



Flooding in Henderson, MN Source: [Kare11](#)

Minnesota River Weekly Update

July 4, 2014

Minnesota celebrates new first-in-the-nation standards for renewable fuels

Diesel drivers on Minnesota roads and highways will be running on cleaner fuel this summer as they start filling up with the nation's first, required 10 percent biodiesel blend. Known as B10, this higher blend will be sold annually from April 1 through September 30. A five percent mixture that works better in Minnesota's winter weather, called B5, will be used between October and late March each year. "This new law puts Minnesota at the forefront of promoting cleaner, home-grown fuels," said Governor Mark Dayton. "Minnesota's nation-leading biodiesel mandate is great news for our state's farmers - whose crops will now be in even greater demand - and another important step toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions." Not only is switching to biodiesel a benefit for our environment, it is good for our economy. Minnesota biodiesel is a local product - mostly supplied by homegrown soybeans - which are one of the state's leading cash crops. Biodiesel contributes more than \$900 million annually to the Minnesota economy. "Growing our own renewable energy from our farming community strengthens our energy future moving forward," said Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman. "Using products grown locally rather than importing into our state reduces our energy dependence." Minnesota has always been a leader in biodiesel and has three plants in full production. The plants, located in Glenville, Brewster and Isanti, produce a combined 63 million gallons of biodiesel each year, brining total demand to 60 million gallons annually. Although only diesel drivers can burn the B10 blend, the effects of this new requirement are felt in rural economies, urban air quality and around the state's workflow producing this homegrown renewable fuel.

Call for presentations for the Minnesota Naturalist's Association (MNA) Conference - Deadline August 30th

The 2014 MNA Conference: *Plugging into Nature* will be held November 21 - 23 at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone. The conference is an annual gathering of naturalists, interpreters, environmental educators, administrators, teachers volunteers, and interns! Please consider sharing your knowledge by presenting at this conference. We are looking for outdoor programs, panel discussions, debates, hands-on learning, tricks of the trade and much more!

For more information go to the [MNA's Conference website](#).

Excessive rain lifts streams to bankful and beyond

Nick Bancks, Sibley County watershed projects coordinator, sent this chart showing flow levels from the outlet of High Island Creek to the Minnesota River near Henderson. June 1 recorded the third highest flow on record since the site gauge was installed: 2,580 cubic feet per second (csf). Only 1997 and 1993 had higher flows. Scott Sparlin of CCMR and avid angler writes: Flathead catfish anglers are liking the high water because a lot of big flatheads migrate up from the Mississippi during these high flows. It also makes backwater fishing real good if you know the technique for backwater. With more rain in the forecast, for the latest forecasts and river levels, see the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service webpage of the [National Weather Service](#). Current stream and river levels are available on the [DNR/MPCA cooperative stream gaging webpage](#).

ARTICLES

[Study: Chemicals spreading in Minnesota groundwater \(with audio\)](#)

Dave Peters & Elizabeth Dunbar, June 26, MPRNews

In what may be the nation's most extensive study of its kind, a survey of 118 test wells scattered around Minnesota has found that about a third of them contain measurable level of antibiotics, detergents, or other consumer chemicals known as "contaminants of emerging concern."

[Conservatives don't deny climate science because they're ignorant. They deny it because of who they are.](#)

Chris Mooney, June 26, Mother Jones

For many years, the US NSF, more recently with the help of the General Social Survey, has asked the public the same true or false question about evolution: "Human beings, as we know them today, developed from earlier species of animals." And for many years, the responses to this question have been dismal. So why such a huge gap?

[As more imported foods reach the dinner table, holes remain in FDA safety net](#)

Rick Schmitt, June 27, MinnPost

In April 2012, a team of inspectors from the U.S. FDA investigated a seafood company in southern India that had been exporting tons of frozen yellow fin tuna to the US. What they found was not appetizing: water tanks rife with microbiological contamination, rusty carving knives, peeling paint above the work area, unsanitary bathrooms and an outdoor ice machine covered with insects and "apparent bird feces," according to the report.

[Farmers, truckers at odds over new biodiesel rule](#)

Chris Steil, June 29, MPRNews

Starting on Tuesday, most diesel fuel sold in Minnesota will contain 10 percent biodiesel, which is double the current portion. The move is opposed by the trucking industry but supported by soybean farmers – who grow raw material used to make the biodiesel.

[Storm lead to excess runoff in Minnesota River](#)

June 29, KARE11

A state pollution official says the torrential

[FEMA will begin flood damage assessment in Minn. on Tuesday](#)

Jim Adams and Pat Pheifer, June 30, Star Tribune

downpours this month have washed nearly a year's worth of sediment into the Minnesota River and its tributaries.

A week of intermittent thunderstorms has made life on Prior Lake awfully soggy for residents like Matt Brei, who trudged in waders through knee-high water to get his 3-year old son to preschool last week after water encircled their home.

EVENTS

June 30 - July 6

Decision Support Tools to Restore Impaired Waters

Tuesday, July 1, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Marshall, SMSU (computer lab, BA 229 & 230)

Brief Description: The University of Minnesota received a MPCA 319 Grant to create computer watershed decision support tools which could be used by natural resource and watershed professionals to improve water quality in Minnesota's impaired waters. In an effort to introduce these computer program tools to professionals in the field, have scheduled three sessions at two locations:

- Tuesday, July 1 @ 1-4 p.m. in Marshall, SMSU
- Tuesday, July 8 @ 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. in Mankato, South Central College (computer lab, C160)

These sessions are free and open to interested people assisting landowners in establishing BMPs on their land to improve the water quality in their watershed. Pre-registration is requested. Contact [Kathy Eckwright](mailto:kathy.eckwright@umn.edu) (507) 389-6972 to register and with questions.

To learn more about the workshops, visit <http://z.umn.edu/wqworkshops>. To register visit <http://z.umn.edu/wq>.

Children's Games and Craft Day

Saturday, July 5, 2014 @ 12-4 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: Families are invited to join us to play games on the Parade grounds as well as create crafts inside the Commissary building. We will have games such as field ball, stilts, and graces for the children to play. We will also show you how to make a hanky doll or your own catapult. Join us from 12-4 p.m. for this fun and exciting event. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students with ID and children ages 6-17. MNHS and NCHS members are free. A State Park vehicle sticker is required for all. Fort Ridgely State Historic Site is open May 23-October 18, Friday through Sunday 10 a.m - 5 p.m.

For more information contact [Amber Bentler](mailto:Amber.Bentler@mnhs.org) (507) 766-0994.

Causes of the US Dakota War and Battlefield Tour

Saturday, July 5, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: The causes of the US Dakota War in 1862 were many and complicated. Independent Historian John LaBatte will examine these. At least nine of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the US Dakota War of 1862. Historic Fort Ridgely is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield and is listed twice on the National Registry of Historic Places. Join John LaBatte for the 1 p.m. program and again for the 2:30 p.m. battlefield tour.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students with ID and children ages 6-17. MNHS and NCHS members are free. A State Park vehicle sticker is required for all. Fort Ridgely State Historic Site is open May 23-October 18, Friday through Sunday 10 a.m - 5 p.m.

For more information contact [Amber Bentler](#) (507) 766-0994.

Field Day: Exploring Resource Work at Swede's Forest SNA

Saturday, July 4, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Swede's Forest SNA

Brief Description: On Saturday, July 5th, field staff will be hosting a field day to examine recent management activities at Swede Forest SNA, discuss potential future activities, and perhaps encounter uncommon and unusual plants of animals that reside on the rock outcrops of this site. Foot wear appropriate for hiking is recommended. There are no maintained trails and the hike will be uneven, rocky terrain. There are no public restrooms or access to drinking water on this site.

For more information contact Brad Bolduan (507) 831-2900 x241 or check out the [event page](#).

Mayo House Artwork Tour

Sunday, July 6, 2014 at 12-4 p.m.

Location: WW Mayo House, Le Sueur, MN

Brief Description: The historic WW Mayo House will be open for tours from noon to 4 p.m. with a special interpretation of the artwork on display and relating to the WW Mayo House. This collection includes portraits of Dr. Mayo and Louisa Mayo, Green Giant Marketing Art, the Mothers Statue and folk art from the mid-1800's.

For more information contact [Becky Pollack](#) (507) 665-3250.

Independence Celebration at the Harkin Store

Sunday, July 6, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: The historical Harkin Store will celebrate our great nation with the firing of a cannon. The New Ulm Battery will start at 1 p.m. with the firing of the old 1862 cannon every half hour and on the hour. Enjoy cold treats while listening about the 1870's riverboat town of West Newton and the Harkin Store. Bring a lawn chair or blanket or sit on the porch for a relaxing afternoon. The program is included with the admission to the store. We are open on July 4th with regular hours of 10-5 p.m. We are open everyday except Mondays. The gift shop is also open the same hours as the store and has many books, toys, unique and hand crafted items, also 10 cent candy.

For more information and large tour group scheduling, contact the store at (507) 354-8666 or the Nicollet County Historical Society which operate the store at (507) 934-2160.

July 7 - July 13

2014 Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association Summer Beef Tour and Trade Show

Tuesday, July 8, 2014

Location: Redwood Area Community Center, Redwood Falls, MN

Brief Description: The tour will be headquartered at the Redwood Area Community Center and will feature an intriguing tour spotlighting new innovations in marketing, management and technologies. Beef industry trade show and participation opportunities are available. Registrants will have access to over 200 agriculture-related businesses featuring new products and services available to cattlemen through the trade show. Registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. through 8:30 a.m., with the first your bus leaving at 7 a.m. and every fifteen minutes after that. A continental breakfast will be available before the tour. Tour stops include Grant Breitreutz, Redwood Falls; David and Clint Engen, Revere; George and Mike Landuyt; Curt and Chad Thram, Sanborn; Butch and Brandon Kerkhoff, Redwood Falls and stop at Redwood Metal Works and Artex. The tour registration fee is \$25 before June 15 and \$35 after June 15. The student price is \$20. An additional lunch ticket is \$10 and an additional dinner ticket is \$15. Send payment to Jeri Hanson, 37590 110th St., Comfrey, MN 56019.

For more information contact these Redwood Area Cattlemen: Brandon Kerkhoff (507) 829-3410, Grant Breitreutz (507) 430-0607, or Clint Engen (507) 531-0279 or email redwoodarea.cattlemen@outlook.com, or [check out their website](#).

Breakfast on the Farm in Nicollet County

Saturday, July 12, 2014 @ 7 - 10 a.m.

Location: Marvin and Laurie Krohn Farm

Brief Description: The Breakfast on the Farm events are meant to show people how current farms operate. These events are held throughout the summer across Minnesota. Nicollet County's event will be serving Chris eggs, pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk and cheese for breakfast. There will be a farm tour, live music and education displays.. The event is free, but accepts donations.

For more information contact [Garfield Eckberg](#), and [click here to see a list of other Breakfast on the Farm events](#).

Simon Lake BioBlitz 2014

Saturday, July 12, 2014 9 a.m. - 5p.m.

Location: Sheepberry Fen in Simon Lake Area

Brief Description: A "BioBlitz" is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists, and volunteers conduct an organized field study over a continuous time period. A BioBlitz is a lot of work and a lot of fun...and we need your help to accomplish both!

In the Simon Lake Area, the Chippewa 10% Project is helping local landowners and agencies to use community based conservation to protect and manage local grasslands for the benefit of the whole region. Part of this project involves meeting ALL of the neighbors, including birds, plants, bats, frogs, insects, and other mammals. We are looking for volunteers to be able to identify native flora and fauna, and also groups of volunteers to go out, count and record everything they find. It will be a fun day, where we eat and work together, learn more about the plants and animals on our landscape, and learn more about our human neighbors too! We hope you might be interested or know someone who might be. Along with individuals, we want to include groups such as youth groups, church groups, service groups, science classes... anyone who would like to have a

fun day outside and a free lunch. Co-sponsored by Chippewa River Watershed Project and CURE.

For more information and to volunteer contact the Land Stewardship Project's [Robin Moore](#) (320) 269-2105 or [sign-up online](#).

PHOTOGRAPHY: Digital Photography with John White on the Prairie of Glacial Lakes

Sunday, July 13, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Glacial Lakes State Park, Starbuck, MN

Brief Description: Master Naturalists John G. White and Kylene Olson will provide 2 plus hours of tips in photographing the wonders of the prairie at Glacial Lake State Park on Sunday, July 13. John has been photographing the prairie for many years and most recently from his home near Ortonville and Olson is an encyclopedia of prairie plant identification and ecology. Participants may bring a sack lunch to eat following the event. Dress in layers, long pants, hiking shoes, sunscreen, bug spray, water, hat and glasses. This event is limited to 16 participants. Reservations are required.

For more information and to register call Dixie at 1(877) 269-2873 or by [registering online](#).

PADDLE: Glacial Lakes State Park with John White & Kylene Olson

Sunday, July 13, 2014 @ 1:30-4 p.m.

Location: Glacial Lakes State Park, Starbuck, MN

Brief Description: The paddle will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the 56-acre Signalness Lake. This amazing marshland is home to a variety of bird and mammal life. The park was established in 1963 to preserve the rolling prairies of the area. Nestled in the Leaf Hills of southwestern Minnesota - this adventure promises to be a fun afternoon for all! You will need your own canoe/kayak, dress in layers, hat, sunglasses, water, snacks, bug spray and sunscreen. Reservations are required and you can reserve your spot(s) now.

For more information and to register call Dixie 1(877) 269-2873 or by [registering online](#).

Scott Kudelka

Sunday, July 13, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Historic Site

Brief Description: Naturalist Scott Kudelka will be giving a program on natural prairie grasses. Prior to Euro-American settlement of southern Minnesota, the tall grass prairie dominated the landscape throughout the Minnesota River Basin. A hike through a restored prairie will give us a chance to learn about some of the plants and wildlife found in this ecosystem. We will also talk about the benefits to the natural environment, how people over time have viewed and managed it as a resource and some animals that make their home on the prairie. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students with ID, and children ages 6-17. MNHS and NCHS members are free.

For more information contact [Amber Bentler](#) (507) 766-0994.

Christmas in July

Sunday, July 13, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: The Harkin Store will celebrate a Scottish Christmas in honor of Alexander Harkin's native Scotland. There will be a Scottish "goodies" for your sampling. There will be decorations and the gift shop will have a tree up with items for Christmas. The Harkin Store is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. everyday except Mondays in July. The gift shop is open the same hours as the store with a supply toys, books, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy. Admission to the program is included with site admission.

Remember on August 3rd, the Harkin Store is having the 35th Annual West Newton Day so find your old pictures of the area and stories from this area and come and share your bit of history with us and our visitors. We will also post contact information for those who want to find relatives or other information. We will be able to do copying for you and us.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society for more information contact the store at (507) 354-8666 or NCHS at (507) 934-2160.

July 14 - July 20

Tastes and Sounds of Civil War at Fort Ridgely

Saturday, July 19, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: Presented by Historian Vickie Wendel, this is a must see program. Experiences the Civil War through the eyes of an interpreter dressed in 1860's clothing Listen to the stories of the men who fought and women who waited and taste the staple food of marching armies. This will give you a new appreciation for the men who have fought for our freedom. Join us at 1 p.m. for the fascinating program. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students with ID and children ages 6-17. MNHS and NCHS members are free.

For more information contact [Amber Bentler](#) (507) 766-0994.

"Best of the Wurst" Band

Sunday, July 20, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: For the afternoon on July 20 from 1-4 p.m., the 1870's Harkin Store will have old time music by the "Best of the Wurst" band. Marv and Vern and Garfield will play variety of old time tunes. Come bring a lawn chair or blanket or enjoy the porch for the afternoon. The Harkin Store is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. everyday except Mondays in July. The gift shop is open the same hours as the store with a supply toys, books, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy. Admission to the program is included with the museum admission.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society for more information contact the store at (507) 354-8666 or NCHS at (507) 934-2160.

July 21 - July 27

Heron Lake Watershed Project Site Tour

Monday, July 21, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.

Location: Heron Lake Community Center

Brief Description: The Heron Lake Watershed District is hosting a Project Site Tour. This tour will include stops at the cedar revetment site in section 3 of Seward Township in Nobles County and the J-hook weir site in section 4 of Alba

Township in Jackson County. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Participants will meet at the Heron Lake Community Center and will depart at 10 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be served.

For more information and to register contact the HLWD office by June 23, 2014 (507) 793-2462 or contact [Jan Voit](#).

PADDLE: The Minnesota River with Don Robertson

Saturday, July 26, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Minnesota River

Brief Description: CURE Board member Don Robertson will be leading a paddle on the Minnesota River on Saturday, July 26. The exact location will be determined the week before the paddle to accommodate changing water levels, but regardless, this trip will give you an opportunity to explore the river that inspired CURE's founding 22 years ago. Furthermore, Don is an enrolled member of the Sisseton Oyate, and he will be sharing stories about the importance of Minnesota River to the Dakota people. This trip will be appropriate for people with basic to intermediate paddling ability, though plan to be on the river from 9 a.m. until lunchtime. Also, please bring your own bagged lunch and water, and dress for the weather in light, layered clothes, a hat and sunglasses. Don't forget your sunscreen!

For more information and to register check out the [event page](#).

Shopping with Laura Ingalls at the Harkin Store

Sunday, July 27, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: On your way to the Little House on the Prairie reunion at Walnut Grove on July 27, stop in at the Harkin Store and see what Laura and her family would have purchased at the Oleson Mercantile. The Harkin Store, which was open during the 1870's when Laura lived in Walnut Grove, has 40% original merchandise still on the shelves. A costumed tour of the store and story of the unique bit of history told. Enjoy old-fashioned from home made egg, coffee, lemonade, and samples of "store goods." Extra checker boards will be available for you to challenge your family and friends. The Harkin Store is open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. everyday except Mondays in July. The gift shop is open the same hours as the store with a supply toys, books, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy. Admission to the program is included with the museum admission.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society for more information contact the store at (507) 354-8666 or NCHS at (507) 934-2160.

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| JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS | |
| STORMWATER - TMDL ASST&OUTREACH | |
| Department | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency |
| Closing Date | July 5, 2014 |
| Location(s) | St. Paul, MN |
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| Who May Apply | All qualified job seekers |
| Responsibilities | <p>This position supports Stormwater program policy and develops guidance and technical assistance to address impaired waters and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements for Municipal Storm Separate Sewer System (MS4) permittees. This position works with MS4 permitting and compliance staff to ensure TMDLs are properly addressed by MS4 permittees. The position also works with TMDL project coordinators and other related agency programs to gather the most current information on impaired waters assessment and TMDL development activity to prepare and update guidance and assistance methods. In addition, this position will be responsible for providing training on Best Management Practices available for treating stormwater and reducing pollutant loads on a statewide basis to MS4 permittees, and as needed for assisting Construction Stormwater permittees and MS4s not required to be permitted.</p> <p>The position will require 10% travel.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply go to www.careers.state.mn.us Posting# 14PCA000080.</p> |

AMA HABITAT SPECIALIST

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| Department | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources |
| Closing Date | July 7, 2014 |
| Location(s) | Glenwood, MN |
| Who May Apply | Only current employees of the agency |
| Responsibilities | <p>This position exists to provide to technical shoreland management guidance and consultation to protect, enhance, restore and manage shoreland and related natural plant communities, which are critical for healthy fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. The incumbent will coordinate and administer grant funds and contract development statewide, provide site inspection, landscape design and review, technical assistance, and contractor oversight as needed for project implementation for native shoreland restoration and stabilization projects.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply go to www.careers.state.mn.us Posting# 14DNR000475.</p> |

DISTRICT TECHNICIAN INSPECTOR AND WATER RESOURCE SPECIALIST

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| Department | Rice Creek Watershed District |
| Closing Date | July 7, 2014 |
| Location(s) | Blaine, MN |
| Who May Apply | All qualified job seekers |
| Responsibilities | <p>Provide technical assistance to support the District's water resources protection and management activities including planning, program management, and project implementation. Ensure implementation of and provide assistance in the District's regulatory program including inspection of District's permitted projects.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply check out the job announcement.</p> |

"If you can't be in awe of Mother Nature, there's something wrong with you." - Alex Trebek

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.
