

Conservation Drainage Sessions set for June 16, 22, 23 at 3 locations in the Minnesota River Watershed

If you are an agricultural producer, ditch and tile contractor, watershed professional, elected official or a citizen interested in clean water, you will have the opportunity to learn about the very latest drainage technology design which has the ability to save ground water, reduce rural runoff to local waterways, improve tile drain water quality and potentially increase crop yields.

Three sessions are set with the first being at the LeSueur County Environmental Services Center in LeCenter, Mn. located at 515 South Maple Ave on Wednesday June 16th. Session No. 2 will be in Arlington Mn at the Arlington Community Center located at 204 Shamrock Drive on Tuesday June 22nd. The third session will be in Redwood Falls Mn at the Redwood Falls Community Center located at 901 East Cook St. on Wednesday June 23rd. All sessions begin at 7 P.M. and end at 8:30 P.M. There is no charge and free refreshments will be available.

MDA Promotes Water Quality Assurance Program

ST. PAUL, Minn. – Minnesota livestock producers have a new voluntary and proactive way to address water quality issues on their land through the Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance Program (LEQA). With funds from the environmentally-dedicated sales tax, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has launched the program to help livestock producers take the initiative on a non-regulatory basis to evaluate water quality issues and implement appropriate practices.

“Livestock producers are at the forefront of managing Minnesota’s soil and water resources,” says MDA Assistant Commissioner Joe Martin. “We would hope this program will be another tool for those individuals who wish to be more proactive in addressing environmental concerns on lands they manage.”

Martin says the LEQA program merges the farmers’ and government’s efforts to obtain a ‘water quality score’ for any particular farm. The assessments help the farmers figure out what actions they can take themselves, how the government programs can help and how to move forward.

MDA has contracted with Ag Resource Strategies, LLC, to recruit farmers to enroll in the LEQA program. The company trains technicians to look at the farm in separate resource management areas, such as the farmstead, livestock facilities, fields and wooded areas. The technicians then develop an assessment and an action plan, if necessary. The assessment and plan is confidential unless the farmer decides otherwise.

The cost to register for the program is \$225. The farmer then receives an assessment, action plan and up to 20 additional hours of assistance from the LEQA technician. More information is available at www.agresourcestrategies.com or contact Tim Gieseke at 507-359-1889.

Water Management Summit

County/Watershed District/Soil and Water Conservation District members:

Over the past several years local government has been asked by the Legislature to do more with less. This trend has spurred key local governments to join together and form the Local Government Roundtable, which is an affiliation of three of Minnesota’s key statewide local government organizations – Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – in the planning and preservation of our state’s water

resources. For the first time in history the three organizations have chosen to work together to improve communication and understanding of the roles and responsibilities that we share in this vital task.

Our shared vision is to manage water resources in such ways as to effectively balance the sometimes competing interests of habitat, water quality, water quantity, and resource utilization. Our organizations are committed to collaborative efforts with the intent of increasing efficiencies and effectiveness among organizations that share goals, objectives, and responsibilities.

Members of the Roundtable invite you to participate in the Water Management Summit that will be held on July 12, 2010. The input that you provide at the Summit will be reviewed and used by the Roundtable and the three associations. It will eventually result in ideas and recommendations for changes to policy framework for local and state policy makers to consider that will allow local government to be more efficient and effective in delivering high quality water management in our state.

Attached is the Summit Registration form. The Roundtable members ask that at least one county commissioner, watershed district manager, and soil and water conservation district supervisor along with at least one key staff person from each local government unit attend the Water Management Summit on July 12 in St. Cloud. Come prepared with all of your ideas, nothing is off of the table. The Summit is designed to help the Roundtable continue its discussions, with your input, about the current state of water management and where you think it needs to go in the future. We look forward to your participation! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at raybohnmg@aol.com or 651-452-8506.

Thanks Ray Bohn' MAWD

Hybrid Hazelnuts, Saskatoons, and More at Montevideo Field Day

MONTEVIDEO, Minn. (06/07/2010) – Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension, in partnership with landowner Dennis Gibson, will be hosting a 3rd Crop Walk-n-Talk titled “Opportunities in Agroforestry” on June 21, 2010, starting at 1:00pm. The field day will be held at the Gibson farm near Montevideo, Minnesota. Attendees will be able to view and learn about Gibson’s perennial agroforestry plantings. Species include: hybrid hazelnuts, hybrid poplars, sea berry, Saskatoons, hickory, honeysuckle, mountain ash, and more.

Dennis Gibson has been doing his own research to see which woody and herbaceous plants will thrive on his alkaline soils near Montevideo, Minnesota. He has had success with many varieties of woody species and has mainly focused on those plants with potential energy use or those that produce edible fruits.

Gibson will be leading a tour of his plantings and sharing his experiences with the various species. Jeff Jensen, Rural Advantage, will be discussing the benefits and uses of hybrid hazelnuts as well as sharing information about the Minnesota Hazelnut Foundation. Lois Braun, University of Minnesota Hazelnut Researcher, will also be speaking at the field day as well. Braun will be showcasing research plots located on Gibson’s farm and explaining the mound layering and hazelnut thinning being done.

This is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. Please dress accordingly. This event and all other Rural Advantage 3rd Crop Walk-n-Talks are free of charge. “Opportunities in Agroforestry” does not require pre-registration. Contact Jill Sackett, Extension Educator – Conservation Agronomist, at the Rural Advantage office with questions (sacke032@umn.edu 507-238-5449).

Directions: 2030 10th Ave. NE – Montevideo, MN 56265

From Montevideo travel 6.0 miles East on Hwy 7. Turn left (North) at Co. Rd. 6 and travel 7.0 miles. You will come to a Trinity Lutheran Church sign. At that corner, turn right (East) onto a gravel road and travel 1.0 mile. Turn left (North) onto 10th Ave. NE and travel ¼ mile to the Gibson farm.

Bike or Walk to Work

Bike or walk to work on June 5-11. Many events planned statewide on June 10. The Minnesota Department of Transportation encourages bikers of all levels statewide to bike or walk to work during Bike/Walk Week June 5-11.

"Events have been planned in many communities and work places throughout the state on June 10," said Tim Mitchell, Mn/DOT's state bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. "Individuals are also encouraged to ride to work on their own or with a partner that day or anytime during Bike/Walk Week."

Get Web information about Bike/Walk Week and Day events in: Twin Cities: www.bikewalkweek.org; Rochester: www.rochesterbus.com/bbop/bbop.htm; St. Cloud: www.stcloudapo.org or call 320-252-7568; Duluth/Superior: www.ardc.org

If your community or business is celebrating Bike/Walk Week, please send information to lisa.austin@state.mn.us and the information will be posted on the Mn/DOT bike pages at www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/.

Mn/DOT encourages people to post an announcement in their business or community location. The Bike/Walk Week logo is available to download at www.dot.state.mn.us/transit/images/BikeWalk_Logo_rgb.jpg.

For information and tips on how bicyclists and motorists can share the road safely, visit www.sharetheroadmn.org. Order copies of Share the Road brochures and other materials for your event by filling out the order form on the resources page www.sharetheroadmn.org/resources.html.

Are Hazelnuts the New Soybean?

BUTTERFIELD — In 2004, Norm Penner started planting hazelnut bushes on his farm in Butterfield. While the project has had challenges, Penner thinks there's still hope for hazelnuts with the right attention. Penner farms about 300 acres of corn, soybeans and hay. He has about 500 hazel bushes interspersed with the hay claiming two acres.

He remembers reading about hazels several years ago and being interested in them right away. After attending a meeting in Rochester, he signed up with the former Blue Earth River Basin Initiative and became a hazelnut farmer. While it was a new endeavor, Penner wasn't worried about it. He remembers when farmers were leery about soybeans. His family farmed the area since they "fell off the train" in the late 1880's and his father tried soybeans around 1950. "After five years he was (disappointed) and pretty much decided he wasn't going to do them anymore," Penner said. Then universities began research on soybeans. Before long what was a difficult-to-harvest plant growing on vines like peas became an upright plant easily harvested with combines.

As it stands right now, Penner has not profited from his hazels as they are not yet producing nuts. "Alone hazelnuts are not yet sustainable," he said. However he spread bushes over 10 acres, growing hay in between the rows. "They aren't sustainable as we speak," he shared. "You've got to have something in between them."

It could be 5 years before hazelnuts make money for Penner, but he said you need look no farther than a field of soybeans to see how that could change fast. For anything to be a viable third crop, government support and research is needed, according to Penner. "If universities and the government get behind hazelnuts, – there's no support now – it could happen soon," he said. Because growing hazels is more labor intensive, it will not catch on with farmers, Penner claimed. But if there was a way to plant them quicker and harvest them more efficiently, that may change things.

Penner thinks that the same support-based approach to starting a young family, maybe with one adult working off the farm, on a vegetable or fruit farm could provide economic and community development as well as lower the cost of better nutrition at the market. "They are pushing eating more fruit and vegetables, but what's the most expensive thing at the store?" Penner asked. "Fruits and vegetables. If the government supported farmers, young couples, to grow fruit or vegetables, they would be here all

year and support schools and shop in town. Then those foods would cost less and communities would be sustained as well.”

Hazels are good plants for conservation especially in sandy or washed-out types of soils, Penner noted. Older plants with good root structure are great for soil stabilization. Starting out is tough according to Penner and involves much labor. He advises newcomers to be patient and prepare for the long haul. If Penner’s ideas ever take root with major Ag research centers, like the University of Minnesota, the landscape in rural America might look a little bit different in the future.

Organic Farm School

An Exploration of Organic Farming and the Foods Revolution

Organic Farm School is a ten-week lecture, discussion, and field course on organic food production and agriculture from environmental, social, and historical perspectives, connecting environmental justice with agriculture and food justice. Participants will also have the opportunity to develop practical skills in organic horticulture through hands-on workshops at the WEI alternative farm campus and farm field trips

June 7: “Hmong Family Farming and Sustainable Agriculture in Minnesota” Mhonpaj Lee— (Mhonpaj’s Garden— Organic Hmong-owned CSA)

June 14: “Effects of Common Pesticides at Environmental Concentrations” Warren Porter— (Zoology Professor)- University of Wisconsin-Madison

June 21: “What IS Organic?” Meg Moynihan - (Organic & Diversification Specialist) - MN Department of Agriculture

June 28: “Can Organic Food Feed the World?” Bud Markhart — (Organic Horticulture Professor and Researcher) - University of MN-Twin Cities

July 12: “It All Comes Down to Humus” Pat Farrell (Geography Professor)- University of MN Duluth

July 19: “Urban Farming Basics” Courtney Tschida (Student Program Coordinator) Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

July 23: (NOTE: this is a Friday Lecture at U of M Coffman Theatre): “The Good Food Revolution” Will Allen -(Urban Farmer and CEO) - Growing Power Inc.,Milwaukee

Aug 2: “Biodiversity in Organic Farming” Atina Diffley- (Farmer and Educator)- Organic Farming Works

Aug 9: TBD

Aug 16: “The Future of Alternative Farming and Food Justice in Minnesota --Mark Ritchie (Minnesota Secretary of State)

Registration includes three Saturday Field Days-Hands-On Workshops and Tours! Classes start Monday, June 7th at 6pm at the Midtown Global Market located at 920 E Lake St ,Minneapolis Full class registration is \$120, drop-in class- \$20, drop-in field day- \$10. Parking Validation for students enrolled in 10 week session. For more info or to register, call WEI at 651.583.0705 or visit www.w-e-i.org

Join the Greater Mankato Bike & Walk Advocates us for their 1st Annual Members Ride

Sunday, June 13th @ 1:30 p.m. Who’s Invited: Members, prospective members, their kids, other family, and friends. If you received this message, consider yourself a member or prospective member of GMBWA. Start/Finish: Mankato West High School parking lot adjacent to Red Jacket Trail.

Three Ride Options:

1. Red Jacket Trail -- turn around whenever you like

2. Red Jacket Trail to Rapidan -- refreshments in the park (12 miles)

3. Red Jacket Trail to Rapidan, then on to Lake Crystal (38 miles)

Other Details:

- Helmets required
- Please arrive around 1:00 p.m. to sign in and complete waiver
- Bring your own water
- Limited support will be available for flat tires and minor repairs
- To help us plan, please respond to this message if you will be participating

“Wheat Day” Walk-n-Talk on June 23rd

University of Minnesota Extension, Rural Advantage, and Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group invite all interested parties to attend a field day focused on wheat and other small grains. Wheat Day will be held June 23, 2010 starting at 1:00pm at the Stangler farm near Kilkenny, Minnesota. Lunch will be provided by Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group and will be served starting at 12:30pm.

The field day will begin with presentations and end with a tour of small grain fields. Doug Holen with University of Minnesota Extension will be discussing small grain diseases, crop staging and input timing, and general production issues. Phil Glogoza, also with University of Minnesota Extension, will be speaking on insect issues in small grain fields as well as touching on the topic of soybean aphids. Dick Stangler, producer and member of Southern Minnesota Wheat Growers Group, will be hosting the event at his farm as well as sharing his experiences with growing wheat and other small grains. Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota Extension and Rural Advantage, will be discussing the use of small grains as a cover crop as well as giving a short explanation of the North Central Region – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education cover crop grant Rural Advantage is involved in. Cost-share dollars are available through the grant project.

Attendees are encouraged to bring plant samples of their small grains. Whether concerned about a pest, fertility, or just want to show-off, feel free to bring a sample of what you are seeing in your small grain field.

Questions? Contact:

Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota / Rural Advantage sacke032@umn.edu 507-238-5449

Diane Stouffer, University of Minnesota – Le Sueur/Blue Earth Co. stouf002@umn.edu 507-380-6098

Directions:

From the South: At the intersection of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 13, turn Northwest onto Hwy. 13 and travel $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. Turn straight North onto 151st Ave. / Co. Rd. 3. Travel 5 miles North to Stangler farm on the west side of the road.

From the North: At the intersection of Hwy. 13 and Co. Rd. 2, turn East and travel 1.5 miles. Turn South on Co. Rd. 3 to the “Y”. Follow the “Y” to the left (151st Ave. / Co. Rd. 3) for 1/8 mile to the Stangler farm site on West side of the road.

Events:

June 9th, 10th & 12th (Thursday, Friday & Saturday) is the **High School River Expedition** at the Lac qui Parle River. Camp out at the LqP County Park, the State Park and at Lagoon Park. Call 320-269-2984 to sign up or to volunteer to help.

June 9th (Thursday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

June 11th (Friday) is **Canoeing the Yellow Bank River**. The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Annual Canoe Trip. There is no charge for canoes, we want you to come and experience nature's own Wilderness Road. We will meet in Madison by Lou T. Fish in the park along Hwy 75 in Madison at 12:30 p.m. and travel to the Yellow Bank River and canoe approximately 2 1/2 hours. For more details or to RSVP contact Mary Homan by calling 320-598-3319 or email mary.homan@lqpc.com by 4:00 p.m. June 10th to ensure canoes for everyone.

June 12th (Saturday) is the **Beginning of the Pope County Farmers Market** The Pope County Farmers Market starts today and continues every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and also every Thursday after that from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. until September 25th.

June 12th (Saturday) is the **Launch of the Minnesota River Paddler Patch Program** starting at 9:00 a.m. below the Rapidan Dam (on the Blue Earth River west of Rapidan in Blue Earth County). Canoe rides, information booths, and music. 2:00 p.m. is the post-paddle ceremony and music. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/paddleUpPoster.pdf> attachment or contact Scott Kudelka at scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu or call 507-389-2304.

June 12th (Saturday) is the **Riverside Family Fishing Clinic** from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Riverside Park in New Ulm. Other activities include: disc gold, bean bags, and more. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/riversidefamilyfishingclinic.pdf>.

June 15th (Tuesday) is the **Improve Water Quality with Native Plants** event from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church. How to plan, purchase, and plant native gardens, rain gardens, and shorelines by Julie Westerlund with Blue Thumb and MCWD. For more information visit <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/node/741>

June 16th (Wednesday) is **Women's Conservation Day 2010** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Prairie Event Center in Marshall. A day provided for women landowners and operators to further their knowledge of conservation programs. For more information visit <http://www.redwoodswcd.org/Women's%20Day.htm>

June 17th (Thursday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at South Central College in North Mankato.

June 19th (Saturday) is **Riverfest Rendevous Fiesta Tri-Festa** from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Montevideo's Lagoon Park. A triathlon along with a fishing contest, live music, and more. Pre-registration for the triathlon is required by June 16th. For more information on times, registration, etc. visit <http://www.curemriver.org/> or call toll free 1-877-269-2873 or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/trifestaflyer.pdf>.

June 21th (Monday) is the **Solstice River XIV: Water Rites** starting at 8:30 p.m. at the Stone Arch Bridge in downtown Minneapolis. A site specific dance performance. For more information visit <http://www.globalsiteperformance.org/>

June 22nd (Tuesday) is a **Cottonwood River Paddle** from County Road 11 to Flandrau State Park in New Ulm sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

June 24th (Thursday) is a **Redwood River Paddle** from County Road 6 to Lake Redwood sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

June 25th, 26th & 27th (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) is **Riverfest in Dawson**. Enjoy many free events at Riverfest. You will need a \$5 Riverfest Button to enjoy the opening and the Celebrate Dawson! show. More information can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Dawson-Riverfest/124127390943146?ref=ts>.

June 29th (Tuesday) is **Weed Watchers Awareness Training** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Danver's Community Center. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.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 a **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hutchinson Event Center in Hutchinson. For more information visit www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

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>

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 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 23rd (Thursday) is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This event 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 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/Conservation Articles:

[Susan Perry: Two \(more\) good reasons for cutting back on processed foods](#) (MinnPost). If you haven't weaned yourself off processed foods yet, two recent articles may (finally) get you started.

[Upcoming bike festival says a lot about Minnesota](#) (MinnPost). At the intersection of green tourism, Baby Boomer health consciousness, "complete streets" and national kudos, sits the [Nature Valley Bicycle Festival](#).

['A tree planter's' legacy in Medina](#) (Star Tribune). Terry Tomann was a young man in his 30s when a banker friend offered him 16 acres in the northeast part of rural Medina.

[Minnesota lawmakers move to halt Asian carp, but get little support](#) (MinnPost). Last week's fish census in the Chicago River turned up 100,000 pounds of dead fish, killed by a powerful toxin.

[Slideshow: Spring in the Boundary Waters](#) (MPR). Scenes from Spring in the Boundary Waters in far northeastern Minnesota.

[Head north to the boundary waters and leave the world behind](#) (Star Tribune). The pull of this land in spring reveals itself most evocatively around evening campfires. Dusk descends into darkness and a loon might call, a wolf might howl, while moonbeams, luminescent, skip atop still water.

[Cottage Grove / Lawn signs oppose waste-burning plan](#) (Pioneer Press). Lawn signs saying "Stop the burner" have gone up around Cottage Grove to protest a proposal to burn more waste at a 3M Co. incinerator.

[River straddling Minn.-Iowa among 'most endangered'](#) (Star Tribune). A river whose headwaters are in southeastern Minnesota is among the nation's most endangered, according to a list released Wednesday by a national conservation group.

[Lake Elmo family farm fighting city law on sale of products](#) (MinnPost). A city law prevents farmers in Lake Elmo, such as the Bergmanns, from selling products that weren't grown inside the city limits.

[Minnesota senators urged to lead passage of climate change bill](#) (Pioneer Press). A collection of Minnesota environmental groups pressed the state's two U.S. senators Thursday to take a stronger leadership role in pushing climate-change legislation through Congress this year.

[Xcel Energy's Prairie Island nuclear plant cited for flood risk](#) (Pioneer Press). Federal regulators have cited Xcel Energy after an inspection last year showed that emergency diesel generators and other safety equipment could fail if water pipes broke and flooded the inside of the Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Plant near Red Wing.

[Bear necessities or media overkill? How much celebrity attention does one bear cub deserve?](#) (Pioneer Press). Since being born Jan. 22 with a video camera trained on her, black bear cub Hope has become an Internet sensation, helping raise \$248,000 in donations from a captivated public for the Ely, Minn.-based North American Bear Center.

[Minnetonka High parking: A tree-saver](#) (Star Tribune). Student parkers, tennis players and trees are the winners in an \$835,000 plan to ease the parking crunch at Minnetonka High School.

[Lawn arm of the law gives \\$140 haircut](#) (Star Tribune). Rain barrels and permeable brick landscape pavers are just some of the features that mark Michael Ansel's north Minneapolis home as environmentally gentle.

[Developing strong mussels in the Mississippi](#) (Star Tribune). Rare mussels came up for air from the bottom of the Mississippi River on Thursday, boosting hopes that their endangered population may be able to rebound eventually in the now-cleaner water.

[Hop a yellow bike, hit a trail, says St. Croix Falls](#) (Pioneer Press). For years, Brad Foss has brainstormed ways to create a unique identity for St. Croix Falls.

[Cedar River makes Top 10 Endangered Rivers list](#) (MinnPost). A national conservation organization has included the Cedar River — which runs through Minnesota and Iowa — on a list of the country's 10 most endangered rivers.

[Dakota County seeing benefits of state Legacy fund](#) (Pioneer Press). They're kinetic, frenetic and bringing their comic vein of highly charged hip-hop to the Burnsville Performing Arts Center, thanks in no small part to a very special invitee: you.

[Solar energy, powered by students](#) (Star Tribune). Future middle-schoolers in Lindstrom will be counting the sunny days, thanks to this year's students.

[The environmental cost of oil's journey to Minnesota](#) (MPR). The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has many Minnesotans thinking more about the gasoline they use and where it comes from. But very little of the state's oil comes from the gulf.

[Minnesota's state bird at risk in the Gulf](#) (MPR). One of bird species at risk in the Gulf is probably Minnesota's most iconic.

[Members of Academy of Sciences concerned about 'political assaults' on climate scientists](#) (MinnPost). Friction between scientists and politicians isn't new. Sparks fly over evolution, stem cells, climate change and other issues.

[A clean, green party scene](#) (Star Tribune). What do you get when you mix baking soda, olive oil and borax, with a little white wine on the side?

[Emerald ash borer experts strategize ways to combat the beetle](#) (MPR). National and state experts will attend a summit in Minneapolis on Tuesday centered on ways to combat the emerald ash borer.

[LakeFest highlights Eagan's fishing spots](#) (Star Tribune). Eagan, which has won national recognition for its clean waters and abundant parks, has special bragging rights to an angler's dream in the south-metro area: Within one mile of every resident's home, there is public access to fishing.

[Water supply inferior next to Lake Superior](#) (Star Tribune). Everyone in Duluth, a city that sits on the western edge of the world's third-most voluminous body of fresh water, is being asked to use as little water as possible.

Water is life's mater and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water. - Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

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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