

IS OUR WATER AT RISK? - Examining the Land/Water Connection

This panel presentation will be held on October 22nd (Wednesday) from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church (Warren and Broad streets) in Mankato. Parking is available in lots off Broad Street. The panelists will be:

- Dr. Henry Quade, Founder of MSU's Water Resources Center
- Dr. Shannon Fisher, Director of the Minnesota River Board
- State Representative Kathy Brynaert, Environment and Natural Resources Committee Member

Our presenters will provide information on water quantity and quality, land usage and pertinent legislation affecting southern Minnesota. A question and answer period will follow and water will be served so everyone can try our taste test.

CURE's 17th Annual River Clean Up Seeks Volunteers

The 17th Annual CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) River Clean Up will take place on Saturday, October 25 from 11a.m. – 3p.m. along the “Hungry Hollow” stream that leads to the Minnesota River in East Granite Falls. CURE is teaming up this year with the Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce to organize Saturday's clean up, which will start from Carl's Bakery on Main Street at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

On Sunday, October 26 from 2 -4 p.m. CURE needs volunteers to clean up a 2 mile stretch of Highway 212 along the Minnesota River between Granite Falls and Montevideo, MN. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Minnesota River landing in Wegdahl at 2 p.m. Sunday to start the clean up.

Everyone is being encouraged to get out and enjoy the fall weather fall and the company other volunteers. Clean up participants should be prepared to get dirty. Gloves, boots, and water bottles are recommended. For more information, contact clean up organizer Brooke Herling at (320) 269-2984 or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/curecleanup.pdf>

CURE is a non- government, non-profit organization founded in 1992 and funded by individual and business contributions and foundation grants. CURE's mission is to restore, protect and celebrate the Upper Minnesota River Watershed for the benefit of all generations. For more information visit: www.curemnr.org

CURE's Adopt a Highway Cleanup – October 26th

Help Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) clean up the 2 mile stretch along the Minnesota River between Granite Falls and Montevideo on October 26th (Sunday) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cureadopthwy.pdf>

MPCA H₂infO Transition Invitation to attend User Requirement sessions

Dear stakeholder,

We would like to invite you to provide your input to MPCA's water quality database improvement project. MPCA is in the process of making significant enhancements to STORET (to be called H₂infO), the agency's water quality data management system for lakes, rivers, and other bodies of water. Our goal is to make H₂infO data more accessible, comprehensive, and user-friendly for the number and variety of people who rely on it, internal to MPCA as well as external.

We are holding “user requirement” sessions in several locations around the state next month at which participants will be asked what the problems and strengths are of the current system, and then, what users would like the future system to do or provide. This will include seeking input on the STORET system as well as the surface water portion of the EDA (Environmental Data Access) website. The sessions will have a mix of MPCA water quality staff and STORET users

from local governments, environmental organizations, and other external parties. We anticipate an interesting conversation from this mix of water quality data users!

The user requirement sessions will be held on:

- November 6, 10:00 – 3:30 at Dakota Lodge in West St. Paul. Lunch and snacks will be provided.
(Thompson Park Center-Dakota Lodge - 1200 Stassen Lane - West St Paul MN 55118)
- November 13, 10:00 – 3:30 at the MPCA Brainerd office. Lunch and snacks will be provided.
(Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - 7678 College Road, Suite 105 - Baxter, MN 56425)
- November 18, 10:00 – 3:30 at the Mankato Public Library. Lunch and snacks will be provided.
(Mankato Public Library - 100 E. Main St. - Mankato, MN 56001)

Please RSVP to Miranda Nichols (651-297-8466) by October 23rd to confirm your attendance. Reply to this email (Miranda.Nichols@pca.state.mn.us) with your NAME, ORGANIZATION/AFFILIATION, and preferred session LOCATION.

More information about the project is available on the project's website:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/storet-redesign.html>. You can submit your input on the website as well; however, we hope that you will attend the session to provide more in-depth feedback and ideas.

Thank you, Shannon Lotthammer, Water Monitoring Section Manager; Todd Biewen, Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division Assistant Director; Frank Kolasch, Air Assessment and Environmental Data Management Section Manager and H₂info Transition Project Manager

Events:

October 19th (Sunday) is the **Grand Opening of the Rapids Lake Unit at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge** (15865 Carver Highlands Driver; Carver, MN) from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, call 952-361-4500 or visit:
http://www.fws.gov/midwest/minnesotavalley/visitor_center_rapids_lake.html

October 21st (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** at the Hutchinson Event Center (1005 Highway 15 South Plaza 15) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

October 30th (Thursday) is the **2008 Friends of the Minnesota Valley Annual Dinner** from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Valley Country Club in Bloomington.

- Keynote Speakers: **John Cross and Tim Krohn of the Mankato Free Press** and their presentation: "**Minnesota River Voyage**" – from their 10th anniversary canoe trip down the entire length of the Minnesota River and the people they met along the way.
- R.S.V.P. – contact Lori Nelson, Executive Director at 952-881-9065 or lnelson@friendsofmnvalley.org

November 15th (Saturday) is the **Web of Life, Way of Life: Exploring Solidarity with Earth Conference** at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mankato Provincial House Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration is required by November 10th by calling 507-389-4272 or sending an email to lcoons@ssndmankato.org. Cost for the event is \$20 or \$15 for students. Look for morning coffee and locally grown lunch. This event is sponsored by Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry – a ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

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

Water Quality Articles

[Here a chick? There a chick? Burnsville City Council to decide on ending poultry ban](#) (Pioneer Press). A Burnsville boy's flock of chickens got a reprieve Tuesday night from City Hall. The City Council voted 3-1 to allow Stefan Remund, 11, to keep his seven backyard chickens until it reconsiders its ordinance regarding the keeping of animals.

[Ag commodity prices return to earth](#) (Pioneer Press). Minnesota's food and farm sector, once the happiest slice of the state economy, has suddenly lost its summertime exuberance, thanks to a breathtaking plunge in grain prices.

[Activist speaks out for funding amendment](#) (Austin Daily Herald). The proposed dedicated funding amendment has caused a local environmental activist to take a public stand.

[Minnesotans To Vote On Amendment Calling For Sales Tax Increase](#) (Northland News Center). Besides voting for the next president on November Fourth, Minnesotans will also decide whether they're willing to support a hike in the state sales tax.

[Joe Soucheray: Outdoors tax is legislators' scam](#) (Pioneer Press). As taxpayers, we get fleeced in an always-expanding variety of ways – the federal bailout, for example, which hasn't exactly inspired confidence on Wall Street, or, closer to home, a question that will be on ballots next month.

[Lincoln County Board OKs plan](#) (Marshall Independent). The Lincoln County Board approved its new comprehensive plan that will cover things ranging from feedlots to cleaning up meth sites.

[Minnesota, Wisconsin make list of top states improving energy efficiency](#) (Pioneer Press). An advocacy group ranks California, Connecticut and Oregon at the top of a list of states improving energy efficiency to respond to high prices, energy security and global warming.

[Excel Dairy still below air quality standards](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota Department of Health officials say high levels of hydrogen sulfide continue to pose a health hazard for neighbors of a dairy farm near Thief River Falls.

[New study has bad news for mammals, 1 in 4 facing extinction](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Conservationists have taken the first detailed look at the world's mammals in more than a decade, and the news isn't good.

[Cleaning deer of lead shot will take more care. DNR says](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A study, spurred by venison contamination found in the spring, shows bullets from some rifles can disperse farther into the animal, requiring new guidelines.

[Bill Boyne: Speakers will offer keys to conservation, green living](#) (Rochester Post-Bulletin). Sustainability --it's the key to saving our planet and our way of life. It is also the title of a daylong program scheduled in Rochester on Oct. 18, during which speakers and workshop leaders will give detailed reports on how to use renewable energy and live in a green economy.

[Should a mileage tax replace the gas tax?](#) (Minn Post). These are hard days for Reaganomics. The country has discovered the terrible cost of failing to regulate the financial services industry. Soon it will wake up to the terrible cost of failing to maintain the transportation infrastructure.

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. – Henry David Thoreau

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

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