

CURE's Annual Meeting

[Clean up the River Environment](#) (CURE) is celebrating the completion of our 19th year and the beginning of our 20th year on Saturday Feb. 12 2011 from 5 to 10 p.m. at the [Hollywood Theater](#) in downtown Montevideo.

If you haven't already RSVP'd, ***the deadline is coming up***. Please call us or [reply to this e-mail](#) or send us an envelope to let us know you are coming so we can order enough food.

It is going to be a great time!

- [Malena Handeen](#) and the Stermer Brothers have been practicing.
- [Butch Halterman](#) has convinced [Travis Zachman](#) to return to his band for the night.
- [Mayor RT Rybak](#) and his spouse [Megan O'Hara](#) are making their way out to the frozen prairie and we're hoping for a heart warming speech!
- [John Hickman](#) and [Jon Carlson](#) are putting together never before seen footage from their documentary project [Working Together for a Clean MN River](#) -- we can't wait to see it!
- [Larkin McPhee](#) and her family are coming. The CURE board has voted to give her an award for [her excellent work to raise awareness](#) about the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.
- We are going to be giving a kayak away and the local food banquet menu will be awesome as usual!
- Stay tuned for details of the silent auction!

There is nothing better than getting together in the dead of winter to lift our spirits and reconnect with the growing family of the Minnesota River. Hope to see you soon, Patrick J. Moore; www.cureriver.org

MPCA Extends Public Comment Period on draft of 3M Cottage Grove Wastewater Discharge Permit

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced today that the public comment period on the draft wastewater discharge permit for the 3M Cottage Grove manufacturing facility is being extended. The public comment period on the draft permit now will end on Feb. 18, 2011.

In granting the extension, MPCA Commissioner Paul Aasen said the agency wanted to accommodate a desire voiced by community residents at a public meeting in Cottage Grove last week for more time to review the draft permit. The permit, a reissuance of the facility's existing wastewater permit, includes new limits for perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in wastewater discharged from the facility.

"We recognize that many residents are concerned about PFCs in the environment," Aasen said.

"Extending the comment period strikes a balance between allowing more time for public review of the draft permit and the need to move forward."

Comments on the draft permit must be received in writing at the MPCA no later than Feb. 18, 2011.

Comments should be mailed to Scott Knowles, MPCA, Industrial Division, 520 Lafayette Road N., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4194, or emailed to scott.knowles@state.mn.us.

Walk MS: Christopher & Banks Walk 2011 presented by Walser

You can bring us closer to a world free of multiple sclerosis. Walk in one of 18 Minnesota and western Wisconsin sites, May 1, 2011. Walk MS is a simple, but incredibly powerful way for you to share in the hope for the future. It is a day to come together, to be together, to celebrate the movement together. Register now for Walk MS. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalmssociety.org> or call 800-582-5296.

Contaminants and Natural Resource Management Workshop

Fourth Annual Workshop and Meeting hosted by the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals on February 25th, (Friday) from 8:30 AM – 3 PM at the Camp Ripley Military Training

Center – TACC Building (15000 Highway 115, Little Falls, MN 56345-4173). For more detailed directions go to www.MNACP.org/annual-meeting.

Please join us for an informative day focusing on current and emerging issues of contaminants affecting resource management in Minnesota. Director of University of Minnesota's Water Resource Center, Dr. Deborah Swackhamer will deliver the keynote address and lunch presentation. Several other experts will be speaking about various contaminant issues, including: Contaminants of emerging concern; Hardrock mining; Endocrine disruptors; Pharmaceuticals in waterways; Transport of Mercury through systems Tracing origins of sediment; and Lead in wildlife and hunting.

The workshop fee is \$25, which includes lunch and a one-year membership to the MNACP. Register for the workshop online at: <http://www.mnacb.org/annual-meeting>. More information, including a detailed agenda and a description of the purpose and mission of the MNACP, visit the MNACP website.

MPCA Enforcement Cases

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) concluded 47 enforcement cases totaling \$355,099 in penalties during the fourth quarter of 2010. The cases occurred at facilities in 34 counties. For all of 2010, the MPCA concluded 203 enforcement cases totaling \$2,761,336 in penalties.

The following is a brief summary of all 47 cases completed during the fourth quarter of 2010:

- \$66,000 – Heron Lake BioEnergy LLC, Heron Lake, for water quality and air quality violations.
- \$55,000 – Koda Energy LLC, Shakopee, for air quality violations.
- \$50,000 – American Crystal Sugar Co., East Grand Forks, for water quality violations.
- \$30,000 – Dhs Farms Inc., Menahga, for feedlot violations.
- \$20,000 – Noah's Ark Processors LLC, Dawson, for water quality and stormwater violations.
- \$10,000 – Superior Industries LLC, Morris, for air quality violations.
- \$10,000 – Wallace Bustad, dba (doing business as) Bustad Rolloff & Excavation, Austin, for solid waste violations.
- \$10,000 – Dave and Angie Sprau, dba Sprau Cattle Co., Pequot Lakes, for feedlot violations.
- \$8,355 – Cirrus Design Corp., Duluth, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$7,500 – Jim Paskewitz Feedlot Co., Vesta, for feedlot violations.
- \$6,372 – Rare Earth Coatings Inc., Litchfield, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$5,010 – Jerry Otto, dba Jerry's TV, Winsted, for solid waste violations.
- \$4,687 – Kautz Trailer Sales, Pine Island, for solid waste violations.
- \$4,550 – Ronald Beach, dba Beach Pumping Inc., La Crescent, for individual septic treatment systems violations.
- \$4,025 – Herb Scheffler, L&S Construction, Sanborn, for solid waste violations.
- \$4,017 – Richard Holetz, dba World Famous Camperville, Mora, for individual septic treatment systems violations.
- \$3,533 – Schimek Septic Service Inc., Elgin, for individual septic treatment systems violations.
- \$3,500 – Rolfson Farms, Bagley, for feedlot violations.
- \$3,000 – Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant-Water Reclamation Plant, Rochester, for water quality violations.
- \$2,475 – Boise White Paper LLC, International Falls, for air quality violations.
- \$2,200 – Montevideo Wastewater Treatment Plant, Montevideo, for water quality violations.
- \$2,100 – Manthei Septic Service, Lake City, for individual septic treatment systems violations.
- \$2,088 – Kelly Schmidt, Worthington, for individual septic treatment systems violations.
- \$1,687 – Automotive Concepts, New Hope, for air quality violations.
- \$1,687 – Valley Forest Wood Products LLC, Marcell, for air quality violations.
- \$1,625 – Matejka Recycling Inc., dba Red Box-Winona Aggregate Co., Winona, for solid waste violations.
- \$1,625 – Progressive Truck Body Repair, Rochester, for air quality violations.
- \$1,400 – Gaylord Sanitation, Gaylord, for solid waste violations.
- \$1,150 – Wayne and Lou Ann Ellringer, Eyota, for solid waste violations.
- \$1,100 – Guy Lillemo, dba Lillemo Sewer Service, Isanti, for individual septic treatment systems violations.

- \$1,100 – Kenneth and Carol Kruger, Stewartville, for solid waste violations.
- \$600 – Valley Paving Inc., Ham Lake, for stormwater violations.
- \$500 – Dick Schlemmer, Old Church/Residence Demolition, Wabasso, for solid waste violations.

The penalties for the following cases are all forgivable:

- \$7,625 – Runningen Furs & Tanning, Fergus Falls, for water quality violations.
- \$3,500 – Bob Kent Well Drilling, Wrenshall, for water quality violations.
- \$3,196 – Semple Recycling & Crushing LLC, St. Paul, for air quality violations.
- \$1,687 – Frame & Body Shop Inc., Chaska, for air quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Alpha Ceramics Inc., New Hope, for air quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Lakeland Auto Body, Loretto, for air quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Retailer Services Corp., Anoka, for air quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Snelling Collision Service Inc., Roseville, for air quality violations.
- \$1,250 – Barnum Wastewater Treatment Plant, Barnum, for water quality violations.
- \$1,050 – Cary Opitz, dba Opitz Metal Recycling & Kwik Mag, Winthrop, for solid waste violations.
- \$1,037 – Limenator, Olivia, for air quality violations.
- \$1,000 – Greg Henry Property, Madison, for solid waste violations.
- \$960 – BRT Ag Turf & Bio-mass Renewable Technologies Inc., Spring Valley, for solid waste violations.
- \$660 – Michael and Peter Bendal, dba Green Door Bar & Restaurant, Clarkfield, for solid waste violations.

A complete summary of environmental enforcement actions and news releases can be found on the MPCA's News Media Center web page at www.pca.state.mn.us/newscenter/index.html. For more information about specific enforcement cases, contact Stephen Mikkelson, Information Officer, at (218) 316-3887 or toll-free at (800) 657-3864.

Large Feedlots Receive New, 5-Year Permit; Annual Reports Due March 1st

As of Feb. 1, nearly 1,100 of the state's largest livestock farms are operating under a new, five-year general permit under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Their annual reports will be due March 1.

"We encourage livestock producers to review the permit and become familiar with its provisions and changes," said Randall Hukriede, an MPCA feedlot program manager. "At the same time, producers should take a few minutes to fill out their annual report, which is due March 1." The annual report consists of updates on livestock numbers, manure management, and manure application records.

Updating a previous permit, the 2011-2016 NPDES general permit combines federal and state provisions for large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and Minnesota rules and statutes. It prohibits the discharge of pollutants from livestock production areas, and restricts amounts of pollutants entering waters as a result of land application of manure. The permit is intended to protect surface and ground water quality around feedlot facilities and to minimize any potential impacts from pollution caused by pathogens and nutrients, primarily from manure.

There are several benefits for livestock producers operating with NPDES permits. A permit establishes clear expectations about what is required of a producer. It builds public trust by providing evidence that the feedlot will be constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that protects the environment. Operating under an NPDES permit also shields the producer from enforcement or citizen lawsuits stemming from unforeseen upsets, emergencies or natural disasters resulting in discharges beyond his or her reasonable control.

Applications include plans for odor and manure management, including land application, emergencies, animal carcass disposal, and operation and maintenance. Permit notices are posted on the MPCA website's Public Notices page, and are open to a 30-day public comment period. The new permit moves the issuance date up to Feb. 1, 2011, instead of May 31, 2011, to better align with the spring construction season.

Job Announcements:

Stream Internship - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Stream Habitat Program

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be filling up to 4 student intern positions. The primary responsibility will be to assist in the collection of biological and physical data on streams: using wading rods with current meters, electrofishing equipment, purse seine, boats, GPS, and outboard motors. Additional duties may include data entry, topographic surveying, geomorphologic monitoring and other duties as necessary.

This is a statewide program, so overnight travel is required. When traveling, lodging and transportation are provided and the cost of meals will be reimbursed. Positions are based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Interns are responsible for their own housing and living expenses on their off time (i.e. nights not in travel status and weekends). Salary is \$11.50/hr. Start and end dates are somewhat flexible, but the preferred dates are from May 31st to September 2nd. The position could possibly extend through October.

Required Qualifications: Student must receive academic credit for successful completion of summer internship. An internship agreement must be signed by both the student and a faculty advisor.

Desired Qualifications: Candidate should have had course work/background in fish identification, stream ecology, fisheries, wildlife, biology, or natural resources. The candidate must be conscientious, dependable, able to follow directions and work well as part of a team and independently.

Physical Requirements: Physically demanding work – walking on rough terrain and wading streams while carrying equipment, such as nets and anchors; lifting generators, outboard motors, canoes, and boats; swimming while pulling a seine; and working long hours.

License Requirements: Class D Driver's license: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow a trailer as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

To apply, go to the State of Minnesota career website: <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>. Follow the instructions for posting 11901000010. Applications must be received by February 28, 2011. For questions contact: Ann Kuitunen; Stream Habitat Program; Phone: 651-259-5113; ann.kuitunen@state.mn.us

Stream Internship – Intern Crew Leader, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Stream Habitat Program

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be filling a student intern crew leader position. The primary responsibility will be to assist the supervisor in the collection of biological and physical data and habitat classification in streams. Duties include: fish identification, using wading rods with current meters, electrofishing equipment, purse seine, boats, GPS, and outboard motors.

Additional responsibilities include organizing and preparing equipment; database management and leading the crew when the supervisor is unavailable. Additional duties may include data entry, topographic surveying, geomorphologic monitoring and other duties as necessary.

This is a statewide program, so overnight travel is required. When traveling, lodging and transportation are provided and the cost of meals will be reimbursed. Positions are based in St. Paul, Minnesota. Intern is responsible for their own housing and living expenses on their off time (i.e. nights not in travel status and weekends). Salary is \$12.50/hr. Start and end dates are somewhat flexible, but the preferred dates are from May 23rd to October 28th.

Required Qualifications: Student must receive academic credit for successful completion of summer internship. An internship agreement must be signed by both the student and a faculty advisor.

Candidate must have a minimum of one season of experience and demonstrated expertise in stream habitat fieldwork, including electrofishing, fish identification and macro/microhabitat identification.

Preferred Qualifications: The candidate should have course work/background in stream ecology, fisheries, wildlife, biology, or natural resources. Candidate should have familiarity with MNDNR procedures and policies. The candidate must be conscientious, dependable, have good leadership skills, able to follow directions and work well as part of a team and independently.

Physical Requirements: Physically demanding work – walking on rough terrain and wading streams while carrying equipment, such as nets and anchors; lifting generators, outboard motors, canoes, and boats; swimming while pulling a seine; and working long hours.

License Requirements: Class D Driver's license: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow a trailer as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

To apply, go to the State of Minnesota career website: <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>. Follow the instructions for posting #11901000010. Applications must be received by February 28, 2011. For questions contact: Ann Kuitunen, Stream Habitat Program, Phone: 651-259-5113, ann.kuitunen@state.mn.us

Seasonal Water Monitoring Technician

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is looking to hire a full time, temporary water monitoring technician from April to October 2011. The position is based out of Ortonville MN in Big Stone County and pays \$10 per hour. The desired knowledge and skills are:

- Experience in stream water quality monitoring, and data entry is desired.
- Possess or be actively pursuing a bachelor's degree in water resources, soil science, or related natural resources field.
- Exceptional organizational skills.
- Proficient with various computer software programs, including spreadsheets and databases.
- Able to walk on uneven terrain associated with natural areas, be willing to work outdoors in extreme weather conditions, be able to wade in small streams.
- Self motivated
- Commitment to high quality work
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Ability to maintain relationships with co-workers, board, agencies, communities and landowners
- Must have valid driver's license and reliable vehicle.

Complete Job Announcement, Application and Position Description is available at www.umnrd.org or by calling (320)839-3411 or emailing deanna.lundberg@midconetwork.com. Please submit cover letter with resume and completed application to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, 211 2nd Street SE, Ortonville, MN 56278.

CONDITIONS OF ANNOUNCEMENT – The UMRWD reserves the right to make changes to the content of this position announcement without notification and may at any time withdraw the announcement.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reason such as race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

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>

Professional Grant Development Workshop

Master the techniques of writing superior and winning proposals on March 15 -17, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. To be held at: University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Minneapolis, Minnesota. Sponsored by: [The Grant Training Center](#)

This intensive three-day grant proposal workshop is geared for: 1) those who wish to strengthen their grant writing skills and 2) beginners who wish to acquire and master the techniques of preparing, writing and winning proposals from various funding agencies. The center of attention will be on how to effectively write proposals in times of keen competition and limited resources. Much has happened in new regulations and in approaches to grant writing, be it for the researcher in the sciences and social sciences, education and non-profit professionals.

Participants Will Learn How to:

1. Navigate the world of grant procurement
2. Research and identify potential funding sources
3. Address the guidelines of federal and foundation applications
4. Focus foundation and corporate giving for the State of Minnesota
5. Understand the new federal guidelines for writing winning grants
6. Know the review process and how to address key points for reviewers
7. Write winning grants that stand out against scores of competing submissions
8. Develop focused and realistic budgets
9. Demonstrate that one's proposal merits excellence and innovation
10. Package professional grant submissions

Our ultimate goal is for each participant to walk away with a product specific to their interests that includes the grant design, abstract and budget. Thus, the opportunity to influence the future of your work and ideas is within your reach. Understanding this reality, institutions are willing to minimally invest in the training of their staff to make this happen.

Space is limited, and since this class fills-up quickly, it is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Workshop Fee: \$595.00 (including tuition, materials, certificate of completion, and continental breakfast). Rebate of \$50.00 per person is given for two or more registrants from the same organization. To [Register](#): Please visit our [website](#), or call us toll free at (866)-704-7268 or (571) 257-8864

“The University of Minnesota is not endorsing or sponsoring the activities conducted by The Grant Training Center on the University of Minnesota campus. The relationship between the University of Minnesota and The Grant Training Center is solely that of licensor and licensee.”

Events:

February 9th (Wednesday) is the showing of “**Dirt! the Movie**” at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. located at 170 Good Counsel Drive in Mankato. For more information 507-389-4272 or icoons@ssndmankato.org

February 10th (Thursday) is the 10th **Year Celebration of Water Quality Work in the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed** with a dinner and program from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Dawson VFW. A dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by a recognition program. The guest speaker for the evening will be Ashley Shelby, author of Red River Rising: The Anatomy of a Flood and the Survival of an American City. Please RSVP by Thursday, February 3rd by calling Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 or email mary.homan@lqpc.com

February 12th (Saturday) is **Meet with Sen. Sheran & Reps. Morrow and Brynaert on environmental issues** from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Blue Earth County Library (100 East Main Street, Mankato. Pre-meeting for constituents and MEP groups: 9:00 a.m. (same location, please RSVP). Please RSVP to Andrew Spaeth at <mailto:andrewspaeth@mepartnership.org> or 651-290-0154.

February 12th (Saturday) is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood Theater 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>

February 14th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Local Foods** 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.

February 15th (Tuesday) is the **Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's Kick-off event** to initiate a New Year of water protection and improvement starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Prior Lake City Hall, Council Chambers Room (4646 Dakota Street SE) in Prior Lake. The District is looking to get the word out about recent developments in lake health and clean water as well as fill positions on its Citizens Advisory Committee. The event, open to the public and free of charge, will provide an opportunity for concerned citizens to:

- Hear about what they can do to preserve and protect their lakes.
- Voice ideas and concerns about the state of lakes in the area.
- Learn more about the recent classification of Spring and Upper Prior Lakes as "impaired".
- Become familiar with the Watershed District's duties and goals for water resource management.

February 16th (Wednesday) is **Make Your Own Non-toxic Cleaning Products** 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 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 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. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

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.

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.

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

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. 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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[A boom in community gardens](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Folks are motivated by saving money, growing their food chemical-free or simply having fun.

[Who's responsible for increased sediment?](#) (Agri News). Satish Gupta received a warm response from the farmers gathered for Winter Crops Day.

[Firm grilled over pipeline plans](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). Representatives of the ethanol plant in Fairmont were challenged by Faribault County commissioners Tuesday over the plant's proposal to pipe wastewater to the Blue Earth River.

[Poison on tap](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota's voluntary guidelines on reducing farm runoff aren't working fast enough, critics say.

[Legislators eye Legacy Fund to balance budget](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Facing a \$6.2 billion budget gap, some state legislators are eyeing a tempting pot of money in the state's Legacy funding, the \$548 million in sales tax money dedicated by a constitutional amendment to preserving Minnesota's natural resource and arts and cultural heritage.

[Minnesota bonding plan irks outdoors backers](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Minnesota conservation and outdoors groups chided Gov. Mark Dayton on Wednesday for his recent bonding proposal, saying it gives short shrift to traditional outdoors pursuits.

[Hansen booted from Lessard Sams Council](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The ax has fallen on Rick Hansen, the legislator who had been a critic of Legacy money spending.

[Montevideo store's natural gas bill: \\$0](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Just as the heating season got underway in earnest, Bill Pauling spotted a guy looking over the natural gas meter at his downtown Montevideo, Minn., grocery store with a quizzical look on his face.

[Smoke-phase turkeys rare, beautiful](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). There's no evidence those birds are the result of breeding with pen-raised turkeys.

[Editorial: Keep watchful eyes on Legacy spending](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Lessard Council needs transparency, accountability and wisdom.

[Don Shelby begins weekly column for MinnPost](#) (MinnPost). The web site MinnPost will now feature the former TV reporter Don Shelby in a weekly column focusing on ecology and environmental issues.

[UMore closing displaces research](#) (MN Daily). Some researchers feel the U ignored their input when deciding UMore's future land use.

[We can't plant our way to cutting CO2 emissions](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). To curb global warming would require converting huge swaths of farmland.

[Professor weighs in on coal plants, calling claims by bill's sponsor 'misleading'](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). To support his arguments for new coal-fired power plants in Minnesota, state Rep. Michael Beard has challenged scientific views about global climate change.

[Pond will address lake pollution](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Burnsville will allow Apple Valley to build a holding pond for storm runoff at Lac Lavon Park.

Living simply has resulted in us becoming more aware of the environment and the impact we have on it. – Catherine Pulsifer

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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