

Rivervoices – Patrick Moore

You are invited to a sign unveiling at the Chippewa River Dam in Montevideo this Thursday August 5 at 5 p.m. It will be a short ceremony to unveil the sign that Montevideo Girl Scout Jennessa Runia has been working on for the past 10 months for her Gold Star Award project. To see a Google Map of where the event will be held, click [here](#).

The sign commemorates the fact that on Aug 5th 1838, explorer and map maker Joseph Nicollet camped out at the confluence of the Minnesota and Chippewa Rivers where he noted that the river was a clear flowing stream with a white sand bottom.

Speaking of white sand bottoms, there was a story in the Minneapolis Star Tribune this past Sunday which explores the Minnesota River Clean Up effort, if you missed it you can read it by clicking <http://www.startribune.com/sports/99664794.html>

Read the article and the comments below on the Strib web site and let me know what you think (rivervoices@qwestoffice.net). In the final analysis, it seems apparent to me that we will get a clean river when most of us can imagine and truly desire a clean river. There will never be enough policies based on self interest to get us where we need to go. We need to aspire to clean water as a culture and as a society. We need to acknowledge the fundamental truth that we are dependent on the earth and we must treat her with respect.

The Dakota people have a society like this. Jennessa pays homage to them with her sign. I can't wait for you to see it. Keep in touch, Patrick J. Moore www.cureriver.org

Field Day at EcoSun Prairie Farms August 16th

EcoSun Prairie Farms, South Dakota State University, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension are hosting a Walk-n-Talk field day near Colman, South Dakota on August 16, 2010. "Prairie Establishment for Biofuels and Wildlife" will be held at EcoSun Prairie Farms starting at 1:00pm (note: change of time from previous press releases). The field day will focus on the organizations' work with prairie grasses, production practices for biofuel feedstocks, and harvest impacts on wildlife habitat. Pre-registration is preferred. There is no cost to attend.

Members of EcoSun Prairie Farms will be sharing their experiences growing and managing grassland on former corn and soybean land and marketing a range of grassland products including: hay, grass-fed beef, native plant seed, biofuel feedstock, and carbon credits. A tour of the farm will be included. For more information on EcoSun Prairie Farms, visit their website at www.ecosunprairiefarms.org.

The day will also highlight research being conducted by Dr. Susan Rupp and colleagues from nearby South Dakota State University. Their research is looking at how harvesting the prairie as a feedstock for potential biofuel development affects prairie wildlife and plant/animal diversity.

This is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. Please dress accordingly. Start time is 1:00pm. Plan for the tour to run roughly three hours. Carpooling is encouraged as parking may be limited. Pre-registration is preferred. Contact Jill Sackett to pre-register by August 12, 2010: sacke032@umn.edu 507-238-5449

Directions: Closest Farm Address: 46786 232nd Street - Colman, SD 57017; (NOTE: Internet search sites do not have correct address, please use with caution.); Ecosun Prairie Farms: 44°1'23.7066" N. Latitude 96°50'37.8702"W. Longitude. From Interstate 29, take Exit 114 (Flandreau). Travel west on 230th Street for about 1.5 miles to the intersection with Hwy 77. Continue traveling west an additional 2.0 miles on 230th Street. Travel south (left turn) on 469th Avenue 2.0 miles. Travel west (right turn) on 232nd Street about 0.75 mile. Meeting site is on the north (right) side of the road. Please DO NOT park at the farmstead (46786 232nd St).

America's Great Outdoors

In April, President Obama launched America's Great Outdoors (AGO), which is an initiative to develop a 21st century vision for conservation and stewardship of our nation's public lands and waters. Reconnecting people to the outdoors (i.e. through recreation) and identifying the outdoor places that matter most to Americans are two major goals of AGO.

The Administration is hosting a series of listening sessions across the country to learn about some of the smart, creative ways that communities are conserving outdoor spaces and connecting people to the outdoors. There will be a listening session in Minneapolis from 4:00 - 7:30 pm on August 4. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, to register for the session or to provide your comments on-line, visit www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors.

American Rivers, a national nonprofit organization, (www.americanrivers.org) is working closely with the U.S. Department of the Interior on an initiative to create a nationwide network of Water Trails. Minnesota's Water Trail system (www.mndnr.gov/watertrails) is a potential model for this nationwide network. Feel free to comment on the Minnesota Water Trails system either online or at the listening session.

QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE ASKED AT THE LISTENING SESSION:

1. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
2. What works: What are the most effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors that you have used?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. Tools: What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

Iowa Soybean, Clean Water Partnership Focus of Aug 16 Program in Owatonna

An upcoming program will offer a chance to learn about the exciting work happening with farmers, agricultural retailers, the Iowa Soybean Association and others to protect and improve water in Iowa. Participants will also talk about ideas for developing something similar in the Cannon River watershed.

The Cannon River Watershed Partnership is hosting a supper and conversation with Roger Wolf, director of the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) Environmental Programs, and Dave Coppess, president of the Ag Clean Water Alliance, on Monday, Aug. 16, 5-8 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 609 Lincoln Ave. South, Owatonna.

Supper and social time will be from 5- 6 p.m., with discussion to follow. RSVP is required for supper by Aug. 11 to Beth Kallestad at 507-786-3913 or beth@crwp.net. Funding for this event is provided through a grant from the McKnight Foundation.

KEEP THE GREEN IN YOUR LAWN AND WALLET THIS SUMMER

Minnesotans can take advantage of easy and inexpensive tips to help keep lawns and landscapes green, reduce water utility bills, and provide a variety of aesthetic and environmental benefits.

Water conservation becomes second nature when the benefits are factored into the lawn-care equation. Using less water helps prevent fertilizers and pet wastes from running off yards into nearby storm drains and local water bodies. It reduces the demand when water use may be restricted and saves money on water utility bills in the summer. In addition, it costs little or nothing to put most lawn-care alternatives into practice.

Here are five steps, listed from lowest to highest cost and labor, to help homeowners save more time and money spent working in the yard:

1. Allow part of the yard to go natural. Stop mowing and start letting native plants provide a more attractive environment for birds and butterflies. Native plants need less water and will be more resistant to local plant diseases. Tip: Add wildflower beds, rock gardens, native ornamental grass beds or even a fish pond because lawns require more watering than planting beds. Drip irrigation targets garden areas and will enhance water conservation efforts even more.

2. Pick up an adjustable lawn sprinkler at a moving sale or garden center. That will enable you to direct spray onto the desired area without wasting water on the pavement or a neighbor's lawn. Tip: Place an empty tuna can under the sprinkler and water the lawn until the can is full. The can is about an inch high, which is just the right amount to soak the lawn's root system.

3. Make a rain barrel or watch for them to go on sale. Watershed districts and other environmental groups often sell rain barrels below retail cost at special events. These containers are easy to install below a gutter's downspout and will collect rainwater for later use. Tip: To choose the right rain barrel for your yard, visit <http://www.lakesuperiorstreams.org/stormwater/toolkit/rainbarrels.html>.

4. Watch where rainwater collects in your yard's low spots. When the weather turns sunny, create a rain garden and fill it with flood-tolerant and water-loving perennial plants. Tip: Visit <http://www.raingardens.org> for inspiration and design ideas. A list of plants that thrive in rain gardens is available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/manuals/stormwaterplants.html>

5. Plant drought-resistant turfgrass, perennials and shrubs. Even planting more shade trees will help keep grass or landscape plants cooler and stay more hydrated. Tip: Add a two- to four-inch layer of organic mulch around trees and plants. This will slow the moisture evaporation rate and limit weed growth.

For more tips, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/watercon.html> and download a backyard conservation tip sheet. Or visit the MPCA's yard and garden Web resource page at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/yard-and-garden.html>.

INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER PERMIT APPLICATION DEADLINE PENDING FOR WIDE RANGE OF MINNESOTA FACILITIES

Businesses, facilities and municipalities conducting activities ranging from boat building to leather tanning to steam electric generating operations have until Aug. 6 to apply for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) industrial stormwater permit.

Others required to apply by this deadline include coal mining/coal mining-related facilities; hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal; land transportation; ship building and repair yards; leather finishing; air transportation; electronic/electrical equipment and components; and photographic and optical goods.

The newly reissued MPCA Industrial Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit requires businesses conducting specific industrial activities with the potential to release pollutants to nearby waters to have a permit. The application also offers the opportunity to certify for "no exposure," a condition which eliminates the need for a permit if on-site controls shelter industrial activities and materials from stormwater exposure.

The agency's application process was designed to phase in industrial sector-specific applications during a six-month period. Owner/operators in the following industrial sectors may have missed their June 7 permit application deadline and are now out of compliance: timber products; chemical and allied products manufacturing; asphalt paving and roofing materials and lubricant manufacturing; glass, clay, cement, concrete and gypsum products; primary metals; metal mining (ore mining and dressing); oil and gas extraction and refining; mineral mining and dressing; landfills and land application sites; automobile salvage yards; scrap recycling and waste recycling facilities; water transportation; rubber, miscellaneous plastic products and miscellaneous manufacturing industries; and fabricated metal products.

Owner/operators of any facilities which have passed the permit deadline for application should submit an application as soon as they realize the deadline was missed.

The following sectors have until Oct. 5 to complete their application: paper and allied products manufacturing; treatment works; food and kindred products; textile mills, apparel and other fabric products manufacturing; furniture and fixtures; printing and publishing; and transportation equipment and industrial or commercial machinery.

For a complete list of industries potentially affected by the industrial stormwater permit, visit the MPCA's Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-i.html. The site also has the online and printable permit applications and instructions, describes sector-specific permit application dates, offers 14 steps to permit compliance, guides permittees through creation of a stormwater pollution-prevention plan, lists a schedule of training and outreach opportunities and includes information about the "no exposure" permit exclusion.

Stormwater generally refers to precipitation, snowmelt and surface runoff as well as drainage to groundwater. It is one of the more common sources of water flowing into Minnesota lakes and streams. Stormwater permit regulations help businesses prevent, reduce or control potential contamination of surface and groundwater resources by restricting contact between pollutants and industrial equipment, machinery, raw materials, products, waste-handling equipment and wastes or by treating the stormwater prior to discharge.

For more information, call the MPCA industrial stormwater program staff at 651-757-2119 or 800-657-3864.

WATER SKEE BALL AND INTERACTIVE FISH CONSUMPTION DISPLAY: 2 NEW WATER EXHIBITS AT THE STATE FAIR'S ECO EXPERIENCE

The fifth annual Eco Experience at this year's Minnesota State Fair features new exhibits about water, why it's important to Minnesotans and what we can all do to protect our state's water resources.

The Eco Experience water exhibit will feature a new, arcade-style "water skee ball" game to help people learn about what they can do in their own backyards to protect nearby lakes and streams. Fairgoers will be able to see, touch and ask questions about rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable pavement installations and other green ideas and products. They can also enter to win a Verde Strategies rain barrel or a Freshwater Society rain gauge.

Both the young and young at heart will enjoy trying their hand at the Eco Experience's water testing stations. These exhibits demonstrate how scientists measure the clarity of water in lakes and streams, and explain why it is important to keep tabs on water clarity. Fairgoers who enjoy learning about their lakes will have the opportunity to become water quality volunteers on an ongoing basis, helping the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency protect a lake or stream in or near their community.

Many people have questions about how to safely enjoy eating fish caught from Minnesota waters or purchased commercially. The Minnesota Department of Health has developed an interactive display for this year's Eco Experience, highlighting how people can make safe choices regarding fish consumption.

Fairgoers can visit the Eco Experience from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., from Thursday, Aug. 26, through Monday, Sept. 6. 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, go to <http://www.ecoexperience.org>

A partnership between the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and dozens of 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 in the country. Since 2006 more than 1.5 million visitors have attended the 25,000-square-foot exhibit to learn more about clean air and water, saving energy, climate change, healthy local food, transportation, green building and

remodeling, and other ways to lead more eco-friendly lives. Look for more information and schedules at <http://www.ecoexperience.org>.

Job Postings:

RCRCA Office Specialist/Account Clerk Position

Immediate, full-time opening for experienced person to work with an innovative watershed organization. Must be familiar with state/federal programs affecting water quality, be highly motivated, and demonstrate an ability to use good human relations skills to interact with others for reception of and addressing the general public. Must demonstrate the ability to maintain financial records and ensure data accuracy as well as a variety of administrative tasks. An agricultural background is desired. A two to four-year degree or at least two years job related experience is mandatory. Starting salary is \$13.15+ per hour, depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits include paid vacation, sick leave, holidays, health insurance and retirement plan.

For more information on the position: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rcrcaofficeclerk.pdf>

Program Manager

NCAT (The National Center for Appropriate Technology) is looking for a Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Communities Program Manager. Put your education and experience to work helping American farmers and ranchers. The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is seeking a full-time Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Communities Program Manager to provide management and leadership to NCAT's Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Communities Program. The position will be located at NCAT's headquarters in Butte, MT. The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) is a private non-profit organization that works to foster and promote sustainable technologies and systems, especially for the benefit of economically disadvantaged individuals and communities. NCAT's work includes nationally recognized projects in agriculture and energy, including the ATTRA National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.

This is an excellent opportunity for the ideal candidate with a combination of education and/or experience in sustainable agriculture and/or marketing of agricultural products, business management, or business development. The position requires the equivalent of an MA/MS degree plus five to seven years of related experience or training. Experience in the practice and transfer of information on sustainable agriculture is required. On farm experience is a plus. A background of working for and with non-profit organizations would be useful. Of particular importance would be an interest and knowledge in agriculture marketing, horticulture organics, agronomy, soils, cropping systems and/or farm energy topics including bio-based fuels, conservation and renewable resources. The ideal candidate will have experience in leading collaborative efforts with many partners. You must have demonstrated supervisory skills. You should also be able to recognize and capitalize on new project opportunities not only in sustainable agriculture but in all NCAT program areas. Excellent written and oral communications skills are required.

Applications will be accepted through August 15, 2010 or until suitable candidates can be identified. Early applications are encouraged and applications will be considered as they are received. All persons interested in being considered for the positions must submit a cover letter highlighting their experience and skills relevant to the listed qualifications, a current resume and a completed NCAT application form. Requests for an NCAT application form and inquires about the application process should be directed to Jerrid Burk. Incomplete applications or reference on the application to "see resume" will not be considered. Applicants can visit NCAT's web site at www.ncat.org <<http://www.ncat.org>> for a gateway to web sites and projects developed by NCAT staff. Send completed application materials to: Jerrid Burk; NCAT Human Resource Specialist; e-mail: jerridb@ncat.org <<mailto:jerridb@ncat.org>>; P.O. Box 3838 Butte, MT 59702.

Executive Director

The Organic Farming Research Foundation has launched its search for a new Executive Director. For more detailed information on the full job announcement and how to apply for the position, visit the OFRF

website at <http://ofrf.org>. The next several years at OFRF will provide the incoming Executive Director with one of the most rewarding and visible leadership opportunities in the organic community. While we are not looking to replace Bob, as he is one of a kind, this is a great career opportunity for a strategic leader with a significant personal or vocational passion for organic farming systems and an understanding of its global significance and multifunctional appeal. Entering our next twenty years, OFRF will continue to support farmer-driven research and federal policy that strengthens organic family farming.

Events:

August 3rd, 4th & 5th (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) is **Farmfest 2010** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Gilfillan Estate, Redwood County. For more information visit <http://www.farmshows.com/ffst/index.po>

August 7th (Saturday) is the **Grand Reopening of the Bloomington Visitor Center**. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Bloomington, MN. Please Join Us! It is a day the entire family will enjoy with fun, interactive educational and interpretive programs, new exhibits and displays, LIVE Birds of Prey, lots of great kids activities, and outdoor fun! At 11:00am Special Guest Doug Wood (author, musician, naturalist, storyteller) is sure to delight with his program EarthSongs, EarthStories. An official Re-Dedication Ceremony of the Center will take place at 1:00pm. Don't miss this great event! For more information contact 952-858-0712.

August 16th (Monday) is a **Field Day at EcoSun Prairie**. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. near Colman, South Dakota. Members of EcoSun Prairie Farms will be sharing their experiences growing and managing grassland on former corn and soybean land and marketing a range of grassland products including: hay, grass-fed beef, native plant seed, biofuel feedstock, and carbon credits. A tour of the farm will be included. For more information on EcoSun Prairie Farms, visit their website at www.ecosunprairiefarms.org. The day will also highlight research being conducted by Dr. Susan Rupp and colleagues from nearby South Dakota State University. Their research is looking at how harvesting the prairie as a feedstock for potential biofuel development affects prairie wildlife and plant/animal diversity. For more information on this event, contact: Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage by phone at 507-238-5449 or by email at sacke032@umn.edu, Craig Novotny by phone at 605-695-0090 or Kurt Reitsma by phone at 605-688-4594 or by email at kurtis.reitsma@sdstate.edu

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**. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Windom, MN. Come and enjoy speakers on the topic of "Farming for Ecological Services and Maximum Yield". Stay for lunch and tours. For more information contact Tony Thompson at 507-831-3483.

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.

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

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 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 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/>

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 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/>

November 2010 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.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Emmer tells farmers he will cut agriculture regulation](#) (MPR). Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer told farmers in Moorhead on Monday that he will reduce regulations on their industry if elected.

[Stripped down energy bill leaves out 'cap and trade'](#) (MinnPost). Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Tuesday unveiled a vastly narrower energy bill, minus controversial climate provisions that would have capped carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions.

[Why the right is rightly dubious of climate prescriptions from the left](#) (Pioneer Press). Climate change legislation has been dying in the Senate for months now, but Harry Reid's decision to finally admit as much — in the midst of an endless East Coast heat wave, no less — has supporters of cap-and-trade casting about for somebody to blame.

[Xcel activates hot-weather 'Saver Switch'](#) (MPR). For the first time since 2007, Xcel Energy activated its hot-weather "Saver Switch" power management system Tuesday.

[End the favors for fossil fuels](#) (Pioneer Press). We can't spill wind. That's a fundamental lesson we should take away from BP's offshore oil disaster — even if we learn nothing else.

[Heat forces Xcel to flip energy saver switch; 325,000 homes affected](#) (Pioneer Press). Xcel Energy this afternoon activated its hot-weather "Saver Switch" power management system for the first time in nearly three years, cycling on and off the central air conditioners for hundreds of thousands of Minnesota customers in order to ease the peak demand on its electricity load.

[Sandhill crane hunting season draws fire](#) (MPR). Complaints are surfacing about the DNR's plan for a season on sandhill cranes.

[Tell it to the judge \(and jury\)](#) (Pioneer Press). The Minnesota weather is warming, but is the globe's climate? We pause for a minute to let the shouting die down.

[On climate, we're going to be sorry](#) (Pioneer Press). When I first heard Thursday that Senate Democrats were abandoning the effort to pass an energy/climate bill that would begin to cap greenhouse gases that cause global warming and promote renewable energy that could diminish our addiction to oil, I remembered something that Joe Romm, the climateprogress.org blogger, once said: The best thing about improvements in health care is that all the climate-change deniers are now going to live long enough to see how wrong they were.

[The tall ships are coming! The tall ships are coming!](#) (Pioneer Press). It may appear to be something out of a movie when massive sailing ships from a bygone era pull into Duluth this week. In one case, it will be.

[Big, bad carp knocking on Minnesota's door](#) (Star Tribune). Two of Minnesota's top elected officials said Monday that Asian carp are poised to invade state waters and represent a major threat to the state's \$2.2 billion fishing industry.

[Are downtown two-way streets better?](#) (Star Tribune). On Tuesday, the brass at Minneapolis City Hall declared last fall's conversion of Hennepin and 1st Avenues back to two-way traffic a success.

[Rail plan roils St. Louis Park](#) (Star Tribune). Adding yet another voice to the chorus objecting to a proposed increase in freight rail traffic in St. Louis Park, the city's school board weighed in last week with its concerns.

[Shoreland rules need expediting](#) (Mankato Free Press). If elected leaders and state officials can't do anything else for taxpayers, they should at least move public hearings and public discussion along at a reasonable pace to serve democracy in a timely manner.

[Cleaning up the Vermillion River](#) (Star Tribune). Wading waist deep in the Vermillion River, they waited with their nets poised.

[Investigators dig into old dump near Fort Snelling](#) (Star Tribune). In a glance at the towering trees, nothing seems amiss.

[Reflections of a composter: How worms helped me see the value of symbiotic relationships](#) (MinnPost). Symbiosis is one of those geeky science terms you hear about in junior high and then never take seriously.

[Does the climate/energy bill's failure also doom transportation? A chat with James Corless of 'T4America'](#) (MinnPost). It seems like only yesterday that a crisis was a terrible thing to waste. The financial meltdown, although tragic, was supposed to be the wake-up call we needed to shed some of our destructive habits and turn toward a more sustainable version of prosperity.

[New database tracks transportation earmarks in Congress](#) (MinnPost). Transportation projects

designated by members of Congress can now be tracked in a [new searchable database](#).

[Rep. Tim Walz says he worried all along that Senate wouldn't pass climate change bill](#) (MinnPost). U.S. Rep. Tim Walz is quoted in a [Politico story](#) about House Democrats who passed a climate change bill but now feel burned by the Senate's refusal to act on the legislation.

[Latest oil spill lesson for Minnesotans: If it can happen in Michigan, it can happen here, too](#) (MinnPost). Birds have emerged from waterways soaked with oil from beak to tail feathers, and officials are calling it the worst spill they've ever seen.

[Local oil spills amount to 19,000 barrels since 2000](#) (MPR). Oil spills happen too often around the country, according to an environmental protection group.

[Feds balk at home energy-efficiency loan program](#) (Pioneer Press). Minnesota environmental groups say the Federal Housing Finance Agency has thwarted a heralded loan program designed to help residents pay for energy-saving upgrades to their homes.

[Concern over lakes growing along with the carp population](#) (MinnPost). In this two-part video, The Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, along with the University of Minnesota, study the impact of common carp in the Phalen Chain of Lakes.

[DNR investigates Lake Zumbro fish kill](#) (MPR). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is trying to find out what killed hundreds of channel catfish in Lake Zumbro near Oronoco.

[Michael E. Mann: In denial of warming, lies were repeated](#) (Star Tribune). In "Warming alarmists can't stand the heat" (July 26), the Star Tribune allowed Peter J. Havanac to do a grave disservice to its readers by making false statements about me and other climate scientists.

[What's worse for Lake Michigan -- Kalamazoo River spill or Asian carp?](#) (MinnPost). This week's oil spill in Michigan's Kalamazoo River is a bigger threat to Lake Michigan than [invasive and voracious Asian carp](#), according to Chicago Mayor Richard Daley.

[Tall Ships festival sails into Duluth](#) (Pioneer Press). Explore the decks of maritime history this weekend during the Tall Ships Duluth festival along the shores of Lake Superior.

[D.J. Tice: Well, it sure sounded bad at the time ...](#) (Star Tribune). Forgive me, but this is a little confusing. The New York Times abruptly reported in a front-page story the other day that the Gulf oil spill ordeal -- "the worst environmental disaster America has ever faced," in words used by President Obama and echoed by more or less everybody who has discussed this catastrophic, paradigm-shifting, ecosystem-destroying, life-altering calamity -- well, that it's just about over.

[Zebra mussels found in Lake Minnetonka](#) (Pioneer Press). Several small zebra mussels have been found in Lake Minnetonka, a large, popular recreation and fishing destination in the western metro area, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced Wednesday.

[New product could remove common herbicide from drinking water](#) (MPR). Two University of Minnesota graduates have come up with a product to remove the common herbicide atrazine from drinking water.

[Toxic pollution data available earlier than previous years](#) (MPR). The federal government is providing

information on toxic chemical pollution more quickly than it has in the past.

[E. coli hospitalizes 3, closes beach in Bemidji](#) (MPR). The beach at Diamond Point Park in Bemidji was closed Thursday after the Minnesota Department of Health linked three E. coli illness cases to the beach.

[Minnesota air pollution? It's not as bad as you think](#) (Pioneer Press). Inhale. Exhale. That lungful of clean air was brought to you by the reformed polluters of Minnesota.

[Weekend in Winona](#) (Star Tribune). Anyone who's traveled to Winona knows the role natural resources play in its astonishing beauty. Now there's another reason to recognize Winona.

[Improvements will provide a fresh look for Bass Lake Road](#) (Star Tribune). Minnesota highways aren't the only ones getting a makeover this summer. Brooklyn Center has the road crews out, too.

[Terry McGaughey, 'Mr. Paul Bunyan Trail,' dies](#) (Star Tribune). Bike and water trail lovers have lost a great advocate in Terry McGaughey, who worked 25 years to create the 110-mile Paul Bunyan Trail, running from Brainerd to Bemidji.

[Something's fishy at Lake Harriet](#) (Star Tribune). For several hundred crappies, the lake wasn't the place to be as August arrived.

[Hot on the trail from South St. Paul to Hastings](#) (Star Tribune). Start pedaling in South St. Paul and keep on going to Hastings. On the way, take in some Mississippi River vistas from the seat of your bicycle as you cruise along a paved trail.

[Elder transportation for rural Minnesotans a top priority, Franken says](#) (MinnPost). Access to transportation, particularly for elderly in rural Minnesota, will be a top priority when the Older Americans Act (OAA) comes up for reauthorization next year, Sen. Al Franken told a gathering of elder care advocates in Minneapolis over the weekend.

['Awkward' Minneapolis traffic hub is getting a facelift](#) (Star Tribune). A traffic conductor held up a stop sign and spun in circles Friday, directing five thoroughfares full of cautious motorists, cyclists and walkers as they took turns crossing one of Minneapolis' trickiest intersections.

[DNR sues small township, homeowner, over lakeshore variance](#) (MPR). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is taking a township board and property owner to court over a zoning permit for a lake home.

[Paul Austin: The Cost of Pollution To Kids](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Every now and then a document crosses your desk that makes you sit up straight. Studies that quantify the economic cost of pollution to kids' health recently caught my eye.

High quality water is more than the dream of the conservationists, more than a political slogan; high quality water, in the right quantity at the right place at the right time, is essential to health, recreation, and economic growth. Of all our planet's activities – geological movements, the reproduction and decay of biota, and even the disruptive propensities of certain species – no force is greater than water. -Richard Bangs and Christian Kallen

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

<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

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

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Watershed Assessment Specialist
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu