

This is the eighty-eighth 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.

News You Can Use for Conservation, Issue #88

May 21, 2008

**Initiative Foundation
Grant Research & Writing Workshop
June 19, 2008**

Two half-day sessions: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 – 4:00 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 will include:

- reviewing your expectations
- types of funding
- funders and funding research
- developing the grant proposal
- goals, objectives & evaluation
- the budget
- submitting the proposal

Register early: seating is limited and this event nearly always fills up!

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.

Minnesotans Can Help Shape the Future of the State's Environment

Should Minnesota improve the water quality of our lakes and rivers? Promote alternative energy strategies that increase environmental quality? Improve community planning to protect natural resources? Integrate conservation goals with transportation goals? These are just a few recommendations contained in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

Learn more and let your voice be heard at a series of public forums sponsored across the state by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment as it gathers public input on this groundbreaking effort funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Our expert teams have developed a great set of draft recommendations, based on what we know about Minnesota's natural resources" said project director Deb Swackhamer. "Now we'd like to share our results with the public and invite feedback to help us improve them, so they can be put to use to conserve and protect our natural resources."

For more information on the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan or to provide input online, go to www.mnconservationplan.net. To reserve your spot at a forum, contact Jean Coleman, event coordinator (jcoleman@crplanning.com or 612-588-4904), with the date and location of the forum you plan to attend.

Forum dates and locations:

Thursday May 22, 5-8 pm
West Central Research and Outreach Center
46352 State Highway 329
Morris, MN 56267-5419
Directions

Tuesday, May 27, 5-8 pm
North Central Research and Outreach Center
1861 East Highway 169
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3396
Directions

Thursday, May 29, 5-8 pm
Continuing Education and Conference Center University of Minnesota 1890 Buford Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108 Directions (parking in the lot adjacent to the CECC will be free to participants)

Thursday, June 5, 5-8 pm
Best Western North Mankato
111 Range Street
Mankato, MN 56003-2214

Upcoming activities at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd

Landscape Design and Water Features, Saturday, May 24th at 10:00 AM

Outdoor Education Camp, June 9th – 13th at 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Ages 10-12

The Value of Bees & Development of a Bee Colony, Wednesday, June 11th at 7:00 PM

Class Fee: \$10 members/\$20 non-members, Register at the front desk or call
218 - 829 – 8770

11th Annual Bike “Ride with Jim” Congressman James Oberstar

The Paul Bunyan State Trail/Baxter City Trails and Low Traffic Residential Streets

1st Annual Baxter Bike Trail Day by Mayoral Proclamation

Approximately 20 miles of ride distance, Sunday June 1st, 2008

Start and end at Whipple Beach park in Baxter

Hosted by Paul Bunyan Trail Association and Brainerd Community Action

2008 Ride and Community Pig Roast Picnic Sponsored by City of Baxter, served by
Prairie Bay Restaurant – limited space available

Lunch open to the public with R.S.V.P. to (218) 454-5115 during normal business hours
of Baxter City Hall- \$7.00 per person. Lunch Menu: Slow Roasted Rotisserie Pork,
Rustic Whole Grain Mustard Potato Salad, Mediterranean Pasta Salad, Kettle Chips,
Fresh Deli Buns, House made BBQ Sauce

This is an informal casual ride, not a race. Each participant is on his/her own. There is
no sag wagon or shuttle service provided. Baxter police will assist where required at road
crossings. The ride and lunch will take place rain or shine. The public is invited to bike,
skate, walk, or jog the trail with the Congressman and Baxter elected officials and staff.
Complimentary water beverages and energy bars will be available at the rest stop and
along the route.

Powering Small Towns

Whereas, the previous symposiums viewed small towns in light of the past, present, and
future, the 2008 Symposium on Small Towns will focus on "The Power of Small:
Building Solutions for Energy Self-Reliance." Topics include "Measuring your Carbon
Footprint," "Local Foods 101," and "What is Community-Based Energy?" Peter
Hutchinson, Bush Foundation president, will give the keynote address. The sixth annual
symposium will take place June 3 and 4 on the Morris campus. Early-bird registration is
\$65; after May 17, the price is \$80 (10 percent discount for MPR members). Space is
limited. To register or learn more, see

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/services/cst/symposium/2008/index.php>

Shoreland Planting

This workshop provides hands-on experience on how to install a shoreland buffer, including site preparation, planting and maintenance.

Location: Menahga, MN

Date: June 4, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

For more information or to register contact: Kari Tomperi, 218-631-3195, Kari.tomperi@mn.nacdnet.net

Fee: free, registration required

Sponsored by the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District and Spirit Lake Association

Government Training Services releases spring schedule:

Government Training Services, an organization that offers workshops for staff and appointed officials from all levels of government, is offering educational workshops to share information on trends, tools, and processes that help local units of government.

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

Participants learn about using planning and zoning tools to deal with a wide variety of development issues and obtain an in-depth review of the planning process.

Upcoming workshops include:

- Advanced Zoning Applications, June 11, Little Falls, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - Conservation Design in Shorelands, June 18, Walker, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Shoreland Essentials for Lake Leaders

In this workshop you'll receive practical solutions and technical information about ways to help keep you lake healthy. This workshop covers what everyone should know about lakes - how they work, how our activities affect them, and how to get your community involved. There will be breakout sessions on invasive species, onsite septic compliance, working with local officials and how to deal with difficult issues through effective communications. This workshop includes a Lake Leader Notebook filled with useful information and resource links.

Location: Ideal Corners Township Hall, 35458 Butternut Point Road, Pequot Lakes, MN

Date: June 14, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

For more information or to register contact: The Pine River Watershed Alliance at 218-692-1020, prwatershed@crosslake.net.

Fee: free, registration required
Sponsored by the Pine River Watershed Alliance

Upcoming Community Education Classes at Happy Dancing Turtle

We have a busy schedule of Spring & Summer classes through Pine River-Backus and Pequot Lakes Community Education. For more detail about these classes, you can visit our website - www.happydancingturtle.org, or watch for the Community Education bulletin, due out in the next week.

Kids' Cob Stompin' Party (Pequot Lakes) - May 20

Community Sculpture - June 7 & 14

Rain Barrel DIY - June 11

Worm Wrassling 101 - August 6

Community Quest - August 16

Citizen Monitoring Program Receives Training and Promotion Funds

Minnesota Waters Citizen Monitoring Program was chosen in 2007 to receive Clean Water Legacy Act funds to enhance and expand support for citizen monitoring. The goal of the grant is to equip citizen monitors to gather water quality assessment data on their lakes and streams. In 2008 the Citizen Monitoring Program was again chosen by the MPCA to receive Clean Water Legacy Act Training and Promotion funds totaling \$248,500. The new funds will enable Minnesota Waters to reach out to support a greater number of groups that are working towards assessment. This will not only include training citizen monitors on lake & river sampling protocols but also helping these groups learn how to effectively share their data. We will also be able to help them formalize their watershed vision and plan future monitoring that will accomplish their water quality goals. For more information on these programs please contact Courtney Kowalczak at courtneyk@minnesotawaters.org.

DNR “Open House” Meetings Invite Input for Shoreland Rules Revision

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is going to hold a series of open houses to provide information about the shoreland rules revision process. Draft rule revisions have not been developed, but these meetings will provide information on the rule revision process, potential areas that could be included in the revision, and provide an opportunity to give input into the rule revision process.

All open houses will take place in the evening from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The locations and dates of the open houses are as follows:

Detroit Lakes	MN State Comm. & Tech. College	Wednesday	June 11
Alexandria	Alexandria Tech. College	Thursday	June 12

Duluth	EPA Gitchee Gumee Conf. Center	Monday	June 16
Brainerd	Northland Arboretum	Tuesday	June 17
Hibbing	Hibbing Community College	Monday	June 23
Bemidji	Bemidji High School	Tuesday	June 24
International Falls	Holiday Inn	Wednesday	June 25

Additional information and details about these meetings will be available later in May. If you want more information about the shoreland rules update project go the DNR shoreland rules update web page at <http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>.

Student Research Assistance

The Community Assistantship Program is pleased to announce a summer grant program. The grant will allow rural communities to hire a University of Minnesota student to work on a project defined by those communities. The deadline for project proposals is June 30th, 2008. Approved projects will run from August 25th, 2008 to January 7th, 2009.

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.

CAP Summer 2008 Projects

'Downtown Revitalization' - City of Milaca

'Measuring outcomes for Duluth FAIM program graduates from 2004-07' - Community Action Duluth

'Project Read Social Marketing Campaign Plan' - Greater Itasca County Project Read

'Identifying and Mapping Undeveloped and Sensitive Shorelands in Cass County as Priority Targets for Land Conservation' - Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation

'Breaking the Bottleneck: Improving Local Foods Distribution to the Institutional Market in Minnesota' - The Minnesota Project
'Indigenous Beans as Healthy Food' - Peta Wakan Tipi

Going green brings in the green for office park

By [RENEE RICHARDSON](#), Senior Reporter, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

BAXTER - When the people behind the Fairview Office Park decided to incorporate it as a green building project, they didn't expect greenbacks to be adding up as a result.

"We really didn't believe the numbers ourselves," said Janelle Riley, Syvantis Technologies president, of the estimated savings they expect during the office park's first 10 years of operation. Riley started compiling the numbers in early spring and said her first stab at it came up with large savings.

"I was so sure it could be wrong I kept going over my numbers," Riley said. "We've literally gone through all these numbers in detail multiple times now. We've gone with conservative estimates all along and we have \$460,000 in savings over 10 years - which is just unbelievable."

http://www.brainerddispatch.com/stories/050708/new_20080507053.shtml

Editor's note: On May 15th, The Fairview Office Park received the Minnesota Environmental Initiative's "Green Project Design of the Year Award"!