Minnesota River Weekly Update

April 13, 2011

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting – April 19th

Join the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) for its next quarterly meeting on April 19th (Tuesday) to learn more about what is going on in the Minnesota River Basin. The Watershed Alliance is excited to be involved with the upcoming "Working Together for a Clean Minnesota River Documentary to be broadcasted on KARE 11 in the near future.

People from all over the basin and from all walks of life will be gathering on April 19th to talk about the documentary and other projects the Watershed Alliance is involved with. This includes the Minnesota River Paddler Program, Minnesota River – Lake Pepin Friendship Tour, and the effort to host a Governor Fishing Opener in the Minnesota River Basin.

The rest of the meeting will be devoted to what you want to talk about. An open forum will let you express and talk about what interests you and see who else comes to share your passion.

This quarterly meeting goes from 6 to 9 p.m. at Ridgewater College (room 141) in Hutchinson. Ridgewater College is located at 2nd Century Avenue SE on the south end of Hutchinson. The Watershed Alliance encourages landowners and recreational users to be part of this effort to improve and protect the Minnesota River Basin.

We begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour to give participants time to interact with each other and share stories and concerns about what is happening in their part of the Minnesota River Watershed. Bring along a food item (bag of chips, jar of salsa, some veggies and dip or a loaf of bread, or some crackers and thuringer or cheese) to share with the group. CURE will provide water, coffee, tea and pop. At 7 p.m. the formal part of the meeting starts, with the group striving to wrap up all discussion by 9 o'clock.

For more information http://www.curemnriver.org/events.html#watershed_alliance

Ice Out / Loon In Fundraiser

The Freshwater Society is proud to announce its first annual **Ice Out/Loon In Party** scheduled from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 21 at the Bayview Events Center, located at 687 Excelsior Boulevard in Excelsior, Minnesota. The Freshwater Society is a premier citizen education, research and public outreach non-profit organization that inspires people to value, conserve and protect all freshwater resources.

As the official "caller" of the Ice Out on Lake Minnetonka since 1968, the Freshwater Society wants to herald the spring return of Minnesota's iconic State Bird to lakes where there is only good water quality and clarity and couple it with an event that has been recorded since 1855. On Lake Minnetonka, the ice is designated as "out" when it is possible to travel by small boat from any one shore to another shore through any passage on the lake.

The public is invited to attend the Ice Out /Loon In Party and can purchase tickets to the informal event at the Freshwater Society offices, online and through volunteers. Hors d'hoeurves and drinks will be served in the festive décor of the Bayview Events Center and a silent auction with items such as a boat slip on Lake Minnetonka, restored antique boat motor, weekend north woods cabin adventure, private party on a Lake Minnetonka yacht, kayak trip around Split Rock Lighthouse and others will be conducted throughout the evening. A raffle will be held with a Your Boat Club Membership and a Nook as prizes and Bluegrass music will help set the stage for a fun evening with programs such as:

- "Loon Logic" by Jim Gilbert, naturalist
- Improv Theatre performance by Bearded Men
- The Mythology and History of Ice Outs
- Loon Tracking Project by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- The Amazing World of Birds and Critter Rehabilitation by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

For more information, please call Diane Lynch, Director of Development, at 952-314-8134 or http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/loonout.pdf. Advance tickets are \$30 for individual and \$50 for two or more. They are \$35 individual and \$60 for two or more at-the-door.

Beastly puppets, tasty pancakes at Earth Day celebration April 16

Beastly puppets, tasty pancakes and fun activities await you at the annual Earth Day celebration Saturday, April 16 at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. The event is open to the public and admission is free.

"Are You Thirsty?" is a puppet show presented at 10 a.m. by <u>In the Heart of the Beast</u>, a Minneapolis puppet theater company. A Spanish-language show will follow.

"Are You Thirsty?" demonstrates how much of the earth's water is available for drinking, compares tap and bottled water, and helps us understand ourselves as part of the urban water cycle—bringing water issues vibrantly to life.

At 11 a.m. keynote speaker Stephen Lee of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will present dramatic slides and discussion about "pollution control – history and future challenges."

Pancakes will be served until 10 a.m., and activities for all ages will continue until 1 p.m. with exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities.

Visitors can browse booths about water quality, land management, renewable energy, and other "green" topics. Free trees will be available while supplies last from Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District, and a limited supply of rain barrels will be offered for sale.

Kids can get creative with tie-dying T-shirts, and adventurous by conquering the indoor climbing wall. They can try archery, see the DNR fish tank, and build a wood duck box. Archaeology exhibits will include artifact identification and demonstrations by expert flint-knapper Joel Osmond.

Youth Energy Summit (YES!) teams will have exhibits and projects highlighting the exciting energy action projects completed by youth throughout the region. Exhibit awards will be presented at noon.

Earth Day is sponsored by: Crow River Organization of Water, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, Kandiyohi Soil and Water Conservation District, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, North Fork Crow River Watershed District, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project, Southwest Initiative Foundation and Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center. For more information about the Earth Day Celebration or the Youth Energy Summit, call 320-354-5894 or see <u>www.prairiewoodselc.org</u>.

Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality

"Spring is here, and as the snow begins to melt, Friends of the Minnesota Valley will be helping organize Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality throughout the Minnesota River Watershed. Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality is an award-winning water pollution prevention program that relies on citizens to clean up the lakes, rivers and streams in their communities. Clean-Ups focus on removing organic debris that collects in and around city boulevards, curbs, and storm sewer intake areas. Debris such as dirt, ground-up leaves, grass clippings, and branches contains high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen, both nutrients that contribute to areas of low water quality in the Minnesota River.

Clean-Ups are a great civic project for youth groups, church groups, civic organizations such as Rotary Clubs and Lions Clubs, and virtually anyone who wants to make a difference in water quality in their community. Volunteers sweep, rake, bag and compost the organic debris and report their results back to the Friends. The great thing about Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality is that anyone can do them in their community, city park or public area, neighborhood or yard. To learn more about the Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality Program, view the online informational video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sG7sOlOySE. To organize a Clean-Up in your community, contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or at water@lycos.com."

Grant Opportunities:

U.S. EPA 319 Grant for Water Quality Projects

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is seeking grant proposals from local governments and other interested parties to reduce nonpoint source water pollution. Nonpoint source pollution comes from many sources, such as urban areas and farm fields, and not a single point, such as an industrial discharge.

Eligible applicants may apply to the MPCA by a competitive application process through May 13, 2011.

The MPCA anticipates \$2.5 million will be available this year, pending congressional appropriation, for project work through August 31, 2015. The funding comes from the federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program (Section 319), administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This year, the MPCA will offer these funds for development, education or applied research (DER) projects and for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) restoration projects. (TMDL represents the total amount of a pollutant that a water body can accept and still meet state water quality standards.)

DER proposals must offer a statewide or regional applicability that

- -- demonstrates new or innovative technology,
- -- demonstrates new best management practices (BMPs),
- -- develops educational programs related to reducing nonpoint-source pollution, or
- -- answers a research question related to the goal of reducing nonpoint-source pollution.

TMDL implementation funds are available for projects addressing TMDL implementation plans that have been (or will be) approved by the MPCA by June 1, 2011. TMDLs identify sources of pollution, the amounts of pollutants, and how to reduce the pollutants to a level that allows rivers and lakes to meet water quality standards.

The complete request for proposal and application forms are available at <u>www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html</u>. Questions should be e-mailed to <u>319.grant.PCA@state.mn.us</u>.

For more information, go to the MPCA's website at <u>www.pca.state.mn.us</u> or contact Sara Johnson, Section 319 Coordinator for the MPCA at 651-757-2473 or by e-mail at <u>sara.johnson@state.mn.us</u>.

Job Announcements:

Executive Director – Minnesota Waters

Minnesota Waters seeks an experienced Executive Director with a proven track record in effective fundraising, strategic communications, understanding and influencing public policy, as well as developing and managing programs which pursue Minnesota Waters' mission and expand our statewide presence. Must have experience in providing leadership and guidance to staff and board. Through understanding of financial management and budgeting is required. The ideal candidate will embrace Minnesota Waters' mission, vision and values focusing on locally led conservation. S/he will be a dynamic team and relationship builder capable of listening to, understanding and mobilizing our members, stakeholders and staff to protect and improve the lakes, streams and watersheds in Minnesota. Experience as an entrepreneurial leader and the ability to learn quickly are a must.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree and 3-5 years demonstrated experience as a leader. Please send resume and a cover letter via email to <u>info@minnesotawaters.org</u>. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, May 6, 2011. Interviews will be held the week of May 16-20 at the office in St. Cloud. The full job description can be found at <u>www.minnesotawaters.org</u>

Surface Water Monitoring – Project Coordinator

The RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. is looking for a Surface Water Monitoring – Project Coordinator to assist surface water clients in designing lake and stream monitoring programs; Surface water data analyses: data organization and presentation, trend analysis, charting and graphing, statistical analysis, educational and management reports; Conduct citizen volunteer training workshops in lake and stream monitoring; Educational presentations about lake and stream biology; Interpret lake and stream monitoring results to clients; Customer service to surface water clients; Lake and stream monitoring fieldwork; and Attend surface water conferences.

For more information, http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/surfacewaterposition.pdf

Wilderness Inquiry Trail Staff and Intern Positions for 2011

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring trail staff and interns for 2011. We are looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a desire to work hard for the mission of WI. To learn more, see job descriptions and to apply see Wilderness Inquiry's website: www.wildernessinguiry.org

Each year, Wilderness inquiry operates hundreds of Canoeing, Kayaking and Hiking trips to destinations in Minnesota, across the United States, and around the world for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Trail staff leads inclusive outdoor adventures, leads single-day events and multi-day expeditions, navigates, cooks, tells stories and teaches outdoor skills along with other responsibilities.

For more information: http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/internandtrailstaff.pdf

Events:

<u>April 13th (Wednesday)</u> is the showing of **A Chemical Reaction film** at 6:00 p.m. at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Conference Center (lower level of the main building. This film chronicles the success story of banning lawn pesticide in Canada, and similar movements here in the United States, and why we should all care about this (in essence, to keep children from unnecessary harm and to protect our environment). Sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry, for more information go to: http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chemicalreaction.pdf

<u>April 14th (Thursday)</u> is the **Troubled Waters Viewing** at 6 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 N. Broadway) as part of the River Ranger Program sponsored by the New Ulm Library, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR) and the Water Resources Center at MSUM. Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story traces the development of America's bountiful heartland and its effect on the legendary river. Through beautiful photography and inspiring narrative, the film offers solutions to the river's troubles through fresh ideas and concrete solutions. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/troubledwaters.pdf</u>

<u>April 14th (Thursday)</u> is the showing of the **Troubled Waters film documentary** at 7:00 p.m. at the North Mankato Police Annex (1001 Belgrade Avenue) sponsored by the Friends of Minneopa.

<u>April 14th (Thursday)</u> is **"Sky Dance" – Observing the Courtship Display of the American Woodcock** from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Come experience one of the grandest spectacles of nature: the aerial display of the male American Woodcock. Coined the "sky dance" by legendary ecologist Aldo Leopold, the display of these chunky, softball-sized birds begins a few minutes after sundown and lasts for an hour or so into the night, a ritual that can be both seen and heard by observers. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

<u>April 16th (Saturday)</u> is the presentation "**Waterfalls and the River Warren**" by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

<u>April 19th (Tuesday)</u> is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting** starting at 6:00 p.m. with a Social Hour and the Formal Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 141 of Ridgewater College, Hutchinson. For more information <u>http://www.curemnriver.org/events.html#watershed_alliance</u>

<u>April 19th (Tuesday)</u> is the **Climate and Energy Experts Lecture** at 7:30 p.m. in Gustavus Adolphus College Alumni Hall, located in the College's O.J Johnson Student Union. For more information, please contact James Dontje, Director of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation at <u>idontje@gustavus.edu</u> or 507-933-7206.

<u>April 19th (Tuesday)</u> is a **Book Presentation on "River People"** by author Kevin Langton starting at 7 p.m. at the Belgrade United Methodist Church in North Mankato sponsored by the Mankato Paddling and Outing Club.

<u>April 21st (Thursday)</u> an **Open House at the new MPCA Marshall Office** location from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Lyon County Public Works Building (504 Fairgrounds Road). For more information, MPCA Marshall Office; 504 Fairgrounds Rd., Suite 200; Marshall, MN 56258; Phone: (507) 537-7146; Fax: (507) 537-6001

<u>April 23rd (Saturday)</u> is the **Earth Day 5k Fun Run/Walk** along the beautiful Sakatah Singing Hills Trail by Cannon Lake in Faribault. Day of Event Registration at 8:00 a.m. and Fun Run begins at 9:00 a.m. The race will start and end at Shager Park – a Rice County Park located on State Highway 60 just west of Faribault. <u>Click here</u> to go to the CRWP website events page for the registration form and more details. All proceeds benefit the Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

<u>April 25th (Monday)</u> is the **Water Resources Center Open House** on Minnesota State University Mankato campus at 189 Trafton Science Center South from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wrcopenhouse.pdf</u>

<u>April 26th (Tuesday)</u> is an **Arboretum Night Hike** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Hike the trails of the Linnaeus Arboretum after sunset with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen to the night sounds of spring that can be heard in the arboretum, including Western Chorus-Frogs, Great Horned Owls, and migrating songbirds among others. If the sky cooperates, learn how to identify constellations and other bright spots in our night sky. Meet outside the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

<u>April 30th (Saturday)</u> is **Lawn Care Practices for Clean Water.** If you mow your lawn, this workshop is for you! Learn new, but easy lawn care techniques to reduce impact to our lakes, rivers and wetlands. Fortin Consulting will lead the workshop and discuss topics such as: weed control, understanding when and how much to fertilize and why a soil test is important. If you're ready to become part of the solution for clean water, then this is a can't – miss workshop. Light morning refreshments will be provided. The workshop runs from 9 to 11 am at the Prior Lake City Hall – 4646 Dakota St SE Prior Lake MN 55372. Registration Required: contact Dan at <u>dmiller@co.scott.mn.us</u> or 952-492-5424 to sign up before Friday, April 22nd.

<u>April 30th (Saturday)</u> is the **Annual Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Ney Nature Center to be held at Traxler's Hunting Preserve, Le Center. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a social. For more information <u>http://neycenter.org/</u>

<u>April 30th (Saturday)</u> is the **CCMR Minnesota River Annual Banquet** at Lola's Larkspur in downtown New Ulm with the doors open at 5 p.m. for social hour and dinner at 6:30. A presentation on Progress in the Minnesota River from the Minnesota River Board's Minnesota River Progress Report will be given by Kim Musser and Scott Kudelka from the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato, a showing of "River Revival Working Together to Save the Minnesota River" with Executive Producer John Hickman and Director/Editing Producer Jon Carlson and Minnesota River Trivia hosted by Scott Sparlin. For more information <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverbanquet2010.pdf</u> <u>May 7th (Saturday)</u> is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. Featuring Sharp Shooter Tom Knapp. The fun shoot will be held at River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland MN starting at 8:00am, lunch is included after the fun shoot, followed by the world famous "Tom Knapp" show starting at 2:00pm. For more information go to Twin Valley Council Web-site at <u>www.twinvalleybsa.org</u> or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf</u> and <u>http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf</u>

<u>May 17th (Tuesday)</u> is a **Tallgrass Prairie Walk** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Join Blue Earth County Master Gardener Dolly Rye for a prairie walk in the Linnaeus Arboretum's three-year-old Coneflower Prairie. Learn about the various plants that can be found in the restored prairie, reminiscent of the vast expanses of tallgrass prairie that once covered two-thirds of the state of Minnesota. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

<u>May 21st (Saturday)</u> is the "**Caring for God's Creation**" with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

<u>June 18th (Saturday)</u> is the **Trifesta Celebration** in Montevideo starting at 8:30 at Lagoon Park with a 5k Run, Bike Race, Kayak Race, Canoe Race, Rubber Duck Race, music, food and much more.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <u>http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html</u>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

<u>Opinion: Don't undercut Clean Air Act</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). As a <u>Republican U.S. senator</u> from Minnesota, I worked to craft a bipartisan law to strengthen the Clean Air Act in 1990.

<u>Shutdown would close 5 national parks, could slow some contract work</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). As budget talks in Congress stood at an impasse Tuesday, federal workers and contractors across Minnesota began bracing for a government shutdown looming as early as Friday at midnight.

<u>'Swan Lady' created a haven for trumpeters</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Sheila Lawrence, who died Saturday, fed more than 1,500 swans each winter near her Monticello home.

<u>Ten years and \$41 million later, 'clean coal' plant still vapor</u> (Midwest Energy News). When a former high school hockey star proposed to develop a \$2 billion "clean coal" power plant outside this northeastern Minnesota city, the news couldn't have come at a better time.

<u>Spring is robin season</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Even though some red breasts are around all winter, most are now arriving in waves and settling in for the nesting season.

<u>No health risks from radioactive levels in Minn.</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). Radioactive material well below levels that would be considered a health concern have been found in air samples in St. Paul and two other Minnesota cities, likely from the damaged nuclear power plants in Japan, state health officials said Tuesday.

<u>Faribault woman grows produce year round at LaBore Farms</u> (Faribault Daily News). Walking through her greenhouse, the abundance of fresh lettuce and greens isn't quite as attention-grabbing as the way Michelle Keller grows them at LaBore Farms — without soil.

<u>A week of agricultural events brings students out in herds</u> (Minnesota Daily). In an outfit inspired by Ke\$ha, Caitlin Kasper looked like she could be attending a party. She milked a cow during a contest Wednesday with gold glitter on her face, black leggings and purple leopard print heels.

<u>Coming to a vacant lot near you, the neighborhood farm</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). Farmers looking for land to grow food to sell may have another option.

<u>Eight environmental awards given by Great River Greening</u> (MinnPost). The <u>Great River Greening</u> organization has announced eight environmental awards, to be given April 16 at its "Million Shades of Green Gala" annual fundraiser.

<u>Schara brings outdoors inside</u> (Fairmont Sentinel). Local outdoors enthusiasts gathered at Fairmont Opera House on Thursday to hear "Minnesota Bound" host Ron Schara offer his thoughts on outdoor life, conservation and sharing the spotlight with a black Lab that wears a red bandanna.

<u>River trail not a path city wanted to travel</u> (New Ulm Journal). The idea of a trail along the Minnesota River connecting New Ulm's Riverside Park to Minnecon Park was washed away Tuesday, on a tie vote of the New Ulm City Council.

<u>Ducks Unlimited CEO sees conservation at a crossroads</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). With funding under attack and demographics changing, conservation is at a crossroads. Dale Hall, CEO of Ducks Unlimited, wants to change that.

<u>Corn's biofuel role in question</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Will the market shift to cellulosic ethanol and other new fuel sources, or will corn endure?

<u>State agencies to boost energy efficiency</u> (Associated Press). Gov. Mark Dayton is directing state agencies to conserve energy, use more recycled paper and save on gas.

<u>Bill would ban video of farming operations</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Animal rights advocates say it is an attempt to clamp down on whistle-blowers; sponsors say it's an effort to stop harassment.

<u>Consultant takes 'green' dry-cleaning plunge</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Unhappy with traditional dry cleaning and eager to run his own company, Dan Miller left McKinsey & CO. to open Mullberrys Garment Care.

<u>Minnesota Dems cross party lines to vote against EPA</u> (Minnesota Independent). Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Rep. Collin Peterson are two Minnesota Democrats who broke with their party on restrictions to the Environmental Protection Agency in its monitoring and enforcement of greenhouse gases.

<u>Editorial: Finance the green fund</u> (MN Daily). The Minnesota Student Association is set to vote on a resolution Tuesday supporting a proposed student fee to go toward a fund to pay for green initiatives on campus.

<u>MPCA grant aims to expand e-waste coverage</u> (Faribault Daily News). Rice County is putting together its proposal for the grant, which aims to increase electronic waste collection opportunities outside the 11-county metro area.

<u>Gas prices drive new habits</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Bikes dusted off, bus passes bought – even Cupid notified.

In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught. – Baba Dioum

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

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 Watershed.

Thanks,

Scott

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