

Minnesota River Lake Pepin Friendship Tour Chosen as Finalist in Statewide Contest - On-line Video Voting Nov. 30- Dec.10 will Determine Winner

A project designed to foster friendship between upstreamers from the Minnesota River and downstreamers from the Lake Pepin area has been chosen as one of 3 finalists in a statewide contest to promote collaboration across various sectors of Minnesota society. A video about the Minnesota River Lake Pepin Friendship tour project has been made and posted on-line at the InCommons Collaboration challenge website: <http://www.incommons.org/CollaborationChallenge>. The video that receives the most votes in the 10 days between Nov 30th and Dec 10th will receive a \$25,000 grant from the Bush Foundation to fund the continuation of the collaboration. Anyone with an e-mail address can vote and the names of everyone who votes will be entered into a drawing for a free flip video camera.

The Minnesota River Lake Pepin Friendship Tour Project is bringing together Minnesota River Farmers and city dwellers from the Twin Cities and Lake Pepin area and to foster understanding, common purpose and vision in the effort to address runoff from the Minnesota River that is settling out in Lake Pepin. The tour idea was conceived by Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) based in Montevideo MN. CURE enlisted the support of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance, the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, the Minnesota Ag Water Resources Coalition, the Minnesota River Board and the Cannon River Watershed Partnership to help sponsor and organize the tours which were held in August and September 2010.

Plans call for a continuation of the Friendship Tour exchanges to establish common ground where farmers and consumers can collaborate. "We know that Minnesotans absolutely depend on clean water," stated CURE executive director Patrick Moore. "Minnesotans also want results and the only way we are going to get those results is if we really hear each other," Moore added. "That is what these Friendship Tours are all about."

The first-ever InCommons Collaboration Challenge recognizes and supports innovative collaborations to solve community problems. 223 collaborations from all over Minnesota entered the Challenge, all looking for the opportunity to receive \$25,000 to continue, replicate or expand their efforts. A group of evaluators, led by the Citizens League, and then an independent panel of expert judges have narrowed this group down to three outstanding collaborations:

Growing up Healthy from Northfield and Faribault; *Native American Somali Friendship Committee* from Minneapolis and the *Minnesota River/Lake Pepin Friendship Tours* from Montevideo

Vote at www.InCommons.org/CollaborationChallenge, or contact InCommons at info@InCommons.org or 612.520.1756 for more information.

Troubled Waters Showing in Montevideo

On Thursday, December 2nd Land Stewardship Project and Clean Up the River Environment will be showing the new documentary *Troubled Waters* in Montevideo, MN. This free showing will begin at 7 p.m., at the Montevideo Community Center, 550 Southwest 1st Street. This is a free event but seating is limited; please reserve a seat by contacting Tom Taylor at 320-269-2105 or ttaylor@landstewardshipproject.org

Come see the film that Karen Himle, vice-president of PR at the University of Minnesota, didn't want you, or anyone, to see! *Troubled Waters* is an engaging, science-based, even-handed film that features interviews with innovative farmers and scientists who are involved with trying to fix the problems created by excessive agricultural run-off in the Mississippi River basin.

This film ignited a controversy at the University of Minnesota when University officials tried to censor the film because of their concerns that Big Ag would be offended. People responded strongly and swiftly, forcing the university to reverse its decision. However, the U has yet to deal with the issue at the heart of the controversy: conflict of interest and the influence of corporate agribusiness at our land grant

university. Here is LSP's blog site for updated insights and details on the film's controversy: <http://looncommons.org/2010/10/15/troubled-waters-documents-show-himles-bias-fascination-with-propaganda/>.

After the screening, there will be an open forum discussion led by Terry VanDerPol, of Land Stewardship Project, about the environmental issues raised in the film, the controversy at the U, and what we need from our public university to advance stewardship in our food and farming system and what you can do to help assure that. Several guests will be with us to lend insight into the issues of the film and at the U, and your voice is welcomed in this discussion.

This is a free event but please call or send email to Tom Taylor to reserve a seat – 320-269-2105 or ttaylor@landstewardshipproject.org

Troubled Waters Documentary Showing in St Peter

Come out to the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter on December 7th (Tuesday) at 7 p.m. to see the documentary "Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story" and interact with some of the people interviewed in the film.

Troubled Waters explores the unintended consequences of commercial agriculture and urban runoff on the health of Lake Pepin, the Mississippi River and the "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. This film documentary tells the story of how agricultural and urban runoff has dramatically impacted the health of these valuable natural resources. You will also learn about what farmers and citizens are doing to improve water quality in both the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.

Carrie Jennings of the Minnesota Geological Survey and Mike Davis of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources were interviewed in the documentary and will be on hand to offer their insights on water quality issues revolving around the Mississippi River and the film itself.

Carrie Jennings is a Glacial Geologist with the Minnesota Geological Survey. Jennings is one of the top experts on glacial geology and great at giving easy to understand answers to all your questions. Recently she has applied her knowledge of the distribution of glacial sediment in Minnesota (as well as the history of landscape and river evolution) to better define sources of sediment to the modern river systems of Minnesota, most notably, the Minnesota River and its tributaries.

Mike Davis has worked for the MN DNR since 1987 and specializes in freshwater mussel ecology, in particular on the Mississippi River. As part of the mussel conservation effort, Mike has played a major role in the plan to revive the endangered Higgins Eye mussel. Davis has conducted numerous mussel surveys across the Minnesota River Basin including setting up a long-term monitoring station on the Chippewa River.

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

The mission of the Minnesota River Board is to provide leadership, build partnerships, and support efforts to improve and protect water quality in the Minnesota River Basin. As a joint powers board, it is made up of one county commissioner from each of the counties in the watershed.

The Treaty Site History Center, headquarters of the Nicollet County Historical Society, is located a mile north of downtown St. Peter at Hwy 169 and 22, across from the Mankato Clinic. The screening is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to make a \$5 contribution to help cover the costs of the event and support the organizations making the screening possible. For more information on the Troubled Waters showing please contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Happy winter days to you! Of course, it's not officially winter until the solstice later this month when the sun is at it's lowest in the northern hemisphere. As you may find your life gearing up this month, it might be a good idea to plan in some simplicity.

Please RSVP (by December 18th) if you plan to join us for another Winter Solstice Tuesday, December 21. I've attached a poster with all the details. Bring your friends, your family or just yourself!

New this year, we have a guided snowshoe hike with Scott Kudelka scheduled for 4:30 so you can work up an appetite before the supper that night!

Here's the schedule:

4:30 Snowshoe hike (RSVP, if you need to borrow snowshoes.)

5:30 Light supper and seasonal reflection

7:00 Winter Bonfire

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wintersolstice.pdf> Free will donations all are appreciated so we can continue this tradition of sharing food and community. You can call or e-mail your RSVP! - Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

Job Opportunities:

Kawishiwi Watershed Protection Project Coordinator

White Iron Chain of Lakes Association (WICOLA) seeks a part-time Project Coordinator to implement the Kawishiwi Watershed Water Protection Project based in the Ely area. Responsibilities include coordinating the overall project, assisting the Project Oversight Committee, completing required reports, and providing information to the public. Wage \$21 - 23 per hour plus benefits. B.S. in Environmental field or equivalent experience. Project Management experience required. Application deadline - 12/20/2010.

More information at: <http://www.wicola.org/kawishiwi-home.html>

UWCA Education Outreach Coordinator

The Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) Education Outreach Coordinator, in conjunction with staff from the National Park Service and other partner agencies, will serve as the primary liaison with school teachers and administrators to ensure successful implementation of the UWCA program and curricula - including coordinating and conducting training sessions for teachers and staff, facilitating use of curricula, coordinating field trips with teachers, facilitating follow-up and evaluation, and disseminating project findings. The Coordinator will also be responsible for expanding the program to additional school districts throughout the Twin Cities metro area. This position is funded by a two-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The applicant will serve as the primary liaison between UWCA program partner agencies and school district and building staff, coordinate refinement and enhancement of the draft UWCA curricula, including alignment with the specific science, math, and literacy goals of each participating school district, facilitate integration of the UWCA curricula into the standard curriculum and teacher training programs of participating schools, develop and implement teacher training, including workshops and canoe events, develop and implement student recruitment strategies, assist teachers in developing and executing service-learning projects, coordinate pre and post data collection for evaluation phase implemented by the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI), and facilitate outreach and expansion, such as presentations at professional conferences and information dissemination through on-line networks. To apply, visit http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/jobinator/jobform_short1.php

For more information visit http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/jobinator/jobdesc_detail.php?JobID=31

County Program Technician

This area of consideration is open to ALL SOURCES nationwide. This is a full-time permanent NON-FEDERAL position. See full vacancy announcement for MANDATORY application and qualification requirements. A Program Technician is responsible for carrying out office activities and functions pertaining to the technical assistance and program support related to FSA programs at the field office level. Utilizes various types of computer systems to maintain producer data and process automated program forms and processes. Uses a high degree of initiative and judgment in planning and carrying out assigned tasks and resolving problems encountered. The position is in Waseca and applications are due Thursday, December 9, 2010.

For more information visit: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=93838741>

Wilderness Inquiry Trail Staff and Intern Positions for 2011

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring trail staff and interns for 2011. We are looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a desire to work hard for the mission of WI. To learn more, see job descriptions and to apply see Wilderness Inquiry's website:

www.wildernessinquiry.org

Each year, Wilderness inquiry operates hundreds of Canoeing, Kayaking and Hiking trips to destinations in Minnesota, across the United States, and around the world for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Trail staff leads inclusive outdoor adventures, leads single-day events and multi-day expeditions, navigates, cooks, tells stories and teaches outdoor skills along with other responsibilities.

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

Events:

December 1st (Wednesday) is **Farm Transition & Estate Planning: Create Your Farm Legacy** from 8:45am to 2:00 pm. Are you struggling with transferring your farm business to the next generation? This five-hour workshop covers the following topics: farm business transfer strategies; tax issues related to the farm transfer; wills, trusts, power of attorney and long-term care issues; developing a written transfer plan; and treatment of heirs in the transfer process. Presented by the University of Minnesota Extension Educators, this workshop will be held at the 4-H Family Center on the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds in Le Center. The fee is \$20/person or \$30/family. Lunch and materials are included. Register by Friday, Nov. 26, by contacting Laura Kieser -- (952) 492-5410 or torb0022@umn.edu.

December 1st (Wednesday) is **Effective Erosion and Sediment Control for Residential Home Sites** from 2:30-4:30pm. In this session, residents can find out how to keep the soil on their homesite and out of the storm drains. Erosion and sediment control best practices will be presented as well as permit requirements from municipalities and townships in Scott County. This workshop has been approved by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry for 1 continuing education credit will be offered. Coffee and cookies will be provided. There is no charge to attend. The event will be held at the Parkview Room at Prior Lake City Hall, 4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake. For more information, contact Dan Miller, (952) 492-5424.

December 2nd (Thursday) is **Troubled Waters Showing** in Montevideo, MN at the Montevideo Community Center (550 Southwest 1st Street) at 7pm. The event is free, but limited; please reserve a seat by contacting Tom Taylor at 320-269-2105 or ttaylor@landstewardshipproject.org

December 5th (Sunday) is **Just For You- An Afternoon with Chris Heeter** at the Ney Nature Center in Henderson, MN from 2-5pm. Registration is \$65. Register today via Michelle Burns at 507-665-3358 or at www.designyourdestiny.com

December 7th (Tuesday) is the **CURE Holiday Open House** from 4 to 6 p.m. Stop by the CURE office in Montevideo for some holiday cheer and gingerbread and help us celebrate 2 years in our new storefront

office. CURE is so grateful to be a part of the vibrant and caring community that comprises Montevideo's Main Street – *feel free to stop by any time for a visit!*

December 7th (Tuesday) is **Troubled Waters showing** at 7 p.m. at the St. Peter Treaty Site History Center. Troubled waters is a documentary that explores the unintended consequences of commercial agriculture and urban runoff on the health of Lake Pepin, the Mississippi River and the “Dead Zone” in the Gulf of Mexico. This event is sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society, MSU-Mankato Water Resources Center, and the Minnesota River Board. For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-389-2304 or scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu

December 21st (Tuesday) is the **Winter Solstice Celebration** at 170 Good Counsel Drive (School Sisters of Notre Dame) in Mankato. In the midst of the hectic holiday season, plan in some simplicity! A light supper, seasonal reflection, and the ancient tradition of a community bonfire to celebrate the season. The event starts out at 4:30 with a snowshoe hike; 5:30 is a light supper and seasonal reflection and 7:00 is the bonfire near the orchard. RSVP by December 18th to 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

January 27th (Thursday) is **Electrofishing in the MN River** starting at 7pm at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo, MN. Brad Koenen, MN DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hutchinson Area Office will tell us about what the MN DNR is finding with their electro fishing surveys of the Minnesota River. Prepare to be surprised and to see awesome footage of hibernating catfish!

February 12th (Saturday) is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood on Main Street Montevideo. **Invited Guest Speakers: John Hickman & Jon Carlson** will tell us about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come hear the stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary! For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

April 16th (Saturday) is the presentation “**Waterfalls and the River Warren**” by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more information call (507) 359-5770.

May 21st (Saturday) is the “**Caring for God's Creation**” with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Back Roads: Migrating swans a big draw](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin) When the snow begins to fall in Canada, great flocks of white tundra swans are forced out of their breeding grounds to migrate south to find warmth and food.

[Clearing Minnehaha Park brush to give creek room to breathe](#) (Star Tribune) Water tumbles over Minnehaha Falls. Thousands of icicles line the rock ledges. Winter's first ice accumulates on the concave wall behind the falling water.

[Holiday lights burned out? Recycle old decorations](#) (St. Cloud Times) So you pulled the holiday decorations out of the attic, plugged in the tangled strand of lights and ... nothing happened.

[Editorial: Water, water everywhere](#) (Minnesota Daily) The state of Minnesota has 11,842 lakes, yet Minnesotans may be running out of good water. An extensive new survey and analysis of the state's waters rightly suggests we shouldn't get complacent about our most important resource in the Land of Lakes.

[Initiative aims to add more perennials to landscape](#) (Agri News) An initiative created by the University of Minnesota plans to use perennial plants to strengthen farm communities while improving the health of agricultural land and waters.

[Wind turbines given green light](#) (Fairbault Daily News) The Rice County Board of Commissioners approved conditional use permits allowing construction of four wind turbines in the Rice County area Tuesday morning, but tabled the discussion for one project until Dec. 14 because of pending legal action.

[Stillwater FFA take second place in forestry contest](#) (AgriNews) Stillwater FFA's first team to compete in a forestry competition at the National FFA Convention took second place in this year's contest.

[DNR thinks outside the park as outdoor recreation skips a generation](#) (Post Bulletin) Think of it as thinking outside the park. To get more people interested in nature and outdoor recreation, state parks are going to accelerate not only what is done inside parks but also outside park boundaries.

[Nature Conservancy buys 358-acre island in Duluth estuary](#) (Star Tribune) A quiet, 10-year effort to protect Clough Island in the St. Louis River estuary of Lake Superior paid off for baby sturgeon Wednesday when the Nature Conservancy announced it has bought the island from private developer for \$1.5 million.

[Science Museum donates land in Afton](#) (Star Tribune) The Science Museum of Minnesota has regifted, but this is no social faux pas. It's a 30-acre tract of prime real estate in rural Afton that will now be preserved as open space and wildlife habitat.

[Minn. keeps limit on manganese in drinking water](#) (MPR) Minnesota will keep, for now, an existing rule imposing limits on manganese in drinking water.

[Doctors, activists mark Clean Air Act's 40th anniversary](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Medical doctors will join hands with environmental activists Tuesday to celebrate passage of the Clean Air Act 40 years ago.

[State to launch website to track Legacy funding](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A new website being launched early next month will give Minnesotans a chance to see how sales tax money from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment is being spent.

[Funding cuts could erode Master Gardeners program](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The volunteer group could lose funding for its paid coordinator as Dakota County trims its budget for 2011.

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land." ~Aldo Leopold

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement

and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:
<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,

Scott

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