

### **Hudson Bay Bound – WE MADE IT!**

After paddling 200 km in two days, we arrived at York Factory at around 4pm on August 25th. There was a young polar bear frequenting the estate, so we slept inside after branding our paddles and eating sausages. Yesterday we flew out in the afternoon with Teagan and Jason the York Factory caretakers. Good thing we got there when we did because after September 4th everyone will leave for the winter. Now, we are in Gillam, Manitoba waiting for the train which will take us to Winnipeg where we will be picked up by our friends, Megan McClanahan and Austin Danicic.

The end of the Hayes was a magical experience, and we will make sure to give you all the play by play with lots of pictures and video when we get back to the states. Thanks for all of your support!! We are so happy that we accomplished our goal and can't wait to tell everyone all about our adventures!!!!

For more information on Ann Raiho and Natalie Warren's adventure go to their website at:

<http://www.hudsonbaybound.com/index.html> or their blog: <http://www.hudsonbaybound.blogspot.com/>

### **Wildlife Program by Ron Bolduan**

Photographer Ron Bolduan will share photos of wildlife taken during his twenty year photo study of the Minnesota River valley from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Fort Ridgely State Historic Site. This power point program focuses on the creatures living in the valley and the importance of this habitat in their lives.

Audience participation includes identifying the wildlife, identifying their tracks, and locating 'critters' in the Camo Critter---a wildlife 'Where's Waldo'--- segment. The program is great family fun and leaves us all with a greater appreciation for our wild neighbors.

### **Meander Kick Off Event to Feature Downtown Granite Falls with Music, Food, History and Art**

On Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 8 p.m. the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meander Upper Minnesota River Arts Crawl will kick off with a brand new event showcasing picturesque Downtown Granite Falls as a gateway to the Upper Minnesota River Valley and all the art, culture and natural beauty it has to offer.

The Meander is a self guided tour of 33 artist Studios in western Minnesota. The weekend routinely draws more than a thousand visitors from the Twin Cities Metro Area, Sioux Falls, Fargo and the surrounding region who enjoy exploring the unique treasure spots found in the small towns and farms of the Meander region.

The quaint Minnesota River town of Granite Falls, just off of West Hwy 212, is the perfect place to begin the Meander weekend for those coming from the Twin Cities and Sioux Falls, according to event coordinator Nicole Zempel.

"There are four arts studios concentrated here and 2 others close to town," Zempel explained. "There will be an exhibit of work by Meander artists from all over the region at the newly restored KK Berge building on Main Street Granite Falls," she added. "Combine this with music, food and a river walk stroll over the historic Granite Falls footbridge and you have the makings of a memorable Friday evening!"

A Walking tour of downtown Granite Falls will start from the Father of Prohibition -- Andrew Volstead's House at 4:30 p.m., proceed to the footbridge and conclude with a walk to the Popcorn Stand at 5:30 p.m. The tour will be led by members of the Granite Falls Historical Society.

Musical artists Jerry Ostenoe and the Strollers and Luther Cole will be playing on Main Street throughout the evening. Wine and appetizers catered by Bootleggers Supper Club will be available at the KK Berge building and other businesses on Main Street will be serving food. An Open House of the KK Berge building will allow everyone to view progress on the remodeling and re-purposing of the building, which was saved from demolition by local citizens involved with Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization.

At 6:30 p.m. – at the height of the Kick Off event, citizens are being asked to gather at the Historic Foot Bridge that spans the Minnesota river for a short celebratory ceremony that will feature music by Emma Woods and Andrew McCormick, dance by members of the Treasure Talents Dance studio and the poetry of Florence Dacey. For more information on the event, contact Nicole Zempel at [320-564-4039](tel:320-564-4039)

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

### **MN IDEA OPEN - Announcing Our Three Finalists**

We're excited to present the three finalists of this year's Challenge II: Ideas for Addressing Water Issues in Minnesota. Now it's up to you, Minnesota, to select the Challenge II Champion. **Voting is open August 23 through September 5, 2011.**

This year we offer three options for voting:

1. **Vote online today.** Click on the finalist's entry to cast your vote. It's simple and easy.
2. **Vote at the State Fair.** Headed to the Fair? Stop by our Idea Open booth to cast your vote. We'll be there for the duration of the Fair. You might even have a chance to meet one of the finalists in person!
3. **Vote at a Science Buzz kiosk.** Look for the Idea Open voting screen on one of the Science Buzz kiosks at the Science Museum of Minnesota. It's a fun, hands-on way to vote and learn more about water!

Although one idea will earn the Challenge II Champion title and \$15,000 to make that idea a reality, we think every community in Minnesota benefits from working together to **help their community become aware of and address water issues in Minnesota.**

For more information: <https://www.mnideaopen.org/challenge2>

### **MN IDEA OPEN – Freshwater Society's Project**

A farmer-to-farmer mentoring project aimed at promoting conservation efforts in the Minnesota River Valley is one of three finalists in online voting that will award a \$15,000 grant.

The FarmWise project is a partnership between the Freshwater Society and the National Park Service. Its goal is to identify the most vulnerable areas in the Minnesota River Valley, then work through existing community relationships to mentor, advise and implement farmer-proven and farmer-approved water-friendly practices that protect these critical, high-priority areas.

Go to the [MN Idea Open](#) to view a video on the proposal and to cast your vote. Pass on the link to your online friends.

### **Job Announcements:**

#### **Project Manager and Intern**

Willamette Partnership is recruiting for a Project Manager and an Intern. Both positions will be doing a variety of work ranging from supporting emerging biodiversity and water markets in the Northwest to managing transactions for markets already underway. We've got a small team and a lot of exciting work ahead of us over the next three years. Come join us! Details on both positions can be found in the attached job descriptions or online at:

<http://cleanwaterservices.org/AboutUs/Jobs/JobOpenings/default.aspx>. Deadline to apply is September 2 by mail and September 5 online.

#### **Environmental Communications Job in TX**

Does the idea of living along the Texas Gulf Coast appeal to you? In a beach town with access to marshes, deep sea fishing, and reasonable costs of living? If yes, then check out this vacancy for a Coastal Training Coordinator at the Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve. Job duties are: Develop and coordinate coastal decision maker workshops. Prepare a strategic and marketing plan. Prepare an implementation strategy and marketing plan. Cooperate with partnering agencies and other reserves participating in this system-wide training program and provide or facilitate technical assistance for decision-maker audiences. Responsible for meeting the program's performance measures and

reporting on those measures. Facilitate meetings of the coastal training program advisory committee. Prepare required semi-annual and annual reports and work plans for the Reserve manager. Periodic evaluations of CTP programs and assist in other types of evaluations to the reserve or the coastal training program. Raise funds to support future program expansion.

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

### **Environmental Communications Coordinator**

The National Audubon Society is looking to hire a communications coordinator for its Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign. This position may be located either in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or Washington, D.C. Here's the scoop:

The communications coordinator for the Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign will play a key role in building nationwide awareness and support for restoration of the Mississippi River Delta on behalf of the National Audubon Society, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the National Wildlife Federation. The coordinator will work closely with other staff members to create and produce content for web and print, conduct media outreach, and distribute key information to campaign staff.

Audubon is looking for candidates with about three years of experience in public relations, journalism or other communications and marketing fields with a demonstrated record of success. To learn more about the position, click this link: [Environmental Communication Position](#).

### **Events:**

September 2<sup>nd</sup> (Friday) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (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 3<sup>rd</sup> (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 8<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

September 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday) and 10<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Opportunities for Profits from Livestock and Grazing Workshop** at the Broadway Ballroom (115 30<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> (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 15<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Natural Resource Enterprise Workshop** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at North Central Research & Outreach Center (1861 East Hwy. 169) in Grand Rapids, MN. A workshop for people interested in income opportunities from the northwoods. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/northwoodsworkshop.pdf>

September 19<sup>th</sup> (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 6<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

October 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 16<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:cara.greger@state.mn.us).

November 4<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

December 1<sup>st</sup> (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](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

January 5<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:jessica@nchsmn.org) for details.

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

## Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Nonprofit helps create St. Paul's largest urban farm](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Maryland Avenue at Arundel Street is where neighbors go to buy fresh cauliflower, purple potatoes and Oriental cucumbers, or plant some themselves.

[Energy in Minnesota: The carbon conflict](#)(MN2020). Minnesota's energy production and consumption is complex and heavily dependent on energy imports.

[State reaches stimulus weatherization goal](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). More than 17,000 low-income Minnesota homes have been weatherized using stimulus funds Congress approved in 2009.

[Red Lake Band to reforest 50,000 acres](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Red Lake Band of Ojibwe is gearing up to reforest 50,000 acres of tribal land. (Minneapolis Star Tribune).

[Push is on to save a chunk of the Mississippi for the people](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). This story actually started more than a dozen years when Minnesotans with foresight enough to realize this state needed to do more to protect our valuable natural resources.

[State parks filling up again after government shutdown](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Campsite reservations now are comparable to previous years.

[Report: things looking up for Minn. organic farms](#) (Associated Press). Things are looking up for Minnesota's organic farmers, a new report says.

[Some residents howling at North St. Paul plan for sidewalks, rain gardens](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Under her city's new "Living Streets" initiative - a plan to create safer and greener streets by adding sidewalks and rainwater gardens.

[NDSU students show off super-efficient 'passive house' at State Fair](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A new exhibit at the State Fair this year shows just how efficient modern energy designs can be.

[Sonic bubble barrier is latest hope to control carp invasion](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A sonic and bubble barrier may be only a partial solution to keeping the invasive Asian carp away from Minnesota waters, according to University of Minnesota experts.

*Our environmental problems originate in the hubris of imaging ourselves as the central nervous system or the brain of nature. We're not the brain, we are a cancer on nature. – Dave Foreman*

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

Scott Kudelka

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