

Art Exhibit – Sediments: Seeing Lake Pepin

The public is invited to celebrate and share stories about the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin during an art exhibit opening and “River Revival” celebration featuring the work of artist Peter L. Johnson on Sunday, August 7th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Lake Pepin Art & Design Center at 408 2nd St. in Pepin, Wisconsin. The event is free and open to all. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with art and river lovers from throughout the Lake Pepin and Upper Mississippi River Watershed. Storytelling, music, food and conversation will highlight the event, which will culminate with a one-block walk to the shores of Lake Pepin where the artist will lead the group in creating art with the river. For more information, contact Peter L. Johnson by calling [612-819-1627](tel:612-819-1627) or visit: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/event.php?eid=264210756925930>.

Johnson’s exhibit, entitled ***Sediments: Seeing Lake Pepin*** features paintings, found objects and photos that explore the complex beauty of the Mississippi River and encourages the viewer to go deeper into consideration of our society’s relationship with Lake Pepin. Johnson draws on his background as a nature painter, documentary photographer, solo street performance artist, and social activist to create what art critics call “provocative beauty.” The exhibit will hang at the gallery at the [Lake Pepin Art and Design Center](#) through September 4th.

Johnson is a volunteer artist in residence with the [Friends of the Mississippi River](#), which engages citizens to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region. In an effort to use his art to help foster a wider discussion of the environmental issues facing Lake Pepin and the Upper Mississippi as a whole, Johnson has invited other artists and environmental champions from upstream to join him in creating a new kind of dialogue and stage for interaction surrounding his exhibition opening.

Patrick Moore, Executive Director of [Clean up the River Environment](#) (CURE) based in Montevideo, MN will be at the Sunday afternoon event to share stories about what communities and landowners are doing in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed to reduce sediment loading in the Minnesota River that is filling in Lake Pepin. Moore will be joined by Shanai Matteson and Colin Kloecker of [Works Progress](#) based in Minneapolis/St. Paul to help facilitate a fun filled afternoon of interaction and sharing with those who attend the event. Works Progress is a multi-disciplinary creative collective that produces public artworks, programs and exhibits at the intersection of art, design and community engagement.

The Lake Pepin Art & Design Center creates arts programs in area communities, supports the work of established and emerging artists, and develops learning opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, and walks of life. Event participants are encouraged to bring instruments to share in a sing along *River Revival* celebration that will take place as part of the Exhibition. Families are welcome.

Now available! "Don't Move a Mussel" public awareness materials

A simple phrase, a simple sign, aimed to alert and remind communities that transporting zebra mussels is a threat to Minnesota’s lakes, rivers and streams.

The program is a take-off on the Douglas County appointed Citizens' Committee's education and signage effort. Minnesota Waters commends their member, Douglas County Lakes Association and its President, Bonnie Huettl, for promoting this important message; And, now, Minnesota Waters makes the material purchase available to all members.

Access to the materials can be found at <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/>



Make A Splash with Water & Energy Savings in MN

Equipment upgrades for restaurants, schools, churches and more in your city can save thousands of gallons and hundreds of dollars, with potential 1-2 month paybacks. As you may have heard, the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) have launched an innovative grassroots campaign this summer to help restaurants, schools, hospitals, living complexes, and other cafeterias and commercial kitchens in your

city save water, energy, and MONEY. The “Make a Splash with the Water Saving Bulk Buy!” campaign will help folks in your city and across Minnesota increase their profits with water-saving equipment upgrades. Now through September 1, 2011, people can sign up to take advantage of bulk-rate prices on efficiency upgrades to efficient pre-rinse spray valves and faucet aerators, dramatically cutting their water and energy use with these simple, inexpensive upgrades.

What does this mean? Pre-Rinse Spray Valves (typically \$68) cost \$28 with the CERTs bulk buy, and are brought down even further to \$14 or less with a rebate from several utilities. Typical energy and water savings for a restaurant are oftentimes \$400 per year, resulting in a one-month payback – it doesn’t get any better than that.

We are looking for local outreach partners to help spread the word and would like to ask YOU if you could take a few moments from your work day and share this information not only with departments in your city, but also with restaurants, hospitals, schools, retirements communities, hotels . . . Anywhere that has a commercial kitchen. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help you share this opportunity with others.

The handiest resources for learning more are:

- Website: <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/>
- Brochure: http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/files/CERTs_SplashCampaign_Brochure_0.pdf
- Announcement: http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/files/CERTs_SplashCampaign_PressRelease_7-7-11_2.pdf

MPCA issues report on permitting timeliness

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently issued a report on permitting activities at the agency.

The “Environmental Permitting: MPCA’s Semiannual Permitting Efficiency Report” shows that the agency issued 90 percent, or 841, of the construction-focused permits received between March 4 and June 30, 2011.

Legislation passed in March requires the agency to establish a goal to:

- finalize permit decisions within 150 days of receiving completed applications;
- notify applicants of incomplete applications within 30 days; and
- submit permitting efficiency reports in August and February of each year.

In addition to permitting timeliness data, the report includes administrative and program-enhancement efforts underway aimed at improving the overall process.

The MPCA has initiated a number of process-improvement efforts including:

- increased coordination with the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Employee and Economic Development, and the Department of Agriculture;
- increased communication with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and various business groups to improve responsiveness and encourage open feedback;
- development of permit managers teams that implement process changes, resolve issues and ensure consistency; and
- evaluation of the current permit application review process to find communication, consistency and efficiency improvements.

The report is available on the MPCA website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/legislative/reports> or by contacting [Jess Richards](#), MPCA Industrial Division Assistant Director, at 651-757-2858.

A Message from Sandee

I attended the Mn Watershed Alliance Group meeting yesterday at the Gilfillan center and am extending an invitation to all groups that were there to e-mail me or call me if there is anything I or my people can do to help as our mission in life is to protect Unci Maka (Mother Earth). To reiterate, our people have been protecting her for centuries and we won't stop. Forward any questions to me at this address – rsgeshick@earthlink.net - Pidamaya ye, Sandee

Thick, green algae covers 200 square miles of Yellow Sea (CNN)

Almost 200 square miles (500 square kilometers) of the Yellow Sea off China are covered by a massive bloom of green algae, according to a [report from China's Xinhua](#) news service.

The bloom has spread to almost 7,400 square miles (19,050 square kilometers) in total and is expected to grow, Xinhua reported, citing the North China Sea Marine Forecasting Center of State Oceanic Administration.

The algae bloom threatens marine life as it sucks oxygen from the water although the algae itself is not poisonous, according to the Xinhua report.

Researchers don't know what causes the massive algae blooms, first seen in the Yellow Sea in 2007.

Tons of the green algae had to be removed in 2008 to make way for sailing events at the Summer Olympics.

"We don't know where it originated and why it's suddenly growing so rapidly," Bao Xianwen from the Qingdao-based Ocean University of China, [told the China Daily](#) earlier this month. "It must have something to do with the change in the environment, but we are not scientifically sure of the reasons."

See photos of the algae: http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2011/07/25/thick-green-algae-covers-200-square-miles-of-yellow-sea/?&hpt=hp_c2

Minnesota Court of Appeals says pesticide drift from 1 farm to another can count as trespass

The Minnesota Court of Appeals says it can count as trespass under the law when pesticide drifts from one farm to another.

The appeals court revived a lawsuit by organic farmers Oluf and Debra Johnson against the Paynesville Farmers Union Cooperative Oil Company. They allege the co-op has repeatedly sprayed pesticides onto other fields that have drifted onto theirs, preventing them from selling their crops as organic.

The decision says no previous Minnesota case has addressed whether unwanted pesticide drift from a targeted field to an adjacent organic farm can constitute a trespass. The appeals court held Monday that it can under some circumstances. Courts in other states have made similar rulings.

The appeals court sent the organic farmers' lawsuit back to a lower court for further action (from the Associated Press).

Field Day on Perennial Grasses for Bio-Energy Production

Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension with Prairie Horizons Farm, the Land Stewardship Project, and the USDA-ARS Soils Lab are to host an afternoon of discussion on using perennial grasses for bio-energy production. The field day will be Thursday, August 18, 2011, from 1:45 pm to 3:15 pm at Prairie Horizons Farm (29731 302nd St. – Starbuck, MN) near Starbuck, Minnesota.

Prairie Horizons Farm, USDA-ARS, and University of Minnesota – Morris are working on a research project comparing harvest and fertilizer effects on perennial plant diversity and production. Research at the farm also addresses the nitrogen availability under different perennial management systems in order to understand and develop systems for optimal biomass production. Attendees will be able to hear about

this exciting work being done in collaboration with Prairie Horizons Farm by the University of Minnesota – Morris and the USDA –ARS Soils Lab. A tour of the grasslands and pasture at the farm will also be available. Rural Advantage will present information on the work they are doing with perennial third crops and third generation biofuels. Attendees will also learn about the Land Stewardship’s Chippewa 10% Project. This is an outdoor event, please dress accordingly.

The Land Stewardship Project will be offering buses to take people to Prairie Horizons Farm following the 9th Annual Field Day held at USDA-ARS North Central Soil Conservation Research lab (803 Iowa Avenue – Morris, MN). If interested in attending that field day, this year’s theme is “Sustainable Landscapes: Food, Feed, Fuel, and the Future.” The event is from 9am-1pm with a complimentary lunch. Buses to Prairie Horizons Farm will leave the Soils Lab at 1pm and return around 4pm. For more information on the USDA-ARS Field Day, call 320-589-3411 or visit www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/ncscl .

DIRECTIONS:

From Starbuck: Head south on MN-29 for roughly 10.0 miles. Turn left (east) onto 302nd St. / T-21 (gravel) for roughly 1.2 miles. Prairie Horizons Farm will be on the right (south) side of the road.

From Benson: Head north on MN-29 for roughly 11.0 miles. Turn right (east) onto 302nd St. / T-21 for roughly 1.2 miles. Prairie Horizons Farm will be on the right (south) side of the road.

Contacts for this event: Sharon Weyers, USDA-ARS, 320-589-3411, Sharon.Weyers@ars.usda.gov and Jill Sackett, UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449, sacke032@umn.edu

Clean Water Fund Outreach Sessions

BWSR has scheduled 3 outreach sessions to discuss Clean Water Fund request for proposals (RFP) and application changes for fiscal year 2012.

Outreach Session dates:

August 10 - 9:30 to 11:00 am

August 11 - 9:30 to 11:00 am

August 17 - 1:00 to 2:30 pm

These sessions will be held online and by phone using the Blackboard Collaborate (formerly known as Elluminate) platform.

Pre-registration is required. For information details and to register go to:

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/training>

Sierra Club Bicycle Outing

Everyone is welcome to join the next bicycle outing of the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club from 9am-4pm on Saturday, August 13. It will run from Osakis to Alexandria and back along the Central Lakes Trail, about 30 miles, with stops for birds and wildflowers. The trail runs past lakes and through prairies, marshes, and some woodlands, so participants will see a large variety of birds and seasonal wildflowers. Bring your water, lunch, and snacks, as well as sun protection.

To register and receive trailhead information, as well as for notification in case of inclement weather, contact Kay Slama at 320-796-5871 or slama@morris.umn.edu .

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter represents over 15,000 members across Minnesota. Inspired by nature, members work together to protect our communities and the planet. For over 40 years they have worked to preserve and protect Minnesota’s environment through educational outings and volunteer activism. Visit the web site at www.northstar.sierraclub.org.

Job Announcements:

State Program Administration Coordinator

A technical professional to develop and manage a state government program to promote energy performance contracting for public buildings throughout the state. This position will provide technical support to state and local government building owners seeking to implement energy performance contracting projects, and develop a partnership with Energy Service Companies (ESCO) to implement projects. Salary at hire typically ranges from \$53,264 to \$57,065 for employees new to state service.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/stateprogram.pdf>

Education Specialist

This position will serve as an Education Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in the Classroom (herein MAITC) program to enhance the ability of teachers to increase student knowledge about agriculture, food and the environment while meeting statewide mandatory academic standards in science, social studies, English/language arts, math and health/nutrition.

This licensed education professional will develop and disseminate curriculum and supplemental educational materials to a K-12 teacher audience; provide teacher pre-service and in-service training opportunities to a K-16 audience; and work with schools to enhance agricultural literacy by incorporating agricultural content and concepts into classroom instruction.

For more information,

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/df51a43d1ec7940807d489858e426fc3/View>

Events:

August 4th (Thursday) From 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **CURE works the Popcorn stand** on Main Street [Granite Falls](#) down by the Minnesota River. I will have my accordion in tow and will be serving up [1919 Root Beer](#) and the best popcorn in the territory to raise funds for the Granite Falls Kiwanis club. Stop by and see me! – Patrick Moore

August 7th (Sunday) is **Tenting on the Old Campground** at 1:30 p.m. at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Barb Schmidt and her daughter, Reba Lipinski will entertain with music and songs of the Civil War in the Historic Commissary. They will share the history of songs popular during the Civil War. 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 7th (Sunday) River Revival at the [Peter L. Johnson Art Exhibit](#) opening at the [Lake Pepin Art & Design Center](#) from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We'll take in some river-inspired art and have a short parade from the gallery to Lake Pepin where we'll celebrate the growing family of river aware communities, Artists and river advocates from throughout the Upper Mississippi River watershed will be there. Its free! Don't miss it. Bring your instruments and a mason jar sample of water from your home watershed. For more info call Peter L. Johnson at 612-819-1627. Kids and families welcome.

August 20th (Saturday) is the **Causes of the US/Dakota War of 1862 program** at 1:00 p.m. in the Historic Commissary at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. The causes were many and complicated. Historian John LaBatte discusses his research on this subject. Many of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the war. At 2:30, John will conduct a Battlefield Tour. Fort Ridgely was attacked twice in 1862 by Dakota Indians and is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield. One fee is charged for both events. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

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/>

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/>

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Legacy bill: No change to open meetings rules for Lessard Sams](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A provision putting fewer open meetings restrictions on the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council isn't part of the agreed-upon Legacy bill lawmakers released yesterday.

[North St. Paul's 'Living Streets' program aims to make roads safer, more environmentally friendly](#) (St Paul Pioneer Press). North St. Paul has added its own twist to a metro area street-construction plan.

[Severe weather among threats to Minnesota's urban forest](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Foresters say there's tree trouble ahead, from road salt to climate change.

[Opinion: Connecting the dots of extreme weather](#) (Albert Lea Tribune). I took a cross-country road trip in late June that became a race to outrun triple-digit heat waves that have literally buckled highways between the Midwest and the East Coast.

[Minneapolis' 'trash lady' gets put out for recycling](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Susan Young was no ordinary bureaucrat. She won the respect of her crews, their unions and her customers alike, but meeting them on their own turf.

[Cuts and compromise on environmental bill](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The environment bill negotiated between Gov. Mark Dayton and lawmakers includes some budget cuts and some compromise on policy issues.

[Cuts and compromise on environmental bill](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Leaner and more efficient – that's what the Department of Natural Resources must become to retain current services and programs, under a bill agreed to by Gov. Mark Dayton and the Republican-controlled Legislature.

[Old power plant soon to be thing of the past](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). With the hullabaloo about Fairmont's new water plant, the launch of another big project on the other side of town nearly slipped by without notice.

[Solar panels for the home](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Silicon Energy MN says its new plant in Mountain Iron soon will be up and running. It hopes to sell to Twin Cities residential customers.

[High heat plays role in fish kill](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). A recent fish kill in Fairmont's lakes can't be completely attributed to the severe heat experienced earlier this week, although it certainly may have played a part.

[Zebra mussel madness in Alexandria area](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Dr. Daniel Molloy described three major impacts caused by the spread of zebra mussels.

[Opinion: New improved budget bill still worrisome for Minnesota's great outdoors](#) (Monte News). The new compromise environment budget bill is an improvement over the budget-gutting bill originally put forth by the Legislature and later vetoed by the governor.

[State parks reopen, but some attractions need work](#) (Mankato Free Press). Wayne Boerner, for one, is "overjoyed" the state government shutdown is over.

[Cleaning up Camden](#) (Marshall Independent). The state shutdown is over, but at Camden State Park, the work is just getting started.

[New Normal: Transportation in Minnesota](#) (TC Daily Planet). As gasoline prices bounce up and down, and bicycles multiply on Twin Cities streets, what transportation policies will best serve Minnesotans?

[Anderson: It's the end of conservation as we know it](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A new support structure is needed with waning interest and fiscal clout coming from all levels of government.

[DNR makes haste to save lake ecology](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A new aquatic invasive species program is scrambling after the shutdown delayed action.

I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order. – John Burroughs

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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