

Grant Seeking Basics

The Blue Earth County Library will be featuring an event titled "Grant Seeking Basics".

Join us on Wednesday, July 14 as Keif Schladweiler, Coordinator of Cooperating Collections with the Foundation Center, presents "Grant-seeking Basics with Foundation Directory Online." This will be held in our auditorium from 1:00-3:30pm and registration is encouraged at 304-4022.

Instant Information About Minnesota Water Conditions

Now you can receive instant, customized updates about water conditions by subscribing to [WaterAlert](#), a new service from the USGS. Whether you are watching for floods, interested in recreational activities or concerned about the quality of water in your well, [WaterAlert](#) allows you to receive daily or hourly updates about current conditions in rivers, lakes and groundwater when they match conditions of concern to you. [WaterAlert](#) allows users to receive updates about river flows, groundwater levels, water temperatures, rainfall and water quality at any of more than 9,500 sites where USGS collects real-time water information. Sign up at <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert>. – *USGS Minnesota Water Science Center Newsletter, Summer 2010*

Valuing Ecosystem Services – Minnesota Happenings

Please join Rural Advantage and partners for the first of two events on ecosystem services. This event will focus 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. "Valuing Ecosystem Services – Minnesota Happenings" will be held July 15, 2010, from 9:30am to 12:00pm at the Scott County Extension and Conservation Center in Jordan, Minnesota.

Linda Meschke, president of Rural Advantage, will be discussing the status of the ECoPayPack program as well as the Pollinator Credit Pilot. Dr. Dean Current with CINRAM will share information on the various carbon programs in place and the carbon issues we are currently facing. Brooke Hacker, Ecosystem Services Specialist with GBERBA, will give an explanation of Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota and the project they are working on. Neal Feeken, The Nature Conservancy, will be presenting on InVEST. Dr. Nick Jordan with University of Minnesota will be speaking on the benefits and uses of multifunctional landscapes. The topic of climate change legislation will be presented by Jim Kleinschmit with IATP.

Partners for this event include: Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota (CMM), Minnesota River Board, Rural Advantage, Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA), Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM), University of Minnesota, The Nature Conservancy, Scott Soil and Water Conservation District, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), and University of Minnesota Extension.

DIRECTIONS

Scott County Extension and Conservation Center: From Hwy 169 in Jordan, turn North on Co Rd 9. Then turn left on Township Rd 57. Go 1.25 miles to fairgrounds entrance on your left (if the road turns to gravel you've gone too far). Look for the office building with the red roof over the entrance.

For more information contact Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or by email at sacke032@umn.edu

Experience Green at the Minnesota State Fair on Green Street

More than 1.5 million people have attended the largest environmental event of its kind in the country, and it is right here in Minnesota. The Eco Experience, a 25,000 square-foot interactive exhibit, returns for its fifth year at the Minnesota State Fair.

With hands-on activities and educational presentations, attendees can learn about water and air pollution,

recycling, saving energy, climate change, green jobs, renewable energy, vehicles and transportation and more. The Eco Experience also has a healthy local foods area featuring samples and demonstrations, a Green Street and free activities for the whole family.

What's new this year at the Eco Experience:

Green building products and design. Green Street is a model green community being built inside the Eco Experience to teach state fair attendees about green design, energy efficiency, interior products, renewable energy systems and environmentally-friendly landscaping.

Practical tips to avoid wasting energy. The ENERGY STAR exhibit house is modeled after an energy-efficient home and demonstrates how important energy-efficient practices and products are as a first step toward saving energy this year. It is the first time the traveling exhibit has been in the Midwest.

Renewable energy demonstrations. Attendees will find more than a dozen renewable energy demonstrations including grid-connected solar and wind electricity, solar hot water and solar hot air on the front lawn of the Eco Experience. Professionals will be available to discuss which renewable energy systems make sense for your home. This is the largest display ever located at the Eco Experience.

Kick Gas! A solar car port will showcase how "power from the sun" can be used to charge full-use electric cars, which will be coming to the market later this year. Solar charging produces no air pollution emissions, eliminates the need to purchase gas and encourages local power generation-energy independence.

Space-age foam. The University of Minnesota is leading the way in sustainable plastic research, and some Minnesota companies have invested in producing bio-based materials. State fair attendees can learn more about this work and ask questions about products using these materials at this year's Eco Experience.

Each day at the Eco Experience, state fair attendees can see cooking demonstrations, sample local and organic food, ask questions at the Green Jobs booth, learn about Minnesota waterways and much more.

WHAT: Fifth annual Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 26-Monday, Sept. 6
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily

WHERE: The Progress Center
The corner of Randall and Cosgrove
Look for the 123' wind turbine blade

LEARN MORE: www.ecoexperience.org

About the Eco Experience:

A partnership between the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and dozens of organizations and businesses across the state, the Eco Experience has become the second most popular exhibit at the fair. The Eco Experience is the largest environmental event of its kind in the country in the last two decades. Since 2006 more than 1.5 million visitors have attended the 25,000 square-foot exhibit to learn more about clean air and water, saving energy, climate change, healthy local food, transportation, green building and remodeling, and other ways to lead more eco-friendly lives.

Look for more information and schedules in July on www.ecoexperience.org.

Job Postings:

Healthy Schools Training Coordinator

The Healthy Schools Coordinator will manage the Every School Meal Meets [Institute of Medicine (IOM)] Standards Project within Extension's Health and Nutrition programs. The scope of this project includes:

- Leading the development of a training skills program targeted for food service directors
- Food Service Directors must determine how to implement the IOM standards. They must also create a training program and provide skill-building for school food service line staff in order to successfully implement the standards so healthy school meals that meet the standards are prepared
- Collaborating with the National Food Service Marketing Institute to develop these trainings
- Partnering with the Minnesota School Nutrition Association to strengthen and expand the existing training force

Identifying potential trainers, including Extension Educators and others

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

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>

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 9th (Friday) is **On Farm Field Day: Agronomic Management for Alfalfa-Corn Rotations**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m (12:30 p.m. registration) in Norwood, MN. Learn about potassium management for alfalfa, dairy forage nutrition, weed management and alfalfa stand termination, starter fertilizer and nitrogen cycle. A plot tour will also be included. For more information contact Jeff Coulter at coult077@umn.edu or 612-625-1796 or Nathan Winter at wint0146@umn.edu or at 800-587-0770.

July 12th (Monday) is **Ginkgo Propagation**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Madelia, MN. A tour of a Ginkgo propagation farm right here in Minnesota. Kun Hung will share his experiences with propagating and growing Ginkgos in the colder climate of Minnesota. Attendees will also be able to see bonsai, lotus and water lily species. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

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July 15th (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 17th (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

July 19th (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 20th (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 20th (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

July 29th (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 30th (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

August 3rd, 4th & 5th (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 18th (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 20th (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 23rd (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 3rd & 4th (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit www.riverblast.org

September 10th (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 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th (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 16th (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 3rd crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 18th (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 20th (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 22nd (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 23rd (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 5th & 6th (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

November 15th (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:

[Support your local Hmong farmer](#) (Star Tribune). Hmong-American produce growers often attract suspicion; they need, and deserve, understanding.

[Forest easement is a stunning bargain](#) (Star Tribune). This summer Minnesotans will celebrate a new natural treasure -- one worth the wait, investment and team effort.

[Officials take to the streets to measure Shakopee's 'walkability'](#) (Star Tribune). In hopes of getting more people walking, city and county leaders did a 'walking audit' and discovered barriers to pedestrian traffic.

[Little sprouts go to camp](#) (Star Tribune). After harvesting French breakfast radishes, Blythe Rients, 9, stoops to pluck dime-size toads from her garden plot.

[Wind power moves ahead in Minnesota](#) (Mankato Free Press). By now it may be becoming apparent to most Americans that no single energy technology comes without its faults. Midwestern farmers still see ethanol as a viable tool in the arsenal, but the shine has rubbed off somewhat.

[What weathermen know about climate change](#) (MinnPost). Climate change is a topic that impacts the weather not only globally, but also locally.

[Oil spill puts paperwork for St. Croix River bridge in limbo](#) (Pioneer Press). The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may have caused a two-month delay in paperwork related to the proposed St. Croix River bridge south of Stillwater.

[Invasive fish in the great lakes, more](#) (MPR). Invasive fish in the great lakes, cell phone towers in the Boundary Waters, and illegal music downloads-- Cathy Wurzer talks to Duluth reporter Bob Kelleher.

[Edina trail: Creek or street?](#) (Star Tribune). Every spring Nine Mile Creek rises halfway up Jenn Edwards' steeply sloping back yard on Cahill Road in Edina, then shrinks back to a narrow, muddy ditch flanked by weeds and willows and cottonwoods.

[Eureka! Zero Waste Just May Be Possible](#) (Star Tribune). I was cleaning out my fridge the other night getting ready for "garbage day". As I was bagging up the last of some now strong smelling week old cioppino, asparagus past its prime, shriveled limes, hard pita bread and one other thing that was unidentifiable, I wondered how much of it I could stuff down my disposal – less tempting for the neighborhood raccoons.

['Losing our lakes,' or losing our soul?](#) (Star Tribune). Despite being far upstream, Minnesotans have shared the nation's anger and frustration over the BP oil spill and its impact on the Gulf of Mexico.

[Farmers markets take root in burbs](#) (Star Tribune). Toting a cloth bag topped by a tangle of beet greens, Bonna Brunelle leaned on her cane and scanned the offerings at the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market in Edina with a knowledgeable eye.

[SCC farm program gives kids insight on gardening](#) (Mankato Free Press). "There are kids out there who have never planted anything," said Roxanne Kuerschner, one of the instructors this summer at South Central College's Farm in the City program.

[Proposed wind farm in Mower County gets favorable response at Austin meeting](#) (MinnPost). A proposed wind farm in Mower County got mostly positive responses Thursday at a public meeting in Austin, reports the [Austin Daily Herald](#).

[Migrating birds may find new home in Louisiana](#) (MPR). Federal officials and non profits are creating thousands of acres of wetlands so birds migrating from Minnesota and other Midwestern states will have an alternative to regions effected by the Gulf coast oil spill.

[Who's looking after Minnesota's threatened species?](#) (Star Tribune). Moose are disappearing from Minnesota in alarming numbers, but you won't find them on the state's list of threatened species.

[Help stop the spread of invasive species](#) (Mankato Free Press). To the renewed effort to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota.

[Hopes rise to avoid tainted BWCA](#) (Pioneer Press). Four months after an environmental analysis of a proposed copper-nickel mining project in northeastern Minnesota was slammed by a federal agency, a revamped study is finally moving ahead.

[Wilderness experience can do without cell phones](#) (Pioneer Press). I love my cell phone. I love being able to read e-mail while fishing on Leech Lake or making a call from Lake Mille Lacs to see what's for dinner at home. It's fun to send a picture of a fish I've caught or a photo, fresh from the field, of a friend with a brace of pheasants.

[Tiny camper cabins help fill Minnesota parks](#) (Star Tribune). Prison inmates building 12- by 16-foot cabins are helping to bring more people to Minnesota parks, filling a niche between tent camping and RVs. The spare \$50-a-night cabins mean not having to pitch a tent and offer the security of a roof overhead.

[St. Croix River bridge plans progress, despite lack of approval](#) (MPR). Transportation officials in Minnesota and Wisconsin are moving forward with plans to build a new bridge spanning the St. Croix River near Stillwater, even though the project has yet to get the federal stamp of approval.

[Light-rail work moves near Capitol, I-94](#) (Pioneer Press). Street-ripping-up associated with the proposed Central Corridor light-rail line is about to start near the state Capitol and Interstate 94.

[All aboard train to Duluth? What about Hennepin County?](#) (Star Tribune). A high-speed passenger rail line connecting Minneapolis and Duluth likely would be used by more than half the residents living between the two cities, according to recently released survey results.

[Biking our trails this holiday? Don't forget common courtesy](#) (Star Tribune). We may be first in the nation in bike trails, but are we last in biker courtesy? The city bike trails have become crowded, especially on weekends.

[Stillwater Bridge: Address east metro transportation needs](#) (Star Tribune). What does the east metro have to do to have its transportation needs taken seriously?

[Years of wet weather leads to high water on some lakes](#) (MPR). High water caused by nearly two decades of wet weather is threatening lakefront property in some northern Minnesota counties.

[Area to greatly increase Blue Earth County's wildlife set-aside](#) (Mankato Free Press). Chad Heins shuffles off into knee-high grasses, kneels down, snaps a photograph, then steps up with a baby killdeer in his hand.

In an age when man has forgotten his origins and is blind even to his most essential needs for survival, water along with other resources has become the victim of his indifference. - Rachel Carlson

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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