

## Keynotes for Conservation Late July 2009



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Issue #97

July 30, 2009

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### Workshops & Conferences

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#### **Grant Research & Writing**

*Friday, August 21, 2009*

*10:00 am to 2:30 pm*

*Initiative Foundation, Little Falls*

This workshop is a valuable opportunity to hear professional writers and reviewers present techniques for researching funders and creating effective grant proposals.

Who should attend? Those who have little or no grant writing experience and wish to develop practical skills related to funder research and proposal writing and those who want to refresh their grant writing skills.

Seating is limited. \$55 per person includes snacks, lunch and workshop materials. To register complete and return [the registration form](#) or contact Jolene at 877/632-9255 or [jhoward@ifound.org](mailto:jhoward@ifound.org).

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

*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 contact: Laurie Fenner, Marketing & Groups/Conference Coordinator, Audubon Center of the North Woods, PO Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072, 320-245-2648, Fax: 320-245-5272, [www.audubon-center.org](http://www.audubon-center.org) or email: [fenner@audubon-center.org](mailto:fenner@audubon-center.org).

#### **Attention K-12 Teachers**

#### **The Earth Partnership for schools SUMMER INSTITUTE**

*August 3-7, 2009*

*Prairie Wetlands Learning Center, Fergus Falls*

Through a grant the Northland Arboretum will be able to sponsor several teachers to attend this summer institute. Graduate credit will be available. 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. For more information contact Dale Braddy at 218-829-8770.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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>.

### **New Shoreline Alternatives to “Hard Armor”**

*Thursday, August 13, 2009*

*8:30 am to 3:30 pm*

*Rockville, MN*

What are the alternatives to Riprap? The Minnesota Erosion Control Association and Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District are hosting a daylong workshop. John Hiebert, lakescaping expert with the Minnesota DNR will speech about why alternatives to riprap are preferred and what the alternatives are, vendors will discuss products that can assist your restoration project, and Greg Berg of Stearns SWCD will review site design considerations and characteristics. After lunch the class will travel to a private property to view an installation and engage in on-site questions. Pre-registration is required (by August 7<sup>th</sup>); registration costs \$50 for non MECA members and includes lunch. For more information call (763) 478-3606.

### **What is a Healthy Organization? (...and how do we become one?)**

*Thursday, August 13, 2009*

*1:00PM – 3:30PM*

*Initiative Foundation, Little Falls*

This workshop is intended for nonprofit leadership teams who wish to:

- Understand nonprofit effectiveness indicators and
- Strengthen their organization from the inside out by exploring the Initiative Foundation’s capacity-building programs for nonprofits.

With help from Initiative Foundation staff and a professional consultant, you’ll begin to assess your nonprofit’s strengths, challenges and current state of organizational development. You’ll also learn how a partnership with the foundation may help you become more effective, strategic and stable.

We strongly recommend that you come to this workshop in teams, including board member(s) if possible! This workshop is free to all nonprofit groups and organizations in our region, thanks to our partnership with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

For more information and to register complete and return [the registration form](#) or contact Tricia at 877/632-9255 or [tholig@ifound.org](mailto:tholig@ifound.org).

### **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/>

### **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 Kowalczak at [courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org) or 218-343-2180.

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## Funding Opportunities

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### Grants Promote Land Protection

<http://www.norcrossws.org/Foundmain.html>

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation provides support to local grassroots organizations throughout the United States that work to protect wild land. Priority is given to organizations that have difficulty raising the modest funds they need to do their critical work in the trenches of environmental conservation. Grants averaging \$5,000 are primarily provided for program-related office and field equipment, and public education and outreach materials. The Foundation also provides no-interest loans to local organizations to help them acquire land they have prioritized for conservation. Applications for both grants and loans may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website to review the application guidelines.

### Grants Enhance Health and Wellness in Company Communities

[http://diversity.walgreens.com/ourcommunity/corporate\\_giving.html#tributionProgram](http://diversity.walgreens.com/ourcommunity/corporate_giving.html#tributionProgram)

The Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program supports nonprofit organizations in local Walgreens communities throughout the United States. (Walgreens stores are located in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.) The company provides grants to organizations that focus on the following issues: access to health and wellness in their communities, pharmacy education programs and mentoring initiatives, civic and community outreach, and emergency and disaster relief. The largest share of the company's annual grants budget is allocated to programs that address the health needs of community residents. Online applications may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the Walgreens website to download the contribution guidelines.

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## Resources

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### New Resource for Vacation Home Rental Property Owners

Explore Minnesota Tourism has created a resource for vacation home rental owners in Minnesota. The webpage is a summary of information from regulatory and enforcement agencies across the state and is a valuable resource to help vacation home owners sort through the rules and regulations that affect the short-term rental of their properties and understand who to contact if they have questions or concerns.

For more information visit: <http://industry.exploreminnesota.com> or read the [news release](#).

### Excessive Aquatic Weed Removal Discouraged

*By Travis Grimler, Staff intern, Lake County Echo*

While some lakeshore homeowners prefer the appearance of pristine, sandy beach, the DNR is trying to discourage unnecessary removal of plants they consider vital to the health of entire lake systems.

The Minnesota DNR distributes a news release each summer reminding lake users that certain aquatic plant removal projects require DNR approval, as well as a permit. The permits help define boundary lines and help protect the environment.

While landowners may have access to the water through their lakeshore, there are certain limitations to how much land under the water landowners may claim and develop. Beyond the ordinary high water mark, the water, and land beneath the surface, is considered to be public property, so private development is limited.

"Even though people own the property, they don't own the lake," said Wayne Mueller, DNR aquatic plant specialist.

[Read full article...](#)

### **Aquatic Plant Removal May Require Permits**

Lakeshore property owners are reminded that many aquatic plant management activities require a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

DNR staff members who issue permits for aquatic plant removal can help lakeshore owners avoid harming the lake or river near their home, said Steve Enger, DNR Division of Ecological Resources.

"Aquatic plants serve many important functions in lakes. They prevent shoreline erosion, stabilize bottom sediments, provide habitat for fish and wildlife and tie up nutrients that might otherwise grow algae. We encourage shoreline property owners to keep the disturbance of near shore vegetation as small as possible," Enger said. "Removing too many aquatic plants can impair their ability to perform these important functions."

Lakeshore property owners can control a modest area of aquatic plants for swimming or boat docking without a permit from the DNR. Cutting, pulling, raking, or harvesting submersed vegetation like pondweeds, watermilfoil, or coontail – in an area for recreation is allowed under the following conditions:

- The cleared area may not exceed 2,500 square feet in size;
- The cleared area may not extend more than 50 feet along your shore, or more than one half your frontage width, whichever is less.
- If the cleared area does not reach open water, a 15-foot wide channel to open water may be added.
- The cut or pulled vegetation must be removed from the water.

If floating leaf vegetation like white or yellow water-lilies interferences with boat access, a lake shore property owner can mechanically maintain (cutting or pulling) a channel no more than 15 feet wide, extending to open water without a permit, under the following conditions:

- The cleared channel must remain in the same place from year to year, and
- The vegetation that is cut or pulled must be removed from the water.

A DNR aquatic plant management permit (which costs \$35) is required if your plans include the following:

- Using herbicides or algaecides;
- Removing emergent vegetation like bulrush, cattails or wild rice;
- Installing or operating an automated plan control device (such as the Cray WeedRoller, Beachgroomer or Lake Sweeper);
- Removing floating leaf vegetation in an area larger than the 15 feet wide channel mentioned above;
- Control submerged vegetation in an area larger than 2,500 square feet or wider than 50 feet;
- Removing or relocating a bog of any size.
- The DNR aquatic plant management regulations do not allow the following activities:
- Excavating the lake bottom for aquatic plant control;
- Use of hydraulic jets;
- Using lake-bottom barriers to destroy or prevent the growth of aquatic plants;
- Removing aquatic vegetation within posted fish-spawning areas;
- Removing aquatic plants from an undeveloped shoreline.

For more information on the Aquatic Plant management program control the nearest regional fisheries office as listed on the DNR's website, [www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/index.html) or by calling (888) MIN-MDNR.

### ***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](http://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.

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*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](mailto: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](mailto:lposterick@ifound.org).*