

Our View: Take action on water quality – Mankato Free Press Editorial

University of Minnesota researchers presented the Legislature this year with the most comprehensive state water quality report in years, yet there doesn't appear to be a lot of momentum to take action on some of the report's findings.

There are many troubling facts about the state of Minnesota's water quality: 40 percent of the state's waters that have been tested don't meet state or national quality standards; 15 of the state's 961 drinking water systems tested contained detectable levels of coliform bacteria. Three systems were over the standard for nitrate, 15 systems were over the standard for arsenic and nine systems were above standard for radium.

The Legislature commissioned the study two years ago, concerned about the depletion of a natural resource that is not only key for good health, but can be a boon to tourism and quality of life.

For the entire article: [Editorial: Take action on water quality](#)

WEIGH IN ON WATER: How should we deal with farming and pollution? By Minnesota Public Radio
Farming practices are front and center these days in any discussion about water pollution in Minnesota. Sediment in runoff, nitrate pollution, the Gulf of Mexico dead zone all point at least partly to agriculture.

That's why we asked seven Minnesotans what to do about it. We're asking you the same.

The people we enlisted all have been involved in water quality issues in their communities and are familiar with the difficulties associated with reducing runoff, keeping pollutants out of rivers and lakes and getting people with divergent opinions to come together.

You'll find their answers below. What's yours? Should farmers be forced to do more? Are they scapegoats? Who else needs to step up?

This is the first of three discussions about water that we're launching. Stay tuned. You can find much more about water pollution in Minnesota by going to our [Ground Level package, "Cleaning Minnesota's Water"](#).

For the entire article: [How should we deal with farming and pollution?](#)

3rd Crop Walk-n-Talk: Season Extension with High Tunnels and Quick Hoops

Join Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension on October 13th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm for the last 3rd Crop Walk-n-Talk of 2011. The local food movement has hit Minnesota in the last couple of years, but in order to provide locally grown fruits and vegetables, producers need to be able to extend the growing season. Our walk-n-talk host, Mrs. Judy Harder of Jubilee Fruits and Vegetables in Mountain Lake, has managed to do just that.

Jubilee Fruits and Vegetables has found success with harvests beginning in March and extending through December with the combined use of conventional gardens, movable high tunnels, and quick hoops. Crop rotation, windrow composting, improving soil health, and growing new varieties of cold-hardy crops are a few of the additional variables Jubilee Fruits and Vegetables uses during the growing season.

During the walk-n-talk field day, the Harder family, owners and operators of Jubilee Fruits and Vegetables, will share their experiences with season extension and give a tour of their production plots. See quick hoops in action; walk through the two movable high tunnels. Take part in discussion on season extension, fruit and vegetable production, community supported agriculture (CSAs), and the local Farm to School / Farm to Cafeteria movement. The field day will also be highlighting Jubilee Fruits and

Vegetables' grant-funded, on-farm research on Asian and Latino vegetables. The research project is funded through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program.

RSVP is preferred. Please contact Jill Sackett, Extension Educator: 507-238-5449 sacke032@umn.edu

DIRECTIONS: Jubilee Fruits and Vegetables – 1310 Mountain Lake Road – Mountain Lake, MN 56159
Via MN Highway 60 – At the city of Mountain Lake, turn north onto Co. Hwy. 1. Travel approximately ¼ mile and turn west (left) onto Mountain Lake Road. Jubilee Fruits and Vegetables will be the first place on the south side. Please park in the street.

Mankato River Ramble Bike Ride

Beginning at 8:30 am on October 9, 2011 the fun-filled and largest bike ride ever in Mankato will take place. To date about 1000 bicyclists have registered for the ride which starts and ends at Land of Memories Park. If you have not registered for the ride, we need you to volunteer so we can have a successful ride and show our visitors what a great bike community we have. To volunteer, go to bikeriverramble.org and sign up for a job. As a volunteer you'll receive a very cool Mankato River Ramble t-shirt and are invited to the Ramble Volunteer Party at the Pub 500 at 5:30pm, October 17 where you will be treated to food and refreshments!

Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank CWP Photo Contest

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership is sponsoring a Photo Contest. All Photos must be from the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank watershed. Select photos will be published in a 2012 calendar and may be used on our website and brochures with credits given. Cash prizes awarded with the first place photo receiving \$50, second place \$30 and third place \$20. Judging will be completed by the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership TEAM which consists of partnering agencies from Lincoln, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle counties.

You do not need to live within the watershed to submit a photo. Digital photos are preferred. There is a maximum of 3 photos per person. Picture ideas include scenic views of rivers and lakes, fun water activities, wildlife, or seasonal pictures. Use your imagination. Application form – <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lacquiparleapplicationform.pdf>

Job Announcements:

Easement Processor

The Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) is hiring an Easement Processor to support all aspects of the Board of Water and Soil Resource's (BWSR's) conservation easement programs. Assist senior easement processing staff with acquiring state held conservation easements on eligible lands with private landowners. Review landowner applications for completeness and accuracy. Review title commitments and policies for accuracy and completeness. Check the status of applications in process. Perform database entry to monitor easement processing and other duties as required. Preferred qualifications are Work experience in a land conservation program and demonstrated ability to process programmatic documents and provide accounting related functions.

You are strongly encouraged to submit your resume through the online Resume Builder at <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/>. You may copy and paste in your existing resume or let the software create a resume for you. You may edit your resume later should your contact information or experience change. The Resume Builder also collects your work preference information so we can match you with future job openings that meet your interests.

For information on the resume process, contact the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget, www.mmb.state.mn.us

A copy of the complete position description can be found under the Job Postings tab on the BWSR website, www.bwsr.state.mn.us

For additional information on the position or about BWSR in general, contact Kevin Lines, Easement Section Manager, at (651) 297-1894.

Events:

September 30th (Friday) is the **Meander Kickoff Event** from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in downtown Granite Falls to feature Music, Food, History and Art. This brand new event will showcase picturesque downtown Granite Falls as a gateway to the Upper Minnesota River Valley and all the art, culture and natural beauty it has to offer. For more information on this event, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/meanderkickoffevent.pdf>

October 6th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Truck Farm*** at 7:00 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Filmmakers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis transformed granddad's '86 Dodge into a traveling 20-member CSA. They planted between the wheel wells with arugula and tomatoes, parked the truck on a Brooklyn street, and waited for the sun and rain to work their charms. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

October 9th (Sunday) is the **Mankato River Ramble Bike Tour** with different routes of 12 to 54 miles. The ALL NEW Mankato River Ramble will embrace the best of both bicycling worlds – off-road paved trails and quiet country roads. The 12-mile Minneopa Falls Loop will visit the beautiful state park. Riders seeking a greater challenge will love the Lake Crystal Loop that visits the handsome hamlets of Rapidan, Lake Crystal and Judson. For more information, <https://www.bikeriverramble.org/>

October 15th (Saturday) and 16th (Sunday) is the **Make-and-take snowshoe workshop** at Lac qui Parle State Park. On Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. workshop presenters will teach attendees how to string the laces on pre-built wooden snowshoe frames, then demonstrate how to use them. The \$75 registration fee includes the snowshoe kit and materials. Lunch will not be provided, so attendees should bring a sack lunch. Class size is limited to 12 people and advance registration is required so that the appropriate quantities and sizes of snowshoe kits may be ordered. Registration deadline is Oct. 3. To register, contact the park office at (320) 734-4450 ext 225 or e-mail cara.greger@state.mn.us .

November 4th (Friday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Rain in a Dry Land*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. How do you measure the distance from an African village to an American city? What does it mean to be a refugee in today's "global village"? *Rain in a Dry Land* provides eye-opening answers as it chronicles the fortunes of two Somali Bantu families moved to the U.S. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

November 5th (Saturday) is the workshop: **"Claim the Commons We're in it Together"** at the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Mankato (170 Good Counsel Drive) sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry. In this conference you will learn more about the commons, explore the dangers it is facing, understand our part in protecting it, and find ways to claim and protect it for all. Claiming the commons can instill us with a new vision of politics, culture and community. A new vision of the power we have together. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/commonsworkshop.pdf>

December 1st (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Reel Injun*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. Hollywood has made over 4000 films about Native people; over 100 years of movies defining how Indians are seen by the world. *Reel Injun* takes an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through the history of cinema. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

January 5th (Thursday) is the **Showing of the documentary: *Okie Noodling*** at the Treaty Site History Center in St. Peter. For centuries, a unique breed of fishermen has been catching monster catfish with their bare hands in the rivers and lakes of Oklahoma. Today, the tradition of “noodling” still has Okie anglers hooked. Admission is free. Sponsored by St. Peter Public Schools, Nicollet County Historical Society, River Rock Coffee and St. Peter Food Co-op. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/documentaryfilmseries.pdf>. Please contact 507-934-2160 or jessica@nchsmn.org for details.

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Legacy council approves Asian carp fight funds](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The council charged with distributing Legacy Amendment funds for projects that benefit the outdoors voted Tuesday to set aside \$3 million for the fight against invasive Asian carp.

[List of projects recommended for Legacy outdoors funds](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council on Tuesday recommended spending up to \$96 million on 29 projects and one grant program aimed at benefiting the outdoors.

[25 years: RIM restores 230,000 acres of wildlife habitat](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Close to 100 conservation leaders gathered near Owatonna to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve Program.

[Don Shelby: Global warming poll presents challenge to GOP candidates](#) (MinnPost). Who believes what when it comes to global warming.

[Ron Meador: What the polls really show about global warming](#) (MinnPost). The facts behind what the public thinks when it comes to global warming.

[Commentary: On this Boundary Waters trip, her family learned about compassion and overcoming fear](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). One families view of the Boundary Waters and the Pagami Creek fire.

[Troubled Waters: One year later, more trouble ahead](#) (TC Daily Planet). A summer tour shows off innovative conservation measures in the Chippewa River Watershed.

[Poll: Minnesota small businesses support EPA regulating carbon](#) (Alexandra Echo Press). Small business owners across the country and in Minnesota support strong national standards to increase energy innovation, according to a new opinion poll released by Small Business Majority.

[Donations to defend climate science](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). John Abraham, one of Minnesota’s most famous climate scientists, has started a legal defense fund for his colleagues who become the target of climate change deniers.

[Landwehr: DNR not previously aggressive enough on Asian carp](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Minnesota’s top outdoors official said the state had not been aggressive enough in the past in trying to keep Asian carp out of state waters.

[From GOP to DNR, a smooth transition](#) (Marshall Independent). Longtime champion of the outdoors during 30-year political career, former Sen. Dennis Frederickson enjoys new DNR post.

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.

Human nature is just about the only nature some people experience. – Abigail Charleson

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>

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka
Watershed Assessment Specialist
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304