

### **Trending toward the positive in the Minn. River Basin**

It was in 1992 that Governor Arne Carlson stood on the banks of the Minnesota River and declared, "Our goal is that within 10 years, our children will be swimming, fishing, picnicking and recreating at this river."

At the time, Scott Kudelka, of the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato said that such commentary would have brought about laughter by some observers. It was a feat viewed as far too great to accomplish in 100 years, much less 10.

Nearly 20 years later, the vision, as articulated by Carlson, continues to be a ways from manifesting in its entirety. But at the very least, the idea of a clean Minnesota River is no longer a laughing matter.

For the entire article: <http://www.granitefallsnews.com/news/x524685033/Trending-toward-the-positive-in-the-Minn-River-Basin>

### **Metro Children's Water Festival**

This annual festival is produced for children in the metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St Paul to educate fifth grade students about our water resources and to present ways they can help ensure a future where both the quantity and quality of water resources are protected and managed wisely. The Metro Children's Water Festival is recognized by the (National) [Groundwater Foundation](#) as a [Groundwater Guardian project](#). This year's festival is September 29<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul.

For more information on the festival, how to become a sponsor or volunteer go to the web site, <http://www.metrocwf.org/>

### **Henderson Heritage Days**

Come out on September 11th, 2010 from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM for Groovin' in the 1960's! Come celebrate Henderson's history and learn about the town in the 1960's. Classic Car Roll-In, Antique Sidewalk Cruisers, Soda Jerk Reunion, Street Actors, Food and Craft Vendors, and much more to do all day long! Folk Art Raffle Tickets will be sold throughout the day to help support the local schools!!

Sonny Bryant from the Platters will be performing starting at 1! Don Osell will be signing his new book "Growing Up in Henderson: One More Time" from 2 -5 pm. Mike Gleiden and the Rhythm Kings will be playing at the Heritage Days Dance starting at 8:00 pm, cost is \$5.

Check out [www.hendersonmn.com](http://www.hendersonmn.com) for more information.

### **1940s Hanger Dance**

On September 25<sup>th</sup> there is a 1940s Hanger Dance from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie. Tickets are \$45.00. All the hep cats are going to the 1940s Hangar Dance to help raise funds for the Scott County Historical Society!

Music by the Roseville Big Band; Wing Walker USO Troupe Dinner Show and Dinner - Cash Bar (wine/beer) - Live Auction. Don't miss it. It's gonna be smooth! You must be 21 or older to attend. For tickets or more information call 952-445-0378 or [www.scottcountyhistory.org](http://www.scottcountyhistory.org)

### **'Perennials for Biomass' Walk-n-Talk Field Day**

Second and third generation biofuel production is in the near future and much work is being done right here in southern Minnesota to research the potential biomass feedstocks needed for the ever-increasing demand for cleaner energy. Please join Rural Advantage, University of Minnesota Extension, and University of Minnesota's Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) on September 22, 2010, for a walk-n-talk field day located in the research plots at SROC in Waseca, Minnesota. 'Perennials for

Biomass' will begin at 1:00pm and run until 3:00pm. There will be an optional tour of the processing and densification area of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) following the field day.

During the fall of 2009, Rural Advantage, SROC, and numerous other partners organized demonstrations of both the FLD Biobaler WB-55 and the prototype for the New Holland Willow Harvester. 'Perennials for Biomass' is meant to be a follow-up tour to those events.

Attendees will meet at the west SROC building site across 120<sup>th</sup> Street from the Administration Building [not the normal parking area] and carpool to the Agricultural Ecology Research Farm. While there, Dr. Gregg Johnson with SROC will discuss the different trials and harvest events involving the plots of hybrid willow and hybrid poplar. The regrowth from the 2009 harvest will be available for viewing so that attendees can see how woody biomass can be a renewable, perennial bioenergy feedstock. Videos of the Biobaler and New Holland Willow Harvester will be available for viewing. Dr. Johnson will also lead discussion on multifunctional landscaping.

The walk-n-talk field day will then switch gears, and Dr. Craig Sheaffer will lead the discussion of using native prairie species as bioenergy feedstocks. These research plots are located within short walking distance of the hybrid willow and poplar plots and will also be available for viewing.

The Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI), also located in Waseca, has graciously offered to open the doors of their Co-Products Utilization Laboratory to attendees of 'Perennials for Biomass'. This is an optional part of the day, but those who choose to attend will be able to see the various equipment used for densification and processing of biomass feedstocks. Equipment includes: grinders, commutators, a single-screw extruder, California pellet mill, fluidized bed dryer, and equipment for size grading.

### **DIRECTIONS**

SROC – 35838 120<sup>th</sup> Street – Waseca, MN 56093

The Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) is located on State Hwy14 just west of Waseca at County Road 57 (120<sup>th</sup> St.) across from Loon Lake. From Owatonna (I-35): west on State Hwy 14 approximately 15 miles. From Mankato: approximately 27 miles east on State Hwy 14. Look for signs on where to park / meet.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **Central Minnesota Project Manager**

The Project Manager is responsible for developing, coordinating and leading a comprehensive conservation program for the Ordway Glacial Lakes Landscape in west-central MN and portions of the Avon Hills Landscape near Collegeville, MN. He/she will provide entrepreneurial leadership in developing a well-funded, community-based, land conservation program, which conserves the biodiversity and the ecology of the project area. The Project Manager will work in close coordination with the Central Minnesota Program Director and Land Stewardship staff. The Project Manager will be expected to further the Conservancy's strategic goals of conserving land, developing compatible human uses of land, leveraging conservation opportunities through partnerships and enhancing a conservation ethic among citizens within the central Minnesota region.

The Project Manager should enjoy working independently and take initiative. The Project Manager duties include the following: Develop and implement conservation strategies, Work with the Minnesota Philanthropy team to implement a successful fundraising program for the area and assist in donor cultivation and fundraising efforts in Central Minnesota, Develop and manage localized project budgets, Develop proposals in cooperation with the Grants Specialist, for Federal, State and local government grants, Administer grants and produce reports as required, Work cooperatively with the protection team to develop pre-project proposals, conduct environmental assessments, and conduct annual conservation easement monitoring in the Prairie Forest Border Ecoregion, Foster cross-site learning among conservation community, Help lead ecoregional planning teams and provides information for

site/landscape portfolios, Coordinate community support, May include participation in prescribed fire activities in partnership with other non profits or local agencies.

For more information:

[https://careers.nature.org/psc/P89HTNC\\_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM.HRS\\_CE.GBL?Page=HRS\\_CE\\_JOB\\_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=12386&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1](https://careers.nature.org/psc/P89HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=12386&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1)

#### **Area Extension Assistant/Associate Agent**

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension seeks to fill two Assistant/Associate Area Agent positions in Central Arizona. The two positions will be expected to develop compatible and complimentary programs. The primary purpose of the Area Assistant/Associate Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources position, is to deliver research-based, objective, informal education to help stakeholders solve problems, enhance profitability and economic viability, develop leadership, and manage resources wisely. The area agent will be expected to conduct an applied research-based Extension program designed to address current and future agricultural production, natural resource use issues, and challenges in the geographic area. This position requires the ability to travel statewide using all modes of transportation; the ability to travel regionally and nationally is desired. The successful candidate must have a valid Arizona driver's license at time of employment and provide for their own transportation. The applicant must have a Master's degree in an Agricultural or Natural Resource related discipline such as Weed Science, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Soil and Water Science, Agronomy, Horticulture, etc.

For more information contact Bill Hutchison 1980 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108; [hutch002@umn.edu](mailto:hutch002@umn.edu); ph:612-624-1767; fx:612-625-5299

#### **RC & D Coordinator- Red Lake Falls, MN**

Acts as the designated USDA technical assistance representative on matters that pertain to the RC&D council and USDA partnership. Provides technical leadership in order for the Council to develop, update, and implement their Area Plan. This involves the collection of resource data; identification of problems; establishment of objectives, goals, and strategies; development of project plans; implementation of project plans that address the resource conservation, environment, and economic program goals; and maintaining a current Plan of Work. Serves as technical advisor to the council's numerous RC&D area committees. Provides technical leadership to develop good working relationships among council and committee members in order for the council to meet their objectives and goals.

Serves as technical advisor for various activities as a USDA/NRCS representative. Works with other federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies, as well as interested groups to foster communication, education, and provide information needed to achieve USDA/NRCS resource conservation and development goals and objectives. Develops a close working relationship with these groups to insure understanding of the resource conservation and development program.

For more information: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=90282688>

#### **Agricultural Engineer- Fergus Falls, MN**

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is hiring an Agricultural Engineer for the Fergus Falls, MN office. Is responsible for the engineering phases of all soil and water conservation work and the integration and coordination of a technically sound engineering program with the total conservation program in the respective Area. Participates in the preliminary examination of watersheds proposed for improvement and makes recommendations concerning their feasibility. Ensures that NRCS responsibilities for the inspection of completed project dams are fulfilled. Maintains a close cooperation and coordination between NRCS and the technical staff of local and state conservation partners, RC&D areas, numerous special projects, and all other non-project activities.

Responsible for furnishing engineering technical guidance and assistance for CO-01 non-project activities including cost sharing programs in the counties for the respective area and to provide wetland hydrology evaluations for swamp buster determinations, appeals, and maintenance requests. Coordinates work activities between funds within budgets by shifting staff as needed to meet needs. Provides local coordination of gathering survey, land use, and hydrologic data for preliminary and final design of project and non-project activities. Assists the Area Conservationist in developing and analyzing the engineering phase of the area conservation program. Evaluates equipment and materials, staffing levels, and expertise to assure adequate supervision of engineering work and utilization of personnel. Determines engineering training needs and assures that training is provided to NRCS and SWCD employees in their area. Resolves critical engineering problems within the area. Provides supervision to civil engineering technicians and engineers located in the area office.

For more information: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=89987306>

### **Events:**

September 4<sup>th</sup>-October 31<sup>st</sup> (Saturdays and Sundays) is the **Fall Festival** from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Center Creek Orchard. Activities include hayrides, storytelling, corn pile, scarecrow building, castle bouncer, giant maze, apple sling, barrel ride, petting farm, super slide and haunted forest. Pick your own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and select apples from over a dozen Minnesota varieties. For more information go to

[http://www.centercreekorchard.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=134](http://www.centercreekorchard.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=134)

September 10<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is **Waterfest** at Barsness Park in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **FarmAmerica Fall Fair** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at FarmAmerica in Waseca, MN. Some activities include horses and tractors will be displayed and working on the grounds, strolling through Peddlers Grove and Pioneer Tent City, fall harvest activities on display, draft horse pull and antique tractor pull. For more information contact FarmAmerica at 507-835-2052.

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks) is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit <http://www.scottswcd.org/>

September 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is **Prairie and CRP Management & Invasive Species Field Day** at the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton, MN. Register by September 8<sup>th</sup>. To register online, visit: <https://cfans.wufoo.com/forms/prairie-crp-mgtinvasives-field-day/> Or contact Jean Swanson, ph: 612-625-2740, Email: [swans008@umn.edu](mailto:swans008@umn.edu)

September 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3<sup>rd</sup> crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 1** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part one of this three-part series, learn about common birds of Minnesota. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on how to attract more birds to your yard and how to deter feeder raiders like squirrels and raccoons. The event is free and open to the public. To learn more contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> (Thursday & Friday) is the **Clean Water and Climate Adaptation Summit** at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Join local government officials and staff, industry leaders, natural resource professionals, scientists, and citizens to learn how climate trends might affect Minnesota and the

region, how green infrastructure will be a key water-management strategy, and how to make informed decisions and enhance the economic viability of your community. For more information go to <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/cleanwaterclimatechangeadaptationsummit.aspx>

September 18th (Thursday) is the film presentation of "In the Company of Wild Butterflies" starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. This captivating film from the Bullfrog Series will open your eyes to the wonderful world of butterflies. After the film the naturalist Bob Dunlap will talk about what has been going on at the Arboretum's new Bird and Butterfly Garden.

September 20<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. For more information, <http://mrbd.c.wrc.mnsu.edu/org/mrbd/>

September 22<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday) is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This event is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>  
September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) is the **Full Moon Foray** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Enjoy a leisurely walk under a full moon on the first day of autumn with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen for some night sounds that can be heard in the Linnaeus Arboretum, such as owls, frogs, and katydids. Learn how to identify some of the constellations and other bright spots in our night sky, and if you're lucky you'll even catch a glimpse of a meteor. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

September 29<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is the **Metro Water Festival** at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minnesota. The annual festival is produced for children in the metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul to educate fifth-grade students about our water resources and to present ways they can help ensure a future where both the quantity and quality of water resources are protected and managed wisely. For more information, <http://www.metrocwf.org/>

October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday) is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more information go to <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9881>

October 2<sup>nd</sup> (Saturday) is the **Fall Color Trip** from Mankato to Seven Mile Creek. For more information go to <http://www.hickorytech.net~mrbscr/page0007.htm>

October 5<sup>th</sup> & 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 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 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 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)

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 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:**

[Bankrupt ethanol co. wants refund from corn farmers](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Farmers in Minnesota and across the Midwest who had the bad luck to sell corn to a bankrupt ethanol company are now being asked to repay most of the money they earned.

[Citizen committee to DNR: Increase license fees](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Members of the Game and Fish Fund Budgetary Oversight Committee for several years have expressed concern that revenues related to hunting are paying for expenditures related to fishing.

[Gulf's 'dead zone' swelled this summer to one of largest areas on record](#) (MinnPost). The Gulf of Mexico’s so-called dead zone swelled this summer to afflict one of the largest areas on record. Further, in a dramatic double-play disaster, it rubbed up against the massive BP oil spill.

*“The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty. The activist is the man who cleans up the river.” - Ross Perot*

**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

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