



Minnesota River Weekly Update

October 15th, 2013

Clean Water Act Bill Signing

Senator John Hoffman (Champlin, Coon Rapids and Brooklyn Park) joined Governor Mark Dayton as he signed the Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources and Commerce bill. Senator Hoffman is the chief Senate author of the Clean Water Accountability Act (CWAA) which is included in the Omnibus bill now signed into law. The CWAA lays out four specific requirements for watershed restoration and protection plans: accurately identifying pollution sources; specifying pollution reduction goals; developing priority funding plans; and reporting back to Minnesotans. Former Senator and Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Gene Merriam, Executive Director of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership Steve Morse (former Senator), House author Representative John Persell and others who work collaboratively on this important legislation.

"We now have law being implemented that improves upon how we identify and clean up one of our great Minnesota resources - water," said Senator Hoffman. He also added, "it took diverse interests - state agencies, farmers, farm organizations, the environmental community and of course of bi-partisan legislative effort to make this important improvements. Working together works!"

For more information email [Amerlia Cerling](mailto:Amerlia.Cerling) or call at (651) 296-1939

SEEK is Integrating Environmental and Outdoor Education into Your Classroom

This new section grew out of a two-year program that conducted in June to promote Environmental and Outdoor Education (EOE) in schools. Recognizing that students are increasingly disconnected from nature, the 2010 Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$300,000 from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to coordinate a project to train and support efforts of schools and teachers to integrate environmental and outdoor education into the instruction of academic standards. Professional development and grants of up to \$8,000 were provided to six pilot schools to support 50 teachers and administration in their use of the environment and outdoors as a context for student learning, which resulted in engaging over 1,000 additional students in EOE on a regular basis during the 2011-2013 school years.

[Integrating Environmental and Outdoor Education into Your Classroom](#) includes model lessons, research on the benefits of environmental and outdoor education (EOE), specifics about the Minnesota Department of Education project, information about participating pilot schools, the Green Ribbon Schools program, and additional resources on how you can integrate environmental and outdoor education into your classroom.

Outdoor council to recommend \$103 million in funding

The Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council voted Sept. 20 to recommend nearly \$103 million in funding to the 2014 Legislature for 30-plus proposals. The funding comes from the additional sales tax authorized by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The council had received 56 proposals totaling more than \$269 million in response to its call for funding for fiscal year 2015. Among the proposals recommended for funding are \$9.85 million to Pheasants Forever for "Accelerating the Wildlife Management Area Program (phase 6)" and \$9.21 million to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources for the "Reinvest in Minnesota-Wetlands Reserve Program Partnership (phase 4)." For details of the Sept. 20 meeting and proposals, visit the [council website](#).

Small town hits the target with habitat project

Madelia, the Pheasant Capital of Minnesota, recently bagged several benefits for its community with a habitat project. By converting old sewage treatment ponds to hunting grounds, it saved more than \$1 million over the cost of doing the typical cleanup. The town also landed the Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener for 2013. And the area it created is accessible for non-traditional hunters such as those using wheelchairs.

"In our opinion it was the most cost-effective way to handle the situation. And it's good wildlife habitat. It was a win-win we felt, for everybody, for the community, for the taxpayers, for the wildlife," said Jim Pettersen, mayor of Madelia from 2003-2010.

Madelia lies along the Watonwan River in south-central Minnesota. In 1993, the town upgraded its wastewater treatment system to accommodate its growth. While this was good for the river and downstream waters, it left three ponds, covering more than 33 acres, in need of cleanup. The ponds held biosolids — fecal matter and other material — that had settled out of wastewater. Because of the potential to pollute streams and lakes, the MPCA requires the biosolids to be removed and disposed of appropriately.

For other communities with ponds to clean up, Madelia recommends taking careful aim.

"My advice would be look at what needs and interests your city has. And see if there's a way to leverage interest in your community with the land that's available in a decommissioned pond, whether it's a walking path or biking path. Or a recreation area or hunting land. It's a special opportunity to work with land like this for the benefit of the community," said City Administrator Dan Madsen.

Read more about this environmental and economical solution on the [MPCA website](#). See details of the Oct. 11-12 pheasant opener on the [Madelia website](#).

EPA approves TMDL for North Fork and Lower Crow River

The EPA recently approved the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the [North Fork and Lower Crow River](#) in central Minnesota. The TMDL report addresses impairments for dissolved oxygen, turbidity and bacteria. The project area starts at Koronis Lake in Stearns County and continues to the confluence of the Mississippi River near Dayton, Minn. The [Crow River Organization of Water \(CROW\)](#) is an active partner in this TMDL

Erosion and sediment control field seminar Nov. 7

The Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) will hold an Erosion and Sediment Control Field Seminar Thursday, Nov. 7, in Cottage Grove, Minn. This event will showcase the latest erosion and sediment control products, provide demonstrations and examples of practices installed, and offer a question-and-answer session with experts. The cost is \$40 for MECA members and \$45 for non-members. Participants may choose from one of two sessions: 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. This event is sponsored by MECA, South Washington Watershed District and East-Metro Water Resource Education Program. [Registration is available on the MECA website](#).

Catch MECA's latest educational video, "[Best Management Practices and Housekeeping on a Construction Site](#)" online.

Watershed Network Fall meeting Nov. 19 at New Ulm

The Watershed Network fall meeting for the Minnesota River Basin will meet Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2013 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the New Ulm Pizza Ranch. This is a great opportunity to learn and network with colleagues from water management organizations and agencies, in an informal setting. This will be the ninth meeting since spring of 2009. Ideas for program topics are welcome. For more information visit the [Watershed Network](#) website. Topics include Minnesota River integrated Watershed study (USACE) - Kate Franz of the Environmental Quality Board; Nitrogen: Statewide nitrogen strategy Dave Wall and Wayne Anderson of the MPCA, MDA nitrogen fertilizer management plan, and an interagency clean water performance report; and updates from watershed organizations. For more information contact [Forrest Peterson](#) of the MPCA or (320) 441-6972

MPCA needs your data for lake and stream assessment

The MPCA will conduct surface water assessments - determining whether water bodies meet state water quality standards - for these watersheds in early 2014: Leech Lake River, Pine River, South Fork Crow River, Zumbro River, Red Lake River, Red River - Grand Marais Creek, and Lake of the Woods. MPCA is interested in obtaining all available water quality data for these watersheds for use in the assessment effort. If you manage a water quality monitoring project in any of these areas, please submit your data, which will help the MPCA assess the condition of these waters and build a national database of water quality. To be included in the assessment effort, data must be received by the MPCA and uploaded to the agency's water quality data management system (EQuIS) prior to data analysis. Be advised that steps involved in data storage for any project can span more than a month. Information on how to submit data is available of the [MPCA website](#).

2013-2014 Data Submission Timeline:

- Through Nov. 1, 2013: Submit project lab and field data
- Dec. 2, 2013: Begin final data review
- Dec. 16, 2013: Complete final data review for assessment related data
- Jan. 15, 2013: Data finalized and ready for the 2014 assessment process

For additional information contact the MPCA EQuIS Team: [Nancy Flandrick](#) (651) 757-2361 (St. Paul, Rochester, and Mankato Regional Offices), [Jean Garvin](#) (651) 757-2378 (Willmar, Marshall, and Detroit Lakes Regional Offices), [Lynda Nelson](#) (651) 757-2601 (Duluth and Brainerd Regional Offices), or [Stuart Arkley](#) (651) 757-2567 (EQuIS Project Manager).

MASWCD annual meeting and trade show Dec. 1-3

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) 77th Annual Meeting and Trade Show will take place on Dec. 1-3 at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Minn. The annual meeting is hosted by the MASWCD Southeast Area 7 Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Root River, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona. The MPCA is registered to participate in the trade show, with information about various programs and projects such as the statewide nutrient reduction strategy, feedlots, on-site sewer systems, and citizen water monitoring. For more information about the event contact the MASWCD office at [651-690-9028](tel:651-690-9028) or visit www.maswcd.org.

ARTICLES

[Wolf researchers gather in Duluth to discuss increased human contact \(radio segment\)](#)

Oct. 8, The Daily Circuit, MPR News
Wolf researchers from around the world will gather in Duluth this weekend for the International Wolf Symposium, hosted by the International Wolf Center in Ely, MN.

[News Study Paints Sweltering Picture of Future Climate](#)

Oct. 10, CBS Minnesota
MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) - On the Stone Arch Bridge spanning the Mississippi River, environmental studies students basked Thursday under a warm October sun. And for instructor Jean Unzicker, no topic was more controversial than the debate over the science of climate change.

[Fish and Wildlife statements on WPAs](#)

[Next for U of M geothermal effort: Pilot plant](#)

reopening

Oct. 11, *Pioneer Press*

Due to its ongoing lapse in Congressional appropriations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made the decision to close all facilities and lands to public use.

Todd Nelson, Oct. 11, Finance & Commerce

A University of Minnesota startup expects construction to begin next year on a pilot plant that would produce electricity from geothermal and otherwise waste energy while also boosting production from a Canadian oil field.

North Dakota waits nearly 2 weeks to tell public about 20K-barrel oil spill in farmer's field

Associated Press, Oct. 11, Washington Post
BISMARCK, N.D. - When a pipeline rupture sent more than 20,000 barrels of crude spewing across a North Dakota wheat field, it took nearly two weeks for officials to tell the public about it.

Finding Minnesota: Grand Marais Moose Madness

Oct. 13, *CBS Local*
MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) - The Gunflint Trail in northeastern Minnesota has long been one of the best spots in the state to see a moose in the wild. The big beasts are still around, although their numbers have dropped dramatically across the state - more than 50 percent since 2010.

A quality farm bill

Daily Editorial Board, Oct. 14, Minnesota Daily
As most college students know, procrastination never pays off. House Speaker John Boehner, responding to questions about a farm bill and food stamps, told reporters "we'll get to that later" in early July. The rest of Congress has a similar mindset.

Warmer waters fuel toxic algal blooms in the Great Lakes

The Environment Report, Oct. 14, North Country Public Radio
Big, ugly algal blooms are reappearing in the western basin (and sometimes central basin) of Lake Erie. The blooms happen when excess nutrients - mostly phosphorus - run off into the lake from farms and sewage treatment plants. Some of these kinds of algae produce toxins that are among that most powerful natural poisons on Earth.

EVENTS

Oct. 14 - Oct. 20

Mankato Paddling and Outing club to discuss pollution threatening state's waters

Tuesday, October 15, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Belgrade Methodist Church, North Mankato, MN

Brief Description: Samantha Chadwick, Environment Minnesota advocate, will discuss pollution threatening Minnesota's rivers, lakes and streams. A state report released this summer found that 27 percent of monitored rivers and streams in the state have unsafe levels of toxic nitrates, 73 percent of the nitrate in Minnesota's rivers and streams comes from agricultural cropland. Join the discussion to hear about the state of Minnesota's waterways and advocacy opportunities for citizens who enjoy our rivers and waterways.

Environment Minnesota is a statewide citizen-based environmental organization, dedicated to protecting our air, water and open spaces. They investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help the public make their voices heard in the debate over the quality of our environment and our lives.

The public is invited to this free program. There will be refreshments.

For more information contact Alice Laukkonen at (507) 388-7008.

Haunted Com Maze and Feed Mill

Friday, October 18 - Saturday, October 19, 2013 @ 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Farmamerica, Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Visitors will take a trolley ride from Farmamerica's parking lot to the haunted areas. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Flashlights and maps of the maze are available on site, as are hot drinks and refreshments. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult and it might be too scary for the little ones. After finding your way out of the Haunted Corn Maze, go through the Haunted Feed Mill if you are brave enough. Beware of the bats, ghosts, witches, and things that go bump in the night. It is truly frightening! KEEZ radio will be broadcasting live from the Haunted Corn Maze and Mill on Friday Night October 11 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Be sure to come along and say "Hi" to the DJs. Admission is \$8.00 per person.

For more information visit [Farmamerica's](#) website.

Community Design Workshop with MCAD: Activate Vacant Space

Saturday, October 19 - Sunday, October 20, 2013

Location: KK. Berge Building, 807 Prentice Street, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: As a part of MCAS's ongoing Greater Minnesota Arts Initiative, we're coordinating a weekend design workshop in southwestern Minnesota called "Activate Vacant Space." It has two objectives: to visually brainstorm ideas for interior and exterior vacant or underutilized spaces in the Upper Minnesota River Valley, and to develop 1-2 projects for implementation this fall.

We'll have some case studies and other resources on hand, and will integrate community participants and MCAD faculty and students to have diversity of skills and voices on each team. There are 10 to 12 of us coming out from MCAD and we are bringing Dan Handeen from the U of MN to! We'd love to have you as part of the process. ([Example projects](#))

At the workshop, we will brainstorm a bunch of ideas, pick a couple good ones to develop further and then allocate \$4,000 towards implementing one or two of them. Implementation can be by community members of MCAD representatives, or a combination. Meals and social activities will also be a part of the weekend's activities.

The Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) in collaboration with CURE will be hosting a workshop in October. We are still looking for community participants and would like to allocate the rest of the stipends ASAP. Please email [Sarah](#) with the following:

1. Name and contact information
2. Any conflicts/commitments on Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20. Project will be approximately 6-8 hours on Saturday and 4 hours on Sunday
3. Amount of stipend you request (if any)

For more information email umrv@mcad.edu or call (612) 741-6074

Northern Slaves: How the U.S. Army Brought Slavery to Minnesota

Saturday, October 19, 2013 @ 3 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center

Brief Description: Walt Bachman, historian, retired trial lawyer and author of *Northern Slave, Black Dakota: The Life and Times of Joseph Godfrey* (Pond Dakota Press 2013) will share his ground-breaking research documenting how the U.S. Army pay system rewarded military officers for using enslaved people as servants in "free" states and territories. These policies and practices brought slavery to Minnesota and shaped Joseph Godfrey's extraordinary life story. Godfrey grew up in bondage serving Minnesota's fur-trade elite and, as a fugitive from Minnesota slavery, was conscripted to join warriors in the U.S. Dakota War of 1862. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.

For more information contact the Treaty Site History Center at (507) 934-2160.

Lonesome Ron's Round-up
Sunday, October 20, 2013 @ 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Our last program has been so popular with musicians and people who enjoy their music. The gathering of folk, country, and bluegrass musicians to bid "happy trails" to the season and the colors on the Minnesota and the harvesting of the crops, in on October 20 from 1 - 4 p.m. All area musicians are invited to just come and participate. Come and enjoy the season's last program and a heckuva sale in the gift shop. While the Harkin Store originally closed its door in 1901, we will be back as usual next season in May. Come learn more about the riverboats, railroads, and grasshoppers that contributed to the store's demise over 100 years ago, if not this year hopefully next season.

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

Minnesota Water Management Framework

Sunday, October 20, 2013 @ 1 - 4 p.m.

Location: White Bear Lake Unitarian Universalist Church

Brief Description: Doug Thomas, Senior Policy & Advisor at the MN Board of Water Soil Resources (BWSR) will discuss Minnesota's Water Management Framework. Time permitting, guests may also visit the Maplewood Mall's stormwater retrofit.

For more information contact the [Izaak Walton League](#) or call (651) 221-0215

Oct. 21 - Oct. 27

Green Ideas and Ham

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 @ 8 -9:30 a.m. * doors open at 7:30 a.m.

Location: Red Stag Supperclub, 509 1st Ave NE, Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: In our second forum of the fall season we'll be discussing community solar. Right now Minnesota is dependent on dirty, polluting sources of energy. It's time to switch to clean, renewable sources of energy, like solar and wind. Luckily, this past spring Minnesota passed a solar standard that will bring 30 times more solar energy to the state by 2020 -- a victory that Environment Minnesota staff, allies and supporters like you played a large role in winning. Utilities like Xcel Energy will be expanding their solar programs under the new law, and one way to make sure that solar power is harnessed locally, in our own communities, is through the new community solar program.

We'll be hearing from our engaging and knowledgeable partners John Farrell, from the Institute for Local Self Reliance, and Ken Bradley, the CEO of Minnesota Community Solar. [Please join us for a conversation about how we can bring more community solar to Minnesota.](#)

The forum includes delicious breakfast. The cost is \$15 for each attendee.

Please join us! [Reserve your seat today.](#)

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance fall meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Turner Hall, 102 S. State St., New Ulm, MN

Brief Description: Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River and New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen are co-hosting the fall meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, Tuesday, Oct. 22 at Turner Hall in New Ulm. They provide brats, buns, kraut, and soft drinks at 6 p.m.; all are invited to bring a side dish to share. The regular meeting will be at 7 p.m. The main topic of business will be an update and next steps on the Blueway nomination for the Minnesota River and other projects centered on the MN River and its watershed. The Turners originated in Germany in the early 1800's as a

gymnastic society. Besides serving as a physical education, social, political and cultural organizations for German immigrants, Turners were also active in the American public education and the labor movements.

For more information visit the [Minnesota River Blueway](#) website or contact Catherine Fouchi (507) 359-6034

Invasive Species in Rural Landscape

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 @ 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Courthouse, Montevideo, MN

Brief Description: Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

Three workshops have been scheduled in, Montevideo, Owatonna and Windom to discuss invasive species which may cause damage to rural areas. These include: Emerald Ash Borer (affecting Ash trees in windbreaks and rural areas), Thousand Cankers Disease (affecting Black Walnut found in native woodlands, communities and windbreaks), Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (affecting over 300 plants including apple trees, grapes, corn and soybeans) Spotted Wing Drosophila (a fruit fly affecting raspberries and other berry plants) plus woody invasive plants, Buckthorn (a small tree which is host to the over wintering soybean aphid and found in windbreaks and woodlands) Exotic Honeysuckle (invading native woodlands) and Oriental Bittersweet (an extremely invasive perennial vine changing the understory of windbreaks and woodlands). Workshop topics will include history, life cycle, identification, damage and control. Free handouts will also be available.

The cost of attending the class is \$20, which can be paid at the door. Pre-registration is required. Register for this class online at z.umn.edu/invasivespecies or email [Kathy Eckwright](mailto:Kathy.Eckwright) or call (507) 389-6972. For additional class offerings visit www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/upcoming-events/

Invasive Species in Rural Landscape

Thursday, October 24, 2013 @ 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Courthouse, Montevideo, MN

Brief Description: Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

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Film Screening - Islamic Art: Mirror of the Invisible World

Thursday, October 24, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center

Brief Description: This film takes the viewer on an epic journey across nine countries and more than 1,400 years of history. It explores the richness of Islamic art in objects big and small, from great ornamented palaces and the play of light in monumental mosques to the exquisite beauty of ceramics, carved boxes, paintings, and metal work. Admission to the film series is free for all. This screening is sponsored by the St. Peter Human Rights Commission, Nicollet County Historical Society and Community and Family Education.

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

Card Artistry at the Cox

Friday, October 25th, 2013 @ 8:30 p.m.

Location: E. St. Julien Cox House

Brief Description: There is a magic show in St. Peter. At the Cox House, once a month, Michael Callahan creates his own little Magic Castle. Join Michael in the parlor for a session of close up marvels. Why the Cox House? 1871. 2013. So much of life in Saint Peter has changed since the Cox House was built. But in an art form that capitalizes upon the blind spots in the human brain, not much has changed at all. Join Michael at the historic Cox House for an evening of Victorian atmosphere, charm and magic. Together we will explore the ways that our brains are susceptible to illusions and the way magicians have been exploiting these blind spots for over a century. Tickets \$10 dollars at the door.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

1st Annual Co-op Jubilee Fundraising Concert LSP

Saturday, October 26, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Historic Masonic Theatre, Winona, MN

Brief Description: Co-op Jubilee is about two cooperative businesses - Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union and Bluff Country Co-op - partnering to enhance our community. Our aim is to offer education, entertainment and support to our community through workshops and a benefit concert. This year's Co-op Jubilee concert will feature Red House Records recording artists The Pines. Tickets for the concert are \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door. Tickets go on sale September 1st and can be purchased at [Bluff County Co-op](#) and [Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union](#). All proceeds from concert will go the Land Stewardship Project.

For more information visit the [Bluff Country Co-op](#) website

Oct. 28 - Nov. 3

Frac Sand Mining: Could it Happen Here?

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 @ 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Location: White Bear Lake Unitarian Universalist Church

Brief Description: This is a rare opportunity to hear about frac sand mining from individual, community, regulatory, business and public policy viewpoints. Don Shelby will be moderating. This is a free discussion!

For more information contact the [Izaak Walton League](#) or call (651) 221-0215

Fall Cover Crop Field Day

Friday, November 1, 2013 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

Location: Querna Farm, New Richland, MN

Brief Description: Join University of Minnesota Extension, Querna Farm, and Albert Lea Seed for an information cover crop field day just outside of New Richland, MN. Cover crops are a multifunctional best management practice for Minnesota farmers. Adding them to any farm operation can result in numerous benefits to the soil and even the pocket book. Easiest after early harvested cash crops, but still possible in the corn/soybean system, cover crops have gotten additional notice in 2013 due to the wet spring that prevented some farmers from planting their cash crops. The field day will take place at Querna Farm just outside of New Richland, Minnesota. Querna was hit hard by the spring snow and rain which resulted in a prevent plan situation. Instead, he planted a cover crop mix of winter rye, hairy vetch and Tillage Radish in the majority of his field. A plot of five different seed mixes and two different plant dates (August 16 and August 27) was also planted and includes species from the small grains, the brassicas, and the legumes. Topics and speakers will include: cover crop benefits and management (Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota Extension), Querna Farm background and cover crop experiences (Mark Querna, Querna Farm owner and organic farmer), cover crop plot work (Ed Dahle, Querna Farm), seed availability and pricing (Matt Leavitt, Albert Lea Seed), and USDA programs (Jim Fritz, NRCS) Attendees will receive a copy of the Midwest Cover Crop Council's "Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide." This event will be held rain or shine.

For more information contact [Jill Sackett](#) (507) 389-6714

Nov. 4 - Nov. 10

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**Duanne Ninneman to give Keynote Address at 8th Annual Earth
Conference**

Saturday, November 9, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Good Counsel Conference Center

Brief Description: Climate Change: no matter how fervently the naysayers deny it and cling to an unsustainable economic reality, a drastic human-made change in climate is upon us. Rising temperatures, shrinking ice caps, depleting coastlines...there seems to be no end to the crisis.

The time for action is now! We need to move past disbelief, apathy, and the fears holding back ecological balance and recognize climate change for the moral issue that it is. We as individuals are connected with all creation on Earth. Where do our morals and ethics come into play in climate change?

In this conference we will delve into the science and get to the heart of the moral issues surrounding climate change. We will focus on how we can move ourselves further than simply changing a light bulb or shopping with reusable bags.

For more information contact [Center of Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry](#) or at (507) 389-4272.

Nov. 11 - Nov. 17

Cover Crop Field Day

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

Location: 39750 820th St., Lakefield, MN

Brief Description: Join partners for a cover crop discussion at the Ackermann farm near Lakefield, Minnesota. Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD), Jerry and Nancy Ackermann, and Jerry and Terry Perkins were awarded a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Cover Crop Champions grant to promote cover crop adoption. A cover crop mixture of winter cereal rye, tillage radish, and purple top turnip was planted into standing corn airplane in early Sept. 2013 just west of the Ackermann farmstead. This aerial application allows for a longer cover crop growing season in the corn-soybean system. The Ackermanns chose the cover crop species for their ability to scavenge nitrogen, add organic matter to the soil, increase water infiltration, decrease soil erosion, and reduce weed competition. Attendees will be able to hear about the NWF project being conducted by the Ackermanns, Perkins, and HLWD, learn about cover crop benefits, and view the cover crops in the field. This is an outdoor event; please dress accordingly.

Agenda:

12:45 p.m. - Registration

1:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introduction

1:10 p.m. - Jerry Ackermann & Jerry Perkins

2:00 p.m. - Andy Nesseth, Extended Ag

2:15 p.m. - Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota

2:30 p.m. - Karen Boysen, Jackson NRCS

2:45 p.m. - Stephanie McLain, Nobles NRCS

3:15 p.m. - View cover crops

For more information call (507) 793-2462 or email jan.voit@mysmbs.com

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Brief Description: There is a magic show in St. Peter. At the Cox House, once a month, Michael Callahan creates his own little Magic Castle. Join Michael in the parlor for a session of close up marvels. Why the Cox House? 1871. 2013. So much of life in Saint Peter has changed since the Cox House was built. But in an art form that capitalizes upon the blind spots in the human brain, not much has changed at all. Join Michael at the historic Cox House for an evening of Victorian atmosphere, charm and magic. Together we will explore the ways that our brains are susceptible to illusions and the way magicians have been exploiting these blind spots for over a

century. Tickets \$10 dollars at the door.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

Nov. 18 - Nov. 24

Green Lands, Blue Waters 2013 Conference

Wednesday, November 20 - Thursday, November 21, 2013

Location: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus

Brief Description: Conferees will discuss and learn how agriculture can change for the benefit of farmers, communities, and the environment. Working sessions, invited speakers, and poster presentations will provide ample opportunities for participants to learn how agriculture with Continuous Living Cover (CLC) is already working for Midwestern farmers and farm businesses; how these practices are targeted in watersheds; their environmental benefits, including improved soil health and water quality; and how government programs and policies are changing to better accommodate CLC crops. Deadlines are October 27 for hotel rooms and November 4 for conference registration.

You can find the agenda and registration materials at [Green Lands, Blue Watershed](#) website. Questions can be directed to richardwarner@umn.edu

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEEDLOT SPECIALIST

Department:	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date:	October 18, 2013
Location(s):	Mankato, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>The position reviews animal feedlot permit applications for potential pollution hazards and compliance with agency rules and standards. Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Properly registering and/or permitting feedlots• Working with owners and operators of feedlots to assist them in selecting and implementing proper designs and controls to abate potential pollution hazards• Issuing permits when appropriate• Provide assistance and training to counties participating in the agency's county feedlot program• Enforcing feedlot rules in an appropriate manner• The position requires 50% travel.

For more information and how to apply visit
<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13PCA000184

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATIVE/ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Department:	Land Stewardship Project
Closing Date:	October 16, 2013

Location(s): Minneapolis, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture and to develop sustainable communities. We have offices in Minneapolis, Lewiston and Montevideo. LSP is a membership organization dedicated to creating transformational change in our food and farming system. LSP's work has a broad and deep impact, from new farmer training and local organizing, to federal policy and community based food systems development. At the core of all our work are the values of stewardship, justice and democracy. We offer a great benefits package and a supportive and friendly work atmosphere.

The person in this position provides administrative, clerical, and accounting support to the Director of Administration and Finance, as well as manages the Minneapolis office, and gives general administrative and program support to the organization. The person is the initial point person both internally and externally for the organization.

For more information and how to apply visit the [job announcement](#) webpage.

AGRICULTURE PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Department: Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Closing Date: October 17, 2013

Location(s): St. Paul, MN

Who May Apply: Only current employees of this agency

Responsibilities: This position will manage pesticide non-point source programs in the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division (PFMD). The Pesticide and Non-Point Source Section works to ensure the legal use of a pesticide will not cause an unreasonable adverse effect on the environment or to human health or animals. The program also cooperates with other pesticide programs within PFMD to help ensure that pesticides are not used in an illegal manner and to promote the judicious use of pesticides and integrated pest management. This section also registers pesticides and monitors for nutrients. This position will supervise two units: 1) the Pesticide Management Unit (PMU) responsible for implementing voluntary, and if necessary regulatory restrictions on the use of pesticides as needed to protect human and animal health and the environment; and 2) the Monitoring Unit, responsible for monitoring the waters of the state for agricultural chemicals.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13AGR000103

ASSISTANT AREA WILDLIFE MANAGER

- Department:** Fish and Wildlife/Region 3, Department of Natural Resources
- Closing Date:** October 18, 2013
- Location(s):** Rochester, MN
- Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers
- Responsibilities:** Primary Responsibilities:
This position exists to assist the Area Wildlife Manager in planning, developing, and implementing DNR wildlife management programs, activities and policies by managing, preserving, and conserving wildlife habitat and populations on public and private lands in the area.
- Core Activities:
- Provide assistance in the implementation of wildlife habitat management programs and policies on public private lands so that maximum benefits for wildlife and the management of wildlife populations and habitat, and the public.
 - Aid in the implementation of wildlife population management programs and policies as well as environmental protection programs so that wildlife and habitat are not adversely affected.
 - Assist in the development and implementation an information and education program that the public will be better informed about wildlife issues, current DNR conservation efforts, and the management of wildlife populations and habitat.
 - Contribute to planning and development of policies so that wildlife habitat and wildlife populations are given consideration and protection.
 - Train, direct, evaluate, review, and effectively recommend rewards and discipline for subordinate personnel assigned to the Area Wildlife Office so that wildlife management activities can be efficiently implemented.
 - Assist in the administration wildlife management programs of the Area Wildlife Office so that resource management is smoothly and efficiently implemented according to plans, policies, and legal mandates.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000766

WATERSHED TECHNICIAN

- Department:** Heron Lake Watershed District
- Closing Date:** October 18, 2013
- Location(s):** Worthington, MN
- Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers
- Responsibilities:** The Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) has an opening for a full-time

Watershed Technician housed in the Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District office in Worthington, MN. The main responsibilities for this position are best management practices implementation, conservation practices and programs promotion, surface water monitoring program implementation, rules and regulations application, education assistance, and the pursuit of funding.

For more information and how to apply view the [job announcement](#) webpage or contact Jan Voit at the HLWD office, P.O. Box 345, Heron Lake, MN 56137 or (507) 793-2462.

INTERPRET NATURALIST 2, PARKS

Department:	DNR/Parks & Trails/Region 4, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	October 21, 2013
Location(s):	Sibley State Park, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<p>This is a Full-Time year-round position at Sibley State Park, near New London, Minnesota. This position will perform all of the responsibilities listed below. Hours and days of work will vary and include evenings, weekends and holidays.</p> <p>This position exists to implement, publicize and continue development of the park's interpretive and information services; to enhance the public's awareness, appreciation and understanding of the natural, cultural, and recreational resources and their management at Sibley State Park (plus Monson Lake State Park and other nearby Parks & Trails units); to change visitor attitudes and behaviors in order to foster resource stewardship; and to inform the public about the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) programs and current environmental issues.</p> <p>It is responsible for identifying and interpreting the natural, scientific, cultural, historical and recreational aspects of the ecological subsection and watershed and area. It will develop non-personal interpretive materials, environmental curriculum and opportunities in partnership with schools. It has an emphasis on working with community partners to provide outreach and on providing outdoor recreation activities such as geo-caching, birding, canoeing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and shooting sports.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review/Update/Develop interpretive themes, objectives, content and procedures for interpretive activities.• Develop, schedule and present activities to a variety of audiences using interpretive techniques.• Research, produce, maintain and evaluate non-personal interpretive materials, especially using emerging technology such as touch screens, mp3 players, etc.• Perform administrative functions so that interpretive services are provided and documented.

- Provide recreational programming
- Assist with park resource management activities.
- Operate and schedule maintenance on all interpretive facilities/equipment.
- Contribute to local environmental educational efforts by offering teacher education workshops and programs for schools.
- Serve as technical resource for local community, park and other parks and trails unit visitors and staff by providing information about area resources.
- Discuss and exchange information on park operations, interpretive services and resource management issues with management teams.
- Recommend and administer the interpretive services budget, purchase goods, prepare specifications and secure bids.
- Participate in the development of park unit interpretive plans and park management plans.
- Publicize, promote and evaluate interpretive activities and special resources.
- Train, schedule, supervise and evaluate interns and volunteers.
- Cooperate with other park staff on the enforcing park rules and providing emergency response.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000777

FISHERIES HABITAT SPECIALIST

Department:	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date:	October 22, 2013
Location(s):	New Ulm, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	This position functions as the DNR Commissioners' delegate in administering aquatic habitat-related programs of the DNR, section of Fisheries in a multi-county region. This position primarily involves the Aquatic Plant Management Program (APM), the Aquatic Aeration Program (AAP), interactions with planning and zoning officials from local government units that deal with shoreline development, assisting with the Aquatic Habitat Program (AHP), and other special habitat projects within the 33 counties in the DNR Southern Region (R4). This position also provides assistance to other staff to protect, preserve, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat through the effective implementation of best management practices as they relate to fisheries management activities. The person in this position is the lead worker in planning and implementing the APM and AAP programs, effectively acting in a supervisory role in directing and guiding staff at the New Ulm office. This position also assists with AHP projects at the regional level and program consultation/assessment with the statewide AHP coordinator.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000762.

SWCD PROGRAM MANAGER

Department:	Brown Soil & Water Conservation District
Closing Date:	October 23, 2013
Location(s):	Sleepy Eye, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	The Program Manager serves as a full time permanent employee of the Brown County SWCD and will provide leadership and management as well as perform necessary technical and administrative duties to carry our various conservation programs including, but not limited to, State Cost Share Program, easement programs, monitoring programs, District Tree Program, WCA, and various educational programs.

For a full list of job duties, qualifications and to apply visit [Brown County SWCD](#), email [Vanessa Grausam](#) or call (507) 764-2553.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Department:	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
Closing Date:	November 15, 2013
Location(s):	Hackensack, MN
Who May Apply:	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Program Implementation and Management: Leads conservation program planning and project implementation through outreach, civic engagement, negotiation of easements and acquisitions, and collaboration with other conservation organizations. Maintains a close working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies as needed to implement conservation programs.● Board Support: Works closely with the board to keep it informed, maintains corporate records, and participates in standing committees and fundraising activities.● Fundraising: Directs and conducts fundraising and membership development activities and seeks financial support, grants, contracts and other assistance from individuals, foundations, corporations, and public agencies. Manages LLAWF database.● Communication / Public Relations: Corresponds and conducts outreach with area lake associations, regional county government, business community, community groups, etc. through newsletters, press releases, website and other communication channels.● Finance: Jointly with the treasurer manages LLAWF's financial health,

including preparation of monthly financial reports, drafting the annual budget, managing grants, and submitting state and federal financial reports.

- General Administrative: Handles LLWF correspondence and routine administrative matters in a timely fashion.

For more information and how to apply visit [MEP Partnership Job Announcements](#).

"THE FAMOUS BALANCE OF NATURE IS THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY OF ALL CYBERNETIC SYSTEMS. LEFT TO ITSELF, IT IS ALWAYS SELF-REGULATED." - JOSEPH WOOD KRUTCH

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.