



Minnesota River Weekly Update

August 20th, 2013

Fish kill in West Fork Beaver Creek: wastewater release reported

A Minnesota Pollution Control Agency investigation is under way into a fish kill in West Fork Beaver Creek south of Danube in Renville County. The M-P-C-A believes the cause of the low dissolved oxygen is the biological breakdown of organic material, a process that uses up oxygen in the water. The impacts of the low dissolved oxygen were evident for about 10 miles downstream. Investigators do not believe that toxic chemicals were present. Today the Minnesota Duty Officer received a report from the Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative near Renville, stating that a valve in its wastewater treatment system had been left open the evening of Wednesday, August 14, resulting in a discharge of “non-treated water” into county ditch thirty-seven, which goes into West Fork Beaver Creek. The amount released was estimated to be more than 4,000 and less than 20,000 gallons. The cooperative’s facility holds a water quality permit from the M-P-C-A. Discharge of untreated wastewater is not authorized by the permit.

The cooperative is working to install treatment measures, such as placing pumps to aerate water in the stream to increase dissolved oxygen levels. Other possible measures include pumping contaminated water from the stream and spreading it on land. Treatment activities and water sampling are expected to continue over the weekend as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency continues to investigate the incident.

For more information visit the [MPCA’s news](#)

Minnesota agencies roll out silica sand website

With people across Minnesota taking an interest in the mining and processing of silica sand, commonly called “frac” sand, a group of state agencies have put together a new website for those who want to track their activities. The website will help people interested in what the state is doing to develop new rules for managing and permitting silica sand projects. It provides links to each of the state agencies charged with making new rules or managing activities involved with the mining, transportation and processing of silica sand. The state agencies doing rulemaking on silica sand are the Environmental Quality Board, the Pollution Control Agency, and the Department of Natural Resources. The other agencies -- the Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Transportation -- do not have rule-making responsibilities but were included in the new website because they are closely tied with some issues in the silica sand industry.

Minnesotans interested in tracking the rulemaking may visit silicasand.mn.gov for public notices, notices of public meetings, and links to the activities of all the agencies.

Ag water quality certification demo at Farmfest

A demonstration at Farmfest Aug. 7 helped to explain more details about the workings of the new [Agricultural Water Quality Certification program](#). Following a brief overview by Matt Wohlman, Dept. of Agriculture assistant commissioner, Josh Stamper scrolled through a program designed to allow landowners to fill in an assortment of

values arriving at a score between 1 and 10. Measures are divided into field sensitivity and nutrient management categories. The computer-based tool is based on one developed by the NRCS in Oregon, Stamper says, and is customized for Minnesota using the ag BMP handbook, and other variables more aligned with weather, geography, and land use. Trained certifiers, such as staff from local SWCD offices, will confirm results for granting certification. Certification lasts for ten years, during which a producer will not be subject to new water quality regulations. The program will be tested in four watersheds around the state: Elm Creek, Middle Sauk, Whiskey Creek, and Whitewater River.

Minnesota River group pursues 'National Blueways' designation

The Minnesota River could receive a boost from a national recognition program highlighting major river basins. The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance has nominated the Minnesota River to become a "National Blueway." The U.S. DOI established the National Blueways System in 2012 to promote a network of nationally significant rivers and their watersheds that are highly valued as economic, recreational, social, and ecological assets. A delegation from the Blueways nomination team will meet at noon, Monday, August 26 at the Joseph Nicollet Tower and Museum in Sisseton, SD. There will be a visit to the Little Minnesota River source at Sica Hollow State Park, followed by an open house/community listening session from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Community Room in Sisseton.

For more information about the event contact Patrick Moore at riverartisan@gmail.com or (320) 841-1487. For more information on the nomination visit the Minnesota [River nomination](#) website.

Le Sueur River Watershed Network meeting August 27 to discuss organization

The Le Sueur River Watershed Network will meet 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27 at the [Amboy Cottage Cafe](#) to discuss how to organize going forward. What kind of formal platform will be considered in small and large group discussions. Those wishing eat should arrive early, 5 p.m. or so (Dutch Treat). All will receive a complimentary piece of blackberry pie; please RSVP by e-mailing Patrick Moore at riverartisan@gmail.com.

- Kimberly Musser, Water Resources Center, kimberly.musser@mnsu.edu; Patrick J. Moore, www.riverartisan.com.

Revisions to MPCA water management plan are open for public comment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announces a public comment period, beginning August 19 and running through September 17 on proposed changes to the Minnesota Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan. The plan contains strategies that help protect and improve the quality of Minnesota's water resources by identifying activities to reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution, such as runoff from agricultural lands and unregulated urban areas.

For more information and copies of these documents, visit the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website](#).

MPCA/MSCA meetings in August will focus on permits for large feedlots

The MPCA and MSCA will host five information meetings around the state for cattlemen and women looking to expand their livestock operations. The meetings will focus on how a producer can obtain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit for a feedlot with 1,000 or more animal units. The meetings will provide producers with the opportunity to meet the MPCA staff and feedlot program engineers working in their region as well as delegated county feedlot officers. They will also afford an opportunity for producers to get practical information on the NPDES/SDS permit process, including application requirements and tips for navigating the process smoothly. Meetings are scheduled for:

August 21st, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - MPCA Brainerd office, 7678 College Road, Baxter

August 22nd, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - MPCA Rochester office, 18 Wood Lake Drive, S.E. Rochester

To register for the meetings visit the [MSCA website](#) or call Joe Martin, MSCA executive director at (612) 208-6722

BWSR plans to open Clean Water grant applications Sept. 3

The Minnesota BWSR will hold a competitive grant application round this fall using funds appropriated from the Clean Water Land and Legacy amendment during the 2013 legislative session. The Board will consider authorizing the grant program at its August 29th meeting. If authorized, the grant application period will run from Sept. 3 - Oct. 4 with funds awarded at the Board's January meeting. Training materials on the application process and details of the request for proposals are being developed. Web-based trainings are planned for Aug. 21 and 22. [Online registration](#) for the training is now open.

Three funding categories from previous years will be requesting grant applications: Clean Water Assistance, Accelerated Implementation, and Community Partners Conservation Program.

Nitrogen fertilizer plan: Listening sessions throughout state

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently released a draft revision of the Minnesota's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP) for public comment. This plan is the state's blueprint for prevention or minimization of the impacts of nitrogen fertilizer on groundwater. A draft of the 2013 [Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan](#) is available for public review. MDA is requesting [comments on the 2013 plan](#). Comments will be accepted through Nov. 1, 2013. To assist the public in understanding these issues and the plan, MDA will be

hosting a series of [public listening sessions](#) across the state during the month of September. The meetings are free and open to the public:

Marshall, Minnesota

Thursday September 5, 2013

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Marshall Public Library

201 C Street, Marshall, MN 56258

Crookston, Minnesota

Monday September 16, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

University of Minnesota Crookston Student Center Bede Ballroom

2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716

Wadena, Minnesota

Tuesday September 17, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Wadena - Deer Creek High School Robertson Theatre

600 Colfax Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 56482

St Cloud, Minnesota

Wednesday September 18, 2013

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Great River Regional Library St Cloud

1300 W. St. Germain St, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Rochester, Minnesota

Monday September 23, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center

2900 19th Street NW Rochester, MN 55901

Roseville, Minnesota

Wednesday September 25, 2013

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Roseville Public Library Community Program Room

2180 North Hamline Ave, Roseville, MN 55113

MPCA invites comments on statewide permit for burying concrete

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is inviting comments through September 11 on a statewide permit that would regulate burial of waste concrete. Under this permit, homeowners and others could dispose of concrete by burying it on sites where the concrete originated, as long as they applied for a permit and certain conditions were met. The concrete cannot be contaminated with petroleum products or hazardous substances. Also, the local zoning authority must sign the permit application. The draft permit is available on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's [Public Notices webpage](#).

Articles

[High-end apartments could be in the works for Egan farmland](#)

Susan Feyder, August 10, StarTribune

A piece of farmland in an otherwise developed area of [Egan](#) could be on its way to a new future as a complex with data centers, medical offices and upscale apartments.

[University of Minnesota research asks, "Can pennycress saves the world?"](#)

Terry Carter, August 13, KFAI Radio

If you're a farmer in Minnesota, you have to think about what you can do to keep your soil from washing and blowing away during the long winter.

[Watershed Districts Protect and Educate](#)

John Helland, August 12, Conservation Minnesota

As an advisory committee member to the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, I had the opportunity last week to attend an open house where their new office and educational facility will be. It may be the nicest headquarters for any watershed district in Minnesota.

[We're banking too much on corn](#)

Collin Hiew, August 14, Minnesota 2020

Despite a rough start, most Minnesota corn fields are full and green, contributing to what the USDA predicts will be a "...[record corn crop](#) of 13.76 billion bushels in 2013..."

[Plants used for bee habitat might kill bees](#)

Dan Gunderson, August 14, MPR News

Back yard gardeners who plant bee-friendly plants and flowers, may actually be killing bees. A new [report released today by Friends of the Earth](#), showed that plants purchased at large retailers can contain insecticides toxic to bees and other insects.

[Minn. Kicks off large study of Mississippi River](#)

August 16, MPR News

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (AP) — State pollution officials have begun monitoring the Upper Mississippi River as part of a large-scale study to analyze the waterway's health in terms of aquatic life, recreation and fish consumption.

[Naturally Grown: An alternative label to organic](#)

Mary Esch, August 17, MPR News

SCHAGHTICOKE, N.Y. (AP) -- Justine and Brian Denison say they adhere to all the growing practices required for organic certification, yet if they label their beans and tomatoes "organic" at the farmer's market, they could face federal charges and \$20,000 or more in fines.

[Fish kill investigated in Renville County](#)

Associated Press, August 18, Pioneer Press

WILLMAR, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is investigating a fish kill in Renville County. Authorities were called Wednesday night about dead fish in West Fork Beaver Creek south of Danube.

[When will solar get cheap enough for everyone to use?](#)

Kasia Cieplak-Mayr von Baldeff and Kyle Thetford, August 20, Mother Jones

It's taken 60 years, but solar energy is tantalizingly close to beating fossil fuels on price.

[Congress should reconsider ethanol blend rate](#)

John Burkel and Mike Helgeson, August 16, StarTribune

The Renewable Fuel Standard that mandates the rate has been causing more harm than good, so Congress is right to act. Congress passed the Renewable Fuel Standard in 2005 to ease our country's reliance on foreign oil. Blending a mandated amount of ethanol (which, in the United States, is mainly made from corn) into gasoline to help achieve this seemed like a good idea at the time.

[MN Agriculture: Mitigating the Effects of Climate Change](#)

August 16, Public News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- Farmers and ranchers across Minnesota and the nation are undertaking new efforts to help mitigate climate change. Peter Donovan, who chairs the Soil Carbon Coalition, says there are practices that can turn atmospheric carbon into soil organic matter and increase water-holding capacity.

[Conservation Corps brought rustic style to Sibley State Park](#)

Ann Wessel, August 17, MPR News

NEW LONDON, Minn. (AP) — The Veterans Conservation Corps camp that once stood on the oak-shaded rise overlooking Lake Andrew housed, fed and put to work the World War I veterans -- up to 200 at a time -- who built the granite-and-timber structures that transformed Sibley State Park from public property to regional destination.

[Minnesota cropland still prized, but data show prices may be leveling out](#)

Tom Webb, August 18, Pioneer Press

If you listen to farmers, Minnesota cropland values rose 20 percent last year. But if you look at the actual sales across Minnesota, it's a more measured story. Instead of galloping higher, a survey based on every farmland sale in Minnesota showed almost no gain at all in 2012 -- and that was even before corn prices plunged this summer.

[Higher lake levels in Minnesota this year mean less milfoil](#)

Bill McAuliffe, August 20, StarTribune

A cool, wet spring and early summer brought a surprising benefit to much of Minnesota: less milfoil on lakes.

Events

**Aug. 19th -
Aug. 25th**

"Forever Greens" Third Crops

Tuesday, August 20th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: U of M St. Paul Campus, Research Plots on Fairview Ave., St. Paul, MN
Brief Description: Join Rural Advantage and U of M to view and discuss some of the Forever Green research plots on the St. Paul campus. Of particular focus will be hybrid hazelnuts (genomics, propagation techniques, nut production, and weed management), intermediate wheatgrass (genomics and yield), native

prairie mixes (yields), prairie cordgrass, perennial sunflowers (genomics and yield), and perennial biomass crops (bioenergy yields).

For more information contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Agriculture Water Quality Projects

Thursday, August 22nd, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Darwin & Sandy Roberts Farm, 1838 260th Avenue, Granada, MN
Brief Description: Elm Creek is located in the Blue Earth River Watershed in south central Minnesota. The MPCA has placed Elm Creek on its Impaired Water List due to excess nutrients, excess soil, and high fecal coliform counts. Researchers from the University of Minnesota have put together a number of water quality options that farmers can place on their land to help with issues in Elm Creek. They are working with local farmer Darwin Roberts, the Martin SWCD, the NRCS, and the MDA to construct a few of these options for demonstration and research purposes. Currently a constructed wetland with tiling routed through it before reaching Elm Creek; two woodchip bioreactors; and a streambank stabilization project are being studied.

For more information on this event contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Traverse County Fair

Thursday, August 22nd - Sunday, August 25th, 2013

Location: Wheaton, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Traverse County Fair Premium Book](#)

Digital Photography for Children

Friday, August 23rd, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic shelter on the waterfalls side of Minneopa.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Biking in the Upper Minnesota Watershed at Lac qui Parle State Park

Saturday, August 24th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lac qui Parle Lake, Upper and Lower State Park

Brief Description: This up to 3-hour adventure offers something for everyone. Participants may choose from paved trails in the newer upper park, on the east side of the lake, to a 19 miles loop that provides the rider with a variety of hills and straight terrain, on very lightly trafficked county tar roads. Alternative 5 to 10 mile round trips will be available. The old lower park on the west side where LQP River comes into the lake has gravel roads and is nicely forested and beautiful old WPA buildings. The new upper park on the east side has tar loop roads, and spectacular views from high hills above the lake. There are hiking paths on both parks, with native prairie in upper park. A nice DNR interpretive center with many stuffed birds, and a variety of animal pelts, is handy on the east side.

For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/event/biking-in-the-upper-minnesota-watershed-at-lac-qui-parle-state-park/> or contact CURE at peg@cureriver.org

Old Schools Day

Sunday, August 25th, 2013 @ 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: The Harkin Store will be having a program on old schools in Nicollet County. There will be old pictures and old school book and a picture of the old private school, the Robinson school, in the town of West Newton. Come enjoy and learn more about the village of West Newton and the Harkin Store that was prosperous in the early 1870's.

For more information contact the Harkin Store at (507) 354-8666 or the Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

Fort Ridgely Event to Remember 1862 Soldiers, Settlers

Sunday, August 25th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely Cemetery of Fairfax, MN

Brief Description: A ceremony will take place to remember the soldiers and settlers who lost their lives in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Estimates range from 600-800 killed in the Minnesota River Valley and vicinity during the six-week war. The Fort Ridgely event will focus on the soldiers and settlers. The 24 soldiers killed at the Battle of Redwood Ferry are buried in the fort's cemetery. The ceremony is under the auspices of the Civil War Commemorative Task Force. Speakers at the event include Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, Rep. Dean Urdahl, R-Action Township; Pat Gaarder of the Minnesota Historical Society; John Williamson, a descendent of missionaries who worked with the Dakota; Jan Klein, co-chair of Family and Friends of Dakota War Victims; and John Grabko, representing the Fillmore County soldiers killed at Redwood Ferry.

**Aug. 26th -
Sept. 1st**

Wild Edibles

Friday, August 30th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: People eat wild edibles for a number of reasons including as a legitimate way economizing their food costs, as an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, and in rare situations they can be essential for survival. We will talk about some of the more recognizable plants growing in the area like the common dandelion which can be used in salads or even as a coffee-like beverage. Meet at the parking lot of the Creek Picnic Area.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Riverblast

Saturday, August 30th – August 31st, 2013

Location: Riverside Park, New Ulm, MN

Brief Description: Dear Family of the River, The biggest and longest running celebration of the Minnesota River "Riverblast" is on Labor Day Friday and Saturday at Riverside Park in New Ulm MN as always. It's pretty early this year and it is sneaking up on all of us. On stage live music with an incredible line up of talent all free of charge with no fences. On site camping as always, on site kids playground, beautiful riverfront view, horse drawn trolley rides, make your own post card photo opportunity, Regional River History and Information Center open on site with numerous displays and artifacts, great food including Barbeque, all kinds of adult and soft beverages, blues for kids workshop with free harmonicas (call to register [507 276 2280](tel:5072762280)), Free Cajun and Zydeco dance lessons on early Saturday evening, River Informational Booth. No Coolers, No Dogs At Fest Site see attached poster or you can visit <http://riverblast.net> for more info.

Geocaching 101

Saturday, August 31st, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Join the naturalist for this high tech treasure hunt and learn the basics of this new worldwide recreational sport. GPS units are provided. There will be chance to test your GPS skill on a critter activity before going out to find the park geocache. Limit of 20 people (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Digital Photography for Children

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic shelter on the waterfalls side of Minneopa.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

What lives in the river; fish

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: How well is the fishery in the Minnesota River Basin doing? Join us for a look at how the river's fishery has improved from the days of the 1950s when biologists found more peas and carrots floating in the river than fish. In this presentation, visitors will discover some of the more interesting fish that live in the Minnesota River and what is behind this improvement in both numbers and species diversity. There will also be some fun activities for children of all ages. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudlka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Night Hike

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 9:00p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: There are many cool places to go exploring at Minneopa State Park. On this walk we will start out at the picnic areas on the campground side and head down into the Minneopa Creek Valley ending up at the confluence with the Minnesota River. Along the way we will stop to talk about some of the plants, wildlife, trees and geology of this area. A hike is a great way to experience the natural world around us and hear the sounds of bird chirping, water flowing over rocks and the wind blowing through the leaves. The total distance is around 2 miles and it will take us around an hour and a half. Be prepared for some steep and rough terrain. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side of the park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

**Sept. 2nd -
Sept. 8th**

Documentary Film Series - Queen of Versailles

Thursday, September 5th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center, St. Peter, MN

Brief Description: Please join us for the 2013-14 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7pm, at the Treaty Site History Center, from September through May.

Please join us on September 5th for the season's first film: *Queen of Versailles*. The documentary film follows a billionaire couple as they begin construction on a mansion inspired by Versailles. During the next two years, their empire, fueled by the real estate bubble and cheap money, falters due to the economic crisis.

Future films include *5 Broken Cameras*, *Kind Hearted Woman*, *Strongman* and more.

Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information contact the Society at (507) 934-2160 or at museum@nchsmn.org

Lac qui Parle County Fair

Thursday, September 6th - Sunday, September 8th, 2013

Location: Madison, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Lac qui Parle County Fair's](http://Lac qui Parle County Fair's website) website

Beginning Hop Grower Workshop

Saturday, September 7th, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Join the Minnesota Hop Growers Association (MHGA), University of Minnesota and Rural Advantage for a day jam-packed with information for the beginning hop grower. The workshop will be held at the University's SROC where hop research has been conducted for the last few years. Attendees will learn about history of hop productions and brewing, how to establish and operate a successful hop yard, harvesting and processing, economics, and marketing. There will also be time for discussion and networking. The experienced presenters will include hop growers, researchers, processors, and brewers. Registration fees (\$25 for members, \$50 for non-members, \$75 for registration and one year membership to MHGA) will include materials, refreshments, and lunch.

To register visit the MHGA website www.mhga.org

**Sept. 9th -
Sept 15th**

Agroforestry for Biomass Production and Nutrient Management

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Empire Wastewater Treatment, 2540 W. 197th Street, Farmington, MN 55024

Brief Description: The University of Minnesota, USDA National Agroforestry Center, and Metropolitan Council have collaborated on a project to evaluate the productive potential and the nutrient uptake of woody and herbaceous crops planted in the alley crop style. The research plots include switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, an alfalfa/intermediate wheatgrass mix, a native tallgrass prairie mix, and hybrid poplar and willow. There will be a "walk-n-talk" discussing the value of these perennial grasses.

For more information contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Project WET Workshop

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Hyland Lake Park Reserve Visitor Center, Lakeview Room, 10145 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN

Brief Description: This one-day workshop will train educators to incorporate Project WET activities into curriculum. Participants will engage in several fun, hands-on indoor and outdoor learning activities appropriate for use with students. WET activities are: correlated to Minnesota Academic Standards; interactive and hands-on; ideal for reaching different learning styles; flexible to be used in- or outdoors; easily incorporated into existing curricula. Costs \$15

For more information or to register contact Erica (952) 358-2276 or at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org

University of Minnesota SROC's Centennial Celebration

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: SROC, 35838 120th Street, Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Join the University of Minnesota in celebrating 100 years at the Southern Research Center in Waseca! There will be booths and activities for interests of all kinds. The Centennial program begins at 5:00 p.m. The picnic supper will be from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact Southern Research and Outreach Center at (507) 835-3620 or nelso191@tc.umn.edu

St. Peter Reads Announces the Fall 2013 Community Read

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus

Brief Description: Saint Peter Reads is pleased to announce the Fall 2013 Community Read in conjunction with Gustavus Adolphus College's *Reading in Common*. This year's book is Tore Murden McClure's *A Pearl in the Storm*. Join author McClure for a book lecture and discussion. This program is free and open to the public. Books are available at area libraries and select local merchants.

For more information find us online at <http://stpeterreads.wordpress.com> or call St. Peter Community and Family Education (507) 934-3048.

Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association's 8th Annual Symposium

Saturday, September 21st, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Location: Granite Falls Kilowatt Center

Brief Description: In the morning will be Franky Jackson, the Renville County Historical Society Director, speaking on "The Aftermath of the U.S./Dakota War and the Exile of the Dakota" and in the afternoon Bill Crowder, an historian will be explaining and demonstrating Civil War era bugle calls and commands.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.woodlakebattlefield.com/> or call (507) 280-9970

Job Announcements

AREA HYDROLOGIST

Department: Eco & Water Resources/Region 4

Closing Date: August 22nd, 2013

Location(s): Faribault, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: THIS POSITION IS LOCATED IN WATERVILLE MINNESOTA

This position exists to ensure sustainability of the State's water resources through management of the activities of the public within a geographic work area comprised of counties in the Le Sueur River, Cannon River, Shell Rock River and other adjoining watersheds to be determined. This position also completes work assignments that involve state-wide projects and policy

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13DNR000660

GROUND WATER SPECIALIST

Department Ecological & Water Resources, Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: August 23rd, 2013

Location(s): Fergus Falls, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: THE LOCATION OF THIS POSITION IS NEGOTIABLE BETWEEN FERGUS FALLS AND DETROIT LAKES.

This position will provide expert technical analysis on the nature, distribution, appropriation and sustainability of groundwater in Northwestern Minnesota and address conflicts over the use of groundwater arising where water quantity and quality concerns exist.

Job duties include:

- Perform and document high level technical review of groundwater supply issues and assignments, including: aquifer test design, aquifer tests, local and regional hydrogeologic analysis, access and use of state-wide geo-informational resources, including: geospatial and geomapping data systems, CWI, groundwater and stream databases and data systems.

- Assist in the development of targeted and regional groundwater level monitoring networks for watersheds or sub-watersheds.

- Assist units of government and the public with groundwater resource planning and local groundwater issues.

- Work collaboratively with water users, local governments, other state agencies and Unit and Division staff on the technical aspects of groundwater allocation planning, water use planning, and water use permitting

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13DNR000665

MAPPING PROJECT HYDROLOGIST

Department: Ecological & Water Resources, Natural Resources Department

Closing Date: August 26th, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply:

Only current employees of this agency

Responsibilities:

This position exists to provide technical analysis and interpretation of groundwater and geologic data and to prepare maps, map plates, reports, and other materials illustrating hydrogeologic characteristics and geologic sensitivity to pollution.

The mapping project hydrologist will design and carry out field data collection activities to characterize the hydrogeology and geologic sensitivity of a project area. The field data collection will include sampling water wells for chemical and isotope analysis, assisting geophysical data collection under the direction of program geophysics staff, and acquiring other field data in support of atlas projects. The hydrologist will research, compile, plot, and analyze data from a variety of sources using appropriate methods, tools, and software and use the data collected and analyzed to develop interpretive maps, map plates, technical reports, and other materials for publication.

This position will require significant travel to complete field data collection tasks. Overnight travel of up to four consecutive days extending over several weeks will be required periodically throughout the year. Extended work days and some weekend work may be required.

For more information and to apply <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000682

NR FORESTRY SPECIALIST

Department:

Forestry/Central Region, Natural Resources Department

Closing Date:

August 26th, 2013

Location(s):

Little Falls Area Forestry, MN

Who May Apply:

Only qualified bidders

Responsibilities:

Natural Resource Forestry Specialists perform professional level program support by implementing Division of Forestry Programs. Complete field assignments and special administrative assignments in all aspects of Department operations at the forestry Area administrative level. Division of Forestry Programs include State Land Management, Resource Protection, Cooperative Forest Management, Forest Resource Information and Planning, Nursery and Tree Improvement, and Administrative & Technical Support.

State Land Management Program: Implement state forest management policy and procedure. Manage and develop forest resources; appraise forest resources for harvest; design harvest systems and regulations for timber sales; mark timber sale boundaries; administer state timber sales; measure cut forest products; and inspect state leases. Communicate to the public department policies, procedures and regulations.

Cooperative Forest Management Program: Implement cooperative forest management policy and procedure. Assist non-industrial forest woodland owners with the stewardship of their lands by providing forest management assistance and advice. Communicate to the public department policies, procedures and regulations.

Resource Protection Program: Implement forest resource protection policy and procedure. Collect fire weather information; extinguish wildfires; and enforce natural resource protection statutes. Communicate to the public department policies, procedures and regulations.

Forest Resource Information and Analysis Program: Implement forest resource information and analysis policy and procedure. Measure state and county administered lands following Department of Natural Resources Cooperative Stand Assessment (CSA) Program policy and procedure; collect and record forest resources information.

Formal Training: As assigned.

Operational Support: Direct the work of technicians, laborers, temporary crews, and contractors.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>
Posting # 13DNR000675

FOOD INSPECTOR - INTERMITTENT

- Department:** Department of Agriculture
- Closing Date:** December 12th, 2013
- Location(s):** Butterfield, MN; Cold Spring, MN; Austin, MN; Melrose, MN; Pelican Rapids, MN; Faribault, MN; Marshall, MN; Willmar, MN; Windom, MN; Worthington, MN
- Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers
- Responsibilities:** Entry-level Food Inspector positions filled through this job announcement generally work in slaughter plants. Our Food Inspectors:
- Examine food animals in privately-owned meat or poultry plants
 - Perform their duties before and after slaughter, guaranteeing that the product is not contaminated
 - Maintain sanitation procedures
 - Are a valued member of a dynamic team that ensures the product is fit to eat and compliant with Federal laws

Food Inspectors and Consumer Safety Inspectors (slaughter) are involved in ante-mortem inspection of livestock or poultry and post-mortem inspection of red meat or poultry. This inspection activity is performed in a noisy industrial environment with large moving machinery that cannot be stopped instantly. Workstations and walkway can be extremely narrow and slippery. Excellent stability and balance is required. Frequent physical activities such as walking, climbing, standing, and kneeling are required, including climbing and walking on catwalks. Various environmental conditions, ranging from sub-freezing temperatures to frequent summertime temperatures at 80 to 90 degrees are common, with extreme humidity. Inspection activity requires rapid, constant repetitive motion with both hands and wrists. Red meat viscera inspection requires palpitation of organs and slicing with extremely sharp knives. Accurate color vision is essential to notice subtle shades of product color in the detection of abnormalities that make a product unfit for human consumption.

For more information visit

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/331796400> or to apply visit www.FoodSafetyJobs.gov 'Food Inspector Online Application Process'

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe." - John Muir

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 Basin.