

This is the seventy-sixth 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 #76

April 2, 2007

Seven Revolutions conference - April 13, 2007

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.

Lee Pfannmuller, Director of Ecological Services at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be one of several panelists that describe how these global trends will affect our local communities and regional natural resources.

Presented by the Initiative Foundation. For more information visit www.ifound.org/7R.

Change is coming; our communities have choices; our choices have consequences

The St. Cloud Area is one of the fastest growing in the entire nation, and this rapid growth represents dynamic opportunities, even as it challenges our communities to keep pace with infrastructure, schools, workforce development, safe and efficient transportation, affordable housing, and preservation of natural resources and recreation opportunities. Please join the St. Cloud Area Joint Powers Board for a luncheon hosted by the Initiative Foundation to explore what this means in your City.

Thursday, April 19th, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Mulligan’s Event Center, Sartell

Tom Gillaspy, State Demographer, will describe the changes that we can anticipate in age, income, ethnic origin, and education, and how this will influence the choices we make.

John Shardlow, land use planner, will present a recently completed review of the St. Cloud Area Joint Powers Board, recognizing successes and accomplishments, but also highlighting emerging challenges and choices.

Pre-registration is required and a \$10 cover charge expected at the time of registration. You may choose between a chicken salad croissant sandwich and vegetarian lasagna for lunch. The deadline for registering is Tuesday, April 10th at 4 p.m.

Mulligan's Event Center is located at 601 N. Pinecone Road, Sartell; (320) 656-9000; www.mulliganevents.com.

Please mail registrations (with payment, contact information and meal preference) to: Leah Posterick, the Initiative Foundation, 405 First Street SE, Little Falls, MN 56345.

The Initiative Foundation & MN Association of Volunteer Administration presents -
MAXIMIZING YOUR VOLUNTEER POTENTIAL
MAY 17, 9:00-4:00 AT THE INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Join this workshop and learn practical ways to support and enhance the tremendous value volunteers add to our communities. Anyone who coordinates volunteers in a formal volunteer program or an informal, community-based project will find this workshop useful.

General sessions include: *Volunteerism – More Relevant Than Ever, Strengthening the Spirit of Volunteerism in Your Community, Recruiting Volunteers, Retention & Recognition of Volunteers.*

Breakout sessions include: *Supervising Volunteers and Working With Volunteers in Coalitions & Community-Based Projects.*

Program Fee: \$65. More information on our website at www.ifound.org.

Green by Design Conference

Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, together with their partners the Family Housing Fund and Enterprise, believe that by supporting sustainable development and green affordable housing we can provide a needed local response to a global challenge. While our focus is on meeting the needs of low-income families and communities, we see direct connections

between our work in green affordable housing and similar work within the environmental community and the green design fields.

It is truly time to think in new ways. We feel it is critical that more developers, contractors, architects, planners, property managers, and other professionals throughout Minnesota adopt the use of proven green design and green building methods to meet the housing needs of the community at large, especially our lowest income households. The Minnesota Green Communities initiative is one of the state's premier resources for providing practical tools to these pioneers. The market is ready and waiting.

On May 16 and 17, 2007, they will co-convene the second annual Minnesota Green Communities Green by Design Conference at The Depot in downtown Minneapolis.

I encourage you to register for this exciting two-day event. It offers a rich assortment of workshops on urban and rural design, green building, and provocative presentations on global warming, peak oil production, and our increasingly unstable energy future.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. will be the keynote speaker for this event.

The Green by Design Conference will present the most accessible formulas for accelerating the rate of change toward sustainable development, healthier communities, and environmental stewardship in our cities and towns. By adopting the best green building practices we will ensure that our children live healthier lives, enjoy a cleaner environment, and have the ability to reach their full potential because our communities are designed better.

<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=122404>

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 Boards, 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:

The next session within our region is: ***The Basics of Planning and Zoning***, Saturday, April 14th, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This workshop covers the nuts and bolts of planning, zoning and subdivision regulation. Participants learn where they fit into the planning and zoning process, and how to maximize their impact. The target audience for this workshop is those who are new to land use planning or those interested in an extensive review of fundamentals.

Additional workshops scheduled in our offices in Little Falls include:

- 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) 569-6880 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.

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. 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.

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

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

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

Minnesota Waters Upcoming Workshops:

Citizen Stream & Lake Sampling Trainings—Crow Watershed

Workshop II: Saturday April 28, 2007 Spicer, MN 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers will receive training on how to take water samples and proper protocols to ensure high quality data. We will also practice with monitoring equipment; identify sites for sampling; and set-up timelines for monitoring and reporting data. Because citizen monitors are an important part of the data-to-information-to action pathway – we'll talk about data use and establish an action plan for each individual monitor. If you are a new or current monitor in these watersheds below, please join us to monitor the health of our waters. Partners: Minnesota Waters, Middle Fork Watershed District, Crow River Organization of Water (CROW), North Fork Crow River Watershed District, Wright SWCD, & Wright County Water Management. The Minnesota Legislature, through the MPCA, has provided State funds through the Clean Water Legacy Act for Surface Water Assessment Grants for these workshops. For more information on these workshops contact: Julie Klocker at 320-796-0888, middlefork@charterinternet.com & Diane Sander at 763-682-1933 Ext.112, diane.sander@mn.nacdnet.net

How To Monitor Lake & Rivers for Road Salt

Tuesday April 3, 2007; Hamel Community Center 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

Join us for a fun day of learning. We will start with a discussion on the state of Minnesota's lakes and rivers, and the impact that road salt has on our water. We will give you information on how winter maintenance crews, and individuals, can reduce the environmental impacts of road salt. The majority of the day will be spent learning how to

monitor lakes and rivers for salt. This will include simple monitoring techniques for informational purposes to more technical monitoring that would be accepted by agencies collecting data. We will review how to interpret the data collected and talk about action plans. Our target audience is citizens or those that are involved in volunteer monitoring programs. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). For registration or information contact: Fortin Consulting, Inc., (763) 478-3606, christin@fortinconsulting.com

Citizen Stream Sampling Training-Sauk River Watershed

Friday, April 20, 2007; location to be determined; 1 pm to 4:30 pm

Partnering with the Sauk River Watershed District, Minnesota Waters will provide training to help volunteers assess stream health. Training will include sampling site selection, equipment maintenance, and proper protocols for collecting, storing and transporting water quality samples. We'll also talk about data use and establish an action plan for each individual monitor. The Minnesota Legislature, through the MPCA, has provided State funds through the Clean Water Legacy Act for Surface Water Assessment Grants for this workshop. For more information and registration, contact the Amy at Sauk River Watershed, 320-352-2231, amy@srwdmn.org

Lake Data Assessment

Friday, May 4, 2007; Central Lakes College, Brainerd; 8:30 am -4:30 pm

Have lake data, but not sure how to analyze and interpret it? If yes, this interactive workshop is for you! You will be guided step-by-step through the process of gathering, organizing, "crunching" and interpreting your Secchi disk, total phosphorus and chlorophyll 'a' data in conjunction with data from other sources. A step-by-step lake assessment guide and lunch will be provided. Space is limited to two participants per lake. Acceptance is on a first come basis. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). For information or registration contact: Sandra Holm, 218 765 3309, RNSholm@brainerd.net

Citizen Lake Sampling Training for Crow Wing County

Wednesday May 9, 2007; location and time TBD

Minnesota Waters is working with the Crow Wing County Soil & Water Conservation Department to develop a training workshop for citizen water quality monitors in Crow Wing County. Training will include sampling site selection, equipment maintenance, and proper protocols for collecting, storing and transporting water quality samples. There will also be hands on experience collecting samples. Parameters included are total phosphorus, chlorophyll 'a' and Secchi disk. The Minnesota Legislature, through the MPCA, has provided State funds through the Clean Water Legacy Act for Surface Water Assessment Grants for this workshop. For information or registration Contact: Carrie Ackerman @ Carrie.Ackerman@mn.nacdnet.net, 218-828-6197

How Does Your Aquatic Garden Grow? Aquatic Plant Monitoring

Wed. May 23, 2007; Warner Lake County Park; Clearwater, MN 10am – 3 pm

Ever wonder what all those plants are growing in and around your shoreland and why they're there? Then join us for an exciting day of learning about aquatic and emergent plant identification and monitoring basics for lake and lawn. Session is interactive and informal. All materials, including a laminated field guide will be provided. Lunch and refreshments are also included. Registration is \$15, although scholarships are available for citizens. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR). For information or registration contact: Sandra Holm, 218 765 3309, RNSholm@brainerd.net

Citizen Lake Sampling Training-Sauk River Watershed

Friday, June 1, 2007; location to be determined; 1pm – 5pm

Partnering with the Sauk River Watershed District, Minnesota Waters will train citizen volunteers in assessing lake health in the watershed. Training will include sampling site selection, equipment maintenance, and proper protocols for collecting, storing and transporting water quality samples. There will also be hands on experience collecting samples. Parameters included are total phosphorus, chlorophyll 'a' and Secchi disk. The Minnesota Legislature, through the MPCA, has provided State funds through the Clean Water Legacy Act for Surface Water Assessment Grants for this workshop. For more information and registration, contact the Amy at Sauk River Watershed, 320-352-2231, amy@srwdmn.org