

### **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 30<sup>th</sup> and Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.InCommons.org/CollaborationChallenge), or contact InCommons at [info@InCommons.org](mailto:info@InCommons.org) or 612.520.1756 for more information.

### **AIR EMISSIONS VIOLATIONS COST KODA ENERGY \$55,000**

Koda Energy LLC, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) have reached an agreement that requires the company to pay \$55,000 for alleged violations of an air emissions permit. The permit was obtained for a biomass boiler in Shakopee, Minn. which generates heat and power through the combustion of natural gas, untreated wood, oat hulls, and malt and grain byproducts.

Koda Energy began operating the biomass boiler in late February 2009. In July 2009, the company reported to MPCA that it was unlikely to meet permit limits for sulfur dioxide and hydrogen chloride and that additional control equipment would be needed. In August 2009, performance tests documented these violations and an MPCA inspection revealed other permit violations pertaining to fugitive emissions at the facility.

Besides paying the \$55,000 civil penalty, Koda Energy will be required to install additional equipment to reduce and monitor emissions from the facility. The company will apply for a permit amendment from the MPCA, which will specify the required new equipment and address any increases in emissions which

cannot be reduced by the control equipment. The company has already corrected the violations documented during the inspection.

When calculating penalties, the MPCA considers how seriously the violation affected the environment, whether it is a first time or repeat violation, and how promptly the violation was 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. For a comprehensive list of enforcement actions by the MPCA, refer to the agency Web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/newscenter/enforcement.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/newscenter/enforcement.html).

### **MPCA Awards \$4 Million in Grants, Loans for Water Quality Projects**

Protecting Minnesota's water resources is the focus of \$4 million in grants and loans recently approved by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). As funded by the Clean Water Partnership and Clean Water Fund programs, local partners will receive funding to investigate pollutants in lakes and rivers as well as take action to protect waters from those pollutants.

Created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1987, the Clean Water Partnership program provides financial and technical assistance to diagnose and address threats to water resources.

Approved by Minnesota voters in 2008, the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment increased the state sales tax and dedicated it for certain uses, including the creation of a Clean Water Fund to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater.

The following partners will receive grants for investigation projects in 2011:

- City of Eagan in the Minnesota River Basin, \$55,276 for Blackhawk Lake and Thomas Lake Management Plans;
- Lake of the Woods County in the Rainy River Basin, \$53,000 for the Bostic and Zippel Watershed Assessment Project;
- Lake County in the Rainy River Basin, \$174,500, for Kawishiwi Watershed Protection Project Phase 1;
- Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$55,000 for the Harriet Lake Diagnostic Study and Management Plan;
- Spring Lake-Prior Lake Watershed District in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$48,417, for the Lower Prior Lake Diagnostic Study;
- Stearns County Environmental Services in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$39,100 for the Pelican Lake of St. Anna Phase 1 Study;
- Bridgewater Township in Rice County in the Lower Mississippi Basin, \$110,197 for the Rice Creek Assessment Project; and
- Crow Wing County in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$42,744, for the Serpent Lakeshed Protection Investigation Study.

The following partners will receive funding for implementation projects in 2011:

- Sauk River Watershed District in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$300,000 in grant and \$300,000 in loan funds for the Lower Sauk River Water Quality Protection Project; \$114,839 in grant and \$75,000 in loan funds for the Osakis Lake Enhancement Continuation Project; \$235,000 in grant and \$175,000 in loan funds for the Sauk River Watershed Quality Protection Phase III; and \$40,000 in grant and \$250,000 in loan funds for the Sauk River Watershed District Watershed-wide Groundwater Project.
- Aitkin County in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$145,000 in grant funds for the Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Project.
- Crow River Organization of Water in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$495,912 in grant and \$1.2 million in loan funds for the Crow River Watershed Surface Water Runoff Reduction.
- Coon Creek Watershed District in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$83,650 for the Sand Creek Stormwater Retrofit Project.
- Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District in the Minnesota River Basin, \$141,850 in grant funding for the Ten Mile Creek Protection Plan for Turbidity.
- Rice Creek Watershed District in the Upper Mississippi Basin, \$86,210 for the West Moore Lake Water Quality Enhancements.

For more information, go to the MPCA web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) or contact Peter Fastner, Clean Water Partnership Coordinator for the MPCA, 651-757-2349, [peter.fastner@state.mn.us](mailto:peter.fastner@state.mn.us), 520 Lafayette Road, St Paul, MN 55155.

### **Federal Grants and Loans Catalog**

The Federal Grants and Loans Catalog is now available. This publication contains more than 5000 financial programs, subsidies, scholarships, grants and loans offered by the US federal government and foundations across the United States. That is over 3000 pages of information.

Contents of the Catalog:

-Federal agency administering a program -Authorization upon which a program is based -Objectives and goals of a program -Types of financial assistance offered under a program -Uses and restrictions placed upon a program -Eligibility requirements -Application and award process -Regulations, guidelines and literature relevant to a program -Information contacts at the headquarters, regional, and local offices - Programs that are related based upon program objectives and uses

Programs in the Catalog provide a wide range of benefits and services, which have been grouped into 20 basic functional categories, and 176 subcategories that identify specific areas of interest. Listed below are the 20 basic categories in which all programs have been grouped by primary purpose.

Agriculture  
Business and Commerce  
Community Development  
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Employment, Labor and Training  
Energy  
Environmental Quality  
Food and Nutrition  
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### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **Extension Educator-Crops (Soil-Water and Nutrient emphasis)**

This full-time position will be housed at an Extension Regional Office outside of the Twin Cities (Minneapolis/St. Paul) metropolitan area. While this position addresses regional extension programming needs, it also incorporates some state-wide responsibilities. The EE-Crops will bring in-depth expertise to cutting-edge agricultural water management/water quality issues by applying his or her expertise to

Extension programs and priorities. The EE will employ multiple delivery systems to educate producers and other agricultural professionals via seminars, workshops or non-credit courses. He or she will conduct collaborative applied research with university faculty and other research professionals. The EE is responsible for program development and delivery, use of scholarly/ scientific research, effective partnerships, use of technology and continuing professional development. This position is accountable to the Program Leader in Crops for program direction, performance evaluation and personnel actions.

Responsibilities and Performance Expectations:

- Identify needs, design, develop, deliver/implement and evaluate educational program based in scholarly/scientific theory and research as appropriate to audience.
- Collaborate with departmental faculty and other research professionals in conducting scholarly research.
- Use technology for program design, delivery, reporting, communication, trend monitoring, and locating information.
- Develop and maintain effective local, regional, university and state partnerships that further the development and delivery of Extension educational programs.
- Continue professional development in scholarship, program development and delivery via conferences, additional graduate work, self-directed study and/or other appropriate means of maintaining a high level of expertise.

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

### **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](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Bird Watching Trek** at Wilkie Unit from 2:30-4:30pm. Join us for a bird walk at the Wilkie Unit. With a variety of habitats at this unit, it offers some interesting possibilities for winter birding. There are some conifer woods to search for owls and winter finches and Blue Lake usually opens up early so there is a good chance to find a nice mix of waterfowl there. On the walks in late February it is not uncommon to observe the first Great Blue Herons as they return to their rookery along Blue Lake. Birders of all skill levels are welcome on these walks. Bring along your binoculars, favorite field guide and dress appropriately for the weather. For more information visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/minnesotavalley/calendar.html>

December 21<sup>st</sup> (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 18<sup>th</sup> to 507-389-4272 or [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org)

January 27<sup>th</sup> (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 12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Cure 19<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4<sup>th</sup> annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more information call (507) 359-5770.

May 21<sup>st</sup> (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:

[DNR plan for Legacy money: Connect, buy, take care](#) (Star Tribune) To make the most of more than \$1 billion in newly approved tax money, the state Department of Natural Resources would spend it on connecting people and the outdoors, buying more land and taking care of existing parks and trails.

[Genetically modified sugar beet ban threatens Red River Valley farmers](#) (MPR) When American Crystal Sugar beet growers gathered in Fargo Thursday for their annual meeting, they celebrated one of the best years in the company’s history and the third record-breaking crop in five years.

[Judge: Chicago locks can stay open over Asian carp](#) (MPR) A federal judge has rejected a request from Minnesota and other Great Lakes states to close Chicago area shipping locks to block Asian Carp from reaching the Great Lakes.

[Gardens planned on Frogtown land](#) (Pioneer Press) St. Paul gardeners are working to turn 13 acres of unused Frogtown land into a neighborhood green space and urban farm.

[Supreme Court to consider dismissing lawsuit over power plant emissions](#) (AP) In a new case about climate change, the Supreme Court will hear an appeal from electric utilities that are trying to short-circuit an effort by states to force cuts in power plant emissions.

[Turbine creates headwinds in Orono](#) (Star Tribune) On the shore of Lake Minnetonka, Jay Nygard wants to harness the wind to power his hot tub and crank up his alternative energy business. Yet Nygard’s plan to put a small wind turbine in his back yard ran into trouble before the blades began to spin.

[Congress passes Asian carp import prevention bill](#) (MPR) Congress has passed a bill designed to prevent importation of Asian carp, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

[Stadium Village apts. to replace polluted ground](#) (Minnesota Daily) What was once polluted ground will soon be the foundation for a new green apartment complex in Stadium Village.

[Opinion: Climate change and the family farm](#) (Star Tribune) The news from this Midwestern farm is not good. The past four years of heavy rains and flash flooding here in southern Minnesota have left me worried about the future of agriculture in America's grain belt. For some time, computer models of climate change have been predicting just these kinds of weather patterns, but seeing them unfold on our farm has been harrowing.

[U of M students attending climate talks hope for progress](#) (MPR) The 15 University of Minnesota students attending the climate change conference in Mexico this week know there isn't as much interest in the event back home as there was during the same conference in Denmark a year earlier.

[Bloomington to survey Bush Lake for weeds](#) (Star Tribune) Bloomington's Bush Lake will not be treated for invasive weeds next spring, but the city will conduct two surveys to figure out how bad the problem is.

[Judge: Chicago locks can stay open over Asian carp](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A federal judge has rejected a request from Minnesota and other Great Lakes states to close Chicago area shipping locks to block Asian Carp from reaching the Great Lakes.

*"Water is H<sub>2</sub>O, hydrogen two parts, oxygen one, but there is also a third thing, that makes it water and nobody knows what that is." ~ D.H. Lawrence*

**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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