

Now recruiting Master Water Stewards for 2017-18: *Help us spread the word!*

This October we will begin training our first cohort of 10 citizen stewards to work with local watershed organizations.

Master Water Stewards receive 50 hours of training, through a combination of on-line instruction, in-person small-group meetings, and hands-on, outdoor activities. Topics include basic hydrology and stormwater management, water policy, strategies for engaging friends and neighbors, and landscaping practices to reduce runoff pollution. Stewards also complete capstone projects in their communities – raingardens, shoreline plantings, and rural lands projects.

After becoming certified, Master Water Stewards provide 25 hours per year of volunteer support to their watershed organizations.

Interested volunteers can apply on-line at: <https://masterwaterstewards.org/>.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Info sessions

Aug. 8, 5:30-6:30pm - Woodbury City Hall
Sept. 12, 5:30-6:30pm - Stillwater Library

Classes

Oct. 10	Introduction
	Capstone primer - Online
Oct. 14	Watershed Tour
Oct. 24	Basic Hydrology
Nov. 14	Stormwater Basics
Nov. 28	Water Policy
Jan. 9	Environmental Decision Making
Jan. 23	Community Engagement
Feb. 10	Rainscaping
Feb. 20	Residential Stormwater Planning
Mar. 6	BMP Eval. and Maintenance
Mar. 20	Capstone Charrette
Apr. 17	Next Steps

Join us at Washington County Fair!

Help us staff the WCD / Watershed booth at this year's county fair - Wed., Aug. 2 - Sun., Aug. 6.

The WCD is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year and will have historical photos and materials on display, as well as the always-popular "stormwater model" (created in the 1970s). We'll also have watershed and project information in our booth and a site visit sign-up.

Sign-up on-line at: <https://tinyurl.com/countyfair2017>



Above: Master Water Stewards support water projects in their communities.

Upcoming Education Events

Brown's Creek Open Yards Series

Free, informal, fun learning events hosted by members of the Brown's Creek Watershed District CAC.

August 16 6:30-8p.m. (12999 Keller Ave. N, May Twp.) Prairie plant identification - you won't want to miss this!

September 20 6:00-7:30* (2854 Nightingale Ct., Stillwater)
Urban/Suburban lots: raingardens, butterfly gardens, native plant and weed identification. *earlier due to daylight



Attendees at the May Open Yards event.

Summer Family Pond Dipping

These events have been so fun! Pond Dipping, or macroinvertebrate sampling, is a great way to get families and kids involved in learning about water quality.

June 20 - Forest Lake Arts in the Park
June 27 - Colby Lake in Woodbury
July 6 - Autumn Hills pond Oak Park Heights
July 12 - Tanners Lake in Oakdale
July 16 - Silver Lake in North St. Paul
July 18 - Lions Park on the Mississippi, St. Paul Park
July 24 - Long Lake in Stillwater
July 26 - Pinetree Pond in Cottage Grove



Raingarden Maintenance Workshops: July 20 and Aug. 23

We'll walk people through the basics of raingarden maintenance, including how to identify natives and weeds, and provide a maintenance checklist to bring home. Both workshops will be held outdoors.

July 20 6-7:30p.m. - Washington Square Park, Stillwater

August 23 6-8p.m. - CLFLWD Office (44 Lake Street South, Forest Lake)

Minnesota State Fair: Aug. 24 - Sept. 4

This year's "Great Minnesota Get-Together" runs Aug. 24 - Sept. 4. EMWREP will be helping to staff exhibit space at the Eco Experience Building on behalf of Watershed Partners (Storm Drain Goalie) and Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water. It is always a great way to meet the public and talk to folks about keeping water clean.

Professional Training Opportunities

8th Annual St. Croix River Workshop on the Water: Sept. 14, 4-8pm, Stillwater

Registration info coming soon.

Smart salting Level 1 Training (parking lots and sidewalks)

- Nov. 2, 8am-1:30pm, Oakdale. To register, email Jenn Radtke at jradtke@mnwcd.org

- Nov. 21, 8am-1pm, RWMWD. To register, email Sage Passi at sage.passi@rwmwd.org

Realtor Shoreline Workshop: Nov. 16, 8am-noon, Stillwater. Registration info TBA.

Other turf and salt trainings [here](#).

Other Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification classes [here](#).

Yard Signs for Sale!

We recently collaborated with local artist Vera Wang to create yard signs for the public to display. The signs come in four different colors/designs and are selling for \$3 a piece or 2 for \$5.



★★ Celebrating Anniversaries ★★

Join us in celebrating two big anniversaries this year.

**Brown's Creek Watershed District
20th Anniversary**

**Saturday, Sept. 16, 10am-1pm
Brown's Creek Park in Stillwater**

Join BCWD for a fun, family-friendly event that will include nature activities and guided hikes along the trail and in the park.

**Washington Conservation District
75th Anniversary**

**Sunday, Sept. 17, noon - 2pm
Lake Elmo Park Reserve**

Help WCD celebrate 75 years of conservation in Washington County at an appreciation picnic for friends and conservation cooperators.

Recent Education Events

Stormwater U Workshops (for municipal staff and contractors):

- **Turf Maintenance** - April 5
- **Bioretention Design** - April 25
- **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)** - May 11

Spring Landscaping Workshops (for the public): April 6, 11, 18, 27 and May 2

BCWD 110th St. Public Meeting: April 18

Community Events:

- **Grant Community Clean-up:** April 22
- **Mahtomedi Rite of Spring:** April 29
- **Belwin Bison Release (Afton):** May 20
- **Mill Stream Day (Marine on St. Croix):** May 21
- **RWMWD Waterfest at Lake Phalen:** June 3
- **Oakdale Summerfest Parade:** June 22
- **Silver Lake Splash (North St. Paul):** July 16

Hay Lake neighborhood meeting: April 27

Rain Barrel and Compost Bin Distribution: April 28

Youth education events:

- **Woodbury Elementary Field Day:** May 4
- **Maplewood Middle School Field Day:** May 26
- **Storm Drain Stenciling with Natural Sciences Academy in St. Paul Park:** May 31
- **Cottage Grove Safety Camp:** June 21
- **Woodbury Safety Camp:** July 19

Lakeridge of Woodbury Townhomes Rain Garden Celebration: May 31

Clean the Croix (Stillwater and Stillwater Twp): July 8

Lily Lake Open House (Stillwater): July 11



Above: Storm drain stenciling with 5th graders at Natural Science Academy in St. Paul Park.

Campfire Programs

Lake Elmo Park Reserve - June 24

After a story about Pond Life, Angie and Jenn led groups to a nearby pond to dip nets. We found water boatmen, tadpoles, dragonfly nymphs, and more!

St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park - July 15

After a story called "Plant a Pocket of Prairie," a few selected prairie plants were passed around. Then families participated in a scavenger hunt followed by community and s'mores.



Above: Kids explore a wetland at Lake Elmo Park Reserve during a campfire program.

Left: Plant a Pocket of Prairie at St. Croix Bluffs.

Engaging citizen volunteers to “Clean the Croix”

On Saturday, July 8, EMWREP joined forces with St. Croix River Association and Conservation Corps of Minnesota & Iowa to organize a St. Croix River clean-up event. Volunteers split into three teams to pick up litter from the Boom Site Wayside, collect garbage from islands between the Boom Site and the High Bridge, and remove invasive buckthorn from the Aiple property in Stillwater (a future city park).

We had 60 volunteers, collected two pick-up truck loads of garbage, and pulled TONS of buckthorn!



Reaching out to local businesses

On May 23, the Washington Conservation District invited local businesses in Oakdale to visit the Conservation Center and learn more about its demonstration landscaping.

Three years ago, WCD received grant funding from the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to install a raingarden, grassy pave and pervious paver parking area, native plant gardens, and a small prairie.



During the BBQ, we shared information about cost-share grant programs and enjoyed getting to know our neighbors. Approximately 100 people attended!



Clockwise from top: 1) Angie, Jenn and Linnea Radtke flutter their wings before the Oakdale Summerfest Parade. 2) Kids at Woodbury Safety Camp solve the riddle to save Carver Lake. 3) Tara Kline, WCD landscape designer, talks to board members at Lakeridge Townhomes about raingarden maintenance. 4) Angie Hong scoops ice cream with CMSCWD Board Member Joel Stedman at Mill Stream Day in Marine on St. Croix. 5) Jenn loads up a rain barrel for a resident at the spring sale in Hugo.

Questions?

Contact Angie Hong, EMWREP coordinator, 651-330-8220 x.35 or angie.hong@mnwcd.org

Brown's Creek Watershed • Carnelian Marine - St. Croix Watershed
 Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed • Cottage Grove • Dellwood
 Forest Lake • Grant • Hugo • Lake Elmo • Middle St. Croix Watershed •
 Newport • Oakdale • Oak Park Heights • Ramsey - Washington Metro
 Watershed • Rice Creek Watershed • Stillwater • St. Paul Park •
 South Washington Watershed • Valley Branch Watershed • Willernie
 West Lakeland • Woodbury • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

