



Jenny Shillcox, Amy Husveth and Molly Shodeen look out on the St. Croix River during the 2011 workshop on the water.

St. Croix River Workshop for Local Elected & Appointed Officials - July 17

Join us aboard the Grand Duchess on Wednesday, July 17, 5:30-9:30pm for a special workshop on the water.

Changes are underway for the St. Croix River. After more than two decades of research, local, state and federal partners have developed an official plan to improve the health of the St. Croix by reducing phosphorus levels in the water. The plan calls for a reduction of 123 metric tons of phosphorus per year, throughout the entire 7,760 square mile river basin. Meanwhile, the start of construction on the new bridge means the landscape in the lower St. Croix Valley will soon be changing too.

This workshop will be an opportunity for decision makers from both sides of the river in the lower St. Croix Basin to come together to learn more about the official St. Croix River restoration plan and to chart a course for their communities' involvement in the process. How will we meet our goals? What resources are available? Where are there opportunities for partnership? And, how do you make sure that you maintain control of what happens in your community?

This will be the fourth "Workshop on the Water" for the Lower St. Croix Basin. The Grand Duchess will be departing from the Hudson Marina. Workshop sponsors include EMWREP, Minnesota and Wisconsin DNR's, the St. Croix River Association, MN Extension, National Park Service, Middle St. Croix WMO, and St. Croix County.

Look for an official invitation with registration details soon!

21st Annual St. Croix Valley Garden Tour July 13 & 14, 10am-4pm

EMWREP will again have a table at one of the gardens in the Family Means St. Croix Valley Garden Tour. It's a great way to get the word out to 800+ tour participants about our programs and Planting for Clean Water. Learn more about the tour and buy tickets for yourself at www.familymeans.org/garden-tour.html.



Aliens (won't) Invade Scandia

The AIS (aquatic invasive species) workshop in Scandia on March 9 was a smashing success with more than 70 people crowding into the room to learn about how to identify, manage, and prevent the spread of invasive species such as curly leaf pondweed, zebra mussels and carp.



The AIS workshop was co-sponsored by Comfort Lake - Forest Lake and Carnelian - Marine - St. Croix Watershed Districts, along with Chisago County.

Presentations for Councils and Commissions

On March 4, Angie Hong spoke to the Afton Planning Commission about the St. Croix River TMDL plan and projects happening in the area to reduce runoff pollution. Contact Angie if you would like a presentation about local water issues for a council or commission meeting.

651-275-1136 x.35 or
angie.hong@mnwcd.org

Raingardens for Brown's Creek

Brown's Creek Watershed District identified 12 homes in Stillwater where curb-cut raingardens would most benefit the creek. We're initiating outreach to these homeowners this week with a goal of installing 9 gardens by 2015.

Green Churches

Both Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and the Washington Conservation District have grant funding to work with area congregations on stormwater retrofit projects such as raingardens and porous pavement. Through EMWREP, we are looking at ways to capitalize on the educational value of these church projects, such as creating a self-guided tour of local green churches, and developing a toolkit to help congregations use their new projects as teaching tools.

Water Testing Clinics Underway

The Washington Conservation District and Washington County Department of Public Health and the Environment are holding two well water nitrates testing clinics this week - May 6 at Denmark Town Hall and May 8 at Scandia Community Center.

Raingardening in the Snow

A raingarden workshop, held April 20 at Prairie Restorations in Scandia was also successful, with 37 people from around the county attending. Tara Kline, Washington Conservation District designer, presented, along with Tom Groppoli, a Master Gardener and Prairie Restoration volunteer.





Presenter

2013 International
Low Impact Development Symposium

August 18-21, 2013
Saint Paul, Minnesota

EMWREP to be featured at the International LID Symposium

The International Low Impact Development Symposium is coming to Minnesota, August 18-21, and our education partnership will be featured at the event. Angie Hong will be presenting along with Karen Kill, Brown's Creek Watershed District administrator.

The symposium will be held at the St. Paul RiverCentre and will bring together over 1,000 professionals to share their research, implementation, policy, financing, and education strategies to build and restore cities while protecting our environment. Learn more or register at www.cce.umn.edu/lids2013.

Ice Cream Socials

Several EMWREP partners have conducted subwatershed analyses to identify the best locations for stormwater retrofits to improve local lakes.

During 2011 and 2012, the Middle St. Croix WMO installed 29 raingardens near Lily Lake and seven near McKusick Lake as part of a subwatershed analysis project. During 2012 and 2013, South Washington Watershed District will install 25 raingardens near Colby Lake as well.

We think it's time to celebrate and spread the word about the good work that our local partners are doing to give us clean water. We're planning ice cream socials and neighborhood raingarden tours on Tue., July 23, 5:30-7pm at Pioneer Park in Woodbury and Thu., Aug. 15, 5:30-7pm at Washington Square Park in Stillwater.

Come join us to meet the people from these neighborhoods that helped to make these projects happen. (And also to eat ice cream - of course!)

Valley Branch Watershed Studies

Valley Branch WD is currently evaluating several waterways that have declined in water quality in recent years. Next month, two project kickoff meetings will be held for people to learn more about the studies.

Lakes Meeting (Silver, Edith, Sunfish, Eagle Point and Horseshoe Lakes)

When: Tuesday, June 4, 2013 – 5:30 pm

Where: Nordic Center at Lake Elmo Regional Park (admission to the park is free on this date)

What: Introduction to the project, the study lakes, and lake water quality, followed by an informal walk down to Eagle Point Lake

Kelle's Creek Meeting

When: Thursday, June 6, 2013 – 5:30 pm

Where: Afton City Hall

What: Presentation about this history of Kelle's Creek by former watershed resident Leslie Thomas and an introduction to the project and the Kelle's Creek E. coli bacteria impairment, followed by an informal walk down to Kelle's Creek.

EMWREP Calendar of Events

MAY

- May 6, 2-6:30pm **Water Testing Clinic** - Denmark Town Hall
Contact Wendy Griffin for info: wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org
- May 8, 3-7pm **Water Testing Clinic** - Scandia Community Center
Contact Wendy Griffin for info: wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org
- May 11, 10am-2pm
10:30-11:30 **Environmental Fair** - St. Peter UCC in Stillwater
Sustainable Yard Care presentation
- May 18, 9am-6pm **Minnesota Outdoor Youth Expo** - Wild Wings in Hugo
May 19, 9am-6pm www.mnoutdooryouthexpo.com
- May 30, 6-8pm **Bone Lake Association Presentation** - Scandia
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JUNE

- June 1, 11am-4pm **RWMWD WaterFest** - Lake Phalen
www.rwmwd.org → WaterFest
- June 1, 11am-3pm **Explore Your Parks Day** - Lake Elmo Regional Park
www.co.washington.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=1564
- June 1, 9am-3pm **Landscape Revival and Native Plant Sale** - Roseville
www.bluethumb.org/calendar/613/
- June 2, 11am-3pm **Master Gardeners Plant Sale** - County Fairgrounds
- June 4
1-2pm **Valley Branch Lakes Meetings** - Lake Elmo Park, Nordic Center
3-4:30pm Silver Lake Technical Advisory Meeting
5:30-7pm Sunfish, Eagle Point and Horseshoe Lake TA Meeting
All Lakes Public Meeting and hike to Eagle Point Lake
- June 6
3-4:30pm **Valley Branch Kelle's Creek Meetings** - Afton City Hall
5:30-7pm Lake Edith and Kelle's Creek Technical Advisory Meetings
Kelle's Creek Public Meeting and stream walk
- June 11, 5:30-7pm **Raingarden Maintenance Workshop** - 11950 21st St N, Lake Elmo
Contact Jenn Radtke for info: jradtke@mnwcd.org



Calendar of Events (cont.)



- June 15, 11am-1pm **Bison Release** - Belwin Conservancy in Afton
www.belwin.org
- June 17, 6-7:30pm Shoreline Maintenance Workshop - 12259 228th St., Scandia
Contact Jenn Radtke for info: jradtke@mnwcd.org
- June 20, 6:30-8pm **Prairie Workshop** - Belwin Conservancy in Afton
<http://tinyurl.com/Prairie2013>
- June 25, 6:30-8pm **Big Backyard Workshop** - 14559 24th St. N., West Lakeland
Contact Angie Hong for info: angie.hong@mnwcd.org
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JULY

- July 9, 1:15-2:20 **Cottage Grove Safety Camp** - Hamlet Park
- July 13, 10am-4pm **Family Means St. Croix Valley Garden Tour**
July 14, 10am-4pm www.familymeans.org/garden-tour.html
- July 16, 6-8pm **Tamarack Tour** - Tamarack Nature Preserve in Woodbury
- July 17, 5-9pm **St. Croix River Workshop on the Water** - departing from Hudson
- July 23, 5:30-7pm **Colby Lake Raingarden Tour and Ice Cream Social**
Pioneer Park in Woodbury
- July 31 - Aug. 4 **Washington County Fair** - Booth in Building D
- Aug. 15, 5:30-7pm **Lily & McKusick Lakes Raingarden Tour and Ice Cream Social**
Washington Square Park in Stillwater
- Aug. 19-21 **International Low Impact Development Symposium** - St. Paul
Tuesday - Angie Hong and Karen Kill presenting about EMWREP
- Aug. 22 - Sept. 2 **Minnesota State Fair**
Watershed Partners - DNR Building, Blue Thumb - Eco Experience
- Sept. 7, 10am-4pm **Washington County Bluegrass Festival**
www.co.washington.mn.us/index.aspx?nid=1559



Summer Highlights

Prairie Workshop

Thursday, June 20, 6:30-8pm

Belwin Conservancy - 1553 Stagecoach Trail S., Afton

We are partnering with Belwin Conservancy this summer to offer a workshop for private landowners interested in converting old farm fields or large lawns into prairie. We will be sending targeted invitations to people living near the St. Croix River with more than one acre of turf that might qualify for special grant funding available through the Washington Conservation District in 2013-14.



Details and RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/Prairie2013>

Big Backyard Workshop

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30-8pm

Green's Home - 14559 24th St. N., West Lakeland

Last summer, Mary and David Green's three-acre yard was featured on the 20th Anniversary Family Means St. Croix Garden Tour. This summer, they will host a workshop on landscaping for large yards. During the workshop we will talk about how to design an outdoor living space that is attractive and family-friendly, provides wildlife habitat, and helps to protect nearby water resources. The workshop will be sponsored by West Lakeland Township.

Please RSVP to Mary Green at (651) 439-5481 or Angie Hong.

St. Croix Workshop

Wednesday, July 17th, 5:30 –9:30pm

Departing from the Hudson, WI Marina

Join local elected officials and decision makers from communities in the lower St. Croix Basin as we set sail on the St. Croix River for a special VIP workshop. During the event, presenters will share details of the newly approved St. Croix River TMDL plan and explain how the water quality goal and load reduction requirements might impact cities, counties and watershed districts in the basin. At the end of the evening, there will be time for local leaders to network with one another, begin planning a course for achieving the TMDL goals, and identify priority projects for grant funding in the next three years. Look for an invitation soon!

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 • Woodbury
West Lakeland • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

