

Citizen Monitoring Open House

The Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board is looking for 15 volunteers to help assess the streams in the Middle Minnesota River Watershed. This is covering an area from Le Sueur to Morton along the Minnesota River. Please forward this invitation to any individuals or groups that might be interested.

- **Thursday, April 16th at 7:00 p.m.** in the New Ulm Civic Center, room 203
- All interested parties should contact: **Ed Hohenstein with the BNC WQB**
- For more details. 507-934-4140. or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/volunteerinvitation.pdf>

Brown County Volunteer Water Monitoring Program

Brown County is searching for volunteers who are interested in discovering more about the water quality within the County. The volunteers will be responsible for obtaining samples at specified lakes and streams throughout the County.

Training will be provided on April 18th, at the Brown County office building in Sleepy Eye located at 300 2nd Ave SW from 9 am to 2:15 pm. Registration begins at 8:30 with coffee and rolls.

Lunch will also be provided. Please RSVP by April 10th to the Planning and Zoning Office at 507-233-6640 or sending an email to desiree.hohenstein@co.brown.mn.us.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/browncovolunteers.pdf>

Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska

Sandhill Cranes coming to roost in the Platte River at the Rowe Sanctuary on March 19, 2009. Be sure and watch it to the end when it really picks up the large number of birds. Pictures are not the best, but the sound is good--but nothing like being there:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_RMCRT1BNM&feature=channel

Local is the New Organic

We've been hearing for years about the benefits of organic produce both for our health and for the environment. Since sales of organic foods have been increasing at about 20% per year, it seems Americans are responding. There's a new trend in food that can yield even more benefits. Local food is the new organic.

Even our new president is embracing the local food trend. For the first time in more than 60 years, there is a vegetable garden on the White House grounds! The First Family has committed to growing much of the produce they and their guests eat, just outside the White House kitchen.

For the entire article from Conservation Minnesota:

<http://www.conservationminnesota.org/newsroom/?subsec=3&id=1274>

DNR seeks volunteers for frog, toad survey

St. Paul, Minn. (AP) — The Nongame Wildlife Program and the state Department of Natural Resources are recruiting volunteers to help with a statewide frog- and toad-calling survey. Since 1996, volunteers have collected data by listening to and identifying frog and toad species. The results show where species are located and how their populations change.

Volunteers are especially needed in the southwest portion of the state for this year's survey, which begins April 15. Volunteers would make stops along their assigned routes and listen for calls to identify frogs and toads on three nights a year, during specified periods. Volunteers get a CD of Minnesota frog and toad species' calls, a map of their routes and instructions to get started.

To volunteer, contact Krista Larson by e-mail at krista.larson@mn.gov. (Minnesota Public Radio)

Job Opportunities:

Planning & Zoning Administrator

Morrison County is hiring a regular full-time Planning & Zoning Administrator starting salary of \$31.21 to \$35.11 per hour. This person will be responsible for the ongoing development and maintenance of the long-range land use and water-planning program for Morrison County. The Administrator also ensures the development of the County's Comprehensive Plan, and carries out the duties of administering all land-use ordinances as developed by the Director, Planning Commission and County Board. The Administrator also serves as secretary to the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. The Administrator directs public hearings before the Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment, and the County Board. The Administrator also administers the County addressing program and ordinance.

For an Electronic Application go to: www.co.morrison.mn.us

Soil Microbiologist

The Agroecosystem Management Research Unit, located on the East Campus, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is seeking a permanent, full-time scientist to participate in individual and team research involving basic and applied studies to solve high priority problems related to crop residue management in modern crop production systems; utilize cultural and molecular methods to characterize soil microorganisms involved in residue decomposition, nutrient transformations, and humus stabilization; determine factors and conditions that affect gaseous exchange between the soil and atmosphere; evaluate current and emerging crop residue management practices for feed and feedstock production to maintain or improve soil functions associated with crop production, and air and water quality; plan, conduct, and publish research results in peer-reviewed journals; and collaborate with faculty at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, faculty at other locations, other scientists, and stakeholders. For details and application directions see: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>.

Water Resource Engineer

Aerrotek E&E and Construction is looking for a water resource engineer for projects on watersheds in MN and ND. Person needs to have 3-5 years TMDL experience. Candidate will be working independently so must have excellent experience in watershed projects. Will be working on multiple TMDL projects and watershed projects. Prefer someone with Project Management experience on Watershed projects. Pays: \$45,000- \$65,000. Candidate responsible for:

- Model Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, harbors and storm water systems.
- Provide TMDL analysis
- Collect, analyze and interpret data
- Review sedimentation
- Model pollutant fate and transport
- Develop hydrologic and mass balances

If you have further questions feel free to contact Nathan Gniffke, Recruiter at 651 528 5382 or ngniffke@aerrotek.com

Events:

April 7th (Tuesday) is the last of three **Conservation Drainage Sessions** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel in Mankato. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationdrainageflyer.pdf>

May 7 – 8 (Thursday & Friday) is the **2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference** at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. Chose from more than 50 informational presentations on a variety of topics. For more information or to register: www.minnesotawaters.org

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

Water Quality Articles

Where policy grows (Washington Post). Dave Murphy is the founder of a food advocacy group. But he wants you to know, "in no uncertain terms," that he is not a foodie. Foodies are people who obsess about the perfect apple tart.

MN farmers, Rural Electric Associations at odds (KSPT TV). Glen Rohlik is like a growing number of farmers these days. He installed a small wind turbine on his farm in Redwood County and pumps electricity back through the wires of his local Rural Electric Association when the winds produce more power than he needs.

Antibiotics pose another concern for ethanol producers (Minnesota Public Radio). The ethanol industry must be wondering where the bottom is. Profits are slim or non-existent and about 20 percent of all U.S. plants are shut down. In addition, ethanol's main by-product, which is sold as livestock feed, has raised potential food safety concerns.

Being Smart and Efficient About the Stimulus (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota is slated to receive about \$131.5 million in federal stimulus funding for weatherization and energy efficiency to be spent over the next 18 months, plus about another \$54 million in conservation block grants for the state.

Obama's energy cap-and-trade plan has Bachmann talking about a revolution (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Rep. Michele Bachmann is mad about taxes and she wants taxpayers to revolt.

Big birds: Loon design gets most votes in license plate poll (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesotans love their fishing -- but they also love their loons.

Obama: Red River flooding is wakeup call to fight global warming (Minneapolis Star Tribune). President Obama used the flooding in the Red River Valley to insist that society needs to take global warming seriously.

Court blocks rule allowing concealed guns in national parks (MinnPost). Concealed, loaded guns will not be allowed in Voyageurs National Park and other parks after a federal judge blocked a federal rule allowing the practice.

Electronics disposal fees increase (Faribault Daily News). Rice County residents looking to dispose of their broken televisions, retired Nintendos or any other electronics or appliances will have to shell out a few extra bucks to complete the transaction.

Hunger report shows food shelf use up sharply in 2008 (MinnPost). A new report on hunger in Minnesota says there were more than 2 million visits to Minnesota food shelves in 2008 and more than 300,000 state residents now using food stamps.

Farmers planting less corn, wheat, but record soybeans (Pioneer Press). As spring planting nears, farmers in Minnesota and across the nation say they'll grow less corn and wheat than they did during the wild markets of 2008, but intend to plant a record number of soybeans.

EPA to test air around Minneapolis school, 61 others nationwide (Associated Press). The air around 62 schools in 22 states will soon be tested for toxic air contaminants. The Environmental

Protection Agency said today it will work with state and local agencies to begin monitoring outdoor air at the selected schools. They were chosen because of their nearness to industrial facilities or other sources of pollution.

[Funding comes in for home weatherization projects](#) (Alexandria Echo Post). Minnesota will receive more than \$186 million in federal funding to help Minnesota families weatherize their homes as part of the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

[Thomas Friedman: The Market and Mother Nature hit the wall](#) (Pioneer Press). While I'm convinced that our current financial crisis is the product of both The Market and Mother Nature hitting the wall at once — telling us we need to grow in more sustainable ways — some might ask this: We know when the market hits a wall. It shows up in red numbers on the Dow. But Mother Nature doesn't have a Dow. What makes you think she's hitting a wall, too? And even if she is: Who cares? When my 401(k) is collapsing, it's hard to worry about my sea level rising.

[Robert F. Kennedy Jr.: It's been a blast -- and not in a good way](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). With Obama's help, the nation begins to bid goodbye to a most destructive form of coal mining.

[Lake slobs: Anglers leave a mess on the ice](#) (Mankato Free Press). A warning: You might not want to read this if you're at the breakfast table. Kevin Tapper, a Minnesota State University law enforcement major and avid ice angler, couldn't help but notice all the trash left behind on German Lake this winter by the legions of anglers.

[Local organic farms partner to offer eggs](#) (Owatonna People's Press). Last year around this time Katie Felland didn't know much about community supported farming. But then she got to know John Ostgarden and Lowell Gordon, owners of Clinton Falls Farm, a certified organic farm located in Clinton Falls.

[Senate committee endorses proposal for Legacy funds](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The vote raised backers' hopes that the tax increase for outdoors, parks and arts projects is gathering support.

[Progress: Going green](#) (Mankato Free Press). The desire to go green is sprouting up all over the greater Mankato area. Area governments are taking the lead in the effort to conserve energy and use fewer carbon-based fuels and products, with more expected to come from federal stimulus funding.

[Less popular Minnesota parks worth a visit](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesotans are turning into a bunch of happy campers, it seems. Campsites and cabins at state parks are booking up fast for the summer. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources expects more visitors this year than last, said Amy Barrett, a DNR public information officer.

[Game and Fish Fund nickel-and-dimed](#) (Pioneer Press). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is facing budget cuts. So should the agency take over funding for a social-services program that takes senior citizens fishing?

[City to monitor Minnesota River](#) (New Ulm Journal). City officials decided Friday morning that city staff should keep watching the level of the Minnesota River, and the council will hold another special meeting if a need arises in the future.

[Too often, a losing battle: Geological forces are stacked against the Red River Valley](#) (MinnPost). As residents of Fargo and other communities along the Red River have desperately stacked sandbags to fend off the rising waters, geologists, hydrologists and other scientists in the region know their battle hasn't been just against the river.

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of a least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in. – Rachel Carson

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

Scott Kudelka
Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
Communications Coordinator
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>