

Keynotes for Conservation July 2009



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Issue #96

July 2, 2009

Workshops & Conferences

RiverNight 2009

August 19, 2009

4:00 - 9:00 pm

Each year, Minnesota Waters honors individuals and groups who embody our value of citizen engagement in saving our state's lakes and rivers.

This year, they are proud to announce the following award winners:

- Lake Association of the Year
sponsored by HDR
Pelican Lake Association of St. Anna
- River Friendly Community
sponsored by Wenck Associates, Inc.
Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
- Citizen Monitoring Program of the Year
sponsored by RMB Environmental Laboratories
Cannon River Watershed Alliance
- Volunteer of the Year
sponsored by Barr Engineering
Chuck Carlson, MD of Dutch Lake Association

Each group or individual will receive an honorary plaque, two tickets to RiverNight 2009 and \$1,000 to continue their good work. Please join us to celebrate these hard-working heroes!

For more information about the award winners and RiverNight 2009 visit:

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

North Woods Wilderness Adventures with the Audubon Center of the North Woods (Sandstone)

Live for adventure? Want to brave the waterways of the north? Explore Minnesota's most beautiful natural areas. Form bonds with fellow travelers, build strength and leadership, learn new wilderness skills and test your limits!

July 6-11, 2009

Voyageurs National Park

Ages 15-17, \$420

Intermediate to experienced canoeists - explore the rarely touched areas of the nation's most water-based national park. Paddle, swim, relax, and experience a great north woods adventure!

July 19-22, 2009

St. Croix River

Ages 12-14, \$280

Beginning canoeists - the upper St. Croix River is rich in wildlife and pristine waters. This nationally designated wild, scenic river is the perfect place to experience Minnesota's wilderness.

July 25-29, 2009

Mississippi River

Ages 12-14, \$350

Beginning canoeists - we embark on our journey near the headwaters of one of North America's greatest rivers, the Mississippi. Hone your paddling skills, enjoy the gentle current, and see the wild areas of this great river.

August 1-6, 2009

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Ages 15-17, \$450

Intermediate to experienced canoeists - experience one of Minnesota's most majestic places with over 1.3 million acres of pristine lake and forests. We'll explore part of this wilderness area as we canoe and portage from lake to lake.

For more information visit www.audubon-center.org or contact: Laurie Fenner, Marketing & Groups/Conference Coordinator, Audubon Center of the North Woods, 320-245-2648, fenner@audubon-center.org.

Eco Camp

July 27 - July 31, 2009

9:00am - 3:00pm

Hunt Utilities Group Campus, Pine River

The cost is \$50 and includes snacks, supplies and activities. We had a great response to Eco Camp, and are pleased to announce that we're now offering a second session for kids entering grades 2-4.

We will need at least 10 participants to run this session, so register as soon as possible! If you know of someone who might be interested, please pass along this information.

If you are interested in participating, you can download registration forms at: www.happydancingturtle.org or contact Barb Hines, Education & Events Coordinator at: (218) 587-2303.

Rain Barrels for Sale

These rain barrels are made from recycled plastic, are terra cotta colored, hold 50 gallons of water, and are \$89 (tax included). Purchase at the Happy Dancing Turtle Visitor Center, Monday through Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm.

Attention K-12 Teachers
The Earth Partnership for Schools, Summer Institute
August 3-7, 2009
Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls

Learn to educate through ecological restoration. Learn how to develop and use your school grounds as an outdoor laboratory and extension of your classroom to teach history, science, art, math, writing and literature. It is habitat restoration – based teacher professional development. Through a grant the Northland Arboretum will be able to offer sponsorships for several teachers to attend this summer institute. Graduate credit will be available. For more information contact Dale Braddy at 218-829-8770.

3rd Annual Green Fair sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls
Wednesday, August 5
4:00-8:00pm

In 2008 over 700 visitors enjoyed the Green Fair, an evening of ecological awareness with music, food and more. As a business member, educator, artist or non-profit group, we are offering you a chance to exhibit your “green & sustainable” artwork, products and services or to send your message to the public at this event, free of charge. This is a great opportunity to connect with residents in our area who are looking for ways to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and consumer choices.

We are asking that exhibitors meet at least one of the following “environmentally sustainability criteria.”

- Energy efficient/renewable energy (examples: energy-efficient lighting, appliances & vehicles)
- Conserves/protects water and/or air
- Locally/regionally produced (A product grown/manufactured near the location of its use.)
- Reduces waste; durable/reusable (A product sold with less packaging, creates less waste in its manufacturing, designed for long life or a secondary use after its original use.)
- Recycled content (examples: recycled papers, carpet, paint, plastic wood)
- Organic (but not certified) (examples: organic food, organic clothing)
- Certified by USDA Organic; Energy Star; Fair Trade; FSC; Food Alliance; LEED; Green-e, other
- Educational/promotes environmental values (We welcome any and all church, organization or individual with a story to tell)
- Promotes overall health

For more information visit www.fslf.org or contact Jennifer Basch, Volunteer Coordinator & Green Fair Chairperson, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, (320) 632-0691.

Save the Date - Cultural Heritage Tourism Workshops
Thief River Falls - August 13, 2009, 10:00am - 4:30pm

North Shore - October 1, 2009, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Metro - October 5, 2009, 9:00am - 3:30pm

New Ulm - October 14, 2009, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Central - November 9, 2009, 9:00am - 3:30pm

Research shows that cultural heritage travelers make up a significant number of the travelers to Minnesota, and historically, this segment of the travel market has been on the rise. We also know that throughout Minnesota, there is a great deal to offer these travelers. Workshops are being planned this fall to bring together the many types of organizations that make up "Cultural Heritage Tourism" and help capitalize on this growing market. Included in the workshops will be presentations of partnership success stories already working in other communities.

Watch for more details at <http://industry.exploreminnesota.com>.

Attend a "Design Your Monitoring Plan" Workshop this autumn.

Are you looking for a workshop that can take your group through the process of making water quality monitoring decisions? Designing a Monitoring Plan helps implement the goals you set for your citizen monitoring program. A Monitoring Plan is a sequence of strategic choices that will focus your decisions to meet the goals, time, and capabilities of the group. Preparing a monitoring plan may be the most important step in organizing your whole monitoring effort because it:

- Forces you to focus on what you are trying to accomplish with your monitoring program because it: It prevents waste of time and money on equipment that are not valuable for your group;
- Allows you to select the most appropriate monitoring strategy to address the issues that are important to you and your community;
- Helps you make sense of your data by preparing you to turn it into useful information;
- Allows everyone who might use your data to assess the quality of your results since you clearly document your sampling and analysis methods and quality assurance procedures;
- Minimizes the impact of changing personnel on the continuity of your monitoring activities because anyone can read your study design and "pick up the threads;" and;
- Allows your group to re-evaluate your monitoring study every year in an orderly manner and make changes as needed.

Think of it this way: in ten years someone will look at your water quality data and want to know how you came up with those numbers. This person should be able to find out by reading your monitoring plan document. A good monitoring plan can also be used to secure funding for your program and advance your water quality goals.

If you are interested in having your group attend a workshop please contact Courtney Kowalczyk at courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org or 218-343-2180.

Resources

From Shore to Shore, July-August Issue Now Posted

A publication of the University of Minnesota's Shoreland Education Team, *From Shore to Shore* is dedicated to educating Minnesota citizens about shoreland management to improve water quality, habitat and aesthetics of our lakes and rivers. This issue's articles include:

- *A Secchi Story*
- *Landscaping Your Septic System*
- *Stopping Aquatic Hitchhikers - It Makes Dollars and Sense*

> [download the issue](#)

> [visit the Minnesota Shoreland Management website](#)

Please feel free to share the newsletter with others; reproduce articles for other newsletters (please credit "From Shore to Shore" as the source); and submit shoreland and water quality articles, pictures of projects, upcoming local events, and suggestions for topics for upcoming issues. Your input and feedback are always welcome!

Extension Shoreland "Better Living" Videos Now Online

The *Better Living on Our Lakes and Rivers* video series is valuable for any lake or river shoreline property owner. The videos in the series are useful to individual viewers and are well suited for group viewing and discussion, such as at lake association gatherings. The video series includes:

- *Keeping Our Shores: Best Management Practices*
- *The Living Shore: Best Management Practices For Shoreland Vegetation*
- *Standing Firm Against Erosion: Best Management Practices for Shoreland Stabilization*
- *Septic System Revealed*
- *Shoreland Restoration: A Growing Solution*
- *Stop Exotics Clean Your Boat*
- *Water Conservation*

These videos are available to view free of charge at www.extension.umn.edu/Shoreland/videos. The length of the videos ranges from 11 to 24 minutes and can best be viewed using a cable, DSL or broadband internet connection.

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 Leah Posterick, lposterick@ifound.org.