

### 3rd Annual Fall Festival on Saturday, October 15th!

It's not too late to RSVP for the NNC's Fall Festival Supper! RSVP's are needed by Saturday, October 8th. Of course the supper is optional, you can certainly join us for an amazing fun filled day of activities at this year's Festival!!!

Here's your chance to spend a lovely autumn afternoon on the third Saturday in October. Ney Center staff, Board members and other volunteers host an annual event of seasonal fun activities to celebrate the arrival of fall with exciting new additions each year. The Fall Festival is a free event. However, there is a nominal charge for the supper to help off-set the cost of food.

New to this event for 2011 is a Trail Run, a Barn Dance, local Artists from Henderson Area Arts and an exclusive Fall Festival geocache. Start the day with the 1st Annual Trail run gives runners a chance to support the Ney Nature Center as well as run a course of mostly grass trail with rolling hills through prairie and woods during the time of great fall colors. Choose between an 8k, 2-mile run/hike and a 1k kids dash. Sponsors include: Evolution Shirts, Henderson Independent, Bittersweet Coffee Shop, and LSH Giants Cross Country. Details and registration online at [www.neycenter.org](http://www.neycenter.org). End the day with a BARN DANCE in honor of the Kahlow Barn Centennial Celebration. Better known as the "Big Red Barn" Join us as we enjoy music provided by Erik Brandt and the Urban Hillbilly Quartet and our own local Depot Creek!

Other activities include pumpkin painting, corn husk doll crafting, story hour, prairie maze (north of the education building), guided hikes through the myriad of center trails, scavenger hunt, family-style supper, and a bonfire with s'mores and roasted apples. Supper is provided by Doc E's BBQ and the menu includes: pulled pork, southwestern pinto and black bean side dish, and corolina slaw. There is a nominal charge for the supper to help off-set the cost of food, Reservations need to be made by Sat. Oct. 8th.

The Water Resources Center (WRC) at Minnesota State University Mankato will be featuring an innovative multi-media virtual field trip featuring scientists and citizens answering questions on the health of the Minnesota River being produced by the WRC, along with accompanying educational materials available online for schools, organizations and citizens. Art and Barb Straub are two of the citizens featured on the Minnesota River Experts web site. For many years the Straubs have dedicated their energy and time to restoring and preserving 200 acres of prairie and forested landscape along the Minnesota River outside of Le Sueur. They have also spent countless hours connecting people to the river environment through presentations, hikes and other public events.

During the Ney Nature Center's Fall Festival on October 15th at 2:00 p.m., Art and Barb Straub will highlight some of the things they have learned about the Minnesota River and show off items they have collected over the years from the river environment.

One of the highlights of the festival is the tractor-pulled wagon ride around the farmsteads. The last wagon pulls out to cap off the day just as the moon is rising to give everyone a great view of the valley. Adults and children huddle together in the crisp night air as the driver carefully guides the "people mover" around the Ney homestead. For many this is a second or even third ride of the day.

The Fall Festival also affords members an opportunity to renew their membership for the coming calendar year as well as giving others an opportunity to become a member for the coming year. New memberships begin immediately and go through December of the following year.

Fall Festival is a great way to celebrate such a beautiful season at the NNC. Look online for further details [www.neycenter.org](http://www.neycenter.org)

For more information on the Fall Festival Trail Run, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fallfestivaltrailrun.pdf>

### Third Saturdays at the Linnaeus Arboretum

Friends of Linnaeus Arboretum Saint Peter invite you to join them for Third Saturdays at the Linnaeus Arboretum for coffee, treats, and a presentation beginning at 9:30am. The presentation will take place in the Melva Lind Interpretive Center at the Linnaeus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN.

October 15: Cindy Johnson, Director, Linnaeus Arboretum/Professor, Biology Department: *Lions, Cheetahs and Students, Oh My! Teaching and Living in Tanzania, a Fulbright's Scholar Perspective*. Cindy spent 2 years living on the shadows of Kilimanjaro teaching at the College of African Wildlife Management. She will share her experiences of living and teaching in a very different culture.

For more information on the Linnaeus Arboretum: <https://gustavus.edu/arboretum/>

### **Metro Summit for Lake and River Groups**

Its time again for the Metro Summit for Lake and River groups! Join us for this excellent opportunity to hear about the successes and challenges from various citizen groups and network with lake and river representatives from around the metro area. The evening includes a panel discussion on successes and challenges that area groups have faced in aquatic invasive management and shoreline restoration. You can network over dinner and there will also be opportunities to get hands on training in aquatic invasive species identification and expert insight on how citizens can influence water policy in Minnesota.

Event Details: November 1, 5:00-8:30pm; Eisenhower Community Center, Room 209; 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins, MN 55305; Cost: \$12 - Dinner will be provided; \*Please include any dietary needs with your registration. Register by: October 27. Send the following information to: Alex Gehrig, MN Waters; 1410 St. Paul Ave, #12; St. Paul, MN 55116

- Name and email addresses of attendees
- Name of the organization or lake/river
- A check payable to Minnesota Waters (\$12 per person)

Questions? [alexg@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:alexg@minnesotawaters.org)

### **Another Bite of the Apple?**

There is a deadline – Oct. 11 – fast approaching for service clubs, Scout troops, science classes and groups of every kind to submit entries in an environmental contest with four \$500 prizes.

The Freshwater Society, InCommons and the Little Falls-based Initiative Foundation are sponsoring a Work For Water “micro challenge” that will award four \$500 prizes for the best short-term community projects to protect waters from the pollution found in the leaves, grass and soil that wash into streets. Two of the prizes are reserved for ideas coming from Central Minnesota entrants.

[Learn more and enter](#) here.

### **Power of Water Campaign**

Clean Water Network Launches Power of Water Campaign CWN is busy planning a major 2012 campaign, The Power of Water, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, one of our nation's landmark environmental laws. Next year is also the 20th anniversary of CWN. Both anniversaries could not be more timely and will provide the clean water community a unique opportunity to elevate clean water to the top of our nation's priority list.

**SIGN ON TO THE POWER OF WATER SUPPORT STATEMENT:** There are numerous ways to get involved in the campaign. CWN has drafted a Power of Water Call to Action statement for groups across the country to sign. The statement is being circulated to all CWN members and supporters. The purpose of the statement is to draw more public attention to the global water crisis both here at home and abroad. A copy of the statement is attached to this message and you can also read it here on our website: [http://www.cleanwaternet.org/sites/default/files/events/Power%20of%20Water\\_CalltoAction2011fin.pdf](http://www.cleanwaternet.org/sites/default/files/events/Power%20of%20Water_CalltoAction2011fin.pdf)

If you and your organization can sign on to the Call to Action statement, please email [cwnheadquarters@cwn.org](mailto:cwnheadquarters@cwn.org) with your name, title and organization. Individuals are invited to sign on as well. Our goal, over the course of the campaign, is to get more than 500 organizations to sign on to this statement. We are also committed to collecting large numbers of signatures from individual activists as well! Thank you to the groups and individuals who have already signed on to the Call to Action statement!

For more information on the Power of Water campaign, including information on sponsorship opportunities and/or how to be involved with the Power of Water planning committee, please visit our website:<http://www.cleanwaternet.org/news-events/events/2012-power-water-campaign>.

## **Job Announcements:**

### **Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Positions**

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is accepting applications for two positions, an Aquatic Invasive Species Technician and a Cost Share Program Specialist. Applications for the Cost Share Program specialist are due Thursday, Oct. 6 and for the AIS Technician on Friday, Oct. 28. [Application materials may be found at the District's website](#). Send application, letter of interest, resume, and references by email to [dmandt@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:dmandt@minnehahacreek.org), or by mail to 18202 Minnetonka Boulevard, Deephaven, MN 55391, attn. David Mandt.

#### **Aquatic Invasive Species Technician**

The AIS Technician is a new position created to address the urgent issue of the spread of AIS within the District. The MCWD seeks a qualified candidate to plan, support, coordinate and conduct the District's AIS activities while working with internal staff, the Board of Managers, other government agencies and the general public.

The position's first priority will be to establish a comprehensive and detailed plan for managing AIS within the District. Other responsibilities will include developing proactive strategies to address new AIS threats, monitoring populations of existing AIS, representing the District in local and regional agency meetings and educating the public on AIS issues.

Applicants must have an M.S. degree in ecology, biology, botany or a related field and a minimum of one year of professional-level experience designing and implementing biological assessments and/or habitat management in aquatic eco systems. Three or more years of experience are preferred. [Read the full job description here](#).

#### **Cost Share Specialist**

We are seeking a new specialist to oversee and manage our Cost Share Programs, which help partners pay for projects that significantly improve water quality in the District. These include shoreline and streambank stabilization, stormwater best management practices, street sweeping, and separate sanitary treatment systems.

The specialist must maintain a uniform process for reviewing applications and awarding grants, educate the public on grant opportunities and District regulations, communicate with interested property owners, review sites, and communicate with cities, builders, contractors and the public about District-related activities.

The position requires a Bachelor's degree in earth science, natural resources science or engineering and professional experience in a related field. [Read the full job description here](#).

#### **BWSR Drainage Engineer**

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is hiring a drainage engineer. In the near future, they will also be looking for two wetland specialists to work the prairie pothole region of western MN, a senior communications person, an easement processor, and eventually, a grant oversight specialist and an all-purpose project manager.

This position is responsible for directing BWSR's conservation drainage programs and functions, leading coordination and outreach for multipurpose conservation drainage, and performing associated BWSR roles within broad engineering and administrative guidelines.

Specific duties include:

- provide technical leadership for the Clean Water Fund Conservation Drainage Program;
- lead and facilitate the interagency Drainage Management Team;
- develop and present conservation drainage information, education and associated outreach, in collaboration with the BWSR Chief Engineer, Drainage Management Team members and other stakeholders;
- provide advanced civil and/or agricultural engineering expertise, leadership and coordination to facilitate adoption of multipurpose conservation drainage;
- provide expert review and consultation to public drainage authorities and their technical assistance providers regarding drainage projects and Minnesota drainage law;
- serve as project manager for associated projects involving EPA Section 319 and/or Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources grants;
- oversee collection and reporting of required ditch buffer strip annual reporting by drainage authorities;
- periodically provide experienced engineering assistance for related BWSR projects and partnerships;

For more information,

[http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/Cons\\_Drainage\\_Eng\\_Announcement%20\\_092711.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/Cons_Drainage_Eng_Announcement%20_092711.pdf)

### **BWSR Wetland Specialists**

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is hiring two wetland specialists. These positions will provide leadership in the implementation of water and land management programs and policies of BWSR within the prairie pothole region of western Minnesota. The positions are expected to be based in Bemidji, Fergus Falls, Marshall, or New Ulm. They will provide technical, administrative, and planning assistance to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) District Conservationists and local units of government (counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, cities, Wetland Conservation Act local units of government, and joint powers boards). Provide technical assistance within a specific area of expertise to local units of government on a regional or statewide basis.

For more information, [http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/WCA\\_BC\\_Announcement.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/WCA_BC_Announcement.pdf)

### **BWSR Easement Processor / St. Paul Office**

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is hiring a Easement Processor. This position will support all aspects of BWSR's conservation easement programs. Assist senior easement processing staff and acquiring state held conservation easements on eligible lands with private landowners. Review landowner applications for completeness and accuracy. Review title commitments and policies for accuracy and completeness. Check the status of applications in process. Perform database entry to monitor easement processing and other duties as required.

For more information, [http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/Esmt\\_Proc\\_Announcement.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/careers/Esmt_Proc_Announcement.pdf)

### **Events:**

October 9<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) is the **Mankato River Ramble Bike Tour** with different routes of 12 to 54 miles. The ALL NEW Mankato River Ramble will embrace the best of both bicycling worlds – off-road paved trails and quiet country roads. The 12-mile Minneopa Falls Loop will visit the beautiful state park. Riders seeking a greater challenge will love the Lake Crystal Loop that visits the handsome hamlets of Rapidan, Lake Crystal and Judson. For more information, <https://www.bikeriverramble.org/>

October 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) is the **Make-and-take snowshoe workshop** at Lac qui Parle State Park. On Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. workshop

presenters will teach attendees how to string the laces on pre-built wooden snowshoe frames, then demonstrate how to use them. The \$75 registration fee includes the snowshoe kit and materials. Lunch will not be provided, so attendees should bring a sack lunch. Class size is limited to 12 people and advance registration is required so that the appropriate quantities and sizes of snowshoe kits may be ordered. Registration deadline is Oct. 3. To register, contact the park office at (320) 734-4450 ext 225 or e-mail [cara.greger@state.mn.us](mailto:cara.greger@state.mn.us).

November 1<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Quarterly Meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance** from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson. The meeting is sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) office in Montevideo. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. with a social hour to give participants time to interact with each other and share stories and concerns about what is happening in their part of the Minnesota River Watershed. At 7 p.m. the formal part of the meeting starts, with the group striving to wrap up all discussion by 9 o'clock. For more information, <http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

November 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Rain in a Dry Land*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? *Rain in a Dry Land* provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families moved to the U.S. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

November 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the workshop: "**Claim the Commons We're in it Together**" at the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato (170 Good Counsel Drive) sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry. In this conference you will learn more about the commons, explore the dangers it is facing, understand our part in protecting it, and find ways to claim and protect it for all. Claiming the commons can instill us with a new vision of politics, culture and community. A new vision of the power we have together. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/commonsworkshop.pdf>

December 1<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Reel Injun*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Hollywood has made over 4000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

January 5<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Okie Noodling*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of "noodling" still has Okie anglers hooked. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or [jessica@nchsmn.org](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

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

**[Environmental/Conservation Articles:](#)**

[RIM: 25 years of restoring wildlife habitat](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A landmark 25-year old state program pays landowners to restore native habitat on marginal agricultural land. Ducks and other wildlife benefit.

[Metro area recyclers set to accept more plastics](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). They'll process butter tubs to garden hoses.

[City aims to reshape riverfront land](#) (Minnesota Daily). A new plan for a network of parks and trails comes with a \$175 million pricetag.

[Study casts doubt on alternative ethanol fuel's viability](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A report released early Tuesday paints a gloomy future for cellulosic ethanol.

[Feds charge Corn Plus ethanol co-op with a felony](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The southern Minnesota firm allegedly made false statements about its pollution controls.

[Don Shelby: Children's health and Republican efforts to lift restrictions on air pollutants](#) (MinnPost). The Clean Air Act is under attack.

[Betty McCollum: What's wrong with the TRAIN Act](#) (TC Daily Planet). A bill recently passed by the U.S. House would delay the cleanup of dangerous mercury and toxic pollutants from power plants.

[DNR will try pesticide on zebra mussels in western Minnesota lake](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will take the unusual step of treating a western Minnesota lake with a pesticide in hopes of killing a localized infestation of zebra mussels.

[DNR says further environmental study not required for Minnesota Falls dam removal](#) (West Central Tribune). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has determined that an environmental impact statement will not be required for the removal of the Minnesota Falls dam.

*When one tugs at a single thing in nature; he finds it attached to the rest of the world.* – John Muir

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.

**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>**

Thanks,

Scott

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