

This is the eighty-third 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."

---

**News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #83**

**December 31, 2007**

---

### **Local Food & Crops Event**

A one day conference on Local Food and Crops organized by Agriculture Alternatives is scheduled for Jan. 3, 2008 at Ted & Jen's in Aldrich. Registration begins at 9 am. Program ends at 3 pm with a noon lunch. The fee will be \$7 pre-registration or \$10 at the door. This includes a noon lunch.

Agriculture Alternatives is an economic development effort working to double the disposable income of local producers in a five year period. This conference will include:

- An invitation to join the producers small business club HeLPP (Help Local Producers Prosper) and report on the results of the first annual Farm to Community dinner.
- Organic Certification requirements.
- Innovative marketing, a success story.
- Minnesota Grown Promotional Project update by the Minnesota Dept. of Alternative crop test results and brainstorming session including bio-energy Ag by U of M Agronomist, Dr. Craig Sheaffer.
- Cellulose as an Alternative Crop Ag by U of M Agronomist, Dr. Craig Sheaffer.
- A marketing alternatives panel
- Sponsor, Producer and Consumer networking

Registration can be by mail to either Buckwheat Growers or The Village Emporium in Wadena, or by phone to Tom Bilek 218-631-9212, David Evert 612-282-9301, or Mel Wiens 218-984-2715. Pre-registration will help us plan for lunch.

---

### **Government Training Services - Workshop Registration now open**

Government Training Services, an organization that offers workshops for staff and appointed officials from all levels of government, is offering a new workshop series -- *Working Nature into Land Use Decisions*. These educational workshops will share information on trends, tools, and processes that help local units of government balance development and open space conservation.

- A Fresh Look: Rethinking Local Land Use Planning
- Redefining the Development Process
- Resolving the Funding Dilemma

Registration is now open, go to <http://www.mngts.org/LandUse/LandUse2008.html>

---

### **Funding Source: Blue Cross' Active Living Minnesota Request for Proposals**

Blue Cross seeks to fund selected communities throughout Minnesota to plan for and implement a comprehensive approach to support active living with a focus on environmental and policy change efforts. For more information about this Blue Cross program, including how to apply, proposal instructions, and project budgeting information, go to: <http://www.preventionminnesota.com/objects/Funding/599/ALMN-RFP599.pdf> The deadline for Intent to apply is due by Thursday, February 14, 2008, and proposals are due March 14, 2008.

---

### **Funds for Conservation Efforts ([www.wallacegenetic.org](http://www.wallacegenetic.org))**

The Wallace Genetic Foundation is committed to funding a variety of interests including agricultural research, preservation of farmland, ecology, conservation, and sustainable development. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that believe in the long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment, rather than the exploitation of natural resources for temporary profits. Applications may be submitted at any time. Visit the website listed above for application guidelines.

---

### **Free Climate and Energy Assistance for Minnesota Communities**

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

Minnesota communities are faced with significant issues related to climate change and energy. The Minnesota Climate Change Corps (CCC) is a new program, started in November 2007, comprising skilled, retired professionals who work on either long or short-term assignments to help reduce a community's carbon footprint (the amount of carbon dioxide released into the environment). The CCC, an initiative of the Minnesota Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program (RETAP), is funded by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. City and county governments are the Corps' priorities for assistance.

Examples of assistance are:

- Identifying opportunities for carbon reductions
- Recommending cost-saving measures and projects with high returns on investment
- Assessing energy conservation options
- Developing community outreach strategies
- Energy audits
- Starting and strengthening a climate change action plan

- Reducing use of and reliance on fossil fuels
- Advising on energy-saving technologies and practices

The CCC will customize its assistance to meet your needs, and coordinates closely with RETAP's technical specialists. For more information contact Jim Jacques, Corps Coordinator, at [jimjacques@comcast.net](mailto:jimjacques@comcast.net) or 612/747-6023. For more information on RETAP contact RETAP Coordinator Mike Vennewitz at [retap2002@yahoo.com](mailto:retap2002@yahoo.com).

---

### **DNR Grants for Pilot projects to control curly-leaf pondweed or Eurasian watermilfoil on a lake-wide or bay-wide basis for ecological benefits for 2008**

This material will also be posted on the DNR website soon:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/lakewide.html>

The deadline for submitting your application is February 11, 2008. If you think you will apply, please send Wendy Crowell (contact info below) a brief e-mail with the name of the lake and the county it is in. This will help us process your application as quickly as possible.

For more information: Wendy Crowell, Aquatic Biologist, Invasive Species Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ecological Resources, Box 25, 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155, phone: 651-259-5085, email: [wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:wendy.crowell@dnr.state.mn.us)

---

### **Senator Olson & the Leech Lake Foundation Host Meeting to Discuss 'Star Lake' Proposal**

Sen. Mary Olson, DFL – Bemidji, and the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation invite area residents to a public meeting to discuss Sen. Olson's 'Star Lake' proposal. The meeting will be **Jan. 7, 2008** from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hackensack Senior Center, located one block west of Highway 317 in Hackensack.

According to Sen. Olson, the 'Star Lake' proposal is intended to create a "gold standard" for proactive lake management by recognizing lake associations that have voluntarily taken steps to protect and preserve the quality of their lake. Lake associations meeting certain best management criteria would receive the 'Star Lake' designation, and would potentially be eligible for other incentives including priority for state agency assistance with invasive species control, water monitoring, testing and clean-up, and a possible revolving loan fund to assist with compliance issues.

The Jan. 7 meeting in Hackensack is the second public meeting held to discuss Sen. Olson's proposal. The public meetings are intended to provide citizens and stakeholders the opportunity to offer additional input and work to develop a consensus regarding specific criteria that should be required in order to qualify as a 'Star Lake.' In addition, Sen. Olson is hopeful citizens can offer suggestions regarding how the state can foster

and assist lake associations' commitment to the health of Minnesota lakes. Sen. Olson plans on introducing the 'Star Lake' proposal during the 2008 Legislative Session.

Citizens interested in learning more about the 'Star Lake' proposal, or who want to offer their input, can contact Sen. Olson's office at 651-296-4913 or [sen.mary.olson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mary.olson@senate.mn), or the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation at 218-838-5010 or [info@leechlakewatershed.org](mailto:info@leechlakewatershed.org).

---

### **It's time to nominate an individual or organization for the Parks & Trails Ball of the Wild!**

Do you know an individual or organization that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the excellence, health, conservation and open access of the state's parkland or trails? They could be honored at the Parks & Trails Council's Ball of the Wild on April 24, 2008, at the Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis.

Awards will be presented in seven categories: Access, Arts & Communications, Business, Community Service, Education, Government/Citizen Action, or Science/Technical. (See the nomination form for examples of work in each category.) Nominations for the 2008 awards are due to the Parks & Trails Council by Tuesday, **January 8, 2008**. Nominations may be hand-delivered, mailed, e-mailed or faxed. For more information, please call Erin at the Parks & Trails Council at 651-726-2457 or [http://www.parksandtrails.org/news\\_events/news/nominations\\_2008\\_parks\\_trails\\_awards\\_now\\_being\\_accepted](http://www.parksandtrails.org/news_events/news/nominations_2008_parks_trails_awards_now_being_accepted).

---

**IRS Will Soon Require Small Nonprofits to File** - Next year, many nonprofits that don't file a 990 will need to start filing an "e-Postcard," and in 2010, organizations that have neglected to file their annual returns or e-Postcards will start losing their exemptions. The IRS has announced the next round of changes required by the Pension Protection Act of 2006: smaller nonprofits will be required to file Form 990-N starting in 2008, and organizations that fail to file Form 990, 990-EZ, 990-PF, or 990-N for three consecutive years will lose their tax exemptions. Starting next year, an organization that does not file IRS Form 990 or 990-EZ because its income is \$25,000 or less will have to file Form 990-N, the "Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or 990-EZ."

---

Happy Dancing Turtle is proud to announce our second annual Back To Basics!  
**Back To Basics – Come Grow With Us**  
**Saturday, January 12**  
**8:00AM – 3:30PM**  
**Pine River-Backus School Commons**  
**\$25 by January 4/\$30 after January 4/\$15 for Kids' Activities**

Sustainable living...what's it all about? Join together with friends, neighbors, & family to expand your knowledge about all aspects of living sustainably. Workshop sessions, keynote speaker, vendors, exhibitors, luncheon, door prizes, and more! Continuing education credits available. School-aged children's programming on sustainable living runs concurrently...bring the kids and make this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Back To Basics a family event! Registration brochures available after December 1 at: Pine River-Backus Community Education office, Pine River-Backus Family Center, Pine River Chamber Office/Information Center, Pine River Public Library, or by calling Happy Dancing Turtle at 218.587.2303. Registration forms will also be available on our website: [www.happydancingturtle.org](http://www.happydancingturtle.org). If you would like to be a workshop presenter, you can register up through November 26. Vendors/exhibitors may register up until the date of the event. Registration forms for vendors/exhibitors and presenters may also be downloaded from our website. Event sponsored by Happy Dancing Turtle, Pine River-Backus Community Education, & Central Lakes College.

### **CF Bulb Offers**

Energy Star is again promoting the Energy Star Change A Light program, with their \$2 per bulb instant rebate offer. For each bulb you purchase (up to a maximum of 12 bulbs), you will receive an instant \$2 cash-back rebate...all you have to do is fill out a coupon at the store...it's very simple! Participating stores in the area include: Ace Hardware in Longville, Emily Ace Hardware, Hackensack Lumber & Hardware, Crosslake Ace Hardware, Brainerd Ace Hardware, Ace Hardware of Deerwood, Abra True Value Hardware in Crosslake, Bear Trax Store in Hillman, Thurlow Hardware in Pequot Lakes, Crosby True Value, Deerwood True Value, Godfrey's True Value in Backus, Menard's in Baxter, Fleet Farm in Baxter, Royalton Lumber & Hardware, Gardiner Hardware in Pine River, Little Falls Ace Hardware, Little Falls Fleet Supply & True Value, and Little Falls Hardware Hank.

If you have any questions regarding anything that HDT is involved in, please don't hesitate to contact us at 218.587.2303, or email me at [barbhines@happydancingturtle.org](mailto:barbhines@happydancingturtle.org).

---

### **The Farmer Chef Direct Marketing Workshops Little Falls, January 28, 2008 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Are you a farmer looking to expand your market into restaurants, cafes, food services, institutions and distributors? Are you a buyer interested in making new connections to purchase local products from farmers, producers and distributors?

The networking process-loosely based on the principles of speed-dating-works like this: 1) fill a room with chefs and food buyers interested in buying local products and farmers interested in selling to them; 2) give them five minutes to connect one-on-one about what they produce and what they're interested in buying; 3) exchange business cards if they're interested in following up; and 4) rotate.

If you are a farmer interested in getting your product into a restaurant, grocery store or institution (school, hospital, etc.), or a food buyer for a restaurant or other institution; or

someone working in food systems and would like more information on the "got local?" series of workshops, please call (612) 871-1541 or <http://gotlocallittlefalls.eventbrite.com/>

---

### **Minnesota Oomph: The Conference**

An Initiative Foundation Regional Event

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. Cloud Civic Center

#### **Keynoter: Mark Fenton**

PBS host, author and America's everyday expert on community health and active living, Mark blends cutting-edge info and uncommon humor to expose the twin epidemics of physical inactivity and poor nutrition.

#### **Interactive Workshops, Local Success Stories**

##### **Government**

Design communities that get people out & about

##### **Business**

Get productivity up & health insurance rates down

##### **Education, Childcare & Parents**

Expel childhood obesity at school, daycare & home

##### **Downtown & Hospitality**

Start a farmers' market or add local foods to shelves & menus

##### **Community & Seniors**

Prepare your community for our fastest growing population

#### **Registration**

Before Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: \$40

After Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: \$60

Includes healthy lunch & materials!

[www.ifound.org/oomph](http://www.ifound.org/oomph)