

### **20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary by Troy Krause, Redwood Gazette**

In 1992, then Gov. Arne Carlson issued a challenge. He wanted the Minnesota River to be “fishable and swimmable” in 10 years.

Now, nearly 20 years after that goal was set, the reality is the river is still not at the point where it could meet that standard, but according to those who have spent the past 20 years working toward that point, the river is much better today than it was in 1992, and should one look back to the 70s prior to federal clean water directives, the river is much better.

“We may have been a bit optimistic back then,” said Carlson in a recent phone conversation from his home in Florida, adding he still believes one day the dream will be realized.

For Carlson, the best thing that came out of his shared vision was the coming together of state agencies, such as the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to work on a common goal.

“Traditionally these three groups had been in conflict with each other,” explained Carlson.

“They all seemed to embrace the idea.” Carlson said the effort has been magnificent over the years, adding the positive outcomes have certainly outweighed the reality that the goal was not met.

One of the local agencies involved in the effort to help clean up the river was the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and Redwood County’s SWCD played a role in the efforts.

According to Marilyn Bernhardson, Redwood County SWCD director, certain aspects of the water quality have been improved. She said one of the programs that helped to make a big difference in the river as it flows today was the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

“CREP had one of the biggest impacts on water quality,” said Bernhardson. CREP used state and federal funds to purchase marginal lands in the Minnesota River Valley – taking them out of production and utilizing as buffer strips for water that would flow into the river. Erosion issues improved and the water going into the river was much cleaner.

Bernhardson added other efforts, such as water retention basins and the move toward wetland restoration in the river valley have also helped address water quality, but those efforts have also helped to hold back some of the water which has also helped to reduce streambank erosion – another issue in restoring the river’s quality.

Bernhardson added while efforts were made along the banks of the river, there was just as much effort being made in those waters flowing into the Minnesota River.

The Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) has focused on improving the water quality of the two major tributaries of the Minnesota River – the Redwood and Cottonwood rivers. Doug Goodrich, RCRCA director, said the group had been working on water quality issues long before Carlson had made his proclamation.

One of its main focuses has been in monitoring water in the two rivers and to determine best management practices along the rivers to help landowners prevent water quality issues.

Goodrich said in the two watersheds there are about 1,000 active practices that have been made possible through funds allocated through RCRCA. Those funds come to the entity through state and federal grants and have been instrumental in the efforts to slow down the water and reduce everything from bacteria to pesticides in the water. Reducing nitrogen in the water and improving water clarity still are issues RCRCA and other groups are working on. Continued efforts to slow down water are also being made to help keep the landscape from eroding away.

"The Minnesota River clean up movement is making progress," said Patrick Moore of Clean Up the River Environment (CURE). "In the upper watershed where more than 66,000 acres were enrolled in CREP, we are seeing a rebounding of wildlife from eagles to cougars to paddlefish.

Other groups, such as the Green Corridor Project, have taken a different approach to the river and are looking for added ways to enhance recreation in the river. That kind of effort can not only bring people to the areas along the river but they can also help to improve the economy.

As the river improves, so does the need to market it as a destination, and that only happens when the public are certain the water meets Carlson's goal.

### **Joel Salatin coming to Fergus Falls**

Renowned sustainable farmer Joel Salatin will speak at Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Fergus Falls on Thursday, March 3. Salatin is the proprietor of Polyface Farm, a family-run beyond organic, local-market farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. His farming practices are featured in "The Omnivore's Dilemma," "Food Inc." and "Fresh" and have earned him world-wide recognition as a leader in the local foods movement. The presentations are open to the public for a \$15 suggested donation.

The March 3 program on the Fergus Falls campus includes:

- 1:30-3 p.m.: Salatin will explain the grass-based polyculture system he stewards at Polyface farm to produce high quality beef, pork, poultry, rabbit, eggs and lumber.
- 3 - 4:30 p.m.: A panel of farmers will discuss sustainable, nutrient-dense vegetable production.
- 6:30 p.m.: Salatin's keynote address will address the necessary components of a durable, local food system.

For further info on the March 3 events, call 218-736-1625 or e-mail [marci.king@minnesota.edu](mailto:marci.king@minnesota.edu)

### **60<sup>th</sup> Annual South Central/Southwest Minnesota Regional Fair Award Recipients from the MN River Board**

The Minnesota River Board is pleased to announce its award recipients from the 60th Annual South Central/Southwest Minnesota Regional Science Fair (Junior/Senior High Division). The fair was held February 19 at Minnesota State University Mankato. The Minnesota River Board Award is presented to students whose projects exhibit excellence in water research. These projects may span diverse disciplines such as biology, chemistry, environmental science, health, or human behavior. The award recipients each received a check for \$50 and a certificate of accomplishment.

- Parker Breza, St. Hubert School, Chanhassen  
Title: Fuel It Up With Algae
- Mark Broderius, Lincoln Junior High School, Glencoe  
Title: What is the Water Quality of Buffalo Creek Before, During, and After it Passes by a Food Processing Plant and the City of Glencoe?
- Andrew Steffl, St. Mary's Senior High School, Sleepy Eye  
Title: The Effects of Lanthanum (III) Chloride, Aluminum Potassium Sulfate, and Calcium Hydroxide on Phosphorous Runoff
- Rena Weis, New Prague High School, New Prague  
Title: Reduction of Fertilizer Rates By Carbon Sequestration of Biochar

### **Mankato Community Garden**

I'm very happy to announce, albeit unofficially, that this year in conjunction with [Feeding Our Communities Partners](#) the City of Mankato will be sponsoring a community garden to be located tentatively at the corner of Stoltzman Road and W. Pleasant adjacent to the skating rink and kitty corner

from the West High School athletic fields. The City will be working with FOCP [Feeding Our Communities Partners] this year to develop a program that will most likely be ready for 2012.

The [Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry](#) has had a community garden for several years, and the FOCP has run a community garden on private land in North Mankato with the City providing some support.

If you are interested in helping with the Mankato/FOCP community garden, please contact Melinda Wedzina of FOCP at [focp.mn@gmail.com](mailto:focp.mn@gmail.com). Leigh Pomeroy; Mankato Area Environmentalists; <http://mankato-enviros.org>; <mailto:leighp@red-jacket.com>

### **MN GreenStep Cities Seminar**

New Ulm Citizens for Clean Energy and the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League invite you to an informational seminar about MN GreenStep Cities, a challenge, assistance and recognition program to help your municipality look to the future.

- DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2011
- LOCATION: New Ulm Public Library, 17 N. Broadway, New Ulm
- SCHEDULE:
  - 3:00-4:45pm Afternoon Seminar
  - 4:45-6:00pm Social Time & Free Light Meal
  - 6:00-7:45pm Evening Seminar
- AGENDA (same for afternoon & evening sessions):
  - GreenStep Cities Overview Jeff Vetsch, Regional Coordinator Clean Energy Resource Teams
  - Local Accomplishments Michelle Schroeder, Director At Large, Izaak Walton League, Minnesota Division
  - Best Practices Drill-Down Brian Ross, Principal, CR Planning
  - Small Wind Bulk Purchase Region 9 Development Commission
  - Conservation Improvement LuAnn Nelson, Energy Services Representative
  - Programs Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
  - Conservation Improvement William Swanson, Energy Services

RSVP: Sue Kimmel (507) 359-1163 or [skimmel@newulmtel.net](mailto:skimmel@newulmtel.net) (Seminar: Afternoon/Evening? Dinner: Yes/No? How Many?)

### **River Kayak Touring Class**

Clean Up the River Environment, in cooperation with Montevideo Community Education is sponsoring a FUNDAMENTAL RIVER KAYAK TOURING CLASS on Thursday, March 17, 2011 from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. at the Montevideo High School swimming pool, Montevideo, MN

CURE Board member Tom Watson -- a professional outdoor adventure writer and educator will lead this indoor pool exercise in fundamental capsized recovery techniques for basic river touring and recreational kayaks. Anyone interested in learning basic kayak techniques (beginners, intermediates and those just interested in learning more about the sport) is invited to participate.

*PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED* and class size is limited. If you have a kayak that you wish to bring along, you must contact the CURE office for instructions.

For more information and to register call CURE at 269-2984 or toll free at 1-877-269-2873.

### **THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY**

Will be the subject of a meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) at the Chippewa County Public Library in Montevideo, MN at 7 p.m.

Wabasso native Beth Johanneck has written a book of stories about the characters who have lived in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood and Granite Falls and all points in between. Discover the valley's most enterprising characters, from Fort Snelling bootleggers like Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant to the Granite Falls lawyer behind Prohibition, Andrew Volstead. Meet the author, hear stories and compare notes with fellow history lovers of the region.

For more information on Beth Johanneck and her books (she has a new one about to come out on Minnesota's Prohibition era), visit her [Minnesota Country Mouse Folk Blog](#)

### **Little Stone House Meeting – Mankato**

There will be a meeting of those interested in the future of the little stone house at 129 N. 2nd St. in Mankato. The story was in the Free Press Feb. 23rd.

<http://mankatofreepress.com/latestnews/x62853078/Old-stone-house-dealt-setback-in-court-ruling>

Purpose of the meeting: 1. To learn the status of the house. 2. To hear some ideas to "save" the house. 3. To make a recommendation to the Historic Preservation Committee (HPC). 4. Ask the HPC to take the consensus to the Mankato Planning Commission. 5. See pictures of the house and similar restorations.

Where: Twin Rivers Center for the Arts, 523 So. 2nd Street, Mankato

When: March 2nd at 4 p.m. Meeting will begin at 4:30 p.m.

If you would like more information contact Doris Berger at 507 234-2267 or [dsberger@frontiernet.net](mailto:dsberger@frontiernet.net) or Lona Falenczykowski at [lonaf@charter.net](mailto:lonaf@charter.net).

### **Comment on Little Stone House by Paul Vogel, Director of Community Development**

Please share with the interested parties that the City has no intention to tear down the house. The article in the Free Press did not fully disclose the City's intention. The ruling allows the City to abate the situation, which means we can stabilize the structure. The City's intention is to secure and stabilize the structure, and ensure maintenance of the property. This will allow time for some private party to step forward to reuse the structure. Your help in identifying a private party would be appreciated, but in short, we have no intention to tear down the house.

### **New Ulm Citizens for Clean Energy Meeting - Tuesday, March 8th at 6:00PM**

Join us for a meeting to discuss New Ulm's Energy Future. We will meet to discuss our plans to keep New Ulm coal-free, including supporting a new long term energy plan for New Ulm that does not include coal, promoting & planning the Green Step Cities event on March 15th, and planning for public engagement in the state air permit process. Everyone is welcome.

What: Meeting to discuss New Ulm's Energy Future

When: Tuesday, March 8th, 6 p.m.

Where: United Church of Christ (301 South Minnesota, New Ulm)

### **Professional Grant Development Workshop**

This workshop will be held on March 15 – 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to be held at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. The goal of the workshop is to master the techniques of writing superior and winning proposals and sponsored by: [The Grant Training Center](#).

This intensive three-day grant proposal workshop is geared for: 1) those who wish to strengthen their grant writing skills and 2) beginners who wish to acquire and master the techniques of preparing, writing and winning proposals from various funding agencies. The center of attention will be on how to effectively write proposals in times of keen competition and limited resources. Much has happened in new regulations and in approaches to grant writing, be it for the researcher in the sciences and social sciences, education and non-profit professionals.

Participants Will Learn How to:

1. Navigate the world of grant procurement
2. Research and identify potential funding sources
3. Address the guidelines of federal and foundation applications
4. Focus foundation and corporate giving for the State of Minnesota
5. Understand the new federal guidelines for writing winning grants
6. Know the review process and how to address key points for reviewers
7. Write winning grants that stand out against scores of competing submissions
8. Develop focused and realistic budgets
9. Demonstrate that one's proposal merits excellence and innovation
10. Package professional grant submissions

Our ultimate goal is for each participant to walk away with a product specific to their interests that includes the grant design, abstract and budget. Thus, the opportunity to influence the future of your work and ideas is within your reach. Understanding this reality, institutions are willing to minimally invest in the training of their staff to make this happen.

\*Space is limited, and since this class fills-up quickly, it is on a first-come, first-serve basis.\* Workshop Fee: \$595.00 (including tuition, materials, certificate of completion, and continental breakfast). Rebate of \$50.00 per person is given for two or more registrants from the same organization.

To [Register](#): Please visit our [website](#), or call us toll free at (866)-704-7268 or (571) 257-8864.

**Can't make it?** Join us on Monday, March 28 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. EST for our "[Fundamentals of Proposal Writing](#)" Online Webinar

To register click [here](#) and then on the Webinar from the workshop list.

"The University of Minnesota is not endorsing or sponsoring the activities conducted by The Grant Training Center on the University of Minnesota campus. The relationship between the University of Minnesota and The Grant Training Center is solely that of licensor and licensee."

### **March 14<sup>th</sup> Third Crop Producer Meeting on 'Importance of Ecological Services'**

Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting the third of four Third Crop Producer Meetings on Monday, March 14, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The workshop's topic will be the 'Importance of Ecological Services'. Attendees will receive information on the following: carbon, climate change legislation, water quality trading, the water quality trading project called Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota [CMM], and the different projects the partners of CMM are working on.

- 9:30am Registration and Coffee
- 10:00am A Discussion on Carbon - Dr. Dean Current, University of Minnesota CINRAM
- 10:30am Climate Change Legislation - Jim Kleinschmit, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- 11:15am Water Quality Trading 101 - Bruce Henningsgaard, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- 12:00pm Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00pm Conservation Marketplace of Minnesota - Brooke Hacker, Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
- 1:30pm Cold Spring Wellhead Protection Area - Carrie Raber, Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District
- 2:00pm Pollinator Credits - Jeff Jensen, Rural Advantage
- 2:30pm Bee Production - Elaine Evans, University of Minnesota
- 3:00pm Further Discussion and Question/Answer

There is no cost to attend Rural Advantage's 2011 Third Crop Producer Meetings. Pre-registration is not necessary. For those interested in attending from the metro area, carpooling is available from the

University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. If interested, contact Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) – [misamail@umn.edu](mailto:misamail@umn.edu) 800-909-6472 or 612-625-8235.

The next 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Producer Meeting will be held March 28, 2011 and will focus on 'Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss'.

Directions: Knights of Columbus Hall – 920 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street – Fairmont, MN 56031. From the South – State Hwy. 15 - After the railroad tracks, take the first left at Militello Motors (East 10<sup>th</sup> Street). The Knights of Columbus Hall is one block west and is on the south side of the street. From the North – State Hwy. 15 - Starting at the Interstate 90 overpass, travel south through two stoplights. Take the next right at Militello Motors (East 10<sup>th</sup> Street). The Knights of Columbus Hall is one block west and is on the south side of the street.

Contact for this event: Jill Sackett - UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449; [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

## **Job Announcements:**

### **Nutrient Management Specialist – Stearns SWCD**

The main responsibility of this permanent full-time position will be working one-on-one with producers in developing and implementing comprehensive nutrient management plans. Also, this position will cooperate with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, USDA, County, private industry, and producers in developing educational programs, on-farm demonstrations, evaluation of new precision agriculture and land application technologies, and record keeping strategies.

#### **Desired Qualifications:**

- Candidates must have a bachelor's degree with a major study in agronomy, soil science or related field of biological, physical, or earth science. Course work in soil science, animal science, precision agriculture, and agronomic subjects are desirable.
- Minimum of three years experience in agriculture crop production or related fields preferred.
- Certified Crop Adviser status is preferred.
- Strong interpersonal skills; capable of working effectively with individuals in the public, private, and government sectors.
- Self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision.
- Valid driver's license.
- Must be able to pass a USDA security background check.
- Physically capable to carry heavy equipment over rough terrain, and the ability to perform outdoor work throughout the year.

Application and Selection Procedure: Interested applicants must submit a 1) letter of interest, 2) resume, and a 3) Stearns County SWCD "Application for Employment" to the address listed here: Stearns County SWCD; Attn: Dennis Fuchs, Administrator; 110 2nd Street South, Suite 128; Waite Park, Minnesota 56387

Application form available by visiting <http://www.stearnscountyswcd.net> or by calling 320-251-7800 ext. 3.

### **Summer Employment Opportunities**

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring about 25 Trail Staff to lead trips in Minnesota, North America, and Internationally. We are looking for people with:

- Strong self-awareness
- Great judgment and decision-making skills
- Commitment to serving others
- Canoeing, kayaking, backpacking and general camping experience

If you know people who may be interested, please have them apply by going to:

<http://www.wildernessinquiry.org/jobs>.

Pay rates vary from \$35 to \$120 per day.

### **MPCA Wetland Summer Jobs**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is conducting a statewide random survey of wetland quality this summer. The study will focus on biological, chemical, and physical indicators including: vegetation, soils, water chemistry, algae, and a variety of physical habitat measures. We are seeking candidates for a variety of positions associated with this work including: a Vegetation Crew Leader; Soils Technician; and four Student Workers.

Currently, the Student Worker posting is on the State of Minnesota jobs website:

<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/e966295f3c8ba69a6bb051ae418467e9/View>

Students with class and/or work experience with biological (particularly botanical) and/or water chemistry sampling techniques are preferred for the Student Worker positions. Applicants should apply online according to the instructions provided in the posting.

Unfortunately, the Vegetation Crew Leader and Soils Technician positions have not been posted as of yet. They should, however, be posted soon at which time a follow-up email will be sent with the job announcements. These positions will require more specific and advanced skills than the Student Worker positions. If students are interested in either of these they can contact me directly (see contact information below).

We would appreciate your help in finding qualified students for these positions. Please pass this announcement along to internship coordinators, professors, and students. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions: Michael Bourdaghs; Research Scientist  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; Environmental Analysis & Outcomes Division; St. Paul, MN (651) 757-2239.

### **Events:**

March 2<sup>nd</sup> (Wednesday) is the  **AIS Plant Management Meeting** sponsored by Minnesota Waters and MN DNR from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Firestation #2 Community Room (1825 Howard Drive), North Mankato. The meeting is to discuss aquatic invasive plant species management.

March 7<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is the **South Central MN Corn and Soybean Day** at the Knights of Columbus in Fairmont. Registration will start at 9:30 and the program will run from 10:00 to 3:00. There is no charge to attend the program, which is sponsored by Rural Advantage and U of MN Extension. CEUs have been applied for (2.5 CEUs) and will be processed for those paying a \$15 fee at the door. For further details about the program, check out the program flyer at

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/Martin/news/SCMNC&BDayFlyer-2011.pdf>.

March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **Turf Maintenance for Reduced Environmental Impacts**. This workshop is for professional turf maintenance contractors, public works and parks departments, school district grounds staff and property managers. Learn new techniques on how to protect our water resources while saving money and time spent on the job! Other topics covered will be: equipment calibration, how turfgrass management effects our lakes and rivers and associated best practices for managing turfgrass. An optional test will be given at the end of the workshop for those professionals interested in becoming **certified** in "Turf Maintenance Best Practices" from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Cost for attending the workshop is \$25 which includes a light breakfast, lunch and a workshop manual. The workshop starts at 8 am and runs until 2:30 pm at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage. The address for the McColl Pond ELC is: 13550 Dakota Ave South Savage MN 55372. To register contact: Theresa Sowards, University of Minnesota Extension Service, 651-480-7715 or [sowar006@umn.edu](mailto:sowar006@umn.edu).

March 10<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Hidden History of the Minnesota River Valley presentation** at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873 for time. Wabasso native Beth Johanneck has written a book of stories about the characters who have lived in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood and Granite Falls and all points in between. Come and meet the author, hear a few stories and compare notes with fellow history lovers of the region.

March 14<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Importance of Ecological Services** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

[courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org)

March 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo starting at 9 a.m. For more information <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

March 28<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 31<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) is the **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer starting at 6:30 p.m. at the St Peter Library. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lifeontherivernew.pdf>.

April 12<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer at the Chippewa County Historical Society annual banquet in Maynard. Interested people should contact the Historical Society for more information or to get tickets at 320-269-7636 or [ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net).

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the showing of the **Troubled Waters film documentary** at 7:00 p.m. at the North Mankato Police Annex sponsored by the Friends of Minneopa.

April 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the presentation "**Waterfalls and the River Warren**" by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

April 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Annual Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Ney Nature Center to be held at Traxler's Hunting Preserve, Le Center. For more information <http://neycenter.org/>

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. Featuring Sharp Shooter Tom Knapp. The fun shoot will be held at River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland MN starting at 8:00am, lunch is included after the fun shoot, followed by the world famous "Tom Knapp" show starting at 2:00pm. For more information go to Twin Valley Council Web-site at [www.twinvalleybsa.org](http://www.twinvalleybsa.org) or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootposter.pdf>

May 21<sup>st</sup> (Saturday) is the "**Caring for God's Creation**" with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.



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

### **Environmental/Conservational Articles:**

[Public land debate takes center stage](#) (Outdoor News). Members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council on Monday had a lively discussion about potential amendments to the bill carrying their funding recommendations.

[LSP members gather in St. Paul](#) (Agri News). The banter of conversation filled the basement at Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul when Land Stewardship Project members gathered for the annual Family Farm Breakfast.

[Morris' second wind turbine up, could be operational by April](#) (Morris Sun Tribune). Morris' second wind turbine finally looks like one after poor weather hampered efforts to install the 180-meter structure. The turbine could be operational by April.

[Should fishing close on Lake Christina? DNR wants your input](#) (Alexandria Echo Post). A public comment period remains open through Thursday, February 24 for permanent rule changes proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that affect fishing and issuing permits.

[Manitoba, Minnesota take to helicopters to count elk](#) (Outdoor News). Wildlife officials in Minnesota and Manitoba are planning a coordinated aerial survey of the elk herd that roams between the two countries.

[Minnesota soybean farmers learn about research, water quality issues](#) (Agri News). Minnesota farmers visited the University of Minnesota and the East Coast Feb. 14-17 to see how their soybean checkoff funds are spent on research. They also went to learn how the Environmental Protection Agency's water quality plans for the Chesapeake Bay are affecting that area's agriculture industry.

[Conflict of interest questions arise on Legacy panel](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Critics say members of Legacy panel should not be able to award funding to groups to which they belong, which the rules allow.

[A new style of green](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The eco-friendly Dream Home combines high-tech, energy-efficient features with down-to-earth design.

[Lawmaker says state not making most of lands](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). State Rep. Denise Dittrich says Minnesota could do a much better job funneling a longtime source of education money to school districts.

[Appeals court overturns sugar beet injunction](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Environmental groups failed to show that seed plants for sugar beets genetically modified to withstand the popular weed killer Roundup would cause irreparable harm, a federal appeals court said Friday in overturning an injunction that called for the destruction of the plants.

[Research bears fair game for hunters](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Ely bear expert Lynn Rogers was "very disappointed" in the ruling, likely to spur debate.

[After debate, 25 proposed environmental projects dropped from list headed to Legislature](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A joint legislative-citizens advisory group on environmental spending agreed Monday night to drop 25 projects from its list of recommendations headed to the Legislature. The action came after two key lawmakers warned the group the projects would never pass.

[Meet the people Dayton wants to lead his team](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Many of them have won bipartisan plaudits, but a few may run into Senate objections.

*Let us permit nature to have her way. She understands her business better than we do. – Michel de Montaigne*

**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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<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>