

Look Who's Knocking Performances by LSP

You are invited to join a performance of [Look Who's Knockin': A retiring couple wrestles with the future of their farm](#), a one-act play that explores the moral dilemma faced by Nettie and Gerald, long-time conservation farmers facing retirement. Should they let their farm go for top dollar to the largest farmer in the county? Or should they help out a young farm couple interested in starting a dairy?

This is a new Land Stewardship Project play that is being presented in western Minnesota communities this winter. Created out of interviews and stories of both beginning and retiring farmers, the play focuses on the pending decisions faced by Nettie and Gerald, decisions that will determine the legacy of their farm and their lives. The play and the audience discussion that follows each performance will raise the question of, "Who will farm the land in the next generation?" The goal of this play and discussion is to create awareness of the realities and complexities surrounding land access, generational transition and stewardship, and to encourage people to think creatively about solutions.

Tickets are \$5. For more information or to reserve a ticket, contact LSP's office in Montevideo, Minn., at 320-259-2105, or e-mail (amyb@landstewardshipproject.org) Amy Bacigalupo

Sunday, Feb. 12 — 2 p.m., Milan School, Milan

Sunday, Feb. 19 — 2 p.m., Central Square Center, Glenwood

Worry about Lake Pepin, for its sake and your own

By Michael McKay in the Minneapolis Star Tribune

For those of us who worry about the future of Lake Pepin, Bruce Tiffany poses an important question: Why, he asks, should his fellow "upriver" farmers care about the troubles of Pepin?

Tiffany grows cash crops -- corn and soybeans -- on a 1,700-acre farm near Redwood Falls. As a conscientious land steward, he knows that some of the rain that falls on his farm makes its way to the Minnesota River and, ultimately, to the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin.

In designing his farm, Tiffany has taken sensible steps to manage runoff. In some instances, such as the width of perennial plantings along critical buffers, he has exceeded legal obligations.

Expressing his ethos to Minnesota Public Radio, Tiffany said, "If you wouldn't do a breast stroke in your runoff, you can do better.

For the entire column: <http://www.startribune.com/opinion/otherviews/138362639.html>

Corporate sustainability advocate Mindy Lubber to speak March 1 on 'Investing in Sustainability: Building Water Stewardship Into the Bottom Line'

Mindy Lubber, an international leader in efforts by investors to lead and pressure multinational companies to adopt environmentally sustainable business practices, will deliver a free, public lecture March 1 in St. Paul.

The lecture, "Investing in Sustainability: Building Water Stewardship Into the Bottom Line," is sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. It will be at 7 p.m. in the theater of the [Student Center](#) on the university's St. Paul campus.

Lubber is president of Ceres, a 22-year-old Boston-based nonprofit that works with companies like Coca-Cola, Levi Strauss and IBM to encourage the firms to make their products and processes more water-efficient and less vulnerable to climate change.

As part of that work, Lubber directs the Investor Network on Climate Risk, an alliance of 100 institutional investors who manage \$10 trillion in assets. In 2011, she was voted one of “the 100 most influential people in corporate governance” by Directorship Magazine.

Lubber’s lecture will focus on the risks businesses and their shareholders face as a result of a population-driven demand for increased water use colliding with a fixed global supply, aggravated by more pronounced droughts and flooding resulting from climate change. She will offer specific examples of companies that are changing their business models to become more sustainable.

“From farms to power plants, mining to microprocessors, water is indispensable,” Lubber says. “But many in the private sector continue valuing water using outdated assumptions: It’s often seen as cheap, stable and uncontested when increasingly it’s none of those.”

Lubber, who earned a law degree and an MBA, founded the National Environmental Law Center in 1990, and she later launched the Green Century Capital Group, a mutual fund owned by nonprofit public interest organizations. She was one of the founders of Ceres, when it was started by a group of investors in response to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. In 1998-2000, Lubber was deputy regional administrator, and later regional administrator, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in New England. She became Ceres’ president in 2003

Lubber’s lecture is the seventh in the [Moos Family Speaker Series on Water Resources](#) honoring the late Malcolm Moos, president of the university from 1967 to 1974.

About the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences - The College of Biological Sciences provides education and conducts research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, supporting applications in medicine, renewable energy, ecosystem management, agriculture and biotechnology. For more information about research and degree programs, go to www.cbs.umn.edu/

About the Freshwater Society - The Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect water resources. Located in Excelsior, Minn., adjacent to Lake Minnetonka, it has a long history of association with the University of Minnesota. Learn more at www.freshwater.org.

2012 Forest Pest First Detectors Workshops

Registration is now open for the 2012 workshops of the award winning Minnesota Forest Pest First Detector workshops at this web site: <http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/forest-pest-first-detector/>

These workshops are for anyone who wants the latest in-depth information about new invasive pests that effect in Minnesota’s landscape trees and urban and rural forests. Past attendees include Master Volunteers (Woodland Advisors, Master Gardeners, Tree Care Advisors, etc.), tree care professionals, forestry professionals, natural resource professions who work with trees, environmental educators, MN Conservation Corps participants, land and home owners and others.

Workshop locations:

- Feb. 22 - Chaska
- Feb. 26 - Whitewater State Park
- Mar. 1 - Grand Rapids
- Mar. 6 - St. Paul
- Mar. 9 - Duluth
- Mar. 14 - Alexandria

Workshop Contacts: Dean Herzfeld, University of Minnesota Extension; [612-624-3477](tel:612-624-3477), or deanh@umn.edu and Mark Abrahamson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; [651-201-6505](tel:651-201-6505), or Mark.Abrahamson@state.mn.us

MPCA reports 99% compliance with permitting efficiency law

St. Paul, Minn. — The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is achieving a 99 percent success rate in issuing environmental permits for construction of new projects and expansions to existing facilities within 150 days.

The 150-day goal was part of a 2011 executive order from Gov. Dayton which later became law in the 2011 session. The MPCA submitted its second semiannual report to the Minnesota Legislature Feb. 1, recapping how it is doing in meeting the goals of the law. Although it's the second semiannual report, it's the first to include detailed data because when the first report was issued, 150 days had not passed since the law was enacted.

The intent of the law, according to Jeff Smith, manager of the MPCA's Industrial Division, was to set permitting goals for the agencies that issue permits and then collect data to better understand why certain projects didn't meet those goals. These data will help the agencies identify opportunities to improve the process.

"We've been working hard to improve our permitting efficiency, and we're very pleased to report to the legislature that we are very close to meeting the goals for permitting of new construction in the 2011 law," Smith said. "We still have some work to do in other areas, but this is a big improvement."

The MPCA manages more than 15,000 air, water and land permits, and receives between 3,000 and 5,000 permit applications each year. Once issued, many MPCA permits are good for five years and then must be reviewed and reissued, although permittees can continue to operate under the terms of their old permits until they're reissued.

To support jobs and economic development in the state, and enhance overall environmental protection, the MPCA's policy is to work first on applications involving construction.

"These priority projects typically require a new permit or significant modification of an existing permit. Often they are the most technically complex and potentially controversial projects," Smith said. "These are also the permits that have the most bearing on jobs and growth."

"We've known that permitting efficiency is an issue for a long time, and have been working to implement a variety of reforms since 2003," Smith said. "To be successful requires that everybody is doing their part. We've been meeting with those interested and impacted by the permits we issue to clarify their responsibilities and to listen to their needs and concerns. We understand that continuing to streamline our permitting and environmental review processes are important while also ensuring that we continue to issue permits that protect human health and the environment."

Smith says the governor's order spurred the agency to focus more intensively on priority projects, but there's more work ahead to be able to meet all of the law's requirements. For example, while the agency was 99 percent successful in issuing priority permits within 150 days, the overall success rate was 81 percent.

The MPCA report shows the agency received 2,658 permit applications during the reporting period of March 4 through Dec. 31, 2011; 1,691 of them were designated priority projects.

Another provision of the law requires the MPCA to determine within 30 days whether permit applications are complete, meaning they contain adequate information for the MPCA to "start the clock" on the 150-day timeline. The report shows that 125, or 5 percent, of the applications received in the period covered in the report were deemed incomplete and returned to applicants for more work.

The [MPCA's Semiannual Permitting Efficiency Report](#) is available on the agency's website.

Volunteers add \$8 million in value to DNR

Nearly 26,000 citizens donated services valued at \$8 million during 2011 to assist the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in accomplishing its conservation mission through a variety of projects and programs. That's the equivalent of an extra 179 full-time staff, according to the DNR.

"We're fortunate to have so many dedicated Minnesotans who are willing to donate their time and talents for conservation projects," said Renée Vail, DNR volunteer programs administrator. "We're extremely grateful for their efforts. Many of our projects would not be possible without their help."

DNR managers, professionals and technicians work alongside volunteers to help manage the state's diverse natural resources. Volunteer positions can range from specialist jobs requiring extensive skill and experience to work requiring little or no previous experience.

For example, for several years now Russ Johnsrud, Ron Norenberg, Don Marg, Denny Ernst, Chuck Yliniemi and Steve Maanum have used their woodworking skills to assist staff at the Park Rapids Wildlife office.

Last year, the volunteers built 68 bluebird houses for the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program. They also built 103 Peterson bluebird boxes, 10 mallard nesting boxes, 50 wood duck boxes, and two purple martin houses. Most of these went to the Detroit Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Twenty-five bluebird houses were built for Park Rapids School and 30 bluebird houses were for Bagley School.

VARIETY OF OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Volunteer opportunities are available at state parks, state forest campgrounds, wildlife management areas, fisheries and hatcheries, as well as at DNR area, regional and headquarters offices.

Special event sites offer volunteer experiences, too. More than 500 volunteers assisted the DNR at the Minnesota State Fair last year. They helped at the laser shot booth and archery range, acted as Smokey Bear, and provided entertainment and environmental education presentations on the DNR volunteer outdoor stage.

Elsewhere around the state, volunteers helped with firearms safety instruction, wildlife habitat improvement, river cleanups, state park campground hosting, loon monitoring, trail clearing, precipitation observing, burning permit issuing and wildlife research.

For more information about DNR volunteering opportunities, visit the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov and click on the word "volunteering." Information is also available by contacting the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or toll free at 888-646-6367.

Water Resources Applications Workshop for LiDAR Data

The Minnesota Water Resources Conference, in collaboration with University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, presents a special workshop on "Water Resources Applications of LiDAR Data", part of the Water Resources Center's series on "Conservation Applications of LiDAR Data" The workshops are developed and taught by experts from the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Audience - The workshops are designed for intermediate-level GIS users who address water resource and natural resource issues. The target audience is employees from Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, counties, cities, not-for-profit organizations, private firms, and state and federal agencies.

Prerequisites - At minimum, participants must have an intermediate skill level with ArcGIS application, including and not limited to importing and managing files and layers, processing geographic data, and a general understanding of raster data processing and management. Contact Ann Lewandowski if you are not sure if you have the background to take this course.

Schedule - The special two-day sessions will be presented in St. Paul on March 12th and 13th, and in

Brainerd on March 14th and 15th. The Water Resources Center will present additional half and full-day modules of this and additional topics over the coming year. Visit the website for a current schedule.

Topics - This two-day hands-on workshop will give water resources and natural resource GIS users the skills they need to effectively use LiDAR-based elevation information. On the first day, participants will learn the basics of LiDAR data including how to download, view, and manipulate these large data sets. The workshop will cover the limitations of LiDAR data, how to manage errors, how to use the various file formats available, and techniques for displaying the data for effective communication and visual analysis. The second day will address terrain analysis and hydrologic applications. Terrain analysis includes calculating the Stream Power Index (SPI) for use in identifying sites that are prone to erosion or deposition where conservation measures should be targeted. Hydrologic applications include delineation of watersheds and inundation areas, and performing hydrologic conditioning (removing culverts and digital dams). Hydrologic conditioning is an essential step before using the data for many conservation applications. See the website for descriptions of additional topics.

Funding - This project is funded by a grant from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

For more information, registration, and schedule visit <http://tsp.umn.edu/lidar>

Job Announcements:

Project Coordinator

Prairie Country Resource Conservation & Development Council is seeking a Watershed Coordinator to carry out the duties associated with addressing non-point source water quality concerns in the Hawk Creek Watershed. The Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the multiple goals and objectives of the Hawk Creek Watershed Project (HCWP), including: Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation, water quality monitoring and public outreach (information and education). This entails the convening and leadership of regular meetings of the Hawk Creek Watershed Committee, Local Work Group and Executive Committee; communicating with County Boards, Local Water Plans and other government agencies throughout the watershed. The Coordinator also provides all grant administration and management duties, including completion of grant work plans, change orders/amendments, budget development, balancing multiple budgets, and reporting requirements. The Coordinator will also supervise all HCWP staff, including annual performance reviews, salary increase approval/denial, staff development, and disciplinary actions. It is the Coordinator's responsibility to seek additional grant funding to support and further the overall HCWP mission. Coordinator supervision and HCWP policy and program direction is received from the Hawk Creek Executive Committee.

Applicants must possess excellent leadership and communication (verbal and written) skills, as confident and effective public speaking is a vital component to this position. Proven fund-raising and grant writing skills are necessary. Knowledge of current water quality issues is required. Knowledge of farming practices and current agricultural issues in West-Central Minnesota is desirable. Applicant must be willing to attend/organize various meetings throughout the watershed, including some evening meetings. Knowledge of the infrastructure and jurisdiction of various government agencies (MPCA, DNR, BWSR, NRCS, SWCD, County Government, etc.) is very beneficial. Basic computer aptitude (i.e. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher) is important. Excellent organization skills and the ability to work independently, with limited supervision, are essential. A full Position Description is available upon request. For further information, please contact Cory Netland at 320-523-3672 or cory@hawkcreekwatershed.org

This full-time position is based out of Olivia, MN with starting salary is \$42,960 - \$52,981 (depending upon qualifications) plus benefits. This is a grant-based position, with funding currently available through June 2015. It is the Coordinator's responsibility to secure additional funding to continue the position and the overall mission of HCWP. The application is due by the close of business on February 24, 2012. To apply Send resume with references, and a cover letter stating your interest in the position and your qualifications, to: Wally Strand, President; Prairie Country RC&D Council; 1005 High Avenue NE; Willmar, MN 56201; Phone: 320-231-0008 Ext. 131 or Fax: 320-235-8751

Director, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, Wisconsin

Established in 1972, the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute (SOEI), an organization dedicated to applying scientific knowledge and community-based cultural and sustainability studies to complex environmental issues, invites applications and nominations for the position of Executive Director. Located on the shores of Lake Superior in Ashland, Wisconsin, the Institute and Northland College seek an innovative, dedicated, entrepreneurial leader to deepen and extend collaboration, research, and conversation among a growing network of partners. In the years ahead, SOEI will renew its mission by: (1) nurturing the next generation of scientific and community leaders through research, invention, and applied learning programs; (2) supporting preservation and restoration of ecological communities in the Lake Superior Watershed; (3) facilitating communities of conversation and collaboration around multifaceted ecological and social issues; (4) serving as an innovation engine for the College by connecting faculty, staff, and students to issues of sustainability and resilience; and (5) expanding the reach and impact of Northland by connecting us to state and national partnerships, policy discussions, and progressive sustainability initiatives.

The Executive Director is the Institute's primary voice, leader, and partnership coordinator. The position serves on the President's Cabinet, supports a collaborative leadership model, and is accountable to the Northland College President.

Requirements of the position: 1. Master's degree relevant to the Institute's foci and programming, terminal degree preferred; 2. Evidence of 10 years of successful professional leadership of broad-based initiatives focused on innovative and sustainable systems; 3. Demonstrated visionary and innovative leadership in responsive program planning and implementation; 4. Evidence of responsibility for complex, organizational fiscal matters, including an understanding of budget management and grants administration; 5. Evidence of successful marketing and/or fundraising; 6. Inspired reciprocal and goal-oriented partnership development as evidenced by successful community collaboration and project implementation; 7. Experience working with governing boards and advisory groups. 8. Excellent oral, written and technological communication skills with the ability to express complex or specialized content in understandable terms.

Northland College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. All candidates will be evaluated on a merit basis. Our application process is electronic. Please go to www.northland.edu/jobs, select the position, and attach a letter of application, a current resume, and contact information for five references in PDF format. Review of applications will begin March 1, 2012; candidates are advised to apply by then for best review. Questions regarding the position should be directed to search chairs Dr. Alan Brew (abrew@northland.edu) and Michele Meyer (mmeyer@northland.edu)

Executive Director

The Executive Director of the Nonprofit (501)(c)(3) Grassworks Inc. functions as the coordinator and manager of the organization. In this capacity the incumbent is responsible for implementation of policies, annual goals and objectives established in cooperation with the Board of Directors, as well as financial, program, and administrative management of the organization. The President and Board of Directors provide guidance and direction through regular meetings and direct communication with the Board President.

CORE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned.

- Carry out, along with the conference planner and committee, a high quality annual grazing conference that provides excellent educational and professional development opportunities for people interested in managed grazing.
- In partnership with the president, responsible for overall leadership in the development and implementation of short and long range plans and policies and other activities.

- Responsible for the writing, securing and administrating grant funding for the organization, including GLCI Education and Demonstration Grants.
- Responsible, along with the Treasurer for financial management of the organization, including the development and implementation of the annual budget.
- Responsible for the development, implementation, and accomplishments of the annual work plan of the organization in cooperation with the Board of Directors.
- Effectively communicate and represent GrassWorks with other organizations and agencies, such as the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wisconsin DATCP, UW Extension, UW College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Land Conservation Departments, farm organizations, and other non-profits.
- Responsible for providing information, advice, and counsel to the Board of Directors in the creation of policies, programs, and strategic direction of GrassWorks.
- Coordinate activities associated with the Board of Directors, meeting schedules, locations, development of agendas, and meeting materials.
- Administration operations of GrassWorks, including: reviewing and evaluating the results of program activities, ensuring that contractual obligations are being fulfilled; allocating resources to maximize program effectiveness and efficiency; developing organizational and administrative policies and program objectives in cooperation with the Board.

APPLICATION: Complete resumes, including work experience, education, training and references, are due February 24th, 2012 and may be submitted electronically to info@grassworks.org or via regular mail to GrassWorks Inc. 1223 Saint Croix St, Hudson, WI 54016. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/grassworks.pdf>

Student Worker / Intern – Biomonitoring (Stream Fish and and Macroinvertebrates

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, North Biological Monitoring Unit, Brainerd, MN is looking for qualified students to assist with aquatic biomonitoring surveys on rivers and streams in northern Minnesota. Job duties include:

- Collecting and identifying stream fishes, collecting stream macroinvertebrates, collecting water chemistry samples, conducting qualitative and quantitative habitat surveys.
- Preferred qualifications include: experience in field identification of stream fishes (to the species level), experience conducting stream habitat inventories or surveys, and the ability to work well with others in small and medium-sized field crews.
- Position requires extensive travel across northern Minnesota, and the willingness to stay overnight (in motels) for up to three nights per week.
- Candidates must be enrolled in a science related program working on a 2- or 4-year degree with coursework in biology, ichthyology, water chemistry, aquatic biology, or related field.
- Pay rate: \$12.21 / hr - Motel lodging provided during work week, plus meal expense reimbursement.
- Start/End Dates: Early June to late August
- Location: The position will be based out of Brainerd, but will require extensive travel throughout northern Minnesota. Brainerd is located just north of the geographical center of Minnesota.

To Apply: applications accepted via the State of Minnesota Careers website:
<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>

Position description available:

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/338f3eb1ffa9a5ad967274642c0f56>

Applications accepted through March 9, 2012. Questions: John Sandberg; john.sandberg@state.mn.us; 218-316-3913

Events:

February 8th (Wednesday) is the **Hawk Creek Watershed Project Information and Appreciation Public Meeting** from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Kandi Entertainment Center (500 19th Avenue SE) in Willmar. Presentations relating to Water Quality and Water Management will be discussed. Presentations are: "Hawk Creek Watershed Project Update," "Whose Problem Is It Anyway? An Upstream and Downstream Conversation About Water," "More Erosive Rivers: Consequences and Drivers," and "Biological Implications of Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Implications for Wildlife & Human Health." Continuing Education Credits for Certified Crop Advisors are Pending. A Free Noon Meal will be provided to those who reserve their spot by February 3rd by calling 320-523-3666.

February 11th (Saturday) is the **Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) Annual Meeting** at the Hollywood Theater (Main Street) in Montevideo from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. (meal served at 6:30 p.m.). Speakers include Scott Sparlin, founder of the clean up the Minnesota River movement; Dennis Frederickson, DNR Region 4 Commissioner; and Jon Olson, Board of the directors of the Mississippi Market Food Co-Op in St. Paul. Malena Handeen will be joined by artists and musicians from throughout the state to put on a special show. Cost of the meeting is \$25 per person if you register by February 7th (includes local foods banquet, door prizes and entertainment). Cost of registration after February 7th will be \$30. To reserve a spot, mail in your reservations (117 South 1st Street; Montevideo, MN 56265), call Dixie Tilden at 1-877-269-2873 or email cure@cureriver.org. For more information, http://www.curemriver.org/events.html#annual_meeting

February 15th (Wednesday) is "**The Economics of Happiness**" film showing – at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato). The film explores globalization's impact at home and abroad. Join us for organic popcorn and butter! (Donations accepted). For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

February 22nd (Wednesday) is **Make Your Own Non-toxic Cleaning Products~!** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato). We will make our own all-purpose cleaner and laundry powder as have recipes for all cleaning jobs! (Bring your own re-usable spray bottle to fill and take home with you. Donations \$10-\$15 (More if you can, less if you can't). For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

February 23rd (Thursday) to May 5th (Saturday) is a Minnesota Master Naturalist course in Willmar at the Mid-Central Research & Outreach Center (1700 Technology Drive). Experience the outdoors and watch this prairie grow and change while learning more about the prairies and potholes biome. Class sessions will include topics on grass, animals, water, humans, geology and more. Instructors are Amy Rager and Rob Blair. Class dates and times: Thursdays February 23rd through May 3rd tom 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Field Trips are Saturdays March 24th and April 21st. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/willmarclass.pdf>

February 29th (Wednesday) is **Learn to Make Self-watering Grow Boxes** starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato). Donations \$5-\$15 (more if you can, less if you can't). For more information contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

March 4th – 7th (Sunday – Wednesday) is the **Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium** at the Holiday Inn Metrodome in Minneapolis sponsored by the Partnership for River Restoration and Science in the Upper Midwest. To register and for more information, <http://prrsum.org/content/registration>. The registration deadline in January 27, 2012.

March 13th (Tuesday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a raingarden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water raingarden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project.

Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us to reserve your spot today!

March 15th (Thursday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm at the Spring Lake Township Hall in Prior Lake. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a raingarden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water raingarden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project. Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us to reserve your spot today!

March 17th (Saturday) is **Kids Day** at Earthrise Farm & Education Center (2580 250th Street, Madsion) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us for some Fun on the Farm with activities including Self-guided Farm Tours, Grow-Your-Own Green Clover (in recycled containers), DIY Sock Puppets and seasonal snacks. For more information, 320-752-1700 or erfarm@hotmail.com

March 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall (920 East 10th Street) in Fairmont. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

March 29th (Thursday) is the **Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Society's annual meeting** in conjunction with the Freshwater Society's day-long conference: "Precision Conservation: Technology Redefining Local Water Quality Practices." Precision conservation effectively and efficiently targets scarce resources to the spots on the landscape where they will do the most good. Learn about the latest technology -- much of it based on LiDAR scanning -- that pinpoints "sweet spots" where runoff, erosion and pollution are disproportionately severe and the potential for improvement is disproportionately great. Speakers include NRCS Chief Dave White; Dr. David Mulla, University Soil Scientist and a pioneer in employing modern LiDAR-based technology in the service of conservation; Dr. Gerald Van Amburg, president of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Board; and several other Minnesota expert conservationists sharing rural and urban examples. The event will be at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony, MN. Visit the Freshwater Society web site (<http://freshwater.org/>) for a current agenda and registration information. The Chapter annual meeting will follow the conference .

May 21st (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

July 16th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 (600 South 5th Street). For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

September 17th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23rd Street NE) in Willmar. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

November 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

[Environmental/Conservation Articles:](#)

[130 years of global warming in 30 seconds: NASA video makes it perfectly clear](#) (MinnPost). This NASA video shows the warming of Earth's atmosphere from 1880 till now – the “modern record” for climate measurement.

[Wind power industry could lose sails if key subsidy is not renewed](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). If Congress declines to renew the production tax credit — key federal subsidy for wind energy — the industry could nose-dive in 2013.

[Coin Rapids dam to be raised as silver carp barrier](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Raising the dam – and thus the water level – on the Mississippi River could have an impact on shoreline properties.

[Corn Plus making progress](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Corn Plus of Winnebago has been fined several times the past few years by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for violating water- and air-quality standards, but the state is pleased with the progress the ethanol plant is making.

[Cities, industries have reduced their Mississippi River pollution -- now it's farmers' turn](#) (MinnPost). The Mississippi River is cleaner today than it was just 40 years ago. Not coincidentally, it was 40 years ago this year that the Clean Water Act was passed and signed into law. Everyone in the land became liable for his or her own pollution — everyone, except farmers.

[Worry about Lake Pepin, for its sake and your own](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). For those of us who worry about the future of Lake Pepin, Bruce Tiffany poses an important question: Why, he asks, should his fellow "upriver" farmers care about the troubles of Pep

[Ag-only wetland mitigation bank ready to enroll credits](#) (AgriNews). Minnesota's fledgling ag wetland mitigation bank is operational and waiting for farmers to begin depositing and buying wetland credits.

[Carlson tells farmers to stay abreast of water quality issues](#) (AgriNews). Brad Carlson has been on the speaking circuit this winter, talking water quality at agricultural meetings throughout the state.

[Minneapolis expands community garden program](#) (TC Daily Planet). While space for private gardens may be hard to find, the city of Minneapolis currently has vacant lots available through its Homegrown program.

[Minneapolis seeks public input on 'climate action plan'](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Did you know that Minneapolis has its own [plan](#) to address climate change?

[Minnesota's cap-and-trade conundrum](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Big Stone coal-burning power plant over the border in South Dakota might have to pay \$489 million more than Minnesota's Sherco for air pollution controls.

[Wolf Center says new Liam Neeson film full of 'scat'](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). "[The Grey](#)" is the new thriller starring Liam Neeson, who leads a stranded group of oil-rig roughnecks to safety in the remote Alaskan wilderness while being stalked by a vicious pack of rogue wolves.

[Session could be most conflicted ever](#) (The New Ulm Journal). Minnesotans who were hoping that the Minnesota Legislature could hold a session that was at least quiet if not convivial seem to be in for disappointment this year.

[Impaired Waters List Draws Farmers' Ire](#) (KEYC TV). The state of Minnesota will be at the center of a new pilot program, which aims to improve waterways.

[Bipartisan agreement on energy conservation has disappeared at the state capitol](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). When Minnesota Senate Republicans ousted Ellen Anderson as chairman of the Public Utilities Commission this week, it was the latest sign that bipartisan support for renewable energy sources has largely disappeared at the state capitol.

Plan merges BWSR with Dept. of Ag (Outdoor News) - http://outdoornews.com/minnesota/news/article_a183ad16-4832-11e1-8192-001871e3ce6c.html. As part of a plan to reform state government, House Republicans are considering an idea to merge the Board of Water and Soil Resources with the state Department of Agriculture.

[Minneapolis cuts emissions 12.8% since '06](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The city neared short-term goals in reducing greenhouse gases – not entirely by design.

[Class on building solar stations](#) (TC Daily Planet). Anyone interested in building a personal solar station that can run appliances here is a workshop for you.

[Minn. seeking volunteers to spot invasive species](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Workshops are scheduled around Minnesota this month for volunteers to serve as the state's early warning system for invasive species.

The prairie landscape is so completely dominated by its skies that sometimes there seems to be no middle ground between us and the firmament. – Paul Gruchow, *Journal of a Prairie Year*

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,

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Scott

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