

### **Minnesota farmer battles Gulf 'dead zone'** – by John D. Sutter, CNN

Windom, Minnesota (CNN) -- Within moments of meeting Tony Thompson, you can tell he sees the world from a different tilt.

His frayed shirt pocket is stuffed so full of notes that it's ripping at the seams. Hairy eyebrows spring off his face like grasshopper antennae. There's a purple prairie clover stuck in the dash of his van, a bird book below the radio. He says bizarre, eco-minded things like "I want to be a chloroplast." So maybe it should come as no surprise that this wild-haired, icy-eyed farmer in southwest Minnesota is among the first people at this latitude to make an important intellectual leap:

For the entire article:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TECH/innovation/08/30/gulf.dead.zone.minnesota.farm/index.html?hpt=C2>

### **Chippewa River Watershed Project Photo Contest**

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is sponsoring a photo contest and seeking photos that feature the Chippewa River Watershed, including its many tributaries and lakes. The winning photos will be published in a 2011 calendar and will be featured on our website and various publications.

The "Best in Show" winner will have their winning photo professionally matted and framed. Photo submissions are due to the Chippewa River Watershed Project by September 15, 2010.

Photos can be submitted digitally or as traditional photos. Photos must be taken in the Chippewa River Watershed and should include a feature a river or other water/water quality theme. Photos from all seasons is encouraged and both landscapes and those featuring people are welcome. Photos should be taken within the last five years.

Registration Forms MUST accompany photos to be eligible for the contest. Attached is a Photo Contest flyer with more information and a Registration Form.

Contact me for more information. Please pass this onto family and friends who may be interested. Looking forward to seeing a lot of wonderful photos of the Chippewa River Watershed.

Thanks, Jennifer Hoffman; Watershed Specialist; Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120; <http://www.chippewariver.com/>

### **Applied FLUX Workshop**

September 22, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul, Minnesota - Registration Fee: \$150 - This is a hands-on continuation of the introductory two-day FLUX/Bathtub workshop conducted in 2009. In this one-day workshop, we will focus on the finer points of applying FLUX for the estimation of loads. Some prior experience with the software is strongly recommended, although attendance at the 2009 introductory course is not a prerequisite.

### **Water Words That Work Workshop**

September 29, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul, Minnesota - Registration Fee: \$150 - Water resources scientists, engineers, and other professionals often struggle to explain technical issues to the public in concise, easily understood terms. Communications expert Eric Eckl has developed a series of techniques to assist professionals in development of clear, concise public messages. Water Words That Work is appropriate for all water resources professionals who must communicate with non-technical audiences, especially citizens and public servants.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have: **Nicole Freese**; University of Minnesota; 612-624-3708; [cceconf5@umn.edu](mailto:cceconf5@umn.edu)

### **2010 RAM/SWANA Conference & Show**

Please join us at the Sheraton in Bloomington October 6 & 7 for the 2010 RAM/SWANA Conference & Show! New exhibitors! New location! New educational tracks! For more info go to:

<http://www.recycleminnesota.org/>

### **Information on Reducing Your Risk of *Salmonella* from Eggs**

Go to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for a good fact sheet

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaEggs/>

or MDH <http://www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety/alert/eggs10.html> and get information on Minnesota.

### **Job Opportunities:**

#### **District Technician**

Mower Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring at District Technician. This is a full-time position that performs in a primary technical capacity to carry out the Soil and Water Conservation Districts' responsibilities and provides assistance to landowners installing conservation practices using a wide array of programs.

For more information: <http://www.mowerswcd.org/documents/jobannouncement-DistrictTechnician.pdf>

#### **Living Green Expo Coordinator, MEP**

Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP) is seeking a full-time, year round coordinator for the annual Living Green Expo (LGE). We are launching our second Living Green Expo and are seeking a full time individual to lead this evolving effort.

Determines need Understanding of issues related to sustainability, Experience organizing and coordinating large, innovative, educational and creative events, Familiarity with state environmental organizations, Creativity and the ability to excel in a dynamic, changing environment, High level organizational skills, Experience with meeting facilitation and project management, Excellent writing and oral communication skills, Self-motivation and initiative as well as ability and eagerness to work as part of a team, Excellent database skills, Computer literate with Microsoft Office programs, and Familiarity with the Living Green Expo is a plus.

Duties include Coordinating and running meetings of the LGE Stewardship Council; Overseeing vetting process of all sponsors, exhibitors and workshops; Soliciting sponsors of the event; Soliciting and coordinating exhibitors; Soliciting and coordinating event programming; Developing and managing event database; Gathering content for, producing and distributing monthly email newsletter – Living Green Everyday; Acting as media contact for press inquiries about event; Developing, coordinating and managing vendor and member contracts to conduct LGE activities; And, other duties associated with LGE as they arise.

Interested persons should submit a resume, letter of interest and three references to: Jen Lynch, [jenlynch@mepartnership.org](mailto:jenlynch@mepartnership.org)

546 Rice Street, Suite 100; St. Paul, MN 55103

#### **Nutrient Management Specialist- Faribault, MN**

This position is currently funded through state Clean Water Legacy grant funds and new funding is currently being applied for to continue the position for another two years. The nutrient management specialist will work with landowners to assist with the development of nutrient management plans to meet the goals of the State of Minnesota's feedlot rules for landowners. This individual will also assist with calibration of manure application equipment and assistance with manure sampling/testing. This position is under the general supervision of the District Manager. Work area will include the counties of Wabasha, Goodhue, Rice, Steele, Dodge, and Freeborn. This position will also work closely with the

Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop nutrient management plans for federal cost-share contracts. Transportation may be provided, but in some cases may be required from the employee and will be reimbursed. This position does not require overnight travel except for occasional training or similar events.

Candidates **must** have a minimum 4 year degree in agronomy, soil science, or related field or equivalent combination of education and experience. Coursework in soil fertility and agronomy is required. Applicants must have strong written, verbal, and communications skills. Candidates must have strong computer skills, including knowledge of MS Excel, Word, and ArcView/ArcGIS. Candidate must be able to work under minimum supervision, work outdoors in all weather conditions, and walk over rough terrain on a regular basis. In addition, you must be able to lift up to 50 pounds on an occasional basis. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.

Duties and Responsibilities: Assist landowners in the development of nutrient management plans. This includes creating manure application area and sensitive feature maps using ArcGIS, and writing nutrient management plans through approved software programs. Update plans on an annual basis with landowners. Assist landowners with calibration of manure application equipment using load cells. Provide manure testing kits and assist livestock producers with sampling of manure for submittal to a certified testing lab. Report all work and accomplishments on a regular basis and assist with the preparation of annual reporting requirements. Other duties as assigned by the District Manager.

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

#### **Agricultural Engineer- Fergus Falls, MN**

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is hiring an Agricultural Engineer for the Fergus Falls, MN office. Is responsible for the engineering phases of all soil and water conservation work and the integration and coordination of a technically sound engineering program with the total conservation program in the respective Area. Participates in the preliminary examination of watersheds proposed for improvement and makes recommendations concerning their feasibility. Ensures that NRCS responsibilities for the inspection of completed project dams are fulfilled. Maintains a close cooperation and coordination between NRCS and the technical staff of local and state conservation partners, RC&D areas, numerous special projects, and all other non-project activities.

Responsible for furnishing engineering technical guidance and assistance for CO-01 non-project activities including cost sharing programs in the counties for the respective area and to provide wetland hydrology evaluations for swamp buster determinations, appeals, and maintenance requests..Coordinates work activities between funds within budgets by shifting staff as needed to meet needs. Provides local coordination of gathering survey, land use, and hydrologic data for preliminary and final design of project and non-project activities. Assists the Area Conservationist in developing and analyzing the engineering phase of the area conservation program. Evaluates equipment and materials, staffing levels, and expertise to assure adequate supervision of engineering work and utilization of personnel. Determines engineering training needs and assures that training is provided to NRCS and SWCD employees in their area. Resolves critical engineering problems within the area. Provides supervision to civil engineering technicians and engineers located in the area office.

For more information: <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=89987306>

#### **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>

### **Events:**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets).

For more information visit [www.riverblast.org](http://www.riverblast.org)

September 4<sup>th</sup>-October 31<sup>st</sup> (Saturdays and Sundays) is the **Fall Festival** from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Center Creek Orchard. Activities include hayrides, storytelling, corn pile, scarecrow building, castle bouncer, giant maze, apple sling, barrel ride, petting farm, super slide and haunted forest. Pick your own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and select apples from over a dozen Minnesota varieties. For more information go to

[http://www.centercreekorchard.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=134](http://www.centercreekorchard.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=134)

September 10<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is **Waterfest** at Barsness Pak in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <http://www.popeswcd.org/>

September 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **FarmAmerica Fall Fair** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at FarmAmerica in Waseca, MN. Some activities include horses and tractors will be displayed and working on the grounds, strolling through Peddlers Grove and Pioneer Tent City, fall harvest activities on display, draft horse pull and antique tractor pull. For more information contact FarmAmerica at 507-835-2052.

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> (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 16<sup>th</sup> (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 3<sup>rd</sup> crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

September 16<sup>th</sup> (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 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> (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.minnesotawaters.org/content/clean-water-and-climate-adaptation-summit> or call 952-443-1422.

September 20<sup>th</sup> (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.

September 22<sup>nd</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> (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.

October 2<sup>nd</sup> (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 2<sup>nd</sup> (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 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> (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 7<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup> (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 19<sup>th</sup> (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 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> (Saturday & Sunday) is the **5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.nbconference.org)

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 at [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 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.

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

**[Environmental/Conservational Articles:](#)**



[Minnesota River: Hidden treasure or muddy ditch?](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A three-hour tour exposes scores of south-metro leaders to the oft-forgotten wonders of the Minnesota River.

[Eating fresh from the gardens](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Hundreds of Dakota County residents are using community gardens created with funding from a state health initiative.

[Making happy trails in Scott County](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Scott County seek citizens' help in plotting the paths of two major new regional trails.

[Citizens for Clean Energy wary of New Ulm boiler project](#) (New Ulm Journal). Citizens For Clean Energy and the Sierra Club met Tuesday night in a German Park shelter to discuss reaction to the New Ulm Public Utilities Commission's (NUPUC) proposed plan to convert Boiler No. 4 to burn coal.

[Land O' Lakes subsidiary recalling 292,000 eggs](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A subsidiary of Minnesota-based Land O'Lakes is voluntarily recalling nearly 292,000 eggs that may be contaminated with salmonella.

[Emmer's poster children for reform: not your typical farm family](#) (Politics in Minnesota). Amos and Amon Baer are unlikely figures to find themselves at the center of the governor's race.

[DNR kiosks are trying to bring outdoor info to heart of the metro](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The goal is to go where young families and other new users are and get them in state lakes and parks.

[Report: Big Stone's coal ash polluting groundwater](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A report from three environmental groups says coal ash stored at the Big Stone power plant in South Dakota, near the Minnesota border, is polluting groundwater.

[DNR asks feds for walk-in funding](#) (Outdoor News). In an effort to get a hunting walk-in access program off the ground in Minnesota, the DNR has requested \$2.7 million in "Open Fields" funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[Twin Cities beekeepers reap sweet rewards](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). It's fun, there's profit, honey's healthy, crops benefit. Increasingly, hobbyists join the pros in keeping bees.

[Timeout sought in Fort Ridgely State Park dispute](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). A bipartisan group of seven state legislators has asked Gov. Tim Pawlenty and two oversight agencies to delay a controversial plan to move the park ranger station at Fort Ridgely State Park into a historic commissary building.

[Chris Niskanen: Cass County bucking trend with support for public lands](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The northern county embraces public land and its benefits and is buying more, thanks to the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Fund.

[Cattail catastrophe](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Walk along most any lake or wetland in southern Minnesota and chances are you'll see lots of cattails.

[Park's feature rouses wonder on the Minnesota prairie](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The mounds aren't blue, but that's only one mystery behind Blue Mounds State Park.

[Klobuchar creates buzz over Chinese honey imports](#) (Kare 11). Senator Amy Klobuchar, D - Minnesota, walked into the political bee hive that is international trade policy Monday at the State Fair.

[Report: Residents exposed to PFCs unlikely to get sick](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Department of Health says it's unlikely that people in the east metro who have been exposed to PFCs will experience adverse health effects.

[Paul Austin: Conserving the Oil of the 21st Century \(Water\)](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Have you ever been out driving or walking while it's raining and noticed an automatic sprinkler dousing someone's lawn? I have, and wondered why we're wasting such a precious resource.

*Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take insect view of its plain.* – Henry David Thoreau

**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

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