

Workshops & Conferences

Listening Sessions on Water Quality Issues

Feb 3 – Feb 16, 2010 @ various locations

Minnesotans will have the chance to voice their opinion in person on how the state should invest resources to protect clean water at statewide public meetings beginning Jan. 19, 2010 coordinated by the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center and the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources.

The meetings, called "listening sessions," will be facilitated by staff from the Water Resources Center and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and are a chance for people to voice their opinions on a range of water-related issues from boating and water recreation, to priorities for cleaning up polluted lakes and streams.

Each meeting will focus on concerns of professionals associated with local government units, soil and water conservation districts and watershed districts. The meetings are free and open to the public.

The meetings are scheduled from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. as follows. Citizens, community leaders and elected and appointed officials will have a chance to share their concerns from 4 to 6 p.m. For more information [download the session flyer](#).

- February 3 – Univ. of MN, Crookston Youngquist Auditorium, 2900 University Ave., Crookston
- February 4 – Northland Auditorium, 14250 Conservation Dr., Baxter
- February 10 – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Building, 525 S. Lake Ave., Duluth
- February 11 – Holiday Inn South, 1630 S. Broadway, Rochester
- February 16 – Best Western Marshall Inn, 1500 E. College Dr., Marshall

Small Woodland Management

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

UMN Extension-Bunker Hills Activity Center, 550 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW, Andover, MN

COST: *\$10.00/class*, pre-registration appreciated*

Do you own woodland of less than 20 acres? Do you own a large wooded yard? Interested in learning how to take care of your woodland? If you answer yes to these questions, this class is for you. The class will focus on planning and goal setting, identifying what you have, writing a plan, keeping your woodland healthy, planting trees, attracting wildlife and more. We'll connect you to many resources to help you learn more and reach your goals. Invite a friend!

Woodland Advisor Credits: WA E13 & Master Gardener Approved Continuing Education Credit

For more information, visit <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/> or contact Barb Spears, 651-328-0463, bjspears@g.com. To register, contact Mary Jane Stearns, mstearns@umn.edu, 507-536-6310, or 888-241-4536

*This class is sponsored by Extension, MFA, MN DNR, and Stewardship. *This is a discounted pilot class, come prepared to offer feedback!*

CANCELLED: A Discussion of Environmental Issues that are upcoming in the State Legislature

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Open Houses

January 28, 2010 - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Willmar Community Center, Willmar, MN

The Minnesota DNR and Minnesota Waters invite all interested citizens to attend an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Open House. A series of five AIS Prevention Open Houses will be held throughout Minnesota during January. The Open Houses will provide information on statewide AIS prevention strategies and resources available for citizen-leaders working on AIS at the local level. In addition, the DNR will be seeking input and comments on AIS prevention efforts.

Each Open House will include informational tables on AIS:

- regulations and enforcement;
- watercraft inspections and public education;
- local and regional resources for AIS prevention; and
- identification and general AIS information.

DNR staff will also provide a 20-minute presentation on AIS prevention strategies. This presentation will be given at 6:15 pm and again at 7:15 pm. Note: The management of AIS in state waters will not be the focus of the Open Houses. All interested citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend the Open House in or near your region.

No registration is necessary to attend. With questions, please contact Molly Zins at mollyz@minnesotawaters.org.

**The Home Grown Economy 2010:
Equipping You to Build Community-based Food Systems**

February 15 – 16, 2010

5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall

For more information go to www.regionalpartnerships.umn.edu. Video hookups to the Tuesday morning talks will also be provided at UM-Crookston, UM-Morris, Bemidji State University, and Minnesota State Community & Technical College in Fergus Falls.

BAELN Schedule

The Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN), now in its seventh season, offers people in the environmental field and the community timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's theme Greening the Economy gives us insight into the jobs, skills and opportunities that the green jobs direction offers. BAELN events are held most third Thursdays of the month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and include an hour-long presentation with time for questions, networking and refreshments. The events are free and all are invited to participate.

BAELN is a collaborative effort of the following organizations: 1000 Friends of Minnesota, Central Lakes College, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District, Initiative Foundation, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, MN Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Waters, The Nature Conservancy, community member and University of Minnesota Extension. If you would like to be on the BAELN email list or for general information on BAELN, please contact Stephen Mikkelsen at (218) 316-3887, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.

Upcoming events: 2010 Schedule (subject to change)

Location: MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Rd, Suite 105, Baxter

Times: 3:00-5:00 p.m.

- February 18: The Impacts of a Green Workforce on the Economy
- March 25 (fourth Thursday): Deconstruction Reuse = Green Opportunities
- April 15: Putting Green Practices into Action: MN GreenCorps and MN Conservation Corps
- May 20: Greening Transportation - Northstar Rail
- June 17: Training the next generation of green workers (and a few old dogs too)

Frogs and Toads of Minnesota: the DNR's Anuran Monitoring Program

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd

Presented by Krista Larson, DNR Nongame Research Biologist. This program is sponsored by the Brainerd lakes Area Audubon Society. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be available. For more information contact Pam Perry at pkperry@brainerd.net

22nd Annual Erosion Control & Stormwater Management Conference

March 11-12, 2010

Holiday Inn Lodge and Suites, St. Cloud

For more information or to register: <http://www.mnerosion.org/>

Save the Date!

Save the Date: 6th Annual Small Wind Conference

June 15-16, 2010

9 am – 6 pm

Stevens Point, Wisconsin

A Gathering of Installers, Manufacturers, Dealers, and Distributors. The 6th annual Small Wind

Conference is the premier event for small wind-electric system designers and installers, and for those involved in sales, specification, management, funding, and permitting of small wind systems.

More than 300 small wind professionals and industry representatives from across the United States and nine countries attended the 2009 conference, a key opportunity for open and honest dialogue, networking and education within the industry.

"This conference is the only conference that I am aware of that addresses the entire gamut of issues pertinent to the small wind community," said Trudy Forsyth, Small Wind Coordinator for the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Topics to be covered will include:

- Updates from wind turbine manufacturers and importers
- Test results and updates on new wind turbines and equipment
- Wind-electric system cost and design
- Zoning and permitting processes
- Advancements in resource and site assessments
- Problems encountered in the field and how they were solved
- Input from dealers and installers-what works and what needs work
- Updates on installer and turbine certification as well as new NEC code for small wind

Who should attend?

Wind system installers, site assessors, equipment dealers and distributors, manufacturers, renewable energy program implementers, state funding agencies, educators, zoning officials, policy makers, and other stakeholders are encouraged to attend. Those considering entering the small wind industry are also invited. This conference is not intended for homeowners or end users

For more information on the event, including sponsorship opportunities, visit www.windustry.org or contact: Samantha Smart Merritt, Windustry, 612-870-3474, Samantha@windustry.org.

You can also contact: info@smallwindconference.com or visit www.smallwindconference.com.

Funding Opportunities

Community Action and the Environment grants - \$2 million

The US EPA requests proposals for the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Program. CARE is a community-based, community-driven, multimedia demonstration program designed to help communities understand and reduce risks due to toxic pollutants and environmental concerns from all sources. Eligible entities include local governments, federally recognized tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and colleges and universities.

This is a very competitive program with up to 9 awards anticipated. Applications are *due March 9, 2010*. For more information see http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html

Source Reduction Assistance grants -- \$1.3 million

The US EPA has announced its Source Reduction Assistance Grant Program for environmental projects that reduce or eliminate pollution at the source. National areas of interest include projects that encourage greenhouse gas reduction, toxic and hazardous materials reduction, resource conservation, efficient business practices, and pollution prevention integration activities.

Eligible entities include states, territories, local governments, school districts, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, community organizations, and federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia.

Approximately 30 awards are anticipated, with applications *due February 4, 2010*.

For more information, including EPA Regional contacts and Region-specific areas of interest, see: <http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/srap10.pdf>.

Conservation Partnership grants are available to all Minnesota Waters members and affiliates. Seven \$5,000.00 grants will be awarded. Funded projects will be short-term (12 months) in duration to demonstrate quick, tangible results for implementation during 2010. Please contact Erica LeMoine at erical@minnesotawaters.org with any questions.

Things to Know

Upcoming Events at the Brainerd Northland Arboretum

Snowshoe Class

Saturday, January 30, 2010 starting at 10:00 AM

Cost is \$5.00 for Arb Members and \$10.00 for non-members – bring your own equipment.

Call Peg at the Arboretum (218-829-8770) for more information or to register.

Recycle Your Christmas Tree ...

Bring your undecorated Christmas tree (no fake trees, please) to the old east gate entrance of the Arboretum on NW 7th Street behind Herberger's during the month of January. The old Christmas trees will then be chipped up and spread out on the paths of the Arboretum.

Please Note:

The Arboretum has a new web site address. It is www.northlandarb.com. The website is fairly new and we are working hard on bringing it up-to-date so come back often and watch it mature.

Upcoming Events at St. John's Arboretum, St. Joseph

Minnesota Natural History Lecture Series

3rd Tuesday each month, September-May

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Cost: Free—Students (any age) & Arb members; \$5 – nonmembers, nonstudents

- **February 16** Prairie Restoration

- **March 16** The Natural History of Maple Syrup Production
- **April 20** Climate Change and its Effect on MN Trees
- **May 18** Purple Martins

Interested in learning more about Minnesota's natural world? Join us each month during the school year for a lecture and discussion on a variety of natural history topics. Lectures will take place indoors.

All ages are welcome to all of our lectures; however, we have designated some lectures as kid-friendly when the topics/presentation styles are more suitable for kids. Lectures that are designated as teacher-friendly indicate that there will be classroom resources available for teachers at the lecture.

Living in the Avon Hills Conference

Saturday, February 6, 2010

9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15—Adults (16 & Up); \$5—Kids (Ages 5-15) Registration starts in January

Keynote speaker Stan Tekiela, naturalist, photographer, and author of a variety of popular guide books (*Birds of Minnesota*, *Fascinating Loons*, etc.) will kick off a day of art, natural history, alternative energy, gardening, conservation, and land-use speakers. Bring the kids for a variety of sessions designed for them! Visit the Exhibit Hall in between sessions.

MinnAqua Training

Saturday, February 6

9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per person; registration starts in January

Saint John's Arboretum is hosting a MinnAqua training for Minnesota educators in conjunction with the "Living in the Avon Hills" Conference. Attend the keynote speaker and enjoy the Exhibit Hall and refreshments, but attend a full day of sessions from the Department of Natural Resources MinnAqua program.

Project WILD Training

Saturday, February 20

Time TBD

SJU Campus

This is an interdisciplinary conservation and environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. Designed for educators of K-12th grade, WILD capitalizes on the natural interest that kids have in wildlife by providing hands-on activities and curriculum for the classroom. More information will be available on the Arboretum Web site.

11th Annual Owl Hoot

Thursday, February 25, 2010

6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Indoor lecture; 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Optional hike

Cost" Free for Arboretum members; \$5 for nonmembers

Owls may dazzle us with their calls but they are also full of other amazing adaptations for survival. Learn about the twelve owl species that can be found in Minnesota and how they survive year round. An outdoor hike under the moon to call for owls living at Saint John's is also an option!

Maple Syrup Festivals

Saturday, March 27 & Saturday, April 10

Join us for what has become our most popular event of the year! Sap collecting, syrup cooking, horse-drawn rides, demonstrations, and hot maple syrup sundaes await the whole family during this fun-filled event! Preregistration for families is preferred but not required. Preregistration for scout groups is required.

Cost: \$7 - Adult nonmembers/scouts; \$3 – Child members/scouts; \$3 Adult members; Free – Child members. \$1 off per person if you pre-register by the Friday before the festival you attend. (Up to \$10 – does not apply to scouts)

Voices for the Lakes Essay Contest Announcement

“Write what should not be forgotten” –Isabelle Allende

Minnesota is the “Land of 10,000 Lakes.” It is also the “Land of 10,000 Lake Stories.” Memories of a sunny day’s swim in the cool water, a big “catch” pulled from a little hole in the ice, and a relaxing sunset amplified by the evening call of a nearby loon or a far off wolf are at the heart of most Minnesotans. In today’s fast-paced world, the lakes are a calming reminder of what makes Minnesota special.

As shoreland development trends increasingly move toward bigger homes, more impervious surface from roofs and driveways, more turf grass lawns replacing natural vegetation, and more removal of aquatic vegetation, the wellbeing of Minnesota’s most precious resource is at risk. The lakes need a voice. Their language of water quality, aquatic plant health, and wildlife diversity oftentimes translates to a call for stewardship that is misinterpreted. To preserve our lakes for future generations, we must celebrate our state’s deep-abiding connection with water and creatively articulate that connection that links our past with our future.

In light of the 10-year anniversary of the successful Voices for the Land essay contest, 1000 Friends of Minnesota is giving you the opportunity to be a voice for the lakes that are at the core of a true Minnesotan identity. There are few things more powerful and action-inspiring than citizens speaking from their hearts and sharing their passion for special places. Voices for the Lakes calls for individuals to depict their connection with Minnesota’s greatest natural resource – its lakes. Share your lake story and be the voice our lakes need.

Submissions may be made from November 1, 2009 until February 1, 2010. Winners will be announced on May 3, 2010. Winners will be recognized with their work published on the 1000 Friends of Minnesota website (www.1000fom.org), and in other publications currently being pursued. Winners will also be given the opportunity to participate in readings around the state

For details, please go to the 1000 Friends of Minnesota website at www.1000fom.org.

Siemens Sustainable Community Awards

<http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/sustainablecommunity>

The Siemens Sustainable Community Awards recognize public-private coalitions for taking on the 21st century challenge of sustainable development. Awards go to local governments, chambers of commerce, convention bureaus, economic development authorities, and similar organizations representing the local initiative.

One award will be given in each of the following three categories:

Sustainable Community Award for Small Community (<50,000 residents)

Sustainable Community Award for Midsize Community (50,000 - 500,000 residents)

Sustainable Community Award for Large Community (500,000+ residents)

Nominations must be submitted by January 29, 2010. For more information, visit the web site above.

This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact Don Hickman, dhickman@ifound.org.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Jolene Howard, jhoward@ifound.org.