

### **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting**

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.

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! For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaannualmeeting.pdf> Please RSVP to Jennifer by Tuesday, March 22.

### **MPCA COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CHANGES**

Three veteran executives will join the leadership team at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as the new deputy commissioner, assistant commissioner for enforcement and legal policy, and chief financial officer, Commissioner Paul Aasen announced today.

“In today’s difficult budget climate, we need experienced leadership to help us focus on reforming our operations and providing the service and protection Minnesotans expect,” Aasen said. “These three individuals bring decades of public, private and nonprofit managerial experience to the mix.”

John Linc Stine will serve as deputy commissioner, replacing Tim Scherkenbach who is scheduled to retire later this year. Stine will serve as overall agency manager, as well as lead MPCA reform efforts including permit streamlining, chemical regulatory reform and assisting with water policy and governance. Stine is currently an assistant commissioner at the Minnesota Department of Health and has also directed the Health Department’s environmental health division and served in managerial positions for two Department of Natural Resources divisions.

Michelle Beeman will serve as a new assistant commissioner for enforcement and legal policy. Beeman is currently Director of Environment and Natural Resources at Dakota County. She has also served in various capacities at The Nature Conservancy, as legislative director for the Department of Natural Resources, as an attorney for the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General and as an MPCA Board member from 2004 to 2008. Beeman’s new position will provide a strategic focus on enforcement and legal issues for the agency.

Bruce Biser joins the MPCA as its new chief financial officer. Biser currently owns B-Squared Solutions, a financial, leadership and operations consulting firm and previously served as the MPCA’s CFO from 1998 to 2000. He also worked as a financial and operations executive for Planned Parenthood, the Minnesota Supreme Court, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and the Air Force. He will head the agency’s efforts to conduct process improvements and streamline its business service operations.

Biser will begin work at the MPCA on March 7, Stine on March 16, and Beeman on March 28.

Rebecca Flood and David Thornton will remain in their current positions as assistant commissioners for water and air, respectively. Tim Scherkenbach will stay on as a special assistant to the Commissioner. Myrna Halbach will serve as assistant CFO.

## **Protecting our Water Resources – A Forum Series for Policymakers**

Registration is now available for [Protecting Our Water Resources - A Forum Series for Policymakers](#). The three-part series is presented by the [West Metro Water Alliance \(WMWA\)](#) in partnership with Hennepin County, the Three Rivers Park District, the Freshwater Society and cities with a common interest in water quality and stormwater management.

Registration and more detailed forum descriptions and information is available at [www.hennepin.us/waterforums](http://www.hennepin.us/waterforums).

Forum topics and schedule - The series will provide information and management tools to help shape critical decisions that impact water quality, property values and the effective use of tax dollars. The forums will also give you an opportunity to network and share success stories with peers in other cities, counties and watershed organizations.

The first two forums have been customized to address urban and rural areas. These workshops will be offered as two sessions - one tailored to urban and developed suburban communities and the second to developing suburban and rural communities.

### *Forum 1: Path to Clean Water - Understanding Volume Management*

- Urban/Suburban  
Wednesday, March 23 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Maple Grove City Hall  
12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy, Maple Grove
- Suburban/Rural  
Wednesday, March 30 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Baker Park, Near Wilderness Lodge  
4001 County Road 24, Maple Plain

### *Forum 2: Path to Clean Water - Understanding Nutrient Management*

- Urban/Suburban  
Wednesday, May 18 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Clubhouse at Edinburgh USA  
8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park
- Suburban/Rural  
Wednesday, May 25 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Hennepin County Public Works Building  
1600 Prairie Drive, Medina

### *Forum 3: Path to Clean Water - Understanding TMDLs and Watershed Planning*

- Wednesday, September 21 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
Brookview Community Center  
200 Brookview Pkwy, Golden Valley

Forum cost and registration deadlines - The cost for each forum is \$10. The registration deadlines are:

- Friday, March 18 for Forum 1 - Understanding Volume Management (Urban/Suburban)
- Friday, March 25 for Forum 1 - Understanding Volume Management (Suburban/Rural)
- Wednesday, May 11 for Forum 2 - Understanding Nutrient Management (Urban/Suburban)
- Friday, May 20 for for Forum 2 - Understanding Nutrient Management (Suburban/Rural)
- Friday, September 16 for Forum 3 - Understanding TMDLs and Watershed Planning

Who should attend these forums? - These forums will offer information that will be useful to anyone with a role in making decisions and developing policies regarding water quality and the management of water resources.

The series is targeted to policymakers, including city council members, city officials, planning commission members, other advisory committees, city staff, and parks and rec officials and staff. Why are the topics covered in these forums important? - Your residents think water quality is an important issue. In a telephone survey conducted for WMWA, 75 percent of respondents believe that clean water is very important, even considering all the other issues and needs facing their communities.

For more information - Visit <http://www.hennepin.us/waterforums> for more information, including more detailed forum agendas and descriptions, registration information and the latest updates.

### **Preparing Fuel Tanks for Flooding can reduce possible damage to Health, Property, and the Environment**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) urges Minnesotans to prepare their fuel oil, gasoline and other petroleum tanks for the flooding expected this spring. This will reduce damage that spilled petroleum products wreak on property and buildings as well as reduce damage to the environment, according to MPCA Emergency Responder Walt Haas.

Because water is heavier than fuel, floodwater can enter buried tanks, displacing the fuel. Farmers and other rural residents who have underground fuel storage tanks should make sure their tanks are vented above the height of potential floodwater.

“The best way to prepare above-ground fuel storage tanks for a flood is to have them emptied,” Haas said. “If that is not possible or practical, the tanks should be secured to concrete anchors in the ground so they cannot float away.

“If floodwater comes into contact with unsecured fuel oil tanks in basements, it will cause them to become unstable, tip over and/or float on the surface of the water. If a tank’s vent, fill pipe or other openings are not watertight, floodwater will enter the tank and displace the fuel into the home or office. In addition to creating fire and environmental hazards, the fuel will be absorbed by any porous material it comes in contact with, such as carpet, wood, cinder block and drywall. Once that happens, fuel vapors may persist in the building indefinitely.”

If floodwaters are forecast to be high enough at your home or office to cause your tank to tip over or float: Contact a bulk fuel distributor to remove the fuel from the tank before flooding begins, and plug its vent and fill pipes. Although this will make the tank more buoyant in floodwater, it will prevent or reduce leakage of fuel into a home or office should floodwater tip the tank over or enter the tank through an opening. If the tank is no longer in service, remove the unused equipment, including all piping, and seal the vent and fill openings.

Secure the tank so that it will remain upright if floodwater causes it to float. The tank may float like a bobber if your basement floods, so anything used to secure the tank must be able to withstand these buoyant forces. Also, the fill and vent must be plugged to prevent water from entering the tank and displacing the fuel.

If floodwater gets into a home or office but does not come in contact with the tank, the situation should be monitored to ensure that the tank’s supports are secure and that its stability is not undermined by the water.

Underground tanks at commercial facilities should be topped off and vents and openings sealed so the tanks are watertight. Another option is to remove the contents of the tanks and fill them with water to prevent buoyancy.

If they notice that tanks have leaked, tank owners should call the Minnesota Duty Officer toll-free at 800-422-0798.

If they have questions, tank owners may call the MPCA’s offices in Detroit Lakes, Marshall, Willmar, St. Paul, Rochester, Brainerd or Duluth toll-free at 800-657-3864.

More information on what to do before and after floods to minimize risks to health and damage to property and the environment is on the MPCA's website at [www.pca.state.mn.us/hqzq7fe](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hqzq7fe).

## **WE NEED THE EPA - Subject: Tell our Senators: Don't let Republicans de-fund the EPA**

Dear Friend,

Republicans have launched an unprecedented budget assault on clean air and public health protections - slashing the EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) remaining funding for the year by almost 60%!

Senate Democrats have two weeks to stop it.

There are just enough votes in the to do it, but we need to make sure all of our environmental champions stand strong, and pressure a few of the more tentative supporters to join them.

I just signed a petition to our Senators asking them to oppose this radical assault on EPA funding and filibuster any bill that guts Clean Air Act enforcement. Please join me by adding your name here:

[http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/epa\\_assault/?r\\_by=17506-3019294-mno6tOx&rc=paste1](http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/epa_assault/?r_by=17506-3019294-mno6tOx&rc=paste1)

### **Third Crop Producer Meeting – March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Just a reminder that the third of four Third Crop Producer Meetings is on Monday, March 14 in Fairmont, Minnesota at the Knights of Columbus Hall (920 E. 10th St.)

There have been a few changes to the agenda since the previous advertising went out. Luckily, all the speakers are the same! Below you will find the current agenda.

#### AGENDA

9:30am Registration and coffee  
10:00am A Discussion on Carbon - Dr. Dean Current, UMN CINRAM  
10:30am Water Quality Trading 101 - Bruce Henningsgaard, MPCA  
11:15am Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota and GBERBA's Role - Brooke Hacker, GBERBA  
11:45am LUNCH  
12:45pm Cold Spring Wellhead Protection Area - Carrie Raber, Stearns SWCD  
1:15pm Pollinator Credits - Jeff Jensen, Rural Advantage  
1:45pm Landscape Effects on Native Bees - Elaine Evans, UMN  
2:15pm Climate Change Legislation - Jim Kleinschmit, IATP  
3:00pm Further Discussion and Q/A

Contact the Rural Advantage office with any questions. FYI - for further information on upcoming events, UMN Extension - Conservation Agronomy is on Facebook. Be sure to "Like" our page!

### **Grant Opportunities:**

#### **Environmental Education (EE) Grant**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting grant applications for \$1.9 million in funding for environmental education projects and programs. The purpose of the grants is to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 and will accept applications until May 2, 2011.

The grants provide financial support for innovative projects that design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Projects should involve environmental education activities that go beyond disseminating information.

EPA will be hosting two conference calls for potential applicants interested in additional information about the application process. The conference calls will take place on March 21, 2011 at 11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and April 6 at 2 p.m. EDT. To participate in the conference calls, dial: 1-866-379-5082, conference ID number: 48699133 for the call on March 21. Use conference ID number: 48696117 for the call on April 6.

The Environmental Education Grant Program provides funding to local education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, colleges or universities, not-for-profit organizations, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entities. Tribal education agencies, which are controlled by an Indian tribe, band or nation, may also apply, including a school or community college.

Since the program began, EPA has provided more than \$50 million in funding to approximately 3,000 agencies and organizations.

More information on eligibility and application materials: <http://www.epa.gov/education/grants.html>

### **Job Announcements:**

#### **Aquifer management Hydrologist 2 – Minnesota DNR**

This position performs hydrogeological investigations in response to the increased demand for water for drinking water and for other high volume uses. Evaluation of the groundwater monitoring network and appropriate expansion of groundwater level monitoring and trend analysis, in areas where water used for increased municipal water supply is likely, will be a primary function. Investigations may involve assisting with data collection, contract exploratory drilling, well installation and maintenance, data interpretation and analysis, and report preparation.

Collect and interpret data needed to evaluate the sustainability of increased use of groundwater for municipal supply, including but not limited to measurement of groundwater levels in wells for background monitoring and aquifer tests, exploratory drilling, monitoring well installation, analysis of data and report preparation in order that the State's surface water and groundwater resources are well defined and managed.

Assist with drinking water management through establishment of aquifer management areas by assessing the need for observation wells in potential groundwater management areas, carrying out the groundwater level monitoring network inventory according to Division priorities, recommending the construction, reconstruction, and/or sealing of Division observation wells, ensure that the wells perform, and carrying out necessary maintenance, and designing and helping carry out mass water level measurements (synoptic water level surveys).

For more information,

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/32123286d02e9807afed686abe3e6429/View>

#### **District Technician – Le Sueur SWCD**

This full time (72 hour pay period) District Technician position provides technical assistance to landowners, organizations, and agencies for the protection and enhancement of the natural resources in Le Sueur County. Minimum qualifications are a valid MN driver's license, ability to carry equipment over rough terrain, perform outdoor work in all seasons of the year, ability to lift over 50 pounds on occasion, willing to be exposed to construction noise, computer knowledge and experience, preferred background in agriculture or natural resources and preferred secondary diploma. The application deadline is March 31, 2011.

For more information on the job: <http://www.lesueurswcd.org/jobannouncement.pdf>

Job application can be found at:

<http://www.lesueurswcd.org/Le%20Sueur%20SWCD%20Job%20App.pdf>

### **Chippewa River Watershed Project Intern**

The Chippewa River Watershed Project (CRWP), located in Montevideo, MN, in west Central Minnesota is seeking a summer intern.

The CRWP is a grant based partnership with goals of improving water quality in the Chippewa River and its tributaries in western Minnesota. The Chippewa River Watershed Project works towards this goal through awareness building, monitoring and implementation activities.

Internship responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Stream transparency data collection
- Collecting water grab samples for lab analysis
- Operating basic water quality monitoring equipment
- Taking stream flow measurements
- Assisting with water quality data collection, entry and analysis
- Macroinvertebrate sampling and identification
- Assisting with best management practices as needed
- Preparing newsletters and brochures
- Attending/Participating in meetings, workshops, events through the education/outreach program of the CRWP

Seeking individuals pursuing degrees in Environmental Studies/Science, Biology, Hydrology, Soil and Water Conservation or related fields. Coursework in biology, chemistry, or hydrology recommended. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed their sophomore year of secondary education. Individuals must be responsible, highly motivated and able to work independently as well as with a team. The ability to accurately collect and record data is essential. Applicant will be expected to work outdoors, sometimes in adverse conditions and perform some physical labor duties. Applicant must possess a current valid driver's license.

This is a temporary seasonal environmental internship for approximately 12 weeks in the summer of 2011. Interns will work approximately 40 hours a week. Flexible start date in May 2011 and end date in August 2011. Wage: \$9.00/hr.

For more information contact Jennifer at 320-269-2139 x120 or email [jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.hoffman@charterinternet.com)

To apply, send resume including cover letter to: Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 N 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; APPLICATION DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by **FRIDAY, MARCH 18th, 2011**.

### **Mussel Research Lab-Tech Internship**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources may be filling 1 part-time (20 hours/week) student intern position to assist with laboratory studies on the life history of native freshwater mussels. Up to 7 days a week, exact hours are flexible but more hours are anticipated on Mondays and Thursdays. Position will be at the DNR Central Office in St. Paul, Minnesota. Start date is somewhat flexible, but is expected to begin by May 16, or soon thereafter, and continue to at least August 26 (POSSIBLY extending through mid October).

Assist with laboratory studies on the life history of native freshwater mussels. Duties will include Fish husbandry, maintenance of more than 20 aquaria. This will include monitoring water quality and cleaning filters. Monitoring fish health, including treatment of sick fish and a proper feeding schedule. This internship will also include assisting with mussel host suitability studies, recording daily lab activities and trial data along with field collection of native fishes. Up to 7 days a week, exact hours are flexible but most hours are anticipated on Mondays and Thursdays. Field collection of native fishes.

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



## Events:

March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Turf Maintenance for Reduced Environmental Impacts**. This workshop is for professional turf maintenance contractors, public works and parks departments, school district grounds staff and property managers. Learn new techniques on how to protect our water resources while saving money and time spent on the job! Other topics covered will be: equipment calibration, how turfgrass management effects our lakes and rivers and associated best practices for managing turfgrass. An optional test will be given at the end of the workshop for those professionals interested in becoming **certified** in "Turf Maintenance Best Practices" from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Cost for attending the workshop is \$25 which includes a light breakfast, lunch and a workshop manual. The workshop starts at 8 am and runs until 2:30 pm at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. The address for the McColl Pond ELC is: 13550 Dakota Ave South Savage MN 55372. To register contact: Theresa Sowards, University of Minnesota Extension Service, 651-480-7715 or [sowar006@umn.edu](mailto:sowar006@umn.edu).

March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Hidden History of the Minnesota River Valley presentation** at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873 for time. Wabasso native Beth Johanneck has written a book of stories about the characters who have lived in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood and Granite Falls and all points in between. Come and meet the author, hear a few stories and compare notes with fellow history lovers of the region.

March 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Importance of Ecological Services** 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 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo starting at 9 a.m. For more information <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

March 24<sup>th</sup> (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 28<sup>th</sup> (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 31<sup>st</sup> (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 12<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net).

April 13<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup> (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 16<sup>th</sup> (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 26<sup>th</sup> (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 30<sup>th</sup> (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. For more information <http://neycenter.org/>

May 7<sup>th</sup> (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](http://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 17<sup>th</sup> (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 21<sup>st</sup> (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://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

### Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Dorms becoming a classroom of sorts at the U](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A new program teaches students how to preserve the environment and, at the same time, a limited resource of their own: money.

[Possible waste dump stirs debate](#) (MN Daily). A waste war is raging in Northeast Minneapolis over the proposal to bring a hazardous household dump to the neighborhood.

[SFA honors four for their efforts](#) (AgriNews). The Minnesota Sustainable Farming Association honored four people during its recent annual conference.

[Dayton signs on to big shift in environmental oversight](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Dayton signed a bill letting businesses drive the assessment of a project's environmental toll.

[Commentary: Before he cuts funds to global warming research, state senator should check his science](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). When the chairman of the Minnesota Senate Environment Committee says "global warming -- I think it's a farce, I think it's a fallacy," I say, "Yikes."

[Budget-cutting fever puts ethanol subsidies at risk](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). As lawmakers look for places to cut spending, federal support for ethanol could become a tempting target. The U.S. Government Accountability Office says ethanol subsidies cost taxpayers billions of dollars and are not necessary.

[Minnesota moose: Can they be saved?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A warmer climate seems to be killing the iconic mammal. But how?

[Who belongs on Met Council?](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Does the Metropolitan Council, the Twin Cities' regional planning agency, need a governance makeover?

[Ideas flow through the river, too](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). For years, Minneapolis treated the Mississippi as a "truck dock." But a design competition hopes to bring about its rebirth.

[Advisory group continues struggle over projects list](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). An advisory commission on funding environmental projects continues to wrestle with dozens of proposals being held up by the change in the majority party in the legislature.

*One final piece of advice: do not burn yourselves out. Be as I am – a reluctant enthusiast . . . a part time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of ourselves and your lives for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can . . . While it's still here. – Edward Abbey*

**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>