

Mankato Paddling and Outing Club Spring Clean-up

Friends, the annual spring clean-up will begin in the church parking lot at 9 am Saturday, April 30. This will be phase one, the ground crews, cleaning up landings, parks, and other sites, working by car. (Phase two, on the water, is postponed until June because of high water.) Bring gloves and wear clothes that can get dirty. More information from Pat Baskfield, 327-5459 or Kevin Langton 720-2012. We hope to see you there.

News Flash! Action Alert! It's Prime Time for the Minnesota River!

We've just learned that the recently produced documentary *River Revival: [Working Together](#) to Save the Minnesota River* will be shown in prime time on KARE 11 TV.

This is a huge accomplishment and represents a great leap forward in our movement to focus public awareness on the Minnesota River and all the good work being done to make it better.

The details are still being worked out, so stay tuned for an announcement about the exact date and time. In the meantime, to take full advantage of this incredible opportunity, we need everyone who reads this e-mail to do two things **right now** (and one more thing Sunday night):

1. Thank Ron Schara!

Over the past three weeks, Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound has been showing 10-minute excerpts from the documentary, and we need to thank him for his contribution. We wouldn't be in prime time without him!

a. Go to the Minnesota Bound website: <http://www.mnbound.com/watch-mn-bound/> and watch at least one of the three previous episodes (591, 590, 589) -- even if you've seen them all on TV. It is important that you actually click and watch. The number of views will influence KARE 11 as it plans its promotion of the documentary.

b. On the menu bar near the top of the screen, click [About Us > Contact Us](#) and write something nice! Your message can read something like this:

Dear Ron and Raven:

I am writing to say how much I have enjoyed seeing the Minnesota River stories on Minnesota Bound. The stories have been informative and entertaining, and I look forward to seeing the complete documentary.

I am also writing to let you know how important I believe the documentary will be in helping tell the story of the Minnesota River and the good work being done by people across the state to clean it up.

Thank you!

PLEASE -- use your own words -- make them heartfelt and let them know that this documentary is tapping into a **deep vein of citizen support for clean water** and responsible journalism that documents what is working and what is good.

2. Tell everyone (including your [state legislators](#) home for Easter recess) you know to do the same!

3. This Sunday, tune in to KARE 11 at 10:35pm to catch the final *Minnesota Bound* installment of the documentary. Learn how fish populations in the Minnesota River are on the rebound, and join in the celebration at the Belle Plaine River Fishin' Contest!

It's so good you'll want to send another Thank You note to Ron and Raven! On behalf of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance and the Growing Family of the Minnesota River, I wish you warmth and hope for the coming Spring; Patrick J. Moore, www.cureriver.org

Strangling our Rivers – Minneapolis Star Tribune

On a sweet spring day last week, Mike McKay looked out from a bluff above this breathtaking sweep of the Mississippi River and pointed out a scrubby little island that grows just a bit bigger every year.

"There's a saying in our house," he said. "The river giveth and the river taketh away."

For the past several decades, the river has mostly given to the lake he loves -- up to a million tons of mud each year, enough to bury the Foshay Tower from top to bottom.

At that rate, within this century the northern third of Lake Pepin will become a marsh, with a narrow channel dredged through its center for barge traffic. This grim accumulation represents a looming threat to one of Minnesota's scenic jewels. But it also signals a much bigger problem that in the past 70 years has fundamentally changed long stretches of state's two great rivers, the Mississippi and the Minnesota

For the entire article: <http://www.startribune.com/local/119981244.html>

Internationally Recognized Ecologist to speak in Fairmont

Ecologists examine the relationship between the environment and actions that affect it, including rainfall, pollution, temperature shifts, and industrialization. The second speaker in the Our Environment 2011 series will be Dr. Clarence Lehman with the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior and the Institute on the Environment, both at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Lehman studies biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. The topic he will be speaking on is the *Agricultural Landscape Nexus: Meeting the Ecological Demand Of Food, Fiber & Fuel*. The speaker presentation will be Wednesday, April 27th at 7:00 PM at the **downstairs** meeting room of the Red Rock Center for the Arts in Fairmont, Minnesota. The event is free and open to the public. Students are encouraged to attend. Following the presentation there will be time for discussion.

Rural Advantage, a Fairmont based nonprofit, is hosting the Our Environment 2011 speaker series. Funding has been provided by a grant from the Minnesota River Board. "Dr. Lehman is recognized internationally for his worked on biodiversity and agricultural landscapes, especially relative to biofuels," stated Linda Meschke, President and Founder of Rural Advantage. Area residents attending will be able to expand their knowledge and increase their understanding of these important environmental issues impacting our region. Anyone with questions can call the Rural Advantage office at 507-238-5449.

Local Recycling, Trash Pick-up/Drop-off is better Alternative to Burning Garbage at Home

While cleaning up outside this spring, it is important to remember that backyard garbage burning is unhealthy, contributes to nearly half of all Minnesota wildfires, and is illegal in most cases. Today's garbage has changed; it contains more plastics, synthetics and other harmful substances hidden in materials that seem safe, like paper and cardboard boxes.

Smoke from backyard garbage burning includes heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates one family burn barrel can emit as much dioxin (a known carcinogen) as a 200-ton-a-day municipal waste incinerator. In fact, backyard garbage burning is now the number one source of dioxin in the United States. These pollutants make their way into our air, water and soil, crops and animals and, eventually, into the food we eat.

A recent study by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) shows more than 30,000 rural Minnesota households have stopped burning garbage at home in favor of garbage collection or a drop-off service. Making use of local recycling and reuse options, backyard composting and local drop-off or collection services can significantly reduce harmful pollutants currently emitted by backyard garbage burning.

Dennis Haubenschild, a Princeton farmer, uses a local service for weekly pick-up of recyclables and garbage because of the risks backyard garbage burning can pose to his family and his business. "The biggest benefit is that it keeps everything neater and cleaner," Haubenschild said. "We live here and our cows live here 24/7. That means we do not do things that could or would endanger our health, or the products we sell."

Starting this month, the MPCA will launch a burn barrel reduction radio campaign in central and southern Minnesota through the Linder Farm Network. These public service announcements will talk about the health and environmental dangers associated with backyard garbage burning, and suggest safer disposal and recycling alternatives for rural residents.

For more information, including links to local waste-hauling services, drop sites, and recycling options, go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/burnbarrel>.

Southern Minnesota Earth Day Party

On May 3rd (Tuesday) from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. join Putting Green for a FREE community event – music, picnic, educational presentations, kids' activities and mini golf. More at puttinggreen.org

Putting Green opens weekends in May and after Memorial Day, Tues-Sun from 11 – 7. Andrew, a senior student at Gustavus Adolphus College, will manage the park this summer. Come out and greet him and play a few rounds! This will be the third year that a young adult has been hired as a contracted manager to run the park as their own business, with oversight from the Putting Green Board. It's been a great success for Putting Green and for the young ecopreneurs who get the hands-on learning experience of operating a small business!

Other big news at Putting Green Park is the launching of our landscape enhancement project last year. We are dedicated to creating a more inviting, accessible and educational landscape for our visitors to enjoy. We'll be re-arranging plants and planting new native species. Growing Green mini farm is expanding and more areas of the landscape will be planted with edible plants. Volunteers are in place to keep the turf grass areas mowed and trimmed. Thanks to River Valley Equipment for the use of mowers, and thanks to all our volunteers and MRCI farmers who make it all GROW!

Please join us Saturday, April 30th, 1-5 PM when we will be doing a spring clean-up at Putting Green Park. We need your help to rake, prepare the garden beds and spread an organic approved product, corn gluten, in all the beds to limit the sprouting of unwanted volunteer seeds. Please come and give us a hand! Bring gloves, knee pads, rakes, shovels and a smile. Come when you can and stay as long as you can. Free treats!

We are also looking for volunteers to staff the park during weekends in May. Volunteers are needed to open the doors, greet visitors and sell mini golf tickets. It's a great way to raise some money for the landscape! May 7-8, May 14-15 and May 22-23 we will be open from noon until 6 pm. Either two or four hour shifts are available. Money earned by being open in May will be used to support Putting Green. Call Carol Klossner for a time slot. 359-9442

Earth Day, Spring go Hand in Hand: Tips to make Earth-Friendly Choices

The first Earth Day, on April 22, 1970, activated 20 million Americans from all walks of life and is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. The passage of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and other groundbreaking environmental laws soon followed. More than one billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

Before this year's Earth Day on April 22, check out these ways to participate and live a healthier and less expensive lifestyle all year round.

1. Review your garden supplies. Check supplies of herbicide and other pesticides, fertilizer and other items. Are they old? Almost gone? Never pour any of these down the storm sewer drain, toilet or sink.

Nor should you ever dump them on the ground or throw them in the trash. To find a nearby household hazardous waste facility in Minnesota where you can dispose of them properly, go to <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/udgx572>. Many counties take these items without charge.

2. Thought about composting? Yard trimmings and food scraps make up a sixth of the average household's garbage. By composting, you can convert organic wastes — yard trimmings, leaves and many kinds of kitchen scraps — into a dark, crumbly mixture that you can use to improve your garden soil and reduce your use of fertilizer and water. Learn how at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/nwqh59b>.

3. Tired of junk mail? The average person spends 30 hours a year handling junk mail. Stop it at the source. Go to <http://www.reduce.org> to find phone numbers and Websites you can use to remove your name from junk mail lists.

4. Sign up for a monthly Living Green newsletter with seasonal tips to guide you through the year: go to <http://www.livinggreen.org>.

5. Recycling isn't just for cans, bottles, paper and a few plastics anymore. How about mattresses? Holiday lights? Carpet? To learn how you can recycle unusual materials, keep them out of landfills, and benefit Minnesota's economy and environment at the same time, go to <http://www.recyclemoreminnesota.org>.

6. Develop a reusable bag habit. Did you know that more energy is used to produce paper bags than their plastic counterparts? Making paper bags also requires a lot of water, not to mention trees. The production of plastic bags is also environmentally unsound — they're made from oil (An estimated 12 million barrels of oil are needed yearly just to produce the plastic bags used in the United States.). Challenge yourself to carry a reusable bag on your next five shopping trips; for more information, see <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/yhiz55a>.

7. Reducing runoff from driveways and yards is critical to keeping pollutants out of lakes and streams. Using methods such as rain gardens, make sure that rainwater soaks into the ground rather than runs off. If you prefer, capture rainwater for watering your yard and garden. Either way, stormwater runoff is reduced and our lakes and rivers stay clean. See tips for capturing rainwater at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/dm0r597>.

8. Buy products made of recycled materials. Some are less expensive and some are not. But all of them use recycled materials rather than new raw materials. A good source of information is the Minnesota Recycled Products Directory at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/r0pg77b>.

3rd Generation Biofuels Facility to be Built in South Central Minnesota

An industry leading 3rd generation biofuels project that will utilize sustainably managed perennial and other agricultural feedstocks to produce gasoline, diesel and ammonia is scheduled to be built in Madelia, Minnesota. Prairie Skies Biomass Co-op, a local grower cooperative, will supply the feedstock and own a torrefaction facility as part of the first phase of the project. Two additional phases will provide a combined cycle power generation facility and fuels/ammonia facility. Engineers for the project are Gradient Technology, Inc. of Elk River, Minnesota. The gasoline and diesel produced will be drop in fuels, not an additive or blend stock. A mix of locally grown feedstocks will be converted to an energy dense torrefied material in this first phase. The main feedstocks expected to be used include native grasses, alfalfa, wheat straw, corn stover and short rotation willow. The 300 ton per day facility will produce approximately 75,000 tons per year of torrefied material and other co-products. The project supports and advances the sustainability goals of the Madelia Model, a rural development concept developed by Rural Advantage, a Minnesota nonprofit corporation. The facility will employ 20 permanent fulltime positions plus additional positions throughout the feedstock supply value chain. Questions about the project can be directed to Linda Meschke, spokesperson for the Prairie Skies Biomass Co-op at linda@ruraladvantage.org or 507.238.5449. Questions regarding the technology should be directed to Duane Goetsch, Gradient Technology, Inc. at goetsch@gradtech.com or 763-792-9990.

Rural Advantage is a nonprofit corporation based in Fairmont, Minnesota. Their mission is to promote the connections between agriculture, the environment and rural communities in order to improve ecological health, economic viability and rural vitality. Their work centers around efforts to reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution with major programming focused on the 3rd Crop Initiative, ECoPayPack development, Martin County Farm2Cafeteria Network and building the Madelia Model concept. Contact them at 507.238.5449 or visit their website at www.ruraladvantage.org for more information.

Applications are now being accepted for Minnesota GreenCorps

Minnesota GreenCorps is now recruiting host sites and members for the upcoming year. Minnesota GreenCorps is an AmeriCorps program that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) started in 2009. AmeriCorps is a national community service program that helps communities with a wide variety of challenges. In the first two years of the Minnesota GreenCorps program, more than 50 AmeriCorps members were placed in positions with cities, counties, school districts, universities and nonprofit organizations.

Goals of the Minnesota Green Corps program include reducing solid waste and increasing recycling in communities; reducing greenhouse gases and other air pollutants; reducing stormwater runoff and improving water quality; and training new environmental professionals. Positions for the upcoming year are in the areas of energy conservation, waste prevention, living green, and green infrastructure.

In the first year of the program, members successfully increased recycling and reduced waste at participating sites and K-12 schools, benchmarked energy data and implemented energy-saving measures in government-owned buildings, and educated citizens on ways to reduce their impact on the environment. Members also mobilized more than 700 volunteers in community service projects that helped improve or protect the environment.

Minnesota GreenCorps is a unique opportunity for individuals to gain experience in the environmental field, whether they are just out of college or contemplating a career change.

Kathleen McCarthy, a second-year member who is serving as a Living Green Outreach member with Capitol Region Watershed District in St. Paul, said, "Serving in Minnesota GreenCorps has been an extremely rewarding experience that combines community service and member development. I'm gaining critical job skills in a local government setting while empowering community members to take action toward improving Minnesota's water resources."

The upcoming year of the program is scheduled to begin this September, with applications for host sites due May 5, and applications for AmeriCorps members due May 26, 2011. For more information on Minnesota GreenCorps, email the MPCA's Stephanie Souter at stephanie.souter@state.mn.us or visit www.pca.state.mn.us/mngreencorps.

2011 University of Minnesota Institute of Ag Professional Field School at Waseca, MN

Save the date on your calendar for the 2011 Field School for Ag Professionals which will be held on July 27th and 28th (Wednesday and Thursday). The University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center at Waseca, MN will be the host site for the 2011 Field School. The Field School is a hands-on, in-field program emphasizing crop and pest management diagnostic skill building in field crops. Preliminary information for the Field School is available on-line at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/AgProfessionals/fieldschool.html> Registration and more details will be available later in May. We will notify ag professionals via e-mail when registration is open.

The IAP (Institute for Ag Professionals) 2-day Field School program is completely taught in the field. Participants may choose to attend either day or both days of the field school. The first day's program on July 27 will consist of four disciplines - weed science, soil science, entomology, and a crop growth and development session. The second day program held on July 28 will consist of multiple concurrent one-

hour sessions, allowing participants to obtain one Certified Crop Advisor CEU per session. Participants can self-select different sessions from a menu of session topics, ranging across all of the four major agronomy disciplines which are designed to be timely, cutting-edge topics for today's ag professionals.

- Hands-on activities examining current pests, diseases, varieties, and other crop issues.
- Offered July 27 & 28 (Wednesday & Thursday), 2011
- The location for the 2011 Field School is the Waseca, MN University of Minnesota Research and Outreach Center
- 12 CEUs offered
- Some of the topics currently scheduled to occur include:
 - Managing soil processes involved in residue decomposition that encompass strategies that attempt to break down corn residue faster or help maintain yields in high residue environments
 - Remote sensing management options using demonstration plots which will be established with commonly seen nutrient deficiency symptoms. Participants will have hands on experience using some of these tools to compare results from nutrient deficiency symptoms that can be easily confused across multiple nutrients.
 - Determining if plant analysis can be used for making management fertilizer management decisions and for zone and grid sampling. The discussion will also include how soil properties may affect sample results
 - Products for soybean yield enhancement demonstrated in the field.
 - Scouting and identification of key soybean and corn diseases
 - Resistance in soybean aphids
 - Corn stacks performance in controlling major corn insects
 - Herbicide Mode of Action and Crop Injury Symptoms
 - Herbicide program (pre & post) mgt options as it relates to time of weed removal and crop yield
 - Crop Growth and Development as it relates to environmental stress and yield.
 - Principles of Weed Seedling Identification

This program is targeted towards agronomists, crop production retailers, seed sellers, consultants, Extension Educators, agriculture government agency personnel, farm managers and summer scouts.

Questions about the 2011 Field School can be directed to David Nicolai, IAP Program Coordinator, via e-mail: nico0071@umn.edu or by calling [612-625-2778](tel:612-625-2778).

Job Announcements:

Watershed Project Coordinator

The Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District office in Worthington, MN is hiring a fulltime temporary Watershed Project Coordinator position. Requirements for the job are: a four-year natural sciences degree such as biology, chemistry, or related field or at least three years related job experience and strong written and verbal communication skills and must be comfortable and effective in speaking and presenting in public. Starting wage is \$18.50/hr plus benefits. A cover letter, resume, application and writing sample due 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The application and full position announcement available by calling (507) 376-9150 ext 117, email: edward.lenz@noblesswcd.org or online at www.noblesswcd.org

Environmental Educator/Residential Life Manager

Lake Country School is a well-established urban-based AMI Montessori school serving 300 students ages 3-15. In addition to our campus in south Minneapolis, LCS has a 160-acre Land School in Dunn County, WI. We are currently accepting applications for a full-time 10-month residential position beginning August 20, 2011, at the rural campus that includes developing and presenting curriculum and supervising student residential life during day visits and extended stays. Ideal candidate will have a bachelors degree in an area of environmental education, bring expertise, inspire learning, facilitate student/family connections to

the Land School and work collaboratively with urban and rural staff. We offer excellent salary, boarding and benefits, along with an outstanding facility and collegial learning community.

Please visit our website (www.lakecountryschool.org) for more about LCS and send cover letter and resume to Brooks Cavin, Assistant Principal, Lake Country School, 3755 Pleasant Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55409 or bcavin@lakecountryschool.org.

Executive Director

Wisconsin Farmers Union is currently seeking to fill the position of Executive Director. This position will provide vision, leadership, and management, and will actively oversee the following functions: Strategy & Planning, Organizational Management, Fund Development, Public Relations/Advocacy, and Program Development & Implementation. Qualified candidates will have at least 5 years experience and a farm background or knowledge thereof is preferred. Visit www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com for a job description and instructions on applying.

Summer Internship for Farm to Institution Planning

There is a summer internship position available for a student to work with the Lakewood Health System in Staples, Minnesota to develop a farm to institution local foods purchasing system. Please see the link for more details.

https://employment.umn.edu/applicants/jsp/shared/position/JobDetails_css.jsp?postingId=474601

Events:

April 30th (Saturday) 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 dmiller@co.scott.mn.us or 952-492-5424 to sign up before Friday, April 22nd.

April 30th (Saturday) 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 <http://neycenter.org/>

April 30th (Saturday) 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 <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverbanquet2010.pdf>

May 4th (Wednesday) is a **Lake Elysian Lake Association Forum** at 7:00 p.m. at the Elysian Tourism Center (Hwy. 60 across from Casey's). Speakers are Craig Soupir, Aquatic Plant Manager DNR who will talk about the Aquatic Plant Management Program, balancing the recreational access needs of landowners with the essential habitat value that aquatic plants provide. Bruce Pittman, Fisheries Specialist DNR will talk about Fisheries Management practices on Local Area Lakes: Elysian, Frances, Reeds, Rays and Lily. For more information call Claudia at 507-267-4073.

May 7th (Saturday) is the Central Minnesota's Paddle Fest Mississippi Meltdown from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. organized by Clear Waters Outfitting. For more details <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mississippimeltdown.pdf>

May 7th (Saturday) 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 www.twinvalleybsa.org or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootposter.pdf>

May 12th (Thursday) is a **Meeting on Biogas Digesters** from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 N. Broadway). The agenda includes the following speakers: Amanda Bilek, Great Plains institute; Jake Fischer, The Minnesota Project; Kevin Hennessy, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute; Bill Lazarus, University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics; Bob Peplin, Agri-Waste Energies, Inc.; and David Schmidt, University of Minnesota, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. Learn about what is the current state of development of Biogas digesters in SW Minnesota, Who is doing this kind of work, Who is using biogas digesters in their farms or businesses, How do the economics shake out, and What are the economic incentives. To register and RSVP - <http://sw051211.eventbrite.com/>

May 17th (Tuesday) 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.

May 21st (Saturday) 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.

June 16th (Thursday) is an **Open House** for Uruguayan Photographer Federico Estol's book of local people and local photos: "Hello Montevideo from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Montevideo Public Library.

June 18th (Saturday) 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: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

Opinion: [Earth Day: a time to reflect on our impact](#) (MN Daily). There is still time to take personal responsibility for the planet we inhabit.

Editorial: [Stewards of the environment](#) (Owatonna People's Press). This week carries two events of environmental significance — one a celebration of stewardship and the other a solemn anniversary of the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history.

[How can you help leave a cleaner planet for future generations?](#) (Owatonna People's Press). Reduce, reuse, recycle. It's a mantra reiterated year after year that carries a special emphasis on Earth Day, urging us to consume less and be good stewards of this earth we call home.

[As Earth Day arrives, simple steps will help conserve energy](#) (Faribault Daily News). Earth Day 2011 is here — the 41st annual Earth Day, in fact — and with it, 10 suggestions to conserve energy, save resources and protect the planet.

[State gets good marks on move toward greener energy](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Several national environmental groups issued a report card Thursday on efforts among Midwestern states to move toward greener energy.

[Opinion: Effort to ban farm videos misguided](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Minnesota House and Senate Agricultural Committees recently introduced bills ([HF1369](#) and [SF1118](#)) that would make it illegal to record photographs and audio/video at an "animal facility."

[Citizen involvement with Legacy Amendment waning](#) (Mankato Free Press). Citizen involvement in the process was to ensure that funding decisions would be based on the merits of a proposal rather than the vagaries of politics.

[Digging into urban farming at the University of Minnesota](#) (Twin Cities Daily Planet). Cities of the future may include widespread urban farming, beekeeping and a locally-grown fish industry.

[Crown Hydro power project gains traction](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A bill in the Legislature would leapfrog the Minneapolis Park Board's authority over the much-debated project.

The Prairie, although plain, inspires awe. It teaches us that grandeur can be wide as well as tall. – Paul Gruchow, [Grass Roots](#)

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

Scott Kudelka
Watershed Assessment Specialist
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304