

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Commemorative Book

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is excited to announce the release of a commemorative book on the Nine Mile Creek Watershed and the Watershed District in celebration of its 50th Anniversary. The book titled *The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District: Preserving Heritage & Environment* was written by award-winning author Deborah Morse-Kahn.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District was established in 1959 and is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2009 with this beautiful commemorative book that documents the early days and peoples of the Nine Mile Creek watershed, the establishment of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, and the efforts and activities the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has implemented to preserve the unique heritage and natural resources of the watershed.

"The Watershed District Board of Managers wanted to do something unique and special to celebrate the District's 50th Anniversary," stated District Administrator Kevin Bigalke. "We felt it was important to not only reflect on the Watershed District's history, but also to celebrate the rich history of the area before the Watershed District was established."

In addition to the book, the Watershed District is working with the book's author to host a series of programs on the book and history of the watershed. Deborah Morse-Kahn will be the featured speaker at the following programs: Edina History Museum, Sunday, April 26, 2009 at 2:00 PM; City of Hopkins Council Chambers, Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 7:00 PM; Hennepin History Museum, Sunday, May 3, 2009 at 2:00 PM; and Edina Public Library, Monday, June 15, 2009 at 6:30 PM. Additional program may be added. The book will be available for purchase at these programs.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is a special purpose unit of government focused on water quality and water resources management that includes parts of Edina, Bloomington, Hopkins, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, and Richfield. Nine Mile Creek's headwaters are in Hopkins and Minnetonka, with the creek flowing into the Minnesota River.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is located at 7710 Computer Avenue, Suite 135, Edina, MN 55435. For more information about the Watershed District, contact the Watershed District office at (952) 835-2078 or via email at kbigalke@ninemilecreek.org. Information about the Watershed District is also available on the District's web site: www.ninemilecreek.org

2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference

Minnesota Waters, a statewide non-profit dedicated to empowering citizens to help protect and improve our lakes and rivers, is presenting the 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference on May 7-8 in Rochester. **We would like to extend a special invitation to interested students to attend this event at a special reduced rate of only \$25.** (This rate does not include meals.)

The conference offers more than 50 workshops addressing

- Gathering and Using Water Quality Data
- Addressing Aquatic Invasive Species
- Global Climate Change: Effects on MN Surface Waters
- State Funding for Clean Water
- Shoreland Management and Land Use
- Building Healthy, Effective Citizen Organizations
- Lake and River Issues in Southeast Minnesota

This conference is the only statewide event dedicated to helping citizens save our lakes and rivers. Our primary audience is members of lake associations and other citizen volunteers working to save our lakes and rivers, as well as agency professionals who work on surface water

issues. But our workshops would also benefit students interested in environmental studies, environmental education, community organizing/outreach, or community planning. Details and registration can also be found at www.minnesotawaters.org.

To take advantage of the special student rate, students will need to register online at https://services.rochesterccb.org/iebms/reg/reg_p1_form.aspx?oc=20&ct=SURATE&eventid=6120

Mankato Paddling & Outing Club – Annual River Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for this year's River Clean-Up on Friday May 8th and Saturday May 9th. This year's clean-up will again focus on sites in the Le Sueur and Blue Earth river watershed as well as select sites on the Minnesota River. This will be a two day event utilizing both ground and river crews.

- Friday's clean-up will be on and along the Le Sueur River. Clean-up will begin at 1:00 at Belgrade Methodist Church. Those wishing to participate in the river crew (experienced paddlers only please) who need a canoe or wish to be a passenger in one need to contact Patrick Baskfield call (c 507-327-5459) or email pat.baskfield@state.mn.us by Wed. May 6th to make reservations. Ground crew members need just show up at the Church. Those willing to shuttle clean-up crews around or willing to use their truck or a trailer to haul trash will be greatly appreciated. Ground crews will pick up and bag trash; pick up crews will load the trash onto trailers or trucks. If you are willing to haul trash please let me know ahead of time.
- Saturday's River Clean-up will be on the Blue Earth River. Clean-up will begin at 9:00 a.m. at Belgrade Methodist Church. Saturday's river crew will pick up trash along the Blue Earth River starting below the Rapidan Dam and ending at Sibley Park. Ground crews will collect trash from select sites along the Blue Earth and Minnesota Rivers. Again if you need a canoe or wish to be a passenger in one you need to make a reservation (see above). Ground crew members need just show up. Those willing to shuttle clean-up crews around or willing to use their truck or a trailer to haul trash will again be greatly appreciated. Ground crews will pick up and bag trash; pick up crews will load the trash onto trailers or trucks. If you are willing to haul trash please let me know ahead of time.

Thanks - Patrick Baskfield and Kevin Langton

Link to Map to find Church

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Mankato&state=MN&cat=Belgrade+Methodist+Church#/search/:::Mankato:MN::US:44.163601:-93.999199:city:Blue+Earth+County:1/m:::16:44.169206:-94.016187:0:::/so:Belgrade+Methodist+>

Minnesota among leaders in organic farming

St. Paul, Minn. — (AP) - Minnesota ranks high on a couple of measures of organic farming. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says Minnesota ranks fifth nationwide in the number of organic acres harvested in 2007. The service says 718 Minnesota farms used at least part of their land for organic production in 2007, the most recent year for which figures are available. California was No. 1, followed by Montana, Texas, Wisconsin and New York. Minnesota organic producers reported nearly \$40 million in sales of organic crops, livestock, poultry and related products in 2007. That ranks Minnesota ninth in the country in dollar sales of organics. Agency figures show that primary operators of Minnesota's organic farms tend to be slightly younger than average, at 51 compared with 55. (Minnesota Public Radio - April 25, 2009)

Report: Weather cooperating with state farmers

ST. PAUL (AP) — Farm work is progressing across much of the state thanks to nearly ideal weather last week. The Minnesota field office the U.S. Department of Agriculture said in its weekly crop report that farmers had five days suitable for field work last week. There were highs in the low 90s across the south and precipitation was primarily confined to late in the week. Soil moisture conditions held steady. Statewide land prepared for corn was 56 percent complete, with

40 percent planted as producers capitalized on the weather. Seedbeds were drying and working up well under rising temperatures and strong winds across the south. The exception to the sunny news were conditions in the northwestern corner of the state. There, the report said, fields go from relatively wet to inaccessible due to earlier flooding (Winona Daily News – April 28, 2009).

Facts about Earthworms

According to the MN DNR, all of the terrestrial earthworms in Minnesota are non-native, invasive species from Europe and Asia (There is a native aquatic species that woodcock eat). Please be careful when introducing worms into the soil. The damage the worms do to native plants is huge. Please check out this article from the DNR

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/earthworms/index.html>

Minnesota's State Bird Coming Home Soon

There's just something about loons that makes them special and that people feel a connection to. They are mysterious, intelligent, and part of our wild northern lakes. Their calls haunt the summer nights. We look forward to their return to the North Country as soon as the ice goes out of a lake. -- Pam Perry, Minnesota DNR Volunteer Loon Monitor Coordinator

One of the welcome signs of spring is the return of the common loon, Minnesota's official state bird. It won't be long now; as ice goes out on northern lakes, loons will be returning to claim their territories and begin raising the next generation.

The common loon's favorite home among the continental 48 states is Minnesota, which has about 12,000 adult common loons each summer. And despite threats ranging from dwindling habitat to pollution, that population appears stable from monitoring done over the last 15 years by volunteers reporting to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The DNR annually gathers information about common loon numbers on more than 600 lakes distributed among six regions, or "index areas" of the state. Volunteers visit each lake for one morning during a ten-day period in early July, count the number of adult and juvenile loons seen, and report these observations to the DNR for data management and analysis.

The program provides the DNR with the ability to detect significant changes in the adult population and reproductive success of the state's common loons, and to anticipate any problems that could jeopardize the future of our state bird.

The loon had rivals for the position of official state bird, including the goldfinch, mourning dove, pileated woodpecker, the scarlet tanager, and the wood duck. But on March 13, 1961, Governor Elmer L. Andersen signed legislation that adopted the common loon (*Gavia immer*) as the official state bird of the State of Minnesota.

The common loon is well known for its unusual and beautiful voice, with which it makes four main calls:

- An undulating yodel, a call given by males to establish or defend territory;
- A loud wail similar to the howl of a coyote, used for individual loon to loon communication across distances, or when an adult and chick become separated;
- A soft hoot, used to communicate in pairs or groups in close proximity;
- And a quavering tremolo, sometimes referred to as "loon laughter," but which signifies distress or alarm.

Ways Minnesotans can take action to protect loons:

- Do not disturbing nesting loons from boats or jet skis;
- Switch to [non-lead sinkers for fishing](#) on loon lakes
- Keep shoreline vegetation as natural as possible on loon lakes;
- Reduce and clean up lake litter.

For answers about loon migration, becoming a volunteer loon monitor, or to leave your comments about our state bird, [visit our website](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/04/090417114431.htm). (Conservation Minnesota online magazine - <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/04/090417114431.htm>)

Sowing Seeds of Biomass

OWATONNA — The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, so the saying goes. But for Don Vogt this saying has literally come true. Vogt, who farms about 240 acres near Owatonna, saw the potential for conservation and cashing in on warm season grasses on a trip to Colorado 30 years ago. He jumped into it with both feet when he returned to Minnesota and hasn't looked back since.

To say Vogt is passionate about growing warm season grasses like switchgrass and Big Bluestem is an understatement akin to saying Michael Jordan was just a basketball player. When he explains how he got started in seed production and raising grasses, Vogt is animated and excited. "I got into it for the money, no question about it," he stated.

It was three decades ago, in 1979, when Vogt became, by his reckoning, the first man in Minnesota to start propagating warm season grasses. He discovered how much the seeds were selling for and that was enough to launch him on his way. The soils in Minnesota were excellent for this type of undertaking, so it was really a no-brainer for Vogt. He makes money selling seeds while participating in conservation and providing others a way to do the same. The remaining stems, or biomass, is harvested and sold for mulch or feed and in the future, bioenergy.

From the beginning Vogt continued to learn as he goes. There was no real market at first — though Big Bluestem seeds drew about \$7 per pound — so someone needed to produce the seed to fill the market. That someone was him. He began growing, cleaning, testing and selling all of the seeds himself. Seeds sales are the largest part of his business and he sells them in bulk or wholesale.

In those early days, it was just Vogt and someone in Nebraska. Now, he knows of about 30 people producing and selling native grass seeds in an eight-state area. The seed Vogt grows is sold and used for establishing plantings for soil conservation, forage production, game cover, as an ornamental grass, and more recently as a biomass crop for fuel, fiber, electricity or heat production. Livestock feed is yet another market for these grasses.

Once the seed is harvested, Vogt bales the stems or hay. "There is not much interest in biomass right now," Vogt elaborated. Purchasing bales for energy use is just developing. As more facilities come on line, demand will increase for that use. Now more people buy the grass hay to use as livestock feed. Hay is excellent roughage to use when feeding cattle.

While he waits for the biomass market to pick up, Vogt sells a great deal of his grass to horse owners and people with beef or other livestock. Yet seeds are still his most stable product. "The most sustainable economically are the seeds because of competition pricing," he said. "You have to be conservative at first." The statement about being conservative is his best advice to those entering into the biomass and seed market for the first time. He is a champion of the patient approach. "It takes time to incubate the business. Today you've got to be conservative in your thinking," he offered. When it comes to sustainable conservation, the grass really can be greener on the other side.

Rural Advantage is a nonprofit corporation based in Fairmont, Minnesota. Their mission is to promote the connections between agriculture, the environment and rural communities in order to improve ecological health, economic viability and rural vitality. Their work centers around efforts to reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution with major programming focused on the 3rd Crop Initiative, ECoPayPack development and building the Madelia Model concept. Contact them at 507-238-5449 or visit their website at www.ruraladvantage.org for more information.

Much Better Way To Protect Streams From Construction Runoff Is Also Low Cost

ScienceDaily (Apr. 21, 2009) — Researchers at North Carolina State University have found an exponentially better way to protect streams and lakes from the muddy runoff associated with stormwater around road and other construction projects.

The alternative is lower or comparable in cost to commonly used best management practices (BMPs) around construction sites, yet much more effective at keeping streams and lakes free of runoff sediment that pollutes water and harms aquatic life.

In a study comparing BMPs against alternatives on road stormwater runoff in western North Carolina, the NC State researchers found the alternative method kept local streams that received the runoff cleaner, and helped reduce the amount of sediment loss inside ditches near roads. Sediment and muddy water are among the most common pollutants of streams and lakes.

Dr. Rich McLaughlin, associate professor of soil science at NC State and one of the researchers involved in the project, says that the current BMPs used in controlling erosion and sediment involve using so-called "sediment traps" along with rock check dams in ditches. Sediment traps collect water with the heavier sediment – like dirt and other larger, heavier particles – settling to the bottom and the "cleansed" water moving through rock check dams, or piles of rock that are intended to slow the flow of water through the ditch. Water then travels out of the ditch through a pipe to streams, rivers or lakes.

In the study, McLaughlin and NC State colleagues Scott King, extension associate in soil science, and Dr. Greg Jennings, professor and extension specialist in biological and agricultural engineering, found that the BMPs don't hold a candle to the alternative – natural fiber check dams (FCDs) enhanced with polyacrylamide (PAM), a chemical that causes sediment to clump together. FCDs use natural fibers instead of rocks as a type of dam to slow the flow of water in ditches.

The researchers found, in a measure of the "muddiness" of road runoff, that the BMPs yielded 3,813 nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs) in testing, equating to some rather muddy water, McLaughlin says. Fiber check dams with PAM yielded averages of 34 NTUs, a veritable drink of Perrier in comparison, McLaughlin adds.

Further, the study showed that after a storm, sites that used standard BMPs lost an average of 944 pounds of sediment compared with only 1.8 pounds of sediment lost at sites utilizing FCDs with PAM.

McLaughlin says that these results are so convincing that North Carolina's Department of Transportation is in the process of making FCDs with PAM the new best management practice around road and construction sites. McLaughlin's group is also training engineers and installers around the state and nationally in the use of this system. (Journal reference: 1. McLaughlin et al. Improving construction site runoff quality with fiber check dams and polyacrylamide. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation, 2009; 64 (2): 144 DOI: 10.2489/jswc.64.2.144 Adapted from materials provided by North Carolina State University.

Job Opportunities:

Tenure-track Cropping Systems Agronomist (Organic and Conventional) - The University of Minnesota

Qualified applicants must have a PhD in crop science, agroecology, agronomy, soil science, or related field at the time of appointment. Commitment to excellence and effectiveness in educational programming and experience in conducting applied research are essential. Candidate should possess excellent oral and written English communications skills and have the ability to work effectively with other researchers and diverse clientele groups. A history of

successful grant applications and demonstrated ability to publish for both the scientific community and the producer clientele is desirable. For application go to:
employment.umn.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=77920

Four positions opening at the USDA National Organic Program

Two of these positions will be in standards development rule writing and 2 will be accreditation.

To find out more, visit:

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/ftva.asp?seeker=1&JobID=80657182>

Agricultural Marketing Specialist (General) SALARY RANGE: 50,408.00 - 95,026.00 USD per year - SERIES & GRADE: GS-1146-09/12; PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12; OPEN PERIOD: Friday, April 24, 2009 to Tuesday, May 26, 2009; POSITION INFORMATION: Full-Time Permanent; DUTY LOCATIONS: vacancy(s) in one of the following locations: Washington, DC

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: This announcement is open to all United States citizens. (Current and Former Federal employees may also apply with a separate application to Merit Promotion vacancy announcement #6TM-2009-0001)

JOB SUMMARY: You can make a difference! The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP) needs bright, energetic and committed professionals to facilitate the domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and to protect the health and care of animals and plants in the United States. MRP offers an array of occupations and is committed to diversity in the workplace. We operate in domestic and global markets. Be part of an organization that protects the health and agriculture of the American people. Join our team!

About the Position:

The incumbent serves as an Agricultural Marketing Specialist, for the National Organic Program (NOP), Transportation and Marketing Programs (TM), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) in Washington, DC and carries out activities relating to the development, implementation, and enforcement of the NOP in accordance with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA) and the NOP regulation, 7CFR Part 205.

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

- U.S. Citizenship
- Travel may be required
- Males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with the Selective Service
- DD214 (Member 4 copy)/veterans' documents for veterans' preference

MAJOR DUTIES:

The duties described are for the full-performance level. At developmental grade levels, assignments will be of more limited scope, performed with less independence and limited complexity. The duties may include, but are not limited to:

- Writes, edits, reviews, and clears amendments to current regulation and develops new regulations in the form of Advanced Notices of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposed Rules, and Final Rules.
- Assesses current and proposed NOP regulations for compliance with OFPA to prevent unfair trade practices, to protect and preserve free and open competition, and to prevent chicanery and product misrepresentation.
- Assists in coordinating program policy and program recommendations from public, international constituents, certified operations, accredited certifying agents, State Organic

Programs, the National Organic Standards Board, and other government and trade organizations.

- Assists with the execution of investigative policies, practices, procedures, methodologies, and techniques concerning cases of violations of the regulation by accredited certifying agents, producers, handlers and State Organic Programs.
- Assists in the development of NOP appeals, compliance, and enforcement policies and procedures.
- Recommends and assists in the development of methods for improving compliance with the various program operations.
- Assists in the preparation of appeals, compliance, and enforcement manual documents as directed by the Branch Chief.
- Demonstrates sensitivity to concerns of confidentiality, and cultural and ethical behavior in all communications.

Jim Riddle, Organic Outreach Coordinator University of Minnesota; www.organicecology.umn.edu
31762 Wiscoy Ridge Road; Winona, MN 55987; Ph/fax: 507-454-8310; Cell: 507-429-7959;
riddl003@umn.edu

Events:

May 2nd (Saturday) is “**Composting with Worms**” starting at 10 a.m. at the Red Barn stop Good Counsel Hill. Free worms to participants to start their own bins! For more information, <http://www.ssndmankato.org/whatwedo/ministries/earth.php>

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

May 16th (Saturday) is the **2009 Wheelies Expo & Family Bike Ride** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Huber Park, Shakopee. This bike ride will go from Shakopee to Chaska and back for a total of 10 miles. There will be a light refreshment and healthy snacks. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/familybikeride.pdf>

May 16th & 17th (Saturday & Sunday) is the **River, Culture & History Weekend** at Watson Lion’s Park on the Chippewa River near Watson, MN. Six paddling trips will be offered: Pomme de Terre River, Minnesota River, Chippewa River, Lac qui Parle River, Yellow Medicine River and Hawk Creek. For more information go to: <http://sites.google.com/a/cureriver.org/river-history-weekend/>

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

Water Quality Articles

State: ash borer alert (Mankato Free Press). Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) officials today announced a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Houston County.

Springing into the field: Planting season underway for farmers (Owatonna People’s Press). After early frost and a wet fall, Mother Nature is helping local farmers along this spring, but they’ve got some catching up to do.

LOHC would become OHC under Kahn bill (Outdoor News). An amendment to a bill approved last week by a House committee would remove former state Sen. Bob Lessard’s name from the council that bears it.

[Today's earth challenge: Use no ovens](#) (Austin Post Bulletin). Earth Week might be the Austin High School Going Green Club's time to shine, but many other students also did their part this week to help reduce, reuse and recycle.

[U aims to reduce energy use by 5 percent](#) (MN Daily). The University of Minnesota will be a greener and more energy efficient campus in 2011 if students and staff buy into a program announced Thursday by University officials aimed at reducing campus energy consumption.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin). Questions about wind energy including why do turbines always spin at the same speed no matter how hard the wind is blowing.

[David Morris: If it's citizens vs. utilities, utilities win](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A few days ago, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved a massive high-voltage transmission project known as CapX that will cost Minnesotans an amount equal to the projected biennial state budget deficit and four times the total bill to taxpayers for the Twins and Gophers stadiums.

[Fire leads to fish kill](#) (Outdoor News). DNR fisheries officials were back in the field earlier this week, assessing once again the damage done to the Whitewater River's fishery in the wake of a fire that destroyed a St. Charles meat-processing plant on April 17.

[A Woodland Lesson in Fire's Power to Destroy and Build](#) (New York Times). THE last time I had visited Sea Gull Lake in northeastern [Minnesota](#), I had seen demonic rage boiling through the forest.

[Friday is Arbor Day -- tree appreciation day](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Latin word "arbor" means tree. Arbor Day -- the last Friday in April -- is a day set aside for people to learn about trees and to plant trees in their communities.

[Pheasants Forever gives two parcels to DNR wildlife mgm't area program](#) (New Ulm Journal). While many Brown County residents have their thoughts trained on spring and its incumbent activities, Brown County's hunters have two more reasons to look forward to fall, thanks to Brown County Pheasants Forever.

[Monique Sullivan: A good start, environmentally](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Obama is making an impact, and it didn't even take 100 days.

[Fewer bird deaths with new turbines](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin). Wind turbines' ability to displace carbon dioxide has been equated with planting acres of trees and taking thousands of cars off the roads, but they have also been blamed with killing hundreds of birds and bats each year.

[Earth Day quandary over power: No silver bullet](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). As Earth Day 2009 dawns, Minnesotans eager to use more alternative energy are being confronted with a reality check of sorts: No source of electricity is perfect.

[Trash to fertilizer](#) (Mankato Free Press). Janet Husak was hesitant at first about sharing her Mankato home with a box full of red wigglers.

[Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment Explained](#) (KAAL TV). Last fall we told you about the clean water, land and legacy amendment that would raise the state's sales tax by three-eighths of a percent, to pay for wildlife projects and the arts.

[Dennis Anderson: Do-nothing legislators perfect the art of inefficiency](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The House division that's supposed to act on the proposals for what to do with our conservation dollars has succeeded in muddling along.

[Paper firms to reap billions from tax credit -- but should they?](#) (MinnPost). Paper companies in Minnesota and across the nation have figured out how to make billions off of an alternative energy tax credit that Congress devised two years ago. Their answer: burn diesel.

[Co-op seeks permit for 80-foot-high wind turbine in heart of North St. Paul](#) (Pioneer Press). The latest thing to dot North St. Paul's bare skyline might be an 80-foot pole with three 35-foot blades.

[Philosophies clash over Obama energy funds](#) (Pioneer Press). Minnesota's most polluted hot spots could be cleaned, its waterways shielded from more sewage and its renewable energy industry given a big boost by President Barack Obama's proposed budget, an environmental advocacy group said Thursday.

[Schlesinger, Hirsch: Solar and wind -- high cost, limited value](#) (Pioneer Press). Why are we ignoring things we know? We know that the sun doesn't always shine and that the wind doesn't always blow.

[Turbine plans hit headwinds](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The economic crisis has trimmed the sails of the nation's wind industry, but analysts forecast that stronger results lie ahead.

[Power line foes may appeal CAPX2020 ruling](#) (Winona Daily News). A group opposed to building a network of high voltage lines through southeast Minnesota said it might appeal a decision by state regulators in support of the project.

[Connecting with the environment and the community during river cleanup](#) (Marshall Independent). You never know what you may find along the banks of the Redwood River — a refrigerator, a water heater, and other strange items volunteers found Saturday.

[Hope grows for a second bumper crop](#) (Faribault Daily News). In a tractor, pulling a seeder, Paul D. Bauer made steady progress Wednesday planting corn on fields off 197th Street East, east of Faribault.

[Ew, that smell: Thief River Falls dairy upsets neighbors](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The 1,500-cow Excel Dairy near Thief River Falls that drove nearby residents from their homes last year could have its permit revoked for violating air quality standards.

It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who came after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours. – John F. Kennedy

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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