

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meets

A diverse crowd made up of students, farmers, agency staff, nonprofit people, paddlers and others came together last night in Hutchinson for the quarterly Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting. They talked about a wide range of topics and interests through the Open Space format. One of the major topics had to do with the upcoming broadcast of the "Working Together for the Minnesota River" documentary on KARE 11 TV in prime time. For more information on this engaging video documentary go to <http://mnriver.org/> and view clips from Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound show. The group also talked about the upcoming Minnesota River Paddler Program event on June 17th and 18th in conjunction with the Fiesta Days Riverfest Rendezvous Celebration in Montevideo. Look for more on the April 19th Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting in future Weekly Updates.

Minnesota Bound – "A River At Risk"

Greetings, all! Tune in to Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound on KARE11 TV this Sunday and next at 10:35pm for the third and fourth installments of our upcoming documentary about restoring the Minnesota River.

This Sunday we "Slow Down the Water" by improving how we treat runoff in both urban and agricultural settings. And we wind up our four-part series next Sunday with "World Class Cats!" (fish, that is). Compelling stories both, with delightful music by Scott Sparlin and the Bockfest Boys.

The shows are repeated Saturdays at 6:30pm, so you can still catch the second installment on KARE tomorrow. The first two installments, "A Day on the River" and "What's in the Water?" (each in two parts) have also been posted to the mnriver.org and [Minnesota Bound](http://MinnesotaBound.com) websites.

Thanks, John Hickman and Jon Carlson!

Strangling our Rivers – Minneapolis Star Tribune

On a sweet spring day last week, Mike McKay looked out from a bluff above this breathtaking sweep of the Mississippi River and pointed out a scrubby little island that grows just a bit bigger every year.

"There's a saying in our house," he said. "The river giveth and the river taketh away."

For the past several decades, the river has mostly given to the lake he loves -- up to a million tons of mud each year, enough to bury the Foshay Tower from top to bottom.

At that rate, within this century the northern third of Lake Pepin will become a marsh, with a narrow channel dredged through its center for barge traffic. This grim accumulation represents a looming threat to one of Minnesota's scenic jewels. But it also signals a much bigger problem that in the past 70 years has fundamentally changed long stretches of state's two great rivers, the Mississippi and the Minnesota

For the entire article: <http://www.startribune.com/local/119981244.html>

Earth Day Celebrations – Minnesota State University Mankato

Students for Sustainability will be holding a plethora of events during the week of April 18th - 22nd to celebrate Earth Day on the 22nd.

Wednesday April 20th: Noon until 1 pm outside in mall area: "**BAKED**" SALE - Sale will include free organic popcorn and an ore of baked goods for donations. After food we will be heading into Ostrander Auditorium. The movie, "[The Union: The Business Behind Getting High](#)" will begin at 1:30 pm. Key City Bike will be coming to campus around 3 pm until 5 pm and do bike tune-ups for free!!!

Thursday, April 21, 4-6 pm in Ostrander: Rainforest Action Network Twin Cities - Palm Oil Campaign and a non-violent training on how to take action to save our rain forests!

Earth Day, Friday, April 22!: Free Food! Sandwiches will be served from 11 pm until 1 pm in CSU 269 - The food will be coming from the St. Peter Food COOP. Come learn about how cooperatives work and how to get involved in your local food economy. Food donation by Latino Affairs.

Need more info? Contact Danielle Alinea at danielle.alinea@mnsu.edu

Local Recycling, Trash Pick-up/Drop-off is better Alternative to Burning Garbage at Home

While cleaning up outside this spring, it is important to remember that backyard garbage burning is unhealthy, contributes to nearly half of all Minnesota wildfires, and is illegal in most cases. Today's garbage has changed; it contains more plastics, synthetics and other harmful substances hidden in materials that seem safe, like paper and cardboard boxes.

Smoke from backyard garbage burning includes heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates one family burn barrel can emit as much dioxin (a known carcinogen) as a 200-ton-a-day municipal waste incinerator. In fact, backyard garbage burning is now the number one source of dioxin in the United States. These pollutants make their way into our air, water and soil, crops and animals and, eventually, into the food we eat.

A recent study by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) shows more than 30,000 rural Minnesota households have stopped burning garbage at home in favor of garbage collection or a drop-off service. Making use of local recycling and reuse options, backyard composting and local drop-off or collection services can significantly reduce harmful pollutants currently emitted by backyard garbage burning.

Dennis Haubenschild, a Princeton farmer, uses a local service for weekly pick-up of recyclables and garbage because of the risks backyard garbage burning can pose to his family and his business. "The biggest benefit is that it keeps everything neater and cleaner," Haubenschild said. "We live here and our cows live here 24/7. That means we do not do things that could or would endanger our health, or the products we sell."

Starting this month, the MPCA will launch a burn barrel reduction radio campaign in central and southern Minnesota through the Linder Farm Network. These public service announcements will talk about the health and environmental dangers associated with backyard garbage burning, and suggest safer disposal and recycling alternatives for rural residents.

For more information, including links to local waste-hauling services, drop sites, and recycling options, go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel>.

Cover Crop Field Days to be Held

Rural Advantage, in partnership with University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and University of Minnesota, will be hosting two field days on cover crops April 29th and May 2nd.

Friday, April 29, 2011- Rosemount, Dakota County, MN - 1:00pm – 3:00pm

The Rosemount Field Day will be showcasing two research projects being conducted at the Rosemount Research and Outreach Center (UMore Park). One research project is looking at rainfall run-off with cover crops and the other is looking at aerial seeding of cover crops into standing corn and/or soybean acres.

There will be discussions on the benefits of cover crops, cover crop research projects, cover crop cost-share opportunities, and the Cover Crop Decision Tool. Weather cooperating, attendees will also be able to watch researchers collecting data using a rainfall simulator. Field Day will be held rain or shine.

Directions ~ From I-35 in Lakeville: Take Exit 86 for Co. Rd. 46. Turn East onto 160th St. W / Co. Rd. 46 for 9.0 miles. (160th St. W. turns into 162nd St. W.) East of the Center (1605 160th St. W.) is a red barn on the North side of Co Rd 46, a gravel road will head South from there. In less than 1.0 mile is the rye field. From US Hwy 52 in Rosemount/Coates: Take the Co. Rd. 46 Exit. Turn West onto Co. Rd. 46 / 160th St. for roughly 3.0 miles. Before getting to the Center (1605 160th St. W.), there will be a red barn on the North side of Co. Rd. 46, a gravel road will head South from there. In less than 1.0 mile is the rye field. *Parking will be on the side of the road. Please park only on one side of road.*

Monday, May 2, 2011 - Easton, Faribault County, MN - 1:00pm – 3:00pm

The Easton Field Day will be held at cooperator Tom Warmka's 2010 sweet corn field near Easton. There will be an explanation of Rural Advantage's cover crop project and cost-share dollars, a discussion on the use of cover crops in southern Minnesota, and discussion on the Cover Crop Decision Tool. Schedule permitting, project cooperator Tom Warmka will also be sharing his knowledge and experiences with using cover crops in his farming operation. Field Day will be held rain or shine.

The Easton Field Day is sponsored by Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension through an NCR-SARE education and outreach grant.

Directions ~ From Easton: Travel East on MN-109 for roughly 1.0 mile. Turn South onto 500th Ave. (gravel) and travel roughly 2.0 miles (you will curve back East). Turn South onto 505th Ave. (gravel) for roughly 1.0 mile. Field will be on the West side of road. *Be careful when parking on hill. Please park on only one side of road.*

Check out the flyer at: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/springcovercropfielddays.pdf> For more information, please contact Jill Sackett, Extension Educator, at the Rural Advantage office, 507-238-5449 or sacke032@umn.edu

Earth Day, Spring go Hand in Hand: Tips to make Earth-Friendly Choices

The first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. More than one billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

Before this year's Earth Day on April 22, check out these ways to participate and live a healthier and less expensive lifestyle all year round.

1. Review your garden supplies. Check supplies of herbicide and other pesticides, fertilizer and other items. Are they old? Almost gone? Never pour any of these down the storm sewer drain, toilet or sink. Nor should you ever dump them on the ground or throw them in the trash. To find a nearby household hazardous waste facility in Minnesota where you can dispose of them properly, go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/udgx572>. Many counties take these items without charge.
2. Thought about composting? Yard trimmings and food scraps make up a sixth of the average household's garbage. By composting, you can convert organic wastes — yard trimmings, leaves and many kinds of kitchen scraps — into a dark, crumbly mixture that you can use to improve your garden soil and reduce your use of fertilizer and water. Learn how at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/nwqh59b>.
3. Tired of junk mail? The average person spends 30 hours a year handling junk mail. Stop it at the source. Go to <http://www.reduce.org> to find phone numbers and Websites you can use to remove your name from junk mail lists.

4. Sign up for a monthly Living Green newsletter with seasonal tips to guide you through the year: go to <http://www.livinggreen.org>.

5. Recycling isn't just for cans, bottles, paper and a few plastics anymore. How about mattresses? Holiday lights? Carpet? To learn how you can recycle unusual materials, keep them out of landfills, and benefit Minnesota's economy and environment at the same time, go to <http://www.recyclemoreminnesota.org>.

6. Develop a reusable bag habit. Did you know that more energy is used to produce paper bags than their plastic counterparts? Making paper bags also requires a lot of water, not to mention trees. The production of plastic bags is also environmentally unsound — they're made from oil (An estimated 12 million barrels of oil are needed yearly just to produce the plastic bags used in the United States.). Challenge yourself to carry a reusable bag on your next five shopping trips; for more information, see <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/yhiz55a>.

7. Reducing runoff from driveways and yards is critical to keeping pollutants out of lakes and streams. Using methods such as rain gardens, make sure that rainwater soaks into the ground rather than runs off. If you prefer, capture rainwater for watering your yard and garden. Either way, stormwater runoff is reduced and our lakes and rivers stay clean. See tips for capturing rainwater at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/dm0r597>.

8. Buy products made of recycled materials. Some are less expensive and some are not. But all of them use recycled materials rather than new raw materials. A good source of information is the Minnesota Recycled Products Directory at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/r0pg77b>.

Clean Diesel Grants Clean up the air we Breathe, give Truckers a Boost

In March, the MPCA completed funding \$1.53 million for 282 approved projects that reduce diesel engine air pollution through a federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant. An extra \$600,000 was leveraged with grantee matching funds, making the actual amount injected into the economy more than \$2 million.

MPCA Commissioner Paul Aasen said, "The reductions in pollution are immediate and will continue for a decade or more. The grants also gave a nice financial boost to Minnesota businesses, cities and others during the economic downturn."

The federal grant allowed the MPCA to award 68 grants to public and private entities in Minnesota; from small, one-truck owner-operators to fleets with hundreds of trucks. Though the majority of grantees were long-haul trucking companies, others included construction companies, a river tour boat, the city of Shakopee and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Grantees were from 59 cities across the state.

The grant funded 155 small auxiliary power generators (APUs) that cool and heat long-haul truck cabs on overnight stops. APUs allow truckers to avoid idling the truck's engine all night.

"These APUs alone are reducing ground-level fine particle emissions by nearly one ton and nitrogen oxide emissions by 37 tons each year," David Thornton, assistant commissioner of the MPCA, said. "That's roughly equivalent to eliminating 6,000 to 8,000 cars. The APUs also save 150,000 gallons of fuel per year." The MPCA also funded emission controls, new or rebuilt engines, and exhaust systems.

Long-haul truck driver Cliff Johnson of Monticello was the first Minnesota grantee to complete his project in December 2009. He received new emission-control equipment for his trailer refrigeration generator. "Usually the state is doing something to me. This is the first time they've done something for me," quipped Johnson. Emission upgrades help Johnson and others meet emerging emission laws in other states.

“Long-haul truckers could save \$40 per day on a typical 10-hour layover, because APUs consume a gallon per hour less than a truck engine,” explained Mark Sulzbach, MPCA’s clean diesel grant coordinator. “That can be several hundred dollars per month in fuel savings per truck, and it also saves wear and tear on the main engine.” At today’s prices, fuel savings will add up to \$600,000 per year.

One of MPCA’s more unusual grant projects involved replacing four diesel engines on a tour paddle boat owned by the Padelford Packet Co. operating out of Harriet Island in St. Paul.

Though this grant ended, the MPCA just published a request for proposal for another federal grant that will target diesel fleets in the Twin Cities, including public construction vehicles and equipment and ground support equipment at railroad yards and airports. For information, call Martina Cameron at 651-757-2259.

The MPCA’s Small Business Loan Program also helps small long-haul truck fleets with loans to purchase APUs, certain trailer refrigeration systems and other fuel-saving trailer equipment to help meet or exceed regulations. For more information on these loans, contact Mike Nelson at 651-757-2121.

Report on Pollution in Long, Ringo Lakes is open for Public Comment

A public comment period will begin April 18 on a report about a water quality project for Long Lake and Ringo Lake north of Willmar. A public meeting about the project is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, April 28, at the Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services building in Willmar. The comment period will continue through May 18.

The report focuses on pollution caused by high levels of phosphorus, a nutrient contributing to excessive algal growth. It describes the impairment, its causes, and possible solutions. Since 1997, the level of phosphorus in Long Lake has more than doubled to more than twice the target level.

Potential reductions from both external and internal sources have been identified. Some external sources include cultivated lands, pasture/grasslands, urban runoff, woodlands and failing septic systems. Strategies to reduce internal loading will need to be developed based primarily on fisheries and vegetation management, as well as possible reduction of boating activity in sensitive areas.

The report is part of a nationwide effort under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) provision of the federal Clean Water Act to identify and clean up pollution in streams, rivers and lakes. Every two years states are required to submit a list of impaired waters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). States and local organizations must determine the total maximum daily load of pollutants that a water body can carry and still meet water-quality standards.

After receiving public comments, the MPCA may revise the draft report before sending it to the EPA for approval.

Written comments on the draft TMDL report are due by 4:30 p.m. on May 18, 2011, to Darrell Schindler, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 1601 E. Hwy. 12, Willmar, MN 56201-6002, or by e-mail to darrell.schindler@state.mn.us.

Written comments must include (1) a statement of your interest in the draft TMDL report; (2) a statement of the action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft TMDL that you believe should be changed; and (3) the reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity to allow the Commissioner to investigate the merits of your position.

The MPCA will prepare responses to comments, and make any necessary revisions of the draft TMDL report. It is available for review at the MPCA Willmar office, or online at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/jsri9be>.

Following EPA approval of the study, a plan will be developed to direct efforts toward restoring the lakes to water quality standards. For more information about the TMDL study, call Darrell Schindler at the MPCA Marshall office, 320-441-6972; or Cory Netland, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, 507-523-3666.

More information on the state's impaired waters list and TMDL studies is available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html>.

Job Announcements:

Graduate Assistantship - Minnesota River Fisheries Ecology

The Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato is seeking a highly motivated and driven M.S. level graduate assistant to join our team starting Fall 2011. This thesis-based opportunity has considerable flexibility on the nature of the research; however, focus will be on fisheries ecology of juvenile and non-game fishes of the Minnesota River and its major tributaries. Research will include sampling of juvenile and non-game fishes in the various habitats of the central Minnesota River system. Significant water quality work has been ongoing in the basin and this project will strive to connect fish population status with ongoing watershed management efforts.

The assistantship is a combined teaching and research assistantship. During the academic years of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, the successful applicant will assist with lab sections of various general biology courses, prepare to conduct seasonal research, and develop and complete a thesis. During the summer of 2012, funding will be provided for the student to work full-time on research. Funding for summer 2013 work is pending, but anticipated to be available. \$15,000/year (\$4,500 per semester and \$6,000 per summer) plus 18 credits of tuition waiver during the academic years and full access to personal work space, lab resources, field equipment, biota tanks, etc...

For additional information, or to express interest in the position, please contact Dr. Shannon J. Fisher, WRC Director and Associate Professor of Biology at shannon.fisher@mnsu.edu. If you are interested in being considered for the position, please send a cover letter, resume, unofficial transcripts, and three references via email to the email address above. Priority consideration will be given to letters of interest received by April 29.

Public Policy Associate

The Blandin Foundation is seeking an individual to fill a full-time position as a Program Associate in our Public Policy & Engagement program. Responsibilities will include community facilitation, program development and project management. Qualified candidates should have a bachelor's degree or equivalent education and experience in public policy, community development or a related field and a minimum of 5 years of experience. Formal training and experience in group facilitation is desired. The Blandin Foundation is committed to being inclusive in all aspects of our work. The Blandin Foundation is accepting resumes through April 22, 2011, or until position is filled.

For more information about the Blandin Foundation and a copy of the position description, please visit our website at <http://www.blandinfoundation.org/about/careers.php>

Engagement Specialists

The Bush Foundation is hiring two Engagement Specialists (Online Associate and Relationship Associate) for its InCommons Team. The *Engagement Specialist: Online Associate* coordinates online activities that engage people in co-creating, using and contributing to InCommons in Minnesota, while closely integrating those activities with the InCommons offline experience and implementing particular aspects of the InCommons engagement plan and related work plans.

The *Engagement Specialist: Relationship Associate* coordinates activities that engage people in co-creating, using and contributing to InCommons in Minnesota, while closely integrating those activities with

the InCommons online experience and implementing particular aspects of the InCommons engagement plan and related work plans.

You can find all the details, including job descriptions and how to apply, at BushFoundation.org.

Associate Director

The National Farm to School Network is hiring an Associate Director. The selected candidate will be employed by the Community Food Security Coalition with the option to work remotely from any location in the continental US. This position is funded full-time until August 31, 2012. Continued employment is based upon availability of funds.

The Community Food Security Coalition (CFSC) is seeking an Associate Director for the National Farm to School Network (NFSN). The Associate Director will be actively involved in fundraising, and assisting the NFSN Director in administrative and programmatic tasks as necessary. The Associate Director will also work to ensure implementation of the NFSN strategic action plan in the priority areas of policy; media, marketing and outreach; training and technical assistance; information services; research and networking.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/associatedirector.pdf>

Associate Director

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation is hiring a Public Policy Team Associate Director. This position would Assist the Public Policy Team Director in the direction and coordination of the public policy program of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation on national and state legislative and regulatory issues. This will include the planning, organizing and implementation of all legislative and regulatory issues within the boundaries of member-driven grassroots policy, budget, and Board of Directors and Administration direction.

Responsibilities:

- Primary responsibility will be to monitor and lobby "national" legislative and regulatory issues related to all aspects of agriculture to Minnesota Congressional delegation and staff. Primary subject areas include: energy, environmental, immigration, farm policy, natural resources, taxes, trade and rulemaking/agency regulations.
- Prepare regular written updates on national issues to members, board and staff.
- Represent the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation at meetings with elected officials and staff, government personnel and other stakeholders.
- Assist the Director of the Public Policy Team in monitoring and lobbying state legislative and regulatory issues.
- Assist the Public Policy Team Director in providing staff assistance for MFBF's policy development process, commodity advisory committee activities and state and federal political action committees activities.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/publicpolicydirector.pdf>

Executive Director – Minnesota Waters

Minnesota Waters seeks an experienced Executive Director with a proven track record in effective fundraising, strategic communications, understanding and influencing public policy, as well as developing and managing programs which pursue Minnesota Waters' mission and expand our statewide presence. Must have experience in providing leadership and guidance to staff and board. Through understanding of financial management and budgeting is required. The ideal candidate will embrace Minnesota Waters' mission, vision and values focusing on locally led conservation. S/he will be a dynamic team and relationship builder capable of listening to, understanding and mobilizing our members, stakeholders and staff to protect and improve the lakes, streams and watersheds in Minnesota. Experience as an entrepreneurial leader and the ability to learn quickly are a must.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree and 3-5 years demonstrated experience as a leader. Please send resume and a cover letter via email to info@minnesotawaters.org. Applications must be

received by 5 p.m. Friday, May 6, 2011. Interviews will be held the week of May 16-20 at the office in St. Cloud. The full job description can be found at www.minnesotawaters.org

Wilderness Inquiry Trail Staff and Intern Positions for 2011

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring trail staff and interns for 2011. We are looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a desire to work hard for the mission of WI. To learn more, see job descriptions and to apply see Wilderness Inquiry's website:

www.wildernessinquiry.org

Each year, Wilderness inquiry operates hundreds of Canoeing, Kayaking and Hiking trips to destinations in Minnesota, across the United States, and around the world for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Trail staff leads inclusive outdoor adventures, leads single-day events and multi-day expeditions, navigates, cooks, tells stories and teaches outdoor skills along with other responsibilities.

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/internandtrailstaff.pdf>

Events:

April 21st (Thursday) an **Open House at the new MPCA Marshall Office** location from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Lyon County Public Works Building (504 Fairgrounds Road). For more information, MPCA Marshall Office; 504 Fairgrounds Rd., Suite 200; Marshall, MN 56258; Phone: (507) 537-7146; Fax: (507) 537-6001

April 23rd (Saturday) is the **Earth Day 5k Fun Run/Walk** along the beautiful Sakatah Singing Hills Trail by Cannon Lake in Faribault. Day of Event Registration at 8:00 a.m. and Fun Run begins at 9:00 a.m. The race will start and end at Shager Park – a Rice County Park located on State Highway 60 just west of Faribault. [Click here](#) to go to the CRWP website events page for the registration form and more details. All proceeds benefit the Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

April 25th (Monday) is the **Water Resources Center Open House** on Minnesota State University Mankato campus at 189 Trafton Science Center South from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wrcopenhouse.pdf>

April 26th (Tuesday) is an **Arboretum Night Hike** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Hike the trails of the Linnaeus Arboretum after sunset with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen to the night sounds of spring that can be heard in the arboretum, including Western Chorus-Frogs, Great Horned Owls, and migrating songbirds among others. If the sky cooperates, learn how to identify constellations and other bright spots in our night sky. Meet outside the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

April 30th (Saturday) is **Lawn Care Practices for Clean Water**. If you mow your lawn, this workshop is for you! Learn new, but easy lawn care techniques to reduce impact to our lakes, rivers and wetlands. Fortin Consulting will lead the workshop and discuss topics such as: weed control, understanding when and how much to fertilize and why a soil test is important. If you're ready to become part of the solution for clean water, then this is a can't – miss workshop. Light morning refreshments will be provided. The workshop runs from 9 to 11 am at the Prior Lake City Hall – 4646 Dakota St SE Prior Lake MN 55372. **Registration Required:** contact Dan at dmiller@co.scott.mn.us or 952-492-5424 to sign up before Friday, April 22nd.

April 30th (Saturday) is the **Annual Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Ney Nature Center to be held at Traxler's Hunting Preserve, Le Center. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a social. For more information <http://neycenter.org/>

April 30th (Saturday) is the **CCMR Minnesota River Annual Banquet** at Lola's Larkspur in downtown New Ulm with the doors open at 5 p.m. for social hour and dinner at 6:30. A presentation on Progress in the Minnesota River from the Minnesota River Board's Minnesota River Progress Report will be given by

Kim Musser and Scott Kudelka from the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato, a showing of "River Revival Working Together to Save the Minnesota River" with Executive Producer John Hickman and Director/Editing Producer Jon Carlson and Minnesota River Trivia hosted by Scott Sparlin. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverbanquet2010.pdf>

May 7th (Saturday) is the Central Minnesota's Paddle Fest Mississippi Meltdown from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. organized by Clear Waters Outfitting. For more details <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mississippimeltdown.pdf>

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. Featuring Sharp Shooter Tom Knapp. The fun shoot will be held at River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland MN starting at 8:00am, lunch is included after the fun shoot, followed by the world famous "Tom Knapp" show starting at 2:00pm. For more information go to Twin Valley Council Web-site at www.twinvalleybsa.org or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootposter.pdf>

May 17th (Tuesday) is a **Tallgrass Prairie Walk** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Join Blue Earth County Master Gardener Dolly Rye for a prairie walk in the Linnaeus Arboretum's three-year-old Coneflower Prairie. Learn about the various plants that can be found in the restored prairie, reminiscent of the vast expanses of tallgrass prairie that once covered two-thirds of the state of Minnesota. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

May 21st (Saturday) is the "**Caring for God's Creation**" with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

June 16th (Thursday) is an **Open House** for Uruguayan Photographer Federico Estol's book of local people and local photos: "Hello Montevideo from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Montevideo Public Library.

June 18th (Saturday) is the **Trifesta Celebration** in Montevideo starting at 8:30 at Lagoon Park with a 5k Run, Bike Race, Kayak Race, Canoe Race, Rubber Duck Race, music, food and much more.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Outstate parks and trails want a bigger piece of the Legacy Amendment pie](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Legislators are facing a fight over who should get money for parks and trails.

[Solar rebate approved by energy panel](#) (New Ulm Journal). The New Ulm Energy Awareness Commission (EAC) approved the initial form of a solar electric rebate.

[Loss of federal wolf control money blindsides state](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). State officials are scrambling to respond to news that Congress has eliminated funding for wolf control in Minnesota.

[Proposal aims to create funding transparency for Legacy Amendment projects](#) (St. Cloud Times). A proposal heard by legislators could help Minnesota taxpayers follow the money generated by a constitutional tax that funds outdoor and arts projects.

[Sen. Pederson's proposal to halt new water rules blasted by environmentalists](#) (St. Cloud Times). Pederson has proposed measures to halt creation of new state water rules for two years, to close state tree nurseries and to guide state agencies in drafting clean-water standards for Lake Pepin in southeast Minnesota.

[Legislators find it hard to give away all that Legacy money](#) (MinnPost). Some legislators are saying it's hard work giving away all the Legacy funds.

[Getting green in Coon Rapids](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission is hosting its second annual Green Expo at City Hall at the end of the month.

[Feds to remove gray wolves from endangered species list](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Friday that the population of gray wolves in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin has recovered enough to be removed from federal protection.

[Leg. pushes hydroelectric plant](#) (Minnesota Daily). A long-denied hydroelectric plant near St. Anthony Falls could finally become reality, and critics are up in arms.

[Senate votes to lift coal moratorium](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Minnesota Senate voted Thursday to repeal a law that puts a lid on new coal power plants unless power companies offset their carbon footprint.

[Water sustainability is an achievable goal](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin). One of the promising developments in public decision making in the recent past is the use of evidence-based information as the basis for state and local actions.

[Prairieland working on deal](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Talks are under way between the Prairieland compost facility in Truman and Xcel energy about Prairieland providing more refuse-derived fuel for the Xcel power plant in Mankato.

[Minnesota's still chasing wind](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota, one of the first states to embrace wind power, has more projects in the pipeline.

[Scout commits time to lake quality](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). At least once per month during the summer, Nick Anderton rows a canoe out to the center of Amber Lake, then lowers a white disc to see how deep he can see under the surface.

[Helping hands will spruce up Shingle Creek](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). It has many issues, but picking up litter is a way to get people to pay attention to their waterways.

[We have built too many roads for our own good](#) (MinnPost). Among the largest 20 metropolitan areas, the Greater Minneapolis – St Paul area ranks third in road miles per 1,000 people.

[State to test miles driven for taxing vs. gasoline pumped](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). How about paying state taxes for roads and bridges based on your odometer, rather than your gasoline gauge?

When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else. Most people in the city rush around so, they have no time to look at a flower. I want them to see it whether they want to or not . . . – Georgia O'Keffe

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:
<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

[Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa](http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa) to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,

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