



WATERSHED UPDATE

Treasured Traditions, New Opportunities at Mill Stream Day

Formed in 1981, the Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District oversees a variety of projects and programs to assess and improve the health of our 81-square-mile watershed—which includes 31 lakes, three designated trout streams, hundreds of acres of wetlands, and over 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline. The Watershed District is managed by the following volunteer board of residents appointed by Washington County:

- President**.....Dave De Vault, 612.670.5530
- Secretary**Kristin Tuenge, 651.433.3763
- Treasurer**.....Wade Johnson, 651.356.9573
- Manager**Eric Lindberg, 612.760.6695
- Manager**Thomas Polasik, 651.430.0263
- Manager**Joel Stedman, 651.433.2836
- Manager**Andy Weaver, 651.491.2656

- Administrator**Jim Shaver, 651.433.2150,
jshaver@cmscwg.org

Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District meetings are open to the public and take place the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers of the Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N. in Scandia.

— APPLY IN JUNE TO — BECOME A MASTER WATER STEWARD!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to get involved in your community? Want to help protect the St. Croix River and local lakes and streams? The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District is looking for two local residents to become Master Water Stewards through a new program developed by Freshwater Society. Volunteer Stewards will receive 50 hours of training, beginning in October 2017, through a combination of on-line instruction, in-person small-group meetings and hands-on, outdoor activities. Topics include basic hydrology and stormwater management, water policy, strategies for engaging your friends and neighbors and landscaping practices to reduce runoff pollution.

Grant funding is also available to complete capstone projects – raingardens, shoreline plantings and rural lands projects – within our watershed.

Volunteers from Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed will be part of a Washington County cohort, which will include 10 stewards in 2017-2018. After becoming certified, Master Water Stewards provide 25 hours per year of volunteer support to local watershed organizations. If you are interested in learning more about the program, contact Angie Hong (angie.hong@mnwcd.org or 651-330-8220 x 35).

Each spring, the tiny community of Marine on St. Croix comes alive for the annual Mill Stream Day festival.

With a May Pole ribbon dance, Morris (English folk) dancers, local musicians, and fresh cooked trout, Mill Stream Day brings neighbors together to celebrate warm weather. This free public event also features educational activities focused on protecting the health of the Mill Stream and the St. Croix River.

In 2017 Mill Stream Day is celebrating its 20th year, and it is also the 35th Anniversary of the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District. Please join us for this special Mill Stream Day festival May 21, from noon-4pm at Burris Park, near the Village Center. In addition to providing fun and tradition, this year's festival will offer vital opportunities to get involved in the health of our water!

The District is currently developing a new 10-year plan that will guide our work from 2018 through 2027. During this process we want to hear from people who live, work and recreate in the watershed. Mill Stream Day will be a great time to tell us about your priorities – and what you think our priorities should be in the coming years.

Look for District board and staff at Mill Stream Day – we will be handing out free ice cream and asking people to take a short survey to provide input on the watershed plan update process. We will also be leading short nature activities, with hikes along Mill Stream and down to the St. Croix River, buckthorn removal demonstrations, and tips for identifying fish and aquatic critters living in the Mill Stream.

Can't attend Mill Stream Day?

Take a quick on-line survey to provide your input on the District's watershed plan update: tinyurl.com/cmsurvey2017.



Celebrate spring at Mill Stream Day.

PROTECTING LONG AND TERRAPIN LAKES



Diverse native plant life is key to the health of Terrapin Lake.

In February, the District received a \$9,000 grant from Washington County to treat aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Long Lake, the first lake in the Terrapin, Mays and Clear chain of lakes. The grant also provides funds to install screens to prevent AIS from migrating downstream into Terrapin Lake.

Two AIS, found in Long Lake last summer, are of special concern: curly-leaf pondweed, which compromises water quality by adding phosphorous to the water column, causing algal blooms; and Eurasian watermilfoil, which forms thick mats on the water's surface, interfering with recreation and crowding out important native plants.

Addressing AIS in Long Lake is crucial to maintaining the health of adjacent Terrapin Lake, which has one of the highest plant diversities in Minnesota. "Protecting Terrapin, and the other lakes in the chain, is a priority for the District," said Administrator Jim Shaver. "We will be partnering with Long Lake Homeowners Association, Warner Nature Center and Washington County to monitor for AIS and establish conservation easements to preserve the land around the lakes."

Trout and Water Quality in Square Lake

After years of study looking for causes of declining water clarity in Square Lake, the District – along with May Township and the Square Lake Homeowners Association – has requested that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stop stocking trout in the lake.

Generations have enjoyed the clear, fresh waters of Square Lake. Soon after the DNR started to stock trout in 1974, however, residents began to notice a decline in water clarity. These impressions were added to years of monitoring data and a trend was verified during the course of a Clean Water Partnership study in 2002. What puzzled researchers was the lack of a corresponding trend for increasing phosphorus, which normally leads to declining water quality.

Follow-up studies in 2003-2004 and 2010-2012 persuaded the DNR to grant a request for a three-year moratorium on trout stocking. During the moratorium, the District's Engineering consultant and Dr. Leif Hembre of Hamline University collected data that demonstrated that, without the trout, algae-eating zooplankton increased in Square Lake, improving water quality. The interpretation of the data was reviewed by a third party expert, as well as scientists at the DNR who agreed with the assessment.

Results of the District's request were not known at the time of printing but Manager Dave De Vault is hopeful that the request will be honored, "The clarity of Square Lake is too important to too many people to allow it to be compromised for the enjoyment of a few trout fishermen."



Keeping Square Lake clean is a top priority for the District.

Visit us online at www.cmscwg.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOOM SITE CLEAN-UP **JULY 15**

Last year, the historical St. Croix River Boom Site rest area and scenic overlook got a big make-over, with a repaved parking lot, new sidewalks, interpretive signs and raingardens to prevent stormwater from running off into the St. Croix River. Down by the river, however, this popular destination is showing signs of wear and tear. “When I visited with my mother and five-year old son last summer, we were shocked to find graffiti sprayed on the sandstone cliffs and litter everywhere, especially up near Fairy Falls,” said Watershed Educator Angie Hong.

This summer, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District will team up with St. Croix River Association to organize a Boom Site clean-up event on July 15. Volunteers will collect litter and use wire brushes to remove graffiti. If you are interested in volunteering as an individual or with a group, contact Angie at angie.hong@mnwcd.org or 651-330-8220 x 35. We are also looking for people with boats to help haul out the trash collected along the shore.

Look for more information soon at www.cmscwd.org or www.stcroixriverassociation.org.



YOU CAN PREVENT AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- > **CLEAN** plants and animals off boats and trailers
- > **DRAIN** water and remove drain plugs
- > **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in marked containers at boat launches

INSIDE

Mill Stream Day, preventing aquatic invasive species, Master Water Stewards, landscaping and more!



CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
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Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 6009



Eric with granddaughter Anna.

Meet Manager Eric Lindberg

Manager Eric Lindberg has a passion for the natural world, evident in his profession, personal life and commitment to the District.

With a wildlife biology degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and 36 post-graduate credits in wildlife management, Eric works as a realtor, helping people find recreational and hunting land in Wisconsin and Minnesota. He also helps property owners manage their land for wildlife, hunting and habitat and manages a five-acre prairie on his own land and adjacent property.

An avid angler, hunter and nature photographer, Eric enjoys learning about our natural world and finding new places to explore. He grew up on the St. Croix River and he sees himself as “a true river rat” in one of his favorite places.

In his role as a District manager, Eric works to make sure decisions “make the environment, wildlife habitat, wildlife and waterways a top priority.” Thank you, Eric, for your commitment to the health of our District!

LANDSCAPING FOR LARGE LOTS OPEN YARDS SERIES

12999 Keller Ave. N., Hugo

Wednesday, May 17, 6:30pm
Buckthorn, woodland
wildflowers and shrubs

Wednesday, August 16, 6:30pm
Prairie plant identification

**FFI: www.mnwcd.org
or www.cmscwd.org**



SPRING 2017