

### **Ecosystem Services to be Discussed at Mt. Lake Field Day**

Join the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA), Minnesota River Board, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension on July 29, 2010, starting at 1:00pm for discussion of "Ecosystem Services in the Greater Blue Earth". This two hour walk-n-talk will be just outside of Mt. Lake, Minnesota.

"Ecosystem Services" is an exciting new term in conservation – valuing our environment for what it gives us. Ecosystem service markets, also referred to as environmental markets, provide an opportunity for private investors and public utilities to support efforts that result in positive, measureable outcomes for Minnesota's environment. Farmers can receive credits for improving environmental quality (for example: water quality credits and/or habitat credits) and sell them to investors.

Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) is establishing an ecosystem service market here in Minnesota. CMM streamlines the process so that credit generators (farmers or other landowners) and credit buyers can efficiently trade their commodity. This voluntary program offers greater diversification and economic stability to farmers while also advancing conservation efforts.

Local CMM partners, including GBERBA, Minnesota River Board, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension will host a field day devoted to ecosystem services and markets. Attendees will learn about the development and advancements in environmental markets, background information on CMM's demonstration site, agricultural best management practices well-suited for credits, and opportunities for market-based conservation and water quality trading from local, regional, and state professionals.

**DIRECTIONS:** 37483 560<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Mt. Lake, MN 56159: Take the most westerly exit to Mt. Lake (570<sup>th</sup> Ave / 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave) and travel North to Co. Rd. 44. Turn left (West) onto Co. Rd. 44 for approximately 1.0 mile. Turn right (North) onto 560<sup>th</sup> Ave. The Haberman farm is the site for the field day and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> farm on the left.

Contacts for this event: Dave Bucklin, Cottonwood SWCD / GBERBA, 507-831-1153 ext. 3  
[david.bucklin@windomnet.com](mailto:david.bucklin@windomnet.com)

Brooke hacker, GBERBA, 507-345-4744 [brooke.hacker@mnsu.edu](mailto:brooke.hacker@mnsu.edu)

Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449 [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

### **The Grant Training Center**

Professional Grant Development Workshop

Master the techniques of writing superior and winning proposals

Proposal Writing I: July 19 - 21, 2010

To be held at: Metropolitan State University - St. Paul, Minnesota

Sponsored by: The Grant Training Center

Online at: [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 tell the story that leads to funding, be it for the researcher in the sciences and social sciences, educator and non-profit professional.

Participants Will Learn How To:

- Comprehend the diversity of the grant funding community

- Research and identify potential funding sources
- Create the right fit with the funding agency
- Address the guidelines of proposals
- Identify and effectively write the key elements of a proposal
- Integrate each component of the grant into the final product
- Develop focused and realistic budgets
- Package professional grants submissions

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.

Register Today!

To register by phone or for more information call (866)-704-7268

### **Water Words that Work - Workshop**

The University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education and Water Resources Center are presenting the Applied FLUX Workshop and Water Words That Work Workshop. Both workshops are offered in a one-day format at the Continuing Education and Conference Center in Saint Paul.

Registration and additional information can be found at <http://www.cce.umn.edu/water-workshops/>.

Applied FLUX Workshop - September 22, 2010; 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Continuing Education and Conference Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota; Registration Fee: \$150.

This is a hands-on continuation of the introductory two-day FLUX/Bathtub workshop conducted in 2009. In this one-day workshop, we will focus on the finer points of applying FLUX for the estimation of loads. Some prior experience with the software is strongly recommended, although attendance at the 2009 introductory course is not a prerequisite.

Water Words That Work Workshop - September 29, 2010; 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Continuing Education and Conference Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota; Registration Fee: \$150

Water resources scientists, engineers, and other professionals often struggle to explain technical issues to the public in concise, easily understood terms. Communications expert Eric Eckl has developed a series of techniques to assist professionals in development of clear, concise public messages. Water Words That Work is appropriate for all water resources professionals who must communicate with non-technical audiences, especially citizens and public servants.

If you have any other questions regarding these workshops, contact Nicole Freese at 612-624-3708 or [cceconf5@umn.edu](mailto:cceconf5@umn.edu).

### **Moonlight Bike Outing**

Sierra Club announces July 23 Moonlight Bicycle Outing on Glacial Lakes Trail

The Western Minnesota Sierra Club group will hold a bicycle outing July 23 on the Glacial Lakes Trail. Sierra Club outings are open to the public, and everyone is invited to enjoy our environment together on the outings.

Participants will meet at 8:00 pm at the Spicer Bike & Sports shop on the Glacial Lakes Trail at 178 Progress Way, along Highway 23. Bring your own water and snacks, insect repellent, and headlamp or bike light. The outing will end by 11:00 pm.

To allow notification of participants if weather forces cancellation, please send your email address to Peggy Karsten at [karstenmarg@charter.net](mailto:karstenmarg@charter.net) or 320-231-9838. To rent a bike and helmet, call Jerry Bents at Spicer Bike & Sports (320)796-6334 or e-mail [spicerbike\\_sports@hotmail.com](mailto:spicerbike_sports@hotmail.com). The Sierra Club North Star Chapter represents over 15,000 members, your friends and neighbors across Minnesota. Inspired by nature, members work together to protect our communities and the planet. For over 40 years they have worked to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment through educational programs and volunteer activism. Visit the web site at [www.northstar.sierraclub.org](http://www.northstar.sierraclub.org).

### **Business and Environment Series – Integrating Renewable Energy: A Roadmap to Scaled Application**

EVENT DETAILS: Wednesday, August 18, 2010; 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m.) Quality Bicycle Products; 6400 W. 105th Street; Bloomington, MN 55438

About the Program: In 2008, renewable energy sources represented more than 50 percent of total added power capacity in both the United States and Europe ([Renewables Global Status Report: 2009 Update](#)). However, as businesses look to advance their sustainability practices beyond energy conservation, multiple obstacles may prevent them from successfully integrating renewable energy sources into their energy portfolio.

MEI's second session of the 2010 Business and Environment Series will provide attendees with an overview of renewable energy options and a roadmap and decision-making tools to enable scaled application of various renewable energy technologies. A panel of business leaders will also share case studies describing their own experiences implementing renewables. In addition, each attendee will have the opportunity to develop strategies for possible application in their company.

Registration: \$45 for MEI members; \$75 for non-members.

For more information go to <http://mn-ei.org/events/upcoming.html>

To register for the event go to

<http://app/etapestry.com/cart/MinnesotaEnvironmentalInitia/default/category.php?ref=853.0.80759055>

### **Job Postings:**

#### **Conservation Engineer**

The purpose of this position is to provide engineering assistance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) that are members of Joint Powers Board (JPB). The engineering assistance is typically utilized for the construction of eligible best management practices (BMPs) that protect and conserve water and soil resources. The position exists to provide member SWCDs engineering assistance in order to meet their program needs in the area of nonpoint source pollution abatement. The position holder serves as a project engineer providing a wide range of technical assistance and leadership for evaluation, design, and construction of eligible BMPs. The position holder will at times work as a team member with conservation partners; specifically member SWCDs, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, to accomplish this goal.

For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/engineerposition.pdf> or click on the attachment to this email titled "Engineer Position."

#### **MFAI Position - SARE Outreach**

The Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (MFAI) is an independent educational and research organization that received its nonprofit status in 1984. Michael Fields was founded based on the ideals of ecologically-sound farming, biodynamic and resilient agriculture and food systems, enlivened cultural values, and the creation of opportunities for young people in applied agricultural sciences and food systems. Today MFAI has more than a dozen experienced staff programming in an array of initiatives including farm and food

education, public policy critique and development, farming and urban agricultural systems, and crop and soil applied research. Work is conducted on-site at several farms and at the office/laboratory/meeting facilities as well as off-site at urban and agricultural settings. MFAI is strategically located in East Troy, WI, a rich agricultural and urban region bridging Milwaukee, Madison, and Chicago cultural and economic centers. The Mission of MFAI is to cultivate the ecological, social, economic, and spiritual vitality of food and farming systems through education, research, public policy and market development.

The Institute seeks an advanced professional with experience and interest related to its mission. Additionally, we seek a leader who has the skills and passion for internal and external relations development and communications as well as collaborative long-term planning of the diverse programming carried on in the Institute.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- \* Engages in short and long-range planning and prioritization of research and educational initiatives in concert with the administrative leaders, staff, and the Board of Directors.
- \* Accountable for ensuring financially viable operations. Guides professional staff and program leaders.
- \* Solicits and incorporates input and perspective from the broader agricultural and academic communities.
- \* Initiates and maintains collaborations and strong professional relationships with researchers, farmers, industry, and policymakers.
- \* Evaluates potential contributors and formulates and undertakes a dynamic and aggressive funding program to complement other development initiatives conducted by Institute staff.
- \* Actively engages in the dissemination of knowledge to farmers and other stakeholders.
- \* Fulfills public speaking engagements to accurately, clearly and professionally present research findings to scientific, farmer, policy, and general public audiences.

#### Qualifications

- \* Experience with sustainable agricultural and food systems programs including policy, public education, and national research needs and priorities.
- \* An advanced degree preferred but not required.
- \* Superb written and verbal communication skills.
- \* Experience with developing and managing budgets for diverse programs.
- \* Dedication to the mission of the MFAI.

Applicants should email a detailed resume and references to [director@michaelfieldsaginst.org](mailto:director@michaelfieldsaginst.org), attention William C. Liebhardt, Interim Executive Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute. Final application date is July 13, 2010. Michael Fields Agricultural Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

#### **Program Associate, Sustainable Environments - Surdna Foundation**

The Surdna Foundation (<http://www.surdna.org/>), based in New York, is currently recruiting for a Program Associate position in its Sustainable Environments program. The job is a mix of programmatic and administrative work, and for anyone interested in the environmental nonprofit sector, the position offers exceptional access to the environmental community and to the practice of philanthropy.

The full job description is posted at <http://www.surdna.org/whats-new/jobs/232.html>. Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis, with a July 16 deadline.

### **Storm Water Education Specialist**

We are looking for a candidate with a background in public relations, journalism, marketing, telecommunications, or related discipline with one year of journalism, public relations, marketing, or education. The salary is just shy of \$40k, which goes a long way in that part of Georgia.

For more information visit [http://waterwordsthatwork.com/2010/07/08environmental-awareness-job-georgia/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+WaterWordsThatWork+%28Water+Words+That+Work%29](http://waterwordsthatwork.com/2010/07/08environmental-awareness-job-georgia/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WaterWordsThatWork+%28Water+Words+That+Work%29)

### **NCR-SARE Associate Director**

This is a 100% time position with the North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program through CFANS Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. The NCR-SARE program is funded through USDA grants to provide subaward grants for research in sustainable agriculture. Travel throughout the 12-state region is required.

For more information on this position, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ncrsareposition.pdf>

### **Regional Professional Development Program Coordinator**

The PDP coordinator is responsible to the NCR-SARE Administrative Council, in cooperation and coordination with the SARE regional director, who is located at the University of Minnesota. The PDP coordinator provides leadership for the professional development effort.

For more information about the position, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/regionaldevelopmentcoordinator.pdf>

### **St. Paul Office USDA Risk Management Agency Position Open**

There are 3 ways to apply:

1. Respond to the Career Intern Program flyer attached.
2. Respond to the USAJOBS posting at: GS-1101-9/11/12  
<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=89102002&JobTitle=RISK+MANAGEMENT+SPECIALIST%2c+GS-1101-9%2f11%2f12&q=risk+management&where=55101&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=0&y=0&AVSDM=2010-07-08+00%3a03%3a00>
3. Respond to the USAJOBS posting at: GS-1101-5/7  
<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=89179633&JobTitle=RISK+MANAGEMENT+SPECIALIST%2c+GS-1101-5%2f7&q=risk+management&where=55101&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=0&y=0&AVSDM=2010-07-08+00%3a03%3a00>

The RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY (RMA) promotes, supports, and regulates sound risk management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers by providing crop insurance to American producers, developing the premium rate, administering premium and expense subsidy, approving and supporting products, and reinsuring companies.

Risk Management Agency is an exciting and rewarding place to start, build and/or continue your career. Be part of our team and support the well-being of American agriculture and the American public. Take

part in delivering these essential and critical programs as a Risk Management Specialist planning and executing claims administration, program delivery and information dissemination. As a team member located in one of our USDA Risk Management Regional Offices, you will receive both classroom and on-the-job training intended to further develop your talent, skills, and abilities to successfully identify or recognize the concepts related to agricultural science risk management and statistical analysis.

Risk Management Agency's diverse culture and benefits allow for a healthy balance between your career and home life. In addition to a generous salary, RMA offers a friendly and professional working environment with a diverse workforce, flexible hours/work schedules, and other family-friendly benefits such as: paid vacation and sick leave, paid holidays, retirement and supplemental savings plan, a wide array of health, dental, vision, and life insurance plans, flexible spending accounts, and long-term care insurance. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cipriskmanagementspecialist.pdf>

### **Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees**

New jobs have been posted on the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees. To view the jobs, go to: <http://www.macde.us/jobs/htm>

### **NR Program Consultant**

The Clean Water Program Consultant position exists to help plan, lead, and coordinate the work of the new combined division of Ecological Resources and Waters that is funded by the Clean Water portion of the Legacy Amendment appropriations. Those duties include working cooperatively with the division's Regional Managers to provide guidance and direction to four Regional Clean Water Specialists and other regional staff who contribute to Clean Water work, to provide guidance, direction, and support to DNR's Clean Water Coordination Committee, to help link and coordinate DNR's work efforts in the Clean Water arena with the other state agencies and local partners participating in that effort, and to support DNR's role on the Governor's Clean Water Council.

For more information visit

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/0574894f02c9506c87efafe1485b0d6b/Results>

### **Events:**

July 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Valuing Ecosystem Services – MN Happenings**. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Jordan, MN. The event focuses on what we are doing to better link agriculture, the environment, and our communities in the Lower and Middle Minnesota River Watersheds and throughout Minnesota. There will be many speakers and discussions of environmental programs as well. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 17<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is **Kimball Corner Pasture Walk**. 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Ordin, MN. The tour features a demonstration of high tensile fence building, a pasture walk and grazing discussion. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn from experts in the industry and to visit with other farmers/ranchers and see some ideas that may work on your farm/ranch. For more information and/or to preregister by July 15 call Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or send an email to [kim.ruraladvantage.org](mailto:kim.ruraladvantage.org)

July 19<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in New Ulm, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

July 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Direct Marketing from the Farm**. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Belle Plaine, MN. Join Heidi Morlock and Ann Houghton to hear about their experiences with marketing their goods directly from the farm. Other local experts will be available to answer questions on marketing, licensing and much more. For more information contact Jeff Jensen at 507-238-5449.

July 20<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is a **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00

p.m. at the Max's Grill (2425 West Lincoln Avenue) in Olivia. For more information visit [www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com](http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com)

July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> (Thursday and Friday) is **Morris Renewable Energy**. Visit several renewable energy operations and have some good conversations about the science and economics behind these production systems. For those near the Twin Cities, bus transportation to and from our starting point of Morris will be available. For more information call Joel Tallaksen at 320-589-1711 or email him at [tall0007@umn.edu](mailto:tall0007@umn.edu).

July 29<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Ecosystem Services in the Greater Blue Earth**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Mountain Lake, MN. A field day devoted to ecosystem services and markets. Attendees will hear about the development of CMM, visit a CMM demonstration site, and learn more about ecosystem services and market-based opportunities in the Greater Blue Earth and Minnesota River Watersheds. For more information contact Brooke Hacker at 507-345-4744 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

July 30<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is **Moths at Midnight** from 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. Learn about moths and observing them.

For more information call Molly Stoddard at 218-998-4486 or email her at [molly\\_stoddard@fws.gov](mailto:molly_stoddard@fws.gov)

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) is **Farmfest 2010** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Gilfillan Estate, Redwood County. For more information visit <http://www.farmshows.com/ffst/index.po>

August 18<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is **RiverNight 2010**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Harriet Island in St. Paul, MN. Join us as we honor individuals and groups have achieved great things for their lake or river. Help celebrate Minnesota's spectacular and unique waterscape with great food, great company, and a sunset cruise down the Mississippi. For more information or to request an invitation call 800-515-5253.

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is the **Agroecology Summit**. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Windom, MN. Come and enjoy speakers on the topic of "Farming for Ecological Services and Maximum Yield". Stay for lunch and tours. For more information contact Tony Thompson at 507-831-3483.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> (Monday) is **Cover Crops and Alfalfa Mulch**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madison, MN. Attendees will hear an explanation of Fernholz's alfalfa mulch research and will learn about utilizing various cover drops in organic or conventional agriculture systems. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit [www.riverblast.org](http://www.riverblast.org)

September 10<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is **Waterfest** at Barsness Pak in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks) is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit <http://www.scottswcd.org/>

September 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3<sup>rd</sup> crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more information go to <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9307>

September 20<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive

Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday) is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thursday) is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This even is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/>

November 2010 are the **Prairie Harvest Field Days**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or at [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

November 15<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

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

### **Environmental/Conservational Articles:**

[EPA proposes stricter air emissions rules](#) (MPR). Minnesota would be covered by some new, tighter federal restrictions on pollution that is emitted from power plants.

[Rep. Peterson to seek \\$1B for Red River flood control](#) (MPR). U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson of Minnesota wants to spend \$1 billion on water storage projects in the Red River valley.

[A greener celebration in Powderhorn Park](#) (Star Tribune). Powderhorn Park is always a busy place on July 4, but this year features some new -- and green -- activities.

[Burnsville City Hall going green, but first to brown](#) (Star Tribune). Driving down Nicollet Avenue past Burnsville's Civic Center campus, one could get the impression that a city maintenance crew got a little overzealous with the lawn fertilizer.

[New landing strips for migrating birds](#) (Star Tribune). In a first-ever attempt to alter migration routes, the federal government plans to spend more than \$20 million this month to keep millions of birds that fly south every winter out of oil-fouled wetlands along the Gulf of Mexico.

[Money for motorized recreation too much, some Minnesotans say](#) (MPR). A Minnesota group opposed to motorized recreation says the state should stop spending millions of gas tax dollars on programs for snowmobiles, boats and All Terrain Vehicles.

[State gives \\$3.7 million to help clean up 13 contaminated sites](#) (MinnPost). The state Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has issued the grants to Brooklyn Center, Duluth, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, three in Minneapolis, Moorhead, Roseville, South St. Paul and three in St. Paul.

[Organic Field Day attracts alternative growers](#) (New Ulm Journal). Organic and alternative crop educators and producers discussed their latest findings Thursday at the Organic Field Day at the University of Minnesota (U of M) Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SROC).

[Winona to hold 'Legacy Weekend' of arts, outdoor events July 23-24](#) (MinnPost). Arts and outdoor events that have benefited from the state's Legacy Act will be showcased in Winona July 23-24.

[Sen. Klobuchar in La Crescent today pushing for safeguards to farmland and water](#) (MinnPost). U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, joined by U.S. Rep. Ron Kind of Wisconsin, is in La Crescent today pushing their legislation that would provide more safeguards for farmland and water quality in the Upper Mississippi River area.

[State approves Monticello-St. Cloud power line route](#) (MPR). The state of Minnesota has approved a route for a high-voltage electric transmission line between Monticello and St. Cloud.

[Policies should support ethanol use](#) (Star Tribune). The devastation from the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico is a frustrating reminder of just how reliant we are on oil as key source of America's energy supply, and of how important it is for policymakers in Washington to once and for all ensure that domestic ethanol is a cornerstone of America's long-term energy plan.

[CapX2020 power-line project gets first route OK](#) (Star Tribune). State utility regulators on Thursday approved a route permit for one leg of the CapX2020 power line project running from Monticello to St. Cloud.

[A 'brutally average' year for mosquitoes](#) (MPR). If you'll be doing any biking along the Paul Bunyan trail this time of year, or hiking, camping or just sitting in the yard anywhere in the state, you'll be aware of mosquitoes.

[DNR relaxes walleye fishing regs on Mille Lacs](#) (Star Tribune). Walleye fishing regulations on popular Lake Mille Lacs are changing next week, allowing anglers to keep larger fish, the Department of Natural Resources announced Thursday.

[Hunters might get more access](#) (Star Tribune). After years of wrangling and foot-dragging inside the Legislature and out, Minnesota might finally have a hunter-access program similar to successful efforts in the Dakotas that allow wingshooters to tramp on private lands in search of birds.

[Public gets access to 187,000 acres](#) (Star Tribune). About 187,000 acres of northern Minnesota forest, wetlands and shoreline will be forever protected and remain open to public hunting, fishing and other uses under a \$44 million deal to be finalized Thursday with UPM-Blandin Paper Co.

[Lawn lovers going organic](#) (Mankato Free Press). Worm juice, compost tea, fatty-acid soap, corn gluten, kelp.

[As the East Coast swelters, where are warming skeptics?](#) (Star Tribune). During the record snowfall on the East Coast last February, people built snow forts and topped them with signs directed at those who fear global warming and want to change our nation's energy policy.

[New studies link pesticides \(including those commonly found on produce\) with ADHD in children](#) (MinnPost). In this week's Journal of the American Medical Association, reporter Bridget Kuehn [summarizes](#) two of the latest studies that have found an association in children between early exposure to pesticides and an increased risk of developing [ADHD](#) (attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder).

[Don't fix city's milfoil cutters; get rid of them](#) (Star Tribune). A July 7 letter stated the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board needs both of its milfoil cutters operating to get that foul weed out of the city lakes.

[New DNR program offers novices a chance to try camping](#) (MPR). Out in the woods, miles away from the sounds of televisions and air conditioners, it's easy to spot camping novices like Maxine Hall.

[Plotting a new state park on Lake Vermilion](#) (MPR). On a high ridge overlooking Lake Vermilion is a

picture-postcard view of northern Minnesota.

[Nice Ride Minn. to install bike kiosks in north Mpls.](#) (MPR). Officials at Nice Ride Minnesota say bright green rentable bikes will soon be available in parts of north Minneapolis.

[Who Needs Conservation Laws Anyway?](#) (Star Tribune). Sometimes people wonder why laws are needed to promote good conservation actions by individuals. The answer is often because it's good for education, not regulation.

[In-fighting on 'Legacy' council](#) (Star Tribune). Conflict between Rep. Rick Hansen and other members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council ratcheted higher Thursday when a member of the group's executive committee requested a meeting to consider Hansen's ouster from the 12-member panel.

[Walkable neighborhoods help bring health, wealth, even happiness](#) (MinnPost). If you're a farmer in Watonwan County or an outdoors lover in the Arrowhead, it's probably not walkable at all.

[Farmer moves to block development on his Elysian shoreline](#) (Mankato Free Press). Brian Jewison knows how to walk away from money. He's done it a bunch of times.

[Program turns bug-phobic teen into aspiring biologist](#) (Pioneer Press). Jatoya Barnes used to be deathly afraid of macroinvertebrates, even though she didn't know what they were.

[Mike Meyers on the big idea: A grand idea, likely to combust](#) (Star Tribune). On a 1986 trek to the Massachusetts capital, a Star Tribune reporter planned to talk to the governor about how that state's economy had moved from calamitous to commendable.

[Xcel proposes to amp up old power line](#) (Star Tribune). Xcel Energy proposes to upgrade 14 miles of power lines, including one segment along a prime recreational trail in the western suburbs, at a cost of \$13.2 million.

[More wildlife \(plates\) on the road](#) (Star Tribune). I'm seeing more bucks on the roads these days. Black-capped chickadees, showy lady slipper flowers, and anglers in a boat are increasingly common, too.

[Deal protects nearly 300 square miles of Minn. forest](#) (MPR). The Minnesota DNR and UPM Blandin Paper Company signed papers on Thursday to create a conservation easement on a large tract of forest land near Grand Rapids.

[Oldest tree in Minneapolis coming down; neighbors share their memories](#) (MPR). Residents in Minneapolis' Seward neighborhood are mourning the imminent loss of the city's oldest tree. It's a bur oak that has stood watch from a bluff above the Mississippi River gorge for at least 300 years.

[A North Shore tradition](#) (Star Tribune). Night fell over the vast surface of Lake Superior, and families huddled around bonfires as cold waves crashed nearby on the rocky beach, drowning their chatter and the crackle of burning wood.

[Great lake warms up](#) (Star Tribune). C'mon in -- the water's fine (relatively speaking). Long notorious for its bone-chilling frigidity, Lake Superior is far warmer than normal for this time of year, and could be headed for record-setting high temperatures later this summer.

[With clean energy on the rise, those jobs could be Minnesota's](#) (Star Tribune). We face a huge budget deficit. We have schools so broke they're shifting to four-day weeks.

[DFL panel upholds Chaudhary endorsement decision](#) (MPR). A DFL panel has upheld a decision to revoke state Sen. Satveer Chaudhary's party endorsement.

[Lake Phalen stone arch bridge to welcome park-goers again](#) (Pioneer Press). A century after it was built,

decades after it began to fall into disrepair and six years after efforts began to save it, the stone arch bridge in St. Paul's Phalen Regional Park is poised to return to its status as a picturesque gem.

[Money magazine crowns Eden Prairie America's best small city](#) (Star Tribune). Eden Prairie grabbed the top spot in Money magazine's new list of 100 best small cities in America. Also in the top 20: Plymouth (11), Woodbury (13), Eagan (15) and Apple Valley (20).

[Connect the wilderness at what cost?](#) (Star Tribune). I last mentioned the Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness in January, when the nonprofit group of environmentalists who want to protect and preserve the remaining small patches of wilderness in this neck of the woods was objecting to government approval for a giant sulfide-mining proposal on the Iron Range.

[Kraft reduces waste sent to landfills](#) (New Ulm Journal). Kraft Foods employees set out in 2005 on a company-wide solid waste reduction program to reduce the amount of rubbish it sends to landfills. Its goal was a 15 percent reduction by 2011.

[Boaters need to drain vessels -- and plug up afterward](#) (Star Tribune). Some of Minnesota's 800,000 boaters still are adapting to the new law that requires them to drain their boats when they leave any lake or river -- and to leave those drain plugs out when trailering their boats.

[BP oil spill points to St. Croix dangers](#) (Star Tribune). As oil pours into the Gulf of Mexico, a different type of disaster stalks the St. Croix River basin.

[Hastings looks to redevelop riverfront](#) (Star Tribune). The city is in negotiations with the H.D. Hudson Manufacturing Co. to relocate the company's riverfront plant so the land will be available for redevelopment.

[To land-use story, several things to add](#) (Star Tribune). Ample heat but little light was generated by the Star Tribune's recent story on land-use variances in Cass and Crow Wing counties ("Losing our lakes," June 20).

*If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water. - Loran Eisely*

**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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