

Watershed wide, Citizen-Led, Water Quality Action Meeting Scheduled for March 29 in Red Wing

The public is invited to attend a watershed wide, citizen-led conversation on water quality issues facing the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers to be held on Thursday, March 29th at the St. James Hotel located at 406 Main street in Red Wing, MN. The event is free, but advanced registration is required.

The conversation is being sponsored by a wide range of grassroots citizen groups, farm groups, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and InCommons. The purpose of the meeting is to explore how citizens, businesses and government can share leadership by collaborating to restore water quality through specific on the ground projects and cross sector initiatives.

The meeting will feature a meal and round table discussions facilitated by **InCommons** - a community-based initiative that connects Minnesotans to share tools, knowledge and resources to address complicated problems.

The Red Wing dialogue will build on the success of other round table discussions recently held in Mankato and Owatonna. More than 200 different people have attended these discussions where farmers, environmental advocates, government agency workers and recreational users of the river sit at the same table to discuss the issues and seek common ground.

This third dialogue will focus on concrete action steps that all these groups can take together. The evening meal will be the final segment of a day-long event designed for citizens to connect with Minnesota and Mississippi River water quality issues. For more information on the daytime schedule, call the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance at 651-308-0178.

Registration for the evening meal and dialogue must be made separately. To register call **1-877-269-2873** by March 27, 2012. Seating is available for 80 people on a **first come, first served basis**. Farmers are particularly encouraged to attend. Organizers are expecting a full house, so don't delay.

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

A message from Patrick Moore of CURE

CURE is opposed to the private ownership of public officials. As our region buried [Senator Gary Kubly](#) yesterday, we reflected upon the fact that he was a man of unquestionable integrity. This is why CURE has renamed our annual award for public service as [The Kubly Good Government Award](#). In many ways, Kubly's quiet and diligent manner was a reflection of his constituents -- the hard working and unassuming people of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed.

Going forward from Sen. Kubly's funeral, however, it is becoming more difficult for local public officials to stand up to the power of out-of-state corporations.

Do you remember the granite outcrop site along the Minnesota River at Ortonville, MN that local [citizens are fighting to protect](#) from an out of state mining company?

This past Tuesday we witnessed as [Strata Corporation](#) flew a private jet to Ortonville in order to take Big Stone County Commissioners on a tour of the proposed aggregate mining project site. Commissioners were ferried to the outcrops, two at a time, in an attempt to circumvent the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

Although Strata Corporation's permit request is still before the commission, midway in the process, Big Stone County Commissioners chose to leave interested Big Stone County citizens behind, playing a one sided game with Strata at bat and no one in the field. No media and no local citizens were allowed to accompany the commissioners as Strata pitched their desperately convoluted and shockingly brazen plan to mine these precious outcrops amidst local homes, rare habitat, and a new recreational bike trail. Later, the Strata officials lunched with the Big Stone County Commission Chair.

What was Strata's message?

Strata has hired the [biggest and best law firm that money can buy](#) to assure a permit victory. If the Big Stone County commissioners vote to deny the permit, Strata will very likely sue the county. Strata may also lobby Ortonville Township officials in an attempt to reverse the moratorium passed by the Town Board to protect the outcrop.

Strata is posturing. Strata aims to win. Strata intends to have the Big Stone County Commission working for them and not for the people of Big Stone County. Strata does not intend to let the majority of county citizens who oppose this quarry get in the way of a 130 year plan to blast, crush, and ship out the wealth of Big Stone County's most rare and beautiful landscape.

CURE is establishing an emergency fund to help the local citizens of Big Stone County fight back and help convince the County Commissioners to support the Ortonville Township moratorium by denying Strata's conditional use permit. We have exhausted the small amount of money we had to help coalesce and give voice to local opposition. Now that we are up against Corporate Jets and Hired Gunns -- we will need your help to sustain this effort.

Please consider making an on-line gift to this Stop Strata Campaign by visiting: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Clean-Up-The-River-Environment> and making a donation.

Sincerely, Patrick J. Moore; www.cureriver.org

p.s. There were two nice stories recently on MPR News that speak to CURE's work with local residents to advance an alternative vision for the region than the one being promoted by Strata Corp. You can read about them by clicking on:

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2012/03/05/ground-level-arts-economy-rises-on-the-southwest-prairie/> and

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/collections/special/columns/ground-level/archive/2012/03/minneapolis-art-students-pay-a-small-town-a-visit.shtml?refid=0>

MPCA to recognize advisers on Mississippi, Minnesota River water quality projects

St. Paul, Minn. — The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency plans to host events recognizing stakeholders and advisers who have participated in the development of two major Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality projects, for the South Metro Mississippi River and the Minnesota River.

On Wednesday, March 21, members of the Minnesota River Turbidity TMDL Advisory Committee and Sediment Reduction Advisory Committee are invited to a recognition event and TMDL update from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., including lunch, at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. After lunch there will be optional small group conversation on specific aspects of the TMDL report.

On Thursday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., members of the South Metro Mississippi Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Science Advisory Panel are invited to a recognition event and TMDL update, including lunch, at the St. James Hotel in Red Wing.

Bob Finley, regional watershed manager for the MPCA, will provide an overview of the draft reports at the March 21 and March 29 events. Advisory group members are welcome to attend either meeting if they are unable to attend their group meeting. An RSVP is needed to determine the number for lunch.

RSVP for the March 21 Minnesota River event by contacting Public Information Officer Forrest Peterson (email forrest.peterson@state.mn.us or phone 320-441-6972). RSVP for the March 29 South Metro Mississippi event by contacting Public Information Officer Cathy Rofshus (email catherine.rofshus@state.mn.us or phone 507-206-2608). All interested people are welcome to attend, although the lunch count is limited to 100.

Details will be announced later about additional meetings to be scheduled in St. Paul and Mankato. A meeting focusing on urban stormwater aspects of the TMDLs has been scheduled for April 19. It will be 9-11 a.m. at the MPCA St. Paul office, 520 Lafayette Rd. N. Groups may also request presentations by MPCA staff.

The TMDL reports focus on turbid water caused primarily by sediment. Turbidity is caused by suspended and dissolved matter, such as clay, silt, organic matter, and algae. High turbidity results in poor water quality for aquatic habitat, recreation, industrial use, and human consumption.

The reports are on public notice through April 27. During this period, comments become part of the review-and-approval process. The MPCA prepares responses to comments, and may amend the draft reports if necessary. The reports are available on the agency's [South Metro Mississippi Turbidity Impairment webpage](#) and the [Minnesota River Turbidity Impairment webpage](#).

Also on March 29 the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance will host two related events at the St. James Hotel:

1. The first, from 1:00-4:30 p.m., is a workshop focused on providing comment on the South Metro Mississippi TMDL.
2. The second, from 5-9 p.m., is a Citizen-led Conversation on Water Quality Goals. This event includes dinner at no cost to participants, but preregistration is required: Call 877-269-2873 (toll-free). The number of participants is limited to 80. Farmers are especially encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Patrick Moore of Clean Up the River Environment at 320-841-1487 or Mike McKay of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance at 651-308-0178.

Lenten Reflection: Bringing it to the Table and the Economics of Happiness

Tuesdays through April 3 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at Earthrise Farm

This year during the season of Lent, Earthrise Farm is planning to hold a Lenten Reflection on farming, food and the economics of happiness on a global level. Whether or not you are Christian, this is an important conversation for anyone identifying themselves as a human being. We will utilize the book *Bringing it to the Table*, a collection of essays on farming and food by Wendell Berry as well as the recently released film *The Economics of Happiness* by filmmakers Helena Norberg-Hodge, Steven Gorelick & John Page. The discussions will take place on Tuesday evenings starting at 6pm. All materials necessary for the discussion are provided. There is no fee, but a free-will offering is greatly appreciated. This is a B.Y.O.B.S. event; (bring your own breads, bars, and/or beverages) Earthrise will provide soup and service. Please come join the discussion! Earthrise Farm is located at 2580 250th and for more information, 320-752-1700 or erfarm@hotmail.com

MN DNR Stream Habitat Program - 2012 Workshop offerings

Registration is open for the following two workshops:

The Science of Healthy Waters

This new series, The Science of Healthy Waters, is designed for anyone 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 workshop addresses a specific topic related to stream health.

The Science of Healthy Waters: The Dam Dilemma *New workshop*

This workshop will unpack the science and implications involving dams in terms of: 1) effects on connectivity, hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, and aquatic habitat, 2) societal and ecological implications of these structures and 3) the challenges, benefits and design approaches of dam removal, dam modification, and by-pass fishways.

This class will be held May 21-23 in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Cost is \$300.

The Science of Healthy Waters: The Ditching Dilemma *New in 2011*

This workshop unpacks the science and implications 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.

This class will be held July 16-18 in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Cost is \$300.

Please see the flyer, which can be downloaded at www.mndnr.gov/eco/streamhab, for course descriptions and the registration form. Please note that we are not offering workshops from our Stream Restoration series in 2012.

Job Announcements:

Director of Development

Open Arms is the only nonprofit organization in Minnesota that cooks and delivers free meals specifically tailored to meet the nutritional needs of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, MS, ALS, cancer and more than 60 other diseases. This organization also works with communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, providing food and technical assistance for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS.

A candidate for this leadership position will need to be a seasoned professional with a combination of fundraising and communications experience along with a strong passion for the Open Arms mission—providing resources that support the nutritional needs for individuals with compromised immune systems or chronic illness—and their families.

The Director of Development is a new position for this organization, but the development function is not new and various components have been operationalized throughout the organization's history. Functions currently in place include: grant writing, direct mail and special events ~~and major gifts~~. The organization recently successfully completed an \$8 million capital campaign to build its new facility. Stewardship of campaign donors will be important to this role.

The Director will report to the Executive Director (E.D.)—who will also be new to their role and will be named prior to interviews for this role. The Director will manage a professional staff and provide direction for all fundraising, marketing and communications efforts in conjunction with the E.D. and leadership team. Individual contributor roles who report to this position include: Creative, Communications, Marketing/Community Outreach, Special Events and Grant writing. This individual will maximize utilization of resources, meet budget expectations (revenue and expenses), and work across the organization to create a culture of philanthropy with volunteers, employees and the organization's leadership—including the Board of Directors.

Specific development and communications leadership activities will include creating, managing and evaluating all fundraising and marketing and communications efforts. He/she will also provide leadership to the Development Committee of the Board, and aid in external relations activities as assigned by the E.D.

This Director will be responsible for cultivating and sustaining positive, collaborative relationships with Board members, employees, volunteers, community leaders, donors (including campaign donors), stakeholders, partner agencies, foundations and corporations, and community-based organizations to advance fundraising outcomes.

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

District Technician

Rice Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a District Technician. This position is under the general supervision of the District Manager and performs a variety of technical and educational work to fulfill the soil erosion and sediment control needs of landowners in Rice County. The primary responsibility will be to promote and provide technical assistance for wetland restorations and grass based conservation programs, assess the erosion control needs on private lands and survey and design conservation practices for implementation.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Promote the enrollment of conservation easements into programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.
- Provide technical assistance for wetland restorations and grass-based conservation.
- Assist landowners with the enrollment of conservation easements.
- Identify conservation practices needed on agricultural lands and assist landowners in the survey and design of a variety of practices through the use of state and federal programs.
- Coordinate the use and delivery of the no-till drill.
- Coordinate the delivery of the Cooperative Weed Management Area grant.
- Enter all state funded grant projects into the E-Link database.
- Submit reports to the SWCD manager on the progress of all assigned programs.
- Other duties as assigned by the District Manager.

Application Procedure:

Applicants must submit a completed Rice SWCD application, resume, and cover letter for employment. Applications may be printed from our website at <http://www.riceswcd.org> or can be picked up at 1810 30th St. NW, Faribault, MN 55021 or by calling 507-332-5408. Applications will be evaluated based on the information supplied in the resume, cover letter, and SWCD application to determine if they meet the minimum job qualifications. A maximum of 5 applicants will be selected by the Rice SWCD personnel committee for interviews, but may be less depending on the number of qualified applicants. The final candidate selected will not be hired until the Rice SWCD board takes action at the next available board meeting. The candidate selected will be subject to a federal background check upon hiring.

Big Stone SWCD Intern Position

The Big Stone Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring an intern position from May through August approximately for \$10.00 per hour. This position is a seasonal position under direct supervision of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) District Technician and the Big Stone SWCD Board of Supervisors. The seasonal position is primarily responsible for implementing projects in regard to weed management in Big Stone County. This is a multi-pronged approach focused on our newest invasive weeds that will include: education, documentation, treatment, and re-seeding with local eco-type native seed sources. Education includes organizing workshops and tours. This position will monitor, treat, and document the locations of invasive species infestations with a GPS, using Arc Pad. Weed identification field guides, herbicide, spraying equipment, and local-ecotype seed will be purchased and distributed to landowners. Operation of machinery and farming background or experience preferred. The work hours are 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday. The hours may vary also based on what work is available to be completed. This position may also seed some native grass seeding projects as well as other duties as assigned. This position is funded through a grant and has the possibility of being available for more than one season. The position will also include time under the direction of the Big Stone SWCD as field work requires.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Strong interpersonal, written and public speaking communication skills and capacity to work with a wide variety of people.
- Must be physically able and willing to work in varied terrain and weather conditions, capable of lifting 70 lbs.
- Must have a valid driver's license.
- Be able to pass the MN Certified Pesticide Applicator Test within 3 weeks of hiring.

- Must be willing to organize workshops and tours, give presentations, prepare annual reports, and develop educational materials and brochures.
- Farm, rural, agribusiness background preferred. Experience with machinery helpful.
- Ability to calculate proper herbicide application rates, operate computers and GIS, Arc Pad or GPS devices, comprehend maps and general rules and information.
- Self motivated, able to work with a minimum of supervision.
- Agronomy, Agricultural Business, Natural Resources, Biology or related background or education or training helpful.
- Completed one semesters of plant identification or similar education/training preferred.
- Ability to maintain a high degree of professionalism in representing Big Stone SWCD at public events and in the field with private landowners and general public.
- Willing to work long days in the outdoors, if conditions are good.
- Other duties as assigned.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: FAX, MAIL, OR EMAIL TO SUBMIT COVER LETTER AND RESUME to:
 Tammy Neubauer, Big Stone SWCD; 342 Second Street NW; Ortonville, MN 56278;
Tammy.Neubauer@mn.nacdnet.net; 320-839-6149 ext 3-phone; 320-839-2933-fax

Trail Staff, Internships and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains

Wilderness Inquiry is now accepting applications for Trail Staff, Internships, and Urban Wilderness Boat Captains for summer 2012. We're looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a willingness to work hard.

If you know of someone who would be good and interested, could you please send them our way? They can apply for the positions by going to: www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs

Please distribute the following announcement flyers as you see fit:

Trail Staff Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=3028>

Internship Flyer: <http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/doclib.php?doc=5343>

Events:

March 15th (Thursday) join the **Scott Clean Water Education Program for a free presentation about Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water** at 6:15 pm at the Spring Lake Township Hall in Prior Lake. Become inspired to create landscaping features that work to keep our waters clean. See photos of past projects and learn about the benefits of creating a rain garden and stabilizing your lakeshore with native plants. After attending the presentation, you will be able to receive design and installation assistance with creating your beautiful Blue Thumb, Planting for Clean Water rain garden or native shoreline. Some residents may qualify for a grant to help offset the costs of the Blue Thumb project. Registration encouraged. Contact Dan at 952-492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us to reserve your spot today!

March 17th (Saturday) is **Kids Day** at Earthrise Farm & Education Center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join us for some Fun on the farm. Activities include Self-guided Farm Tours, Grow-Your-Own Green Clover (in recycled containers), DIY Sock Puppets and Seasonal Snacks. Earthrise Farm is located at 2580 250th and for more information, 320-752-1700 or erfarm@hotmail.com.

March 17th (Saturday) is the **Watershed Solutions Summit** 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Normandale Community College in the Auditorium of the Fine Arts Wing (9700 France Ave S) in Bloomington sponsored by the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America and Minnesota Conservation Federation. How do we get more Watershed Solutions on the ground for clean water, habitat and ag production? Can Stakeholders and Policy merge to overcome barriers and find opportunities to get to solutions? Do the Great Water Quality Agreement, Great Lakes...[Read More](#)

March 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall (920 East 10th Street) in Fairmont. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

March 21st – April 25th (Wednesday) is **Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability** – a six week discussion course sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry (170 Good Counsel Drive) to be held on Wednesdays starting at 6:00 p.m. Space in this course is limited and is expected to fill. Please register to participate and receive your book before class begins. Participants in this course will: Explore the interconnected nature of food systems and our relationship to them; Examine the impact our food choices have on our health, the health of others and the health of the planet; Consider the ethical and political implications of our current food system and our personal food choices. Cost is \$30-\$50 (More if you can, less if you can't) This fee includes the cost of the course book which has thought-provoking readings, discussion questions, and goal setting and for each session. For more information and to register contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

March 27th (Tuesday) is the **Green Fire showing** at 7:00 p.m. at Belgrade Avenue United Methodist Church (325 Sherman Street) in North Mankato. This is a biographical film about seminal environmentalist Aldo Leopold. The program is sponsored by the Many Rivers Chapter of the Prairie Enthusiasts and the Mankato Paddling and Outings Club. For more information, contact Peggy at peggyk@hickorytech.net

March 29th (Thursday) is a **Conference on Precision Conservation**, the science and philosophy of putting conservation practices at the places on the landscape where they will do the most good in preventing erosion and improving water quality. NRCS Chief Dave White is keynote speaker. Sponsored by the Freshwater Society and a number of partners. To learn more and register: www.freshwater.org.

March 29th (Thursday) is the **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting** starting at 5 p.m. at the Starbuck Community Center. The meal begins at 6 p.m. and program to follow. There is also an opportunity for displays. The watershed effort works best when we all work together, so it's great to share and show the accomplishments and opportunities from across the basin. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaannualmeeting.pdf>

March 29th (Thursday) is the **Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Society's annual meeting** in conjunction with the Freshwater Society's day-long conference: "Precision Conservation: Technology Redefining Local Water Quality Practices." Precision conservation effectively and efficiently targets scarce resources to the spots on the landscape where they will do the most good. Learn about the latest technology -- much of it based on LiDAR scanning – that pinpoints "sweet spots" where runoff, erosion and pollution are disproportionately severe and the potential for improvement is disproportionately great. Speakers include NRCS Chief Dave White; Dr. David Mulla, University Soil Scientist and a pioneer in employing modern LiDAR-based technology in the service of conservation; Dr. Gerald Van Amburg, president of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Board; and several other Minnesota expert conservationists sharing rural and urban examples. The event will be at Silverwood Park in St. Anthony, MN. Visit the Freshwater Society web site (<http://freshwater.org/>) for a current agenda and registration information. The Chapter annual meeting will follow the conference .

April 10th (Tuesday) is the **Le Sueur River Watershed "Map Party"** from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Main Street Plaza and Community Center in Pemberton. The public is invited to this free event designed to share maps and information about the waterways and historic landscape of the Le Sueur River watershed. The event is free and participants will be welcome to come and go as they please. Refreshments and hot beef sandwiches will be served. For more information call 1-877-269-2873. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lesueurmapparty.pdf>

April 12th (Thursday) is the **Second Annual Ice Out/Loon In Fundraising Event** sponsored by the Minnesota Freshwater Society from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Lafayette Club in Minnetonka Beach. The event will include Exciting silent auction items Including...Twins Suite behind home plate for 14 guests with food and drink; kayaking around Split Rock Lighthouse; silver loon pendant on a silver chain; a sightseeing

cruise on Lake Minnetonka; a week at a resort near Steamboat Springs and much more! Emcee is Paul Huttner, MPR Meteorologist and there will also be a raffle, hilarious loon calling contest, great music, food and beverages. For more information click [here](#), or contact Diane Lynch at 952-314-8134 or dlynch@freshwater.org

April 28th (Saturday) is the **Ney Nature Center Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** starting at 5:30 at the Montgomery American Legion Post 79 (102 Elm Avenue SW0 in Montgomery. Featured guest speaker is Don Shelby, an environmental journalist, nature lover, one of the most decorated and honored local television journalists in the country, and recently WCCO-TV News Anchor. For more information call or email Becky at the Ney Nature Center – 507-248-3474 or info@neycenter.org

May 21st (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

July 16th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 (600 South 5th Street). For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

September 17th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23rd Street NE) in Willmar. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

November 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For information: 507-389-5491 or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[New investigative network emerges as consumers seek food news](#) (TC Daily Planet). FERN is an independent, nonprofit news organization that produces investigative reports on food, agriculture and environmental health.

[Nonprofits and accountability](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The author and founder of Twin Cities Rise advocates solving social issues with a pay-for-performance model.

[Wolf season proposal draws opponents](#) (Worthington Daily Globe). Establishing wolf hunting and trapping seasons is popular among many at the Minnesota Legislature, but lawmakers are hearing from those who do not like the idea.

[Asian carp caught in Mississippi River near Winona](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Minnesota Department of Natural Resources officials say two types of Asian carp were caught last week in the Mississippi River in southeastern Minnesota.

[Upper St. Anthony Falls Dam closure study part of Asian carp bill introduced in Congress](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Five members of the Minnesota congressional delegation introduced legislation Tuesday aimed at slowing the spread of invasive Asian carp in state waters.

[Farmers take lead in Whitewater conservation efforts](#) (AgriNews). Farmers in the Whitewater Watershed are taking the lead in water quality improvement through the Farmer-Led Council of the Whitewater River Watershed.

[MPCA to hold open house in Red Wing on river report](#) (Red Wing Republican Eagle). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is looking for input on a draft pollution-reduction report for the stretch of the Mississippi River that runs from St. Paul to Red Wing. An open house on the topic also is planned noon to 9 p.m. March 29 at the St. James Hotel.

[Northern crude oil keeps gasoline prices lower in Minnesota](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). As gasoline prices soar on the coasts, less expensive crude oil from Canada and North Dakota is easing the pain for Minnesotans.

[Commentary: Nonprofits serve a role others won't](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). And for that, tax-exempt status is a reasonable thing for society to offer.

[Minn. Senate passes environmental permitting bill](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Senate Thursday approved a bill aimed at streamlining environmental review and permitting.

[Legislators hear both sides of wolf-hunting issue](#) (MinnPost). With bills advancing in the Legislature to open a hunting season on wolves, some opposition to the plan is surfacing, reports the Fargo Forum.

[Your Green Life: "Green Burials"](#) (Northland's News Center). When a business wants to be more sustainable, they often have the same goals.

[Asian carp advance reaching a tipping point?](#) (Outdoor News). Commercial fisherman Tim Adams and his crew up a hat trick of Asian carp in the same net – a bighead, silver, and grass carp.

[Bill proposes invasive species center for University of Minnesota](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). A research center aimed at developing new technologies and approaches that attack invasive aquatic species such as Asian carp would be created at the University of Minnesota under legislation that began moving at the state Capitol on Thursday.

[Minn. asking feds to help stop spread of Asian carp](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Several members of Minnesota's congressional delegation want the federal government to study the feasibility of closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls Dam in downtown Minneapolis as a way to stop the spread of Asian carp.

To put your hands in a river is to feel the chords that bind the earth together. – Barry Lopez

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 Basin.

Thanks,

Scott

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