

### North Country: The Making of Minnesota

[Patrick Moore](http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/W/wingerd_north.html) has just finished reading a fascinating book: North Country, the Making of Minnesota [http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/W/wingerd\\_north.html](http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/W/wingerd_north.html). It took him 3 months, but it was worth it. Even though Moore is an avid Minnesota River hstiroian he learned many things he had never read before. Moore says that if you want to know the facts, not the myths about how Minnesota came to be, you should read this book. He says it will be a good primer for the 150th observances of the U.S Dakota War of 1862 to be held in 2012.

He wants to encourage all members of the MinnRivWa List serve to read it so we can have more things to talk about at upcoming meetings!

### SMALL BUSINESSES GET FREE ENVIRONMENTAL HELP FROM AWARD-WINNING STATE PROGRAM

Saint Paul, Minn. -- For nine years, a group of retired engineers has offered their expertise to help small businesses, schools and even cities find ways to be green and save money. Minnesota's Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) provides expert environmental engineering assistance to these clients, helping them decide if new lighting would pay off quickly or how to generate less trash. All services are free.

RETAP teams emphasize opportunities to reduce waste, increase energy efficiency and conservation, and reduce operating costs. Clients who sign up are under no obligation to follow RETAP's recommendations, but most jump at the chance to save money and increase efficiency. The average client saves \$4,300 from implementing changes recommended by RETAP.

Funded through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), RETAP has had between 15 and 20 retired engineer consultants for most of its nine-year existence. These consultants have advised nearly 200 local government facilities, grocery stores, hotels, auto repair shops, bakeries, nursing homes, schools and other facilities.

RETAP was recently recognized by American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) as one of 18 top state energy efficiency programs.

"These programs benefit clients in numerous ways," said ACEEE Executive Director Steve Nadel, "by using low-cost methods of generating significant energy savings, lowering costs and reducing the negative impacts of energy use."

"Our program is creatively structured to accommodate our retirees ," said Madalyn Cioci of the MPCA. "Working with them means respecting their schedules and balancing the free time they've earned. In turn, RETAP teams offer their accumulated expertise back to Minnesotans for free."

For more information about RETAP or to request a RETAP environmental assessment, visit [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) and type "RETAP" into the search box.

### 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.

### **Watershed Coordinator**

The Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) has a full-time, temporary opening for a West Fork Des Moines River (WFDNR) Watershed Coordinator in the HLWD office, located in Heron Lake, MN. The main responsibilities for this position will be the pursuit of funding for continued efforts and staffing, as well as education, implementation, and water quality monitoring efforts for the WFDNR watershed TMDL Implementation Plan in southwest Minnesota.

Specific tasks include grant and technical writing, financial management, designing educational materials, organizing and hosting meetings, and collaborating with local governments, environmental groups and the general public. The position would also be responsible for conducting lake and stream monitoring, increasing interstate communication, and coordinating efforts for the improvement of the WFDNR watershed. The applicant must have strong technical writing and public speaking skills and the ability to work with little supervision. Starting salary of \$18.50 per hour is dependent upon qualifications. This is a temporary, full-time position working 40 hours per week from November 2010 through December 2014. A full job description and application form can be obtained from Jan Voit at the HLWD office, PO Box 345, Heron Lake, MN 56137, telephone 507-793-2462, email [hlwd@roundlk.net](mailto:hlwd@roundlk.net) or found on HLWD's website: [www.hlwdonline.org](http://www.hlwdonline.org) Interested parties must submit an application, cover letter, resume, references, and a writing sample written within the last five years. Applications must be delivered to the HLWD office or postmarked by 4:30 pm on Thursday, October 28, 2010.

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

### **UWCA Education Outreach Coordinator**

The Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures (UWCA) Education Outreach Coordinator, in conjunction with staff from the National Park Service and other partner agencies, will serve as the primary liaison with school teachers and administrators to ensure successful implementation of the UWCA program and curricula - including coordinating and conducting training sessions for teachers and staff, facilitating use of curricula, coordinating field trips with teachers, facilitating follow-up and evaluation, and disseminating project findings. The Coordinator will also be responsible for expanding the program to additional school districts throughout the Twin Cities metro area. This position is funded by a two-year grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The applicant will serve as the primary liaison between UWCA program partner agencies and school district and building staff, coordinate refinement and enhancement of the draft UWCA curricula, including alignment with the specific science, math, and literacy goals of each participating school district, facilitate integration of the UWCA curricula into the standard curriculum and teacher training programs of participating schools, develop and implement teacher training, including workshops and canoe events, develop and implement student recruitment strategies, assist teachers in developing and executing service-learning projects, coordinate pre and post data collection for evaluation phase implemented by the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI), and facilitate outreach and

expansion, such as presentations at professional conferences and information dissemination through on-line networks. To apply, visit [http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/jobinator/jobform\\_short1.php](http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/jobinator/jobform_short1.php)

For more information visit [http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/jobinator/jobdesc\\_detail.php?JobID=31](http://fmp.wildernessinquiry.org/jobinator/jobdesc_detail.php?JobID=31)

### **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>

### **Education Director**

The Permaculture Research Institute Cold Climate is seeking an Education Director to coordinate and implement the educational programs of the organization. Primary responsibilities include building collaborations with other organizations, marketing PRI's educational programs, securing new/expanded sources of revenue, and working with a team of teachers to develop curriculum. This is a part-time contract position with a starting monthly income of \$1000. Minimum qualifications include an understanding of permaculture, passion for education, experience developing and managing a budget, and excellent written and oral skills. Entrepreneurial sales and marketing experience a plus. If you are interested, please email your resume along with three references to Erik Esse - [eje70@yahoo.com](mailto:eje70@yahoo.com) by November 1st. Include PRI Education Director in the subject line.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.minnesotaswics.org/2010\\_mn\\_wi\\_invasive\\_species\\_conference.htm](http://www.minnesotaswics.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 [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@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@friendsofminvalley.org](mailto:lnelson@friendsofminvalley.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.

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

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

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

[Chris Niskanen: Visiting Lake Oahe, an outdoors paradise](#) (Pioneer Press) The walleye limit is four fish daily, with one more than 20 inches or larger allowed.

[Oronoco residents, officials weigh in on Lake Shady](#) (Rochester Post- Bulletin) The Zumbro River meandering through a dry lake bed just east of U.S. 52 starkly contrasts with the shallow lake that stood there a month ago.

[Minnesota awarded habitat-restoration grants](#)(MinnPost) Three grants totaling \$1.2 million have been awarded to habitat restoration and cleanup projects in northeastern Minnesota, two along the St. Louis River.

[Lively debate reveals divides among 4th Congressional District candidates](#) (Pioneer Press) From global warming to federal health care changes to extending the Bush-era tax cuts, candidates in the 4th Congressional District offered sharply different views Thursday night to an enthusiastic audience of a couple hundred people.

[Likely fate for new Woodbury gang: Sing, sing](#) (Star Tribune) There's a new gang, perhaps a dozen or two strong, keeping a secretive presence on Woodbury's back streets -- or at least, what passes for back streets in Woodbury.

[Minnesota study suggests climate may play role in evolving new species](#) (MinnPost) Did you ever wonder why so many different life forms are so richly abundant in the tropics?

[St. Paul ranked 4th on list of top 25 green cities](#) (Pioneer Press) It's official: St. Paul is pretty green.

[Plan unveiled for shallow lakes](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News) The DNR's Shallow Lakes Program is nothing new; it's been around for a while as a means to improve habitat for the state's waterfowl.

[\\$1 billion upgrade at Xcel's Becker Sherco plant on hold](#) (St. Cloud Times) At first glance, Xcel Energy's decision not to pursue nearly \$1 billion in upgrades to two older units at its coal-fired power plant in Becker in the near future might seem like bad news for the environment.

[State lags on fixing farm pollution](#) (Star Tribune) Thousands of small farms may still be allowing animal manure to contaminate waters across Minnesota, a decade after a state environmental program was created to help curtail the hazardous practice.

[Want A Piece Of Stillwater? DNR Will Sell It](#) (AP) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will auction 28 acres of woodland, ponds and wetland in Stillwater Thursday to help reduce the state budget.

[Family protests after DNR sells land they donated near Stillwater](#) (MPR) The family who donated land to the state Department of Natural Resources in 1974 so it would be preserved says they will pursue legal action after the land was sold recently.

[Donor's kin upset with DNR's decision to auction Stillwater land](#) (Pioneer Press) Descendants of Archibald and Margaret Jackson say they plan to fight the sale of the former Jackson Wildlife Management Area in Stillwater — 28 acres of woods, wetlands and water — which was auctioned off Thursday for \$190,000.

[Edina wrestling with tough question of whether Nine Mile Creek nature area should become a 'trail'](#) (Minn Post) To be an elected official in Edina seems like the cushiest public service job imaginable. The place is one of those established suburbs where the bread is buttered on both sides.

*"OUT-OF-DOORS, n. That part of one's environment upon which no government has been able to collect taxes. Chiefly useful to inspire poets." ~Ambrose Bierce from The Devil's Dictionary*

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,  
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