

South Dakota Author to Speak on the History of the James River Sat., May 21st in Wegdahl

The 20th annual River & History Weekend will feature a fireside talk about the James River by South Dakota author, historian and Sierra Club Staffer Peter Carrels of Aberdeen. The free public lecture will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the new Chippewa County Park in Wegdahl, Minnesota. From more information visit www.cureriver.org

In 1836, famed Minnesota River explorer and map maker Joseph Nicollet described the James River and its valley in what is now eastern South Dakota as “perhaps the most beautiful within the territory of the United States.”

In his book, *Uphill Against Water*, published in 1999 by the University of Nebraska Press, Peter Carrels describes how this unique watercourse has been unappreciated and overlooked and plundered. In his talk on Saturday in Wegdahl, Carrels will invite participants to compare and contrast the history of the James River with the story of the Minnesota River and the restoration effort that has been going on for the past 20 years.

“The Minnesota River could have suffered the same fate as the James River,” stated CURE Executive Director Patrick Moore, “had it not been for a concerted effort of citizens, landowners, farmers and local government agencies to turn things around 20 years ago.” Moore says that the Upper Minnesota river has seen a revival of wildlife, healthy fish populations and slight water quality improvements as a result of concerted efforts.

Everyone attending the River & History Weekend event is asked to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets as the event will be held outside along the Minnesota River at the new county park which is located between Montevideo and Granite Falls in Wegdahl. Foreign exchange students from all over the world will be taking part in the event after spending the day canoeing the river. A fireside concert complete with ghost stories and s'mores will follow Carrel's talk.

For a complete listing of the events for the River and History weekend visit www.cureriver.org or call toll free 1-877-269-2873.

River & History Adventure this Weekend

If you have ever wanted to explore the area rivers -- this Saturday is the day to do it. [CURE is planning guided trips](#) on several area rivers. We have a limited number of Canoes and Kayaks available on the following Rivers:

Pomme de Terre River: Meet at 11 a.m. east of Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Appleton. Guide Brian Wojtalewicz

Chippewa River: Meet at 2 p.m. at Watson Lions Park. Guide Tommy Pauling

Lac qui Parle River: Meet at 1 p.m. where County Road 27 Bridge crosses the river 3.5 miles north of Hwy 212. Guide: Jennifer Hoffman

Yellow Medicine: meet at 12 noon at the lower entrance to Upper Sioux Agency Park. Guides Butch Halterman, Gary Lentz & Danny Kurkiewicz.

For more complete information visit: http://www.cureriver.org/events.html#river_history_weekend and click on the River Trips PDF

To reserve a canoe, you must call Dixie at the CURE office ahead of time: 1-877-269-2873. Do not expect to just show up and find a boat there waiting for you.

Afterwards we will all gather at the new [Chippewa County Park in Wegdahl](#) for a pot luck BBQ and camp out starting at 5 p.m. Bring tents and lawn chairs, meat to grill and musical instruments.

The history talk by Peter Carrels will begin at 7 p.m. after the [Prairie River Paddler Patch](#) Presentations.

This event will be held rain or shine -- so dress appropriately! Questions? Call us toll free 1-877-269-2873; Patrick J. Moore; www.cureriver.org

Sierra Club Bicycle Outing

The North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club plans a bicycle outing on the Lake Wobegon Trail over Memorial Day weekend. Sierra Club outings welcome everyone.

Bikers will travel the Lake Wobegon Trail from St. Joseph to Albany and back Saturday, May 28. Participants can also choose to camp overnight on the Mississippi River (advance reservation and deposit required), then bike south to Albany and back on the Holdingford spur on Sunday May 29.

The Lake Wobegon Trail runs past lakes and through prairies, marshes, and woodlands, so participants will see a large variety of seasonal wildflowers. For information about trailheads and times, as well as to receive notification in case of inclement weather, contact Kay Slama at 320-796-5871 or slama@morris.umn.edu.

The Sierra Club North Star Chapter represents over 15,000 members across Minnesota. Inspired by nature, members work together to protect our communities and the planet. For over 40 years they have worked to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment through educational outings and volunteer activism. Visit the web site at www.northstar.sierraclub.org.

MPCA Enforcement Actions total more than \$420,000 in first quarter of 2011

St. Paul, Minn. -- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) concluded 43 enforcement cases totaling \$420,946 in penalties during the first quarter of 2011. The cases occurred at facilities in 31 counties throughout Minnesota.

The following is a brief summary of all 43 cases completed during the first quarter of 2011:

- \$75,000 – Progressive Rail, Inc., Lakeville, for water quality violations
- \$50,400 – Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Coop, Renville, for air quality violations.
- \$49,000 – PM Beef Holdings LLC, Windom, for water quality violations.
- \$34,940 – Multek Flexible Circuits, Inc., Northfield, for air quality violations.
- \$30,000 – Mid State Recycling Services, James Kopachek, Pine River, for solid waste and hazardous waste violations.
- \$25,000 – Bill Tulenchik, Pequot Lakes, for feedlot violations.
- \$12,700 – Winnebago Wastewater Treatment Facility, Winnebago, for water quality violations.
- \$11,435 – Oronoco Estates MHC LLC, Oronoco, for water quality violations.
- \$10,300 – Dave Engle, Dave's Pumping Service, Harmony, for individual septic treatment system violations.
- \$10,000 – Delbert Brandstrom, Bovey, for stormwater violations.
- \$10,000 – Jerry Girard, G&S Pumping Service, Cottonwood, for feedlot violations.
- \$10,000 – Joshua Hegge, Central Excavating, Pine City, for individual septic treatment system violations.
- \$10,000 – Pro-Corn LLC, Poet Biorefining, Preston, for water quality and hazardous waste violations.
- \$10,000 – Xcel Energy, Allen King Generating, Oak Park Heights, air quality violations.
- \$9,638 – Hoss Demolition Landfill, Walker, for solid waste violations.
- \$8,525 – Van Zuilen Farms, Doug & Arlene Van Zuilen, Claremont, for solid waste violations.
- \$8,500 – Chippewa Valley Ethanol Co., Benson, for air quality violations.
- \$7,687 – M&J Construction Co., Newfolden, for air quality violations.
- \$7,500 – City of Red Wing, Red Wing, for solid waste violations.
- \$6,910 – Douglas Machine, Inc., Alexandria, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$6,000 – Millerbernd Manufacturing Co., Winsted, for hazardous waste violations.

- \$5,800 – Sauvageaus Firestone & Collision Center, Moorhead, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$5,675 – Minnikka Properties LLC, Ogilvie Land Development Access Driveway, Ogilvie, for stormwater violations.
- \$4,750 – Ken Winsel Farm Section 22, Woodstock, for feedlot violations.
- \$4,732 – Tom Paulzine Property, Iona, for solid waste violations.
- \$4,375 – Hardrives, Inc., Rogers, for air quality violations.
- \$4,200 – Kent Lewis Farm Section 31, Granada, for feedlot violations.
- \$4,000 – Jeff's Topline Collision Center, St. Paul Collision Center, Inc., St. Paul, for air quality violations.
- \$3,850 – Shannon Boettcher, Boettcher Excavating & Septic, Cambridge, for individual septic treatment system violations.
- \$3,750 – Engelsma Construction, Inc., Vadnais Heights, for stormwater violations.
- \$3,750 – Mille Lacs County-Hwy. 29 project, Princeton, for stormwater violations.
- \$2,687 – Cass Lake Wastewater Treatment Facility, Cass Lake, for water quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Woodland Dairy, Inc., Waverly, for feedlot violations.
- \$1,250 – Metro Transit-Light Rail O&M Facility, Minneapolis, for air quality violations.
- \$1,006 – Lowell Stephas, Stephas Heating & Plumbing, Inc., Fountain, for individual septic treatment system violations.
- \$550 – Griffin Construction Co., Inc., Chatfield, for solid waste violations.

The penalties for the following cases are all forgivable:

- \$3,850 – Xcel Energy-Prairie Island Nuclear, Welch, for water quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Mountain Timber Wood Products LLC, Mountain Iron, for air quality violations.
- \$1,562 – Winco, Inc., Le Center, for air quality violations.
- \$1,500 – Anderson Home Services LLC, Red Wing, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$1,500 – Brian Matthew Hauser Enterprises LLC, Hutchinson, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$1,500 – Clearwater County, Bagley, for hazardous waste violations.
- \$1,000 – Mabel Sportsman's Club, Mabel, for solid waste violations.

A complete summary of environmental enforcement actions and news releases can be found on the MPCA's News Media Center webpage at www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-news/news-media-center/mpca-news-media-center.html. For questions on specific enforcement cases, contact Stephen Mikkelson, Information Officer, at 218-316-3887, or toll-free at 800-657-3864.

Job Announcements:

Organic Reviewer

Washington State Dept of Agriculture's Organic Program is hiring! Please help us get the word out about this opportunity. An Organic Reviewer (Environmental Specialist 2) position has been posted to careers.wa.gov. This position is located in Olympia under the Organic Program with the Food Safety/Consumer Services Division. If interested, please check out this link - [Organic Reviewer](#). Applications must be received by May 18th. Contact Brenda Book with any questions about the position at 360-902-2090 or bbook@agr.wa.gov.

Executive Director

The National Immigrant Farming Initiative seeks Executive Director. The job posting is attached. Please distribute to your network or interested persons.

The National Immigrant Farming Initiative (NIFI) is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC. NIFI's overall purpose is to strengthen the capacity of immigrants, refugee farmers, and farm workers to farm successfully by providing support and advocacy, and to advance sustainable farming and food systems.

NIFI is seeking a full time Executive Director to lead the organization to another level of success. The Executive Director of NIFI is accountable to the Board of Directors for all aspects of the administration and operation of the organization. The Executive Director is an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director is responsible for ensuring that all of the organization's goals are accomplished in a timely and quality manner, and for the oversight of all of the organization's programs.

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

Upper Midwest Field Organizer

Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for an Upper Midwest Field Organizer, a new part-time position to start in June. Strategically located in Michigan, the Upper Midwest Field Organizer will build OFRF's grassroots capacity in Michigan and Ohio and increase access to important policy makers during the 2012 Farm Bill campaign.

OFRF seeks to hire an experienced organizer to work on the ground in Michigan and Ohio to organize support for organic and cultivate congressional champions in the 2012 Farm Bill. OFRF has identified Michigan and Ohio as two top states with significant representation on congressional agriculture committees charged with drafting the 2012 Farm Bill. The Upper Midwest Field Organizer ensures that organic family farmers, organic farming advocates, consumers, and other diverse stakeholders in Michigan and Ohio actively participate in the 2012 Farm Bill process. OFRF is gearing up for its 2012 Farm Bill campaign, and the Upper Midwest Field Organizer will be responsible for building our Michigan and Ohio networks and strategically engaging organic family farmers and advocates throughout the farm bill debate. The Upper Midwest Field Organizer is a part-time, 40 hours per month position.

To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, the contact information for three references, and two short, advocacy related writing samples (no more than two pages each) to jobs@ofrr.org with "Upper Midwest Field Organizer Application" in the subject line. Electronic applications only. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Deadline for application is May 25, 2011. No phone calls.

Communications Assistant

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) is hiring a Communications Assistant and works at the intersection of policy and practice to ensure fair and sustainable food, farm and trade systems, locally and globally. IATP has offices in Minneapolis and Washington. This position is based in Minneapolis. Primary responsibilities for this position are to Handle IATP's media tracking, monitoring and database maintenance; Produce Web, print and electronic communications content; Help with design, formatting, images, cataloguing and updating tasks; Provide service to IT/Communications on events and meetings; Produce Web usage reports; Assist team as necessary.

Salary will depend on experience and qualifications. IATP offers good health insurance, vacation and sick leave benefits, employer contributions to pension for eligible employees, and a lively, collegial work environment. Send resume, cover letter, a sample of writing on issues relevant to this job description, HR Director at jobs@iatp.org by June 3, 2011.

Wilderness Inquiry Trail Staff and Intern Positions for 2011

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring trail staff and interns for 2011. We are looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a desire to work hard for the mission of WI. To learn more, see job descriptions and to apply see Wilderness Inquiry's website: www.wildernessinquiry.org

Each year, Wilderness inquiry operates hundreds of Canoeing, Kayaking and Hiking trips to destinations in Minnesota, across the United States, and around the world for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Trail staff leads inclusive outdoor adventures, leads single-day events and multi-day expeditions, navigates, cooks, tells stories and teaches outdoor skills along with other responsibilities.

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

Events:

May 21st (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.

May 24th (Tuesday) is the showing of the documentary **Gasland** a film by Josh Fox at 6:30 p.m. at the Redwing High School. Members of the community are concerned with the process of Fracking or mining for Frac Sand to be used in the drilling of natural gas.

June 12th (Sunday) the film documentary River Revival: Working Together to Save the Minnesota River will be shown on KARE 11 at 6 p.m. For more information go to <http://mnriver.org/>

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

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

October 25th – 27th (Tuesday – Thursday) is the **BWSR Academy**, a training event for conservation-based local government staff. Agenda, course offering, and registration information will be distributed in summer 2011. For future updates, please visit us online at [BWSR Academy](#).

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Third generation biofuels plant planned in south central Minnesota](#) (Agri News). A boards of directors in south central Minnesota is laying the groundwork for a renewable fuel development beyond the first generation of ethanol.

[Non-native and nasty: A rogues' gallery](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A list of non-native species that have shown up in Minnesota including zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil.

[Cut the spread of invasive species with a thorough cleaning](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). To slow the spread of zebra mussels and other unwanted plants and animals in Minnesota lakes and rivers, Minnesotans should think of their boats as invasive species.

‘Waters’ settled, U faculty speaks - <http://www.startribune.com/local/121606034.html> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee at the University of Minnesota responds to the controversy over “Troubled Waters.”

[Conservation program will allow hunters walk-in access](#) (Marshall Independent). For sportsmen and conservationists concerned about the decline of hunting in southern Minnesota, a new program may offer the sport a new lease on life.

[If only the state took toxic metals as seriously as invasive species](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). It is hypocrisy to claim moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform.

[Pollution at Arden Hills stadium site needs cleanup](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The 430-acre parcel of land in Arden Hills, where the Vikings want to build a new football stadium, is also part of the state's largest Superfund site.

[Sediment from farms threatens scenic Lake Pepin](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Early explorers described Lake Pepin as crystal clear with abundant fish and waterfowl. But the water flowing into Lake Pepin these days is a milky brown, and scientists say the upper third of the scenic lake could become filled in with sediment by the end of the century.

[Sediment from farm runoff poses a threat to Lake Pepin](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). In a deep tree-lined gorge far below St. Paul's busy streets, the mighty Mississippi River meets the muddy Minnesota.

[Who's to blame for sediment choking Lake Pepin?](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Flanked by timbered bluffs flecked with bare rock outcroppings, the blue waters of Lake Pepin are visually stunning, even to long-time visitors.

[Editorial: Ag industry has role in river restoration](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). It's an essential truth that too few Minnesotans contemplate as they gaze over the state's rolling fields or across their landscaped back yards. Human development has radically altered the state's landscape.

[Searching the county for spring wildflowers at home in Minnesota](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). "A gentle welcome of spring," those ephemeral wildflowers in the woods brave freezing nights to offer the promise of winter's end.

[Choking lakes, commerce](#) (Marshall Independent). On Monday morning contractors from PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. set out to treat Lake Benton with an experimental mix of chemicals it is hoped will help control an invasive plant species.

[Citizen involvement with Legacy Amendment waning](#) (Mankato Free Press). No one would argue that state lawmakers don't have their work cut out for them during this legislative session.

[Commentary: If only the state took toxic metals as seriously as invasive species](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). It is hypocrisy to claim moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform.

[Board challenges criticism of Minnesota River cleanup](#) (West Central Tribune). Progress is being made to clean up the Minnesota River, even if one measure of that effort hasn't shown the desired results, according to Shannon Fisher, executive director of the Minnesota River Board.

[Hard questions for Minnesota River Board](#) (West Central Tribune). The Minnesota River Board needs to establish clear-cut goals and a strategy to meet them if it is to see continued state funding support, according to John Jaschke, executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

I walked barefoot – the only way to walk on a muddy road. – Laurie Gough, "Light on a Moonless Night"

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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