

'America's Great Outdoors' Brings Benefits to Minnesota's River Systems by Sharon Rolenc, Public News Service - MN

Some of Minnesota's treasured natural resources could benefit from President Obama's just-released final version of the America's Great Outdoors initiative.

Unveiled after months of public hearings in Minnesota and around the country, the plan outlines goals for improving land and water conservation and access to outdoor recreation.

Amy Kober, communications director for *American Rivers*, says rivers are at the heart of America's Great Outdoors, and efforts around developing "blueways" - also known as water trails - are a key initiative outlined in the report.

"The Minnesota River Trail and other water trail efforts across the state could get a boost when it comes to resources for improving these trails, enhancing and expanding them."

The Minnesota River stretches from Ortonville, near the South Dakota border, to where it meets the Mississippi near Fort Snelling. Brad Cobb, program manager for *Green Corridor* in Redwood Falls, says his group has anxiously been awaiting the report, and what it could mean for communities along the Minnesota River Valley.

"The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) and the state have designated the Minnesota River as a waterway trail. It's one thing to have a designation as a water trail, but it's certainly another thing to have it as a fully integrated system. That's where both state and federal funding could benefit the completion of this waterway system."

Cobb says developing an integrated system along the river opens up outdoor-recreational tourism opportunities such as canoeing, fishing and hunting, and could bring much-needed economic benefits to rural communities. He adds that waterways also add to the health and quality of life on which people in Minnesota depend.

"Minnesotans try to strive for a balance in their life when it comes to our jobs, our families, our educational systems. We also have to have a place where we can go out and enjoy the outdoors and to recreate, and to live healthy lives."

Kober says proposed cuts in Congress would slash clean-water safeguards, which could hamper the goals the Great American Outdoors initiative is trying to achieve.

"We can't have our children swimming in sewage. We don't want polluted water flowing out of our faucets. And so Congress needs to reject these proposed cuts and these loopholes that would make our rivers unsafe for drinking water and recreation."

President Obama said open spaces are more precious than ever when he unveiled the initiative details, and said it's important to come together as a nation to protect those resources for the next generation.

The president's plan is outlined online at americasgreatoutdoors.gov. Information on the group American Rivers is at amrivers.org, and more on Green Corridor is at tatankabluffs.com/about-us/green-corridor.

MCA's FAR NORTH SYMPOSIUM

The Minnesota Canoe Association, Inc. is sponsoring its annual Far North Symposium on Saturday March 26, 2011 at Metropolitan State University (700 7th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55106). The event is Co-sponsored by: Cooke Custom Sewing, Canoeing.com and Metropolitan State University. Registration opens at 8:15 am and Program begins at 9:00 am.

Topics: (not necessarily in order of presentation)

- **Kayak Admiralty Island Alaska** - John and Kyle Rust, on the Seymore Canal. Admiralty Island is a 1 million acre wilderness known as the "The Fortress of the Bears"
- **Canoe from MN to Churchill on Hudson Bay** - Lucas Olson, part adventure-part research MN to Norway House and then the Churchill river to the Bay.
- **Canoeing Across the Barrens Jumping Watersheds** - Rob Kesselring, jumping watersheds on the Taltson, Elk, Thelon in search of Caribou, a diminishing 3resource.
- **Kazan River, Nunavut** - Brad West--a unique trip with no wind bound days, high water, fast travel, great rapids and good wildlife.
- **Rafting in the Arctic National Refuge Alaska on the Kongakut River** - Clarence Chaplin, one of the most remote areas of the north that few people ever get to see.
- **Technology and Outdoor Travel** - Andrew Jenks, a how to/awareness incorporating many facets of the digital world into outdoor travel.
- **Tripping across Northern Saskatchewan** - Jim Murphy--up the Wheeler river then cross country to Cree Lake and headed south. Paddled past the abandoned Hudson's Bay Post and then the old Fish plant. Went up the Brustad River over the Height of land and then down the Gwillim, Ithingo and Mudjatic Rivers then up the Churchill into Patchunak. This was part of JB Tyrell's Route to the Barrens.
- **The Back River** - Peter Marshall, a great voyage the entire back ending in Gjoa Haven on King William Island. The Back is the "premier arctic river" in Nunavut.

Program ends about 4:00 pm. Lunch on your own. Bring a bag lunch or sample one of several nearby restaurants. For more information and registration go to <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farnorthsymposium.pdf>

Third Crop Producer Meeting – Renewable Energy Today

Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting the second of four Third Crop Producer Meetings on Monday, February 28, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The workshop's topic will be '**Renewable Energy Today**'.

Attendees will receive information on the following: a cost-share program for growing renewable energy crops, fertility and yield for dedicated renewable energy crops, economics, how the Minneapolis Biomass Exchange can help you sell and buy biomass, research looking into how harvesting grasslands affects wildlife, and an update on the renewable energy project slated for the Madelia area.

For details on the schedule and speakers, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/renewableenergytoday.pdf> or contact Jill Sackett - UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449 sacke032@umn.edu

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 management and control; 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 Thursday, February 24, from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at the Knights of Columbus in Fairmont.

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, contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu. To review other workshops visit: www.woodlandadvisor.org

Rapid Snowmelt Poses Challenges for Feedlot Manure Management

As another winter of heavy snowfall gives way to warming temperatures, rapid melting and potential for flooding pose challenges for manure management among the more than 25,000 livestock farms in Minnesota. Many smaller operations that spread solid manure during winter must ensure that it doesn't run off with rapid snowmelt flowing to ditches, streams and other waters.

Manure-contaminated runoff not only threatens water quality, it reduces the value of manure as a crop nutrient. "Manure applied to snow-covered or frozen soils during conditions of snow melt or rain on frozen soils can contribute the majority of the annual nutrient losses," says Dennis Frame, University of Wisconsin-Extension. "There is a high potential for manure runoff this year based on current field conditions and typical weather patterns."

If possible, farmers should refrain from spreading manure during periods of rapid snow melt. In an article posted at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/discoveryfarms/2011/02/now-is-the-high-risk-period-for-manure-runoff/>, Frame offers these suggestions:

- During the period of active snow melt or when rain is predicted on frozen soils, producers who must haul manure from their barns should stack it in an area where the potential for runoff or groundwater infiltration is low.
- Farmers who haul manure daily should work with their local conservation departments to identify safe stacking sites that have minimal potential to run off into either surface or groundwater.
- Producers who have lots or facilities with bedded pack systems need to be cautious about spreading this manure during this high-risk period. Cleaning lots and getting the manure on the fields before the frost goes out can greatly increase the potential for nutrient losses.
- Producers who must haul manure during this high-risk period should apply it to fields that are away from streams or lakes and have minimal risk of manure running to surface or groundwater.

Minnesota rules require a 300-foot setback from surface waters and open tile intakes for all manure spread onto frozen or snow-covered soil. To reduce the impact of manure applied to the surface of wet or frozen soil, avoid steeper slopes -- seek fields, or parts of fields with less than 6 percent slope for solid manure, 2 percent for liquid manure, or have greater than 30 percent crop residue. Tillage along contours creates furrows to help capture any potential runoff. Avoid flood or floodway zones. Keep application rate low enough to avoid runoff or ponding during application.

Livestock farms that experience manure runoff into waters of the state must report to the Minnesota Duty Officer by calling 800-422-0798, and take immediate action to reduce environmental impact, such as creating temporary berms to stop discharge, temporarily plugging culverts and drain tile intakes to prevent manure inflow, and soaking up liquid with absorbent material, such as hay, straw, cornstalks or wood shavings.

For more information, see the MPCA fact sheet, "Managing manure and land application during adverse weather conditions" at www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-f8-46.pdf, contact your county or MPCA feedlot staff, (www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html#contacts), or call the MPCA at 800-657-3864.

Watershed Summit 2011 – Managing Water on the Land for Conservation & Production

Join us for an informative and engaging summit examining water quality from a watershed perspective on March 12, 2011 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum hosted by the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America and the Freshwater Society. Learn what a watershed assessment is, why there are differing urban and agricultural assessments, how to identify and prioritize water-quality solutions for both neighborhoods and farms. And get a taste of the challenges of on-the-ground conservation efforts.

Everyone lives in a watershed. Discover how watershed organizations can assist you, NGOs, businesses, and farmers to improve water quality while maintaining production. Included is a special luncheon keynote presentation from Tom Davenport, the EPA Region 5 Agricultural Advisor and the EPA's national expert on nonpoint source pollution.

For more information and to register go to: <http://www.minnesotaiakes.org/lkes/Summit.html>

Air Quality Violations at Alfalfa Processing Plant Bring \$50,000 Penalty, \$52,000 Tab for Improvement Project

Minnesota Valley Alfalfa Processors of Priam and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently entered into an agreement resolving alleged violations of air quality regulations. The company will pay a \$50,000 civil penalty, and will also pay at least \$52,000 for an improvement project. Up to \$26,000 of the \$50,000 civil penalty may be allocated to the cost of the improvement project.

In January 2009, public complaints prompted an inspection that revealed malfunctioning emissions control equipment, resulting in the release of large amounts of dust and particles. The company did not immediately notify the MPCA about the breakdown, which is required. In addition, since 2006, semi-annual monitoring reports show that one or more fabric filters in the air emissions control system did not meet requirements, and from 2006 to 2008 most required reports were submitted late.

The improvement project will be the construction of an air monitoring and emission reduction system for the load-out building.

The stipulation agreement is one of the tools used to achieve compliance with state and federal environmental laws. When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account 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. It also attempts 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, go to www.pca.state.mn.us/pyri5fb.

Taking Steps Now Can Help Rural Residents and Feedlot Operators Avoid Pollution Problems in a Flood

If you live in a rural area or operate a feedlot where flooding is a possibility, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) says there are simple things you can do to minimize pollution threats to your home, property and the environment.

Anchor and/or secure all propane and liquid fuel tanks so they will not tip over or float away in floodwaters. Turn off the valves on LP tanks before securing them. If possible, liquid fuel tanks should be emptied by your petroleum provider and kept empty until floodwaters recede. Fittings, copper lines, regulators and other tank-related attachments may be damaged or entirely pulled out if a tank begins to float or shift in a flood. Spilled oil, gasoline or other liquids may then leak into a well, home or outbuildings, destroying or greatly reducing the value of property and possessions. Floating propane tanks may leak, creating an explosion or fire hazard.

Move household and farm chemicals to an area that is safe from floodwaters. If that is not possible, make sure they are in secure containers that will not leak, rupture or float off if inundated.

In addition to water damage, flooded basements are often contaminated by spills of household chemicals normally stored in them, such as paint, drain cleaner, and varnish. If possible, before a flood, move these items from your basement to a secure location or, if you no longer need them, take them to your county's household hazardous waste facility. For its location, see www.pca.state.mn.us/udgx572.

The threat of flooding also poses challenges for manure management among feedlot operators. Smaller operations that spread solid manure during winter must ensure that the manure does not run off with snowmelt flowing to ditches, streams and other waters. Manure-contaminated runoff not only threatens water quality, it reduces the value of manure as a crop nutrient.

"Manure applied to snow-covered and/or frozen soils during conditions of snow melt or rain on frozen soils can contribute the majority of the annual nutrient losses," said Dennis Frame, University of Wisconsin-Extension. "There is a high potential for manure runoff this year based on field conditions and weather patterns."

If possible, farmers should refrain from spreading manure during periods of rapid snow melt. In an article posted at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/discoveryfarms/2011/02/now-is-the-high-risk-period-for-manure-runoff/>,

Frame offered these suggestions:

- During the period of active snow melt or when rain is predicted on frozen soils, producers who must haul manure from their barns should stack it in an area where the potential for runoff is low.
- Farmers who haul manure daily should work with their local conservation departments to identify safe stacking sites that have minimal potential to run off into either surface or groundwater.
- Producers need to be cautious about spreading manure from lots or facilities with bedded pack systems during this high-risk period. Cleaning lots and applying manure on fields before the frost goes out can greatly increase the potential for nutrient losses.
- Producers who must haul manure during high-risk periods should identify fields that are away from streams or lakes and have minimal risk of manure running to surface or groundwater.

Minnesota rules require a 300-foot setback from surface waters and open tile intakes for manure spread on frozen soil. To reduce the impact of manure applied under these conditions, avoid steeper slopes; seek fields, or parts of fields with less than 6 percent slope for solid manure, 2 percent for liquid manure, or have greater than 30 percent crop residue. Feedlot operators who experience manure runoff into waters of the state must report to the State Duty Officer by calling 800-422-0798. They must also take immediate action to reduce environmental impact, such as creating temporary berms to stop discharge, temporarily plugging culverts and drain tile intakes to prevent manure inflow, and soaking up liquid with absorbent material, such as hay, straw, cornstalks or wood shavings.

For more information, see the MPCA fact sheet, "Managing Manure and Land Application during Adverse Weather Conditions," at www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wq-f8-46.pdf; contact your county or MPCA feedlot staff (a directory is at www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html#contacts); or call the MPCA at 800-657-3864.

The MPCA has information about protecting your property during a flood at www.pca.state.mn.us/hqzq7fe. Should flooding causes a crisis, such as chemical spills or manure runoff, farmers and residents should not hesitate to call the State Duty Officer for assistance at 800-422-0798.

Job Announcements:

West Side Program Director

Youth Farm and Market Project (YFMP) provides year-round, youth development programming for youths ages 9-18, utilizing experiential education and training, urban agriculture, gardens and greenhouses. We build youth leadership through planting, growing, preparing, and selling food. Youth Farm and Market Project currently works in 3 neighborhoods in the Twin Cities, Lyndale and Powderhorn in Minneapolis, and the West Side of St. Paul. The deadline for this full-time, salary position is March 4th at 5:00 p.m.

YFMP employs a unique progressive programming model, where the outcomes of each program, youth Farmers (ages 9-11), All-Stars (ages 12-13) and Project LEAD (ages 14-18), building upon the outcomes of the previous set. Our goals are consistent through each program:

- 1) Build Young Leaders;
- 2) Promote Healthy Bodies and Minds;
- 3) Contribute to the Positive Identify of Children and Youth;
- 4) Create Neighborhood Connectedness and Opportunities for Contribution; and
- 5) Develop & Nature Healthy Relationships.

To apply please send cover letter and resume (highlighting experience with qualifications by email to info@youthfarm.net or mail to Hiring Committee, Youth Farm and Market Project, 128 W 33rd Street, Suite 2, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Members of under-represented groups, as well as people with connections, experience or knowledge of the West Side of St. Paul, are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/westsideprogramdirector.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

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:

February 23rd (Wednesday) is the **Green Book Club** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 170 Good Counsel Drive in Mankato sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry. For more information 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

February 24th (Thursday) is the **Taking the Pollution out of Agricultural Production presentation** by Craig A. Cox of the Environmental Working Group from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the University of

Minnesota St. Paul Student Center Theater. For more information
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/craigcoxpresentation.pdf>

February 24th, March 3rd and 17th (Thursdays) is a **Make your own Snowshoes class** starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center. Lace a pair of Ojibwa style snowshoes from a kit with guidance from a experienced instructor and step-by-step instructions. Kits includes frame, lacings and your choice of bindings. Varnish not includes. Class is limited to 12 participants and a 4th class date may be added if needed. Cost for members is \$145 and nonmembers at \$150. To Register: Contact Becky at 248-3474.

February 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Renewable Energy Today** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions.

March 2nd (Wednesday) is the **AIS Plant Management Meeting** sponsored by Minnesota Waters and MN DNR from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Firestation #2 Community Room (1825 Howard Drive), North Mankato. The meeting is to discuss aquatic invasive plant species management.

March 7th (Monday) is the **South Central MN Corn and Soybean Day** at the Knights of Columbus in Fairmont. Registration will start at 9:30 and the program will run from 10:00 to 3:00. There is no charge to attend the program, which is sponsored by Rural Advantage and U of MN Extension. CEUs have been applied for (2.5 CEUs) and will be processed for those paying a \$15 fee at the door. For further details about the program, check out the program flyer at
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/Martin/news/SCMNC&BDayFlyer-2011.pdf>.

March 10th (Thursday) is **Turf Maintenance for Reduced Environmental Impacts**. This workshop is for professional turf maintenance contractors, public works and parks departments, school district grounds staff and property managers. Learn new techniques on how to protect our water resources while saving money and time spent on the job! Other topics covered will be: equipment calibration, how turfgrass management effects our lakes and rivers and associated best practices for managing turfgrass. An optional test will be given at the end of the workshop for those professionals interested in becoming **certified** in "Turf Maintenance Best Practices" from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Cost for attending the workshop is \$25 which includes a light breakfast, lunch and a workshop manual. The workshop starts at 8 am and runs until 2:30 pm at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. The address for the McColl Pond ELC is: 13550 Dakota Ave South Savage MN 55372. To register contact: Theresa Sowards, University of Minnesota Extension Service, 651-480-7715 or sowar006@umn.edu.

March 10th (Thursday) is the **Hidden History of the Minnesota River Valley presentation** at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873 for time. Wabasso native Beth Johanneck has written a book of stories about the characters who have lived in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood and Granite Falls and all points in between. Come and meet the author, hear a few stories and compare notes with fellow history lovers of the region.

March 14th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Importance of Ecological Services** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org

March 21st (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo starting at 9 a.m. For more information <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

March 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 31st (Thursday) is the **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Watonwan County Library in St. James. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lifeontherivernew.pdf>.

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.

April 30th (Saturday) is the **Annual Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Ney Nature Center to be held at Traxler's Hunting Preserve, Le Center. For more information <http://neycenter.org/>

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. Featuring Sharp Shooter Tom Knapp. The fun shoot will be held at River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland MN starting at 8:00am, lunch is included after the fun shoot, followed by the world famous "Tom Knapp" show starting at 2:00pm. For more information go to Twin Valley Council Web-site at www.twinvalleybsa.org or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootposter.pdf>

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://mrbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Rolls set for two conservation councils](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Two important councils dealing with conservation and the environment have new members and will meet soon to develop recommendations for spending Legacy Act dollars, as well as funds from lottery ticket sales.

[Minnesota gets \\$25M for conservation, hunter education](#) (Associated Press). Sen. Amy Klobuchar says Minnesota is getting over \$25 million in federal money for conservation projects and hunter education.

[Pederson eyes environmental agency overlap with new bill](#) (St. Cloud Times). A Senate committee has advanced a bill that author Sen. John Pederson says could lay groundwork for merging or eliminating state environmental agencies.

[Hopkins firm faces hefty EPA fine](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The recycling company insists it is not to blame for export problems it says were caused by another firm.

[Did sewer project affect lake level?](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Some scoff, but hydrologist proposes study of White Bear.

[Alex gets its time in the sun](#) (Alexandria Echo Post). Three eighths of 1 percent may not seem that much. But it's been doing big things for Minnesota's lakes, arts, history, parks and trails, according to Conservation Minnesota and the Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

[Moose population continues decline in NE Minn.](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). An annual survey shows the moose herd in northeastern Minnesota continues to decline.

[MPCA head: Agency will make progress despite 11 pct. cut](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says even with an 11 percent reduction in funding, it will be able to make progress on key issues under Gov. Mark Dayton's budget proposal.

[Opinion: Go organic, invest in your health](#) (Minnesota Daily). Eating organic may not be the most economically friendly decision, but your body will thank you.

[State Rep to Pawlenty: Remember when you were green?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). DFL Rep. Joe Atkins wants Tim Pawlenty, the potential 2012 Republican presidential candidate, to reacquaint the House with Gov. Tim Pawlenty, the environmental governor of 2007.

Nature is man's teacher. She unfolds her treasures to his search, unseals his eyes, illumines his mind, and purifies his heart; an influence breathes from all the sights and sounds of her existence. – Alfred Billings Street

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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