

Thick, green algae covers 200 square miles of Yellow Sea (CNN)

Almost 200 square miles (500 square kilometers) of the Yellow Sea off China are covered by a massive bloom of green algae, according to a [report from China's Xinhua](#) news service.

The bloom has spread to almost 7,400 square miles (19,050 square kilometers) in total and is expected to grow, Xinhua reported, citing the North China Sea Marine Forecasting Center of State Oceanic Administration.

The algae bloom threatens marine life as it sucks oxygen from the water although the algae itself is not poisonous, according to the Xinhua report.

Researchers don't know what causes the massive algae blooms, first seen in the Yellow Sea in 2007.

Tons of the green algae had to be removed in 2008 to make way for sailing events at the Summer Olympics.

"We don't know where it originated and why it's suddenly growing so rapidly," Bao Xianwen from the Qingdao-based Ocean University of China, [told the China Daily](#) earlier this month. "It must have something to do with the change in the environment, but we are not scientifically sure of the reasons."

See photos of the algae: http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2011/07/25/thick-green-algae-covers-200-square-miles-of-yellow-sea/?&hpt=hp_c2

Minnesota Court of Appeals says pesticide drift from 1 farm to another can count as trespass

The Minnesota Court of Appeals says it can count as trespass under the law when pesticide drifts from one farm to another.

The appeals court revived a lawsuit by organic farmers Oluf and Debra Johnson against the Paynesville Farmers Union Cooperative Oil Company. They allege the co-op has repeatedly sprayed pesticides onto other fields that have drifted onto theirs, preventing them from selling their crops as organic.

The decision says no previous Minnesota case has addressed whether unwanted pesticide drift from a targeted field to an adjacent organic farm can constitute a trespass. The appeals court held Monday that it can under some circumstances. Courts in other states have made similar rulings.

The appeals court sent the organic farmers' lawsuit back to a lower court for further action (from the Associated Press).

Field Day on Perennial Grasses for Bio-Energy Production

Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension with Prairie Horizons Farm, the Land Stewardship Project, and the USDA-ARS Soils Lab are to host an afternoon of discussion on using perennial grasses for bio-energy production. The field day will be Thursday, August 18, 2011, from 1:45pm to 3:15pm at Prairie Horizons Farm (29731 302nd St. – Starbuck, MN) near Starbuck, Minnesota.

Prairie Horizons Farm, USDA-ARS, and University of Minnesota – Morris are working on a research project comparing harvest and fertilizer effects on perennial plant diversity and production. Research at the farm also addresses the nitrogen availability under different perennial management systems in order to understand and develop systems for optimal biomass production. Attendees will be able to hear about this exciting work being done in collaboration with Prairie Horizons Farm by the University of Minnesota – Morris and the USDA –ARS Soils Lab. A tour of the grasslands and pasture at the farm will also be available. Rural Advantage will present information on the work they are doing with perennial third crops and third generation biofuels. Attendees will also learn about the Land Stewardship's Chippewa 10% Project. This is an outdoor event, please dress accordingly.

The Land Stewardship Project will be offering buses to take people to Prairie Horizons Farm following the 9th Annual Field Day held at USDA-ARS North Central Soil Conservation Research lab (803 Iowa Avenue – Morris, MN). If interested in attending that field day, this year's theme is "Sustainable Landscapes: Food, Feed, Fuel, and the Future." The event is from 9am-1pm with a complimentary lunch. Buses to Prairie Horizons Farm will leave the Soils Lab at 1pm and return around 4pm. For more information on the USDA-ARS Field Day, call 320-589-3411 or visit www.ars.usda.gov/mwa/ncscl .

DIRECTIONS:

From Starbuck: Head south on MN-29 for roughly 10.0 miles. Turn left (east) onto 302nd St. / T-21 (gravel) for roughly 1.2 miles. Prairie Horizons Farm will be on the right (south) side of the road.

From Benson: Head north on MN-29 for roughly 11.0 miles. Turn right (east) onto 302nd St. / T-21 for roughly 1.2 miles. Prairie Horizons Farm will be on the right (south) side of the road.

Contacts for this event: Sharon Weyers, USDA-ARS, 320-589-3411, Sharon.Weyers@ars.usda.gov and Jill Sackett, UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449, sacke032@umn.edu

Clean Water Fund Outreach Sessions

BWSR has scheduled 3 outreach sessions to discuss Clean Water Fund request for proposals (RFP) and application changes for fiscal year 2012.

Outreach Session dates:

August 10 - 9:30 to 11:00 am

August 11 - 9:30 to 11:00 am

August 17 - 1:00 to 2:30 pm

These sessions will be held online and by phone using the Blackboard Collaborate (formerly known as Elluminate) platform.

Pre-registration is required. For information details and to register go to:

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/training>

Events:

July 30th (Saturday) is **B is for Battle Cry presentation** at 2: 00 p.m. in the Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary. David and Pat Geister speak about the Civil War and the process of writing and illustrating their book: *B is for Battle Cry*. The program is interactive with the audience. *B is for Battle Cry* brings to life the battles, leaders and inventions of the time period of the Civil War. *B is for Battle Cry* and other books by Dave and Pat will be for sale. . A fee is charged. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

August 7th (Sunday) is **Tenting on the Old Campground** at 1:30 p.m. at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Barb Schmidt and her daughter, Reba Lipinski will entertain with music and songs of the Civil War in the Historic Commissary. They will share the history of songs popular during the Civil War. A fee is charged. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

August 20th (Saturday) is the **Causes of the US/Dakota War of 1862 program** at 1:00 p.m. in the Historic Commissary at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. The causes were many and complicated. Historian John LaBatte discusses his research on this subject. Many of John's Dakota and white ancestors were involved in the war. At 2:30, John will conduct a Battlefield Tour. Fort Ridgely was attacked twice in 1862 by Dakota Indians and is recognized by the National Park Service as a National Battlefield. One fee is charged for both events. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

August 27th (Saturday) is the **Dakota Family Caravan to Fort Snelling program** at 1:30 p.m. by Mary Bakeman in the Historic Commissary at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Following the conclusion of the US/Dakota War in 1862, about 1600 Dakota people were taken to Fort Snelling. Mary Bakeman is the owner of Park Genealogical Books and has been researching and writing family histories for 30 years. Mary will have books for sale. A fee is charged. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

September 3rd (Saturday) is the **Fort Ridgely Cemetery Walk and Perpetual Vaudeville** starting at 5:00 p.m. at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site. Family histories of persons buried in Fort Ridgely will be shared by their descendants. Hear the stories of people who are part of the history of this region. Following the Cemetery Walk, stroll over to the amphitheater and enjoy Peter Bloedel as he performs his Perpetual Vaudeville program. Starting at 7:00pm, Peter will combine magic, juggling, music and comedy for a fast paced event. Voluntary donation. Sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. For more info call (507) 426-7888, (507) 934-2160 or visit <http://www.nchsmn.org/>

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

Legacy bill: No change to open meetings rules for Lessard Sams (Minnesota Public Radio). A provision putting fewer open meetings restrictions on the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council isn't part of the agreed-upon Legacy bill lawmakers released yesterday.

North St. Paul's 'Living Streets' program aims to make roads safer, more environmentally friendly (St Paul Pioneer Press). North St. Paul has added its own twist to a metro area street-construction plan.

Severe weather among threats to Minnesota's urban forest (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Foresters say there's tree trouble ahead, from road salt to climate change.

Opinion: Connecting the dots of extreme weather (Albert Lea Tribune). I took a cross-country road trip in late June that became a race to outrun triple-digit heat waves that have literally buckled highways between the Midwest and the East Coast.

Minneapolis' 'trash lady' gets put out for recycling (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Susan Young was no ordinary bureaucrat. She won the respect of her crews, their unions and her customers alike, but meeting them on their own turf.

Cuts and compromise on environmental bill (Minnesota Public Radio). The environment bill negotiated between Gov. Mark Dayton and lawmakers includes some budget cuts and some compromise on policy issues.

Cuts and compromise on environmental bill (Minnesota Public Radio). Leaner and more efficient – that's what the Department of Natural Resources must become to retain current services and programs, under a bill agreed to by Gov. Mark Dayton and the Republican-controlled Legislature.

Old power plant soon to be thing of the past (Fairmont Sentinel). With the hullabaloo about Fairmont's new water plant, the launch of another big project on the other side of town nearly slipped by without notice.

Solar panels for the home (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Silicon Energy MN says its new plant in Mountain Iron soon will be up and running. It hopes to sell to Twin Cities residential customers.

[High heat plays role in fish kill](#) (Fairmont Sentinel). A recent fish kill in Fairmont's lakes can't be completely attributed to the severe heat experienced earlier this week, although it certainly may have played a part.

[Zebra mussel madness in Alexandria area](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). Dr. Daniel Molloy described three major impacts caused by the spread of zebra mussels.

[Opinion: New improved budget bill still worrisome for Minnesota's great outdoors](#) (Monte News). The new compromise environment budget bill is an improvement over the budget-gutting bill originally put forth by the Legislature and later vetoed by the governor.

[State parks reopen, but some attractions need work](#) (Mankato Free Press). Wayne Boerner, for one, is "overjoyed" the state government shutdown is over.

[Cleaning up Camden](#) (Marshall Independent). The state shutdown is over, but at Camden State Park, the work is just getting started.

Rivers are where I hear my Higher Power loudest, calmest, clearest, even in their silences. Rivers remind me that death is always out there and so is life if you're willing to let it find you. Rivers show me the worth of the past and the importance of the now. – Kevin Langton, River People

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,

Scott

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