

Small conservation projects get funding from outdoors amendment by Stephanie Hemphill, Minnesota Public Radio

St. Paul, Minn. — Thirty-five small conservation projects in Minnesota will get a boost from the Outdoor Heritage Fund, created when Minnesota voters approved a constitutional amendment last year.

Nearly \$4 million of the \$76-million fund is dedicated to something called the Conservation Partners Legacy program.

DNR spokeswoman Colleen Coyne said it's designed to boost the capacity of small organizations to protect the environment.

"We did make a concerted effort to reach out to stakeholders that perhaps had not participated in a grant process before and help them with their applications and that sort of thing," she said.

More than \$3 million will fund the 35 small projects around the state. Groups will plant conifers in northeastern Minnesota, remove invasive plants from native prairies, and restore wetlands, among other projects.

"Soil and Water Conservation Districts, county land departments, smaller sportsmens clubs are becoming more organized and focused around the Legacy funds that are now available, and we are starting to hear from those groups and making an effort to do more outreach to them as well," Coyne said. (Minnesota Public Radio - December 22, 2009)

Job Announcements:

Organic Dairy Production and Management, Assistant/Associate Professor

The position is located at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) at Morris, Minnesota <http://wcroc.cfans.umn.edu> WCROC has a 180 cow dairy herd, half of which will have transitioned to organic by June 2010. Approximately 160 acres of cropland and 350 acres of pasture are also in transition to organic. This is a unique institutional, research dairy herd with both conventional and organic dairying practiced at the same location.

This tenure track faculty position responsibilities are 60% research and 40% extension. The full announcement is at www.ansci.umn.edu/internal_positions.htm#organic_dairy

Application review begins February 15, 2010; position open until filled. Apply online at: <https://employment.umn.edu> (search for requisition 164453).

If you have any questions regarding the position, please feel free to contact the search committee co-chairs: Dr. Les Hansen, hanse009@umn.edu and Dr. Hugh Chester-Jones, chest001@umn.edu

Water Quality Planner

Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a water quality planner. Under direct supervision of the District Manager, the Water Quality Planner represents the District in coordination of water quality planning, assisting the County Feedlot Officer, and as a member on the Technical Evaluation Panel for Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Other duties will include, but no limited to, representing Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) at local and regional meetings pertaining to the position.

Duties for this position include:

- Stream Monitoring
- Wetland Conservation Act

- Feedlot Technical Assistant
- District Technician Assistant

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

Administrative Assistant

Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District is also hiring an administrative assistant. Under general supervision, the administrative assistant performs a variety of clerical/administrative work to support the activities of the SWCD. Work involves maintenance of supply inventories, maintenance of bookkeeping system and processing of routine personnel records. Employee is responsible for preparing board-meeting minutes, preparing monthly financial and written reports. Employee is also responsible for general clerical duties, including answering the telephones, responding to inquiries and proper filing. Employee must exercise initiative and independent judgment in all phases of work. Employee must also exercise tact and courtesy in frequent contact with the general public.

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

Events:

January 19th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance quarterly meeting** starting at 6 p.m. with a social hour and the formal meeting at 7 p.m. at the Hutchinson Event Center (1005 15 South Plaza 15). This meeting will focus on choosing a 2010 "Clean Up the Minnesota River" issue.

January 20, 2010 (Wednesday) is **Perspectives on Water in our Changing World: From Climate to Culture** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Breck School (123 Ottawa Avenue North) in Golden Valley. This event promotes World Savvy's free online global affairs publication, the World Savvy Monitor (monitor.worldsavvy.org), *Perspectives on Water in our Changing World* will feature diverse viewpoints on water issues locally, nationally and globally from:

- Mark Seeley; Climatologist, University of Minnesota
- Deborah L. Swackhamer; Director, Water Resources Center
- Joan Nephew; Executive Director, Freshwater Society

For more information <http://www.worldsavvy.org/minneapolis>

February 18th (Thursday) is **Nutrients in Our Environment: Past, Present and Beyond** conference starting at 8:00 a.m. at the Verizon Wireless Center (1 Civic Center Plaza) in Mankato. This event sponsored by the S MN Nutrient Efficiency Coalition and partially funded by agreement number MX964472 between the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Conservation Technology Information Center. Visit www.upstreamheroes.org/nutmgmtconf.php or contact brian.c.williams@state.mn.us for more information.

February 20th (Saturday) is the **Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) Annual Meeting** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Hollywood Theater in Montevideo. For more information <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

March 11-12, 2010 (Thursday and Friday) is the **22nd Annual Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Conference & Trade Show** in St. Cloud, Minnesota sponsored by the Minnesota Erosion Control Association. For more information: <http://www.mnerosion.org/>

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Fund / Grants will buy property, fund conservation projects](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Thirty-five conservation projects across Minnesota will receive \$3.74 million in the first round of a pilot conservation partners grants program, the state Department of Natural Resources announced Tuesday.

[Fight expected over conservation dollars](#) (Politics in Minnesota). Lessard-Sams council releases funding plan, braces for spending challenges in tight fiscal time.

[Paper trail: Lessard-Sams preliminary agreement on \\$56 million in Legacy projects](#) (Politics in Minnesota). The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has approved a list of 25 projects that include buying land and restoring habitat.

[State denies wind farm for New Ulm](#) (Associated Press). The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has rejected a permit for New Ulm's proposed wind-power project.

[County blocks Gustavus turbine](#) (Mankato Free Press). An effort by Gustavus Adolphus College to build a wind turbine on campus was blocked this week when Nicollet County rejected a request by the college for an exception to zoning rules.

['Energy squads' find and stop waste](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Two Twin Cities nonprofits are making homes more energy-efficient. The cost to homeowners: \$30 each. Their utility-bill savings average \$127 a year.

[Minn. gypsy moth capture rose in 2009](#) (Associated Press). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture caught more than twice the number of gypsy moths this year over last year, nearly all in the northeastern part of the state.

[Deer from hunting season tests positive for bovine TB](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A deer harvested during hunting season in Minnesota has tested positive for bovine tuberculosis, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced Monday.

[Gypsy moths increase in Minnesota](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's gypsy moth monitoring program caught almost 28,000 moths this year - more than twice the previous high of 12,000 moths caught just last year.

[Almanac: Waterfowl will be the focus of January's DNR roundtable](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Waterfowl issues -- including why Minnesota duck hunting was so dismal this year and what can be done to improve it -- will be the focus at the Department of Natural Resources' 2010 citizens roundtable meeting Jan. 8-9 in Brooklyn Center.

[Environmental Partnership officials detail 2010 legislative priorities](#) (Finance and Commerce). Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP), a St. Paul-based coalition of more than 80 conservation and environmental organizations, has announced four 2010 legislative priorities to protect Minnesota's Great Outdoors.

[Editorial: Go 'green' for holidays ... and that's not money](#) (St. Cloud Times). It might be worth humming a few bars of this recycled song as a reminder to cut down on waste and increase the amount of recycling you do during the holidays.

As I sat on a ledge above the lake one late spring day, watching the shadows of evening gather and basking in the improbable serenity of the place, a world within a world, an ancient snapping turtle – looking dinosaurian in its craggy carapace – swam into view. It paused below me, stretched its long neck until its snout pierced the surface of the lake, and took a deep, silent breath. The turtle swam on and out of view at a regal pace. A slight evening breeze rippled the waters in its delicate wake. In the distance a small engine roared to life and I started, as if I had drifted off in one century and awakened in the next. –

Paul Gruchow, last paragraph on his essay about the Gneiss Scientific & Natural Area located near Granite Falls. The entire essay can be read in the Minnesota Volunteer magazine, November-December 1994 issue.

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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