



# Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals

## November 2010 Newsletter

### Downwind

Each issue of the newsletter will feature an opportunity for opinion editorials by our members or invited guests. This issue features our President-Elect Anna Lipenga.

The MNACP – not just for DNR employees anymore. I am proof of that – I was invited to the annual meeting a couple of years ago by a DNR employee. I work for Conservation Corps Minnesota, which is a non-profit, but am surrounded everyday by DNR folks, so I thought, why not? The presenters sounded interesting, and maybe I would make some good connections. So I paid my dues, attended the meeting and was really impressed by the content of the conference. Somehow I ended up on the board. At the next year’s meeting I became President-Elect. (Don’t ask me how that happened either). However I landed here, I am proud to be part of an organization that serves as a voice for conservation professionals across the state. Please join us at our annual workshop for our discussion of emerging contaminants. We hope to have an engaging conversation, and we’d like you to be a part of it, whether you work for (or are retired from) the DNR,

PCA, BWSR, an SWCD, a college or university, a local unit of government, or a non-profit or business that is conservation focused.

#### Why do we need an Association?

In today’s climate of budget shortfalls, everyone is doing more with less. Divisions are being re-organized, people are retiring, and their positions are left empty. Non-profits face a challenging environment in which to raise funds. Thanks to the Legacy Amendment, land is being purchased and projects on the ground are getting done. But there are concerns that some don’t recognize the amount of work it takes to oversee those grants and projects. Or that there are not resources available for maintenance once these projects are “completed”. There is talk of “reform and realignment” of state natural resource agencies. As conservation professionals, reactionary changes without due concern for the environmental impacts is a concern, no matter what division, organization or unit you belong to. We do what we do because we have a passion for it, not just for the paycheck. So if you would like to join your voice with other concerned conservation professionals, I encourage you to



Photo courtesy of Anna Lipenga.

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attend our annual workshop, and if you like what you hear, become a part of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals!

In Conservation,  
Anna C Lipenga  
MNACP President-Elect

### New Website & Address

Our inaugural and stalwart website manager lo these many years has finally decided to hang up the keyboard. John Huber is moving on to a well deserved and honorable phase of his life that features a physical, as well as emotional, move. In other words he is retiring and moving to the pastoral hinterlands of North Dakota. Board member Jack Lauer has shanghaied a bright young mind, Matt Lauer, (not to be confused with the morning news anchor) to take over the duties. Jack and Matt have developed a new web site at <http://www.mnacp.org/>. We will be posting new minutes and announcements on the site.

At the same time Secretary Beau Liddell has established a formal mailing address for MNACP to handle correspondence and billing. Our new address MN Assn of Conservation Professionals, PO Box 174, Little Falls, MN 56345-0174.

Now if we could just make the same progress on our logo.



Photo by Ann Geisen.

## Mark Your Calendars

The 4th Annual Workshop and Meeting of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals will be Friday, February 25, 2011 at Camp Ripley Military Training Center, just north of Little Falls. This will be a one day workshop from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm with a MNACP business meeting to follow. Registration is \$25 which includes lunch & refreshments as well as a year membership to the MNACP.

The workshop, “Contaminants and Natural Resource Management” will focus on current and emerging issues of contaminants affecting resource management in Minnesota. Dr. Deborah Swackhamer from the University of Minnesota will present an overview on emerging contaminants, possible effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and human health, and possible policy initiatives for limiting exposures and harm.

We have also confirmed Dr. Shawn Schottler from the St. Croix Watershed Research Station to discuss novel techniques for tracing the origin of sediment deposits into lakes and streams (i.e., sediment “fingerprinting”). Molly Tranell, DNR Wildlife Management Section, will give a presentation on effects of lead on wildlife. Additional presentations on the agenda include contaminants from hard rock mining and mercury methylation in wetlands.

Registration information will be finalized in late December. Watch for the announcement via email or check the MNACP website ([www.mnacp.org](http://www.mnacp.org)).

Employees interested in attending the workshop on work time should talk with their supervisors.

## 2011 Annual Meeting Agenda

**Theme:** “Contaminants and Natural Resource Management”

**When:** Friday, February 25th, 2011

### **Morning Session:**

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:15 Welcome & Introduction

9:15-9:45 Keynote – Deb Swackhamer (U of MN)

9:45-10:30 Hardrock mining contaminants – Bruce Johnson (contaminants specialist – retired)

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-11:30 Endocrine disrupters & pharmaceuticals – Mark Ferry (PCA)

11:30-12:15 Mercury in forested wetlands – Randy Kolka (USFS)

**Lunch 12:15-1:30** – Deb Swackhamer will speak

### **Afternoon Session:**

1:30-2:15 Sediment fingerprinting in MN & Mississippi River -- Shawn Schottler (St. Croix Watershed Research Station)

2:15-3:00 Lead issues – Molly Tranell (MN DNR Wildlife Research)

3:00-3:15 Break

**Business Meeting 3:15-4:30 p.m.**

## Board Meeting Minutes

The MNACP Board of Directors met March 26, July 23, and October 6, 2010. The minutes are published on the new MNACP website at <http://www.mnacp.org/>.



Photo by Ray Valley.

## Time For Sharing

Just a reminder that MNACP membership is open to current and retired conservation professionals regardless of employer. Members are the heartbeat of any organization. MNACP has a strong core of committed members. To truly fulfill its mission, however, we need new members from all the conservation disciplines. We have made some headway in achieving the diversity we desire for intelligent and spirited discussion of the most important conservation issues in Minnesota. We can, and should, do much better. Take the time to share this newsletter with other conservation professionals. Encourage them to check out our website and attend the upcoming annual meeting.



Photo by Ann Geisen.

### **What's in the MNACP for me?**

- A safe environment to voice concerns relating to conservation issues
- A focus on conservation that spans multiple natural resource disciplines and agencies
- Networking opportunities with other professionals and conservation leaders
- A credible, unfiltered voice on natural resource conservation issues

### **Express Your Gratitude**

One of the most important treasures of our profession is the dedication of those we work with. We see such great work being done every day that too often goes 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. It takes only a few minutes to fill out the application in this newsletter. There are

no requirements for employment, length of service, or affiliation. For example, two of our previous award winners were MN Department of Transportation employees nominated by MN Department of Natural Resource professionals for their exemplary work on project reviews. The nominees need only to have exhibited extraordinary commitment to the ideals of conservation delivery in Minnesota. Take time today to recognize those great people who make Minnesota worth conserving.

**“Take time today to recognize those great people who make Minnesota worth conserving.”**



Photo by Ray Norrgard.

### **Priceless Prizes**

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 and useful outdoor tools to be 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.

## **The Future of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Professionals**

The MNACP is making great strides in broadening our membership. Our present Board of Directors represents youthful exuberance, seasoned professionals, six different disciplines, and sage retirees. Maintaining this desirable level of diversity as terms expire requires active recruitment of new ideas and the energy to make them happen. Consider how your ideas and your commitment to the ideals of MNACP can help carry us forward into the second decade of the new millennium. Here are the offices open in 2011.

### **President – elect (1-yr term)**

Current incumbent – Anna Lipenga

### **Secretary (2-yr term)**

Current incumbent – Beau Liddel

### **Four Board Members (2-yr term)**

Current incumbents – Doug Norris, Dean Paron, Diana Regenscheid, Paul Stolen

## **Bylaws and Articles of Amendment Notice to MNACP Members**

### **Board of Directors**

President - Ray Valley  
President-elect - Anna Lipenga  
Past President – Ray Norrgard  
Secretary – Beau Liddell  
Treasurer – Ann Geisen  
Senior Director – Doug Norris  
Senior Director – Dean Paron  
Senior Director – Diana Regenscheid  
Senior Director – Paul Stolen  
Junior Director – Dr. Bill Faber  
Junior Director – Jack Lauer  
Junior Director – Nicholas Snavelly  
Junior Director – Dan Steward

**We're on the web**  
**[www.mnacp.org](http://www.mnacp.org)**

During our upcoming annual business and general membership meeting, the following revisions to the organization's original articles of incorporation will be considered. Restate the articles of incorporation in their entirety to reflect changes to the corporation's name (ARTICLE I) and purpose (ARTICLE II) as approved by membership during the March 6th, 2009 annual business meeting; as well as changes to the registered office of the corporation (ARTICLE V), names and addresses of incorporators (ARTICLE VI), and list of directors (ARTICLE VII).

In addition to the Articles of Amendment, several major changes to the association's bylaws will be considered during the annual business & membership meeting: 1) changes in annual meeting date timeline (Section 4); 2) allowance for electronic communications (via Association's website as well as via electronic mail) among board members (including authority to make decisions and take action) and between the board and membership (Sections 4, 9, 10, 13, 19); and 3) allowance for electronic signature authority (Section 21).

The most recent versions of the Articles of Amendment and Bylaws with proposed changes can be viewed on the Association's website. Questions, comments and suggestions about the proposed changes should be directed to Beau Liddell at [b\\_liddell@charter.net](mailto:b_liddell@charter.net).

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT or SPECIAL PROJECT Award Nomination Form

(please circle one)

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of nomination: (please attach separate sheet)

Person(s) making nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of nominator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator(s) Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ / (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: *Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.*** Mail this form to MNACP / P.O. Box 174 / Little Falls, MN 56345-0174, or email the award nomination to one of the board members on the awards committee:

Doug Norris: [jdnorris@tcq.net](mailto:jdnorris@tcq.net)

Diana Regenscheid: [Direg\\_ebfire@msn.com](mailto:Direg_ebfire@msn.com)

Dean Paron: [dinop@scicable.net](mailto:dinop@scicable.net)

Paul Stolen: [stolami@gvtel.com](mailto:stolami@gvtel.com)

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## ELECTION NOMINATION FORM

The MNACP needs your help in recruiting officers and board members. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Make as many nominations as you like and you can nominate more than one person for the same office. Of course all nominees have the opportunity to accept or decline the nomination.

Name of nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title & Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating for which office: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I have contacted this individual about running

\_\_\_\_ I have **not** contacted this individual about running

Name of nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to MNACP / P.O. Box 174 / Little Falls, MN 56345-0174, or email the election nomination to one of the board members on the nominating committee:

Dr. Bill Faber: [wfaber@clcmn.edu](mailto:wfaber@clcmn.edu)

Nicholas Snavely: [nnav589@yahoo.com](mailto:nnav589@yahoo.com)

Jack Lauer: [cjlauer@charter.net](mailto:cjlauer@charter.net)

Dan Steward: [dan.steward@state.mn.us](mailto:dan.steward@state.mn.us)