

This is the seventy-fifth 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 #75**

**March 9, 2007**

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### **Seven Revolutions conference - April 13, 2007, St. Cloud Civic Center**

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

Twenty years ago, how valuable would it have been to know the trends that shape our world today? Would you have taken the same paths? Would your 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 Minnesota expert 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. Bring your leadership team, and register today.

Presented by the Initiative Foundation. For more information visit [www.ifound.org/7R](http://www.ifound.org/7R).

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### **Land Acquisition Funds for Habitat Preservation**

#### [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Acres for America](#)

Acres for America, a partnership between Wal-Mart stores and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was established to provide funding for projects that conserve important habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants through acquisition of interest in real property. The goal of the program is to offset the footprint of Wal-Mart’s domestic facilities on at least an acre by acre basis through conservation of critical habitats. Preference will be given to acquisitions that are part of published conservation plans (North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, etc.), State Wildlife Action Plans, or Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans. The annual pre-proposal deadlines are April 1 and September 1. Visit the website listed above for program details and application guidelines.

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## **Green Routes Workshops!**

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 workshops across Minnesota which 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, 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

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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.stacysjogren.com](http://www.stacysjogren.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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### **Guide To Rural Living CD Available**

"The Guide to Rural Living" is a comprehensive guide designed to help rural landowners in east central Minnesota specifically, but all areas of the state - get acquainted with country living.

The Guide to Rural Living includes a variety of topics such as land issues and zoning, wetland and wildlife management, small acreage farming and living in rural areas among many others. There are over 100 topic fact sheets. A resource directory is included in the guide. This features an extensive list and contact information for many federal, state and local public service agencies, educational resources and more.

Topics include Wetland Management, Woodland Management, Managing for Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, Non-Native Invasive Species, Erosion Management, Controlling Water and Chemical Run-Off, Shoreland Management and Permits, Rain Gardens, Native Plant Management, Surface and Ground Water Quality, Managing Your Septic System, Managing Your Well, Rural Fire Protection, ATV and Snowmobile Regulations, Road Maintenance and Right of Ways, Burning Permits, raising livestock on a few acres, pastures and hayland, and much more.

The guide on CD is available for only \$5.00. Call 320-679-3781 ext. 102, or email [Jan.Anderson@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:Jan.Anderson@mn.nacdn.net). You can view it online at [www.extension.umn.edu/ruralliving](http://www.extension.umn.edu/ruralliving). For more information, contact Valerie Prax,

Regional Extension Educator, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Mora Center,  
[malmq002@umn.edu](mailto:malmq002@umn.edu).

The Guide to Rural Living has been produced through a cooperative effort by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District, Resource Conservation and Development, and the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Mora Regional Center.

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### **Dynamic Farmers' Markets – Spring 2007 Conference**

March 29, 2007, 8:15-4 p.m., Staples, MN at T-Maxwell's Restaurant.

Presented by the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Minnesota Farmers' Markets Association and the University of Minnesota Center for Public Health Preparedness.

This is “a conference for those involved with farmers' markets – whether you're selling at the farmers' markets, serving on the board, or a community supporting or wanting to start a farmers' market.”

Mail registration to Marilyn Nysetvold Johnson, 15125 West Vermillion Circle NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304, Phone (763) 434-0400.

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### **Watershed phosphorus source assessment workshops planned**

To help improve Minnesota's water quality, four workshops are scheduled across central Minnesota to train conservationists and concerned citizens how to identify sources of phosphorus into lakes and streams. Excess phosphorus in surface water can increase algal growth and reduce water quality.

The free workshops will give participants hands-on training using the Watershed Treatment Model, a free and easy-to-use computer program that compares the relative contribution of diverse sources of phosphorus into lakes or streams. The model can be used as an educational tool to explain phosphorus sources, and it can help planners recognize the sources of phosphorus in a particular watershed.

“The challenge in central Minnesota is that there can be many different land uses in a single small watershed,” explained instructor, Ann Lewandowski, University of Minnesota. “The Watershed Treatment Model helps you compare the amounts of phosphorus from municipal waste, agricultural runoff, septic systems, and other sources.”

The three-hour training sessions are scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> in St. Cloud, June 7<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, June 21<sup>st</sup> in Park Rapids, and June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Brainerd. For more information or

to register, contact Ann Lewandowski by e-mailing [alewand@umn.edu](mailto:alewand@umn.edu) or calling 612-624-6765.

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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 at [www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/instituteADR](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/instituteADR). If you know of someone, a group, or an organization who are in need of financial assistance and ADR services, please contact us. Institute for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), (320) 308-4962.

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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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### **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](http://www.ifound.org/news_newsroom.php?NWArticleID=91)

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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): <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.

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### **Funding opportunity for Communities working on “Active Living”**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota is inviting sealed proposals from qualified municipal and county government entities to integrate active living principles into their communities. Specifically, this funding opportunity is designed to support these communities in preparing/revising comprehensive development, pedestrian or bicycle plans, and in identifying relevant ordinance subsections for modification in keeping with the new plans.

Applicants will be selected for demonstrating their locally driven commitment to developing community designs with the health of their residents in mind. The overarching aim of this opportunity is to build the long-term capacity of communities throughout Minnesota to promote environments that encourage physical activity.

Blue Cross anticipates awarding approximately 15-25 contracts through this RFP. Each award is subject to contract negotiation. Contracts will range from \$5,000 to \$75,000. Contract amounts will be determined, in part, in consideration of the geographic scope/population size of the applicant. Contract periods will be up to one year.

Proposals are now being accepted, but must be postmarked no later than June 1, 2007. For more information visit: [www.preventionminnesota.com](http://www.preventionminnesota.com), click on “community funding,” and then “funding guidelines.” This RFP is #523, Active Community Planning version 2.”

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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

**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)