

Hello all,

A few snowflakes in the air on Tuesday got many of us thinking about winter and whether to embrace this “oh so Minnesota” season or just hunker down in a bad mood until say March or April. The MN River Weekly Update was developed as a way to share information about what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed. Please pass on any relevant information you may have to me for the MN River Weekly Update.



Scott Sparlin is on You-tube: *My first crack at YouTube with a river song. Go to the YouTube home page and put in Scott Sparlin Minnesota River Music, or Scott Sparlin Minnesota River Come On Down and click on search. Sometimes you have to try the search over a couple times. I think the more views it gets the more it will come up. I am going to do a bunch more in a different setting, background and with a wardrobe change etc. I just got it to work yesterday and it was an ordeal, but I am in now so look out. Let me know if you could access it. Go to: http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Scott+Sparlin%2C+MN+River+&search=Search Scott can be reached at yasure@lycos.com*

The Clean Water Council recently visited the Lower Minnesota Watershed for a water quality-related field trip by stopping at Seven Mile Creek Watershed, Lake Crystal and Paul Torkelson's farm. Go to the Clean Water Council website: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cleanwatercouncil/cwc-meetings.html (scroll down to the “Meeting Archives” section under the bullet: Monday, October 15-Tuesday, October 16, 2007 – *Two-day Council field tour*) to find an article summarizing the field tour, a Power Point slideshow and photos from all the tour stops.

Last night Kare 11 (NBC) news channel did a segment on “Ethanol: Fuel of the Future.” To see or read the story go to: http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=267605. They will be running the second part of this story tonight.

Recently, Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) sent out an update on the proposed Big Stone II Coal Plant. This is an important issue that all of us need to understand, not only for present but also future generations. Go to <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonecoalplanttimeline.pdf>

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is looking to fill a BS/MS position for Southeast Minnesota at their Rochester office. This position is responsible for the planning, assessment, response strategy development, implementation and educational aspects associated with nitrogen and pesticide BMPs in Southeastern Minnesota. For more information contact Bruce Montgomery, Supervisor-Fertilizer Management Unit at 651-201-6178.

Sustainable Environment for Quality of Life has put together a cool looking flyer on the 100 Ways you can improve the environment. Check it out: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/100waystoimproveenvironment.pdf>

3M has joined the Clinton Climate Initiative's landmark global procurement agreement last week to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by making energy savings technologies affordable and accessible to cities around the world. Under the agreement, 3M will sell its energy-saving window film to 40 of the world's largest cities at greater volumes and reduced costs (*source Hutchinson Leader*).

Events:

The Minnesota River Board will be meeting on November 19th (Monday) in Gaylord. The Executive Board meets from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., with the full board at 9 a.m. For an agenda: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverboardagenda.pdf>

I want to remind everyone about CURE's upcoming 'Green' Carpet Film Festival & You Tube Video Contest on November 16th and 17th. This looks to be a great event you wouldn't want to miss. For more information on the event go to the web site: www.greencarpetfilmfest.com

Save the Date: 2008 National River Rally on May 2 – 5 at the Sawmill Resort in Huron, Ohio. For more information www.rivernet.org/rally

The University of Morris and West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris is hosting Biomass and Wind Energy workshops on November 15th and 16th in Morris.

- An Advanced Biomass Workshop – November 15th
- An Advanced Wind Energy Workshop – November 16th

To register for the workshops contact Jean at 320-589-1711. Pre-registration is preferred by November 9.

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

Water Quality Articles:

- **Bob Cary completes his life; died Saturday.** For those who have spent time in the Boundary Waters, Bob Cary was a major presence when it writing about the area, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bobcary.pdf>
- **Considering conservation?** The NRCS has moved up its annual sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) starting on November 1st through the end of the month, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/consideringconservation.pdf>
- **Groups hope to elevate climate change as campaign issue.** A grassroots movement called 1 Sky is working over the next year to convince politicians to take a hard line on climate change, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/climatechangeactivists.pdf>
- **Native Prairie: A disappearing treasure.** Over 70 percent of the nation's original native prairie has been lost and more acres continue to be plowed under especially in North Dakota and Montana, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/disappearingnativeprairie.pdf>
- **Prairie Energy.** As the price of corn continues to rise, people are looking to burn prairie grasses and other plant byproduct to cut costs and reduce greenhouse gas, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prairieenergy.pdf>
- **Switchgrass is better than ethanol.** Hannah Steffel provides her opinion on the use of Ethanol as a fuel source, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/switchgrassbetter.pdf>
- **Experts look to timber as next generation energy source.** As oil prices flirt with the \$100 barrel mark and cold temperatures makes us shiver, the interest in biofuels continue to grow, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomasswind.pdf>
- **As U.S. water worries emerge, all eyes are on the Great Lakes.** Recently presidential candidate Bill Richardson suggested states "awash in water" could share with those states dealing with critical water shortages, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/uswaterwars.pdf>

- **Schlueter – Garlic mustard is an invasive plant.** Early settlers introduced this plant to America for culinary and medical reasons but now has become a major problem, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/garlicmustard.pdf>
- **Prairie Island Indians seek removal of nuclear waste.** Representatives of the Prairie Island Indian Community are urging federal legislators to make Nevada's Yucca Mountain a permanent nuclear waste repository, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/nuclearwaste.pdf>
- **Western Minnesota in need of waterfowl refuges.** Hunting ducks is an important tradition in Minnesota and the state is part of the Mississippi Flyway, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/refugesneededwesternmn.pdf>
- **Around the County/Soil compaction and wet soils.** According to Wayne Schoper, Extension Educator for Brown & Nicollet Counties, offers tips on how minimize soil compaction, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/soilcompaction.pdf>

"The sky was clear, the air pure, but we find myriads of mosquitoes in the high, thick grass that covers the plain. This plain is formed by rich land. The Lac qui Parle River, which drains it after the junction of its two forks, becomes navigable for barges as far as its entry into the Minnesota. It is 30 or 40 feet wide and at this moment 3 feet deep. Its water is clear, running over a sandy bottom, its course is tortuous but well enclosed between two banks formed of clay mingled with material of the primitive deposit," Joseph Nicollet, explorer, 1838

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 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.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
 Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
 Communications Coordinator
 Water Resources Center
 184 Trafton Science Center S
 Mankato, MN 56001
 507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>