

Hello all,

Check out the 2008 Refuge Photography Contest sponsored by the National Wildlife Refuge Association at www.refugenet.org. The grand prize is a 2008 Toyota Highlander Hybrid.



Putting Green, Inc. of New Ulm has entered into a partnership with MCRI Worksource New Ulm to begin a sustainable farm on Putting Green property. The goal of the project is to provide sustainable work opportunities while enhancing community and providing healthy fresh food. For more information on the project contact Kelcie Young, project intern at youngkelcie@gmail.com

Lessen your environmental by visiting the Living Green Web site of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: www.livinggreen.org. Here are a couple of tips to help you save money and the environment:

Ten Things You Can Do

1. Prevent lost heat by sealing attic bypasses,
2. Install compact fluorescent light bulbs in your most-used lighting fixtures,
3. Have a professional home energy audit and implement the auditor's recommendations. (Contact your electric or natural gas utility, or get a list of auditors from Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Information Center: 651-296-5175 or 1-800-657-3710),
4. When shopping for home appliances and electronics look for and purchase Energy Star-labeled equipment,
5. Purchase and install programmable thermostat,
6. Build your new home or home addition to Energy Star specifications,
7. At work and home, purchase an LCD computer monitor and/or set your old computer monitor to low-power mode when you are away,
8. Purchase green power from your electric utility or buy renewable energy certificates,
9. Install your own solar hot water system,
10. Make your own solar electricity.

The Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board is still looking for a Water Quality Specialist/Water Quality Program Director. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bncposition.pdf>

If you missed this year's Riverblast in New Ulm check out a video on the Floatilla Parade on the River by clicking on this You Tube link: http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Riverblast%20Flotilla&search=Search&sa=X&oi=spell&resnum=0&spell=1

Under the recent WRDA Bill passed by the U.S. Senate, the city of Willmar will receive \$15 million to construct a new wastewater treatment facility. According to Senator Norman Coleman's office, the new treatment facility will be less disruptive to the Minnesota River than the current wastewater treatment facility, which is 70 years old.

Grants:

The Fiscal Year 2008 Solicitation Notice for EPA's Environmental Education (EE) Grants Program is now available online at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html Please visit the site to review details about how to apply for an EE grant and to download the 2008 Solicitation Notice, Application, and Budget Form. Applications must be postmarked by the December 20, 2007 deadline.

Events:

Head for Montevideo this weekend to be part of the first 'Green' Carpet Film Festival & You Tube Video Contest sponsored by CURE on November 16th and 17th. For more information www.greencarpetfilmfest.com

The Ney Center outside of Henderson will be holding their annual meeting on Saturday (November 17th) from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. John Cross, *Mankato Free Press* photographer will be the featured speaker.

November 16th – 18th is the annual Outdoor Expo at Midwest Mountaineering event in Minneapolis. For more information <http://www.midwestmtn.com/>

The Mankato Paddling and Outing Club will be hosting their monthly program on November 20th at 7 p.m. at the Belgrade United Methodist Church in North Mankato. Brand Frenz will be talking about "Paddling Literature: Some Good Books to Read This Winter."

A Crystal Loon Mills Informational Meeting is going to be held on November 26th (Monday) at Lake Crystal Area Rec Center, Lake Crystal from 6:30 to 8:30. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lakecrystal.pdf>

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

Water Quality Articles:

- **A farm bill with balance.** Scott Sparlin of CCMR and Friends of MN Valley is interviewed on how the new farm bill will impact all of us in some form or fashion, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillwithbalance.pdf>
- **What does energy conservation have to do with daylight-saving time?** Most of us did what was expected of us last weekend and turned back our clock one hour. Do we know why? <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/daylightsavingtime.pdf>
- **Allegations raise a stink over Mower County feedlot.** Minnesota Public Radio covers the ongoing saga of a feedlot investigation at the both the county and state levels, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/allegationsraisestinkfeedlot.pdf>
- **We have 10,000 lakes, but do we have enough of these?** A look at how wetlands or prairie potholes are being impacted by the increase of cropped land, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wetlandsstatus.pdf>
- **Our View – They're still wetlands and still need protection.** An editorial in the Mankato Free Press says wetlands are not being adequately protected due to a recent Supreme Court decision, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/stillwetlandsneedprotection.pdf>
- **Judy Helgen: This didn't just happen naturally.** A retired MPCA research scientist says research on deformed frogs is being deflected from the more likely cause – chemical contaminants, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/deformedfrogsnotnatural.pdf>
- **Kids' love for outdoors knows no limits.** Minnesota leads the nation in the number of kids hunting or fishing – according to a federal survey – 74 percent participate in some type of wildlife-related recreation, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/kidsloveforoutdoors.pdf>
- **Minnesota's deteriorating dams can wait years for long-term fixes.** A review of state records and interviews with officials find Minnesota dams are deteriorating and need of fixing but more funding is needed, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mndeterioratingdams.pdf>

- **Take a walk, save the planet.** How can we help curb greenhouse emissions and improve our health? According to public health experts – Get out of our car and walk or bike half an hour a day instead of driving, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/takewalksaveplanet.pdf>
- **County's organic recycling program expands.** Businesses, school districts and residential homes are benefiting by Hennepin County's organics recycling program, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/organicrecycling.pdf>
- **Can Minnesota discriminate against coal?** Minnesota and neighboring state North Dakota find themselves on different sides when it comes to the lignite industry, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mndiscriminateagainstoal.pdf>
- **'Clean coal' stalled, for now.** The drive for a cleaner burning coal plant has stalled but some feel the "integrated gas-combined cycle" technology still has potential, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cleancoalstalled.pdf>
- **Can we bury CO₂ in North Dakota prairie?** A partnership of Minnesota corporations, state agencies and others are looking at injecting 1 million tons of CO₂ annually into a remnant of an ancient sea, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/buryco2northdakota.pdf>
- **Minnesota / States say computers hog energy.** The National Governors Association has formed a partnership private businesses to encourage the purchase of more energy-efficient computer equipment, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/computershogenergy.pdf>
- **Biorefining industry is handling changes.** The ethanol industry continues to adapt with technology changes at the refineries and other advances, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biorefiningindustry.pdf>
- **From software to green fields.** Fresh Earth Farms is the result of a career change for a former software salesman and becoming involved in community-supported agriculture, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/softwaregreenfields.pdf>
- **Going green may mean going slower on highway, as Minnesota panel considers ways to cut emissions.** A governor's panel of cutting Minnesota's greenhouse-gas emissions is looking at lowering highway speed limits, tougher vehicle emission standards and higher registration fees for gas hogs, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/goinggreen.pdf>
- **A bright idea: Switch light bulbs.** Do you want to save money on your energy bill, switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/brightidea.pdf>

Monday, August 6, 1838. Camped at 4:00 and visited the sources of the Yellow Medicine and l'eau de vie [Hawk Creek] rivers. Distance from Chippewa River to Hawk Creek = 31 miles.

Tuesday, August 7, 1838. Left camp at 6:00 in the morning. Hawk Creek and Yellow Medicine River are very wooded their whole length, the first is still shaded by red cedars. The second is important; it is nearly 60 feet wide at its mouth with 3-foot depth. The water is clear and runs over a bed of sand and pebble. "Joseph N. Nicollet on the Plains and Prairies"

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: www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

Thanks,

Scott

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