

Hello all,

Rain has been a dominate feature on our landscape over the last week as the farmers grudgingly take a break from the harvest and hunters begin to scout the sky for migrating waterfowl. I hope all of you enjoyed the warmer than normal temperatures over the last weekend, it looks fall temperatures have arrived.



The University of Minnesota Extension Service is offering one and two-day courses to help prepare public agency staff and private service providers for certification by USDA-NRCS as Technical Service Providers or acquire Technical Approval Authority (TAA) for specific practices. A series of classes are being offered in November including introductory and advanced classes on the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE2) and a related class on Upland Land Treatment for farm conservation planning and certified Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs). For complete information about the Clean Water Legacy TSP Training Initiative, including class registration, can be accessed online at <http://tsp.umn.edu>

Moisture or the lack of moisture effects how much residue is left on the fields over the winter. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging farmers to cut back on their fall tillage. NRCS says leaving crop residue (corn, beans or wheat – it doesn't matter) on the soil surface over winter is a valuable contribution to the quality of soil and erosion protection available on the farm.

If you are looking for information on birding in the MN River Valley check out the web site <http://www.hendersonmn.com> under Henderson Feathers. Art and Barb Straub are one of the contributors to the site.

Events:

Enjoy the many exciting changes at the Linnaeus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus College with a Homecoming Arboretum Tour on October 13th from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. or 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. The tour is geared towards families and will allow children to explore the many plants and animals in the arboretum.

Help CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) with a fall river clean up along the Minnesota River in Montevideo on October 13th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Meet at the Public Landing on River Road behind Country Kitchen in Montevideo. For more information: <http://www.curemnriver.org/events.htm>

If you are in the Cities check out Will Steger's presentation: "Global Warming Solutions: A Public Forum" on October 14th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the All Saints Catholic Church at 19795 Holyoke Avenue in Lakeville. For more information: <http://www.fresh-energy.org/events.htm>

Check out "Lonesome Ron's Roundup at the Harkin Store near New Ulm from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on October 14th. Join the MN River Valley cowboy singer Lonesome Ron in a jamboree that serves as a musical goodbye to summer and conclusion of Harkin's annual visitor season.

Also on October 14th, you can hear MN Geologist Scott Wolter talk about the Kensington Rune, a 202-lb mysteriously engraved stone found in 1898 by Olaf Ohmna while clearing trees off his land near Alexandria. The talk will take place at Ney Nature Center near Henderson starting at 4 p.m.

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance will be holding its next quarterly meeting on October 16th from 6 pm. to 9 p.m. at the New Century Charter School in Hutchinson. We will be picking the "Clean Up the Minnesota River" issue for 2008. For more information www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

Check out more up-coming events click on the calendar at <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Grant Opportunity:

If you are looking for grant opportunities through the State of Minnesota check out this web site: <http://www.lmnc.org/cities/GrantInfoState.cfm>. This site is called Grant Resources for Cities and provides links to the state grant web site Northstar and other state agencies.

Do you know a youth who should be recognized for their commitment to the environment? Submit an application to the President's Environmental Youth Awards at <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/peya/index.html>

Project Learning Tree has grant funding of \$200 to \$1,000 for teachers interested in environmental community action and service learning projects. The deadline for these grants is October 31, 2007. For more information go to www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/plt.html

Water quality related articles:

Going organic isn't following a trend for Larry Schultz, it's what he has known since his parents started to raise organic chickens and eggs in the 1950s: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/goingorganic.pdf>

Installing Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs is an easy way for you save money in energy costs and help preserve the environment: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/energyefficientbulbs.pdf>

A group of farmers and co-ops hope to bring an international fair trade movement to the Midwest to create standards for fair food prices: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fairtradeconcept.pdf>

Energy and the consequences of burning fossil fuels was the theme of this year's Nobel Conference in St. Peter: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/nobelconferenceenergy.pdf> and that global warming is real and there needs to be a solution now: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/globalwarmingisreal.pdf>

Minnesota is swimming in sewage. MPCA estimates at least 50,000 homes and businesses are dumping raw sewage directly into our lakes and rivers: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnswimminginsewage.pdf>

John Bailey writes how global warming requires local solutions and calls for cities to use bonding authority to promote energy conservation: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/globalwarminglocalsolutions.pdf>

Development is increasing stress on the pond that collects and filters much of the runoff from the Mall of America area and could impact the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and been a source of discord: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mallvsmarsh.pdf>

The Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management Board agrees to pay a \$5,000 civil penalty for alleged hazardous waste and air quality violations: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mpcafineswasteboard.pdf>

Neighbors organize are organizing in Mower County to stop what they consider a factory farm – a 4,832-sow hog confinement operation:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/neighborsorganizeagainstfeedlot.pdf>

Prices for corn, soybeans and wheat are all up and talk now centers around the idea that prosperity is sprouting in Minnesota farm fields:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prosperitymnfarmfields.pdf>

Board of Water and Soil Resources is taken to task by a legislative committee to do more about protecting wetlands in Minnesota: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lackoversightwetlands.pdf>

The MN DNR plans to boost wetland enforcement flights with a half of a million dollars in funding:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wetlandflights.pdf>

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. The Watershed Alliance meets four times a year and encourages landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of this effort.

Thank you,

Scott

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