

Hear what the experts have to say about **SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES** in Southeastern Minnesota



FREE PUBLIC FORUMS Jan 15 - April 17, 2008

All presentations are from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 15

Preston Library - 101 St. Paul Street

ASSET BASED COMMUNITIES

This presentation will provide the impetus for community members to better understand their assets by identifying the capacities and skills of its citizens, organizations, institutions, and natural and fiscal resources.

Mary Laeger-Hagemeister

U of MN Regional Extension Educator
Leadership/Civic Engagement



Thursday, January 24

St. Charles Library - 125 W. 11th Street

MINNESOTA'S ENERGY FUTURE

The Clean Energy Resource Teams project, launched in 2003, is connecting citizens with the technical resources they need to implement community-scale energy efficiency and clean energy projects including wind, biomass, biofuels and solar.

Joel Haskard

Assistant Coordinator
Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)
Regional Sustainable Dev. Partnerships



Tuesday, January 29

Houston Nature Center - 215 W. Plum Street

VISIONS FOR RURAL DESIGN

As the first of its kind in the nation, the Center for Rural Design, a provides an interdisciplinary approach to design for problem-solving on rural land issues. The presentation will include as examples recent projects where the Center assisted rural communities to create a community-based land-use vision for their futures.

Dewey Thorbeck

U of MN Adjunct Professor of Architecture
Director, Center for Rural Design



Tuesday, February 12

Albert Lea Library - 211 E. Clark Street

ABC'S OF ORGANICS

Jim Riddle has been an organic farmer, gardener, inspector, educator, policy analyst, author, activist, and avid organic eater. He and his wife, Joyce, raise a huge garden and put up much of their own food.

Jim Riddle

U of MN Organic Outreach Coordinator



Tuesday, February 26

Zumbrota Library - 100 W. Avenue

SOIL/WATER QUALITY

Ms. Allan will discuss her research on the plant root-soil interface, focusing on processes to improve efficiency of nutrient use and minimize environmental pollution. She will also present information on soil quality indicators for different cropping systems.

Deborah L. Allan

U of MN Professor
Dept. of Soil, Water, and Climate



Tuesday, March 4

LeRoy Library -406 W. Main Street

TOURISM/RECREATION

Trends in tourism and recreation marketing will be presented. With river valleys, prairie land, antique shops, historic architecture, ethnic festivals, bike trails and more, Southeast Minnesota offers a rich texture of experiences.

Dave Vogel

Explore Minnesota Tourism

Tuesday, March 11

Harmony Library - 225 3rd Avenue SW

COMMUNITY VITALITY

Successful strategies for smaller communities to maintain a sense of identity will be presented. These include economics (how stores can thrive in our big-box economy), tourism, and creative use of the Internet.

Bruce Schwartau

Regional Extension Educator
Community Economics



Thursday, March 27

Kasson Library - 16 NW 1st Avenue

RENEWABLE ENERGY, ENERGY INDEPENDENCE & CLIMATE CHANGE

Can Minnesota switch to renewable energy sources such as wind and ethanol fast enough to avoid shortages and mitigate the effects of global warming? An assessment of where we stand now and a possible target for a sustainable future will be shared.

Lou Schwartzkopf

Minnesota State University - Mankato
Professor of Physics



Tuesday, April 8

Lanesboro Library - 202 Parkway South

CLIMATE CHANGES ON FORESTS

Climate change is making the news on a daily basis. A big question is what will happen in Minnesota? We may already be seeing ecological changes consistent with the predictions from climate change models. Dr. Frelich will describe observed and predicted changes to forests in Minnesota.

Lee Frelich

Director, U of MN Ctr for Hardwood Ecology
Vice President, Eastern Native Tree Society



Thursday, April 17

LaCrescent Library - 321 Main Street

LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY

Why should people buy locally? Where can you find local food? Speakers will discuss benefits of purchasing locally and how to get products out to consumers.

Maggi Adamek

UMN Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
Senior Analyst for Food, Sustainability and Wellness

Caroline van Schaik

Land Stewardship Project
Community Based Food Systems Program Organizer

For related books and materials, go to the SELCO library catalog. The subject search term **<experiment in rural cooperation>** will provide an extensive list of items.

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