AreaVoices, the previous host of our East Metro Water blog is closing down on July 1. Please update links on your websites and social media to connect to our new blog at https://eastmetrowater.org.

Articles posted on the blog are also sent to local newspapers and are printed weekly or monthly depending on the publication. If you have ideas for article topics, please send them to Angie at angie.hong@mnwcd.org.

St. Croix River Workshop on the Water - July 11, 12-4pm
Register at: www.stcroixriverassociation.org/events

Join us in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act during this special workshop for local leaders and water professionals. This year will be our 9th St. Croix Workshop on the Water!

1) Collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries: Understand “One Watershed, One Plan” and move toward implementation for the St. Croix or your local watershed
2) Educate for action! Put new stormwater education programs and tools to work for you
3) Into the wild - A View from the River: Explore and celebrate why the St. Croix has been a Wild and Scenic River for 50 years

Sponsored by: Metro Watershed Partners, East Metro Water Resource Education Program, MN Department of Natural Resources, St. Croix River Association, University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Sea Grant
This year, we will be showcasing water monitoring efforts and distributing “vintage” Washington County postcards to encourage people to explore the amazing places within their watersheds. We need you at the fair!

1) Click this link to see the County Fair Booth Signup: [http://signup.com/go/kRUxvwF](http://signup.com/go/kRUxvwF)
2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like. You’ll notice that for each time slot, there is a spot for “WCD Staff” and for “WCD Board OR Watershed Staff/Board”.
3) Sign up! It’s Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password
4) You will receive an automatic reminder for your shift 2 days prior.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Washington County Fair Available Shifts 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, August 1st</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 am - 2 pm</td>
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<td>2 pm - 6 pm</td>
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<td>6 pm - 10 pm</td>
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If you have any issues with the site, please email Lauren Haydon at lhaydon@mnwcd.org, or call her at 651-330-8220 ext. 24 if you prefer to not use a web-based sign up.

Tell us your professional training needs!

Do you have professional training needs for yourself, your staff, or your elected and appointed officials related to stormwater or watershed management? Let us know and we will work with you to plan a presentation or workshop to meet your needs.

MS4 - IDDE - Erosion control - BMP maintenance - Watershed planning - Natural resources management

Contact Angie Hong at 651-330-8220 x.35 or angie.hong@mnwcd.org.
Updates on Master Water Stewards
Recruiting now for 2018-19: https://masterwaterstewards.org

Last year, we received an $81,000 Clean Water grant from MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to train 20 Master Water Stewards and install up to 10 stormwater management projects as part of their capstone certification. Once certified, stewards volunteer 50-hours during their first year of service and 25-hours per year afterwards to remain in the program. We’re looking forward to lots of volunteer help next year!

Currently there are seven stewards-in-training in Washington County who will be certified in November. After completing 50-hours of instruction online and in person, they are now working on their capstone projects. Below is a short summary of their projects:

1) Sally Arneson – Upland native planting on St. Croix River bluff in Lakeland, MSCWMO
3500 sq ft, estimated to capture 0.50lb/yr of phosphorus

2) Tom Furey – Upland native planting on Bone Lake in Scandia, CLFLWD
6280 sq ft, estimated to capture 0.14lb/yr of phosphorus

3) Nathan Zerbe – Woodland invasive species removal and restoration in Marsh Creek Preserve, Woodbury, SWWD
1.5 acres, estimated to capture 0.05lb/yr of phosphorus

4) Cole Williams – river shoreline planting on Mississippi River in Cottage Grove, SWWD
5,750 sq ft, estimated to capture 0.5lb of phosphorus

5) Susan Goebel & Joan Nichols – designing native plantings, interpretive signs and lesson plans for outdoor classrooms at Lake and Middleton Schools in Woodbury, SWWD

6) John Goodfellow – developing a plan for a county-wide weed cooperative to help landowners with management of invasive species such as buckthorn (CMSCWD)

Together, this year’s capstone projects will achieve an estimated 1.2lb/yr phosphorus reduction for receiving waters. Our total project goal for this year and next is 2lb of P.

We are currently recruiting 12-14 stewards for our second cohort to begin training in October of this year. Please help us spread the word! https://masterwaterstewards.org
This spring, EMWREP partners Middle St. Croix WMO, Stillwater and Washington Conservation District launched a pilot “Adopt-a-Raingarden” program to engage citizen volunteers in helping to care for some of the hundreds of raingardens in Washington County.

The program includes an on-line map showing locations of raingardens to be adopted (currently only in Stillwater) as well as resources for volunteers, including a raingarden maintenance check-list, guidebook, and brochure, and links to weed identification help.

We kicked-off the new program with a volunteer raingarden clean-out event on May 5 and a follow-up weeding event on June 7. Volunteers worked in teams and got hands-on experience with cleaning out inlets, repairing rock inlets, and identifying weeds vs native plants. Currently, we have around 30 people in Stillwater who have volunteered to adopt raingardens in their neighborhoods.

Thanks to the St. Croix Valley Community Foundation, which provided a $4000 grant to purchase signs and maintenance materials for the program. We believe this is a great model that can be expanded to other communities in Washington County.

Over the past three years, Hamline University Center for Global Environmental Education has been working with Minneapolis, St. Paul and Capitol Region Watershed District to develop an Adopt-a-StormDrain program. This summer, the program will become available to residents throughout the seven-county metro area!

To adopt a drain, citizen volunteers go on-line to www.adopt-a-drain.org and select a storm drain near their home. By signing-up, volunteers agree to keep their curbline clean and to clean dirt, litter, yard waste and other debris off the drain periodically. They get a small sign for their yards to recognize their efforts and occasional text or email reminders to keep them engaged.

Watershed Partners plans to debut the expanded program during this year’s MN State Fair. Look for an updated website and more information for local partners soon.
For the past three years, EMWREP has worked to better engage Lake Associations in our area through an e-newsletter and occasional workshops and meetings. Topics of interest have included Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), shoreline landscaping, and how to learn from and collaborate with one another. This May, we held a meeting in Forest Lake with MN DNR Fisheries Chief Don Pereira as a guest speaker.

If you or someone you know would like to be added to the mailing list for our e-newsletter, go to: **East Metro Lakes Network**.

### Education for realtors & developers

#### Realtors

During 2017 and 2018, EMWREP collaborated with St. Croix River Association and MN DNR to host three shoreline real estate workshops for realtors and appraisers. We had more than 150 realtors attend the workshops!

To access the presentations and materials from the Shoreline Real Estate workshops, go to: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0ByAxOP25Jc7cRUdJeTJVWWRsRjg

New materials for properties within the St. Croix Riverway include:
- Landowners Guide to the Lower St. Croix Riverway
- Best Practices for Zoning Applications
- “Water-friendly” landscaping resources

St. Croix River Association has also created a short, animated video to help people learn about the history, significance, and rules for the Lower St. Croix Riverway: **VIDEO**

#### Builders and Developers

Do you have contacts with local builders and developers? We are looking for companies that might work with us to develop an “eco-friendly” landscaping package as one of the options for new home-buyers to choose from.

We often get calls from new home-buyers wondering how they can reduce their water bills, attract more pollinators, or make their yards more eco-friendly. We’d like to give folks the option to start with drought-tolerant or low-mow turf and native gardens instead of tearing out and retrofitting new landscaping once they move in.

If you know friendly builders, let us know!
Prairie maintenance workshops
   Scandia – Feb. 13
   Afton – Feb. 21

Family nature explorations
   Cottage Grove – June 13
   Woodbury – June 19
   Forest Lake – June 26
   Cottage Grove – July 17

AlS Identification workshop
   June 26 - White Bear Lake

Brown’s Creek WD Open Yards Series
   June 18 – Stillwater (raingardens)
   June 27 – Stillwater (suburban yard)
   July 18 – Stillwater (urban bee-keeping)
   Aug 7 – Grant (prairies)

Project WET Teacher Training
   July 24 – Mahtomedi

Buckthorn and oriental bittersweet
   June 24 – Cottage Grove PR
   Sept. 18 – Big Marine PR
   Sept. 22 – Lake Elmo PR

Forest Lake NEMO Tour and Workshop
   Sept. 11

Community events
   Feb. 13 - Mahtomedi Garden Club
   Feb. 17 - Phalen Freeze Fest
   Feb. 27 - Lift Bridge event, Stillwater
   March 14 - Smart irrigation, Woodbury
   April 24 - St. Croix Summit
   May 5 - Stillwater raingarden clean-up
   May 12 - Bike and Boat to Bayport
   May 20 - Millstream Day
   May 30 - Woodbury pollinator planting
   June 2 - RWMWD WaterFest
   June 3 - Master Gardener plant sale
   June 7 - Raingarden weeding
   June 9 - Landscape Revival, Oakdale
   June 18 - Tanners Lake HOA picnic
   Aug. 1-5 - Washington County Fair
   Aug. 23 - Sept. 3 - MN State Fair

Youth programming
   May 3 - Woodbury Elementary garden
   May 8 - Forest Lake stormdrain stenciling
   May 17, 23 - Grey Cloud Elementary hike
   May 21 - Stillwater invasives class
   May 22, 24 - Woodbury Campus Greening
   June 27 - Cottage Grove Safety Camp

Presentations & meetings
   March 28 - Lily Lake meeting
   May 10 - Sentence to Serve training
   May 22 - Bone Lake meeting
EDUCATION RESOURCES FOR YOU

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
In addition to the articles on the East Metro Water blog, Watershed Partners publishes one article per month on www.CleanWaterMN.org. Each article comes with a set of high-quality, professional photographs. If you are a paying member of Watershed Partners, you should be receiving monthly emails with links to download the photos and share the articles on social media. If you aren’t a paying member, contact me to get copies of photos that you’d like to use. I’ve also uploaded most of the recent year’s photos here.

Feel free to reprint any of the East Metro Water or Clean Water MN articles in your newsletters. You can also adapt the articles to include local information or print abbreviated versions if space is limited.

MS4 TOOLKIT - WISH LIST
We have received $50,000 from the MN Pollution Control Agency to redo the MS4 Toolkit. As part of the project we will be inventorying all of the materials from the old toolkit, identifying gaps, and producing new education materials to help EMWREP partners and other MS4 entities meet their stormwater education requirements.

Look for a survey from me in the near future and let me know if you have specific resources you would like to see in the new toolkit (videos, brochures, utility mailers, bilingual resources, etc.).

NEW EDUCATION MATERIALS AND RESOURCES
1) Neighborhood Clean-up Engagement Kit
   Doorhangers, sign-up forms, step-by-step instructions and other materials to help local residents and community groups organize neighborhood stormdrain clean-up events.

2) Yard signs
   “This yard is part of the solution”: $3 each or two for $5.

3) Table-top pop-up displays
   Available for partners to borrow: AIS, Pollinators, Lawn Care, and Ag Best Practices

4) Interactive groundwater displays
   Two table-top displays with info about groundwater resources in Washington County and water conservation. Both fold-up into wooden suitcases with wheels and a handle for easy transport.

5) Green Communities Guidebook
   This short guidebook summarizes feedback from focus groups conducted with homeowner association (HOA) residents, property management companies, and lawn care professionals and provides advice for engaging HOAs in clean water projects.

Learn more at: www.mnwcd.org
Clockwise from top: 1) Tiny frog at Battle Creek Lake 2) Grinning with Bobby and Belinda Jensen at Lake Middle School tree planting in South Washington Watershed District 3) Forest Lake Daisies storm drain stenciling 4) First graders at Middleton Elementary in Woodbury, part of the SWWD Campus Greening

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