

**Saturday, June 30, 2007**

9:00 a.m. - Meet at Vicksburg County Park in Renville County: approximately 10 miles south of the city of Renville and just north of the Minnesota River on Renville Co. Rd. 6. From the park entrance, drive a short distance west to the shelter.



Photography by Ron Bolduan



# 5th Annual Minnesota River Valley Field Tour

Leader: Fred Harris is a plant ecologist for the Minnesota County Biological Survey of the Minnesota DNR. Since 1992, Fred has surveyed native plant communities throughout western and southern Minnesota, including most of the length of the Minnesota River valley.

## Suggested Items to Bring:

Water, Lunch, Rain Gear, Hiking Shoes, Binoculars, Camera, Sunscreen, Hat, Insect Repellent. **Wear Comfortable Hiking Shoes!**

## Registration is Limited:

Call or e-mail soon!

Renville County HRA/EDA

(Ask for Stefanie)

320-523-3837

stefanie\_a@co.renville.mn.us

## Field Tour Itinerary:

9:15-11:00: Swedes Forest 24 Outcrops (Redwood County): Scott Larson, landowner, will guide us in a hike to the top of a high knob of ancient bedrock located within a large bend of the Minnesota River and across the river from Renville County's Vicksburg County Park. One of the remotest areas within this stretch of the valley, this outcrop is in excellent condition with a diverse assemblage of native species. From the top we'll get great views up and down the valley.

11:30-12:30 Starr's Outcrop (Redwood County – located off of Redwood County road 17, 2 miles east of Delhi): We'll visit a huge rock outcrop that is noted for unusual plants growing in numerous rainwater pools on the bedrock.

12:30-1:15 Lunch at Starr's Outcrop: bring your lunch with you. If there is time on the way to the next stop, we'll stop at a nearby mesic prairie that is small but in fine condition on a Minnesota River terrace.

1:30-2:30 Malecha Prairie (Renville County – just east of Renville County road 1 along the valley road): We'll hike through a dry prairie on steep south-facing slopes on the north side of the Minnesota River valley in Renville County. This is one of the top prairies in the region and will have a beautiful display of native wildflowers in late June. This site is located near Redwood Falls.