

This is the seventy-fourth 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](mailto:dhickman@ifound.org)) or Leah Posterick ([lposterick@ifound.org](mailto: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](http://www.ifound.org)) on the Natural Resources page, under "news and notes."

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**News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #74**

**February 15, 2007**

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### **Save the Date for Green Routes Workshops in February and March!**

Have you heard the term “Sustainable Tourism” and want to learn more about it? Are you a business owner who wants to make your business more environmentally sustainable?

Do you want to hear what kinds of things your community can do to retain its unique sense of place? Or are you a current Green Routes participant who wants to hear what has been happening over the last year and pick up a couple ideas on how to better “green” your business?

Green Routes is sponsoring six workshops across Minnesota. The workshops will feature George Wilkes from the Angry Trout Café in Grand Marais and will showcase real life examples of what is working in sustainable tourism in Minnesota. There will be resources and tips for making your business more sustainable and ideas of how to help your region retain its local flavor.

#### **Dates & locations:**

Tuesday, February 20, Bluefin Bay, Tofte, MN  
Tuesday, March 6, Olmsted County Extension Office, Rochester, MN  
Wednesday, March 7, Rhein River Arts Center, New Ulm, MN  
Thursday, March 8, JB Yates, Granite Falls, MN  
Tuesday, March 13, Fireside Grill, Bagley, MN  
Wednesday, March 14, Prairie Bay Grill, Baxter, MN

**Time:** 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Lunch will be provided

**Cost:** \$15, includes lunch and program materials (Scholarships available, please inquire)

**Contact:** Renewing the Countryside, 612.871.1541, [info@rtcinfo.org](mailto:info@rtcinfo.org),  
[www.greenroutes.org](http://www.greenroutes.org)

**Sponsors:** Minneapolis Foundation, Renewing the Countryside, University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, Clean up the River Environment (CURE), Initiative Foundation

More details and information about how to register coming soon!

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## **Attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Protect Our Great Outdoors Citizens' Day at the Capitol!**

Minnesotans treasure our Great Outdoors. Enjoying our lakes, rivers, wetlands, prairies and forests is an important part of our way of life and who we are. But today, our Great Outdoors are threatened. And as up to 1.2 million people move into Minnesota in the coming years, the pressures on our parks, wildlife habitat and natural areas will intensify and our need for energy will continue to grow.

On Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, hundreds of citizens from across Minnesota are coming to St. Paul to rally at the Capitol rotunda and meet with their Legislators. We need to make smart investments to protect and restore Minnesota's Great Outdoors so we can keep enjoying it today and be able to pass it on to our kids tomorrow. That is the goal of Protect Minnesota's Great Outdoors.

This event is sponsored by the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. The Partnership is a coalition of more than 80 non-profit environmental and conservation organizations working together to protect, restore and enjoy Minnesota's precious natural resources.

**Date:** Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**Location:**

Lakes and Plains Regional Council of Carpenters and Joiners Union Hall  
710 Olive St, St. Paul and on to the State Capitol  
(Directions to the Carpenter's Hall: call Leah with Minnesota Waters (320) 223-1727)

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. **Welcome** (*710 Olive St, St. Paul*)

9:00 a.m. **Issue and Lobby Training**

11:15 a.m. **Board Shuttle Bus to Capitol**

12:00 p.m. **Rally in the Rotunda** (*State Capitol, St. Paul*)

12:30 p.m. **Legislative meetings** (*Capitol and State Office Building*)

3:00 p.m. **Check out and Evaluation** (*State Office Building, room to be determined*)

Buses will leave the Capitol between 3:00-3:30 PM

**FREE BUS ROUTE**

**Registration is required – deadline was February 13, but please call Leah Peterson anyway if you can come:** (320) 223-1727 or [leahp@minnesotawaters.org](mailto:leahp@minnesotawaters.org)

**Times listed are bus *departure* times. Please plan accordingly.**

5:45 AM Brainerd/Baxter: Best Buy (off 371 in Baxter)

7:15 AM St. Cloud: Best Western Americanna Inn (off Hwy 10)

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## **Mediation Services**

The St. Cloud State University-based Institute for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has acquired funding to provide ADR services to clients with financial need. Funding comes from the Bremer Foundation, Initiative Foundation and State of Minnesota. Potential clients can be individuals, groups, or organizations who meet the income/revenue eligibility requirements. ADR is also interested in helping cities and townships in any type of land dispute. For clients who meet the income/revenue eligibility requirements, ADR services are free of charge. For clients who do not meet the income/revenue requirements, ADR services will be assessed on a sliding scale basis.

ADR services include mediation (both interest-based and transformative), peace circles, facilitation, and strategic planning. Translation and transportation services can also be provided for income qualifying clients.

For more information on the Institute for ADR, please visit [our website](#). If you know of someone, a group, or an organization who is in need of financial assistance and ADR services, please contact us. Institute for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), (320) 308-4962.

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## **Associate Planner Position and Senior Planner Position**

Community Growth Institute

The Community Growth Institute is seeking qualified individuals to fill one full-time position for an associate planners and one part-time position for a senior planner. Both positions are in the Institute's Brainerd office.

Information on the position, and an on-line application form, is available on the [Community Growth Institute website](#).

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## **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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.mngts.org) or contact Carol Schoeneck at (651) 222-7409 ext 205 or (800) 569-68880 ext. 205, [cschoeneck@mngts.org](mailto: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.

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### **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](http://www.ifound.org).

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### **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 check out the [news release](#).

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### **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 30<sup>th</sup>**, approved projects will run from May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to August 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 \(preferred\)](#).

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.

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### **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.

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### **Community Center Workshop**

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

#### ***CenterPieces: The costs and considerations of community centers.***

Is your community thinking about building and operating a community center or other community facility?

This is your chance to learn about the entire process – from initial funding and operating expenses to taxation and bonding issues. Hear from professionals and community panelists who will provide firsthand knowledge and guidance for your community.

[To view the registration form and more details...](#)

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### **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](mailto:audubon1@audubon-center.org)

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### **Workshop: An Introduction to Policy Governance**

Thursday, March 22, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls

This one-day orientation to Board Policy Governance will:

- Demonstrate how good governance process adds unique value to your organization;
- Provide hands-on activities so you really learn the mechanics of good governance;
- Outlines the most effective process for implementing Policy Governance in your organization;
- Provides a solid orientation to new board members of organizations already using Policy Governance.

This workshop is presented by Stacy Sjoren, owner of Out of the Woods Consulting. Ms. Sjoren is one of only 300 individuals world-wide to be personally trained by John Carver, creator of Policy Governance, at this Policy Governance Academy. The cost is \$90, and pre-registration is required at: Out of the Woods Consulting, 2010-7<sup>th</sup> Street No., Sartell, MN 56377, [www.stacysjoren.com](http://www.stacysjoren.com), (320) 654-0416.

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### **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 28<sup>th</sup>; Call Community Education Office at (218) 454-6924 to register.

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### **Hold the Date: Seven Revolutions Conference**

"Give us one day. We'll give you America's most vivid glimpse at 2025."

On **Friday, April 13, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** at the St. Cloud Civic Center

Twenty years ago, how valuable would it have been to know the trends that shape our world today? Would have taken the same paths? Would you business and community be different, or better?

In a bold effort to educate leaders the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. predicted seven revolutions that will drive global change through 2025. Rooted in research, each trend embodies both promise and peril.

CSIS Vice President Erik Peterson will deliver this sought-after presentation, followed by a panel discussion and brainstorming on local impacts. As a community leader, your ideas will shape how our region will take action.

Inject future-focus into your organization. Cost will be \$55; watch this space for additional information!