

**MPCA REPORTS APPARENT DOG DEATH FROM BLUE-GREEN ALGAE**

Saint Paul, Minn. - A dog died during the weekend after swimming in Fox Lake in Martin County, apparently as a result of exposure to toxic blue-green algae. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the dog's owner said the dog swam in the lake on the morning of Sunday, Sept. 13, and was dead within hours.

Blue-green algae "blooms," like those on Fox Lake and some other lakes around the state, can produce toxins. These toxins can be deadly to dogs or other animals if ingested, particularly when they clean themselves after contact with the water.

Blue-green blooms can occur throughout the summer, but the recent warm weather and lack of rain create ideal conditions for them. The MPCA has confirmed other blue-green blooms this summer but this was the season's first apparent animal death attributed to them.

MPCA staff who were in the area at the time of the report went to the lake to determine the severity of the bloom and collect water samples. Laboratory test results are pending. Field measurements and observations by Matt Lindon, an MPCA water quality specialist, found the algae conditions on Fox Lake were similar to other recent events where high levels were found.

"I saw a pretty good algal scum at the shore and took samples," Lindon said on Wednesday. "From the owner's description it appears the dog was affected by one of several toxins produced by blue-green algae. We'll look at the samples in the lab, but I wouldn't be surprised if there were elevated toxin levels."

Lindon said it's not always necessary to check specifically for algal toxins, as the agency has learned that when algae conditions look bad, it usually means the toxin could be present at levels of concern.

The MPCA cautions dog owners to keep their pets out of algae-laden water if possible, or to hose off the animals before they have a chance to lick themselves clean. Hunters who will soon be hitting the field with their dogs should also keep these precautions in mind, particularly if the warm dry conditions persist.

Lindon and other MPCA staff are part an interagency work group that has been spreading the word that blue-green algae blooms should be avoided. "When in doubt, best keep out," says a poster the group has distributed around the state.

Algae are microscopic aquatic plants and are a natural part of any aquatic ecosystem. There are hundreds of species. Under the right conditions, algae populations can "bloom" with dramatic growth, turning the water cloudy and green, a sight familiar to most summer-time lake-goers.

Most algae blooms are harmless. But blue-green algae, when present in high concentrations, can produce toxins which can affect humans or animals. Blue-green algae are found throughout Minnesota, but thrive particularly in warm, shallow, nutrient-rich lakes.

Human deaths from exposure to blue-green algae are extremely rare, but human-health effects can include skin irritations and nausea. Young children are more susceptible than adults. Therefore the Minnesota Interagency Task Force on Blue-Green Algae discourages swimming in waters with obvious algae blooms.

**MPCA RELEASES 2009 WATERSHED ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT**

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) today released the 2009 edition of the Watershed Achievements Report. The report chronicles 49 water quality improvement projects throughout the state.

The report, organized by basin, summarizes progress made in addressing water pollution through projects funded under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act and the MPCA's Clean Water Partnership Program. Projects included in the report took place from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Each project summary includes history and objectives, water quality outcomes, financial and contact information. Additionally, short synopses of projects that are currently underway and are slated to begin this year are included, totaling 235 total watershed projects taking place in Minnesota.

The full report can be found on the MPCA's Web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html#reports>. To receive a copy, please contact the MPCA's Sara Johnson at 651-757-2473 or by e-mail at [sara.johnson@state.mn.us](mailto:sara.johnson@state.mn.us)

### **Premiere of the film – “The Age of Stupid**

On Monday, September 21, MoveOn members in the Mankato area have a special opportunity to watch the one-night-only premiere of an important new film called The Age of Stupid.

The film is a powerful "docudrama" set in the year 2055, after global warming has done massive damage to humanity. Oscar-nominated actor Pete Postlethwaite stars as a historian who "looks back" on real footage from 2008 to try to answer the question, "why didn't we stop climate change while we had the chance?"

In addition to the movie, the theater will simulcast a Hollywood-style premiere event from New York City.

You can purchase advance tickets by clicking here:  
<http://www.moveon.org/r?r=59408>

[You'll get so much more than just a great movie. The premiere event, simulcast live from a solar-powered tent in New York City to over 700 theaters in the U.S. and 50 other countries, will feature such celebrities as Gillian Anderson, Heather Graham, and Moby.](#)

[Also, MTV's Gideon Yago will interview Nobel Peace Prize recipient Kofi Annan, environmental scientist James Hansen, and The Age of Stupid director Franny Armstrong. Ending the night will be a special, acoustic performance by Radiohead's Thom Yorke.](#)

[The Age of Stupid was number one at the box office in the U.K. this spring, and this one-night event is poised to break the Guinness World Record for biggest simultaneous film screening. You can watch the trailer here:](#)

For more information go to: <http://www.ageofstupid.net/>

### **Controlled drainage in The Farmer Magazine**

The September issue of The Farmer includes an article on controlled drainage. Brian Hicks (farms near Tracy) explains why he installed controlled drainage and Jeff Strock (U of M) discusses some of the research results so far. They are seeing N and P reductions. Low precipitation levels have made it difficult to really test it so far. Here's the link:

<http://magissues.farmprogress.com/TFM/TF09Sep09/tfm001.pdf>

### **Waseca County SWCD Receives Regional Award**

*Recognition was given at national meeting this summer.*

*Compiled by staff*

Published: Sep 15, 2009

Waseca County Soil & Water Conservation District was the recipient of a Regional award from the North Central Region of Resource Conservation and Development Councils.

Waseca SWCD received the award at the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development meeting held in Albuquerque, N.M. this summer.

Waseca SWCD was named Outstanding RC&D Supporting Organization for their innovative time-sharing of one of their employees to assist other conservation based organizations build their capacity.

This employee sharing enabled the organizations to successfully acquire multiple large grants, bringing in more than \$1 million dollars for conservation projects within the south-central region of Minnesota.

### **The Mississippi River Basin and Delta Hypoxia THE DEAD ZONE: Jazz, Blues and ReBirth of the Gulf New Orleans, Louisiana October 2-3, 2009**

**Summit Details:** CWN is joining forces with the Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition in organizing this landmark regional summit on October 2-3, on Mississippi River Basin environmental issues. The Summit will focus on developing strategies to address the enormous environmental challenges we face from the expanding Dead Zone in the Gulf. Through a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation CWN has travel funding available for members to attend. If you are in need of a travel scholarship please email Gordon Culver this week at [gordonculver@cleanwaternet.org](mailto:gordonculver@cleanwaternet.org). The event will be held at the New Orleans Marriott located on 555 Canal Street. [Click HERE to access the most recent agenda!](#)

### **Paddling the Red, Minnesota and Mississippi rivers down to New Orleans**

Instead of heading to Winnipeg by way of the Red and Minnesota Rivers, these guys will paddle up the Red and down the Minnesota - and on to New Orleans: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/paddlers-enticed-by-sounds-of-new-orleans-59442672.html>

### **FOOD INC. -- the film the food industry doesn't want you to see! – Leigh Pomeroy**

Showing Wednesday (Sept. 23rd) in Wiecking Auditorium in the Wiecking Center (former Wilson School building). The program will start at 7:00 pm. Parking is FREE in gold parking lot next to Wiecking after 6:30. And there are plenty of spaces!

Other showings: Thursday (Sept. 24th) @ 7 & 9:30 PM in the lower level of the CSU at Mankato State. Friday (Sept. 25th) and Saturday (Sept. 26th) @ 8 PM in CSU 284. Free for MNSU students, \$1 for others.

In "[Food, Inc.](#)" filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that's been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment. Featuring interviews with such experts as Eric Schlosser (Fast Food Nation), Michael Pollan (The Omnivore's Dilemma) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield Farms' Gary Hirschberg and Polyface Farms' Joe Salatin, "Food, Inc." reveals surprising -- and often shocking truths -- about what we eat, how it's produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here. (Fandango)

### **MINNESOTA'S LIST OF "IMPAIRED WATERS" UPDATED: PUBLIC MEETINGS TO BE HELD STATEWIDE**

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) today announced it will hold a series of public meetings throughout the state in September and October to discuss the nearly 400 impairments added to the draft list of the state's impaired lakes and stream segments. The meetings schedule is as follows:

- Monday, Sept. 28, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. St. Paul-MPCA Office 520 Lafayette Rd. N

- Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Detroit Lakes-MPCA Office 714 Lake Ave.
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Brainerd-MPCA Office 7678 College Rd., Baxter
- Thursday, Oct. 1, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Duluth-MPCA Office 525 Lake Ave. S
- Monday, Oct. 5, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Marshall-MPCA Office 1420 E. College Dr.
- Tuesday, Oct. 6, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Blue Earth County Library, Mankato
- Wednesday, Oct. 7, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Rochester-MPCA Office 18 Wood Lake Drive SE

Updated every two years, the draft 2010 list brings the current total of impaired waters to 3,049 statewide on 1,205 lakes and 436 rivers. Water bodies can be listed for more than one pollutant or reach. The draft list is developed by the MPCA, and then sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval following an extensive public comment process.

Only a fraction of Minnesota's waters have been monitored and assessed so far for impairments. The MPCA has initiated or completed water monitoring in 21 percent of the state's 81 major watersheds. The state is on track to monitor all of the state's watersheds on a 10-year schedule.

"Monitoring the state's waters and determining their health is an involved process," Shannon Lotthammer, MPCA manager said. "We first gather at least two years of monitoring data, then analyze that data to determine if the waters meet state and federal standards for swimming, boating and fishing. If they don't, the waters are listed as impaired and undergo further study to determine how they can be restored to a healthy condition."

Of the 3,049 impairments on the list, the MPCA has already intensively studied and initiated restoration plans for 1,158. Many of the studies were completed with the active involvement and leadership of local partners. A water body is removed from the list only after it has been restored and meets all state and federal water quality standards. Nearly two-thirds of the new funding appropriated from the constitutional amendment passed last year will be used on water quality restoration and protection activities for the current two year budget period.

The proposed 2010 Impaired Waters list and methodology for listing are available on the MPCA's Web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-303dlist.html>. The list is formally on public notice from Oct. 19 to Nov. 19, 2009. Submit questions, comments or requests for additional information to Howard Markus at MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN, 55155, by phone at 651-757-2551 or e-mail at [howard.markus@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:howard.markus@pca.state.mn.us)

### **Field Day on Carbon Sequestration, Local Foods & Family Farming**

Ways family farms utilizing grass-based production systems can help reduce global warming while supplying the community with healthy food will be the focus of a special field day and local foods meal Saturday, Sept. 26, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Pastures A' Plenty farm near Kerkhoven. This field day is sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) and the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota. Attendance is limited for this free event. Attendance is limited for this special on farm event. To reserve a spot and for more information, contact LSP's Tom Taylor at 320-269-2105 or [ttaylor@landstewardshipproject.org](mailto:ttaylor@landstewardshipproject.org).

Pastures A' Plenty is located 9 3/4 miles north of Clara City, or 1 1/4 miles south of Highway 40 on Chippewa County Road 2. The address is 4075 & 4077 110th Ave. NE, Kerkhoven, MN 56252-9650.

This event will begin with a farm walk led by Jim and LeeAnn VanDerPol of Pastures A' Plenty. Pastures A' Plenty is a sustainable grass-based pork, chicken and replacement dairy cattle operation that has been in the VanDerPol family since 1952. Pastures A' Plenty is farmed by Jim and LeeAnn VanDerPol and Josh and Cindy VanDerPol.

During the farm tour, the VanDerPols will explain the grass-based system they use to produce livestock. There will be a working demonstrate on how to construct a rolling chicken house station to produce poultry on pasture. There will also be a presentation on how Pastures A' Plenty is using direct-marketing of its livestock products to get rewarded for its sustainable farming practices.

In addition, USDA soil scientist Abdullah Jaradat will give a presentation about the positive role grass-based farming systems can play in dealing with the global climate change problem. Jaradat will also describe the carbon sequestration studies he is undertaking at the North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab and Swan Lake Research Farm in Morris.

"How we live and take care of the land does not just affect ourselves and our neighbors, but evidence is mounting that our actions affect everyone on this earth," said LeeAnn VanDerPol. "We hope our farm is playing a small part in reversing such problems as global climate change."

The VanDerPols' nitrate-free brats will be featured during a local foods meal at the farm with Brau Brothers, Schell's beer and 1919 Root Beer. A free-will offering will be taken to cover the cost of the meal.

## **Job Announcements:**

### **District Manager – Scott SWCD**

The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is hiring a full-time district manager to provide administration and technical assistance along with ensuring that adequate resources exist to implement the District's programs and services to the conservation partners. The District Manager serves at the pleasure of the SWCD District Board of Supervisors. This is a self-directed, management position responsible for all District staff to carry out programs, policies, goals, commitments and other requirements as set forth by the elected SWCD Board of Supervisors. A background in business management, financial management, personal management, public relations/communication experience, computer technology skills and natural resource experience is necessary.

For more information: [http://minnesotajobs.com/view.php?job\\_id=993896](http://minnesotajobs.com/view.php?job_id=993896)

### **Resource Conservationist – Todd SWCD**

This position is responsible for providing Design and Technical Assistance for Water Resource Conservation Activities, implementing Todd County's Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, Natural Resource Block Grant Applications and Reporting in e-LINK, Education & Information Programs, Assisting with SWCD Programs and Activities and Water Quality Monitoring. Must have the ability to take direction, work independently, use good judgment and time management practices, possess the ability to set priorities and balance volumes of diverse work. Duties include providing clients with water resource protection options, practice design and guide through to project completion. To carry out the administrative responsibilities related to the Todd County Comprehensive Local Water Plan, Long Prairie River TMDL and proposed Swan River TMDL.

For more information <http://www.macde.us/jobs/Todd%20SWCD.pdf>

### **Program Manager Position – Lyndale Neighborhood**

The Youth Farm and Market Project is seeking a Program Manager that will run our Lyndale Neighborhood Program. This position is 1.0 FTE. Youth Farm and Market Project provides year-round, youth development programming for youths ages 9 – 18, utilizing experiential education and training, urban agriculture, gardens and greenhouses. We build youth leadership through planting, growing, preparing, and selling food. Youth Farm and Market Project currently works in 3 neighborhoods in the Twin Cities, Lyndale and Powderhorn in Minneapolis, and the West Side of St. Paul.

YFMP employs a unique progressive programming model, where the outcomes of each program, Youth Farmers (ages 9-11), All-Stars (ages 12-13) and Project LEAD (ages 14-18), building upon the outcomes of the previous set. Our goals are consistent through each program:

- 1) Build Young Leaders;
- 2) Promote Healthy Lifestyles;
- 3) Create Neighborhood Connectedness and Opportunities for Contribution; and
- 4) Develop & Nurture Healthy Relationships.

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

### **Program Manager Position – Powderhorn Neighborhood**

The Youth Farm and Market Project is seeking a Program Manager that will run our Powderhorn Neighborhood Program. This position is 1.0 FTE. Youth Farm and Market Project provides year-round, youth development programming for youths ages 9 – 18, utilizing experiential education and training, urban agriculture, gardens and greenhouses. We build youth leadership through planting, growing, preparing, and selling food. Youth Farm and Market Project currently works in 3 neighborhoods in the Twin Cities, Lyndale and Powderhorn in Minneapolis, and the West Side of St. Paul.

**Qualifications:** 3-5 year of Youth Development work experience necessary, experience working with diverse communities, experience with Urban Agriculture/gardening, we also will be looking for applicants with community organizing experience. Spanish speaking a plus.

Starting salary: BOQ, plus benefits, three weeks paid vacation. This is a full time position that will start February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with a paid training internship from November 2009 – February 2010.

Please mail or email a cover letter, resume and 3 references to: Hiring Committee – Powderhorn, Youth Farm and Market Project, 128 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> St., Minneapolis, MN 55408 or can be emailed into: [gunnar@youthfarm.net](mailto:gunnar@youthfarm.net) (please put “Powderhorn Program Manager Application” in subject line of email. *Applications should be received by Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 2009 no later than 5:00 p.m.* For additional organizational information visit our website at <http://www.youthfarm.net> or contact Gunnar Liden: 612-872-4226 or [gunnar@youthfarm.net](mailto:gunnar@youthfarm.net)

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

### **Water Quality Advisor – MN Department of Agriculture**

This position is responsible for the planning, assessment, response strategy development, implementation and educational aspects associated with nitrogen and associated fertilizer/pesticide BMP's in the Central Sands region of MN with emphasis in the following counties: Morrison, Todd, Stearns, Benton and Sherburne. This position will be responsible for the technical assistance and educational needs to growers and ag professionals.

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

## **Grant Opportunities:**

### **MPCA SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS, \$687,000 DOLLARS AVAILABLE**

Saint Paul, Minn. - The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking applications for grants to be used in the development of environmentally sustainable practices that prevent pollution and conserve resources. Both public and private organizations and partnerships are eligible. Applications are due Nov. 3, 2009.

Approximately \$687,000 is available. The MPCA Environmental Assistance Grant Round is a competitive, one-stage process. Applications must fall under one of the following focus areas:

- Waste prevention and reduction - implementing efficient and economically-sound practices to prevent and reduce waste at the source.
- Source-separated composting - reducing the amount of organic wastes entering disposal facilities.
- Stormwater sources - focus on providing assistance to Minnesota local government units for implementing measures to ensure that permitted stormwater sources do not contribute to the impairment or degradation of state waters.

To aid these efforts and to help organizations move toward more sustainable practices, the MPCA Environmental Assistance Grant Program offers grants on a yearly basis. Since 1985, more than \$12 million in grants has been awarded to organizations across Minnesota.

The complete request for proposal, instructions, and forms are available on the MPCA Web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html>. Applications must be submitted electronically by 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2009. For more information, interested parties can contact Mary Baker at 651-757-2208, toll-free at 1-800-657-3864 or by e-mail at [mary.baker@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.baker@state.mn.us)

### **\$2 million in grants available for monitoring lakes and streams**

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced today the availability of \$2 million in grant money for lake and stream monitoring projects. Water monitoring is often the first step toward protecting or improving water resources. Eligible applicants may apply through a competitive application process. Grant proposals are due to the MPCA by 4 p.m. on Nov. 6, 2009.

Eligible applicants include counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, water management organizations, nonprofits, Minnesota colleges and universities, and American Indian tribes. No matching or in-kind funds are required under this program.

The MPCA seeks applicants with experience in project administration, water quality monitoring and data management. The agency prefers projects that involve volunteers and that gather data for determining whether lakes and streams meet state water quality standards for aquatic life and/or aquatic recreation such as fishing. High-priority areas include the following watersheds:

- Thief River
- Big Fork
- Sandhill River
- Crow Ring River
- Redeye River
- Bois de Sioux River
- Long Prairie River
- Lake Superior (South)
- Nemadji River
- Mustinka River
- Minnesota River in the Granite Falls area
- Big Sioux River
- Mississippi River in the Twin Cities and Winona areas
- Cannon River
- Rock River
- Little Sioux River

For more information, potential applicants should contact Ron Schwartz of the MPCA at 651-757-2708 or [CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us). Details are also available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html>.

### **Events:**

October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday and Wednesday) is the **Nobel Conference – H2O Uncertain Resource** at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. This conference will examine the current state of world water resources. Immediate threats to the health of rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters, oceans, and all forms of aquatic environments will be confronted by leading scientists. Environmental ethics and potable water as a basic human right will be examined alongside human tragedy resulting from contaminated resources. For more information, <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2009/>

October 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Policy Form Series: Clean Water Legacy: Progress and Challenges in Protecting, Restoring and Preserving the Quality of Minnesota's Waters** from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00

p.m. at Gray Freshwater Center in Exelsior, MN. For more information: <http://www.freshwater.org/index.php/contact-us>

October 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> (Monday and Tuesday) is the **Water Resources Conference** at RiverCentre, St Paul. The Minnesota Water Resources Conference presents innovative and practical water resource management techniques and highlights research about Minnesota's water resources. For more information, <http://wrc.umn.edu/waterconf/index.htm>

November 7 (Saturday) is the **Crisis as Opportunity: Redesigning the Good Life Conference** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mankato Provincial House Conference Center (170 Good Counsel Drive. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thegoodlife.pdf>

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

### Water Quality Articles:

Opinion: 'Have you eaten today?' (St Paul Pioneer Press). It may be an urban myth - that there are children who've never seen a cow and who think that hamburger is manufactured in a back room of Kowalski's, wrapped in cellophane, bar-coded and ready to go.

Turning from apples to 'agritainment' (Minneapolis Star Tribune). As an apple orchard passes from father to sons, more focus on the core business is required.

Minnesotan Borlaug, who saved millions from hunger, dies (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The University of Minnesota graduate, who died Saturday, was called the "Apostle of Wheat" for the high-yield grain he perfected to help fill stomachs worldwide.

Parks money solidifying into firm plans (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Scott, Dakota counties are putting projects into action.

Xcel wanted rate hike to cover employee and executive perks, too (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Utility trims request after AG objects to customers paying for travel, other costs.

Commentary: Do we need coal for power? No (Minneapolis Star Tribune). No: Logic finally succeeds in the battle over new plant.

Commentary: Do we need coal for power? Yes (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Yes: Without Big Stone II, energy needs won't be met.

You're not alone in the shower: 15 kinds of bacteria are keeping you company (New York Times). There are some things it is better just not to think about. Like the 10,000 bacteria you inhale with each breath in the average office building. Or the 10 million bacteria in each glass of tap water.

Intersex fish, including bass in Mississippi, more widespread than thought (MinnPost). Smallmouth bass in the Mississippi River are sexually confused. Government biologists, in the first major study of the sexual organs of fish, found that nearly three out of four male bass sampled at lake City, Minn., have egg cells growing inside their sexual organs.

Clean Water Laws Are Neglected, at a Cost in Suffering (New York Times). Jennifer Hall-Massey knows not to drink the tap water in her home near Charleston, W.Va.

Road salt may be hurting aquatic life (Minneapolis Star Tribune). National report supports U research that links road salt to increasing chloride levels in metro-area rivers and streams.



North Mankato faces pollution investigation Two employees reprimanded for violation  
[http://www.mankatofreepress.com/local/local\\_story\\_263010006.html](http://www.mankatofreepress.com/local/local_story_263010006.html) (Mankato Free Press)

[Still lurking: notorious potato-famine organism](#) (MinnPost). The abundance of our farmers' markets this time of the year covers up an insidious threat that was lurking in farm fields. The notorious organism that set off the Irish potato famine in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century is threatening potato and tomato crops in the United States this year.

[Dog dies after exposure to toxic algae](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Officials are warning people to keep children and pets away from any suspicious-looking algae blooms after they linked the death of a 3-year-old black lab to toxic blue-green algae on a southern Minnesota lake.

[Health Ills Abound as Farm Runoff Fouls Wells](#) (New York Times). All it took was an early thaw for the drinking water here to become unsafe.

[Group launches Web site for dangerous chemicals](#) (Minnesota Daily). A Minnesota group advocating for stricter chemical regulations in commercial products launched a new Web site that lets people see the toxicity of more than 5,000 consumer and household goods.

[The dangers of salt on our roads](#) (MinnPost). Anyone who lives in Minnesota appreciates the value of salt in its non-culinary form.

[Court: County must fix wetlands](#) (Mankato Free Press). A long, expensive battle over who is responsible for allowing hundreds of acres of wetlands to drain and how the problem will be fixed is headed back to Nicollet County District Court.

*We paddled away at the rate of four or five miles an hour . . . when the otters were seen swimming amongst the zizania. Milor said the buffaloes were killed here about five years ago, but that he thinks the animals have been so persecuted that they will never return. The musk-rats were already at working building their conical houses on the marshy grounds, with mud and straw of the wild rice against the approach of winter. As we advanced through these low rice-grounds, clouds of wild ducks rose on the wing, and we killed them at our leisure from the canoe. – George Featherstonhaugh, 1835*

**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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