

Minnesota Water Stories

"Minnesota Water Stories" is a new feature of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Web site, with videos of people working to protect and restore our lakes, streams and rivers.

A new segment recently added to "Minnesota Water Stories" tells of the efforts of two farms, Schroeder dairy near New Ulm, and the Steve Madsen farm near Morton.

John and Jason Schroeder represent the fifth and sixth generations on the family farm, where they milk 60 registered Holsteins, raise breeding bulls, and farm 325 acres just outside of Courtland, north of Highway 14 between New Ulm and Mankato. They received cost-share to help finance about \$91,000 in improvements. The work included a waste storage basin, stormwater control structures, and other open lot improvements.

A lifelong Renville County farmer, Steve Madsen raises corn and soybeans on 1,000 acres of his 1,100-acre farm. The balance, about 100 acres, has been strategically planted in tree windbreaks and shelterbelts, and prairie grasses. It's a mixture of native prairie grasses and flowers, planted between cropland and the edge of the bluff that plunges down into the Minnesota River valley. Enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, its purpose is to provide a buffer between cultivated cropland and the river, capturing and filtering storm water runoff, preventing it from delivering sediment and nutrients from cropland that degrade water quality in lakes, streams and rivers.

To see the [Minnesota Water Stories](#) video, go to www.pca.state.mn.us and search for Water Stories.

Join Rural Advantage at Farmfest

The first week of August in Minnesota means heat, humidity, and Farmfest. Join Rural Advantage and other exhibitors August 3-5, 2010. Tuesday and Wednesday hours are from 8am to 5pm while Thursday hours are 8am to 4pm. Admission is \$10 for adults with children 18 years and under free. Find Rural Advantage on the South side of the Ag Tents, exhibit number 4608. Find out about the latest Rural Advantage events and catch up on the newest 3rd Crop information.

For more information on Farmfest, please see the Cygnus Farm Shows website (www.farmshows.com).

DIRECTIONS:

Gilfillan Estates - 28366 Co. Hwy. 13 - Morgan, MN 56266; From Redwood Falls, MN: Follow Hwy 67 East. Show site on left.

From Morgan, MN: Follow Hwy 67 West. Show site on right. From Jackpot Junction/Morton, MN: Follow Hwy 13 South. Show site on right. ***The Ag Tents are located between Entrance 2 and Entrance 3 North of the seed plots.***

High Temperatures Can Bring Harmful Algal Blooms

When the summer sun shines and temperatures climb, conditions are ripe for Minnesota lakes to produce harmful algal blooms. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is again reminding people that some blue-green algae can harm pets, livestock and even people.

Algae are microscopic aquatic plants and are a natural part of any aquatic ecosystem. Under the right conditions, some forms of algae can become harmful. Blue-green (cyanobacterial) algal blooms may contain toxins or other noxious chemicals that can pose harmful health risks. People or animals may become sick if exposed to these blooms. In extreme cases, dogs and other animals have died after exposure to lake water containing these toxins.

“High rainfall resulting in nutrient-rich runoff entering our lakes and fuels the growth of algae. As sunlight increases and temperatures warm, we can anticipate blooms of blue-green algae on many of our lakes,” said MPCA lakes expert Steve Heiskary. Heiskary is a member of an interagency work group that’s spreading the word that blue-green algae should be avoided. “When in doubt, best keep out,” advises a poster the group has distributed around the state.

Most algae blooms are harmless, however blue-green algae, when present in high concentrations, can produce toxins. Blue-green algae are found throughout Minnesota, but thrive particularly in warm, shallow, nutrient-rich lakes. Often occurring on downwind shorelines, it is in these blooms that humans and animals most often come in contact with blue-green algae and where the risk of algal toxins is greatest.

There is no visual way to predict if a blue-green algal bloom contains toxins and is harmful to humans or animals, and distinguishing blue-green algae from other types may be difficult for non-experts. But harmful blooms are sometimes said to look like pea soup, green paint or floating mats of scum.

They often smell bad as well. “You don’t have to be an expert to recognize water that might have a harmful algae bloom,” Heiskary said. “If it looks bad and smells bad, it’s probably best not to take chances with it.”

Humans are not affected very often, probably because the unpleasant appearance and odors of a blue-green algal bloom tend to keep people out of the water. But human health effects can include irritation of skin, eyes and nasal passages, and nausea and vomiting. Extreme cases can produce paralysis and respiratory failure.

An animal that has ingested toxins from an algae bloom can show a variety of symptoms, ranging from skin irritation or vomiting, severe disorders involving the circulatory, nervous and digestive systems, and severe skin lesions. In worst cases, the animal may suffer convulsions and die.

These factors make it important to take a preventative approach to dealing with potential harmful algal blooms. There are currently no short-term solutions to correct a blue-green algal bloom. Once a bloom occurs, the only option available is to wait for weather changes, such as significant rainfall, wind shifts or cooler temperatures, to disrupt the algae’s growth. The key to solving algae problems long-term is to improve water quality by decreasing the amount of nutrients that runoff carries into lakes.

For more information about harmful algae blooms, go to www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html or call 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-386

MATAPS Open House Next Week

Dear Mankato area residents and stakeholders: Next week, there will be an Open House to present draft recommendations of the Mankato Area Planning and Transportation Study (MATAPS). Both technical analysis and public input were important to the development of these draft recommendations. We hope to have your continued input as we discuss the future of the area’s multi-modal transportation system.

MATAPS Open House: Tuesday July 27th, 2010; 4:30-6:30 pm; Best Western Hotel, North Mankato US 169 at Webster

Below is a link to a flyer for the event. Please post or forward to those you think might be interested. www.mataps.com/documents/MATAPS%20open%20house%20flyer.pdf

Help Cure Go International

CURE has an opportunity to earn \$100 for every Foreign Exchange Student we help to place in a Minnesota River Watershed home between now and July 31, 2010.

If you have always wanted to open up your home to student from another country, now is your chance!

John White of Clara City, one of the longest serving CURE Board members, is also the man responsible for placing exchange students in many homes in this region through the [Foundation for Foreign Study](#) or "EF" as we call it.

John and his crew of regional leaders are seeking to place 20 students in the next two weeks and they are willing to pay CURE for any lead that ends up in a successful placement.

So pass this e-mail along to any potential host family you may know from Ortonville to New Ulm, from Willmar to Marshall and all points in between.

Interested families should e-mail John at: jsjawwhite@yahoo.com

When you get your student, you can plan on taking part in our Annual Rivers and History Weekend in May 2011 where students from more than 18 countries experience the beauty of the Minnesota River Watershed!

Researchers find pollutant from hand soap in Lake Pepin

by [Stephanie Hemphill](#), Minnesota Public Radio; May 18, 2010

St. Paul, Minn. — University of Minnesota researchers have found dioxins derived from a common additive to hand soap, in Mississippi River sediments.

Triclosan is added to soaps and other consumer products as an antibacterial agent. It breaks down in water and sunlight into forms of dioxin that are building up in the environment, even as other forms of dioxin are declining. Dioxins, compounds that act as pollutants, are one cause of fish consumption advisories in Minnesota.

The researchers showed in earlier studies that the antibacterial agent, triclosan, breaks down in the environment to form specific types of dioxins. Now they've found both triclosan and its breakdown products in the mud of Lake Pepin.

People can avoid using soap with triclosan added, said William Arnold, a civil engineering professor.

"It takes a persistent shopper because I think 75 percent of liquid hand soaps contain triclosan, so you've got to go through the aisles and read the labels," Arnold said. "It's not a compound we need, and I think very often people don't realize the chemicals they're using ... may wind up somewhere else."

The Food and Drug Administration is launching a study of triclosan, which has been linked to disruptions of hormonal function and may also contribute to the formation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

The [study](#) was published in the Journal Environmental Science and Technology.

Job Postings:

Environmental Communications Director

Development and Communications Director: The DDC will be responsible for keeping the organization

focused on accomplishing an ambitious resource development plan, with a goal of doubling revenue by 2015. This person will also work with the Trust's leadership team to design and implement a comprehensive communication's plan, elements of which include outreach about grant opportunities, reporting about the accomplishments of the Trust and its grantees, and social marketing aimed at increasing Bay stewardship.

Click the link to download the [environmental communications director](#) position description.

Rice Creek Watershed District Administrator Position

The Rice Creek Watershed District seeks qualified applicants to fill the position of District Administrator. Competitive starting salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. The position reports to a five-member Board of Managers appointed by the Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington County Boards.

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

Environmental Communications Associate

Communications Associate. The Communications Associate will play an important role in communicating the Trust's mission and activities to diverse and growing audiences. Focus areas include: web content creation and management, newsletter production, email outreach to constituents, media outreach, mailing and email list management, desktop publishing, graphic design, and coordination and staffing of outreach events.

Click the link to download the [environmental communications associate](#) position description.

Farm Manager

The Entrepreneurial Center for Horticulture at Dakota College in Bottineau is currently seeking a Farm Manager for their program. For more information visit <http://www.dakotacollege.edu/ech.shtml>

Conservation Engineer

The purpose of this position is to provide engineering assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) that are members of Joint Powers Board (JPB). The engineering assistance is typically utilized for the construction of eligible best management practices (BMPs) that protect and conserve water and soil resources. The position exists to provide member SWCDs engineering assistance in order to meet their program needs in the area of nonpoint source pollution abatement. The position holder serves as a project engineer providing a wide range of technical assistance and leadership for evaluation, design, and construction of eligible BMPs. The position holder will at times work as a team member with conservation partners; specifically member SWCDs, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to accomplish this goal.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/engineerposition.pdf> or click on the attachment to this email titled "Engineer Position".

Regional Professional Development Program Coordinator

The PDP coordinator is responsible to the NCR-SARE Administrative Council, in cooperation and coordination with the SARE regional director, who is located at the University of Minnesota. The PDP coordinator provides leadership for the professional development effort.

For more information about the position,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/regionaldevelopmentcoordinator.pdf>

St. Paul Office USDA Risk Management Agency Position Open

The RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA) promotes, supports, and regulates sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers by providing crop insurance to American producers, developing the premium rate, administering premium and expense subsidy, approving and supporting products, and reinsuring companies.

Risk Management Agency is an exciting and rewarding place to start, build and/or continue your career. Be part of our team and support the well-being of American agriculture and the American public. Take part in delivering these essential and critical programs as a Risk Management Specialist planning and executing claims administration, program delivery and information dissemination. As a team member located in one of our USDA Risk Management Regional Offices, you will receive both classroom and on-the-job training intended to further develop your talent, skills, and abilities to successfully identify or recognize the concepts related to agricultural science risk management and statistical analysis.

Risk Management Agency's diverse culture and benefits allow for a healthy balance between your career and home life. In addition to a generous salary, RMA offers a friendly and professional working environment with a diverse workforce, flexible hours/work schedules, and other family-friendly benefits such as: paid vacation and sick leave, paid holidays, retirement and supplemental savings plan, a wide array of health, dental, vision, and life insurance plans, flexible spending accounts, and long-term care insurance. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cipriskmanagementspecialist.pdf>

Respond to the USAJOBS posting at: GS-1101-9/11/12

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=89102002&JobTitle=RISK+MANAGEMENT+SPECIALIST%2c+GS-1101-9%2f11%2f12&q=risk+management&where=55101&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=0&y=0&AVSDM=2010-07-08+00%3a03%3a00>

Respond to the USAJOBS posting at: GS-1101-5/7

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=89179633&JobTitle=RISK+MANAGEMENT+SPECIALIST%2c+GS-1101-5%2f7&q=risk+management&where=55101&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=0&y=0&AVSDM=2010-07-08+00%3a03%3a00>

NR Program Consultant

The Clean Water Program Consultant position exists to help plan, lead, and coordinate the work of the new combined division of Ecological Resources and Waters that is funded by the Clean Water portion of the Legacy Amendment appropriations. Those duties include working cooperatively with the division's Regional Managers to provide guidance and direction to four Regional Clean Water Specialists and other regional staff who contribute to Clean Water work, to provide guidance, direction, and support to DNR's Clean Water Coordination Committee, to help link and coordinate DNR's work efforts in the Clean Water arena with the other state agencies and local partners participating in that effort, and to support DNR's role on the Governor's Clean Water Council.

For more information visit

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/0574894f02c9506c87efafe1485b0d6b/Results>

Events:

July 29th and 30th (Thursday and Friday) is **Morris Renewable Energy**. Visit several renewable energy operations and have some good conversations about the science and economics behind these production systems. For those near the Twin Cities, bus transportation to and from our starting point of Morris will be available. For more information call Joel Tallaksen at 320-589-1711 or email him at tall0007@umn.edu.

July 29th (Thursday) is **Ecosystem Services in the Greater Blue Earth**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Mountain Lake, MN. A field day devoted to ecosystem services and markets. Attendees will hear about the development of CMM, visit a CMM demonstration site, and learn more about ecosystem services and market-based opportunities in the Greater Blue Earth and Minnesota River Watersheds. For more information contact Brooke Hacker at 507-345-4744 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 30th (Friday) is **Moths at Midnight** from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Learn about moths and observing

them.

For more information call Molly Stoddard at 218-998-4486 or email her at molly_stoddard@fws.gov

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 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 crops 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 Park 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 18th (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=9307>

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 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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Hot? Open a window. Open up to the world.](#) (Star Tribune). When I was growing up, air conditioning was for the rich. Since I did not grow up in a wealthy family, that meant no air conditioner for us.

[Path to a lasting legacy?](#) (Star Tribune). Combine the chance to spend \$35 million a year to improve parks and trails with Minnesotans' love of the outdoors and here's what you get: hefty crowds, in one case more than 100 people, for meetings to talk about how Legacy Amendment money should be spent.

[Legislators seek higher returns from school trust lands](#) (MinnPost). The state of Minnesota has 2.5 million-acre of land in a permanent school trust that provides investment money for the state's schools, but some legislators are looking for ways to earn even more.

[Wildlife protection: Light sentences here hurt efforts in Laos](#) (Star Tribune). American farmers are looking for all the support that they can get. A good place to start would be more fans.

[The greenhorn and the green thumb: Midseason](#) (Star Tribune). Gardeners grow all along the learning curve. Some are rookies, just trying to keep a few plants alive.

[Long-term environmental implications of the gulf oil spill](#) (MPR). A global ecology expert explains what is happening with the latest ecological disaster and what lessons can be learned from it.

[Milfoil letter misleading](#) (Star Tribune). The July 2 story "Curses, milfoil again" stated that milfoil has turned out to be "valuable habitat for fish."

[Basilica Block Party rocked \(except for trashing the lawn\)](#) (Star Tribune). Thanks to all involved with the Basilica Block Party.

[Turning scraps to soil](#) (Star Tribune). Every Friday morning in St. Paul's Macalester-Groveland neighborhood, Sonya Ewert is on the move. For two hours, she hauls a trailer by bicycle to collect smelly and sometimes juicy food waste from curbsides for composting.

[International Bicycle Film Festival begins Thursday](#) (MinnPost). When Brendt Barbur was hit by a bus riding his bike in New York City in early 2001, he decided people had to start seeing bicycles, or at least films about them. So Barbur founded the International Bicycle Film Festival.

[DNR restructures in hopes of better water protection](#) (MPR). The state Department of Natural Resources is merging two of its divisions, a change the agency says will result in better protection for the states lakes

and rivers.

[Fast river, fun fishing on the Croix](#) (Star Tribune). Had the weatherman been correct in his forecast, Sunday would not have been a good fishing day.

[As Minnesota's farm population ages, new farm bill seeks to lure young farmers](#) (MinnPost). Looking out at over 800 acres of wheat and soybeans in south central Minnesota, Matt Wolle sees a "graying industry" that's failing to draw in young, new farmers.

[Youth Farm & Market Project's gardens bloom -- and enrich the lives of urban children](#) (MinnPost). It's not unusual to see children splashing in lakes and pools this time of year, but on St. Paul's West Side, they're also romping through gardens yanking out weeds and harvesting onions and basil.

[Stillwater / DNR project will begin at Boomsite](#) (Pioneer Press). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin work on a vegetation restoration project at the historic St. Croix Boomsite north of Stillwater this month.

[Building a house that heats, powers itself](#) (MPR). Nearly one-fourth of the energy used in the U.S. is used in our homes.

[The Gulf oil spill: Will the lessons learned be lost?](#) (MPR). As BP works to further contain the oil streaming into the Gulf of Mexico, scientists are trying to assess the wider environmental impact, and a presidential commission is trying to figure out what went wrong.

[Great Lakes states step up pressure on Obama to stop Asian carp](#) (MinnPost). Federal officials are not moving swiftly enough to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes, say critics of the Obama administration's plan to ensure the evasive species, recently found near Lake Michigan, is stopped.

[Laurie Olin to speak on parks for 21st century](#) (MinnPost). The [Minneapolis Parks Foundation](#)'s summer series, "[The Next Generation of Parks](#)," continues tonight with a presentation by Laurie Olin, teacher, author, and founding principal of [OLIN](#), one of America's leading landscape architecture firms. His topic: "Finding Lost Spaces."

[Why Obama is putting so much stock in battery technology](#) (MinnPost). President Obama's trip Thursday to just such a plant in Holland, Mich., was his fourth automotive-battery-focused stop since being elected.

[Tension rises at Hmong farm](#) (Star Tribune). With beads of sweat trickling down his face and the sun beating down on his back, Boua Chao Xiong spends many days on his hands and knees yanking potatoes and other produce from the dirt.

[St. Thomas Prof. John Abraham in royal smackdown with global-warming denier Christopher Monckton](#) (MinnPost). In this case, the University of St. Thomas apparently isn't tooting its own horn about standing up for academic freedom and a mild-mannered thermal-engineering professor named [John Abraham](#). But St. Thomas and Abraham are getting lots of lauds in academic, environmental and scientific circles in cyberspace.

[Federal Open Fields funds may aid access program for outdoors people](#) (Pioneer Press). Minnesota's efforts to create a hunter walk-in access program could get a boost from Washington, D.C.

[DNR announces waterfowl hunting season](#) (Star Tribune). Minnesota's waterfowl hunting season will open at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced Monday.

[Minnesota crane hunt returning after 94 years](#) (Star Tribune). It's official: Minnesota will have a sandhill crane hunting season this fall for the first time in 94 years.

[Next time, Farmington wants citizen panel's advice on trees](#) (Pioneer Press). Sheri Speckman and her

husband, Eric, chose to live on Fifth Street in downtown Farmington in large part for the trees.

[James Lenfestey: The truth: Still there, still inconvenient](#) (Star Tribune). As 'Climategate' scientists are cleared, no doubt about warming remains.

[Green Economy - Needed: Scientific and policy breakthroughs](#) (Star Tribune). Matt Entenza claims ("Grow to greatness with clean energy," July 11) that wind, solar and biofuels "could power Minnesota (and our nation) cleanly and reliably, forever" and that this can be done "without increased spending."

[5 Great Lakes states sue feds over Asian carp](#) (MPR). Despite being rebuffed twice by the U.S. Supreme Court, five states filed suit Monday with a lower federal court demanding tougher federal and municipal action to prevent Asian carp from overrunning the Great Lakes and decimating their fishing industry.

[Dakota County / Ash borer threatens trees — and city budgets](#) (Pioneer Press). It's not just the ash trees affected as the emerald ash borer begins to spread through more metro communities.

[Blasts in Nashwauk loud but welcome noise as Essar builds steel plant](#) (MPR). For the first time in nearly 25 years, the Itasca County town of Nashwauk has been rattled by explosions this summer.

[Cell phone tower on edge of BWCA won't disrupt views, town officials say](#) (MinnPost). A proposed 450-foot-tall cell phone tower on the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area won't despoil the wilderness area, members of the Fall Lakes Township Board said this week.

[Committee recommends lottery money for loons, Lake Vermilion](#) (MPR). The new Lake Vermilion State Park could get a small chunk of money to improve access and develop trails, under a recommendation from the Legislative-Citizen Committee on Minnesota Resources.

[How do trail users spell relief? R-E-S-T-R-O-O-M](#) (Star Tribune). Despite its fast-growing popularity, the Dakota Rail Regional Trail -- offering scenic views from wetlands to stylish homes on Lake Minnetonka -- still is missing one important attribute.

[Lake Elmo horse trail decision has County Board skittish](#) (Star Tribune). A dispute over how horse owners enter Lake Elmo Park Reserve has Washington County scrambling to look at a broader policy governing neighborhoods that border county parks.

[Recycled road may lead to savings](#) (Mankato Free Press). Thumbs up: To Blue Earth County for considering road-surfacing alternatives that use materials that would otherwise end up in landfills.

[A mile marker for the African American cycling community](#) (MPR). Cyclists from across the country were in St. Paul this weekend for what's believed to be the first event of its kind: an African American-focused bike festival.

[Light rail must not be sidetracked](#) (Star Tribune). Every time you smack the furry critter with your mallet, another one pops up somewhere else.

[Suburban transit war of words heats up](#) (Star Tribune). The debate is growing over the cost and independence of suburban transit.

[Citizen's League: Individuals need incentive to work toward cleaner water](#) (MinnPost). During our [study on water governance](#) last year, I found a gem of a quote from a Citizens League [report](#) back in 1993: State lawmakers should embrace the view that the purpose of government is to design environments where individual citizens and institutions are systematically oriented to accomplish public purposes, and where they meet their own interests in the course of doing so.

[Aquatic weed frustrates Champlin](#) (Star Tribune). David Maretskiy was hoping to catch another northern

while fishing on the Mississippi River in Champlin Friday. Instead, he caught some coontail -- a rootless, floating weed.

[Food miles, Kowalski's and that steak on your plate](#) (MPR). Food miles are one thing. The amount of fuel used per pound of produce is something else.

[Mini farmers markets thrive in low-income Minneapolis neighborhoods](#) (MPR). Tim Page has broken up concrete, chased away woodchucks, and battled an overflowing sewer with one purpose in mind -- to create a farmers market to bring fresh produce to north Minneapolis residents.

[Seeds of destruction?](#) (MPR). Agriculture may have propelled us into modernity, but geneticist and anthropologist Spencer Wells argues in his new book that the move from hunting and gathering to farming has had downsides that we're just beginning to understand.

[Climate-Science Smackdown, Part 2: Prof. John Abraham wishes more scientists would take a stand](#) (MinnPost). What on earth possessed Prof. John Abraham to publicly challenge the claims of one of the planet's most-vocal global-warming skeptics and then see his academic reputation attacked on the air and in cyberspace?

[Wolves should be restored across more of US](#) (MPR). A conservation group is asking the federal government to come up with a plan to re-establish gray wolves across much of the U.S

[Feeding the deer](#) (Pioneer Press). I am responding to "Feeder of deer faces theft charges" (July 15).

[Wildlife refuge visitors center set to reopen](#) (Star Tribune). Stand at the overlook outside the Bloomington Visitors Center at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and you get a panoramic view of trees and water, sky and grass.

[How Obama wants to protect oceans: White House unveils new plan](#) (MinnPost). The White House Monday unveiled the nation's first national oceans policy, which intends to cut through a growing mish-mash of competing interests - from [offshore drilling](#) to fishing to shipping - and create a comprehensive, integrated stewardship approach toward oceans, coastal areas, and the Great Lakes.

[Debate emerges over oil drilling in the Great Lakes](#) (MPR). It may surprise you that one of the hot issues in the Wisconsin U.S. Senate race this year concerns drilling for oil in the Great Lakes. Putting the politics aside, this got us wondering if drilling for oil in the Great Lakes is a real possibility.

[Full blazes on going green](#) (Star Tribune). Eagan officials are celebrating their use of energy-saving features in a fire safety complex under construction -- and their project has already garnered prestigious national recognition.

[Loans offered to businesses to help offset light-rail disruption](#) (MPR). Small businesses along a future light-rail transit line linking St. Paul to Minneapolis have been calling on public officials for a plan to help them survive construction.

[Business loans to cushion light rail's effect on University Avenue](#) (Pioneer Press). After years of lobbying, business owners along University Avenue in St. Paul and Minneapolis learned Tuesday that they're getting the one thing they say could help them survive the turmoil of constructing the Central Corridor light-rail line: money.

[An effort to build on](#) (Pioneer Press). Big fights about the Central Corridor light-rail line — about whether it would happen — consumed a lot of energy.

[Raising an iron giant](#) (Pioneer Press). Milwaukee Road No. 261 has steamed more than a million miles since it rolled out of a factory in eastern New York state 66 years ago, but on Tuesday, it was the locomotive's trip of six feet — straight up — that made all the difference.

[Transit war of words heats up](#) (Star Tribune). The debate is growing over the cost and independence of suburban transit.

All water has a perfect memory and is forever trying to get back to where it was. - Toni Morrison

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,

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