

Fifth Annual Earth Conference

Join us for our 5th 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!

There's an early bird discount for those who register by October 21. (You save \$10!). Here are the highlights but really the brochure gives you much more information:

Date: Saturday, November 6th, 2010, 9am-3:30pm.

Where: SSND Provincial House Conference Center; 170 Good Counsel Drive, 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.

For more information on the conference: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/earthconference10.pdf>. To register for the conference, contact Lisa Coons at 507-389-4272 or lcoons@ssndmankato.org

Minnesota Catfish and Sturgeon Alliance

The Minnesota Catfish and Sturgeon Alliance is forming a group to provide input to the DNR and to improve catfish and sturgeon fishing in Minnesota. They are especially looking for input from the outlying areas of Minnesota. Right now most of the members are from the metro area. People interested can contact Brian Klawitter at briank@in-depthoutdoors.com. They can also get more information at the In Depth Outdoors Catfish and Sturgeon forum found at <http://www.idofishing.com/forum/postlist.php/Board/cats/catfish-sturgeon>

Coal Burning Plant

There is a meeting in New Ulm on **September 18th** regarding plans by the PUC to convert an existing natural gas burning power plant into a coal burning plant. There is serious talk of spending \$23 million to convert the existing plant into one that would burn the coal. They need supportive allies in the region to attend and offer support and would like to consider also representing MAE and to see additional people attend further meetings. Many at the meeting are saying that people in the community are stating "they won't do it - they won't start burning coal!" The truth is that the PUC is already talking about starting construction after the environmental worksheet is completed in 6 weeks! For more information, contact Jeff Brand, Minnesota Environmental Partnership; 546 Rice Street, Suite 100; Saint Paul, MN 55103; 651-290-0154.

Minnesota River, Lake Pepin stakeholders launch 'friendship tour' – WaterFront Bulletin

Stakeholders in the Minnesota River and Lake Pepin watersheds recently met to discuss perspectives of the TMDLs for the lake and South Metro Mississippi.

Three voluntary groups organized the event – without governmental involvement. Clean Up our River Environment (CURE), of Montevideo, worked with the newly formed Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance and the Minnesota Agriculture Water Resources Coalition to bring two dozen farmers, agricultural representatives and residents of the Minnesota River Basin to meet Lake Pepin area residents on Aug. 24-25. Starting with an evening and overnight stay at the historic St. James Hotel in Red Wing, the visitors mixed informally with lake residents over dinner and into the evening.

On Wednesday, the group headed to Lake City to board the Pearl of Pepin, a restored paddle-wheel boat. Led by Mike McKay, president of the Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, the group saw first-hand the beauty of a lake undergoing a slow death, owing to accelerated sediment loads from the Minnesota River. As they toured the upper lake, McKay pointed out where sediment depositions were already making the lake difficult to navigate. The upper lake will fill in before the end of this century if present sedimentation

rates continue; the entire lake will fill up in 340 years – roughly one tenth of the lake's lifespan at pre-settlement sedimentation rates.

The "Lake Pepin Friendship Tour," as it was called, "exceeded my expectations," said McKay. "We received plenty of invitations to come visit the Minnesota River basin, so that's what we'll be working on next."

Hi Friends of the Ney Nature Center

I am pleased to e-mail you information on ways you can join the Board of Directors and I in our continuous efforts to meet the Mission of the Ney Nature Center! We are always are looking for involvement from Volunteers!

We have recently become a partner with the RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). Not only does this help expand our volunteer program but it allows us and the volunteers being recruited through this program access to volunteer related resources. If you would like more information about the NNC's RSVP partnership please don't hesitate to contact us. Volunteers come in all ages!!! Check out these upcoming volunteer opportunities for the young and young at heart!

Volunteer Development:

Monday, September 20th - "Naturalist and Volunteer Training" This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in becoming involved at a volunteer at the NNC or for any Naturalists out there interested in learning more about the NNC's natural features.

For more information visit <<http://neycenter.org/coming-events/>> or contact Becky for details.

Volunteer Opportunities:

1) Volunteers Needed for the Ney Nature Center's 2nd Annual Fall Festival, Saturday Oct. 16th.

Here are just a few tasks that volunteers are needed for at the Fall Festival: (some are only the day of and some are for planning in the time leading up to the event)

- Story-time reader
- lead games and crafts
- help with supper
- set-up the day before and morning of
- join the committee, plan games/crafts, the menu and other activities
- play music at campfire
- demonstrate harvest equipment
- Clean-up
- and more!!!

2) Volunteer needed to lead the Corn Husk Doll Making at the Fall Festival. Last year's volunteer is unable to attend but will teach someone to make the dolls for this year. If you are interested please contact Becky ASAP.

3) Volunteer to organize an order of NNC apparel. We would like to order t-shirts and vests and possibly other items with the NNC Logo. This Volunteer will work with Becky setting up the order, placing it and distributing.

4) A volunteer is needed to lead the Lil'Ney Naturalist Program. This is our once a month preschool program. It is held on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30.

For more information about any of these or other volunteer opportunities contact Becky. Your

involvement is essential to our programs, events and daily operations! Thank you for considering! **Enjoy Nature everyday, Becky; 507-248-3474; rebecca@neycenter.org**

Dear River Network Partners,

Rarely does River Network put forth a call to action. However, we feel that America's Great Outdoors Initiative is an important one that can be much more successful with your feedback. In collaboration with other national organizations, we are sending this call to action to all of our Partners. We know that not all of you are supportive of this type of action, but we thank you for your understanding. Below is general information about AGOI and a sample email to make your email writing much easier. Thank you! - *River Network*

Take Action Now! Urge President Obama to Prioritize Watersheds in his [America's Great Outdoors Initiative](#). The Obama administration has launched the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The effort is aimed at connecting rural and urban communities with the natural world and encouraging outdoor activity, while conserving our precious natural resources. River Network is supporting the effort to ensure river protection and restoration, including the creation of blueways, as a centerpiece of the initiative. A blueway, also known as a blue trail or water trail, is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safeguards and is a destination for fishing, boating and other recreation. Urge President Obama and top administration officials to prioritize river and watershed protection and establish a National Blueways Initiative so that all Americans have the opportunity to enjoy healthy rivers.

Sample email:

Prioritize rivers and watersheds as part of your America's Great Outdoors Initiative

Thank you, Mr. President, for making America's Great Outdoors a priority. We are grateful for your leadership in launching an initiative that our nation desperately needs to better protect the rivers and landscapes that sustain and define us as a people. From our nation's majestic rivers to our backyard streams, America's Great Outdoors is a legacy we owe to our children and grandchildren.

Rivers and watersheds provide recreation for all ages, they connect us to the natural world, they give us clean drinking water, and they deliver economic benefits to our communities -- but only if our rivers are healthy. The administration should prioritize rivers as part of America's Great Outdoors so that everyone has access to clean water. To help realize this vision, the administration should launch a National Blueways Initiative to help local communities establish blueways, also known as blue trails or water trails.

A blueway is a dedicated stretch of river that enjoys special clean water safeguards and is a destination for fishing, boating and other recreation. Just as hiking trails are designed to help people explore the land, blueways help people discover rivers. Blueways provide a fun, exciting way to get kids outdoors, link communities to treasured landscapes like parks and wildlife refuges, and are economic drivers benefiting local businesses and quality of life. With 3.5 million miles of rivers crisscrossing our country, we have only scratched the surface when it comes to establishing blueways. There is tremendous potential to expand existing trails and create new ones.

I also urge you to keep the promise to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund which helps protect river health and clean water nationwide.

As a supporter of River Network, I thank you for launching the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to protect and restore our rivers, clean water, and natural heritage. We take pride in our rivers and watersheds and share a responsibility to leave the next generation healthier and better connected to the great outdoors.

Targeted recipient of this alert:

- President Barack Obama
- Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior
- Secretary Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture
- Chair Nancy Sutley, President's Council on Environmental Quality
- Administrator Lisa Jackson, Environmental Protection Agency

For more information: <http://www.rivernet.org/>

Job Opportunities:

Central Minnesota Project Manager

The Project Manager is responsible for developing, coordinating and leading a comprehensive conservation program for the Ordway Glacial Lakes Landscape in west-central MN and portions of the Avon Hills Landscape near Collegeville, MN. He/she will provide entrepreneurial leadership in developing a well-funded, community-based, land conservation program, which conserves the biodiversity and the ecology of the project area. The Project Manager will work in close coordination with the Central Minnesota Program Director and Land Stewardship staff. The Project Manager will be expected to further the Conservancy's strategic goals of conserving land, developing compatible human uses of land, leveraging conservation opportunities through partnerships and enhancing a conservation ethic among citizens within the central Minnesota region.

The Project Manager should enjoy working independently and take initiative. The Project Manager duties include the following: Develop and implement conservation strategies, Work with the Minnesota Philanthropy team to implement a successful fundraising program for the area and assist in donor cultivation and fundraising efforts in Central Minnesota, Develop and manage localized project budgets, Develop proposals in cooperation with the Grants Specialist, for Federal, State and local government grants, Administer grants and produce reports as required, Work cooperatively with the protection team to develop pre-project proposals, conduct environmental assessments, and conduct annual conservation easement monitoring in the Prairie Forest Border Ecoregion, Foster cross-site learning among conservation community, Help lead ecoregional planning teams and provides information for site/landscape portfolios, Coordinate community support, May include participation in prescribed fire activities in partnership with other non profits or local agencies.

For more

information: https://careers.nature.org/psc/P89HTNC_APP/APPLICANT/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE_GBL?Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Action=A&JobOpeningId=12386&SiteId=1&PostingSeq=1

RC & D Coordinator- Red Lake Falls, MN

Acts as the designated USDA technical assistance representative on matters that pertain to the RC&D council and USDA partnership. Provides technical leadership in order for the Council to develop, update, and implement their Area Plan. This involves the collection of resource data; identification of problems; establishment of objectives, goals, and strategies; development of project plans; implementation of project plans that address the resource conservation, environment, and economic program goals; and maintaining a current Plan of Work. Serves as technical advisor to the council's numerous RC&D area committees. Provides technical leadership to develop good working relationships among council and committee members in order for the council to meet their objectives and goals.

Serves as technical advisor for various activities as a USDA/NRCS representative. Works with other federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies, as well as interested groups to foster communication, education, and provide information needed to achieve USDA/NRCS resource conservation and development goals and objectives. Develops a close working relationship with these groups to insure understanding of the resource conservation and development program.

For more information: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=90282688>

ES Program Design Consulting Position

Environmental Incentives is in need of someone who is creative, articulate, able to write clearly, interested in ecosystem service markets and excited to live in South Lake Tahoe for at least 2 years. Respond quickly with a targeted cover letter that directly addresses your interest in performance/market-based policies and programs.

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

Events:

September 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks) is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit <http://www.scottswcd.org/>

September 16th (Thursday) is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3rd crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 16th (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 1** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part one of this three-part series, learn about common birds of Minnesota. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on how to attract more birds to your yard and how to deter feeder raiders like squirrels and raccoons. The event is free and open to the public. To learn more contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

September 16th & 17th (Thursday & Friday) is the **Clean Water and Climate Adaptation Summit** at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Join local government officials and staff, industry leaders, natural resource professionals, scientists, and citizens to learn how climate trends might affect Minnesota and the region, how green infrastructure will be a key water-management strategy, and how to make informed decisions and enhance the economic viability of your community. For more information go to <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/cleanwaterclimatechangeadaptationsummit.aspx>

September 18th (Thursday) is the film presentation of “**In the Company of Wild Butterflies**” starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. This captivating film from the Bullfrog Series will open your eyes to the wonderful world of butterflies. After the film the naturalist Bob Dunlap will talk about what has been going on at the Arboretum’s new Bird and Butterfly Garden.

September 20th (Monday) is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. For more information, <http://mrbdc.wrc.mnsu.edu/org/mrbd/>

September 20th (Monday) **Module 1 - Green Infrastructure** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM (Eastern) **Presented by** Karen Firehock: Executive Director, Green Infrastructure Center. To participate, visit forestrywebinar.net on the day of the webinar. *No registration required*

September 22nd (Wednesday) is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

September 23rd (Thursday) is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This even is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 23rd (Thursday) is **Cover Crop Field Day** in Le Sueur County from 1:00 pm to 3:30pm. First Stop: Cooperator Dick Stangler: 45116 151st Avenue, Kilkenny, MN 56052 From Waterville: At the intersection of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 13, turn Northwest onto Hwy. 13 and travel ¾ mile. Turn straight North

onto 151st Ave. / Co. Rd. 3. Travel 5 miles North to Stangler farm on the west side of the road. Second Stop: Cooperator Ron Pomije: Intersection of Lexington Rd. / Co. Rd. 26 and 201st Avenue – Le Center, MN 56057. From Montgomery: Travel west on Co.Rd. 26 / Lexington Rd. for approximately 4.5 miles. The field is at the intersection of Co. Rd. 26 and 201st Avenue. 201st Avenue is on the North side of Co. Rd. 26 after the s-curve and before Clear Lake. Parking will be along 201st Avenue.

For more information contact Jill Sackett, at 507-238-5449 or sacke032@umn.edu

September 23rd (Thursday) is the **Full Moon Foray** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Enjoy a leisurely walk under a full moon on the first day of autumn with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen for some night sounds that can be heard in the Linnaeus Arboretum, such as owls, frogs, and katydids. Learn how to identify some of the constellations and other bright spots in our night sky, and if you're lucky you'll even catch a glimpse of a meteor. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

September 27th (Monday) **Module 2 - Forest Cooperative** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM (Eastern)
Presented by Scott Bagley: Program Director, The National Network of Forest Practitioners.

To participate, visit forestrywebinar.net on the day of the webinar. *No registration required*

September 29th (Wednesday) is the **Metro Water Festival** at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul, Minnesota. The annual festival is produced for children in the metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul to educate fifth-grade students about our water resources and to present ways they can help ensure a future where both the quantity and quality of water resources are protected and managed wisely. For more information, <http://www.metrocwf.org/>

October 2nd (Saturday) is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more information go to <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9881>

October 2nd (Saturday) is the **Fall Color Trip** from Mankato to Seven Mile Creek. For more information go to <http://www.hickorytech.net~mrbscr/page0007.htm>

October 4th (Monday) **Module 3 - Ecosystem Goods and Services** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM (Eastern)
Presented by Dr. Francisco Escobedo: Assistant Professor, Urban Forestry, School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida

To participate, visit forestrywebinar.net on the day of the webinar. *No registration required*

October 5th & 6th (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit <http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/>

October 7th (Thursday) is the **Fall Prairie Walk** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kasota Prairie. Take a stroll through the Kasota Prairie on a late afternoon in early October with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Learn more about the prairie's wide array of fall-blooming wildflowers and the wildlife that can be found in this grassy expanse. The prairie's unique geology will be discussed as well. Meet at Kasota Prairie parking lot. This event is free and open to the public. For questions contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 7th (Thursday) is **Geography of Montenegro** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Montenegro, a tiny country in the Balkans with jaw-dropping scenery—from harsh mountains to Mediterranean beaches—has an equally jaw-dropping history at the crossroads of contending East-West armies for the last several centuries. English Professor and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Gregory Mason will talk about Montenegro's unique geography and how it drives the country's history, a history full of old hatreds and hopefully brighter futures in this fascinating part of the world. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 14th (Thursday) is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 2** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part two of this three-part series, learn about some of the state's other bird species that you might not see too often but do indeed call Minnesota home for at least part of the year. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on identification along with locations and times where/when you might find these species. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

October 18th (Monday) **Module 4 - Climate Change** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 PM (Eastern) **Presented by** Dr. Steve McNulty: Team Leader, Ecologist Eastern Forest Environmental Threats Assessment Center. USDA Forest Service

To participate, visit forestrywebinar.net on the day of the webinar. *No registration required*

October 19th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting**. This meeting will be held at the RiverCentre in Saint Paul in conjunction with the Water Resources Conference.

October 23rd & 24th (Saturday & Sunday) is the **5th Annual Northland Bioneers Conference** at Macalaster College in St. Paul, MN. The conference includes: keynote lectures and panels given by local and regional experts, workshops on relocalizing our food, solar and wind energy and many other topics, neighborhood networking, facilitated by the [Alliance for Sustainability](#), [exhibits](#) by local businesses and non-profit groups and presentations of national speakers pre-recorded at the 2010 San Rafael, CA, National Bioneers Conference. To learn more visit www.nbconference.org

November 8th-10th (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

November 10th (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 at sacke032@umn.edu

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 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.

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

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Susan Solarz: Want clean water? Include farmers](#) (Pioneer Press) The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency now lists 40 percent of our water bodies as 'impaired,' meaning pollution levels exceed basic water-quality standards.

[From Siberia, with love for the outdoors](#) (Star Tribune) Years ago after a Saturday morning goose hunt with Wendell Diller and the late Don (Duckman) Helmeke, we were picking up decoys when Duckman asked one of my sons, then perhaps 8 years old, what he planned to do when he got home.

[Fair waste tested as U's clean energy](#) (MN Daily) Taking advantage of the variety of food offered annually at the Minnesota State Fair, researchers obtained waste samples in hopes of creating a new type of soup — manure soup that is.

[Report links extreme weather to global heating](#) (Kare 11) An environmental group pushing clean energy released a report Wednesday connecting 2010's bumper crop of extreme weather events to global warming from greenhouse gases.

[Kim Carlson: Who Speaks For the Trees?](#) (Star Tribune) Twenty years ago, the area was mostly populated with pine – Jack, White, Red – you get the picture. Add a sprinkling of poplar or popple (as the locals say) and birch make dense woods in between hundreds of small lakes.

[White Bear Lake needs more rain to restore water level, DNR says](#) (Pioneer Press) For Bill and Kitty Anderson, White Bear Lake residents who fish on their hometown lake every week, waiting for rain to refill their fishing hole was no longer good enough.

[Minnesota state park wins national recognition](#) (Pioneer Press) A little-known state park in northern Minnesota has apparently won a prestigious national competition to name "America's Favorite Park."

[Protecting 32,000 islands of ecological purity](#) (Star Tribune) Across the Great Lakes, there's growing interest in the ecological importance of islands -- and the need to keep them free of invasive plants, pests and other threats.

[Opinion: Coal-fired power plants jeopardize our health](#) (St. Cloud Times) Communities across the country are exposed to heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury when hazardous materials from coal ash disposal sites seep into our drinking water.

[Pheasant count low at present, but there are birds to bag](#) (St. Cloud Times) Earlier this week the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources released its August roadside pheasant counts. The survey is conducted annually and dates back to the late 1940s — it was standardized in 1955

[Common carp uncommonly troublesome in state waters](#) (Star Tribune) Most people have seen stories about the invasive and high-leaping Asian carp and the damage they do to waterways.

[White Bear Lake, minus the lake](#) (Star Tribune) White Bear Lake has hit historically low water levels this summer, and the city wants to dispel rumors about why.

[Counties consider animal composting machines](#) (Rochester Post Bulletin) Getting rid of dead animals is a fact of life for farmers, one that can sometimes be problematic.

"Water has become a highly precious resource. There are some places where a barrel of water costs more than a barrel of oil."~ Lloyd Axworthy, Foreign Minister of Canada (1999 - News Conference)

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

Scott Kudelka

Watershed Assessment Specialist

Water Resources Center

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