



Minnesota River Weekly Update

March 11th, 2014

MPCA issues air pollution health alert for portions of MN

The MPCA has issued an air pollution health alert for parts of Minnesota last week. A temperature inversion, snow melt, and morning fog have temporarily caused more fine particles to be trapped near ground level. Current fine particles concentrations in these areas are considered unhealthy for the elderly, children, people with cardiovascular or respiratory disease, and people engaged in strenuous activity indoors or outdoors. This means that fine particle pollution has reached moderate levels, and may intermittently reach levels that are unhealthy for sensitive groups.

For more on current air quality conditions in your area and ways you can reduce your emissions visit the [MPCA's website](#).

Engage youth in climate change solutions through video

Make a video for [Youth Voices of Change](#)! Youth in grades 4-12 are invited to submit a video (maximum 2 minutes long) that shares solution projects or helps raise awareness about climate change issues for a chance to win great prizes, including: money for their project, new video equipment, and gift certificates to local businesses. Ten luck finalists and their videos will be featured on the big screen at the Youth Voices Film Festival in the evening of August 22, 2014 on Sustainability Stage at the Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair. Awards will be announced at that time. Read more about how to get involved [online](#). The Will Steger Foundation and MPCA are partnering to provide this event.

For more information email [Will Steger Foundation](#) or call (612) 278-7147

EQB releases tools to assist local governments in planning for and regulating silica sand projects

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) released a document called the "Tools to Assist Local

Governments in Planning for and Regulating Silica Sand Projects." The document was developed in response to a 2013 directive to the EQB from the Minnesota legislature to develop model standards and criteria to assist local units of government in developing ordinances for regulating the mining, processing, and transporting of silica sand. "This toolbox is one of many state resources that local governments can draw from as they address concerns that arise on the topic of silica sand mining," said Will Seuffert, Executive Director of the EQB. The EQB will meet in Rochester on March 19, 2014 to review the document. This final draft incorporates input gathered over a 6 month period that included both written comments and feedback from public meetings. The demand for silica sand has increased in recent years because of its use in oil and natural gas extraction. Regulation of sand mining is largely under the authority of local governments and this toolbox is a resource for these entities as they develop ordinances. In addition to the tools outlined in the document, the EQB has established a Technical Assistance Team to provide assistance with issues arising from these mining and processing operations and maintains an online library of ordinances and permits for references by local governments. To see the draft view "[Tools to Assist Local Governments in Planning for and Regulating Silica Sand Projects](#)."

Snow melt poses challenges for livestock manure management

As winter gives way to spring, rapid snow melt and the potential for flooding pose challenges for farmers who spread livestock manure on cropland. Farmers who spread solid manure during winter must ensure that it doesn't run off the field, with snowmelt flowing to ditches, streams and other waters. If possible, farmers should refrain from spreading manure during periods of rapid melt. Minnesota rules to protect water quality require a 300-foot setback from surface waters and open tile intakes for all manure spread onto frozen or snow-covered soil. If temporary stockpiling is not possible and manure land application can't wait, to help reduce the impact of manure applied to the surface of wet, frozen or snow covered soil, choose the flattest field or flattest parts of fields and follow these guidelines:

- Field slope should be less than 6% for solid manure, and 2% for liquid manure
- Do not apply non-incorporated manure within 300 feet of surface waters. If possible apply manure at even greater setback distances.
- Do not apply in portions of fields that contain other areas of concentrated flow. A 300-foot setback is required for intermittent streams; however most fields also contain other areas such as grass waterways that receive concentrated flow. Keep back as far as possible from these other areas of concentrated flow.
- Choose fields that contain the most crop residue; greater than 30% is recommended.
- Avoid fields where the furrows are full of ice and snow.
- Keep application rates low enough to avoid runoff or ponding during application.
- Choose fields that do not have adjacent non-tillable land containing areas of concentrated flow such as ravines, ditches with open side inlets, streams or dry runs. If this is not possible, stay as far away as possible, from these off-field areas of concentrated flow.

For more information, see the MPCA [fact sheet](#), "[Managing manure and land application during adverse weather conditions](#)," or contact your county or [MPCA feedlot staff](#).

The State of Water Conference: Minnesotans Protecting our Lakes and Rivers on May 1-2

Minnesota and water: two words synonymous to Minnesotans. But people are the third critical leg of this triangle. We all depend on --and impact-- water through decisions we make every day. This conference is an opportunity for citizens to come together and learn and share what we know so we can all be better stewards of our water resources.

Who is this conference for? Lake association members, lake and riverfront property owners, local leaders, and all concerned citizens

How will this conference benefit me? Select from over 70 presenters and 35 breakout session topics. Go in-depth with a half-day workshop (4 to choose from). Hear the latest news about water issues from 4 plenary speakers. See new products and services offered by 40+ expected exhibitors. Connect with lake associations, watershed districts, citizen groups, state agencies, non-profit organizations, university, and colleges.

Registration is now open and the number of attendees will be limited, so sign up early! To register or learn more, visit our [Facebook page](#) and the [conference website](#). An article about the conference is available online in the current issue of [From Shore to Shore](#).

For more information contact [Alex Gehrig](#) at the Freshwater Society or call (763) 219-1251.

ARTICLES

[Energy Sec. Predicts 30-40% Renewable Energy by 2030](#) (with audio)

Mar. 4, here & Now

Four new nuclear reactors are under construction in the U.S., the first plants to be built in 30 years. Yet U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz says when it comes to nuclear power in the U.S., “the long term trajectory remains quite uncertain.”

[Strong solar power demand outstripping Minnesota subsidy program](#)

Elizabeth Dunbar, Mar. 7, MPR News

This year’s solar energy incentive is over-subscribed, providing more evidence of the state’s strong interest in expanding solar energy, state Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman said Friday.

[Seeking energy dependence, Europe faces heated fracking debate](#) (with audio)

Christopher Werth, Mar. 7, MPR News

While watching the turmoil in Ukraine unfold, you may feel as though it has little to do with the United States, but the conflict is stirring a contentious debate in Europe over a topic familiar to many Americans: fracking.

[Minnesota elk management plan coming up for revision with population pegged at 108 in 3 herds](#)

Mar. 7, StarTribune

Wildlife managers have scheduled a public meeting in northwestern Minnesota to discuss an upcoming revision to the state’s elk management plan. The meeting is set for Thursday night at Greenbush High School.

[Streambank erosion, nitrogen still biggest challenges for Hawk Creek](#)

Tom Cherveney, Mar. 7, West Central Tribune

While some streambank erosion is normal, “we’re definitely seeing it an accelerated rate,” she told those attending the event at the MinnWest Technology Campus. Too much water is being moved too quickly to the channel, she explained.

[Volunteers needed to monitor wetlands in Hennepin County](#)

Mar. 8, StarTribune

People who love nature and want to preserve it are being sought to help monitor fragile wetlands as part of Hennepin County’s Wetland Health Evaluation Program.

[Scale of PolyMet technology leads to more questions](#)(with audio)

Dan Kraker, Mar. 9, MPR News

When it comes to the technologies mining companies employ to scrap minerals out of the ground, process them, and safely dispose of the waste, everything is on an immense scale. Few have been built as large...the environmental impact statement fails to analyze a scenario in which the process breaks down.

[Next fracking controversy: In the Midwest, a storm brews over ‘frac sand’](#) (with video)

Richard Mertens, Mar. 9, The Christian Science Monitor

Sand has become a valuable –and deeply divisive – commodity in the upper Midwest. Hydraulic fracturing, a method of extraction also known as fracking that has boosted oil and natural gas production across the United States, requires sand, and there’s plenty of it here.

[Is coal ash safe to use on roads? Some experts are not so sure](#)

Karen Uhlenhuth, Mar. 10, Midwest Energy News

Coal ash, the residue from burning coal to generate electricity, is abundant, and cheap. Often free for the taking, in fact. And it’s one way that at least some Midwestern communities provide traction on snowy and icy roads.

[Jumpstart your garden: start seeds indoors](#)

Rhonda Hayes, Mar. 11, StarTribune

Starting seeds indoors is Jack-and-the-Beanstalk fun. These tips help you do it right.

EVENTS

**March 10 -
March 16**

Annual Ag Show

Tuesday, March 11 - Wednesday, March 14, 2014

Location: Civic Center in Willmar, MN

Brief Description: The Willmar Ag Show, sponsored by the West Central Ag Sales Association, features all agriculture exhibits including crop inputs, material handling, machinery, building, swine, and dairy equipment as well as free seminars.

For more information on the event or to register as an Ag Show exhibitor email the [West Central Ag Sales Association](#) or call (320) 231-1470. To learn about West Central Ag Sales Association visit their [website](#).

A Farmers Workshop on Soil Health

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Elks Lodge, Faribault, MN

Brief Description: To learn more about farming systems and techniques that promote soil health, plan on attending the Farm Profit and Productivity in the 21st Century: A Farmer's Workshop on Soil Health. The workshop includes the following presentations:

- Keeping Soil Healthy, Productive & Sustainable by Using Four Simple Principles - Doug Miller, Soil Health Coordinator for the MN NRCS
- Cover Crops: What to grow, how to grow it, and how it benefits your farm? - Sarah Carlson, Cover Crop Research Coordinator, Practical Farmers of Iowa and Mike Peterson, Cover Crop Farmer
- Conservation Tillage for Improving Soil Quality, Profit and Water Quality - Jodie DeJong-Hughes, UM Extension Tillage Specialist and Rod Sommerfield, an experienced no-till farmer
- How do I know if I'm headed in the right direction? - Tom Coffman, NRCS District Conservationist

There is a \$10 registration fee at the door and a lunch meal provided. Please RSVP to Alana for the meal count at (507) 786-3916 or email alana@crwp.net.

Designing for Minnesota's Changing Climate: Building a Resilient Systems in a time of Change

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 @ 7-9 p.m.

Location: Ecological Contact and Changing Conditions

Brief Description: Minnesota's climate is changing. Designing a sustainable landscape and home is becoming more challenging! In this series you can explore Minnesota's ecology, the changing conditions, and ways to design for these changes.

Permaculture design seeks to build restorative, ecologically intensive systems to holistically meet our needs. Take this series and learn about the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change, as well as how we can effectively respond to the changing conditions in Minnesota.

For more information on how to register for classes, and more information about a numerous and wide variety of classes available, visit the [Permaculture Research Institute-Cold Climate's website](#).

Visit the [design series web page](#) for more information.

Grandkids in Nature: Forest Tales

Thursday, March 13, 2014 @ 3:30 - 5 p.m.

Location: River Bend Nature Center, Faribault, MN

Brief Description: Inviting grandparents and grandfriends to come spend quality time with their grandkids at River Bend Nature Center. Activities and projects will focus on bridging the generational gap by enjoying time together. \$5 per nonmember family \$4 per member family.

For more information and to register visit [River Bend Nature Center's website](#).

Winter Wind Down to feature Climate Talk with Mark Seeley

Thursday, March 13, 2014 @ 5:30 p.m.

Location: Starbuck Community Center (305 E 5th St.)

Brief Description: The role more resilient agricultural systems could play in counteracting the negative effects of climate change will be the focus of a special "Winter Wind Down" event. Featured speaker at this Land Stewardship Project event will be University of Minnesota Extension Meteorologist and Climatologist [Mark Seeley](#). A light, locally-sourced soup and bread supper will be served, and a \$5 per person contributions is requested to help defray the cost of the meal. Attendees of the Winter Wind Down will also have an opportunity to learn more about the Chippewa 10% Project, an LSP-Chippewa River Watershed Project initiative that is working to help farmers implement diverse, profitable production systems in the region.

For more information or to RSVP contact [Robin Moore](#)(320) 269-2105.

Building from Success: New Models Emerging

Thursday, March 13, 2014 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Bluestem Bar, 2610 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN

Brief Description: Join Bluestem Bar as they will be hosting the first in its Salon Series with authors Paula Westmoreland and Lansing Shepard, authors of *This Perennial Land* to explore restoring sustainability and resiliency in our food system. The theme of the salon is *Not the Rural Minnesota You Used to Know*. Westmoreland and Shepard will discuss restorative agriculture and the quiet revolution happening on the land. With the audience, they will explore current trends and how conditions are changing. Each evening includes a farm-to-table meal with organic, vegan or gluten-free selections from French Meadow Bakery and Café and Bluestem Bar's menu. \$24 for dinner or \$40 for dinner and signed copy of book.

For more information contact [Katherine](#) or call (612) 767-3443.

Women in Nature: Maple Syruping

Friday, March 14, 2014 @ 5-7 p.m.

Location: River Bend Nature Center, Faribault, MN

Brief Description: Join us for our all new Women in nature series, a monthly outdoors skills and natural history-based program specifically for women. Women in Nature programs will take place the 2nd Friday of the month and will vary in lengths, times and prices according to the activities planned. River Bend will also have activities for children ages 5-12 during the times of the class for participants who wish to bring the. March's program will introduce participants to the basics of Maple Syruping. We'll explore the history of maple syruping, then go out and practice identifying and tapping sugar trees. \$5 nonmembers \$3 members.

For more information and to register visit [River Bend Nature Center's website](#).

Maple Syrup making for the Whole Family

Saturday, March 15, 2014 @ 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3p.m.

Sunday, March 16, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

Location: Whitewater State Park, Altura, MN

Brief Description: Celebrate spring in Whitewater State Park's sugar bush! This activity will introduce the long history of maple syrup and sugar making, as well as the equipment and procedures used. Participants will tap trees, gather and boil sap and best of all taste pure maple syrup! Schools, Scouts, 4H and other groups of 10 people or more can schedule an activity specifically for their group by calling (507) 932-3007 ext. 226 or email [Sara Grover](#).

Maple Syruping in your Backyard

Saturday, March 15, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 16, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Snelling State Park

Brief Description: Join us for our annual Maple Syruping in your Backyard workshop. Learn about the natural history of maple trees and the history of

making maple syrup. Find out what equipment is required, how to tap trees, how to process sap into syrup! Program starts at the Thomas Savage Visitor Center.

For more information call (612) 729-3550 or call the Visitor Center (612) 725-2724.

Managing your soils: Crop nutrient needs, soil health and nutrient availability
Saturday, March 15, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Location: Afton Apple Orchard, Hastings, MN

Brief Description: Raising high quality produce with extended shelf life requires effective soil management. Understanding how the interaction of soil mineral, biological and physical components affects soil productivity and plant growth is important to effective, sustainable soil and crop management. Effectively utilizing soil testing information is a critical component of this process. In this workshop led by Dell Christianson, Specialty Crops Instructor Emeritus, growers will learn how to utilize information from their soil test reports and use that information to design a crop management program that builds their soil while raising top quality fruits and vegetables.

Topics included in this day long workshop are:

- Understanding crop nutrients needs and availability throughout the season
- Critical nutrient timing needs of different crops for optimum production
- Selecting the best nutrient amendment program for your soils and crops
- Utilizing the Total Soil Health Assessment Tool to identify production limiting factors in your soil management practices
- The role of soil biological activity in soil health and fertility

This workshop will build upon information presented in last year's session, but is open to anyone. Registered farms will receive college credit.

For more information and how to register visit the [Minnesota's Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association website](#).

Animal Tracks Snowshoe Hike
Saturday, March 15, 2014 @ 10 a.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park, Mankato, MN

Brief Description: There are many different animals living all around us but I can be tough to see them. Looking for tracks is a great way to discover who some of these animals might be. Come out to Fort Ridgely State Park for a guided snowshoe hike through both forested and prairie sections and a fun chance at trying to identify 15 different animal tracks. We will be out for around an hour and a half walking up or down a couple of steeper hills. If there isn't enough snow, the event will become a hike. The program starts at the Chalet parking lot.

For more information email [Scott Kudelka](#) or call (507) 384-8890.

Beaver Ecology
Saturday, March 15, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Elk's Nature Center

Brief Description: Join the Minneopa State Park naturalist, Scott Kudelka, for an interpretative program on Beaver Ecology at the Elk's Nature Center in Mankato's Rasmussen Park. This aquatic mammal spends a great amount of time in the water and has the ability to change its environment by building a dam on a river or stream. Humans are the only other animal capable of doing this. As the largest rodent in North America, the beaver has had a major effect on the continent's history. In this program we will learn what makes this animal special and show off some of its unique characteristics by dressing one lucky person as a beaver. In addition, we will also cover the ecology of beavers and some of its physical adaptations. This program is free and open to the public through Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

For more information email [Scott Kudelka](#) or call (507) 384-8890

**March 17 -
March 23**

Markets, Laws & Poultry
Monday, March 17, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 920 E. 10th St., Fairmont, MN 56031

Brief Description:

Agenda:

- 10 a.m.** Brandt Gardens - Developing Innovative Markets - Bill Brandt, Brandt Gardens-Lakefield
- 11 a.m.** License Requirements for Local Foods Ventures - MDA
- 12 p.m.** Lunch
- 1 p.m.** Raising Pastured Poultry for Profit - Dr. Wayne Martin, UMN-Extension
- 2 p.m.** Poultry Panel: 7 Hills Farm-Hollandale, Michelle Miller; Hall's Across the Prairie-Butterfield, Terese Hall; Windjammer Farm-New Ulm, Dennis Jeske
- 3:30 p.m.** Production & Marketing Discussion, Speakers & Attendees

It is our hope that the topics and speakers of the 2014 Third Crop Producer Meetings will increase your interest and knowledge of third crops. We hope you will be able to join us for at least one of the four meetings. As always, if you need information regarding third crop production or market opportunities, please contact our office at (507) 238-5449.

Maple Syrup making for the Whole Family

Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.
Sunday, March 23, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

Location: Whitewater State Park, Altura, MN

Brief Description: Celebrate spring in Whitewater State Park's sugar bush! This activity will introduce the long history of maple syrup and sugar making, as well as the equipment and procedures used. Participants will tap trees, gather and boil sap and best of all taste pure maple syrup! Schools, Scouts, 4H and other groups of 10 people or more can schedule an activity specifically for their group by calling (507) 932-3007 ext. 226 or email [Sara Grover](mailto:Sara.Grover).

Maple Syruping Demonstration

Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday, March 23, 2014 @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Lake Maria State Park

Brief Description: Come learn the process of making real maple syrup. Start with a short hike to see how the trees are tapped and sap is collected. Then return to the Trail Center to find out about the cooking and finishing process. You'll also get to sample the finished product. Demonstration is ongoing, come anytime between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

For more information call (763) 878-2325.

Maple Syruping in your Backyard

Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Snelling State Park

Brief Description: Join us for our annual Maple Syruping in your Backyard workshop. Learn about the natural history of maple trees and the history of making maple syrup. Find out what equipment is required, how to tap trees, how to process sap into syrup! Program starts at the Thomas Savage Visitor Center.

For more information call (612) 729-3550 or call the Visitor Center (612) 725-2724.

Waterfalls of the Minnesota Valley

Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ 2 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park, 1300, Summit Ave., New Ulm, MN 56073

Brief Description: The Minnesota River Basin is blessed with a diverse and amazing selection of waterfalls as rivers and creeks flow off the former upland prairie down into the deep river valley. By taking a journey with photographs we will talk about some of the more famous ones like Ramsey Falls that drops into the Redwood River and other likes Maya Ska Dan Falls that are less visible to the public. Meet at the Beach House in the day use area.

For more information email or call [Scott Kudelka](mailto:Scott.Kudelka@CPDA.org) (507) 384-8890

**March 24 -
March 30**

Central Plains Dairy Expo
Tuesday, March 25 - Thursday, March 27, 2014

Location: Sioux Falls, SD

Brief Description: The Central Plains Dairy Association is a non-profit organization that works to grow the dairy industry in the Central Plains states and the I-29 Corridor through education and communication activities. The membership region currently includes Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and North Dakota. CPDA members receive E-news, an email newsletter. They also receive company listings in the Central Plains Dairy Directory which is a guide to dairy products and services in the five state membership region. This directory is mailed to all dairy producers in the region. The CPDA hosts the Central Plains Dairy Expo, a trade show and conference each March.

For more information on the expo and how to register visit [Central Plains Dairy Expo website](http://www.cpda.org).

Waseca County Farmer Forum
Wednesday 26, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Location: FarmAmerica, 7367-360th Avenue, Waseca, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

- 8:30 a.m.** Registration and Consultation with Resource Personnel
- 9 a.m.** Welcome, Opening Remarks: Stewardship Opportunities for Southern Minnesota
- 9:30 a.m.** Focus on Feedlots: Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) and Biosecurity, Beth S. Thompson, JD, DVM, Senior Veterinarian, MN Board of Animal Health; Terry Sistad, Agriculture Advisor, MN Board of Animal Health
- 10:30 a.m.** Farmer-led Watershed Councils - Julia Olmstead, Project Coordinator, University of Wisconsin Extension
- 11:30 a.m.** Integrated Drainage & Wetland Landscape Systems - Challenges & Opportunities - Shawn Richmond, Iowa CREP Program Coordinator
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch
- 1 p.m.** Ethanol: Prospective on the Industry and its Future Nationally and Here in Waseca County
- 1:45 p.m.** How Organics and Non-GMO Products Contribute to Agriculture in Minnesota - Chad Stannard, SunOpta Grains
- 2:15 p.m.** Closing Comments - Blair Nelson, Waseca County Board Chairman; Mark Leiferman, Waseca County Planning & Zoning

For more information on the presentations and to register for the event visit [Waseca County's website](http://www.wasecacounty.org).

Annual Chippewa River Watershed Project
Thursday, March 27, 2014 @ 5 p.m.

Location: Starbuck Community Center,

Brief Description: Soil health will be the focus of the annual meeting with guest speaker Don Reicosky, who will be taking about the importance of soil health. He is a retired soil scientist for the USDA-ARS, North Central Soil Conservation Research Laboratory, Morris, and adjunct professor in the Soil Science Department, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. His early research involved describing crop response and water use on conventional till and no-till systems with and without irrigation. Later research focused on tillage and residue management as related to global change issues.

For more information and to RSVP contact [Jennifer Hoffman](mailto:jennifer.hoffman@chippewariverwatershed.org) (320) 269-2139 X 120

Workshop explores raising goats for meat production
Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Clear Lake Town Hall, 8580 Main Ave., Clear Lake, MN 55319

Brief Description: Minnesota farmers are expressing more interest in raising goats for meat production. The MDA and University of Minnesota Extension are teaming up to host a workshop with the Minnesota Meat Goat Producers and answer questions about this trend. MDA staff will guide attendees through processing and slaughtering regulations both on and off the farm. A panel of goat producers will also be sharing their experiences with meat goat farming and marketing. Opportunities will be available to speak with buyers, learn about the market and discuss feeding strategies. A veterinarian will also cover kidding and other health topics unique to goats.

Registration is \$10 per person or \$20 per farm with lunch included and cash or checks are accepted at the door. Please register by March 20 for the workshop by emailing [Kelly Anderson](mailto:kelly.anderson@mda.mn.gov) or call (320) 808-4424.

For more information on the event visit the [Minnesota Meat Goat Producer's](http://www.minnesotameatgoat.com) website.

Maple Syrup Day & Pancake Brunch

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Audubon Center of the North Woods, 54165 Audubon Dr., Sandstone, MN 55072

Brief Description: Winter will give way to spring before we know it and then the sap will be flowing in the maple trees. That's maple syrup time at the Audubon Center! Come join us for a pancake brunch and hands-on maple syruping program. You will learn which trees in the woods are maple trees, and the history and process of making maple syrup. Then, help us tap some maple trees, collect and haul sap, and observe the sap being processed in to liquid gold maple syrup. Brunch will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and programs/syruping stations will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. That way you are free to enjoy brunch before or after you your syruping activities - just indicate your meal time when making your reservations. Cost for brunch and program is \$15/adult, \$10/child (5-12 years), if you just want to come for the program then it is \$5/person. Group discounts are available for 12+ groups.

For more information and to register email the [Center](mailto:info@auduboncenter.org) or call (320) 245-2648

Maple Syrup Making in Camden's Sugar Bush

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

Location: Camden State Park

Brief Description: Learn all the tools and steps involved in making maple syrup from the tree to tasting! The cool valley of the Redwood River has protected a unique maple tree population from hotter, drier prairies surrounding the park. Learn how this special resource gives us the gift of maple syrup with a little know and simple tools.

For more information email or call [David Drefolge](mailto:david.drefolge@statepark.com) (507) 865-4530.

Owls of Minnesota

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 2 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park, 72158 County Road, Fairfax, MN 55332

Brief Description: Owls are fascinating birds. What other bird can rotate its head almost 270 degrees or have the ability to fly practically silent? Did you know that the right ear of the Bared Owl is higher than the left one? Owls come in all different shapes and sizes. Come out to Fort Ridgely State Park for a presentation about some of the unique characteristics of owls and 12 different ones that can be found in Minnesota including that Great Horned Owl, Bared Owl and Eastern Screech Owl. The presentation will be held at the park's Chalet and co-sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society.

For more information email or call [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890

Maple Syruping in your Backyard

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 30, 2014 @ 1-2:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Snelling State Park

Brief Description: Join us for our annual Maple Syruping in your Backyard workshop. Learn about the natural history of maple trees and the history of making maple syrup. Find out what equipment is required, how to tap trees, how to process sap into syrup! Program starts at the Thomas Savage Visitor Center.

For more information call (612) 729-3550 or call the Visitor Center (612) 725-2724.

**March 31 -
April 6**

Networking in the Environmental Field

Wednesday, April 2, 2014 @ 6-9 p.m.

Location: Hamline University, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: Join the Women's Environmental Network and Hamline University for our popular networking only event! Co-hosted by the Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education. Meet one-on-one with our event sponsors as well as representatives from a variety of organizations. Find out what it takes to perform their job and what courses in college helped them. Learn about environmental job opportunities in a variety of business sectors. Bring your resume. Career professionals will be available to assist you with ideas. Talk to others who have found jobs in the environmental field. Add these people to your network. The regular rate is \$20, the student rate is \$10.

For more information visit the [Women's Environmental Network](#) webpage and to [register click here](#).

Sustainability Expo 2014

Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Centennial Student Union Ballroom, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Brief Description: MSU-M Environmental Committee, Transition Mankato, and the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry are co-sponsoring this free, all day event that includes informational tabling, speakers, reskilling workshops, music, vendors, kid friendly activities, and FUN! Exhibitors and presenters are being sought. A link to registration form is available on the website above for organizations and businesses that would like to have a table at the event.

For more information contact [Erica Johnson](#) at (507) 389-5254

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

Department	Carver SWCD
Closing Date	March 14, 2014
Location(s)	Cologne, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	The Carver Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications for a District Technician. Under the supervision of the District Manager, the District Technician assists with the

technical aspects of implementing conservation practices. This position works with landowners, communities, and other units of government to install conservation projects and implement conservation programs.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducts site investigations and inventories, assisting the public with enrollment into various local, state, and federal conservation programs.
- Survey, design, stake and construction oversight of best management practices. Implements the native vegetation program, assisting the public with planting plans, drill calibration, scheduling and delivery of the Truax drill.
- Performs drainage ditch inspections and assists with duties of the drainage ditch inspector as outlined in MN Statute 103E.
- Assists with the District Tree Program and is familiar with tree pests and diseases.
- Presents information about conservation programs to the public and to school groups, civic groups, and other organizations.
- Performs duties of the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program including, but not limited to, landowner contact and applications, easement acquisition, practice installation, and program compliance.
- Assists with conducting construction site erosion and sediment control inspections for compliance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- Provides technical assistance for the implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act.
- Attends meetings and professionally represents the SWCD at various meetings as directed by the District Manager; assists with grant writing and reporting.
- Keeps records of land use activities and maintains landowner records of conservation practices.
- Performs other duties of a like or similar nature as assigned.

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

MONITORING HYDROLOGIST

Department	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	March 14, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	Only current employees of MnDNR
Responsibilities	<p>THIS VACANCY IS BEING POSTED AT BOTH THE HYDROLOGIST 1 AND THE HYDROLOGIST 2 LEVELS. THERE IS ONLY 1 POSITION AVAILABLE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE HYDROLOGIST 1 LEVEL POSITON, PLEASE APPLY TO THIS POSTION (14DNR000101). TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE HYDROLOGIST 2 LEVEL, PLEASE APPLY TO: 14DNR000100. YOU MAY APPLY TO BOTH POSTINGS, BUT WILL ONLY BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSTING(S) IN WHICH YOU MEET THE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS.</p> <p><u>Hydrologist 1:</u> This position will collect, manage and analyze hydrologic data to support science-based water resources management decision-making.</p>

Job duties include:

- Support the operation and maintenance of DNR Ecological and Waters Resources stream, lake and ground water data collection programs.
- Assist in the organization and management of DNR Ecological and Waters monitoring and geologic mapping data.
- Assist with the analysis of surface and ground water data to support sound conclusions and recommendations on water resource management issues.

Hydrologist 2:

This will provide professional hydrologic, hydraulic, monitoring and computer expertise and coordination to support the Division's statewide surface water gaging, data and technical analyses programs .

Job duties include:

- Provide assistance in the development, installation, operation, deployment, and maintenance of the DNR Waters physical gaging networks and of manual and computerized data storage systems so that appropriate data are available to Division staff and other interested parties. This includes conducting necessary field investigations so that appropriate physical and hydrologic data are available for use.
- Analyze and evaluate surface water levels and flow data and prepare and disseminate reports using data from DNR Waters data systems and from other agencies so that study results and appropriate information are available to division staff and other interested parties.
- Perform projects as assigned so that technical information is collected, documents are reviewed, information is presented, and/or DNR staff are advised of technical resource issues.
- To provide stream flow and data collection training to new and existing employees.

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000101 (Hydrologist 1) #14DNR000100 (Hydrologist 2)

NR SPECIALIST-ECOLOGICAL SVCS

Department	Ecological & Water Resources
Closing Date	March 14, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>THIS IS A 1 YEAR TEMPORARY UNCLASSIFIED POSITION.</p> <p>This will provide technical support to Area Hydrologists, the Groundwater Protection Hydrologist and the Invasive Species Specialist in the South District of the Central Region. The person in this position will conduct assessments of aquatic ecosystems and of surface and groundwater use; analyze and communicate assessment results and provide technical assistance involving invasive species prevention and management activities as well as in groundwater and surface water permitting.</p> <p>Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate and/or oversee the required support and technical review of

permit applications for work in public waters, water appropriations, preliminary well applications and for violations of public water.

- Provide technical support and review to Area Hydrologist, the Groundwater Protection Hydrologist and Central Office staff.
- Provide technical support to DNR programs and staff whose work responsibilities involve prevention and management activities related to aquatic invasive species.
- Monitor populations of selected aquatic invasive species in the region, tabulate collected data, and provide data to central database.
- Assist in the management of populations of selected harmful invasive species.

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000137

SURFACE WATER SPECIALIST

Department	Watershed/Southeast Watershed, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date	March 14, 2014
Location(s)	Rochester, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position serves as the surface water specialist in hydrology, geomorphology and/or biology involved in the stressor identification (SID) component of the 10-year cycle major watershed restoration and protection projects being carried out in southeastern Minnesota.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the watershed project manager in the assigned watershed and assist with the SID work to identify pollutant sources and biological stressors. • Assist in writing the SID technical report and in sharing conclusions with stakeholders. <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14PCA000025.</p>

INSPECTOR

Department	Industrial/Air Compliance, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date	March 16, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>Perform compliance and enforcement duties for implementing the Air Quality Stationary Source Program in the Industrial Division.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the compliance status of assigned facilities with their permit and with applicable state statutes and rules • Determine and initiate appropriate enforcement action if applicable

- Negotiate settlements as part of a team
- Investigate and follow-up on air quality complaints
- Act as case manager for assigned enforcement cases
- Review permits for enforceable conditions
- Develop and lead special projects as assigned.

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14PCA000031.

ASSISTANT AREA WILDLIFE MANAGER

Department	Fish & Wildlife/Region 4, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	March 17, 2014
Location(s)	Windom, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>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 Region 4 within Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan Counties. Wildlife populations, habitat, and plant communities will be managed for their intrinsic values and long-term benefits to the people of Minnesota.</p> <p>Core Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000129.</p>

HYDROLOGIST 1

Department	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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Closing Date	March 17, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	Current employees of the agency
Responsibilities	<p>This position requires occasional travel of up to five consecutive days.</p> <p>This position will provide hydrologic assistance to senior hydrologists with field work, data management, and data analysis associated with groundwater appropriations technical work. Field work may include: assisting with well drilling, observation well monitoring, synoptic surveys, geophysical testing. Office work may include: data entry and basic data and aquifer analyses observation well network planning and assistance and analysis, construction of hydrogeologic maps and other activities to support groundwater appropriation technical work.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000147.</p>

WEST FEEDLOT UNIT SUPERVISOR	
Department	Watershed/West Feedlot Unit, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date	March 17, 2014
Location(s)	Marshall, MN; Willmar, MN; Brainerd, MN; Detroit Lakes, MN (depending on applicant's preference)
Who May Apply	Current employees of agency
Responsibilities	<p>This position supervises the West Feedlot Unit and coordinates the MPCA's feedlot work for the Southwest, North Central and Northwest Regions of the Watershed Division with offices in Marshall, Willmar, Brainerd and Detroit Lakes.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervise 11 program staff and lead staff working with counties, citizens, and animal agriculture producers to ensure compliance with the State's feedlot rules and applicable State water quality and air quality rules. • Work with Watershed Unit Supervisors and staff on watershed and basin management activities such as TMDL studies and implementation plans as they relate to animal agriculture and manure management. • Serve as the Leadership representative on the various feedlot program teams (i.e., county programs, data management, land application, training). • Supervisory functions include hiring; directing work of staff; assigning and reviewing work; performance management; effectively recommending disciplinary actions; addressing grievances and administering applicable labor agreements and plans so staff are treated equitably and unit outcomes are achieved. <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14PCA000033.</p>

MONITORING HYDROLOGIST	
Department	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Closing Date	March 24, 2014
Location(s)	Marshall, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position will collect, manage and analyze hydrologic data to support science-based water resources management decision-making.</p> <p>Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the operation and maintenance of DNR Ecological and Waters Resources stream, lake and ground water data collection programs. • Assist in the organization and management of DNR Ecological and Waters monitoring and geologic mapping data. • Assist with the analysis of surface and ground water data to support sound conclusions and recommendations on water resource management issues. <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000028.</p>

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE RESEARCH TECHNICIAN	
Department	Agricultural Research Service, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	March 26, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>Support duties may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performs a variety of complex technical duties in the laboratory, greenhouse, or field plots • Prepares and conducts field experiences to evaluate disease severity and operates/maintains the necessary equipment • Maintains field disease nursery • Grows, maintains, crosses, and harvests plants and screens cereal germplasm and populations with rust • Performs extractions of DNA from cereals and rusts, amplifications of molecular markers, gel electrophoresis and characterizations and cloning of DNA fragments • Performs chemical analysis using a variety of specialized complex laboratory equipment such as capillary electrophoresis machine, spectrophotometers, thermal cyclers, centrifuges, pH meter and analytical scales • Maintains inventory of chemicals, prepares solutions and reagents for us in the laboratory, field, or greenhouse, and safely disposes of waste materials • Trains and supervises part-time students to assist in the greenhouse and field experience • Keeps, exact, detailed records of experimental data. Tabulates, statistically analyses and summarizes data using personal computers • Develops single-pustule isolates of cereal rusts, increasing rust isolates, and phenotyping and genotyping diverse isolates of cereal rust <p>For more information and how to apply visit https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/361752300.</p>

"Few problems are less recognized, but more important than, the accelerating disappearance of the earth's biological resources. In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is busy sawing off the limb on which it is perched." - Paul Ehrlich

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.
