

Keynotes for Conservation February 2009



INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Issue #94

February 6, 2009

Workshops & Conferences

Harnessing Resources & Teamwork for MN's Energy Future

February 10 - 11, 2009

St. Cloud Civic Center

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

Sponsored by the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) and their partners, this conference is for everyone interested in being a part of Minnesota's clean energy future - farmers, utility representatives, school staff, local officials, students, business owners and members of any community. It's an excellent opportunity to learn what people are doing across the state on energy issues, and to connect and share resources.

The event starts on Tuesday, February 10th with optional in-depth workshops and an evening reception, followed by the daylong conference on February 11th. Conference topics are wide ranging and include:

- Local Foods
- Cities Leading the Way
- Biogas Digesters
- Geothermal
- Energy Efficiency
- Small-Scale Wind
- Solar
- Affordable Housing

The opening keynote speaker is Randy Udall, energy expert from Colorado and board member of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas - USA. The event also includes a legislative forum moderated by Kerri Miller of Minnesota Public Radio.

Registration is \$50 for the conference and \$30 for the pre-conference workshops. For details visit the web site above.

Living Off the Grid Seminar

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

1:30 to 3:30 pm

Hallett Community Center in Crosby

Jim Leonard will present "Living Off the Electrical Grid." Mr. Leonard is a product specialist at Silent Power, Inc. Mr. Leonard will discuss a product that allows windmills, solar panels, and potentially a generator to provide 115V or 230 V for the home or other locations. Is it possible to be independent of power companies? Cost is \$6.

Small Wind Turbine Installation Workshop

February 11-13, 2009

Great River Energy Headquarters, Maple Grove

Due to increasing interest in renewable energy and residential-sized wind turbines, this three-day workshop is being offered to provide an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of small wind project development.

The timeliness of this workshop complements the growing demand and interest in renewable energy. With the passage of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 came a small wind investment tax credit to help consumers purchase small wind for home, farm or business use. Owners of small wind systems with 100 kilowatts (kW) of capacity and less can receive a credit for 30% of the total installed cost of the system, not to exceed \$4,000. The credit will be available for equipment installed through December 31, 2016. For turbines used for homes, the credit is additionally limited to the lesser of \$4,000 or \$1,000 per kW of capacity.

You can register online at www.mnRenewables.org.

Who should attend?

New & existing small wind installers, MN small wind manufacturers, electricians, consultants, PV installers interested in wind and Minnesota Renewable Energy Society members

Upcoming Brainerd Lakes Audubon Society schedule:

"The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program"

by Jerry Bahls, President of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis

Thursday, February 12, 2009, 7 pm

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd

The Red-headed Woodpecker population has declined by 90% and this woodpecker has become a rare bird in Minnesota. In 2006, the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program was formed in Minnesota through the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. The goal of this program is to reverse the decline and encourage the recovery of Red-headed Woodpecker populations through the creation, preservation, and restoration of habitat, research, and public education. Come to this interesting presentation to learn why the woodpeckers have declined and what can be done to bring them back. For additional information, go to www.RedheadRecovery.org

This presentation is sponsored by the Bee Nay She Council Bird Club, and is free and open to the public. For more information about this presentation or the Bee Nay She Council Bird Club, contact Jo Blanich at blanich@embarqmail.com

"A long-term study of lead poisoning in Bald Eagles"

by Dr. Luis Cruz, The Raptor Center, University of Minnesota

Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 7 pm

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd

Every fall, The Raptor Center gets a significant increase in lead poisoned Bald Eagles. Where does the lead come from and how are the eagles ingesting it? Dr. Luis Cruz has been working on this issue with Dr. Pat Redig at the University of Minnesota, researching potential sources of lead exposure. Dr. Cruz's presentation will show what he has found. There are strong links between the lead poisoning of Bald Eagles and the spent lead from ammunition used for deer hunting. He will also show how lead from ammunition affects many species of birds worldwide and illustrate the potential risks for human health.

Dr. Luis Cruz is a native of Costa Rica where he received his degree in veterinary medicine in 2005. He moved to Minnesota to work at The Raptor Center and completed a 2-year clinical internship caring for sick and/or injured raptors. He has continued on a veterinary residency program that has allowed him to complete a graduate degree in infectious diseases, with the topic of researching potential sources of lead exposure in eagles.

This program is sponsored by the Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society, and is free and open to the public. For more information about this program, contact Pam Perry, Program Chair, at pkperry@brainerd.net

"Mercury in Northern Minnesota Watersheds"

by Dr. Randy Kokal, U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, Grand Rapids

Wednesday, March 25, 2009, 7 pm

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd

Mercury (HG) is of great concern in the environment because it biomagnifies up the food chain in aquatic ecosystems. All fish-bearing surface waters in Minnesota have recommendations for fish consumption as a result of mercury contamination. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Randy Kolka and colleagues have conducted research to understand the mercury cycle in northern Minnesota. Randy will discuss these studies and summarize the current state of knowledge on mercury pollution in our northern Minnesota waters.

Dr. Randy Kokal has a B.S. degree in Soil Science from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, and M.S. and PhD degrees in Soil Science from the University of Minnesota with minors in water Resources and Forest Resources. Currently, Dr. Kokal leads a team of scientists to address the ecology and management of riparian, wetland and aquatic ecosystems. He is an adjunct faculty member with five universities and associate editor for the journal "Wetlands".

This program is sponsored by the Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society, and is free and open to the public. For more information about this program, contact Pam Perry, Program Chair, at pkperry@brainerd.net

**Landscapes Lost: Unraveling Invasibility
(Seminar on Invasive Exotic Aquatic Plants)**

*Thursday, February 19, 2009, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Beaux Arts Ballroom, Bemidji State University*

(see [map for meeting location and Bangsberg Hall parking lot](#))

Invasive species pose complex challenges in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. Recent developments in ecological theory and applied resource management provide opportunities to slow the spread of invaders and to minimize adverse ecological impacts. Understanding causes and consequences of invasions at a landscape level increases the effectiveness of management and control efforts.

This workshop is designed for natural resources professionals and others interested in the ecology and management of invasive species in terrestrial and aquatic environments. It is co-sponsored by the Bemidji area Natural Resources Continuing Education Consortium and Bemidji State University's Center for Research and Innovation. Continuing education credits are available at no additional cost.

Morning presentations will be devoted to providing common background on invasion biology, regionally important terrestrial and aquatic invaders, and decision making strategies. In the afternoon, five facilitated working groups will explore and share approaches and experiences related to particular aspects of invasive species management. Due to an emphasis on workgroup participation, enrollment will be limited to the first 120 applicants. Cost for the one-day workshop including lunch and program materials will be \$115.

For more information or to register contact the CRI (CRI@bemidjistate.edu)

See workshop webpage by visiting the CRI website www.cri-bsu.org and look for the "Landscapes Lost: Unraveling Invasibility" tab on the left-hand side.

The BAELN 2008-2009 Season *The Path Less Traveled* is pleased to offer...

Balancing Development and Conservation: Baxter's Conservation Overlay District

Thursday, February 19, 2009, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

MN Pollution Control Agency, 7678 College Road, Suite 105, Baxter/Brainerd

There is no cost and all are invited. The city of Baxter is involved in establishing a conservation overlay district; a conservation overlay district looks at development alternatives in environmentally sensitive areas. Todd Holman, Baxter City Councilman, will take us through the process that Baxter is using, from the statutory authority that identifies the City authority to plan to ordinance implementation and the public stakeholder role.

In his presentation, we'll take a look at Baxter's five distinct end product amendments of the: 1) Comprehensive plan, 2) Subdivision ordinance, 3) Zoning ordinance, 4) Street ordinance, and 5) Official zoning map. Mr. Holman will highlight pitfalls and derailing events as well as tipping points that lead to success. He'll also touch on the economic sustainability functions of conservation design implementation. Finally we'll explore how to refine implementation and expand this success throughout the City and elsewhere.

Speaker: Todd Holman's professional background includes eleven years in land use administration. Along those paths the opportunity to develop local Comprehensive Plans, Park

and Recreation Plans, Trail Plans and associated ordinances and policies have been many and unique to the local unit of government. Todd has also developed several state, local and federal grant applications to plan for and construct local and state trail projects including bridges.

If you have questions concerning this presentation, please contact Kent Montgomery at 218-575-3032 Ext. 14 or kmontgomery@tnc.org.

The Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN) works to create opportunities for people in the environmental field, and the community, to receive timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's theme "The Path Less Traveled" offers topics that can help us improve our communities and the environment in which we live. Each gathering held the third Thursday of the month from 3:00-5:00 p.m., will include an hour-long presentation with time for questions, networking and refreshments. The events are free and all are invited to come explore the path less traveled.

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, The Nature Conservancy, Paul Bunyan Trail Association, and University of Minnesota Extension.

For information on BAELN, please contact Stephen Mikkelson at (218) 855-5001, or toll free at 1-800-657-3864.

Upcoming events:

March 19: Socially Responsible Investing

Socially responsible investing describes an investment strategy which seeks to maximize both financial return and social good. Come learn if this strategy is for you and your community.

April 16: Treating Stormwater as an Asset: Three Things You Can Do

Rain gardens, rain barrels and shoreland buffers are cropping up in the area. Find out more about these practices, why they are important and what would work for you.

May 21: Making Solar Power Accessible to People of All Income Levels

Discover more about solar energy, what's happening with solar in our region and how you can take advantage of its benefits.

June 18: Taking Charge: One Family's Journey toward Energy Self-Sufficiency

Living off the grid, without reliance on public utilities for things like electricity and water, is becoming a more common practice. Hear how people are doing it and glean lessons that you can apply to your own way of life.

Informational meeting on the recently passed “Legacy Amendment”

Wednesday, February 25, 2009, 10:00 am - Noon

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Baxter

The North Central Lakes Collaborative (NCLC) would like to invite you to attend an informational meeting regarding the newly passed Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment (CWLLA). Please join us at 9:30 for refreshments. At 10:00, we will provide a brief overview of the NCLC, followed by our featured speaker from the Clean Water Council. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the Clean Water Council and their role in helping to administer the CWLLA. Following that, there will be a group discussion on the kinds of projects that are likely to be eligible for funding under this historic amendment.

The NCLC is an affiliation of local, state, and private organizations dedicated to preserving and improving lakes. The NCLC (formerly the North Central Lakes Pilot Project) originated as one of four pilot projects under Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative of 2003. The goal of the pilot project was to address the complex balance north central Minnesota faces in accommodating lake-related development while protecting water quality, fish and wildlife populations, and aquatic and shoreland resources. The NCLC's mission is to promote sustainable private and public water and land use practices that protect Minnesota's lake heritage to that end it works to support local partners and seeks balanced solutions to the challenges facing north central Minnesota watersheds.

Many great environmental strides were made in 2008, including the passage of the CWLLA. Minnesotans have indicated that they value the future of Minnesota's water and land resources, and the NCLC has responded by restructuring its efforts to better support our local partners in meeting the CWLLA goal of protecting water and land resources.

The NCLC will hold collaborative work sessions on even months of the year as a conduit for groups, counties, and agencies in north central Minnesota to share project ideas, progress, and lessons learned, as well as to minimize duplication of water and land protection efforts. The NCLC is eager to have your input at the informational meeting on February 25, 2009, and an RSVP to the following contact information is requested. If you have any questions regarding this meeting or the NCLC, please contact me at stephanie.vandal@pca.state.mn.us or at 218-828-2288.

Government Training Services releases spring training schedule:

New to the planning commission or board of adjustment? Long time member eager to keep up with new laws and regulations? Want to gain insight on how to most constructive prepare comments on proposals pending before your city or county's Planning and Zoning departments?

Government Training Services (GTS) is the state's premier training organization in P&Z issues. Their “faculty” includes current and past local officials, attorneys, developers, and advocates to provide fact based, court tested, field implemented examples of how to encourage the type of growth you want and learn from others past mistakes.

This year's schedule includes:

- Basics of Planning and Zoning (St. Paul, March 4 and Little Falls, April 8)
- Your Role as Planning Commission Member (Bloomington, March 8)

- Beyond the Basics of Planning and Zoning (St. Paul, April 8; April 30, Little Falls)
- Your role as Planning Commission Member Videoconference, broadcast to Fergus Falls, Mankato and Duluth, June 4)
- A Fresh Look: Rethinking Local Land Use Planning (Hastings, March 10 and Collegeville (April 16)
- Redefining the Development Process: Choosing Collaboration over Contention to protect natural resources and maximize the public value of private development (Hasting April 2 and Collegeville May 6)
- Basic Traffic Impacts of Land Use (Andover, April 1 and Little Falls, May 14)
- Home Occupations: A Growing Concern (Little Falls, March 5)
- Your Comprehensive Plan is Done – Now What? (St. Paul, May 20)

For detailed descriptions or registration information visit:

http://www.mngts.org/LandUse/Land_Use_Workshops_2009.pdf

Garden Expo 2009

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Lakewood Evangelical Free Church (6284 Fairview Road in Baxter)

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners and ISD 181 Community Education

Vendors Exhibits Lunch Door Prizes Silent Auction

Registration \$25.00 Deadline for registration is March 27!

To register, call (218) 454-6924 with a Visa or MasterCard only.

Funding Opportunities

Student Interns Available

The Community Assistantship Program is pleased to announce a summer 2009 grant program. The grant will allow rural communities to hire a student to work on a project defined by those communities. The deadline for project proposals is March 15th, 2009. Approved projects will run from May 25th to August 23rd, 2009.

Winning communities will review job applications and select the student who best meets their needs. For details on how to apply see the attachment or apply on line (preferred):

<http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/ApplicationProcess.php>

Eligible organizations include community groups, organizations, and local governments outside the seven county metro area. Many different types of projects can be funded, but current priority is projects related to economic development.

What is CAP?

The Community Assistantship Program (CAP) provides applied research assistance to community-based groups outside the Twin Cities Metro Area. The research and technical needs of community organizations are matched with the support of talented students. The idea is

simple: get the resources of a great University working with communities to address the significant issues facing the people of Minnesota. CAP projects typically place students in a community defined and directed part time research assistantship for one semester or over the summer. Students are selected by and report to the community organization. Throughout the project students are supported by a community supervisor, faculty and community mentors.

Things to Know

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Minnesota Environmental Initiative Awards!

MEI is now accepting nominations for partnership-based environmental projects in these categories:

- Energy and Climate Protection
- Environmental Education
- Green Building and Development
- Green Business and Environmental Management
- Natural Resource Protection and Restoration

The deadline for submissions is **March 2, 2009**. For more information about the Environmental Initiative Awards and the Award Categories, please visit <http://www.mn-ei.org/awards/about.html>

What's Happening at the Happy Dancing Turtle?

HDT Happenings Calendars

The 2008-2009 HDT calendars are out, and they are chock-full of information, and valuable coupons! Calendars were distributed through the PRB Schools, and are available at the PRB District Office, Pine River Library, PRB Family Center, Stone Woman Herbal, Heart & Hara Studio, PR Quilter's Pantry & Coffee Shop, and the Pine River Information Center. If you haven't gotten your copy, be sure to pick one up! If you need us to mail you one, you can call Quinn at 218.587.2303.

Beekeeping Classes

Jim has put the bees to sleep for the winter, and will resume classes in January. Watch for details on our website: www.happydancingturtle.org, as well as future newsletters.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are still available through the Cass County Environmental Services for \$56 + tax. If you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel, contact them at 218.547.7399. The HUG campus is a pick-up location for the rain barrels.

Resources

Park Equity and Public Health Toolkit

Intended for park and public health professionals and community advocates, the Trust for Public Land's [Park Equity and Public Health Toolkit](#) provides training materials to help increase awareness of the link between accessible parks and physical activity; introduce the concept of local public finance for parks; and demonstrate the park equity mapping model.

Topics include:

- Parks & Health Overview
- Park Access & Health Disparities
- Paying for Parks
- Building Support for Parks & Health
- Case Studies

Access the Toolkit: http://www.tpl.org/tier2_kad.cfm?folder_id=3548

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, update your email address or change your subscription preferences please go to: [Update Profile/Email Address](#).