

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

Friday, August 3rd, What Lives in the River; Macroinvertebrates

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. Come out to Fort Ridgely State Park at 7 p.m. to discover how these aquatic bugs are special and where to find them. We will be taking a short walk down to the Fort Ridgely Creek to find some macroinvertebrates and identify what they are at the same time! Meet at the parking lot of the Creek Picnic Area. You can either help collect the macroinvertebrates out of the river or watch from shore. Contact Scott Kudelka at (507) 384-8890 or by email at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us.

For more information, see

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/calendar/app?jsp=/templates/event.jsp&id=31027>

Saturday, August 4th, Ft. Ridgely Presentation, Christian Indians and the US/Dakota War

The program will be presented by John Labatte in the commissary building at the Fort Ridgely Historic Site on August 4, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. John will share the missionaries' influence on the Dakota Indians and the role the Christian Dakota played in the Dakota War of 1862. At 2:30, he will present a Battlefield Tour of the August 1862 battles on the Fort Ridgely parade ground. There is an admission charge for events and exhibit. Minnesota Historical Society and Nicollet County Historical Society members receive free admission. A state park vehicle sticker is required for all.

For more information, please call 507-426-7888, or 507-934-2160, or see

<http://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrdbc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Fort%20Ridgely%2C%20Aug%204%2C%202012.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>

Friday, August 31st, Riverblast 2012

Mark your calendars for August 31st and September 1st (Labor Day Weekend) for the river's longest running, most famous and fun cultural event right on the river in New Ulm, Riverblast. Come to Riverside Park and enjoy two days of great free entertainment, camping right on the banks of the river, fishing, great barbeque ribs and other food selections, adult and other beverages, horse drawn carriage rides, face painting, catfish photo opportunities, Regional River History and Information Center, bike tours, kids playground, watershed information, citizen advocacy opportunities, Gertie the Goose and the annual reunion of the Family of the River. No dogs or coolers at fest site, dogs in campground must be on leash at all times. This event is FREE and open to all!

For more information, see

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/2012%20Riverblast%20poster.pdf>

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:

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 ysure@lycos.com or see

<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/ConservationDrainageFlyer%202012.pdf>

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>

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:

Cooking & Nutrition Program Manager

The Community Design Center of Minnesota is looking for a part-time Cooking & Nutrition Program Manager to lead our education and training program in culinary arts, nutrition education and youth development. This position is part of a dynamic work environment in which a small staff collaborates to help St. Paul youth and families develop skills related to healthy eating, ecological stewardship, agriculture, entrepreneurship, community service and leadership. This is a 20 hours per week year-round position that will begin in late August/early September. Please send a cover letter, resume and contact information for three references to Tamara Downs Schwei at admin@comdesignctmn.org.

Application Deadline: August 8, 2012

For more information, see <http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/cooking-nutrition-program-manager/>

Education, Outreach, and Communication Coordinator

The Rice Creek Watershed District is looking for an Education, Outreach, and Communication Coordinator. This employee will coordinate and implement the RCWD's Education, Outreach and Communication Programs; implement education, outreach and communication activities as required in the District's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System requirements; complete education and outreach activities as identified in approved TMDL studies and implementation plans; and finally, work with landowners, county /city staff, media and other stakeholder groups to make the public aware of RCWD's requirements, projects. Please send resume by email or mail to Theresa Stasica at tstasica@ricecreek.org.

Application Deadline: August 10, 2012

For more information, see http://ricecreek.org/index.asp?Type=B_JOB&SEC={FF38CECD-8281-4B29-B858-7E6C96D9FC6F}&DE={C968078E-0BBA-4C3F-B916-5C6C985BD628}

Hydrologist Supervisor

The Minnesota Natural Resources Department is looking for a Hydrologist Supervisor to provide supervision of the Technical Analysis Workgroup, in the Hydrogeology and Groundwater Unit, Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section, and to provide technical supervision of analyses of the nature, distribution and development of ground water and surface water through monitoring, site assessment, modeling, aquifer test analysis, and other specialized hydrogeologic evaluations to support decision-making. The position is located in St. Paul. Note: *This position is only open to current employees of this department.*

Application Deadline: August 10, 2012

For more information, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work):
<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/ed3538f3f2b7e0966e2e7e56682ae05d/View>

Natural Resource Technician – Ft. Ridgely State Park

Ft. Ridgely State Park is looking for a natural resource technician. Responsibilities will include operating and maintaining the nine hole Fort Ridgely golf course, while protecting historical cultural and natural resources; providing lead work direction to seasonal park operations and maintenance staff; implementing visitor services and public relations activities; operating the park

reservation system; posting information on bulletin boards and kiosks; assisting with special events; interacting with park visitors to provide information/help; enforcing park rules and applicable state laws; assisting with implementing park's resource management program; implementing the control and elimination of problem species; applying of pesticides and other chemicals; assisting with prescribed burns; assisting with the protection of cultural resources, soil stability and other geologic resources; and finally, ensuring a safe park environment.
Application Deadline: August 10, 2012

For more information, copy-paste the following URL and scroll (direct linkage does not work):
<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/ed3538f3f2b7e0966e2e7e56682ae05d/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 Minneapolis, MN.
Application Deadline: August 16, 2012

For more information, see
<http://www.mepartnership.org/jobs/membershipadministrative-coordinator/>

Water and Soil Conservationist

The Minnesota Water & Soil Resources Board is looking for a Water and Soil Conservationist to provide leadership in the implementation of water and land management programs and policies of the Board of Water and Soil Resources within the 38 county southern region. Most responsibilities are likely to be in the eastern portions of the region, with an office in Rochester. Provide technical, administrative, and planning assistance regarding wetland protection to local units of government. The conservationist will also provide technical assistance within a specific area of expertise to local units of government on a regional or statewide basis. The position is located in Rochester, MN.
Application Deadline: August 17, 2012

For more information, see
<http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/sites/mrbdc.mnsu.edu/files/public/event/Weekly%20update%20events/Job%20Wetland%20Specialist%20Posting%202012.pdf>

Red River Basin Coordinator

The Minnesota Natural Resources Department is looking for a Red River Basin Coordinator to coordinate DNR interdisciplinary activities in the Red River Basin, including implementation of the 1998 Mediation Agreement for Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resource Enhancement. Projects may include various water impoundments, water supply systems, dikes, stream and flood plain restorations, flood plain regulatory systems, diversions and channelization. The position will also coordinate DNR involvement in watershed based project teams; facilitate the multi-agency Flood Damage Reduction Working Group; coordinate and represent the department on various basin wide and international organizations involved in water management and flood damage reduction; and ensure early coordination and communication with stakeholders in the basin. The position is located in Bemidji, MN. *Note: This position is only open to current employees of this department.*
Application Deadline: August 20, 2012

For more information, copy-paste the following URL and scroll (direct linkage does not work):
<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/ed3538f3f2b7e0966e2e7e56682ae05d/View>

Programs and Policy Assistant Director

The Minnesota Water & Soil Resources Board is looking for an Assistant Director to provide policy development and program leadership for the Board of Water and Soil Resources' conservation and clean water programs that restore and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources. The successful applicant will effectively perform the following activities, while reporting to BWSR's Executive Director. The Position is located in St. Paul.

Application Deadline: August 20, 2012

For more information, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work):

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/ed3538f3f2b7e0966e2e7e56682ae05d/View>

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, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work):

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

Water Research Associate

The Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota is looking for a new Research Associate to conduct research related to the development of effects-based monitoring tools, including molecular, biochemical, and/or histological measurements made in wild-caught or caged fish as well as cell-based or cell-free in vitro systems, and their application to monitoring of chemical contaminants in the Great Lakes. This is expected to include collection of biological and environmental samples in laboratory and/or field settings as well as the development and application of novel laboratory methods as needed.

For more information, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work):

<http://careers.swe.org/jobs/4848586/research-associate>

Extension Educator

The University of Minnesota Extension is looking for an Extension Educator, specializing in Crop-Livestock Systems. The Educator will provide statewide educational program development and management primarily in the area of crop nutrient/manure management. Livestock rations as they affect manure phosphorus content and farm phosphorus balance is a current focus area. The principal audiences are crop and livestock producers and landowners, as well as agricultural professionals and local, state and federal agency staff that assist farmers in their resource management planning. The Educator will work in collaboration with field and campus-based Extension and research faculty and staff as well as staff of local, state, and federal agencies. The Educator will participate as a member of one or more Extension program teams. The position is based out of the university's St. Paul campus.

For more information, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work):

https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=557327

Post-Doctoral Associate

The department of Soil, Water and Climate at the University of Minnesota is seeking a Post-Doctoral Associate to oversee research on grant-funded project for faculty principal investigators.

Duties will vary according to project needs. The position is located at the university's St. Paul campus.

For more information, copy-paste the following URL (direct linkage does not work):

https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=554265

Events:

August 3 – 5 (Friday – Sunday) is the **Upper Sioux Community's Annual Powwow** in Granite Falls. This fun-filled event goes from August 3-5 and is fun for all ages. Contact the Upper Sioux Community or local chamber of commerce for more information. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/upper-sioux-communitys-annual-powwow>

August 5 (Sunday) is the **Big Sunday Canoe Cruise** from 1 – 3 p.m. at Long Lake in Kandiyohi County. Just out for a Sunday cruise....IN A 34 FOOT CANOE. Come help row, row, row our boat as we cruise around local lakes. We will provide the boat, life jackets, paddles, and nature interpretation all you have to do is provide the motor. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/big-sunday-canoe-cruise>

August 6 (Monday) is the public forum **Climate Change in Schools: The Next Evolution** from 7-8 p.m. in the Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. Join the Will Steger Foundation for a free public forum with Dr. Eugenie Scott and Will Steger, Dr. Eugenie Scott is the Executive Director of the National Center for Science Education and will address the state of climate change education in schools. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/climate-science-schools-next-evolution>

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 7 (Tuesday) is **Making Tracks: Below the Bluff** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead in Bloomington. Sense the pulse of migrating and year-round residents of Long Meadow Lake while improving your powers of observation and your health. We'll take a long hike through the river valley and wind around the wetlands, exploring some of Minnesota Valley's best habitat. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/making-tracks-below-bluff>

August 7 (Tuesday) is **MASWC Board of Directors Meeting** at the MASWC Office in St. Paul. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/maswcd-board-directors-meeting>

August 7 – 11 (Tuesday – Thursday) is **University on the Prairie** at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton. You will explore a variety of career opportunities in science-based areas important to this region through interactive learning in classrooms, labs, and the great outdoors. The three days of learning, activities, and fun will end with a closing celebration for participating students and their families. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/university-prairie>

August 9 (Thursday) is the **Ney Environmental Education Foundation Board of Directors Meeting** at 6 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/ney-environmental-education-foundation-board-directors-meeting>

August 10 (Friday) is the **GBERBA Executive Meeting** at 1 p.m. at the Blue Earth County Ag Service Center, in Mankato. For more information, see <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/events/gberba-executive-meeting>

August 11 (Saturday) is a **Free Renewable Energy Tour** from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. 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>

August 11 (Saturday) is a **Bird Walk** from 8:30- 11:30 a.m. at the Louisville Swamp Unit of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. 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. Bring your favorite field guide, binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. We will have a few extra binoculars to loan. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/bird-walk-1>

August 11 (Saturday) is **Defined by Nature: Natural and Cultural History of the Twin Cities** from 10-11 a.m. at the Bloomington Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Explore the natural history that created this unique urban network of wildlife and human habitat. Whether you're downtown, at home, or in the suburbs, discover how you can appreciate and enjoy our diverse and easily accessible natural areas, and learn about the long history of natural resource conservation in this major metropolitan area. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/defined-nature-natural-and-cultural-history-twin-cities>

August 11 (Saturday) is a **Ney Nature Center Work Day** from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson. Volunteers are needed to work on the Ney Log Cabin and Thistle Management. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/ney-nature-work-day>

August 12 (Sunday) is a **Bike and Hike** from 7:30-8:45 a.m. at the Bloomington Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Did you know that the biodiversity of the Minnesota River Valley is equivalent to a rainforest? The Minnesota River provides critical habitat for wildlife and a bicycle can transport you to great observation areas throughout the Minnesota Valley NWR. Ride with a Ranger through some of the best habitat in the Minnesota River valley. Be prepared for riding and hiking on gravel trails with frequent stops for wildlife observation. Bring your own bike and gear. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/bike-and-hike-0>

August 12 (Sunday) is **Refuge Ramble: Prairie Flowers** from 1- 2 p.m. at the Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center in Carver, MN. Prairie wildflowers can make any landscape look like a work of art; but they serve more purpose than just aesthetics. Stop out to the refuge for an informative hike to learn how to identify wildflowers and to see why they're such an integral part of the landscape. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/refuge-ramble-prairie-wildflowers>

August 13 (Monday) is a **Bird Watching Trek** from 8:00-10:30 a.m. at the Old Cedar Avenue Trailhead of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. Join us for a bird walk on one of the many refuge units and learn about the birds that nest on the refuge and in Minnesota. With a variety of habitats at the different units, you will want to explore them all. During these walks we will search for some of the Flycatchers, Warblers and Sparrows and other song- birds that nest on the refuge.. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/bird-watching-trek-17>

August 15 (Wednesday) is **Changing Perspectives** from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the Bloomington Visitor Center of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Come hike the trails as summer unfolds in the Refuge. This adventure doesn't require 3-D glasses but does promise to change your perspective as you experience nature. Suitable for families with children ages 5 and up. For more information, see <http://mrbdm.mnsu.edu/events/changing-perspectives>

August 28 (Tuesday) is the **Quarterly Meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance** starting a 6 p.m. in Room 141 at Ridgewater College (2 Century Avenue SE) in Hutchinson.

Come out to Ridgewater College in Hutchinson on August 28th for the quarterly Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting. This meeting is a great chance to hear what is going on in the MN River Basin. Come at 6pm for the social hour and bring your favorite dish to pass. The formal meeting starts at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Chantill Kahler-Royer at chan@kahler-royer.com.

August 30 (Thursday) is **From Cradle to Gate: Managing Upstream Waste** at the Donaldson Company building (400 West 94th Street) in Bloomington from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Expert presenters and local business leaders will discuss strategies for reducing waste through initial product design and raw material use, sustainable purchasing practices, tracking upstream material use and processes through scorecards and supplier surveys, and collaborating and communicating with suppliers. Register by August 9th. For more information, see <http://www.environmental-initiative.org/events/event/from-cradle-to-gate-managing-upstream-waste>

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:

[Grants would help citizens improve lakes](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Maintaining all those lakes is an impossible task for one group, but what if some people invested in just one lake took the time to look into its needs, create a plan and carry it out?

[Conservation drainage explained](#) (New Ulm Journal). A farmer explained the virtues and challenges of a drainage water management system that he installed on his farm at a conservation drainage meeting sponsored by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River.

[For DNR invasive species inspectors, an uphill battle](#) (MPR). This summer, zebra mussels have been found in more Minnesota lakes.

[Dave Orrick: When does crackdown on invasive species go too far?](#) (Pioneer Press). Boaters who are want to fish the waters of Minneapolis parks for a few hours when time allows no longer have the freedom to launch whenever they want.

[Prairie preservation plan proposed](#) (MPR). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will work with federal agencies and conservation groups on a plan to preserve and improve the remnants of the state's prairies.

[Minnesota's prairies get a much-needed guardian angel](#) (Pioneer Press). The last remnants of Minnesota's native prairies, once a vast, unbroken tract of tall, flowing grasses, got some big-time help Tuesday, July 31.

[MPCA asks schools to help reduce stormwater pollution](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Since July 2010, Minnesota state agencies have been restricted from purchasing coal tar-based pavement sealers because they contain harmful chemicals that pollute stormwater.

[Tri-County Lake Association: Area lakes don't need toxic chemicals to kill weeds](#) (Lonsdale Area News-Review). A toxic chemical, endothall, has been sprayed in Roberts, Mazaska and Cedar lakes.

[White Bear Lake temp shoots up](#) (Star Tribune). A beleaguered White Bear Lake, already suffering from continuing low water and a surge in invasive plants, now has hit a possible record-high water temperature.

[USDA expands list of drought-affected counties, announces new relief efforts for farmers](#) (Star Tribune). Nearly 220 counties in a dozen drought-stricken states were added Wednesday to the U.S. government's list of natural disaster areas as the nation's agriculture chief unveiled new help for farmers and ranchers grappling with extreme dryness and heat.

[Report shows drought in middle of US rapidly intensifying, with little relief in sight](#) (Star Tribune). The widest drought to grip the United States in decades is getting worse with no signs of abating, a new report warned Thursday, as state officials urged conservation and more ranchers considered selling cattle.

[Over the years, metro's water use has dried up](#) (Star Tribune). During a summer as hot as this one, it may be difficult to believe that water use in Minneapolis and St. Paul has been declining steeply and steadily over a prolonged period.

I can enjoy society in a room; but out of doors, nature is company enough for me.
~William Hazlitt

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.