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Minnesota's quarterly newsletter of water

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The Water Resources Center's quarterly newsletter focuses on water-related issues.

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[2017 Minnesota Water Resources Conference explores the role of media, industry and science in shaping the public perception of water resources](#)

The 2017 Minnesota Water Resources Conference returns to the St. Paul RiverCentre October 17-18. The Water Resources Center hosts the annual conference which presents innovative water resource engineering solutions, management techniques, and current research. Plenary topics include the role of media in raising public awareness of water issues, water quality in agriculture, protecting public health in recreational waters and tribal water concerns.

[New endeavors in citizen science and aquatic plant management: The AIS Trackers Program](#)

By Megan Weber

Citizen science is a field on the rise. Around the globe, researchers are harnessing the power of engaged members of the community to help contribute to important research questions. As defined by the Citizen Science Association, citizen science is “the involvement of the public in scientific research – whether community-driven research or global investigations.”

[Endangered in its native habitat, invasive starry stonewort finds ideal conditions to thrive in Minnesota lakes](#)

By Dan Larkin

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) is a new aquatic invasive species in Minnesota. This green alga—native to Europe and Asia—was first identified in Minnesota in summer 2015 in Lake Koronis (Stearns Co.). What does the arrival of this new aquatic invasive species mean for Minnesota’s lakes?

[UMN Center explores North Shore community readiness for climate-altered future](#)

By Emily Green

The area’s scenic attractions have typically been enhanced by its weather – breezy, sunny, and mild in summer and reliably snowy in winter. But current models predict that global climate change patterns will result in local changes that could noticeably and adversely impact the visitor and resident North Shore experience. The summer seasons could bring increased average temperatures, more heat waves, increased wildfires, and more intense precipitation events. Meanwhile the winters will likely see a decrease in maximum snow depth and a later average date when snow levels reach the one-foot depth that is desirable for many outdoor sports.

News

[Fall 2017 Community News](#)

[Fall 2017 Student News](#)

[Fall 2017 Resources and Publications](#)

[Fall 2017 Upcoming Events](#)

[Fall 2017 CrossCurrents-Links to other water-based websites](#)

- [Confluence](#)
- ▼ [Minnegram](#)
 - [Minnegram Fall 2016](#)
 - [Minnegram Fall 2017](#)
 - [Minnegram Spring 2016](#)
 - [Minnegram Spring 2018](#)
 - [Minnegram Summer 2016](#)
 - [Minnegram Summer 2017](#)
 - [Minnegram Winter 2016](#)
 - [Minnegram Winter 2017](#)
 - [Minnegram Winter 2018](#)
- [WRC publications](#)
- [UM Digital Conservancy \(archive\)](#)

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[Minnegram Fall 2016](#)

[Minnegram Winter 2017](#)

[Minnegram Spring 2017](#)

[Minnegram Summer 2017](#)

[Minnegram Fall 2017](#)

[Minnegram Winter 2018](#)

[Minnegram Spring 2018](#)

[Minnegram Summer 2018](#)

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About Us

Our Work

Training

News/Events

Publications

Division Water Resources

WRS Graduate Program

Water Topics

Edit

Revisions

Nodequeue

Convert

Customize display

1 2017 Director's Corner

Unbelievably to me anyway, October is already here and that means that the Minnesota Water Resources Conference is just around the corner. I am really excited about this year's program. Featured speakers will include Amy Skoczlas Cole, Director of American Public Media's Water Initiative; Greg Page, retired Cargill Chairman and CEO; Michael Sadowsky, Professor of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota; and Nancy Schuldt, Water Projects Coordinator for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. A special session will explore the promise of new continuous living cover cropping systems to provide water quality and other ecological benefits. And, backed by popular demand, [Water Bar](#) returns to the conference this year, this time in an expanded format that captures themes from the conference and aims to connect attendees to the water stewardship traditions of the Dakota people. You can learn much more about the conference in a feature article in this issue, and you can register to attend on the conference [website](#).



Autumn also means that the University campus is again bustling with students. As many Minnogram readers know, the WRC is the administrative home of the [Water Resources Science](#) (WRS) graduate program, which welcomed a select cohort of new students this fall. Recently the WRC has expanded its support for the WRS program, using our unique set of connections to aid in students in their professional development. We're hosting a series of professional development workshops and helping students develop professional networks at gatherings events like the Water Resources Conference. I hope you will see some of them there and get a chance to talk with them. Another way we are supporting the program is by sponsoring fellowship to an outstanding incoming WRS student. At the recommendation of the WRS Directors of Graduate Studies, we were pleased to award the inaugural WRC Graduate Student Fellowship to Kirsten Rhude. You can read more

about the fellowship and Kirsten in our [Community News](#) section.

Recent months also brought changes and additions to the WRC staff. We are excited to welcome Lucy Levers as a new research associate. Lucy has an interdisciplinary background in environmental science and economics and specializes in integrated modeling. She earned her PhD from the University of California - Riverside and worked at the USDA-ARS Salinity Lab in Riverside before joining the WRC. We also are excited to welcome Douglas Johnson as our new finance professional, a pivotal staff position to keep all our programs running smoothly. Doug has a wealth of experience in finance roles at various units in the University of Minnesota. Lucy and Doug are also featured in [Community News](#).

Our staff has been growing, but we are not done growing yet. We're developing staffing plans to take on new projects, like a recent [grant](#) award from the Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS) program at the National Science Foundation. We'll be looking forward to filling you in on these projects as they unfold in future issues.

In this issue, you'll find lots to read about recent activities and timely topics. A pair of feature articles by University of Minnesota Extension experts focus on the pressing issue of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Dan Larkin discusses one of the most recently detected aquatic invasives, the [algal species starry stonewort](#). Megan Weber describes the growing [AIS Trackers Program in Minnesota](#), which contributes to a larger citizen science movement across the nation.

I hope to see you at the conference,



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Amy Skoczlas Cole

Amy Skoczlas Cole, American Public Media, *Communicating Science for Action*

For more than two decades, Cole has worked at the intersection of the economy, environment, and society in a variety of roles at Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits and foundations on both coasts and in Minnesota. Previously, she served as Pentair’s first-ever vice president of corporate social responsibility. There, she designed a shared value program of work to secure safe water, abundant energy, and affordable food for society today and into the future. She also oversaw the company’s sustainability efforts and served as the executive director of The Pentair Foundation, and led Pentair’s signature Project Safe Water. Prior to moving to Minnesota, Cole was eBay’s first sustainability executive, where she led efforts to engage eBay’s more than 100 million users in more sustainable choices at scale.

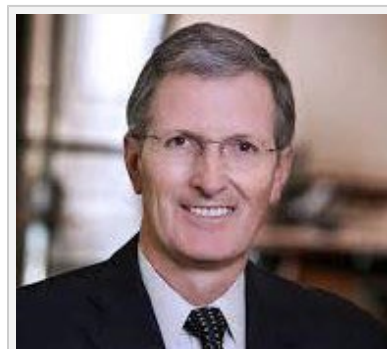
In March 2017, American Public Media appointed Cole as managing director of its national water initiative which is designed to raise Americans' engagement with critical water issues, implications and possible solutions. Cole also serves as an executive advisor and partner to organizations and businesses that are committed to large-scale social impact through S3 Social Innovations + Sustainability Consulting.

Greg Page, retired chairman and CEO, Cargill, Incorporated, *Water Quality and Agriculture*

Page was executive director of Cargill from September 2015 through August 2016. He served as executive chairman of Cargill from December 2013 to September 2015. Prior to that, he served as Cargill's chief executive officer from June 2007 to December 2013. He was elected to the Cargill Board of Directors in August 2000 and elected chairman of the board in September 2007.

Page joined Cargill in 1974 as a trainee assigned to the Feed Division. Since then, he has held a number of positions in the United States and Singapore. In 1998, he was named Corporate Vice President & Sector President of Cargill's Financial Markets and Red Meat Group. The following year, he was named Executive Vice President of the company's Financial Markets and Red Meat Group. In 2000, he was named Cargill's President and Chief Operating Officer and elected to the Cargill Board of Directors.

He has served as a member of the board of directors of Eaton Corporation as well as a national board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and a board member and past president of the Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He is a graduate of the University of North Dakota, with a bachelor's degree in economics, and a native of Bottineau, North Dakota.



Greg Page



Mike Sadowsky

Mike Sadowsky, Department of Soil, Water and Climate, University of Minnesota, *Water Quality and Microorganisms: Protecting Recreation and Public Health*

Professor Michael Sadowsky, a fellow in the prestigious American Academy of Microbiology, is internationally known and respected for his research work in the area of environmental microbiology. He currently is co-director of the Microbial and Plant Genomics Institute. He has published more than 100 original articles, and his work is widely cited by researchers in several scientific disciplines.

Sadowsky's methods for determining sources of fecal bacteria in water have been widely published and received mention in an issue of Time magazine as a key contribution to environmental microbiology. The ability to distinguish the sources of fecal contamination is important both in assessing possible health risks and in facilitating effective clean-up strategies. Sadowsky is leading a group of researchers in the development of high-throughput and robotic methods of analyzing water, sand and sediment samples to determine sources of fecal bacteria.

Nancy Schuldt, Fond du Lac Environmental Program, *Tribal Water Resources Issues*

Schuldt serves as the Fond du Lac Water Projects Coordinator. She developed the Band's water quality standards and monitoring program. She has directed research into fish contaminants and sediment chemistry to characterize mercury impacts to Fond du Lac Band members, collaborated on research into wild rice ecology and toxicity, as well as watershed hydrologic modeling to inform management and restoration efforts. She participates in numerous local, regional, and binational working groups to ensure the tribal perspective is represented, and initiated a cooperative wastewater management project with the non-tribal community to protect Big Lake, a heavily developed lake on the Reservation. She initiated the tribe's nonpoint source management program, and leads the Band's environmental review of mining and energy industry impacts to trust resources.



Nancy Schuldt

The Minnesota Water Conference is sponsored by the Water Resources Center and the College of Continuing Education, University of Minnesota, and co-sponsored by the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-Engineering, College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Section, American Society of Civil Engineers Minnesota Sea Grant College Program, University of Minnesota and the Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota.

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