

### **State Sen. Kubly passes away at 68**

*KARE 11 TV*

Sen. Gary Kubly, DFL-Granite Falls, passed away Friday, according to a statement issued by Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk.

Kubly, 68, was hospitalized last Wednesday after suffering what his family described as cardiac-like symptoms.

The state senator was diagnosed about a year ago with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, which affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. The Lutheran pastor, from Granite Falls, was in his third term representing District 20 in the Minnesota Senate.

Bakk said in a statement Saturday:

"We were all deeply saddened to learn of Gary Kubly's passing yesterday. Senator Kubly was a man who embodied every ideal as a person and in public service. He worked hard. He was honest. He shared credit even when he was the one who did the heavy lifting. To Gary Kubly, it simply did not matter where you came from, only where you ended up. He got a lot of things done that way, and everyone in Minnesota is better for it.

I had the honor of serving with Senator Kubly in both the Minnesota House and Senate. As a Lutheran minister, he often led the Senate in our opening prayer, and I will always remember his inspiring messages. But Senator Kubly didn't just talk about cooperation and respect for all people. He lived it.

He met his final challenge—a grueling and agonizing diagnosis that sapped his strength—with grit and the determination to serve his constituents to the very end. He was a man who managed a career in faith and politics in a way that few could ever match. He leaves us now with thousands of friends, and not an enemy in the world."

Services will be held in Granite Falls at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 7.

### **Le Sueur River Watershed "Map Party" to be Held April 10<sup>th</sup> 4- 8 p.m. in Pemberton**

An Open House "Map Party" will be held on Tuesday April, 10 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Main Street Plaza and Community Center in Pemberton MN. The public is invited to this free event designed to share maps and information about the waterways and historic landscape of the Le Sueur River watershed. The event is free and participants will be welcome to come and go as they please. Refreshments and hot beef sandwiches will be served. For more information call 1-877-269-2873.

The event is being sponsored by the newly forming Le Sueur River Watershed project that is hoping to find interested citizens who will form a steering committee to help guide the project as it gets off the ground in the coming year.

Event organizers are hoping that farmers and landowners and recreational users of the river and local students and farm organizations, historians, teachers and amateur geologists will come to the map party to share what they know with each other.

The latest aerial, print and digital maps will be available for viewing and downloading along with reproductions of very old historic maps from the earliest European explorers to the region. People will have the chance to view and print a wide variety of maps related to the Le Sueur River Watershed. Map Party goers will also have a chance to learn about the various restoration projects going on in the watershed and learn about programs like the Blue Earth County Streambank Restoration Project. The map party will be an informal event where anyone can wander from table to table to learn about whatever interests them. More than 10 different tables featuring maps from the DNR, the MPCA, the SWCD's, County Government, University and non-profit organizations will be featured at the event

If you love maps or if you are curious about what local landowners in cooperation with local government and state agencies are doing with the latest mapping technology, then this party is for you. For more information call 1-877-269-2873.

Check out the flyer, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lesueurmapparty.pdf>

### **Proposed Silica-Sand Mines**

Louisville Swamp in Scott County is a popular site for Metro birding. How will our experience there be affected by proposed silica-sand mines totaling 1200 acres on its border? Silica mines can bring blasting, constant truck traffic and silica dust in the air.

There will be an EIS scoping meeting held on March 13th in the Scott County Board Room at 9:30 AM to gather public comments on issues that will be considered within the Merriam Junction EIS (the smaller of two proposed sand mines).

Information on the Scott County website:

<http://www.co.scott.mn.us/ParksLibraryEnv/Environment/EnvReview/Pages/Silica-Sand-Mining-Operations.aspx>

Star Tribune article:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/south/140456063.html>

### **Cultivating your blue thumb**

Installing a rain garden hadn't been a priority for Hastings residents Andy and Amy Tix. In fact, they'd never really considered putting one in their yard until a friend of theirs, Mike Isensee of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conversation District, suggested they consider one in their landscaping project.

They attended the Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water program to learn more about it, and after attending a series of workshops, they got to sit down with a landscaper who helped draw up plans for their specific property based on aerial photos they brought with them. The Tixes were sent home with a book that explained step by step what to do, and they were ready to get to work.

They did all the work themselves, but they weren't left on their own. Periodically, landscapers from Blue Thumb would come by to check on their work and make sure the construction was being done properly. And if the Tixes needed help, the landscapers would dig in and lend a hand.

For the entire article, <http://www.hastingsstargazette.com/event/article/id/26872/>

### **Free- Planting for Clean Water Workshops**

Join Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District for a free Blue Thumb presentation to see dozens of inspirational and affordable garden designs that integrate native plants and clean our waters.

After attending you can receive design and installation assistance. Most Dakota County residents will also qualify for a \$250 grant to install their new gardens. Please register at Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District 651-480-7781 or [www.dakotaswcd.org](http://www.dakotaswcd.org)

### **MPCA: Minnesota's largest sealcoater switches to safer formula**

St. Paul, Minn. — Coal-tar residues that can contaminate stormwater ponds may become a thing of the past thanks to a voluntary phase-out by Eagan-based Jet-Black International, one of the nation's larger franchisers of pavement seal-coating services.

The company decided to voluntarily phase out coal-tar-based sealers late this winter in response to scientific data showing that coal-tar-based sealers are an important source of contamination to stormwater-collection systems in Minnesota. The switch to an asphalt-based formulation will help keep harmful chemicals out of Minnesota's surface waters.

The phase-out calls for all 25 of Jet-Black's Minnesota franchises to voluntarily phase out coal-tar-based sealants in 2012, with a complete change to an asphalt emulsion sealant by the start of the 2013 season.

"Jet-Black stepped up and took action to phase out coal tar in their sealant," MPCA Commissioner Paul Aasen said. "When an industry leader embraces science-based recommendations like this, it really helps. Coal-tar-based sealants are a major source of contamination in storm-pond sediments, with potentially harmful impacts to the environment, human health, and the budgets of cities that own and maintain stormwater ponds."

Jet-Black co-owner Nicholas Kelso said, "We were concerned that continued use of coal-tar sealants will lead to unsustainable and costly pond cleanups at the expense of the citizens of Minnesota. Studies show that phasing out coal-tar sealants will help reduce the cost of these cleanups, so Jet-Black and our Minnesota franchise owners believe this is the responsible thing to do."

Kelso added, "Sealcoating itself is not the problem. It's the recipe that's important, and coal tar is being removed from Jet-Black formulations."

Recent research shows that chemicals in coal-tar-based sealants called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) accumulate in the sediments of stormwater ponds. The legislature in 2009 required Minnesota state agencies to stop using coal-tar formulations. Since then the MPCA has been working with cities and retailers to encourage switching to asphalt-based sealants, which contain much lower levels of PAHs compared to coal-tar formulations.

PAHs can be harmful to human health at sufficient concentrations, and some are classified as carcinogenic by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Research by the United States Geological Survey, the MPCA, and other agencies has found that the chemicals wash off pavement treated with coal-tar sealants, and then accumulate in the sediments of stormwater ponds and wetlands. Cities must maintain stormwater ponds by dredging them, and if the PAH concentrations in the dredged material are high enough, disposal can be very costly. Some Minnesota cities have passed ordinances banning the use of coal-tar sealants.

Jet-Black has provided both coal-tar- and asphalt-based sealants to its franchise owners for years but after 2012 will provide only asphalt-based products. Jet-Black has 82 franchises in the United States.

"This company is one of the larger in the sealcoating business, so their switch to asphalt-based products represents a big step forward for protection of human health and the environment," Aasen said.

#### **ND man sentenced in MN zebra mussel case**

FARGO, N.D. (Associated Press) — A North Dakota man accused of introducing zebra mussels into a Minnesota lake last year has been fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$500 in restitution.

Fifty-four-year-old George Wynn of Fargo pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of introducing an invasive species into Rose Lake in Minnesota's Otter Tail County.

Zebra mussels can be transported by boats from one body of water to another. They compete with native species, clog water intakes and can sink docks and buoys with their weight.

The Forum newspaper reports (<http://bit.ly/zKMlil>) that Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources estimates it will cost more than \$18,000 to treat Rose Lake.

#### **TREEMENDOUS TREES**

[The Lorax](#) speaks for the trees and so do DNR's forestry education programs and materials. The School Forest Program helps schools set up outdoor classrooms/school forests and has been doing so for over **60** years! There are more than **100** school forests throughout Minnesota and we are looking for additional interested schools to enroll. DNR forestry provides [specialized](#) training and lessons to School Forest

educators. Finally, all educators can get materials that support Arbor Month in May, Minnesota forestry primer books, and online tree quizzes. [More](#).

### **Silver, bighead carp were caught by commercial fishermen March 1 in Mississippi River near Winona**

A silver carp and a bighead carp were caught in a seine net by commercial fishermen March 1 in Pool 6 of the Mississippi River near Winona, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Silver and bighead carp, members of the Asian carp family, are nonnative species that can cause serious ecological problems as they spread into new waters.

The silver carp caught last week, which weighed about 8 pounds, represents the farthest upstream discovery to date of the species, known for its tendency to leap from the water when startled.

"A silver carp discovery this far upstream is discouraging, but not surprising," said Tim Schlagenhaft of the DNR's Mississippi River Team at Lake City. "This is further evidence that Asian carp continue to move upstream in the Mississippi River."

"We hope this galvanizes meaningful action to slow down the upriver movement of Asian carp while we figure out ways to control and deal with their impacts," said Paul Labovitz, superintendent of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area in the Twin Cities.

No established populations of bighead or silver carp are known in Minnesota. However, individual Asian carp have been caught by commercial fishermen in recent years. Three silver carp (two in pool 8 near La Crosse, one in pool 9) were caught between 2008 and 2011. One bighead carp was caught in the St. Croix River in 1996 and one in 2011. Between 2003-2009, six bighead carp were caught in the Mississippi River between Lake Pepin and the Iowa border.

Environmental DNA (eDNA) testing last year indicated the presence of silver carp in the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers in the Twin Cities area. However, searches by the DNR and commissioned commercial fishermen failed to turn up any sign of live Asian carp at that time.

Populations of bighead and silver carp are established in the Mississippi River and its tributaries downstream of pool 12 in Iowa.

Bighead carp can weigh up to 110 pounds and silver carp up to 60 pounds. They are voracious eaters, capable of consuming 5 to 20 percent of their body weight each day. They feed on algae and other microscopic organisms, often outcompeting native fish for food. Scientists believe Asian carp could severely disrupt the aquatic ecosystems of Minnesota waters.

Several grass carp were also caught in Pool 6 on March 1. Although grass carp are also a concern, they have been present in Minnesota waters for many years. Adult grass carp, which can weigh up to 70 pounds, can dramatically reduce aquatic vegetation.

More information about Asian carp is available on the DNR's website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/asian-carp/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/asian-carp/index.html).

### **Blue Earth County Citizens Academy**

The Blue Earth County Citizens Academy offers a unique opportunity for citizens to get an inside perspective on how county government works and become engaged through a series of six free interactive classes on Tuesday evenings, beginning March 20 and ending April 24 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at various county facilities. Graduates will receive special recognition at the May 8, 2012 County Board Meeting.

To be considered for the 2012 Citizens Academy, fill out an application and return by 5 p.m. on March 9, 2012. Class size is limited to 20 participants – so don't delay!

To receive application materials contact Jessica Beyer, Public Information Specialist at (507) 304-4491 or visit [www.co.blue-earth.mn.us](http://www.co.blue-earth.mn.us) - on the right hand side of the home page under quick links click on 2012 Citizens Academy for application materials.

### **Learn from the Master – 3 Full Days with Ian Mitchell-Innes in Redwood Falls, MN**

Grass-fed beef producers Grant & Dawn Breitreutz from Redwood Falls, MN attended an Ian Mitchell-Innes seminar in 2011 and want to share this experience with other producers. They are excited to bring Ian to Minnesota and invite you to take advantage of this rare opportunity on April 3 - 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m at the the VFW (825 Bridge Street) in Redwood Falls.

Ian Mitchell-Innes is a certified Holistic Management Trainer who ranches in South Africa. He is the leading teacher and mentor of mob & ultra-high stock density grazing. He is a fierce proponent of making ranching profitable, sustainable and fun!

Cost: \$500 per person. \$250 deposit by 3/15/2012. Classroom space is limited. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Rolls, cookies, coffee, soft drinks and lunch will be provided each day.

Contact Information: Grant & Dawn Breitreutz • 38270 Kenwood Ave • Redwood Falls, MN 56283 • (507) 641-5384 • [gdbreitreutz@hotmail.com](mailto:gdbreitreutz@hotmail.com).

Training Topics: Ranching in Sync with Nature, Holistic Planned Grazing, Energy is Money, Mob/Ultra-High Stock Density, Fencing, Herding, Water, Graze-Trample Ratio

Hotel Information: Redwood Valley Lodge - (507) 644-5700 or Select Inn - (507) 644-4444. More hotels available; call Dawn for more information

### **Job Announcements:**

#### **Summer Intern**

The Heron Lake Watershed District is accepting application forms, letters of interest and resumes for one summer intern position. This is a seasonal environmental position. Job requires physical labor outdoors in all weather conditions. The intern will be expected to work with local, state, and federal government entities and local organizations. Qualified applicants must be enrolled as a full-time college student. For a complete job description and application form, please contact Jan Voit at 507-793-2462, [hlwd@roundlk.net](mailto:hlwd@roundlk.net), or check the <http://www.hlwdonline.org/hlwd/>

Employment will begin mid-May. Some flexibility exists depending upon the end of the school year. Salary: \$8.00 per hour. Interested applicants may send an application form, resume, and cover letter describing work experience and reasons for wanting to work as a summer intern to: Jan Voit; Heron Lake Watershed District; PO Box 345; Heron Lake, MN 56137. Application deadline is March 19, 2012.

#### **Trail Staff, Internships and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains**

Wilderness Inquiry is now accepting applications for Trail Staff, Internships, and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains for summer 2012. We're looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a willingness to work hard.

If you know of someone who would be good and interested, could you please send them our way? They can apply for the positions by going to: [www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs](http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs)

Please distribute the following announcement flyers as you see fit:

Trail Staff Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=3028>

Internship Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=5343>

#### **Manager, Organic Services**

The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of **Manager, Organic Services**. The Manager, Organic Services will be responsible for the overall management, performance and growth of the MCIA Organic Certification Program.

This position requires knowledge of the organic industry and the ability to lead an innovative, professional team to deliver industry leading organic certification service. A successful applicant will be self-motivated with excellent communication and decision making skills. A four year degree in a food science or agriculture related field is preferred with proficiency in Word, Excel and database management software required.

Duties include:

- Developing program objectives and directing efforts to achieve them.
- Developing a program budget and monitoring financial performance of the program.
- Monitoring program compliance to maintain NOP certifier accreditation.
- Monitoring program quality and customer satisfaction.
- Developing communication and education strategies.
- Overseeing operation of the information management system and development of program documents.

A job description is available at [www.mncia.org](http://www.mncia.org) . This is a full-time position in St. Paul, Minnesota offering a competitive salary and a full benefits and personal leave package.

Established in 1903, MCIA is recognized for providing high quality certification and quality assurance programs to agriculture and the food industry. Applicants are asked to submit a letter of application and resume by March 16, 2012 to:

### **Events:**

March 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Kids Day** at Earthrise Farm & Education Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us for some Fun on the farm. Activities include Self-guided Farm Tours, Grow-Your-Own Green Clover (in recycled containers), DIY Sock Puppets and Seasonal Snacks. Earthrise Farm is located at 2580 250<sup>th</sup> and for more information, 320-752-1700 or [erfarm@hotmail.com](mailto:erfarm@hotmail.com).

March 13<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a raingarden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water raingarden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project. Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or [dmiller@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:dmiller@co.scott.mn.us) to reserve your spot today!

March 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm at the Spring Lake Township Hall in Prior Lake. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a rain garden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water rain garden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project. Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or [dmiller@co.scott.mn.us](mailto:dmiller@co.scott.mn.us) to reserve your spot today!

March 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Watershed Solutions Summit** 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Normandale Community College in the Auditorium of the Fine Arts Wing (9700 France Ave S) in Bloomington sponsored by the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America and Minnesota Conservation Federation. How do we get more Watershed Solutions on the ground for clean water, habitat and ag production? Can Stakeholders and Policy merge to overcome barriers and find opportunities to get to solutions? Do the Great Water Quality Agreement, Great Lakes...[Read More](#)



[March 19<sup>th</sup> \(Monday\) is the Minnesota River Board Meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall \(920 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street\) in Fairmont. For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[March 21<sup>st</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup> \(Wednesday\) is \*\*Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability\*\* – a six week discussion course sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry \(170 Good Counsel Drive\) to be held on Wednesdays starting at 6:00 p.m. Space in this course is limited and is expected to fill. Please register to participate and receive your book before class begins. Participants in this course will: Explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationship to them; Examine the impact our food choices have on our health, the health of others and the health of the planet; Consider the ethical and political implications of our current food system and our personal food choices. Cost is \\$30-\\$50 \(More if you can, less if you can't\) This fee includes the cost of the course book which has thought-provoking readings, discussion questions, and goal setting and for each session. For more information and to register contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or \[lcoons@ssndmankato.org\]\(mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org\)](#)

[March 27<sup>h</sup> \(Tuesday\) is the \*\*Green Fire showing\*\* at 7:00 p.m. at Belgrade Avenue United Methodist Church \(325 Sherman Street\) in North Mankato. This is a biographical film about seminal environmentalist Aldo Leopold. The program is sponsored by the Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Mankato Paddling and Outings Club. For more information, contact Peggy at \[peggyk@hickorytech.net\]\(mailto:peggyk@hickorytech.net\)](#)

[March 29<sup>th</sup> \(Thursday\) is a \*\*Conference on Precision Conservation\*\*, the science and philosophy of putting conservation practices at the places on the landscape where they will do the most good in preventing erosion and improving water quality. NRCS Chief Dave White is keynote speaker. Sponsored by the Freshwater Society and a number of partners. To learn more and register: \[www.freshwater.org\]\(http://www.freshwater.org\).](#)

[March 29<sup>th</sup> \(Thursday\) is the \*\*Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting\*\* starting at 5 p.m. at the Starbuck Community Center. The meal begins at 6 p.m. and program to follow. There is also an opportunity for displays. The watershed effort works best when we all work together, so it's great to share and show the accomplishments and opportunities from across the basin. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaannualmeeting.pdf>](#)

[March 29<sup>th</sup> \(Thursday\) is the \*\*Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Society's annual meeting\*\* in conjunction with the Freshwater Society's day-long conference: "Precision Conservation: Technology Redefining Local Water Quality Practices." Precision conservation effectively and efficiently targets scarce resources to the spots on the landscape where they will do the most good. Learn about the latest technology -- much of it based on LiDAR scanning – that pinpoints "sweet spots" where runoff, erosion and pollution are disproportionately severe and the potential for improvement is disproportionately great. Speakers include NRCS Chief Dave White; Dr. David Mulla, University Soil Scientist and a pioneer in employing modern LiDAR-based technology in the service of conservation; Dr. Gerald Van Amburg, president of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Board; and several other Minnesota expert conservationists sharing rural and urban examples. The event will be at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony, MN. Visit the Freshwater Society web site \(<http://freshwater.org>\) for a current agenda and registration information. The Chapter annual meeting will follow the conference.](#)

[April 12<sup>th</sup> \(Thursday\) is the \*\*Second Annual Ice Out/Loon In Fundraising Event\*\* sponsored by the Minnesota Freshwater Society from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Lafayette Club in Minnetonka Beach. The event will include Exciting silent auction items Including...Twins Suite behind home plate for 14 guests with food and drink; kayaking around Split Rock Lighthouse; silver loon pendant on a silver chain; a sightseeing cruise on Lake Minnetonka; a week at a resort near Steamboat Springs and much more! Emcee is Paul Huttner, MPR Meteorologist and there will also be a raffle, hilarious loon calling contest, great music, food and beverages. For more information click \[here\]\(#\), or contact Diane Lynch at 952-314-8134 or \[dlynch@freshwater.org\]\(mailto:dlynch@freshwater.org\)](#)

April 28<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the Ney Nature Center Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction starting at 5:30 at the Montgomery American Legion Post 79 (102 Elm Avenue SW0 in Montgomery. Featured guest speaker is Don Shelby, an environmental journalist, nature lover, one of the most decorated and honored local television journalists in the country, and recently WCCO-TV News Anchor. For more information call or email Becky at the Ney Nature Center – 507-248-3474 or [info@neycenter.org](mailto:info@neycenter.org)

[May 21<sup>st</sup> \(Monday\) is the \*\*Minnesota River Board Meeting\*\* from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[July 16<sup>th</sup> \(Monday\) is the \*\*Minnesota River Board Meeting\*\* from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 \(600 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street\). For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[September 17<sup>th</sup> \(Monday\) is the \*\*Minnesota River Board Meeting\*\* from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room \(2200 23<sup>rd</sup> Street NE\) in Willmar. For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[November 19<sup>th</sup> \(Monday\) is the \*\*Minnesota River Board Meeting\*\* from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or \[karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\]\(mailto:karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu\)](#)

[Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/calendar>](http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/calendar)

### **Environmental/Conservation Articles:**

[Farmers hail value of conservation programs](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota farm owner was among those telling Senate panel how grants build a better future.

[PCA to start over on shredder process](#) (TC Daily Planet). Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) public meeting to discuss the air emissions permit renewal and environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for a North Minneapolis metal shredder has been postponed indefinitely.

[Minn. issues new rules to stop emerald ash borer](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has [formalized its quarantine](#) of four counties to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.

[S. Minn. man ordered to pay \\$12,500 fine for mass killing of white pelicans](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). A southern Minnesota farmer was sentenced Monday to two years probation and 100 hours of community service at a wildlife preserve for killing hundreds of protected white pelicans last May.

[Minnesota's declining moose population could affect hunting season](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Minnesota's moose are continuing to die off, and the situation is dire enough that state officials are thinking about scrapping the fall hunting season for only the second time in 40 years.

[Public comments on Miss. River could spur cleanup](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency wants public comment on its report on the section of the Mississippi River from Fort Snelling to Lake Pepin.

[What are businesses doing to be more sustainable?](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). With one eye on rising gasoline prices and the other on Election Day, President Barack Obama is urging greater government investment in alternative energy.

[A conversation with Sir David Attenborough](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The BBC World Service is marking 80 years in business this year. That's 80 years of broadcasting across the world in several languages, over shortwave radio and now with satellites and internet streaming.



[Editorial: Litterbugs face fine of up to \\$1,000](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). We know in the grand scheme of things littering may not seem that big of a deal. But littering is no longer such a little problem. We're not just talking about a pop can or a fast food bag here and there. We're talking about much bigger items that conservation officers have been finding lately on roads and lakes.

[Fairmont woman named state agronomist](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Spencer has been named state agronomist, a position that puts her in charge of writing and updating the conservation practice standards that deal with agronomic issues, and getting information and technical tools to field staff and producers.

[DNR Question of Week: How is state doing on endangered species list?](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Minnesota has a number of species on the state's list of endangered, threatened and special concern species. How far have we come in helping to protect and re-establish these populations? Are we close to removing any from these lists?

[Mixed reactions heard at town hall meeting on wolf season](#) (Bemidji Pioneer). Trappers, farmers, hunters, outdoor enthusiasts, natural resources professionals and interested citizens listened as Dan Stark, a large carnivore specialist with the DNR, spoke about the state's wolf history and management plan and fielded numerous questions from the audience about the proposed season.

[Lake advocates pressing for Legacy money to battle zebra mussels](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Preventing the spread of invasive species is just as important as keeping our harmful pollutants out of the waterways, they argue.

*When we save a river, we save a major part of an ecosystem, and we save ourselves as well because of our dependence – physical, economic, spiritual, - on the water and its community of life. – Tim Palmer, "The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America"*

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 Basin.

[Thanks,](#)

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[Scott](#)

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