Minnesota River Weekly Update August 17, 2011

Minnesota, Wisconsin adding to kill zone in Gulf of Mexico

By Josephine Marcotty, Minneapolis Star Tribune, August 11, 2011

Minnesota and Wisconsin are contributing an increasing share of the Mississippi River pollution that is killing a wide swath of the Gulf of Mexico.

According to a new federal study, nitrogen flowing into the river from the two states has increased 75 percent over the past two decades and is a major reason why nitrogen levels at the mouth of the river in Louisiana have increased 10 percent over the same period.

The gulf's dead zone is one of the largest such polluted areas in the world, according to researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) who published the study this week.

More importantly, they said, it proves that despite decades of efforts to slow agricultural runoff and clean up wastewater, pollution in the river has not gotten better.

For the entire article, Minnesota, Wisconsin adding to kill zone in Gulf of Mexico

Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah

Check out the Minnesota River town of Henderson on August 20th and 21st when the community hosts its annual Hummingbird Hurrah. Saturday starts out at 9:30 with a viewing of the documentary film "River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River" hosted by John Hickman, the executive producer at Henderson Feathers (526 Main Street).

There will opportunities for Hummingbird Banding from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 212 N 6th Street and workshops featuring Jim Gilbert titled "Nature's Happenings in Late Summer and Early Autumn at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Don Mitchell will conduct one on "Gardening for Hummingbirds at 12:30 p.m. and Carrol Henderson will talk about "Hummingbirds from Minnesota to Machu Picchu" at 3:30 p.m. There will also be Mini Workshops, Book Signing, Children Activities and a Keynote and Dinner on Saturday evening at 5:30 p.m. with Al Batt as the Keynote Speaker.

For more information, http://hhh.hendersonmn.com/

Riverblast Explosion coming in New Ulm

Hey Fun Lovers, Labor Day Friday and Saturday Sept. 2-3 the Riverblast rocket is loaded with fuel and ready to blast off. It is just around the corner believe it or not. Incredible Free Entertainment at Riverside Park in New Ulm Minnesota, camping on site, horse drawn carriage rides, expert led bike tours, Riverblast walk-run, fishing opportunities, food, adult and soft beverages, unique photo opportunities, Regional River History and Information Center open all weekend, Blues for Kids event, face painting, kids playground, docking opportunities on the river for boaters, canoeists and kayakers. Mark your calendars now and make plans to join the Family of the River. For more info go to http://www.Riverblast.org

P.S If you able and willing to volunteer some of your time we have opportunities to help in 3 and 4 hour shifts on both days selling tickets or bartending. Let me know 507 276 2280 or just email to the address above.

View 20 Great Ideas Worth Sharing from Minnesota Idea Open

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Minnesota Idea Open Challenge II: Ideas for Addressing Water Issues in Minnesota. We received more than 100 fabulous ideas and are excited to announce the 20 semi-finalists!



Visit <u>www.MNIdeaOpen.org</u> to view the 20 semi-finalist ideas selected by the Idea Open community volunteers. The ideas range from using technology to improve our waters to building resources that help promote good water habits to creative collaborations that help ensure the long-term health of our waters.

We hope you check out the semi-finalist ideas and cheer on your favorites by sharing them with friends. Remember we make it easy to spread the word. Just click on an entry then look for the "Share this entry" button to select how you want to share a great idea.

A special thank you to our committed volunteers who read every idea submitted and narrowed them down to a slate of 20. Coming from a wide variety of backgrounds, their diverse perspectives ensured a thoughtful and vibrant discussion.

And thank you, Minnesota! Your enthusiasm has helped your community become aware of and address water issues in Minnesota.

Opportunities for Profits from Livestock and Grazing Workshop

Author Greg Judy will be conducting a two-day workshop on September 9th and 10th at the Broadway Ballroom (115 30th Ave E) in Alexandria called "Opportunities for Profits from Livestock and Grazing." Sponsored by Profits from Perennials, the cost for the workshop is \$80 for both days or \$50 for one day. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/gregjudyworkshop.pdf</u>

Profits for Perennials is a joint initiative of Land Stewardship Project and Chippewa River Watershed Project. The goal is to help farmers find profitable ways to add diversity to their farm and secure its long-term viability for the next generation. Funding provided in part by the Walton Family Foundation and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Learn more at <u>www.profitsfromperennials.org</u>

Ranching books by Greg Judy

Greg Judy is the author of the books <u>No Risk Ranching: Custom Grazing on Leased Land</u> and <u>Come</u> <u>Back Farms: Rejuvenating Soils, Pastures and Profits with Livestock Grazing Management.</u>

Book: No Risk Ranching

Based on his personal experience, Greg Judy shows how to make a living from the land without owning it. He describes his successes as well as his mistakes to help others on the road to profit. By leasing land and cattle he went from 40 stockers to over 1100 head and was able to pay off his farm and home loan within three years. Today he has twelve farms totaling more than 1560 acres.

For more information: <u>http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.net/cgi-bin/page.cgi?id=360.html</u>

Book: Comeback Farms

If you have six cows or 6000, you can utilize High Density Grazing to create fertile soils, lush pastures, and healthy livestock. Greg Judy, the master of custom grazing, shows how to earn profits with little risk while using other people's livestock on leased land. With grain and fuel prices rising, Judy details how to work with nature without costly inputs, and let the animals be your labor force.

<u>Comeback Farms</u> takes up where Judy's previous book, <u>No Risk Ranching</u> ended. Here, he shows how to add sheep, goats and pigs to existing cattle operations. He details fencing and water systems that build on existing infrastructure set up for Management-intensive Grazing. Sharing his first-hand experience (the mistakes as well as successes), Judy takes graziers to the next level. He shows how High Density Grazing (HDG) on his own farm and those he leases can revitalize hayed out, scruffy, weedy pastures, and turn them into highly productive grazing landscapes that grow both green grass and greenbacks.

For more information: <u>http://www.stockmangrassfarmer.net/cgi-bin/page.cgi?id=712</u>

Field Day on 'Pollinators: Concerns and Credits' to be Held

Rural Advantage, Seven Story Farm, and the Minnesota Honey Producers Association invite you to the Seven Story Farm near Belle Plaine on Tuesday, August 30th from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. to learn more about bees and other pollinators and the challenges they face.

The American Honey Princess, Allison Adams from Plano, Texas, will discuss the importance of honeybees in agriculture and talk on issues beekeepers are facing with declines in managed honey bees, as well as what urban and rural landowners can do to enhance habitat for pollinators.

Darrel Rufer, Executive Director of the MN Honey Producers organization will provide a beekeepers perspective to the issues discussed and explain how beekeepers go about the business of pollination.

Jeff Jensen with Rural Advantage will discuss their ECoPayPack Pollinator Credit established at Seven Story Farm. Heidi Morlock, farm owner, will lead the group on a tour of the pollinator plot and farm. The pollinator credit compensates growers for providing high quality, year-round habitat to bees and other pollinators. This is an outdoor event. Please dress accordingly.

Directions: 22285 Delaware Avenue - Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011

From South – From State Hwy. 169. Turn right (East) on Co. Rd. 64 exit in Belle Plaine. At the Tintersection with Co. Rd. 59 (Delaware Ave.), take a left (North). Seven Story Farm is the third place on the right (East). Fire Number: 2285. Look for the wind generator.

From North – From State Hwy. 169. Continue traveling South past Jordan stop light for about 2.0 miles. Take a left (East) onto Co. Rd. 59 (Delware Ave) at the OK Corral restaurant. Travel about 2.0 miles. Seven Story Farm will be on the left (East). Fire Number: 2285. Look for the wind generator.

Contact for this event: Jeff Jensen, Marketing/Program Assistant - Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449, jeff@ruraladvantage.org

Chanhassen firm will pay \$8,920 fine, install safer degreasing unit for alleged hazardous waste violations

A Chanhassen company, Roberts Automatic Products, Inc., will pay a \$8,920 civil penalty to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and perform a supplemental environmental project costing at least \$279,000 for alleged hazardous waste violations.

This enforcement action follows inspections by Carver County Environmental Services staff in July 2008 and February 2009 and a January 2010 inspection by Carver County and MPCA staff.

Roberts Automatic Products makes machined products at 88 E. Lake Drive in Chanhassen. A largequantity generator of hazardous waste, the company uses methylene chloride, mineral spirits and water in its degreasing-of-parts and cleaning operations. The company recycles, reclaims and distills the used methylene chloride and mineral spirits, and filters its mop water, leaving residues, known as "still bottoms." MPCA rules mandate that these still bottoms be tested within 60 days of their generation to determine if they are hazardous wastes, and if so, that they be handled appropriately.

On July 23, 2008, Carver County inspectors found that Roberts Automatic Products was not evaluating its waste mineral spirit still bottoms within 60 days of their generation. They also found that the company was disposing of about two gallons per week of the unevaluated waste mineral spirit still bottoms by mixing them with its used oil.

On Feb. 19, 2009, Carver County inspectors found that the company was not evaluating its waste methylene chloride still bottoms within 60 days of their generation and that it was adding 45 gallons per week of unevaluated methylene chloride still bottoms as well as unevaluated mop water still bottoms to its used oil.

Subsequent evaluations of the waste mineral spirit, methylene chloride and mop water still bottoms determined they are hazardous wastes that may not be mixed with the facility's used oil, but must be managed as hazardous wastes.

The inspectors also documented violations of hazardous waste rules on the accumulation, management, storage and shipping of hazardous wastes from the Chanhassen facility.

In accordance with the stipulation agreement, Roberts Automatic Products has stopped disposing of its hazardous waste methylene chloride, mineral spirit and mop water still bottoms with its used oil, and is now managing them as hazardous wastes. The company has also made necessary changes in how it manages, stores and ships these hazardous wastes.

The supplemental environmental project that Roberts Automatic Products has agreed to perform involves the purchase and installation of a vacuum degreasing unit that uses hydrocarbons instead of methylene chloride to clean parts manufactured at the Chanhassen facility. This will eliminate the generation of methylene chloride hazardous waste still bottoms and decrease employee exposure to methylene chloride, a hazardous air pollutant.

The stipulation agreement is one of the tools the MPCA uses to achieve compliance with environmental laws. When calculating penalties, the agency takes into account how seriously the violation affected the environment, whether it is a first-time or repeat violation, and how promptly the violation was reported to appropriate authorities. A stipulation agreement also attempts to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner. For a comprehensive list of enforcement actions by the MPCA, go to http://www.pca.state.mn.us/pyri5fb.

New exhibits will help Eco Experience visitors learn about Minnesota's lakes, streams, watersheds

This is the body of the news release St. Paul, Minn. — The sixth annual Eco Experience at this year's Minnesota State Fair features an array of fresh, new exhibits to engage fairgoers in learning about lakes, streams and watersheds.

At the Stream Lab, Eco Experience visitors will have a chance to build their own model stream in a sandbox. After turning on flowing water, they can experiment by changing the shape of their stream, making the water flow faster, or adding "plants" to the streambed. Like a real stream, the model stream will change shape in response to these changing environmental factors.

Also new this year will be an interactive rain garden photo booth. Fairgoers will be encouraged to browse a selection of native plants and choose a plant or flower that matches their style; for example, "tall", "high-maintenance" or "always thirsty." They can then have their picture taken with a mask representing the flower of their choice, and can tag their photo once it has been posted to Facebook.

Both the young and young at heart will enjoy trying their hand at measuring the clarity of water gathered from Lake Como. Visitors can also learn more about water in their local community by surfing the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's newly remodeled watershed webpages. Those who take an interest in learning about their lakes can sign up as volunteer water monitors, helping the MPCA protect a lake or stream in or near their community.

Fairgoers can visit the Eco Experience from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., from Thursday, Aug. 25, through Monday, Sept. 5. The Eco Experience is in the Progress Center at the Corner of Randall and Cosgrove. Look for the 123-foot-long wind turbine blade. For more information, visit <u>www.ecoexperience.org</u>.

About the Eco Experience: A partnership between the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and over 100 organizations and businesses across the state, the Eco Experience has become the second most popular exhibit at the fair. The Eco Experience is the largest environmental event of its kind, nationally, in the last two decades. Since 2006, almost two million visitors have attended the 25,000 square-foot exhibit to learn more about clean air and water, saving energy, climate change, recycling, healthy local food, transportation, green building and remodeling, and other ways to lead more eco-friendly lives.

Job Announcements:

Seeds of Success Outreach Coordinator

Community Action Duluth seeks an Outreach Coordinator for its urban farming program Seeds of Success. Seeds of Success operates as a social enterprise, using market-driven strategies to create green jobs, reduce health disparities, strengthen the local food system and revitalize urban neighborhoods. Accordingly, we market two-thirds of our produce to restaurants, grocery stores, and at farmers markets and distribute one-third to low-income workers and volunteers. Proceeds from these sales are re-invested in the program. The Outreach Coordinator will be responsible for developing a grassroots base within the targeted community and guiding the policy, systems and environment work around healthy eating.

For more information, http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/seedsofsuccess.pdf

Senior Program Associate, Local Foods Program

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) works at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems, locally and globally. IATP has offices in Minneapolis and Washington. This position is based in Minneapolis.

IATP seeks a full-time Senior Program Associate to be part of IATP's Local Foods program. The Senior Program Associate will be involved with the design and implementation of a variety of local food systems initiatives on a local and national basis, with an emphasis on Farm to Institution efforts. The Program's current project portfolio includes initiatives focused on value chain and local food systems infrastructure development, Farm to School, federal policy issues, food safety, food access, and a nascent youth/elder initiative, among others. This position will report to the Director of the Local Foods Program and will require a strong background in program design and implementation as well as analytical, writing and communication skills.

For more information, http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/seniorprogramassociate.pdf

Events:

<u>August 18th (Thursday)</u> is the **Field Day on Perennial Grasses for Bio-Energy Production** from 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Prairie Horizons Farm (29731 302nd St. – Starbuck, MN) near Starbuck, Minnesota. Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension with Prairie Horizons Farm, the Land Stewardship Project, and the USDA-ARS Soils Lab are to host an afternoon of discussion on using perennial grasses for bio-energy production. For more information on the USDA-ARS Field Day, call 320-589-3411 or visit www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/ncscrl

<u>August 18th (Thursday)</u> is the **Showing of Birdsong and Coffee: A Wake Up Call** at 7:30 p.m. at the North Mankato City Hall Community Room. There is no admission charge. "Birdsong and Coffee" is a high-quality, moving and informative documentary exhibiting the interdependence of producers, consumers, and the ecosystem. Birdsong and Coffee uses a series of interviews to communicate the sincere, respectful relationship that exists through Fair Trade among the parties involved in coffee production. In this film we hear from experts and students, from coffee lovers and bird lovers, and-most importantly-from coffee farmers themselves. We learn how their lives and ours are inextricably linked, economically and environmentally.

<u>August 20th (Saturday)</u> is the **Causes of the US/Dakota War of 1862 program** at 1:00 p.m. in the Historic Commissary at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. The causes were many and complicated. Historian John LaBatte discusses his research on this subject. Many of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the war. At 2:30, John will conduct a Battlefield Tour. Fort Ridgely was

attacked twice in 1862 by Dakota Indians and is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield. One fee is charged for both events. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <u>http://www.nchsmn.org/</u>

<u>August 22nd (Monday)</u> is the **Cover Crops and Alfalfa Mulch Walk-n-Talk** starting at 1:00 p.m. on the Fernholz farm near Madison, MN. Attendees will hear an explanation of Fernholz's alfalfa mulch research and will learn about utilizing various cover crops in organic or conventional agriculture systems. This is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. Please dress accordingly. Directions: From Madison (2484 Hwy 40 – Madison, MN) – Travel East on Hwy 40 for 1 mile. You will see an A-frame house on the North (left) side of the road; this is the Fernholz farm. Contacts for this event: Jill Sackett, UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449 or <u>sacke032@umn.edu</u>

<u>August 23rd (Tuesday)</u> is the **Grape Production Field Day** starting at 1:00 p.m. at Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery near Janesville, MN. There will be a walk-n-talk field day on grape production and mechanized harvesting. This is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. Please dress accordingly. Trams will be used to travel from the parking area to the vineyard. Directions: 18018 631st Avenue – Janesville, Minnesota 56048 (To make parking easier, we'll be meeting at Indian Island Winery. This is a change from the original advertising.) From Janesville – Travel West on State Highway 14 to Smith's Mill. At Smith's Mill, turn left (south) onto Blue Earth County Road 37. Take Blue Earth County 37 for five miles. The winery will be on the right.

<u>August 27th (Saturday)</u> is the **Dakota Family Caravan to Fort Snelling program** at 1:30 p.m. by Mary Bakeman in the Historic Commissary at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Following the conclusion of the US/Dakota War in 1862, about 1600 Dakota people were taken to Fort Snelling. Mary Bakeman is the owner of Park Genealogical Books and has been researching and writing family histories for 30 years. Mary will have books for sale. A fee is charged. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <u>http://www.nchsmn.org/</u>

<u>September 3rd (Saturday)</u> is the **Fort Ridgely Cemetery Walk and Perpetual Vaudeville** starting at 5:00 p.m. at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Family histories of persons buried in Fort Ridgely will be shared by their descendants. Hear the stories of people who are part of the history of this region. Following the Cemetery Walk, stroll over to the amphitheater and enjoy Peter Bloedel as he performs his Perpetual Vaudeville program. Starting at 7:00pm, Peter will combine magic, juggling, music and comedy for a fast paced event. Voluntary donation. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit http://www.nchsmn.org/

September 8th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary** *River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River* at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. The Minnesota River is vitally important to the people of our region. It's also one of our nation's most polluted waterways. However, progress has been made, and many are optimistic for the future. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf</u>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

<u>September 19th (Monday)</u> is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Windom starting at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Karnell Johnson at 507-389-5491 or <u>http://www.minnesotariver.org/</u>

<u>October 6th (Thursday)</u> is the **Showing of the documentary:** *Truck Farm* at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis transformed granddad's '86 Dodge into a traveling 20-member CSA. They planted between the wheel wells with arugula and tomatoes, parked the truck on a Brooklyn street, and waited for the sun and rain to work their charms. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf</u>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details. <u>October 15th (Saturday) and 16th (Sunday)</u> is the **Make-and-take snowshoe workshop** at Lac qui Parle State Park. On Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday from10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. workshop presenters will teach attendees how to string the laces on pre-built wooden snowshoe frames, then demonstrate how to use them. The \$75 registration fee includes the snowshoe kit and materials. Lunch will not be provided, so attendees should bring a sack lunch. Class size is limited to 12 people and advance registration is required so that the appropriate quantities and sizes of snowshoe kits may be ordered. Registration deadline is Oct. 3. To register, contact the park office at (320) 734-4450 ext 225 or e-mail cara.greger@state.mn.us.

<u>November 4th (Thursday)</u> is the **Showing of the documentary:** *Rain in a Dry Land* at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? *Rain in a Dry Land* provides eyeopening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families moved to the U.S. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf</u>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

<u>December 1st (Thursday)</u> is the **Showing of the documentary:** *Reel Injun* at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Hollywood has made over 4000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf. Please contact 507-934-2160 or

http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf. Please contact 507-934-2 jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

<u>January 5th (Thursday)</u> is the **Showing of the documentary**: *Okie Noodling* at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of "noodling" still has Okie anglers hooked. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf</u>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

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

How cunningly nature hides every wrinkle of her inconceivable antiquity under roses and violets and morning dew! – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

Women farmers taking root (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Call it the lure of the land. But a growing number of Minnesota farms are now run by women.

<u>Sierra Club: Power plants killing fish</u> (Winona Daily News). Outdated power plant cooling systems take a major toll on fish and other wildlife in the upper Mississippi River, according to a Sierra Club report.

<u>Per new law, DNR starts to drop pike-reg waters</u> (Minnesota Outdoor News). Per legislation that passed during this year's special session, DNR Fisheries is in the process of paring the number of lakes in the state that slot limits.

<u>Asian carp present in St. Croix River, DNR studies say</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). Environmental testing has found that a species of the invasive Asian carp likely is present in the St. Croix River, as far north as St. Croix Falls, WI.

<u>Dreaded carp: Can they be stopped?</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). DNA tests suggest an imminent invasion of silver carp in the St. Croix River.

<u>Study points to increasing nitrate problem in the Mississippi</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). A new study from the U.S. Geological Survey has found that by at least one measure, pollution in the Mississippi River has gotten worse since 1980, despite efforts to curb runoff.

<u>Farm bill forum planned</u> (Litchfield Independent Review). Minnesota's conservation and agricultural leaders will join forces on Aug. 22 to discuss how the 2012 U.S. Farm Bill can better conserve the state's water, wildlife, and farmlands.

Zebra mussels hinder Pelican Lake visitors (Associated Press). Zebra mussels are taking over the waters of Pelican Lake.

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

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

Thanks,

Scott

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