

Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound focuses on the Minnesota River

The ongoing effort to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River will be featured on two upcoming episodes of Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound on KARE 11 TV to be broadcast at 10:35 p.m. on April 3rd and April 10th. The shows are repeated the following Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

April 3rd (Sunday) at 10:35 p.m. - We visit Minneopa Falls, near Mankato, with Ron Bolduan and the River Rangers, to learn the geological history of the Minnesota River Valley. We discover that Minneishinona Creek, near Mankato, has carried enough sediment in the last sixty years to fill a swimming lake in the Minnesota River bottoms, and we get an overview of the Working Together project.

April 10th (Sunday) at 10:35 p.m. - Carrie Schommer, an elder in the Pejuhutazizi Oyate (Upper Sioux Community), describes swimming with turtles as a child growing up on the banks of the Minnesota River near Granite Falls. We go with Megan Ulrich, Upper Sioux water quality specialist, to test the water in Hazel Creek. Scott Kudelka, Water Resources Center, Minnesota State University, Mankato, explains the trends of water quality indicators. We ride a swamp boat with Bryce Hoppie, Professor of Geology, Minnesota State University, Mankato, to install weather monitoring equipment in Lake Titlow, near Gaylord. Scientists there are monitoring sediment and high nutrient levels that are feeding algae blooms, to develop an action plan with citizens to improve water quality.

The two stories were produced by Jon Carlson and John Hickman of EPIC Media in conjunction with Ron Schara Productions and the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato. The stories are part of a forthcoming hour-long documentary called "Working Together to Save the Minnesota River" showcasing the efforts of people from all walks of life to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River Basin.

The documentary covers the history of the river from Glacial Lake Agassiz to the present, including an overview of current pollution problems and restoration activities. For more information on the documentary go to: <http://mnriver.org/>

Ron Schara Productions focuses on the art of storytelling through television production by covering the natural world and entertaining people who enjoy the outdoors. Schara's television programs air on major television networks including ESPN2, The Versus Network, NBC, the Outdoor Channel, the History Channel and Fox Sports Net. For more information, <http://www.mnbound.com/>

Created in 1987, the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato serves as a regional center for environmental research and information exchange. Our program is strengthened by the diversity of partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools and individual citizens all working on behalf of the MN River Basin.

Minnesota River Board Funding

The Minnesota River Board (MRB) has been working to present a united voice on behalf of the Minnesota River since 1995 - objectively serving the widely varied constituents that call the basin home. The MRB represents the largest single joint-powers board in the state of Minnesota, and collectively we have a strong voice – representing 37 counties and 13 major watersheds. Funding for the MRB comes from the support of member counties, grant writing campaigns, and the state legislature. State funds are critical to our ability to leverage other funds, and to maintain our mission. The Board was originated in statute, and is a true partnership between local and state units of government – but we need both parties to be at the table with their support.

The MRB has been actively working on the finding innovative solutions to conservation issues, and working with local policy-makers to advance challenging water and watershed measures that strike balance between environmental protection and economic vitality. Over the past two years, we have

worked hard to report on the progress of the basin, and to celebrate and support the numerous partners that do such amazing work here. The 2010 report can be viewed at: <http://mrbdc.wrc.mnsu.edu/progress/index.html>.

The MRB recently voted to explore the potential to re-organize, and bring greater inclusion to the Minnesota River management table from SWCDs, private-interest groups, watershed organizations, and others – but we need continued funding to bring this movement to fruition. The MRB has been pleased, as part of its state funding, to provide more than \$40,000 in local program grants for educational outreach to citizens since 2007. We have leveraged our state appropriation to include a nearly \$1 million NRCS grant to look at alternatives to BMP implementation. In addition, we continue to provide technical and grant writing assistance to our partners that has resulted in more than \$1 million additional dollars to come into the basin from federal and state programs. The MRB needs your support – please consider contacting your local legislators and members of the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Policy and Finance Committee – in particular, Representative Paul Torkelson – New Ulm is the Vice Chair and should be contacted. Rep. Torkelson can be reached at rep.paul.torkelson@house.mn or 651-296-9303. Other members can be found at the following link: <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/committeemembers.asp?comm=87007>

Please ask the House of Representatives to reinsert funding for the Minnesota River Board into HF 1010 (House Omnibus Bill) – an action that has already been taken by the Minnesota Senate in their companion bill. Let me know if you have any questions – thank you for your support.

Regards, Dr. Shannon J Fisher, Executive Director; MN River Board; (507) 389-5491;
Shannon.fisher@mnsu.edu

To show your support for the Minnesota River Board go here: <http://mrbdc.wrc.mnsu.edu/org/mrbd/> and click on “I Support the MRB” (located on the right hand side of the page under the Category – SPOTLIGHT).

Upper MN River Flooding Update

The first crest of the Upper Minnesota River is upon us. Here are some reports from the region:

The Pomme de Terre from Chris Domeier:

The slow melt has been a blessing as the Pomme de Terre has been quite gentle so far. The ice hasn't even completely gone out and the majority of the water is likely to arrive with the higher temperatures this weekend. Therefore, expect a more substantial peak within the next week. Go to Rivergauges.com to keep an eye on river levels. Click on the **purple section** of the map, and then choose the **Minnesota River Basin** on the click down window to access all the gauge data.

Normally, the PDT is 700 feet from my house, it has crept to within 200 feet as it is taking over the floodplain. Fortunately it's a long ways up hill, and never comes close to reaching me. My flooded backyard “iced-up” over the cold weekend. Sure is nice weather, *for January!*

The Lac qui Parle from Dave Craigmile:

The new LqP Rapids at Dawson (where the dam came out) became inundated at high flows so that one would know they were there. There was no real ice jam on railroad trestle but cold temp & waters delayed ice out of main channel to west so the river kept surging giving it a very unique hydrograph that was difficult to predict. The river crested at about same stage as 2001 or about 2 feet less than '97 and three feet less than '69. The 1.3 inch of rain and then 1.1 inch of wet snow on the 22nd came at a very bad time for the LqP, which otherwise would have had a very minimum flood, less than last year. Overall no real flood damage in Dawson as levels just touched the base of some precautionary sandbagging.

The Chippewa from Patrick Moore: Former CURE board member Larry Larson built a dike and sandbagged around his house on the snip in Big Bend, the water seems to be reaching its peak -- for now. Further downstream, CURE's Dixie Tilden and husband Jerry are somewhat relieved that things

have peaked for now. They have everything moved out of the basement of their home in Smith Addition in Montevideo. *Keep your fingers crossed for them!*

The Minnesota in Granite Falls from Scott Tedrick:

The Minnesota River flowing through the heart of Granite is expected to crest today (March 29) at around 891 feet, which would qualify as the ninth highest recorded flood. With the city laid out as it is today – meaning with a number of houses moved etc. – it is considered a minor flood up until it reaches the moderate stage of 893 feet.

Thus far, the flood has caused few problems by the city thanks to the just under \$17 million in flood mitigation efforts of the past 7 years. According to Kent Lokkesmoe, DNR Director of Capital Investment, citing what he deemed “pretty conservative” FEMA estimates, “For every dollar spent on flood prevention, four dollars are saved.”

John Berend's [Bootleggers Supper Club](#) is still open and accessible. There is a little water in the basement of the [KK Berge Building](#) on Main Street, but this was expected.

Hawk Creek from John White:

Street department personnel in Clara City and Maynard are praising the gradual warming and slow melting of the snow so far in reducing the threat of flooding in the two communities.

On Sunday, members of the Clara City Fire Department were called to the northwest quadrant of town, between the cul de sac and the Thoma Apartments, to sandbag around a residence and an electrical transformer.

As far as Hawk Creek goes, local officials said the water has receded eight inches to a foot since the weekend. “The biggest issue right now is the amount of water flowing through the sewer in Maynard. “It’s putting way too much pressure on the lift station,” said Steve Miller of Maynard.

Miller added that he is keeping a close eye on Hawk Creek, too. “There is a lot of ice in the creek between here and Clara City, so that’s always a concern.”

Roger Knapper, public works director of Clara City said the cold weather has helped slow the runoff. “That could change overnight, so I couldn’t say we’re out of this yet.”

Send us Your Personal Flood Story Updates as we connect to the family of the Minnesota River through this flood!

Also -- be sure to tune in to KARE 11 this Sunday night April 3rd at 10:35 p.m. to watch the first installment of the [Working Together for the Minnesota River](#) to be aired on Ron Schara's weekly [Minnesota Bound](#) TV show. According to John Hickman and Jon Carlson -- producers and videographers, there will be two sections of the full length documentary shown on Sunday night and then repeated again on [Saturday April 9 at 6 p.m.](#) Part 1 – We visit Minneopa Falls, near Mankato with [Ron and Lori Bolduan](#) and their River Rangers, to learn the geological history of the Minnesota River Valley. Part 2 - We discover that Minnemishinona Creek, near Mankato, has carried enough sediment in the last sixty years to fill a swimming lake in the Minnesota River bottoms, and we get an overview of the Working Together project.

So much good is happening with the Community of this River. When we resolve to look for what it is we want to create, things start appearing and more of it comes. Let us celebrate the good and grow with it!

Sincerely, Patrick J. Moore; www.cureriver.org

The Minnesota River and Spring Flooding

The Regional River History and Information Center in New Ulm and office of CCMR is now located on the shores of Lake New Ulm. The Eagles nest directly across from us in the inundated floodplain forest

which is high atop a giant cottonwood is showing increased activity and their fishing appears to be good. We have many geese (some snows) and a few ducks including about 10 canvasbacks as well swimming the floodplain lake. We still have chunks of ice and the river is about where it was last fall. We are out of the 100 year (or should I say about 10 year) floodplain, so we are high and dry. Barring any drastic rainfall events I think we have dodged the first bullet, but all bets are off if we get a significant two day rain or real warm weather in a hurry.

I was with my friend Del up in Montevideo last week and witnessed a lot of water west of there all the way to South Dakota which was still standing in the fields, as well as a good amount of snow which was compounded by the snowfall event which happened while I was up there. That all has to go somewhere, so we need to keep the cool night temps below freezing for this to play out the way we need it to.

The city of New Ulm put in a dike to protect homes on the south end of town next to the river. They are pursuing leaving what is now temporary dike and making it a permanent fixture. That way local songwriters can write music about goin' down to the levee to catch a mess of catfish. It cost the city \$300,000.00 to do it with no assurances of being able to leave it. The decision was made after learning sand bagging would be the same approximate cost. It seems it would probably be a good thing to plan for these events as we go about the business of improving the river which includes stabilizing destructive rate flows. Maybe a way to hold more water longer in our systems would be an idea worth looking into for the future.

Just an idea – Scott Sparlin, Executive Director of the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR).

Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of American Scholarship

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America will award a scholarship(s) of not more than \$1000.00 to assist undergraduate student(s) who are in or entering a major that will lead to a career related to conservation and the protection of our environment (Environmental Education, Environmental Science, Natural Resources, Biology, etc.)

Qualifications:

- Limited to Minnesota residents who are US citizens
- Application must be at least in his/her second year in undergraduate college at the time of application.
- Applicant must show a need for financial assistance and list other financial aid that he/she is receiving.
- Scholarship to be used for tuition, books, and transportation to the school or program.

The deadline for applying for the 2011-2012 academic year is May 15, 2011. Please go to: <http://www.minnesotaikes.org/lkes/IzaakWaltonSchoAppForm.pdf> Please contact the Minnesota Division IWLA office if you have any questions: ikes@minnesotaikes.org

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."

Job Announcements:

Marketing Technician

The Carver Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a Marketing Technician for a limited term. This position's primary focus is to market various conservation programs to landowners in Carver County. The marketing of programs will include conducting one-on-one meetings with landowners, phone calls, written letters, and participating in public meetings. This position's secondary focus will be to support the Carver SWCD staff in the implementation of conservation practices. This will include assisting with topographical survey, construction oversight, and natural resource inventories.

Desired Experience and Education

- This position requires at least a two-year degree with course work in agriculture or natural resource management.
- A minimum of 2 years of SWCD or NRCS experience is preferred.
- Applicants must be proficient in verbal and written communications, and knowledgeable in land use, environmental, and governmental operations of County, State and Federal Government.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Must be able to pass a security background check.
- Applicants should be self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision.
- Must be able to work outdoors in all kinds of weather and field conditions.

Applicants must submit the following items by the closing date of April 7, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. by sending a completed Carver SWCD Application for Employment form found at www.co.carver.mn.us/swcd, resume and letter of introduction.

Please submit the above items to: Carver SWCD; Attn: Mike Wanous, Manager; 11360 Hwy 212 Suite 6; Cologne, MN 55322

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:

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 the Community Garden Spring Resource Fair from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Sabathani Community Center (310 E. 38th Street) in Minneapolis. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/springresourcefair.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.

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.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

Opinion: Schara shares light-hearted, yet powerful message (Elk River Star News). Ron Schara and his dog, Raven, headlined the 2011 Elk River Energy Expo.

Everywhere ... eagles: Spring migration brings birds, viewers to Mississippi River (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The spring migration of eagles along the Mississippi River in southeast Minnesota is providing majestic sights for people flocking to see the revered birds.

Opinion: Respect science when it comes to climate change (Minneapolis Star Tribune). And ignore pundits like Jason Lewis. There are websites that will help you assess the evidence.

State budget foes take their corners (Minneapolis Star Tribune). GOP House leaders unveil plans for schools, health, environment to chorus of dismay.

Grants available for energy projects (New Ulm Journal). Farmers and rural small business owners learned about energy efficiency benefits and how to pay for them Thursday at the University of Minnesota Research & Outreach Center.

[Opinion: Jason Lewis misled readers on global warming](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Jason Lewis's recent article on global warming ("[Getting warm. Or cool. Let's make policy!](#)" March 20) contained so much misleading and inaccurate information that it requires a response.

[Road salt turning Twin Cities lakes into dead seas](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Once it gets into our waters, most never leaves, creating toxic soup in which little may live.

[Protesters deliver asthma inhalers to Representative Paulsen's office](#) (Examiner). Local citizens and advocacy groups delivered dozens of asthma inhalers to Representative Paulsen's office in Eden Prairie on Thursday.

[Conservation group building houses, memories](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Experts on happiness say that if you want to be fulfilled in the long term, work on building memories with those closest to you.

[River Rangers to appear on 'Minnesota Bound'](#) (New Ulm Journal). The River Rangers - a group of New Ulm area people who enjoy improving the environment - will appear soon on a well-known Minnesota-based, outdoors-oriented television program.

[SW Minn. plant to switch from ethanol production to isobutanol](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A big change is ahead for at least one of Minnesota's 21 ethanol plants. A Colorado company plans to convert a facility in the southwestern part of the state to another type of alcohol production, one which makes isobutanol.

[Bringing back the bees](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). These powerful pollinators are still suffering from a devastating disease, but gardeners can -- and should -- do what they can to make life better for bees.

[Environment groups see dark portents in Legislature](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). It started with proposals to cut regulatory red tape and to repeal a long-standing ban on new nuclear power plants. Soon, there was a push to lift restrictions on new coal-fired power plants. Later, Minnesota legislators voted to ease water-quality standards protecting wild rice.

[Logging in state parks? Bill would require it in 2](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The proposal to harvest black walnut trees in the southeastern state parks for money ignites a firestorm.

[Tapping into spring](#) (Marshall Independent). Perhaps a sign of a late spring, the sap wasn't running from the maple trees at the annual Sugarbush Boil-Off Sunday afternoon at the Shetek Environmental Learning Center.

[Workshop to bring groups together to discuss water quality issues'](#) (Marshall Independent). As the government pushes for more water quality regulation, the debate of environmental impact can reach a boiling point, but a new workshop being developed in Montevideo aims to upset traditional meeting norms to bring about friendly, fun discussions of water quality issues.

What if one's life were not a commodity, not something to be bartered to the highest bidder, or made to order? What if one's life were governed by needs more fundamental than acceptance or admiration? What if one were simply to stay home and plant some manner of garden? – Paul Gruchow

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

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