

Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River Annual Banquet

Hey River Enthusiasts, Mark your calendars for **Saturday April 30th, you don't want to miss this one.** Your 22nd annual spring get together will be at **Lola's Larkspur in downtown New Ulm** Minnesota. **Doors will open at 5 P.M.** for social hour and we will dine at 6:30 featuring a delicious pasta bar with salad as well.

At 7:30 the most comprehensive report to date featuring Minnesota River actions and activities completed and in progress will be featured with guest speakers **Scott Kudelka** and **Kim Musser** of the Minnesota State Mankato Water Resources Center. The Report is titled the **Minnesota River Progress Report 2010.** The amount and scope of work, effort and progress that has taken place in our basin over the course of the past 20 years is quite impressive to say the least.

This evening also features an exclusive and special screening of the made for television movie "RIVER REVIVAL, WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE THE MINNESOTA RIVER" featuring **Ron Schara** and **Raven the Black Lab Dog.** **The 1 hour long movie will be shown at 8:15 P.M.** This special screening will be given by Executive Producer **John Hickman** and Director/Editing Producer **Jon Carlson.**

Minnesota River Trivia with a \$100 cash prize give away with your host **Scott Sparlin** will be back by popular demand. It will truly be an evening to remember. As always your host is the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR).

Tickets are **\$25 per person.** The event is open to the public and they are welcome to attend. Seating is limited to the first 110 people and reservations are strongly encouraged. To secure a spot, respond to this email providing a name and number of people attending or simply mail your **pre-paid reservations to CCMR, P.O. Box 488, New Ulm MN 56073.** Pre-paid reservations will have priority. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverbanquet2010.pdf>

Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound focuses on the Minnesota River

The ongoing effort to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River will be featured on two upcoming episodes of Ron Schara's Minnesota Bound on KARE 11 TV to be broadcast at 10:35 p.m. April 10th. The show is repeated the following Saturdays at 6:30 p.m.

April 10th (Sunday) at 10:35 p.m. - Carrie Schommer, an elder in the Pejuhutazizi Oyate (Upper Sioux Community), describes swimming with turtles as a child growing up on the banks of the Minnesota River near Granite Falls. We go with Megan Ulrich, Upper Sioux water quality specialist, to test the water in Hazel Creek. Scott Kudelka, Water Resources Center, Minnesota State University, Mankato, explains the trends of water quality indicators. We ride a swamp boat with Bryce Hoppie, Professor of Geology, Minnesota State University, Mankato, to install weather monitoring equipment in Lake Titlow, near Gaylord. Scientists there are monitoring sediment and high nutrient levels that are feeding algae blooms, to develop an action plan with citizens to improve water quality.

Check out the repeat of the April 3rd show on Saturday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. We visit Minneopa Falls, near Mankato, with Ron Bolduan and the River Rangers, to learn the geological history of the Minnesota River Valley. We discover that Minneishinona Creek, near Mankato, has carried enough sediment in the last sixty years to fill a swimming lake in the Minnesota River bottoms, and we get an overview of the Working Together project.

The two stories were produced by Jon Carlson and John Hickman of EPIC Media in conjunction with Ron Schara Productions and the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato. The stories are part of a forthcoming hour-long documentary called "Working Together to Save the Minnesota River" showcasing the efforts of people from all walks of life to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River Basin.

The documentary covers the history of the river from Glacial Lake Agassiz to the present, including an overview of current pollution problems and restoration activities. For more information on the documentary go to: <http://mnriver.org/>

Ron Schara Productions focuses on the art of storytelling through television production by covering the natural world and entertaining people who enjoy the outdoors. Schara's television programs air on major television networks including ESPN2, The Versus Network, NBC, the Outdoor Channel, the History Channel and Fox Sports Net. For more information, <http://www.mnbound.com/>

Created in 1987, the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato serves as a regional center for environmental research and information exchange. Our program is strengthened by the diversity of partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools and individual citizens all working on behalf of the MN River Basin.

Open House on April 21st at the new location of the MPCA Marshall Office

An open house at the new location of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency office in Marshall will be held 3-6 p.m. Thursday, April 21. Staff will serve refreshments and be available to talk about state environmental programs.

The office is now located on the second floor of the Lyon County Public Works Building, 504 Fairgrounds Rd. Since 1999, it had been located in the Market Street Mall at 1420 E. College Dr. The MPCA first opened an office in Marshall in 1976.

The Marshall and Willmar MPCA offices serve 18 counties in southwestern Minnesota (listed below). Regional staff provide citizens and businesses with information to help them protect the environment, and help ensure that permit requirements are met.

Primary programs with regional office staff include municipal wastewater, feedlots and solid waste. Other programs with regional or St. Paul-based staff assigned to the region include stormwater, tanks, emergency response, hazardous waste, public information and impaired waters. More information about the MPCA can be found at: www.pca.state.mn.us.

"We've done a good job of trying to protect and improve water quality, but with continued pressure from development and other land uses, our regional offices keep very busy with a multitude of programs to make sure that we continue to have a healthy natural environment," says Randy Hukriede, MPCA Southwest Region manager.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was created by the state legislature in 1967 to clean up and protect the state's land, air and water resources. Decades ago, work focused primarily on "point sources" of pollution, such as urban wastewater and industrial waste. Today, there is much emphasis on "non-point sources," such as stormwater runoff and motor vehicle emissions.

The Marshall office is one of seven regional offices of the MPCA outside the Twin Cities metro area. Along with the Willmar MPCA office, counties served include: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Meeker, McLeod, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift, and Yellow Medicine.

MPCA Marshall Office; 504 Fairgrounds Rd., Suite 200; Marshall, MN 56258; Phone: (507) 537-7146; Fax: (507) 537-6001

Climate and Energy Experts to Lecture April 19

Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, two influential voices in the debate about energy and climate policy will speak at Gustavus Adolphus College Tuesday, April 19. Shellenberger and Nordhaus are president and chairman, respectively, of The Breakthrough Institute, a policy think tank advocating an

innovation-centered approach to climate and energy issues. Their free, public address will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall, located in the College's O.J Johnson Student Union.

The duo shook up the environmental world with their 2004 essay, "The Death of Environmentalism," in which they argued that the mainstream environmental movement was, and would continue to be, ineffective in the face of global environmental challenges including climate change. They later expanded on their argument for an alternative approach based on technical innovation in the book *Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility*.

More recently, Shellenberger and Nordhaus continued the theme in a November 2010 *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece arguing that society should combat climate change through clean energy innovation. This clean energy innovation argument was featured prominently in President Obama's January 2011 State of the Union address.

Shellenberger and Nordhaus's visit to Gustavus is co-sponsored by the Environmental Studies Program, the Department of Economics and Management, the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation, and the Gustavus Lecture Series.

For more information, please contact James Dontje, Director of the Johnson Center for Environmental Innovation at jdontje@gustavus.edu or 507-933-7206.

Cover Crop Cost-share Dollars Available

Rural Advantage, in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa, is seeking agricultural producers interested in utilizing cover crops. Cost-share dollars are available. This project is funded by NCR-SARE.

Cover crops are capable of providing multiple benefits when placed on the landscape. These benefits include: decreased soil erosion, increased soil organic matter, and increased soil nutrients. Common cover crops for Minnesota include: winter rye, oats, barley, field pea, and red clover. What is commonly seen are producers utilizing cover crops after canning crop harvest, silage harvest, or small grain harvest. It is also possible to use cover crops in a corn/soybean rotation.

Rural Advantage is seeking farmers willing to establish cover crops. Funding is available for up to \$20 per acre for up to 20 acres [\$400 maximum per farm]. Participating farmers may plant the cover crop(s) of their desire. A demonstration aspect and simple reporting will be required. Funding for the project runs from Fall 2009 to Fall 2012. Farmers from all areas of Minnesota are welcome to participate.

For more information, please contact Jill Sackett, UMN Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist, at the Rural Advantage office. 507-238-5449 sacke032@umn.edu

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=9sG7sOIOySE>. To organize a Clean-Up in your community, contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or at yasure@lycos.com.”

Job Announcements:

Environmental Services Engineering Aide

Nicollet County is hiring an Environmental Services Engineering Aide in the Environmental Services Department. This person will administer the Wetland Conservation Act and all related duties. Plans, coordinates, and participates in a variety of water resources and water planning activities and duties with and at the Tri-County Solid Waste office. This position serves in the following capacities: Solid Waste Enforcement Coordinator, Wetland Conservation Act Administrator, and Local Water Management Plan Administrator.

All requiring a broad knowledge of local, state and federal rules and regulations and must maintain educational requirements for State Statutes and Rules that pertain to Solid Waste, Wetland Conservation Act and County Local Water Management. The staff person must have the ability to work with the public and coordinate work with the Environmental Services Department staff, and the staff of other local, state and federal offices; have the ability to conduct interviews, teach a variety of age and educational levels, manage correspondences, write reports and ordinances and have a knowledge of various computer programs – both local and state.

For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/nicolletengineeringaide.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.wildernessinquiry.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:

April 11th (Monday) is the public viewing of **Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story** at 7:00 p.m. at the Renville County Government Services Center (Lower Level Meeting Room 117) in Olivia. Free popcorn and lemonade. Sponsored by Renville Soil and Water Conservation Service, Renville County Water & HHW Management and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/renvilletroubledwaters.pdf>

April 12th (Tuesday) is **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer at the Chippewa County Historical Society annual banquet in Maynard. Interested people should contact the Historical Society for more information or to get tickets at 320-269-7636 or ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net.

April 13th (Wednesday) 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>

April 14th (Thursday) 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, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/troubledwaters.pdf>

April 14th (Thursday) 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.

April 14th (Thursday) 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.

April 16th (Saturday) 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.

April 19th (Tuesday) 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 http://www.curemriver.org/events.html#watershed_alliance

April 23rd (Saturday) 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. [Click here](#) to go to the CRWP website events page for the registration form and more details. All proceeds benefit the Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

April 25th (Monday) 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, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wrcopenhouse.pdf>

April 26th (Tuesday) 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.

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/>

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 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 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://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Grant gives U bee prof big buzz](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). University of Minnesota Prof. Marla Spivak, who won a \$500,000 MacArthur “genius” grant, broke ground by using a bee breeding approach to fight parasitic mites that can destroy hives.

[Minnesota lawmakers OK cuts on parks, safety, colleges](#) (Associated Press). Spending cuts to Minnesota public colleges, crime prevention initiatives, natural resources and environmental programs carried the day at the Capitol on Tuesday, as Republican majorities moved forward over nearly unified Democratic opposition to a plan to erase a \$5 billion deficit without raising state taxes.

[Minn. lawmakers cut environmental programs](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says it would have to close between five and 10 state parks, and offer reduced services at others, under budgets passed by the Minnesota House and Senate Tuesday.

[GOP plans may mean mothballing some state parks](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). One-third of state parks could have hours reduced and services slashed under a sweeping environmental bill approved by the Minnesota House and Senate.

[Walz and bipartisan House group seek clean energy independence](#) (MinnPost). Minnesota Congressman Tim Walz is one of four leaders of a bipartisan House Energy Working Group that will introduce legislation that “creates” a new energy infrastructure and rebuilds our country’s aging roads, bridges, locks and dams.”

[Mpls. wants federal, state funding to prevent Asian carp invasion](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minneapolis city leaders want state and federal authorities to fund efforts to prevent the spread of Asian carp up the Mississippi River.

[DNR, PCA face deep budget cuts](#) (Outdoor News). State General Fund support for agencies like the DNR and Pollution Control Agency would be sliced under budget proposals set to be voted upon earlier this week.

[Opinion: Listen to citizens worried about sulfide mining](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The push for a new type of mining in Minnesota - sulfide or non-ferrous mining - has become stronger and stronger recently. While new sulfide mines proposed in northeastern Minnesota may produce a few hundred jobs, they would also threaten our lakes, rivers, and streams with centuries of toxic pollution.

[Legacy \\$\\$: Let the backfilling begin](#) (Politics in Minnesota). Legislature will test limits on the uses of the \$540 million in proceeds from the state’s 2008 Legacy Amendment.

[Schara to visit Opera House](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Fairmont will have a special visitor at Fairmont Opera House on Thursday evening, and he has some stories to share.

[Collaborating to solve public problems: What's your idea?](#) (MinnPost). Take a natural resource like water: We depend on it for growing our food, drinking, recreation, industrial processes, generating electricity and many other uses.

[Say "Yes" to Sustainability](#) (New Ulm Journal). YES! Team wants to educate public about conservation, renewable energy, sustainable choices.

[Funds in place for wetlands](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Before this area was Martin County, before it was farmland, even before it was populated, it was largely wetlands.

[Republican lawmakers lay out first offers, aim for busy April talks with Dayton](#) (St Paul Pioneer Press). Following spirited speeches that sometimes went deep into the night, the Minnesota House and Senate passed a flurry of major budget bills last week.

Filthy water cannot be washed – West African Proverb

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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