

October 1st Presentation: A Call for Wilderness Stewardship

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato will be hosting Clayton Daughenbaugh, a grassroots organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (<http://www.suwa.org/>) at **7 pm on Thursday, October 1st**. America's Red Rock Wilderness Act is currently in Congress. If passed, the Act will help protect some of the last wild spaces in our country from mining, drilling, off-road vehicles and other uses that would be detrimental to its quality.

There will be a short DVD followed by a question and answer session showing maps of Utah and the areas of interest, discussion of the situation regarding the legislation currently in congress and the importance and need for national support for the bill. The land to be protected is in Utah, but it is designated national land and the legislation regarding its use will affect us all.

Please come to learn, ask questions or show support for this important legislation. The UUFM is located at 937 Charles Ave in West Mankato (end of Blue Earth St). For info contact Becky Rossow at 507-388-1660 or <mailto:bfrogz@hickorytech.net>

The New Sputnik: China's decision to go green By THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Most people would assume that 20 years from now when historians look back at 2008-09, they will conclude that the most important thing to happen in this period was the Great Recession. I'd hold off on that. If we can continue stumbling out of this economic crisis, I believe future historians may well conclude that the most important thing to happen in the last 18 months was that Red China decided to become Green China.

Yes, China's leaders have decided to go green - out of necessity because too many of their people can't breathe, can't swim, can't fish, can't farm and can't drink thanks to pollution from its coal- and oil-based manufacturing growth engine. And, therefore, unless China powers its development with cleaner energy systems, and more knowledge-intensive businesses without smokestacks, China will die of its own development.

What do we know about necessity? It is the mother of invention. And when China decides it has to go green out of necessity, watch out. You will not just be buying your toys from China. You will buy your next electric car, solar panels, batteries and energy-efficiency software from China.

For the complete article go to <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/27/opinion/27friedman.html>

Two meter sea level rise unstoppable-experts By Gerard Wynn

OXFORD, England (Reuters) - A rise of at least two meters in the world's sea levels is now almost unstoppable, experts told a climate conference at Oxford University on Tuesday.

"The crux of the sea level issue is that it starts very slowly but once it gets going it is practically unstoppable," said Stefan Rahmstorf, a scientist at Germany's Potsdam Institute and a widely recognized sea level expert.

"There is no way I see to stop this rise, even if we have gone to zero emissions."

Rahmstorf said the best outcome was that after temperatures stabilized, sea levels would only rise at a steady rate "for centuries to come," and not accelerate.

Most scientists expect at least 2 degrees Celsius warming as a result of man-made greenhouse gas emissions, and probably more. The world warmed 0.7-0.8 degrees last century.

For the entire article: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090929/sc_nm/us_climate_seas_1

Job Announcements:

Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District Position

Date of closing: *Letters of application will be accepted through 4:30 pm, Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at the Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District office.*

- Job purpose: Manage the operations of the Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District and support the Board of Supervisors
- Reports to: Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors
- Wage range: \$46,000 to \$61,000 (Starting wage dependent on qualifications. Wage review after six months.)
- Hours: This is a salaried position. Hours will vary depending on workload. Normal hours are 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday.
- Primary duties and responsibilities: *Use the Announcement and detailed Position Description on the District website www.wabashaswcd.org to complete your application.* 1. Manage District operations, 2. Provide leadership/support for the District Board, 3. Maintains interagency relationships, 4. Supervise District employees and 5. Provide oversight for management of District financial affairs

Application: *Application for the position of District Manager for the Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District is completed by submitting a letter outlining your interest and particular skills applicable to the position and your resume. Submit applications to the District office:*

*Att'n: Personnel
Committee*

*Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation
District
611 Broadway; Wabasha, MN 55981*

For additional information regarding the District Manager position, you may contact the Wabasha SWCD office at 651-565-4673.

For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wabashadistrictmanager.pdf> or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dmpositionannouncement.pdf>

Events:

October 2nd, 3rd & 4th (Friday through Sunday) is the **2009 Meander – Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl** that takes place in the Prairie Waters region of Western Minnesota. For more information go to <http://www.prairiewaters.com>

October 6th & 7th (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 20th (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 26th – 27th (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://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Water Quality Articles:

[USDA to fund conservation effort in 12 states](#) (Associated Press). The Agriculture Department is pouring \$320 million into efforts to improve water quality in the Mississippi River basin.

[One central Minnesota grower says his pumpkin harvest will be down about 30 percent compared with last year's bumper crop.](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota's cool summer means fewer pumpkins for this Halloween.

[Wetlands loss outpacing restoration efforts](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). State and federal officials are using science to help target areas for wetland restoration as part of the state's 50-year plan to add 2 million acres of waterfowl habitat in the state; however, even though Minnesota is spending millions to restore wetlands, the state is still losing more than it restores.

[Southwestern counties downsize wind energy development plans](#) (Finance and Commerce). An old gravel pit in Lyon County could end up providing metro area counties with wind power if a long-awaited plan to wire renewable energy from southwestern Minnesota to the metro area materializes.

[Sen. Franken introduces bill for labeling household products](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Sen. Al Franken introduced legislation on Wednesday that would require household cleaning products, like furniture polish and laundry detergent, to carry labels with a complete list of ingredients.

[Fish know other fish by sensing telltale ripples](#) (MinnPost). Although humans experience their world through vision, touch and the other senses, many creatures gather information about their surroundings through unique sensory mechanisms that humans don't have.

[Fish and Wildlife Service draft plan to deal with climate change on wildlife](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wednesday released the draft of a plan to deal with the impact of climate change on wildlife and natural ecosystems.

[NASA data: Greenland, Antarctic ice melt worsening](#) (Associated Press). New satellite information shows that ice sheets in Greenland and western Antarctica continue to shrink faster than scientists thought and in some places are already in runaway melt mode.

[Pawlenty's current climate change stance differs from past](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). President Obama is promising new steps toward capping greenhouse gas emissions, but Gov. Tim Pawlenty is backing away from his earlier support for new regulations to slow global warming.

[Another invasive species found in Lake Mille Lacs](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued a release this week saying its staff discovered spiny waterfleas in Lake Mille Lacs last week. Zebra mussels, another invasive species, already is in the lake and officials have been trying to educate boaters and anglers about that problem.

[Scientists assess planetary tipping points -- and find some may have been reached](#) (MinnPost). Bad news about the state of the planet comes at you in waves, and even the most eco-conscious audience must have a hard time keeping up with the latest threat trends.

[Earth is reaching its breaking point, U scientists warn](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). U scientists join others in warning that people may have the planet near environmental breaking point.

[Recession in recycling](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Hard times for pure recyclers such as Eureka could mean higher costs down the road for many cities in the metro area.

[Feds to fund Mississippi to clean up from Minnesota to the Gulf](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The federal effort involving 12 states is aimed at shrinking Gulf of Mexico's "dead zone"

[Rebates available soon for energy-saving home upgrades](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Another economic stimulus program encouraging Minnesotans to make energy upgrades to their homes takes effect this week.

[Colleges greening up classes, campuses](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Schools meet demand by offering an increasing number of majors and degrees focused on the environment.

[Warmer weather threatens moose in Minnesota](#) (Associated Press). Researchers say such sightings of moose, an icon in Minnesota's northwoods, are likely to become more rare

[Paul Krugman: Get ready for the next big fight: over climate change](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). So, have you enjoyed the debate over health care reform? Have you been impressed by the civility of the discussion and the intellectual honesty of reform opponents?

[Klobuchar pushes for federal electronic recycling standards](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar is sponsoring legislation that she says would help the U.S. develop green electronics and new ways to recycle them.

[University of Minnesota releases new wheat variety](#) (Associated Press). The University of Minnesota is releasing a new wheat variety named Sabin.

[Apple crop impresses growers](#) (Mankato Free Press). The Haralsons are heavenly. The Regents are ridiculously good. And the Sweet Sixteens are 16 times as sweet as last year.

[A paper-thin paper battery](#) (MinnPost). Researchers at Sweden's Uppsala University have developed a quick-charging, high energy battery that is thin, flexible, and made of cellulose fibers derived from algae.

[Sen. Klobuchar Proposes Tougher Formaldehyde Rules](#) (WCCO TV). Senator Amy Klobuchar announced Monday that she is pushing for stricter standards on wood products with formaldehyde at a St. Louis Park Home Depot.

[Scientist offers dire scenario at climate-change symposium in Minneapolis](#) (MinnPost). Dire projections on global warming effects issued recently by the U.N.'s International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) may prove to be as comparatively tranquil as "a Sunday school picnic" when the next scientific reports come out.

[Old tires prove to be solution for new Anoka County road](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). More than 2 million shredded tires helped lay the groundwork for part of an Anoka County road.

[Impaired waters increasing](#) (Faribault Daily News). It appears more of Rice County's — and Minnesota's — waterways will join a list of impaired state waters.

As you sit on the hillside, or lie prone under the trees of the forest, or sprawl wet-legged by a mountain stream, the great door, that does not look like a door, opens. – Stephen Graham, [The Gentle Art of Tramping](#)

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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