

### **Minnesota Greencorps Accepting Host Site and Member Applications**

Saint Paul, Minn. -- MN GreenCorps, a statewide initiative to preserve and protect the environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals, is gearing up for a second year.

MN GreenCorps is an AmeriCorps program that was started in 2009 by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. It places AmeriCorps members with organizations around the state to help address environmental issues. First year hosts sites spanned the state and included cities, counties, school districts, universities and nonprofit organizations. GreenCorps is funded by ServeMinnesota and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

In the first year, MN GreenCorps included 18 full-time and four half-time members serving in communities around the state on topics including energy conservation, waste prevention, living green, local foods and urban forestry. The second year of the program will address these topics, while also branching out into additional activities to address air and water quality issues.

Goals of the program include reducing solid waste and increase recycling in Minnesota communities; reducing greenhouse gases and other air pollutants; reducing water runoff and improving water quality; and training new environmental professionals.

First year success stories include: a school that tripled its recycling collection; an inventory of more than 5,000 trees that will assist cities with urban forest management; and data from 197 buildings entered into Building, Benchmarks and Beyond database, which tracks energy use in public buildings across the state. In addition, a number of energy conservation technologies/practices were implemented at host sites including lighting audits and installation of vending misers.

“Our GreenCorps members have served a critical role in our organization by educating staff and the public and raising awareness of sustainability within our organization. Their contributions have provided a solid base for future efforts and initiatives. It has been a wonderful experience,” said Judy McDowell of the Three Rivers Park District in Hennepin County.

MN GreenCorps is recruiting new host sites and members to begin in September 2010. Applications are due July 8, 2010. For more information on GreenCorps, please contact Stephanie Souter at [stephanie.souter@state.mn.us](mailto:stephanie.souter@state.mn.us) or visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/mngreencorps](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mngreencorps).

### **Conservation Drainage Sessions set for June 16, 22, 23 at 3 locations in the Minnesota River Watershed**

If you are an agricultural producer, ditch and tile contractor, watershed professional, elected official or a citizen interested in clean water, you will have the opportunity to learn about the very latest drainage technology design which has the ability to save ground water, reduce rural runoff to local waterways, improve tile drain water quality and potentially increase crop yields. The terms conservation and drainage may seem to be at opposite ends of management approaches when dealing with runoff coming from our lands. But recently these two important and needed components of land management have come together to form a new innovative technology and approach. This approach has the potential to benefit crops and water quality and may significantly improve our Minnesota River Watershed. The public is invited to attend the events in their area and learn more about this exciting way of water management. Experts who have been working on the development of this concept along with those who have been involved with it for several years will be on hand to provide an overview and answer questions from the public.

Three sessions are set with the first being at the LeSueur County Environmental Services Center in LeCenter located at 515 South Maple Ave on Wednesday June 16<sup>th</sup>. Session No. 2 will be in Arlington at the Arlington Community Center located at 204 Shamrock Drive on Tuesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The third session will be in Redwood Falls at the Redwood Falls Community Center located at 901 East Cook St. on

Wednesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. All sessions begin at 7 P.M. and end at 8:30 P.M. There is no charge and free refreshments will be available.

Rural Advantage is a nonprofit corporation based in Fairmont, Minnesota. Their mission is to promote the connections between agriculture, the environment and rural communities in order to improve ecological health, economic viability and rural vitality. Their work centers around efforts to reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution with major programming focused on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Initiative, ECoPayPack development and building the Madelia Model concept. Contact them at 507.238.5449 or visit their website at [www.ruraladvantage.org](http://www.ruraladvantage.org) for more information.

### **MPCA to Begin Fieldwork Throughout Minnesota**

Brainerd, Minn. -- Monitoring crews are beginning the third year of a 10-year effort to assess the condition of rivers, streams and lakes in Minnesota. This work is being funded by the Clean Water Legacy Act, passed by the Legislature in 2006.

The majority of the monitoring activities will focus on watersheds. There are 81 major watersheds in Minnesota. Each watershed is comprised of a network of largely interconnected streams, lakes and wetlands. The intent of this monitoring effort is to develop a complete picture of the conditions of the various water body types within each watershed.

The monitoring in rivers and streams will be carried out primarily by two biological monitoring units. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) biological monitoring staff is divided into a north team located in Brainerd and a south team in St. Paul. This summer, the north team will work in the watersheds of the Big Fork River, Crow Wing River and the Bois de Sioux/Mustinka Rivers. The south team will work in the watersheds of the Minnesota River near Granite Falls, and the Mississippi River near Winona, and the Twin Cities.

In addition to the work in these watersheds, crews will be sampling 150 sites picked at random to determine the state-wide condition of streams, and condition trends over time. The MPCA will also finish sampling on 116 Minnesota River basin sites originally sampled in the early 1990s to see if the biological condition has improved.

The stream monitoring is designed to measure and evaluate the condition of rivers and streams by studying their biology including fish, aquatic invertebrates and plant life, as well as habitat and water chemistry. Examples of aquatic invertebrates include insect larvae, crayfish, snails, small clams, worms and leeches. Stream water chemistry is monitored to provide information about the quality of the water in which these fish and invertebrates are living.

Lake monitoring crews will sample more than 50 lakes in the same watersheds. The lake monitoring teams will focus on nutrient concentrations and other water chemistry parameters to assess lakes for their ability to support recreational uses. In addition to the MPCA crews, several local partners will assist with stream and lake monitoring, funded by MPCA grants, in these watersheds.

There are certain expectations for what the biology and water chemistry should look like at a given sampling location. If actual samples differ significantly from those expectations, the sampling location could be considered impaired. If that happens, the MPCA would look more closely at what could be causing impairments and find ways to correct the problem.

In addition to these watershed activities, other MPCA monitoring teams will track water quality trends at major rivers, and work with the Department of Natural Resources to establish permanent flow and water quality sampling stations at the outlets of most major watersheds in Minnesota. The MPCA also relies on a large contingent of volunteers and local partners statewide to collect water quality data on lakes and streams, which is used to assess water quality.

For more information about the MPCA's condition monitoring program activities, visit [www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-monitoring-and-reporting/water-quality-and-pollutants/water-quality-condition-monitoring/water-quality-condition-monitoring.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-monitoring-and-reporting/water-quality-and-pollutants/water-quality-condition-monitoring/water-quality-condition-monitoring.html).

## Job Postings:

### **AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR, Agricultural Chemicals**

\$40,361 - \$59,195 annually

Location: Saint Paul

Closing Date: 06/16/2010

Posting Number: 10AGR000071

Job Description: To assist with the coordination and implementation of MDA's Pesticide Management Plan and related functions. This position will also be responsible for assisting with the coordination of appropriate staff within and outside the agency on the pesticide review process for products which require in-depth evaluation in conjunction with a state registration decision. Additionally, this position will develop materials and implement outreach programs designed to educate homeowners, lawn care industry professionals, and other non-agricultural users of fertilizers and pesticides about responsible lawn care, landscape management and structural protection.

More details on the job are available at <https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting>. Search under "Agriculture Dept." Applying for the position is straightforward and is done through the same site.

More information on the MDA Pesticide Management Program can be found at [www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticides](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticides).

## Events:

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday, Tuesday & Wednesday) is the **Conservation Drainage Sessions** at 3 locations in the Minnesota River Watershed. If you are an agricultural producer, ditch and tile contractor, watershed professional, etc. you will have the opportunity to learn about the very latest drainage technology design which has the ability to save ground water and many other things. Session 1: LeSueur County Environmental Services Center in LeSueur, MN. Session 2: Arlington Community Center in Arlington, MN. Session 3: Redwood Falls Community Center in Redwood Falls, MN. All session begins at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. There is no charge.

June 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at South Central College in North Mankato.

June 18<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is the **Community River Clean Up**. 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Come pick up trash! Bag stations will be along the river trail from: Sibley Park to Riverfront Park and Memorial Bridge to the Dog Park. Meet at the buffalo at 4:00 p.m. for refreshments and a group meeting.

June 19<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Riverfest Rendevous Fiesta Tri-Festa** from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Montevideo's Lagoon Park. A triathlon along with a fishing contest, live music, and more. Pre-registration for the triathlon is required by June 16th. For more information on times, registration, etc. visit <http://www.curemriver.org/> or call toll free 1-877-269-2873 or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/trifestaflyer.pdf>.

June 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) is the **3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Walk-n-Talk "Opportunities in Agroforestry"** at the Gibson Farm near Montevideo, MN starting at 1:00 p.m. Dennis Gibson will be leading a tour of his plantings and sharing his experiences with the various species. Jeff Jensen will be discussing the benefits and uses of hybrid hazelnuts as well as sharing information about the Minnesota Hazelnut Foundation. Lois Braun will also be speaking at the field day as well. The event is free of charge. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507.238.5449 or by email at [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

June 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) is the **Solstice River XIV: Water Rites** starting at 8:30 p.m. at the Stone Arch Bridge

in downtown Minneapolis. A site specific dance performance. For more information visit <http://www.globalsiteperformance.org/>

June 22<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday) is a **Cottonwood River Paddle** from County Road 11 to Flandrau State Park in New Ulm sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16<sup>th</sup> by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday) is the **“Wheat Day” Walk-n-Talk** at 1:00 p.m. at the Stangler farm near Kilkenny, MN. Lunch will be provided and served at 12:30 p.m. The field day will begin with presenters (Doug Holen, Phil Glogoza, Dick Stangler and Jill Sackett) and end with a tour of small grain fields. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507.238.5449 or by email at [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu) or you can contact Diane Stouffer at 507.380.6098 at [stouf002@umn.edu](mailto:stouf002@umn.edu)

June 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Women Rockin’ Conservation** at the Chippewa County Courthouse from 4:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening out focusing on women landowners and natural resource protection. Dinner included. Bring a friend! RSVP by June 22<sup>nd</sup>. For more information call 320.269.2139 ext. 3 or email [jean.diggins@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:jean.diggins@mn.nacdnet.net)

June 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is a **Redwood River Paddle** from County Road 6 to Lake Redwood sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16<sup>th</sup> by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

June 25<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is **On-Farm Field Day: Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn Rotations**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m (12:30 p.m. registration) in Montevideo, MN. Learn about corn agronomics, starter fertilizer, conservation tillage, potassium management for alfalfa and nitrogen cycling. A plot tour will also be included. For more information contact Jeff Coulter at [coult077@umn.edu](mailto:coult077@umn.edu) or 612-625-1796 or Jodi DeJong-Hughes at [dejon003@umn.edu](mailto:dejon003@umn.edu) or at 507-337-2816.

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) is **Riverfest in Dawson**. Enjoy many free events at Riverfest. You will need a \$5 Riverfest Button to enjoy the opening and the Celebrate Dawson! show. More information can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Dawson-Riverfest/124127390943146?ref=ts>.

June 29<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Weed Watchers Awareness Training** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Danver’s Community Center. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

July 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is **On Farm Field Day: Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn Rotations**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m (12:30 p.m. registration) in Norwood, MN. Learn about potassium management for alfalfa, dairy forage nutrition, weed management and alfalfa stand termination, starter fertilizer and nitrogen cycle. A plot tour will also be included. For more information contact Jeff Coulter at [coult077@umn.edu](mailto:coult077@umn.edu) or 612-625-1796 or Nathan Winter at [wint0146@umn.edu](mailto:wint0146@umn.edu) or at 800-587-0770.

July 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is **Ginkgo Propagation**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madelia, MN. A tour of a Ginkgo propagation farm right here in Minnesota. Kun Hung will share his experiences with propagating and growing Ginkgos in the colder climate of Minnesota. Attendees will also be able to see bonsai, lotus and water lily species. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Valuing Ecosystem Services – MN Happenings**. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Jordan, MN. The event focuses on what we are doing to better link agriculture, the environment, and our communities in the Lower and Middle Minnesota River Watersheds and throughout Minnesota. There will be many speakers and discussions of environmental programs as well. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Kimball Corner Pasture Walk**. 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Ordin, MN. The tour features a demonstration of high tensile fence building, a pasture walk and grazing discussion. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn from experts in the industry and to visit with other farmers/ranchers and see some ideas that may work on your farm/ranch. For more information and/or to preregister by July

15 call Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or send an email to [kim.ruraladvantage.org](mailto:kim.ruraladvantage.org)

July 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in New Ulm, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

July 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Direct Marketing from the Farm**. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Belle Plaine, MN. Join Heidi Morlock and Ann Houghton to hear about their experiences with marketing their goods directly from the farm. Other local experts will be available to answer questions on marketing, licensing and much more. For more information contact Jeff Jensen at 507-238-5449.

July 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is a **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Max's Grill (2425 West Lincoln Avenue) in Olivia. For more information visit [www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com](http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com)

July 29<sup>th</sup> (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 30<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:molly_stoddard@fws.gov)

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> (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 18<sup>th</sup> (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 20<sup>th</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> (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 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit [www.riverblast.org](http://www.riverblast.org)

September 10<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> (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 16<sup>th</sup> (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 3<sup>rd</sup> crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 18<sup>th</sup> (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 20<sup>th</sup> (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 22<sup>nd</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> (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 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

November 15<sup>th</sup> (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:**

[Minnesota is a better place to bike](#) (Star Tribune). Although not a native Minnesotan, I have lived in Minneapolis for many years and have gradually come to understand the hidden undercurrents of life here.

[Afton City Council poised to approve wind-turbine ordinance](#) (Pioneer Press). Afton's proposed new comprehensive plan places a strong emphasis on being "green" and using alternative sources of energy.

[Group gets grant to study Central Corridor's health impact](#) (MPR). A group of Twin Cities community organizations has received a national grant to study the health impacts of development spurred by the future Central Corridor light-rail line.

[At Vermilion, lakeshore access for all Minnesota](#) (Pioneer Press). Minnesota has a new state park. Or rather, as of Tuesday, it owns the land where Lake Vermilion State Park will be.

[Minnesota lawmakers want BP's hide, but what can Congress do?](#) (MinnPost). House Democrats amped up their rhetoric against BP Tuesday while aiming to consolidate efforts toward a legislative response to the Gulf oil spill.

[Biking to work, without the post-ride shine](#) (MPR). Surveys show that men account for more than two out of three of this country's bicycle riders.

[Northstar rail adding weeknight, weekend service](#) (MPR). The Northstar commuter rail begins offering service to Twin games during weeknights, beginning Tuesday.

[Water -- clear, clean and 35,000 years old -- from St. Paul brewery deep well available to public again](#) (Pioneer Press). St. Paul's old Schmidt Brewery is once again selling water that has remained deep under the Earth's surface for 35 millenia.

[Is organic food actually healthier?](#) (MPR). An 'Intelligence Squared' panel debates whether organic food is just good for marketing or if there are actually health benefits.

[Minnesota lawmakers seek study on farming, Mississippi River pollution](#) (MinnPost). The head of the Minnesota Farmers Union is set to testify at a Senate hearing today on legislation that aims to reduce water pollution from agricultural practices.

[Rosemount / Help count plants, animals at BioBlitz](#) (Pioneer Press). The woods, streams and restored prairies of Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area will be the focus of this weekend's Minnesota BioBlitz 2010 — an intensive 24-hour race to count an area's plants and animals.

[Ethanol dream evaporates: Minneapolis hedge-fund manager Redleaf wants out](#) (Star Tribune). A mile down an unpaved road on the outskirts of Canton, Ill., population 14,500, stands a shuttered ethanol plant.

[BP should double down, tell the U.S. to take a hike](#) (Star Tribune). Ever since oil started gushing from its well in the Gulf of Mexico, the British energy company BP has responded precisely the way you'd expect from a massive corporation caught up in a terrible mess.

[Wildlife and the oil spill: A specialized task](#) (Star Tribune). Like others, I was horrified by the recent photos of a pelican covered in oil. It's heart-rending to see the videos of dead and dying oil-covered animals.

[Hennepin County works to increase recycling](#) (Star Tribune). Hennepin County commissioners are weighing mandatory countywide recycling in the next few years to reduce garbage going to landfills and prepare for rising state recycling targets.

['Nice Ride' bike sharing program gets rolling today in Minneapolis](#) (MinnPost). A new bike-sharing program kicks off today in Minneapolis, when [Nice Ride](#) begins offering greenish and blue bikes for short jaunts around the city.

[Traffic congestion is costing Minnesota construction firms \\$150 million a year, survey says](#) (MinnPost). Minnesota construction companies pay an estimated \$150 million in added costs and lose 77,000 days of worker productivity annually because of traffic congestion, according to a survey of construction firms released Thursday by an industry associate.

[Stimulus money helps diesel train engines run cleaner](#) (MPR). Two diesel locomotives that run between the metro area and South Dakota used to sit with their engines idling for hours to keep from freezing.

[Army Corps holding meetings on Red River diversion plan](#) (MPR). The Army Corps of Engineers holds public meetings Wednesday and Thursday in Fargo-Moorhead to explain its [draft plan](#) for a flood diversion channel.

[Hoophouses help farmers extend their growing season](#) (MPR). New USDA-funded "hoophouses" are helping farmers beat the cold and allowing them to extend their growing season and bring produce to market earlier in the year.

[Program helps beginning farmers get started](#) (MPR). Dan Moe stands in the middle of 160 acres of farmland, where he and his wife are growing a range of fruits and vegetables Moe is happy to rattle off.

[As environmental disaster unfolds, the time is right to pass energy bill](#) (MPR). The [BP oil spill](#) is the greatest environmental disaster in history. It has put our country's energy policies and practices back on the front page.

[Guerrilla gardeners take over plots of city land](#) (Pioneer Press). Tully Hall doesn't look like a criminal. She pays her taxes, loves her family and obeys the law — with one glaring exception.

[How close to outdoors groups is too close for Sen. Chaudhary?](#) (Star Tribune). When Sen. Satveer Chaudhary, DFL-Fridley, persuaded a House colleague to modify a bill to improve fishing on a lake where Chaudhary owned a cabin, he ignited a controversy that now threatens to engulf a once promising political career.

[Naturalist's work is for the river](#) (Mankato Free Press). Where there is a river, there is history. And if it's the Minnesota River, Ron Bolduan is ready to share it.

[Environmental groups and MPCA at odds over cleanup of Alexandria's Lake Winona](#) (Pioneer Press). Few people deny the pollution levels in Lake Winona, a small phosphorus-laden lake on the edge of Alexandria in western Minnesota.

*Only those people that have directly experienced the wetlands that line the shore can appreciate their mystic qualities. The beauty of rising mists at dusk, the ebb and flow of the tides, the merging of fresh and salt waters.* - Governor's task force on Marine and Coastal Affairs

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

Thanks,

Scott

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