

### **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Partner Forum on July 19<sup>th</sup> at Gilfillan Estates**

You are cordially invited to attend the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance "River Partner Forum" on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 5PM – 8PM at the Gilfillan Estates east of Redwood Falls MN (agenda attached). *This is an invitation only event due to space limitations. RSVP's are requested – follow RSVP instructions below.*

See the attached agenda for more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/julyannouncement.pdf>

The purpose of this meeting is to hear presentations and ask questions from groups, partners, stakeholders, and agencies doing work and/or activities that are having a positive effect on the Minnesota River Watershed. Presentations will be limited to 5 minutes and 5 minutes for questions and answers.

The following is a possible list of presentations – pending confirmation of attendee's:

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance  
Green Corridor Legacy Program  
Tatanka Bluffs Corridor  
Minnesota Valley History Learning Center  
Lake Pepin Watershed Alliance  
CURE  
Fresh Water Society  
Friends of the MN Valley  
Hawk Creek Watershed  
DNR  
MPCA  
Minnesota River Valley National Scenic -Byway Alliance  
Minnesota River Board  
MN River Film Documentary  
Others (Please let us know)

This list is not confirmed and will be finalized by the day of the event – some presentations may be affected by the pending state government shut down. If your group is not listed above but you wish to make a presentation – please contact: Brad Cobb at: [1231TLC@charter.net](mailto:1231TLC@charter.net)

### **Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) Annual Meeting**

The 2011 Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the City Center Hotel, 101 East Main Street, Mankato, Minnesota. The day will feature a morning tour of the Greater Blue Earth River Watershed, followed by speakers and discussions about ecosystem services and environmental markets. We have invited many professionals with local to national experiences and with private to public sector perspectives to participate in the meeting.

Please join Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota collaborators on July 27. To RSVP, please contact Brooke Hacker, Ecosystem Services Specialist for the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance ([brooke.hacker@mnsu.edu](mailto:brooke.hacker@mnsu.edu) or 507-389-5338). We'd greatly appreciate your response by July 15. [CMM Annual Meeting Agenda, Mankato – July 27](#)

### **MPCA services during shutdown will be severely limited**

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) services would be limited to critical health and safety activities, should state government shut down at midnight tonight, the MPCA said today.

The MPCA will respond to environmental emergencies and spills; maintain safety and health-related equipment at landfills and other cleanup sites; and notify citizens of an air quality alert, as directed by the court. A skeleton administrative staff will be working to support the critical functions. In all, 15 of the MPCA's current workforce of 920 will be working.

"The vast majority of our services will not be available," Commissioner Paul Aasen said. "These are services that many Minnesotans rely on — from citizens to local governments to the business community."

During a shutdown, the MPCA will not review or issue any permits, including permits for construction activity across the state. These construction stormwater permits, about 80 per week in the summer, allow road improvements and building construction to go forward, ensuring that water quality is protected.

The MPCA website will not be available for environmental information, nor will the agency's small business assistance staff be available to provide advice and assistance. Environmental inspections will not be conducted. Many of the state's clean water activities will be suspended, including monitoring lakes and streams and implementing cleanup actions in polluted waters. In addition, some local water quality cleanup activities, funded by state contracts, will be suspended.

"In the long-term, all of the MPCA's activities are essential to our state's health and environment," Aasen said. "They simply don't meet the short-term critical definition required by law. Long-term loss of these services will have severe impacts on our state's economy and quality of life."

### **River Night! Lake Night! Great Night!**

By popular demand we have moved the date to September 14, 2011. Join us on September 14, 2011 as we honor individuals and groups who have achieved great things for their lake or river. Our 10<sup>th</sup> annual celebration, formerly known as RiverNight, has been renamed River Night, Lake Night, Great Night! This year, our signature event will be graciously hosted by the Lake Minnetonka Association and held at the BayView Event Center in Excelsior, MN.

The changes were sparked by ongoing feedback from members, staff, board of directors, and event sponsors. By changing the event name and location we can better communicate our message and fulfill our mission.

During the ceremony, Minnesota Waters will honor the 2011 award winners, selected from nominations statewide. The recipients of the 2011 awards are as follows:

- Lake Volney Association (Le Sueur County) is the Lake Association of the Year
- Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (Itasca County), is named the Outstanding Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program
- City of Saint Cloud (Stearns County) is named the River Friendly Community of the Year
- The team of Jack and Judy Wallschlaeger, of Pequot Lakes, MN (Crow Wing County), members of Whitefish Area Property Owners Association, are awarded the Volunteer of the Year distinction

After the awards ceremony, enjoy a cruise on Lake Minnetonka.

River Night, Lake Night, Great Night!, is a wonderful opportunity to socialize with old and new friends, honor several remarkable lake and river heroes, and reflect on Minnesota Water's past accomplishments and future visions. The funds raised from this event support Minnesota Water's programs to help citizens protect and improve our lakes and rivers. Call 1-800-515-5253 to request an invitation or send an email to [info@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:info@minnesotawaters.org). We look forward to seeing you on Lake Minnetonka in September!

### **Clean Energy Tour July 13 to Showcase Wind, Solar, Efficiency Projects Highlight Jobs, Public Health Benefits**

Local elected officials, clean energy business leaders, and citizens have been invited to join a tour of clean, renewable energy and conservation projects in Spicer, Willmar, and New London.

Projects to be highlighted include solar photo-voltaic panels, solar thermal, wind turbines, and efficiency improvements, in utility, residential and commercial setting. Speakers will discuss the projects and money saved. The tour will highlight these solutions as local examples of the path from reliance on coal, which provide 58 percent of Minnesota's energy, to clean, renewable fuels.

Advance registration requested. Contact Justin Fay at 612-659-9124 ext 310 or [sign up online](#).

**WHAT:** Tour of clean energy sites in Spicer, Willmar and New London area. Free event, transportation provided.

**WHO:** Speakers from residential, nonprofit, and commercial sites who are repowering with clean, renewable energy and conservation. Elected officials have been invited. Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club North Star Chapter, Minnesota Renewable Energy Society, Izaak Walton League - Midwest Office, and Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center.

**WHERE:** Meet at Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Westby Observatory  
12718 10th Street NE, Spicer, Minnesota 56288 ([map](#))

**WHEN:** Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### **State Capitol Campout for our Parks & Great Outdoors!**

What if our state parks stay closed all summer? What if some of our state parks never reopen? That's the question on the minds of many as our elected officials head into a Government shutdown during the peak summer recreation season. Legislators have threatened to close some state parks permanently.

Join us at the Minnesota State Capitol on July 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon! Tell legislators we won't stand for any more cuts to our parks, lakes and great outdoors! Bring your outdoor games and gear: Fishin' gear, tents, frisbees, etc. Share what you love about Minnesota's Great Outdoors!

- Join Sierra Club for urban bird watching and nature outings around the Capitol.
- Join the Minnesota Environmental Partnership for a canoe portage experience.
- Join Conservation Minnesota at the refillable water station to quench your thirst.
- Join YEA! Minnesota to sign a giant poster to the legislature and Governor.

Follow us on Twitter: #protectmn and #capitolcampout Follow us on [facebook](#) and Twitter at #capitolcampout. Even if you can't make it, click on Act Now to contact your legislators and the Governor. No fires, tent stakes, or mechanical equipment allowed.  
Deadline for responding: Please take action by Saturday, July 9th.

### **Discovery Farms Minnesota Program**

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition is currently seeking farms to participate in the Discovery Farms Minnesota Program.

Discovery Farms Minnesota is a producer led effort to gather field-scale information on water quality impacts from a variety of farming systems in different settings across Minnesota. Collecting information on real, operating farms, the Discovery Farms Minnesota Program is a unique effort among producers, agricultural organizations, university researchers, and government agencies to develop an approach to production agriculture that results in environmentally compatible and economically sustainable farms.

There are currently 6 Discovery Farms Minnesota locations in Kandiyohi, Goodhue, Stearns, Chisago, and Blue Earth Counties. An additional 2 – 3 farms are expected to be added in the fall of 2011. The focus

of these additions will be in the Minnesota River and Cedar River Watersheds in the counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Nicollet, Redwood, Renville, Sibley, Watonwan, Freeborn, and Mower, though farms in other areas will be considered. Selection of farms is done by the Discovery Farms Steering Committee consisting of leaders from various farm and conservation organizations and the MDA.

Additional farms will be selected in upcoming years in other areas of the state to better represent the diversity of agricultural enterprises and settings in Minnesota. All interested farms and producers are encouraged to apply. Applications for 2011 are due July, 22nd. The application is available on the MAWRC website ([www.mawrc.org](http://www.mawrc.org)) or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/discoveryfarmsapplication.pdf>

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/discoveryfarmsbrochure.pdf>

### Events:

July 9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **History of Minnesota River Steam-Boating presentation** at 2:00 p.m. in the Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary. Dr. William Lass, Professor Emeritus of History at Minnesota State University, Mankato, will speak about steam-boating on the Minnesota River. Steamboats on the Minnesota River, during the mid 19th century, transported thousands of tons of freight and hundreds of passengers and settlers. The West Newton brought the soldiers and supplies to the Fort Ridgely site. 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/>

July 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Norwegian American Women presentation** at 2: 00 p.m. in the Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary. Lori Ann Lahlum, associate professor of history at Minnesota State University, Mankato, will speak about the vital role of the women of the Norwegian American communities in the United States. The program is based on stories from her new book, *Norwegian American Women: Migration, Communities, and Identities* by Betty A. Bergland and Lori Lahlum. 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/>

July 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance “River Partner Forum”** from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Gilfillan Estates east of Redwood Falls. This is an invitation only event due to space and dinner restrictions. If you are receiving this invitation – you are invited but we are asking you to RSVP (to help plan the steak fry meal preparations) to: Brad Cobb @ [1231TLC@charter.net](mailto:1231TLC@charter.net) by July 14, 2011 or sooner!

July 23<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) is the **Fort Ridgely 1862 Battlefield Tours** starting at 1:00 and 2:30 p.m. in the Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary. Join historian John LaBatte for a walking tour of the Fort Ridgely Battlefield. First view the video in the Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary and then join John as he walks the parade ground to share his research on the Battles of Fort Ridgely. 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/>

July 27th (Wednesday) is the **Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM) Annual Meeting** from 8:30 am – 5 pm. The meeting will be in Mankato at the City Center Hotel, 101 East Main Street. A morning tour of the Greater Blue Earth River Watershed is planned along with afternoon presentations on ecosystem services and environmental markets with local to national speakers. RSVP is required to reserve a spot on the bus and lunch. Register by July 15 by contacting Brooke Hacker at 507-389-5338 or [brooke.hacker@mnsu.edu](mailto:brooke.hacker@mnsu.edu). CMM Annual Meeting Agenda: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cmmanualmeetingagenda.pdf>

July 30<sup>th</sup> (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/>

*I am not a lover of lawns. Rather would I see daisies in their thousands, ground ivy, hawkweed, and even the hated plantain with tall stems, and dandelions with splendid flowers and fairy down, than the too-well-tended lawn.* – W.H. Hudson, *The Book of a Naturalist*, 1919

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

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](#)

[Scott Kudelka](#)  
[Watershed Assessment Specialist](#)  
[Water Resources Center](#)  
[184 Trafton Science Center S](#)  
[Mankato, MN 56001](#)  
[507-389-2304](#)