

Water Resources Center is on facebook

The Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato is excited to announce that we are on Facebook. Our hope for the future is to share stories, events, pictures and much more information about the basin. Currently, we are focusing on the flooding that is occurring in our area and throughout the basin. We have been compiling pictures and video of the rivers in our area. We hope that you will share with us information about what is occurring in your area. We are also sharing a lot of this information with the National Weather Service in Chanhassen so that they can update their flood forecasts. An example of this sharing is an ice jam on the Blue Earth River released and went through the Rapidan Dam yesterday. This will affect water levels and ice jams farther downstream.

Some of you may have facebook accounts and some may not, but I was hoping I could get your assistance in recording how rivers are flowing in your area and if you have any pictures that you may want to share. You will need a Facebook account to comment or share directly from your account, but you can bookmark this page and revisit it daily to get updates concerning the flooding and the basin. The NWS is very interested in any information about flooding in the basin so they can update their forecasts. Please check out the site and LIKE it if you wish. Please post any comments about the rivers to this page or the NWS site. Here are the links...

Water Resources Center Minnesota State Mankato - <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Water-Resources-Center-Minnesota-State-Mankato/178953815481954>

National Weather Service -

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/US.NationalWeatherService.NCRFC.gov> Here is the link:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Water-Resources-Center-Minnesota-State-Mankato/178953815481954>

Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality

"Spring is here, and as the snow begins to melt, Friends of the Minnesota Valley will be helping organize Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality throughout the Minnesota River Watershed. Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality is an award-winning water pollution prevention program that relies on citizens to clean up the lakes, rivers and streams in their communities. Clean-Ups focus on removing organic debris that collects in and around city boulevards, curbs, and storm sewer intake areas. Debris such as dirt, ground-up leaves, grass clippings, and branches contains high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen, both nutrients that contribute to areas of low water quality in the Minnesota River.

Clean-Ups are a great civic project for youth groups, church groups, civic organizations such as Rotary Clubs and Lions Clubs, and virtually anyone who wants to make a difference in water quality in their community. Volunteers sweep, rake, bag and compost the organic debris and report their results back to the Friends. The great thing about Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality is that anyone can do them in their community, city park or public area, neighborhood or yard. To learn more about the Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality Program, view the online informational video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sG7sOIOySE>. To organize a Clean-Up in your community, contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or at yasure@lycos.com."

Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting

Here's a friendly reminder of the CRWP Annual Meeting on Thursday. Thanks to all of you who have already RSVPed, but there is still plenty room for more to join us. Drop me an email or give me a call. Hope you can make it.

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is hosting its Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 24 at the Starbuck Community Center. The evening begins with registration and social gathering at 5pm, meal at 6 pm, and program at 7 pm. Meals are free with registration.

The program will feature the 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Results and Aaron Onsrud of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Aaron will be sharing the Biological Monitoring Data from the watershed that features fish and Macroinvertebrate populations. Also sharing his expertise will be Stephen Lee of the MPCA with a great presentation on the History of Pollution in Minnesota.

There is space and opportunity to have a table or display that promotes your organization and programs. There is a lot of great work going on in our watershed and many opportunities available for landowners to utilize. We appreciate all the great work that our partners are doing and like to use the Annual Meeting as a way to help showcase your activities. Let me know if you would like space to set up anything.

This event is free and open to all. Bring your spouse, bring your family members, bring your neighbors! Jennifer Hoffman; Chippewa River Watershed Project Watershed Specialist; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; Ph. 320-269-2139 ext 120; www.chippewariver.com

Ice Out/Loon In Party

The Freshwater Society is proud to announce its first annual **Ice Out/Loon In Party** scheduled from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21 at the Bayview Events Center, located at 687 Excelsior Boulevard in Excelsior, Minnesota. The Freshwater Society is a premier citizen education, research and public outreach non-profit organization that inspires people to value, conserve and protect all freshwater resources.

As the official “caller” of the Ice Out on Lake Minnetonka since 1968, the Freshwater Society wants to herald the spring return of Minnesota’s iconic State Bird to lakes where there is only good water quality and clarity and couple it with an event that has been recorded since 1855. On Lake Minnetonka, the ice is designated as “out” when it is possible to travel by small boat from any one shore to another shore through any passage on the lake.

The public is invited to attend the Ice Out /Loon In Party and can purchase tickets to the informal event at the Freshwater Society offices, online and through volunteers. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks will be served in the festive décor of the Bayview Events Center and a silent auction with items such as a boat slip on Lake Minnetonka, restored antique boat motor, weekend north woods cabin adventure, private party on a Lake Minnetonka yacht, kayak trip around Split Rock Lighthouse and others will be conducted throughout the evening. A raffle will be held with a Your Boat Club Membership and a Nook as prizes and Bluegrass music will help set the stage for a fun evening with programs such as:

- “Loon Logic” by Jim Gilbert, naturalist
- Improv Theatre performance by Bearded Men
- The Mythology and History of Ice Outs
- Loon Tracking Project by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- The Amazing World of Birds and Critter Rehabilitation by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

For more information, please call Diane Lynch, Director of Development, at 952-314-8134. Advance tickets are \$30 for individual and \$50 for two or more. They are \$35 individual and \$60 for two or more at-the-door.

Funding opportunities for undergraduate students!

The Minnesota River Board announces two new funding opportunities to encourage undergraduate research and academic success in the Minnesota River Basin. Please visit <http://www.minnesotariver.org/> for complete details and copies of the application materials for both award programs. (Look under “Notices” in bottom left corner.)

- Undergraduate Research Grant: The Minnesota River Board sponsors a grant of up to \$500 to support the individual work of undergraduate students conducting research in the Minnesota River Basin.

Applicants must be undergraduate students participating in water-related research within the

basin. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, water quality, wetlands ecology, fisheries biology, etc. The application deadline is April 22, 2011.

- Undergraduate Scholarship: The Minnesota River Board has established a scholarship fund for undergraduate students enrolled in a college or university within the Minnesota River Basin. Students should have declared a major such as Environmental Science, Biology, Agriculture, Engineering, Public Administration, or Political Science and have the intention of pursuing work in Water Resources.

Two awards in the amount of \$250 each will be disbursed for the 2011-2012 academic year. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage enrollment in educational studies related to career fields in Water Resource Management. The application deadline is April 22, 2011.

For any additional questions, please contact Susan Carlin, Program Director for the Minnesota River Board, at susan.carlin@mnsu.edu or 507-389-6279.

Hudson Bay Bound

Ann Raiho and Natalie Warren are planning a great adventure for the summer of 2011. They want to be the first women to paddle from Minneapolis to Hudson Bay. The of them are planning to depart from Fort Snelling on June 2nd to start paddling up the Minnesota River on their grand adventure. Raiho and Warren see this trip as a way to encourage young women to go on their own adventures. They are presently fundraising for the trip.

Going on wilderness trips has significantly shaped our lives and we hope that, by taking this trip, young women will be inspired to explore the outdoors. Previous groups that traveled this route received great publicity, and we expect to get media coverage from several sources in hopes that word of our adventure will inspire our technological generation to get outdoors.

For more information on their trip: <http://www.hudsonbaybound.com/index.html>

This Perennial Land Open House and Book Signing

Join us on **March 29th at Farmamerica, 7367 360th Avenue, Waseca from 1 until 3:00 PM** for an Open House and book signing. The event is free and open to the public. View the photography and meet the authors and local farmers featured in the book. This event is sponsored by Farmamerica and Rural Advantage.

Join us on **March 24th at the Watonwan County Historical Center, 423 Dill Avenue SW, Madelia from 2 until 4:00 PM** for an Open House and book signing. The event is free and open to the public. View the photography and meet the authors and local farmers featured in the book. This event is sponsored by the Watonwan County Historical Center and Rural Advantage.

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 3rd Crop Initiative, ECoPayPack development, Martin County Farm2Cafeteria Network and building the Madelia Model concept. Contact them at 507.238.5449 or visit their website at www.ruraladvantage.org for more information.

To view the flyer: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thisperennialland.pdf>

Flood Volunteer Update

Local agencies are seeking volunteers to help with flood mitigation in Mankato and surrounding areas. Please consider donating your time, skills and labor to assist community members who may be impacted by potential flooding.

RED CROSS: Volunteers are needed for a number of positions.

Training is recommended.

Saturday, March 26th from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Three Classes: Intro to Disasters, Shelter Operations, Disaster Assessment

For more information, contact the Mankato Red Cross at 387-6664.

SALVATION ARMY: Volunteers are being recruited for a one-hour training class that will cover food preparation, serving food from a mobile kitchen, administrative duties and safety tips. The class will be held at the Salvation Army, 700 South Front Street.

Call the Salvation Army at 345-7840 to sign up for one of the upcoming sessions:

Monday, March 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 29th at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13th at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 a.m.

BLUE EARTH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE – 304-4806

In the event of an actual flooding emergency, the Blue Earth County Emergency Management will set up an Emergency Operations Center and may be seeking the assistance of volunteers willing to help with sandbagging efforts and clean up. At that point Blue Earth County will provide information on how to volunteer in flood mitigation efforts.

City of Mankato Flood Preparedness

Mankato-Flood preparedness is ongoing and these are the latest updates, which are also available [online](#). Currently, all of Mankato's [pump stations](#) have been activated, except Mulberry Street (which gets turned on when river elevations are at 26 feet). Parks and areas closed until further notice are:

- Land of Memories Park
- Sibley Park ballfields
- The trail from Sibley Park to Riverfront Park

Observation stations have been set up and marked with orange fencing. There are two stations in Sibley Park and one in Riverfront Park. There is a \$100 fine for crossing areas marked with police tape since these areas are unsafe because there is pooling water, it's slippery and there are dangerous currents.

See the Minnesota River by [going to featured news](#) and clicking on "View the Minnesota River." A new photo is added daily to the library of images.

Although flood preparedness is a year-round effort for city of Mankato staff, items are being modified according to the city's plan as river levels change. City staff inspects the river walls and supporting pumping stations and monitors the river level on an as-needed basis. Once the river reaches high water levels, 24-hour dike walks are done to ensure continued safety for the public. City of Mankato staff continues to closely observe any areas where there is standing water. When property or safety issues cause concern, respective areas are closed. Citizens are asked to call 507-387-8660 (24-hour service) if they see standing water.

Ongoing flood control activity in Mankato includes:

- Maintenance of existing facilities and equipment
- Inspection procedures
- Monitor river levels and trends
- Recognize hazards and risks
- Receive updates from National Weather Service about snow pack and flood level probabilities
- Review recommended methods of construction and other technical information related to flood control
- Coordinate activities with other governmental units--cities and other jurisdictions and organizations

The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) recommends homeowners be prepared for flooding, particularly those who live in low-lying areas near water. FEMA provides information about how every individual can take steps to better prepare themselves and their families:

- [Get a kit](#)
- [Make a plan](#)
- [Be informed about your flood risk by viewing Minnesota River levels](#). The highest level was in 1993 at just over 30 feet and the second highest was in 1965 at 29 feet.

The city follows a list of activities, developed with officials from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, outlining what action will occur based upon the water level of the Minnesota River. [Learn](#) more about flood control in Mankato.

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>

Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories Inc. Jobs

The Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories (MVTL) in New Ulm is hiring a number of positions including Inorganic Laboratory Technician, Environmental Field Service Technician, and Microbiology Laboratory Technician.

For more information on these positions see: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mvtljobs.pdf> or contact Colleen Skillings at 1126 N Front Street; New Ulm, MN 56073; 507-354-8517 or cskillings@mvtl.com

Urban Farmer

Shelter Corp, a real estate management company, is hiring a full-time urban farmer. Shelter Corporation is a real estate development company headquartered in the Twin Cities. Shelter Corporation brings innovative ideas, exceptional value, and strong partnerships to each of its constituencies — opening the door to new opportunities that would not otherwise be possible. For families, seniors, and individuals, Shelter provides clean, attractive, well-managed, well-located apartments and senior communities — opening the door to gracious, dignified living.

Shelter's Urban Farmer will be responsible for the planning, maintenance and harvesting of three urban farm sites in St. Paul and Richfield, including a rooftop garden and two apartment complexes. The Urban Farmer will also engage residents of the complexes in learning about and caring for the gardens as well as consuming the produce grown.

Duties and Responsibilities

Farming: Food garden planning and design; Source and purchase garden materials; Prepare spring and summer garden beds along with a crew; Using space-maximizing strategies, plant a wide diversity of food plants for multiple harvests throughout the season; Maintain garden beds – weeding, culling, replanting; Harvest and distribute produce to residents and/or deliver to third party buyer
Autumn tear-down of gardens; Maintain impeccable aesthetic standards in the gardens

Community Engagement: Provide courteous and efficient customer service to building residents; Schedule and staff produce; distribution times in cooperation with resident services staff; Communicate regularly with residents using a variety of communication techniques; Participate in community events (e.g. classes, celebrations, tours)

Qualifications: Minimum 3-4 seasons of ecological gardening, farming or other food production work experience; Excellent communication skills; Ability to work independently and responsibly; Reliable transportation; Ability to lift 50 lbs; Basic building skills; Excellent customer service and/or community engagement skills; Great attention to detail; Somali, Oromo, Hmong and/or Spanish language skills a plus Passion for a sustainable local food system ideal

Compensation and Hours: This is a full time position. Compensation will be commensurate with experience.

To Apply: Send a cover letter and resume to Krista Leraas at krista@harvestmoonfarmers.com by March 30, 2011. Please have three references available upon request.

Communications Manager

The SFA Communications Manager is an important role within this growing non-profit organization. The ideal applicant will have an understanding and appreciation for SFA's mission, role and capacity within the broader sustainable ag community, as well as a strong foundation and history in sustainable agriculture. This person will need to be forthcoming, responsible and detail-oriented, able to juggle multiple tasks and projects simultaneously, and respond to member and management requests in a timely manner. The compensation for this position is based not on hours worked but tasks and delivered projects. In addition to a resume and cover letter, applicants should be prepared to submit writing and e-communications samples if requested. Funding for this position is dependent on SFA's changing revenue capacity and while it is expected to be an annual contract, no guarantees of annual employment are offered.

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

Events:

March 24th (Thursday) is a **River Ranger Program on Fishing and Water Quality** starting at 6:30 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 N Broadway). Scott Moeller, Education Specialist with the MinnAqua Program through the DNR will provide a fun look at fishing and water quality. Drink "polluted" water, find out how water flows, explore where pollution comes from and play a game at this family friendly event. The program is sponsored by Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, New Ulm Public Library and Water Resources Center at MSUM. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fishingandwaterquality.pdf>

March 24th (Thursday) is the **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting** starting with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. at the Starbuck Community Center. The program will feature the 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Results and Aaron Onsrud of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Aaron will be sharing the Biological Monitoring Data from the watershed that features fish and Macroinvertebrate populations. This event is free and open to all. Bring your spouse, bring your family members, bring your neighbors! For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaannualmeeting.pdf> Please RSVP to Jennifer by Tuesday, March 22.

March 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be

further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 31st (Thursday) is the **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer starting at 6:30 p.m. at the St Peter Library. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lifeontherivernew.pdf>.

April 2nd (Saturday) is a **Town Hall Event with Senator Kathy Sheran, Representative Terry Morrow, and Representative Kathy Brynaert** from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at South Central College Conference Room A. *Please join us for a Mankato/North Mankato Town Hall meeting to discuss policy issues important to you. Your ideas are vital in ensuring that we effectively represent you and our community.*

April 11th (Monday) is the public viewing of **Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story** at 7:00 p.m. at the Renville County Government Services Center (Lower Level Meeting Room 117) in Olivia. Free popcorn and lemonade. Sponsored by Renville Soil and Water Conservation Service, Renville County Water & HHW Management and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/renvilletroubledwaters.pdf>

April 12th (Tuesday) is **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer at the Chippewa County Historical Society annual banquet in Maynard. Interested people should contact the Historical Society for more information or to get tickets at 320-269-7636 or ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net.

April 13th (Wednesday) is the showing of **A Chemical Reaction film** at 6:00 p.m. at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Conference Center (lower level of the main building). This film chronicles the success story of banning lawn pesticide in Canada, and similar movements here in the United States, and why we should all care about this (in essence, to keep children from unnecessary harm and to protect our environment). Sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry, for more information go to: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chemicalreaction.pdf>

April 14th (Thursday) is the **Troubled Waters Viewing** at 6 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 N. Broadway) as part of the River Ranger Program sponsored by the New Ulm Library, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR) and the Water Resources Center at MSUM. **Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story** traces the development of America's bountiful heartland and its effect on the legendary river. Through beautiful photography and inspiring narrative, the film offers solutions to the river's troubles through fresh ideas and concrete solutions. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/troubledwaters.pdf>

April 14th (Thursday) is the showing of the **Troubled Waters film documentary** at 7:00 p.m. at the North Mankato Police Annex (1001 Belgrade Avenue) sponsored by the Friends of Minneopa.

April 14th (Thursday) is "**Sky Dance**" – **Observing the Courtship Display of the American Woodcock** from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Come experience one of the grandest spectacles of nature: the aerial display of the male American Woodcock. Coined the "sky dance" by legendary ecologist Aldo Leopold, the display of these chunky, softball-sized birds begins a few minutes after sundown and lasts for an hour or so into the night, a ritual that can be both seen and heard by observers. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

April 16th (Saturday) is the presentation "**Waterfalls and the River Warren**" by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

April 19th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting** starting at 6:00 p.m. with a Social Hour and the Formal Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 141 of Ridgewater College, Hutchinson. For more information http://www.curemriver.org/events.html#watershed_alliance

April 23rd (Saturday) is the **Earth Day 5k Fun Run/Walk** along the beautiful Sakatah Singing Hills Trail by Cannon Lake in Faribault. Day of Event Registration at 8:00 a.m. and Fun Run begins at 9:00 a.m. The race will start and end at Shager Park – a Rice County Park located on State Highway 60 just west of Faribault. [Click here](#) to go to the CRWP website events page for the registration form and more details. All proceeds benefit the Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

April 26th (Tuesday) is an **Arboretum Night Hike** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Hike the trails of the Linnaeus Arboretum after sunset with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen to the night sounds of spring that can be heard in the arboretum, including Western Chorus-Frogs, Great Horned Owls, and migrating songbirds among others. If the sky cooperates, learn how to identify constellations and other bright spots in our night sky. Meet outside the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

April 30th (Saturday) is the **Annual Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Ney Nature Center to be held at Traxler's Hunting Preserve, Le Center. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a social. For more information <http://neycenter.org/>

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. Featuring Sharp Shooter Tom Knapp. The fun shoot will be held at River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland MN starting at 8:00am, lunch is included after the fun shoot, followed by the world famous "Tom Knapp" show starting at 2:00pm. For more information go to Twin Valley Council Web-site at www.twinvalleybsa.org or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootposter.pdf>

May 17th (Tuesday) is a **Tallgrass Prairie Walk** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Join Blue Earth County Master Gardener Dolly Rye for a prairie walk in the Linnaeus Arboretum's three-year-old Coneflower Prairie. Learn about the various plants that can be found in the restored prairie, reminiscent of the vast expanses of tallgrass prairie that once covered two-thirds of the state of Minnesota. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

May 21st (Saturday) is the **"Caring for God's Creation"** with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Field tile and flooding topic at ag hearing](#) (Agri News). The debate of whether or not field tile causes increased flooding was part of the discussion at a water quality hearing last week in the Senate ag committee.

[Gordon testifies about water quality efforts](#) (Agri News). Bill Gordon came to the Capitol last week to tell senators what he's doing on his Nobles County farmland to protect and improve water quality.

[Gieseke raises international attention with book](#) (New Ulm Journal). New Ulm author writes about solving sustainability issues by using free-market influences.

[Seminar details sustainable cities program](#) (New Ulm Journal). City government, nonprofit organization officials and interested citizens learning about a community-based energy conservation opportunities at the New Ulm Public Library.

[McNamara defends changes to environmental panel's proposals](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Rep. Denny McNamara offered some insight Tuesday into his controversial efforts to reshape recommendations from a panel of legislators and citizens on how to spend state lottery money.

[Environmental trust fund projects changing course](#) (Session Weekly). Funding for several environmental research and education projects would be stripped from a bill and replaced with funding for emerging issues such as invasive species, chronic wasting disease and to study wild rice, under an amendment proposed by the chair of the House Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee.

[Bill would merge natural resources councils, drop citizens](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A bill in the Legislature would eliminate three citizen-legislative councils that recommend spending of state money for natural resources and replace them with one commission of 12 legislators -- and no citizen members.

[Midwest's largest solar thermal array sits atop St. Paul RiverCentre](#) (MinnPost). Billed as the largest solar thermal installation in the Midwest, 144 panels sit atop of St. Paul's RiverCentre convention center.

[Leaders vie for Legacy Amendment funding](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Legislators who oversee a state parks and trails fund say they'll propose giving more money to projects that serve outside the Twin Cities metro area.

[Invasive species, evasive answers](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota needs conclusive studies about the threat levels of Asian carp in the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers.

[House committee approves change to lottery funds law](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A House committee voted along party lines Wednesday to change the law that says Environmental Trust Fund money, which is made up of lottery proceeds, should be used to supplement, not supplant, traditional funding.

[LCCMR bill remains point of contention](#) (Outdoor News). Aquatic invasive species and chronic wasting disease are two so-called "emerging issues" that could receive Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars during the next two years, if a legislative effort to redirect lottery dollars succeeds.

[Met Council quietly makes decisions that affect lives](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Representatives of the south metro bring a mix of planning experience to the agency coordinating transit, sewers and parks.

[Board OKs pipeline freeze](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Faribault County commissioners passed a moratorium Thursday on anything, including pipelines, that discharges wastewater into protected waters in Faribault County.

[Metro area lakes fall short in annual report card](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Met Council study examines nearly 200 metro lakes and grades their water quality.

[Debate focuses on land acquisition](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Should money from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment be used to buy more land, including public hunting lands?

[Battle against zebra mussels to have limits](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Fish Lake area residents want every boat inspected before it hits the lake. Park officials say they can't justify the expense but agreed to let volunteers do more.

[U of M researchers dig into mystery of what makes the best green roof](#) (MinnPost). Green roofs absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and may help cool off global warming by lowering the "heat island" effect of cities.

[Rain barrels, compost bins offered at discount through Kandiyohi Co. program](#) (West Central Tribune). Threatened with the loss of its state financial support, the Minnesota River Board agreed Monday to explore different reorganization strategies in hopes of continuing its multi-county approach to cleaning up the Minnesota River.

One of the most important resources that a garden makes available for use, is the gardener's own body. A garden gives the body the dignity of working in its own support. It is a way of rejoining the human race.
– Wendell Berry

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

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

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

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Watershed Assessment Specialist
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>