

This is the eighty-first 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 #81

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Student Researchers Available

The University of Minnesota's 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 October 30th, approved projects will run from January 10th, 2008 to May 25th, 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.

2007 Dynamic Farmers' Markets Workshop

T-Maxwell's Restaurant in Staples, November 6, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

This is a conference for anyone involved with Farmers' Markets – whether managing a market, serving on the board, selling your products, or a community supporting or wanting to start a Farmer's Market.

Key speakers include Dianne Stefani-Ruff of the Portland, Oregon Farmers' Market and Ron Branch, President of the Minnesota Farmers' Market Association. Cost is \$35 for MN Farmers' Market Assoc. members, \$45 for non-members, with pre-registration required by October 26th. For more information visit www.mnfma.org or contact Dallas Flynn, 48677 Rice Lake Road, Frazee, MN 56544.

Conference sponsors include the University of Minnesota Extension Service, MN Farmers' Market Assoc., MN Dept. of Agriculture, MN Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Central and Northwest Minnesota Partnerships, MN Fruit & Vegetable Growers Assoc., and USDA Risk Management Agency.

Request for Proposals: Technical Assistance for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Projects

The Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), via the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships) seek to provide limited financial assistance for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy projects requiring technical assistance.

Project funding can support technical assistance services (i.e., labor costs) such as consultant, design professional, installer or student labor for projects. The primary objectives of this funding are to:

- Encourage the implementation of community-based efficiency and renewable energy projects in CERT regions;
- Provide a forum for community education about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and their economic, ecological and community benefits.

A total of \$33,200 is available per region, although awards will likely be made in six \$5,000 increments and one \$3,200 increment. Projects approved for funding must be completed by December 31st, 2008.

For more information contact Lissa Pawlisch (paw10048@umn.edu, 612-624-2293) and Joel Haskard (haska004@umn.edu, 612 625-8759).

MPCA Environmental Assistance Grants

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

- 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, agricultural plastics, sheetrock, shingles, large-scale events and venues, and organization-wide programs.

Northland Arboretum, 2nd Annual meeting – Black Bear Program.

Mark your calendars for October 25th.

Black bears are very common in our area, and are typically misunderstood by the general public. This is one reason why the Arboretum has invited **Lynn Rogers, PhD** to speak at the upcoming **Annual Meeting**. Dr. Rogers is a nationally recognized expert on black bears, and is featured in the Animal Planet documentary, “**The Man Who Walks With Bears**”. He is the Founder of the Wildlife Research Institute (west of Ely, MN), a nonprofit research and educational organization. Dr. Rogers has conducted the largest outreach education program ever done on black bears, focusing on improving the co-existence between people and bears in our urbanized environment. Plan to attend the **Annual Meeting**, and learn all about black bears. This meeting is open to the public.

For more information contact: Dale Braddy, Executive Director, Northland Arboretum 218-829-8770, <http://arb.brainerd.com>

Upcoming Community Education Classes at Happy Dancing Turtle

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

Pine River Classes:

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

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.

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.

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

Energy needs and opportunities in Region Five on November 14, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Initiative Foundation Building in Little Falls.

“As we seek solutions to regional critical issues...our region’s county economic development coordinators and the Region Five Development Commission invite you to attend a meeting featuring Cecil Massie and Carol Anderson discussing the energy audit recently completed by Morrison County.”

Region 5 requests your RSVP of intent to attend by November 1. Contact Cheryal Hills: chills@regionfive.org with any questions or to request a copy of the agenda. Region Five Development Commission: 403 Prairie Ave NE, Suite 100, Staples, MN 56479 www.regionfive.org Phone: 218.894.3233 Fax: 218.894.1328

Serving Local Communities in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena Counties.

A River Runs Through It: Cooperating Across Boundaries along the Mississippi River. November 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Cloud Civic Center.

Sponsored by the Mississippi River Renaissance Project, a collaboration between the Minnesota DNR and the Bush Foundation.

Please join us to discuss resources along the River and how to keep the River healthy as we grow. There is no charge for this event, but pre-registration is required at www.crplanning.com or by calling Jean Coleman at (612) 588-4904.

Who should attend: County Board, City County, Township Board and Planning Commission members, local government land use and environmental staff, citizens, landowners, developers, and realtors.

Brainerd Area Environmental Learning Network (BAELN)
2007-2008 Season -- *Living Lightly in Our Communities*

BAELN offers opportunities for you to receive timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. This season's events focus on what we can do to live lighter in our communities. **The events are free and all are invited.**

November 15: Eating locally for goodness sake! Several community members share their experiences in trying to eat locally grown food year round to lighten their environmental impacts.

December 13: Can carbon trading benefit Minnesotans? Learn what all the talk is about carbon and how you can put the options to good use for water quality and sustainable land use.

January: "Consequences of not living lightly – and what we can do". An exciting evening event that boasts a panel of speakers working nationally with the consequences of all of our actions. Hear what's happening and what we can do to make a difference. (date to be set)

February 21: Pollution: Look how far we've come. Take a step back in time and see just what's been done in Minnesota over the years to battle pollution, and how to fight it in the future.

March 20: *The Tipping Point*. This event will be a discussion on the intriguing book *The Tipping Point* and how you can make change happen. (please read ahead of time)

April 17: Living lightly by living locally. This talk will examine some of the advantages in living locally and the practical ways communities have gone about it.

May 15: Environmental impacts on health. Is there a connection between our environment and our health? If so, what can we do to make it better?

June 19: BAELN's Celebration of Living Lightly. The season's final event will celebrate, through music, food, displays and lively conversation, five years of BAELN and all our efforts to live lightly in our communities.

Each event will include an hour-long presentation, with time for networking and refreshments. Events are held from 3-5:00 p.m. at the MN Pollution Control Agency in Baxter. Subject to change. For more information call Stephen Mikkelsen at (218) 855-5001 or 1-800-657-3864.

BAELN works to create opportunities for people in the environmental field, and the community, to receive timely information on environmental and sustainability issues, along with the chance to network with others. BAELN is a collaborative effort of the following organizations: 1000 Friends of Minnesota, Central Lakes College, Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District, Initiative Foundation, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Department of Transportation, MN Pollution Control Agency, The Nature Conservancy, Paul Bunyan Trail Association, and the U of MN Extension.

The Initiative Foundation presents The Grant Writing Workshop 2007

Half-day sessions on Tuesday, Dec. 11th, either 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. or 1 – 4 p.m.

This is a valuable opportunity to hear professional writers and reviewers present techniques for researching funders and creating effective grant proposals. Who should attend: those who have little or no grant writing experience and wish to develop practical skills related to funder research and proposal writing and those who want to refresh their grant writing skills.

Workshop topics include: reviewing your expectations; types of funding; funders and funding research; developing the grant proposal; goals, objectives & evaluation; the budget; sustainability; and submitting the proposal.

To register contact Jolene Howard at jhoward@ifound.org, (877) 632-9255. A \$40 program fee includes refreshments and program materials. Confirmation will be sent by e-mail; checks will be returned if the workshop is sold out. Register early: seating is limited and this event nearly always fills up.