

"Wheat Day" Walk-n-Talk to Be Held

Rural Advantage, University of Minnesota Extension, and Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group will be hosting a Wheat Day on Wednesday, July 1, near Kilkenny, Minnesota. Producers, agricultural professionals, and government entities interested in wheat production in Southern Minnesota are encouraged to attend. Lunch of hotdogs, brats, and soda will be served at 12:30pm and is sponsored by the Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group. Discussions and field tour will follow from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

The Wheat Day Walk-n-Talk will include an informative discussion and field tour on variety selection and management practices of spring and winter wheat, planting criteria for spring and winter wheat, sulfur and nitrogen effects on wheat production, and planting date effects on wheat yield. Tour and discussion leaders include: Doug Holen, University of Minnesota Extension Educator – Crops; Dan Kaiser, University of Minnesota Extension Soil Scientist; and Dick Stangler, Producer/Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group. Attendees are encouraged to bring plant samples of anything wheat-related that needs addressing. Questions are always welcome.

For more information or for directions please contact either:

- Jill Sackett – University of Minnesota Extension / Rural Advantage – Extension Educator, Conservation Agronomist – sacke032@umn.edu 507-238-5449
- Diane Stouffer – University of Minnesota Extension, Blue Earth and Le Sueur Counties – Extension Educator, Ag Production Systems – stouf002@umn.edu 507-380-6098

Late at night, big cats prowl state's rivers

By Ron Schara, Special to the Star Tribune (Last update: June 16, 2009 - 7:58 PM)

They might be Minnesota's most secretive fishing fraternity. River rats, mostly. Seldom fish in daylight. Seldom looking for meat. Always looking to catch something big. Really big. These are the cat anglers. Flathead cats. Channel cats. Minnesota's rivers -- especially the St. Croix, the Mississippi and the Minnesota -- harbor cats of all sizes, including giants. You can ask Travis Frank.

He's a 25-year-old Waconia angler turned muskie guide who has discovered a new passion: hunting giant flathead cats. The other night Frank and his partner, Matt Hennen of Waconia, beached a 53-pound beauty on a Minnesota River sandbar. "It was just huge," Frank said, grinning. "It's all about the size. That's what makes you go." The Minnesota state record is 70 pounds set in 1970 from the St. Croix River.

Frank said they used live bullheads (under 7 inches) for legal bait with a large, 7/0 circle hook tied to a 6-inch leader with enough sinker weight to hold in the current.

"It's a night game," Frank said. "We don't make the first cast until sunset." By then, the rest of us are only dreaming about fish.

Ron Schara • ron@mnbound.com.

Western MN is embracing rivers and CURE couldn't be happier. A note from Patrick Moore [Montevideo's Fiesta Tri Festa](#) was a success. Congrats to winners **Owen Hein** and **Kate Eggers** and to **Jake's Pizza** for winning the business challenge canoe race!

This week, Granite Falls is launching a new organization (with CURE's help) called **Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization**. There is a kick off party from 11a.m.- 5 p.m. tomorrow (Wed. June 24th) along the river on Main Street. [I will be there all day making fish prints with kids](#) and helping people get on the river with CURE's Canoe and kayaks. Hope to see you there!

On Friday night, June 26, the Lamont Cranston Blues Band will be playing in the beer gardens along the river in Granite -- a more delightful setting for a party is hard to find. I can't think of a better way to spend an evening than with my wife and kids along the river, listening to the blues and talking to Granite Fall's local heroes **Tom Cherveney** and Mayor **Dave Smiglewski** about river history and wildlife.

Check out Granite's Western Fest this year!

Dawson's Riverfest & 125th anniversary celebration is happening this coming weekend too. CURE will be on the Lac qui Parle river with kayaks on Friday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. There will be a Heritage Fair on Saturday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Veteran's Park and a great Route 66 Musical Review concert that night at Memorial Auditorium.

Hope to see you near a river this weekend!

Patrick J. Moore www.cureriver.org (have you seen our new web site?)

p.s. Don't forget to put the weekend of **July 11th** on your calendar for the Annual Rock the Park Concert along the Chippewa River in Montevideo. It is going to be better than ever! For more information call 800-269-5527.

Adopt-A-River Providing Clean Shorelines and Garbage Frogs – Conservation Minnesota

Towering over the quaint parking lot of Tamarack Nature Center in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, stands "Morph the Transforming Frog", splendid and out-of-place-looking in all of his trashy magnificence. It seems counterintuitive that a sculpture made of trash would be plopped down in the middle of a place for connecting people to nature, but Morph serves a very specific purpose. He teaches a lesson; a cautionary tale of sorts. Morph is a garbage frog created using only trash pulled from Minnesota rivers.

If you are surprised that there was enough trash in our rivers to create one massive frog sculpture, consider this: Morph is 14th in a long line of 15 garbage sculptures to have been commissioned by the DNR since 1994. These statues are created as a fun way to spread awareness about the issue of litter in Minnesota waters. The Minnesota DNR's "Adopt-A-River" program gives life to frogs like Morph. Every year at the Minnesota State Fair, a garbage sculpture commissioned by Adopt-A-River is put on display - a tribute to the river cleanup that has been done, as well as a reminder of the work that is left to do.

Adopt-A-River was created in 1989 as a volunteer river clean-up program open to citizens, groups and businesses of Minnesota. Each volunteer or organization is assigned a specific stretch of riverbank. That person or group facilitates an annual cleanup of the river for the next two years in a row (also adoptable are sections of a watershed or wetland). The DNR helps by providing (among other things) organizational kits, a guide on poisonous plants to avoid, and even gloves.

Want to know more about the Adopt-A-River program? Or do you have your own river clean up story, leave us a comment on [our](#)

[website.](#)

"Gardening with the Rain" – Wednesday July 1st, 6-7:30 pm at Bush Lake IKEs, Bloomington – free class

On Wednesday, July 1st from 6:00-7:30pm, learn ways that your yard and garden can absorb and utilize rainwater to make a healthier yard and garden environment while reducing stormwater run-off. Attend a free seminar from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Izaak Walton League-Bush Lake chapter, 7515 Izaak Walton Road, Bloomington 55438.

Gregg Thompson, the instructor is a former landscape contractor, who now trains other landscape contractors and homeowners on how to create and manage more environmentally-friendly landscapes to prevent pollution and preserve our shared water resources. Bring photos of your yard to get personal advice.

This 'how-to' / 'do-it yourself' program will be presented at the lodge at the Izaak Walton League Chapter on Bush Lake, at 7515 Izaak Walton Road in Bloomington. The class is free and open to the public, but please send an RSVP email registration (including the names & the number of people attending) to BushLake@bushlakeikes.org.

The future of energy is here By Leigh Pomeroy

On Thursday I visited an office bldg in Napa that is entirely self-powered by PV cells over a carport and on the roof. In the lobby a LCD screen displays in real time the amount of electricity the PV array generates at any given moment, the amount the bldg is using, and the net energy being put back into the grid. The bldg is an overall net generator of electricity.

For more info about the bldg:

<http://www.napavalleyregister.com/articles/2009/02/21/news/local/doc499fa6d0dedd6960820194.txt>

<http://www.busjrnl.com/article/20090302/BUSINESSJOURNAL/902270885>

The bldg owner: Peter A and Vernice H Gasser Foundation; 433 Soscol Ave.; Napa, CA 94559-4038. The system designer: <http://www.recolteenergy.com> The system provider: <http://www.borregosolar.com> The feedback display software engineering company: <http://www.fatspaniel.com>

Leigh Pomeroy * The Red Jacket Company; Media Development for Books, Film, Video, & the Internet 150 Chancery Lane * Mankato * MN 56001-4149 <mailto:leighp@red-jacket.com> * <http://red-jacket.com>

Cell: (507) 317-9421.

Farm in the City in Mankato by Lisa Coons

Hello, I wanted to let you know about a special program that will be running this summer at South Central College titled Farm in the City. You will be receiving some information through snail mail. We are asking if you would please help us promote this program.

Farm in the City will be located at the North Mankato campus and will run from July 6th until July 24th, 9 am - 3:15 pm. Children can attend one week at a time or the entire three week period. There is before and aftercare available and please note that there is scholarships available.

Each week activities and lessons are centered on a different agriculture-based theme. Kids in the camp will spend their time working in the camp garden, exploring horticulture and biology further in the science lab and applying their knowledge in culinary classes and through writing activities. Students will also have a weekly field trip to a local business and will create a personal website and capstone project to share with parents and the community on the last day of camp.

If you have any questions, you can E-mail Jennifer Panko at jennifer.panko@southcentral.edu or [Raj at nadarjan.sethuraju@southcentral.edu](mailto:Raj@nadarjan.sethuraju@southcentral.edu) or call Raj at (507)389-7388.

A Canoe Update by Patrick Moore

The CURE eyes and ears River Network is alive and well. Dozens of people responded to last week's e-mail with a promise to help us find our stolen canoe.

The CURE canoe was found on a little used stretch of the river, abandoned, half submerged in a tree snag along the Chippewa River between the railroad bridge in Montevideo and the mouth of the river behind Adams Motors. It was muddy, but no worse for the wear. We are thrilled to have it back! Thanks to 14 year old **Charles O'Malley** for finding it. He used \$25 of his reward money to register for the Fiesta Days Tri-Festa Race on Saturday, June 20th at [Lagoon Park](#) in Montevideo.

Visit: <http://sites.google.com/a/cureriver.org/upcoming-events/> for upcoming events. Life is good (and oh so very precious). Drink in the lingering evening sun this weekend. Patrick; rivervoices@cureriver.org

HIGH TEMPERATURES CAN BRING HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

St. Paul, Minn. -- When the summer sun shines and temperatures climb, conditions are ripe for Minnesota lakes to produce harmful algal blooms. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is again reminding people that some blue-green algae can harm pets, livestock and even people.

Algae are microscopic aquatic plants and are a natural part of any aquatic ecosystem. Under the right conditions, some forms of algae can become harmful. Blue-green (cyanobacterial) algal blooms contain toxins or other noxious chemicals that can pose harmful health risks. People or animals may become sick if exposed to these blooms. In extreme cases, dogs and other animals have died after exposure to lake water containing these toxins.

"High rainfall resulting in nutrient-rich runoff entering our lakes fuels the growth of algae. As sunlight increases and temperatures warm, we can anticipate blooms of blue-green algae on many of our lakes," said MPCA lakes expert Steve Heiskary. Heiskary is a member of an interagency work group that's spreading the word that blue-green algae should be avoided. "When in doubt, best keep out," advises a poster the group has distributed around the state.

Blue-green algae are found throughout Minnesota, but thrive particularly in warm, shallow, nutrient-rich lakes. Often occurring on downwind shorelines, it is in these blooms that humans and animals most often come in contact with blue-green algae and where the risk of algal toxins is greatest.

There is no visual way to predict the toxicity of an algal bloom and distinguishing blue-green algae from other types may be difficult for non-experts. But harmful blooms are sometimes said to look like pea soup, green paint or floating mats of scum.

They often smell bad as well. "You don't have to be an expert to recognize water that might have a harmful algae bloom," Heiskary said. "If it looks bad and smells bad, it's probably best not to take chances with it."

Humans are not affected very often, probably because the unpleasant appearance and odors of a blue-green algal bloom tend to keep people out of the water. But human health effects can include irritation of skin, eyes and nasal passages, and nausea and vomiting. Extreme cases can produce paralysis and respiratory failure.

An animal that has ingested toxins from an algae bloom can show a variety of symptoms, ranging from skin irritation or vomiting, severe disorders involving the circulatory, nervous and digestive systems, and severe skin lesions. In worst cases, the animal may suffer convulsions and die.

These factors make it important to take a preventative approach to dealing with potential harmful algal blooms. There are currently no short-term solutions to correct a blue-green algal bloom. Once a bloom occurs, the only option available is to wait for weather changes, such as significant rainfall, wind shifts or cooler temperatures, to disrupt the algae's growth. The key to solving algae problems long-term is to improve water quality by decreasing the amount of nutrients that runoff carries into lakes.

For more information about harmful algae blooms, go to www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html or call 651-296-6300 or 800-657-3864.

Small Crop Gets Big Celebration

HOWARD LAKE — For Minnesota farmers, corn and soybeans traditionally get the most celebration. But on one Wright County farm garlic is the crop, and forget a celebration - this pungent little bulb gets a full-blown festival.

On his wife's family's Howard Lake farm, Jerry Ford "accidentally" began growing garlic. Driven by he and wife, Marianne Kreitlow's, desire to advocate conservation and sustainable farming, Ford began the Minnesota Garlic Festival. The annual event showcases the crop that brings in enough income to keep Ford on the farm.

Looking back, his accident seems fortuitous. When Ford decided to move to Minnesota a friend in St. Paul suggested partnering to grow garlic and sell it in the Twin Cities. That sounded great to Ford, who did some research.

Armed with newfound knowledge, he was ready to go, but his partner bailed out. Ford pressed on, undaunted by his friend's departure. "Garlic is really interesting," Ford said. "The whole culture and history people think of is Mediterranean, not the northern plant," like he grows.

He prepared 3/4 of an acre on his portion of the family farm. Amidst a couple hundred acres of traditional crops, raspberries, onions and asparagus, he began to cultivate heirloom northern stock garlic. And so began Living Song Gardens.

Ford is particular in his approach. For instance, he rotates his crop often refusing to plant in the same place twice.

He also hand plants garlic orienting it "right side up" to produce the perfect bulb gourmets prefer. "It's meticulous," Ford admits, but looks do matter.

Curing the garlic is critical. Ford has an entire building dedicated to curing. He's at the point of adding another curing building to expand the operation. "It's hard to plant and cure, but everything else is easy," he quipped.

Is it worth the effort? Is garlic a sustainable crop? Ford says it is. His proof: the \$8,000 annually he reaps from his pungent harvest. He has few inputs using a little fuel for mulching and cultivating and some labor he hires from friends and neighbors. "I do think (garlic is) sustainable... yeah, it helps keep me on the farm," he said. His farm represents the three pillars of sustainability: care of the environment, financial sustainability, and community (of small farmers) Ford noted.

And garlic definitely fits the promotion of community via the Minnesota Garlic Festival began by Ford three years ago. He and Marianne's advocacy of sustainable farming led them to deep involvement in the Minnesota Sustainable Farming Association.

His local chapter of the SFA wanted to do a large-scale conservation and education promotion. Ford had just the idea, and background, to put it together. He used his experience as a sound designer and audio technician to organize the festival. The first year about 1,000 people came out, doubling by the third event. This year Ford expects 3,000 people at the McCloud County Fairgrounds to enjoy demonstrations, music, and plenty of garlic in August.

Most of Ford's crop is sold at the festival. He sells it for food and seed stock to other growers, including his original partner who now grows his own in Wisconsin. Very little of his crop is sold outside of Minnesota. He even has some farmers growing according to his rigid specifications and selling the garlic back to Ford to be marketed as Living Song Garlic.

Garlic is known for the kick it puts into cooking, but Ford is proof that it can add a kick to farm income too.

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.

JULY 2nd MEETING WILL REPORT ON POLLUTION IN LAKE SHAOKATAN

Marshall, Minn. -- Information on a report addressing water quality in Lake Shaokatan will be presented at a public meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, at the Picnic Point County Park shelter on the lake's south shore. The report, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study, focuses on pollution caused by high levels of phosphorus that contribute to excessive growth of algae in the lake. A public comment period on the draft report will begin July 6 and continue through Aug. 5.

Minnesota TMDL reports are part of a nationwide effort under the federal Clean Water Act to identify and clean up pollution in streams, rivers and lakes. A TMDL report establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive without exceeding water-quality standards.

Schuler Environmental Engineering prepared the Lake Shaokatan report. The data show a declining trend in water quality due to excessive watershed loading and lake sediment phosphorus sources. Excessive phosphorus is a major cause of algal growth. The analysis indicates that the lake needs a 67 percent reduction in phosphorus to meet the water-quality standard for aquatic life and recreation.

Sources of phosphorus to Lake Shaokatan are mostly human influenced. They include improper fertilizer application, livestock manure runoff, noncompliant septic systems, and runoff from uplands. Other minor sources include wildlife and pets.

Following approval of the study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a plan will be developed to direct efforts toward restoring the lake to water-quality standards. For more information about the TMDL study, call Kelli Daberkow at the Marshall office of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) at 507-476-4251, or Cindy Potz of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District at 507-872-6720.

Written comments on the Lake Shaokatan draft TMDL report must be sent by 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 5 to Kelli Daberkow, MPCA, 1420 E. College Dr., Ste. 900, Marshall, MN 56258. Written comments must include:

- (1) a statement of your interest in the draft TMDL report;
- (2) a statement of action you wish the MPCA to take, including specific references to sections of the draft TMDL that you believe should be changed; and

(3) the reasons supporting your position, stated with sufficient specificity to allow the MPCA commissioner to investigate the merits of your position.

The MPCA will prepare responses to comments on the draft TMDL report and make any necessary revisions. The Lake Shaokatan draft TMDL report is available for review at the MPCA's Marshall office or on the Web at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-lakeshaokatan.html. More information on Minnesota's impaired waters list and TMDL studies is available at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html.

Save energy, save money in the heat

Heating and cooling account for about 55 percent of energy use in a typical home, said Katie Thomson, spokeswoman for Dairyland Power.

But, even during peak hours — between 3 and 9 p.m. when people get home from work -- you can take small measures to keep cool and use less electricity (*Source: Dairyland Power and Xcel Energy*).

- Lower blinds and close curtains on the sunny side of the house. It can reduce the heat gain by up to 50 percent.
- Turn up the thermostat when you leave. Raising the thermostat from 72 to 78 degrees can save about \$100 over the summer. Programmable thermostats can save as much as 12 percent on cooling costs.
- Use fans to enhance the work of the air conditioner.
- Grill out. You won't heat up the kitchen when it's hot.
- Plant trees to shade your home.
- Make sure air conditioner filters are clean and check to make sure nothing is blocking the air intake. Put room air conditioners on the north side when possible. Units operating in the shade use up to 10 percent less electricity.

Job Announcements:

Local Foods Program Associate - Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

IATP seeks a full-time program associate to develop and implement a range of local food projects in the Upper Midwest. The Program Associate will report to the Director of the Local Foods Program. IATP's Local Foods Program works to build thriving local food systems and will include components focused on strengthening small/medium scale sustainable farming, development of food systems infrastructure and markets, expanding food access, and advancing supportive policy change. The successful candidate will have academic and/or professional experience in food systems development and demonstrate strong analytical, research, writing and interpersonal communication skills.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conducting research and analysis on local and sustainable food systems issues
 - Coordinating with program partners and community stakeholders to design and implement projects
 - Preparing and writing articles, reports, presentations, proposals and outreach materials
 - Supporting fundraising, communications and program administration

QUALIFICATIONS

- Knowledge of and past work experience in local and sustainable food systems
 - Masters degree in agriculture, city and regional planning, economics, public policy or related field preferred
 - Excellent communication and writing skills
 - Ability to learn new skills and issues, work independently and take initiative while meeting agreed upon goals and deadlines
 - Valid driver's license and ability to travel within the region
 - Ability to work as part of a team. Good interpersonal skills and sense of humor a must.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Compensation for this position is based on qualifications and experience. IATP offers excellent health insurance, vacation and sick leave benefits and a lively, creative work environment at our office in Minneapolis, MN.

APPLICATION: Send resume, cover letter, and contact information for three references to Candace Falk at cfalk@iatp.org. Applications should be submitted by June 26, 2009. *IATP is an equal opportunity employer. We actively encourage people of color to apply for this and all positions at IATP.* JoAnne Berkenkamp; Program Director, Local Foods; Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy; 612 / 870-3410

Farm Bill / SWCD Technician

The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a Farm Bill / SWCD Technician on a part-time basis for \$10.00 per hour. This is a temporary position. The closing date for the job is July 6th (Monday) at 4:00 p.m. This position is responsible for promotion and implementation of conservation programs available through the Federal Farm Bill and Douglas SWCD.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Promote the Conservation Programs available to area producers including but not limited to, CRP, CCRP, WHIP, and EQIP through one on one contact, direct mailings, informational meetings and news releases.
- Assist with implementation of conservation practices.
- Assist NRCS with various programs.

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

Director – Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Minnesota State Legislature

Direct twelve-member, legislator/citizen Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, which makes recommendations for appropriations to the Legislature for funding natural resources projects from the constitutionally created Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Council recommends appropriations of approximately \$160,000,000 a biennium.

This is an unclassified, non-partisan, full time, benefits eligible position.

Email resume with a cover letter to lcc@lcc.leg.mn or fax to: Legislature Coordinating Commission, 72 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Fax: 651-297-3697. To ensure consideration for this position, your cover letter and resume must be received by 1:00 p.m., Monday, July 6, 2009. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Events:

June 24th (Wednesday) is the **Mankato Area Environmentalists meeting** at 3 p.m. at the Blue Earth County Library (small conference room). They will be discussing a number of issues including the loss of funding for the Elks Nature Center and media blitz directed by Representative Tim Walz on industrial energy users against the Cap and Trade issue.

June 25th (Thursday) is the **Conservation Practices Bus Tour** sponsored by the Chippewa River Watershed Project that goes from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting at the Big Bend Church. This tour offers an excellent opportunity to see practices, programs and dollars that are available to landowners in the Chippewa River Watershed Project. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewabustour.pdf>

June 26th (Friday) is the **Lac qui Parle River Paddle** sponsored by the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership. The paddle starts at 9:00 a.m. at Veterans Park in Dawson. They will be exploring the Lac qui Parle River as it is before the dam is removed later this

summer. Please call Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 to reserve a canoe for either of these canoeing opportunities.

July 15th (Wednesday) is a presentation on the "**Effects of Climate Change on the Antarctic Peninsula**" by Dr. Christopher Rhuland at the Elks Nature Center in Mankato. The event will start at 7pm, followed by a discussion afterwards.

July 21st (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** at the Hutchinson Event Center. It starts at 6 p.m. with food and a chance to network. The formal meeting begins at 7 p.m. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu

July 27th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Annual Meeting** at Redwood Falls Community Center. The formal business meeting starts at 9 a.m. with guest speakers in the afternoon. More information will be forth coming.

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Klobuchar introduces food-safety measure: 'Team Diarrhea' to the rescue](#) (MinnPost). "Team Diarrhea" could be rushing to the rescue in a town near you if Sen. Amy Klobuchar has anything to say about it.

[Letter: New Bell Museum imperative for environmental education](#) (MN Daily News). By characterizing the University's 2009 bonding request for a new Bell Museum as "unnecessary" and "arrogant" (In Pawlenty's Court, May 27, 2009), the Minnesota Daily continues to advocate for sub-standard environmental education for University students and Minnesota citizens.

[NOAA: Global warming already affecting Midwest](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A report from the federal government says the Midwest is already feeling the effects of global warming.

[Study confirms open space near homes pays off](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Parks, natural areas and greenways boost values of surrounding private property.

[Toss not those food scraps in the trash](#) (MinnPost). Carver County received the 2009 Governor's Awards for waste and pollution prevention in its innovative organics collection and composting program, started in Chanhassen in 2007.

[Life beyond ethanol: other transport fuels from Minnesota's farms](#) (Twin Cities Daily Planet). Success in the 20th century was dependent on access to oil because it is the basis of all transportation fuel. But it didn't have to be.

[Lower Minnesota valley gets \\$1 million wildlife habitat boost](#) (Jordan Independent). The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission recently awarded a \$1 million grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to Pheasants Forever (PF) and other partners in Minnesota.

[Researcher: Trophy hunting hurts big cat populations](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A big cat expert at the University of Minnesota says trophy hunting is depleting the lion and cougar populations in Africa and the western U.S.

[Minnesota farmers' support for climate-change bill waning](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Minnesota farmers thought they'd be wearing the white hats. When the climate-change debate began, many

growers were intrigued. They control millions of green acres, the dawn of carbon credits promised new revenue and biofuels showed green could be profitable.

[Report: Charities scramble to meet demands as revenues dry up](#) (Minnesota Independent). Minnesota's nonprofit groups are facing increased demand for services and reductions in funding during the ongoing recession, according to a [new report](#) by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

[Minnehaha Creek cleanup July 12, starting with pancakes and ending with a free beer](#) (MinnPost). Minnehaha Creek will get a face-lift July 12, courtesy of volunteers who will pick up litter and pull invasive plants. It's sponsored by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Leinenkugel's, and Citizens for Minnehaha Creek Corridor.

[Too many pigs: High feed costs, large herds, swine flu put small hog operations in peril](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Marty Malecek got a business degree intending to take over the Minnesota hog farm that his father started nearly 20 years ago. Instead, they are selling their 1,700 hogs and auctioning off land after it became clear that they could no longer cover their costs.

[Opinion: Little Ag vs. Big Ag? Best bet on both](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Healthy, safe food served in school lunches. Control over our national obesity epidemic. Local farmers making a living selling nutritious food. Feeding the world.

[Lessard-Sams and Clean Water councils explore collaboration](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Some of the 99 proposals the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council sifted through en route to its first set of funding recommendations had direct benefits for both habitat and water quality.

[Rep. Peterson brawling over ethanol expansion](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Agricultural leaders in the U.S. House continue to negotiate today on legislation designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and slow climate change.

[New York City billboard, Internet widget help the public monitor greenhouse gases](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). How are those greenhouse gases doing? New York City residents and visitors will be able to monitor the situation, thanks to a giant billboard in Manhattan. A widget also will be provided to Web sites and blogs around the world.

[Unallotment means more cuts for DNR](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Right back where we started from isn't necessarily a good thing. The state DNR's operating budget faces another 2.25 percent reduction in state general funds following Gov. Tim Pawlenty's "unallotment" on Tuesday. That's on top of an earlier 6.9 percent reduction to address a budget shortfall over the next two years.

[Electricity Project Honored For Transforming Farms](#) (WCCO TV). Glew lived on a Red Wing-area farm, one of nine hooked up to electricity in a project that transformed rural America. Most Minnesotans have not heard about the Red Wing Project, but many benefit from it. It was one of the first experiments to determine the feasibility of delivering electrical power to Minnesota farms.

[Cargill's response to 'Food Inc.'](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A spokesman for Cargill responds to the film "Food Inc." by raising a note of caution about "one-size-fits-all" answers to feeding the world.

[Farmers trying to cultivate new image](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Are farmers the new villains? Cast as uncaring louts in a major food documentary that opened nationwide Friday, conventional farmers already have seen their public persona trashed by bestselling depictions of conventional farms as places that abuse the land and the animals while producing food of low nutritional quality.

[Guerrilla gardeners: They give themselves permission to plant](#) (Twin Cities Daily Planet). “We sometimes just do it because it needs to be done. We don’t do it for accolades, but we do know that people enjoy it. That is the fun part. It brings pleasure to others. We are the sort of folks who love flowers and want to beautify parts of the city,” said Shawn Bartsh, a self-proclaimed guerrilla gardener.

[Make your back yard into a wildlife habitat](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). In an era where attracting wildlife to back yards is gaining popularity, here's what you can do to have your yard certified by the National Wildlife Federation.

[Opinion: WE CAN COOL THE PLANET. WE HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY.](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Efforts to control emissions may be too little, too late. Enter this idea: Geological engineering.

[In the House, It's Peterson vs. Climate Bill](#) (Wall Street Journal). The fate of the leading proposal to curb U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions is in the hands of Rep. Collin Peterson, a Marlboro-smoking free spirit who scoffs at warnings about climate change and says the Environmental Protection Agency is "in bed with" corporations opposed to the ethanol industry.

[Clean Water, Land & Legacy work begins](#) (Herald Journal). In the November general election of 2008 Minnesotans voted “Yes” over 1.5 million times for passage of the “Clean Water, Land, and Legacy” constitutional amendment to raise state sales tax three-eighths of one percent for the environment and arts funding. The following is a report from State Sen. Steve Dille (R-Dassel)

[Historical landmark destroyed in the name of progress](#) (Murray County News). A buffalo petroform effigy is destroyed by a service road for a wind turbine in Murray County.

[Biomass plant provides energy by burning renewable materials, including Cheerios waste](#) (MinnPost). A biomass plant in Shakopee run by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Rahr Malting is now generating heat and electricity around the clock by burning natural, nonfood materials, including prairie grass and oat hulls left over from making Cheerios.

[Fish mercury levels might not be that dangerous say researchers](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Researchers at the University of North Dakota say there's new evidence that mercury levels in fish are not as dangerous as previously thought.

[As eagle population soars, so do conflicts with humans](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). For an eagle, life in the suburbs can be dangerous. With pesticide use common, plenty of roadkill available and lots of power lines crisscrossing the Twin Cities, our national symbol must navigate a tricky set of obstacles here to stay healthy. Not all do.

[Greenhouse gases: Suburbs vs. city](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). It's all in how you want to look at it. The Center for Neighborhood Technology has a recent study that gives the traditional antagonists -- suburbanites and city dwellers -- something for either side when the subject is the environment.

[Interstate, international CO² cap-and-trade system](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota, five other Midwestern states and the Canadian province of Manitoba are on the cusp of a cap-and-trade program designed to cut greenhouse gas emissions by up to 20 percent by 2015 without damaging the region's industrial and agricultural base.

Water, thou hast no taste, no color, no odor, canst not be defined, art relished while ever mysterious. Not necessary to life, but rather life itself, thou fillest us with a gratification that exceeds the delight of the senses. – Antoine de Saint-Exupery

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