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March 2016 Newsletter

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Trails, Trails, Trails



One of the major goals of Friends of the Minnesota Valley is promoting the development and construction of the Minnesota River State Trail and the Minnesota Valley State Trail. We need

your help to achieve this goal.

The Minnesota Valley State Trail is designated in Minnesota Statute to connect Fort Snelling and Le Sueur.

The Minnesota River State Trail is designated in Minnesota Statute to connect Le Sueur and Big Stone Lake.

The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is forming a committee to focus on building these state trails. Friends of the Minnesota Valley also supports the formation of local committees across the Minnesota Valley to promote construction of sections of the state trail in or near that community.

Do you have an interest in promoting the state trails in the Minnesota Valley?

Do you belong to an organization that would like to partner with the Friends of the Minnesota Valley to promote construction of a segment of the state trail?

Please respond with an email to tedlsuss@gmail.com.

Attend the Next Meeting of the Minnesota River Congress

The Minnesota River congress is a gathering of persons from across the Minnesota River Basin the Minnesota River Congress seeks to create a common voice for efforts to improve the Minnesota River and the Minnesota River basins

[Click here to Register](#)

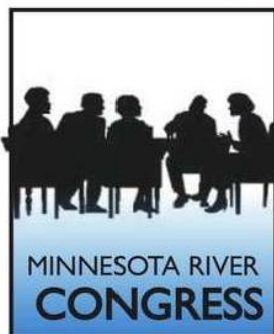


YOU'RE INVITED!

THURSDAY, March 10, 2016
Doors Open at 4:30 PM
New Ulm Event Center
301 20th Street South
New Ulm, MN

6th Minnesota River Congress

Image Source:
St. Peter Herald



WHO: Everyone who cares about the future of an inclusive citizen-led Minnesota River System improvement movement.

WHAT: A networking and group action planning meeting designed to carry out a new platform for thinking and acting like a watershed where we can advance common goals shared by farmers, educators, recreationalists, conservationists and quality of life advocates.

WHY: The time has come to act and work together to accomplish our collective goals.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 4:30 -6:00 PM Networking Fair - <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/4q7bz>
 Bring your booths and handouts and lets catch up on each other's work!
 (Limited number of booths; Fee per organization/ agency is \$30)
- 6:00 Share a lasagna dinner with Congress participants (choice of vegetarian or meat)
- 6:45 Work across the Minnesota River Basin



Conservation and managed drainage opportunities
 Brian Hicks, Farmer in Tracy, MN and Action Board member



Minnesota River fish species diversity and more
 Tony Sindt, Minnesota River Specialist, MnDNR

- 7:30 Minnesota River Congress business
 -Vote on new Action Board applicants
 -Discuss Minnesota River Interest Network Survey and introduction to Teams
 -Action planning with Congress participants and Interest Network Teams
 -Status and updates on proposed Minnesota River Commission (SF 2204)
- 9:00 Adjourn

TO REGISTER: <https://payableform.appspot.com/forms/avm4p>
 Cost: \$15 per person in advance, \$20 at the door
 Young adults under 19 or with a college ID are Free
 Please make checks payable to the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River PO Box 488, New Ulm, MN 56073

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Contact Scott Sparlin, 507-276-2280, sesparlin@gmail.com



Izaak Walton League-Minnesota Division

2016 Watershed Summit

Policy to Action — Accelerating Conservation Solutions

Saturday, March 12, 2016 -- 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Normandale Community College -Partnership Center
9700 France Ave. S, Bloomington, MN 55431
Students and Fixed income \$15, General \$35
More information at www.minnesotaiikes.org

[Click here to Register](#)

The focus of the Summit is on nutrient reduction in our rivers and streams. Presenters will include Linda Loomis, Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Director. Farmers who have been certified in the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program will be recognized and will share their stories about the benefits of their projects. Bruce Albright, administrator of Buffalo Red River Watershed District will present the large Manston Slough Restoration Project on the Buffalo River east of Moorhead Minnesota. Molly Peterson of Governor Dayton's office will present the preliminary findings of the Governor's Water Quality Summit that was held on Saturday Feb. 27th. There will be opportunities to share the experiences of and to network with citizens and professionals who are working for protection of water quality throughout Minnesota.

To view all the presentations from the 2014 and 2015 Watershed

Summits go to:

<http://www.minnesotaiakes.org/lzaak/Summit-Videos.html>

Paddle the Minnesota River in Day

June 11, 2016 is the day on which the entire Minnesota River will be paddled. Various groups are responsible for promoting paddling one section of the river that day. The Friends of the Minnesota Valley is responsible for a paddle from Shakopee to the Bloomington Ferry Bridge.

Here is a link to register for a paddle on the River along with details for each paddle.

[Click here to Register](#)

If you would like to lead a paddle for a section of the river not shown on the DNR site, please email tedlsuss@gmail.com. Friends of the Minnesota Valley can sponsor more segments of the river if there is a local person to lead the paddle.

Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps

Friends of the Minnesota Valley is helping sponsor the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corp which is a training program for

your people interested in becoming leaders in conservation efforts in our state.

For more details, please look at the Minnesota Conservation Leadership Corps brochure on our website.

Click here to go to Friends of the Minnesota Valley website.

Support the Friends of the Minnesota Valley

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