

Hudson Bay Women to Highlight CURE 20th Annual Meeting Feb. 11 in Montevideo

The 20th annual meeting of Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) will be held on Saturday, February 11th from 3 - 10 p.m. with the Hollywood Theater serving as the hub of a multi-venue event on Main Street Montevideo. The event is being billed as a progressive party as there will be activities held at the Hollywood, the Public Library, Java River Café and at CURE's new upstairs office space. Pre-registration is required by calling 1-877-269-2873 or by e-mailing dixie@cureriver.org.

The festive event will feature talks by Scott Sparlin of New Ulm on the history of the Clean Minnesota River Movement; DNR Region IV commissioner and former State Senator Dennis Frederickson of New Ulm and by Jon Olson, originally from Watson, MN speaking on how he sees consumers are advancing the cause for clean water in his role as the member of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Market Food Coop in St. Paul, MN. Highlighting the evening will be a talk by Ann Raiho and Natalie Warren who are the first women to complete the 2,250 mile journey from Fort Snelling to Hudson Bay by canoe. Tom Barry, a river guide based in St. Paul will also share slides from his 82 day rafting trip from Wyoming to Mexico on the Green and Colorado rivers.

At the upstairs CURE office Writer's Retreat, a new room will be dedicated to regional author Athena Kildegaard of Morris MN. Kildegaard's recent book of Poetry "*Bodies of Light*" was recently nominated for the Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. At the Java River Cafe, music by Otto Kildegaard, the duo AplenGlow and Malena Handeen and the Stermer Brothers will be part of an afternoon long open stage event.

Everyone will converge on the Hollywood Theater starting at 6:30 p.m. for an award ceremony, food, drinks, door prizes, a Silent Auction and a Kayak sweepstakes giveaway and more music to top off the evening.

20 years ago, citizens of Montevideo first gathered in the Montevideo Public Library to form CURE to address several issues facing the river. "Before CURE was started, the Minnesota River was dirty, polluted and forgotten," according to Executive Director, Patrick Moore. "No one cared about the river that bears our state's name. The river had been treated like a huge drainage ditch, an open sewer and a dumping ground for more than 100 years."

CURE developed its mission statement to "focus public awareness on the Upper Minnesota River Watershed and to take action to restore and protect its water quality, biological integrity and natural beauty for all generations" in March 1992. Founding Board member David Minge filed the articles of incorporation for CURE in April of 1992. Since that time, the organization has been meeting every month to advance its mission.

CURE is perhaps best known for the thousands of young people it has introduced to the Minnesota River through its annual Rivers and History Weekend and Minnesota River Trip. Founding CURE board members Butch Halterman, a biology teacher at Montevideo Senior High School and John White, editor of the **Clara City Herald** and coordinator for the EF foreign student exchange program, have been leaders of this effort according to CURE Executive Director Patrick Moore. "We call this *our 'No Child Left Inside'* program," Moore quipped. "Our fleet of canoes and kayaks has grown every year."

According to Moore, one of the major accomplishments in CURE's 20 year history include the removal more than 20,000 tons of scrap metal, trash and tires from illegal dumps along the Upper Minnesota river through semi annual citizen led clean ups. Most of those illegal dumps were removed thanks to the efforts of partner organizations like the National Guard, the Boy Scouts, the Upper Sioux Community and the Granite Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. "I think we can safely say that the river is no longer treated like a dumping ground," Moore added.

Another issue that CURE members voiced concern about in the early years, was the lack of adequate wastewater treatment and the prevalence of non-conforming septic systems along the river. In 1991, the city of Montevideo was fined by the MPCA for dumping 30,000 gallons of untreated human waste in the river, according to Moore. "Today, the City of Montevideo has a well functioning wastewater treatment system that is surpassing tough standards for reducing phosphorus in the river," Moore said. Throughout the Minnesota River Valley well over a billion dollars in public and private investment has been made to upgrade municipal and private wastewater treatment system, Moore reports. "I think we can also say that the river is no longer treated like an open sewer," he added.

CURE has long had a reputation for effective citizen action. Early on its life, CURE launched a successful campaign to stop the straightening of the Lac qui Parle River by the Army Corps of Engineers. In the wake of that campaign, CURE did the initial ground work to convene all the partners necessary to create the Chippewa River Watershed Project. Founding CURE board member David Minge went on to be elected to Congress and while there he authored and advanced legislation to establish the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) which has put more than 100,000 acres of flood prone farmland in the Minnesota River Watershed into protective easements. "The Minnesota River is no longer the forgotten river," Moore said. "Now it is seen as a quality of life asset for the region," he added, pointing to the fact that the Upper Minnesota River has recently been designated as a National "Blue Way" by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

With more than 500 dues paying members, CURE's base is still growing, according to Moore. Other accomplishments include the development of the storefront office spaces on Main Street Montevideo, a campaign to stop the building of the Big Stone II coal fired power plant in Big Stone City, SD and the creation of the award winning "Friendship Tour" process which has brought citizens and farmers from Red Wing and Lake Pepin together with citizens and farmers from the Minnesota River Watershed. Most recently, CURE was involved in helping to save the KK Berge Building in downtown Granite Falls along the Minnesota River and has established a 2nd floor office in that building.

"We have made real progress over the past 20 years," Moore asserts. "Fishing and hunting has never been better and the recreational potential of the river is just starting to be realized." Moore and the 15 members of CURE's democratically elected board of directors admit, however, that they have a lot more work to do. "The river continues to be threatened, but now we have a strong base of citizens throughout the Minnesota River Watershed who are committed to moving things forward and many of them will be in town on February 11th!"

A sell out crowd is expected, so CURE administrative director Dixie Tilden is encouraging everyone to register by February 8 deadline. No walk in registrations will be allowed. Cost of the meeting is \$25 for adults, \$10 for student & children if registration is made by Feb. 8. After February 8, the cost is \$30. For more information, visit www.cureriver.org.

DNR issues citation for cougar shooting in Jackson County

Charges have been filed today by the Jackson County attorney's office against a Jackson County man in southwestern Minnesota for allegedly shooting a cougar on Nov. 27, 2011, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Daniel Hamman, 26, was charged by citation with shooting a protected animal. Hamman allegedly shot the cougar after being contacted by a neighbor, who saw the cat run from a rural grove of trees into a culvert. The cougar was shot as it flushed from the culvert. Maximum penalties Hamman could face include a fine up to \$1,000 and up to 90 days in jail.

The DNR has filed an affidavit of restitution requesting the court to order Hamman to pay \$1,000 to the state for the cougar. Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The cougar shot in Jackson County was a 125-pound male, estimated to be one to three years old. The DNR conducted a necropsy of the cougar to assess the condition of the animal, look for signs of captivity

and collect additional samples to help determine the origin of the animal. No obvious signs of captivity were present such as being declawed, exhibiting excessive pad wear, or having tattoos or microchips. Samples have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Forensics Lab in Missoula, Mont., to do a DNA analysis; results are pending. The DNR plans to have the cougar mounted and used for educational purposes.

Since 2007, the DNR has confirmed 14 cougar sightings across the state. Eleven have been from trail cameras or video. One was road killed, one was found dead and one was shot. Dozens of other, unconfirmed sightings have also been reported.

Why might cougars show up in Minnesota? Cougars are solitary, roaming animals. As young males reach maturity, they begin to look for new territory and will travel considerable distances. The timing of many of Minnesota's verified cougar sightings (mid- 2000s and forward) is not unexpected given the somewhat rapid increase in the cougar population in the western Dakotas that began in the mid-1990s. Extensive research in the Black Hills has documented the changing cougar dynamics that typically lead to increased dispersal of young males. Although verifications have increased, evidence of cougars in Minnesota remains extremely rare.

Cougars are protected animals in Minnesota. State statute makes it illegal for a citizen to kill a cougar in most circumstances. Minnesotans can kill a cougar if a life threatening situation arises. Public safety officials are authorized to kill a cougar to protect public safety. If a cougar poses an immediate threat to public safety, a DNR conservation officer or local law enforcement person should be contacted as soon as possible.

Minnesota Statutes section 97A.301, Subdivision 1(1) states: Misdemeanor. Unless a different penalty is prescribed, a person is guilty of a misdemeanor if that person: (1) takes, buys, sells, transports or possesses a wild animal in violation of the game and fish laws. According to Minnesota Statutes section 97B.641, there is no open season for cougars in the state of Minnesota.

Draft 2012 Impaired Waters List – Chippewa Only

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the public meeting on the Draft 2012 Impaired Waters List. I wanted to send out a little more information to help clarify what was said and make the information available to those unable to attend. For the list go to, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaimpairedlist.pdf>

Attached is the impairments that are included on the 2012 list. It includes both new listings for 2012 (highlighted in green) and those that have been previously listed. If you click on the stream or lake ID number (blue hyperlink) it will take you a map of the water body and you have the opportunity to view the data that was used in the listing process.

I've included both river/stream reach and lake impairments. This was a copy and paste from the list of the whole state available on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Website <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

The list is on formal public notice from Jan. 23 through Feb. 27, 2012.

Submit questions and comments to Howard Markus at MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road N., Saint Paul, MN 55155, call Markus at 651-757-2551, or email him at howard.markus@state.mn.us.

If you have questions on the list, the locations, the data that was used or the impairment/pollutant, please feel free to contact our office. We would be happy to talk with you.

Thanks for your continued interest and support as we all work towards positive solutions for the water quality issues in the Chippewa River Watershed, Jennifer Hoffman; Chippewa River Watershed Project; Watershed Specialist; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120; www.chippewariver.com

Cleaner, Cheaper Power Options for Otter Tail

Otter Tail Power Commentary by Duane Ninneman

Federal Regulators were right to insist that Otter Tail Power deal with its Big Stone Coal Plant pollution.

Unfortunately, state regulators at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission got their part wrong. The PUC voted to allow Otter Tail to invest nearly half a billion dollars of its customers' money in Big Stone — rather than phasing it out and replacing the power with natural gas and renewable energy, a cheaper and cleaner alternative. These investments in a plant nearly 40 years old, commit Otter Tail Power to 40 more years of a coal-rich diet. Moreover, Otter Tail's customers are on the hook for the company's failure to diversify.

To protect public health and respond to the public desire for cleaner generation, Otter Tail Power needs to make big changes to its energy mix. It currently gets more than 85 percent of its electricity from coal - an increasingly risky proposition. Now is the time for Otter Tail to rebalance its mix of energy resources, especially as coal prices are forecast to significantly rise in the coming years.

In the wake of its questionable decision on Big Stone, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will soon order Otter Tail Power to look at replacing the power generated at its Hoot Lake Coal Plant with lower cost alternatives. The PUC order will require Otter Tail to study the cost of retiring – versus upgrading the plant. Otter Tail prefers to burn more coal - spending millions of its customers' dollars to rehab Hoot Lake, a plant even older than Big Stone. Later this year when the study is completed, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will have a fresh opportunity to make the right decision. To protect public health and customer and investor pocketbooks, the PUC must order Otter Tail Power to replace Hoot Lake with a better, cleaner and cheaper alternative.

DNR program pays landowners to allow public hunting on their land

Landowners in 21 southwestern Minnesota counties can earn money by allowing public hunting on their private land through the Walk-In Access (WIA) program, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

WIA, which is entering its second year as a pilot program, targets privately owned parcels of 40 acres or more that are already enrolled in a conservation program such as Reinvest In Minnesota or Conservation Reserve Program. River bottoms, wetlands and other high-quality habitat will also be considered for WIA this year.

WIA pays landowners by the acre to allow hunting access. Bonuses are added if more than 140 contiguous acres are enrolled, if the land is within one-half mile of existing state or federal hunting land, or if a multi-year agreement is signed. This year's sign-up period goes from Feb. 1 to April 15. Local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices are handling program details and enrollments.

"We had a great response from hunters and landowners last year," said Marybeth Block, WIA coordinator. She said that 90 landowners enrolled about 9,000 acres in 2011. In 2012, she hopes to have a total of 25,000 acres enrolled.

"Studies across the country say that hunter numbers are declining because it's getting tougher to find places to hunt," Block said. "I see WIA as one way to address this, while also rewarding landowners for keeping their land in high-quality habitat."

Block said that the program is entirely voluntary for landowners. Recreational use laws provide extra liability protection for WIA acres. DNR conservation officers will address trespass and hunting violations. Enrolled acres are for walk-in traffic only; no vehicles are allowed on conservation land. Parking is along roads or in designated parking areas.

WIA land is for public hunting only. No target practice, trapping, dog training, camping, horseback riding or fires are allowed. Similar rules apply to WIAs as to other public wildlife lands. Once private land is enrolled in the program, bright yellow-green hexagon signs are placed at the property boundaries.

More information on WIA and a map of the 21 counties involved in the program can be found at mndnr.gov/walkin. Locations of parcels enrolled for 2012 will be on the website in August.

The WIA program is a partnership between the DNR, SWCD, Board of Soil and Water Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which is funding the first two years of the pilot program.

DNR releases proposal for wolf harvest season this fall

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing an inaugural gray wolf hunting and trapping season this fall that calls for a conservative harvest quota of 400 animals.

Wolf research indicates Minnesota's wolf population could sustain a higher quota, but DNR officials say they are taking a measured approach to the state's first season.

The proposal sets a quota of 6,000 licenses that will be allocated through a lottery system. Only one license will be allowed per hunter or trapper. Hunting would be allowed with firearms, archery equipment and muzzleloaders. Calls and bait would be allowed with restrictions.

The season is proposed for the end of November and would be closed once the quota is met. Hunters would be required to register animals on the same day they are harvested and data would be collected from carcasses. Other states with harvest seasons for wolves and other big game animals similarly monitor seasons and close them when quotas are met.

DNR will outline its proposals to the Legislature on Thursday, Jan. 26 before the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee.

While the legislatively approved wolf management plan authorizes hunting and trapping seasons, the agency is seeking additional authorization from the state Legislature this session to offer a wolf license and implement other management strategies.

Legislators will have to pass a bill by the end of the session and the governor will have to sign it in order for a season to be held.

The DNR will also take public comments prior to finalizing and implementing a wolf season.

The initial season will allow wolf biologists to collect information on hunter and trapper interest and harvest success and will provide biological information on harvested wolves to help inform future wolf population management and monitoring. The state has an estimated population of 3,000 gray wolves and past surveys indicate the population is stable.

Wolves are prolific, survival of young is generally high and populations can offset effects of mortality caused by hunting and trapping seasons, DNR officials say.

The DNR intends to manage wolves as a prized and high-value fur species by setting the season when pelts are most prime, limiting the take through a lottery and requiring animals be registered.

DNR plans to adjust the framework of future wolf seasons based on information collected during the inaugural season. This adaptive management approach will result in progressive changes as the DNR learns how to best manage a wolf season in Minnesota. The wolf harvest quota does consider other causes of mortality such as removal due to livestock and domestic animal depredation and threats and vehicle collisions.

The agency will also be undertaking a new wolf population survey starting next winter.

Minnesota's population of Great Lakes gray wolves transitions from federal protection to state management on Friday, Jan. 27. That is when the DNR implements its state management plan, which is designed to ensure their long-term survival of wolves in the state.

The agency has three lead conservation officers designated to ensure enforcement of the state's wolf laws by conservation officers throughout the wolf range. The agency also has a wolf research biologist and management specialist.

Information on changes to regulations on taking wolves to protect domestic animals can be found online at www.mndnr.gov/wolves.

Private Land Practitioner Workshop

A one-day workshop providing an opportunity for local private land practitioners to exchange the latest information regarding stewardship options for prairie landowner's.

Choose 1 of 3 locations to attend:

- February 29th, 2012: Windom DNR Office, Windom MN
- March 7th, 2012: Cabela's Meeting Room, Owatonna MN
- March 14th, 2012: Pizza Ranch, Montevideo MN

Target Participants and Audience: All local Minnesota organizations working one-on-one with private landowners in the 32 southwestern counties of Minnesota.

Desired Outcomes:

- Receive insight into the difficult issues facing all conservation organizations
- A better understanding of private land programs for grassland retention offered by various local, State, and Federal agencies.
- Awareness of new and changing programs/issues impacting prairie and grassland stewardship.
- A greater ability for participants to deliver a complete package of prairie and grassland stewardship options when working with private landowners.

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

Gustavus Small Turbine Installation

On January 24th, Gustavus Adolphus College held a dedication for the installation of a small wind turbine (45 feet tall) funded by the National Science Foundation -

<http://homepages.gac.edu/~jdontje/GustavusSmallWindTurbineInstallation.htm>

USDA Gulf Course Ecosystem Initiative

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service is launching a water and wildlife conservation effort along the Gulf of Coast of the United States -

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/home>

Job Announcements:

WRC/MRB Internship Opportunities – Summer 2012

Hello colleagues, please see the attached announcements for two internship opportunities being offered this summer through the Water Resources Center and Minnesota River Board.

Your assistance in getting the word out to other faculty and potentially interested students would be greatly appreciated. Thank you – Shannon Fisher, Executive Director; Water Resources Center and Minnesota River Board

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

Program Director

The Organic Field School at Gardens of Eagan is seeking an individual to serve as program director. This individual will:

- Increase visibility and effectiveness of the organization
- Fundraise immediately to find permanent funding for this position and to fund activities that carry out the mission of the organization.
- Manage and carry out program/project work currently underway
- Administer grants by providing oversight of workplans, invoicing, and budgets; and communicating with partner organizations
- Report to and coordinate with the volunteer board
- Perform administrative duties
- Provide leadership for outreach activities working with Board Secretary on the calendar of events and posting information on the website.

The successful applicant will have a commitment to organic agriculture. S/he must have strong interpersonal and communication skills, proven grant writing skills, as well as a well-developed sense of self-direction. Individuals with experience working in agriculture are encouraged to apply.

This position represents the sole staff member of OFS, is part-time, and funded for approximately 6 months. The successful applicant will be expected to immediately begin fundraising to cover a portion of wage and program funds for continuation of the position beyond six months. The Program Director will be expected to work from her/his home and provide her/his own computer and car. The successful applicant will live within a 100 mile radius of the Twin Cities.

The Organic Field School at Gardens of Eagan is a 501 (c) 3 educational organization dedicated to transforming our food and farming systems by providing organic and ecologically based, practical education and research to farmers and to teaching the benefits and values of ecological and organic farming systems to the public.

Visit the OFS website at www.organicfieldschool.org for more information about our organization. To apply please send a resume and cover letter to Atina Diffley, OFS Secretary, 25498 Highview Ave. Farmington, MN 55024 on or before Feb. 10. For more information, contact Linda Halley at linda@gardensofeagan.com

Paid Internships available at Laughing Loon Farm

Laughing Loon Farm (www.laughingloonfarm.com) will be hiring several interns for the 2012 season. To apply, email your resume and cover letter (include your story, a favorite recipe and a good joke!) *in PDF format* to dayna@laughingloonfarm.com. Applications will be reviewed as they are accepted, so don't delay!

Laughing Loon Farm is a small-scale, diversified farm located 1 mile south of Northfield, MN. We use [sustainable methods](#) to grow vegetables, flowers, and microgreens for [over 20 restaurants and cafes](#) in Northfield and the Twin Cities area. Laughing Loon is seeking 3 interns for the 2012 growing season—1 for the entire season (mid-March through November) and 2 for the summer (May through early September).

This internship will be a good fit for someone who is excited about performing physical labor, learning all aspects of sustainable vegetable farming, and bringing special skills and talents to the operation. Specific responsibilities will vary depending on the time of year and will include caring for our wide variety of crops, harvesting and delivering, implementing season extension techniques, planning farm events, and updating our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts as well as our blog.

The farming season is heavily dependent on the weather and so are the start and end dates for the full

season intern, but it will be approximately mid-March through around Thanksgiving. The two summer interns will begin in May and finish in early September, but accommodations for a flexible start date may be made in the case of an exceptional candidate. The work schedule will also vary. Before harvesting begins in the spring, we'll work Monday through Friday, generally 9am to 5pm with a 30-45 minute lunch break. Once harvesting begins, we'll work Sunday afternoon/evenings and Monday through Thursday, with occasional work on Friday and Saturdays. Hours will vary depending on the weather and tasks. The bottom line: we value flexibility! Stipend is \$7.25 per hour (subject to taxes).

Experience and Skills

- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds repeatedly, wake up early, and do physical labor in occasionally inclement weather
- Interest in sustainable agriculture as a vocation
- Excellent communication skills, good attitude, and pleasant demeanor
- Be self-directed and reliable
- Possess a valid drivers license

To apply, email your resume and cover letter (include your story, a favorite recipe and a good joke!) **in PDF format** to dayna@laughingloonfarm.com. Applications will be reviewed as they are accepted, so don't delay!

Native Mussel Research Internship – 2012

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Stream Habitat Program may be filling up to 8 student intern positions to assist with mussel surveys, monitoring, host identification, and propagation of endangered species. Positions will be based in St. Paul or Lake City, Minnesota but will travel statewide. Start is somewhat flexible, but is expected to begin by May 16, or soon thereafter, and continue to at least August 26 (POSSIBLY extending through mid-October). Applications must be completed online by February 5, 2012.

Duties include:

- Diving in large rivers such as the Mississippi and St. Croix
- Sample mussels in streams, rivers and lakes while snorkeling or diving
- Quantitatively sample mussel beds to establish long-term monitoring stations
- Assist with endangered mussel and reintroduction activities
- Assist with mussel host identification and propagation studies
- Collect and maintain live native fishes
- Operate GPS receiver and light microscope (maintain and organize field and SCUBA equipment)
- Prepare and label voucher specimens
- Operate state vehicle; tow and launch boat

For more information and how to apply, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/musselresearchinternship.pdf>

Mussel Research Lab-Tech Internship

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources may be filling 1 part-time (26 hours/week) student intern position to assist with laboratory studies on the life history of native freshwater mussels. Up to 7 days a week, exact hours are flexible but more hours are anticipated on Mondays and Thursdays. Position will be at the DNR Central Office in St. Paul, Minnesota. Start date is somewhat flexible, but is expected to begin by May 1, or soon thereafter, and continue to at least August 31 (POSSIBLY extending through mid October). Deadline to apply is February 8, 2012

Assist with laboratory studies on the life history of native freshwater mussels. Duties will include Fish husbandry, maintenance of more than 20 aquaria. This will include monitoring water quality and cleaning filters. Monitoring fish health, including treatment of sick fish and a proper feeding schedule. This internship will also include assisting with mussel host suitability studies, recording daily lab activities and trial data along with field collection of native fishes. Up to 7 days a week, exact hours are flexible but most hours are anticipated on Mondays and Thursdays. Field collection of native fishes.

For more information and how to apply, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/musselresearchlabtech.pdf>

OEM Positions

USDA's Office of Environmental Markets (OEM) is recruiting to fill some much needed slots and has posted two vacancy announcements. The first is for an Environmental Markets Analyst to lead activities and initiatives of the ad hoc interdepartmental Chesapeake Bay Environmental Markets Team and to support the analysis of market trends, registries and protocols used in trading for water quality and related markets on a national scale. The second is for a Natural Resource Specialist to assist in the preparation of technical water quality performance guidelines for environmental markets and to evaluate options for facilitating environmental markets for agriculture. The vacancy announcements can be found at the following weblinks.

- Environmental Markets Analyst: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/306538800>
- Natural Resource Specialist: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/306786000>

Trail Staff, Internships and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains

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

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

Please distribute the following announcement flyers as you see fit:

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

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

Farm Internship

Fresh Earth Farms (www.FreshEarthFarms.com) is a Community Supported Agriculture farm located just east of the Twin Cities (south of Afton). We are seeking an enthusiastic person to assist in the laborious, never-ending task of supplying fresh, wholesome vegetables to our CSA members.

The ideal candidate will have: An overwhelming interest in sustainable agriculture; The ability to lift 50 lbs – over and over and over and over again; Experience in farming or farm related work; The ability to work independently; An enthusiastic attitude; Boundless energy; The desire to hoe vegetables for hours at a time; An interest in crawling around in the dirt; A sense of humor; Raincoat and Mud boots

The position starts in mid-April and ends at the end of October. This is a part time position: 2 to 4 days per week (Monday – Friday). Work days during the spring are dependent on the weather. Once harvesting starts in mid-June you will be expected to work at a minimum Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 to 3:30. Additional days may be added depending on workload.

This is a paid position. We do not provide housing though we are a convenient commute from the Twin Cities (20 minutes east of downtown St. Paul). This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to experience farming while maintaining some level of sanity. There will be many educational opportunities while hoeing, harvesting and washing produce.

To apply: send a resume or similar document with a cover letter explaining how you would fit into our organization to: chris@freshearthfarms.com

Fresh Earth Farms is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a darn good place to work.

Grant Opportunities:

Minnesota River Board 2012 Programs Grant

Hello Minnesota River Basin partners! The Minnesota River Board is pleased to release the 2012 Programs Grant application. Individual grants are available for up to \$3,000 and we have a total of \$9,000 available again this year. The application and details can be viewed under "Notices" at www.minnesotariver.org. The application deadline is February 29, 2012. I've attached a list of previous grant recipients at the bottom of this message. I welcome you to contact me with any questions; Susan D.G. Carlin; Minnesota River Board; 135 Trafton Science Center South; Mankato, MN 56001; 507-389-6279

2011 Recipients:

1. Friends of the Minnesota Valley	Conservation Drainage Outreach Program	\$1,500
2. Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District	Community Engagement in the Pell Creek Watershed	\$1,000
3. Southwest Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees, Area V	Educational Fair for Fifth and Sixth Graders	\$3,000
4. Scott County Clean Water Education Program	Turf Maintenance for Reduced Environmental Impacts	\$1,200
5. Rural Advantage	Our Environment Series: 2011	\$2,300

2010 Recipients:

1. Chippewa Soil & Water Conservation District	Chippewa SWCD Conservation Field Days	\$1,700
2. Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Testing Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin	\$3,000
3. Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River	Working Together for the Minnesota River	\$3,000
4. Clean Up the River Environment	Annual River and History Weekend & River Signage	\$1,300

Events:

February 2nd (Thursday) is a **Showing of the documentary: *River Revival – Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*** at 7:00 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 North Broadway Street). ["River Revival" tells the story of the Minnesota River Basin from its geological origins to the present day. Through the seasons and throughout the basin, the documentary examines the river's many pollution problems and highlights the efforts of people from all walks of life – academics, farmers, natural resource professionals, anglers, homeowners, students, paddlers, politicians and citizen activists – to restore the river. John Hickman, Executive Producer of River Revival will be on hand to share his insights of making the documentary and answer questions. For more information contact Kris Wiley at 507-359-8334 or \[kwiley@tds.lib.mn.us\]\(mailto:kwiley@tds.lib.mn.us\)](#)

February 7th (Tuesday) is the **[AIS Training for Lake Service Providers](#)** from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at AmericInn In Mankato. This is mandatory statewide AIS training and permitting for people who install and remove water recreation equipment as required by new state laws passed in 2011. Please find training directions, additional details and all of the statewide training dates/locations on the [Minnesota Waters' website](#).

February 8th (Wednesday) is the **[Hawk Creek Watershed Project Information and Appreciation Public Meeting](#)** from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Kandi Entertainment Center (500 19th Avenue SE) in Willmar. Presentations relating to Water Quality and Water Management will be discussed. Presentations are: "Hawk Creek Watershed Project Update," "Whose Problem Is It Anyway? An Upstream and Downstream Conversation About Water," "More Erosive Rivers: Consequences and Drivers," and "Biological Implications of Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Implications for Wildlife & Human Health." Continuing Education Credits for Certified Crop Advisors are Pending. A Free Noon Meal will be provided to those who reserve their spot by February 3rd by calling 320-523-3666.

February 11th (Saturday) is the **[Clean Up the River Environment \(CURE\) Annual Meeting](#)** at the Hollywood Theater (Main Street) in Montevideo from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. (meal served at 6:30 p.m.). Speakers include Scott Sparlin, founder of the clean up the Minnesota River movement; Dennis Frederickson, DNR Region 4 Commissioner; and Jon Olson, Board of the directors of the Mississippi Market Food Co-Op in St. Paul. Malena Handeen will be joined by artists and musicians from throughout the state to put on a special show. Cost of the meeting is \$25 per person if you register by February 7th (includes local foods banquet, door prizes and entertainment). Cost of registration after February 7th will be \$30. To reserve a spot, mail in your reservations (117 South 1st Street; Montevideo, MN 56265), call Dixie Tilden at 1-877-269-2873 or email cure@cureriver.org. For more information, http://www.curemnriver.org/events.html#annual_meeting

March 4th – 7th (Sunday – Wednesday) is the **[Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium](#)** at the Holiday Inn Metrodome in Minneapolis sponsored by the Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest. To register and for more information, <http://prsum.org/content/registration>. The registration deadline in January 27, 2012.

March 19th (Monday) is the **[Minnesota River Board Meeting](#)** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall (920 East 10th Street) in Fairmont. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

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

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

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

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

[Environmental/Conservation Articles:](#)

150 years later, war's wounds still cut deep (Minneapolis Star Tribune) - <http://www.startribune.com/local/138264074.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#conti>. Minnesota is divided on how best to commemorate the U.S. – Dakota War, which left hundreds dead and ended in the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

[DNR takes over wolf management; will set rules for hunt](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Barring any last-minute lawsuits today, Minnesota takes over management of wolves in the state.

[Minn. DNR releases more details about wolf hunt](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Just two days before the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources takes over management of the wolf, it has announced more details about the states planned wolf hunt.

[New map for what to plant reflects global warming](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Global warming is hitting not just home, but garden. The color-coded map of planting zones often seen on the back of seed packets is being updated by the government, illustrating a hotter 21st century.

[Water certification program has more questions than answers](#) (AgriNews). Minnesota's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has people talking.

[Cities not so sure about farm-runoff pilot](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota's cities threw an elbow at farmers today, suggesting that a pilot program to encourage farmers to curb water pollution actually leaves cities bearing an unfair burden to clean up rivers.

[MN: DNR, PCA face deep budget cuts](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). State General Fund support for agencies like the DNR and Pollution Control Agency would be sliced under budget proposals set to be voted upon earlier this week.

[Plan merges BWSR with Dept. of Ag](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). As part of a plan to reform state government, House Republicans are considering an idea to merge the Board of Water and Soil Resources with the state Department of Agriculture.

[Minnesota is now in the wolf management business](#) (MinnPost). Just like you and me, gray wolves now have the State of Minnesota looking out for them.

[Carver County to inspect boats for zebra mussels](#) (Associated Press). The DNR is trying to stop the spread of this invasive species by increasing its own inspections at boat landings and on roads, but Steve Gunther, president of the Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association, said the state can't do it alone.

[U professor proposes invasive species center](#) (Minnesota Daily). The center would study species like Asian carp, which have been detected in Minnesota waters recently.

[Bill limiting land use moratoriums to get hearing](#) (Associated Press). A bill that would limit the ability of Minnesota counties, cities and townships to impose moratoriums on land use decisions is alive again in the Legislature and scheduled for a hearing Thursday.

[Minnesota, North Dakota working to fix Lake Winnipeg dead zone](#) (Associated Press). Officials in the Red River Valley are trying to find a way to improve the health of a declining fishery in Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba.

[Lake Winnipeg's dead zone expanding](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota, North Dakota and Manitoba are planning to work together to fix an expanding dead zone in Lake Winnipeg.

Humankind, no matter how sophisticated or technical, owes its entire existence to a few inches of topsoil and the fact that it rains. – Author unknown

[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.

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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[Scott](#)

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