

A Senate favorite retires By Lori Sturdevant

Legislative retirement announcements are coming fast now, and not a few of them evoke an emotional response at the Capitol -- even among the hard-bitten journalists in the basement. Not many this year will be met with more genuine regret than Tuesday's news that Republican Sen. Dennis Frederickson of New Ulm won't seek reelection.

Frederickson is wrapping up his 30th year in the Senate, where he is so admired by the DFL majority that they've made him president pro tem. A retired farmer and former Navy pilot, Frederickson has been a leading environmentalist in his GOP caucus, balancing the interests of farmers, business, hunters and conservationists in ways that have earned him wide respect.

In many ways, Frederickson is an exemplar of an earlier, more genteel time at the Capitol, when public service and personal friendships transcended party lines. His effectiveness demonstrates that his example is worth following.

CURE Spring Clean Up Picnic to honor Uruguayans and Eagle Scout Ruether

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) is inviting the public to attend a potluck picnic at the Smith Park community built Playground in Montevideo on Sunday April 11 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Six visiting Uruguayan Youth Ambassadors will be at the picnic and CURE will recognize Eagle Scout Tyler Ruether for his project to mark all the storm sewers in town with "no dumping" stickers. For more information, contact Patrick Moore or Dixie Tilden at the CURE office (320) 269-2984.

The event is scheduled to follow the annual CURE spring river roadside clean up along the Minnesota River and Hwy 212 between Wegdahl and Granite Falls. Volunteers who wish to participate in the clean up are asked to gather at the Minnesota River public access in Wegdahl at 2 p.m.

After the clean up, the volunteers will gather at the "Mansion of Mysteries" Playground in Smith Park for a community BBQ and potluck picnic. Everyone is asked to bring some meat to grill (a grill from Bill's Supermarket will be on hand) and a dish to pass along with their own utensils and beverages.

Six Uruguayan Youth Ambassadors (YA's) and their Chaperone will be at the picnic to meet with community residents. The YA's are spending 10 days in Montevideo as part of a cultural exchange program sponsored by the Partners for the America's organization based in Washington D.C. and the [Minnesota Uruguay Partners](#) based in Minnesota. Local families have agreed to host the students while they learn about the Montevideo School System, Chippewa County's restorative justice and drug abuse prevention programs, local history, arts and culture.

At a short ceremony starting at 5 p.m., CURE will honor Eagle Scout Tyler Ruether of Montevideo for the work he did last year to mark more than 1900 storm sewer drains in the city with stickers that say "**No Dumping – Drains to River**". The project was taken on by Ruether in cooperation with the City of Montevideo Street Department with funding provided by the Knights of Columbus. Ruether provided free volunteer labor to identify and mark each storm sewer as part of his Eagle Scout project. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/curespringcleanup.pdf>

Founded in 1992, CURE is a grass roots, citizen science based organization that works to restore, celebrate and protect the Upper Minnesota River Watershed.

Minneopa State Park Annual Meeting

Please join the Friends of Minneopa State Park for the Annual Meeting featuring guest speaker Merrill Frydendall who will give a talk entitled "Minneopa: Nature's Potpourri." Everyone is welcome. Meeting will be held at Snell Motors Community Meeting Room (1900 Madison Ave, Mankato) on Wednesday, April 14th, 6-8pm. For more information, contact Jeff Brand at 507.380.0510.

Minnesota River Banquet

Minnesota River Enthusiasts----Saturday April 24th Minnesota River Banquet---Turner Hall---1st South and State St. New Ulm---Flyer is attached---Meal is Roast Beef, Mashed Potato and Gravy or a Vegetarian Stir Fry. Prizes, fun, and a great program. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverbanquet.pdf>

River and History Weekend – Patrick Moore

We put away the cross country skis on March 6 and by March 21 we had the canoes and kayaks out on the river. Yesterday we went on Hawk Creek. You can view photos from our trip on Facebook by clicking [here](#)

We have just posted information to the web regarding our [Rivers and History Weekend](#) May 14, 15, 16. Check it out. Save the date and plan your trip. Thanks to some help from the Minnesota River Board, we're going to have a great history talk by Wayne Ostlie of Great River Greening on the night of May 15 at the [Lac qui Parle County Park](#). You won't want to miss it.

We are planning two river clean ups this spring. One on April 11 in Wegdahl and one on May 8 in Granite Falls. More details to follow.

Finally, we have been documenting the progress on the Student Built Energy Efficient [Hill Grocery House](#) on the web and on [Facebook](#). Things are coming along -- the roof is almost on and they will start siding, insulating and sheet rocking soon. If you want to be a part of volunteer work crews to help finish the house, let us know.

Working, with your help, to get kids outside, Patrick J. Moore; www.cureriver.org

Community SWAP MEET

Promoting a green and sustainable community is the goal of the first-ever Community SWAP MEET scheduled for Saturday, April 10th from 10am-2pm in Mankato! Anyone can bring items in good condition to trade including new and used household items, hand-made goods, healing services, packaged and home-canned foods, yard work, garden produce, artwork, clothing, furniture, electronics, CDs and more. This free, family-friendly event will be held at the Centenary United Methodist Church, 501 S. 2nd St, Mankato.

This event is a collaborative effort between the School Sisters of Notre Dame Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry, the community group Sustainable Mankato and Centenary United Methodist Church. To reserve a table, please call Lisa Coons at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry at 389-4272 or e-mail lcoons@ssndmankato.org. The Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry is an educational ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Call for Abstracts Minnesota Water Resources Conference October 19-20, 2010 | Saint Paul RiverCentre

This is a reminder that the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, scheduled October 19-20, 2010 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, is again requesting abstracts to be presented at this year's conference. The conference features keynote speakers, luncheon presentations, poster exhibits and concurrent sessions. The event facilitates interaction among engineers, water resource managers, researchers, and local, state and federal agency staff.

Abstracts are due by Friday, April 16, 2010 and must be submitted electronically to: www.wrc.umn.edu/waterconf. Please view the attached document for more information on submitting an abstract.

If you have any questions regarding an abstract or the 2010 Water Resources Conference, please contact Heather Dorr or Nicole Freese at cceconf5@umn.edu or 612-624-3078.

Get Kids Outside

CURE is launching a series of events to **"Get Kids Outside"** this Spring and Summer starting this Sunday, April 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. along the Minnesota River between Montevideo and Granite Falls. To see a map of where we will be meeting, click [here](#)

It is one of two clean ups we are organizing this spring -- for full details visit our updated web site by clicking on: <http://www.curemnriver.org/events.html#april11>

We are also launching a first ever pledge drive to help support our **No Child Left Inside -- Get Kids Outside** programs. For more info --click [here](#)

From now until May 14, we are encouraging everyone who supports our work to collect pledges from friends and relatives for the river miles you will be paddling this spring. The Grand Prize for the most pledge dollars collected is a [brand new kayak](#) to be given away at our [Rivers and History Weekend](#).

Anyone can take part in this pledge drive -- students, adults, grandmothers and leprechauns -- anyone who really wants to own a kayak and who really believes in CURE's work to get kids outside and to speak for (and with) the River.

You can also support the drive by [contributing on-line](#) and helping us raise our budget for the year.

Kids need to get outside -- CURE is doing that like few other organizations in the region and we really need your help to keep doing this work.

The river runs through us: a spirit and stories of the Minnesota River

Celebrate earth day, Thursday April 22, 2010 at 7 pm by attending the UU Humanities series presentation which will explore the Minnesota River from the perspective of its history its importance to our community and its future. Speakers include Carrie Jennings of Glacial Geologist with the USGS who works in the area of water quality; Kim Musser and Scott Kudelka, from the Water Resource Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato, who have just completed the Trends document on the Minnesota River, Art and Barb Straub who will share stories about life on the river. An informational evening, that looks from the past, into the future. We offer this event without charge to all, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 937 Charles Ave, Mankato, MN

Job Opportunities:

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is a 505 square mile watershed district including five counties, founded in 1967, with offices located in Ortonville, MN. The District is currently seeking a Seasonal Water Monitoring Technician for the months of April – October 2010 and April – October 2011.

Desired knowledge and skills:

- Experience in water quality monitoring, GPS, GIS and data entry is desired.
- Possess or be actively pursuing a bachelor's degree in water resources, soil science, or related natural resources field.
- Exceptional organizational skills.
- Proficient with various computer software programs, including spreadsheets and databases.
- Able to walk on uneven terrain associated with natural areas, be willing to work outdoors in extreme weather conditions, be able to wade in small streams and wetlands.
- Self motivated
- Commitment to high quality work
- Ability to work independently
- Ability to maintain relationships with co-workers, board, agencies, communities and landowners
- Must have valid driver's license and reliable vehicle.

Complete Position Announcement, Application and Position Description is available at the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District office, 211 2nd Street SE, Ortonville, MN 56278, (320) 839-3411, deanna.lundberg@midconetwork.com. Please submit cover letter with three references, resume and completed application no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, 2010 to the above address.

Conditions of Announcement: The UMRWD reserves the right to make changes to the content of this position announcement without notification and may at any time withdraw the announcement.

Equal Employment Opportunity: Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reason such as race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Program Officer Opening - in Minneapolis

This is an opportunity to shape a major new funder's global environmental giving from the program's beginning. We are searching for a seasoned grant-maker who will run one or more of the geographic subprograms we are currently designing. While those geographies are not yet finalized, we expect that over time they will include work in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and North America, and will promote integrated, community-based terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystem conservation within watersheds. Our hope is to have this officer join our small team by July, in time to help complete our first strategic plans. The position is to be located in Minneapolis, and pay will be competitive with similar foundation positions. The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation is eager to be a helpful partner. Alan Holt; Environmental Program Director; The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation; 120 Broadway Ave. S, Suite 200; Wayzata, MN 55391; 952 540-4173 (office)

Program Director of PRI Cold Climate

Job Title: Program Director; Type: Part Time; Location: Twin Cities, Minnesota; Deadline: 4/23/2010

Organization Summary

Through research, education, demonstration, and community-building, PRI Cold Climate catalyzes and fosters the creation of an abundant and restorative culture for living in northern temperate climates. PRI Cold Climate is a membership based organization with staff, volunteers and programs including Education and Outreach, Backyard Harvest, Research and Demonstration and the Collaborative.

Major Responsibilities

The Program Director oversees the coordination and administration of all aspects of an ongoing program including planning, organizing, staffing, leading, and maintaining oversight of program activities.

Planning and Organizing

- Plan the delivery of the overall program and its activities in accordance with the mission and the goals of the organization
- Develop new initiatives and long term goals to support the strategic direction of the organization
- Assist Executive Director in developing the annual budget and operating plan to support the programs
- Develop forms and records to document program activities
- Write reports on the program for management and for funders
- Communicate with funders as outlined in funding agreements
- Monitor and approve all budgeted program expenditures
- Manage all project funds according to established accounting policies and procedures
- Identify and evaluate risk and how to minimize risks associated with program activities
- Maintain oversight of website and program webpages
- Report evaluation findings to the Executive Director and recommend changes to enhance the program

Staffing and Leadership

- Recruit, interview and select well-qualified program staff

- Implement the human resources policies, procedures and practices of the organization
- Ensure that personnel files for the program are properly maintained and kept confidential
- Establish and implement a performance management process for all program staff
- Engage volunteers for appropriate program activities using established volunteer management practices
- Supervise program staff by providing direction, input and feedback
- Communicate stakeholders to gain community support for the program and to solicit input to improve the program
- Coordinate the delivery of services among different program activities to increase effectiveness and efficiency

Qualifications

- Bachelors degree preferred
- 3-5 years Non-profit experience and knowledge of the Twin Cities nonprofit community
- Computer skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint required. Comfortable with database systems, social networking sites and Drupal knowledge a plus
- Ability to plan and coordinate complex projects; Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Excellent time management and organizational skills; ability to handle large and diverse workload
- Experience working with diverse cultures and communities a plus
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills—outgoing and able to interact with grant seekers, board members, donors, and staff from diverse backgrounds
- Ability to work independently and as a reliable member of a team
- Permaculture Design Course Certificate and permaculture experience is a plus, understanding of Permaculture principles a must

Salary and Benefits

Commensurate with experience. Position is part-time; healthcare and retirement benefits are not included. Occasional evening and weekend work required to monitor programs.

How to Apply

Please submit resume, cover letter, and references to Paula Westmoreland, PRI Cold Climate Executive Director, paula@pricoldclimate.org by **April 23rd, 2010**.

Job Opening: NACD Communications Associate and Web Manager

The National Association of Conservation Districts is seeking a talented Communications Associate and Web Manager to maintain and improve NACD's extensive website, write newsletter content, implement and manage a social media strategy and assist with member outreach. The ideal candidate will have strong communication skills; a solid understanding of natural resource issues; experience with web design and maintenance; and a bachelor's degree in a related field. Visit [NACD's website](#) for a full job description. To apply, please email a copy of your resume and two writing samples to jobs@nacdnet.org.

Contract Professional Services

The Winona County Soil & Water Conservation District is seeking a person to contract for professional services to work in the Rush-Pine Creek Watershed performing FANMAP Surveys, Agronomic Assessments, GIS Land Use Surveys, Education and Outreach Meetings, and Farm Conservation Plans with Technical Assistance. Interested people can call (507) 523-2171 or email tim.terrell@mn.nacdnet.net for additional information.

District Technician Position

The Benton SWCD has an opening for a temporary position anticipated to last up to 6 months. This position provides support for district conservation programs. Typical duties may include:

- ü Meet with landowners in the office and in the field to discuss conservation options on their property. Encourage participation in conservation programs like the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, State Cost Share, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Clean Water Legacy, etc.
- ü Assist Benton County landowners with conservation projects to improve water quality and water quantity. Anticipated practices include: field windbreaks, farmstead shelterbelts, filter strips, riparian buffer strips, feedlot pollution mitigation, livestock exclusion, nutrient and manure management, wetland restorations, stream bank stabilization, lakeshore restoration and wildlife tree, shrub and grass plantings.
- ü Assist with project surveying, layout and construction inspection.
- ü Inspect previously installed conservation practices.
- ü Inspect newly installed conservation practices.
- ü Assist with the district annual tree program.
- ü Assist with office tasks.
- ü Assist with numerous other assigned duties.

The deadline for applications is April 15th. Application materials can be found on the Benton SWCD website at www.soilandwater.org. Gerry Maciej; Benton SWCD Manager; 14 2nd Ave W.; Foley, MN 56329; Phone (320) 968-5300 extension 3
 Fax (320) 968-5304; E-mail Gerry@soilandwater.org; Visit our web site at www.soilandwater.org

Events:

April 17th (Saturday) is the **3rd Annual Fun Shoot (Clay Pigeon Shoot)** at the River Ridge Gun Club, Courtland sponsored by the Twin Valley Boy Scout Association. Check in is at 12:30 and the Shoot starts at 1:00pm. Go to www.twinvalleybsa.org to print off a registration form or for more information.

April 20th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting** at the Hutchinson Events Center starting at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and the formally meeting beginning at 9:00. For more information <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

April 24th (Saturday) is the **2010 Minnesota River Banquet** with the social hour starting at 5 p.m. in the lower level of Turner Hall in New Ulm. The dinner starts at 6:30 and program at 7:30 with an update on Minnesota actions, issues and advocacy opportunities for the public. It will also feature a startling snapshot look at the phenomenal fisheries in the backwater area of the river near New Ulm and Minnesota River Jeopardy will be back. For those who wish to come early and pay a visit to the Regional River History and Information Center the doors will be open starting at 2 PM until 4:30. The center is the big brick building located in Riverside Park at 1st South and Front St. This event is in its 21st year and as always is being hosted by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. Pre-registration is open and can be done by email providing a name and the number attending to yasure@lycos.com or by sending a check for \$20 per person to CCMR P.O. Box 488 New Ulm MN 56073 notating banquet tickets on the check. CCMR is a basin-wide non-profit 501 c 3 federal tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible deducible.

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Mark Ritchie says sustainable farmers have much to share](#) (Agri News). Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie said the Minnesota brand is in danger and it's up to those who care to right the ship.

[Two experimental drainage sites provide invaluable information on nitrate removal](#) (Agri News). Two Dodge County farm fields are test sites for innovative new drainage practices in Minnesota.

[Editorial: Frederickson retiring](#) (New Ulm Journal). State Sen. Dennis Frederickson announced his retirement from the Senate on Tuesday, signalling the close to a career that has served this area very well for 30 years.

[30 years is enough for state Sen. Dennis Frederickson](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). State Sen. Dennis Frederickson, the longest-serving Republican in the Minnesota Senate, said Tuesday that he will not seek re-election to a 10th term this fall.

[Video warns of environmental dangers ahead](#) (MinnPost). If you think climate change defines the worst of today's environmental worries, you may want to check out this [video](#) offered by [Scientific American](#) magazine in connection with its April cover story.

[Opinion: Altruism is dead, environmentally speaking](#) (MN Daily). A new study suggests that societal acceptance is the engine driving the green movement.

[DNR analyzes latest budget cuts](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Lawmakers early this week approved a bill that solves about one-third of the state's \$1 billion budget deficit.

[Is there new life for RIM?](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Momentum might be building for a second bonding bill centered around funding for a wetland conservation program.

[After floods, Mankato parks need a cleaning](#) (Mankato Free Press). Spring flooding has left 2 inches of mud in parts of the Land of Memories campground, trails are mucky, and a fence at the Kiwanis Recreation Area has washed away.

[A wolf in southwestern Minnesota?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Said Dave Trauba, DNR area wildlife manager who examined the dead animal: "It's probably the first confirmed wolf in this area in 100 years."

[Allies of wetland plan still hopeful](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). When Gov. Tim Pawlenty stripped a \$25 million land conservation program from the big bonding bill the Legislature sent him last month, he befuddled some folks and astonished and disappointed others.

[Slice of wilderness preserved](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Descendants of a Swedish immigrant sold 64 acres of forests and wetlands. The city of Lindstrom will manage the land for public use.

[Caribou Coffee goes to 100% sustainable coffee](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Caribou becomes first U.S. coffee chain to pledge that all its coffee will come from farms certified to use sustainable growing practices.

[DNR buys land in Martin County](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). When Fox Lake Conservation League purchased 160 acres of land in western Martin County, the organization didn't intend to hold onto the property for long.

[Heavy snow leads to stinky mess on SW Minn. lakes](#) (Associated Press). The latest appeared amid breaking ice on southern Minnesota lakes: lots of dead fish.

[They turn wine into water \(barrels\)](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The search for an attractive rain barrel spawned a business for two local gardeners.

Till now man has been up against nature, from now on he will be up against his own nature. – Dennis Gador

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>

Thanks,

Scott

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By Guy and Rodd

