



# Education Updates

Spring 2014

## Planting for Clean Water Workshops

We're midway through our spring Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water Workshops. This year, we've experimented with a couple of new approaches to promoting and teaching the workshops.

**Facebook Advertising:** For the first time, we purchased advertising through Facebook to promote workshops in Oakdale, Woodbury, and Stillwater; the results were impressive. Each time an ad was running, more than a dozen new people signed up for that workshop. In addition, we got new followers on Facebook and significantly extended our typical social media reach.

**One-on-One Design Time:** We have also been experimenting with different workshop approaches that blend informational presentations with one-on-one garden design time. During the workshops, WCD design staff and Master Gardener volunteers help attendees to begin designing a raingarden for their property using an aerial photo with topographic lines. At the end of the workshops, attendees can sign up for a site visit with a WCD staff person or apply for a cost-share incentive grant.

### Raingarden Workshop stats:

Oakdale - March 4, 20 participants

Woodbury - March 11, 30 participants

Stillwater - April 7, 23 participants

### Coming up:

Bayport - Three-part raingarden design series: April 24, 29, May 1, 22 registered

Forest Lake - Shoreline planting workshop: May 6, 19 registered



## Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

Fifty-five people attended the Aquatic Invasive Species workshop held in Scandia on March 15. At the workshop we provided updates on lake aquatic invasive inventories and DNR boat inspections, shared a success story from a Lake Minnetonka boat launch retrofit and practiced identifying common native and invasive aquatic species.

## Register by April 30 for May 14 Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop



MR 4001 Regulatory Enforcement - Erosion and Sediment Control

Wed. May 14, 8am-4:30pm at Cottage Grove City Hall

**\*\*EMWREP Partners pay only \$110 with registration before April 30 (Regular price: \$185)**

This one-day course is for personnel responsible for construction site compliance inspections for NPDES and MS4 permits. This class will be held partly in the field and is appropriate for all experience levels (5.5 PDH). This is a non-certification course.

Register at [www.erosion.umn.edu](http://www.erosion.umn.edu)

### Stormwater U: Innovation in BMPs

Our April 1 Stormwater U workshop at Maplewood Community Center was well attended by fifty stormwater professionals from cities, watersheds, and consulting firms



working in the metro area. The workshop consisted of 12 presentations, featuring innovative approaches to implementing stormwater BMPs.

In workshop evaluations, attendees listed the following topics of interest for future Stormwater U workshops: BMP inspections, maintenance & monitoring techniques; using BMPs in problem soils; Modeling; Stormwater Reuse; and Cold Climate BMPs.

### Learning Opportunities for Local Elected and Appointed Officials

**Oakdale Environmental Management Commission:** On April 21, Angei Hong spoke to the Oakdale EMC about raingardens, their role in stormwater management, and other stormwater management efforts underway at the local and state level.

**St. Croix River Workshop on the Water:** This year's workshop is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, July 29, 5-9pm departing from the Hudson Marina. Learn about the St Croix and its tributary lakes and streams as community assets with economic, social and environmental benefits.

## For Rural Landowners

**Horse Workshop:** We will be teaming up with Hagberg's Country Feed , LLC to offer a workshop for horse owners on Wednesday, May 14, 6-9pm at the Washington County Fairgrounds. The free workshop will cover topics including equine dentistry, nutrition, and basic first aid, as well as managing water runoff in barn and pasture areas.

**Grecian Foxglove Workshops:** Wendy will also be coordinating two grecian foxglove workshops on Wed., June 18, 7-8pm at Stillwater Township Hall and Thu., June 19, 7-8pm at Afton City Hall.

Register with Wendy Griffin: 651-275-1136 x 24 or [wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org](mailto:wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org)

**Nitrates Testing in Cottage Grove and Denmark Township:** This summer, the Washington Conservation District and Washington County will be reaching out to landowners with private wells in Cottage Grove and Denmark Twp. as part of an initiative to test private wells in southern Washington County for nitrates contamination. The project will include outreach, water testing, and follow-up site visits with landowners to identify possible sources of contamination.

### Warner Nature Center Volunteer Training

On May 5, Angie Hong will be leading a workshop about raingardens, Blue Thumb, and local water resource issues for volunteers at the Warner Nature Center in May Twp.

### Bayport Blue Thumb Party

Margaritas for clean water? A resident in the Inspiration neighborhood of Bayport has invited friends to her house on May 3 to learn about Blue Thumb and planting for clean water.

### An Evening in the Big Backyard

On Aug. 7, 6-7:30pm, we'll invite Lake Elmo residents to visit two "big backyards" that feature raingardens, native plantings, and pond edge plantings. We'll be coordinating the workshop in partnership with Master Gardeners.

### Church Project Tour

Last fall, members from local congregations told us they want to see one another's clean water planting projects. So, on Sunday, Aug. 17, 12-4pm, we'll be coordinating a tour of church projects completed in Washington County and the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. More info coming this summer!



Green Parking Lot Dedication Ceremony at First Presbyterian in Oak Park Heights, 2011.



## EMWREP Calendar of Events

### April

April 24, 29  
& May 1  
6:00-8:00pm

**Blue Thumb Raingarden Design Series** - Bayport Library  
Info at <http://tinyurl.com/2014BayportGardens>

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### May

May 3, 2-4pm **Blue Thumb Neighborhood Party** - Bayport

May 5, 2-4:30pm **Volunteer training** - Warner Nature Center

May 6  
6-7:30pm **Blue Thumb Shoreline Workshop** - Vannelli's by the Lake Forest Lake  
Info at <http://tinyurl.com/FL2014Shoreline>

May 14  
8:00-10:30am **Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop** - Cottage Grove  
Register at [www.erosion.umn.edu](http://www.erosion.umn.edu)

May 14  
6-9pm **Horse Workshop** - Washington County Fairgrounds  
Contact Wendy Griffin at [wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org](mailto:wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org)

May 31  
11am-4pm **RWMWD WaterFest** - Lake Phalen  
Info at [www.rwmwd.org](http://www.rwmwd.org)

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### June

June 1, 11am-3pm **Master Gardener Plant Sale** - Washington County Fairgrounds

June 7  
11am-2pm **Explore Your Parks Day** - Lake Elmo Regional Park  
Info at [www.co.washington.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=492](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/index.aspx?NID=492)

June 7  
9am-3pm **Landscape Revival and Native Plant Sale** - Roseville  
Info at [www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events/2014/06/landscape-revival](http://www.saintpaulaudubon.org/events/2014/06/landscape-revival)

June 18-20  
**MAWD Summer Tour** - Stillwater  
Info at [www.mnwatershed.org](http://www.mnwatershed.org)

June 18 & 19  
7-8pm **Grecian Foxglove Workshops** - Stillwater Township & Afton  
Contact Wendy Griffin at [wendy.griffin@mnwcd.org](mailto:wendy.griffin@mnwcd.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 • Woodbury  
West Lakeland • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

