

Minnesota 'River Revival' documentary to air on KARE 11

The one-hour documentary "River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River" will air in prime time on KARE 11 TV at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 12. The documentary, produced by the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato, is hosted by outdoors advocate, Ron Schara.

"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.

To coincide with the airing of the documentary, the Water Resources Center will unveil its updated and expanded Minnesota River Basin Data Center Web site. The site will be the clearinghouse of information related to research, public lands and restoration efforts in the Minnesota River Basin. It will be rich in social media features, allowing users to both view and contribute information in several formats. The centerpiece of the site will be an interactive map enabling users to access and share information about public lands and restoration activities throughout the basin.

A number of viewing parties will be held to celebrate the Minnesota River and initiate a discussion on how all of us can do our part. Some of the viewing parties include Headwaters Grill and Bar in Ortonville, Duffy's Good Time Saloon at Montevideo, the Concordia Lanes & Kegel Klub in New Ulm, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center in Bloomington and Jimmy's Pub in the St. James Hotel at Red Wing. If you are interested in holding your own viewing party please contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304 or scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu. Post your event on Facebook and spread the word.

Minnesota River Showcased in Documentary: Reception and Showing to be held at Wildlife Refuge

The Minnesota River, the state's namesake river, is one of Minnesota's most notable and recognizable natural resources. It is also one of the nation's most polluted rivers.

Local river advocates, water resource experts and media production professionals have joined together to produce an hour-long documentary, *River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*. *River Revival* showcases the story of the Minnesota River from its geological origins to the present day. Through the seasons and throughout the Valley, the documentary examines the river's many pollution problems and highlights the efforts of people from all walks of life – natural resource professionals, anglers, farmers, politicians and citizen activists – to restore the river. *River Revival* is produced by the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato and hosted by one of Minnesota's premier outdoors advocates, Ron Schara.

"We undertook this project because we believe that more people need to hear the whole story of the Minnesota River," said John Hickman, executive producer of the documentary and board member for Friends of the Minnesota Valley, one of three river organizations dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Minnesota River Valley. "To be sure, the river faces some serious challenges. At the same time, there are many positive efforts underway that have made the river cleaner than it was even 10 years ago. These success stories need to be told."

The documentary airs on KARE 11 television at 6:00 pm on Sunday, June 12th. Coinciding with the broadcast, Friends of the Minnesota Valley is hosting a gala viewing party from 5:00-7:30 pm at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, located at 3815 American Blvd. E., in Bloomington. The event is open to the public. A suggested donation of \$25 is requested, but not required, to support event costs and ongoing efforts to clean up the Minnesota River. Event space is limited and reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lori Nelson at 952-881-9065 or lnelson@friendsofminvalley.org.

Viewing parties are being planned in Ortonville, Montevideo, New Ulm, Mankato, and Red Wing. For more information, contact Scott Kudelka at the Water Resources Center at 507-389-2304, or Patrick Moore at Clean Up the River Environment at 1-877-269-2873.

For more information on the documentary, contact *River Revival* Executive Producer John Hickman (952-884-3348 or jhickman3@comcast.net). For more information on Friends of the Minnesota Valley, visit www.friendsofminnvalley.org.

Bus Tour: Conservation Practices in the Chippewa River Watershed

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is sponsoring a bus tour to feature the many practices and programs offered by our conservation partners. It's an opportunity to see some of the on-the-ground practices that landowners have been able to accomplish with CRWP cost-share dollars. The tour is on Thursday, June 16 from 9 am to 2 pm. Meet at the Brandon Auditorium in Brandon, MN. Lunch is included with the tour. The whole event is free.

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

City partners with MSU for lakes plan

By RUTH ANN HAGER, rhager@wasecacountynews.com

WASECA — A year after the Gaiter Lake Diversion Project was put on hold, a new plan has emerged to clean up Waseca's lakes. It began with Waseca City Council member John Clemons' idea to investigate a potential partnership with Minnesota State University, Mankato's Water Resources Center (WRC). After a meeting in April between city and university officials, the WRC staff prepared a proposal that was presented at a May 17 work session. Project coordinators are Dr. Shannon Fisher, director, and Joe Pallardy, research analyst, at WRC.

The proposed partnership's mission would be to improve the health of Waseca area lakes, improve lake habitat and water quality, encourage student education and support from the Waseca community.

Further, the proposal would target nutrient sources, habitat improvements and community involvement, train young professionals, involve Waseca area students and give Waseca residents opportunities to learn more about their lakes.

Water quality and aquatic plant data would be collected by the WRC in coordination with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Natural Resources.

For the entire article: <http://www.wasecacountynews.com/content/city-partners-msu-lakes-plan>

River Based Triathlon Race to be held in Montevideo June 18th

Imagine family and friends forming teams of runners that can jog five kilometers through a shaded riverside park and at the end of that race, another set of team members get on bikes and ride 2.1 miles on a gravel road to a river bridge where still another set of teams jumps in kayaks on the Chippewa River to paddle back to where the 5K race began.

Organizers of the 3rd annual "Montevideo Fiesta Trifesta" are expecting a big Fiesta Days weekend crowd to turn out and watch all this happen during the 10th Annual Riverfest Rendezvous to be held Saturday, June 18th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Montevideo's [Lagoon Park](#).

A day long series of events, scheduled for the Riverfest Rendezvous, include a 5 K fun run, canoe and kayak races and rubber duck races along with a fishing contest and live blue grass music by "The Little Prairie Pickers" of the New Ulm area and the teen rock band "Shark Sandwich" from Montevideo, among other performers. Registration for all the events opens at 8:00 a.m. in Lagoon Park. The 5 K race and the Trifesta Race begin at 8:45 a.m. followed by the Monte Lions Duck Race at 10:00 a.m. and the Canoe and Kayak races at 10:45 a.m. The fishing contest will run throughout the event and an awards ceremony and the give away of an Old Town Kayak will begin at noon. There will be plenty of excitement

for those watching the event. All spectators are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs down to the park. The Knights of Columbus will be serving brats & hot dogs and William Bosch will be selling chocolate chip cookies and milk to benefit The Chippewa County Food Shelf.

The event is being organized by the Twin River's Canoe & Kayak Club. The registration fee to enter the Tri-Festa is \$10 per individual and \$25 per team. **Pre-registration by June 15th is required.** For more information visit: www.cureriver.org or call toll free 877-269-2873.

Stewardship Farm Directory for the Upper Minnesota Midwest

As featured in previous e-newsletters, the comprehensive listings of locally grown products, producers, vendors from the Minnesota Grown program (www.minnesotagrown.com) are a wonderful resource for locating locally grown food.

An additional source of information about some local growers is available in Land Stewardship Project's (LSP) 2011 - 2012 Stewardship Farm Directory, which can be downloaded from <http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/pdf/sfd.pdf> This directory lists over 200 Land Stewardship Project member-farmers and retailers offering organic fruits, vegetables, and grains, antibiotic- and hormone-free meats, free-range chickens and eggs, milk and cheese from grass-fed cows, and more in the Upper Midwest.

According to the Directory, "some of the farms are just getting started, others have been on the leading edge of sustainable agriculture for years, and others still are transitioning their farms to the next generation to continue their legacy of care for the people and the land....The Stewardship Farm Directory is designed to help you find good food and farm products from farmers who are caring for the land." The list also includes food co-ops, restaurants, and food processors that carry products grown by LSP members.

The 36-page directory can be downloaded for free from <http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/pdf/sfd.pdf> Paper copies are also available by calling LSP's Metro office at 612/722-6377.

June 11 Sierra Club Bicycle Outing

The next bike outing of the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club will occur from 9am-4pm on Saturday, June 11. It will run from Freeport to Sauk Centre and back along the Lake Wobegon Trail, about 30 miles, with stops for birds and wildflowers. Sierra Club outings welcome everyone.

For information about trailheads and times, as well as to receive notification in case of inclement weather, contact Kay Slama at 320-796-5871 or slama@morris.umn.edu. The Lake Wobegon Trail runs past lakes and through prairies, marshes, and woodlands, so participants will see a variety of birds and seasonal wildflowers.

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter represents over 15,000 members across Minnesota. Inspired by nature, members work together to protect our communities and the planet. For over 40 years they have worked to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment through educational outings and volunteer activism. Visit the web site at www.northstar.sierraclub.org.

MAWRC to host seminar on sediment science

For those who earn their livelihood from the land, protecting soil is a top priority. And while there is always more that can be done, Minnesota farmers are recognized as among the best at adopting conservation measures to keep soil in place on their farmfields. Yet the myth that modern farming practices lead to massive soil loss persists. The much heralded news that Lake Pepin is filling in with sediment directs added attention toward farms, particularly those in south central Minnesota, resulting in growing pressure to increase regulation of farms. But is this attention warranted?

To help address this question, the Minnesota Ag Water Resources Coalition (MAWRC) will host an informational seminar on sediment transport and the role of agricultural drainage on **June 24**, from 8:00

a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the **Country Inn and Suites in Mankato**. The focus of the program, which features several nationally renowned researchers, is to provide farmers with the best information available to insure that water quality programs are directed toward real, not perceived problems.

“As a practical matter, farmers really need to know how water and soil move, which practices make a difference, and which ones don’t”, said Steve Sodeman, MAWRC Chairman. “Millions of taxpayer dollars have gone into cleaning up the Minnesota River, yet there is disagreement on whether the river is getting cleaner or not. Our hope is to bring together the best scientists to help understand this complex system.”

[Download the conference brochure and agenda here.](#)

The sediment seminar, which is open to the public, is sponsored by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council and the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council. The MAWRC is an educational organization comprised of 16 Minnesota farm groups.

Job Announcements:

Wilderness Inquiry Trail Staff and Intern Positions for 2011

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring trail staff and interns for 2011. We are looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a desire to work hard for the mission of WI. To learn more, see job descriptions and to apply see Wilderness Inquiry's website:

www.wildernessinquiry.org

Each year, Wilderness inquiry operates hundreds of Canoeing, Kayaking and Hiking trips to destinations in Minnesota, across the United States, and around the world for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Trail staff leads inclusive outdoor adventures, leads single-day events and multi-day expeditions, navigates, cooks, tells stories and teaches outdoor skills along with other responsibilities.

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

Events:

June 4th (Saturday) is a **Walking Tour of Fort Ridgely Battlefield** by Historian John LaBatte at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. First view the video in the Historic Commissary and then join John as he walks the parade ground to share his research on the Battles of Fort Ridgely. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

June 4th (Saturday) is the **Introduction to Grazing Field Day** from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Don and Helen Berheim Farm (30373 325th Street, Benson) sponsored by Profits from Perennials. Learn the basics of designing and implementing a management intensive grazing system, including the best grasses and legumes for reseeding or establishing new pasture; paddock size and location; watering options; lanes; general concepts & indicators for developing & managing grazing operations; and forage management. For more information, <http://www.profitsfromperennials.org/>

June 8th (Wednesday) is the presentation **Why Renewable Energy is Vital to Rural Minnesota** starting at 7 p.m. at the Treehouse Room at [Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center](#) (12718 10th Street NE, Spicer). The featured speaker is Jeff Vetsch, CERTS Regional Coordinator and sponsored by the Western Minnesota Sierra Club. Join Sierra Club members and friends to learn about the importance of renewable energy and efficiency for our region, and why we need a road map to transition from dirty coal to clean fuels. Take action for clean, renewable energy and help us plan the upcoming Clean Energy Tour! Free event, refreshments provided. All are welcome. More info/RSVP: Kay at slama@morris.umn.edu or [320-796-5871](tel:320-796-5871)

June 11th (Saturday) is a **Minnesota Valley nature program** by Ron Bolduan at Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary at 1:00 p.m. sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society. Ron's photos are filled with natural, cultural and historic sites along the MN River Valley Byway. June 11 is Minnesota State Park Open House day. Admittance to the State Park and Historic Site is free. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

June 11th (Saturday) is the **Kingery Family** at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 3:00 p.m. sponsored by Friends of Fort Ridgely. Join us for some family musical entertainment at the amphitheater. Admittance to the State Park this event is free. For more information call 507-426-7840 or visit <http://www.thekingeryfamily.com/>

June 16th (Thursday) is an **Open House** for Uruguayan Photographer Federico Estol's book of local people and local photos: "Hello Montevideo from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Montevideo Public Library.

June 16th (Thursday) is the **Bus Tour: Conservation Practices within the Chippewa River Watershed** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. sponsored by Profits from Perennials. Bus departs at 9:00 a.m. from the Brandon Auditorium (105 Holmes Avenue, Brandon). The tour will feature local, on-the-land conservation practices for which cost-share money may be available, including alternative tile intakes, sediment retention basins, shoreline restoration and more. Register by June 10th by contacting Jennifer Hoffman at 320-269-2139 ext. 120 or Jennifer.hoffman@chippewariver.org

June 16th (Thursday) is an **Agroforestry In-Service Workshop** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Southwest Wisconsin Kickapoo Valley Reserve LaFarge and Mark Shepard's Farm, Viola, WI. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/agroforestry.pdf>

June 18th (Saturday) is the **Trifesta Celebration** in Montevideo starting at 8:30 at Lagoon Park with a 5k Run, Bike Race, Kayak Race, Canoe Race, Rubber Duck Race, music, food and much more.

June 18th (Saturday) is the **Le Sueur and Blue Earth rivers Cleanup** sponsored by the Mankato Paddling and Outing Club. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Belgrade United Methodist Church parking lot in North Mankato. The cleanup will take place on the Le Sueur River from County Road 16 to its junction with the Blue Earth River and on the Blue Earth River from the Rapidan Dam down to Sibley Park in Mankato.

June 18th (Saturday) is a **Military Event** at the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 1:30 p.m. sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. Become a "volunteer soldier". Civil War-era re-enactors will be at the Historic Site to train recruits for infantry and artillery militia. Max and Donna Daniels, as President Abraham and Mary Lincoln will review the troops. President Lincoln will give the Gettysburg Address at 2 p.m. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

June 20 & 21 (Monday & Tuesday) is the **Bus Tour: Incorporating Prairies into Farms** sponsored by Profits from Perennials. Bus departures at 1:00 p.m. from the Land Stewardship Project office (301 State Road) in Montevideo. Come and see for yourself Iowa State University's innovative STRIPs Research at beautiful Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, near Prairie City, Iowa. To reserve your seat on the bus by June 15th or for more information, contact Julia Ahlers Ness at 320-269-2105 or janess@landstewardshipproject.org

June 25th (Saturday) is **Solstice River XV – Global Water Dances**, the 15th annual site-specific performance at the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis at 5:00 p.m. sponsored by Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education. Free and open to the public, rain or shine. Minneapolis is one of over 50 cities on six continents creating global water dances a model of how to use participatory art to raise consciousness about the global water crisis, and how to bring people together to work on solving these problems. For more information, <http://www.globalsiteperformance.org/>

June 26th (Sunday) is the **Flag Program** at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 1:30 p.m. sponsored by Friends of Fort Ridgely. The Fairfax Honor Guard will demonstrate proper flag etiquette including folding of the flag. The reasons for the folds and other interesting information about our country's flag will be shared. The demonstration will be followed by a 21-gun salute and "Taps". Demonstration will be on the Historic Site parade grounds. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more info call 507-426-7840 or visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

June 26th (Sunday) is the **Minnesota and the Civil War presentation** by Civil War expert Stephen Osman at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 2:00 p.m. sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. Osman will present a Power Point program in the Historic Commissary about the Minnesota volunteers who fought in the Civil War. Enjoy colorful images and stories of their heroic service. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[West student's solar work draws serious attention](#) (Mankato Free Press). Three Mankato West student scientists presented their ideas to an international audience this month, with one taking home a substantial prize and possible patent.

[Opinion: Spend energy funds wisely](#) (New Ulm Journal). An opinion on the choice of the New Ulm Public Utilities Commission to convert boiler #4 to burn coal/gas and/or biomass.

[Dayton vetoes four more bills passed by GOP-controlled Legislature](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). DFL Gov. Mark Dayton continued his brisk, post-session veto pace Friday by rejecting four more bills.

[No state budget? Then just what did get done this legislative session?](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Newly elected DFL Gov. Mark Dayton and the equally new Republican majorities in the Minnesota Legislature took office in January with one big job to do: Erase a multibillion-dollar budget deficit.

[Restoring lost habitat](#) (West Central Tribune). Some of the most valuable real estate in Kandiyohi County has taken a real beating.

[Glenwood DNR wildlife manager wins award for conservation efforts](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Glenwood Area Wildlife Manager Kevin Kotts was among six Minnesota Department of Natural Resources employees recognized for their conservation efforts by the U.S. Department of Interior.

[Citizens present case against coal, natural gas for boiler conversion](#) (New Ulm Journal). More than 25 members of the New Ulm Citizens for Clean Energy (NUCCE) group filled the Council Chambers Tuesday at the meeting of New Ulm Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people. – Theodore Roosevelt

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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