



A Blue Thumb introductory workshop in Dakota County.

## Spring Blue Thumb Introductory Workshops

EMWREP hosted the first of five introductory Blue Thumb workshops on Tuesday, March 2 at the Carpenter Nature Center. Fifteen people attended the workshop to learn about native gardens,

raingardens and shoreline plantings for their homes. A number of the workshop attendees have already followed-up with requests for site visits, and one woman has talked to her neighbors about organizing a Blue Thumb party for the Cottage Grove area.

Four more workshops are scheduled for the spring:

\* **Thu., March 19, 6:30-8pm at the Gander Mountain in Forest Lake** (23 people registered)

\* **Tue., March 24, 6-7:30pm at the Stillwater Library** (10 people registered)

\* **Sat., April 25, 10-11:30am at the Cottage Grove Public Works building** (3 people registered)

\* **Tuesday, April 28, 6-7:30 at Lake Elmo City Hall** (9 people registered)

I have put flyers for the workshops in the Blue Thumb library kiosks and sent information to the cities to post in their newsletters. I am also sending out press releases a few weeks in advance of each of the workshops. If you have other ideas for publicity or know of people who may be interested in attending one of the workshops, please help to spread the word!

## St. Croix River Workshops

We will be sponsoring three upcoming workshops in partnership with the St. Croix River Partnership Team, the Lower Saint Croix Management Commission and NEMO.

The first will be on **Tuesday, March 31 from 6-9pm at the Stillwater Library**, and will focus on linking land use to water quality, regulations and variances and opportunities to reduce impacts to the river during development and redevelopment. RSVP by 3-25-09 to Michele Hanson, 651-259-5785 or [michele.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:michele.hanson@dnr.state.mn.us).

The second will be on **Sat., April 28th from 9:45-11:45am** at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The workshop for elected officials and decision makers will include free SMM tickets for participants and their families. Registration will begin soon through Theresa Sowards at 651-480-7715 or [sowar006@umn.edu](mailto:sowar006@umn.edu).

We will also be having a NEMO on the Water workshop on the St. Croix River on **June 17th from 5:30 –9:00pm.**

## Upcoming Spring Events

Below are some upcoming events that EMWREP will be attending this spring. Please let me know if your community has an event we should be at.

### **Spring Fling (Master Gardeners) -**

Sat. March 14, 8am-2pm at Oakland Junior High

### **Woodbury Environmental Landscape Conference -**

Sat., March 21, 8am-noon at Woodbury City Hall

### **Cottage Grove Chamber Event -**

Thu. March 26, 4:30-7pm at the National Guard Armory

### **Silver Lake Association Meeting -**

Thu., April 2, 7:30-9pm

### **North St. Paul Home Improvement Fair -**

Saturday, April 4, 10am-3pm

### **Raingarden presentations -**

Sun., April 5, 9-11am at Trinity Lutheran in Stillwater

### **Blue Thumb Party -**

April 6 or 9, 10am-noon at Colby Lake in Woodbury

### **Benz Lake Association Meeting -**

Thu., April 9, 7-9pm in Grant

### **Cottage Grove Arbor Day Event -**

Sat., April 25, 9am-noon at Cottage Grove Public Works

### **Washington Conservation District Tree Handout -**

Fri and Sat., May 1-2 at Washington County Fairgrounds

### **OHA Field Days -**

Fri., May 15, 9am-3pm at OHA Elementary in Mahtomedi

## Need a copy of a recent newspaper article?

You can now access the EMWREP news articles sent to local papers on-line at:

[www.mnwcd.org/water\\_education\\_city\\_staff.php](http://www.mnwcd.org/water_education_city_staff.php).

On this page, you will also find links to upcoming meetings and local trainings for water resource professionals.

## 2008 Annual Report

The EMWREP annual report for 2008 is now complete. I will be updating the education plan in the near future. With the MS4 toolkit program approaching completion in May, I will be asking EMWREP partners to choose a new program activity to replace that project.

One possible new program is "Resource Subs," created by Rice Creek Watershed District to connect schools with substitute teachers with an environmental focus. Many EMWREP partners have also expressed interest in creating a business or corporate outreach program to encourage businesses to implement BMP's on their properties.

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

Brown's Creek Watershed • Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed • Cottage Grove • Dellwood • Forest Lake • Lower St. Croix Watershed • 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

