Minnesota River Weekly Update

350 EARTH Exhibit

It was a picture that woke up the world. Two years later, on April 22, 1970, tens of millions of people participated in the first Earth Day. Many of the posters, banners, and flags carried that day featured the "Earth Rise" image.

Today, we're in desperate need of an updated mix of art, activism, and political change. Scientists have produced all the charts, facts and figures we need to recognize the threat of climate change and understand its urgency. Economists have shown how to transition our countries towards low-carbon economies. Nonprofit organizations have rallied, lobbied, and pleaded for progress.

And yet, by all measures, we're still not making the progress we need. While it's growing day by day, our movement has a lot of work left to do. That's why it's time to bring in the artists.

So, this November 20-27 -- the week before the UN climate meetings in Cancun -- we're organizing the first ever planetary art show: 350 EARTH. In more than a dozen locations around the planet, artists are partnering with citizens to create massive art installations around the theme of climate change, from its impacts (like a sea-level rise design in New York City) to its solutions (like a solar-powered design in South Africa). The latest addition to 350 EARTH comes from Thom Yorke, the lead singer of Radiohead, who has designed a gorgeous image(http://earth.350.org/radioheads-thom-yorke-joins-350-earth/ of the legendary King Canute trying to stop a rising tide.

Each image will be photographed from space, courtesy of DigitalGlobe's generous donation of their satellite time to document the story. Since we can't get photos from a space ship, a satellite is the next best thing.

350.org founder Bill McKibben explains:

It's kind of fun to imagine some other intelligence peering down through their telescopes at our blue-white orb, trying to make sense of these giant images suddenly spreading across snowfield and desert and lagoon. What they'd see is the planet's immune system coming alive--conscious, alert human beings doing their best to help safeguard the future.

Looking back on the "Earth Rise" image, Apollo 8 Commander Frank Borman said that it was "the most beautiful, heart-catching sight of my life, one that sent a torrent of nostalgia, of sheer homesickness, surging through me. It was the only thing in space that had any color to it. Everything else was simply black or white. But not the Earth."

We've mostly let climate change be debated in the black-and-white world of text and policy. 350 EARTH is different. For a week, we'll work in color: with art, spirit, and passion.

Job Opportunities:

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Positions

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is a local governmental unit responsible for the protection and management of water and related natural resources in the drainage area of the Minnehaha Creek, including Lake Minnetonka, Minnehaha Creek, and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes. Currently, the MCWD has the following job openings:

Communications Manager

This position has the responsibility for the development and implementation of community relations and communication activities within the MCWD. Successful applicants will have the advanced strategic communication planning and implementation skills needed to create and maintain watershed-wide communications programs that promote public awareness for the responsible use and management of

natural resources, demonstrable experience working with governmental entities and diverse stakeholders, and in managing and working with outside vendors and consultants.

This position requires a BA/BS degree in marketing, communications or public relations and a minimum of five (5) years professional experience in communications, public relations, or in writing content/editing/producing newspaper, television news or audio/visual communications materials. Work experience in natural resources or local government is preferred. Specific skills are required in oral and written communications, including editing, layout, interviewing, public speaking and writing press releases and news stories.

Education Manager

This position has the responsibility for the development and implementation of educational programs within the MCWD. Successful applicants will have the training and experience in preparing and implementing educational materials and programs for diverse audiences that promote understanding and personal action for the responsible use and management of water and related natural resources; demonstrable experience working with governmental entities and diverse stakeholders and in managing and working with outside vendors and consultants.

This position requires a BA/BS degree in natural resources science, environmental education, or education and a minimum of five (5) years professional experience in adult environmental education or related field. Work experience in communications, public relations or local government is preferred. Specific skills are required in oral and written communications, including editing, layout, interviewing, public speaking and writing press releases and news stories.

To apply for the job go to: http://www.minnehahacreek.org/work.php

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.wildernessinguiry.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

UWCA Education Outreach Coordinator

The Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) Education Outreach Coordinator, in conjunction with staff from the National Park Service and other partner agencies, will serve as the primary liaison with school teachers and administrators to ensure successful implementation of the UWCA program and curricula - including coordinating and conducting training sessions for teachers and staff, facilitating use of curricula, coordinating field trips with teachers, facilitating follow-up and evaluation, and disseminating project findings. The Coordinator will also be responsible for expanding the program to additional school districts throughout the Twin Cities metro area. This position is funded by a two-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The applicant will serve as the primary liaison between UWCA program partner agencies and school district and building staff, coordinate refinement and enhancement of the draft UWCA curricula, including alignment with the specific science, math, and literacy goals of each participating school district, facilitate integration of the UWCA curricula into the standard curriculum and teacher training programs of participating schools, develop and implement teacher training, including workshops and canoe events,

develop and implement student recruitment strategies, assist teachers in developing and executing service-learning projects, coordinate pre and post data collection for evaluation phase implemented by the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI), and facilitate outreach and expansion, such as presentations at professional conferences and information dissemination through online networks. For more information

visit http://fmp.wildernessinguiry.org/jobinator/jobdesc_detail.php?JobID=31

Natural Resources Conservation Service

As a contracting professional you are a strategic member of a team. You collaborate closely with program and technical managers trusted with key projects. You also work with other agencies and private sector contractors. Most importantly, you are in a pivotal role from day one. Typical work assignments include: Work with customers to identify their needs, Write basic requests for proposals for services or supplies, Evaluate bids or proposals, Negotiate contracts for services or supplies, Purchase services, supplies, equipment or other items, Monitor contracts, Supervise Grants Agreements and Management Services Staff. The position is in St. Paul and applications are due by Friday, November 26, 2010.

For more information visit http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=94116054

Forester

Performs duties related to the management of vegetation such as silviculture, timber management, reforestation, timber stand improvement, and fuels management. Also performs program management duties on a three District zone, which includes budgeting, oversight of vegetation management, and coordination with other resource areas to accomplish District, Zone, and Forest Goals. Performs duties related to Forest Plan Implementation, including site level planning, prescription writing, implementation of vegetation management activities, cultural treatments, and other related duties. Position is supervisory and will supervise up to 4 employees. Applications are due by November 26th, 2010 and the position is in Aurora, MN.

For more information: http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91765166

County Program Technician

This area of consideration is open to ALL SOURCES nationwide. This is a full-time permanent NON-FEDERAL position. See full vacancy announcement for MANDATORY application and qualification requirements. A Program Technician is responsible for carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to the technical assistance and program support related to FSA programs at the field office level. Utilizes various types of computer systems to maintain producer data and process automated program forms and processes. Uses a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered. The position is in Waseca and applications are due Thursday, December 9, 2010.

For more information visit: http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=93838741

Events:

<u>December 1st (Wednesday)</u> is **Farm Transition & Estate Planning: Create Your Farm Legacy** from 8:45am to 2:00 pm. Are you struggling with transferring your farm business to the next generation? This five-hour workshop covers the following topics: farm business transfer strategies; tax issues related to the farm transfer; wills, trusts, power of attorney and long-term care issues; developing a written transfer plan; and treatment of heirs in the transfer process. Presented by the University of Minnesota Extension Educators, this workshop will be held at the 4-H Family Center on the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds in Le Center. The fee is \$20/person or \$30/family. Lunch and materials are included. Register by Friday, Nov.

26, by contacting Laura Kieser -- (952) 492-5410 or torb0022@umn.edu.

<u>December 1st (Wednesday)</u> is **Effective Erosion and Sediment Control for Residential Home Sites** from 2:30-4:30pm. In this session, residents can find out how to keep the soil on their homesite and out of the storm drains. Erosion and sediment control best practices will be presented as well as permit requirements from municipalities and townships in Scott County. This workshop has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for 1 continuing education credit will be offered. Coffee and cookies will be provided. There is no charge to attend. The event will be held at the Parkview Room at Prior Lake City Hall, 4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake. For more information, contact Dan Miller, (952) 492-5424.

<u>December 5th (Sunday)</u> is **Just For You- An Afternoon with Chris Heeter** at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson, MN from 2-5pm. Registration is \$65. Register today via Michelle Burns at 507-665-3358 or at <u>www.designyourdestiny.com</u>

<u>December 21st (Tuesday)</u> is the **Winter Solstice Celebration** at 170 Good Counsel Drive (School Sisters of Notre Dame) in Mankato. In the midst of the hectic holiday season, plan in some simplicity! A light supper, seasonal reflection, and the ancient tradition of a community bonfire to celebrate the season. The event starts out at 4:30 with a snowshoe hike; 5:30 is a light supper and seasonal reflection and 7:00 is the bonfire near the orchard. RSVP by December 18th to 507-389-4272 or lcoons@sndmankato.org

<u>January 27th (Thursday)</u> is **Electrofishing in the MN River** starting at 7pm at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo, MN. Brad Koenen, MN DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hutchinson Area Office will tell us about what the MN DNR is finding with their electro fishing surveys of the Minnesota River. Prepare to be surprised and to see awesome footage of hibernating catfish!

<u>February 12th (Saturday)</u> is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood on Main Street Montevideo. **Invited Guest Speakers: John Hickman & Jon Carlson** will tell us about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come hear the stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary! For more information visit <u>http://www.cureriver.org/events.html</u>

<u>April 16th (Saturday)</u> 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.

<u>May 7th (Saturday)</u> is **Twin Valley Council 4th annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more informationcall (507) 359-5770.

<u>May 21st (Saturday)</u> 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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

<u>Tom Helgeson, fly-fishing editor, dies</u> (Star Tribune) Tom Helgeson, a journalist turned fly-fisherman who became one of the Midwest's most prominent spokesmen for the sport and for conservation, died Friday of complications from lung cancer.

<u>Court sides with Xcel on Prairie Island expansion</u> (AP) The Minnesota Court of Appeals has rejected a challenge to Xcel Energy's plans to upgrade its Prairie Island nuclear power plant.

<u>Collette Giese: Question of wolves is again at our door</u> (Star Tribune) We're lucky here in Minnesota that we've always had wolves in our woods. These top predators play a vital role in regulating deer and other prey populations, providing food for other wildlife, keeping disease in check and driving essential evolutionary processes.

<u>Report: Parts of state running short on water</u> (MPR) A new study from the University of Minnesota says some parts of the state are in danger of running out of water.

<u>U plan aims to clean up Minnesota lakes, rivers</u> (Pioneer Press) As Minnesota prepares cleanup plans for polluted lakes and river stretches, it also should take the next step and require all of them to be cleaned up, a University of Minnesota report will say.

<u>Scientists take on doubters of climate change</u> (Minnesota Daily) John Abraham has been called a clown, a liar and "a snake-like wretched man" because he doesn't shy away from global warming controversy.

<u>US Senate OKs bill against Asian carp</u> (AP) The U.S. Senate has approved legislation that sponsors say aims to fight the spread of Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

<u>Open land at issue in Malt-O-Meal expansion</u> (Star Tribune) Malt-O-Meal Co. is expanding its Lakeville technology center and hopes to bring more jobs to town. But there's a catch.

<u>Report: Minn. could better care for its water resources</u> (MPR) A new report released today faults Minnesota for not taking very good care of its rivers and lakes.

Lake Rebecca gets a dose of alum for algae blooms (Star Tribune) Using \$450,000 provided by the state's Legacy Amendment, Three Rivers Park District is treating one of its lakes with alum to curb algae.

<u>U of Minn. sends 16 students to UN climate summit</u> (Pioneer Press) Sixteen students from the University of Minnesota will attend the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Mexico at the end of the month.

<u>When a lake becomes a river again</u> (The Post Bulletin) Though pleased with the end result — a park, pond and meandering river that replaced Lake Florence in Stewartville in the mid-1990s — the process of getting it still doesn't sit well with city resident Bill Tasler.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." ~ Mahatma Gandhi

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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