



MNACP Happenings

Downwind—a message from President-Elect Brian Stenquist



We are blessed to be living in interesting times. Let's count some of our blessings.

Globally, there are more human beings on the planet than ever before. 6,918,840,788 (as I am writing this at 5:16 a.m. October 5, 2011). Yea team homo sapiens sapiens! "Give me an H, gimme an O, gimme a big M-O!" We are outpacing the competition. We are winning the

amazing race: survival of the fittest. At least, for now.

Fortunately for us, and for all the critters and habitats and ecological processes human beings are disrupting, disturbing, and destroying, we too will flag as a species. Here's a blessing to count: some day, we will round the track at the far turn, and the rest of the pack will begin to catch up. The race is long. Geological time is big. Biological clocks are much smaller, much faster. It is a relay race after all, and eventually, we will turn the evolutionary baton over to other members of Team Terra Biologica. Whew! That's a relief.

Another blessing to count: every conservation professional will eventually retire from professional service. They will turn the baton over to someone else. Whew! What a relief.

As an example, in October we celebrated the retirement of Jim Zandlo, the state climatologist. Jim has given over 30 years of service to the people and the state. Way to go, Jim!

Talk about interesting times: imagine being the state climatologist over the last couple of decades. What an explosive intellectual period! The astronomical increase (literally and figuratively) of instrumentation to track climate and its speedy shadow, weather. The satellite perspec-

(Continued on page 2)

Mark your calendars: March 2nd 2012

The 5th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals will be Friday, March 2nd at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, MN

The meeting's theme will be: "Resilient lands and waters: effectively coping

with demographic, economic and environmental change."

Natural Resource Economist and U of MN Professor Steve Polaski and Minnesota State Demographer Dr. Tom Gillaspay will deliver keynote addresses. Other guest speakers will discuss strate-

gic land management to protect high-integrity waters and progressive urban stormwater and agricultural practices that promote productive lands and healthy waters. A detailed agenda will be forthcoming.

Inside this issue:

Nominations for Service Awards	2
MNACP's new web presence	3
Call for raffle donations	3
Call to serve	4
A year in review	4
Proposed By-law changes	5

MNACP Gets a new logo!

Thanks to the artistic talents of Megan Kachan (Paul Stolen's niece), MNACP has a stylish new logo. This came after countless concepts, tedious email exchanges, and Paul's tireless efforts as the go-between. The logo artistically captures the broad conservation interests of MNACP while remaining simple. You can sport the new logo on full zip fleece jackets that will be on sale at the meeting for \$24.

Express Your Gratitude

One of the most important treasures of our profession is the dedication of those with whom we work. We see such great work being done every day that goes too often unnoticed by those outside of our inner circles including the public we serve and even our leadership. Wouldn't it be great if there was some way to really show your appreciation?

Now there is. Each year the MNACP accepts nominations for recognition awards. Just simply send the nominating committee a short description of why you believe a particular conservation professional deserves recognition. There are no requirements for employment, length of service, or affiliation. The nominee needs only to have exhibited extraordinary commitment to the ideals of conser-

vation delivery in Minnesota. Contact Nominating Committee Members Todd Holman (tholman@tnc.org), Willis Mattison (mattison@arvig.net), Jesse Amo (jesseamo@yahoo.com), or Paul Stolen (stolami@gvtel.com).



Inside Story Headline

(Continued from page 1)

tives, the on-ground and above-ground tracking stations sending millisecond data points to cray-sized computers calculating the short term fluctuations of weather and long term arcs of climate. Wow, what a time to be a climate scientist!

And what about the climate of science? Another blessing to count? Why not! I daresay the popularity of science has never been higher than it is today. So many interesting stories to tell and so many venues and vehicles with which to tell them: the radio, the tv, the web, the dinner party, the e-newsletters, the peer-reviewed journals, the book clubs, the New York Times, etc., etc., etc..

And then there is the speedy shadow of science: politics. Like weather is to climate, politics can be to science. If science is the slow accumulation of data with long arcs of theoretical patterns, politics can be seen as the ephemeral, anecdotal, and emotional reaction to daily data. Imagine the climate for climate scientists: never better data; never better tools for understanding patterns; never more interested publics hungry for weath-

er and climate stories; never more controversy; never a more game-changing moment. Climate change and climate science are the conservation poster children of our age, politically and scientifically.

For the individual conservation professional, these are interesting times. How will you choose to pursue your conservation career, both before and after retirement? What roles will you select? What issues will you address? What spirit will

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you bring to your work?

For an organization like the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals, the times are no less interesting. How will we pursue our conservation advocacy? What roles will we select? What issues will we address? What spirit will we bring to this work?

I hope the organization brings a spirit of humility and wonder to the work. That's what science inspires in me: humility and wonder. That's what the beautiful natural resources and ecosystems of Minnesota inspire in me: humility and wonder. That's what these interesting times inspire in me: humility and wonder.

Evolution is the touchstone theory of our natural and social sciences. Change is the fundamental dynamic of evolution. Ours' is an age of accelerating change, an age of accelerating evolution.

Interesting times...

MNACP has got a new look and Webmaster!

The connections to talent don't end with Paul Stolen's niece, Megan. Senior Board Member Jack Lauer's son Matt when not buried in the books completing a 4 yr degree in Computer Science with honors in 3.5 yrs (Uh-hum...overachiever) turned out a simply stated, yet highly functional and easy to navigate new website for MNACP. Check it out at www.mnacr.org.

Going forward, Jack has graciously agreed to continue his service to MNACP as webmaster. MNACP thanks outgoing webmaster John Huber for his several years of service. We formally recognize the importance of our webmaster by proposing membership of the webmaster to the Board of Directors (See proposed by-law change on page 5).

Check the website for the latest MNACP

updates and action on pressing conservation matters.



Call For Raffle Donations

Each year at the annual meeting, the MNACP membership participates in our most important (in fact our only) fundraising event of the year – a silent auction. This coming year will be no exception.

There will be plenty of artwork, useful outdoor tools for sure, yet the most unique and highly valued fundraising items often come from you, our members. Hand-tied fishing flies, collectible books, home-made preserves and maple syrup, hand-picked wild rice, and handcrafted

turkey calls, frontier knives, ricing sticks and snowshoes are gifts that cannot be purchased anywhere else. Our members

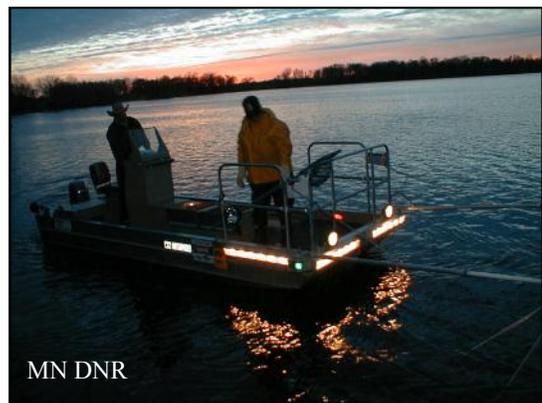


are not only conservation leaders they are knowledgeable and highly skilled outdoor users.

Please consider a donation for our fundraising effort. Put your skills to use in creating gifts that speak to the unique nature of our organization. And if, like me, you find that your skill set does not lend itself to this endeavor, please remember that we accept more traditional donations as well.



MPCA



MN DNR

A Call to Serve

MNACP is making great strides in broadening our membership. Our present Board of Directors represents a blend of youthful exuberance, seasoned professionals, and retirees who have decades of experience, yet plenty of energy left to serve our profession. Maintaining this desirable level of diversity as terms expire requires active recruitment of new ideas and the energy to make them hap-



pen. Consider how your ideas and your commitment to the ideals of MNACP can help carry us forward into the next year. Encourage others to join MNACP by contacting us on our [webpage](#) or [signing up here](#). Consider putting your hat into the ring for election to Board Membership in 2012. Here are the offices open effective March 2nd 2012.:

President – elect (1-yr)

Current incumbent – Brian Stenquist

Four Board Members (2 yr terms)

Current exiting incumbents – Dan Steward, Nicholas Snavelly, Bill Faber, Jack Lauer.



A Year in Review...

October 2010—[Letter to MN congressional delegation](#) to support the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act. Also sent letter to U of MN President Bruininks urge showing of Troubled Waters and investigation into threats of academic freedom

February 2011—annual meeting and workshop focused on contaminants and natural resource management. Presentations are posted on [MNACP.org](#). Installation of President-elect Anna Lipenga and 4 Junior Board Members: Willis Mattison (retired PCA), Todd Holman (TNC), Jesse Amo (MCC), and Paul Sto-



2011 meeting keynote Dr. Deborah Swackhammer and speaker Bruce Johnson

len (Retired DNR).

March 2011—[Letter to Legislature and Governor](#) addressing concerns about losses of human resource capacity at natural resource agencies and traditional funding dedicated to natural resource management.

May 2011—[Letter to DNR, PCA, and BWSR Department Heads](#) regarding the role of agriculture in polluting waterways and altering watershed hydrology.

June 2011—MNACP Past-president Ray Valley is nominated by the Board to serve as the standing MNACP liaison to the Dedicated Fund Working Group; a consortium of conservation groups that collectively serve as a watchdog ensuring appropriate expenditure of funds dedicated to natural resource management and conservation (primarily Legacy Amendment funds).

August 2011—Theme and tentative agen-

da set for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Drs. Steve Polasky and Tom Gillaspay headline “Resilient lands and waters: effectively coping with demographic, economic and environmental change.”

September 2011—MNACP supports research and publication of “[The Road to Dedicated Funding](#)” by John Helland—A retrospective on dedicating funding for conservation, culminating in the 2008 Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment increasing the sales tax for conservation.



Proposed By-law change

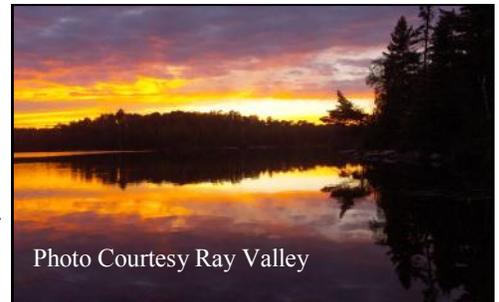
At the annual business meeting, we will be voting on some minor changes to the by-laws that relate to: 1) filling Board of Director vacancies due to Board member resignations or inactivity; 2) appointing the webmaster to membership on the Board; 3) amending the by-laws with section 22 that lists the duties of the webmaster.

The proposed amendment is as follows: The webmaster shall coordinate internet service with a provider, provide primary support for maintenance of the Associa-

tion's website, provide primary support for managing the Association's e-mail and pass inquiries to the President, coordinate with clients and the Board of Directors on website content, provide primary support for online updates as directed by the Board of Directors, and make appropriate changes to the website based on tracking of site visits and other web log files.

Two resolutions describing the justification for these proposed changes to the by-laws, along with the proposed by-

law changes are posted on mnacp.org.



WHO WE ARE

President - Anna Lipenga
President-elect - Brian Stenquist
Past President - Ray Valley
Secretary - Beau Liddell
Treasurer - Ann Geisen
Senior Director - Dan Steward
Senior Director - Nicholas Snavelly
Senior Director - Jack Lauer
Senior Director - Bill Faber
Junior Director - Paul Stolen
Junior Director - Jesse Amo
Junior Director - Todd Holman
Junior Director - Willis Mattison

MCF Rep - Diana Regenshied
FWLA Rep - Ray Norrgard
DFWG Rep - Ray Valley
Webmaster - Jack Lauer

P.O. Box 174
Little Falls, MN, 56345-0174
www.mnacp.org

***Promoting Stewardship of Flora,
Fauna, and their Environments***



MNACP

**Minnesota Association of
Conservation Professionals**