

Ney Environmental Education Foundation Annual Meeting

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Thursday November, 11 at 7pm we invite you to the Ney Environmental Education Foundation Annual Meeting. We have moved the location for the meeting to Toody's Sweet Treats in Henderson. Please consider attending, voting for your representative on the Board, and viewing the report of our completed 2009-2010 Year.

Advancing Social Justice and Environmental Responsibility through Economic Action

No matter what your hopes were for Tuesday's election, one outcome that we're all too likely to see is political gridlock.

That makes the work we do together -- advancing social justice and environmental responsibility through economic action -- more important than ever. Here are just a few examples:

1. By working to [close the filthiest coal-fired power plants](#), we can work to meet our climate goals -- without one new piece of legislation.
2. By creating [Clean Energy Victory Bonds](#), we can finance the next big wave of solar and wind -- without one penny of taxpayer dollars.
3. By focusing on [energy efficiency](#), we can help every American family save hundreds or thousands of dollars a year -- better than a tax break, since it will happen year after year with no Congressional vote required.
4. By accelerating the [transition to clean energy](#), we ensure the next big wave of good jobs.
5. By going [local and organic with our food](#), and rebuilding local food systems, we can make sure there is healthy, affordable food for all.
6. By choosing [Fair Trade](#), we can help families around the world lift themselves out of poverty.
7. By switching to [community banks and credit unions](#), we can take support away from the mega-banks who were at the center of the global economic crisis -- and invest in our local communities.
8. By supporting [green businesses](#), we can rebuild our Main Streets and create new jobs. Recent studies confirm what you and I have known for years: According to the Kaufman Foundation, over the past 25 years, virtually all net new jobs in the US have been created by small, local and independent businesses that are less than five years old. The Pew Charitable Trust reported that green jobs in the U.S. grew more than twice as fast as the overall job market in the past ten years, and suffered fewer setbacks.
9. By choosing green [products and services](#), people can improve their health, live better and save money when they go green.
10. By using our consumer and investing power, we can make real, lasting change. Steps forward include Home Depot shifting to sustainably-harvested wood and Ben & Jerry's committing to be 100% Fair Trade with their flavors by 2012. [Let's keep up the pressure on Hershey's](#) to go Fair Trade!

Americans can and do come together for clean energy and jobs, healthy food, a fair deal for all, and financing systems that rebuild our Main Streets. As we work together on strengthening local businesses and local communities, we're also building alliances across political divides, reknitting the fabric of our

country. We have powerful tools at our fingertips for accelerating the shift to a just and sustainable economy. Thanks for all you do for a better future for all, Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director, Green America

Friends of the Minnesota Valley 2010 Annual Dinner

Come out on November 17th (Wednesday) for the Friends of the Minnesota Valley's 2010 Annual Dinner at the Minnesota Valley County Club (6300 Auto Club Road) in Bloomington. This year's dinner will focus on "Fishing the Minnesota River: The Link Between Water Quality and Fish Populations" by the Keynote Speaker: Dirk Peterson, Chief of Fisheries, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

As Minnesota's leading agency expert on state fisheries, Dirk Peterson is responsible for managing efforts to maximize the health of aquatic habitat and fish populations. Mr. Peterson has career experience in the Minnesota River Basin, previously serving in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Southern Regional Office in New Ulm. He will share his insights and perspectives on the current status of fishing in the Minnesota River, including the welcome return of native fish such as paddlefish and river sturgeon.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with a cash bar and social along with Music of the Minnesota River and Wildlife Slide Presentation. From 6:30 to 8:45 is the Dinner and Program including the Keynote Speech by Dirk Peterson and supplemental comments by Scott Sparlin. For more information:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/friendsannualdinner.pdf>

School Waste Study Provides Surprising Results

How much waste is generated by Minnesota schools? How much typically gets recycled? How much could get recycled? Schools trying to be as environmentally friendly as possible look for answers and now they have them.

A new report by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, "Digging Deep Through School Trash: A waste composition analysis of trash, recycling and organic material discarded at public schools in Minnesota," addresses these questions and many more. It details findings from a comprehensive school waste composition study conducted by the MPCA, Hennepin County and the city of Minneapolis. Some key findings of the school waste study:

- More than 78 percent of all the waste generated by schools could be managed through a combination of recycling and composting
- Food waste and recyclable paper are two of the most prominent materials thrown away by schools.

The report can be reviewed at www.pca.state.mn.us/schoolwastestudy.

For the study, researchers collected, sorted and analyzed all the waste generated by the six participating schools during a two-day period, including everything that was in trash cans, recycling bins or collected for organics recycling.

The participating schools were Burroughs Elementary, Northeast Middle and Washburn Senior High in Minneapolis and Hopkins West Junior High, Minnetonka Senior High and Clear Springs Elementary in Minnetonka. In many respects, these schools exhibit characteristics similar to schools across Minnesota. They are among the more than 100 schools in Hennepin County that have implemented an organics recycling program to divert food waste, paper towels and other organic materials for composting — a type of recycling program that is still relatively rare but gaining steam in Minnesota.

Some easy, low-cost options schools can take to boost recycling include educating students and staff, having properly placed and labeled recycling containers, and forming a "green team" to track and improve performance.

Schools elsewhere in Minnesota that follow these tips are getting great results from their recycling programs.

In the Duluth school district, the Lakewood school placed clearly labeled bins in classrooms and common areas. To kickoff the new recycling program and to promote usage of the bins, the school held a pep assembly that highlighted the importance of recycling and the materials accepted in the bins. The school also conducted short, 15-minute classroom activities that focused on reduce, reuse and recycle education.

These strategies paid off: from January to June, the school increased its recycling by 312 percent when compared to the 2009 school year. Grant/Nettleton and Homecroft schools followed the same procedures and strategies as Lakewood school. They have seen an average 81 percent increase rate in the collection of recyclables.

The Proctor school district successfully rolled out a food waste collection program used by grades 6 through 12. The "Green Bandits" headed up a pep assembly promoting the program, put posters up throughout the school, and talked to their peers about proper separation. In the nine week pilot test, the program diverted three cubic yards of food waste from the trash. The school expects more than 13 cubic yards of wet, heavy food waste will be kept from the landfill and turned into useful compost for gardens and lawns in the 2010-2011 school year.

Schools or districts interested in maximizing recycling can contact their county recycling coordinators for assistance and use any of these additional resources to help them get started.

Resources for improving school recycling:

- County recycling and environmental staff: www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/preventing-waste-and-pollution/recycling/county-environmental-contacts-data.html
- EPA's tools to reduce waste in schools: www.epa.gov/epawaste/education/toolkit.htm
- Healthy and Sustainable Schools Guide: www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/download-document.html?gid=2368
- Curriculum resources for teachers: www.seek.state.mn.us

Job Opportunities:

Full Time Dairy Profitability Enhancement Program Coordinator

Help wanted, full-time: Dairy Profitability Enhancement Program Coordinator. The applicant will coordinate and recruit dairy profit teams in 16-county area. Skills: Ag background helpful, computer skills necessary. Pay commensurate with experience.

Send resume and letter of application to: DPEP, c/o Carver County Extension Office, 11360 Hwy 212, Suite 5, Cologne, MN 55322

Questions? Contact Jill @ 952-466-5311 or jzieroth@co.carver.mn.us. Application deadline: November 12th

Forester

Performs duties related to the management of vegetation such as silviculture, timber management, reforestation, timber stand improvement, and fuels management. Also performs program management duties on a three District zone, which includes budgeting, oversight of vegetation management, and coordination with other resource areas to accomplish District, Zone, and Forest Goals. Performs duties related to Forest Plan Implementation, including site level planning, prescription writing, implementation of vegetation management activities, cultural treatments, and other related duties. Position is supervisory and will supervise up to 4 employees. Applications are due by November 26th, 2010 and the position is in Aurora, MN. For more information: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91765166>

Carpenter Leader

Plans projects and assignments for the construction, alteration, maintenance, and repair of buildings, structures, and wood-based items. Determines the types and grades of wood and materials, proper tools, and methods and procedures to use to accomplish carpentry work in accordance with requirements and specifications. Plans, measures, and lays out work, working from blueprints, sketches, and work orders.

Performs work involved in constructing, altering, maintaining, and repairing buildings, structures, partitions, panels, and items such as bookcases, work benches, and tool cabinets, using wood, wood substitutes, and composite building materials. Operates hand and power tools and equipment to accomplish carpentry assignments.

Serves as a team/work leader, leading team efforts in the development, implementation, and/or evaluation of program or project responsibilities. Facilitates team or unit processes by working with team members or employees to ensure that tasks are completed, that good working relationships among team members and with management officials are maintained, and that team priorities and goals, needs, and achievements are coordinated with management. Applications are due by November 12th, 2010 and the position is in Duluth, MN. For more information:

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=91761670>

Health Improvement Coordinator

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSMN) is seeking a Health Improvement Coordinator for their Center for Prevention Community Initiatives team. The Project Coordinator leads existing projects, and assists to develop, perform and evaluate a wide variety of projects and activities that support the implementation of health improvement programs and activities. The Coordinator is responsible for assisting health improvement project managers and department leaders with all aspects of health improvement projects.

Day to day projects will consist of: Provide project support for the Community Training and Technical Assistance Consulting Services of the Center for Prevention, working in close collaboration with consulting project managers.

Accountabilities include:

- a. Implementing systems and processes to support consulting work plan implementation and contract and budget monitoring.
- b. Handle logistics related to project implementation, including travel arrangements, facility arrangements, materials and presentation development.
- c. Act as a liaison to Center Communications team and/or Blue Cross legal department on implementing intellectual property guidelines and processes
- d. Assist consulting project managers with development and implementation of webinars and conference calls
- e. Handle national workshop logistics as needed
- f. Manage relevant data collection systems and records
- g. Participate in work teams, as needed.
- h. Develop and maintain database(s) that meets needs of the project, management and interdepartmental and external customers, manages vendor invoices; tracks spending against current budgets and plans for future budgets; conducts audits to ensure invoicing accuracy and consistency

Required Qualifications: Bachelors or associate degree in business, health or related field. 3 + years related work experience

Strong verbal and written communication skills. Demonstrated project coordination skills. Detail oriented. Moderate to advanced skills with Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access; recent experience designing and populating databases, which includes download, upload and formatting data. Ability to work with a wide variety of people. BlueCross BlueShield of MN is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, M/F/D/V. BlueCross BlueShield of MN is a drug free workplace. Candidates are required to pass a background check and drug test before beginning employment.

Health Improvement Project Mgr-4784

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSMN) is seeking a Health Improvement Project Manager. This position will be responsible for the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of one or more evidence-based health improvement programs. The individual will have primary accountability for leading projects, coordinating and collaborating with staff in the Public and Health Affairs Division and

other divisions, meeting project objectives and contributing to the improvement of health outcomes. Projects often involve several partners and will require collaboration with external entities, requiring expertise in developing and maintaining strong business relationships.

The primary function of this role will be managing multiple community funding contracts focused on active living and community design initiatives aimed at policy, systems and environmental change. A central accountability will be providing content related technical assistance and coaching to project leads and coalitions on active living principles and how to achieve community-level change through effective community engagement.

Accountabilities:

1. Participates in cross-functional planning and implements or oversees the implementation of internal and external health improvement projects.
2. Develops and continually updates program or project plans, time lines, and deliverables while coordinating multiple sub-processes to expand and/or improve programs.
3. Develops and manages vendor contract(s); manages project budget(s)
4. Coordinates and collaborates with staff in the Public and Health Affairs division to ensure program objectives are met.
5. Ensures that appropriate measurement and data analysis occurs for the project. This may include qualitative and quantitative review of findings, as well as barrier analyses through literature review, provider input, and member input.
6. Communicates program activities and outcomes with key internal stakeholders and maintains relationships with key external stakeholders such as public health agencies, employers, community leaders, and many others as needed to collaborate on projects designed to improve health outcomes.
8. Oversees the development and revisions of the program.
9. Fosters teamwork through facilitation, coaching, mentoring and teaching

Required Qualifications: Bachelors degree in public health, planning, public policy, health science, health promotion or related field, or equivalent education and experience. Minimum 6 years professional experience in related field. Content expertise in active community design. Skills and expertise in coalition building and organizing with advocacy, including training experience. Content expertise in policy, systems and environmental change strategy development and implementation. Experience working with/in diverse racial or ethnic groups and nations very desirable. Strong verbal and written communication skills. Strong group facilitation skills. Ability to analyze data and transform into information. Travel will be required. BlueCross BlueShield of MN is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer, M/F/D/V. BlueCross BlueShield of MN is a drug free workplace. Candidates are required to pass a background check and drug test before beginning employment.

To apply for these positions, go to

http://www.bluecrossmn.com/bc/wcs/groups/bcbmn/@mbc_bluecrossmn/documents/public/mbc1_c_careers.hcsp

Events:

November 15th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

November 15th (Monday) is **Energy Efficiency for Residential Customers,** at Centenary United Methodist Church at 7pm. The presentation will feature Xcel Energy's residential programs and many no or low cost ways to conserve energy in the home. Xcel Energy (<http://www.xcelenergy.com>) is a leading combination electricity and natural gas energy company, offering a energy related products and services to 3.4 million electricity customers and 1.9 million natural gas customers. They operate in 8 Western and Midwestern states with revenue of more than \$9 billion annually. Ms. Schultz has a diverse background, including serving as manager of one of the first environmental stores in the Twin Cities in 1993, when compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) had just entered the public market. She earned her master's

degree from the University of Minnesota in 2009 from the School of Journalism in Strategic Communications. The presentation is free and open to the public.

November 16th (Tuesday) is **Prairie Mass Harvest Field Day** at 2:00 pm near Windom, MN. The harvest will occur at Talcot Lake Wildlife Management Area (located between the cities of Fulda and Windom). For more information contact Jill Sackett, UM Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449 sacke032@umn.edu

November 17th (Wednesday) is **Annual Friends of the Minnesota Valley Dinner** at the Minnesota Valley Country Club at 6300 Auto Club Road in Bloomington, MN from 6pm to 8:30 pm. The RSVP deadline is November 12th and the cost is \$35/person, \$70/couple, and \$25/students and children. For more information and to RSVP, contact Lori Nelson at 952-881-9065 or lnelson@friendsofminvalley.org

November 18th (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 3** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part three of this three-part series, learn about our state's rare and local species that are found only in small areas or in very specific habitats. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give reliable locations and times in which to see some of these birds, some of which are within the St. Peter/Mankato area, along with tips on identification. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

November 23rd (Tuesday) is **11th annual Drainage Research Forum** in Owatonna, MN at Cabela's from 9am to 4:30 pm.

January 27th (Thursday) is **Electrofishing in the MN River** starting at 7pm at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo, MN. Brad Koenen, MN DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hutchinson Area Office will tell us about what the MN DNR is finding with their electro fishing surveys of the Minnesota River. Prepare to be surprised and to see awesome footage of hibernating catfish!

February 12th (Saturday) is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood on Main Street Montevideo. **Invited Guest Speakers: John Hickman & Jon Carlson** will tell us about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come hear the stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary! For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

April 16th (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.

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more information call (507) 359-5770.

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.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

<http://bluethumb.org/news/> Contains articles about water quality programs, mostly in Metro MN.

[Cloquet man designs 2011 walleye stamp](#) (AP) A Cloquet man has reeled in a winner with his painting of a walleye about to strike a leech and jig.

[Saving farms in a strange new way](#) (Star Tribune) Joe Adams just hates the fact that his postal address is Shakopee.

[Trail finds: A look at remote cameras](#) (Star Tribune) Call it Candid Camera for wildlife.

[Earth losing its ability to store carbon](#) (MPR) The earth is losing its ability to store carbon, as rainforests are cut and burned to grow food, according to a study co-authored by a University of Minnesota professor.

[Green job hype? Pipestone wind turbine plant idled](#) (MPR) We made a big deal a couple weeks ago about an [in-depth analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis](#) throwing cold water on the idea that "green jobs" will drive the new economy.

[Turbine plant's shutdown part of a larger slowdown in wind energy](#) (MPR) The shutdown of a wind turbine plant in southwestern Minnesota is part of a general slowdown in wind energy.

[Photos pretty as poison](#) (Star Tribune) The photographs Peter L. Johnson takes are garbage. Simply garbage.

[Conservation tour highlights several practices](#) (Agri News) Rice County has been more reactive than proactive when it comes to redetermining ditch benefits, the county auditor treasurer said.

[DNR announces \\$3.5M in Legacy grants](#) (MPR) The DNR has announced grants of about \$3.5 million for conservation projects, paid for by Legacy Amendment funding.

[Term nearing end, DNR commissioner says he's willing to serve under Dayton or Emmer](#) (Pioneer Press) Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Mark Holsten says he will stay on the job until the end of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's term.

[World's thirst for oil leads to risks](#) (AP) The world's thirst for crude is leading oil exploration companies into ever deeper waters and ventures fraught with environmental and political peril.

[Did Americans reject clean energy by voting Republican?](#) (MinnPost) US environmentalists, assessing the Republican tsunami that washed over the country, chose Wednesday to tout a key Election Day victory in beating back California's Proposition 23, a ballot initiative that would have reversed clean-energy requirements statewide - and led quite possibly to similar initiatives in other states.

[Outdoors: Big fish netting big controversy](#) (St. Cloud Times) The state's proposal to stock muskies in five new lakes, including the Sauk River Chain of Lakes in Stearns County, grabbed the attention of local anglers and lakeshore owners again this week.

[In Lake Superior, a problem algae lies dormant - but why?](#) (MPR) On the gently curving beach at Knife River, just north of Duluth, a cluster of wave-lapped boulders is a good place to find *Didymosphenia geminata*, a sometimes-slippery single-celled alga.

[Geological Atlas project to map groundwater and other resources](#) (AP) With hammer and chisel in hand, Alan Knaeble split open the gray core of clay like he was opening a book and peered at the landscape of Renville County some 400,000 to 500,000 years ago.

"Water is the driver of Nature." ~Leonardo da Vinci

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.

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Thanks,

Scott

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