

This is the seventy-seventh 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 #77**

**May 24, 2007**

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### **Fund Development for Nonprofits Sustaining & Growing, From Practical to Professional**

*Tuesday, June 12, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Initiative Foundation, Little Falls*

Who Should Attend? Nonprofit directors, staff and board members who are responsible for fundraising plans and initiatives. Current participants in the Healthy Organizations Partnership (HOP) program qualify for at least two scholarships.

#### **Fundraising: Sustaining & Growing**

- Assessing Your Ability to Raise More Funds
- Developing a Realistic Plan to Raise More Funds
- Building Your Case for Support
- Annual Campaign Basics: Special Focus on the Annual Campaign Solicitation letter
- Maintaining Lifelong Donors

#### **Planning Giving: Practical to Professional Tips & Tools**

- Cultivating and Prospecting for Planned Gifts
- Planned Giving Terms Defined
- Planned Giving for the “Small Shop”
- Tools of the Trade: Wills, Trusts, Annuities, etc.
- Initiative Foundation Planned Giving Demo

*Register by Monday, June 4!* \$70 fee includes lunch and materials. Return the registration form with payment. Questions? Please email [grants@ifound.org](mailto:grants@ifound.org).

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## **Rain Garden Workshop at the Northland Arboretum**

*June 5th and 6th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm*

A rain garden is a shallow depression created to collect rainwater and allow it to infiltrate rather than to runoff into storm sewers and from there into lakes and rivers. Rain gardens also filter sediments and many pollutants before they enter the water cycle. Rain gardens are gaining in popularity because they add beauty to the landscape while helping to keep our waters clean.

The Northland Arboretum in Brainerd is sponsoring a two-day Rain Garden Workshop on June 5th and 6th from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm. During the design portion of the workshop (June 5th), participants will learn how to design and install an effective rain garden to minimize rainwater runoff from their property. Please bring a simple sketch of your property and photographs of your site if available. During the hands-on portion of the workshop (June 6th) participants will have the opportunity to participate in the installation of a rain garden at the Northland Arboretum.

The cost of this workshop is \$10 for Northland Arboretum Members and \$20 for Non-Members. To register, please complete a registration form and mail it, along with a check, to the Northland Arboretum. Registration forms are available at the Northland Arboretum and at the CWC Extension Office. *Registrations must be received by May 29th.*

If you have questions about this workshop please contact Jackie Froemming, CWC Extension Educator, at (218) 824-1068 or [froem022@umn.edu](mailto:froem022@umn.edu)

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## **Conservation Based Affordable Housing: Promoting Land Conservation and Housing Opportunity**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota District Council of the Urban Land Institute invite you to attend this final co-sponsored event on Conservation Development.

*Wednesday, June 13, 2007, Minnesota Humanities Center, 987 East Ivy Avenue, St. Paul, 8 – 11 a.m. Space is limited to 100 – Register soon at [www.minnesota.uli.org](http://www.minnesota.uli.org).*

Interest in conservation development has grown significantly in recent years, yet a key concern remains about the affordability of housing in many of these projects. The land and construction costs of conservation development often make it difficult to provide an affordable component. At the same time, central city, suburban, and exurban communities are focused on providing affordable housing that meets the needs of the range of community residents. These conditions provide an important opportunity to marry these two objectives of conservation and affordability – taking advantage of

market interest, public incentives, development policies, and political will. Thankfully, new approaches to conservation based affordable housing are emerging, pointing to the opportunities and benefits of integrating these dual objectives.

This event is free, with funding provided by the Bush Foundation and MnDNR.

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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 Boards, Boards of Adjustment, and elected office at the Initiative Foundation's Little Falls office in the large conference room.

The next session within our region is: *Advanced Zoning Applications, Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

This workshop supplements other land use planning programs with a more in-depth exploration of current land use uses such as:

- Everything there is to know about variances – honest!
- Understanding proper use, and limitations to the use, of conditional use permits;
- Establishing an utilizing a planned use development ordinance that provides flexibility and enhanced control
- Understanding the benefits provided by Performance Zoning
- How to approach the regulation of signs
- How to incorporate Urban Design standards into community zoning ordinances;
- Recent court cases and their implications;
- Regulating challenging uses when faced with Federal preemption or constitutional limitations (telecommunication facilities, adult uses, etc.)
- Prepared effective findings of fact.

Audience: For those who have a thorough knowledge of land use issues (3+ years of experience) or who have attended both “The Basics” and “Beyond the Basics.” It is especially valuable for staff.

For further information go to [www.mngts.org](http://www.mngts.org) or contact Carol Schoeneck at (651) 222-7409 ext 205 or (800) 569-6880 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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## **Central Region CERTs Meeting**

Eco-Domes Conservation Campus – Brainerd, Minnesota

*Thursday, June 14th, 2007, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm*

Directions: Eco-Domes Conservation Campus, 9121 County Road 23, Brainerd, MN 56401-0806. To get to the Eco-Domes, travel five miles east of Brainerd, MN on Highway 18, then south five miles on County Road 23 (South Long Lake Road). Phone 218-764-2321 for more information.

*PLEASE RSVP to Joel Haskard @ either 612-625-8759 or [hask004@umn.edu](mailto:hask004@umn.edu) so we can get an accurate count for food and the tour. Everyone is welcome, but space is limited! Note: Carpooling is encouraged; parking is limited.*

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### **Choosing Our Future: Conservation-Based Development in MN**

If you agree that people need places to live and that land is a precious commodity;

If you agree that the natural assets of the land are important to people and essential to the health of our environment;

Then you will enjoy learning how we can protect significant portions of our environment, create well-designed home sites and commercial sites, and provide profits for the landowners and developers.

Examples will include urban areas, undeveloped wooded and agricultural lands, and lake/river areas. The discussion will be led by Randall Arendt, nationally recognized expert on conservation-based developments.

This conference will be very helpful if you are a:

- land seller, realtor, developer, builder,
- County or Township or City official or planning board member,
- Environmentalist,
- Conservation professional
- Interested citizen.

Please prepare yourself to help choose the future of your community. Come hear Randall Arendt at Saint John's University on Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

To see more and register, go to:

[www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb\\_highlights/summer/Conservation%20Design%20Conference.htm](http://www.csbsju.edu/arboretum/arb_highlights/summer/Conservation%20Design%20Conference.htm)

PS – The cost is only \$40 for a whole day including materials and meals. Discounts of 20% available to any group of 5 or more.

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## **Open House and Presentation at the Lake Alexander Preserve**

*Saturday, June 16, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Open House, 2:00 pm Presentation*

The Nature Conservancy's Lake Alexander Preserve is located southeast of Brainerd in an unfragmented expanse of oak and pine forests, wetlands, ponds, and lakes. This 2,000-acre preserve is a vital link in a chain of mature, undisturbed habitats stretching across Morrison and Crow Wing Counties that support many unique species, such as red-shouldered hawk bald eagle, timber wolf, and black bear.

From Little Falls, take U.S. Highway 10 north 15 miles to Cushing. At Cushing, turn north on County Road 5 and continue five miles to the preserve entrance on the shores of Lake Alexander.

Join us Saturday afternoon for an Open House at our Lake Alexander Preserve in Central Minnesota. Learn about our conservation work in this 180,000-acre landscape and an update from Kristen Blann, The Nature Conservancy's Aquatic Ecologist on our new initiative focusing on aquatic systems in central Minnesota. Refreshments will be available

For details and to RSVP contact: Jennifer Linehan, 218-575-3032, [jlinehan@tnc.org](mailto:jlinehan@tnc.org)

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## **Fairview Conservancy: A Low Impact Development**

*Thursday, June 14, 2007 – at the Fairview Conservancy in Baxter - Free.*

All are invited. Speaker stations from 3:15 - 4:30 p.m., with a networking reception hosted by Syvantis Technologies from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

This BAELN event will be held at the Fairview Conservancy, 13760 Bluestem Court, Suite 150, Baxter, Minnesota. (Directions: At the intersection of Highways 371 and 210 in Baxter, follow Highway 210 West. Take the next right onto Fairview Road N. At the T turn left and follow Fairview Road N past Hawthorne Suites to Bluestem Court. Look for the Fairview Conservancy sign and a large solar panel.)

### **Speakers include:**

- Janelle Riley, Syvantis Technologies: Fairview Conservancy's purpose and goals
- Dan Froemming, Fairview Conservancy: Green building principles and techniques
- Tim Ramerth, Westwood Professional Services: Engineering a low impact development
- Jason Edens, Rural Renewable Energy Alliance: Solar energy

- Sarah Stai, Westwood Professional Services and Cheryal Hills, Region Five Development Commission: Fairview Conservancy's outreach program
- Dave Johnson, Anderson Brothers Construction: Permeable asphalt
- Jackie Froemming, University of Minnesota Extension: Rain gardens
- Bonnie Hiniker, Sunshine Gardens: Indigenous plant species

End your day with a visit to Fairview Conservancy. This BAELN event boasts an indoor / outdoor tour of the Fairview Conservancy with stations at various points of interest. At each station the speaker will present the low impact technology or methods used. Stations will include green building principles and techniques, permeable asphalt, engineering a low impact development, rain gardens, solar energy, Fairview Conservancy's principles and goals, and Fairview Conservancy's outreach program.

Fairview Conservancy is a 4.5-acre demonstration project in Baxter, Minnesota. The Conservancy encourages commercial landowners and developers in north central Minnesota to implement conservation design alternatives. The Conservancy's approach is practical and cost-driven, utilizing business principles to influence businesspeople. The ultimate goal of Fairview Conservancy is to convince municipalities to create sensible ordinances that support conservation design.

A reception will follow from 4:30-6:00 p.m. with locally grown and produced foods provided by Syvantis Technologies, and musical entertainment provided by Hans Blix and the Weapons Inspectors. *Please contact Janelle Riley to register for the reception at [Janelle.Riley@syvantis.com](mailto:Janelle.Riley@syvantis.com) or (218) 828-9550.*

You may direct your questions concerning this presentation to Eleanor Burkett at (218) 828-2326 or toll free at 1-888-241-0720.

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### **Student Research Assistance**

The Community Assistantship Program is pleased to announce a Fall 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 June 30<sup>th</sup>, approved projects will run from August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

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.

Submit applications via U.S. mail, e-mail, or fax to: Community-Based Research Programs, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 330 HHH Center, 301—19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455, E-mail: [curacbr@tc.umn.edu](mailto:curacbr@tc.umn.edu), Fax: 612-626-0273

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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.