

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting – July 19th

You are cordially invited to attend the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance “River Partner Forum” on July 19, 2011 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Gilfillan Estates east of Redwood Falls (on State Hwy. 67) A dinner and social hour runs from 5:00 p.m. to 6 p.m. please RSVP Brad Cobb at 1231TLC@charter.net by July 14th or sooner. See the attached agenda for more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/julyannouncement.pdf>

Two Montevideos share more than just a name by: [JEAN HOPFENSBERGER](#) , Star Tribune - June 26, 2011 - 11:05 PM

The cities' unlikely friendship, forged in 1905, remains vibrant.

MONTEVIDEO, MINN. - Walk through downtown Montevideo and it's hard to miss the towering statue of José Artigas, the national hero of Uruguay who has stood guard over this small Minnesota town for 62 years.

Swing by the town's Fiesta Days in June and see diplomatic and civic leaders from the South American nation enjoying a Uruguayan-style barbecue with Minnesota friends.

Or stop by the library and meet a Uruguayan photographer who just published a book documenting the quirky and historic friendship between the two Montevideos.

In 1905, an unlikely friendship was forged between the farm town of Montevideo, Minn., and the capital city of Uruguay, one that remains vibrant today. With 6,000 miles between them and commercial airlines not yet invented, odds were that the connection would fade. But a lively give-and-take has endured between these two cities that defies explanation.

For the rest of the article - <http://www.startribune.com/local/124576423.html>

Minnesota River Board Annual Meeting and Conference

Good afternoon to all of you. The Minnesota River Board Annual Meeting and Conference is going to be held on July 18, 2011 – *Water Quality Progress in the Minnesota River Basin: Projects, Perceptions, and Prospects* at the Lakeside Ballroom (180 S Lake Shore Drive) Glenwood. There are two separate agendas for the two sessions – and you are welcome to attend either or both. The Annual Conference starting at 10:00 does have a small registration fee.

The Annual Meeting and Conference will feature a number of speakers highlighting projects and progress in the Minnesota River Basin:

- Shakopee Creek Headwaters – A Blueprint for Restoring Watershed Health by Skip Wright, Southern Regional Manager, DNR Ecological and Water Resources
- Chippewa River Watershed: Trends and Progress by Jennifer Hoffman, Watershed Specialist, and Paul Wymar, Watershed Scientist of the Chippewa River Watershed Project
- BMP Implementation in the Hawk Creek Watershed: A Decade of Trends and Progress by Cory Netland, Hawk Creek Watershed Project
- Farmer Efforts to Improve and Protect Water Quality in the MN River Basin by Warren Formo, Executive Director, MN Agricultural Water Resources Coalition
- Progress Preceptions and Future Prospects for the Future – Panel Discussion moderated by MN River Board Director Shannon Fisher with panelists John Jaschke, Executive Director, Board of Water and Soil Resources; State Representative Jean Wagenius (District 62B) and State Representative Paul Torkelson (District 21B)
- Networking Luncheon (included with registration)
- Optional Lady Lakeside Boat Tour (compliments of MRB – no charge, RSVP required)

Join us for our annual conference to discuss the important issue of progress and how to move forward with our special guests. Your registration will include an exciting set of presentations, a panel discussion with elected officials, agency folks, and local implementers. A terrific lunch and refreshments are included with registration and an optional boat tour of Lake Minnewaska is available. RSVP Karnell Johnson at 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu before July 13 to get the early registration rate and reserve your spot on the boat!

July 2011 MRB Business Meeting Agenda – <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mrbbusinessagenda.pdf>

MN River Board Annual Meeting and Conference –
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mrbannualmeetingconference.pdf>

Stream Restoration Workshops for Natural Resource Professionals

The Minnesota DNR is offering stream restoration workshops for natural resource professionals this summer and the variety of resources we have available online (www.mndnr.gov/eco/streamhab) for general river education and awareness. Please see the attached flyers that provide brief summaries of our resources and workshops (including the registration form). Registration is open for these two workshops:

The Fundamentals of Stream Restoration: Applied Geomorphology & Ecology - July 25 - 29, Fergus Falls MN

This, the first course in our restoration series, provides fundamental knowledge of river dynamics and stream classification. Rivers and streams have predictable dimensions, patterns, and profiles. This course discusses the fluvial geomorphological processes involved in creating and maintaining these parameters, as well as the fundamental hydrology and hydraulics of rivers. We also focus on the skills necessary to properly determine a stream segment's type, including the essential tools for classifying streams to Levels 1 and 2 using the Rosgen classification methodology. Upon completion of this course, students will have the skills necessary to classify a stream reach, greatly facilitating communications among river managers worldwide. Students will also have a firm knowledge of the functions and processes that are critical to a river's health. Cost is \$1000.

*The Science of Healthy Waters: The Ditching Dilemma *New workshop* - August 15 - 17, Fergus Falls MN*

This new series, **The Science of Healthy Waters**, is designed for those involved in watershed issues including water quality (rivers, lakes, wetlands), aquatic and terrestrial habitat, land use, wetlands, and flooding. This series will present: a) the science underlying integrative, system-based watershed management, b) the problems, issues, and barriers hampering our ability to protect and restore watershed health and c) alternative approaches for accomplishing goals of clean water, improved fish and wildlife habitat, and reduction of flood damages and erosion.

Each year will have a specific focus with this year's workshop, **The Ditching Dilemma**, unpacking the science and policy of ditching in terms of: 1) effects on hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and aquatic habitat, 2) societal and ecological implications of these practices, and 3) alternative design concepts and approaches that work towards accomplishing sustainable agricultural goals while improving water quality and restoring channel stability and ecological health. Cost is \$300.

Please forward this message to organizations or colleagues that may be interested in our workshops and/or resources. Also please contact me if you foresee any opportunities for collaboration in your outreach efforts. Thank you! - Amy Childers, MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources Stream Habitat Program River Ecologist/Outreach Specialist (1509 1st Avenue North Fergus Falls, MN 56537), (218) 739-7576 ext. 233, Amy.R.Childers@state.mn.us, www.mndnr.gov/eco/streamhab

Get ready for the Eco Experience at the Minnesota State Fair

St. Paul -- Almost 2 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 sixth year at the Minnesota State Fair.

With hands-on activities and free educational presentations, visitors can learn about water and air pollution, recycling, using less energy, climate change, green jobs, renewable energy, energy-efficient vehicles and transportation, and more. A healthy local foods area will feature samples, demonstrations, and free activities for the whole family.

Each day of the fair will see a different theme at the Eco Experience.

Aug. 25: **Save green.** Smart eco choices are good for your wallet, too.

Aug. 26: **Breathe right.** Your choices help make the air cleaner for everyone.

Aug. 27: **Protect Minnesota's water.** In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, we can all take pride in having healthy lakes, rivers and groundwater.

Aug. 28: **Save energy.** Reducing energy use makes a big impact.

Aug. 29: **Go green for kids.** Create good habits for a better future.

Aug. 30: **Kick gas.** Do it for your budget, your health, and the environment.

Aug. 31: **Watch your waste.** Reduce, reuse and recycle. What's the next step?

Sept. 1: **Green jobs.** A green economy means jobs for more Minnesotans.

Sept. 2: **Grow green.** Trees and other plants are an attractive addition to your home and benefit the environment.

Sept. 3: **Water conservation.** Using less water saves energy and preserves resources for future generations.

Sept. 4: **Green your kitchen.** Learn about Minnesota-grown foods, tools and trends for a green kitchen.

Sept. 5: **Gadgets for going green.** Try new tools and fresh ideas to reduce energy use and waste.

Immerse yourself in Green Crossing. Both familiar and futuristic, Green Crossing is a mini version of a walkable neighborhood with renewable energy, options for remodeling, new construction ideas, and transportation choices to reduce your energy footprint. The new and remodeled homes are safer, healthier, more energy efficient and durable.

Common Cottage will show you how to improve the house you have. The house showcases renewable and recyclable materials, how to improve the energy efficiency of your home with an energy audit, composting and recycling systems, indoor air quality, eco-friendly kitchen surfaces and appliances as well as a patio and backyard chickens!

Tech Tower, an example of a remodel or addition to your home, features green gadgets. Some of the ideas it demonstrates are creating multipurpose spaces, designing for passive cooling, using energy-efficient materials and renewable energy, replacing inefficient heating systems, and showcasing beautiful eco finishes.

Passive House is a cutting-edge home that is designed as a complete system. This house uses only the most efficient appliances, fixtures and mechanical systems. Combined with super-insulated windows and walls, this reduces total energy costs by 90 percent. Heating comes only from the sun, the occupants, and household activities. Renewable energy systems, such as solar thermal, are used to heat water. Recycled materials and indoor air quality are also featured in Passive House.

Community Corner includes neighborhood features to support sustainable living, such as a bus stop, bike rack, solar-powered charging station for electric vehicles, and a community garden for producing food and enjoying the outdoors. The solar carport in Community Corner is made of beautiful, double glass panels made in Mountain Iron, Minn.

Discover electric vehicles. Check out the electric vehicles (EVs) at the Eco Experience. Full EVs do not have an internal combustion engine and emit no tailpipe exhaust. Increasing the portion of EVs on our roads will positively impact air quality — a benefit to our health and the environment. As EVs become

more common, charging stations are starting to appear at workplaces, park-and-ride facilities, retail centers, along the light rail line, and other places. The Twin Cities are part of a cutting-edge project called the Energy Innovation Corridor, a sustainable energy and transportation showcase that includes charging stations like the one in the Community Corner. (For more information, go to <http://www.energyinnovationcorridor.com>.) You can also discover how to charge your electric vehicle with solar or wind power. By doing so, little or no air pollution is created.

See renewable energy demonstrations. You'll see great examples of renewable energy in the Green Crossing area, and outside the building you'll find over a dozen renewable energy displays, including grid-connected solar and wind electricity, solar hot water, and solar hot air. Talk with professionals about which renewable energy systems make sense for your home.

Take advantage of QR codes at the Eco Experience. Many of the partners in the Eco Experience will be displaying QR codes. Scan them with your smart phone and you will be connected to more information about their products.

For more information about the Eco Experience, go to <http://www.ecoexperience.org>.

Marshall-area cattle producer receives \$10,000 penalty for manure-contaminated runoff

A Marshall-area cattle producer has agreed to pay a \$10,000 civil penalty for alleged violations stemming from manure-contaminated water runoff during land application of manure from a feedlot holding about 3,000 cattle. In a Stipulation Agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Donald DeLanghe will also revise the feedlot's manure-management and emergency-response plans.

On Sept. 8, 2010, the MPCA received a complaint about manure-contaminated water runoff from cropland about four miles south of Marshall. Manure from the feedlot, which is stored in two earthen basins, was being applied to the cropland as fertilizer. Over-application of liquid manure, combined with the marginal field conditions due to wet weather last fall, resulted in manure-contaminated water escaping to field drain tiles and to an intermittent stream.

In a related Administrative Penalty Order, the manure application contractor received a \$10,000 penalty for failing to report the discharge, and for not taking immediate steps to contain or recover it.

The MPCA regulates the collection, transportation, storage, processing and disposal of manure, and provides assistance to counties and the livestock industry. Large feedlots with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits must operate so that no manure or contaminated water is allowed to enter waters of the state. More information about feedlot regulation and assistance is available on the MPCA [feedlot program Web page](#).

Stipulation Agreements and Administrative Penalty Orders are two of the tools the MPCA uses to achieve compliance with environmental laws. When calculating penalties, the agency takes into account how seriously the violation affected the environment, whether it is a first-time or repeat violation, and how promptly the violation was reported to appropriate authorities. A Stipulation Agreement also attempts to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner. For a comprehensive list of enforcement actions by the MPCA, go to the agency's [enforcement Web page](#).

New Research Projects

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is announcing five new research projects. These projects are supported by the Clean Water Fund (from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment) and are part of MDA's Clean Water Research program.

New Projects:

- Agricultural Best Management Practices Assessment and Tracking Tools- *Houston Engineering, Inc*
- The Agricultural Handbook for TMDLs in Minnesota- *Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc*

- Assessment and Selection of Sentinel Watersheds as Priority Management Zones for Addressing Impaired Waters- *U of M, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering*
- Identifying Priority Management Zones for Best Management Practice Implementation in Impaired Watersheds- *Barr Engineering Company*
- Priority Setting of Watershed Restoration in Sentinel Watersheds- *U of M, Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering*

The MDA recently launched a new Clean Water Fund website. This website has detailed information about all Clean Water funded activities including research projects. The five new projects complement 12 existing and completed projects supported by MDA. Visit [MDA's Clean Water Fund website](#) to learn more about the Clean Water Research Program and individual projects.

The overarching goals of MDA's research program are to identify underlying processes that affect water quality, to evaluate the effectiveness of agricultural Best Management Practices, and to develop technologies to target BMPs to critical areas of the landscape. Currently, there are eleven ongoing projects and six completed projects.

Professional Grant Development Workshop

Master the techniques of writing superior and winning proposals Proposal Writing I: July 11 - 13, 2011. To be held at: University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota. 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 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:

- Navigate the world of grant procurement
- Research and identify potential funding sources
- Address the guidelines of federal and foundation applications
- Identify and effectively write the key elements of a proposal
- Create a grant design prior to writing the proposal
- Write winning grants that stand out against scores of competing submissions
- Develop focused and realistic budgets
- Demonstrate that one's proposal merits excellence and innovation
- Package professional grant submissions

Our ultimate goal is: For each participant who wishes to develop a proposal, to walk away with a product that includes the grant design, abstract and budget. 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

Events:

July 2nd (Saturday) is the **Building of Fort Ridgely presentation** at 2:00 p.m. in the Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary. Historian Roger Breckenridge shares his research in a Power Point program of why, who and how Fort Ridgely Military Post was built in the mid 19th century. Included will be biographies of Civil

War notables who served at 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 9th (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 16th (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 23rd (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 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/>

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Shutdown could be a curse for some, a blessing for others](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Social workers and the mentally ill, construction workers on public projects, state office workers, the unemployed - many folks are negatively affected when state government shuts down.

[Editorial: Cut the ethanol subsidy, but be fair](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Oklahoma Republican Sen. Tom Coburn spoke stirringly about the nation's crushing debt load recently as he urged his fellow U.S. senators to get rid of the ethanol earmark and tariff.

[State parks and shutdown: Three things to know](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A possible state shutdown July 1 couldn't come at a worse time for people with reservations to camp at a Minnesota state park for July 4. But don't cancel the reservations yet.

[Researcher: Ag gets bum rap on runoff](#) (Mankato Free Press). Difference of opinions when it comes to what is causing excessive sediment in the rivers of the Minnesota River Basin.

[State adds to CRP acreage during sign-up, but losses loom in 2012](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). U.S. acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program made a modest surge upward during a recent sign-up period but faces an unsure future.

[Local farmers, ethanol producers wait on effects of Senate vote](#) (Marshall Independent). A bipartisan vote in the U.S. Senate to end government support for ethanol has local corn farmers and ethanol producers crying foul.

[Opinion: Don't let coal ruin German Park](#) (New Ulm Journal). One person's view on how German Park will be affected by the conversion of Boiler #4 from natural gas to coal.

[Blue Earth County OKs wildlife refuge expansion](#) (Mankato Free Press). The state is buying about 20 acres to expand a small wildlife management area about five miles east of Mapleton.

[U.S. Supreme Court blocks federal lawsuit on greenhouse gas emissions](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The U.S. Supreme Court said the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, blocking a federal lawsuit by states and conservation groups that were trying to force cuts in power plant emissions.

Those who dwell, as scientists or laymen, among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. – Rachel Carson

[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,](#)

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