

Minnesota River Celebration

Gather at the Hilton in Mankato tonight 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>

Mankato Sustainability Plan Update

Mankato City Council reviewed Mankato's progress toward meeting its goals elaborated in the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and its own Sustainability Plan at last night's work plan session. That info can be reviewed here:

<http://www.ci.mankato.mn.us/upload/contents/254/2008-09-22%20Work%20Session.pdf>

City Council member Charlie Hurd said that he was very impressed by the progress, and that he wanted interested members of the community to review it and provide feedback to Paul Vogel. If you do have comments or questions, Paul can be reached at <mailto:pvogel@city.mankato.mn.us> or 387-8613.

Job Opportunities

Cass County SCD Position

Here we go again.....

The District is looking for a District Technician and Urban Conservationist. Please find information on our website: <http://www.cassscd.org/Involved/employment.html>. If anyone or knows of anyone who is interested, please encourage them to go through the procedure for applying for these positions. Wayne L. Stautz, Operations Coordinator; CASS Co SCD; 4660 Amber Valley Pkwy; Fargo, ND 58104-8612; 701-282-2157 X 3; wayne.stautz@nd.nacdnet.net

Mississippi River Coordinator

A central Minnesota consortium of resource agencies, non-profit groups and consultants has an immediate opening for a community vision-builder. This employee would be responsible for collecting input, and building support, for a shared vision of responsible land use along the Mississippi River in central Minnesota. This unique and exciting opportunity requires an outgoing, results-driven employee to bring together members of the river community in a different, collaborative way. The ideal employee will possess a relevant four-year degree, proven skills in community organizing and relationship building, strong self-management skills, and a passion for protecting natural resources.

For more information go to the Stearns SWCD web site at: www.StearnsCountySWCD.net and find the bulletin board on the first page for job opportunities.

Water Quality Articles

[Organic farm profits nearly double in 2007](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). There's plenty of green on organic farms, and it's more than just lush fields of grains and vegetables. Organic farms are earning more than ever, thanks to high prices for their products. A recent report shows Minnesota organic farmers almost doubled their profits in 2007.

[Serious fun with fungi: Burnsville mushroom grower tests mushroom as antidote to pollutants](#) (Pioneer Press). Grower Tom Peterson thinks the lowly mushroom could be employed to break down nasty environmental pollutants.

[Duluth sees real evidence of the new 'green' economy](#) (Workday Minnesota). It wasn't many years ago that union members and environmentalists didn't mesh very well. Things have changed on many levels now and unionized construction and manufacturing workers are seeing the benefit of a "green economy" as job losses multiple in more traditional employment sectors.

[Opinion: Viewpoint: How extreme can environmentalism get? Clean Water Restoration Act answers the question](#) (Crookston Daily News). How far will environmentalism go? What do leaders of the environmental movement ultimately want? These questions have been posed for years as environmentalists and their allies in Congress push the envelope and expand the federal domain in ways never foreseen.

[Video: Going with the wind](#) (Pioneer Press).

[Minnetonka elementary school sets sights on a \\$550,000 eco-lab](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A Minnetonka elementary school has set its sights on building a \$550,000 eco-lab to give students hands-on ways to learn and think about the environment.

[Looking for an eco-friendly lifestyle? Try hunting](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). People who engage in this activity have long been among the most conscientious stewards of the planet and its inhabitants.

[Grant will be used to help monitor water quality, levels of local lake](#) (West Central Tribune). A grant agreement between Kandiyohi County and the state will dedicate \$136,690 for monitoring water quality and quantity and modeling effects of proposed changes to Grass Lake.

[Immigrant brothers build their dream](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). In 2006, we told you the story of two immigrant farmers from Mexico who were learning about organic and sustainable agriculture. Two years later, the brothers now have their own vegetable farm.

[Minnesota, 4 neighbors plan for wind power](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota has joined four other states to try to develop a regional electric transmission system that will foster increased wind energy development.

[Turning one town's mess into another town's energy](#) (West Central Tribune). One town's mess is another town's clean electricity, thanks to Riverdale Environmental Services, Inc.

[Minnesota industries to slash mercury emissions](#) (Duluth News Tribune). Minnesota's largest smokestack industries have agreed to an unprecedented plan to make cuts in mercury pollution over the next 18 years, right down to the pound and ounce.

[Burnsville boy to City Council: Please let me keep my chickens](#) (Pioneer Press). Rachel, the singer of the bunch, coos and tweedles constantly. Miss Monroe, "the only true blonde in the family," is bashful. ShaKota struts breast-first and proudly announces each egg she lays.

[Campaign for constitutional amendment gears up](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). When Minnesotans head to the polls in November, they'll be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that would raise the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent. If approved, the measure would raise

millions of dollars for environmental protection and the arts. Supporters include an unlikely pairing of hunting and fishing groups with organizations that support arts and culture. Opponents say the state can't afford another tax hike.

[Tax amendment supporters say it's important for the future](#) (West Central Tribune). Matt Holland, senior field coordinator with Pheasants Forever, will be voting "yes" for the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment this November.

[Bushmills to use, discharge less water](#) (West Central Tribune). A relatively straightforward air-permitting procedure, started in April of 2006 to allow Bushmills Ethanol to expand its production, has turned into a lengthy and expensive venture for the Atwater business.

[Ethanol firms have loss, liquidity trouble](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota ethanol producers remain optimistic despite setbacks for major players based elsewhere. Farmer ownership has meant some protection.

[Battered VeraSun shifts course](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The South Dakota ethanol producer is weighing options after taking a big hit from hedging strategies.

The quality of water and quality of life in all its infinite forms are critical parts of the overall, ongoing health of this planet of ours, not just here in the Amazon, but everywhere . . . The hardest part of any big project is to begin. We have begun. We are underway. We have a passion. We want to make a difference. – Sir Peter Blake

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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