

Progress of the MN River Clean Up to be Presented Thursday May 6 at Public Library

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) is inviting the public to attend a free informational meeting about the progress of efforts to improve the water quality of the Minnesota River on Thursday, May 6 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Everyone is welcome to attend and have their questions answered. Refreshments will be served.

Kim Musser and **Scott Kudelka** from the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University at Mankato will give a talk about trends related to the Minnesota River Basin including water quality data, demographics, agricultural, wildlife, conservation practices and recreational usage.

“If you want to know what the latest scientific research is telling us about what is getting better and what still needs improvement in the Minnesota River, this is the meeting for you to attend,” said CURE Board Chair, Joe Hauger of Granite Falls.

Kudelka and Musser will center their presentation on the [Minnesota River Basin Trends Report](#) which provides a snapshot of the Minnesota River Watershed, summarizing some of the major trends in the basin for the past 10 to 100 years. The report tells a mixed story, with some water quality indicators improving, some not, and some showing little or no change. The report shows that numbers of fish and total suspended solids concentrations (from soil erosion) are improving. Results on nitrate concentration are mixed according to the report which also shows that the amount of prairie is declining and that the number of mussel species has remained static.

“Many people have been working in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed to improve water quality and this report can help us keep building the momentum for the clean water legacy we all want to leave to our grandchildren.” Hauger said.

For more information, call the CURE office toll free at 1-877-269-2873. Founded in 1992, CURE is a grass roots, citizen science based organization that works to restore, celebrate and protect the Upper Minnesota River Watershed.

Regional Parks and Trails Legacy Meetings by Brad H. Cobb, Green Corridor Inc.

The St Cloud Times ran this article: www.sctimes.com/article/20100503/NEWS01/105030041 yesterday concerning the (first of many in the state) regional parks and trails legacy meeting on Thursday in St Cloud. The article or story really encourages readers to participate in these regional meetings and support local projects. This article also mentions the planning efforts by the Center of Changing Landscapes – Mary Vogel’s work on the statewide plan.

I recently spoke at the Friends of the Upper Sioux State Park meeting in Granite Falls and tried to express this same message last week that area or regional stakeholders need to get out and attend these meetings and advocate for their specific projects or concepts. Every regional parks and trail advocacy group in the state will be encouraging local participation at these meetings and other local papers will probably run similar stories their own regional initiatives but the bottom line is – if you want a MN River Valley voice in this process you need to attend these regional meetings in Marshall and Mankato in June. See these websites for more details: www.patl.intergov.mn.gov or www.citizing.org

I am encouraging all of you to help spread the message how important these regional meetings are in determining priorities for the new Parks and Trails Legacy funding for the next 25 years. I will guarantee that the St Cloud regional meeting will be well attended (MANY regional trail projects are in need of funding and support and they have a huge advocacy group) I hope the Marshall and Mankato meetings are well attended with MN River Parks and Trail advocates too.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY ETHANOL WILL PAY \$120,000 ENVIRONMENTAL PENALTY

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced that Chippewa Valley Ethanol Co. will pay a penalty consisting of \$70,000 in cash and a Supplemental Environmental Project costing at least \$50,000 to resolve alleged violations of the company's air quality permit at its ethanol production facility in Benson, Minn.

The violations, occurring in 2008 and 2009, centered on the company's operation of a biomass gasification unit that went online in the spring of 2008. The unit represented an advanced technology for the ethanol industry, in which wood products are heated to produce gas to fuel the facility's boilers.

There were significant problems with burning wood contaminated with lead and arsenic, most likely from wood that had been painted or treated with preservatives. The company did not knowingly burn contaminated wood, but the MPCA alleged in the agreement that Chippewa Valley Ethanol did not take proper precautions to ensure the wood supply was uncontaminated. The company also failed to meet emission limits during stack performance tests for the waste heat boiler and a filter receiver, did not conduct required performance testing on other parts of its processes, and did not properly calculate and record total emissions as required during rolling 12-month periods.

The result of these alleged violations was that the facility exceeded the requirements of its air quality permit in 2008 and 2009.

To resolve the violations, CVEC paid a civil penalty of \$70,000 in cash, and will spend up to \$50,000 to implement one or more Supplementary Environmental Projects (SEPs). SEPs are a common component of environmental penalties, and may include environmental improvements to the facility or other projects to benefit the environment. CVEC must submit proposals by mid-May for the project(s) it will implement to satisfy the SEP requirement. Projects must be approved by the MPCA.

When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violations affected the environment, whether they were first-time or repeat violations, and how promptly they were reported to appropriate authorities. Penalties also attempt to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner. For a comprehensive list of enforcement actions by the MPCA, go to the agency's Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/newscenter/enforcement.html.

In addition to the civil penalty and SEP, the company agreed to complete specific corrective actions to return to compliance, including specific plans on how it will ensure compliance with the facility's environmental permit limits and prevent reoccurrence of the violations in the future. Corrective actions have all been completed and the gasification unit is operating within permitted limits.

Rain Gardens: Good for You, Good for the Earth

Mankato, MN – “**Rain Gardens: Good for You, Good for the Earth,**” is a free, public workshop offered by The Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry. Rain Gardens, generally planted with native plants, are areas where stormwater is captured and allowed to infiltrate into the ground. These specialized gardens serve to minimize negative impacts from excess runoff into lakes and streams. This workshop is for anyone who cares about water quality in Minnesota! Join us Saturday, May 8 at 10:00am in the Red Barn at the Community Gardens site - 170 Good Counsel Drive. Everyone is welcome. Pre-registration is not necessary.

The Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry is located at 170 Good Counsel Drive in Mankato. For more information about either program call Lisa Coons at the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry at 389-4272 or e-mail lcoons@ssndmankato.org. The Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry is an educational ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

CURE to Lead Guided Canoe Trips May 15

Clean Up the River Environment's (CURE's) 19th annual “River and History Weekend” will be held on Saturday, May 15th and Sunday, May 16th and will feature guided canoe trips of the Minnesota River, the Pomme de Terre River, the Lac qui Parle River and the Chippewa River. The Lac qui Parle County Park, just north of Dawson on the Lac qui Parle River, will serve as the headquarters for the weekend and the

site of Saturday night story telling, music and discussion programs around the campfire. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call CURE toll free at 1-877-269-2873 or visit: www.cureriver.org

CURE Volunteer **Brian Wojtalewicz** of Appleton will lead this trip from just above the rapids in downtown Appleton through to the mouth of the Pomme de Terre where it empties into Marsh Lake. There is a great variety of terrain and wildlife to be viewed on this secluded stretch of the river. The trip should last between 3 to 4 hours and is not a difficult paddle although downed trees can sometime present a problem. As with every canoe trip, participants should be prepared to get wet, muddy and sunburned -- so everyone is asked to prepare accordingly. If you are interested in going on the Pomme de Terre Trip, please call the CURE office toll free at 1-877-269-2873 to let CURE know.

CURE volunteer **John White** of Clara City and Rachel Rigenhagen of Appleton will lead a voyageurs canoe trip on the Minnesota River on Saturday May 15th for foreign exchange students who have been living with host families in the region since last fall. The Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center will be bringing its "Big Canoe" for the foreign exchange students to use. "This is a safe, easy, beautiful and historic stretch of the Minnesota River," according to White. "Families with young kids and seniors are invited to canoe with us on a easy and entertaining two hour float down to the historic community of Wegdahl where Chippewa County is establishing its first Minnesota River park" Anyone who is interested in joining this excursion is being asked to gather at Prien's Landing on River Road behind Country Kitchen in Montevideo. . If you are interested in going on the Minnesota River Trip, please call the CURE office toll free at 1-877-269-2873 to let us know. A limited number of canoes may be available on a first come, first served basis.

CURE Board member **Danny Kurkiewicz** of Montevideo along with Board member Dennis Ulrich of Renville will lead this three hour excursion from the Easy Bean Farm to Watson Lion's Park. The Chippewa is known as a family friendly river that is canoeable almost all year round. Anyone who is interested going on the Chippewa River Trip is asked to call the CURE office toll free at 1-877-269-2873 to let us know. A limited number of canoes may be available on a first come, first served basis.

CURE Board members Scott Wilson & Tom Watson will lead this trip down the scenic Lac qui Parle River from the Lac qui Parle County Park to the County 31 Bridge near Tokheim Stoneware. The river's high bluffs and gentle rapids make this trip fun for intermediate canoeists and beginners who like a mild challenge. Anyone who is interested going on the Lac qui Parle River Trip is asked to call the CURE office toll free at 1-877-269-2873 to let us know. A limited number of canoes may be available on a first come, first served basis.

For more adventurous thrill seekers, a kayak and canoe trip is being organized for the **Yellow Medicine River** by CURE Board Chair Joe Hauger of Granite Falls. "This is a trip where you expect to get wet," said Hauger advises that because of the rocks, only poly fiber canoes or kayaks be used on the Yellow Medicine. Call CURE at 1-877-269-2873 if you want to go on this trip. You must provide your own kayak or canoe for this excursion. There is a possibility that water levels will not be high enough to make the river navigable. In that event, all paddlers will be asked to join in on the Chippewa River excursion leaving at 2:00 p.m. from Lentz Landing on Hwy 40 five miles east of Milan.

By 5 or 6 p.m., all of Saturday's guided trips will converge on the campground at the Lac qui Parle County Park where a pot luck meal (grill provided), camp out and camp fire sing along event is being organized by CURE.

At 7 p.m. Amateur historian and antique post card collector Wayne Ostlie will talk about the boom town era of the 1890's through the 1920's of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed. It was during this time when all the small towns of the region were thriving and really promoting themselves. The view of life as portrayed by hand painted post cards tells us a lot about the dreams and values of the settler society. "Understanding this history can help put things in perspective and create a deeper appreciation for where we live," stated Patrick Moore, CURE's Executive Director.

At 8 p.m. music making and story telling will begin featuring old fashioned campfire sing along songs and famous ghost stories told by **Greg Wyum** and **Butch Halterman** of Montevideo. Fixings for roasting marshmallows and making smores will be provided. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and musical instruments for this event.

To round out the weekend, CURE Board member Scott Tedrick will guide another canoe and kayak adventure on Hawk Creek on Sunday, May 16 starting at 11:30 a.m. from the Lac qui Parle County Park. The last five miles of Hawk Creek are well known to area kayakers who love its steep cliffs and rocky, hairpin turns in the riverbed. Tedrick cautions trip goers to “prepare to capsized” and to check for adequate water levels before attempting the trip.

All Canoeists and Kayakers are encouraged to bring their own watercraft, lifejackets and paddles. A limited number of boats may be available through CURE but reservations are strongly encouraged. For more information, call the CURE office at 877-269-2873. CURE is a locally based non-profit organization founded in 1992 to celebrate, protect and restore the Upper Minnesota River Watershed.

Spotlighting deer in the name of science

Creeping slowly along the back roads of Redwood County, spotlights slicing through the darkness from either side of the pickup cab, the man and woman were on a mission: Find deer.

“Last night we counted 54 deer, but the night before we only saw eight,” the woman noted. “The weather is better tonight so we hope to see quite a few more.”

They were nearly an hour into their search before the driver’s spotlight reflected off the eyes of a deer in a field. “There, right there, see it?” he said quietly to his female companion. By the time they called it quits three hours later, they would catch another 28 deer in the glare of their spotlights.

Wendy Krueger, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife manager at Slayton, and Dick Tuszynski, retired Mille Lacs Area DNR wildlife manager and currently a temporary DNR Wildlife employee, were the shiners on this recent night in southern Minnesota.

Armed only with spotlights, a range-finder, clipboard and protractor, they are part of an ongoing DNR study to determine deer densities through the use of spotlighting and distance sampling.

Counting deer from a helicopter in the winter, along with deer harvest registration data and other biological information, have been the standard methods for estimating deer populations. However, aerial surveys are expensive and highly dependent on having sufficient snow on the ground to be able to accurately count deer.

Marrett Grund, a deer research scientist at the DNR farmland populations and research station at Madelia, said distance sampling is about 10-15 percent of the cost of aerial surveys. It’s also thought to be a more accurate barometer of deer numbers largely due to the “visibility bias” of aerial surveys. Visual impediments due to thick ground cover can obscure deer from observers in the air, especially when snow cover is inconsistent.

In 2005, the DNR began to look more closely at spotlight surveys and distance sampling in the state’s farmland zone state. As do agencies in other states, the Minnesota DNR has traditionally used both aerial surveys and deer harvest information to estimate white-tailed deer density and set hunting seasons.

The research is finding that population estimates derived from distance sampling can be used to recalibrate, or correct, population models, Grund said. “Often the population models were giving us population estimates three times higher than the estimates from distance sampling,” Grund said. “The population model might have been telling me that there were nine deer per square mile, but in fact there were only three deer per square mile. These findings have considerable implications for wildlife managers.”

If, for example, deer density is under estimated, the harvest regulations might be set too low. That could unwittingly result in an overabundance of deer with a commensurate increase in deer depredation problems and vehicle-deer collisions. It would also decrease hunter opportunity to harvest deer.

Krueger and Tuszynski are one of eight two-person DNR teams that have been spotlighting deer around the DNR's southern region this spring. Each team drives a different 20-mile route each night with instructions to travel it at between 10-15 miles per hour. When deer are spotted, the driver stops, a range-finder determines the distance to the deer, and a protractor is used to measure the angle of the deer from the vehicle. That information, along with the number of deer seen and the time, are promptly recorded on a chart.

Once Grund receives the recorded information, it is analyzed in mathematical computer models to determine deer densities. By applying geometric calculations and other proven science to analyze the data, Grund said, "We are confident the results will be more reliable than previously and that will help us to more effectively manage the deer population and set hunting seasons."

Cover Crop Field Days to be Held

Rural Advantage, in partnership with University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and University of Minnesota, will be hosting two field days on cover crops in southeast and south-central Minnesota May 12 and May 19.

- Wednesday, May 12, 2010 Lewiston, Winona County, MN 10:00am – 12:00pm

The Lewiston field day will be focused on research from the University of Minnesota sponsored by Minnesota Department of Agriculture with funding from the Clean Water Legacy Act. The research is looking at the effects cover crops, specifically winter rye, have on soil erosion and nutrient cycling. The field day will be a come-and-go event with the researchers taking time to explain the project and answer questions. Data collection using a rainfall simulator will be able to be viewed. Handouts and discussion on cover crops will be available.

Directions ~ From Lewiston: Travel South on Co Rd 25 for 5.0 miles. After the second curve turn left (East) onto Township Rd 11 / Township Rd 4 and travel approx. 1/2 mile . From Wyattville: Travel North on Co Rd 25 for 2.0 miles. Turn right (East) onto Township Rd 11 / Township Rd 4 and travel approx. 1/2 mile. ***Parking will be on the side of the road. Please park only on one side of road.***

- Wednesday, May 19, 2010 St. James, Watonwan County, MN 2:00pm – 4:00pm

The St. James field day is sponsored by Rural Advantage through an NCR-SARE education and outreach grant. Cooperator, Bill Yock, has agreed to host the field day at his farm to showcase the acres he has cost-shared with Rural Advantage. The field day will include: an explanation of Rural Advantage's cover crop project and cost-share dollars, a discussion on the use of cover crops in southern Minnesota, and discussion on the Midwest Cover Crop Council's Cover Crop Decision Tool. Yock will also be sharing his knowledge and experiences with using cover crops in his grain and beef production system.

Directions ~ From Sizer Road intersection with State Hwy. 4 (near KRRW Radio Station, St. James): Travel North on State Hwy 4 for about 6.0 miles. Turn right (East) onto 280th Street / Hwy 1. Field day site is first driveway on left (North). 280th Street is 2.0 miles North of the intersection of State Hwy 30—State Hwy 4—Hwy. 3. **From Godahl:** Travel South from Godahl on State Hwy 4 for about 2.0 miles. Turn left (East) onto 280th Street. The field day site is first driveway on left (North).

For more information, please contact Jill Sackett, Extension Educator, at the Rural Advantage office. 507-238-5449 sacke032@umn.edu

Nature Center's 3rd Annual Spring Fling and Silent Auction!

This event has been a great success in the past and we hope you can support the Ney Nature Center by attending! Attached is the flyer for ordering tickets. Visit our website for list of Silent Auction items and event details. <<http://neycenter.org/coming-events/spring-fling/> - Guest Speaker ~ "Certified Bird Nerd" Al Batt.

- **Saturday, May 15th**;
5:30 pm – Appetizers
6:30 pm – Dinner
7:30 pm – Speaker
- **Lakeside Supper Club**; 32298 State Highway 13, Montgomery, MN 56069; (952) 758-2005; *Menu by Chef George Kukacka*
Ticket includes choice of Entree:

*Tilapia Florentine – Teased with Cream Spinach & Fennel Sauce,
Baby Carrots with Dill & Baked Potato.*

*Petite Prime Rib – Slow Roasted with Aujus,
Baby Carrots with Dill & Baked Potato.*

*Veggie Penne – Fresh Spring Vegetables tossed with
Three Cheeses & Light Cream Sauce.*

*Accompanied with Fresh Greens tossed with Italian Vinaigrette & dusted with Parmesan Cheese
& Croutons, Freshly Baked Bread & Butter,
European Roasterie Coffee, Tea, & Soda*

- \$30.00 ~ NEEF Members \$35.00 ~ Non-NEEF Members; Space is limited. Reservations due by Tuesday, May 4th.
Proceeds dedicated to the Ney Nature Center's Capital Improvement Fund. To make reservations print attached flyer "Final 2010 Spring Fling Flyer" and return to Becky Pollack, Ney Nature Center, PO Box 93, Henderson MN 56044 by Tuesday, May 4th with a check made payable to Ney Nature Center. Unable to attend? Your tax-deductible cash donation gratefully accepted. Additional information, Call/email Becky Pollack at the Ney Nature Center ~ 507-248-3474, info@neycenter.org

We hope to see you there! The Ney Nature Center has seen and increase in programs, field trips, open hours, staff, membership and park users over the last few years, as well as the development of our "site" or the physical park itself. Setting aside donations and funds raised at the Spring Fling in a Capital Improvement Fund is another developmental step in our growth as non-profit organization and nature center.

MPCA HONORS OUTSTANDING WASTEWATER TREATMENT OPERATORS

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recently recognized outstanding performance by operators of wastewater treatment plants during 2009. At the 73rd annual Wastewater Operations Conference held in Brooklyn Center on March 25, 170 Minnesota facilities were honored for excellence in operations.

MPCA Assistant Commissioner Rebecca Flood had high praise for the award recipients. "Minnesota's wastewater operators are at the front lines in protecting our state's water resources. The women and men being recognized today have worked diligently, day in and day out, to ensure that Minnesotans can enjoy clean water today and in years to come."

To be eligible for the award, facility operators had to comply with discharge permit requirements throughout the year. These requirements included submitting all monitoring reports to the MPCA correctly and on time, demonstrating compliance through monitoring or in surveys and employing MPCA-certified operators. For a complete list of winners, visit the MPCA Web site at

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/wastewater.html and open the document titled, "Wastewater Operators Award: 2009 Winners."

The annual Wastewater Operations Conference brings together wastewater operators from all over Minnesota for training and professional education. There are about 1,700 wastewater treatment facilities in Minnesota, including municipal, industrial and some privately-operated institutional facilities. The size of the community, institution or treatment plant is not a factor in awarding the certificates of excellence.

Farmers Cope with Roundup-Resistant Weeds

For 15 years, Eddie Anderson, a farmer, has been a strict adherent of no-till agriculture, an environmentally friendly technique that all but eliminates plowing to curb erosion and the harmful runoff of fertilizers and pesticides.

But not this year. On a recent afternoon here, Mr. Anderson watched as tractors crisscrossed a rolling field – plowing and mixing herbicides into the soil to kill weeds where soybeans will soon be planted. Just as the heavy use of antibiotics contributed to the rise of drug-resistant supergerms, American farmers' near-ubiquitous use of the weedkiller Roundup has led to the rapid growth of tenacious new superweeds.

For the rest of the article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/04/business/energy-environment/04weed.html>

Job Opportunities:

Colorado State University Extension - #17-10, Extension Specialist, (Small Farm)

Provide knowledge & technical information regarding business practices of sustainable production of small farm agriculture (farms & ranches) in Colorado, including the production of fruits, vegetables, flowers & other specialty crops, and/or livestock. Application materials, including transcript(s) showing degree(s) conferred, must be RECEIVED no later than Noon Mountain Time 05/12/10 for full consideration. Master's degree required at time of appointment. Complete job description, application process & list of requirements located at <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/coop/jobsmenu.html>. CSU conducts background checks on all final candidates. CSU is an EEO/AA Employer.

[SUSTAG] Organic Materials Review Institute ED Position - Executive Director

OMRI is looking for a proven, dynamic and entrepreneurial leader with a successful track record to help us grow quickly, yet intelligently, and meet the increasing demand. The successful candidate will have experience with regulatory bodies, exceptional communication skills with coworkers as well as the public and proven success developing highly functioning systems and procedures.

For complete information on how to submit an application, go to our website at www.omri.org/job/executive-director.

To apply for the Executive Director position, you will need to submit those application materials to: bh@tacs.org with "OMRI" in the subject line by Monday, May 10th at 5:00 pm. Or mail to: TACS, 1001 SE Water St, Suite 490, Portland, OR 97214 Attn: Bob Hazen, OMRI. For a list of application requirements, please see the job announcement on our website; Bill Stoneman; PO Box 465; McFarland, Wisconsin 53558-0465; Ph: 608-268-7040; email: billstoneman@charter.net

Loan Assistant Student Trainee positions in Thief River Falls, Detroit Lakes, and Alexandria, MN.

The positions to be filled are as a trainee for a Loan Specialist position and are being filled through the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). The SCEP is a planned, progressive education program that provides for the integration of a student's academic studies with target positions in the Federal workforce. The SCEP allows students to gain real, paid work experience while pursuing a college degree in a particular career field. Work locations vary each summer with the duties and locations designed to provide hands-on experience and training on the duties of a Loan Specialist. At the agency's option, students who successfully complete all work, study, qualifications, and other eligibility requirements may

be offered permanent positions with our agency upon graduation. This program is intended for students interested in long-term, permanent employment.

For complete job description and application:

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=87736332&JobTitle=Loan+Assistant+Student+Trainee&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&jbf13678=1&Facet=S&q=&where=Minnesota&jbf527=&x=98&y=10&AVSDM=2010-04-27+09%3a13%3a00>

Events:

May 6th (Thursday) is a **Minnesota River Basin Trends Presentation** from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Kim Musser and Scott Kudelka from the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University Mankato will give a talk about trends related to the Minnesota River Basin including water quality data, demographics, agricultural, wildlife, conservation practices and recreation usage.

May 8th (Saturday) is the **Hungry Hollow Creek Clean Up** sponsored by CURE and Granite Falls Chamber from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Meet at Carl's Bakery on Main Street in Granite Falls. Hungry Hollow Creek flows into the Minnesota River just below the Granite Falls dam. Bring boots, gloves, pick up trucks and clothes that can get dirty. For more information call the Granite Falls Chamber at 320-564-4039 or the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873.

May 15th & 16th (Saturday and Sunday) is the 19th **Annual River and History Weekend** at Lac qui Parle County Park (Nash's Grove) on the Lac qui Parle River. Line up your canoes and kayaking partners, get that camping gear dusted off and plan on attending CURE's premiere outdoor event of the season. For more information, www.cureriver.org

May 20th (Thursday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center (13550 Dakota Avenue South) in Savage.

June 6th (Sunday) is the **15th annual celebration of the Earth Sabbath**. The day begins at 1:00 and features Sabbath Sites: Blacksmithing, Weaving, Miniature Horses, Walking the Evolving Universe Story, tours, DVD "Story of Stuff", Live Music, Silent Auction and much more..... At 6:00 join us for the Sabbath Ceremony followed by an Earthrise grown and roasted turkey, baked benas, tabouli, garden greens and rhubarb crisp. Following this meal we will feast on the beautiful concert music of Sara Thomsen. We'd love to have you come. If you need to stay overnight we will soon be listing accommodation places on our website <http://earthrisefarmfoundation.org/>. More information is also included on our website. Please bring a loaf of your favorite bread to share and call or e-mail us if you think you can stay and eat supper with us. Admission for the events of this day is \$15.00 per adult or \$25.00 for the entire family.

June 8th (Tuesday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bryant Lake Park (6800 Rowland Road) in Eden Prairie.

June 9th (Wednesday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Southwest Minnesota State University (1501 State Street, Room 117, Conference Center) in Marshall.

June 17th (Thursday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at South Central College (1920 Lee Boulevard E119 and E121) in North Mankato.

June 22nd (Tuesday) is a **Cottonwood River Paddle** from County Road 11 to Flandrau State Park in New Ulm sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

June 24th (Thursday) is a **Redwood River Paddle** from County Road 6 to Lake Redwood sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

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

Water Quality Articles:

[Learning about Minnesota River Basin](#) (New Ulm Journal). People gathered Saturday evening for the Annual Minnesota River Banquet held at Turner Hall.

[Long-lost old decoys fetch a pretty penny](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A pair of recently discovered pintail duck decoys carved by a little-known Minnesota decoy carver nearly 100 years ago fetched a remarkable \$34,000 at auction last week in Illinois.

[Sturgeon are back in a big way](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Sturgeon, a fish of Jurassic tenure, nearly went the way of the dinosaur, but the population is healthy again.

To the lost man, to the pioneer penetrating a new country, to the naturalist who wishes to see the wild land at its wildest, the advice is always the same - - follow a river. The river is the original forest highway. It is nature's own Wilderness Road. – Edwin Way Teale

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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