

### **Green Tomato Cook Off**

On October 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry is sponsoring a Green Tomato Cook-Off with prizes. Bring your dishes to the Red Barn for tasting and for fun! While it's been on the back burner for awhile, we're bringing it to the front burner, so to speak. Doncha remember Ma in the *Long Winter* making delicious green tomato concoctions from her kitchen garden? Some years in Minnesota we may actually grow more green tomatoes than red so let's stop tossing them to the compost these green gems. I attach a collection of recipes to get you started. We'll have 3 categories 1. Savory 2. Sweet 3. Sauces/condiments.

For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org). Check out the web site at:

[www.ssndmankato.org/earth/](http://www.ssndmankato.org/earth/)

### **Ravine, Bluff, Streambank (RBS) Erosion Study for the Minnesota River Basin**

The University of Minnesota, Department of Bioproducts & Biosystems Engineering (BBE) and Department of Soil, Water and Climate prepared a Ravine, Bluff, Streambank (RBS) Erosion Study for the Minnesota River Basin for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

For the full report: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ravinebluffstreambankstudy.pdf>

### **American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment**

The following list is of MN college and university [signatories of American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment](#). Notice that MSU Mankato is still prominently missing. Augsburg College, Bemidji State University, Carleton College, Century College, College of Saint Benedict, Dakota County Technical College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Hibbing Community College, Inver Hills Community College, Lake Superior College, Macalester College, Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis Community & Technical College, Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Saint John's University, St. Catherine University, St. Cloud State University, University of Minnesota-Crookston, University of Minnesota-Duluth, University of Minnesota-Morris, University of Minnesota-Rochester, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, University of Saint Thomas, Vermilion Community College, and Winona State University.

### **Minnesota Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (RETAP)**

The Minnesota Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (Minnesota RETAP) provides no-cost, non-regulatory energy and waste assessments for Minnesota's small to mid-sized businesses and public and private institutions. Assessments include an on-site visit to your facility from a team of RETAP retirees with emphasis on finding opportunities to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency and conservation, and reduce operating costs.

Since RETAP's start in 2001, well over 125 Minnesota businesses and institutions have benefited from RETAP assessments. Each assessment yields a written report tailored for the client that identifies high priority changes and estimated financial and environmental savings from each recommendation. You are under no obligation to implement the report recommendations. Average estimated savings from implementation of RETAP recommendations is over \$4,300 per year per client. For more information, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/retap>

To find out more or to request a free assessment, see the web site above and contact Mike Vennewitz, RETAP Coordinator, at 612/781-1307 or [mvennewitz@yahoo.com](mailto:mvennewitz@yahoo.com)

### **Mississippi River Basin Clean Water Workgroup**

Clean Water Network is establishing a Workgroup focusing on clean water issues in the Mississippi River Basin. The workgroup will focus on a wide variety of issues affecting the Mississippi River Basin including agricultural & stormwater runoff pollution, oil and gas drilling and much more. We are looking for two go-

getters to volunteer to lead the workgroup. The two co-chairs will set the direction of the workgroup working with members with Clean Water Network staff. The first order of business will be to come up with an appropriate workgroup name as well as craft a goals and objective statement. If you are interested in taking the helm of this exciting new group, please contact Gordon Culver at [gordonculver@cwn.org](mailto:gordonculver@cwn.org).

### **Prairie Biomass Harvest Field Day to be Held Crookston**

University of Minnesota, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting a field day October 19, 2010, near Crookston, Minnesota, to discuss the potential benefits of harvesting grassland plants for bioenergy. The Prairie Biomass Harvest Field Day will begin at 3:00pm at a research plot being utilized by Dr. Clarence Lehman, University of Minnesota, and project partners.

Minnesota is capable of producing many different types of biomass for the renewable energy sector; possible biomass feedstocks include the grasses and forbs that make up our restored prairies and conservation grasslands. But how does biomass harvest affect the health of the native plants and animals that call the grasslands home? Dr. Clarence Lehman and partners are conducting research in different areas of Minnesota to try to answer that question.

Dr. Clarence Lehman will open the field day with his thoughts on the importance of using bioenergy and how we might be able to improve wildlife habitat in doing so. Research team member Jake Jungers will report results and observations from the fall 2009 sampling and harvest. Jill Sackett, Extension Educator with University of Minnesota Extension and Rural Advantage, will give a brief overview of third generation biofuel production processes. The field day will end with a group discussion of the local biomass feedstock market. Dr. Dan Svedarsky from University of Minnesota – Crookston will assist in leading this discussion. Minnesota Native Landscapes will also be present and attendees will be able to view their harvest equipment and the harvesting process, weather permitting. This is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. Please dress accordingly.

This demonstration is funded by USDA-NRCS through a Conservation Innovation Grant. The research is supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Legislative Citizen Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

### **DIRECTIONS:**

The field day and harvest demonstration will occur on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land near the intersection of US Hwy 2 and MN Hwy 32 close to Mentor Wildlife Management Area. **From Crookston**, travel East on US Hwy 2 for approximately 16.0 miles. At the intersection of MN Hwy 32, US Hwy 2, and Co Rd 49 travel east on Co Rd 49. The research plot is approximately 1.0 mile from the intersection.

### **Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Conference**

Minnesota Waters is planning our next statewide Lakes and Rivers Conference, April 28-29, 2010. To help us make this conference most useful, we would like to get your thoughts on what workshop topics and other events we should offer. We would greatly appreciate it if you could take just 10 minutes or so to let us know what topics and events would be most useful to you.

Here is a link to the survey:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2yPwvEhU4DnbCn8T4VcWqQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2yPwvEhU4DnbCn8T4VcWqQ_3d_3d)

### **Grant Announcements:**

#### **Surface Water Assessment Grant**

The MPCA has announced that SWAG applicants use citizen volunteers in their assessment monitoring will increase their chance of receiving funding significantly

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/surface-water-assessment-grants.html?menuid=&missing=0&redirect=1>

Minnesota Waters, a non profit dedicated to increasing citizen involvement in caring for lakes and rivers, can help your group prepare for and successfully implement a volunteer monitoring program for your SWAG project. We work with local government units, non-profits, and citizen groups to organize and train volunteers to gather water quality data that meets state and federal standards. Our program includes helping plan program logistics, volunteer recruitment strategies, training on lake and stream sampling protocols, and providing volunteer support materials.

If you are putting together a SWAG application or similar type of water quality grant proposal, and need help planning for a volunteer monitoring program, talk to Minnesota Waters' staff about contracting opportunities. Some of the services that our organization can provide include: Volunteer recruitment and retention strategies, Logistical planning for sampling and shipping, Communication with a network of volunteers using our website, newsletter, and e-newsletter, Follow-up support to training workshop participants SWAG application help including: Project details, Monitoring methods, Water monitoring training details, Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures, Training Workshop Evaluation Reports, Budget details for a volunteer monitoring program, If you would be interested in having Minnesota Waters work with you in your future volunteer program needs please contact Courtney Kowalczak at [courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org) or 218-343-2180.

### **Lake and Stream Monitoring Project Grants**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced last Friday (September 24th) the availability of one-point-five million dollars in grant money for lake and stream monitoring projects. Water monitoring is often the first step toward protecting or improving water resources. Eligible applicants may apply through a competitive application process. Grant proposals are due to the MPCA by 4 p.m. on November 5th, 2010.

Eligible applicants include counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, water management organizations, nonprofits, Minnesota colleges and universities, and American Indian tribes. No matching or in-kind funds are required under this program. Grant details are available on the MPCA Web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us). Look for the Surface Water Assessment Grants on the Featured heading.

**The Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) and Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA)** are now accepting grant applications/research proposals for projects beginning in 2011 and for extensions to previously funded projects. To access the Request for Proposal (RFP) timeline and other required documents click on the link [Click here to access MCR&PC/MCGA 2011 RFP](#)

Research proposals can be submitted by mail, fax or email and must be received no later than 4:30 PM on December 3, 2010.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **Recycling/ Water Plan / Wetlands Administrator**

Brown County is hiring a full time Recycling / Water Plan / Wetlands Administrator to develop, coordinate and implement county water plan, recycling and related solid waste programs and educational activities; administrator Wetland Conservation Act of 1991 in Brown County; assist in Planning & Zoning Department activities including feedlot registration and inventory management and review and approve designs of Individual Sewage Treatment Systems; and provide staff support for county park department.

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

#### **Research Microbiologist/Plant Pathologist/Geneticist (Postdoctoral Research Associate)**

The applicant will be a member of a team investigating the genetics, population biology, and host-pathogen interactions of cereal rust diseases. The project involves the application of molecular markers to the study of cereal rust diseases.

Applicant will use of virulence analysis, SSR, and other PCR based markers to study variation and gene flow in populations of *Puccinia graminis* f.sp. *avenae* and *P. coronata*; develop new genetic markers suitable for population genetic studies of *P. graminis* f.sp. *avenae* and *P. coronata*; identify QTLs for partial resistance to *P. coronata* in oat and suitable molecular markers for marker-assisted selection; develop methodologies to identify and select for partial resistance to *P. graminis* f.sp. *avenae*. The open period is until December 31<sup>st</sup> and the position is in St. Paul, MN.

For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88144345>

### **Forestry Technician**

The applicant will perform timber sales preparation duties, such as cruising timber, in support of timber sales activities and perform a variety of technical work in support of the recreation program. The position is in Walker, MN. Applications are due by October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91158938>

### **Biological Science Technician**

The applicant assists in many phases of the research process by performing a variety of technical duties in the field and laboratory in support of research designed to quantify and minimize fertilizer nitrogen losses from corn production and their associated impacts on air and water quality. Duties include but are not limited to: Uses closed chamber devices to quantify exchange of nitrogen-containing gases between soils and atmosphere; Assists in coordination, implementation and maintenance of experimental treatments at multiple field locations including tillage, planting, pest management and harvesting, Installs, utilizes and maintains sampling devices, including gas-flux chambers and soil-water lysimeters for field collection of water and gas samples in experimental plots; Drives motor vehicle to perform work at multiple sites and to personally transport instruments, equipment, and samples between field and office. Operates and maintains laboratory equipment such as pH meters, inorganic nitrogen analyzers, and gas chromatographs, and other types of gas analyzers. Enters organizes, calculates, analyzes and summarizes experimental and analytical data using personal computer and standard software; and Collects, processes, stores, and chemically analyzes soil and water samples. Applications are due by October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91155514>

### **County Program Technician**

The 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. Applications are due by October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91103352>

### **Research Microbiologist/Plant Pathologist/Geneticis**

The applicant will be a member of a team investigating the genetics, population biology, and host-pathogen interactions of cereal rust diseases. The project involves the application of molecular markers to the study of cereal rust diseases.

The applicant will use of virulence analysis, SSR, and other PCR based markers to study variation and gene flow in populations of *Puccinia graminis* f.sp. *avenae* and *P. coronata*; develop new genetic markers suitable for population genetic studies of *P. graminis* f.sp. *avenae* and *P. coronata*; identify QTLs for partial resistance to *P. coronata* in oat and suitable molecular markers for marker-assisted selection; and develop methodologies to identify and select for partial resistance to *P. graminis* f.sp. *avenae*. Applications are due December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88144344>

## Events:

October 6<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/>

October 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Fall Prairie Walk** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kasota Prairie. Take a stroll through the Kasota Prairie on a late afternoon in early October with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Learn more about the prairie's wide array of fall-blooming wildflowers and the wildlife that can be found in this grassy expanse. The prairie's unique geology will be discussed as well. Meet at Kasota Prairie parking lot. This event is free and open to the public. For questions contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Geography of Montenegro** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Montenegro, a tiny country in the Balkans with jaw-dropping scenery—from harsh mountains to Mediterranean beaches—has an equally jaw-dropping history at the crossroads of contending East-West armies for the last several centuries. English Professor and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Gregory Mason will talk about Montenegro's unique geography and how it drives the country's history, a history full of old hatreds and hopefully brighter futures in this fascinating part of the world. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Green Tomato Cook Off** at the SSND Red Barn on 170 Good Counsel Dr. in Mankato, MN from 5:30-7pm. There will be 3 categories: 1. Savory, 2. Sweet, and 3. Sauces/condiments. For more information contact Lisa A. Coons at (507) 389-4272 or [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org) You can also visit the website at [www.ssndmankato.org/earth/](http://www.ssndmankato.org/earth/)

October 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Hazelnut Field Day** from 10:00am - 4:00pm. There will be the Best Hazelnut Dessert Contest, bring your prize-winning hazelnut dessert; cookies, cakes, bars, pies and whatever other concoction you can come up with. A Potluck Lunch, new this year is a potluck. Bring your own serveware and your favorite hotdish, salad, or dessert. Drink will be provided and Presentations on: Current Hazelnut Research, Hazelnuts 101, The Upper Midwest Hazelnut Development Initiative, and HIPster Program. For more information contact Jeff Jensen @ 507-238-5449 or Norm Erickson @ 507-282-7365

October 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is “**What We Do Know and Don't Know 2010**” from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Henderson Community Building (600 Main Street, Henderson, MN). This forum is about the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862.

For more information, contact the Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society at 507-248-3234 or [jrsoc@mchsi.com](mailto:jrsoc@mchsi.com)

October 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 2** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part two of this three-part series, learn about some of the state's other bird species that you might not see too often but do indeed call Minnesota home for at least part of the year. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on identification along with locations and times where/when you might find these species. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 18<sup>th</sup> (Monday) **Module 4 - Climate Change** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM (Eastern) **Presented by** Dr. Steve McNulty: Team Leader, Ecologist Eastern Forest Environmental Threats Assessment Center. USDA Forest Service. To participate, visit [forestrywebinar.net](http://forestrywebinar.net) on the day of the webinar. *No registration required*

October 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting**. This meeting will be held at the RiverCentre in Saint Paul in conjunction with the Water Resources Conference.

October 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Prairie Mass Harvest Field Day** at 3:00 pm near Crookston, MN. The harvest and field day will occur on Conservation Reserve Program land near the intersection of US Hwy 2 and MN Hwy 32 close to Mentor Wildlife Management Area. For more information contact Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449 [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

October 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> (Thursday & Friday) is the **Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Meeting** at the Gray Freshwater Center in Excelsior. It is free to attend, but seating is limited so registration is necessary. To register, visit <http://freshwater.org/2010SWRR/> For more information, visit <http://acwi.gov/swrr>

October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday & Sunday) is the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Northland Bioneers Conference** at Macalaster College in St. Paul, MN. The conference includes: keynote lectures and panels given by local and regional experts, workshops on relocalizing our food, solar and wind energy and many other topics, neighborhood networking, facilitated by the [Alliance for Sustainability](#), [exhibits](#) by local businesses and non-profit groups and presentations of national speakers pre-recorded at the 2010 San Rafael, CA, National Bioneers Conference. To learn more visit [www.nbconference.org](http://www.nbconference.org)

October 26<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Prairie Mass Harvest Field Day** at 3:00 pm near Benson, MN. The harvest and field day will occur at Glacial Lakes State Park (located between the cities of Benson and Starbuck). For more information contact Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449 [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

October 26<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Water Sustainability: Identifying Drivers and Opportunities** from 8:30am to 1:30 pm in the FC Andersen Conference Room at the Andersen Corporation on 100 Fourth Avenue North in Bayport, MN 55003. Registration is \$45 for MEI members; \$75 for non-members. Contact [Georgia Rubenstein](#) for more information, to check on membership status or to inquire about need-based scholarships. [Click here](#) for more information about the event. [Click here](#) to submit your registration.

November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (Monday-Wednesday) is the **2010 Minnesota/Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference** at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Paul, MN. The first collaborative Minnesota-Wisconsin conference on invasive species will be held for the purpose of exchanging information on invasive species topics. This is an all-taxa conference covering invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, pests, and pathogens. The focus is to strengthen awareness of invasive species issues, prevention, and management. Expected audiences include researchers, land managers, natural resource professionals, university personnel, landscapers, nursery, agricultural or forestry employees, environmental specialists, lake association members, and agency and non-governmental organizations. For more information go to [http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010\\_mn\\_wi\\_invasive\\_species\\_conference.htm](http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010_mn_wi_invasive_species_conference.htm)

November 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) are the **Prairie Harvest Field Days**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or at [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

November 15<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

November 16<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Prairie Mass Harvest Field Day** at 2:00 pm near Windom, MN. The harvest will occur at Talcot Lake Wildlife Management Area (located between the cities of Fulda and Windom).

For more information contact Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449  
[sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

November 18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 3** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part three of this three-part series, learn about our state's rare and local species that are found only in small areas or in very specific habitats. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give reliable locations and times in which to see some of these birds, some of which are within the St. Peter/Mankato area, along with tips on identification. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

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.

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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

### **Environmental/Conservational Articles:**

[Microfarms offer food from the 'hood](#) (Star Tribune) Cityview school in north Minneapolis is as urban as its name. To the south looms the downtown skyline. To the east rushes Interstate 94. But the grounds include neatly tended rows of carrots, radishes, leeks and other crops.

[U of M bee researcher gets MacArthur 'genius grant'](#) (AP) Marla Spivak, a University of Minnesota entomologist known for her work on the biology of honey bees, is among 23 recipients of this year's [MacArthur Foundation](#) "genius grants."

[Fall flooding: Fishy and bizarre mark flood aftermath](#) (Star Tribune) With St. Paul closing roads under a local state of emergency, a list of damage piling up across the state and 20-pound carp swimming on the sidewalks of Northfield, the impact of last week's torrential rains across southern Minnesota is running on like a bad dream.

[Faucet snails spread south, endangering ducks](#) (Star Tribune) Faucet snails, an invasive species linked to the deaths of tens of thousands of ducks in Minnesota over the past three years, have spread farther south in the Mississippi River from Lake Winnibigoshish.

[Scientists say mussels may leave Asian carp nothing to eat](#) (AP) If huge, hungry Asian carp reach Lake Michigan, their long-dreaded invasion may turn out to be less ferocious than once expected because a tiny competitor is gobbling up their primary food source, some [Great Lakes researchers](#) say.

[Hollywood flack's dream: Dustup over 'Troubled Waters' sells out premiere](#) (MinnPost) After the hullabaloo over “Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story” — the documentary tracing the impact of farming and urban development on the mighty river — it is not surprising that the premiere is sold out.

[Students speak out against coal](#) (MN Daily) When Penn State made a public commitment to transition its campus from burning coal to a cleaner fuel last week, some students at the University of Minnesota began to worry the Twin Cities campus is falling behind.

[Health officials: Lead exposure down in Minn.](#) (MPR) Public health officials say they've made significant strides in reducing the number of Minnesota kids exposed to lead.

[Editorial: Nature weighs in on the Lake Shady debate](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin) Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall" includes the well-known line, "Good fences make good neighbors" — a commentary about how people build barriers around themselves and maintain the status quo because it's familiar and comfortable.

[Solar trash cans coming to Duluth's lakewalk](#) (Minn Post) Solar-powered trash cans and recycling units will soon show up on Duluth's Lakewalk.

[Off-again, on-again ag film draws a crowd](#) (Star Tribune) Two days before a controversial documentary about Minnesota agriculture is to be aired on public television, more than 600 people turned out at a University of Minnesota campus theater Sunday to see what the fuss was about.

[Self-taught wildlife artist making name for himself](#) (Star Tribune) Avid outdoorsman Kevin Nelson says he's gone soft. Instead of hunting birds, he'd rather paint them.

[Phosphorus, sedimentation in Lake Pepin make experts worry](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin) Algae-producing phosphorus washing into Lake Pepin has dropped dramatically, but a water quality analyst says that too much of the chemical still makes its way into the lake.

[Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina: By road or by creek?](#) (Star Tribune) Years of debate, planning and angst about routing the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail through Edina have climaxed with two proposed routes, one along the creek and one along city streets.

*"Transmitted at the speed of light, all events on this planet are simultaneous. In the electric environment of information all events are simultaneous, there is no time or space separating events."* – Marshal McLuhan

**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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