

If it ever stops raining by Patrick Moore

If it ever stops raining, our farmers will be able to get the beet crop out of the ground and get ready for the bean and corn harvest. *If it ever stops raining*, you might want to consider a fall canoe trip on the [Yellow Medicine River](#) or [Hawk Creek](#) -- both are up and that is an amazing phenomena that we have rarely seen this late in the year. *If it ever stops raining*, and the sun starts shining again, we will be able to test out the solar hot air collectors we are going to learn how to build next Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the CURE office with the help of [CERTS](#). For more information, click [here](#). *If it ever stops raining*, we'll have time to paint the front of the CURE building with help from the [Minnesota Conservation Corps](#) and paint donated by the Valspar Corporation. Stop by next week to watch our progress. **Of course we know those glorious Indian summer days are on the way** -- hopefully in time for the 7th Annual [Meander Upper Minnesota River Arts Crawl](#) on October 1, 2, 3. Start planning your trip today!

Project Green Fleet's Web Site

The Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI) has been hard at work refreshing and redesigning Project Green Fleet's [website](#). The new site reflects MEI's efforts to reduce diesel pollution implementing a diverse range of emission reduction technologies with many types of diesel fleets including school buses, trucks, construction equipment and trains.

To have some fun with the launch of the new site, MEI created this [scavenger hunt](#). Explore the site, learn something new and submit your answers to win a Project Green Fleet water bottle! Please let us know what you think of the new site by commenting on our Facebook page or contacting [Emily Franklin](#) at 612-334-3388 ext.114. Click here for the new website: <http://www.projectgreenfleet.org>

Meander Arts Crawl 2010 Pays Tribute to a Bridge, Local Writers & Sense of Place

The iconic blue iron bridge spanning the Lac qui Parle River near Milan is now a symbol of the 2010 Meander Arts Crawl, thanks to poster artwork created by featured artist Lucy Tokheim. The bridge, erected in 1938, is scheduled to be replaced, but not before its legacy is celebrated through the Meander to be held on October 1, 2 and 3rd.

The award winning Meander is a free self-guided tour of artist studios featuring 45 local artists from the Upper Minnesota River Valley. The Meander is a great "trip on a tank full" to experience the diverse art studios, big skies, classic small towns and family farms to be found along the tributaries of the Minnesota River. A free brochure detailing the locations of 33 studios will be sent to anyone who calls 1-866-866-5432. The brochure can also be downloaded from the web at: <http://www.artsmeador.com/>.

2010 Meander to Feature Cultural & Literary Events Oct 1 & 2

The 7th Annual Meander Upper Minnesota River Arts Crawl is scheduled for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct 1, 2 & 3. During this weekend, 45 local artists will have their work on display at 35 studios and art host sites from Ortonville to Granite Falls. More than 1,000 tourists are expected to visit the Upper Minnesota River Valley region in the course of the 3 day weekend. In addition to the studio tours, there are several cultural events planned for these Meandering visitors and their local family hosts.

On Friday, October 1, 2010 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. a Local Foods Buffet is being served by the Greater Milan Initiative at the Milan Community Center Dining Room (formerly the Old Milan school building). In addition to the food, there will be music by local musician Brad Fernholz and readings by local author Brent Olson. The event is being sponsored as a fundraiser for the Milan Village Arts School. Tickets are available in advance or at the door and cost \$15 each or \$30 for a family package. For more information call 320-734-4128.

On Saturday, October 2, 2010 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. the musical duo Neal and Leandra will give a concert at Memorial Auditorium in Dawson. Neal Hagberg was born in Montevideo and he and his wife Leandra Peak have been touring the world with their critically acclaimed magical songs for more than 20

years. Tickets are available in advance or at the door and cost \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. The concert is being sponsored as a fundraiser for the Dawson-Boyd Arts Association. For more information visit <http://www.dawsonboydarts.org/> or call 320-769-2955 Ext. 246.

On Saturday, October 2, from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. award winning author Brent Olson will be reading at the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) office at 117 S. 1st Street in Montevideo. Olson is the 2010 Meander *Literary Tributary* Artist and will be reading from his new book: "*Papa: Figuring Out What Matters*". Olson will also be reading on Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m. at Marc's on Main in Dawson.

To receive a free brochure detailing all the artist studios with directions, call toll free 1-800-866-5432 or visit www.artsmeander.com.

Profits from Perennials – Chippewa 10% Project Rollout Event

On September 30, 2010, you are invited to participate in the launching of a new initiative that has the potential

to effect real, on-the-ground progress toward cleaning up our shared water resources, building stronger communities and caring for the land which feeds us and our neighbors.

This new initiative, which is being coordinated by our two organizations – and builds upon successes many of

you have helped to make possible over the last decade or more – is called the Chippewa 10% Project. In a

nutshell, it is about taking a new look at how markets can "pull" changes on the landscape that are good for

family farmers, good for the agricultural environment and good for rural communities.

The attached flyer at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaflyer.pdf> tells you more about the Chippewa 10% Project and who is involved. The "rollout event" on September 30th is an opportunity for you to hear firsthand 1) what this project is about, 2) why we think it is an important next step and 3) how you can support, participate in and possibly "profit" from this new initiative.

Lend your input and your support by joining us and our project partners on September 30th. Feel free to extend

this invitation to colleagues, friends and neighbors.

- WHAT: CHIPPEWA 10% PROJECT ROLLOUT EVENT: Profits from Perennials: Imagining the Possibilities for Farmers, for Communities and for the Land.
- WHEN: SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 FROM 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
 - A free delicious local foods lunch will be served at noon
 - A University of Minnesota Morris biomass gasification demonstration follows at 1:00 PM
- WHERE: 30373 325th Street, Benson, Minnesota on the farm of Don and Helen Berheim
- Directions: From Benson, travel north on Hwy 29 approximately 9 miles; turn right (east) onto 325th Street (gravel road); go east .6 of a mile and turn right onto the Berheims' farm lane. LOOK FOR LSP EVENT SIGNS.
- RSVP: Pre-register by Monday, September 27. Contact Julia at 320-269-2105 or janess@landstewardshipproject.org.

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

Grant Opportunities:

MN River Board Announces RFP to Assist with Outreach Programs this spring!

Hello MN River Basin Professionals – please find attached a request for proposals that some of you may find helpful to provide funding for upcoming events, educational programs, and outreach efforts. The MN River Board has some funds remaining in a program budget from a larger grant that we received and we

want to extend an invite to you to consider submitting an application. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. CST on October 22, 2010. These funds is that they MUST BE EXPENDED by June 30, 2011. Scanned copies of proposals are acceptable and can be sent to susan.carlin@mnsu.edu. Please contact the Minnesota River Board at 507-389-5491 if you have any questions. The grant application can be found at <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverboardapplication.pdf>

Job Opportunities:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The applicant serves on the Minnesota regional technical services staff with responsibility for region-wide; Nutrient Management Planning, Pest Management Planning and Coordination of CNMPs. These activities occur on cropland and pasture utilizing animal waste management systems for animal feeding operations and commercial fertilizer applications in support of the National and State Strategic Plans. Incumbent provides direct technical assistance, technology transfer, training and development directed towards addressing resource concerns in the area of soil, water, air, plant and animals. The open period is until September 28th and the position is in Marshall, MN. For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=90629656>

Research Microbiologist/Plant Pathologist/Geneticist (Postdoctoral Research Associate)

The applicant will be a member of a team investigating the genetics, population biology, and host-pathogen interactions of cereal rust diseases. The project involves the application of molecular markers to the study of cereal rust diseases.

Applicant will use of virulence analysis, SSR, and other PCR based markers to study variation and gene flow in populations of *Puccinia graminis* f.sp. *avenae* and *P. coronata*; develop new genetic markers suitable for population genetic studies of *P. graminis* f.sp. *avenae* and *P. coronata*; identify QTLs for partial resistance to *P. coronata* in oat and suitable molecular markers for marker-assisted selection; develop methodologies to identify and select for partial resistance to *P. graminis* f.sp. *avenae*. The open period is until December 31st and the position is in St. Paul, MN. For more information visit <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=88144345>

Eligibility Specialist

Under the direction of the Financial Assistance Supervisor, the Eligibility Specialist is responsible for implementation and conduct of Minnesota and Federal statutes in addition to departmental procedures in determining the eligibility of clients for various public assistance or medical assistance programs. The eligibility specialist interviews and collects information from clientele in order to assess and determine program eligibility. The position is at the Chaska Visitors Center, Minnesota.

For more information visit

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/carvermn/default.cfm?action=viewJob&jobID=260204>

Events:

September 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 23rd (Thursday) is an **Energy Mini-Conference** from 12:30pm to 4:30 pm Minnesota State University, Mankato. It is \$25 at the door or online. The mini-conference is sponsored by the International Renewable Energy Technology Institute (IRETI) and the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota (BBAM). CEO of BBAM, Dale A. Wahlstrom, will speak at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Other highlights include a tour of the new Center's laboratory, tips on developing a green business, and how the University can provide talent and resources through public-private partnerships.

For more information go to <http://www.mnsu.edu/news/read/?id=1284601889&paper=topstories>

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/>

September 30th (Thursday) is the **Chippewa 10% Project Rollout Event** from 9am to 2pm. There will be a free lunch provided at noon and a biomass gasification demonstration by the University of Minnesota Morris at 1pm. Preregister by Monday, September 27th. 30373 325th Street, Benson, Minnesota on the farm of Don and Helen Berheim. For more information contact Julia Ahlers Ness at 320-269-2105 or janess@landstewardshipproject.org

October 2nd (Saturday) is the **Grand Opening of the Minneopa Trail** from 12pm to 4pm. It will be at the Ford Pavilion at Land of Memories Park with the ribbon cutting and ceremony beginning at 1pm. For more information, visit <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/minneopatrailgrandopening.pdf>

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 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 atsacke032@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://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Biofuels focus of energy conference in Minneapolis](#) (MPR) At a conference in Minneapolis Tuesday, bio-energy researchers will join an international effort to lay out a clearer future for biofuels.

[Burnsville artist wins Minnesota duck stamp contest](#) (AP) A Burnsville artist is the winner of Minnesota's 2011 duck stamp contest.

[Fourth try underway to remove gray wolf protections](#) (MPR) After three failed attempts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is again considering whether to remove the gray wolf from federal protection in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

[Minnesota struggles to hold onto pheasant range](#) (Star Tribune) Since 2007, Minnesota has lost about 100,000 acres of grasslands in the state's pheasant range that had been enrolled in federal farm programs, mostly the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

[State, federal officials discuss Asian carp plan](#) (AP) A delegation from the Great Lakes region is meeting with Obama administration officials in Washington, D.C., to discuss how to keep Asian carp out of the lakes.

[Schools' mountains of waste could be recycled -- not tossed](#) (Star Tribune) Every day, public schools across Minnesota churn out nearly 500,000 pounds of trash, most of which could be recycled.

[Residents on edge over eroding bluff](#) (Star Tribune) When Ronald Buelow looks out from the deck of his Lilydale townhouse, the Mississippi River stretches out before him. But when he looks down, his home, which is precariously located on a cliff on the banks of the river, seems to be slowly crumbling away from beneath his feet.

[Chris Niskanen: Muddy lake's troubles are clear](#) (Pioneer Press) Digging begins this week on a \$1.5 million effort to restore Lake Christina, a famed Minnesota waterfowl lake southeast of Fergus Falls.

[Clean Water, Land and Legacy Funding](#) (Kare 11) Democrat Tarryl Clark and Republican Michele Bachmann are attacking each other over money issues in a new round of critical TV ads in one of the country's most expensive U.S. House races.

[Water treatment program at college offers real-life experience](#) (St. Cloud Times) The water treatment lab at St. Cloud Technical & Community College looks much like any water plant in Minnesota.

[Dennis Anderson: You can see it, breathe it, feel it](#) (Star Tribune) On Thursday near this town on a lake where I once lived, not a boat could be seen.

[Outdoors journal: Hummingbird moths](#) (Star Tribune) Sphinx or hawk moths, also called hummingbird moths, are insects with a wingspread of 2 to 5 inches, with a long proboscis used for gathering nectar from flowers.

[Trees planted to reap benefits for metro area trout stream](#) (Agri News) Phyllis Bongard stands in a former pasture just above the Vermillion River.

[Minnesota Legacy fund would boost wetland reserves](#) (Pioneer Press) Waterfowl, wetlands and lakes could be big winners after the third round of recommendations by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.

[Program in Sauk Rapids sets focus on controlling carp](#) (St. Cloud Times) The Little Rock Lake Association is sponsoring a program Saturday about controlling carp.

[Doug Smith: Mentors lead novices on hunt](#) (Star Tribune) Nine mallards circled in the blue sky, locked wings, then banked crisply into a north wind, well out of shotgun range.

[Editorial: Restoring Lake Pepin a top priority](#) (Star Tribune) The little fishing boat launched as usual from Hansen's Harbor for a late-summer excursion on Lake Pepin, the Mississippi River's broad-shouldered bend through the lush bluffs of southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin. But just beyond the shoreline riprap, a troubling sight came into focus.

Unimin south mine expansion: <http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/ScopingEnvironmentalAssessmentWorksheetKasotaSouthMine.pdf>

<http://www.co.le-sueur.mn.us/environmentalservices/UniminDraftScopingDocKasotaSouthMine.pdf>

"In every glass of water we drink, some of the water has already passed through fishes, trees, bacteria, worms in the soil, and many other organisms, including people...Living systems cleanse water and make it fit, among other things, for human consumption." ~Elliot A. Norse

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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