

### **Voyage down the Minnesota River**

Join Tim Krohn and John Cross of the Mankato Free Press for an amazing look at their journey down the Minnesota River this past summer and the interesting people they met along the way. Tim and John retraced their trip from ten years ago and will provide wonderful insights on how the Minnesota River has changed and stayed the same.

- [November 25<sup>th</sup> \(Tuesday\) starting at 7:00 p.m.](#)
- [New Ulm Public Library \(17 N. Broadway Street\)](#)

This event is co-sponsored by the Regional River History Center of New Ulm and the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance.

### **Meeting the Global Climate Challenge**

Join us for an in-depth discussion of the business challenges facing Minnesota regarding global climate change. Legislative action in Minnesota and widespread media coverage of climate change has prompted businesses and manufacturers to begin to evaluate the costs of public policy proposals to address the issue. This meeting is open to the public.

- November 18<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with complimentary lunch
- AmeriInn Conference Center (240 Stadium Road, Mankato)
- RSVP by Friday, November 14th to Amy Linde at (507) 385-6640 or [info@greatermankato.com](mailto:info@greatermankato.com)

We have invited Tom Mullikin - a nationally-recognized environmental attorney who frequently speaks to legislators, environmentalists, and business leaders nationwide about environmental issues - to speak about the economic and environmental realities of proposed climate change policy solutions. Mr. Mullikin will focus on the global causes and consequences of climate change and the economic impact various proposals could have on Minnesota businesses and families.

Mr. Mullikin is uniquely qualified to facilitate a dialogue about climate change in Minnesota because of his comprehensive policy background and experience with this issue. He has led teams of researchers, environmental experts and business leaders to Antarctica, the Namib Desert in Africa, the Amazon in Peru and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia over the last three years to further explore the global nature of climate change and its potential impacts. He has written a book on the topic - *Global Solutions: Demanding Total Accountability for Climate Change* - and produced a documentary that aired on New Hampshire Public Television.

If you have any questions please contact Leigh Pomeroy, Mankato Area Environmentalists (<http://mankato-enviros.org>) at [leighp@red-jacket.com](mailto:leighp@red-jacket.com)

### **Water Presentation – Is Our Water at Risk?**

Last Wednesday evening over 50 people came out on a wet night in Mankato to hear Dr. Henry Quade, Dr. Shannon Fisher and State Representative Kathy Brynaert talk about the ever changing issue of water. The three speakers talked about various aspects of water issues in the Mankato area and Minnesota including the Mt. Simon aquifer, how land uses affect water quality of rivers and lakes, along with funding for conservation programs and other water-related projects. All three expressed there is an increased awareness about our water resources and the need to start conserving and protecting it now.

### **Information Officer 2 – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)**

The MPCA has an opening for a communicator in our Rochester office. If you know of anyone interested in such a position, please feel free to forward this information to them.

This position communicates information to various audiences about the MPCA's environmental programs and activities, especially those related to water and wastewater. It provides a wide

variety of communications services including preparing MPCA staff for public meetings, writing and editing publications, developing communications plans and interacting with the news media. Works with a team of MPCA communication professionals in St. Paul and across the state and represents the MPCA's Southeast regional office, located in Rochester.

For more information on this great opportunity and to apply on-line, go to [www.careers.state.mn.us](http://www.careers.state.mn.us) and search for posting number 08PCA000179. Applications will be accepted through 10/29/2008.

## **Events:**

October 30<sup>th</sup> (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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lnelson@friendsofmnvalley.org)

November 15<sup>th</sup> (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 10<sup>th</sup> by calling 507-389-4272 or sending an email to [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto: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.

November 20<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **"Writing for Social Change" Panel Discussion** from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the United Church of Christ (212 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street) in Montevideo. Sponsored by Clean Up the River Environment (CURE), the panel discussion will include Joe Amato, Joe Paddock, Florence Dacey, Jim Van der Pol and Athena Kildegaard and moderated by Patrick Moore. For more information go to [www.curemnriver.org](http://www.curemnriver.org)

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

## **Water Quality Articles**

[State corn harvest trails historical average](#) (Associated Press). At this time last year half the state's corn crop had been harvested, but this year Minnesota farmers have only brought in 19 percent of it.

[Groups seek Pawlenty's support for Sodsaver](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). A diluted version of the Farm Bill's "Sodsaver" provision is on the radar of conservation groups these days. They're pressing Midwest governors to opt for the measure intended to protect native grasslands in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, and Montana.

[The secret life of beekeepers](#) (Southside Pride). With fall in the air, winter just around the corner, and many animals looking toward hibernation, it seems odd to write about bees. Bees are the denizens of spring and summer, busily visiting flowers and gardens everywhere. This year though, while bees take the winter off, a group of people will be busy trying to legalize beekeeping in Minneapolis.

[Constitutional amendment on the ballot Nov. 4](#) (Agri News). The amendment asks voters whether or not they want to raise the state's sales tax by three-eighths of 1 percent to 6.875 percent.

[Fear is people will ignore tax issue — in effect voting no.](#) (Associated Press). For backers of a constitutional amendment to raise money for outdoors and arts programs, the biggest challenge is to make sure people bother to vote on the question.

[Polar explorer powered by curiosity](#) (Mankato Free Press). Living a life as an explorer, the most important tool Ann Bancroft has isn't an ice pick. It's not the dogs that pulled her to the North Pole. It's not her sled or tents or Gore-Tex-lined boots that keep her feet warm when she's trekking through arctic terrain in 75 degrees below zero temps.

[Residents decry MPCA information on proposed ethanol plant](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin). Eyota Mayor Wes Bussell accuses the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency of misinforming and misdirecting people through an environmental assessment worksheet for the proposed MinnErgy LLC ethanol plant.

[McCain, Obama agree on something](#) (Associated Press). John McCain and Barack Obama disagree on most issues, but they agree the Bush administration's policies on global warming were far too weak.

[Good To Know: Not The First Environmental Decision](#) (WCCO TV). In the general election we get to vote in a new government -- a sort of scheduled revolution. Sometimes we get the government we want, and sometimes we don't. Don Shelby just got back from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area with a reminder.

[6 CHARGED WITH PIG ABUSE LOSE JOBS](#) (Associated Press). A Minnesota company says it no longer employs any of the workers charged with abusing pigs at an Iowa farm and that it has fired the operation's manager.

[HONEYCRISP APPLE PATENT SET TO EXPIRE](#) (MN Daily). Although Nov. 7 marks the end of the University of Minnesota's patent on the Honeycrisp apple, horticulture Professor Jim Luby said apple lovers should have no fear – the Honeycrisp will still be available for years to come, and possibly at a cheaper price.

[MAYOR FEATURED IN 'GREEN CITIES' DOCUMENTARY](#) (Dakota County Tribune). Apple Valley Mayor Mary Hamann-Roland's enthusiasm for energy efficiency is coming to a television set near you.

[OUTSIDE GROUP: BIG STONE COSTS UNDERESTIMATED](#) (Marshall Independent). The utilities proposing the Big Stone II project have underestimated the cost of building the coal-fired power plant, an independent report released this week said.

[RENEWABLE-ENERGY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR HOME](#) (Minnetonka Sun Sailor). Since he moved to Minnetonka around Thanksgiving 2007, more than 4,500 people from around the globe have toured Peter Lytle's home.

[ST. PAUL GREEN HOME TOUR STARTS WITH THE BASICS](#) (Twin Cities Daily Planet). When architect Lucas Alm and his wife set out to remodel their Saint Anthony Park home three years ago along "green" lines, their main goal, he says "was to use our house as a way to test a lot of ideas in my practice and with my clients...to answer the question 'how do you take an old home and make it energy efficient?'"

[Weather, economy lower Xcel profit](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Just as consumers are driving less to save money on gasoline, they've been using less electricity to save money on their power bills.

[State Agency: Big Stone Proponents Underestimated Costs](#) (Twin Cities Daily Planet). The Big Stone II proponents underestimated their costs at every turn and overestimated the costs of

alternatives, a new analysis done for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission stated Wednesday.

*If you gave me several million years, there would be nothing that did not grow in beauty if it were surrounded by water.* – Jan Erik Vold, *What All The World Knows*, 1970

*Water is H2O, hydrogen two parts, oxygen one, but there is also a third thing that makes water and nobody knows what that is.* – D.H. Lawrence

**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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