

This is the seventy-ninth 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 #79

August 7, 2007

Outdoor Corps Input Sought

The University of Minnesota Extension seeks input on its Outdoor Corps program that empowers high school students to meet environmental stewardship needs in their communities. The program was initiated in March 2001 to address monitoring needs as identified in comprehensive water plans and inform management decisions on Minnesota lakes.

Communities and lake associations contract with Outdoor Corps teacher-led student crews to evaluate the water quality of their local lakes. The Outdoor Corps crews, in cooperation with Extension specialists, collect water samples and data, analyze results, and interpret results for local community "clients."

Through participation in the Outdoor Corps program, students apply math, science and leadership education in real-world situations, explore careers in natural resources, develop skills for owning and operating a small sustainable business, and work with a variety of community members to meet environmental stewardship needs. Stakeholder input will be a key factor in formulating our decisions about the future of the Outdoor Corps program. Two more sessions are scheduled:

Tuesday, August 14, 11a to 2p; Cass County Land Department, Backus

Tuesday, August 28, 11a to 2p; Cabela's Conference Room, Rogers

Contact Nate Meyer, Extension Regional Educator at meyer179@umn.edu or (218) 726.6473 with questions, concerns or to RSVP for one of the sessions.

UM Extension Classes: Shoreland Buffers

Description: During this one-day workshop, you will design a simple lake- or river-friendly shoreland buffer. This is a popular course for anyone wanting to understand the relationship between shoreland plants and water quality.

Location: City Hall, Breezy Point, MN

Date: Saturday, August 11, 2007 **Time:** 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Contact: Jodi Eberhardt at 218-562-5335, Email: plpoa@tds.net.

Call for nominations issued for Minnesota Preservation Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2007 Minnesota Preservation Awards, a program run by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota that recognizes outstanding projects, groups and individuals that contribute to Minnesota's preservation accomplishments.

From movie theaters to lakeside cottages, office buildings to historic roadside structures, these awards showcase efforts both simple and grand to preserve Minnesota's historic resources.

Nominations, due Aug. 10, can focus on preservation projects or worthy efforts of communities, groups and individuals, in the areas of:

- Archaeology - in-place preservation of prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites.
- Building Community - promoting cultural diversity, community and neighborhood development, and quality of life issues.
- Environment - efforts addressing issues of sprawl, recycling and green design.
- History, Culture, Arts - notable historic and architectural properties.

Awards are given not on the basis of size of investment, but rather on the merit the project provides to its community.

The awards ceremony will be conducted in conjunction with the National Preservation Conference in October in the Twin Cities.

For a list of previous Minnesota Preservation Award nominees, and to download a nomination form for this year's award, visit the alliance Web site at www.mnpreservation.org. Nomination forms may also be requested via e-mail, info@mnpreservation.org, or by calling the alliance office at (651) 293-9047

Let the Joyous News be Spread!

On October 26th, the Initiative Foundation will honor outstanding community service at the **2007 Initiative Awards: *The Winners of Oz***. Follow the yellow-brick road with six magical award winners who survived the tempest to transform our world. It's an evening of inspiration and entertainment, which includes the **Outstanding Green Venture Award**. Registrations are \$45 per guest. Watch for more details [on our website](#) in early September.

Conservation Summit – 2007 will also feature national issues that could impact conservation efforts in our state.

When: Thursday, September 6, 2007

Where: The Conservation Summit will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota at the University of Minnesota's Continuing Education and Conference Center.

Registration: Registration materials and final conference agenda will be available in mid-July.

Conservation Summit – 2007 is sponsored by the Minnesota Land Trust with funding support from Embrace Open Space and organizational support from Government Training Services.

We hope that you will forward this email to anyone you know who might be interested in hearing about this important event. Jane Prohaska, President, Minnesota Land Trust, 2356 University Avenue W., Suite 240, St. Paul, MN 55114, 651-647-9590

Mediation Services

- Do you know of an argument between two staff members that seems to come up again and again?
- Are there clients that bring disputes to your organization, but you can't really help them?
- Do you know of someone who has a disagreement with a neighbor that isn't going away? And now the neighbors have a hard time talking to each other?
- Do you know of a community where the kids are fighting and the parents aren't able to resolve the situation?
- Does your non-profit organization need strategic planning but can't afford it?
- Do your volunteers have disputes with each other or clients?
- Are your community members having a lot of disputes with a company or government agency?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then maybe we can help.

The St. Cloud State University Institute for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), with a roster of over 30 trained mediators and ADR specialists, has received funding to provide free mediation services for clients who are income-eligible and non-profits organizations who have a financial need. Other services included are peace circles, facilitation and strategic planning. Translator and transportation can also be included.

For more information, please visit us at www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/instituteADR or contact: the Institute for ADR at (320) 308-4962 or respond to this email.

The [Institute for Conservation Leadership](#) invites you to attend:

[Leading Cooperative Efforts: Skills for Survival and Success](#)

Tuesday, August 28th at the [Neighborhood House](#) in St. Paul, Minnesota

This one-day workshop offers skills and tools to effectively manage and participate in a variety of cooperative efforts. Networks, coalitions, and other cooperative efforts require distinct leadership skills if they are to be effective. Working together collaboratively is a challenge and this workshop will encompass leadership practices in collaborative work to make groups successful.

The workshop offers participants:

- * Best practices and skills for effectively LEADING cooperative efforts,
- * Tools to assess your own leadership and to better manage cooperative efforts and their persistent tensions, and
- * A “learning lab” environment in which to address difficult issues with your colleagues or simply take stock and consider your next steps.

The facilitators work regularly with leaders and organizations in networks, coalitions, and other cooperative efforts. The workshop uses the Institute's newest publication, “Working Together, A Toolkit for Cooperative Efforts, Networks and Coalitions.”

Brought to you through the generous support from the Bush and McKnight Foundations.

Eco Camp July 30-August 17

There are still a few spots available for the second session of Eco Camp! Come and learn about sustainable living...conduct experiments, play games, take field trips, make nature crafts, make a documentary film, garden, and more! Tuition is \$180 for the 3 weeks...scholarships are available. For more information, contact Barb at 218.587.2303.

For more information contact: Barb Hines, Education & Events Coordinator, Happy Dancing Turtle, 2373 Dancing Wind Rd. SW, Pine River, MN 56474, 218.587.2303 or (218) 831.0353, www.happydancingturtle.org