



Minnesota River Weekly Update

March 18th, 2014

Le Sueur River Watershed Network Community Potluck & Meeting on March 24th in Waldorf

The [Le Sueur River Watershed Network](#) is sponsoring a potluck followed by a meeting to discuss the future of the watershed group on March 24, 2014 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waldorf Community Center in Waldorf, MN. The public is invited to the free event to join the conversation about the newly forming Le Sueur River watershed group and to share a meal with watershed neighbors. There will be free pork sandwiches from Waldorf's Dave's Grocery, and pie from the Amboy Cottage Café. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share. The meeting will start off with the potluck and lead into presentations by Lynn Kolze, MPCA Civic Engagement Coordinator, and Patrick Moore, watershed groups consultant and river enthusiast. The speakers will tell stories about other effective watershed groups in southern Minnesota and share ideas for creating change at the watershed-scale. Participants will have a chance to discuss the type of watershed group they would like to create in the Le Sueur River Watershed.

For more information on the meeting contact [Kim Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

Long-term strategy to reduce sediment in Minnesota River and south metro Mississippi River open for public review and comment

Excess sediment contributes to cloudy, murky water, which degrades habitat for fish and aquatic life, and lowers the aesthetic quality of our rivers for recreation and tourism. The [strategy](#) is open for public review and comment through April 17, 2014. The MPCA has scheduled three open house public meetings to review the draft strategy and hear public comments:

- Wednesday, April 2, Blue Earth Public Library, Mankato, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 8, St. James Hotel, Red Wing, 2-5 p.m.
- Thursday, April 10, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Proposed interim targets include a 25% reduction by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2030. Significant changes

in policy, technology, and the science behind these issues are expected to change during this 25-year period. Because these changes may influence planning efforts in unforeseen ways, a focus on meeting shorter-term goals will help ensure that each step of the implementation process is based on current data and information. Questions and comments can be submitted to [Larry Gunderson](#), 520 Lafayette Rd. N, St. Paul, MN 55105.

Ravine Workshop to be Held in North Mankato April 8

Landowners interested in learning about the latest ravine stabilization techniques are invited to attend a free workshop on April 8, 2014 at the Best Western in North Mankato from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited to this free, daylong workshop where participants will learn about many diverse ravine stabilization approaches from a variety of experts, including Patrick Belmont, Utah State University; Marty Melchior, Interfluve, Inc.; and local SWCD staff and landowners. If you have ever wanted to learn about stabilization best management practices (BMPs) and conceptual designs for stabilizing ravines, this is a great opportunity. Ravines are one of numerous sources of sediment to area rivers. This event is a follow up to the [Minnesota River Valley Ravine Stabilization Charrette](#) in 2011. The event is free and open to anyone interested. Lunch will be provided. The event will fill with the first 150 registrants.

For more information and to register visit the [Ravine Workshop website](#), or contact [Kimberly Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

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.

Minnesota GreenCorps now accepting member and host site applications

Minnesota GreenCorps, an environmentally focused AmeriCorps program, is now accepting member and host site applications for the upcoming program year. Currently the program is recruiting host sites and members to begin in September 2014. Member applications are due June 6, 2014, while organizations wishing to serve as a host site must submit request by May 5, 2014. The Minnesota GreenCorps' program serves projects in the areas of energy conservation, green transportation, waste prevention, local foods, stormwater, urban forestry, and living green.

For more information visit the [Minnesota GreenCorps](#) website.

MPCA offers \$200,000 to heavy-duty diesel engine owners to reduce emissions

The MPCA encourages owners of older heavy-duty diesel engines to apply for grants to reduce diesel emissions by upgrading their fleet with idle reduction, pollution control devices, replacing engines, vehicles, or equipment. Vehicles and equipment must be 2006 and older and trucks must be class 6 (19,500 lbs) or larger to qualify. Also, vehicles and equipment must also be fully operational and not backup equipment. Applications are due by 2 p.m. on April 23, 2014, and any questions concerning the process must be submitted by 2 p.m. on March 28, 2014.

For more information, including application forms, go to [MPCA's grants and loans webpage](#). Applications, or additional information, can also be requested by emailing contracts.pca@state.mn.us with subject line "CR7039 DERA."

ARTICLES

[Turning food waste into fuel takes gumption and trillions of bacteria](#) (with audio)

Joel Rose, March 11, NPR

Every year, Americans send millions of tons of food to the landfill. What if you could use all of those pizza crusts and rotten vegetables to heat your home? That's already happening in one unlikely laboratory: the Newton Creek Wastewater Treatment in Brooklyn.

[Tribes begin defense against Keystone XL pipeline, spiritual encampments planned along proposed routes](#)

Alfred Walking Bull, March 12, TC Daily Planet

With the release of a US State Department environmental impact study of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline that reported no significant impact, tribes and environmental groups across the Northern Plains rallied against the project's advancements.

[PolyMet EIS receives significantly improved EPA rating](#)

March 13, Market Watch

The US EPA issued a EC-2 rating for the Company's NorthMet Project Supplemental draft Environmental Impact Statement.

[Albert Lea leaders lobby for lake dredging project](#)

Sarah Stultz, March 14, Austin Daily Herald

Albert Lea leaders hoped to make big waves at the Capitol Thursday as the lobbied for \$7.5 million in state bonding funds to dredge Fountain Lake.

[Minnesota prepares for growth in solar energy](#)

Andrea Luecke, March 14, StarTribune

In plans announced this month, Xcel Energy will seek proposals to add 10 times more solar to its grid by 2017, and to double that amount of solar energy by 2020.

[Some happy weather news: Low risk of Minnesota River flooding](#)

Mark W. Olson, March 17, Chanhassen Villager

Every spring, all eyes are on the Minnesota River, as the snow begins to melt along its 371-mile corridor, from the west central part of the state to its confluence with the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities.

EVENTS

**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.

Southern Minnesota Organic Crops Day

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 @ 2:30 p.m.

Location: Steele County Community Center

Brief Description: The ninth annual Southern Minnesota Organic Crops Day will provide current and future organic crop producers with additional tools and knowledge to help their operation succeed. Registration starts at 2:30 p.m., with the program beginning at 3 p.m. There is a cost of \$15 at the door which includes registration, materials, and supper.

Topics and speakers for the day include:

- Rhizobial Inoculants for Organic Soybean and Dry Bean Production – Kristine Moncada, University of Minnesota
- University of Minnesota's New Organic Transition Project – Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota Extension
- Drift Watch: a Program to Protect your Farm Against Pesticide Drift
- Cover Crop Panel: Q and A with Experienced Cover Croppers
- Precision Agriculture on the Organic Farm – Ryan Miller, University of Minnesota Extension and Carmen Fernholz, Lac qui Parle County Farmer
- Ag Drainage 101 – Brad Carlson, University of Minnesota Extension

This event is sponsored in part by Albert Lea Seed, Grain Millers, and SunOpta in cooperation with the University of Minnesota, Extension. Pre-registration is not necessary.

For more information contact [Karen Anderson](#) (507) 444-7685.

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](#).

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](#) (507) 384-8890

**March 24 -
March 30**

Le Sueur River Watershed Network Community Potluck & Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2014 @ 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: Waldorf Community Center, Waldorf, MN

Brief Description: The [Le Sueur River Watershed Network](#) is sponsoring a potluck followed by a meeting to discuss the future of the watershed group on March 24, 2014 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waldorf Community Center in Waldorf, MN. The public is invited to the free event to join the conversation about the newly forming Le Sueur River watershed group and to share a meal with watershed neighbors. There will be free pork sandwiches from Waldorf's Dave's Grocery, and pie from the Amboy Cottage Café. Participants are asked to bring a side dish to share. The meeting will start off with the potluck and lead into presentations by Lynn Kolze, MPCA Civic Engagement Coordinator, and Patrick Moore, watershed groups consultant and river enthusiast. The speakers will tell stories about other effective watershed groups in southern Minnesota and share ideas for creating change at the watershed-scale. Participants will have a chance to discuss the type of watershed group they would like to create in the Le Sueur River Watershed.

For more information on the meeting contact [Kim Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

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](#).

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.

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](#) (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](#) or call (320) 808-4424.

For more information on the event visit the [Minnesota Meat Goat Producer's](#) 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](#) 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 of call [David Drefolge](#) (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

Moths and Butterflies of Minnesota

Saturday, March 29, 2014 @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Ave NW, Fridley, MN 55432

Brief Description: Discovery the amazing lives of moths and butterflies with Dr. Bruce "the Bug Guy" Giebink. Dr. Giebink received his doctorate in Entomology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Prior to found "The Bug Zone, LLC" in 2000, he coordinated pest management and water quality programs as an Assistant Professor at the University of MN. Dr. Giebink has published various scientific and popular publications on insects, has helped trained teacher to teach insect curricula, and is an energetic speaker on many insect-related topics. Tickets are \$25. Springbrook will begin a series of programs featuring a lively and educational presentation followed by a casual catered meal. The presentations are geared towards an adult audience interest in nature, environmental issues, conservation and outdoor heritage. The evening presentations will be followed by a meal where attendees can gather with friends, family and others that share their passion for the outdoors.

For more information and to pre-register call the nature center at (763) 572-3588.

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](#).

Food & Farms Weekend

Friday, April 4 - Sunday, April 5, 2014

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

Brief Description: Get back to the basics and learn new skills with this all-inclusive weekend focused on the most elemental of our needs and pressures: Food. Come to learn, to taste and to enjoy! Over the weekend, choose from a variety of expert led onsite workshops on gardening, cooking and food preservation, offsite field trips to local farms and meet farmers who are growing produce and raising animals naturally and organically, and enjoy renowned evening presenters, Chef Monique Hooker and Chef Lucia Watson. Onsite accommodations are available with delicious homemade meals and access to the Audubon Center's 535 acres and 7+ miles of trails.

Friday, April 4, Agenda

5 p.m. Registration

5:30 p.m. Early Bird Social & Dinner

7 p.m. Featured Speaker: Chef Monique Hooker, renowned chef and author: *Cooking with the seasons*

8:15 p.m. Film Viewing: *Fresh*

Saturday, April 5, Agenda

6:30 a.m. Nature Walk

7:30 p.m. Breakfast

8:30 - 11:45 a.m. Workshops, classes, and fieldtrips

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Sustainable Energy Tour of ACNW

2-5:15 p.m. Workshops, classes and fieldtrips

5:30 p.m. Social & Appetizers

6 p.m. Dinner

6:45 p.m. Featured Speaker: Chef Lucia Watson, renowned chef and restaurateur: *Savoring the Northern Heartland: Seasonally, Locally and Sustainably*

8:15 p.m. Film Viewing: *Ingredients*

Sunday, April 6, Agenda

6:30 a.m. Nature Walk

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30-11:45 a.m. Workshops, classes, and fieldtrips

Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Weekend wrap-up, highlights and departure

For more information and how to register visit the [Audubon Center of the North Woods](#) website.

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

April 7 - April 13

Ravine Workshop

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Best Western Mankato, 1111 Range St., North Mankato, MN 56001

Brief Description: Landowners interested in learning about the latest ravine stabilization techniques are invited to attend a free workshop where participants will learn about many diverse ravine restoration approaches from a variety of experts. If you have ever wanted to learn more about ravine stabilization, this is a great opportunity. Ravines are one of numerous sources of sediment to area rivers. Event organizers were motivated to call attention to ravine stabilization as one of the solutions to reduce erosion and improve water quality. This event is a follow up to the [Minnesota River Valley Ravine Stabilization Charrette](#) held in 2011, where a group of professionals knowledge about ravines reviewed and assessed sites in the Le Sueur and Sand Creek watersheds. The meeting resulted in the identification of BMPs and conceptual designs for stabilizing ravines. The day is sponsored by Fishers and Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin and coordinated by the Water Resource Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The day was planned by a diverse group including: Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center (MAWRC), MnDNR, Interfluve, Inc., Blue Earth County SWCD, Scott County SWCD, United Ag Tech, Nettiewyynn Farm, among others. Event fills with the first 150 registrants. Lunch is provided.

For more information and to register visit the [Ravine Workshop](#) website or contact [Kim Musser](#) or [Jessica Nelson](#).

Springbrook Nature Center

Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 12-4 p.m.

Location: Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th NW, Fridley, MN

Brief Description: So many activities will be featured including Wakin' up for Spring Nature Trail, Egg Olympics, Spring carnival games, a giant rabbit, cock-a-doodle zoo petting zoo, unlimited turns in the inflatable obstacle courses. 2 concerts with kid power featuring Rachael Kroog, and a self-guided nature hunt. Event fee is \$7 per person.

For more information contact Springbrook Nature Center (763) 572-3588

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYDROLOGIST 1

Department	Remediation/Closed Landfill, Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date	March 22, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities

The position evaluates, directs, and coordinates hydrogeologic investigations and provides hydrogeologic review and oversight of 25-30 closed landfills located mainly in southern and western Minnesota. Job duties include developing sampling plans for assigned sites, contracting sampling and analytical work, reviewing and approving invoices, and reviewing site data.

The position will also support management of cleanups and determination of appropriate courses of action with respect to investigation, construction, and long-term operation and maintenance (including active remediation and other site care) and land management activities, through hydrogeologic decision-making to ensure that sites do not pose a threat to human health or the environment, and risks are managed.

Additionally, the position is responsible for acquiring and managing permits associated with appropriation and discharge of waters, upgrading site monitoring networks, and working to provide and maintain alternative drinking water supplies for private parties impacted by groundwater contamination from closed landfill sites. The position will assist program land managers to develop and modify appropriate documents to inform the public of assigned sites.

The position requires 20% travel.

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting # 14PCA000040.

POLLUTION CONTROL SPECIALIST

Department	RMAD-Solid Waste Management Unit, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Closing Date	March 23, 2014
Location(s)	Willmar, MN; Marshall, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>The position performs compliance and enforcement duties for the agency's solid waste program. Job duties include evaluating assigned facilities for compliance with state and federal regulations concerning hazardous waste, solid waste, and asbestos and demolition rules, evaluating solid waste permit compliance and following up on solid waste complaints. Enforcement work includes determining and initiating appropriate enforcement actions and negotiating settlements as part of a team.</p> <p>The position will also be assigned to special projects, including, recycling, product life-cycle analysis and pollution prevention.</p> <p>The position requires 40% travel.</p> <p>The position will be located in Willmar or Marshall based on candidate location and availability.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14PCA000030.</p>

MONITORING HYDROLOGIST

Department	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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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>

NR WORKER	
Department	Parks and Trails/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	March 24. 2014
Location(s)	Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>**This posting is being used to fill up to 3 positions**</p> <p>This is a seasonal, full-time position with normal season dates from mid-May through mid-August each year. Anticipated 2014 dates are 5/15 ? 8/20. Days will vary and include most weekends and holidays.</p> <p>This position performs a variety of tasks involved in routine operations and maintenance of the state park.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greet park visitors and provide basic information to visitors and callers (e.g. give map of park and direction to campsite, answer most commonly-asked questions). 2. Collect fees for state park vehicle permits, camping lodging, boat/bike rental, firewood and park merchandise. 3. Perform simple record keeping tasks (e.g., complete routine forms, write 4. Perform routine cleaning tasks (e.g., wash windows, floors, walls, ceilings, toilets, fixtures, vehicles). 5. Perform routine ground maintenance (e.g., mow and trim grass and weeds; rake; plant seeds, trees and shrubs; cut or remove weeds; prune tree branches and shrubs; remove brush and hazardous trees.) 6. Paint facilities and other structures (e.g., buildings, walls, doors, picnic tables, signs, posts). <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000133.</p>

NR WORKER

Department	Parks and Trails/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	March 24, 2014
Location(s)	Louise State Park, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This is a seasonal, full-time position with normal season dates from mid-May through mid-August each year. Anticipated 2014 dates are 5/15 - 8/20. Days will vary and include most weekends and holidays.</p> <p>This position performs a variety of tasks involved in routine operations and maintenance of the state park.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Perform simple record keeping tasks (e.g., complete routine forms, write2. Perform routine cleaning tasks (e.g., wash windows, floors, walls, ceilings, toilets, fixtures, vehicles).3. Collect and dispose of litter and other waste products (e.g., pick up trash, empty garbage cans, clean ashes from fire rings).4. Perform routine grounds maintenance (e.g., mow and trim grass and weeds; rake; plant seeds, trees and shrubs; cut or remove weeds; prune tree branches and shrubs; remove brush and hazardous trees.)5. Assist with maintenance and development tasks (e.g. haul and dump gravel; patch trail surfaces; install and replace signs, posts and fire rings)6. Paint facilities and other structures (e.g., buildings, walls, doors, picnic tables, signs, posts). <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14DNR000173.</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

For more information and how to apply visit <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/361752300>.

HYDROLOGIST 2

Department	Municipal/Stormwater Technical
Closing Date	March 26, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position will assist in policy development and technical support for NPDES stormwater activities as they relate to the agency's impaired waters and permitting activities. Technical analysis of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) studies will focus largely on the evaluation of hydrologic and water quality modeling and related assumptions, such as environmental impacts of stormwater sources, on which these studies are based. The wasteload allocations in approved TMDLs are integrated into the NPDES stormwater permit, at which time they become enforceable requirements.</p> <p>The position will provide in-depth technical review of stormwater data used in development of TMDL/WRAP studies including methods (hydrologic/water quality modeling) and assumptions (stormwater-related inputs to those models) to ensure accuracy, consistency and applicability and develop or edit agency protocol for incorporating stormwater loads. The position will serve as the agency's stormwater program link to U.S. EPA to ensure federal rules and guidance related to TMDLs are incorporated in agency policy.</p> <p>The position will also assist in the development of audit procedures and metrics to evaluate permittees' compliance with wasteload allocations. Responsibilities also include the ability to evaluate regulated parties' submittal of modeling or performance data supporting compliance in addition to the tracking, analysis, and reporting of that data to management for program evaluation. The position will be the point of contact for stormwater auditors and inspectors regarding compliance with TMDL-related permit requirements and for LGU/regulated party assistance in reducing pollutant loads as required by TMDLs. Based on input from submittals, research and interaction with internal and external parties, the position will recommend policy and/or rule changes as necessary.</p> <p>This position requires 10% travel.</p>

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting # 14PCA000043.

ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Department	Upper Sioux Community
Closing Date	April 4, 2014 or until filled
Location(s)	Granite Falls, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>Work to protect and restore the physical, chemical, and biological health of the water systems within and around the Upper Sioux Community. The Environmental Specialist will collect, analyze, and synthesize environmental data to inform decision making. The Environmental Specialist advises the Environmental Director and the Board of Trustees on water related issues affecting the community. This position requires a highly motivated individual with the desire to learn, ask questions, and find solutions to complicated issues.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply view the job announcement.</p>

SOIL SCIENTIST 1 OR 2

Department	Pesticide & Fertilizer Management, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	April 14, 2014
Location(s)	Glenwood, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>NOTE: This position will be filled as either a Soil Scientist 1 or Soil Scientist 2 based on the qualifications of the selected candidate. If you are interested in and qualify for both positions, please apply to this position and 14AGR000026. This posting may be cancelled if this vacancy is filled at the Soil Scientist 2 level.</p> <p>This position is responsible for serving as one of the technical experts for the MDA on impaired waters issues in agricultural landscapes. This position will be responsible for technical assistance and review of products developed in accordance with the Minnesota Water Quality Framework. A portion of this position is responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality through the promotion, evaluation and development of crop nutrient best management practices and alternative management tools specifically focusing in on ground water.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14AGR000025 or 14AGR000026.</p>

SOIL SCIENTIST 1 OR 2

Department	Pesticide & Fertilizer Management, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	April 14, 2014

Location(s)	Mankato, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>NOTE: This position will be filled as either a Soil Scientist 1 or Soil Scientist 2 based on the qualifications of the selected candidate. If you are interested in and qualify for both positions, please apply to this position and 14AGR000028. This posting may be cancelled if this vacancy is filled at the Soil Scientist 2 level.</p> <p>This position is responsible for serving as one of the technical experts for the MDA on impaired waters issues in agricultural landscapes. This position will be responsible for technical assistance and review of products developed in accordance with the Minnesota Water Quality Framework. A portion of this position is responsible for preventing and minimizing degradation of water quality through the promotion, evaluation and development of crop nutrient best management practices and alternative management tools specifically focusing in on ground water.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14AGR000027 or 14AGR000028.</p>

"We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." - Aldo Leopold

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.