

2010 Minnesota River Banquet

The 2010 Minnesota River Banquet will be held on Saturday April 24th at the lower level of Turner Hall in New Ulm MN with doors opening at 5PM for a social hour and dinner at 6:30. The program begins at 7:30 with an update on Minnesota River actions, initiatives, issues and advocacy opportunities for the public. It will also feature a startling snapshot look at the phenomenal fisheries in the backwater area of the river near New Ulm. Please mark your calendars now for this most fun and informative event. Oh and by the way, due to popular demand, Minnesota River Jeopardy will be back again this year with great prizes for the winners. For those who wish to come early and pay a visit to the Regional River History and Information Center the doors will be open starting at 2 PM until 4:30. The center is the big brick building located in Riverside Park at 1st South and Front St. This event is in its 21st year and as always is being hosted by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. Pre-registration is open and can be done by email providing a name and the number attending to yasure@lycos.com or by sending a check for \$20 per person to CCMR P.O. Box 488 New Ulm MN 56073 notating banquet tickets on the check. CCMR is a basin-wide non-profit 501 c 3 federal tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible deducible.

Minnesota's Constitutionally Dedicated Funding Site

This public website is being developed to inform citizens of Minnesota and visitors how Minnesota's constitutionally dedicated funds in the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund are being utilized.

On this site you will be able to:

- View information on all projects and programs receiving funding - coming soon!
- Learn about the areas and issues the projects address.
- View all project proposals received by the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.
- View the frameworks and plans that have been developed for each fund.
- Learn how you can apply for funds.

Thank you for your patience. This website is currently under development. Over the coming months more information on projects funded by the constitutionally dedicated funds will be posted and additional website features will be added. Check the pages for the individual funds to access information that is currently available. Please also check back for updates or contact us if you have any questions. The site can be found at <http://www.cdf.leg.mn/>

Invasive Species: Buckthorn to Emerald Ash Borer:

Invasive woody plants such as Buckthorn, Siberian elm, Black locust and other aggressive woody species, are creating serious problems for our native woodlands and grasslands. The main focus of this educational session is woody invasive species, however, other invasive vegetative plants, aquatics and insects (Emerald Ash Borer) that are a threat to our Minnesota landscapes will also be discussed. Learn how to correctly identify and control these pests to promote healthy woodlands and Minnesota landscapes. Useful publications will be available.

This educational workshop on "[Invasive Species](#)" is scheduled for two locations in rural Minnesota, Waseca and Redwood Falls.

- Thursday, February 25, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, in Waseca.
- Thursday, March 25, from 6:00PM – 9:00PM, in Redwood Falls.

Registration is \$ 20. Pre-registration is requested. This workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Forestry Association. The public is invited to attend. Woodland Advisor and Master Gardener credits are available upon request. To register for this workshop visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/> or contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu.

Carbon Credits: Benefits for Minnesota Landowners

Farmers, grassland and woodland owners have an opportunity to receive payments for conservation tillage methods (strip or no-till), or recent plantings of perennial grass and trees by selling carbon credits through the Chicago Climate Exchange. Carbon and climate change legislation will affect future carbon payment programs. Learn more about carbon credit payments, how these plantings sequester carbon and how landowners can participate in this program. Useful publications will be available.

This educational workshop on "Carbon Credits" is scheduled for three locations in rural Minnesota, Jackson, Morris and Owatonna.

- Tuesday, March 9, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, in Jackson.
- Tuesday, March 30, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, in Morris.
- Thursday, April 8, from 6:00PM – 9:00PM, in Owatonna.

Registration is \$ 20. Pre-registration is requested. This workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Forestry Association. The public is invited to attend. Woodland Advisor and Master Gardener credits are available upon request. To register for this workshop visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/> or contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu.

Greater Mankato Bicycle Advocacy Group

Dear friends of the environment, Tom & Linda Engstrom, Richard Keir and Lee Ganske have recently formed the Greater Mankato Bicycle Advocacy group under the E2020 umbrella. Their mission is to promote and increase bicycle use in the area and reach the goal of getting the "Bicycle Friendly Community" designation from the League of American Bicyclists.

Complete Streets is legislation they are supporting along with numerous other bicycle, pedestrian, environmental and healthcare groups (see <http://mncompletestreets.org/about.html>). Please spread the word!

3rd Annual Fun Shoot

Twin Valley Boy Scout Association is having the 3rd Annual Fun Shoot (Clay Pigeon Shoot) on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at River Ridge Gun Club, Courland MN. Check in is at 12:30 and the Shoot starts at 1:00pm. Price of shoot includes:

- Dinner after Shoot!
- Door Prizes!
- Interaction with Sioux Trails Boy Scouts!
- Shooting Contests!
- A whole lot of fun!
- Sign up as a team or individual shooter!

Go to www.twinvalleybsa.org to print off a registration form or for more information.

Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study

Are you interested in the future of transportation in the Mankato Area? Would you like to talk with planners and engineers who are responsible for area roadways, trails and transit? If so, please take part in one of two upcoming open houses for the Mankato Area Transportation and Planning Study (MATAPS). At these open houses, you can participate in group sessions on transit, roadways, bike trails, freight and regional development. Come join us...

- Monday February 22nd, 2010 from 11am to 1pm at Minnesota State University, Mankato at the Centennial Student Union, Rooms 253/254

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

Ney Nature Center Presentation - Garden Planning: Higher Yields and Longer Harvests
Presented by Josh and Sally Reinitz on February 23rd (Tuesday) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center near Henderson.

Local vegetable farmers Josh and Sally Reinitz will give a presentation on planning a vegetable garden for the year. Middle to Late winter is when you plan your garden calendar, select varieties, order seeds, and purchase supplies for your upcoming vegetable garden, so it's never too early to plan! This class will cover topics like succession planting for multiple harvests of each vegetable; using a calendar to organize seed starting, transplanting, and harvesting; and ideas for season extension and creative garden projects. This class is suited for the beginner/hobby gardener who wants to produce a higher diversity of food for their family or wishes to start selling at farmers markets.

Cost: \$5.00 per family w/NNC Family membership and \$2.00 per individual w/NNC membership, \$7.00 per family for non-NNC Members and \$3.00 per individual for non-NNC Membership.

70-year photo history of the state's natural resources

Check it out on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPw6MKhgtdo>

Job Announcements:

Organic/Conventional Cropping System Agronomist

The University of Minnesota is hiring an organic/conventional cropping systems agronomist. Even though the position was announced early last year, it has still not been filled. We are looking for a candidate who would be willing to relocate to Lamberton, MN. We have tremendous resources available to support organic research, including: 120 acres of certified organic land; an organic high tunnel (with 2 more being built this summer); ongoing grant-funded projects on organic no-till, cover crops, and soil quality; 40 acres in replicated plots with a 20- year history of organic and conventional management; 13 acres in transition to organic; well attended organic field days; and an ambitious organic outreach program, including the www.organicecology.umn.edu website. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/organicsystemsposition.pdf>

Events:

February 18th (Thursday) is **Nutrients in Our Environment: Past, Present, and Beyond Conference** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Verizon Civic Center in downtown Mankato. To register please call 651-201-6141. A \$10 registration fee includes lunch and refreshments. For additional information go to <http://www.upstreamheroes.org/nutmgtconf.php>

February 20th (Saturday) is the **Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) Annual Meeting** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Hollywood Theater in Montevideo. For more information <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

February 22nd (Monday) is the presentation **Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About it** by Robert Glennon, Professor of Law and Public Policy in the Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Professor Glennon will share his insights on sustainability of our current water use. The evening will also feature a Minnesota panel of water resource experts. The event goes from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota St. Paul Student Center Theater.

March 11th and 12th (Thursday and Friday) is the **Minnesota Erosion Control Association's Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Conference & Trade Show** at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St.

Cloud. Network with stormwater and erosion control professionals from around the Midwest and learn about cutting edge projects, innovative designs and products. For more information:
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mecaannuaconf.pdf>

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Wind tech program upgrade proposed for Minnesota West Canby campus](#) (Finance and Commerce). The Canby campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College wants to enhance its wind energy technology training equipment.

[DNR proposal: Let duck season begin earlier](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota's duck season could start a week earlier than usual if a proposal by the Department of Natural Resources is accepted by the Legislature.

[Ice fishing enforcement: Behind closed doors](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A 2002 decision by the Minnesota Supreme Court has resulted in DNR officers playing cat-and-mouse with ice anglers who fish illegally.

[There's a fly in the ointment of crane recovery](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A massive effort to help restore whooping cranes to the wild may hinge on an annoying little insect - the black fly.

[Feds please no one by passing on surefire Asian carp solution: cutting off Great Lakes access](#) (Associated Press). The surest way to keep rampaging Asian carp from gaining a foothold in the Great Lakes is to sever the link between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River basin, created by engineers in Chicago more than a century ago.

[Heritage Council recommends 22 projects, at cost of \\$59 million](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Nearly \$59 million would be spent to accelerate restoration and enhancement of prairies, wetlands, forest and wildlife habitat in Minnesota under recommendations made recently by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

[DNR, Congress try to modify 'six-pack'](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). DNR officials believe they're making inroads with attempts to alter a requirement for state fishing guides who cater to just a few anglers at a time - a requirement known widely as the "six-pack" license.

[Sportsmen scrutinize bonding bill](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). By this time next week, a bonding bill could have been passed out of the House and Senate, and be on Gov. Tim Pawlenty's desk, awaiting his signature and, perhaps, his veto pen.

[Eden Prairie bluff-top homes stable, but erosion control needed](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Solutions are suggested to protect 11 properties on northern bluff overlooking the Minnesota River.

[Making 'locally grown' work](#) (Marshall Independent). They may need some initial help to develop a connection with consumers, but small farms can make a difference in the rural economy, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said.

[Concerns over coyote hunters nothing new for conservation officer](#) (Morrison County Record). The coyote is an unprotected animal in Minnesota, and thus can be hunted anytime of the year.

[Waste treatment plant is on track](#) (Faribault Daily News). Work on the city's wastewater treatment plant is on schedule and within budget despite this winter's snowy weather.

[Public lands policies need a fair debate](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). It is high time we debate the costs and benefits of public lands in Minnesota. But let's not make it a kangaroo court like the one unfolding in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

[Toxic mess left for county](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Metal plating firm's building in north Minneapolis has been bulldozed; only the bills remain.

[St. Croix drama: Hubbard prevails over DNR](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Minnesota Supreme Court sided with the broadcast magnate over a few feet of land to extend his house.

Water is the one substance from which the earth can conceal nothing; it sucks out its innermost secrets and brings them to our very lips. – Jean Giraudoux

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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