



Minnesota River Weekly Update

April 1, 2014

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

Clearer water for aquatic life and recreation is the goal of a draft strategy to reduce sediment in the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. The MPCA recently released the strategy for public comment. Citizens can learn about the strategy and provide comment at the following open houses:

- April 2, 2014 @ 1:30-3:30 p.m., Blue Earth Public Library, Mankato
- April 8, 2014 @ 2-5 p.m., St. James Hotel, Red Wing
- April 10, 2014 @ 2:30-4:30 p.m., Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington

Excess sediment - primarily clay and silt - 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. Both the Minnesota River and Mississippi downstream south metro Twin Cities have sediment levels that fail to meet water quality standards. The standards are designed to protect aquatic life such as fish and aquatic recreation such as swimming. For the Minnesota River, the strategy proposes interim targets of a 25% reduction in sediment by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2030. An 80-90% reduction from current sediment loading is needed to meet the goal for the Minnesota River in a study called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL determines the amount - or load - of a pollutant that a river can accept and still meet water quality standards. The South Metro Mississippi River sediment TMDL also requires significant reductions from current loading. The strategy is open for public review and comment through April 17, 2014. Questions and comments can be submitted to Larry Gunderson, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Rd N, St. Paul, MN 55105, [email](#), or call (651) 757-2400.

Southwestern Minnesota placed under air pollution health alert

MPCA has issued an air pollution health alert for southwestern Minnesota including the Marshall area,

effective March 31, 2014. Gusty southeasterly winds are blowing smoke from wildfires in Kansas into the region, causing fine particulate pollution to reach a level considered unhealthy for sensitive groups. Elevated fine particles levels are expected to persist through Monday morning, improving later in the day as a winter storm moves through the region. Updated information on air quality conditions across the state is available on the [MPCA's Air Quality Index](#).

Public is invited to comment on draft industrial stormwater permit

MPCA invites the public to review and comment on the agency's draft industrial stormwater permit form March 31 through April 30, 2014. The agency proposes to reissue a Multi-Sector Industrial Stormwater general permit. The draft permit establishes requirements for 10 types of public and private facilities with industrial activities that could potentially pollute stormwater runoff. It is intended to protect water quality by preventing or reducing contact of stormwater with products, by-products and wastes from industrial facilities. The draft permit would affect public and private facilities that conduct industrial activities such as manufacturing, petroleum refining, transportation, used motor vehicle parts, scrap and waste materials, mining landfills, steam electric power generation, domestic wastewater treatment, and hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal. Copies of the draft permit and related technical fact sheet are available for review on the MPCA website or by calling Barbara Olafson at (651) 757-2098. Written comments on the MPCA's [draft Multi-Sector Industrial Stormwater permit](#) should be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on April 30 to Melissa Wenzel, 520 Lafayette Road N., Saint Paul, MN 55155, or faxed to Wenzel at (651) 296-8717.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency seeks lake ice data from citizens

Though it seems this harsh winter will never end, the big spring thaw has arrived across much of Minnesota. MPCA is asking citizens to document one of the most important indicators of spring for our state - the date on which ice disappears from a lake, or lake ice-off. Lake ice-off is an important milestone for the state each year, particularly for anglers and water enthusiasts who've been waiting all winter to launch their crafts - and themselves - into the water again. But lake ice data could also be an indicator of changing climate trends. The MPCA collects ice-on and ice-off data and makes it available to researchers and the DNR's State Climatology Office. The more data available to researchers, the better they can track eliminate trends and their effects on lake health, local wildlife, and citizen lake use. Citizen observers make it possible to maintain records of ice data across the state on a huge number of lakes. All ice-off dates, any clarifying definitions, and questions can be [emailed](#) directly to the MPCA's ice data collection program.

ARTICLES	
<p>Minn. regulators make way for state's biggest solar project (with audio) <i>Elizabeth Dunbar, Mar. 27, MPR News</i> The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on Thursday determined that a 100-megawatt solar project should proceed to help Xcel Energy meet extra demand for electricity in the coming years.</p>	<p>Pro-fracking guest: appearing on The Daily Show 'felt like three hours of waterboarding' <i>James Gerken, Mar. 28, Huffington Post</i> The Daily Show ran a segment on hydraulic fracturing on Thursday night that featured its "correspondent" Asif Mandvi interviewing people on the controversial oil and gas extraction process known as "fracking."</p>
<p>Groups push for more humane slaughter of chickens <i>Frederic Frommer, Mar. 29, Pioneer Press</i> Two animal welfare groups and dozens of lawmakers are urging the Obama administration to improve human treatment</p>	<p>S.D. tribe has 'prayer camp' to oppose oil pipeline <i>Mar. 29, Bismarck Tribune</i> A new front in the battle against the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is opening up for American Indian tribes and others in south</p>

of poultry at slaughterhouses, citing statistics that show hundreds of thousands of chickens being accidentally dropped alive into scalding tanks every year.

central South Dakota. A group of sanctioned by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is setting up a prayer camp near Mission to keep up pressure against TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline that would move 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to Texas' Gulf Coast refineries.

Earth Hour 2014: World to turn off the lights for 60 minutes in honor of the environment

Mar. 29, Huffington Post

Many of the world's greatest, and most illuminated, monuments will go dark for an hour on Saturday for the 8th Annual [EarthHour](#). More than 150 countries and millions of people will engage in a crowd-sourced conservation effort from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. local time, highlighting a growing need to protect the environment, while encouraging global action.

Minnesota's growing revolution: Community-supported agriculture

Mar. 31, Public News Service

What started as little more than a seed of an idea some 20 years ago is really coming to fruition in Minnesota with the growing popularity of community supported agriculture. According to Brian Devore, communication director for the Land Stewardship Project, CSA projects allow consumers looking for fresh and local foods to buy shares in a farming operation on an annual basis.

Startup says it has a better way to convert waste to energy

Kari Lydersen, Mar 31, Midwest Energy News

Part three of a four part series. On April 3, startup companies will duke it out during the Clean Energy Challenge for \$500,000 in prize money and the chance to attract new investors and partners. Here is the third of Midwest Energy News' series of profiles of four finalists.

Exploring the lore behind St. Peter's underground tunnel system

Jessica Bies, Apr. 1, Star Tribune

In St. Peter, there are rumors tunnels were once used to hide refugees during the 1862 Sioux Uprising. Local lore says that patients from the Minnesota Security Hospital have used underground passages to escape the facility's grounds. Other legends say they were used to hide beer and liquor.

EVENTS

**March 31 -
April 6**

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

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Location: Blue Earth Public Library, Mankato

Brief Description:

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of our rivers for recreation and tourism. Both the Minnesota River and Mississippi downstream south metro Twin Cities have sediment levels that fail to meet water quality standards. The standards are designed to protect aquatic life such as fish and aquatic recreation such as swimming. For the Minnesota River, the strategy proposes interim targets of a 25% reduction in sediment by 2020 and a 50% reduction by 2030. An 80-90% reduction from current sediment loading is needed to meet the goal for the Minnesota River in a study called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL determines the amount - or load - of a pollutant that a river can accept and still meet water quality standards. The South Metro Mississippi River sediment TMDL also requires significant reductions from current loading. The strategy is open for public review and comment through April 17, 2014.

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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](#).

Go Solar at your Cabin, Shed or Fish House
Thursday, April 3, 2014

Location: Maplewood Community Center, 2100 White Bear Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109

Brief Description: Power your cabin or fish house with an off-grid solar system. Learn how to site and size a small PV system to provide, lighting, ventilation and other modest loads in places where utility power is not an option. Includes an overview of the benefits of off-grid vs. on-grid systems and the new Made in Minnesota Solar Incentive Program. Tour the Tiny Energy House to learn about its 4 solar energy systems. Todd Fink is the instructor in Century College's Solar and Renewable Program and owner of 45 North Solar. He is a NABCEP-certified installer; MREA-certified for solar heating and photovoltaic site assessment. Fee of \$15 per person includes appetizers. A Cash Bar will offer beer.

For more information contact Maplewood Nature Center (651) 249-2170 and to register [visit their site](#).

Rally Against Tar Sands & March to a Public Hearing
Thursday, April 3, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m. hearing - 3 p.m.

Location: Rally begins at Kellogg Park--Kellogg & Robert--and march ends at the Public Utilities Commission--121 E 7th Pl.

Brief Description: Canadian pipeline company Enbridge wants to expand the capacity of the Alberta Clipper pipeline, which carries tar sands crude from Alberta to Superior across much of northern MN. Tar sands are one of our dirtiest sources of fuel. Pipeline expansion would enable even more tar sands development in Alberta and increase the flow of this toxic product across the Great Lakes region. Join MN350 in standing up to protect the region from this tar sands project. Rally together and march to the final public hearing on the Alberta Clipper expansion at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. This is a huge

change to [make your voice heard](#).

[Join MN350 to stand up](#) against expanding the Alberta Clipper pipeline.

Documentary Film Series - A Good Day to Die

Thursday, April 3, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center

Brief Description: Please join us for the 2013-14 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical Society, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m., at the Treaty Site History Center, through May. In 1968, Banks, co-founded the American Indian Movement (AIM) to call attention to the plight of urban Indians in Minneapolis, Minnesota. *A Good Day to Die* is a 90 min film presenting an intimate look at Dennis Bank's life beginning with his early experience in boarding schools, through his military service in Japan, his transformative experience in Stillwater State Prison and subsequent founding of a movement that, through confrontational actions in Washington D.C., Custer South Dakota and Wounded Knee, changed the lives of American Indians forever. Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information on the event contact the [Nicollet County Historical Society](#) (507) 934-2160.

Farmers in southeastern Minnesota invited to unique opportunity involving Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams

Friday, April 4, 2014 @ 1-3 p.m.

Location: St Charles Community Hall, 830 Whitewater Ave., St. Charles, MN 55972

Brief Description: The MDA and the Whitewater River Project invite farmers in the Whitewater Rive area to two open houses on April 4th and 7th to learn how they can get involved in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). MAWQCP is a voluntary program designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm conservation practices that protect Minnesota's rivers and streams. Producers who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn assured that their operation will obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. the Whitewater River area was selected as one of four pilots throughout the state to test and refine the program. This pilot area includes parts of Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties. At the open houses, MDA and Whitewater River Project staff will provide a brief presentation on the program and demonstrate the assessment tool used to evaluate individual operations. A panel discussion will feature local farmers, advisory committee members, and technical staff. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the program and receive a free assessment of their farm. The open house will also be held Monday, April 7, 2014, 6-8 p.m. at Plainview American Legion 215 3rd St. SW, Plainview, MN 55964

No registration is required for the open house. Farmers with questions about the event can contact Sheila Harmes, Whitewater River Project Coordinator (507) 523-2171. For more information on the program visit [MAWQCP's website](#).

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 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.

Bad for Bees

Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Campus Center, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: Even if you don't use chemicals in your yard to garden, you still could be harming bees, butterflies and other living things. Learn more about the alarming spread of "pre-poisoned" plants in the nursery trade and what you can do to combat this trend. Bee experts and landscapers will discuss how to make sure you have a healthy backyard and how to avoid a class of insecticides call "neonics" at this important workshop.

Free and open to the public. Free parking available on campus.

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

Hazelnut Grower Meeting

Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: New Haven Town Hall, 9024 County Rd 3 NW, Oronoco, MN

Brief Description:

There will be a meeting for all hazelnut growers in MN and other interested parties to discuss the status of the hazelnut industry, determine interest in developing processing enterprises and marketing initiatives. Please invite others who may be interested.

Agenda:

9 a.m. MN Hazelnut Foundation Meeting

10 a.m. Discussion of MN Hazelnut opportunities (state of MN Hazelnut plantings/yield; interest in a harvester purchase; processing enterprise development; potential marketing outlets; immediate grant opportunities such as Specialty Crop Grant, UMN Regional Partnerships, or SARE Grant)

12 p.m. Lunch (expect a small charge for lunch)

1-3 p.m. Grant proposal development (for those who want to be involved in writing a proposal)

For more information, or if you cannot attend but would like to be on the list and contacted for future hazelnut happenings please contact [Linda Meschke](#) (507) 238-5449.

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

Reading and Writing with Environmental Education in Mind

Saturday, April 5, 2014 @ 2-3:30 p.m.

Location: Maplewood Nature Center, 2659 E 7th St., Maplewood, MN 55119

Brief Description: Track the first signs of spring from your own backyard with help from the Minnesota Phenology Network. Josh Leonard, Belwin Outdoor Science, will show us how to contribute your family's records to this citizen science monitor program. Learn how to use simple observations like tracking flower blooms or ice-out dates to disarm the sometimes confusing aspects of climate change. Go outside to look for a few firsts. For ages 7 and older. This is a free event.

For more information and to register call (651) 249-2170 or email info@maplewoodnaturecenter.com.

April 7 - April 13

Farmers in southeastern Minnesota invited to unique opportunity involving Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams

Monday, April 7, 2014 @ 6-8 p.m.

Location: Plainview American Legion 215 3rd St. SW, Plainview, MN 55964

Brief Description: The MDA and the Whitewater River Project invite farmers in the Whitewater River area to two open houses on April 4th and 7th to learn how they can get involved in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). MAWQCP is a voluntary program designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm conservation practices that protect Minnesota's rivers and streams. Producers who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn assured that their operation will obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. The Whitewater River area was selected as one of four pilots throughout the state to test and refine the program. This pilot area includes parts of Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona counties. At the open houses, MDA and Whitewater River Project staff will provide a brief presentation on the program and demonstrate the assessment tool used to evaluate individual operations. A panel discussion will feature local farmers, advisory committee members, and technical staff. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions about the program and receive a free assessment of their farm.

No registration is required for the open house. Farmers with questions about the event can contact Sheila Harmes, Whitewater River Project Coordinator (507) 523-2171. For more information on the program visit [MAWQCP's website](#).

Land Stewardship Project's 9th Farm Breakfast & Day at the Capitol
Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 7-10:30 a.m.

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: The Land Stewardship Day at the Capitol begins with the best breakfast in town, straight off the farm! Cost for breakfast is \$10. The breakfast features food sustainable grown on the farms of Land Stewardship Project members.

Agenda:

7-9 a.m. Breakfast

9-10:15 a.m. Lobbying training

10:30 a.m. Meet your legislator

You can invite your legislator to meet you for breakfast! Find the contact information for your state Senator at (651) 296-0504 or 1 (888) 234-1112, and for your Representative at (651) 296-2146 or 1 (800) 657-3550. Find them online by clicking [here](#). and if you would like to speak with your legislator during lobbying time, be sure to call now to schedule an appointment for anytime after 10:30 a.m.

Volunteers are needed. We need help with serving food, working the registration table, greeting people as they come in, cleaning up and more. If you can volunteer, contact [Kaitlyn O'Connor](#) at (612) 722-6377. RSVP [using the online form](#).

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](#).

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

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 2-5 p.m.

Location: St. James Hotel, Red Wing

Brief Description: Clearer water for aquatic life and recreation is the goal of a draft strategy to reduce sediment in the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers. The MPCA recently released the strategy for public comment. Citizens have another opportunities to learn about the strategy and provide comment at the following open houses:

- April 10, 2014 @ 2:30-4:30 p.m., Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington

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Thursday, April 10, 2014 @ 2:30-4:30 p.m.

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Discussion of Environmental Priorities with Rep. Brynaert and Rep. Johnson

Friday, April 11, 2014 @ 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: For location information [email](#) or call (651) 789-0655 Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Brief Description: Join us for a discussion with the State Representative Kathy Brynaert and Representative Clark Johnson about critical environmental and conservation issues being heard this Legislative Session. This discussion and information session is being hosted by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. Please join the discussion and share your priorities for protecting Minnesota's lakes, rivers, land, air and great outdoors! Topics include:

- Move Minnesota: a new transportation funding will enable that state to expand access and opportunity for all while producing cleaner air, and living wage jobs
- Green Lands -- Clean Waters: priorities include phasing out triclosan, an ineffective and dangerous chemical agent in anti-bacterial soaps; investing

in high-performance crop development through the U of M Forever Green Initiative; and re-establishing the Legislative Water Commission.

- **Clean Energy & Jobs:** improving energy-efficiency opportunities for schools; creating low-cost energy-efficiency financing tools for businesses; and simplifying standards for installing systems that generate clean energy, like solar and wind, will help us reach a goal of 50% renewable energy for all, by 2030.

"The Benefits of Being Shallow" - A Shallow Lakes Forum

Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Snyder Auditorium

Brief Description: Shallow Lakes are lakes that average 15 feet or less in depth. They provide a variety of benefits, including fishing, recreation, and habitat for wildlife. Managing a shallow lake has its own set of unique challenges, which this forum will highlight. Participants will learn how shallow lakes work, how to determine the health of a shallow lake through monitoring, information about regulations affecting shallow lakes, and how to engage neighbors and friends to protect these unique lakes.

For more information and to register visit [Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's website](#).

Conservation in a Changing Climate: Teaching about Climate Change

Saturday, April 12, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington Education and Visitor Center, 3815 American Blvd E, Bloomington, MN

Brief Description: Are you confused about all the science? Are you unsure how to talk to your students about the climate change issue? Do you lack the time to develop your own curriculum? Do you want to avoid gloom and doom scenarios? Are you looking for ways your students can become part of the solution? If you answered YES! to any of these questions this workshop is for you.

For more information contact [Judy Geck](#) (952) 858-0731, and to register [click here](#).

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

April 14 - April 20

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Ridgewater College, Hutchinson, MN

Brief Description: A major event focusing on the Minnesota River and the "Blueway" project are proposed for the agenda at the April 15 quarterly meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance. At its January meeting, the Alliance voted to continue working on the Blueway goals. The Blueway working group of the Alliance is drafting a propose agreement with the regional office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies, to continue work on the goals and objectives contained in the initial Blueway nomination for the Minnesota River. The Minnesota River was in line to become the second major river in the US to receive Blueway designation, when the program was halted by the US Department of Interior. A group of Alliance members have been discussing the idea of a major event this summer focusing on the Minnesota River. It would include discussion and entertainment, and showcase a wide variety of individuals and organizations working on economic, recreation and environmental projects in the basin. The Alliance welcomes ideas and contributions from everyone

interested in protecting and improving the economic, recreation, and environmental well-being of the Minnesota River Basin. All are welcome to attend the Alliance meeting; a potluck meal begins at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m. More information is available on the [Alliance's blogspot](#).

National Park Week: Go Wild!

Saturday, April 19 to Sunday, April 20, 2014

Location: National Parks nationwide

Brief Description: Each spring, the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation invite everyone to celebrate National Park Week. This year, from April 19-27 YOU are invited to celebrate all that America's more than 400 national parks have to offer with the theme "National Park Week: Go Wild!" From diverse wildlife and iconic landscapes to vibrant culture and rich history, our National Park System has something for everyone. Our national parks are kicking off National Park Week with fee-free entrance days on April 19 and 20. Whether you're a hiker, a historian, a romantic, a family with kids, a crowd-lover or someone seeking solitude, the National Park Foundation's FREE Owner's Guide series is jam-packed with ideas to help you plan your next national park adventure! You can download all the guides for free on the [National Park's website](#).

For more information about National Park Week visit their [website](#).

**April 21 -
April 27**

ACTION: Opportunity: Earth Day MN River Roadside Cleanup
Tuesday, April 22, 2014 @ 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Chippewa County Park in Wegdahl, MN

Brief Description: Meet at 5:15 p.m. at Chippewa County Park in Wegdahl just off highway 212 between Granite Falls and Montevideo. We will break up into teams and tackle our designated highway area. Dress for the weather. Please wear closed toe shoes and bring some gloves if you have them (we will have safety vests and gloves on hand too). Sign up if you are interested and weather permitting, we will get out and enjoy the evening. If we get enough folks, it should only take an hour to clean up!

For more information contact [Peg 1](#) (877) 269-2873 or visit [CURE's website](#).

April 28 - May 4

The State of Water Conference: Minnesotans Protecting our Lakes and Rivers
Thursday, May 1 - Friday, May 2, 2014

Location: Cragun's, Brainerd, MN

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.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 <u>job announcement</u>.</p>

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN

Department	Marshall County SWCD
Closing Date	April 4, 2014
Location(s)	Warren, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will perform grant writing duties to seek funding for various programs.• Conducts site investigations and inventories, assisting the public with enrollment into various local, state, and federal conservation programs.• Will assist County Water Planner with various water quality activities.• Will administer Weed Management Program and carry out related duties.• Will assist with various education activities.• 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.• 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 the District Tree Program and is familiar with tree pests and diseases.

- Keeps record 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 check out the [job announcement](#).

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>

For more information and how to apply visit www.careers.state.mn.us Posting #14AGR000027 or 14AGR000028.

DISTRICT MANAGER

Department	Dodge County SWCD
Closing Date	April 24, 2014
Location(s)	Dodge Center, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>The District Manager is responsible for performing management functions of the Dodge SWCD. The manager performs personnel management, budget preparation, and board management. The manager works with county residents and government officials to address the current and future conservation needs of Dodge County.</p> <p>Essential Duties and Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District Operations & Management ● Work closely with County Commissioners, County Coordinator, County Staff, USDA, Cities, Townships and Watershed Districts to the keep them informed of SWCD activities. ● Represent the SWCD at local county, regional and state meetings when needed. ● Conduct public relations for the SWCD. ● Coordinate the development and implementation of operating plans and annual work plans so that program and personnel efforts are coordinated and consistent with District goals and policies. ● Coordinate and implement a training program so staff knowledge, skills and ability levels reflect state-of-the-art capacities in their program and professional areas. ● Provide technical skills and engineering procedures, as needed. <p>Supervision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate recruitment and hiring in conjunction with the District Board insuring adherence to legal guideline and policies. ● Pursue affirmative action in the area of equal employment opportunities. ● Develop position descriptions. ● Coordinate job evaluation, salary and performance review programs to ensure equity and compliance with district policies. ● Work to resolve personnel issues and conflicts that arise in the District. ● When necessary, recommend disciplinary action, suspension and/or termination. ● Approve employee timesheets, vacation requests, and sick leave as outlined in the Personnel Handbook. <p>Manage SWCD Financial Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attend all board meetings and prepare agenda. ● Develop and submit plans, and recommend policies for Board action. ● Prepare and present monthly staff report and other issues affecting the District. ● Communicate issues that can increase awareness and improve decision-making for the Board. ● Manage all issues which arise in the nature of the Soil and Water Conservation District. <p>Required Knowledge and Skills:</p>

- An understanding of agricultural and forestry practices in southern Minnesota
- Knowledge of computer operation, equipment and GIS software programs
- Knowledge of relevant county, state, and federal laws, ordinances, standards, and specifications as they relate to soil and water management
- Knowledge of conservation planning and practice principles
- Awareness of municipal stormwater management techniques for urban, or suburban, land uses
- Ability to plan, organize, direct, supervise and review work of staff
- Strong written and oral communication and public relation skills, as well as a capability to work with a wide variety of people from different groups and organizations
- A high degree of skill in developing and fostering collaborative relationships both inside and outside the organization
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, draw valid conclusions, and provide resolutions
- Reading and interpreting documents such as safety rules, regulations, guidelines, policies, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals
- Grant-writing ability or experience

Preferred Skills:

- Ability to operate surveying equipment
- Ability to perform technical and engineering procedures
- Knowledge of SWCD bookkeeping procedures
- 2 + years of management experience is preferred

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

"One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring." - 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.