

Some CURE volunteers and organizers spent New Year's Day on Lac qui Parle going around talking with fishermen about mercury levels in Minnesota River fish. You can read about their adventure and see pictures by visiting:

<http://www.curemriver.org/news.html>.



Wastewater in Small Communities (www.epa.gov/owm/mab/smcomm) EPA's Office of Wastewater Management provides financial, technical and programmatic assistance to help small communities achieve adequate wastewater services. EPA launched this new Web site to help small communities achieve and maintain sustainable wastewater services. This new site provides information about grants, funding resources, technical assistance, and training. A variety of tools are also available on this site to help small communities plan, design, build, and maintain their wastewater infrastructure. (EPA NPS News-Notes)

Don't forget about the Big Stone II Administrative Hearing on January 10th at 6 p.m. at the Ortonville Community Center (200 Monroe Ave – Main Street). CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) is asking for help in a number of ways including showing up at the hearing to pack the room and testify. Other ways to help out include writing a one or two page testimony to be entered as an exhibit in the case or file new written comments. For more information contact CURE at 1-877-269-2873

Events:

On January 17th (Thursday) Carrie Jennings, Glacial Geologist with the MN Geological Survey will be doing a “**The Geology of the Minnesota River**” presentation starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Chippewa County Courthouse Assembly Room in Montevideo. The entire family will enjoy this visual exploration of the Minnesota River Valley. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304 or scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu. Or Patrick Moore at 1-877-269-2873 or cure-ed@info-link.net

On January 19th (Saturday) bring the family out to the Ney Nature Center (28003 Nature Center Lane, Henderson) to experience nature's wonders during the winter season. Participate in seasonal activities for all ages in and out-of-doors. Registration is required by Monday, January 14th. For more information contact the Ney Nature Center at info@neycenter.org or visit the web site at www.neycenter.org

On January 23rd (Wednesday) is the **Hawk Creek Watershed Information & Appreciation Meeting** at the Kandi Entertainment Center (500 19th Ave. SE, Willmar). The meeting will include presentations related to water quality and land management issues.

- Conservation Drainage
- BMP Challenge & Water Quality Trading
- Fingerprinting Sources of Sediment in the MN River
- Raingardens for Water Quality

Please call the Hawk Creek Watershed Project at 320-523-3666 by January 15, 2008 to reserve your meal. The meeting is open to the public.

Jobs

Carver County is looking for an Education Coordinator in their Land & Services Division. This person will manage the water, natural resource, and other land use & environmental educational programs of the land & Water Services Division. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/carvercounty.pdf>

Lyon Soil & Water Conservation District has a position open for a Conservation Technician. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lyonswcd.pdf>

The position of Administrator has opened up in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District. Currently the District conducts programs related to best management practices, monitoring and education. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/middleforkcrow.pdf>

Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board is looking for a Water Quality Specialist/Water Quality Program Director. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterqualityspecialist.pdf>

Water Quality Articles:

Feedlot regulation is a growing patchwork. As more and people move to the country, there is an increase in township ordinances to limit the construction of feedlots in the state, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/feedlotregulation.pdf>

Can green retailers get into the black? A number of green-themed shops have opened in the Twin Cities and now the question comes on whether or not they can make a profit or not, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greenretailers.pdf>

Editorial: One last chance for farm subsidy reform. An editorial in the Minneapolis Star Tribune is calling for House and Senate conferees to cut farm subsidies, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lastchancefarmreform.pdf>

Minnesota to keep eye on 24 lakes. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin a joint effort to study two dozen lakes across the state, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/minnesotalakewatch.pdf>

Minnesota 2020 calls for 10-cent hike in gas tax for roads. A progressive non-profit think tank out of St. Paul is calling for a higher gas tax to improve the quality of the deteriorating across Minnesota, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mn2020callsfor10centgashike.pdf>

Roadside wells – is free water better water? There are about a dozen roadside stops across Minnesota with free spring water. Are these sources of water safe? <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/roadsidewells.pdf>

Taming the e-stream. Disposing of electronics safely and responsibility can be complicated. Minnesota wants manufacturers to pay for recycling their products – but does that mean dumping them in Asia, Africa or the states' lakes? <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/tamingestream.pdf>

Students launch toxic chemical awareness campaign. A group of high school students in Minneapolis have taken it upon themselves to spread the word about potentially toxic chemicals found in plastic products, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/toxicchemicalawarenessprogram.pdf>

Xcel files plan to reduce mercury emissions at 2 Minn. plants. Xcel Energy has plans to reduce mercury emissions at two coal-fired plants in Minnesota by installing equipment to scrub mercury from the smokestacks, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/xceltoreducemercury.pdf>

“We of an older generation can get along with what we have, though with growing hardship; but in your full manhood and womanhood you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed; and because of that want you will reproach us, not for what we have used, but what we have wasted . . . So any nation which in its youth lives only for the day, reaps without sowing, and consumes without husbanding, must expect the penalty of the prodigal whose labor could with difficulty find him the bare means of life,” Theodore Roosevelt

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: 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

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