

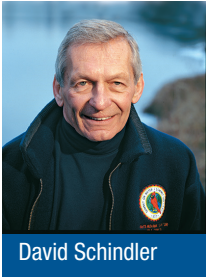
Mark Your Calendars – Twice!

Freshwater is privileged to host two important free public lectures this fall:

On Oct. 8, Duane Chapman, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist who is a national leader in efforts to study, control and prevent the spread of Asian carp, will speak. Chapman’s lecture is titled *The Biology and Management of Asian Carp: Lessons for Minnesota*. He leads research on Asian carp at the USGS Environmental Research Center in Columbia, Mo., has edited two books and published dozens of scholarly articles on the invasive carp and the threats they pose to native fish and other aquatic life.



Asian carp, which have been advancing up the Mississippi River for years, are a terribly serious threat to native fish in Minnesota rivers and lakes and in the Great Lakes. But not everything about them has to be serious: Check out Chapman’s **recipes** for preparing and cooking the invasive carp, including Jamaican Jerk Carp. Register to attend the **Chapman lecture** at freshwater.org. If you can’t attend the Chapman lecture in person, view it on live streaming **video**.



On Nov. 5, David Schindler, one of the world’s top freshwater ecologists, will deliver a presentation. Dr. Schindler’s presentation is titled *Letting the Light In: Providing Environmental Science to Direct Public Policy*. In it, he will speak of the tension – often conflict – between science and public policy on environmental issues. Register for the **Schindler lecture** at freshwater.org.

Both lectures will be at 7 p.m. in the theater of the **Student Center** of the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus, 2017 Buford Ave. Plan to join us for both events!



Boat Tour Brings Citizens Up Close to Water Issues



On August 29th, leaders from around Prior and Spring lakes gathered at Captain Jack’s on Upper Prior Lake for the third annual Boat Tour organized by the Freshwater Society in partnership with the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District. A number of groups were represented, including the City of Prior Lake’s Advisory Committee, the Watershed District’s Board of Managers and Citizens Advisory Committee and both Spring and Prior Lake Associations.

The gathering on the water was about having fun as well as discussing the latest issues in water protection and improvement. Our two boat captains, Woody Spitzmueller and Donna Mankowski, took us to the inlet from Spring Lake into Prior where we stopped and talked about managing the outlet. While the relatively new outlet channel from Prior Lake has made important progress in managing lake levels, some citizens are still concerned about high water levels. The group discussed water level management at the Spring Lake outlet. Read more at freshwater.org.

Join the Society – Get the Weatherguide!

Become a new member of the Freshwater Society and you’ll receive the new, *2014 Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar*. It’s a win-win! Help us protect freshwater resources and you’ll enjoy a plethora of amazing regional photography, Nature Notes, weather history and meteorological information, gardening tips and much more. **Become a member!**



WHAT CAN I DO?

Make a difference!

- **EDUCATE** yourself on current environmental issues.
- **BECOME** a Master Water Steward.
- **PROTECT** water when you do your fall yard work.
- **ATTEND** a lecture.



PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have a fall photo that is worthy of being published? Whether you’re a seasoned photographer or are just picking up the hobby we want to see your work!

Enter the Fall Facebook photo contest for the 2015 Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar!

FACETS of Freshwater



SEPTEMBER 2013

Weather Facts and Photo from *MN Weatherguide Environment Calendar*
Monthly Normals: Temp. Max: 71.7 F Min: 52.4 F Precip: 3.08 inches



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 1
Paul Huttner: Minnesota’s Changing Climate: Is this the new normal?

October 8
The Biology and Management of Asian Carp: Lessons for Minnesota

November 6
Metro Summit for Lakes and Rivers Groups

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From the desk of Gene Merriam



Gene Merriam

Six years ago this past spring, Bruce Bomier, then a member of the Freshwater Society Board, approached me about taking on a leadership role in the Society.

I have been privileged to have a number of different careers and positions – Certified Public Accountant, State Senator, chief financial officer for a publishing and printing company and commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – and I thought I might be ready to retire.

When I accepted the Freshwater presidency, I never expected to serve this long. But now, as I prepare to retire by the end of this year, I’m glad that I had the opportunity and stayed as long as I have.

I am very proud of the accomplishments that we – the Freshwater board, our staff, the blue-ribbon advisory committee that helped us craft a strategic vision for the Society, and the environmental groups that have been partners in a lot of our work – have achieved.

As I prepare to leave the Freshwater presidency, and as the Freshwater Board conducts a search for a new leader of the organization, I am confident that the organization is strong and getting stronger.

Here are some of the things I am proud of:

■ In 2008, with the assistance of our Guardianship Council, that blue-ribbon advisory group I mentioned, we wrote a report on groundwater, lakes, streams and wetlands.

In that report, *Water Is Life: Protecting A Critical Resource For Future Generations*, we said that there was no consensus among groundwater experts whether Minnesota’s groundwater use was sustainable. Following the report’s publication, we joined the University of Minnesota’s Water Resources Center in sponsoring two workshops for groundwater professionals on the sustainability issue.

Some lawmakers, notably Rep. Jean Wagenius and former Senators Ellen Anderson and Sandy Rummel, were already working on groundwater sustainability. Our report helped them win support from their

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FRESHWATER SOCIETY

The Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect water resources.

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Visit the Freshwater Society web site at www.freshwater.org.

From the desk of Gene Merriam... *Continued from page 1*

colleagues for appropriations for more monitoring wells to track groundwater levels and for writing a new definition of groundwater sustainability into law.

A follow-up report we published last spring, *Minnesota's Groundwater: Is Our Use Sustainable?* put a number on how much our groundwater pumping has been increasing over the last three decades: About 2.8 billion gallons per year.

That report included several recommendations for policy changes, and I believe it again helped enact some important changes in groundwater law. One of those changes gives the Department of Natural Resources clear authority to review and comment on requests for high-capacity pumping permits before, not after, the wells are drilled.

■ Since 2010, Freshwater and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences have co-sponsored a remarkable series of lectures on water and the environment. We now are preparing for our 12th and 13th lectures in the series. You can read about them elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have had wonderful lecturers on important and timely topics. They have included: Reporter, author and documentary filmmaker Headrick Smith, on rural and urban pollution of surface waters; Environmental Working Group executive Craig Cox, on agricultural pollution and policy; Stanford ecologist Gretchen Daily, on protecting ecosystems by attaching a dollar value to all the services they provide to humans; investor advocate and corporate watchdog Mindy Lubber, on persuading companies to set sustainability standards for themselves and their supply chains; and Purdue agricultural economist Otto Doering, on controlling the air and water pollution from excess nitrogen in our environment.

■ Later this fall, our first class of Master Water Stewards will graduate. They are now working, or soon will be, on neighborhood projects aimed at reducing the flow of storm water and pollutants into Minnehaha Creek and the Minneapolis Chain of Lakes.

This project, a partnership with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, trains citizen volunteers to work in their own communities to reduce water pollution. Another class of volunteer stewards will begin early next year. We hope eventually to expand the program and the areas the stewards serve.

■ In ways that may not be apparent to people outside the Freshwater Society, we have dramatically improved our internal capabilities. We have hired good people and given them opportunities to exercise their talents. We have made changes in our corporate structure that allow us to advocate for policy changes. We do a much better job of tracking and communicating with our members and supporters. We also do a better job of asking all of you to support our work.

During my six-plus years as Freshwater Society president, I have had the good fortune of working with Joan Nephew, our executive director. Joan is a person with unique talents and energy. She has keen insight into public policy issues and the ability to connect with people, plus administrative skills.

Without Joan to partner with, I doubt I would have stayed this long. She, too, is preparing to reduce her commitment of time to Freshwater and planning to retire sometime next year.

I am confident the Freshwater board and the new executive will continue the important work we have under way and address other important water issues as they develop.

Sincerely,



Items of Interest

Links to original reports on water availability, water pollution and water policy are archived on the [Reports and Research](#) page of the Freshwater web site.

There is some intriguing research there by agencies and organizations as diverse as the U.S. Geological Survey, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Pew Environment Group. You can look up a report that puts Minnesota water use into a national perspective, and you can read about Chesapeake Bay pollution caused by giant chicken farms.

Browse through the web page. You will find something that interests you.



Field Day Features Exemplary Farms



Participants inspect benefits of Tillage Radish as a cover crop on John (green shirt) and Debbie Becker's farm.

The emphasis for the day was assessing an integrated approach to conserving water and soil resources on the farm. Because every farm is different, approaches to conservation challenges need to vary from site to site. The day began in Mike Daly's impressive dairy barn for lunch, socializing and presentations. Read more at freshwater.org.

Program sponsors:



Clean Water Summit

People taking action is an essential part of implementing a project or creating a policy that makes our waters cleaner and healthier. Each year, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum team up to host the Clean Water Summit.

In past years, the Summit has focused on themes such as the role trees and soils, play in clean water. This year, the focus was on the role PEOPLE play in keeping water clean. Six of this year's class of Master Water Stewards were in attendance on Sept. 12. Roxanne Stuhr, Betsy Blume, Erika Spande, Bruce Jones, Kristina Geiger and Jen Wendland spent the day at the Summit, representing a new model of community leadership for clean water. The Master Water Stewards program is a partnership between the Freshwater Society and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, funded by the Clean Water Fund.

Master Water Stewards are local leaders who work with their neighbors to install pollution prevention projects that educate community members, reduce pollutants from urban runoff, and allow more water to soak into the ground before running into storm sewer system. Read more at freshwater.org.

Sponsored by:



Left to right: Freshwater Society Program Manager Deirdre Coleman, Roxanne Stuhr, Kristina Geiger, Erika Spande, Jen Wendland, Freshwater Society Program Director Peggy Knapp, Bruce Jones and Betsy Blume



Paul Huttner to Highlight Changes in Minnesota's Climate

The League of Women Voters of South Tonka and Freshwater Society present Paul Huttner, Chief Meteorologist at Minnesota Public Radio, as a guest speaker. Huttner will present information about how climate change is affecting our immediate area including weather patterns, water (lakes, streams and aquifers) and air quality.

The free event will take place on **Tuesday, October 1 at 7 p.m.** at the [Gray Freshwater Center](#), 2500 Shadywood Road, Excelsior, MN.

Huttner, an award-winning meteorologist, has been a broadcast meteorologist for TV and radio stations for 26 years. In 2007 Paul was tapped by Minnesota Public Radio as their first ever Chief Meteorologist to focus on the "whys" of weather and climates beyond the forecast. He is a graduate of Macalester College and holds a bachelor's degree in geography with an emphasis in meteorology. He is also a full member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and has been awarded the AMS Television Seal of Approval. In March 2008, Huttner earned AMS's Certified Broadcast Meteorologist (CBM) designation. Visit www.lwvsouthtonka.org for more information.