

Alternative Tile Intake Workshop

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is hosting a workshop on Alternative Tile Intakes. The workshop is for landowners, contractors and technicians. This workshop is an opportunity to hear from technicians, contractors and landowners who have experience with alternative tile intakes. Attendees will share ideas and experiences and discuss how alternative tile intakes work and how they can fit into a farming operation. The Chippewa River Watershed Project has cost-share available for landowners who replace existing open intakes with alternative intakes.



This FREE workshop is March 17, 2008 at the Law Enforcement Center in Benson, MN from 9:30 am -11:30 am with lunch included. A response by March 12 is appreciated. Contact me with questions or to register: Jennifer Hoffman, Watershed Specialist; Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17 Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120; http://www.chippewariver.com/about_proj.aspx

The SHALLOW LAKES FORUM is coming to FERGUS FALLS!

Please help us reach out to our friends that have a stake in shallow lakes - particularly those in northwestern and west-central Minnesota and the Dakotas. I would encourage you to email this announcement to anyone that you think might have an interest in this event, post it on your organizational calendars, and get it into your newsletters and listserves. THANK YOU! – Shannon Fisher

- YOU ARE INVITED! to the Shallow Lakes Forum V - Managing Shallow Lake Habitats and Biota on March 27-28, 2008 at Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, Minnesota
- Shallow lakes in Minnesota continue to represent one of our most precious and often controversial resources. Development pressures, in addition to an entire spectrum of management philosophies, make the management of shallow lake habitats and biota challenging. The 2008 forum will focus on two primary areas:
 - Shallow Lake Management and Policy – New programs, new standards
 - Shallow Lake Ecological Communities – with an emphasis on Fisheries Management
- Who should attend? Anyone with a passion and/or responsibility for shallow lake resources! 2008 Forum Sponsors: Water Resources Center, MSU, Mankato; Ducks Unlimited, Inc.; MN Department of Natural Resources; MN Pollution Control Agency; American Fisheries Society, MN Chapter; The Wildlife Society, MN Chapter; Minnesota Waters; MN Board of Water and Soil Resources and Minnesota River Board
- Curious? Want to know more? Need to register? If so, the attached announcement has the program, lodging, and registration details. You can also visit us at www.shallowlakes.info

CURE: Leap Day Broomball Game

This comes from Patrick Moore, In honor of Leap Day and my son Martin's 3rd birthday (he is actually 12 but since he was born on Leap Day, his real birthday only comes around once every 4 years), I am organizing a **Leap Day Broomball Game** on the Minnesota River near Prien's Landing in Montevideo from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on next Friday Feb. 29th.

Martin is inviting his 6th grade friends and I am in need of about 12 old brooms for the kids to use as sticks in the game. If you have one, or know someone who does, let me know by [replying to this e-mail](#). If you want to help with organizing or refereeing the game or tending the bonfire,

serving hot dogs etc. to the kids, [let me know](#) as well. Thanks, Patrick J. Moore
www.curemriver.org

- **p.s. There are lots of new developments in the Big Stone II Campaign.** Things are coming to a head. To help you keep track of it, [we created a one page "At a Glance Overview"](#) of what is happening on several fronts. You can view it and download it to pass around to others by visiting:
http://www.curemriver.org/images/BS_II_%20Regulatory_Process_Timeline.pdf
- **p.s.s. You can register for the Bus to take you to Western Minnesota Day at the Capitol** on March 18th by visiting:
http://www.mepartnership.org/mep_calendar.asp?cal_id=2885#register

Job Opening: Yellow Medicine River Watershed District Administrator position

Terry Renken is retiring March 1st from Yellow Medicine River Watershed District and they are looking for someone to fill the Administrator position. The District currently has grants from MPCA and BWSR to implement best management practices, monitoring and educational programs. The closing date for this position is March 7, 2008 or until filled. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/yellowmedicinedirector.pdf> or go to <http://www.ymrwd.org> to download the application in PDF format.

Cool use for wastewater

Recently, the American City & Country featured an article about Mankato constructing a water reclamation facility (WRF) to treat effluent from its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for use at a nearby privately owned electric power generation plant. The article can be found at:
http://americancityandcountry.com/water/treatment/cool_wastewater_wwtp_wrf/

Rebecca Otto lives completely 'green'

In her day job, she watches how Minnesota cities spend your tax dollars. But State Auditor Rebecca Otto has a personal passion for living green. Fourteen years ago, she built an energy-independent house that is still going strong.

Rebecca Otto is one of 5 PEOPLE MAKING NEWS.

<http://kstp.com/article/stories/S357941.shtml?cat=1>

Events:

March 5th (Wednesday) is the Hazardous Algal Bloom Workshop from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel, Mankato. For more information, www.seagrant.umn.edu/news

March 6th (Thursday) Fred Harris, Ph.D., Plant Ecologist/Botanist of MN DNR will be giving a presentation entitled: "Rare Plants in Temporary Rainwater Pools on Bedrock Outcrops: Recent Discoveries on Some of Southwestern Minnesota's Most Scenic and Threatened Habitats." This will focus on rock outcrops in the Minnesota River valley as well as the far SW corner of the state. The presentation will be at 7:00 pm on at the Minnesota Native Plant Society meeting at the Dakota Lodge in West Saint Paul. For more info and a map of the meeting location, go to the Native Plant Society website at: http://www.mnnp.org/monthly_programs.htm

This comes from the Chippewa River Watershed Project: Just a reminder, that the Annual Meeting is quick approaching. Thanks to all of you that have already responded. If you plan to attend, **please remember to RSVP by March 3.** *Share the invitation with a friend or neighbor. Help us celebrate 10 years of great things happening in the Chippewa River Watershed. Hope to see you there!* The Chippewa River Watershed Project is celebrating its 10th Anniversary and will be hosting its Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 6 at the Starbuck Community Center. The

evening will begin with a social and registration at 5pm, meal at 6 pm, and program at 7 p.m. Meals are free with pre-registration. Please register with Jennifer by Monday, March 3.

Water Quality Articles:

Frederickson, Finstad split on 'Legacy' amendment. Republican legislators Dennis Frederickson of New Ulm voted for and Brad Finstad of Comfrey voted against the Legacy Amendment to fund clean water, wildlife habitat, parks and the arts, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/spiltonlegacybill.pdf>

Bigger profit margins, less pollution with biomass. Minnesota ethanol industry leaders discussed the profitable use of biomass to produce ethanol, electricity and heat at a one-day conference in North Mankato, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomassprofitpollution.pdf>

Poll says farmers have concerns on using corn stover for ethanol. There is a difference in opinion over the use of left over plant material from corn harvest to make ethanol and the concern of many farmers this could lead to soil erosion, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cornstoverethanol.pdf>

Group issues new policy brief disputing 'dark side' of ethanol. A new policy brief from the Minnesota-based Institute for Local Self-Reliance criticizes the authors of two recent studies on the production of ethanol, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/disputeddarksideethanol.pdf>

Environmental Scorecard: Gold stars for Ellison and Ramstad; F's for Coleman, Bachmann and Kline. The Conservation Minnesota Voter Center has released its 2007 Congressional Scorecard rating the voting records of Minnesota's congressional delegation on energy, the environment and conservation, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/environmentalscorecard.pdf>

Governors Try to Advance Clean Energy. Governors who want clean energy to be a national priority are trying to bring together states with wildly different ways of producing power, like tapping ocean temperature differences in Hawaii or mining coal in West Virginia, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/governorscleanenergy.pdf>

Klobuchar heads global warming panel discussion at Gustavus. Senator Amy Klobuchar feels that both Democrats and Republicans need to put aside their differences to cut greenhouse emissions like they did in Minnesota, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/klobucharglobalwarming.pdf>

Three low-income homeowners are part of solar heating study in Duluth. They are receiving furnaces free of charge from Minnesota Power, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lowincomesolarstudy.pdf>

New elementary school will breathe energy efficiency. The interior of Rochester's newest elementary school will have an open, airy feel, lots of windows to bring in natural light and some of the best indoor air quality in the state, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/schoolbreathesenergyefficiency.pdf>

Senate bill could turn some Minnesota lakes into stars. A new bill in the state Senate would improve the quality of lakes in Minnesota through partnerships between local groups and state agencies, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/senatebillmnlakes.pdf>

UMM complements 'green' campus initiatives with new degree program. A new major degree program focusing on renewable energy will be available next fall for students who choose

to attend the University of Minnesota, Morris,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ummgreeninitiative.pdf>

Willmar City Council files for state loan for treatment plant project. The Willmar City Council has authorized the city to file for a state loan to finance construction of the new wastewater treatment plant and conveyance system,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/willmartreatmentplantproject.pdf>

Is atrazine really safe. Leigh Pomeroy comments on the recent half-page ads in the Mankato Free Press defending atrazine, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/atrazinereallysafe.pdf>

Catching the wind to use for power. One family is using alternative energy sources including a wind turbine and solar panels to reduce the energy they buy by as much as 70%,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/catchingthewindforpower.pdf>

Diesel Truck Converts to Canola in St. Cloud. An avid environmentalist and self-described cheapskate had an idea to fit both traits into his work for the St. Cloud School District by converting his work delivery truck to burn canola,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dieseltruckconvertscanola.pdf>

NEW: Ethanol research gains ground. The nation's top ethanol producer is teaming with an Iowa State University researcher in hopes of squeezing more ethanol out of a kernel of corn,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ethanolresearchgainsground.pdf>

Farm bill faces uphill battle. As spring nears, farmers face uncertain prospects of what federal policies will guide production decisions,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillfacesuphillbattle.pdf>

Our View – Gustavus goes green on energy. An editorial in the Mankato Free Press talks about how the Gustavus Adolphus College campus has been getting a lot of attention with its efforts to win the National Campus Energy Contest,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/gustavusgoesgreen.pdf>

In D.C., Pawlenty calls for cleaner energy. Governor Tim Pawlenty, chairman of the National Governors Association, called for a "clean energy future" Saturday at the group's winter meeting in Washington D.C., <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pawlentycallsforcleanerenergy.pdf>

Commentary: Keeping the lights on needs forward thinking. In this editorial, Cindy Gannon, marketing communications specialist with Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc. says there is going to be a greater demand for energy in the future,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/powerforwardthinking.pdf>

Southern Minnesota to support the environment. Southern Minnesotans will storm the capital in March to express their concern for the environment and the state's great outdoors,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/southernmnsupportenvironment.pdf>

The case of the missing Minnesota moose. Is it parasites, or climate change, or both, that's killing Minnesota's moose? Researchers are attacking the question on the ground, in the air, with radio, needle and microscope, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/studyingmoosepopulation.pdf>

John Bailey and David Morris: It's time for state to get serious about climate change. They are calling for the Legislature to back up its energy directive by tying money to "green" buildings,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/timeseriousclimatechange.pdf>

Slippery Slope: Inventor Wages War on Rock Salt. In his lab near the snow-covered Rocky Mountains, Steve Bytnar is plotting to topple a winter mainstay; rock salt, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waronrocksalt.pdf>

Compact fluorescent bulbs are a great invention. Natalie J. Ostgaard provides a number of ideas for saving money whether by limiting water usage, reducing energy costs including buying compact fluorescent bulbs, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/compactfluorescentbulbsgreat.pdf>

Proposed sales tax rise gets rousing 'no,' poll says. According to a Survey USA poll, 64 percent of Minnesotans think a constitutional amendment to raise the state sales tax for the outdoors and arts is a bad idea, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/surveysaysnotosalestax.pdf>

U biofuels study has farmers upset. Two soybean growers' groups decided to suspend grants to the U to protest research that found growing biofuels could actually worsen global warming, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biofuelsstudyupsetfarmers.pdf>

Archaic sewage lines tainting lakes, rivers. Nearly 100 small communities in Minnesota are illegally releasing raw sewage into lakes, rivers, ditches and field drains, says a new state report, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/archaicsewagelinestaintingwaterbodies.pdf>

Straight-pipe communities in Minnesota. Many small communities in Minnesota flush untreated toilet wastes through illegal straight pipes that end in rivers, lakes, ditches or drain tiles buried in farm fields, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/straightlinepipecommunities.pdf>

Rivers are magnets for the imagination, for conscious pondering and subconscious dreams, thrills and fears. People stare into the moving water, captivated, as they are when gazing into a fire. What is it that draws and holds us? The rivers' reflections of our lives and experiences are endless. The water calls up our own ambitions of flowing with ease, of navigating the unknown. Streams represent constant rebirth. The waters flow in, forever new, yet forever the same; they complete a journey from beginning to end, and then they embark on the journey again. – Tim Palmer, "The Wild and Scenic Rivers of America"

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: <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

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.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
Communications Coordinator
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>