

Pontoon Rides on the River this Thursday

Our friends over at the "Let's Go Fishing" organization and the [Monte Bushwackers Outdoor Adventure Club](#) are offering Pontoon rides on the [Minnesota River near Wegdah](#) this Thursday August 25 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The event is a fundraiser to help pay the costs of operating and maintaining the "Lets Go Fishing" Pontoon which is used for Senior Outings -- primarily on Lac qui Parle. A free will offering will be taken for the rides. Food and refreshments will be served compliments of Bill's Supermarket and Folkestad Furniture. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve food and help with the rides. If you have time, give Ed Picht a call [320-314-2680](tel:320-314-2680).

Our Friends downstream in New Ulm are gearing up for the Annual Riverblast over Labor Day Weekend. Make plans now to attend. For more information, visit: <http://riverblast.org/>

The best days of summer are here! Enjoy the home grown tomatoes, the pesto, the melon and the cabbage. Bask in the blue skies and cooler evenings. We live in a beautiful world. – Patrick Moore

Riverblast – Blues 4 Kids

Looking for a great way to introduce a young person to music. **Blues 4 Kids** ...While at Riverblast, introduce your kids to music by signing them up for a free harmonica workshop taught by Blues great Everett Smithson, Sat. Sept. 3rd, at 3 p.m. It includes a free harmonica for Kids 8 - 18. There is a limited class size of 20. You can pre register online , yasure@lycos.com or register at Riverblast at the information booth. Sponsored by the Greater Twin Cities Blues Music Society, www.qtcblms.org.

Rising from meter-reader to CEO, Xcel's Dick Kelly has sound perspective on environment by Don Shelby (MinnPost)

In a week, Dick Kelly will leave Minneapolis and find something to do in Colorado. He will retired as the CEO of Xcel Energy. What will he do? "I've had enough of utilities," he told me. "I'd like to try something different."

He deserves a break. He has been working in electricity generation most of his life. On the way to becoming the CEO of one of the most respected electric utility companies in the United States, he walked around with a clipboard and read meters in thousands of backyards. Meter-reader to CEO. It has given Dick Kelly perspective.

The kind of perspective Kelly possesses is not seen very often in his business. Dick Kelly believes the facts are in on global warming. "I think the science is pretty solid," he said. "Maybe we haven't communicated it well enough. But I think people do believe we need a change in the way we generate and use electricity."

For the entire article: http://www.minnpost.com/donshelby/2011/08/16/30831/rising_from_meter-reader

New paddling opportunities and safety information available on DNR water trails website

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has two new additions to the state water trail system – the South Fork of the Crow River west of the Twin Cities and the Blue Earth River, which feeds the Minnesota River at Mankato.

The DNR has also revamped its river-level reporting system to make it easier for boaters, canoeists and kayakers to check real-time water levels on state water trails. Water trails are mapped routes on waterways, especially for watercraft.

"This has been a big year for state water trails," said Erik Wrede, DNR water trails coordinator. "In May, we launched a new, online interactive map so boaters and paddlers can customize their own maps. Now, we have launched a major upgrade in our river-level reporting system. Special thanks go to the local

paddling groups that were active in pursuing legislative designation and that were extremely helpful in mapping 200 miles on two new water trails.”

The Amboy Area Community Club, the Mankato Paddling and Outings Club and the South Fork Crow River Association each had a hand in adding to the first and largest water trails system in the nation. The state water trails system started back in 1963 and now has 4,400 miles on 32 water trails that are managed for canoeing, kayaking, boating and camping. There is a water trail within an hour of almost anywhere in the state, and camping at the remote sites is free unless otherwise designated on the maps.

Trip planning resources like river level reports, free printed maps, customizable digital maps, lists of outfitters and paddling clubs are available [online](#).

Water Quality Data – Environmental Data Access Update

View and download surface water monitoring data: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-monitoring-and-reporting/water-quality-and-pollutants/environmental-data-access-water-quality-data.html>

Search, review, and download surface water monitoring data using the updated Surface Water Environmental Data Access. Find lake and stream monitoring locations using a [text search](#) or [web map](#). View the data on a monitoring location [overview](#) page. Add the monitoring locations to your data download shopping cart. Download data from the stations in your shopping cart when you're ready to check out.

Top 5 new features:

- Download data from many stations at the same time.
- View individual monitoring locations at lakes.
- Data download pulls directly from MPCA's [EQuIS](#) database, giving you access to new data as soon as it has been reviewed for quality.
- Simplified [web map](#), including “one-click” information bubbles.
- Web map links to the [Surface Water Environmental Data Access](#) and the new [Water Quality Assessment Viewer](#) (assessments, impaired waters, and restoration projects)
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For additional EDA information please contact [Jason Ewert](#)

E2020 Energy Conservation Task Force members and friends,

Doug Anderson of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be visiting from Washington to speak to the E2020 Energy Conservation Task Force at its next meeting beginning 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 25. The presentation will take place in the Sakatah Room in the Greater Mankato Business Development Center (formerly Tech Plus), 1961 Premier Drive, Mankato. [\[MAP\]](#)

Mr. Anderson works with the Energy Star program at the EPA. He'll be speaking primarily on strategies and ideas for engaging local businesses in home energy efficiency and conservation projects.

If interested in attending, please [email Lou Schwartzkopf](#). (Note: Reservations are NOT required.)

Governor Dayton to honor three environmental projects at the Eco Experience on Thursday

Governor Dayton will honor three winners for innovation and superior commitment to pollution prevention at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Eco Experience Sustainability Stage at the Minnesota State Fair. MPCA Commissioner Paul Aasen and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 Administrator Susan Hedman will also be on hand to honor the winners.

The Governor's Awards for Pollution Prevention honor Minnesota's businesses, nonprofits, governmental agencies and other institutions demonstrating a commitment to pollution prevention, resource efficiency and sustainable practices. Accomplishments must go beyond traditional waste management, focusing instead on innovative prevention, reduction and reuse strategies. This MPCA program, started in 1991,

encourages environmental leadership. The three winners are:

The City of Saint Paul Public Pools Green Initiative

The city of St. Paul worked with Creative Water Solutions and USAquatics to develop a system to significantly reduce chemical use in public swimming pools. The pilot project started at the Highland Park Aquatic Center, where they used a species of sphagnum moss to reduce use of chlorine, cyanuric acid, bicarbonate, acid and clarifier. It was the first use of moss as a water conditioning and treatment agent in a public pool anywhere in the world. Environmental and economic savings include:

- Water use for pool backwash reduced by 30,000 gallons every two weeks.
- A 50 percent drop in chlorine use by mid-summer and further reductions by season's end. Cyanuric acid was discontinued. Bicarbonate and acid use also fell to half the levels of 2008.
- The city of St. Paul saved \$40,000 in reduced staff overtime costs and \$36,000 in reduced chemical costs, annually.
- Overall, the city realized a \$100,000 increase in revenues at the pool in 2010.

Recycling and Waste Reduction Initiatives

In 2009 and 2010, several nonprofits formed a partnership (Fairview Health Services, Merrick Inc., Partnership Resources Inc., PPL Industries, and Minnesota Waste Wise) to determine an environmentally-friendly way to handle used blue wrap. This is the material used to cover operating room supplies during sterilization in Fairview Health Services buildings. Environmental and economic savings include:

- Recycling more than 45 tons of clean blue wrap.
- \$34,000 in reduced costs from the recycling program. The savings allows Fairview to pay for two recycling work crews from Merrick Inc. and Partnership Resources. The work crews employ two job coaches and six adults with disabilities.
- Diversion of 300 tons of materials from landfills for reuse annually by Fairview Health Services.
- Other Twin Cities' hospitals have also started recycling blue wrap.

From Roofs to Roads: A Successful Partnership

To expand roof shingle recycling, a coalition of public, private and nonprofit partners (Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board, Dem-Con, Minnesota Asphalt Pavement Association and Commercial Asphalt Company) worked for many years to research, test and evaluate the use of tear-off shingles in asphalt pavement. Prior to this project, the Minnesota Department of Transportation specifications only allowed for manufactured, shingle scrap to be used in roads paved with asphalt. In 2010, a MnDOT-approved specification was implemented allowing for residential roof shingle recycling in road asphalt. This specification will help reduce the more than 150,000 tons of old roofing shingles (tear-off shingles) disposed of in landfills each year. Recyclers and asphalt producers are now manufacturing this difficult-to-recycle material. Environmental and economic savings include:

- A 32,000 ton reduction of virgin oil used to make hot-mix asphalt through shingle recycling.
- The recycling of 30,000 tons of shingles in Minnesota with the successful capture by Dem-Con of 20 percent of all available shingles within Minnesota.
- A job increase of seven for Dem-Con, two full-time and five nine-month seasonal positions.
- The potential reduction of 40 metric tons of Green House Gas emissions from carbon dioxide annually if all shingles are recycled.
- Introduction of a new recycling option in Minnesota and nationwide.

To learn more about the award winners, go to the [Governor's Awards webpage](#).

St. Paul district energy operation pays \$55,000 environmental penalty

St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced that a group of businesses comprising Ever-Green Energy LLC; St. Paul Cogeneration LLC; District Energy St. Paul Inc.; and Environmental Wood Supply LLC, has paid a \$55,000 civil penalty to resolve alleged violations of the air quality permit for the St. Paul District Heating operation.

Ever-Green operates the district heating facility at 76 Kellogg Blvd. and a combined heat and power facility at 125 Shepard Road. District Energy St. Paul owns the district heating facility, and St. Paul Cogeneration owns the Shepard Road facility. The facilities supply heat and electricity to business customers in the St. Paul core area. Environmental Wood Supply is a wood-recycling center at 2165 Pigs Eye Lake Road that supports St. Paul Cogeneration.

The agreement covers violations of the air-quality permit from 2008 to 2010. Violations included exceeding permitted limits for carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides from the wood-fired boiler at St. Paul Cogeneration, not performing continuing emissions monitoring according to the terms of the permit, and not calibrating monitoring equipment as required. In addition, no amendment to the air emissions permit was obtained prior to adding Environmental Wood Supply to the operation of the permitted facility.

To resolve the violations, the companies have paid a civil penalty of \$55,000. In addition, the companies agreed to a schedule of specific corrective actions to achieve compliance, including submitting plans on how they will ensure compliance with the emission limits in their air-quality permit and prevent reoccurrence of the violations in the future. The majority of the items in the compliance schedule have been completed; failure to comply with the complete schedule in the agreement will result in further specified penalties.

When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violations affected the environment, whether they were first-time or repeat violations, and how promptly they were reported to appropriate authorities. Penalties also attempt to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner. A [comprehensive list of enforcement actions](#) by the MPCA is available on the agency's website.

Environmental review of proposed coal-handling facility at Stewart is open for public comment

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has prepared an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for a proposed coal unloading, storage and transfer facility along Highway 212 east of Stewart. The EAW, which describes potential impacts on land use, water quality, and air quality, is open for public review and comment through Sept. 21, 2011.

The facility, proposed by Gascoyne Materials Handling and Recycling (GMHR), would include a rail spur, outdoor coal-unloading system, stockpile area, and a treatment system for coal-pile runoff and stormwater. An average of 200,000 tons of coal delivered by rail would be unloaded annually, with a maximum capacity of 450,000 tons.

The EAW provides basic information on how the proposed project could potentially affect the environment. During the 30-day period it is open to public review and comment. Comments on the GMHR EAW should be submitted to the MPCA in writing by 4:30 p.m. on Sept. 21, 2011 to Nancy Drach, MPCA, 520 Lafayette Road N., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194, or by fax to 651-297-2343.

The MPCA will use the comments it receives to evaluate the potential for significant environmental effects from the project, and to decide whether an Environmental Impact Statement (a more comprehensive environmental review) is needed.

In addition to the EAW, the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System permit will also be available for public comment. For more information, contact [Deb Schumann](#) at 651-757-2704.

Copies of the GMHR EAW are available for review at:

- the MPCA's St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Rd. N.;
- the MPCA's EAW webpage; and
- the MPCA Willmar office, 1601 E. Highway 12.

Copies of the EAW may also be requested directly from the MPCA by calling 651-297-8510. Questions about the project should be directed to [Nancy Drach](#) at 651-757-2317 or 800-657-3864 (toll free/TTY).

MPCA enforcement actions total more than \$470,000 in second quarter of 2011

St. Paul, Minn. - The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) concluded 47 enforcement cases totaling \$474,720 in penalties during the second quarter of 2011. The cases occurred at facilities in 33 counties throughout Minnesota.

The MPCA helps protect the environment by writing and enforcing environmental rules and regulations that set standards for environmental quality and limits on pollutants that can be discharged from facilities. To help regulated parties stay in compliance with rules and regulations, the MPCA conducts inspections, provides training, and distributes guidance materials.

Here's a brief summary of all 47 cases completed during the second quarter of 2011:

- \$55,000 – District Energy St. Paul Inc., Hans O’Nyman/Ever-Green Energy LLC, St. Paul, for air-quality violations.
- \$45,675 – Cass County Highway Department, Tri-City Paving, Pine River, for stormwater violations.
- \$17,700 – Prinsco Inc., Prinsburg, for water-quality violations.
- \$15,250 – Hibbing Taconite Co., Hibbing, for air-quality violations.
- \$12,500 – Mesabi Nugget Delaware LLC, Hoyt Lakes, for water-quality violations.
- \$12,075 – BGR Dairy Inc., Lake Park, for feedlot violations.
- \$10,300 – Jeffrey Flinn, d.b.a. Flinn’s Auto Parts, Montevideo, for hazardous- and solid-waste violations.
- \$10,000 – Donald Delanghe, Marshall, for feedlot violations.
- \$10,000 – Heartland Corn Products, Winthrop, for air-quality violations.
- \$10,000 – Northshore Mining-Silver Bay and North Mining Co.-Babbitt, Silver Bay, for air-quality violations.
- \$10,000 – Spokely Farms Inc., Nielsville, for water-quality violations.
- \$9,340 – TWF Industries, Alexandria, for hazardous-waste violations.
- \$9,247 – City of Tracy wastewater treatment facility, Tracy, for water-quality violations.
- \$7,760 – Johnson Fur Co. Inc., Willmar, for water-quality violations.
- \$7,500 – Thein Well Co. Inc., Rochester, for water-quality violations.
- \$6,600 – USG Interiors Inc., Red Wing, for air-quality violations.
- \$6,500 – T&M Marine, Donald Bischoff, Cohasset, for stormwater violations.
- \$5,750 – Minnesota Soybean Processors, Brewster, for air-quality violations.
- \$5,500 – City of Long Prairie wastewater treatment facility, Long Prairie, for water-quality violations.
- \$5,000 – Lismore Hutterian Brethren Inc., Clinton, for feedlot violations.
- \$5,000 – North Star Dairy LLC, Lancaster, for feedlot violations.
- \$4,970 – Como Lube & Supplies Inc., Duluth, for hazardous-waste violations.
- \$4,200 – Kevin Koecher, River Inn Bar, Douquette, for asbestos violations.
- \$3,611 – J&K Tool Co. Inc., Wheaton, for hazardous-waste violations.
- \$3,125 – Haney Construction, Morton, for solid-waste violations.
- \$3,100 – Living Water Gardens Inc., Wells, for solid-waste violations.
- \$2,625 – Bill Schindle Construction Inc., North Mankato, for stormwater violations.
- \$2,125 – Viele Contracting Inc., Duluth, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$1,870 – Construction Services Inc., Duluth, for stormwater violations.
- \$1,687 – Morrie’s Bodyworks, Long Lake, for air-quality violations.
- \$1,370 – Randy Erickson, d.b.a. Arrowhead Environmental, Cloquet, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$1,000 – Andrew and Josephine Lerberg, Clarks Grove, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$1,000 – Cindy Marie Scott, Jim Crawford, Albert Lea, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$1,000 – George Sandy, Long Prairie, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$1,000 – Kevin and Teresa Roesler, Harmony, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$810 – Moeller Body & Paint, Porter, for air-quality violations.
- \$625 – Aldi Inc., Oak Park Heights, for stormwater violations.
- \$500 – Andersen Excavating of Central Minnesota, Albany, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
- \$500 – Frana Companies Inc., Carondelet Village, St. Paul, for stormwater violations.

- \$500 – Lindgren Construction, Bagley, for individual-septic-treatment-system violations.
 - \$460 – Farmers Cooperative Association Inc., Milroy, for solid-waste violations.
- The penalties for the following cases are all forgivable:
- \$5,505 – Hard Rock Quarries Inc., Mankato, for water-quality violations.
 - \$2,850 – Norcraft Companies LLC, d.b.a. Mid-Continent Cabinetry, Cottonwood, for hazardous-waste violations.
 - \$1,500 – IT Express/Asset Recovery & Recycling, Minneapolis, for hazardous-waste violations.
 - \$1,090 – Waseca County Recycling, Waseca, for solid-waste violations.
 - \$500 – Andrew Schiller Farm, Redwood Falls, for feedlot violations.
 - \$500 – Andrew Schiller Farm-Vesta Site, Redwood Falls, for feedlot violations.

A complete summary of environmental enforcement actions and news releases can be found on the MPCA's [News Media Center webpage](#). If you have questions about specific enforcement cases, call Stephen Mikkelson, Information Officer, at 218-316-3887 or toll free at 800-657-3864.

Job Announcements:

Senior Communications Manager, Conservation Law Foundation, Boston, MA

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is seeking a talented communications practitioner with a journalist's eye for a good story, a storyteller's knack for engaging an audience, an editor's fine point and a publicist's rolodex. Reporting directly to the director of communications, the senior communications manager will have 5-7 years of communications experience, with solid writing, editing, messaging and pitching skills. You will be able to develop and implement strategic and tactical communications plans that advance the organization's mission and build awareness through promotion of its core programs and priorities, special campaigns and positions on key issues. Your thirst for knowledge and continual education about environmental issues, including climate change, clean energy, clean air, clean water, ocean conservation, transportation and environmental justice allow you to see creative possibilities for generating media interest around CLF's people, positions and success stories. Your background will include experience in the nonprofit sector, preferably in the area of environmental issues/advocacy. Current knowledge of and experience with communicating in the digital age a must, with strong media relationships in the Boston area/New England region a plus.

[Click here to learn more about this environmental communication job](#)

Senior Director, Digital Communications, The Wilderness Society, Washington, DC or Denver, CO

The Senior Director, Digital Communications leads the communications team in developing all digital communications for The Wilderness Society, including advocacy, marketing, and online fundraising campaigns. The Senior Director develops on-line communications campaigns that win public support and sway policy makers in favor of wilderness protection and conservation. Additionally, the Senior Director, in conjunction with the marketing team, develops marketing campaigns that increase brand awareness, engagement and giving.

The Senior Director uses strategic, creative online campaigns to build capacity within The Wilderness Society and within the wilderness community itself.

The ideal candidate has at least eight years' experience in online advocacy and marketing campaigns, environment, and/or political communications work, outstanding strategic instincts, excellent writing skills, a proven track record of broad communications initiatives, and a love of challenge. A strong background in leading and deploying digital communications and marketing strategies to drive results is essential. Knowledge of legislative process/public affairs is helpful; experience with environmental, public lands and/or energy issues is desirable. The ability to lead initiatives, juggle competing priorities and work effectively within teams and coalitions is important.

[Click here to learn more about this environmental communication job](#)

Communications Manager, Water Environment Research Foundation, Alexandria, VA

The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that manages a comprehensive water quality research program related to wastewater, stormwater, and watershed management. WERF stresses collaboration among teams of subscribing members, environmental professionals, scientists and staff. All research is peer reviewed by leading experts and results are disseminated to municipal and industrial entities and the regulatory community.

WERF seeks a highly qualified technical writer responsible for the writing and editing of periodicals, newsletters, e-newsletters, reports, online media and other communication products. The Communications Manager coordinates editing, and writing of multiple newsletters and journals, corporate brochures, annual reports, conference materials, annual awards program materials, and news releases.

[Learn More](#)

Water Resources Program Director, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Louisville, KY

Kentucky Waterways Alliance (KWA) is a non-profit organization devoted to the protection and restoration of Kentucky's waterways and their watersheds. The Water Resources Program Director manages the Alliance's permit review and compliance program and works with the Executive Director on water policy issues and review. The successful candidate would spend a significant portion of their time reviewing water 401/404 permits and documenting mitigation performed.

[Learn More](#)

Events:

August 27th (Saturday) is the **Dakota Family Caravan to Fort Snelling program** at 1:30 p.m. by Mary Bakeman in the Historic Commissary at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Following the conclusion of the US/Dakota War in 1862, about 1600 Dakota people were taken to Fort Snelling. Mary Bakeman is the owner of Park Genealogical Books and has been researching and writing family histories for 30 years. Mary will have books for sale. A fee is charged. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

August 30th (Tuesday) is **Field day on 'Pollinators: Concerns and Credits** at Seven Story Farm near Belle Plain from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. to learn more about bees and other pollinators and the challenges they face. The American Honey Princess, Allison Adams from Plano, Texas, will discuss the importance of honeybees in agriculture and talk on issues beekeepers are facing with declines in managed honey bees, as well as what urban and rural landowners can do to enhance habitat for pollinators. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pollinatorfieldday.pdf>

September 2nd (Friday) and 3rd (Saturday) is **Riverblast** at Riverside Park in new Ulm, Minnesota. There will be incredible Free Entertainment along with camping on site, horse drawn carriage rides, expert led bike tours, Riverblast walk-run, fishing opportunities, food, adult and soft beverages, unique photo opportunities, Regional River History and Information Center open all weekend, Blues for Kids event, face painting, kids playground, docking opportunities on the river for boaters, canoeists and kayakers. Mark your calendars now and make plans to join the Family of the River. For more info go to <http://www.Riverblast.org>

September 3rd (Saturday) is the **Fort Ridgely Cemetery Walk and Perpetual Vaudeville** starting at 5:00 p.m. at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Family histories of persons buried in Fort Ridgely will be shared by their descendants. Hear the stories of people who are part of the history of this region. Following the Cemetery Walk, stroll over to the amphitheater and enjoy Peter Bloedel as he performs his Perpetual Vaudeville program. Starting at 7:00pm, Peter will combine magic, juggling, music and comedy for a fast paced event. Voluntary donation. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

September 8th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary *River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*** at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. The Minnesota River is vitally important to the people of our region. It's also one of our nation's most polluted waterways. However, progress has been made, and many are optimistic for the future. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

September 9th (Friday) and 10th (Saturday) is **Opportunities for Profits from Livestock and Grazing Workshop** at the Broadway Ballroom (115 30th Ave E) in Alexandria. Sponsored by Profits from Perennials, the cost for the workshop is \$80 for both days or \$50 for one day. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/gregjudyworkshop.pdf>

September 15th (Tuesday) is a **Farm Fuel Seminar** at Central Lakes College in Staples from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The objective of this seminar is to illuminate some successful German farm fuel practices and to share the Ag Center's experiences working with Camelina. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/energydayseminar.pdf>

September 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Windom starting at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Karnell Johnson at 507-389-5491 or <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

October 6th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Truck Farm*** at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis transformed granddad's '86 Dodge into a traveling 20-member CSA. They planted between the wheel wells with arugula and tomatoes, parked the truck on a Brooklyn street, and waited for the sun and rain to work their charms. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

October 15th (Saturday) and 16th (Sunday) is the **Make-and-take snowshoe workshop** at Lac qui Parle State Park. On Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. workshop presenters will teach attendees how to string the laces on pre-built wooden snowshoe frames, then demonstrate how to use them. The \$75 registration fee includes the snowshoe kit and materials. Lunch will not be provided, so attendees should bring a sack lunch. Class size is limited to 12 people and advance registration is required so that the appropriate quantities and sizes of snowshoe kits may be ordered. Registration deadline is Oct. 3. To register, contact the park office at (320) 734-4450 ext 225 or e-mail cara.greger@state.mn.us.

November 4th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Rain in a Dry Land*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? *Rain in a Dry Land* provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families moved to the U.S. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

December 1st (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Reel Injun*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Hollywood has made over 4000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

January 5th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: Okie Noodling** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of “noodling” still has Okie anglers hooked. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Opinion: We're eating our seeds](#) (MN2020). Price instability and world food shortages could come with continued cutbacks in agriculture research and food aid, here and abroad.

[Legacy grant deadline is Sept. 20](#) (AgriNews). Do you have an idea for a project to improve water quality in your neighborhood?

[Despite genetic evidence, DNR search doesn't find invasive silver carp in St. Croix River](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Six expert anglers went fishing Tuesday and pretty much got skunked.

[Suits challenge 'green' herbicide over tree kill](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Dupont has suspended the sale of Imprelis, a commercial herbicide very effective on weeds.

[Minneapolis will test single-sort recycling](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The key measures will be how much the city collects and what it has to pay the processors to accept it.

[New bike stripes on select Marshall streets create some confusion for drivers](#) (Marshall Independent). A number of streets in Marshall are now six feet narrower for vehicle traffic as a result of new bike trail stripping that has been applied to both sides of the road.

[Artificial islands work to clean up polluted Spring Lake](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Artificial islands designed to reduce pollution, and constructed from recycled water bottles, were launched on Spring Lake by neighbors from Minneapolis' Lowry Hill.

[Plastic powers a lake cleanup](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Spring Lake in Minneapolis is getting a cleansing thanks to floating wetlands that are a mix of nature and recycling.

[Xcel to complete conversion of coal power plant to natural gas](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Xcel Energy says it wants to complete the conversion of one of its Minnesota power plants from coal to natural gas.

[Can Minnesota's moose be saved?](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Minnesota's iconic moose population – now down about 5,000 – stands in the balance.

[Invasive zebra mussels 'booming' in Mille Lacs](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). DNR officials expected to see an increase in zebra mussels in Lake Mille Lacs this year. The extent of the increase, however, may have caught them a bit off-guard.

We don't have a society if we destroy the environment – Margaret Mead

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.

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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