

Minnesota River Celebration

Gather at the Hilton in Mankato on September 23rd (Tuesday evening) for a "Voyage down the Minnesota River" presentation by Tim Krohn and John Cross of the Mankato Free Press and the chance to hear more about river and recreation opportunities.

- Social Hour starts at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and a taste of locally grown food.
- "Voyage down the Minnesota River" presentation starts at 7 p.m.
- MN River & Opportunities for Everyone at 7:30 p.m.
- Second presentation of "Voyage down the Minnesota River" at 8:30 p.m.

Come out and experience what Tim Krohn and John Cross observed on their journey down the Minnesota River in July and the people they met along the way. On the 10th anniversary of their first paddle, they started out at the beginning of the river and ended 11 days and 335 miles at the confluence with the Mississippi River. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnrivercelebration.pdf>

Third Annual Lake Pepin TMDL Technical Conference: Creating a Blueprint for Restoration September 23rd and 24th at the AllTel Center in Mankato. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is hosting a technical conference to review the science behind the process. Latest modeling results will show the extent of sediment and phosphorus reductions that will be needed from upstream tributaries to meet water quality standards on the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin. Stakeholders and water resource managers from each part of the Lake Pepin watershed are invited to attend. To register for the conference, <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-lakepepin.html#events>. **Walk-ins are welcomed!**

Monarch Butterfly Tagging Family Program at the Ney Nature Center

This event will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20th at 1 p.m. Registration Required by Wednesday, September 17th. Cost- Non-Member: \$7.00 per Family and \$3.00 per individual. Member: \$5.00 per family w/NNC Family Membership and \$2.00 per individual w/NNC Membership. Register by calling or e-mailing Becky: 507-248-3474 or neynaturecenter@frontiernet.net

Every fall a magnificent event takes place, the annual Monarch butterfly migration. Tens to hundreds of thousands of Monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains perform one of the most spectacular migrations in nature. They migrate from the United States and Canada to over-wintering sites in Mexico. There are many unanswered questions about this grand migration such as: how do they move across the continent, do they move in specific pathways, how do they know when and where to go, how does weather influence migration... Data is needed to answer these questions and more. You can help by joining us as a volunteer, citizen scientist, and participate in this tagging effort. We will be discussing monarch biology, the history and reasons for tagging, how to create and conserve habitat critical to the survival of the monarch, and tagging monarchs on their journey south.

Visit our website for driving directions, other upcoming programs and more information about the Ney Nature Center: www.neycenter.org

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR Fall Equinox Celebration and Potluck Supper

Come to the historic Red Barn at the top of Good Counsel Hill on Monday, September 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Bring a dish of food to share, friends and family! We'll have plates, napkins, utensils and tea. (Bring anything else to drink that you'd like.)

For more information contact Lisa A. Coons at Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry 170 Good Counsel Dr.; Mankato, MN 56001; (507)389-4272; lcoons@ssndmankato.org; www.ssndmankato.org/earth/ - *Transforming the world through education.*

Events:

September 18th (Thursday) Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project Public Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Old #1 Bar and Grill Southside (412 Atlantic Avenue), Morris. Come and find out about the new Pomme de Terre Watershed Turbidity TMDL project and get an update on the approved Fecal Coliform TMDL and implementation plan. For more information, contact Shaun McNally, Coordinator at 320-589-4886 ext. 109 or shaun.mcnally@mn.nacdn.net

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

VOICES | Kill 'em all and let nature do the sorting (Daily Planet). I just returned from Iowa and my ears are still ringing from the gut-crunching drone of low-flying airplanes—the kind that seem to be all engine and spray nozzles. About a dozen crop dusters blanketed one county alone during a two-day period, spraying for aphids—thirsty little monsters that literally suck the life juices out of crops like soybeans.

Farmers embrace genetically modified beets (Minnesota Public Radio). The sugar beet harvest is starting in the Red River Valley. It's the first harvest of genetically modified sugar beets. GMO crops often generated controversy over the past couple of decades. Some farmers refused to grow them and some consumers fought to keep them out of the food supply. Most farmers are apparently happy with the Roundup Ready beets, but there are some lingering concerns.

Dennis Anderson: Stepping up before falling off (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The breakup of the state's northern woods jeopardizes wildlife. Without dedicated funding, there's a precipitous drop in opportunities coming for all outdoors lovers.

Climate change getting the attention of both parties (MinnPost). Environmentalists had reason to be encouraged by two developments at last week's Republican National Convention in St. Paul. The convention ended with a presidential nominee, Sen. John McCain, who agrees with scientists – and his Democratic opponent, Sen. Barack Obama – that global warming is an urgent problem calling for major changes in the marketing and use of energy.

Ducks Unlimited supports 'No child left inside' bill (Eden Prairie News). In keeping to the commitment that Ducks Unlimited has for skies full of waterfowl now and forever, DU has joined a coalition supporting the “No Child Left Inside” bill to improve outdoor and environmental education for school children of all ages.

Rural resistance slows corn ethanol's dazzling growth (MinnPost). A broadening concern over corn ethanol's effect on food prices and environmental damage has seen excitement over the biofuel wither like a cornfield in September, with cancellation of at least two large plants proposed in Minnesota being the latest sign.

Interactive guide to Minnesota's wind power (Minneapolis Star Tribune). This site will show:

- How terrain affects local wind patterns,

- Wind speed maps show best potential,
- Getting wind energy onto the power grid

[Talking Points -- What's up with outdoors, arts amendment? Many of us don't know](#) (Morris Sun Tribune). When the Minnesota Legislature, after about 10 years, were persuaded to put the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment on the Nov. 4 ballot, it was assumed that hunters, fishermen and people with an affinity for the outdoors would be all over the issue. Nothing has that kind of shelf life among state lawmakers without it drawing attention.

[Proposed power lines divide environmental groups](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A plan for new power lines to criss-cross Minnesota is dividing environmental advocates. Some have come out in favor of the so-called CapX 2020 project because it promises to bring wind power on-line. Others say it's a massive investment in old technology at a time when we need to create new energy systems.

[Solving problems through BlueGreen Alliance](#) (Mankato Free Press). Among the biggest issues facing America — rising unemployment caused by a struggling economy, global climate change attributed to man-made pollution and an energy crisis that's left the nation with soaring gas prices and increasing dependence on foreign oil — can be attacked all at once, according to an alliance between labor and environmentalists.

[Turbidity and suspended solids](#) (Morris Sun Tribune). Muddy water, murky water, cloudy water. If you've ever used these terms to describe how a body of water looks, you're talking about turbidity. If you are standing in a foot of water and can't see your feet, you are standing in turbid water.

Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth that around every circle another can be drawn; that there is no end in nature, but every end is a beginning, and under every deep a lower deep opens.

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered. There is a way that nature speaks, that land speaks. Most of the time we are simply not patient enough, quiet enough, to pay attention to the story. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

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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