

This is the eightieth 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 #80**

**September 24, 2007**

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## **Support for Grassroots Environmental Programs**

### [Conservation Alliance](#)

The Conservation Alliance is a group of outdoor businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots citizen action groups in their efforts to protect wild and natural areas in North America. The Alliance supports the protection of rivers, trails, and wild lands -- natural areas where outdoor enthusiasts spend their time. Funded programs should be focused primarily on direct action to protect specific threatened wild places and waterways. The Alliance is not looking for mainstream education or scientific research projects, but rather for active campaigns. Before applying for funding, an organization must first be nominated by one of the Alliance's member companies. The next nomination deadline is November 1, 2007; proposals are due December 10, 2007. Interested applicants should carefully review the grant criteria and the "How to Apply" section of the Alliance's website listed above.

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## **Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Society Programs**

### **The Fairview Office Park Development in Baxter--How they went green!**

Speakers: Janelle Riley, Syvantis; Jackie Froemming, U of M Extension; Steve Northway, Northway Construction

Wednesday, September 26 at the Northland Arboretum, 7pm

What is a green building? What can builders do to make buildings more energy efficient, healthier inside, and better for the environment outside? What can be done to better manage stormwater? Do solar panels really work for a business? If you have ever wondered what you could do to your own home or business building to make it more "green", join us for a great evening with our presenters who are leading the green building movement in the Brainerd Lakes Area. This presentation is open to anyone with an interest in the environment and green buildings. Refreshments will be available. For more information, contact Pam Perry, Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Program Chair at 218/828-4718 or [pkperry@brainerd.net](mailto:pkperry@brainerd.net).

### **Wednesday, October 24, 7pm at the Northland Arboretum**

Like moose? Like Sweden? Our October program will feature Dr. Bill Faber, our very own moose man, who will tell us about his adventures in Sweden. Dr. Faber teaches at Central Lakes College in the Natural Resources Program and is on the Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Board. As always, this program is open to all and refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Pam Perry, Brainerd Lakes Area Audubon Program Chair at 218/828-4718 or [pkperry@brainerd.net](mailto:pkperry@brainerd.net)

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### **Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL) Tour Hunt Utilities Group Research Campus – Pine River, Minnesota Thursday, October 11th, 2007**

Directions: Coming from the south on Hwy. 371, turn west (left) at the stoplight on County Road 2, go about 2/3 of a mile and take a right at the wind turbine. We will meet in the large cob building all the way at the end of the driveway with the attached greenhouse in front. RREAL's phone number: (218) 587-4753

**PLEASE RSVP** to Joel Haskard @ either 612-625-8759 or [haska004@umn.edu](mailto:haska004@umn.edu) so we can get an accurate count for food and the tour/party. Everyone is welcome!

#### **AGENDA**

**5:30 pm** Introductions, announcements and pizza

**6:00 pm** Tour of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance manufacturing facility & party

October 11<sup>th</sup> is a BIG day for RREAL <http://www.rreal.org/> ... It is the date they will be submitting five solar thermal collectors to the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) <http://www.solar-rating.org/> to get their newly engineered/manufactured panels certified!

So join us for a product roll-out / send-off party! We will take a tour, see the new panels, and learn about RREAL's plans for the future. Plus we'll be on the Hunt Utility Group campus, with highlights including straw bale building construction, composting toilets, wind turbines, solar thermal technologies and other clean energy technologies and practices. For more information, see: <http://www.hugllc.com/index.php?pageKey=4>

**7:00 pm** New Business

**Advancing Central Region Clean Energy projects**

Topics will include future meeting locations/themes, the current Request For Proposals (RFPs) and other ideas generated by the team.

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**Stream and Lake Monitors Workshop**, Monday, October 15, 2007, 7-9 pm.  
MinnCo Credit Union Community Room, 236 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Cambridge

This workshop is for lake and stream monitors, those interested in becoming a volunteer monitor, lake association members and others interested in surface water quality issues.

The purpose of this workshop is to improve communications among lake and stream monitors, share local results, see how we connect into watershed and state wide monitoring projects, learn from each other, and share ideas on working together.

Speakers include:

- Craig Affeldt to discuss the Total Daily Maximum Loading and Impaired Waters issues in east central Minnesota. Craig is the St. Croix Basin Coordinator at the MPCA and is responsible for implementing basin planning objectives along with the other core water quality programs of the agency.
  - Impaired Waters in the area: hear about the newly updated list of impaired waters;
  - Time for discussion, sharing resources and ideas of shoreland projects and other water quality programs. Bring your results from this summer's testing!
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## **Consultants to Assist Communities on Climate and Energy Issues**

-- apply by Sept. 28

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/p2/retap.cfm>

The MPCA is developing a new service to provide technical assistance to local governments on climate and energy change issues. Through the existing Minnesota Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (RETAP, which assists businesses), retired professionals will be available to a limited number of Minnesota communities to assist them in addressing climate change and energy transition challenges.

*Are you, or do you know of, a retired professional from a variety of fields - engineering, energy, purchasing, planning, public works, administration, and others - interested in working with communities on climate and energy issues?*

This September RETAP is recruiting new professionals to work with local government. Those hired will be funded through grants at the rate of \$14/hour, and will work 5 - 20 hours per month. A part-time coordinator will also be hired to coordinate this climate change/energy assistance to local governments. The coordinator will be compensated at the rate of \$20/hour and will work an estimated 25 - 40 hours per month. Applications are due 1:00 pm, Friday, September 28, 2007.

For details, please request a copy of the Request for Proposals and application form from Martina Cameron at [contracts@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:contracts@pca.state.mn.us) or 651/296-7755. In order for MPCA to provide you with any RFP addendums or updates, please provide your name, e-mail

address (preferred) and/or mailing address, and phone number. The subject line of the e-mail request should state "RETAP Grants, CR 1230."

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### **MPCA Environmental Assistance Grants**

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html>

- Request for Proposals to be posted September 17, 2007.
- For individuals and public and private entities.
- At least \$350,000 available; \$40,000 and \$75,000 max. grants.
- 4-page pre-proposals due October 29, 2007.

These annual grants provide financial assistance for the development of environmentally sustainable products and practices in Minnesota through voluntary partnerships and goal-oriented, economically-driven approaches to pollution prevention and resource conservation. Proposals will be accepted within these categories:

1. Preventing Waste and Pollution at the Source
2. Creating More Sustainable Communities
3. Developing and Expanding Markets for Underutilized Materials
4. High Impact Integrated Environmental Improvements

Project proposals are preferred in the areas of office paper, resource management contracting, groceries, Design for Environment, green chemistry, volume-base pricing, green building, water conservation, citizen education, glass, ag plastics, sheetrock, shingles, large-scale events and venues, and organization-wide programs.

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### **Safe Routes to School**

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/index.html>

- Applications due November 16, 2007.
- For schools with any combination of K-8 enrollment.
- \$1.9 million available.
- Grants range from \$10,000 to \$175,000.

This Minnesota Department of Transportation grant program is for infrastructure improvements, such as bike racks and sidewalks, and for non-infrastructure programs such as developing Safe Routes Plans, enforcement, and promoting biking and walking to and from school.

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## Upcoming Community Education Classes at Happy Dancing Turtle

HDT is offering several classes this Fall through Community Education in both Pine River and Pequot Lakes.

### **Pine River Classes:**

*Cob Creations for Kids* - Tuesday, October 9, 3:00PM-4:15PM at Pine River-Backus School Commons. \$8

*Become a Sustainable Consumer* - Thursdays, November 29, December 6, 13, 6:00PM-8:00PM at PRBHS FACS Room #49. \$18

### **Pequot Lakes Classes:**

*Cob Creations for Kids* - Thursday, October 11, 2:50PM-4:00PM at Eagle View Elementary School Art Room. \$8

*Papermaking* - Wednesday, October 24, 6:00PM-8:00PM at HUG Campus. \$22

### HDT Happenings Calendar

Watch for our calendar, being distributed in mid-September. The calendar will run from September 2007 - August 2008, and will include resources, facts, coupons and events that focus on sustainable living. Calendars will be sent home with students in the Pine River-Backus Schools, and will also be available by contacting HDT at 218.587.2303, or by email at [quinn@hugllc.com](mailto:quinn@hugllc.com).

If you have any questions, or suggestions, please feel free to contact us at any time. You can follow our activities and events on our website at [www.happydancingturtle.org](http://www.happydancingturtle.org).

We hope to see you at some of our classes or events in the near future! 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](http://www.happydancingturtle.org)

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## Let the Joyous News be Spread!

**On October 26<sup>th</sup>**, 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. Go to our website at [www.ifound.org](http://www.ifound.org) for more details.

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## 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](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/continuingstudies/instituteADR) or contact: the Institute for ADR at (320) 308-4962 or respond to this email.

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