

**A note by Patrick Moore**

The winds of change are blowing.

To counteract the anxiety which the outside world can bring,

make time to sit, relax, notice and allow what is seeking to come through.

Next to sitting by the river and watching it flow, or watching the sturdy trees bend in the wind,

one of the best ways I have found to do this is to write.

Next Thursday, November 4th at 7 p.m. CURE is co-sponsoring "[Words for our Great River](#)" with author [Florence Dacey](#)

We hope you can come. Please [RSVP](#) today to let us know if you can make it.

**Friends of the Minnesota Valley 2010 Annual Dinner**

Come out on November 17<sup>th</sup> (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>

**Prairie Biomass Harvest Field Day to be Held near Windom**

University of Minnesota, Rural Advantage, and University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting a field day November 16, 2010, near Windom, Minnesota, to discuss the potential benefits of harvesting grassland plants for bioenergy. The Prairie Biomass Harvest Field Day will begin at 2:00pm at a research plot being utilized by Dr. Clarence Lehman, University of Minnesota, and project partners.

Minnesota is capable of producing many different types of biomass for the renewable energy sector; possible biomass feedstocks include the grasses and forbs that make up our restored prairies and conservation grasslands. But how does biomass harvest affect the health of the native plants and animals that call the grasslands home? Dr. Clarence Lehman and partners are conducting research in different areas of Minnesota to try to answer that question.

Dr. Clarence Lehman will open the field day with his thoughts on the importance of using bioenergy and how we might be able to improve wildlife habitat in doing so. Research team member Jake Jungers will report results and observations from the fall 2009 sampling and harvest. Jill Sackett, Extension Educator with University of Minnesota Extension and Rural Advantage, will give a brief overview of third generation biofuel production processes. The field day will end with a group discussion of the local biomass feedstock market. Mark Lindquist, Biofuels Program Manager with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will assist in leading this discussion. Minnesota Native Landscapes will also be present and

attendees will be able to view their harvest equipment and the harvesting process, weather permitting. This is an outdoor event and will be held rain or shine. Please dress accordingly.

This demonstration is funded by USDA-NRCS through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). The research is supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Legislative Citizen Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). Further partners include Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

**DIRECTIONS:** The field day will occur on the north side of Talcot Lake Wildlife Management Area. From Windom, go about 16 miles west on State Hwy 62, then north on Cottonwood Co Rd 7 for 3 miles. Travel West on Co Rd 15 for about 3/4 mile. Plot will be on south side of road. From Fulda, go about 8 miles east on State Hwy 62, then north on Co Rd 7 for 3 miles. Travel west on Co Rd 15 for about 3/4 mile. Plot will be on south side of road. For more information contact: Jill Sackett, Extension Educator at [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu) or 507-238-5449.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **GIS Conservationist – Stearns County**

This permanent full-time position is partially supported by a grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The GIS Conservationist will provide GIS, technical, information technology, and educational assistance for natural resource conservation projects. Work area will include portions of Douglas, Pope, Todd counties and all of Stearns County.

Desired qualifications: Education – Minimum four-year degree with emphasis in GIS, natural resource management, environmental studies, or related studies with field and work experience. Experience with ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, and civil engineering software. Experience with survey equipment, including a total station, laser level and automatic level. Experience with Windows operating system and knowledge of computer networking, printers and plotters. 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 drivers license. Must be able to pass a USDA security background check. Physically capable to carry equipment over rough terrain, and the ability to perform outdoor work throughout the year. Applications are due by Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Interested applicants must submit a 1) letter of interest, 2) resume, and a 3) Stearns County SWCD "Application for Employment" to the address listed below: Stearns County SWCD; Attn: Dennis Fuchs, Administrator; 110 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, Suite 128; Waite Park, Minnesota 56387. For more information visit <http://www.stearnscountyswcd.net> or call 320-251-7800 ext. 3.

#### **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](http://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>

#### **Extension Educator – Crops (Soil-Water and Nutrient emphasis)**

The EE-Crops (Soil-Water and Nutrient Management emphasis) will bring in-depth expertise to cutting-edge agricultural water management/water quality issues by applying his or her expertise to Extension programs and priorities. The EE will employ multiple delivery systems to educate producers and other

agricultural professionals via seminars, workshops or non-credit courses. He or she will conduct collaborative applied research with university faculty and other research professionals. The EE is responsible for program development and delivery, use of scholarly/scientific research, effective partnerships, use of technology and continuing professional development. This position is accountable to the Program Leader in Crops for program direction, performance evaluation and personnel actions.

- Identify needs, design, develop, deliver/implement and evaluate educational programs based in scholarly/scientific theory and research as appropriate to audience.
- Collaborate with departmental faculty and other research professionals in conducting scholarly research.
- Use technology for program design, delivery, reporting, communication, trend monitoring, and locating information.
- Develop and maintain effective local, regional, university and state partnerships that further the development and delivery of Extension educational programs.
- Continue professional development in scholarship, program development and delivery via conferences, additional graduate work, self-directed study and/or other appropriate means of maintaining a high level of expertise.

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

### **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](mailto:jzieroth@co.carver.mn.us). Application deadline: November 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Events:**

November 4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is **River Writers' Workshop** at the CURE office in Montevideo from 7-9pm. Join them for an informal writing & sharing session for teens and adults led by author and teaching-artist **Florence Dacey** of Cottonwood. Learn tips for using the written word to preserve your stories and memories about the Minnesota River, its valley and tributaries. **No previous writing experience necessary.** Call 320-269-2984 or 507-423-6652 for pre-registration or e-mail [dixie@cureriver.org](mailto:dixie@cureriver.org) or email Florence. This unique workshop is sponsored in part by a grant provided by the SW MN Arts & Humanities Council (SMAHC) and is funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the MN State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota.

November 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Conference with the theme "Home-Land: New Lens for a New Moment on Earth."** It's a day to refocus our personal lens, to recommit to living sustainably with new ideas to fuel this work. You will be inspired. You will be encouraged. You will be emboldened. I hope you can join us! The conference is at SSND Provincial House Conference Center (170 Good Counsel Drive) in Mankato. Fee: \$25 before October 21st, \$35 after that date (\$15 early bird fee for students). As always, this fee includes morning coffee and homemade muffins as well as a simple, local, sustainable lunch. To register for the conference, contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org) For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fifthannualearthconference.pdf>

November 7<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) is **Annual Fall Clean Up** by the MN River Landing in Wegdahl. Help CURE clean up a two mile stretch of Hwy 212 along the Minnesota River between Granite Falls and Wegdahl. Other areas along River Road behind Country Kitchen in Monte need help too. Do your part to keep our area

rivers beautiful. Kids and families welcome! Refreshments provided for all volunteers. For more info, call Dixie toll free at 1-877-269-2873.

November 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is **River Writers' Workshop** at SW Technical College in Granite Falls, MN from 7-9pm. Join them for an informal writing & sharing session for teens and adults led by author and teaching-artist **Florence Dacey** of Cottonwood. Learn tips for using the written word to preserve your stories and memories about the Minnesota River, its valley and tributaries. **No previous writing experience necessary.** Call 320-269-2984 or 507-423-6652 for pre-registration or e-mail [dixie@cureriver.org](mailto:dixie@cureriver.org) or email Florence. This unique workshop is sponsored in part by a grant provided by the SW MN Arts & Humanities Council (SMAHC) and is funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the MN State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota

November 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> (Monday-Wednesday) is the **2010 Minnesota/Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference** at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Paul, MN. The first collaborative Minnesota-Wisconsin conference on invasive species will be held for the purpose of exchanging information on invasive species topics. This is an all-taxa conference covering invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, pests, and pathogens. The focus is to strengthen awareness of invasive species issues, prevention, and management. Expected audiences include researchers, land managers, natural resource professionals, university personnel, landscapers, nursery, agricultural or forestry employees, environmental specialists, lake association members, and agency and non-governmental organizations. For more information go to [http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010\\_mn\\_wi\\_invasive\\_species\\_conference.htm](http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010_mn_wi_invasive_species_conference.htm)

November 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) are the **Prairie Harvest Field Days**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or [atsacke032@umn.edu](mailto:atsacke032@umn.edu)

November 15<sup>th</sup> (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 16<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

November 17<sup>th</sup> (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 12<sup>th</sup> 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@friendsofmnvalley.org](mailto:lnelson@friendsofmnvalley.org)

November 18<sup>th</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday) is **11<sup>th</sup> annual Drainage Research Forum** in Owattana, MN at Cabela's from 9am to 4:30 pm.

January 27<sup>th</sup> (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 12<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Cure 19<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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

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://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

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

[Can Bush Lake curb milfoil?](#) (Star Tribune) Bush Lake's sandy, gently sloping swimming beach has lured visitors to Bloomington for decades, but in recent years there's been a new and unwelcome visitor: Eurasian water milfoil.

[Grease in sewers is a headache for Mendota](#) (Star Tribune) It sounded like rocks. Standing outside next to an open manhole on a chilly Monday morning, Alan Ralston wondered what could be making the harsh rattling noise as the huge truck nicknamed "the Guzzler" vacuumed up gunk from the Mendota sewers.

[High winds too much for wind turbines](#) (MPR) The high winds this week were too much even for some machines that normally thrive on gusty conditions -- wind turbines.

[Deer to be tested for bovine TB in NW Minn. again](#) (AP) With the hunting season approaching, officials in northwestern Minnesota remain on guard against bovine tuberculosis in deer.

[DNR on watch for chronic wasting disease in SE Minn.](#) (AP) Wildlife officials will be checking again this hunting season for chronic wasting disease among deer in a pocket of southeastern Minnesota.

[Deer registration gets easier for most Minnesota hunters](#) (Star Tribune) For Minnesota's 500,000 deer hunters, it's one of the biggest changes to come along in decades.

[Inspectors try to slow spread of emerald ash borer](#) (AP) Minnesota officials are taking steps to **enforce quarantines** that are meant to protect trees against the spread of the emerald ash borer.

[Editorial: The Troubled Waters e-mails](#) (MN Daily) Internal e-mails about Troubled Waters, recently made public, show an administration panicked about how agri-business would react to a film critical of its farming methods.

[Project tests septic systems to curb sewage leaking into Sauk River Chain of Lakes](#) (St. Cloud Times) Jennifer Burg lowers a long, metal probe into a septic tank, feeling for any holes that might allow raw sewage to leak into the ground and eventually into nearby Park Lake.

[Editorial: Lake Shady dam decision raises more questions](#) (Rochester Post-Bulletin) Now that the Olmsted County Board has made the difficult-but-correct decision to remove the flood-damaged Lake Shady dam in Oronoco, a number of new, potentially difficult questions will have to be answered.

[High winds too much for wind turbines](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The high winds this week were too much even for some machines that normally thrive on gusty conditions -- wind turbines.

[Minnesota officials confirm five sightings of cougars](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). State wildlife officials have confirmed five sightings of mountain lions in Minnesota over the past 13 months, leading at least one state hunting group to set up a reporting system aimed at collecting more data on the big predators.

[Editorial: The Troubled Waters e-mails](#) (Minnesota Daily). Internal e-mails about Troubled Waters, recently made public, show an administration panicked about how agri-business would react to a film critical of its farming methods. What's disturbing about those concerns is that they reflect what happens when a public university increasingly depends on private money.

*"We say we love flowers, yet we pluck them. We say we love trees, yet we cut them down. And people still wonder why some are afraid when told they are loved."* ~Unknown

**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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