



Over 100 local elected officials and decision makers set sail on the St. Croix River at the 2010 workshop.

SAVE THE DATE - June 29 3rd Annual St. Croix River Workshop *Challenges and Solutions: Your Role in Protecting the St. Croix*

We're boarding the Grand Duchess again this summer for a three-hour workshop on the water that will highlight issues of concern for local communities as well as resources and assistance available to help your community meet regulatory requirements and protect your water resources. Topics will include:

- Invasive Species: Asian carp and other aquatic and terrestrial invaders
- St. Croix Update: Get the latest water monitoring data

and learn what's in store with the St. Croix TMDL

- Vegetation Ordinances: Learn what some river communities are doing to protect their bluff
- Funding Options: Partner with the WCD or your Watersheds to get projects done
- Education and Outreach: Tools you can use to reach your residents or train staff
- MIDS: Minnesota's new approach to stormwater management - what is it and how can it help you?

Look for an official invitation in your in-box soon!

Spring Outreach Update

It's been a busy spring around here and local residents definitely have garden fever. We had 100 people attend Blue Thumb workshops this spring in Scandia, North St. Paul, Woodbury and Stillwater and many more people have learned about Watershed and Conservation District programs through community events and presentations.

As of this week, there are upwards of 100 new cost-share grant projects planned for 2011, with more local residents calling each day to request site visits and information about raingardens and shoreline plantings. We expect even more interest as the summer continues.



Axdahl's Garden Center worked with BCWD and WCD to install raingardens and host a raingarden workshop this May.

Get Read for the FISH!

Be on the lookout this summer for our fish coasters in bars and restaurants throughout the area. EMWREP is partnering with the St. Croix River Association to raise awareness about the St. Croix River and what people can do to keep water clean this summer. We're printing 100,000 coasters and have generous support from JJ Taylor Companies to distribute them to establishments throughout the basin. Lift Bridge Brewery will be contributing prizes for the event, including a private tour of the brewery and Lift Bridge apparel.

Local web designer Greg Sietz has created a new blog-style website - www.StCroix360.com - that will feature the coaster campaign prominently on the front page, along with information about keeping water clean and St. Croix River Association, Washington Conservation District and Watershed organization events.



The coasters (above) will be distributed to local bars and restaurants throughout June and July. A cell phone bar code on the back takes people directly to the new StCroix360.com website, which will feature information about keeping water clean and getting involved with partner projects and events. To enter the contest, people will need to sign up for e-mail, facebook or twitter updates.

100yr Anniversary St. Croix River Paddle

July 5-22 from Solon Springs to Prescott, WI

Celebrate the St. Croix River and get out on the water. This is the 100yr Anniversary of the St. Croix River Association and several fun events are planned along the route, including a mid-journey celebration on July 15 at Wannigan Days in St. Croix Falls, WI and Taylors Falls, MN and a closing celebration on July 22 in Prescott, WI. T

The paddle will be passing through Washington County on July 17 – 22. On Monday, July 18, EMWREP is coordinating a storm drain stenciling and curbside pick-up service events for paddle volunteers and participants in downtown Stillwater. Contact the SCRA if your watershed or community would like to be involved as the paddle passes through your area. Paddle manager Danette Olsen, danetteolsen@aol.com.

www.scrapaddle.org

**RSVP now to Join WaterShed Partners on the Mississippi River
Wednesday, June 8, 8:15-11:30am**

WaterShed Partners is a group of more than 60 public private and non-profit organizations in the metro area that collaborate on clean water education and outreach. We meet the second Wednesday of each month at Capitol Region Watershed District and coordinate a media campaign that includes tv, radio and other advertising, as well as the www.cleanwatermn.org website.

In June our meeting will take place aboard the Magnolia Blossom River Boat on the Mississippi River and we are inviting our colleagues, board and council members to join us. We will convene at 8:15 a.m. at Watergate Marina. Featured presenters include:

- Ellen Stewart, Landscape Architect for the City of St. Paul, talking about the Lilydale Regional Park project and the Great River Park Master Plan
- Paul Labovitz, Superintendent of Mississippi National River & Recreation Area, highlighting the National Park Service's work with eagles, otters and Asian carp
- Rep. Kate Knuth, speaking on the recent legislative session as it pertains to water
- Michelle Beeman, MPCA Assistant Commissioner, talking about the role of education and outreach in effective TMDL projects.



City, county, state, watershed and non-profit staff and board members attended last year's WaterShed Partners Mississippi River event.

RSVP to Jana Larson at (651) 523-2812 or jl Larson25@hamline.edu

Upcoming Blue Thumb Events - Summer 2011

Landscape Revival: June 4, 9am - 3pm at the Roseville Rainbow Foods Pavilion www.saintpaulaudubon.org

- Expo: With exhibits & 5 minute "stand-up" seminars by 10 local conservation organizations.
- Market: Purchase MN native plants and accessories from a variety of local growers all in one spot.

Rain Barrel Workshop: June 11, 11am-1pm at River Market Co-op in Stillwater

- Learn about water conservation and water quality benefits of rain barrels and be guided through the assembly of a plastic or oak rain barrel. Presented by Connie Taillon, of Cedar Hill Natives Nursery.
- Reconditioned Plastic Barrel Kit: \$65, Oak Barrel Kit: \$125.
- Register at 651-439-0366 or education@rivermarket.coop.



EMWREP Upcoming Events

- June 8, 8:30am-12:30 **WaterShed Partners Mississippi River Boat Event**
RSVP to Jana Larson, jl Larson25@gw.hamline.edu
- June 5, 11am-3pm **Master Gardener Plant Sale**
Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo
* Featuring perennials and raingarden plants and a diagnostic clinic
- June 16, 7-9pm **Artful Raingardens Opening Event**
Hudson's Lakefront Park
* The event will include a presentation from Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater called "Are you thirsty?" as well as a special appearance by musician Don Mitchell, a launch of handmade paper boats from Voices on the River, and a procession to The Phipps Artful Rain Garden exhibit led by Just Add Water Summer Art Camp students.
- June 16-July 24 **Artful Raingardens Exhibit**
Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson will be showcasing original artwork and displays plus images, plans and models of raingardens.
- June 26, 2-5pm **Cirque de Soil**
Phipps Center in Hudson
* Hands-on activities and presentations about raingardens
- July 5-22 **100yr Anniversary St. Croix River Paddle**
From Solon Springs to Prescott, WI
* The paddle will be passing through Washington County on July 17 – 22, with a closing celebration on July 22 in Freedom Park in Prescott. www.scrapaddle.org
- July 16-17, 10am-4pm **19th Annual St. Croix Valley Garden Tour**
* Featuring eight gardens including a raingarden in Stillwater
www.familymeans.org
- July 18 **St. Croix River Paddle Service Day in Stillwater**
* Storm drain steciling and curbside clean-up in downtown area
- Aug. 3-7, 10am-10pm **Washington County Fair**
* Sign up to help staff our booth. www.washingtoncountyfair.org
- Aug. 25-Sept. 5 9am-9pm **Minnesota State Fair**
* Sign up to help staff the Blue Thumb booth in the Eco Experience or the WaterShed Partners booth in the Minnesota DNR building.

Coming up Soon & Volunteers Needed

St. Croix Valley Garden Tour

**July 16 and 17, 10am-4pm - Stillwater, Lake Elmo and Oakdale
Featuring a Brown's Creek Watershed District project**

Coordinated by FamilyMeans, the 19th Annual Garden Tour will showcase eight beautiful gardens in Stillwater, Lake Elmo and Oakdale including a home in Stillwater, overlooking the St. Croix River, with extensive native plantings and raingardens designed and installed with a cost-share grant from the Brown's Creek Watershed District and design assistance from the Washington Conservation District.

** Let me know if you are interested in staffing the Stillwater garden for a three-hour shift. Last year's garden tour had more than 800 visitors!

www.familymeans.org

Washington County Fair

August 3-7 at the Washington County Fairgrounds

East Metro Water Resource Education Program partners will again be teaming up with the Washington Conservation District to have a booth at the always popular county fair. This is a great opportunity to interact with people and families that live in the county and to spread the word about the good work our cities and organizations are doing.

This year's fair booth will feature the St. Croix River, as well as information about using native plants for clean water and habitat. ** We need your help to staff the booth throughout the week. Free entrance to the fair included!**

Erosion Control Workshop

**MECA Erosion Control Field Session
Late summer**

We are planning to offer an erosion control field session in August or September in partnership with the Minnesota Erosion Control Association. This will be a hands-on seminar for builders, contractors, inspectors and field crews that deal with development and redevelopment.

Please let me know if you have an active construction site in your area that would make a good location for this seminar. Our last workshop was held in 2007 at the Bailey's Arbor development in Woodbury. With construction picking up again, it's high time for another field session.

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

