

Warnings Swell as Waters Flow

By Brian Ojanpa, Mankato Free Press

As area river levels continue to rise amid flood warnings this week, Lon Berberich is taking it all in with the wry perspective of someone who's seen this overwrought scenario before.

Even before Highway 93 leading into town closed Tuesday — as it has in numerous springs past — the city's clerk/treasurer was busy directing TV news crews to the town's emergency management maven Tom Phillips.

Bottom line: Henderson is going with the flow — literally, since a Minnesota River ice jam helpfully broke up Monday.

"Everything is flowing and going through on the river," said Berberich, noting that although highway arteries into the city flooded frequently in the 1990s, this year marks the first road flood closure since 2001.

For the rest of the article: <http://mankatofreepress.com/local/x1897240177/Warnings-swell-as-waters-flow>

FLOOD PREPARATION: MOVE ITEMS THAT COULD BECOME HAZARDOUS WASTES

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) urges home and business owners to move or dispose of products that could become hazardous wastes from flood-prone basements, workshops, garages and other areas. Batteries, solvents, paints, paint thinners, pesticides, household cleaners and other chemicals that you no longer need can be taken to your county's household hazardous waste facility. Minnesota residents can find their household hazardous waste facilities at www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/hhw/hhw-localprograms.html.

"Move items that you must keep to a place that you are certain will not flood," said Jennifer Volkman, MPCA household hazardous waste specialist. "It's also a good idea to move canned goods and other foodstuffs so they will be out of harm's way. Should these be damaged by floodwaters, they will become contaminated and have to be thrown away. Putting containers of bottled or other potable water in a place that's unlikely to be flooded is another wise precaution so you'll have safe water to drink and to cook with."

More information about minimizing pollution and health risks from flooding is available on the MPCA's Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/floods.html.

More on River Otters from Patrick Moore

Thought you might want to know what the DNR is collecting input from citizens around the state about their proposal to expand the legal trapping of otters to include the Minnesota River. I have been sent a spreadsheet from the DNR that lists the responses from the public input meetings and on-line surveys to date:

- 380 people have indicated that they support allowing river otter trapping statewide with a bag limit of 4, including in southwest counties where the season is currently closed.
- 483 people have indicated that they oppose expanding otter trapping.
- 952 people had no opinion.
- At the Granite Falls meeting held last Tuesday, 24 people supported trapping, 15 opposed and 7 had no opinion.

More information is attached. Input is still being gathered.

CURE has no stance on the issue, but we want you to know about the survey process so you can express your opinion.

If you have not done so, you can take the on-line survey by visiting:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/hunting/sminput.html?gosurvey=Take+The+2010+Public+Input+Survey>

The otter trapping question is number 14 out of 15 questions you will be asked.

Please review the background materials on the DNR web site before voting. If you have any questions about the issue, please feel free to contact the CURE office and we can put you in touch with our members who can give you reasons why they support otter trapping and others who can tell you why they oppose it.

Ultimately, it is the DNR who will decide. We are just trying to help the DNR get as much input as they can on the subject from an informed constituency of river stakeholders. Patrick Moore

www.cureriver.org

Digital Terrain Analysis with LiDAR for Clean Water implementation Workshop

This one-day workshop is for experienced GIS-based natural resource analysts involved in locally led Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) water quality restoration or clean water protection efforts (see prerequisites on back). Participants will learn various digital terrain analysis techniques for identifying the most effective places on the landscape to implement conservation practices that reduce sediment and sediment-related pollutants. These techniques were developed and tested by the University of Minnesota with 2007-2009 Clean Water Legacy funding from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. This workshop will transfer knowledge about these techniques from the University to local GIS specialists working on clean water restoration and protection efforts throughout the state. The premise: If clean water goals are to be met, implementation funding must be targeted to high-contributing areas of the landscape.

- Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at Winona State University
- Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Thursday, May 13, 2010 at St. Cloud State University

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

Hi Ney Nature Center Friends! Check out these Great Programs in March!

- Up close and personal with Bluebirds presented by Earl Gransee, Local Expert, Saturday Morning Coffee Series, March 13th – 9 a.m. Would you like to get up close and personal with birds? If so, join Earl Gransee on Saturday March 13, 2010 at the Ney Nature Center. The bluebird one of nature's friendliest and beautiful birds will be the topic at March's Saturday Morning Coffee Series. Learn about the bluebird's habitat, recovery program, nesting preferences, and more. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase an already made bluebird house or construct their own from a kit. Registration would be appreciated if you would like to purchase an already made house or kit. Call Nicole or Becky at 507-248-3474 by March 11th. Looking forward to seeing you on March 13.

Earl has lived in Belle Plaine, MN for 27 years. He was the Belle Plaine Elementary School Principal for 20 years until retiring in 2003. Earl has always had a love of the outdoors and the environment. In 1989 he started a bluebird house construction class for Belle Plaine and Jordan elementary schools fourth grade classes. Earl continues to teach the class to Belle Plaine fourth graders each spring at the Ney Nature Center. Over the years more than 2,200 bluebird houses have been constructed. Earl serves on the Ney Board of Directors and also on Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center Board of Trustees at Finland MN.

- Eco Explorers Day Camp, Saturday, March 27th, 10 am – 2:00 pm, K-2nd graders (Bluebirds), 3-6th graders (Eagles)

Attend Day Camp for a day of exploration at the Ney Nature Center. Students will be enthralled with learning opportunities that will allow them to experience nature through observation and education. Lunch will be provided. Dress for the weather/outdoors, bring a water bottle and be prepared for hiking. Cost: \$20.00 per student w/NNC Family membership and \$25.00 per student for non-NNC Members. Registrations due by March 22nd. To Register call or E-mail Becky at 507-248-3474/rebecca@neycenter.org

- Save the Date for this Big Event!, 3rd Annual Spring Fling Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction, Saturday, May 15, 2010, Lakeside Supper Club, Montgomery, Guest Speaker Al Batt “Certified Bird Nerd,” Space is limited purchase your tickets soon. Reservations due by Tuesday, May 4th, \$30.00 - NEEF Members \$35.00 - Non-NEEF Members, For additional information and to purchase tickets, contact Becky Pollack, at 507-248-3474 or info@neycenter.org. If you are unable to attend, we will gratefully accept your tax-deductible monetary donations. Proceeds will be dedicated to the Ney Nature Center’s Capital Improvement Fund.

2010 Shallow Lakes Forum

April 5th is the Shallow Lakes Forum VII at the Oak Ridge Conference Center (1 Oak Ridge Drive) in Chaska. The 2010 Shallow Lakes Forum is geared toward anyone who has an interest in or may be responsible for shallow lakes management planning or plan development and implementation. Much of the workshop could also be applied to other types of waterbodies and watersheds.

- Keynote: Shallow Lake Management in Iowa, John Downing, Iowa State University
- Planning water level management for shallow lake restoration, Nicole Hansel-Welch and Jon Schneider
- Regulatory and legal issues related to shallow lake restoration Igor Lexner and John Kolb
- Revisiting the Dead Lake Stakeholder Process
- Setting site specific standards for the protection of submerged aquatic vegetation in Lake Pepin, MPCA and LimnoTech
- Restoration of Shallow Urban Lakes in Apple Valley, MN Jeff Kehrer, City of Apple Valley
- Restoring shallow lakes in the Three Rivers Park District, Randy Lehr and John Barten, Three Rivers Park District
- Restoration of 5 urban shallow lakes in southwestern Twin Cities, David Austin, CH2MHill

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/shallowlakes2010forum.pdf>

Recycling Association of Minnesota Offers Easy Way to Conserve Resources in Your Own Backyard.

The Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM) is now offering an easy solution to green up your backyard this Spring. By composting organic waste (vegetable scraps and yard waste) and capturing rain water from the roof, you can reduce the need for expensive fertilizers and reduce that water bill. RAM is providing inexpensive rain barrels and compost bins for Minnesota residents at wholesale price.

There are endless benefits to collecting and reusing rain water. The concept is as old as time but making a resurgence for home owners looking for ways to reduce costs this year and do something good for mother earth. Water collected in the rain barrel can be used for your garden, landscaping and trees. A typical home's lawn and garden watering can consist of more than 40% of a household's water use. Additionally, rain water is clean, has little sediment, and is chlorine free which makes it healthier for plants and the environment.

Backyard composting may reduce trash volumes and disposal costs. It creates valuable nutrient-rich compost for gardens and plantings.

The rain barrels and compost bins are available for pre-order on RAM's website, www.recycleminnesota.org. There will be several distribution dates and locations throughout the metro area starting mid April and going through June. The rain barrels hold up to 55 gallons of water and designed to catch rain water directly from the gutter. On the top, there is a removable aluminum mesh screen covering preventing mosquitoes, leaves, sticks, debris, and animals from entering. One particular model has an overflow spigot and has the capability of connecting to additional barrels increasing storage capacity. The compost bin offered has a lid, is made from recycled content and has a convenient door at the bottom to scoop out finished compost.

To pre-order your bin go to www.recycleminnesota.org and select your pick up location to order form.

"Home Tweet Home" is a fundraiser for Habitat For Humanity.

First off, it's a wine tasting. Second, though, is a silent auction of one-of-a-kind, custom designed birdhouses. And there are a few other bird related items, too. You can see them (well, some of them) at <http://habitatrestoremankato.org/page76.html>

The event is Saturday, March 20 from 7-9 PM at the AmericInn in Mankato. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the ReStore and Stadium Spirits in Mankato. We'll also have them (and some of the birdhouses) at the St. Peter Food Co-op on Saturday, March 20. I also attached our flyer. All proceeds, of course, go to help support building affordable housing across the region.

Stormwater Treatment: Assessment and Maintenance

The University of Minnesota and St. Anthony Falls Laboratory are proud to announce the launch of a **[NEW online manual](#)** for the assessment and maintenance of stormwater treatment practices! The manual, "[Stormwater Treatment: Assessment and Maintenance](#)" builds on the knowledge and experience of engineers, researchers, faculty, consultants, watershed districts and many others. The purpose is to provide guidance and recommendations for measuring performance (i.e., assessment) and maintaining stormwater treatment practices. For more information, read the attached March 2010 Stormwater Assessment and Maintenance Newsletter or [click here](#) to visit the online manual. If you know anyone that might be interested in our work, please forward this newsletter to them as well (subscription information provided at the end of this email). Thank you for your interest!

Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, in partnership with the Freshwater Society, announces its *Agriculture and Water Summit 2010: Keeping Water on the Land for Conservation and Production*, Saturday, March 27th, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Normandale Community College in Bloomington.

The goal is to bring together farmers, researchers, conservationists, students, and others interested in working collaboratively to protect water resources while ensuring productive farms. Presenters include Bruce Wilson and Gary Sands of the University of Minnesota's Dept. of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering taking about agricultural drainage and strategies for conserving water in the soil and reducing the flow of nitrogen to surface waters. Other presenters include Warren Formo of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition, Martin Jaus, an organic dairy farmer from Sibley county, Tim Larson from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Tony Thompson, a corn and soybean farmer, and renowned expert on ecologically and economically sustainable farming from Windom.

The luncheon keynote speaker will be Jon Foley, Director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment presenting "**The Other Inconvenient Truth: A Global Challenge for Agriculture and the Environment**" addressing the challenges of feeding a growing world population while protecting the land and water resources necessary to sustain the planet.

Afternoon breakout sessions will include:

- Scott Sparlin, Watershed Initiative Coordinator for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley talking about conservation drainage.
- Joel Peterson, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources presenting “Two-Stage Ditches” for minimizing sediment and nutrients being transported from ditch to stream.
- Barry Drazkowski, Director of GeoSpatial Services at St Mary's University in Winona on mapping natural wetland complexes in planning water management and conservation systems.
- The Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Coalition will present its Discovery Farms program.
- Brad Redlin, Director of Agriculture Programs for the Izaak Walton League of America discussing the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) and the USDA's conservation advisory committees.

The workshop costs \$20 for participants, \$15 for students and includes a box lunch. Registrations received after Monday March 15th or at the door will be \$25 for participants, \$20 for students. For registration and information go to www.minnesotaiikes.org/ Or contact the Minnesota Division office at ikes@minnesotaiikes.org 651-221-0215.

Poultry Workshops to be Held in Hutchinson, Lamberton, and Park Rapids

University of Minnesota Extension and Rural Advantage are offering three Poultry Workshops for those who are currently producing poultry or for those that are interested in getting started. The sites include Hutchinson, Lamberton, and Park Rapids, Minnesota. There is a **cost** for each of the workshops and **pre-registration** is necessary. There will be CD's with the information presented and further materials for each person who attends.

The course will be geared toward the needs of farmers who are producing chickens in alternative settings such as: using portable structures on pasture, using a free range system, using housing that allows amplified space for the birds, using little or no antibiotics, or those marketing direct to consumers or supplying local coops, grocery stores, and restaurants. Growing demand by consumers for poultry produced in this manner and greater interest by smaller scale farmers who seek to increase income and profitability have created the need for this type of workshop.

- Hutchinson - Thursday, March 18, 2010 - 6:30-9:00pm
McLeod County Fairgrounds – 840 Century Ave. SW – Hutchinson, MN 55350
(Meeting room is across from the Extension office.)
Speaker: Dr. Jacquie Jacob – University of Kentucky
Topics: Poultry Health and Nutrition and other topics as requested by participants.
Registration Fee: \$10 - RSVP by March 17
- Lamberton - Friday, March 19, 2010 - 1:00-4:00pm
Southwest Research and Outreach Center – 23669 130th St. – Lamberton, MN 56152
Speaker: Dr. Jacquie Jacob – University of Kentucky
Topics: Poultry Health and Nutrition and other topics as requested by participants.
Registration Fee: \$10 - RSVP by March 17
- Park Rapids - Saturday, March 20, 2010 - 10:00am-4:00pm
Faith Baptist Church – 1505 Park Ave. S. – Park Rapids, MN 56470-1591
(The church is located on Highway 71 south. The workshop will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Registration begins at 9:30am.)
Speakers/Topics:
 - Dr. Jacquie Jacob – University of Kentucky/Poultry Health and Nutrition
 - Jim Stordahl – University of Minnesota Extension/Breeds, Housing, Predators
 - Suzanne Peterson – Producer/Ducks & Geese Breeds, Health Management, Nutrition, Marketing
 - Levi Muhl – Minnesota Department of Agriculture/Processing, Labeling
 Registration Fee: \$25 - RSVP by March 15

* Please be sure to pre-register in order to get a lunch count.*

To pre-register please contact: Wayne Martin, University of Minnesota Alternative Livestock Systems, 612-625-6224, or at marti067@umn.edu. Also contact with any workshop related or weather related questions.

Clean Water Council seeking to fill two vacancies

The Clean Water Council has a vacancy for a member representing an Environmental Organization to complete a four-year term expiring on Jan. 3, 2011. Council members are appointed by the Governor. The application deadline is Tuesday, Feb. 23 and the first date the Governor can make an appointment to the position is Friday, March 5, 2010. Information about the Clean Water Council and this vacancy can be found on the Secretary of State's Open Commissions and Appointments web site at www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=5, along with the application forms. Information about the Clean Water Council, its members, publications, and past meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the Council's web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cleanwatercouncil/index.html.

The Council member representing Tribal Governments is also vacant. That vacancy will be posted on the March 2010 list of vacancies at the Secretary of State's Open Commissions and Appointments web site at www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=5. Please check this site for more information.

Watershed Tool of the Month – EPA's Water Quality Scorecard

EPA is releasing a first-of-its-kind water quality scorecard that will help communities in rural, suburban and urban settings incorporate green infrastructure practices to protect local water quality and improve both the built and natural environment. The *Water Quality Scorecard* was developed to help local governments identify opportunities to remove barriers and revise and create codes, ordinances, and incentives to better protect water quality. This tool can help municipal staff, stormwater managers, planners, and other stakeholders better understand where a municipality's land development regulations and other ordinances may present barriers or opportunities to implementing a comprehensive water quality protection approach. The scorecard also provides policy options, resources and case studies. To download a copy of the [Water Quality Scorecard](#).

Job Announcements:

Statewide Farm to School Program Director (Half-Time Position)

This position will serve as the Program Director for the State of Wisconsin's Farm to School (F2S) Initiative under the Communities Putting Prevention to Work program, which is funded through ARRA dollars received by the WI Department of Health Services. The goal of this initiative is to increase access to fruits and vegetables in school meals through the use of comprehensive farm to school strategies.

The Program Director responsibilities include the development and implementation of a statewide farm to school program that fosters innovative approaches and best practices. Duties for this position include leading policy work; developing and implementing economic programs including analyzing legislative mandates; grant seeking; researching and identifying training or educational needs of schools; and recommending policy or operating procedures.

This position also includes building and managing a statewide network of program partners that include community leaders, state government agencies, and local producers.

This professional position is housed at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's (DATCP) Division of Agricultural Development and operates under general supervision of the Agricultural Market Development Bureau Director. Regular travel within the State of Wisconsin is required as well as occasional travel outside of Wisconsin.

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

Seasonal Technician

The Snake River Watershed Management Board is hiring a seasonal technician for the months of April through October. This position exists to provide technical assistance necessary for the Snake River Watershed Management Board to implement water quality projects, collecting water quality data, data entry, database management and other duties as assigned. This position reports to the Snake River Watershed Coordinator to coordinate and prioritize workload commitments. This position will work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the watershed.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

1. Assist with the installation, operation, and maintenance of automated water monitoring equipment;
2. Assist with the manual collection of lake and stream water quality data;
3. Assist with preparation of water resource monitoring reports;
4. Train and provide support to volunteers;
5. Carry out SRWMB action projects; and
6. Work in diverse weather and field conditions;
7. Other duties as assigned.

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

Ordway Glacial Lakes Field Steward

The primary duties of the Ordway Glacial Lakes Field Steward are to assist with the implementation of a comprehensive program to protect natural communities and species and the completion of land management activities on the land owned by The Nature Conservancy in central MN. The job is broad in scope, including coordination of annual preserve management of weed control, prescribed fire, grazing operations, volunteer stewardship workdays and partnering with other agencies.

The OGL field steward will implement monitoring and stewardship activities on TNC preserves in the Prairie Forest Border Ecoregion and other properties of interest to TNC, both public and private. Activities may include conservation easement monitoring, species monitoring and research, exotic species control, prescribed burning and operating large tree removal equipment. The Field Steward is responsible for the maintenance of all preserve buildings, fences, trails, tools, vehicles and equipment. Physical requirements of the job include the ability to lift 50 pounds, hike 10 miles a day and carry a 45-pound backpack for extended periods of time.

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

Events:

March 20th (Saturday) is the next meeting of the **Western Minnesota group of the Sierra Club** at 10:00 a.m. at the CURE office in Montevideo. Participants will engage in immediate action concerning the Clean Air Act, then choose the group's initial priorities for local action and begin work plans for those priorities. They will also consider how to work together with other local environmental groups. After a working lunch, participants can participate in a Sierra Club outing. Depending on the weather, this may involve cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Lac qui Parle State Park or hiking at the Blue Devil Nature Conservancy area. Please bring waterproof boots and binoculars. An evening meal at a local restaurant will complete the day.

March 25th (Thursday) is the **Simon Lake Wildlife Management Designation informational meeting** at 7 p.m. at the Lakeside Ballroom (180 South Lakeshore Drive) in Glenwood. Citizens will have an opportunity to learn about the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources proposal to designate western Minnesota's Simon Lake as the state's 45th wildlife management lake.

March 25th (Thursday) is the **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting** at the Starbuck Community Center. The evening begins with registration and social gathering at 5pm, meal at 6 pm, and

program at 7 pm. Meals are free with registration. Presentations will be given on the latest monitoring results and the Wonderful World of Mussels by Mike Davis with the Minnesota DNR. Mussels are biological indicators of a river's health and are an often overlooked river species. Mike Davis is one of the leads of the Minnesota Statewide Mussel Survey and will offer a lot of great information on this native species as well as how mussels relate to the Chippewa River Watershed.

April 17th (Saturday) is the **3rd Annual Fun Shoot (Clay Pigeon Shoot)** at the River Ridge Gun Club, Courtland sponsored by the Twin Valley Boy Scout Association. Check in is at 12:30 and the Shoot starts at 1:00pm. Go to www.twinvalleybsa.org to print off a registration form or for more information.

April 20th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance meeting** at the Hutchinson Events Center starting at 6:00 p.m. with a social hour and the formally meeting beginning at 9:00. For more information <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com/>

April 24th (Saturday) is the **2010 Minnesota River Banquet** with the social hour starting at 5 p.m. in the lower level of Turner Hall in New Ulm. The dinner starts at 6:30 and program at 7:30 with an update on Minnesota actions, issues and advocacy opportunities for the public. It will also feature a startling snapshot look at the phenomenal fisheries in the backwater area of the river near New Ulm and Minnesota River Jeopardy will be back. For those who wish to come early and pay a visit to the Regional River History and Information Center the doors will be open starting at 2 PM until 4:30. The center is the big brick building located in Riverside Park at 1st South and Front St. This event is in its 21st year and as always is being hosted by the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River. Pre-registration is open and can be done by email providing a name and the number attending to yasure@lycos.com or by sending a check for \$20 per person to CCMR P.O. Box 488 New Ulm MN 56073 notating banquet tickets on the check. CCMR is a basin-wide non-profit 501 c 3 federal tax exempt organization. All donations are tax deductible deductible.

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

Water Quality Articles:

[At Polaris, can green be gold?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Polaris hopes so. The company is awaiting consumer response to a new, quiet electric all-terrain vehicle.

[DNR awards solicits solar energy applications by May 28](#) (Jordan News). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has awarded \$487,500 in grants for 11 solar energy projects within parks or on trails of regional or statewide significance across Minnesota.

[Senate takes on definitions of 'enhance, restore, and protect'](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Lawmakers last year approved new definitions of the words, which are at the crux of the mission of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council - to make recommendations for spending money raised by the Legacy Amendment that restore, protect, or enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat.

[Legislation would reinstate bounties on coyotes in Minnesota](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). a Senate panel sent a bill to the floor that would allow counties and townships to offer bounties on coyotes, a reward that hasn't been available for 45 years.

[Audit raises questions over DNR land management](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News). Despite internal plans and external pressure to buy more land, the DNR appears to lack the resources to manage and maintain what it already owns, according to a legislative audit released last Friday.

[Pawlenty cuts back conservation easement program](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Legislature had allocated funds to restore 24,000 acres. Instead, 4,600 acres will be possible.

[Environmental group seeks stricter rules for atrazine](#) (Alexandria Echo Press). The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy is urging state and federal agencies to strengthen regulations for a heavily used agricultural chemical because scientific studies have found that atrazine-contaminated water increases the risk for birth defects and developmental problems for infants.

The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe, the less taste we shall have for destruction. – Rachel Carson

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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