



# WATERSHED UPDATE

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**.....Steve Kronmiller, 651.433.4042
- Secretary/Treasurer** .....Victoria Dupre, 651.439.8266
- Manager** .....Richard Caldecott, 651.439.7385
- Manager** .....John Bower, 651.430.2793
- Manager** .....Jason Husveth, 651.433.4410
- Manager** .....John Lennes Jr., 651.433.3063
- Manager** .....Thomas Polasik, 651.430.0263

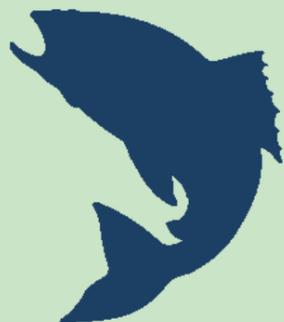
**CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT MEETINGS** are open to the public and take place the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N. in Scandia.

**If you have questions or would like information on any of the District's programs, contact Administrator Jim Shaver at 651.433.2150 or [jimshaver@cmswd.org](mailto:jimshaver@cmswd.org).**

## DNR Rears Walleyes in Three District Lakes

In May 2008 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) stocked walleye fry in three District lakes. In September and October they harvested 26,757 walleye fingerlings weighing a total of 1,823 pounds and used them to stock White Bear, Bone, Gervais, Clear and Owasso lakes. DNR plans to rear walleye in these lakes again during the 2009 season.

While collecting the walleye, DNR informally surveyed the lakes for competing species. They found golden shiners in Fish Lake, green sunfish in Long Lake and a significant number of green sunfish, largemouth bass and bluegill, golden shiners, white suckers, fathead minnows and pumpkinseed sunfish in Jellum's Bay. No bullheads were found in any of the waters.



## Invasive Zebra Mussels Threaten the St. Croix River

Boating season is here! As you're out enjoying the clean waters of the St. Croix, please do your part to stop the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

Introduced into the United States via the Great Lakes in the 1980s, zebra mussels have expanded into other waters — including the Lower St. Croix River — primarily through recreational watercraft. A fast-reproducing invasive with razor sharp shells, zebra mussels choke out native mussel species and grow so densely that they can clog the intake pipes for municipal water supplies. Once zebra mussels take hold, it's impossible to control them or remove them through environmentally safe methods.

"The St. Croix north of Stillwater is still free from zebra mussels, but we must be vigilant in checking our boats to make sure it doesn't spread," said Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District Administrator Jim Shaver.

When leaving infested waters, you must remove any zebra mussels on your boat or equipment and drain all water — including water in live wells, bilge water and bait buckets — before leaving the water access site. The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Aquatic Invasive Species Interagency Task Force is coordinating work to prevent new populations of zebra mussels and reduce threats from other invasives such as Asian carp, VHS and Eurasian watermilfoil.

As they leave and enter the St. Croix, watercraft will be inspected by state and federal agencies. In addition, boats are prohibited from traveling upstream past the high bridge in Stillwater. For more information, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/boating/zebramussels\\_stcroix.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/boating/zebramussels_stcroix.html).



Zebra mussels are small (fingernail sized) barnacle-like animals that foul beaches, smother native mussels and cause a host of other problems.

*The St. Croix north of Stillwater is still free from zebra mussels, but we must be vigilant in checking our boats to make sure it doesn't spread.*



Students from Marine Elementary School show off their catfish art projects.

### LOCAL FIFTH GRADERS GAIN "WATERSHED WISDOM"

The Watershed Wisdom program engages and inspires fifth graders in Scandia and Marine elementary schools — helping the students learn about the ecology of the St. Croix Watershed and how they can take action to preserve its health.

Watershed educator Sally Leider, art educator Maarja Roth and a range of local experts lead students in exploring the watershed through observation, poetry and illustration. As the weather warms, students will have the opportunity to hike along Millstream, observe how water flows around the school, sketch dragonfly nymphs and create a dragonfly field log. With funding from the Watershed District, this program is in its ninth year.



### Did you know.....

The District routinely inspects and cleans water channels to ensure ideal water levels and prevent flooding. This work often includes removing beaver dams, as pictured here. Last fall two beavers dams were removed from Carnelian Creek between Turtle Lake and Big Carnelian Lake. Water is now flowing through the creek all the way down to Little Carnelian Lake.



Washington Conservation District

## CALLING ALL LAKE ASSOCIATIONS!

The District would like to get your input on improving water quality, hear about issues in your lake's subwatershed and explore opportunities for working together. If you are interested in forming a lake association we can help you get started. For more information or to set up a meeting, contact Jim Shaver at 651.433.2150 or jimshaver@cmscdw.org.

## INSIDE

Get the latest information on the health of our lakes — and find out how you can prevent the spread of zebra mussels.



Karen Schik of the Scandia Park Board visits a potential trail area in Wind in the Pines Park.

## Two Park Projects Receive District Support

Parks offer great opportunities for public enjoyment of our abundant natural resources and the District recently provided support for two projects in Scandia.

The 44-acre Wind in the Pines Park is home to old growth forest and pristine prairie that offer invaluable wildlife habitat and scenic beauty. Located on State Highway 95 across from Pilar Road, the park is bounded by the Falls Creek Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) to the north and the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway to the east. The District recently voted to provide \$5,000 through its Best Management Practices (BMP) cost share program for trail improvements that will prevent erosion and protect a stream that runs through the park. Volunteers from Scandia will be recruited to help remove garbage from the site and maintain the trail once it is completed.

Lilleskogen Park (formerly known as Old Lion's Park) is an 8-acre site located near Scandia's Village Center. Approximately half of the parkland is made up of wetlands, which are eroded and degraded. The District is providing \$7,500 in BMP funds to support a much-needed hydrology study as well as engineering and permitting that will shape restoration work.

## Which Lakes Make The Grade?

Water monitoring provides valuable data on the health of our lakes. In 2008 the District monitored 28 lakes and six perennial streams and assigned lake "grades" to each using a system developed by the Metropolitan Council.

Overall, more lakes received "A" grades this year and ten were found to have an overall trend toward cleaner, clearer water. Several lakes — including Square Lake — showed a trend toward declining water quality. "Square lake continues to have an 'A' grade, but we are seeing a decrease in water clarity," said Water Resource Specialist Erik Anderson. "We need more information to determine what is causing the problem and what we need to do to turn it around."

To focus more attention on Square and other key lakes, the District is reassessing its water monitoring program. While details are still being determined, the current plan is to focus monitoring work on lakes of special concern and those that require cleanup plans under the Clean Water Act because they have been tested and designated as "impaired" by excess nutrients. Other lakes would be monitored through volunteer programs.

The District will implement this more focused approach in 2010 and will work to integrate monitoring with Best Management Practices (BMP) and education efforts, targeting lakes where work is needed. For more information on water monitoring and future plans, contact District Administrator Jim Shaver.

2008 RANKING	LAKE	2007 LAKE GRADE	2008 LAKE GRADE	IMPAIRED DUE TO EXCESS NUTRIENTS	TREND
1	LITTLE CARNELIAN	A	A	NO	+SD
2	BIG CARNELIAN	A	A	NO	+SD
3	SQUARE	A	A	NO	-SD
4	CLEAR	NA	A	NO	
5	MAYS	NA	A	NO	
6	WEST BOOT	A-	A	NO	+SD
7	TERRAPIN	B+	A	NO	
8	BIG MARINE	B	A	NO	
9	TWIN	NA	A	NO	
10	STAPLES	B	B	NO	
11	NORTH TWIN	B-	B	NO	
12	LONG (MAY TOWNSHIP)	B-	B	YES	+SD & TP
13	BASS	C+	B	NO	+TP
14	LONG	C	B	YES	+SD & TP
15	EAST BOOT	C+	B-	YES	
16	GERMAN	B	C	NO	
17	TURTLE	B	C	NO	
18	CAROL	B-	C	NO	
19	HAY	C-	C	YES	+SD & TP
20	SAND	C+	C	YES	
21	SILVER	C	C	YES	+TP
22	GOOSE	C-	C	YES	
23	JELLY'S	C	C-	YES	+SD
24	FISH	D	C-	YES	+SD
25	LOUISE	D	D+	YES	-SD
26	SOUTH TWIN	D+	D+	YES	
27	BARKER	D	D	NO	
28	LOON	F	F	YES	-SD & TP

SD = SECCHI DISC TRANSPARENCY

TP= TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

