

Hello all,

CURE recently held a MN River Clean Up near Montevideo.

For more information on this successful river clean up go to:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rivercleanupreportfall2007.pdf>



Check out Ducks Unlimited - 8 minute "Living Lakes Initiative" video:

<http://www.ducks.org/videos/livinglakes> It talks about the effect of water quality on migrating waterfowl in shallow lakes. Lake Christina is featured.

An on-line discussion on Rural Institutions and Adaptation to Climate Change is running from October 19 (Thursday) to October 29 (Monday). This is an initiative launched by the Social Development Department of the World Bank to bring together practitioners, policy makers and the academic community to share information, best practice and experience on issues related to local institutions and climate change.

Please go to the Rural Institutions and Climate Change website: <http://www-esd.worldbank.org/ricc/>. Click on the 'Discussion Forum' link.

Once you have entered the website, you will need to register in order to post your comments. To Register, please

Click on Login (top right corner) or go to

<http://www-esd.worldbank.org/ruralinstitutions/index.cfm?Page=Register>

Fill out a short registration form.

The system will send you an email with a password and information on how to login.

If you do not get the email within a few minutes, please send an email to [ruralinstitutions@worldbank.org](mailto:ruralinstitutions@worldbank.org) from the same email address that you registered with.

You will find a wealth of articles on local institutions and adaptation to climate change in the Knowledge Center, as well as links to relevant institutions in the Key Links.

Minnesota finishes at number 15 in Forbes magazine's "America's Greenest States" list. We received good marks for energy efficiency and relatively clean water and air but middle of the pack for carbon footprint. Vermont places first and New Jersey is No. 7. The state finishing last – West Virginia. Other Midwest State rankings: Wisconsin (16<sup>th</sup>), South Dakota (21<sup>st</sup>), Iowa (35<sup>th</sup>) and North Dakota (42<sup>nd</sup>).

The most recent River Talk newsletter can be read at:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rivertalkfall2007.pdf>

### **Events:**

Don't forget about the conference: "Changing the World One Bite At A Time" on November 3<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) starting at 8 a.m. at the School Sisters of Notre Dame, SSND Mankato Provincial House Conference Center. For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org)

Minnesota BMP Challenge & Water Quality Credit (WQT) Trading Workshop on November 26, 2007 (Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided at Cabela's Retail Store in Owatonna. This workshop is open to all. You will learn about:

- Minnesota water quality issues and goals,
- Best Management Practice mechanics for Minnesota farmers
- The BMP CHALLENGE income guarantee program

- Farm income opportunities through Water Quality Trading

Upcoming workshops will be held in Alexandria on December 18 and Redwood Falls on January 10. For more information: [www.bmpchallenge.org](http://www.bmpchallenge.org)

A Project Learning Tree / WET workshop is being offered on November 7 (Wednesday) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Southeast Services Cooperative (210 Wood Lake Dr. SE) in Rochester. The cost is only \$10. To register: click on this calendar item [www.dnr.state.mn.us/plf](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/plf)

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

### **Water quality related articles**

State legislatures are looking to create legislation to require pesticide-use records to be opened to the public due to health concerns: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pesticiderecords.pdf>

One family is sold on utilizing geothermal technology in their home. The technology is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/geothermal.pdf>

A growing number of schools are offering healthier alternative lunches including organic food but finding availability and cost difficult: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/schoolsorganicfood.pdf>

In Stevens County a number of state and federal wildlife management areas are going to be partially cut for use as fuel in the University of Minnesota's biomass burner: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomasscleanup.pdf>

A proposed subdivision in the City of Savage has upset local residents worried about environmental damage of a calcareous fen: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/savagefen.pdf>

The City Of North Mankato is looking to improve recreation opportunities and preserve and conserve its green space: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greenideas.pdf>

Looking to lower your home heating bills. This article offers four things every homeowner can do now to cut energy bills this winter: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lowerhomebills.pdf>

A dairy farmer works with a nutrient management specialist to write a nutrient management plan to take advantage of manure's nutrients: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/manurenutrients.pdf>

Here is a story about young people looking out for the future of hunting in Minnesota by recruiting others of their generation: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/nextgeneration.pdf>

Communities are beginning to have second thoughts about building ethanol plants owned by outside investors as profits leave the area and the environment costs became more apparent: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/protestethanolplants.pdf>

The proposed federal Clean Water Restoration Act is becoming a hot issue as a property rights group lobbies against a change in the Clean Water Act: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/regulatingwetlandsstreams.pdf>

Several Minnesota citizen groups set up drift catchers to measure levels of pesticide drifts from farm fields: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pesticidestouchmore.pdf>

A new study calls for the state and federal governments to coordinate their efforts for protecting the Mississippi River: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rivermonitoring.pdf>

**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 this effort.**

Editorial Note: I want to apologize for how last week's MN River Weekly Update looked. For some reason my computer compressed everything together in one large blob (it didn't look that way when I sent it off). Hopefully this was a one and only time glitch.

Thank you,

Scott

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