

To include your news release in the next edition of the Minnesota River Update, please send it to mnrriverupdate@gmail.com.

Water Quality Professionals Assembly

The Minnesota River Board invites you to attend the Watershed Professionals Assembly on June 27, 2012, at the City Center Hotel in Mankato.

2012 Assembly Highlights:

- * MRAP 20 Years Later: What do the results mean?
- * Biocriteria in Water Quality Assessment: How is it used?
- * Water Quality Progress in the MN River Basin
- * How have we done?
- * What milestones are priority?
- * The Future of Federal Conservation Programs
- * Conservation certainty and assurance?
- * What happens if federal funding is cut?

Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Chris O. Yoder, Research Director for the Center for Applied Bioassessment & Biocriteria at the Midwest Biodiversity Institute, presenting “Integrating Biological Criteria and Tiered Uses into Water Quality Management.”

For additional information and a full agenda visit www.mnrriver.org. [Please follow this link to register](#) or visit www.mnrriver.org and select the link under “Notices.”

Paddle the Minnesota River during Henderson’s Sauerkraut Days!

Explore the Minnesota River and either High Island Creek or the Rush River (depending on water levels) by joining members of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance for a couple of paddles on June 23rd (Saturday). These paddles are being held in conjunction with Henderson’s Sauerkraut Days on June 22-24.

Choose from two routes: We will be paddling the Minnesota River from the Le Sueur to Henderson for a total of almost eight miles. As a more family-friendly river, this stretch will pass by the confluence of the Rush River as it flows in from the west and a hot spot for bird watching including many Bald Eagle nests. A second and more challenging paddle will be offered in the morning (depending on water levels) on either High Island Creek or the Rush River. This route will require more expertise for paddlers with tougher conditions (including Class I rapids), hazards and faster flows.

After the paddle at around 3:00 pm, the Watershed Alliance will be presenting a patch or decal to anyone who has paddled the entire length of the Minnesota River; or paddled at least three tributaries plus a stretch of the Minnesota River; or paddled 23 tributaries and three stretches (upper, middle and lower) of the Minnesota River.

The Minnesota River Paddler Program is designed to help connect or reconnect with the Minnesota River and its many tributaries. By offering three different patches/decals, the Watershed Alliance hopes this will be a fun way to motivate people to explore some or all of the rivers found in the Minnesota River Basin. The three patches/decals are: MN River Tributary Paddler, MN River Extreme Paddler and MN River 335 Paddler. More information can be found at <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

Support the Completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail

Make your voice heard! Sign a petition calling for the development of the Bloomington Refuge Corridor and the restoration of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and pass it along to other individuals and organizations urging them to also sign the petition.

This petition supports building the missing link of the Minnesota Valley State Trail from Ft. Snelling to Bloomington Ferry Bridge, approximately 18 miles through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—our nation's largest urban wildlife refuge in the middle of 3 million people! This will provide excellent recreation opportunities, bird watching, wildlife habitat, and nature viewing. And it will provide people with a connection to the river so they can see firsthand the environmental challenges it faces from excessive sedimentation, channelization, draining of wetlands, and frequent flooding.

The petition and information about the trail and bridge can also be found at a newly renovated web site: <http://www.minnesotavalleystatetrailadvocacy.com/>

Prairie Oaks Institute Invites You to Celebrate the Solstice with a Wine, Beer & Cheese Tasting

June 16 from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at the Prairie Oaks Institute in Belle Plaine.

Featuring wine from Prairie Liquor, beer from Surly Brewing Company, and cheese and crackers from Confines Cheese Shoppe. We will also have lemonade, fresh fruit, vegetables, and desserts!

The silent auction has some very interesting items! Here are a few things we know you'll want to bid on: Twins game basket, wine basket, 2 tickets to Music in The Zoo concert, brunch by Ann Burkhardt at POI for up to 10 people, homemade wine & cookies, 1 year of 1 dozen eggs from the farm every month, gourmet dinner for 8 @ choice of place, and MUCH more! If you have something to donate, or a good idea for our silent auction, please contact Toni Jelinek at tjelinek21@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! You will receive a free ticket for one hour of work. Please contact Catherine Wyndyk at cwindyk@gmail.com if you are interested.

To buy tickets, click: http://celebrate_solstice.eventbrite.com/. For more information call [888-472-7110](tel:888-472-7110) or email info@prairieoaksinstitute.org

Job Announcements:

Program Technician for the Farm Service Agency

The selectee will perform a wide range of technical and administrative duties related to loan processing, loan servicing, and office management in support of FSA Agricultural Loan programs at the field office level. The position is located in Preston, MN and the application deadline is June 19, 2012.

For more information: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/317651700>

USDA Supervisory Research Plant Pathologist/Research Geneticist (Plants)

The incumbent serves as Research Leader of the Cereal Disease Research Unit that conducts basic and applied research to reduce losses in wheat, oat, and barley to major diseases including leaf rust, stem rust, crown rust, and Fusarium head blight (scab). The unit's research is focused on monitoring and characterizing races of cereal rust pathogens; identifying features essential for cereal fungal diseases (e.g. rusts and scabs) pathogenesis; and identifying resistance genes and developing effective strategies for deploying host-resistance genes to control cereal diseases including rust and scab. The application process closes June 29, 2012 and the position is in St. Paul, MN.

For more information: <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/317057200>

Events:

June 13th (Wednesday) is the **Paddleboat Tour & Floating Workshop** on the Mississippi River, Pool 2 from 8am - 11:45 am. RSVP is requested but not required. For more information:

<http://www.lakepepinlegacyalliance.org/River+Boat+Tour+Invitation.pdf>

June 15th (Friday) is **Lac Qui Parle Clean Water Partnership Annual Canoe Trip** at 11:30am. People interested in participating should contact Mary Homan at (320) 598-3319 to register for the event. Meet at Lou T. Fish Park in Madison, MN to carpool to the launch site. For more information:

<http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrfdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/2012%20Canoe%20trip.pdf>

June 15-17 (Friday-Sunday) are **Fiesta Days** in Montevideo, MN. Come celebrate Montevideo's sisterhood with Montevideo, Uruguay. There will be a parade, queen's coronation, canoe races, dances, and more. Dignitaries from Montevideo, Uruguay will join the festivities. For more information:

<http://montevideochamber.chambermaster.com/directory/jsp/events/EventPage.jsp?ccid=285&eventid=12146&q=ccid=285|visibility=2|month=5|year=2012|context=month>

June 25th (Monday) is **The Clean Water Act After 40 Years: What Has It Accomplished? How Do We Fulfill Its Promise? Lecture** in the theater of the Student Center on University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus at 7pm. For more information contact Patrick Sweeney at [763-219-1261](tel:763-219-1261) or

psweeney@freshwater.org or visit <http://freshwater.org/index.php/about-the-society/whats-new/515-save-the-date-lecture-on-clean-water-act-set-june-25>

July 11th (Wednesday) is the **Minnesota – South Dakota Friendship Tour**. The tour leaves from Ortonville Lakeside Park and will run from 8:00am - 3:30pm. Explore the Whetstone and Yellow Bank Rivers, learn about the flood retention project, and more! Reservations are required by July 3rd to Deanna Lunberg at deanna.lunberg@midconetwork.com or [320-839-3411](tel:320-839-3411). For more information:

http://neglwatersheds.org/images/July_11_poster.pdf

July 16th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 (600 South 5th Street). For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491)

or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

September 17th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23rd Street NE) in Willmar. For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

November 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am - 12:00 noon. Place and location to be announced. For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Participation up in farm land conservation](#) (MPR) Minnesota's Farm Service Agency director said she's pleased with participation in recent Conservation Reserve Program signup.

[DNR adds many waterways to list of those infested with invasive species](#) (Star Tribune) As Minnesota's warm-weather boating season ramps up, state conservation officials Thursday released a list of

waterways newly discovered to be infested with invasive species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil and possibly Asian carp.

[EPA awards \\$1.8M in clean-up grants for St. Paul](#) (AP) St. Paul is getting \$1.8 million in "brownfield grants" from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for cleaning up abandoned industrial and commercial properties.

[Minnesota PCA accused of allowing lake pollution](#) (Star Tribune) Minnesota regulators have allowed a sewage treatment plant in Alexandria, Minn., to emit pollution into a chain of popular nearby lakes for nearly a decade -- a clear violation of the environmental laws they are charged with enforcing, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday in Ramsey County District Court.

[Revolting sea lamprey an environmental success story](#) (MPR) Northwest Wisconsin's Brule River is revered by anglers for its steelhead and trout fishing. But the picturesque stream that tumbles northward into Lake Superior provides great habitat for more than just sport fish.

[Minneapolis battling a bumper crop no one wants](#) (Star Tribune) The warm and early-starting spring has meant a healthy crop of invasive aquatic weeds and new techniques for removing them from lakes in the metro area and across Minnesota.

[Editorial: Remember lakes when repairing your driveway](#) (Alexandria Echo Press) If you're thinking about seal coating your driveway, you should consider what it could do to the environment.

[Conservation in the Farm Bill](#) (MN2020) Provisions in the 2012 Farm Bill could sustain environmental stewardship going forward. Conservation practices like alternative tilling help farmers reduce topsoil erosion and improve water quality.

[Organic farm directory available to retailers, manufacturers](#) (Alexandria Echo Press) Minnesota food retailers and manufacturers have a new directory to turn to when searching for organic ingredients grown in the state.

[Buffer strips are a priority concern for County Board](#) (Morris Sun Tribune) Stevens County farmers who farm along county ditches no. 2 and no. 4 will be getting a letter from the county soon, reminding them to leave the buffer strip alone.

Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you. -Frank Lloyd Wright

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 Basin.

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