

River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River

Be part of the fun to celebrate all the work that has been done to improve water quality in the Minnesota River Basin. On Sunday evening, June 12th at 6 p.m. tune into KARE 11 TV for the broadcast of the documentary – *River: Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*.

This documentary is the result of years of dedicated effort and hard work by citizens, organizations, agencies and many more to protect and restore our namesake river – the Minnesota. John Hickman and Jon Carlson of EPIC Media set out two years ago to tell the story of how people have come together to make sure future generations will be able to enjoy the Minnesota River and what it has to offer.

Gather together with friends, neighbors, colleagues and others at one of the viewing parties being held across the Minnesota River Basin. This will be a great chance to be part of the celebration and engage in a spirited discussion on how all of us has a part in improving water quality.

Here is a list of scheduled viewing parties:

- Ortonville: Headwaters Grill and Bar (17 2nd Street Northwest) from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. with hosts Dale & Mary Homan of Citizens for Big Stone Lake and Duane Ninneman of CURE. For more information, 877-269-2873.
- Montevideo and Granite Falls: Duffy's Good Time Saloon (5014 Highway 212 SW) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with hosts Patrick Moore and Butch Halterman of CURE and Steve Virnig of Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization. For more information, 877-269-2873.
- New Ulm: Concordia Lanes & Kegel Klub (416 19th Street North) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with hosts Scott Sparlin of CCMR and Jack Lauer of MN DNR. For more information, 507-276-2280.
- Mankato: Rounders Sports Bar and Grill (414 South Front Street) from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. with hosts Shannon Fisher of the Water Resources Center (WRC) at Minnesota State University Mankato and WRC staff. For more information and RSVP, 507-389-2304. There will be a short program starting featuring Dr. Anne Blackhurst (Interim VP for Academic and Student Affairs), Representative Kathy Brynaert, Representative Terry Morrow, Drew Campbell (Blue Earth County Commissioner and MN River Board Delegate), and Bryce Hoppie (Water Quality Researcher and documentary participant).
- Bloomington: MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center (3815 American Blvd, Minneapolis) with hosts Lori Nelson and Shelly Miller of Friends of the Minnesota Valley. For more information and RSVP, 952-881-9055.
- Red Wing: Jimmy's Pub at the St. James Hotel (406 Main Street) from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with host Mike McKay and the Lake Pepin Alliance.

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

Minnesota River Clean Up Groups Featured on Prime Time TV Sunday June 12 @ 6 p.m.

The work of several citizen groups, university researchers, government agencies and farm organizations that have been working to raise awareness and take action to clean up the Minnesota River will be featured in a one-hour documentary at 6 p.m. on Sunday, June 12 on KARE 11 TV. Viewing parties will be held at local establishments from Ortonville to Red Wing where river enthusiasts can gather to watch the program and discuss the future of the river cleanup movement.

The special program narrated by Ron Schara is called "*River Revival – Working Together to Save the Minnesota River*" and features interviews with local farmers such as Don Halverson and Audrey Arner of Montevideo, Bruce Tiffany of Redwood Falls, local teacher Butch Halterman and Montevideo students such as Kate Eggers and Katreina Gibson.

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE)'s Annual meeting at the Hollywood Theater in Montevideo is also featured in the documentary along with footage highlighting the work of the New Ulm based *River*

Rangers, the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR) and organizers of the annual River Fishin' Contest in Belle Plaine .

"The airing of this documentary represents a high point in awareness for the Minnesota River," said Josh Preston, CURE Board Chair. "In the past month there have been editorials and feature stories on Minnesota Public Radio and the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* and dozens of other newspapers in the state," Preston continued. "The time is now to celebrate the progress we have made so far and to set our sights on the work ahead."

According to documentary producer John Hickman, a veteran of the Minnesota River clean up movement, the message of the documentary is that progress is being made. Citizens and farmers and government agencies and University researchers are collaborating in unprecedented ways to make the state's namesake river something to be proud of once again.

"For more than 100 years the Minnesota River has been treated like a dumping ground, an open sewer and as a giant drainage ditch for unwanted water," Hickman said. "Now we are understanding the impacts of these actions on our downstream friends – and in our own back yards – and we are working together across the state to reverse these trends."

Millions of taxpayer dollars and private citizen funds have been spent in the past 35 years upgrading sewage treatment and septic systems, restoring natural floodplains and wetlands and installing filter strips along publicly funded ditches and runoff catchment basins for urban parking lots. This has led to a marked increase in the health of fish, bald eagle and wild animal populations across the entire Minnesota River Basin, Hickman notes.

CURE is sponsoring viewing parties Sunday night June 12 at the Headwaters Grill and Bar in Ortonville and Duffy's Good Time Saloon on Hwy 212 between Montevideo and Granite Falls from 4 to 8 p.m. Montevideo High School Teacher Butch Halterman and members of the band CUREageous will be singing songs on the outdoor deck at Duffy's as part of the Montevideo/Granite area viewing party. Everyone is encouraged to bring instruments and participate in a classic CURE jam session. For more information, contact CURE at 320-269-2984.

Minnesota River documentary to be aired

Makers of a new documentary on the Minnesota River — which is getting statewide prime-time airing next weekend — hope it kick-starts renewed interest in the basin.

"It's a fabulous story, beautifully told and we're going to change the conversation about the Minnesota River," said John Hickman, executive producer.

The article can be found at: [Minnesota River documentary to be aired](#)

Conservation Drainage Sessions

Attend one of the three Conservation Drainage Sessions in the Minnesota River Basin. The terms conservation and drainage may seem to be at opposite ends of management approaches when dealing with runoff coming from our lands. But recently these two important and needed components of land management have come together to form a new innovative technology and approach. This approach has the potential to benefit crops and water quality and may significantly improve our Minnesota River Watershed.

The public is invited to attend the events in their area and learn more about this exciting way of water management.

Experts who have been working on the development of this concept along with those who have been involved with it for several years will be on hand to provide an overview and answer questions from the public.

Conservation Sessions:

- June 21st (Tuesday) from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Marshall (1500 E College Drive)
- June 22nd (Wednesday) from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Best Western River Inn & Suites in Chaska (1 River Bend Place)
- June 28th (Tuesday) from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont (920 East 10th Street)

These events are being co-hosted by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Agridrain Company, Agricultural Drainage Management Coalition, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota River Board, Friends of Minnesota Valley, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, Clean Up the River Environment, Rural Advantage, and Minnesota River Watershed Alliance. For more information contact Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280 or yasure@lycos.com or <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationdrainageflyer.pdf>

Hudson Bay Bound

Natalie Warren and Ann Raiho are retracing the Eric Sevareid and Walter Port's 1930 canoe trip from Fort Snelling all the way to the Hudson Bay. The women left from Fort Snelling on June 2nd.

For more information on their trip, <http://www.hudsonbaybound.com/index.html>

Beginning Kayak Experience to be Offered through "Adventures with Amelia"

Following the success of last year's popular "Kayak with Kate" program, Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) is offering beginning kayaking adventures for area residents through a new program called "Adventures with Amelia."

Beginning on Thursday June 9th and continuing on Thursdays through August, Amelia Bergquist will lead groups of no more than 10 people on short river floats designed to introduce local paddlers to the joys of kayaking. "This is an educational outing," stated Bergquist, who is a 2010 graduate of YME now studying biology at UMD, "A \$10 contribution to CURE is suggested to defer the cost of gas and shuttle service."

Reservations for each week will be taken on a first come first served basis with a maximum of 10. Anyone interested can call the CURE office to make reservations at (320) 269-2984. For more information visit www.cureriver.org or visit us on Facebook at "Adventures with Amelia".

More Regulations are not needed, but more cooperation and more science will further water quality goals

May 31, 2011, 5:04 pm - Filed under: **Water** - (A blog entry entitled "Enough is Enough" by Prof. George Rehm, director of Minnesota Discovery Farms, an on-farm water quality research project).

Minnesota is blessed with an abundance of natural resources and the large majority of its citizens, both urban and farmers, are deeply concerned about maintaining the quality of these resources. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that individuals, groups and/or organizations have proposed a wide variety of actions to maintain the quality of these resources—especially water. Many focus on activities and/or practices associated with farming.

Recognizing that the quality of the state's natural resources is an issue now and has been for a number of years, I was curious about the number of statutes and/or rules that had been developed via legislative action in Minnesota. I found that a legislative analyst had prepared a summary in 2009. This report carries the title: "A Minnesota Lawmakers Guide to the Agri-Environmental Landscape". There is a summary of 20 Minnesota statutes and executive rules that pertain to the relationship of farming to environmental issues.

They were divided into four categories: 1) manure, 2) cropping, 3) wetlands, and 4) general water quality. The number of statutes and/or rules by my count was 7, 9, 1, and 3 respectively. I'm not going to attempt

a summary of each. They focused on a variety of farming practices ranging from chemigation to animal carcass disposal and everything in between. The report also provided a summary of six major Agri-Environmental regulations at the national level. It's obvious that there are several statutes that pertain to farming practices and the environment.

As discussions about environmental quality, especially water quality, continue, farming practices frequently take center stage. Since farming practices are easily visible, they make good targets. There is also the FALSE perception that farmers are not at all concerned about environmental quality. With false perceptions and inaccurate information fixed in their minds, some have suggested that additional regulations of Minnesota are needed before improvements in environmental (especially water) quality can be achieved. Obviously, these individuals have not done their homework.

The suggestion for additional regulation is, in my opinion, a very narrow-minded and short-sighted approach to the issue. Clearly, the issues that revolve around the quality of the state's waters will not be solved by a combative debate between the agricultural community and those who seek additional regulations. In fact, a combative stance only defeats any possibility of a reasonable solution. Further, a combative atmosphere does nothing more than create confusion.

Any improvement in the quality of Minnesota's waters will be based on implementation of management practices based on sound science for which there is no substitute. Use of emotion and perception in support of a call for additional regulations will not solve any problems. One thing is clear to me: more regulations derived from emotion and perception are not needed in Minnesota. Several regulations that pertain to water quality are already in place. Enough is enough.

Our Take:

Some folks might wonder why we would talk about water quality in a blog about ethanol—hopefully we're not belaboring the obvious to say that what impacts farms impacts farm-based energy. The public's perception of water use and water impacts from farming becomes part of the discussion about whether ethanol is an appropriate choice as a transportation fuel.

Farmers do care about water quality and are at the forefront of efforts to reclaim the Minnesota River and other waters impacted by the whole range of human activities, including farming. Over the past two decades, thousands of Minnesota farmers have installed grassed waterways, grass filter buffer strips, sediment basins, rock-tile inlets for their drainage systems, not to mention restoring wildlife habitat and wetlands on their farms. The latest technologies gaining a foothold among farm operators are wood chip bioreactors that filter nutrients out of the water flowing from tile lines, and controlled drainage, which reduces erosion, sediment and nutrient transport and also makes more water available for crops at critical periods in the growth cycle.

So, if we are wondering which choice promotes better water quality, farm-based energy is the way to go. Do we need more offshore drilling, so we can risk more accidents that pour hundreds of millions of gallons of oil into the oceans? Do we need to give larger market share to the Canada tar sand oil producers, who are strip mining hundreds of square miles of northern forestland and using millions of gallons of groundwater to process the tar sands and capture the crude contained in them—resulting in lakes of toxic tailing refuse.

The choice is clear. Farm-based energy is the environmentally responsible way to go. When the public cooperates with farmers on projects like the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River or CURE—Clean Up the River Environment—both organizations have many farm cooperators—then we all experience the benefits of a cleaner waterways with more abundant wildlife, more recreational opportunities and a natural treasure that we can pass on to the next generation. Working together is what brings this progress, whereas one-size-fits-all regulations will be counterproductive.

High Temperatures Can Bring Harmful Algal Blooms

St. Paul, Minn. — When the summer sun shines and temperatures climb, conditions are ripe for Minnesota lakes to produce harmful algal blooms. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is again reminding people some types of algae can harm pets, livestock and even people.

Algae are microscopic aquatic plants and are a natural part of any aquatic ecosystem. Under the right conditions, some forms of algae, particularly a type called "blue-green algae," can pose harmful health risks. People or animals may become sick if exposed to these blooms. In extreme cases, dogs and other animals have died after exposure to lake water containing toxic blue-green algae.

"High rainfall results in nutrient-rich runoff, which enters lakes and fuels algae growth. As sunlight increases and temperatures warm, we can anticipate blooms of blue-green algae on many lakes," said MPCA lakes expert Steve Heiskary. Heiskary is a member of an interagency work group that is spreading the word that blue-green algae should be avoided. "When in doubt, best keep out," advises a poster the group created.

Most algae are harmless. However blue-green algae, when sunlight and warmth cause them to "bloom" in dense populations, can produce toxins and other chemicals. There are many types of blue-green algae. They are found throughout Minnesota, but thrive particularly in warm, shallow, nutrient-rich lakes. Often blown toward downwind shorelines, it is in these blooms that humans and animals most often come in contact with blue-green algae, and where the risk of algal toxins is greatest.

Complicating matters is that not all blue-green algae are toxic. There is no visual way to predict if a blue-green algal bloom contains toxins and is harmful to humans or animals. And distinguishing blue-green algae from other types may be difficult for non-experts. But harmful blooms are sometimes said to look like pea soup, green paint, or floating mats of scum. They often are smelly as well.

"You don't have to be an expert to recognize an algae bloom that might be harmful," Heiskary said. "If it looks bad and smells bad, it's probably best not to take chances with it."

An animal that has ingested toxins from an algae bloom can show a variety of symptoms, ranging from skin irritation, vomiting, severe disorders involving the circulatory, nervous and digestive systems, and severe skin lesions. In worst cases, the animal may suffer convulsions and die.

Humans are not affected very often, probably because the unpleasant appearance and odors of a blue-green algal bloom tend to keep people out of the water. But human health effects can include irritation of skin, eyes and nasal passages, and nausea and vomiting. Extreme cases can produce paralysis and respiratory failure.

These factors make it important to take a preventive approach to dealing with potential harmful algal blooms. There are currently no short-term solutions to correct a blue-green algal bloom. Once a bloom occurs, the only option is to wait for weather changes, such as significant rainfall, a wind shift or cooler temperatures, to disrupt the algae's growth. According to Heiskary, the key to solving algae problems long-term is to improve water quality by decreasing the amount of nutrients that runoff carries into lakes.

For more information about harmful algae blooms, go to www.pca.state.mn.us/water/clmp-toxicalgae.html or call 651-296-6300 or 1-800-657-3864.

PLSAS Eco Team Stencils Storm Drains

The Prior Lake – Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) Eco Team canvassed neighborhoods in Savage to stencil storm drains that dump rain water into the Credit River. The Scott Clean Water Education Program (SCWEP) provided resources for the Eco Team to perform the community project.

One week prior to stenciling the storm drains, the SCWEP Coordinator and the Eco Team distributed flyers about the project and ideas on ways residents can help keep the Credit River clean. Eco Team members were able to explain to some residents who were out walking their dog or mowing their lawn that anything left in the street eventually ends up in the Credit River.

For the entire article, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/scwepenews.pdf>

Watershed Specialist Training Program

Watershed planners, educators, researchers, check out the plan for the development of the Watershed Specialist Training Program. This training will help increase the level of skill and professionalism among planners across Minnesota who develop and implement TMDL plans, watershed plans, county water plans, stormwater plans, and related water resource work.

The plan was developed over the past year through the work of an advisory committee of representatives from Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, state agencies, Universities, and other experts in watershed work and education.

Funding for development of this program will begin soon. We anticipate running a pilot course in 2012. Please share this with your partners. I welcome your thoughts as we shift from planning into the development stage; Ann Lewandowski;
UM Water Resources Center; 1985 Buford Ave., Room 173; St. Paul, MN 55108; 612-624-6765

Watershed Specialist Training Program – <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/watershedspecialisttraining.pdf>

Events:

June 11th (Saturday) is a **Minnesota Valley nature program** by Ron Bolduan at Fort Ridgely Historic Commissary at 1:00 p.m. sponsored by the Nicollet County Historical Society. Ron's photos are filled with natural, cultural and historic sites along the MN River Valley Byway. At 3:00 p.m. there is music by the Kingery Family at the park amphitheater June 11 is Minnesota State Park Open House day. Admittance to the State Park and Historic Site is free. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

June 11th (Saturday) is the **Kingery Family** at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 3:00 p.m. sponsored by Friends of Fort Ridgely. Join us for some family musical entertainment at the amphitheater. Admittance to the State Park this event is free. For more information call 507-426-7840 or visit <http://www.thekingeryfamily.com/>

June 16th (Thursday) is an **Open House** for Uruguayan Photographer Federico Estol's book of local people and local photos: "Hello Montevideo from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Montevideo Public Library.

June 16th (Thursday) is the **Bus Tour: Conservation Practices within the Chippewa River Watershed** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. sponsored by Profits from Perennials. Bus departs at 9:00 a.m. from the Brandon Auditorium (105 Holmes Avenue, Brandon). The tour will feature local, on-the-land conservation practices for which cost-share money may be available, including alternative tile intakes, sediment retention basins, shoreline restoration and more. Register by June 10th by contacting Jennifer Hoffman at 320-269-2139 ext. 120 or Jennifer.hoffman@chippewariver.org

June 16th (Thursday) is an **Agroforestry In-Service Workshop** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Southwest Wisconsin Kickapoo Valley Reserve LaFarge and Mark Shepard's Farm, Viola, WI. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/agroforestry.pdf>

June 18th (Saturday) is the **Trifesta Celebration** in Montevideo starting at 8:30 at Lagoon Park with a 5k Run, Bike Race, Kayak Race, Canoe Race, Rubber Duck Race, music, food and much more.

June 18th (Saturday) is the **Le Sueur and Blue Earth rivers Cleanup** sponsored by the Mankato Paddling and Outing Club. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Belgrade United Methodist Church parking lot in North Mankato. The cleanup will take place on the Le Sueur River from County Road 16 to its junction with the Blue Earth River and on the Blue Earth River from the Rapidan Dam down to Sibley Park in Mankato.

June 18th (Saturday) is a **Military Event** at the Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 1:30 p.m. sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. Become a "volunteer soldier". Civil War-era re-enactors will be at the Historic Site to train recruits for infantry and artillery militia. Max and Donna Daniels, as President Abraham and Mary Lincoln will review the troops. President Lincoln will give the Gettysburg Address at 2 p.m. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

June 20 & 21 (Monday & Tuesday) is the **Bus Tour: Incorporating Prairies into Farms** sponsored by Profits from Perennials. Bus departures at 1:00 p.m. from the Land Stewardship Project office (301 State Road) in Montevideo. Come and see for yourself Iowa State University's innovative STRIPs Research at beautiful Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, near Prairie City, Iowa. To reserve your seat on the bus by June 15th or for more information, contact Julia Ahlers Ness at 320-269-2105 or janess@landstewardshipproject.org

June 25th (Saturday) is **Solstice River XV – Global Water Dances**, the 15th annual site-specific performance at the Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis at 5:00 p.m. sponsored by Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education. Free and open to the public, rain or shine. Minneapolis is one of over 50 cities on six continents creating global water dances a model of how to use participatory art to raise consciousness about the global water crisis, and how to bring people together to work on solving these problems. For more information, <http://www.globalsiteperformance.org/>

June 26th (Sunday) is the **Flag Program** at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 1:30 p.m. sponsored by Friends of Fort Ridgely. The Fairfax Honor Guard will demonstrate proper flag etiquette including folding of the flag. The reasons for the folds and other interesting information about our country's flag will be shared. The demonstration will be followed by a 21-gun salute and "Taps". Demonstration will be on the Historic Site parade grounds. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more info call 507-426-7840 or visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>

June 26th (Sunday) is the **Minnesota and the Civil War presentation** by Civil War expert Stephen Osman at Fort Ridgely State Park and Historic Site at 2:00 p.m. sponsored by Nicollet County Historical Society. Osman will present a Power Point program in the Historic Commissary about the Minnesota volunteers who fought in the Civil War. Enjoy colorful images and stories of their heroic service. State Park vehicle permit is required. For more information call 507-426-7888 or visit <http://nchsmn.org/>

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:

[Clean air advocates predict more respiratory issues if ozone standards not lowered](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Environmental advocates predict an increase in human respiratory problems unless the government acts to lower ozone standards.

[Poll says support for Legacy funding and environment remains strong](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). No matter what politicians say or do, Minnesotans still back their Legacy Amendment and want to maintain current environmental protections, a new poll says.

[Will Steger Foundation Talks Climate Change](#) (Edina Patch). Earth's climate is changing. There are many factors contributing to global warming, but few scientists would dispute that human behaviors like burning fossil fuels and deforestation contribute to the problem.

[In war on milfoil, weevils enlisted as lesser of 2 evils](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). An amateur marine biologist thinks bugs could trump chemicals.

[It's a sunny forecast for Minnesota's tourism industry](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Gas prices are more than a dollar per gallon higher than they were at this time last year.

Nothing is more beautiful than the loveliness of the woods before sunrise. – George Washington Carver

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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