

CURE Annual Field Trip/Pot Luck and Granite Falls Event

The CURE Board of Directors invites you to join them on our annual Field Trip/Pot Luck this Thursday Aug. 19 from 4:30 to 8 p.m in the Ortonville, MN area.

We will meet at the entrance to the [Big Stone Ntl. Wildlife Refuge Auto Tour Route](#) at 4:30 p.m for a drive through the newly refurbished roadway. After a brief walk we will go to Ortonville's [Riverside Park](#) for a pot luck supper starting at 6 p.m

CURE will provide hot dogs and beverages. We ask you to bring a dish or appetizer to share. Please let us know you are coming by calling Dixie at 1-877-269-2873 so we can plan for enough food.

If you can't make it to Ortonville, you might consider exploring downtown Granite Falls on Thursday night August 19th. Right along the Minnesota River, there will be a fishing derby, food, popcorn, an outdoor movie and music featuring [Jerry Ostenseo](#) from 4 to 9 p.m. For more information, call the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce: 320-564-4039.

Here's to the best days of summer! - Patrick J. Moore www.cureriver.org

Stop Treating Us Like Garbage – Campaign Aims to Get to Get Minneotans to Recycle More

Annual recycling reports from counties in Minnesota show recycling rates in the state have leveled off since the 1990s. Although Minnesota has one of the higher recycling rates in the country, valuable recyclable material continues to be tossed in the garbage.

In 2007, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) partnered with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to create the Recycle More Minnesota campaign to get Minnesotans to start recycling more. After studying state and local recycling data, and conducting research and focus groups, the team confirmed Minnesotans wanted easy and convenient access to recycling service and more information on the benefits of recycling other than “it’s good for the environment.” To provide information about the benefits and basics of recycling, the team created <http://www.recyclemoreminnesota.org>, a one-stop-shop for recycling information as part of the campaign to increase Minnesota’s recycling rate.

To provide more assistance to residents and counties, the Web site was recently updated to make it more interactive and user-friendly. The home page now features an interactive map of the state: users can click on their counties and view information about what can be recycled, where recyclables are collected, and whom to contact for answers to other recycling-related questions.

In addition to the interactive map, toolkits focused on getting the word out that recyclables aren’t garbage were also repackaged on the site. Citizens will find fact sheets, advertisements and other materials that can be used in their county, schools or businesses to help implement a recycling campaign with ready-made, customizable resources.

“Recycling not only saves energy and resources, but is a significant source for jobs in the state,” said Johanna Kertesz from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The MPCA estimates nearly 20,000 jobs are directly and indirectly supported by companies that manufacture products with recycled materials. Using recycled materials for new products also saves energy: it takes 90 percent less energy to make an aluminum can from recycled content, 50 percent less energy to make products from recycled glass, and 70 percent less energy to make recycled paper.

“Recycling at work, at home, or on the go keeps materials out of the waste stream,” said Kertesz. “There are many great reasons to recycle, from saving energy and conserving resources to creating jobs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is easy to find a reason to make a commitment to recycle more.

Badgersett Farm Annual Field Day - Saturday, August 21st; All Day

Badgersett Research Farm, in SE Minnesota, is holding its 2010 Field Day on Aug. 21st.

Badgersett has been inventing and developing what many say is the most promising of new “alternative and sustainable” crops, for over 30 years - hybrid hazelnuts.

“Probably our biggest news this year is that we’re changing what we do here on ‘Farm #1’; says Philip Rutter, founder, CEO, and Chief Scientist. “We’re now moving forward from the ‘research farm’ stage - to ‘real world production farm.’ That’s huge.”

Two of the biggest changes you can see this year are the addition of “farmer ready in-field cloning”, where any farmer can now clone their own best plants to improve fields; and the beginnings of integrating animals with the whole-farm process. “We’ve been saying for years that ‘the biggest problem we still need to address is - the grass.’” Rutter says. Hybrid hazel bushes grow in rows; and between the rows there’s grass, or some other ground cover type crop. Over a ten year cycle, the amount of grass per row varies greatly, making companions like soybeans or hay difficult to manage. “Grazing seems like a good direction to try. This year you’ll see horses, cattle, and poultry; all at the experimental stage, but already clearly useful; even for very large plantings. Some of our growers are working with sheep, and even alpacas, up north and into Ontario.”

This is the biggest, oldest, and best hazelnut field day in the region!

Badgersett is proud to announce that following our 30 years of work to demonstrate that hybrid hazels can be bred to be cold proof, disease and pest resistant, and bear heavy crops across most of North America - the University of Nebraska, the U of Minnesota, the U of Wisconsin, Rutgers University, and even Oregon State U, are now at work on developing hybrid bush hazels as a crop. So, there are now several “hybrid hazelnut Field Days” to choose from, if you want to start learning about this crop.

If you want to see an acre or two of 4 to 8 year old plants, the others are fine; BUT - if you want to see 30-60 acres of hazel bushes, from 3 up to 30 years old- the ONLY place you can go is Badgersett Research Farm. We invented/created the crop; top to bottom, inside and out.

MN State Senator Sharon Erickson Ropes (Vice Chair, Ag Committee) will be in attendance. “Sharon has been following our work for at least 20 years.” Rutter says; “She’s got perspective we really treasure.” Senator Ropes will be in attendance after 2 PM.

For exact details on tours and timing, visitors should check the Badgersett blog for updates.

<http://badgersettresearch.blogspot.com/>

National Ban on Lead-based Ammunition, Fishing Tackle Sought to End Wildlife Poisoning *Lead Still a Potent Killer of Millions of Wild Birds, Health Risk for Humans*

A coalition of conservation, hunting and veterinary groups today filed a formal petition with the Environmental Protection Agency requesting a ban on the use of toxic lead in hunting ammunition and fishing tackle. Major efforts to reduce lead exposure to people have greatly reduced the amount of lead in the environment, but toxic lead is still a widespread killer in the wild, harming bald eagles, trumpeter swans, endangered California condors and other wildlife.

“It’s long past time do something about this deadly – and preventable – epidemic of lead poisoning in the wild,” said Jeff Miller of the Center for Biological Diversity. “Over the past several decades we’ve wisely taken steps to get lead out of our gasoline, paint, water pipes and other sources that are dangerous to people. Now it’s time to get the lead out of hunting and fishing sports to save wildlife from needless poisoning.”

An estimated 10 million to 20 million birds and other animals die each year from lead poisoning in the United States. This occurs when animals scavenge on carcasses shot and contaminated with lead bullet fragments, or pick up and eat spent lead-shot pellets or lost fishing weights, mistaking them for food or grit. Some animals die a painful death from lead poisoning while others suffer for years from its

debilitating effects.

"The science on this issue is massive in breadth and unimpeachable in its integrity," said George Fenwick, president of American Bird Conservancy. "Hundreds of peer-reviewed studies show continued lead poisoning of large numbers of birds and other animals, and this petition is a prudent step to safeguard wildlife and reduce unacceptable human health risks."

American Bird Conservancy, Center for Biological Diversity, Association of Avian Veterinarians, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and the hunters' group Project Gulpile are asking for the ban under the Toxic Substances Control Act, which regulates dangerous chemicals in the United States.

"As a hunter in California, compliance with the recent state nonlead ammunition regulation has been simple," said Anthony Prieto, a hunter and co-founder of Project Gulpile, a hunter's group that provides educational resources for lead-free hunters and anglers. "I still get to hunt, there is no toxic impact on wildlife or my health, and copper bullets shoot better."

The petition references almost 500 scientific studies, most of which have been peer-reviewed, that starkly illustrate the widespread dangers from lead ammunition and fishing tackle. Lead is an extremely toxic substance that is dangerous to people and wildlife even at low levels. Exposure can cause a range of health effects, from acute poisoning and death to long-term problems such as reduced reproduction, inhibition of growth and damage to neurological development. In the United States, 3,000 tons of lead are shot into the environment by hunting every year, another 80,000 tons are released at shooting ranges, and 4,000 tons are lost in ponds and streams as fishing lures and sinkers. At least 75 wild bird species are poisoned by spent lead ammunition, including bald eagles, golden eagles, ravens and endangered California condors. Despite being banned in 1992 for hunting waterfowl, spent lead shotgun pellets continue to be frequently ingested by swans, cranes, ducks, geese, loons and other waterfowl. These birds also consume lead-based fishing tackle lost in lakes and rivers, often with deadly consequences.

Lead ammunition also poses health risks to people. Lead bullets explode and fragment into minute particles in shot game and can spread throughout meat that humans eat. Studies using radiographs show that numerous, imperceptible, dust-sized particles of lead can infect meat up to a foot and a half away from the bullet wound, causing a greater health risk to humans who consume lead-shot game than previously thought. A recent study found that up to 87 percent of cooked game killed by lead ammunition can contain unsafe levels of lead. State health agencies have had to recall venison donated to feed the hungry because of lead contamination from lead bullet fragments. Nearly 10 million hunters, their families and low-income beneficiaries of venison donations may be at risk.

For more information, read about the Center's [Get the Lead Out campaign](#) and the ABC web page on [lead threats to birds](#).

Riverblast Volunteers Needed

Hello Minnesota River enthusiasts, Riverblast is right around the bend and we are in need of volunteers willing to put in 4 hours of time to help put the event on. We need ticket sellers and bartenders.

The shifts are as follows: Friday September 3rd 4-8PM and 8-midnight, Saturday September 4th from 11-3, 3-7, 7-10, and 10 to closing. If you can't help on the two days of the event we can use help Thursday any time after 3 PM until 9 for setup and also for teardown on Sunday morning the 5th after 9:30 AM.

You can confirm a time by calling me at 507-276-2280 and leaving a message with your name and time you can help. The event is really growing and we need all the help we can get, so if you know of anyone else who can help please let them know ASAP.

Thanks much – Scott Sparlin.

Our Friends are Moving on This Week

Bill Nedderman, the amazing paddling man, stayed in Montevideo and near Echo on his way down the Minnesota River towards Montreal. In the next few days, he will be making his way down the Mississippi to Prescott, WI before he turns north to the St. Croix and Superior.

If you would like to see a short story about him that aired on WCCO TV, click <http://wcco.com/video/?id=82259@wcco.dayport.com>

Patience Caso of [MEP](#) and I had a nice float yesterday on the Minnesota River as we talked about moving on with Clean Water and Clean Energy policies in the midst of recent developments.

The water is still muddy, but we are hopeful that they will clear in the weeks and months ahead. You can see pictures from our trip on Facebook by clicking on:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=2074563&id=1182123470&l=16514284c3>

Interns Kate Eggers and Lyndsey Weber completed their 10 week summer internships this week. We will miss them and all the good work and energy they brought to our office.

Claudia Gutierrez is still with us, helping to fix up the upstairs of our office into a "Writer's Retreat" -- come by and see our progress!

Keep Cool - Patrick J. Moore www.cureriver.org

Mmm Mmm Good

Hi All, I have known about this method of cooking carp now for a couple of years. I found out about it from my friend Del Wehrspann who has been at this place in Omaha, now it's on the food channel. Go figure, we all should be making use of this fine tasting fish now that we don't have to deal with the bones any more. The bones shatter from the grease when you do it this way. Check it out on

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bFCbifraN0> – Scott Sparlin

Job Opportunities:

Outreach Coordinator

This position enhances conservation practices in the Whitewater Watershed by providing education, outreach, and technical assistance to landowners, farmers, and citizens in the watershed. The focus of work will be on two projects in the watershed: Bacteria Reduction and Civic Engagement in TMDLs/Watershed Planning. The majority of time will be spent interacting with watershed residents to help them improve water quality.

For more information go to <http://www.macde.us/jobs/Outreach.pdf>

Farm Manager

Job Summary: Under the direction of the farm owner, responsible for overall management of the dairy farm including milking, herd health, breeding, pasture management, crop planting and harvest, and supervision of employees, to assure a profitable farm operation at Cedar Summit Farm. Ensures timely and cost effective completion of farm activities.

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

Events:

August 18th (Wednesday) is **RiverNight 2010**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Harriet Island in St. Paul, MN. Join us as we honor individuals and groups have achieved great things for their lake or river. Help celebrate Minnesota's spectacular and unique waterscape with great food, great company, and a sunset cruise down the Mississippi. For more information or to request an invitation call 800-515-5253.

August 20th (Friday) is the **Agroecology Summit**. Come and enjoy speakers on the topic of “Farming for Ecological Services and Maximum Yield”. Stay for lunch and tours. For more information and the times of this event, contact Tony Thompson at 507-831-3483.

August 21st (Saturday) is the **Badgersett Farm Annual Field Day**. Held all day in South East MN. Badgersett has been inventing and developing what many say is the most promising of new “alternative and sustainable” crops, for over 30 years - hybrid hazelnuts. Come to the field day and learn more about it. For more information check the Badgersett blog for updates at <http://badgersettresearch.blogspot.com/>

August 21st (Saturday) is the **Carver County Shoreline Native Planting** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Brickyard-Clayhole Lake. Volunteers are needed to assist Carver County Water management staff. For more information or to RSVP call Madeline Banschbach at 952-361-1026 or email her at mbanschbach@carver.mn.us

August 21st (Saturday) is **Floatzilla** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Quad Cities (Rock Island, IL, Davenport, IA, etc.). Our mission is to set the world record for boats on the water at once – 2,010! For more information go to <http://www.hickorytech.net~mrbscr/page0007.htm>

August 23rd (Monday) is **Cover Crops and Alfalfa Mulch**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madison, MN. Attendees will hear an explanation of Fernholz’s alfalfa mulch research and will learn about utilizing various cover drops in organic or conventional agriculture systems. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

August 24th (Tuesday) is a meeting to discuss **New Ulm’s Energy Future** at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall (100 North Broadway) in New Ulm, MN. The City of New Ulm is proposing to burn coal at its power plant for the first time in over 15 years. New Ulm Public Utilities has agreed to do a public presentation of the plan for New Ulm’s energy future and take questions from residents. We need you to come out and show your support for keeping New Ulm coal-free. For questions contact Jessica Tatro by phone at 612-659-9124 ext 309 or by email at Jessica.tatro@sierraclub.org

August 25th (Wednesday) is the **Full Moon Cruise** at 6:00 p.m. – gather at the church to start. We will land at the north at 6:30 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided after paddling. For more information contact Warren and Peggy at 507-388-7383.

August 25th (Wednesday) is the **Fundraising and Grants Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center. Come to gain tips on where to find grants and how to write a good grant proposal, learn about fundraising strategies and ways to work with prospective donors and discuss and create a plan for your group’s fundraising goals. For more information call 612-370-4930.

August 27th-29th (Friday-Saturday) is the **Henderson Hummer Hurrah** from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily in Henderson, MN. In 2009 Henderson Feathers introduced the Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah as a region-wide celebration of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. All the venues (Workshops, Hummingbird Mall, Children’s Activities, Garden Tours and the Hummingbird Banding), were visited by thousands and we invite you to come back again this year. For more information contact Jon Smithers by phone at 507-934-6357 or by email at jon@jonsmithers.com

September 3rd & 4th (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit www.riverblast.org

September 4th-October 31st (Saturdays and Sundays) is the **Fall Festival** from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Center Creek Orchard. Activities include hayrides, storytelling, corn pile, scarecrow building, castle bouncer, giant maze, apple sling, barrel ride, petting farm, super slide and haunted forest. Pick your own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and select apples from over a dozen Minnesota varieties. For more information go to http://www.centercreekorchard.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=134

September 10th (Friday) is **Waterfest** at Barsness Pak in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 11th (Saturday) is the **FarmAmerica Fall Fair** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at FarmAmerica in Waseca, MN. Some activities include horses and tractors will be displayed and working on the grounds, strolling through Peddlers Grove and Pioneer Tent City, fall harvest activities on display, draft horse pull and antique tractor pull. For more information contact FarmAmerica at 507-835-2052.

September 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks) is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit <http://www.scottswcd.org/>

September 16th (Thursday) is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3rd crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 16th (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 1** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part one of this three-part series, learn about common birds of Minnesota. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on how to attract more birds to your yard and how to deter feeder raiders like squirrels and raccoons. The event is free and open to the public. To learn more contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

September 16th & 17th (Thursday & Friday) is the **Clean Water and Climate Adaptation Summit** at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Join local government officials and staff, industry leaders, natural resource professionals, scientists, and citizens to learn how climate trends might affect Minnesota and the region, how green infrastructure will be a key water-management strategy, and how to make informed decisions and enhance the economic viability of your community. For more information go to <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/content/clean-water-and-climate-adaptation-summit> or call 952-443-1422.

September 20th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

September 22nd (Wednesday) is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 23rd (Thursday) is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This even is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 23rd (Thursday) is the **Full Moon Foray** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Enjoy a leisurely walk under a full moon on the first day of autumn with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen for some night sounds that can be heard in the Linnaeus Arboretum, such as owls, frogs, and katydids. Learn how to identify some of the constellations and other bright spots in our night sky, and if you're lucky you'll even catch a glimpse of a meteor. This even is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

September 25th (Saturday) is **MSU International Student Paddling Day** at Hiniker Pond. More details will be provided at a later date at <http://www.hickorytech.net~mrbscr/page0007.htm>

October 2nd (Saturday) is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more

information go to <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9881>

October 2nd (Saturday) is the **Fall Color Trip** from Mankato to Seven Mile Creek. For more information go to <http://www.hickorytech.net-mrbscr/page0007.htm>

October 5th & 6th (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/>

October 7th (Thursday) is the **Fall Prairie Walk** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kasota Prairie. Take a stroll through the Kasota Prairie on a late afternoon in early October with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Learn more about the prairie's wide array of fall-blooming wildflowers and the wildlife that can be found in this grassy expanse. The prairie's unique geology will be discussed as well. Meet at Kasota Prairie parking lot. This event is free and open to the public. For questions contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 7th (Thursday) is **Geography of Montenegro** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Montenegro, a tiny country in the Balkans with jaw-dropping scenery—from harsh mountains to Mediterranean beaches—has an equally jaw-dropping history at the crossroads of contending East-West armies for the last several centuries. English Professor and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Gregory Mason will talk about Montenegro's unique geography and how it drives the country's history, a history full of old hatreds and hopefully brighter futures in this fascinating part of the world. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 14th (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 2** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part two of this three-part series, learn about some of the state's other bird species that you might not see too often but do indeed call Minnesota home for at least part of the year. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on identification along with locations and times where/when you might find these species. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 19th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting**. This meeting will be held at the RiverCentre in Saint Paul in conjunction with the Water Resources Conference.

October 23rd & 24th (Saturday & Sunday) is the **5th Annual Northland Bioneers Conference** at Macalaster College in St. Paul, MN. The conference includes: keynote lectures and panels given by local and regional experts, workshops on relocalizing our food, solar and wind energy and many other topics, neighborhood networking, facilitated by the [Alliance for Sustainability](#), [exhibits](#) by local businesses and non-profit groups and presentations of national speakers pre-recorded at the 2010 San Rafael, CA, National Bioneers Conference. To learn more visit www.nbconference.org

November 8th-10th (Monday-Wednesday) is the **2010 Minnesota/Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference** at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Paul, MN. The first collaborative Minnesota-Wisconsin conference on invasive species will be held for the purpose of exchanging information on invasive species topics. This is an all-taxa conference covering invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, pests, and pathogens. The focus is to strengthen awareness of invasive species issues, prevention, and management. Expected audiences include researchers, land managers, natural resource professionals, university personnel, landscapers, nursery, agricultural or forestry employees, environmental specialists, lake association members, and agency and non-governmental organizations. For more information go to http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010_mn_wi_invasive_species_conference.htm

November 10th (Wednesday) are the **Prairie Harvest Field Days**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or at sacke032@umn.edu

November 15th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

November 18th (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 3** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part three of this three-part series, learn about our state's rare and local species that are found only in small areas or in very specific habitats. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give reliable locations and times in which to see some of these birds, some of which are within the St. Peter/Mankato area, along with tips on identification. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Sen. Klobuchar's staff holds farm bill forums](#) (MinnPost). Sen. Amy Klobuchar's staff will hold seven forums on the federal farm bill this month around Minnesota.

[Fed's new energy blog allows you to track Minnesota projects](#) (MinnPost). So you want to stage a revolution? First thing you need for these times is a blog, supported by a flurry of social-media hype.

[Governor hopefuls may visit Game Fair](#) (Star Tribune). Candidates for governor from the DFL, Republican and Independence parties are expected to appear at Game Fair on Saturday to debate clean water, habitat and similar issues important to hunters, anglers and other outdoors enthusiasts.

[Volunteer gardeners grow goodwill](#) (Star Tribune). The transformation of Mary Busch's back yard from an overgrown tangle of free-flowing bushes and weeds to a neat, orderly garden of bright flowers took only three months -- if you don't count the other 19 years.

[Hyperlocal effects from a changing climate](#) (MinnPost). Cities are made chiefly of concrete and asphalt, which soak up more sunlight during the day than soil and have a harder time radiating the heat away during the night.

[On climate change, it's time to talk, and act, tough](#) (Pioneer Press). Try to fit these facts together...

[Mining should be on the radar in state](#) (Star Tribune). A high-powered Chilean delegation's visit to Minnesota last week signals strongly that a controversial new type of Iron Range mining isn't a matter of if, it's a matter of when.

[Growth to sprout with Hastings-Twin Cities rail line](#) (Star Tribune). When the Red Rock commuter train begins rolling between Hastings and the Twin Cities by the end of the decade, a surge in economic development will be going along for the ride.

[Maple Grove will open a second transit hub](#) (Star Tribune). Suburban transit in the northwest metro area, which sagged last year after record growth, is poised for another growth spurt: by late October Maple Grove plans to open a second transit station.

[On the water: Gulf of Mexico and Upper Mississippi beckon researchers this summer](#) (MinnPost). From researching the impact of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to exploring the food web in the Upper Mississippi River, two Minnesota-based teachers are staying busy this summer.

[Buying veggies and fruits? Here's a 'cheat sheet' to reduce exposure to pesticides](#) (MinnPost). As you head out to your grocery store — or, better yet, your local farmer's market — this weekend to replenish your stash of fresh fruits and veggies, keep in mind the following two lists from the [Environmental Working Group](#).

[Riverbend Market Cooperative: A model for Main Streets](#) (MinnPost). A group of growers, consumers and community business promoters have banded in the Red Wing area to form an integrated food system that promotes sustainable and organic agriculture from field to plate.

[Legacy amendment funds prairie protection](#) (MPR). The Nature Conservancy is starting a new program to protect native prairie with money from the state's Outdoor Heritage Fund.

[Throwing the book at the oil crisis](#) (Star Tribune). Clayton McNeff listens daily to reports about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico -- and then actually tries to do something about it.

[DNR, other organizations join timberwolf lawsuit](#) (MPR). A federal judge is allowing the Minnesota DNR to weigh in on a citizen's lawsuit seeking to force federal officials to end the protected status of upper-Midwest timberwolves.

[DNR wants to stock muskie in five more Minn. lakes](#) (MPR). The Minnesota DNR wants to stock muskie in five additional lakes in the state.

[Shooting range in DNR sights](#) (Star Tribune). Does the metro area have 530 acres for a \$22 million mega-sized shooting complex? The state Department of Natural Resources is about to find out.

[To DNR, free stuff begins at, well, 90\(!\)](#) (Star Tribune). Hap Corbett has lived in Minnesota his entire life, doesn't consider himself a complainer and isn't anti-government.

[Schoolyard gardens grow](#) (Star Tribune). A first-grader was thinning the carrot bed when she made a shocking discovery. "Miss Stuenkel," she cried out, "something's wrong with the carrots!"

[BWCA blowdown and aftermath show how global warming is changing Minnesota: Prairies are replacing forests](#) (MinnPost). Last Saturday was too hot and muggy for a 30-mile bike ride. But since I was never the smartest kid in class, there I sat, dismounted, panting and sweating on a bench in Mears Park, thankful for a cold soda from the drink cart and all those tall, shady trees.

[Where politics and science should not mix](#) (MPR). A science historian explains why some scientists are trying to undermine recent research on global warming and spread mistruths.

[Lake Superior reaches record temp](#) (MPR). On another muggy August afternoon in Duluth, the Park Point city beach is again packed.

[Campaign Gems](#) (Star Tribune). There was plenty of talk about serious issues in the days leading up to Tuesday's primary election. But in the "offbeat" category, there were a couple of gems you might have missed.

[Cottage Grove / City signs off on incinerator plan](#) (Pioneer Press). Cottage Grove is going to help pay for an air monitor — and will drop its objections to a proposed increase in material burned in a local incinerator.

[Maple Grove firm to pay \\$45K for waste violations](#) (Star Tribune). A Maple Grove facility that makes circuit boards has agreed to pay a \$45,000 penalty following allegations that it failed to safely control hazardous wastes, some of which got into the soil, state officials said Thursday.

[DNR's lakefront development rules rejected by Pawlenty](#) (Pioneer Press). Minnesota regulators spent years devising more protective shore land and dock rules to guide new development along state lakes.

[Park rangers and volunteers place 440 native wetland plants on Pillar Island to combat shoreline erosion](#) (Pioneer press). Pillar Island, on the St. Croix River just north of Stillwater, sees some heavy traffic in the summer.

[Imported produce ban irks Lake Elmo farmers](#) (Star Tribune). In Lake Elmo, city leaders believe their residents covet rural charm.

[Almanac: Voters have plenty on their minds](#) (Star Tribune). Now that the three major candidates for governor have been named, hunters, anglers, conservationists and their representative groups will press them hard between now and November to determine their varying outlooks on outdoors issues.

[Candidates gunning for votes at Game Fair](#) (Star Tribune). The gubernatorial debate Friday night on "Almanac" may have been fiery, but hours later the candidates made it clear they were also packing heat -- literally.

[Cost dims future of solar energy for Eagan facilities](#) (Star Tribune). The immediate future for using solar panels in Eagan, it turns out, is not so bright.

[Deer shot in NW Minnesota test negative for bovine TB](#) (MPR). Deer shot by sharpshooters in northwestern Minnesota have all tested negative for bovine tuberculosis, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said Monday.

[Fighting emerald ash borer will be a costly battle](#) (Star Tribune). It may sound like a line from a science fiction movie, but that somber message is actually being sent to a growing number of states -- including Minnesota -- by the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding a real menace: the emerald ash borer.

[Invasive species hitch a ride on river fishermen's boots](#) (Star Tribune). For fishermen who pride themselves on a conservationist ethic, it hurts to discover that they may be trampling on that ethic every time they wade into a trout stream.

[Study will determine transit options for I-94 from the east](#) (MinnPost). An in-depth study of the I-94 transit corridor coming into St. Paul from the east will be conducted starting next month and running through spring 2012.

[Some downtown St. Paul merchants are growing frustrated with ongoing light-rail work](#) (Pioneer Press). Construction crews making way for the Central Corridor light rail have gutted Fourth Street through downtown St. Paul. The street is torn up, pedestrians face temporary detours, and noise and dust fill the air.

[Old dirt road has lost its charm](#) (Star Tribune). Earlier this summer one of my favorite country roads was upgraded from a sand and gravel surface to blacktop.

[Puzzled by lake's woes, trusting that it'll come back](#) (Pioneer Press). Even though other lakes are plump and brimming, especially after our recent torrential rainfalls, White Bear Lake, it was reported in Friday's Pioneer Press, has now reached its all-time low level.

[Governor deep-sixes plan to restrict lake properties](#) (Star Tribune). New rules to limit dock sizes and protect Minnesota lakeshore from over-development have hit a major roadblock, prompting frustration from lake advocates who say that updated restrictions are desperately needed to maintain clean water and healthy fisheries.

The crisis of our diminishing water resources is just as severe (if less obviously immediate) as any wartime crisis we have ever face. Our survival is just as much at stake as it was at the time of Pearl Harbor, or the Argonne, or Gettysburg, or Saratoga. - Jim Wright

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,

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