

This is the seventy-third edition of what is a "twice-monthly or so" News You Can Use newsletter for participants in one of the Initiative Foundation's Planning and Preservation programs. This newsletter is sent to everyone that has provided an e-mail at one of our Conservation-based training events. If you wish to be removed or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Don Hickman (dhickman@ifound.org) or Leah Posterick (lposterick@ifound.org). The goal of this publication is to share funding opportunities, new resources, and pending hearing or training events of common interest.

Please note that this newsletter is also now regularly posted on our website (www.ifound.org) on the Natural Resources page, under "news and notes."

News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #73

February 2, 2007

Government Training Services 2007 Land Use Planning Workshop Schedule

This spring the Initiative Foundation is again partnering with the Government Training Services (GTS) organization to offer superb training opportunities on the legal, civic, and cultural skills needed to serve on Planning Board, Boards of Adjustment, and elected office *at the Initiative Foundation's Little Falls office* in the large conference room. The first offering of the season is:

Shoreland Management – The Next Step: Friday, March 16th, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Discover the benefits of Minnesota's Alternative Shoreland Management Standards plus new and important principles in Shoreland management. Learn about the flexibility of this approach and become familiar with sample ordinance language. Topics include: open space requirements for shorelands, when and how to use conservation easements, the need for low-impact design principles, case studies and emerging issues. This program is offered in collaboration with the MN Dept. of Natural Resources.

Additional workshops scheduled in our offices in Little Falls include:

- The Basic of Planning and Zoning, April 14 (full day)
- Beyond the Basics of Planning and Zoning, May 2 (full day)
- Your role as Planning Commission Member (half-day), May 23 in the afternoon
- Advanced Zoning Applications, June 13 (full day)

Cost of full day sessions (including a box lunch) is \$125, and half days are \$50. Discounts are available for those sending all members of their planning commission or government body to a GTS workshop. For further information go to www.mngts.org or contact Carol Schoeneck at (651) 222-7409 ext 205 or (800) 569-68880 ext. 205, cschoeneck@mngts.org. If you have strong enough interest GTS would certainly also consider offering tailored workshops presented locally; contact Carol to discuss your needs and costs.

Free Paint and Coatings Available Through Initiative Foundation, Valspar

To help central Minnesota volunteers and organizations spruce up their community in 2007, the Valspar Corporation will again offer awards of free paint and coatings through its "Minnesota Beautiful" partnership with the Little Falls-based Initiative Foundation.

Representatives from the Initiative Foundation and Valspar will select up to ten restoration or beautification projects to receive coatings based on their visual impact, public benefit, volunteer participation and support, intended use and benefit to the needy.

Projects that may qualify for a grant include historic buildings, community centers, public buildings, facilities for seniors or people with disabilities, murals or other visual impact projects. Ineligible projects include churches, city maintenance, schools (except murals) and privately owned buildings.

Valspar grant applications are available from the Initiative Foundation and are due by **March 1, 2007**. For more information, contact Dan Frank at (877) 632-9255 toll-free or visit www.ifound.org.

Anderson Brothers Family Fund Invites Grant Applications

Thanks to a fund created by Anderson Brothers Construction and the Jim and Linnea Anderson family of Brainerd, nonprofit organizations may apply now for grants to be awarded this summer.

The Initiative Foundation-hosted Anderson Brothers Family Fund will award grants to eligible nonprofits for projects or programs supporting children, youth and families; the elderly or special needs groups; and environmental initiatives. Eligible organizations must serve Cass County, Crow Wing County, northern Morrison County (including Little Falls) or the Park Rapids area. Priority will be given to volunteer-driven projects and organizations that have few other means of support. Grants awarded from this fund typically range in size from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Requests for on-going operating expenses are discouraged and requests for capital expenses are ineligible.

For more information go to:

http://www.ifound.org/news_newsroom.php?NWArticleID=91

Student Interns Available

The Community Assistantship Program is pleased to announce a Summer grant program. The grant will allow rural communities to hire a University of Minnesota student to work on a project defined by those communities. Proposals are due March 30th, approved projects will run from May 28th, 2007 to August 26th, 2007.

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 in Greater Minnesota (plus outer suburbs in the Twin Cities). 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.

Brownfield Workshops

Polluted Land is a leading barrier to redevelopment. Find out about financial assistance available to put polluted land back into productive use.

You are invited to attend an informational session at the Melrose City Center, Tuesday, February 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Learn about programs that assist with the cost of cleaning up contaminated land. Grant funds, reimbursement funds and loans are available to investigate or clean up contaminants. State and federal funds are available for investigation and cleanup activities at sites with:

- Agricultural chemicals
- Asbestos and hazardous materials
- Dry cleaner chemicals
- Petroleum contamination
- Groundwater contamination
- Soil Contamination

Call the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development at (651) 296-5005.

Community Center Workshop

March 15th, 2007, 9:00 - 4:00 at the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls.

Learn what to do and what not to do from those have been there, as well as hearing from informed resources about fund raising, operations, swimming pools, bonding and tax impacts. More information to follow as the workshop agenda develops. For more information contact dfrank@ifound.org

Is there a Water and/or Wastewater System in Your Future?

You are invited to take part in information training sessions designed to help your community prepare for upcoming or recently completed water and/or wastewater projects. Presented by the Minnesota Rural Water Association in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and USDA Rural Development.

These training sessions feature two three-hour sessions offered on consecutive days, and include: "Technological Options You May Consider," "How to Hire a Design Consultant or Engineer," "Sources of Funding and Technical Assistance," and "Budgeting and Setting Rates." For the complete schedule or to register for this or other training opportunities visit www.mrwa.com or call (800) 367-6792.

After completing appropriate training, some rural low-income communities may qualify for small grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development which are administered by the Initiative Foundation. To learn more about this opportunity contact Don Hickman at dhickman@ifound.org or (320) 631-2043.

A second opportunity for training will be the "**Innovative Approaches to Wastewater Operational Problems**" conference, Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. Hosted by the Central States Water Environment Association and the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association in collaboration with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, this event is intended to provide cost-effective ideas for improving performance and reducing operating costs. To register contact the Minnesota Section of CSWEA at 525-60th Street South, St. Cloud, MN 56301 or call Elaine Hartfiel, (320) 255-7226.

Thirdly, the **MN Onsite Wastewater Association (MOWA)** is conducting their annual convention on Feb. 26 - 28, 2007 at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center near Alexandria, MN. The theme of this year's convention is: "Meeting the Challenges: Technology, Policy, Business" This three day event will feature a Keynote Address by Dr. Bryan Brooks, researcher with the Center for Reservoir and Aquatic Systems Research and Baylor Wastewater Research Program at Baylor University, Waco, TX.

The MOWA convention provides industry professionals the opportunity to learn, have fun and network with other professionals in the onsite wastewater treatment industry. Dust off the winter blues and join MOWA for three days that can really benefit your business! More information is available on the web at www.mowa-mn.com.

Audubon Center of the North Woods: Dinners at the Lake

Located just 90 miles from Duluth, Twin Cities and St. Cloud at 54165 Audubon Dr. Sandstone, MN 55072

February 17 - "A Summer with the Peregrines," Julie O'Connor

March 17 - "The Wildcat Sanctuary"

April 14- "Wolves in our Midst," Peggy Callahan

May 13 - Mother's Day Brunch-Musicians [Douglas Wood](#) and [Bryan Wood](#)

Reservations Required; Dinner Begins at 6:30 (appetizers at 6:00); Presentations follow. *Call ahead and reserve a spot for your family:* Cost: \$18.00 for adults; children under 12 - \$10.00. Toll free: (888) 404.7743 or (320) 245.2648, email: audubon1@audubon-center.org

Ready, Set, Grow! 2007 Garden Expo

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Service Master Gardeners, ISD 181 Community Education and Central Lakes College Living Legacy Gardens.

Saturday, March 31st, 2007, Central Lakes College in Brainerd, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker - Julie Weisenhorn, Landscape Specialist, UMN Extension Service
"Home Landscaping - Where Do I Start?"

Additional breakout sessions: beekeeper's garden, gardening in containers, starting seeds, lawn care, perennial maintenance, composting, rain gardens and rain barrels, ornamental grasses, soils and fertilizers and others.

Registration cost is \$25; Registration deadline is March 28th; Call Community Education Office at (218) 454-6924 to register.

10th Annual Minnesota Rural Summit, "THRIVING BY DESIGN!"
May 10 & 11, 2007, Cragun's Resort – Brainerd, MN
Come for a great conference and stay for the fishing opener!

REGISTER TODAY and SAVE, "Holiday Season - Year End Special"
Register online: <http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=109597>

Join Minnesota's community leaders from around the state to learn how design has figured into our past, present, and future: how in the emerging design economy, design principles can be used to integrate complex economic, demographic, physical and social issues into clear strategies that position communities, regions and our state to thrive well into the 21st century.

As Minnesota begins preparation for its 150th anniversary of statehood (May 11, 2008), we'll get a head start with the Summit, which will seek answers to this question:

After 150 years of statehood, if you could start over from scratch, knowing what we know now and the tools we have, combined with the ingenuity of our people, and facing the global pressures around us, how would you "design" Minnesota today to be economically and environmentally sustainable, to carry on with our high quality of life well in the 21st century?

Detailed Summit Agenda

http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/2007_summit/agenda.htm

And if you are feeling generous at year-end, please support the ongoing work of Minnesota Rural Partners with a donation:
<http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org/donations.htm>.

For more information on the Summit, and on the other work of MRP, go to www.minnesotaruralpartners.org or call 651-645-9403.