

Spring Landscaping Workshops

Thursday, April 6 - North Saint Paul
Tuesday, April 11 - Saint Paul Park
Tuesday, April 18 - Oakdale
Thursday, April 27 - Hugo City Hall
Tuesday, May 2 - Forest Lake

This spring, we are happy to partner again with Master Gardeners to hold landscape design workshops throughout Washington County.

This year's workshops will focus on backyard composting; protecting water resources and creating habitat with native plants, raingardens, and shoreline plantings; and alternatives to lawns, such as low-mow and bee lawns.



Above: Eager gardeners at the Lake Elmo landscaping workshop last year.

Participants who register at least 3 days in advance will be provided with an aerial printout of their property to sketch out ideas and take notes.

Register for any of these workshops on-line at:
tinyurl.com/SpringDream2017

Pond Dipping Family Events



Above: Angie shows two boys a damselfly nymph found during a pond dipping event at Powers Lake in Woodbury.

For the first time last year, we organized family-friendly "Pond Dipping" events as a way to engage new audiences. They were a big hit! This summer, we'll again be partnering with city parks & recreation departments to organize neighborhood pond explorations as a way to help children and adults learn about their local water resources.

During these short, fun evening events, families will use dip nets and containers to search for aquatic invertebrates such as dragonfly nymphs, mosquito larva, mayfly larva, and even leeches. Scientists can learn a lot about the health of a lake, river or stream by analyzing the diversity of smaller organisms living in the water. Citizens are often surprised to see how much life there really is in their neighborhood ponds! Stop by if you are in the area and join the fun.

June 20: Forest Lake - Arts in the Park (5-8pm)
June 27: Edgewater Park in Woodbury (6:30-7:30pm)
July 6: Autumn Hills Park in Oak Park Heights (6:30-7:30pm)
July 12: Tanners Lake in Oakdale (6:30-7:30pm)
July 18: Lions Park in Saint Paul Park (6:30-7:30pm)
July 26: Pinetree Pond in Cottage Grove (6:30-7:30pm)
TBD: Long Lake in Stillwater

Professional Training Opportunities to help you with MS4 Requirements

April 5 – [Turfgrass Management](#) (Cottage Grove)

April 19 – Smart Salting Level 2 Training (Hugo)

To register, email Beth Carreno at bcarreno@ricecreek.org

April 21 – [St. Croix Summit](#) (River Falls)

April 25 – [Volume Control and Bioretention Design](#) (Oakdale) – new technology, lessons learned, soil amendments & best practices for installation and maintenance.

April 26 - Smart Salting Level 2 Training (Shoreview)

To register email Sage Passi at sage.passi@rwmwd.org

May 11 – [Illicit Discharge Management](#) (IDDE) (Oakdale)

Nov. 2 – Smart salting Level 1 Training (parking lots and sidewalks) (Oakdale). To register, email Jenn Radtke at jradtke@mnwcd.org

Nov. 21 – Smart Salting Level 1 Training (parking lots and sidewalks) (RWMWD). To register, email Sage Passi at sage.passi@rwmwd.org

Other turf and salt trainings [here](#).

Other Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification classes [here](#).

New! Open Yards Series with Brown's Creek Watershed District

A new series based on our “Evening in the Backyard” workshops - free, informal, fun in the garden on spring and summer evenings. Generously hosted by residents of the Brown's Creek Watershed District. For more information email Angie - angie.hong@mnwcd.org

May 17 6:30-8p.m. (May Twp) Large lot options and forested areas – buckthorn, regeneration after management, woodland wildflowers, shrub options.



Guests visit the home of a local master gardener on a summer evening to learn about water friendly landscaping

June 21 6:30-8p.m. (Stillwater) Soil: infiltration, septic systems, and pesky weeds.

July 19 6:30-8p.m. (Stillwater) Shoreline Stabilization specifics: how-tos, weeds, native plants and best options for stabilization.

August 16 6:30-8p.m. (May Twp.) Prairie plant identification - you won't want to miss this!

September 20 6:00-7:30* (Stillwater) Urban/Suburban lots: raingardens, butterfly gardens, native plant and weed identification. (Note earlier time.)

Recent Public Education Activities

Daylily and Trillium Garden Clubs Meeting: February 7

Angie spoke about landscaping for clean water.

Mahtomedi Garden Club: February 8

Angie staffed a table at this annual event, attended by about 50 people.

Phalen Freeze Fest: February 11

Jenn and Angie talked to people about road salt and water quality during this outdoor family event.

Great Rivers Confluence Symposium: February 16

Angie presented about the EMWREP partnership.

CLFLWD Open House: February 21

Tri-lakes meeting: February 27

Angie spoke about shoreline landscaping and VBWD cost-share grants.

Woodbury Elementary Field Trip to Battle Creek Lake: March 1

Jenn and Angie helped RWMWD staff and volunteers to teach kids about water monitoring.

Pollinator Forum: March 9

EMWREP tabled at the first annual Pollinator Forum presented by the Pollinator Friendly Alliance, that brought over 100 local government staff, private companies and citizens together.

Washington County 4H - Watershed Game: March 11

Jenn facilitated the classroom version of the Watershed Game for 4H's spring Project Discovery Workshop. The students were engaged and thought it was very interesting!

Trout in the Classroom Summit: March 17

Jenn will facilitate the groundwater model for multiple classes during the summit. Schools from Stillwater, Lake Elmo and Woodbury will be in attendance.



Above: More than 100 people attended the Pollinator Forum.



Above left: Jenn's children Reed and Linnea play in the "snowy" landscape, plowing the roads right away and making sure to apply the minimum amount of salt required for efficacy and safety, at Phalen Freeze Fest.

Above right: 4H youth working together to reduce phosphorus pollution during the Spring Project Discovery workshop. They were a great group!

Upcoming Sales for Clean Water & Habitat Projects



April 28 - EMWREP [Rain barrel and compost bin sale](#)
Pre-order and then pick up on April 28 in Hugo

April 28-29 – WCD [Tree sale](#)
Pre-order and then pick up on April 28 & 29 in Lake Elmo

May 12-13 – Mahtomedi Garden Club plant sale – May 12 (noon-7pm) and May 13 (9am-noon) at Wedgewood Park, 211 Wedgewood Dr.

May 20 – Trillium Garden Club [plant sale](#) (Stillwater)

May 21 – MN Master Gardener [plant sale](#) (Lake Elmo)

June 3 – [Landscape Revival](#) (Roseville) – native plant expo and market. Co-sponsored by Blue Thumb.

Recent EMWREP Workshops

Shoreline Realtor Training: March 9

Co-sponsored by EMWREP, St. Croix River Association and the Minnesota DNR, this workshop focused on shoreline development rules and landscaping best practices. 50 realtors attended.

Tree Workshop: February 23

EMWREP coordinated a Tree Workshop in conjunction with the WCD tree sale. Guest speakers from the USFS, DNR and Master Gardeners in Washington County spoke about climate change, forestry stewardship and best practices for tree care, respectively. Nearly 60 people attended.



Above: Realtor Workshop
Below: Tree Workshop



Cool New Education Projects

Groundwater Outreach

Washington County is providing additional funding for Jenn to conduct groundwater-specific outreach and education to 4th graders and middle-schoolers in 2017. She will be reaching out to 4th grade classes who applied to attend the Children's Water Festival and were not selected in the lottery and will bring the groundwater model (pictured on the right) to classrooms this spring and fall. EMWREP will also continue to work with multi-family HOAs to identify opportunities for water conservation.



Jenn facilitating the groundwater model at the Children's Water Festival in 2016.

New grant awarded to create Master Water Stewards program

EMWREP received a \$81,000 Clean Water grant from MN Board of Water and Soil Resources to expand the Freshwater Society's Master Water Stewards program into Washington and southern Chisago Counties. We will be recruiting and training 20 citizen stewards to provide support for education and civic engagement activities in Brown's Creek, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, Comfort Lake – Forest Lake, Middle St. Croix, and South Washington Watersheds.



Above: Jana Caywood (left) was one of the first Master Water Stewards trained in Capitol Region Watershed District.

To become certified, stewards complete 50 hours of training and a capstone project, helping to install a raingarden, shoreline planting or habitat restoration for their host organization. After becoming certified, stewards provide 25 hours per year of volunteer support for their organization (50 hrs in year 1). We will begin recruiting the first 10 stewards in June for training in September.

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

