

## Updates on Summer Community Outreach

This summer, EMWREP sponsored several neighborhood events for community members to learn about projects they can do in their own yards to protect local lakes. Many of the attendees have since requested site visits with the Washington Conservation District and are now working with their local watershed districts on cost-share projects for this fall and 2013.

### Lake Demontreville - Pond's Edge Workshop & City Raingardens

Roughly 15 people from the Tri-Lakes area in Lake Elmo, part of the Valley Branch Watershed, came to Master Gardener Mary Blinkoff's place to learn about pond edge and lakeshore landscaping with native plants. Nearby Lake Demontreville, the City of Lake Elmo also installed more than a dozen curb-cut raingardens this year.

### Square Lake - Shoreline Garden Party

Dean and Becky Tharp welcomed twenty neighbors to their home in August to see their new shoreline buffer planting and learn about the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District. Many of these folks are now considering rain garden or shoreline projects for 2013.

### Stillwater Township - Evening on the Prairie

We were overwhelmed by the turnout at Nora Olson's Prairie workshop in August. Forty-five people attended and about half requested site visits. Of those, many have property directly adjacent to the St. Croix River, Brown's Creek and CMSCWD lakes.

### Croixwood Neighborhood - Lake and Garden Tour

Featuring raingardens at the Boettcher and Kloenecki homes, as well as an enormous shoreline habitat planting on Stillwater Parks property, this August tour drew out many folks from the Croixwood neighborhood, which borders on Long Lake. As a result, at least two new raingardens are planned for 2013 in the neighborhood.



After learning about natives, invasives and water quality, people hiked in the Olson Prairie.



Margaret Boettcher spoke with neighbors and BCWD board at the Croixwood Tour.

## Upcoming in October

### Girl Scout Clean-ups for Clean Water - Oct. 13

Join the Girl Scouts of the River Valleys' on Saturday, October 13 as they celebrate their 100 Year Anniversary by cleaning leaves and litter out of streets near sensitive lakes and streams to keep pollution out of our waterways. The event will include 20,000 girl scouts and their families working in parks and neighborhoods throughout the metro-area, southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

The Girl Scouts began planning their event in collaboration with WaterShed Partners and Freshwater Society over a year ago, and individual troops have worked with local cities and watersheds to select their locations. Here in the east metro, troops will be working at:



Camp Lakamaga - Big Marine Lake;  
Square Lake Park;  
Katherine Abbot Park - Mahtomedi;  
Transfiguration Church - Oakdale;  
Ojibway Park - Woodbury; and  
Westwood Park - Hastings

Learn more at [www.girlscoutsrv.org](http://www.girlscoutsrv.org) or find a map of all the clean-up locations at: <https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=203167286010595210088.0004c7b8ebdcbae262305&msa=0>.

### Oct. 23 - Snow and Ice Control Workshop, 8:30am-noon at North St. Paul

The workshop is designed to help contractors learn the basics of snow and ice control for parking lots and sidewalks to minimize cost, maximize effectiveness and protect water resources. The workshop will address issues such as application rates, equipment calibration and materials storage. At the end of the morning, attendees will take a test that will qualify them to be included on the MPCA's list of approved contractors.

Contact Louise Watson for more info at 651-792-7956 or [louise.watson@rwmwd.org](mailto:louise.watson@rwmwd.org).

### Oct. 23 - Benefits of a Healthy Watershed presentation (7pm)

The Washington County Planning Advisory Commission and Board of Adjustments and Appeals are in a position to make decisions or recommendations on land use and management that impact our community's water resources. Angie will give a presentation to the two groups on Oct. 23. The purpose of this workshop is to build knowledge about local water resources and provide information about policies, plans and practices that impact surface waters in the county so that advisory board members can make informed decisions.

## **Lake St. Croix Phosphorus Reduction TMDL Approved! Building a St. Croix Water Educators Network - Kickoff Meeting on Oct. 25**

This August, the U.S. EPA approved the Lake St. Croix TMDL plan, which calls for a reduction in phosphorus loading to the river of 123 metric tons per year. Eighty percent of this goal will come from “non-point pollution sources” such as shoreline and riparian properties, agricultural lands, forest lands and urban and rural residential runoff. Because these areas are not regulated, civic engagement, education and outreach, and voluntary conservation efforts such as planting shoreline buffers, using cover crops during the winter, and planning carefully for forest management activities will be critical.

EMWREP is taking a lead role in building a network of educators within the basin to tackle this and other water resource issues. Currently, there are a number of governmental, non-profit and citizen groups doing water resource education in the St. Croix Basin, including nature centers, county and state parks, National Park Service, sportsmen groups and watershed education collaboratives like EMWREP. We tend to work independently of one another, however, which can lead to duplication of efforts and also means that critical audiences are often missed.

On October 25, 2:30-4:30pm, EMWREP, NPS, Washington County Parks and Belwin Nature Conservancy will coordinate an initial meeting to bring together people conducting water resource education in the lower St. Croix Basin. The goal of this meeting is to meet one another, begin mapping educational efforts in the basin, and brainstorm goals we could accomplish as a collaborative. Possibilities include utilizing the newly created St. Croix Splash website to promote projects and events throughout the basin, applying for an EPA regional environmental education grant, developing a plan for the education and outreach component of the St. Croix phosphorus TMDL or working with nature center and park interpretive staff to conduct watershed lessons for local schools.

If you are interested in attending our initial St. Croix Educators Network meeting, please RSVP to Angie at 651-275-1136 x. 35 or [angie.hong@mnwcd.org](mailto:angie.hong@mnwcd.org). So far, around 20 organizations are planning to attend.

## **Annual Bailey School Forest Buckthorn Event - Oct. 27, 9am-noon**



Newport neighbors will again gather at Bailey School Forest on Saturday, Oct. 27 to pull, cut and kill buckthorn. As in years past, Angie will attend to talk about South Washington Watershed District programs and bring weed wrenches from the WCD for volunteers to use. Nearly a dozen households near the school forest have installed raingardens or other water quality projects with SWWD assistance as a result of previous year's outreach.

## Stormwater U - 4-part workshop series begins on Dec. 13

Over the winter, we are working with Minnesota Extension to provide four Stormwater U workshops for local community staff to learn about stormwater best management practices and their design, installation and maintenance. The four-part series will be held at the Hugo City Hall and will be open to communities outside of Washington County as well.

EMWREP will cover the registration expense for staff from Washington County and EMWREP partner cities and watershed organizations to attend. Workshops will cover the following topics:

1. Stormwater BMP intro - Dec. 13 (half day - beginner)
2. BMP Functions, Designs and Installations - Jan 22 (full day - intermediate)
3. Stormwater Site Assessment and BMP selection - Feb. or Mar. (full day - intermediate) (aka. How do I know which BMP to use for a project?)
4. Stormwater BMP maintenance - May (full day - intermediate)  
Outdoors on-site inspection of stormwater pond and bioretention sites

Later in 2013, we also plan to develop and offer two advanced workshops to help communities that are already using stormwater BMPs frequently to address common concerns. These workshops will likely be held at the new Cottage Grove City Hall. For more info on any of these workshops, contact Angie.

## Targeted neighborhood outreach

During 2012, EMWREP outreach supported the implementation of neighborhood-scale clean water projects for subwatershed analyses in Woodbury and Stillwater. In Lily Lake, Lake McKusick, Colby and Powers Lake neighborhoods, we used a combination of mailings, open houses and door-knocking to recruit homeowners to install right-of-way raingardens in their yards in order to treat stormwater runoff from their neighborhoods. Approximately twenty raingardens were installed in each of the four neighborhoods, all in locations that were identified as best locations for reducing pollutant loads to the lakes. In doing subwatershed outreach this year and last, we have learned important lessons about what techniques work best in different types of neighborhoods. These lessons will help us in targeted outreach next year to neighborhoods in Forest Lake, Scandia, Stillwater, Bayport, and Woodbury.



Tara Kline helps Colby Lake residents to plant a right-of-way raingarden

## 2012 -2013 Upcoming Events

### October

- 13** **Girl Scouts 100 Year Anniversary Event**, 9am-noon, region-wide  
[www.girlscoutsrv.org/stuff-to-do/centennial-day-of-service](http://www.girlscoutsrv.org/stuff-to-do/centennial-day-of-service)  
<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=203167286010595210088.0004c7b8ebdcbae262305&msa=0>  
Girl Scouts and other volunteers will clean leaves and litter out of streets to protect local waterways from runoff pollution
- 23** **Winter Maintenance Workshop for Contractors, 8:30am-noon in N. St. Paul**  
RSVP to Louise Watson at 651-792-7956 or [louise.watson@rwmwd.org](mailto:louise.watson@rwmwd.org)
- 23** **Washington County Planning Advisory Commission Mtg**, 7pm  
EMWREP will give a presentation on the benefits of a healthy watershed
- 25** **Lower St. Croix Educators Network kick-off meeting**, 2:30-4:20pm, Belwin  
Educators will meet to discuss and plan basin-wide watershed outreach and ed
- 27** **Bailey School Forest Buckthorn Event**, 9am-noon, Newport  
RSVP by Oct. 19 to Newport City Hall at (651) 459-5677

### November

- 14** **WaterShed Partners Roundtable Discussion**, 9am-noon, Hamline University  
Metro area water resource educators will use the “Art of Hosting” technique to explore topics that the collaborative should work on in 2013

### December

- 13** **Stormwater U BMP Intro Workshop**, 8am-noon, Hugo City Hall  
Overview of stormwater and watershed issues and regulations, as well as an introduction to stormwater best management practices and local case studies.

### January

- 22** **Stormwater U - BMP Functions, Designs and Installations**, 8am-3pm, Hugo  
Training for city staff and consultants on how to design and install BMPs

### February

- 23** **Clean Water Workshop for Horse Owners**, Washington County Fairgrounds  
Guidance for horse owners on how to protect groundwater and surface water

### Members of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program:

Brown's Creek Watershed • Carnelian Marine - St. Croix Watershed  
Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed • Cottage Grove • Dellwood  
Forest Lake • Lake Elmo • Middle St. Croix Watershed  
Ramsey - Washington Metro Watershed • Rice Creek Watershed • Stillwater  
South Washington Watershed • Valley Branch Watershed • Willernie  
West Lakeland • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

