

# Updates & Opportunities

March 2012

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For upcoming events go to the [DNR Calendar](#).

## *The Bottom Line - Recreation Worth Paying For!*

Minnesota's Game and Fish Fund is in dire condition. It is projected to be in the red by as early as July 2013. This means the DNR will need to make significant cuts that affect the quantity and quality of hunting, fishing and natural resources law enforcement unless the state Legislature approves license fee increases during the 2012 session.

MinnAqua's funding comes from the Game and Fish Fund. Potential cuts will impact how we are able to provide programming and support for aquatic stewardship and fishing education in Minnesota.

To learn more, please visit the [Fish and Wildlife Heritage Website](#).

## The Explore Fund

### **Application Deadline: April 6, 2012**

The Explore Fund will support organizations that encourage youth outdoor participation, focusing primarily on creating more connections of children to nature, increasing access to both front & backcountry recreation, as well as providing education for both personal & environmental health. Grants will be given up to \$2,500, and to maximize the impact of The Explore Fund, we limit our grants to those applications that comply with the following guidelines:

- Organizations that have 501(c)(3) status.
- Projects that include community demographics, estimated number of participants, and anticipated outcomes.
- Proposals that encourage community involvement.
- Programs that focus on breaking down barriers to getting youth outdoors.
- The project or program should seek a specific audience and reach out to a specific community or place of interest.
- All funding requests should be quantifiable with specific goals, objectives, and action plans, with a clear measure for evaluating success.
- Your program should have a good chance of significant measureable results & momentum over a fairly short term (one to three years).
- Potential grantees should include a specific communications plan in the application that demonstrates how you plan to disseminate information about your program, as well as maintain visibility of your program & organization on PlanetExplore™.
- Applications that come with matching dollars will be viewed favorably & this will be taken into consideration during the granting process.
- Organizations are allowed to apply for more than one grant as long as the funds would be used for unique programs.

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### **Scholarships for the 2012 MAEE Conference**

MAEE is pleased to offer scholarship assistance to attend the 2012 MAEE Conference June 21-22, 2012 at Itasca State Park in Park Rapids, MN. Funds may be used to cover conference fees, meals, or lodging.

Ten scholarships for \$100 are available. Due dates are as follows:

- **May 4, 2012: scholarship deadline**
- May 18, 2012: scholarship awards announced

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### **National EE Week 2012**

This year, National Environmental Education Week is April 15-21 and the theme is Greening STEM: The Environment as Inspiration for 21st Century Learning. You can participate in EE Week by teaching lessons in your classroom or community on this topic.

The EE Week website has resources to help you: toolkits, webinars, and other promotions.

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### **Annual Minneapolis Earth Day Watershed Clean Up**

On Saturday, April 21st, from 9:30am to Noon thousands of volunteers venture into Minneapolis Parks and neighborhoods for an annual watershed clean up education event. We're seeking help to educate those volunteers.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Earth Day Watershed Clean Up is assembling a team of high quality volunteer educators to increase the knowledge of those who show up to clean up. Any environmental topic can be proposed, especially if the volunteer educator can relate it to healthier local bodies of water. Education format can include everything from leading a field hike to offering a game for kids staffing an information booth/table.

### **List of Clean Up Sites**

Interested individuals can email [Jamie McBride](#) or call 612-313-7725

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### **Participate in [World Water Monitoring Day](#)**

World Water Monitoring Day™ is an international education and outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies. In 2010, over 200,000 people in 85 countries monitored their local waterways. Celebrate with us on September 18, or host your World Water Monitoring Day anytime from March 22 until December 31! Find out more [here](#).