

A Blue Thumb 4th of July - 1st Stop on the Expedition: Blue Planet Tour!

On July 4, National Geographic's Expedition: Blue Planet 2010 will join Blue Thumb and Metro Blooms for a special event in Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis. In addition to bringing their tour bus, movie screen and tents for the event, the team has secured corporate sponsorship for Blue Thumb to distribute 3000 free native plants to event attendees and to develop high-quality display materials that can be used at future events. The 4th of July event will also feature a children's rubber-ducky race that will tie in with the WaterShed Partners Rubber Ducky-Stormwater PSA, which will be shown on the movie screen.



Our event is the first stop for Alexandra Cousteau and her international team on a 138-day, 14,500 mile exploration of water issues across the US and Canada. Combining "live" production of stories in the field with social media, a local and national press tour, curriculum-aligned classroom materials, and a significant catalog of online information, the 2010 Expedition is designed to engage the mainstream public in meaningful discussions

on critical water issues. Visit www.alexandracousteau.org to learn more.

If you will be in town, we could really use your help manning the Blue Thumb tables, distributing free plants to visitors or coordinating the rubber ducky races. Check the calendar at www.doodle.com/6auewqgmnmfrmr788 and sign up if you are able!

Set Sail on the St. Croix River - July 21, 6-9pm

Many of you attended last year's St. Croix River Workshop on the Water. There were over 100 local elected officials on the boat, along with 40 staff from local and state entities; it was the fourth in a series of workshops co-organized by EMWREP, MN DNR and UM Ex.

I invite you to join us again on July 21 for Putting the Pieces Together: A guided tour of the St. Croix Valley's land and water resources. The workshop will provide a perspective on land and water interactions that can only be seen from the water. The workshop is \$15 per person, which includes dinner, a keynote address and three breakout sessions. Register now at www.stcroixriverassociation.org/riverawareness.htm.

St. Croix Valley Garden Tour - July 17-18

FamilyMeans Annual St. Croix Garden Tour is a community tradition that attracts nearly 1000 people a year. This year's 18th annual tour on July 17 and 18 will feature seven private residential gardens from Stillwater to Mahtomedi., including a fabulous Mahtomedi home with native shade gardens, a raingarden and an innovative new driveway that uses grassy pave, porous pavers and an underground storage tank to stop stormwater runoff in its tracks.



One of the homes featured on the tour belongs to Master Gardener Jackie Metelak. She has extensive native and shade gardens and a newly built raingarden.



Metelak also worked with WCD and RCWD to install a driveway with grassy pave, porous pavers and an underground storage tank.

Garden owner Jackie Metelak received a cost-share grant from Rice

Creek Watershed District in 2009 and she worked with the Washington Conservation District and St. Croix Valley Landscaping to design and install her projects. Metelak is a Master Gardener and member of the Mahtomedi Garden Club who also hosted a Blue Thumb neighborhood party in 2008. We will have several educational materials on-hand at her house for the tour, including the [Blue Thumb Guide to Year Round Yard Care](#), [Native Plants for Yards, Raingardens and Shorelines](#), [Raingardens - The Secret to Clean Water is in the Roots](#) and [Shoreline Plantings - Let Nature Do the Work for You](#).

The annual garden tour benefits FamilyMeans, a Stillwater-based nonprofit with individual and family counseling programs. Tickets are \$15 a person and the gardens may be visited from 10am-4pm on July 17 and 18. To order, call FamilyMeans at (651) 439-4073 or visit www.familymeans.org and click on [Events](#).

Washington County Fair is almost here - Aug. 4-8!

The county fair is a family friendly event and a great way for EMWREP partners to get out and meet local residents. We will again have a joint WCD & EMWREP booth in Building D and this year will focus on best management practices for rural landowners. We'll have the trusty old Stormwater Model at the booth, as well as the new rain barrel - rooftop demonstration, and this year's map of the county will highlight locations where the WCD and other EMWREP partners have helped property owners to install habitat plantings and other water quality measures. Additionally, we are developing a survey to assess the conservation interests and needs of rural landowners and will be circulating the fairgrounds to solicit responses during the fair. Look for an email from me soon to sign up for your shift at the booth!

Summer Water Events



Freshwater Society has declared 2010 the Year of Water, a year-long celebration of our lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers. They are collaborating on a variety of educational activities about groundwater sustainability and groundwater and surface water quality. Two upcoming Year of Water events that may be of interest to EMWREP partners include the Rivers Institute and the Mississippi River Challenge. www.freshwater.org

The Rivers Institute (July 26-28), hosted by Hamline's Center for Global Environmental Education, is a three-day, two-credit field-based course that explores how using rivers as a context can help students meet specific education standards in science, engineering and literacy. All 3-8 grade teachers and middle school science and social studies teachers are eligible. www.hamline.edu/education/environmental/cgee/rivers.html

The Mississippi River Challenge (July 24-25), organized by Friends of the Mississippi River, is a 2-day, 44-mile paddling event to raise money for a cleaner, healthier river. All funds raised go toward aiding the organization's work on the Mississippi River in and around the Twin Cities. www.mississippiriverchallenge.org



Organized by the St. Croix River Association, the goal of River Awareness week is to help people reconnect with the river through planned litter cleanups, picnics, educational activities and celebrations. The St. Croix Garden Tour and Putting the Pieces Together workshop are two events that EMWREP is helping to coordinate that week. Other events include:

- * Canoe Trip and River Cleanup, July 17, 9am-4pm at Wild River State Park
- * Boomsite Cleanup, July 17, 1-3pm
- * Cleanup and canoe/kayak from Osceola to William O'Brien, July 18, 10am-4pm
- * Paddle to Seattle film screening, July 20 and 21 at 7:30pm in St. Croix Falls
- * Clean Boats children's program, July 20, 2pm at Lakefront Park, Hudson
- * Wet 'n Wild St. Croix River Day, July 24, 11am-3pm at MN Interstate State Park
- * Twilight Paddle, July 24, 5-8pm, WI Interstate State Park to Osceola

Get the details for these events at www.stcroixriverassociation.org.

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

