

### **KK Berge to Host Drop-in Art Night Wednesdays Beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Every Wednesday night beginning on April 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8 p.m. to 12 p.m., CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) staff and Granite Arts Council members will be hosting a "Drop-in Art Night" for anyone interested in gathering at the K.K. Berge Building in downtown Granite Falls.

The idea is to create one night a week where local community members can connect with creative neighbors, share ideas, or just hang out.

Plans call for hosting a "Drop-in Art Night" every Wednesday night in April and May until further notice at the newly remodeled and furnished CURE office, which is located on the second floor of the K.K. Berge building. CURE, the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the Granite Arts Council have pledged to provide Wi-Fi, popcorn, and coffee. Drop-in Art Night participants are encouraged to bring your instruments and ideas to discuss along with art projects for collaborative work.

The goal of "Drop-in Art Night" is to build community and make connections, to foster creativity and dream of new uses for old spaces downtown, to make time and space for collaborative leadership with young people. To learn more, visit the K.K. Berge Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/KkBerge>, or call toll free 1-877-269-2873 or visit with CURE Program Director, Sarina Otaibi, at the CURE office at 813 Prentice Street in downtown Granite Falls.

### **CURE, the Blogosphere & the Floodplain Forest Floor**

Thanks to some help from some top notch writers, photographers, designers and web masters, CURE has created some new web pages for you to link to and explore.

[Anne Queenan](#), working with [Laura Borgendale](#) has created CURE's new "[Ripples](#)" blog to help us document and keep track of things we are hearing about and learning from our regional Listening Sessions. The blog is still evolving, but it is worth a look. Check it out and follow us by clicking on: <http://www.cureriver.org/blog/>

One of Greater Minnesota's most followed bloggers, [Sally Jo Sorenson](#), has created the [Big Stone Bolder blog](#) and [Facebook page](#) to help us assemble all the information relating to the issue surrounding the proposal by Strata Corp to blast and mine the precious remaining granite outcrops along the Minnesota River near Ortonville, Minnesota. You can read and follow these sites by clicking on: <http://bigstonebolder.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.facebook.com/BigStoneBolder>

I offer these digital links in the name of helping to connect and inform, but I also hasten to add that **most of the information you really need can come to you by simply sitting outside** and watching the river flow, hearing the breeze and the birds through the trees and observing the new grass and nettles breaking through the floodplain forest floor.

One of CURE's new tag lines for our 20th year is "**Find it, Feel it, Follow it**". You can only do this by getting outside and tuning into the river.

Happy Spring! Patrick J. Moore, Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)

### **DNR offers new live peregrine falcon webcam**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Nongame Wildlife Program has placed a live webcam in a peregrine falcon box in downtown St. Paul to monitor the nest of a pair of peregrine falcons. The webcam can be viewed at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/peregrine.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/peregrine.html).

"We are very excited to be able to provide this webcam," said Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the Nongame Wildlife Program. "It allows the public a close-up view into the life of these incredible birds."

The project is being done in cooperation from the Midwest Peregrine Society, and the business tenants in Town Square and Sentinel Properties.

On Wednesday, March 27, the pair laid their first egg, Henderson said. The female will lay up to four more eggs over the next few days. The eggs should hatch on about April 28 and the young will stay in the box, dependent on their parents, until late June or early July.

The box the birds are in is about four feet by four feet in size and is located twenty-six stories high. Peregrines do not "build" a nest, so pebbles are placed in the box to create a natural habitat.

The peregrine falcon is the fastest animal in the world, stooping (chasing prey) at speeds in excess of 200 miles-per-hour. They are a little larger than crow-sized, about 1-2 pounds. The females are one-third larger than the males. They are mostly a slate blue color as adults, with a distinctive "hooded" appearance with a stripe that comes down from the cap. Young peregrines are brown in color with many stripes or barring on the chest.

DDT and related chemicals had a devastating effect on peregrine falcons and many other species in the 1950s and 60s. DDT and its residues, accumulated through food chains, impaired reproduction of many birds by causing the bird's eggs to become so thin that they were crushed under the weight of the mother incubating them. Chemicals extirpated some populations and raised the threat of the species extinction. Use of DDT was effectively banned in the United States in 1972 making it possible for peregrine recovery work to begin.

In 1984, the peregrine falcon was placed on the endangered species list. "This is truly a story of success because today, we have more than 60 unique territories in Minnesota and 39 pairs successfully raised 119 chicks," said Henderson.

Donations to the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, which can help provide additional cameras and learning experiences, can be made online at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/checkoff.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/checkoff.html).

More information about peregrine falcons in Minnesota is available at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/peregrine.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/peregrine.html)

More information about the Midwest Peregrine Society is available at [www.midwestperegrine.org/donate/](http://www.midwestperegrine.org/donate/)

#### **Webinar Info: ACRCC Public Meeting April 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC) is pleased to invite you to our next public meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2012 (2:00 PM CDT to 4:30 PM CDT). This meeting will provide an update on actions to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes. There will be an opportunity for public comment. The meeting will be held at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, 3815 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN. The webinar and call-in information is found here: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/acrcpublicmeeting.pdf>

RSVPs should be sent to me at [paul\\_angelone@fws.gov](mailto:paul_angelone@fws.gov). We look forward to seeing you on April 5!

Sincerely, Paul Angelone; Special Advisor; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 703-358-2042 (office); 703-483-5658 (mobile).

#### **"Listen to Understand and Move Forward" theme of Art of Hosting Training Course to be held May 8, 9 & 10 in Granite Falls**

Area residents are being invited by Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) to register for a three day training course in techniques and methods designed to get people talking about things that matter. The training session will be held on May 8, 9, & 10 in at the Prairie's Edge Casino Resort in Granite Falls, Minnesota. There is no charge to attend the course, but registration is limited to the first 100 people who sign up by calling 1-877-269-2873. Registration deadline is April 27, 2012. To date there are more than 50 individuals from throughout the Western Minnesota who have registered for the course.

Known around the world as the “Art of Hosting”, the course will teach and demonstrate a variety of meeting facilitation techniques that can help build relationships and address communication breakdowns between factions of people. Art of Hosting practitioners from Australia, Canada and the U.S.A. are being flown in to teach the course which has a market value of \$500 per person, not including meals.

“We are looking for leaders, professionals, teachers, managers, self-employed business owners and farmers from throughout the Minnesota River Watershed to take this course,” stated CURE Executive Director Patrick Moore who is recruiting participants for the training course.

“Our goal is to accelerate the spread of meeting facilitation methods designed to help us “listen to understand and move forward,” Moore explained. “We have experienced the power that comes when people who thought they did not agree find a way to collaborate. We hope this course will help our region find creative ways to address all the opportunities for collaboration that exist in small town economic development, health care, education and environmental restoration issues. These days, it seems that all the issues are connected and linked in some way,” Moore added.

CURE is partnering with [InCommons](#) to put on the course. InCommons is a community-based initiative that connects Minnesotans – face-to-face and online – so they can find and share tools, knowledge and resources to solve problems. Recently, InCommons helped sponsor a series of meetings around the state about the state government shutdown and revenue shortfall. CURE recently worked with InCommons to sponsor a series of dialogues about water quality issues facing the Minnesota and the Mississippi Rivers.

CURE is a grassroots non-profit organization based in Montevideo that focuses on celebrating and protecting the Minnesota River Watershed. For more information visit [www.cureriver.org](http://www.cureriver.org)

### **Aquatic plant removal may require permits**

Lakeshore property owners are reminded that removal of aquatic plants from Minnesota lakes may require a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR staff members who issue permits for aquatic plant removal can help lakeshore owners avoid harming the lake or river near their home, said Steve Enger, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

"Aquatic plants serve many important functions in lakes. They prevent shoreline erosion, stabilize bottom sediments, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and tie up nutrients that might otherwise grow algae. We encourage shoreline property owners to keep the disturbance of near shore vegetation as small as possible," Enger said. "Removing too many aquatic plants can impair their ability to perform these important functions."

### **AQUATIC PLANT REMOVAL**

Lakeshore property owners can control a modest area of aquatic plants for swimming or boat docking without a permit from the DNR. Cutting, pulling, raking, or harvesting submersed vegetation, like pondweeds, watermilfoil, or coontail, in an area for recreation is allowed under the following conditions:

- The cleared area may not exceed 2,500 square feet in size.
- The cleared area may not extend more than 50 feet along your shore, or more than one-half the frontage width, whichever is less.
- If the cleared area does not reach open water, a 15-foot wide channel to open water may be added.
- The cut or pulled vegetation must be removed from the water.

If floating leaf vegetation, like white or yellow water-lilies interfere with boat access a lake shore property owner can mechanically maintain (cutting or pulling) a channel no more than 15 feet wide, extending to open water without a permit, under the following conditions:

- The cleared channel must remain in the same place from year to year.
- And the vegetation that is cut or pulled must be removed from the water.

A DNR aquatic plant management permit (the permit fee is \$35.00) is required if plans include the following:

- Using herbicides or algicides.
- Removing emergent vegetation, like bulrush, cattails or wild rice.
- Installing or operating an automated plant control device (such as the Crary WeedRoller, Beachgroomer or Lake Sweeper).
- Removing floating leaf vegetation, in an area larger than a 15 foot wide channel (see above).
- Controlling submerged vegetation in an area larger than 2,500 square feet or wider than 50 feet (see above).
- Removing or relocating a bog of any size.

The DNR aquatic plant management regulations do not allow the following activities:

- Excavating the lake bottom for aquatic plant control.
- Use of hydraulic jets.
- Using lake-bottom barriers to destroy or prevent the growth of aquatic plants.
- Removing aquatic vegetation within posted fish-spawning areas.
- Removing aquatic plants from undeveloped shoreline.

For more information about the Aquatic Plant Management Program, contact nearest regional fisheries office, phone numbers are available at the following web pages, <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html> or by calling 651-296-6157 or toll-free 888-646-6367.

### **Rybak to sign amendment to expand urban farming**

Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak is expected to sign an amendment that will make it easier to grow and sell fresh food in the city.

Minneapolis already allows community gardens in most areas, so this latest change to the city's zoning code takes urban farming to a new level.

Among other things, the change will allow small market gardens, of 10,000 square feet or less, on the ground, rooftop or inside a building. It also creates temporary permits for a farm stand to operate up to 15 days a year.

Rybak will sign the amendment at 10 a.m. Monday at the Dowling Community Garden at Dowling Urban Environmental School.

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### **Pelicans return to Minnesota after near extinction**

Flocks of giant white birds are catching the eyes of birders and outdoor enthusiasts across Minnesota as once-rare American White Pelicans return to their summer nesting grounds at 16 sites across the state, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The pelicans were driven to near extinction in the early 20th century from human pressures. There were no reports of nesting pelicans in Minnesota for 90 years, from 1878 until 1968.

However, conservation efforts led by the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program along with federal regulations have helped pelican populations make a slow and steady comeback. In Minnesota, there are estimated to be about 22,000 pairs of pelicans that nest at 16 sites on seven lakes across the state.

"The Prairie Pothole Region of western Minnesota hosts 22 percent of the global population of this species, making it a stewardship species," said Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, DNR nongame wildlife specialist.

"Being a Species in Greatest Conservation Need in Minnesota helps to ensure the conservation and protection of these birds locally and also contributes significantly to their global conservation."

The pelicans winter along the Gulf Coast from Florida to Mexico and typically return to Minnesota in early spring. They leave each fall as lakes and rivers freeze. They are among the world's largest birds and are easily recognized in flight. Wingspans up to nine feet, bright white plumage with black-edged wings and large, orange bills distinguish them from any other species.

"Pelicans often fly in evenly spaced lines or V formations," Gelvin-Innvaer said. "Unlike swans or geese which fly with necks outstretched, pelicans fly with their necks doubled back against their shoulders. They often set up a rhythmic pattern of wing beats that ripple from the lead bird back to the end."

The pelicans are highly social and live in large, dense colonies. They feed exclusively on small fish and crustaceans and will work together for a meal.

"A group of pelicans will swim in a semicircle to herd their prey into shallow water," Gelvin-Innvaer said. "Then they'll scoop up fish and water in their beak pouch, drain out the water and swallow their food."

Gelvin-Innvaer advises that the birds are best enjoyed from a distance. "Pelicans are very susceptible to human disturbance and contact should be minimized," she said.

Due to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill in 2010, which is an area where American White Pelicans winter, surveys of pelican colonies in Minnesota are being conducted to help assess potential impacts of the spill to Minnesota breeding populations.

For more information on American White Pelicans, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsq/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNFC01010](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rsq/profile.html?action=elementDetail&selectedElement=ABNFC01010).

Donations to Nongame Wildlife checkoff on Minnesota tax forms helps fund monitoring and restoration efforts of pelicans in Minnesota.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **Full-time Seasonal Production Assistant**

McKinley Community CSA is accepting applications for a full-time seasonal production assistant with our farm. Starting as soon as possible and running through the first weeks of October we seek a full-time seasonal employee to help us with the work of our 55 member CSA

Production duties include Planting, Harvesting, Weeding, Watering, Pest Management, Equipment Maintenance and Packing of Shares. This position will also help direct the work of youth employees, attend events as a representative of the farm and perform other duties as needed. Applicants with a solid understanding of organic agriculture are sought for this position.

Must be able to meet the physical demands of farming. Hours are those required to meet our production cycle and are likely to exceed 8 hours in a day and 40 hours in a week during peak production. This is a paid position with a monthly salary of \$1,750.00

McKinley Community is the resident based non-profit of the McKinley neighborhood in North Minneapolis. We are neighbors working together to improve our community. Our urban agriculture program, McKinley Community CSA, grows food in the city to create: Jobs, Beauty, Community and Health.

Please send your resume to: [mckinleycommunitycsa@yahoo.com](mailto:mckinleycommunitycsa@yahoo.com) or McKinley Community; 3300 Lyndale Ave North; Minneapolis MN, 55412. Please, refrain from calling about this opening. Thank you.

#### **Ducks Unlimited Private Consultants**

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) is accepting bids for two (2) private consultants to provide technical assistance over 14 months, a minimum of 2,240 hours for each consultant, to promote and deliver the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) in Minnesota for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Prairie Pothole Region of southwest Minnesota. Bidders should have experience in restoration, ecology and management of wetland and grassland habitats, wildlife management, or a related field. Bidders should have a working knowledge of WRP or USDA Farm Bill Programs and experience in working with private landowners, ArcGIS and Microsoft Office Software, knowledge of hydric soils, and knowledge and experience in identification of drained wetlands and restoration of wetlands and associated uplands.

Successful bidders must be available to start May 1, 2012, and provide services through June 30, 2013. Consultants will be provided office space in NRCS offices in Morris and Glenwood, Minnesota if approved as Earth Team Volunteers.

To receive a bid packet, or for more information, please contact Janet Marquart, Project Coordinator, at (701) 355-3521, or email [jmarquart@ducks.org](mailto:jmarquart@ducks.org) and cc: [lirby@ducks.org](mailto:lirby@ducks.org). ALL FINAL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DUCKS UNLIMITED BY COB Friday, April 13, 2011.

### **Trail Staff, Internships and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains**

Wilderness Inquiry is now accepting applications for Trail Staff, Internships, and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains for summer 2012. We're looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a willingness to work hard.

If you know of someone who would be good and interested, could you please send them our way? They can apply for the positions by going to: [www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs)

Please distribute the following announcement flyers as you see fit:

Trail Staff Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=3028>

Internship Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=5343>

### **Urban Youth Development Coordinator – Pie Ranch, San Francisco California**

We are seeking to hire an Urban Youth Development Coordinator for our partnership with Mission High School (MHS) in San Francisco. Pie Ranch has established farm---based youth programming for seven seasons with MHS

By engaging students in food systems education, culinary arts and sustainable farming. Through in--class programming, on---site field trips, and our youth employment program, we have developed a strong relationship with students, staff and faculty at MHS. This position will continue to grow and sustain our partnership while realizing the goals of the program. We also have similar programs with Oceana High School in Pacifica and Pescadero High School in Pescadero.

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

### **Events:**

April 10<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Le Sueur River Watershed “Map Party”** from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Main Street Plaza and Community Center in Pemberton. The public is invited to this free event designed to share maps and information about the waterways and historic landscape of the Le Sueur River watershed. The event is free and participants will be welcome to come and go as they please. Refreshments and hot beef sandwiches will be served. For more information call 1-877-269-2873. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lesueurmapparty.pdf>

April 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Second Annual Ice Out/Loon In Fundraising Event** sponsored by the Minnesota Freshwater Society from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Lafayette Club in Minnetonka Beach. The event will include Exciting silent auction items Including...Twins Suite behind home plate for 14 guests with food and drink; kayaking around Split Rock Lighthouse; silver loon pendant on a silver chain; a sightseeing



cruise on Lake Minnetonka; a week at a resort near Steamboat Springs and much more! Emcee is Paul Huttner, MPR Meteorologist and there will also be a raffle, hilarious loon calling contest, great music, food and beverages. For more information click [here](#), or contact Diane Lynch at 952-314-8134 or [dlynch@freshwater.org](mailto:dlynch@freshwater.org)

April 24<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** in Room 141 Ridgewater College, Hutchinson MN starting at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and food. The formal meeting starts at 7 p.m. and we will wrap up the discussion by 9 o'clock. We will be focusing on planning a Mayor's Fishing Opener.

April 28<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Ney Nature Center Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** starting at 5:30 at the Montgomery American Legion Post 79 (102 Elm Avenue SW0 in Montgomery. Featured guest speaker is Don Shelby, an environmental journalist, nature lover, one of the most decorated and honored local television journalists in the country, and recently WCCO-TV News Anchor. For more information call or email Becky at the Ney Nature Center – 507-248-3474 or [info@neycenter.org](mailto:info@neycenter.org)

May 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu)

July 16<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 (600 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street). For information: 507-389-5491 or [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu)

September 17<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NE) in Willmar. For information: 507-389-5491 or [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu)

November 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or [karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu](mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu)

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

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### **Environmental/Conservation Articles:**

[What's at stake in the 2012 Farm Bill?](#) (TC Daily Planet). The 2012 Farm Bill comes amid an increasingly fierce public debate over food and farming.

[Douglas: It's OK for Republicans to believe in climate change](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). There are few issues that find DFLers and Republicans on the same side at the Capitol these days. Sunday liquor sales is one.

[High farm prices pressure conservation](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). High prices for corn and soybeans are expected to prompt farmers to shift a lot of conservation land to crop production over the next five years in Minnesota.

[More muscle to combat mussels](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Douglas County will be adding additional manpower to monitor watercraft this summer.

[State setting health standards for emerging contaminants](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Department of Health is taking a closer look at a variety of chemicals that make their way into the water supply.

[Minnesota regulators put off vote on haze reduction](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Mining company Cliffs Natural Resources says one of its plants could have difficulty complying with the plan.

[State works to cut haze in northern Minn. wilderness areas](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park are considered pristine wilderness areas, but they often have dirty air -- pollution from many sources, including power plants and taconite mines.

[Assistant state conservationist wants to arm farmers with knowledge](#) (Agri News). Six years ago, Kasey Taylor worked on the national level to simplify how the Conservation Reserve Program was administered and serviced in the field.

[Taylor helps landowners, staff with conservation](#) (Agri News). For Kasey Taylor, her grandfather is the father of conservation.

[Friends of the river have a friend in Whitney Clark](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Whitney Clark wins praise for his goal to make the Mississippi an enduring regional resource.

[Environmental Education Award goes to Ranger Randee](#) (Agri News). As Ranger Randee, Randee Hokanson uses a mix of history and conservation information to tell students about the environment at the Scandia Woods Environmental Learning Lab in Stevens County.

[Don Shelby: Reflections on my reporting about the environment and global warming](#) (MinnPost). As I begin cleaning out my desk, I am reflecting on the remarkable opportunity MinnPost has given me.

[Rain barrels, composters reduce waste](#) (New Ulm Journal). In an effort to reduce the amount of waste people create, Brown County Recycling programs are offering composting equipment and rain barrels.

[Good Water, Pure Science](#) (Minnesota 2000). You know that we Minnesotans value our water: we play on it, in it (thawed or frozen), but we mostly drink it.

[Minnesota considers air-pollution plan](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park are considered pristine wilderness areas, but they often have dirty air — pollution from power plants and taconite mines.

[Editorial: Local effort to get kids fishing deserves support](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The "Let's Go Fishing Kids" effort outlined on today's front page is a great idea.

[New study makes dire prediction for Minnesota forests](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A new [article by University of Minnesota ecologists](#) says Minnesota's forests could shrink more rapidly than expected, as droughts, fires, and growth of native and exotic species accelerate the changes caused by global warming.

[Time to draw the line on Asian carp](#) (Mankato Free Press). It is already too late to keep all Asian carp out of all Minnesota waters.

[DNR wildlife managers predict result of dwindling fund](#) (Associated Press). Randy Prachar knows what it's like to pinch pennies, but the longtime wildlife manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says things now are reaching a breaking point.

[Pesticide, EPA faulted in bee die-off](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Beekeepers from Minnesota and across the country this month asked the federal government for a temporary ban on one of the most widely used pesticides until its effect on bees is clear.

[Central Minnesotans' insistence on protecting water quality heard at Capitol](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Key advocates for clean water in central Minnesota joined others from around the state at the state



Capitol as part of a coordinated mission to let legislators know how important the environment is to Minnesotans.

*Paddling peacefully up the lake [Big Stone Lake], half dozing in my seat, I was startled from a reverie by a sudden yell from Walt. Right ahead of us, about fifty feet away was what looked like a big black log, slowly sinking from sight. Half asleep though I was I realized that, in general, logs don't have fins and tails that move back and forth. It was a sturgeon, the first either of us had seen. It was at least six feet long. – Eric Sevareid, Canoeing with the Cree*

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.

Thanks,

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Scott

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Scott Kudelka  
Watershed Assessment Specialist  
Water Resources Center  
184 Trafton Science Center S  
Mankato, MN 56001  
507-389-2304