



Minnesota River

Minnesota River Weekly Update

August 12, 2014

MDA to offer free waste pesticide collections in east central and metro counties

The MDA will host a series of waste pesticide collections in seven east central and metro Minnesota counties from Tuesday, August 19, through Wednesday, September 10, 2014. Through these free collection events, Minnesota homeowners and farmers can safely dispose of unwanted and unusable pesticides. MDA has collected over 5.25 million pounds around the state since the program started in 1990. The program accepts unwanted, unusable agricultural and consumer type pesticides including insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and rodenticides. However, crop oils, adjuvants, pesticide rinsate, fertilizer, treated seed, contaminated soil and empty pesticide containers will not be accepted. The collections are open to farmers, homeowners, commercial pesticide applicators, golf courses, lawn care companies, structural pest control operators and other pesticide users. No pre-registration is required. Collection sites will accept up to 300 pounds of eligible product at no cost. MDA requests that citizens call (651) 201-6562 to provide advance notification if they wish to drop off more than 300 pounds of product. The schedule of MDA collections can be found on [MDA's website](#).

For more details contact the MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division at (651) 201-6562.

MPCA board adopts changes to water quality standards

The MPCA recently adopted amendments to water quality standards addressing eutrophication of rivers, streams, Mississippi River navigation pools and Lake Pepin. The amendments also replace the turbidity standard with a TSS standard. A draft of the amendments was released in June 2013, followed by a public comment period from November 2013 to January 2014, including a public hearing held Jan. 8, 2014.

Seventeen parties commented on the amendments. See their comments, the MPCA and more details in the [board packet online](#). The MPCA Citizen Board adopted the standards at its June 24, 2014 meeting. Following that meeting, the Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic Review Board petitioned the MPCA Citizens Board for a stay and reconsideration of the standards. At its July 22 meeting, the board heard from several parties about the petition before voting to deny the stay. A [webcast](#) of the meeting, along with the board packet is available on the [agency website](#). For more information check out the story "[Fighting the green slime: Preventing algae growth in river and streams.](#)"

Food companies can apply for funding to help promote products

The MDA announced the release of new funding for its Tradeshow Support Program (TSP). This helps small Minnesota food and value-added agricultural companies exhibit their products in tradeshows, like the Midwest Pantry's "Local Food and Gift Show," held August 10 in Northeast Minneapolis, where 2014's funding was first announced. The TSP helps Minnesota food companies do more in-store product demonstrations and attend more sales events to help with market access. The Midwest Pantry Local Food and Gift Show highlighted how funds help cutting-edge local food merchandisers and entrepreneurs secure deals with wholesale buyers. Small food companies face the same startup perils as any entrepreneur, but the wave of interest in artisan, local and healthy foods creates market opportunity. MDA Business Development Specialist, Brian Erickson, said, "Events like those provided by Midwest Pantry and the funding assistance to exhibit from the TSP help local food entrepreneurs capitalize on consumer trends by clearing marketing hurdles early in the development." Nearly 50 small Minnesota food companies participated in the first full year of the TSP. Those companies projected sales above \$800,000 and accessed an estimated 3,300 new stores in 90 new markets. The MDA hopes to help more new food companies attend their first tradeshows with its 2014 funding. "Zoie Glass of Lucille's Kitchen and co-owner of Midwest Pantry said, "We saw the largest impact from the TSP during our holiday season with a 31% increase in wholesale sales over the previous year. This program really allowed us to push our sales and we were thrilled with the results." For more information about how the MDA helps Minnesota food companies, visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/business/processedfoods.aspx>.

ARTICLES	
<p>Do fish have ears? Frequencies used to stop the spread of Asian carp(with audio) <i>Tom Crann, Aug. 4, MPR News</i> Asian carp have continued to move northward up the Mississippi, despite the state's best efforts. Last year eggs were found in the Mississippi close to the Iowa-Minnesota border, and this season Asian carp were caught near the mouth of St. Croix River and close to Winona.</p>	<p>At Farmfest, GOP candidates for governor take aim at regulation (with audio) <i>Mark Steil, Aug. 5, MPRNews</i> With the primary election a week away, the four Republican candidates for governor on Tuesday aimed their fire at agriculture's regulators, not each other.</p>
<p>Killing more cormorants <i>Jim Williams, Aug. 5, Star Tribune</i> Double-crested cormorants are in the news again, for the usual reason. This time the federal government wants to kill 16,000 of this native bird species because of complaints from fishermen in the estuary of the Columbia River on the Oregon coast.</p>	<p>Ruminating cattle and leaky gas pipelines <i>Reuters Media, Aug. 5, Brainerd Dispatch</i> Supporters of natural gas promote it as a clean "bridge fuel" between the coal-and-oil dominated energy system of the present and the zero-emissions system of the future based on renewables and nuclear power.</p>
<p>U of M flushes toilets with rainwater <i>Elizabeth Dunbar, Aug. 5, MPR News</i></p>	<p>Wander Minnesota: Flying above the trees <i>Amy Rea, Aug. 6, CBS Local</i></p>

A main theme that came out of my reporting on reusing treated wastewater was that it can be expensive to both meet health standards and build a new distribution system for it. But one way to re-use water without building a new set of pipes all over the Twin Cities is to think small and local.

The summer weather of late has been spectacular – and we so deserve it – and its time to get outdoors, people, and enjoy views like these. As especially fine way to do that is to take a trip out to the Minnesota River Valley and go ziplining with [Kerfoot Canopy Tour](#).

[Farmfest highlights young farmers](#) (with audio)
Aug. 7, MPR News
Farmfest is underway this week near Redwood Falls in southern Minnesota. The annual agricultural showcase includes the usual political forums and a look at the newest farm equipment.

[How climate change impacts blue-green algae growth, water safety](#) (with audio)
Aug. 7, MPR News
Toledo, Ohio residents are starting to drink tap water again after a weekend warning that an algae bloom in Lake Erie made the city's water unsafe to drink.

[Minnesota farmers won't feel impact of Russian ban](#)
Mark Steil, Aug. 7, MPR News
The Russian ban on many US agricultural products should have only a minor effect on Minnesota producers according to state farm groups.

[Minnesota moose die from wolves, ticks, abandonment and disease](#)
Josephine Marcotty, Aug. 9, Star Tribune
The first year of a landmark study found higher mortality rates than normal and listed several causes. Researchers say more work is needed.

[Potato giant finds fewer pesticides please consumers, neighbors, bottom line](#) (with audio)
Dan Gunderson, Aug. 10, MPR News
Helicopters once buzzed across RD Offutt's massive potato farms here, spraying fungicide about every five days. It's how the potato industry did business, but not anymore.

[Mine-waste release in B.C. raises question: Would better regulators oversee Minnesota mines?](#)
Ron Meador, Aug. 12, MinnPost
Last week's tailings-pond failure at the Mount Polley mine in British Columbia has surely heightened Minnesotan's worries about the riskiness of projects being advanced by PolyMet, Twin Metals and other companies with stakes in the ground in our north woods.

EVENTS

Aug 11 - Aug 17

Project WILD and PLT K-8 Workshop
Monday, August 11, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: River Bend Nature Center, Faribault, MN

Brief Description: Project WILD and Project Learning Tree (PLT) are award-winning environmental education programs in Minnesota. This workshop is based on activities for K-8 students and will focus on projects, crafts and games related to Minnesota State Standards. You can only get these activity guides by attending a workshop. Register today! Workshop participants will receive Project WILD K-12 Activity Guide (112 activities), Project Learning Tree K-8 Activity Guide (96 activities), WILD and PLT State supplements from the DNR, other educational materials, 6 CEUs. The registration fee is \$65.

For more information and to register contact [Josh Sweet](#) (507) 332-7151.

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting
Tuesday, August 12, 2014 @ 6 p.m.

Location: Ridgewater College, Hutchinson, MN

Brief Description: A report of the recent Minnesota River Congress will be a main discussion topic at the quarterly meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance. A potluck meal begins at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. The MRWA is a watershed-wide network of individuals from private organizations and public agencies, and citizens who meet quarterly and work on projects that support and benefit the Minnesota River Basin. The Aug 12 agenda also includes a status report of the National Blueway designation project for the Minnesota River, and other general updates.

For more information contact [Lori Nelson](mailto:Lori.Nelson@mn.gov) (952) 858-0737, [Scott Sparlin](mailto:Scott.Sparlin@mn.gov) (507) 276-2280 or [Patrick Moore](mailto:Patrick.Moore@mn.gov) (877) 269-2873.

Soil Health and Cover Crops Field Day

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Jim Purfeerst Farm, 7803 240th St., Faribault, MN

Brief Description: Don't miss this chance to view annual ryegrass, tillage radish, white clover cover crop seeding into standing corn on June 25. Agenda includes:

- Tour of cover crop plots and tillage comparison plots
- Helicopter on hand to aerial seed cover crop (weather permitting)
- Expert analysis on strip tillage economics
- Principles of Soil Health presentation
- Local farmer panel discussing cover crop experiences
- Crop consultant experiences with cover crops

Pork producers will provide lunch free of charge, thanks to our sponsors.

Please RSVP by August 6 by calling Rice SWCD at (507) 332-7418 x3 or email debbie.skarupa@mn.nacdn.net.

Benchmarking Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities in Portfolio Manager

Tuesday, August 12, 2014 @ 1-2 p.m.

Location: online

Brief Description: Learn how to track the progress of energy efficiency efforts and compare the energy use of wastewater treatment plants to other peer facilities across the country. Attendees will learn how to measure and track energy use and carbon dioxide emission reductions in water and wastewater treatment plants to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track improvements over time.

Soil Health Webinar

Wednesday, August 13, 2014 @ 10-11 a.m.

Location: Online

Brief Description: Dr. Deborah Allan, Professor of Soil Science; Department of Soil, Water and Climate, U of M, will be giving a talk on Soil Health. To join in on the conversation follow this link <https://umconnect.umn.edu/maswcd/> on the day of the presentation.

The Prairie and Big Woods Series

Thursday, August 14, 2014 @ 7 p.m. and Thursday, September 11 @ 7 p.m.

Location:

Brief Description: Please join us for our two-part trail tour presented by Scott Kudelka, Minneopa Area Naturalist. The two programs, one in August and one in

September, will take place out on the Traverse des Sioux trails and will teach participants about the two very different landscapes on either side of the Minnesota River – the Prairie and the Big Woods. During the Prairie tour we will learn how prior to Euro-American settlement of southern Minnesota, the tall-grass prairie dominated the landscape through the Minnesota River basin. A hike through our restored prairie will give us a chance to learn about some of the plants and wildlife found in this ecosystem. Scott will talk about its benefits to the natural environment and how people over time have viewed and managed it as a resource. During the Big Woods program, we will examine how these forests formed in the first place, some of the rare species found in this ecosystem and its history over time. The dense forest dominated by maple and basswood once covered a 3,000 square mile area of southern Minnesota reaching all the way to present-day Mankato. Called “Bois Grand” or “Big Woods” by early French explorers, it was recognized as a distinct area from the band of hardwood forests. Both parts of the series are free and open to the public.

For more information contact [Alyssa Auten](#) (507) 934-2160.

Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists Summer Tour

Friday, August 15, 2014 @ 8 a.m.

Location: Jordan NRCS Field Office, 7151 W 190th St, Jordan, MN 55352

Brief Description: The Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists Summer Tour will be held on Friday, August 15. The MAPSS summer tour will discuss Slope Instability in the Minnesota River Valley. We will be visiting many interesting sites associated with recent landslides and mudflows and will have many speakers who are distinguished in their field to discuss the mechanisms, morphology and impacts of landslides. Attendees will gain knowledge on several topics of significant importance to the area of soil science, hydrology and land use. The tour starts at 8 a.m. sharp at the Jordan NRCS Office. Lunch will be provided for all who register.

For more information and to register go to the [MN Association of Soil Scientist](#) website.

Archery in the Park

Friday, August 15, 2014 @ 4 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years. First humans used archery as a way to hunt animals and later as a way to compete against each other. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basics of archery (safety, proper care of the equipment and how to use a bow). Participants will be able to practice their new skills on a number of different targets including a white-tail deer and wild turkey. Please meet at the Upper Picnic Area.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Wild about Wildlife

Friday, August 15, 2014

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: What are some of the cool animals that can be found at Fort Ridgely State Park? How about one that climbs trees to escape predators and uses its ears to hunt prey? Learn how these animals have adapted to survive in

their natural environment and some of the more interesting characteristics. We will look at fourteen different animals like the beaver, skunk and coyote. Meet at the Campground Picnic Shelter.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

6th Annual Hummingbird Hurrah
Saturday, August 16, 2014 @ 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location: Bender Park, 200 N. 3rd St, Henderson, MN

Brief Description: This free birding festival offers people of all ages a relaxing time in or near the garden enjoying antics of the ruby-throated hummingbird. These tiny flying jewels can be seen in large numbers in August as they stop in Henderson at feeders and nectar producing plants on their southward journey to Mexico and Central America, where they spend the winter. The Hummingbird Hurrah is produced by Henderson Feathers and sponsored by the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter. The festival promotes understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of these amazing little birds. A licensed hummingbird bander catches and bands birds, allowing visitors to see them up close and learn about hummingbird research. The Hummingbird Hurrah includes a garden tour, speakers, book signing sessions, children's activities and a Hummingbird Mall with food, art, craft specialty, and information vendors.

For more information go to <http://www.hendersonhummingbirdhurrah.com/> or call (612) 229-5210.

Causes of the US Dakota War and Battlefield Tour (John LaBatte/New Ulm Battery/Dan Cochran)

Saturday, August 16, 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, The New Ulm Battery will be here to assist John in his Battlefield Tour to give visitors a feeling of what it would have been like to hear canon fire on the Parade grounds. They will demonstrate the use of black powder as well as talk about what it was like for the soldiers during the US Dakota War in 1862. Dan Cochran will be here to demonstrate and sell his homemade leather work. Join LaBatte, the New Ulm Battery, and Dan Cochran 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.

For more information contact [Amber Bentler](#) (507) 766-0993.

Archery in the Park

Saturday, August 16, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: The sport of shooting arrows has been around for thousands of years. First humans used archery as a way to hunt animals and later as a way to compete against each other. Archery is an activity that people from all walks of life and almost every size and ability can participate and have fun. This program covers the basics of archery (safety, proper care of the equipment and how to use a bow). Participants will be able to practice their new skills on a number of different targets including a white-tail deer and wild turkey. Please meet at Group Campground on the campground side of Minneopa State Park.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Dragonflies Hike

Saturday, August 16, 2014 @ 4 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: A normal Minnesota summer can be filled with the sounds of buzzing mosquitoes, these annoying bugs that can ruin the fun of being outdoors. The sight of dragonflies swooping through the air is a welcome one because they eat our pesky mosquitoes. We will talk about how these insects have been around a long, long, long time and the typical dragonfly lifecycle. To find some of the dragonflies living in the park there will be a hike around the wetland to see if we can capture some with the use of nets. Meet at the Group Campground on the campground side of the Park.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Wild Edibles

Saturday, August 16, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: People eat wild edibles for a number of reasons including as a legitimate way of economizing their food costs, as an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, and in rare situations they can be essential for survival. We will talk about some of the more recognizable plants growing in the area like the common dandelion which can be used in salads or even as a coffee-like beverage. Please meet at the Group Campground on the campground side.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Le Sueur Tigers Tour

Sunday, August 17, 2014 @ 12-4 p.m.

Location: WW Mayo House

Brief Description: The historic WW Mayo House will be open for tours from 12 – 4 p.m. with a special interpretation about the Le Sueur Tigers. View the marker honoring the Le Sueur Tigers placed in Louise Park adjacent to the Mayo House. This marker was dedicated on August 19, 2012, which is a date of significance for the Le Sueur Tigers as 150 years to that date, on August 19, 1862, Le Sueur militia volunteers quickly organized into two companies named the Le Sueur Tigers #1 and 2 and they went to New Ulm on August 19 and 20th, 1862. Hear how the tigers had willingly left their families and the safety of their area to assist their fellow citizens in New Ulm during the US/Dakota War of 1862. Learn more about Dr. WW Mayo's involvement with the Le Sueur Tigers and what his family was doing while he was away in New Ulm with the Tigers.

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

Bees and Honey

Sunday, August 17, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: Honey was used as sweetener instead of sugar. It could be found out on the prairie and could be made by the pioneers. Crystal Bock from Nicollet, will have information and equipment that she uses for making her honey. Our program will from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday, August 17. The Harkin Store is open everyday except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in August. Admission to

the event is included with the admission to the store. Our gift shop is open the same hours as the store and has toys, books, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy.

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

Aug 18 - Aug 24

Hawk Creek Side Inlet Field Day

Wednesday, August 20, 2014 @ 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Location: Renville Community Center, 221 North Main St, Renville, MN

Brief Description:

Agenda:

8 a.m. Registration & Refreshments

8:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions

8:35 a.m. MN BWSR Overview

8:45 a.m. Side Inlet Technical Design Overview

9:05 a.m. Local Side Inlet Installation Comments and Discussion

9:25 a.m. Board bus, visit side inlet sites

12:15 a.m. Return to Renville Community Center for lunch (free with reservation)

For more information call the Hawk Creek Watershed Project at (320) 523-3666 or email heidi@hawkcreekwatershed.org by Friday, August 8, 2014 to reserve your free meal and seat on the bus.

William Lass

Thursday, August 21, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center

Brief Description: Author William Lass will be here to talk about his new book "Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries."

William Lass is a historian, author of many books, Professor Emeritus at Minnesota State University, Mankato and recipient of many awards. Most recently, he was the first recipient of The Lifetime Service Award at the Northern Plains History Conference in 2012. Join us for this program and learn about Minnesota's bizarre Northwest Angle, the attempt to make Minnesota a long, narrow state, and many other interesting aspects about the shape of our state.

For more information contact the [Nicollet County Historical Society](http://www.nicolletcountyhistoricalsociety.org) (507) 934-2160.

Nature Cart

Friday, August 22, 2014 @ 10 a.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: The Naturalist will be at the Falls Area for a couple of hours to answer questions about some of the natural and historical characteristics at Minneopa State Park. Visitors will have a chance to learn about what is living in the Minnesota River and Minneopa Creek including mussels, fish, and macroinvertebrates. Are you looking for information on the height of the waterfalls or who built the granite rock buildings in the park? All of these answers and more help understand why Minneopa is such a unique area.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](http://www.minneopastatepark.com) (507) 384-8890.

Emerald Ash Borer

Friday, August 22, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Stop off at the waterfalls area to learn about Emerald Ash Borer, a nonnative invasive insect that destroys ash trees. This insect from Asia has killed millions of ash trees in North America and first discovered in Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. You can also learn about other invasive species like leafy spurge, Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Carp. Please meet at the waterfalls side of Minneopa State Park.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Water Cycle

Friday, August 22, 2014 @ 2 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: We know water is essential for us to live. Water is everywhere moving from one form to another and from one place to another. We see it in the falling rain, a flowing river, and steam rising from a warm surface. In this program you will become a water molecule, simulating the movement of water within the water cycle and showing how it doesn't flow equally across the landscape. In addition, we will also discover the role of heat and gravity in the water cycle. Meet at the Group Campground on the campground side.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Fort Ridgely and the US Dakota War / Curtis Dahlin

Saturday, August 23, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely

Brief Description: Independent Historian Curtis Dahlin grew up on a farm near Sisseton, South Dakota, on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Indian Reservation. He graduated from South Dakota State in 1964 with a degree in history, spent two years in the army and worked for the Department of Transportation as a traffic analyst for 35 years. Since retiring in 2002 he has spent time researching and writing on US Dakota Uprising of 1862 in Minnesota. He has published two books and three shorter booklets on the US Dakota War. His talk will deal with various aspects of the Uprising. Join us at 1:30 p.m. for this fascinating program presented by Independent Historian Curtis Dahlin. 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) 766-0993.

Old Schools Days

Sunday, August 24, 2014 @ 1-4 p.m.

Location: The Harkin Store will be having a program on old schools in Nicollet County. There will be old pictures and old school books and a picture of the old private school, the Robinson school, in the town of West Newton. Come enjoy and learn about village of West Newton and the Harkin Store that was prosperous in early 1870's. The Harkin Store is open everyday except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in August. Admission to the event is included with the admission to the store. Our gift shop is open the same hours as the store and has toys, books, unique and hand-crafted items, also 10 cent candy.

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

Monday, August 25, 2014 @ 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: St. Olaf Lake Park, New Richland, MN

Brief Description: The Le Sueur River Watershed Network is sponsoring a potluck and meeting at St Olaf Lake Park in New Richland, MN. Following the potluck there will be a nature walk guided by Al Batt with stations along the way that explain how water quality monitoring, citizen action, and fun can be tied together. The public is invited to this free event to join the conversation about the Le Sueur River Watershed Network and to share a meal with watershed neighbors. Event organizers and citizen volunteers are offering a main dish as well as cookies from Nancy Jane's Bakery in New Richland. Participants are asked to bring a side dish if you wish.

For more information contact [Jessica Nelson](#) (507) 389-2704, [Mark Bosacker](#) (507) 388-7203, [Paul Davis](#) (507) 344-5246.

Seed Collection Volunteer Day at Cedar Mountain SNA

Tuesday, August 26, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Cedar Mountain SNA

Brief Description: Help collect prairie seed that will be used on nearby Scientific & Natural Areas (SNA). Enjoy the breath taking views of the Minnesota River Valley, have lunch on unique locally owned native prairies and help diversity future prairie restorations on nearby Cedar Mountain SNA. Please register [online](#). Footwear appropriate for hiking is recommended. There are no maintained trail and some areas of seed collection will be on uneven terrain. Pack a lunch and water. There are no public restrooms or access to drinking water on site.

For more information please visit [DNR's site](#) or call Judy Schulte at (507) 822-0344. This even is a collaboration between the DNR and CURE in the effort to get more people out on the landscape enjoying all that southwestern Minnesota has to offer.

Seed Collection Volunteer Day at Blue Devil Valley SNA

Wednesday, August 27, 2014 @ 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location: Blue River Valley SNA

Brief Description: Help collect prairie seed that will be used on nearby Scientific & Natural Areas (SNA). Enjoy the breath taking views of the Minnesota River Valley, have lunch on unique locally owned native prairies and help diversity future prairie restorations on nearby Blue Devil Valley SNA. Please register [online](#). Footwear appropriate for hiking is recommended. There are not maintained trail and some areas of seed collection will be on uneven terrain. Pack a lunch and water. There are no public restrooms or access to drinking water on site.

For more information please visit the [DNR's site](#) or call Judy Schulte (507) 822-0344. This even is a collaboration between the DNR and CURE in the effort to get more people out on the landscape enjoying all that southwestern Minnesota has to offer.

What lives in the river; Macroinvertebrates

Friday, August 29, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: What in the world is a macroinvertebrate? Macroinvertebrates are aquatic bugs that we can see with our eye, have no backbone, and live in our rivers, lakes and wetlands. Discover how these aquatic bugs are special and

where to find them. We will collect macroinvertebrates from the Cottonwood River and identify each of them using a simple identification key. Meet at the playground at the Day Use Area near the swimming pond.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Digital Photography

Saturday, August 30, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the Group Campground on the campground side.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Wild about Wildlife

Saturday, August 30, 2014 @ 7 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: What are some of the cool animals that can be found at Minneopa State Park? How about one that climbs trees to escape predators and uses its ears to hunt prey? Learn how these animals have adapted to survive in their natural environment and some of the more interesting characteristics. We will look at fourteen different animals like the beaver, skunk and coyote. Please meet at the Group Campground on the campground side.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

Night Hike

Saturday, August 30, 2014 @ 9 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Night presents a whole new world to most of us. Very few of us spend extended periods of time in the dark and some people may even become fearful of the night. As humans we are constantly trying to reduce the fun of being outside after dark. On the other hand, animals adapt their lives and themselves to the conditions of both day and night. On this hike we will learn how to use our five senses (sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell) in the dark without using any artificial light. Meet at the parking lot on the gravel road about halfway to Seppmann Windmill on the north side and please no flashlights.

For more information contact [Scott Kudelka](#) (507) 384-8890.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

Department	Farm Service Agency, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	August 19, 2014

Location(s)	Litchfield, MN; Luverne, MN; Faribault, MN; or Roseau, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position is located in the Meeker County FSA Office in Litchfield, Minnesota; Rock County FSA Office in Luverne, Minnesota; Rice County FSA Office in Faribault, MN; or Roseau County FSA Office in Roseau, MN.</p> <p>This position is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to one or more of the program areas administered in the county. • Interprets and explains procedures, program regulations and forms to producers and other agency personnel. • Utilizes IBM system 36 and /or PC Computer to maintain producer data and process automated program forms. • Uses a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered. <p>For more information and how to apply go to Meeker County's announcement, Rock County's announcement, Rice County's announcement, or Roseau County's announcement.</p>

HYDROLOGIST 2

Department	Pesticide & Fertilizer Management, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	August 19, 2014
Location(s)	St. Paul, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position exists to provide technical expertise to evaluate human health and environmental risks, review environmental investigations and determine appropriate soil, sediment, air and ground water cleanup goals and technologies at agricultural chemical incident sites and to provide related technical support to the Department.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply go to Minnesota State Jobs website, Posting # 14AGR000059.</p>

COUNTY PROGRAM TECHNICIAN

Department	Farm Service Agency, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Closing Date	August 26, 2014
Location(s)	Farmington, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position is located in the Dakota County FSA Office in Farmington, Minnesota.</p> <p>This position is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to one or more of the program areas administered in the county.

- Interprets and explains procedures, program regulations and forms to producers and other agency personnel.
- Utilizes IBM system 36 and /or PC Computer to maintain producer data and process automated program forms.
- Uses a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered.

For more information and how to apply go to [Dakota County's announcement](#).

FISHERIES HABITAT SPECIALIST

Department	Fish & Wildlife/Region 4, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Closing Date	September 1, 2014
Location(s)	New Ulm, MN
Who May Apply	All qualified job seekers
Responsibilities	<p>This position functions as the DNR Commissioners' delegate in administering aquatic habitat-related programs of the DNR, Section of Fisheries in a multi-county region that provides assistance to customers and staff to protect, preserve, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat through the effective implementation and best management practices or programs as they relate to fisheries management activities. This position primarily involves the permitting and implementation of the Aquatic Plant Management Program (APM), the Aquatic Aeration Program (AAP), interactions with lake associations, riparian owners, and planning and zoning officials from local government units that deal with shoreline development and in-lake management of natural resources. This position will also assist Area Fisheries staff with lake and stream surveys, fish stocking, special fish and habitat assessments, and other fish data research activities as time permits within the 33 counties in the DNR Southern Region (R4). The person in this position is the lead worker in planning, coordinating, and implementing the APM and AAP programs, effectively acting in an advisory role for directing and guiding customers within the region. Also, this position can provide assistance to the statewide Aquatic Habitat Program (AHP) for advancing strategies in the MN DNR Fish Habitat Plan.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply go to Minnesota State Jobs website, Posting # 14DNR000512.</p>

*"Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left."
- 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.