

Trouble Waters Documentary – a note from Patrick Moore

You may be aware about the controversy surrounding the release of the [Troubled Waters](#) documentary by the U of M. As much as we need awareness and education on issues surrounding Ag and water quality, in the end we need people on the land who are willing to roll up their sleeves, take calculated risks and commit to growing food and fiber in ways that don't pollute water.

There are a growing number of farmers in the Minnesota River watershed that are taking on this challenge and ***we need to be as supportive of them as we can.*** We need to thank them and learn from them and we need to get beyond posturing and politics and take responsibility for our role in the food and clean water relationship.

One of the most promising partnerships of good people who are evolving this relationship are the organizations involved with the ["Chippewa 10% Project"](#) Their premise is simple:

Let's figure out profitable ways to put highly erodible land and more buffers in some kind of permanent cover that can be harvested for economic use.

If we can do this on just 10% on the land in the Chippewa River Watershed, we can get way closer to the water quality standards we all desire.

To learn more about this project, please consider attending the [Chippewa 10 % Kick Off Event](#) next Thursday, September 30 from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the **Don and Helen Berheim Farm** north of Benson

The event is free. A delicious local foods meal will be served, but you need to RSVP by contacting Julia Ness at 320-269-2105 or janness@landstewardshipproject.org.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone dealing with excess water in these trying days. Yours truly,
Patrick J. Moore

Executive Director; Clean Up the River Environment (CURE); www.cureriver.org; 1-877-269-2873

Mankato Area Events

Volunteers are needed for the events on the following dates: [Sustainable Higher Education Summit](#) on Friday, October 1 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm at the Greater Mankato Business Development Center. [Grand Opening of the new Minneopa Trail](#) Saturday, October 2. Join the fun, refreshments, and camaraderie as you enjoy a bike show, and ride or walk the trail at Land of Memories Park from 12:00 - 4:00 pm. [Mankato Area Fair Trade Initiative Speaker](#) Monday, October 16 at 6:00 pm

Life on the River Presentation at New Ulm Library

Join photographer and lecturer Ron Bolduan for a pictorial trip through the Minnesota River Valley on September 30 at 7 p.m. at New Ulm Public Library. Prairies, wetlands, hardwood stands and wildlife – boating, hunting, fishing and festivals – all are part of life on the river, and all are captured by the camera lens.

Featured guests for the presentation will be the Deaf Restaurant Club, an area social club composed of hearing-impaired individuals. A sign language interpreter will be on hand.

Ron is a board member of the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway, curator of the Regional River History Center of New Ulm, and coordinator of the River Ranger Program. He has spent the last 18

years photographing the Minnesota River basin, and he is eager to share the adventure. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lifeontheriver.pdf>

The program is free to the public and suitable for all ages. For more information, call New Ulm Public Library at 507-359-8334.

A FACTUAL REVIEW OF THE 1862 U.S.-DAKOTA WAR

Learn “What we know and what we don’t know” about the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862 at a public forum Saturday, October 9, from 1:30 to 4 pm in the Community Building in Henderson, Minnesota.

The Dakota War of 1862 was the single most important event in our state’s 150-year history. In six tragic weeks more were killed than all of Minnesota’s Civil War deaths and the western half of the state was depopulated. Panelists will explore with the audience the known facts of the war, what happened at various stages and how the war was documented, and will discuss the questions still unanswered about this tumultuous time period from August to December 1862.

Forum presenters are Stephen E. Osman, military historian and long-time site manager at Historic Fort Snelling, whose slide presentation documents the causes and events of the war; Curtis A. Dahlin, an independent scholar, author and photograph historian whose focus is on the fate of those caught up in the war; and Mary H. Bakeman, historical researcher, publisher, and editor of *Minnesota’s Heritage* history journal.

The event takes place in the first floor Community Room and is free and open to the public. It will be preceded by the annual meeting of the Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society at 12:30 pm. The Joseph R. Brown Minnesota River Center on second floor will be open from 10 am to 12:30 pm.

Future forums are planned for Brown Heritage Society annual meetings in 2011 and 2012, focusing on events leading up to the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862 and the legacy of that war – how those events affected both the Dakota and the settlers. Public participation in these forums is encouraged.

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

MPCA Grant Money

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency today announced the availability of \$1.5 million in grant money for lake and water monitoring projects. Grants proposals are due to the MPCA by 4 p.m. on Nov. 5, 2010.

Water monitoring is often the first step toward protecting or improving water resources. Volunteers across Minnesota have been measuring the health of lakes and streams to see if the waters meet standards set for fishing and other uses since 2007 as part of a state program called Surface Water Assessment Grants. To date, the program has awarded 113 grants totaling \$5.84 million, leading to monitoring of 991 lake sites and 981 stream sites.

Eligible applicants may apply through a competitive application process. Eligible applicants include counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, water management organizations, nonprofits, Minnesota colleges and universities, and American Indian tribes. No matching or in-kind funds are required under this program.

The MPCA seeks applicants with experience in project administration, water quality monitoring and data management. The agency prefers projects that involve volunteers and that gather data for determining whether lakes and streams meet state water quality standards for aquatic life and/or aquatic recreation such as fishing. High-priority areas include the following watersheds: Cannon River, Rock River, Little Sioux River, Thief River, Sandhill River, Redeye River, Long Prairie River, Nemadji River, Lake Superior (South), Big Sioux River (Medary Creek near Pipestone)

For more information, potential applicants should contact Ron Schwartz of the MPCA at 651-757-2708 or

CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us. Details are also available at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html.

Green Zone Presentation

Barry Sanders, author of the book, The Green Zone, will be speaking on the environmental impact of U.S. military practices around the world, Thursday, October 7 from 7:30 to 9:00 in CSU 253-54-55. This talk is sponsored by the Kessel Peace Institute.

Learn about social justice, product labeling at viewing of 'Buyer, Be Fair' Oct. 18.

Impact invites students, faculty and staff to view "Buyer, Be Fair" Monday, Oct. 18 in Centennial Student Union. The movie screening, presented by the Mankato Area Fair Trade Town Initiative and the Kessel Peace Institute, will be in Ostrander Auditorium from 3 to 4:45 p.m.

"Buyer, Be Fair," takes viewers to Mexico, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, the U.S. and Canada to explore how conscious consumers and businesses can use the market to promote social justice and environmental sustainability through product labeling. It focuses on Fair Trade coffee and Forest Stewardship Council certified wood.

"Buyer, Be Fair," produced by award-winning documentary filmmaker John de Graaf, was made for Public Television in 2006. De Graaf will be available for discussion after the film. For more information, contact Paul Renshaw at 507-387-5329 or renshaw@hickorytech.net<<mailto:renshaw@hickorytech.net>>. To learn more about the film, visit the "Buyer, Be Fair" website<<http://www.buyerbefair.org>>.

Job Opportunities:

Whitewater River Watershed Project - Project Coordinator

This position is located in the Soil and Water Conservation District office of Lewiston, Minnesota. Resumes must be received by 4pm October 5th, 2010.

The applicant will be responsible to Coordinate JPB meetings, Maintain a monthly program record of JPB finances, Administer and fulfill grant requirements, Manage cost-share agreements with landowners, Identify and develop new grant opportunities (set direction for future action), Supervise staff and subcontractors, Develop and implement Board policies and the Whitewater Watershed Project mission, Provide assistance to citizen activities, Develop and maintain relationships with partner organizations, Prepare and give presentations on the WWP, Host educational workshops and activities, Coordinate citizen monitoring activities

Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: Natural resource and/or agricultural background, Understanding of water resources and land use processes in Southeast Minnesota and the Whitewater River Watershed, Ability to conduct long range planning and seek out grant funding opportunities in support of the project mission, Ability to plan, organize, direct and review work of subordinates, Effective oral and written communication skills, Ability to coordinate projects with representatives from other agencies, Financial/accounting knowledge, Proficient with computer programs (Excel, Word, QuickBooks), Experience with public boards, Knowledge and experience with grant writing principles and procedures, Self-motivated: must be able to work with minimal supervision, Valid MN driver's license and ability to use one's personal vehicle (reimbursed).

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

To apply, send resume electronically to: Megan Kranz-McGuire at: whitewaterwatershed@gmail.com

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 30th (Thursday) is the **Chippewa 10 % Kick Off Event** from 9am to 3pm at the Don and Helen Berheim Farm north of Benson. The event is free. A delicious local foods meal will be served, but you need to RSVP by contacting Julia Ness at 320-269-2105 or janess@landstewardshipproject.org.

September 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 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 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 <http://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 9th (Saturday) is “**What We Do Know and Don't Know 2010**” from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Henderson Community Building (600 Main Street, Henderson, MN). This forum is about the U.S.–Dakota War of 1862. For more information, contact the Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society at 507-248-3234 or jrsoc@mchsi.com

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 <http://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 21st & 22nd (Thursday & Friday) is the **Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable Meeting** at the Gray Freshwater Center in Excelsior. It is free to attend, but seating is limited so registration is necessary. To register, visit <http://freshwater.org/2010SWRR/>

For more information, visit <http://acwi.gov/swrr>

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:

[Sunshine in coming years will heat new Como pool](#) (MinnPost) St. Paul officials report on this rainy day that they've snagged a grant for \$150,000 to provide solar heating for the new Como pool and facilities.

[Minnesota relies on hunters to keep deer populations in check as fall ushers in hunting season](#) (MN Daily) Thursday is the first full day of autumn, and in Minnesota that means deer season is right around the corner.

[Bear kill lags behind last year](#) (Minn Outdoor News) Bear hunters are just off their harvest pace from last year.

[Scientists hope wasps can contain emerald ash borer](#) (MPR) Several thousand new insects burrowed into trees in southeastern Minnesota on Wednesday as scientists released stingless wasps along the Mississippi River.

[Massive attempt to help Lake Christina kicks off](#) (Minn Outdoor News) Construction is slated to begin this week on a project wildlife officials hope will help return west-central Minnesota's Lake Christina to its former glory.

[Is Minn.'s protection of the environment ripe for streamlining?](#) (MPR) A state Senator is convening a new task force to talk about whether it's time for a fundamental overhaul of the way the state protects the environment.

[Something for nature and something for Andover](#) (Star Tribune) Over nearly two decades, Larry and Karen Emmerich and their family planted about a thousand trees a year on their 50 acres in northern Andover.

[Shoreview energy loan program gaining steam](#) (Star Tribune) A unique loan program in Shoreview geared to help residents purchase energy efficiency upgrades has seen a bump in applications, after a slow start this summer.

[Getting the 'big picture' of a big lake](#) (Star Tribune) As Kate Crowley walked the last mile of the 1,550 she tramped around Lake Superior, joined by cheerful supporters along Duluth's Lakewalk, she realized an accomplishment that she and husband Mike Link had never anticipated when they set out 145 days earlier: They'd made people happy.

[Commentary: Dan Wolter's explanation of Troubled Waters censorship](#) (MN Daily) The public clearly isn't happy about the University of Minnesota's censorship of Troubled Waters. Yesterday, the Land Stewardship Project, a private non-profit advocacy group for small agriculture, [called for the resignation](#) of Karen Himle, the Vice President of University Relations who called TPT to cancel the documentary's October 5 airing.

[Farmers market to open in north Minneapolis](#) (AP) A farmers market is set to open in north Minneapolis.

[Governor sends buffer rules back for more work](#) (Agri News) Gov. Tim Pawlenty put the brakes on an effort by the Department of Natural Resources to update shoreland management rules.

[Raptor Center will round up hundreds of Galapagos hawks](#) (Minn Post) The University of Minnesota's Raptor Center is taking part in a project that would seem like "mission impossible" unless you knew the logistics and the track record of the groups involved: The St. Paul-based center is to participate in the roundup and temporary incarceration of about 20 Galapagos hawks.

[Minn. officials on lookout for bat-killing disease](#) (MPR) A contagious disease killing bats in more than a dozen states hasn't reached Minnesota yet, but wildlife researchers know it can spread fast and are watching for it.

[Outdoors: Fish heat up as weather cools down](#) (St. Cloud Times) With crispness to the air and a landscape transitioning into its fall colors, anglers are beginning the last phase of the open water season.

"We owe our lives to the sun... How is it, then, that we feel no gratitude?" - Lewis Thomas, Earth Ethics, Summer 1990.

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
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu