

Show Depths of Minnesota Lake's

Lifelong Minnesota resident Mary Taffe turned to art to document the algae blooms and other pollution that has been increasingly prominent in nearby Big Stone Lake over the past four years -- changes she believes are caused by increased factory farming activity in the area. "The first changes began four years ago, when we saw the algae bloom so early and thick, we couldn't use the lake. This was around the time a factory dairy in the watershed ramped up to approximately 13,000 cows," Taffe says. "We haven't used the lake for four full summers, but last summer, the smell became nearly intolerable and lasted for two and a half months because the prevailing winds blew the goop to your side of the lake. It sat there and cooked." To see Mary's art: <http://www.treehugger.com/galleries/2010/02/pretty-pollution-photos-show-depths-of-minnesota-lakes-environmental-distress.php>

A note from Patrick Moore from CURE

Our Annual meeting was a huge success -- more than 275 people had a roaring good time. *Thanks to all who helped make it so much fun!* You can read about it in this week's [Montevideo American News](#). We have posted pictures on our [Facebook page](#).

There are a few things coming up in the next few days that I want to be sure you know about:

1. Next Tuesday March 2nd at 7 p.m. the [Hill Grocery House](#) consortium is hosting a forum about Passive Homes featuring architect Tim Eian and Consultant Joe Bowman at the [Montevideo Community Center](#). We hope you can come. For more info, visit: <http://www.hillgroceryhouse.org/>
2. On Tuesday March 9th, there will be a [public meeting about allowing River Otters to be trapped](#) in Southwest Minnesota and the Minnesota River Watershed from 6:30 till 8:30 p.m. at the [Kilowatt Center](#), 600 Kilowatt Drive in Granite Falls.

We are urging all CURE supporters to show up, learn what you can and make your opinions known. Here is how Duane and I see it -- see if you agree:

1. CURE is not against trapping. We have many members who hunt, fish and trap.
2. However, when it comes to otters in the Upper Minnesota River, we just don't see enough of them when we are out on the rivers to think we should be encouraging their harvest.
3. The state of Minnesota invested hundreds of thousands of dollars re-introducing river otters to this watershed back in the late 1970's and early 1980's. It is often the highlight of a river trip to see **one otter** in the course of a day's paddle.
4. We would like to see the evidence from the DNR that indicates that this population is stable and that it could withstand an influx of trappers from up north who might travel to this area to run a long trap line to get otters -- which can bring a price of up to \$300 each once they have been properly tanned and processed.
5. As it stands now, the otter sightings are too few and far between for us to want to see an open season on them in this area.

What do **you** think? Let us know. Patrick J. Moore www.cureriver.org

COUNTIES HELP SPREAD WORD ABOUT NEW GENERAL PERMIT FOR LARGE FEEDLOTS

St. Paul, Minn. -- Several southern Minnesota counties are hosting information meetings for large livestock producers who have until Aug. 1 to apply for a new general operating permit. About 1,200 livestock facilities in Minnesota operate under a five-year federal/state general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The new permit covers Feb. 1, 2011, through Jan. 31, 2016.

In west central Minnesota, Renville County is hosting a meeting 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday, March 3, in room 116 of the Renville County government services center in Olivia. In the southeast, feedlot officers of Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Mower, Rice and Steele counties will host an information meeting at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 24, at the community center in Blooming Prairie.

MPCA regional staff from the Rochester and Marshall offices will be present to review the new permit and answer questions on the process. The Rochester feedlot staff also plans an information meeting for 1 p.m., March 25, at the Rochester MPCA office, 18 Wood Lake Dr. SE.

“As counties we don’t handle the NPDES permits, but we can help to get the word out,” says Scott Refsland, Renville County feedlot officer. Invitation letters were sent to about 125 livestock producers with NPDES permits in Renville, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Chippewa, Redwood and Yellow Medicine counties. Others are welcome to attend.

“This will offer the opportunity for producers to review the changes and provide adequate time to gather the necessary information needed to meet the Aug. 1, 2010, application deadline,” says Dan Vermilyea, Steele County feedlot officer.

The NPDES program regulates the discharge of pollutants from point sources to U.S. surface waters. The federal Clean Water Act defines Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) as point sources. In Minnesota, the large majority are located in the southern half of the state.

The 2011-16 general permit is a combination of the federal requirements for large CAFOs and Minnesota rules and statutes. It prohibits the discharge of pollutants from livestock production areas, and restricts the amount of pollutants entering waters of the state as a result of land application of manure. It is intended to protect surface and groundwater quality around feedlot facilities and to minimize any pollution impacts caused by pathogens and nutrients, primarily from manure.

A significant change in the new permit moves the issuance date up to Feb. 1, 2011 (previously May 31) to better align with spring construction. This also moves the application deadline ahead to Aug. 1, 2010. Application packets will be available sometime after Feb. 26.

Other changes include:

- Manure management plans required to cover the five-year permitting period.
- Annual reports (due March 1) must include the specific manure application records.
- Thirty-day public notice of application for permit coverage, or substantial manure management plan changes.
- Increased restrictions for liquid manure application to frozen and snow-covered soils.

The 2011-2016 general NPDES permit for feedlots is on the Web at: www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlot-forms.html#newnpdes.

Agriculture and Water Summit 2010

The Isaac Walton League and the Freshwater Society are holding a summit, Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production, on Saturday, March 27, at Normandale Community College in Bloomington. The purpose is to bring people together to learn about the issues, learn about solutions, and work toward farming practices that will improve water quality. Pat Sweeney asked me to help promote it. The High Island Lake Restoration, Discovery Farms, and two-stage ditches will be covered in the workshop sessions. See the attachments for more detail.

If you have questions, Pat’s contact information is: Patrick D. Sweeney; Freshwater Society; 763-219-1261; 651-757-7285 (cell); psweeney@freshwater.org

Documentary Film Series

NCHS, the St. Peter Food Co-Op, and St. Peter Community and Family Education have teamed up to bring a documentary film series to the Treaty Site History Center. This diverse group of films will be followed by audience discussion and conversations with special guests. We look forward to not only watching them, but talking and thinking about them as well. Please join us for one, a couple, or all eight. Admission is free. Please contact Jessica at 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org, for details.

- Thursday, March 11, 2010 – 7:00 pm *Farming Forward*
- Tuesday, March 30, 2010 – 7:00 pm *Crips and Bloods: Made in America* - Chronicles the decades-long cycle of destruction and despair that defines modern gang culture in south Los Angeles, but comparisons can be made to marginalized groups across the globe.
- Saturday, April 10, 2010 – 2:00 pm *King Corn* and sequel *Big River* - By growing an acre of corn in Iowa two friends uncover the devastating impact that corn is having on the environment, public health and family farms (*King Corn*) and ecological consequences of industrial agriculture (*Big River*).
- Saturday, April 24, 2010 – 2:00 pm *Wolves in Paradise* - Ranchers and environmentalists team up to protect open space from developers and to learn how to share with wolves this last wild corner of the West.
- Tuesday, May 4, 2010 – 7:00 pm *What's On Your Plate?* - A witty and provocative documentary about kids and food politics. Filmed over the course of one year, the film follows two eleven-year-old kids as they explore their place in the food chain.
- Tuesday, May 18, 2010 – 7:00 pm *Green Animation* - A compilation of 11 short, fresh animated films about environmental issues. Animators and musicians combine talents to prompt laughter, anger, indignation and action for an ecologically sound future.
- Sunday, June 6, 2010 – 2:00pm *Buyer Be Fair* - Film looks at two major trade goods-timber and coffee-to understand how certification works and whether it works. Can we globalize in ways that treat people fairly and respect the environment? Why should we try? How can consumers and retailers make choices that will make a difference?
- Thursday, June 24, 2010 – 7:00 pm *America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie* - Tells the story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature, the North American tallgrass prairie.

Help Us Reward the Leaders in Lake and River Conservation!

Do you know a citizen group or volunteer who has done amazing things for their lake or river? Minnesota Waters' annual awards celebrate individuals and groups who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to improving and protecting Minnesota's lakes and rivers. With the gracious support of our sponsors, Minnesota Waters is proud to honor these water heroes with a plaque, a cash award, and publicity in our statewide publications.

We are currently soliciting nominations for the following 2010 Awards: (follow attached links for award nomination forms and instructions) [Lake Association of the Year](#) ; [River-Friendly Community/Group of the Year](#) ; [Outstanding Citizen Volunteer Monitoring Program of the Year](#) ; [Volunteer of the Year](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Awards will be presented at Minnesota Waters' annual RiverNight celebration, August 18, 2010 on Harriet Island, St. Paul, MN. Each winner will receive \$1,000, two tickets to RiverNight, an award plaque, and a photograph with the awards sponsor and MN Waters staff. Nominations are due by May 14, 2010. Winners will be announced mid-June, 2010.

Clean Energy 72 hour call-in

The Sierra Club and a number of other Environmental Groups are sponsoring a 72 hour call-in to our US Senators to leave them a message about supporting Clean Energy and doing something about Climate Change. Would you be willing to make a quick call of support?

- Senator Amy Klobuchar (202) 224-3244
- Senator Al Franken (202) 224-5641

check out this link for talking points (copy and paste to your browser)

http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=adv_ficc_72hr&autologin=true

The message for the Senators is to support strong, clean energy and climate legislation that will build a clean energy economy to create jobs, make our country more secure by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, and fight global warming.

How the G.O.P. Goes Green

By [THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN](#)

It is early evening on Capitol Hill, and I am sitting with Senator Lindsey Graham, the South Carolina Republican, who, along with John Kerry and Joe Lieberman, is trying to craft a new energy bill — one that could actually win 60 votes. What is interesting about Graham is that he has been willing — courageously in my view — to depart from the prevailing G.O.P. consensus that the only energy policy we need is “drill, baby, drill.” What brought you around, I ask? Graham’s short answer: politics, jobs and legacy. We start with politics. The Republican Party today has a major outreach problem with two important constituencies, “Hispanics and young people,” Graham explains. For the entire article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/opinion/28friedman.html?th&emc=th>

Poultry Workshops to be Held in Hutchinson, Lamberton, and Park Rapids

University of Minnesota Extension and Rural Advantage are offering three Poultry Workshops for those who are currently producing poultry or for those that are interested in getting started. The sites include Hutchinson, Lamberton, and Park Rapids, Minnesota. There is a **cost** for each of the workshops and **pre-registration** is necessary. There will be CD’s with the information presented and further materials for each person who attends.

The course will be geared toward the needs of farmers who are producing chickens in alternative settings such as: using portable structures on pasture, using a free range system, using housing that allows amplified space for the birds, using little or no antibiotics, or those marketing direct to consumers or supplying local coops, grocery stores, and restaurants. Growing demand by consumers for poultry produced in this manner and greater interest by smaller scale farmers who seek to increase income and profitability have created the need for this type of workshop.

- Hutchinson - Thursday, March 18, 2010 - 6:30-9:00pm
McLeod County Fairgrounds – 840 Century Ave. SW – Hutchinson, MN 55350
(Meeting room is across from the Extension office.)
Speaker: Dr. Jacquie Jacobs – University of Kentucky
Topics: Poultry Health and Nutrition and other topics as requested by participants.
Registration Fee: \$10 - RSVP by March 17

- Lamberton - Friday, March 19, 2010 - 1:00-4:00pm
Southwest Research and Outreach Center – 23669 130th St. – Lamberton, MN 56152
Speaker: Dr. Jacquie Jacobs – University of Kentucky
Topics: Poultry Health and Nutrition and other topics as requested by participants.
Registration Fee: \$10 - RSVP by March 17

- Park Rapids - Saturday, March 20, 2010 - 10:00am-4:00pm
Faith Baptist Church – 1505 Park Ave. S. – Park Rapids, MN 56470-1591
(The church is located on Highway 71 south. The workshop will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Registration begins at 9:30am.)
Speakers/Topics:
 - Dr. Jacquie Jacobs – University of Kentucky/Poultry Health and Nutrition
 - Jim Stordahl – University of Minnesota Extension/Breeds, Housing, Predators
 - Suzanne Peterson – Producer/Ducks & Geese Breeds, Health Management, Nutrition, Marketing
 - Levi Muhl – Minnesota Department of Agriculture/Processing, LabelingRegistration Fee: \$25 - RSVP by March 15

* Please be sure to pre-register in order to get a lunch count.*

To pre-register please contact: Wayne Martin, University of Minnesota Alternative Livestock Systems, 612-625-6224, or at marti067@umn.edu. Also contact with any workshop related or weather related questions. (02/25/2010)

Job Announcements:

Landscape Restoration Specialist

The Anoka Conservation District is hiring a Landscape Restoration Specialist to provide technical support to residents in the eleven county metropolitan area regarding landscape restoration design and installation as needed. Specifically, each of the eleven counties in the Twin Cities metro area have contracted for varying number of hours for technical assistant in the areas of streambank and shoreline erosion control, lakescaping, backyard conservation planning, rain garden design, urban runoff reduction and treatment project design, and/or landscape restoration techniques and benefits.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A complete job description and application material is available from the ACD office. Contact Chris Lord, District Manager for additional information at (763) 434-2030 ext. 13.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Please call the ACD office or go online at www.AnokaSWCD.org for application materials and send a cover letter, resume, completed application, planning process assignment and list of at least three professional references to the above address to be received by 4:30pm, Monday March 1, 2010. Interviewees will be asked to supply a copy of their college transcripts.

Associate Director of Communications

American Rivers a leading national river conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring healthy natural rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife and nature is hiring an Associate Director of Communications for their Washington D.C. office. The Associate Director of Communications is responsible for developing and implementing communications strategies to advance the objectives of the organization's conservation campaigns. This is an exciting opportunity for a talented, high energy professional who is interested in making a difference in the field of conservation. The Associate Director reports to the Communications Director. For more information, <http://www.americanrivers.org/about-us/jobs/assoc-dir-comm.html>

Produce Pool Coordinator

Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative is hiring an Produce Pool Coordinator. The Produce Pool Coordinator is responsible for managing produce farmer production information and communicating to sales staff and the Produce Program Manager the ongoing availability of produce. The Pool Coordinator will be involved in several aspects of the Produce Pool operations, including creating and enforcing pool policies, production management, conducting Produce Pool meetings and farmer education and training. This position will use on-site field inspections and crop progression/yield estimates to project harvest timelines and quantities. This position is the first line of on-farm product quality inspection and harvest training and is essential in organizing further development of procurement, production, and delivery systems within the Pool. For more information, <http://www.organicvalley.coop/our-story/employment/>

Events:

March 11th and 12th (Thursday and Friday) is the **Minnesota Erosion Control Association's Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Conference & Trade Show** at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Cloud. Network with stormwater and erosion control professionals from around the Midwest and learn about cutting edge projects, innovative designs and products. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mecaannuaconf.pdf>

April 17th (Saturday) is the **3rd Annual Fun Shoot (Clay Pigeon Shoot)** at the River Ridge Gun Club, Courtland sponsored by the Twin Valley Boy Scout Association. Check in is at 12:30 and the Shoot starts at 1:00pm. Go to www.twinvalleybsa.org to print off a registration form or for more information.

April 24th (Saturday) is the **2010 Minnesota River Banquet** with the social hour starting at 5 p.m. in the lower level of Turner Hall in New Ulm. The dinner starts at 6:30 and program at 7:30 with an update on Minnesota actions, issues and advocacy opportunities for the public. It will also feature a startling snapshot look at the phenomenal fisheries in the backwater area of the river near New Ulm and Minnesota River Jeopardy will be back. For those who wish to come early and pay a visit to the Regional River History and Information Center the doors will be open starting at 2 PM until 4:30. The center is the big brick building located in Riverside Park at 1st South and Front St. This event is in its 21st year and as always is being hosted by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. Pre-registration is open and can be done by email providing a name and the number attending to yasure@lycos.com or by sending a check for \$20 per person to CCMR P.O. Box 488 New Ulm MN 56073 notating banquet tickets on the check. CCMR is a basin-wide non-profit 501 c 3 federal tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible deducible.

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Land with a plan](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A joint federal-state conservation program is paying landowners to permanently turn acreage into wetlands and wildlife habitat. But how big will the budget be?

[Educating on energy](#) (Marshall Independent). Marshall High School students spent some time Monday teaching kids about wind energy

[Three full-time workers assigned to help state's ethanol plants](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). MPCA is assigning three people to work full time to help the state's 22 ethanol plants improve compliance with environmental regulations.

[Dems top conservation voters Minnesota ranking](#) (Minnesota Independent). The Conservation Minnesota Voter Center released its scorecard of Minnesota's members of Congress.

[New standard for turbidity proposed for Mississippi River](#) (Agri News). Public comments are being accepted through March 26 on a proposal to change the standard for turbidity in the south metro Mississippi River.

[A closer look at stormwater rules](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Here are some highlights of Alexandria's proposed stormwater management ordinance.

[Dennis Anderson: Council stays protective of outgoing funds](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Outside legislators can watch -- not weigh in -- on panel's expenditures.

[Weatherization funds go unspent](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Federal officials found this week that most of the millions allocated to Minnesota and other states for weatherizing houses remains untouched. State officials say the report paints an incomplete picture.

[Wild turkeys flock to Shoreview. Is their goose about to be cooked?](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). In Shoreview, an unusual infestation of wild turkey has residents in two neighborhoods asking the city to thin the flock.

[Michael T. Richter: Of Canada, the Olympics and dirty oil](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A nation with a deep environmental awareness pursues a destructive policy.

[Snow seeding to restore native plants to the prairie](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Volunteers from the Nature Conservancy spent the day snow seeding at the Weaver Dunes Preserve in Kellogg to help establish native plants on recently acquired land.

[Winter also takes a toll on our air](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Air pollution alerts in the metro area have been frequent this winter, because of lighter winds and a healthy snowpack

[Wily coyotes make themselves at home in metro](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The shy dog-like predator has adapted quickly to city living. No humans have been hurt.

[Veto promise leaves RIM, WMA funding up in the air](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). When it became apparent the House and Senate would approve a bonding bill that was well above the level Gov. Tim Pawlenty preferred, its future was unclear only in so far as whether he would kill the whole bill, or just parts of it.

[To recycle, or not to recycle?](#) (Marshall Independent). Three members of Youth Energy Summit (YES!), Adri DeBoer, Emily Bot and Emma Hoversten, visited the family and showed them examples of what can be recycled and what is not acceptable.

[How to dispose of waste pesticide properly](#) (MinnPost). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) wants to ensure unused and unwanted pesticides and chemicals from farmers and households do not end up damaging the environment.

[A county lockup for unwanted pills](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Chisago County's drop-off program is keeping unused medications out of landfills and sewer systems.

[Citizens give a dam: Minnesota Falls and other dams is topic of Cure Annual Banquet speaker](#) (Advocate Tribune). Perhaps dams divided opinion long before the late Edward Abbey pinned his classic novel, "The Monkey Wrench Gang."

[Roberds Lake group moves project forward](#) (Faribault Daily News). A Roberds Lake group is wasting no time in its quest to connect to city sewer.

Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. – Aldo Leopold

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