. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/defined-nature-natural-and-cultural-history-twin-cities

<u>August 11 (Saturday)</u> is a **Ney Nature Center Work Day** from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson. Volunteers are needed to work on the Ney Log Cabin and Thistle Management. For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/ney-nature-work-day

August 28 (Tuesday) is the **Quarterly Meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance** starting a 6 p.m. in Room 141 at Ridgewater College (2 Century Avenue SE) in Hutchinson. Come out to Ridgewater College in Hutchinson on August 28th for the quarterly Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting. This meeting is a great chance to hear what is going on in the MN River Basin. Come at 6pm for the social hour and bring your favorite dish to pass. The formal meeting starts at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Chantill Kahler-Royer at chan@kahler-royer.com.

<u>September 17 (Monday)</u> is a **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 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

Feds seek info on hydroelectric dam project (Finance and Commerce). Plans to build a hydroelectric facility north of the Stone Arch Bridge are coming back into focus as federal regulators demand to see evidence progress is being made on the project.

<u>Counties start to rebel -- Conservation land turns controversial</u> (Detroit Lakes Online). It used to be a cakewalk for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to get county board permission to buy up tracts of land for conservation purposes.

<u>Friends of BWCA to appeal cell tower ruling</u> (Business North). The Friends of the Boundary Waters on Thursday said it has filed an appeal to the Minnesota Supreme Court to challenge the construction of a cell phone tower near the BWCA.

<u>Leveling the Legacy playing field</u> (Marshall Independent). Realizing that rural Minnesota wasn't getting its fair share of Legacy funding, the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus and Greater Minnesota Regional Park and Trail Coalition got to work.

<u>DNR: Warm weather is stressing fish in Minnesota lakes</u> (MPR). The hot weather this summer is having a big impact on the lakes in our region.

Reaching sustainability in Minnesota, one city at a time (MinnPost). GreenStep Cities is a sustainability project designed to help cities across the state conserve energy, promote healthy living and preserve the local character and natural environment that can separate one town from the next.

<u>Lake lovers ecstatic over "amazing" flowering rush treatment</u> (Detroit Lakes Online). During a time when invasive species news has been less than encouraging, finally a bright spot.

<u>Citizen reports finding zebra mussel in Lake Minnewaska in Pope County near Glenwood; DNR officials investigating</u> (Minnesota Outdoor News). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is investigating a report that a zebra mussel was found in Lake Minnewaska in Pope County near Glenwood.

New alarm on zebra mussels (Star Tribune). Lake Minnewaska has been declared infested with zebra mussels after a second mussel was found there last week.

County employs color in latest bid to stop AIS; Lights, new markings should make duty of boaters more clear (Sun Newspapers). If people are creatures of habit, then Hennepin County hopes to capitalize on that behavior in the efforts to try to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Lake Minnetonka.

To me a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

~Helen Keller

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.