

### **Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment**

Dear Friend, Minnesota's shortest season, summer, is finally here. Along with mosquitoes and bar-b-ques, our summers are filled with water. From swimming in the local creek, to water skiing on one of our lakes, summer in Minnesota means being on or near the water. Passing the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment will ensure that we protect the waters that we enjoy so much. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make sure that the things we enjoy this summer are protected, restored and enhanced. We have plenty of opportunities for you to get involved, and start letting people in your community know about the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cleanwaterlandlegacy.pdf>

### **Organic Produce, Locally Grown! – Growing Green Mini-Farm**

Growing Green Mini-Farm is a collaborative project of MRCI and Putting Green, putting people with disabilities to work in the community, growing organic fruits, veggies, herbs and flowers. Buy healthy, buy local, build community! Please support our efforts as we work together to create a healthier planet.

Available this Week:

**Swiss Chard \$2.50 a bunch**

**Kale \$2.50 a bunch**

Purchase at Growing Green Mini-Farm (20th Street South & Valley, New Ulm, MN); Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10am-8pm. **Growing Green is growing:** Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Peppers, Leeks, Potatoes, Kale, Kohlrabi, Broccoli, Swiss Chard, Lettuce, Carrots, Radishes, Pumpkins, Squash, Edible and Cut Flowers, Basil, Cilantro, and Parsley.

For more info, call 507-354-7888 or [www.puttinggreen.org](http://www.puttinggreen.org) <<http://www.puttinggreen.org>>

### **Mankato MPCA Office Moves**

The staff of the Mankato Minnesota Pollution Control office has moved to 12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 2165. The main phone line (507-389-5977) will remain the same.

## **Employment:**

### **Graduate Research Assistant with Water Resources Center, MSUM**

The Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato, in conjunction with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, is seeking a Graduate Research Assistant (M.S.) to start during the Fall 2008 semester. Recent funding has become available to provide a full tuition waiver and a \$16,000/year stipend for 5 semesters and two summers of research assistantship and one semester of teaching assistantship (usually general biology labs). The anticipated start date is August 18, 2008 and the expected end date of this project is May 2011. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/graduateresearchassistantwrc.pdf>

### **Planner Intermediate, MN Department of Agriculture**

This job will help complete the Conservation Funding Advisor, an online tool to provide comprehensive user-friendly information on a wide range of conservation opportunities for landowners, conservation professionals and others. When complete, the tool will be a one-stop source of information on conservation practices, programs and payments. The framework for the tool is complete; this position will help populate the tool with the intended content. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationfundingadvisor.pdf>

### **Communications Director, Conservation Technology Information Center**

This position will develop and monitor programs, messages and materials to promote conservation agriculture. The Communications Director position involves regular communications to, among others, federal, state and local government agencies; agriculture industry, media and associations; conservation groups and watershed partnerships. This position will also be responsible for grant-funded projects that involve technology transfer, publications, information dissemination, media relations or other communication-related outcomes. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/communicationcoordinator.pdf>

### **Grant Opportunities:**

#### **EPA's 2008 Targeted Watershed Grants Program**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting proposals for water quality trading or other market-based projects through its [Targeted Watersheds Grants](http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/epatargetedwatersheds.pdf) Program. Projects must address reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, or other pollutant loadings that cause low oxygen levels in local waters and which enter the Mississippi River system. Projects must be located in one of the three Mississippi River sub-basins with the highest nutrient loads contributing to hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico: the Ohio River, the Upper Mississippi River, or the Lower Mississippi River. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/epatargetedwatersheds.pdf>

### **Events:**

#### **Minnesotans Can Help Shape the Future of the State's Environment**

Outreach Forum on Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan Monday, July 14th, 5-8 pm Best Western North Mankato (111 Range Street; Mankato, MN 56003-2214). This is rescheduled from June 5<sup>th</sup>. Should Minnesota improve the water quality of our lakes and rivers? Promote alternative energy strategies that increase environmental quality? Improve community planning to protect natural resources? Integrate conservation goals with transportation goals? These are just a few recommendations contained in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan. Learn more and let your voice be heard at a public forum sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment as it gathers public input on this groundbreaking effort funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. To reserve your spot at the forum, contact Jean Coleman, event coordinator, send a confirmation message to [jcoleman@crplanning.com](mailto:jcoleman@crplanning.com) or call 612-588-4904. "Our expert teams have developed a great set of recommendations, based on what we know about Minnesota's natural resources" said project director Deb Swackhamer. "Now we'd like to share our results with the public and invite feedback to help us improve them, so they can be put to use to conserve and protect our natural resources." A summary of the draft recommendations is available at the website below and the entire report will be available after July 1st. For more information on the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan or to provide input online, go to [www.mnconservationplan.net](http://www.mnconservationplan.net). To reserve your spot at a forum, contact Jean Coleman, event coordinator, [jcoleman@crplanning.com](mailto:jcoleman@crplanning.com) or 612-588-4904.

#### **Chippewa River Geology Presentation**

The Chippewa River Watershed Project invites you out for an evening of exploring the glacial history of our diverse watershed. Carrie Jennings, a Glacial Geologist with the MN Geological Survey will be giving a presentation highlighting the glacial history of the Lake Minnewaska area and western Minnesota. The Chippewa River Watershed is home to many unique and distinctive glacial landforms such as Glacial Lake Benson, the Varbe, the Swift Falls Delta, the Lake Minnewaska Tunnel Valley, the Blue Mounds, and the Glenwood Fan. Find out why our landscape looks the way it does. The presentation is on Thursday, July 17 and starts at 7:00 pm at the Starbuck Community Center. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. Bring the family, bring a friend. Carrie gives a great presentation with loaded with easy to understand information and photos. You won't want to miss it! Hope to see you there! (Jennifer Hoffman, Chippewa River Watershed Project – 320-269-2139 ext. 120)

### **Storm U: Designing for Volume Control**

Learn how to design for volume, control benefits and requirements using bioretention, infiltration and other techniques. This program will take you through the design process from site layout to construction observation. It will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup> (Monday) at the Faribault County Ag Center in Blue Earth. The cost for the workshop registration is \$100 due to the Small Community Stormwater Project 319 Grant funding half of the \$200 registration per attendee. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/stormwaterworkshop.pdf>

### **Day at the Dam – Rapidan Dam Park**

On July 19<sup>th</sup> come out to the Rapidan Dam Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a Day at the Dam Celebration. There will be tours of the park, boat rides on the reservoir, music, informational displays, horse draw wagon rides, lawn games, family activities and food from The Dam Store. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/DayAtTheDam.poster2.pdf>

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

### **Water Quality Articles:**

[Most Minnesota corn farmers escape flooding, see green](#) (Star Tribune). They have mostly escaped the flooding in the Midwest and now are locking in at record prices. But hog, poultry and ethanol producers are suffering.

[Tipping point near in effort to preserve natural resources](#) (Rochester Post-Bulletin) Minnesota is a state that the two of us have been proud to represent and serve for nearly five decades. The Minnesota we fought to protect through our public service is slipping away, and we have a chance to protect it by voting for The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. We urge all Minnesotans to vote yes to protect the Minnesota we all love.

[Bee collapse worries scientist](#) (Timberjay News) David Bixler believes we can often find the biggest warning signs in the smallest of things. Bixler, a retired Professor of Environmental Science and Ethics from Chaffey College, in California, has spent more than forty years trying to understand how humans and their activities are affecting the planet, particularly the Earth's climate.

[Bachmann says more drilling will bring down the cost of gas](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). As gasoline prices continue to soar, 6th District U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann says she has a plan to get back to \$2 a gallon. Bachmann, who's running for re-election to a second term, outlined a strategy Monday to lower gas prices by expanding domestic oil exploration and production. But Bachmann's chief political rival says the election-year promise is based on bad policy.

[Minnesota, EPA launch steps to reduce dead zone in Gulf of Mexico](#) (Minnesota Public Radio) Minnesota's pollution control agency is joining with the U.S. EPA on a plan to shrink the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The hypoxic zone is a dead zone where algae has bloomed on the skin of the water cutting off oxygen to the plants and animals below. The Minnesota River is one of the biggest contributors of farm run off that contributes to the dead zone.

[Americans reduce driving 1.4 billion miles](#) (Star Tribune) With gas prices at record levels above \$4 a gallon, Americans are driving less and abandoning gas-guzzling vehicles, according to government data. Americans drove 1.4 billion fewer highway miles in April compared with the same month last year, and 400 million fewer miles than they did in March, according to the Transportation Department.

[From across the bridge: We've already consumed the low-hanging energy fruit](#) (Duluth Budgeteer News) Americans are looking for energy answers from Washington, but today received the "same old-same old" rhetoric in a speech by President George W. Bush. Voicing a long-standing Republican plea, he asked Congress to lift the ban on offshore oil and gas drilling, suggesting the prohibition has thrust high energy prices on American consumers. Democrats, he said, are to blame for stalling his energy proposals.

[Other voices: Look to long-term fixes to solve our energy crisis](#) (Star Tribune) Led by President Bush and Sen. John McCain, growing numbers of politicians say they are willing to drop strict environmental protections to allow more offshore drilling for oil. However, offshore drilling is no panacea. It certainly doesn't provide a short-term answer to the high gasoline prices that have angered Americans this year.

[All in a day's work for soil, water district](#) (Detroit Lakes Tribune) Controlling invasive plant species in one township, planting trees for a windbreak in another, and constructing a grassed waterway in another — it's all part of a day's work at the Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District.

[MPCA sets new water quality standards](#) (Minnesota Public Radio) The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has written new water quality standards to limit the amount of ag run-off in the states' waterways.

[Closed army plant sees boaters for the first time in decades](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune) Debbie Hartmann doesn't consider herself a suburban pioneer. But she was among the first batch of canoeists and kayakers to paddle through the northern suburbs bordered by Rice Creek, which hasn't been fully navigable since World War II.

[Mattress recycling keeps box springs out of the landfill](#) (Minnesota Public Radio) One of the bigger problems for landfills is as close as the bedroom. Mattresses and box springs take up a lot of room, and the springs create problems for landfill equipment. Most landfills charge a fee for mattresses and some won't take them at all.

[Fluorescent bulbs: A recycling plan](#) (New York Times) Some big retailers are pushing compact fluorescent light bulbs as a way to save energy. But improper disposal of the bulbs creates a hazard, because they contain small amounts of mercury.

[Native Americans confront problem of poor water quality](#) (Minnesota Public Radio) Some traditional Native American ceremonies involve people drinking water directly from the natural bodies of water. But these days, water isn't safe drink directly from lakes and rivers. As a result, some Native Americans are adjusting the way they celebrate some ceremonies.

[Minnesota rides ethanol roller coaster](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune) While the industry is in turmoil, the age and owners of Minnesota's plants keep them eyeing green.

[Canoeists end a bold voyage, and earn a tip of our hats](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune) Sean and Col- ton's Excellent Adventure is still making waves: Tonight, the conquering canoe paddlers will be honored at an ice cream reception where they will present a slide show about their 49-day, 2,200-mile canoe trip to Hudson Bay.

[Bjorn Lomborg: It would be best to invent a way out of warming](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune) The bitter arguments in the Senate this month over the Lieberman-Warner climate change bill, which would have required major emitters to pay for the right to discharge greenhouse gases, proved that climate change caused by humans has come to the fore of U.S. policy debates. This fact may comfort those who believe that future generations will judge us on the zeal with which we face the challenge. It may even assuage the fears of those who believe that warming will end life

as we know it. But rhetoric is unlikely to put us on a path toward solving the problem of climate change in the best way.

*It was kind of solemn, drifting down the big still river, laying on our backs looking up at the stars, and we didn't even feel like talking loud, and it wasn't often that we laughed, only a little kind of low chuckle. – Mark Twain.*

*Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit. – Edward Abbey*

**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>**

Thanks,

Scott

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