

To include your news release in the next edition of the Minnesota River Update, please send it to mnriverupdate@gmail.com.

Conservation Applications of LiDAR Data Training Workshops

The final "Conservation Applications of LiDAR" training workshops, organized by the University of Minnesota, will be held in July and August this year. Public or private professionals needing this low-cost training should sign up now. These workshops address the use of LiDAR-acquired high resolution elevation data in soil and water conservation, hydrology, wetland mapping, and engineering. They are designed for people who regularly use GIS or CAD-Civil 3D software in their work and plan to use Minnesota's new high resolution digital elevation data. No further workshops will be available through this project except as arranged by specific user groups.

For registration and more information, see <http://tsp.umn.edu/lidar>.

Wednesday, July 18th, Lake Phalen Wildflower Walk

This free tour will explore some of the Lake Phalen Shoreline areas, discussing plants and techniques used in the restoration initiative which began in 2001. Come learn to identify native plants and here the story of how this wetland was restored! The walk will take place on Wednesday, July 18 from 6:30 to 8:30pm and begin at the Lake Phalen Beach House in St. Paul, MN. Registration is limited, so sign up right away. To register, please call Shelly at the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, 651-792-7965 or email shelly@rwmwd.org.

For more information, see http://www.rwmwd.org/index.asp?Type=B_EV&SEC={69D046D7-774E-49B1-8ECD-B53407C9C84A}&DE={C20C6144-4567-4558-A96A-6AA1A246BEB0}

Thursday, July 19th, Friends of Minneopa State Park Watershed Talk

The Friends of Minneopa State Park is hosting an informational talk by Scott MacLean, a Watershed Project Manager for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. He will detail a study to begin next year on the Middle Minnesota River Watershed. This area includes the Minneopa Creek Watershed. The talk will be at 7:00pm on Thursday, July 19th in the basement of the North Mankato municipal building at 1001 Belgrade Ave. The talk is free and the public is invited. Questions please call Tim at 507-388-7622 or email tpulis@hickorytech.net.

Monday July 23rd, End of Public Comment Period for New Le Sueur County Mine

The Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners announces that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared for the Proposed South Mine in Kasota Township, Le Sueur County and is available for public comment. In this project, the Unimin Corporation proposes the continuation of open pit non-metallic mineral mining of the Jordan sandstone to produce industrial sand. Blasting, crushing, dewatering, size classification, and reclamation activities will occur on approximately 1,188 acres located in parts of Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18 & 12, Kasota Township (T109N, R26W; 27W), Le Sueur County, Minnesota. Current land cover includes row-crop agriculture, pasture, wetlands, natural area, residential, and a Public Water Wetland. The public comment period will run from Monday, June 11th, 2012 until Monday, July 23rd, 2012. A public information meeting was held on Monday, July 9th, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Building, 515 South Maple Ave, Le Center, Minnesota. All comments must be submitted in writing by 4:30pm, Monday, July 23rd and should be directed to: Kathy Brockway, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Le Sueur County, 88 South Park Ave, Le Center, MN 56057, Phone (507) 357-2251, kbrockway@co.le-sueur.mn.us.

For official announcement, see <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/SouthMinePublicNotice.pdf> and for project details, see <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/SouthMineEnvironmentalImpactStatement.pdf>

Thursday, July 26th, Hazelnut Walk-n-Talk

Join University of Minnesota researchers, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension for an afternoon of hybrid hazelnut discussion. The Hybrid Hazelnut Research Update Walk-n-Talk will be held Thursday, July 26, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the Rosemount Research and Outreach Center at UMore Park in Rosemount, Minnesota. Attendees of the walk-n-talk will learn about mound layering and stem cutting propagation techniques as they are guided by researcher Lois Braun. All are welcome to attend this free event. No pre-registration is required. This is an outdoor event. Please dress accordingly.

For more information, see

<http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrfdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Rosemount.Hazelnut.RA.UMNE.Press.Release.pdf>

Wednesday, August 1st, Increasing Garden Productivity Walk-n-Talk

Join International Ag Labs, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension for an early evening discussion on how to increase the productivity, nutrient density, and taste of your garden fruits and vegetables. The "Tips for Increasing Garden Productivity Walk-n-Talk" will be held Wednesday, August 1, starting at 5:30pm at the Fairmont Community Gardens. The gardens are located in the back section of Heritage Acres in Fairmont.

Growing good tasting and nutrient-dense produce starts with good soil. Jon Frank with International Ag Labs will be giving tips and techniques for increasing soil health in order to increase your garden productivity. Learn about the importance of soil testing, what to do for nutrient deficiencies, how to increase the soil organic matter, and much more. During this walk-n-talk, Jon will also demonstrate how to measure soil energy using a conductivity meter. This simple meter will let you know when to fertilize and when not to. The evening will also include a walk-through of the plots at the Fairmont Community Gardens.

Those with plots at the Community Gardens are encouraged to attend, but ALL are welcome to this free event. No pre-registration is required. This is an outdoor event. Please dress accordingly.

For more information, see

<http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrfdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Garden.Productivity.RA.UMNE.Press.Release.pdf>

Monday, August 6th, Deadline for Seed Grant Proposals

The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) seeks proposals for seed grant funds. These grants are designed to provide limited financial assistance for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects requiring technical assistance. Project funding can support technical assistance services (i.e. labor costs only, such as for a consultant, design professional, installer, or student labor), for projects in all seven Minnesota CERT regions: Central, Metro, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and West Central. The primary objectives of this funding are to encourage the implementation of community-based energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in Minnesota and to provide a forum for community education about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and their economic, ecological, and community benefits. Please submit all proposals electronically to rfp@cleanenergyresourceteams.org no later than 4:00pm on Monday, August 6.

For more information, see <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/rfp>

Conservation Drainage Informational Sessions

If you are an agricultural producer, ditch and tile contractor, watershed professional, elected official or a citizen interested in clean water, you will have the opportunity to learn about the very

latest drainage technology design which has the ability to save ground water, reduce rural runoff to local waterways, improve tile drain water quality and potentially increase crop yields.

Sessions will be held:

Thursday, July 26	Sleepy Eye, MN	Railway Bar meeting room, 300 1st Ave North
Monday, August 13	St. Peter, MN	Traverse de Sioux Treaty Site History Center
Wednesday, August 15	Hanska, MN	Community Center

All sessions begin at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm. There is no charge and free refreshments will be available. Brian Hicks, who has implemented Conservation Drainage technology on his farm for several years, will present each session.

For more information, contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or yasure@lycos.com or see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/ConservationDrainageFlyer%202012.pdf>

2012-2013 Farm Beginnings course

The Land Stewardship Project (LSP) is now taking applications for the 2012-2013 Farm Beginnings course. Farm Beginnings courses will begin this fall and LSP is providing participants two options for getting involved in one of the most successful beginning farmer training initiatives in the country. Classes will be offered in Morris, MN. The application deadline for the 2012-2013 Farm Beginnings course is August 1.

In 2012, LSP's Farm Beginnings program is marking its 15th year of providing firsthand training in low-cost, sustainable methods of farming. The course is tailor-made for people of all ages just getting started in farming, as well as established farmers looking to make changes in their operations. Farm Beginnings participants learn goal setting, financial planning, enterprise planning, marketing and innovative production techniques.

For application materials or for more information, contact Nick Olson at 320-269-2105; nicko@landstewardshipproject.org, or see www.farmbeginnings.org

2013 International Low Impact Development Symposium

August 18-21, 2013
Saint Paul RiverCentre, Saint Paul Minnesota

The 2013 International Low Impact Development (LID) Symposium is being hosted in the Midwestern United States through a collaborative effort between many states, universities, and organizations. From the Great Lakes to the Mississippi Watershed, every state in the Midwestern United States is addressing urban water quality issues from combined sewer overflows to stormwater runoff. The 2013 International LID Symposium will bring together over 1,000 professionals to share their research, implementation, policy, financing, and education strategies to build and restore cities while protecting our environment.

Requests for abstracts will begin in Fall 2012.

For more information, see <http://www.cce.umn.edu/2013-International-Low-Impact-Development-Symposium/index.html>

Bent River Outfitters

Bent River is your outdoor adventure outfitter located at 530 North Riverfront Drive in Old Town Mankato. We rent kayaks, canoes, snowshoes and stand-up paddle boards (SUP) and specialize in guided trips throughout the Blue Earth County river valley. We provide custom activities including corporate outings, team building events, friend and family trips, paddling lessons and much more!

If you would like to rent kayaks, canoes or SUP (stand-up paddleboards) for the hour, day or week, please check out our rates here: <http://www.bentriveroutfitter.com/packlist/rates/>

Lastly, click on our online events and clinics calendar to see fun things such as Happy Hour Paddles, Full Moon Floats, Paddleboard Parties, lessons and more:
<http://www.bentriveroutfitter.com/events-and-clinics/>

Please contact us at info@bentriveroutfitter.com or 507-388-2368 for reservations or questions about our services.

Support the Completion of the Minnesota Valley State Trail

Make your voice heard! Sign a petition calling for the development of the Bloomington Refuge Corridor and the restoration of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and pass it along to other individuals and organizations urging them to also sign the petition.

This petition supports building the missing link of the Minnesota Valley State Trail from Ft. Snelling to Bloomington Ferry Bridge, approximately 18 miles through the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge—our nation's largest urban wildlife refuge in the middle of 3 million people! This will provide excellent recreation opportunities, bird watching, wildlife habitat, and nature viewing. And it will provide people with a connection to the river so they can see firsthand the environmental challenges it faces from excessive sedimentation, channelization, draining of wetlands, and frequent flooding.

The petition and information about the trail and bridge can also be found at a newly renovated web site: <http://www.minnesotavalleystatetrailadvocacy.com/>

Expiring Conservation Reserve Program Options

Landowners evaluating options for expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres should consider opportunities to keep sensitive acres in grasslands or perennial vegetation that preserve soil, water, and wildlife resources. Many CRP lands border ditches, waterways, streams or rivers that could be eligible for federal, state or local buffer programs that would offer continued protection to these sensitive areas. In the last 20 years, over 1 million acres in Minnesota have been enrolled in CRP. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program has provided a source of income to landowners with sensitive lands while protecting and preserving soil, water and wildlife resources. All current contracts expire on September 30 of the last year of the contract.

For several perennial vegetation options for expiring CRP lands, see http://www.extension.umn.edu/agroforestry/components/expiring_crp_updated_9final.pdf

Job Announcements:

Administrative/Project Assistant

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is seeking a part-time Administrative/Project Assistant. Duties and desired skills include bookkeeping, payroll, and receptionist duties, strong knowledge of Microsoft Office and QuickBooks, website maintenance, effective communication skills both orally and written, willingness to assist with District Programs, as well as being able to work independently with a minimum of direct supervision. The position is located in Ortonville, MN.

Application Deadline: August 2, 2012

For more information, see http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Job_Announcement_Admin_Asst_2012.pdf

7th Annual Green Gifts Fair Team Member

Come be a part of our planning team this year for the 7th Annual Green Gifts Fair. The team meets monthly and includes the following position roles: Educational Demos / Stage Manager, Promotional / Auction Coordinator, and Eco Fashion Show Coordinator. These are unpaid internship positions requiring 15 hrs/week. The positions are located in Minneapolis, MN. Please email your resume and a cover letter to Heidi Meyer, Green Gifts Fair Coordinator at heidi@doitgreen.org.

Application Deadline: July 20, 2012

For more information, see <http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/7th-annual-green-gifts-fair-team-member-july-dec-2012/>

Hydrologist 1

The purpose for this position is to support senior staff in the Source Water Protection Unit with 1) delineation of wellhead protection areas and the associated assessments of well and aquifer vulnerability for public water supply wells, 2) development and implementation of wellhead protection plans, and 3) preparation of topical studies relating to the protection of drinking water. This request is to establish a temporary unclassified Hydrologist 1 position for a three-year period to assist the Source Water Protection Unit staff with meeting the MDH goal of having wellhead protection plans completed for all community water supply systems that use groundwater by the year 2020. The position is located in St. Paul, MN.

Application Deadline: July 23, 2012

For more information, see

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/e7910e2c7d4b45381eb664e2da14bc0d/View>

Fish and Wildlife Biologist - Bloomington

The Department of the Interior is seeking a Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Twin Cities Ecological Field Office in Bloomington, MN. Duties include conducting investigations to determine the impact of various land and water development projects upon the wildlife resources of an area; performing data analysis and evaluate findings of special studies or investigations; developing comprehensive threatened and endangered species recovery and wildlife management plans to ensure preservation, protection, and enhancement of wildlife and habitat for a geographic area having a variety of habitat conditions; drafting reports with recommendations for changes, elimination, or improvement of operations and program plans; training lower grade professional or non-professional personnel; conducting consultations pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; reviewing new or proposed legislation or regulations, and providing comments on their impact on natural resources management.

Application Deadline: July 20, 2012

For more information, see <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/318643700>

Natural Resource Technician (Parks)

The MN Department of Natural Resources is seeking a Natural Resources Technician for Lake Shetek State Park. This position exists to in implementing park activities, programs, policies and rules of the Department of Natural Resources and Division of Parks & Trails at the park. Responsibilities include providing lead work direction to seasonal park operations and maintenance staff, implementing visitor services and public relations activities including collection and documentation of fees; operating of the park reservation system; posting of information on bulletin boards and kiosks; assisting with special events; and interacting with park visitors to provide information/help; implementing the park's development, rehabilitation and maintenance programs; operating and maintaining fleet/non-fleet equipment and maintaining park utilities; enforcing park rules and applicable state laws as a trained Minnesota State Park Ranger;

assisting with implementing park's resource management program, including identifying resource-related concerns/problems; implementing the control and elimination of problem species; application of pesticides and other chemicals; assisting with prescribed burns; assisting with the protection of cultural resources, soil stability and other geologic resources, and ensuring a safe park environment. *Note: Only current employees of MN Department of Natural Resources may apply.*

Application Deadline: July 20, 2012

For more information, copy-paste this link (database does not allow hypertext linkage)

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/bcdc975b6ef2beb34567659af198697c/View>

Natural Resource Technician (Parks) – Nerstrand Big Woods

The MN Department of Natural Resources is seeking a Natural Resources Technician for Nerstrand Big Woods State Park. This position exists to in implementing park activities, programs, policies and rules of the Department of Natural Resources and Division of Parks & Trails at the park. Responsibilities include providing lead work direction to seasonal park operations and maintenance staff, implementing visitor services and public relations activities including collection and documentation of fees; operating of the park reservation system; posting of information on bulletin boards and kiosks; assisting with special events; and interacting with park visitors to provide information/help; implementing the park's development, rehabilitation and maintenance programs; operating and maintaining fleet/non-fleet equipment and maintaining park utilities; enforcing park rules and applicable state laws as a trained Minnesota State Park Ranger; assisting with implementing park's resource management program, including identifying resource-related concerns/problems; implementing the control and elimination of problem species; application of pesticides and other chemicals; assisting with prescribed burns; assisting with the protection of cultural resources, soil stability and other geologic resources, and ensuring a safe park environment. *Note: Only current employees of MN Department of Natural Resources may apply.*

Application Deadline: July 24, 2012

For more information, copy-paste this link (database does not allow hypertext linkage)

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/40d27ad4cc1845336de9bf5f6f122f17/View>

Membership/Administrative Coordinator

The Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness is seeking a Membership/Administrative Coordinator to be responsible for coordination of all office operations and database management. The individual must be passionate about working well with other members of our small team and willing to fully embrace the mission of the organization. He or she works closely with the executive director, board of directors and the policy, communications and northern communities directors, as well as volunteers and interns. The Membership/Administrative Coordinator is also responsible for shepherding important projects from start to finish, including grant applications and member events. The position is located in St. Paul, MN.

Application Deadline: August 16, 2012

For more information, see

<http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/membershipadministrative-coordinator/>

Water Quality and Waste Water Technology - Adjunct/TPT Instructor

St. Cloud Technical & Community College seeks an adjunct/TPT Water Quality and Waste Water Technology instructor dedicated to excellence in teaching who desires to become part of a creative, vibrant, student-centered learning community. The successful candidate will demonstrate a commitment to interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives. Faculty members at St. Cloud Technical & Community College are professionally active scholars who participate in departmental and campus-wide activities to enhance their disciplines, promote interdisciplinary

collaboration, and advance the college mission. The college is committed to reflecting a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds among its administrators, faculty and staff.

For more information, see

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/sctcedu/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=266725>

Summer Jobs with Environment Minnesota!

Environment Minnesota is seeking summer interns to fill positions in such fields as education, marketing, and public relations, among others. The positions are full-time and will be located at the organization's office in Minneapolis, MN.

For more information, see <http://jobs.startribune.com/job/119306/summer-jobs-with-environment-minnesota/>

Events:

July 21 (Saturday) is a **Bird Walk** from 8:30 to 11:30am at the Rapids Lake Visitor Center in Carver. Walk refuge trails to search for birds and other wildlife as a new day comes to the refuge. This outing involves several miles of walking trails at a slow pace. Dress for the weather, bring water and bug spray. Bring your favorite field guide, binoculars, and a spotting scope if you have one. We will have a few extra binoculars to loan. We will also bring a spotting scope and CD player for learning bird and frog calls. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/bird-walk-0>

July 22 (Sunday) is the **Sunday Film Series** at the Bloomington Visitor Center. Watch *Incredible Insects* for free from 3:00 – 4:00pm. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/beat-heat-sunday-film-series-0>

July 26 (Thursday) is the **St. Paul Solar and Energy Efficiency Tour** from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The tour starts on the 5th floor of the RiverCentre in downtown St. Paul. Please join Metro Clean Energy Resource Team (Metro CERT) for a tour of energy savings and solar projects in the City of Saint Paul. We will be touring the solar thermal installation (we get to go on the roof!) and solar electric arrays at RiverCentre and hear about the energy efficiency projects such as the parking garage lighting retrofit. For more information, see <http://saintpaulsolartour.eventbrite.com/>

July 27 (Thursday) is a **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2:00 – 4:00pm at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The bus will tour UMM's renewable energy facilities including a biomass plant, a wind turbine, and a solar power site. To register and find more information, see <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=12253>

July 27 – 29 (Friday – Sunday) is **Catfish Derby Days** in Franklin, MN. Fishing Contest; Softball, Volleyball, Chess, Bean Bag, Waterball; Pedal Pull Tournaments; Street Dances; Parade; Pageant; Food/Beverages; Raffle. For more information, see http://home.mchsi.com/~franklin/catfish_days.htm

July 31 (Tuesday) is a **Farm Tour of Doug Albin's Farm** in Clarkfield. Come see how one farmer is taking a collaborative approach to addressing issues of stream bank erosion and nutrient run-off on his farm. This is one of multiple Conservation Drainage Workshops and Field Tours coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other agencies. For more information, see <http://z.umn.edu/drainagefieldtour> or e-mail Mark.Dittrich@state.mn.us.

August 1 (Wednesday) is a **Tour of Tamarack Swamp** from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Tamarack Nature Preserve in Woodbury, MN. The Watershed District and the City of Woodbury invite you to join us for a tour of the swamp, one of the most unique and diverse wetlands in the Twin Cities. Please RSVP to sdoucette@ci.woodbury.mn.us or 651-714-3538. For more information, see

http://rwmwd.org/index.asp?Type=B_EV&SEC={69D046D7-774E-49B1-8ECD-B53407C9C84A}&DE={4B3AC7D7-59C3-46D0-A582-D21792ACECFE}

August 2 (Thursday) is **Save on Solar Kiester!** from 6:00 – 8:00pm in Kiester, MN. The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society is offering a free class in which participants will learn the basics of energy efficiency, solar hot water, and solar air heat technology, how the group purchase program works, rebates, incentives, and financing. Everyone will get a chance to meet the installers and talk to them one-on-one about their project. It is recommended that participants get a site assessment before the workshop so they can bring it along to demonstrate their site better to the installers. For more information, see <http://mnrenewables.org/classes-and-workshops>

August 2 – 5 (Thursday – Sunday) is the **Dakota War History Ride**. Join 150 bicyclists, pedaling 150 miles on a 3.5 day, HaveFunTour Trek along the beautiful Minnesota River Valley. What you know about Minnesota's history will come alive as historians share stories of life along the river and of the US Dakota Conflict of 1862. Must pre-register now by e-mailing: kerri@havefunbiking.com. For more information, see <http://www.havefunbiking.com/news/newsarticle.php?id=1067&archives=yes>

August 7 (Tuesday) is the **Community Listening Session** at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Club in Granite Falls. Do you have a dream for Sustainability in Western Minnesota? If we can't imagine a positive future we won't be able to create it. Everyone is welcome. Space is limited. Free meal starts at 5 p.m. – listening session begins at 6 p.m. RSVP to Dixie or Sarina by calling 320-269-2984 to get your name on the list.

August 11 (Saturday) is a **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2:00 – 4:00pm at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The bus will tour UMM's renewable energy facilities including a biomass plant, a wind turbine and a solar power site. To register and find more information, see <http://www.morris.umn.edu/newsevents/view.php?itemID=12253>

September 17 (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am - 12:00 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23rd Street NE) in Willmar. For more information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

November 19 (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am - 12:00 noon. Place and location to be announced. For more information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[2012 Drought Rivals Dust Bowl](#) (The Weather Channel). The 2012 drought disaster is now the largest in over 50 years, and among the ten largest of the past century, according to a new report released by the National Climatic Data Center today.

[Zebra mussels found in Pelican Lake near Brainerd](#) (Detroit Lakes Online). Scuba divers from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have found zebra mussels in Pelican Lake in Crow Wing County near Brainerd.

[Anxiety and anger as zebra mussel invasion spreads](#) (MPR). For many Minnesotans, summer evenings at the lake are perfect for a refreshing swim after a hot day. But if you swim in Pelican Lake, a popular spot in Otter Tail County, you'd better wear shoes or risk getting sliced by razor-sharp zebra mussel shells.

[Dave Orrick: Appearance of Eurasian milfoil in Michigan's Sylvania Wilderness reason for concern for BWCA](#) (Pioneer Press). The wispy, aquarium-looking plant is a well-known sight to boaters around the Twin Cities and other popular fishing areas, where it gains a footing and

spreads, creating jumbled mats of green twine, shading out native plants and altering the look, feel and ecology of shallow waters -- the kudzu of the underwater landscape.

[University of Minnesota's invasive aquatic species research center plan backed by panel](#) (Pioneer Press). The University of Minnesota would get \$8.7 million to develop a research center aimed at combating such invasive aquatic species as Asian carp and zebra mussels under a funding package endorsed by a panel of citizens and legislators.

[Brewery aims to help can the spread of invasive species](#) (Star Tribune). Drink a beer, save a lake. That's the catchy concept behind a new company started by three longtime friends and Lake Minnetonka residents, tapping into their passion for beer and keeping Minnesota's lakes free of invasive species.

[Hennepin County coloring its message on invasive species](#) (Star Tribune). In the latest effort to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, Hennepin County is relying on psychology and a little peer pressure to alter the mindset of boaters and transform Lake Minnetonka boat launches.

[Commentary: Weakening the Clean Water Act endangers wildlife, environment](#) (Duluth News Tribune). In his June 27 column, "Don't give EPA more power over our water," Don Parmeter criticized a lot of folks who support the nation's Clean Water Act and its goal of protecting all our waters. Two unfortunate Supreme Court decisions seizing, in part, on the word "navigable" now threaten a good deal of our progress.

[Warm weather brings blue-green algae bloom](#) (MPR). An extended stretch of hot weather may lead to higher concentrations of blue-green algae in Minnesota lakes.

[\\$48 million St. Cloud wastewater plant upgrades mean cleaner water](#) (St. Cloud Times). Cleaner water is flowing into the Mississippi River after upgrades at the St. Cloud Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Filthy water cannot be washed.
~West African Proverb

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.