

MN Idea Open – Minnesota FarmWise Program

We've got a great idea! As a finalist in the MN Idea Open, the Freshwater Society and the National Park Service have proposed the Minnesota FarmWise program. Help us make it a winner! If you have already voted for the MN FarmWise program at www.mnideaopen.org/challenge2, thank you!

Now, help SPREAD THE WORD! Forward this email to your colleagues, friends, co-workers, and networks and ask them to VOTE for [Minnesota FarmWise](http://www.mnideaopen.org/challenge2). Post the link on your Facebook page and encourage your friends and colleagues to vote. Keep in mind, voting is a quick process, but requires a couple of steps. [Click to vote for the MN Farmwise program](http://www.mnideaopen.org/challenge2), register with the MN Idea Open, then confirm your vote by email.

The MN Idea Open (a unique, public, grant-making competition) is focused on Water Issues in Minnesota. Over 100 ideas submitted in the MN Idea Open have been narrowed down to three finalists, and ours is one of them. YOU decide who gets the \$15,000 prize by voting online--by September 5--at www.mnideaopen.org/challenge2.

Here's our idea: Water resources in Minnesota are at risk due to how we use our land. Minnesota FarmWise program partners will identify and recruit experienced (active and retired) farmers who have successfully implemented water-friendly conservation farming techniques in their fields and harness farmers' lifetime of experience and deep relationships within a community, to work along Minnesota's most important water resources (the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers) to address the critical issue of clean water. These experienced farmers will act as ambassadors and will show participating farmers how their own water-friendly practices were good for their production goals AND their environmental goals, and will work with them to adopt water-friendly farming techniques on fields in vulnerable water areas.

To learn more about our Minnesota FarmWise program, watch our video at: www.mnideaopen.org/challenge2. Thanks for helping the Freshwater Society and the National Park Service work for water with the MN FarmWise program.

Joseph R. Brown Fund-raising Event

The Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society will be holding a fun-filled fund-raising event on Sept. 24, 2011 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Minnesota New Country School located in Henderson, Minnesota. The event will feature the unveiling of the newly commissioned bronze bust of Joe Brown followed by dinner and an evening with renowned soprano Alison England performing "Songs I Love to Sing and Stories I Love to Tell".

Visit <http://www.joebrownrivercenter.org/> now for information about Ms. England and ticket availability. This is a limited seating event so get your tickets now!

Minnesota's pheasant index falls 64 percent from 2010

A severe winter followed by a wet spring contributed to a significant decline in Minnesota's pheasant counts. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the pheasant population index declined 64 percent from 2010 and is 71 percent below the 10-year average.

Contributing factors include:

- A second consecutive severe winter, resulting in hen counts 72 percent below the 10-year average.
- Cold, wet weather during the April through June nesting period, resulting in brood counts 75 percent below the 10-year average.
- Loss of nearly 120,000 acres of grass habitat enrolled in farm programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) since 2007.

Severe winters combined with cold, wet springs are doubly hard on pheasant populations. That's because fewer hens survive the winter and those that do are less successful in producing broods.

The rest of the article can be found at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pheasantarticle.pdf>

MPCA seeks comments on proposed Prairieland conversion in Martin County

Mankato, Minn. — The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is seeking comments on an Environmental Assessment Worksheet prepared for the proposed change in operation at the Prairieland Solid Waste Facility in Truman in Martin County. Comments must be in writing and arrive at the MPCA by 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 5, 2011.

The Prairieland Solid Waste Management Board proposes to convert its existing solid-waste-management facility from producing compost to producing refuse that can be burned as fuel by power plants. The project would include doubling the intake of solid waste from 100 to 200 tons per day. The conversion also includes changing equipment inside the facility, although the facility footprint would remain the same.

Since 1991, the Prairieland facility has provided integrated waste management for Martin and Faribault counties in southern Minnesota, diverting mixed municipal solid waste from landfills. It currently recovers recyclable materials from the solid waste stream, converts the solid waste into compost (organic matter used as fertilizer), and produces as a byproduct a small amount of refuse-derived fuel (RDF) that is burned at a power plant to produce electricity. All processing occurs within enclosed buildings. Prairieland plans to phase out compost production over the next several years, gradually replacing it with RDF production.

The rest of the article can be found at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prairielandfacility.pdf>

Minnesota Water Resources Conference

Online registration is now available for the Minnesota Water Resources Conference on October 18-19 at the St. Paul RiverCentre. View the [conference Web site](#) to register online, and [view the conference brochure](#).

The Minnesota Water Resources Conference provides sessions that address:

1. lessons learned from the implementation of engineering projects
2. best practices discovered in the design and application of water resource management techniques
3. effectiveness and implications for water policy decisions
4. research into current and emerging issues.

The conference facilitates interaction among engineers; water resources managers; water professionals; researchers; and local, state, and federal agency staff. The conference includes 24 concurrent 90 minute sessions with a total of 72 presentations, as well as the following plenary and lunch sessions:

Tuesday Luncheon Presentation – “Assessing Risks of Endocrine–Disrupting Chemicals: A Scientific Odyssey” by *Gerald (Gary) Ankley*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Mid Continent Ecology Division

Wednesday Plenary Session – “Legislative Update: Agricultural and Water Issues.” By *Representative Paul Torkelson*, Minnesota House of Representatives from the 21B District

Wednesday Luncheon Presentation – “Agricultural Water Management: What Can Farmers Do to Maintain Good Water Quality, and Still Do Agricultural Water Management?” by *Don Baloun*, Minnesota State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture

Sponsored by

[Water Resources Center, University of Minnesota](#)
[College of Continuing Education, University of Minnesota](#)

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[Department of Civil Engineering, University of Minnesota](#)
[Minnesota Section, American Society of Civil Engineers](#)
[Minnesota Sea Grant College Program, University of Minnesota](#)
[Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota](#)

Job Announcements:

Soil Conservation Technician – Glencoe

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hiring a Soil Conservation Technician in Glencoe, MN. This person Makes initial contact with landowners and groups who have indicated an interest in the conservation program or in assistance in complying with the Food Security Act and the Food and Agriculture Commodity Trade Act (FSA/FACTA) and gathers the necessary pertinent data including surveys required in the development of comprehensive land management system plans.

Determines need, feasibility, and probably conservation results of conservation practices in treating various resource needs and recommends alternative practices as well as means by which practices already applied or to be applied can be integrated into systems within the total conservation plan. Delivers completed conservation plans to landowners and explains the plans in detail. Assists with the planning and application of practices in a progressive sequence with land-users. Application involves conducting surveys and investigations, design and plan preparation, and layout and construction inspection of conservation practices.

For more information: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=102094237>

Environmental Services and Planning Intern

I&S Group, Inc. (a full-service design firm employing over 55 individuals with offices in Mankato & Faribault) is requesting resumes for a full-time entry-level intern to work with the Environmental Services and Community Resources Planning Departments based in the Mankato office. They are looking for a hardworking and dedicated individual who can perform field work, quality data processing, and possesses excellent writing & computer skills, and has diverse interest and intellectual curiosity. A qualified candidate must have a working knowledge of environmental and natural resource topics as they relate to business and industry. Personal organization, written and oral communication, interpersonal skills, and the ability to manage multiple priorities are essential competencies. Experience working in an interdisciplinary environmental dealing with a wide array of environmental and natural resources topics is preferred, but no required.

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

Events:

September 8th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary *River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*** at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. The Minnesota River is vitally important to the people of our region. It's also one of our nation's most polluted waterways. However, progress has been made, and many are optimistic for the future. 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 for details.

September 9th (Friday) and 10th (Saturday) is **Opportunities for Profits from Livestock and Grazing Workshop** at the Broadway Ballroom (115 30th Ave E) in Alexandria. Sponsored by Profits from

Perennials, the cost for the workshop is \$80 for both days or \$50 for one day. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/gregjudyworkshop.pdf>

September 10th (Saturday) is a **Wildlife Program** by Ron Bolduan from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Fort Ridgely State Historic Site. Photographer Ron Bolduan will share photos of wildlife taken during his twenty year photo study of the Minnesota River valley. This power point program focuses on the creatures living in the valley and the importance of this habitat in their lives. Audience participation includes identifying the wildlife, identifying their tracks, and locating 'critters' in the Camo Critter---a wildlife 'Where's Waldo'---segment. The program is great family fun and leaves us all with a greater appreciation for our wild neighbors.

September 15th (Tuesday) is a **Farm Fuel Seminar** at Central Lakes College in Staples from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The objective of this seminar is to illuminate some successful German farm fuel practices and to share the Ag Center's experiences working with Camelina. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/energydayseminar.pdf>

September 15th (Tuesday) is the **Natural Resource Enterprise Workshop** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at North Central Research & Outreach Center (1861 East Hwy. 169) in Grand Rapids, MN. A workshop for people interested in income opportunities from the northwoods. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/northwoodsworkshop.pdf>

September 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Windom starting at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Karnell Johnson at 507-389-5491 or <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

September 24th (Saturday) is a fun-filled **Fund-raising Event** for the Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Minnesota New Country School located in Henderson, Minnesota. The event will feature the unveiling of the newly commissioned bronze bust of Joe Brown followed by dinner and an evening with renowned soprano Alison England performing "Songs I Love to Sing and Stories I Love to Tell". Visit <http://www.joebrownrivercenter.org/> now for information about Ms. England and ticket availability. This is a limited seating event so get your tickets now!

September 24th (Saturday) is the **6th Wood Lake Battlefield Symposium** at Kilowatt Community Center (600 Kilowatt Drive) in Granite Falls from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The mission behind this symposium is to better understand the Minnesota/Dakota history of 1862, to promote public awareness of the need to preserve the Wood Lake Battlefield site and to protect the battle fallen. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/woodlakesymposium.pdf>

September 30th (Friday) is the **Meander Kickoff Event** from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in downtown Granite Falls to feature Music, Food, History and Art. This brand new event will showcase picturesque downtown Granite Falls as a gateway to the Upper Minnesota River Valley and all the art, culture and natural beauty it has to offer. For more information on this event, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/meanderkickoffevent.pdf>

October 6th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: Truck Farm** at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis transformed granddad's '86 Dodge into a traveling 20-member CSA. They planted between the wheel wells with arugula and tomatoes, parked the truck on a Brooklyn street, and waited for the sun and rain to work their charms. 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 for details.

October 15th (Saturday) and 16th (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 .

November 4th (Thursday) 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 for details.

December 1st (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 for details.

January 5th (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 for details.

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Minnesota Power wind project approved](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Bison 2 wind farm will generate 105 megawatts power and reduce carbon emissions by 90,000 tons a year.

[Happy new trails](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Elk Creek Park Preserve in the northwest metro has a new single-track bike trail built with sustainability and all degrees of riders in mind.

[Minneapolis makes recycling mandatory for all](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The requirement now applies to businesses, workplaces and houses of worship.

[New Ulm seeks to be 'bicycle friendly'](#) (New Ulm Journal). The New Ulm Bicycle Club, the New Ulm Chamber of Commerce and the City of New Ulm are working together to give people an early chance to try the proposed New Ulm loop trail before construction is completed.

[Water ideas compete](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The choice is yours, Minnesota – among a theater production that helps young people understand our water resources, a program that taps the expertise of retired farmers in conservation techniques and a "library" that would allow Minnesotans to borrow canoes and kayaks to explore a scenic river area.

[Minneapolis water loss is much bigger](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minneapolis utility chief aims to cut gap between how much water is produced and how much is billed.

[In Kandiyohi County, an elm forest that time - and disease - forgot](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). You want big trees? William and Ute Reid have big trees. Lots of them.

[Minn. tourism recovering, but shutdown didn't help](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). About 70 percent of lodging businesses in Minnesota said this summer was better or the same as last year, but the state government's 20-day shutdown left many visitors with a bad taste in their mouths.

[Biofuel studies option](#) (Faribault County Register). Whether a Fairmont ethanol plant discharges wastewater into the Blue Earth River may very well depend on what the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency decides.

The peace of nature and of the innocent creatures of God seems to be secure and deep, only so long as the presence of man and his restless and unquiet spirit are not there to trouble its sanctity. – Tomas De Quincey, "Preliminary Confessions"

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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