

# FACETS of Freshwater



October 2015

St. Croix River  
by Jonathan Mortenson

Weather Facts and Photo from *MN Weatherguide Environment Calendar*  
**OCTOBER MONTHLY NORMALS**  
Temperature: Max 58.0 F Min 39.7 F Precipitation: 2.43 in. Snowfall: .6 in.



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## A Thankful Mood



Steve Woods

I went for a run this morning around Turtle Lake shortly after my MN Weatherguide calendar declared sunrise. Colors are turning and first light lit the tree tops like struck matches. It put me in a thankful mood – that I could fit in a run, for the awesome summer that was, rebounding lake levels, and the supporters that make our work possible. This month, I’m cutting my message short to debut short profiles of a donor and new staff members. Their words and stories remind us why we do what we do and the importance of enjoying the results.

Regards,

*STEVE WOODS*

Executive Director  
Freshwater Society

## DONOR PROFILE

**David Riggs**, St. Paul, MN  
History Professor, Author of *Sailing Toward Freedom: The American Merchant Marine before the American Revolution*

**Do you have a favorite water memory from your childhood?** The Vermillion River in Illinois served as my playground beginning around age 7. It’s a beautiful river surrounded by corn and beans. It suffered from agricultural runoff as the ample bullhead, carp, and the occasional water moccasin attested to, of course, it was also

perfect for a young, curious boy. I remember mucking around the wooded floodplains poking at things and turning over



rocks. That sense of wonder graduated to an active life on the water via canoes, sailboats, an

*Donor Profile* (continues on page 3)

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The Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect water resources.

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Visit the Freshwater Society web site at  
[www.freshwater.org](http://www.freshwater.org).

## Bill Stowe to Speak Nov. 3 & 4 – Free Lecture!

We spend a lot of time thinking of ways to help cropland exert a lighter touch on the state's water. The drinking water aspects of the work are gaining prominence with Department of Agriculture monitoring of nitrate levels in wells and a high-profile lawsuit regarding Des Moines water supply. We are bringing in the man at the center of the national discussion over the downstream costs of upstream cropping systems. Bill is an extraordinarily engaging speaker our members are buzzing about. He'll touch on public health, reverse-osmosis treatment, utility rates, the "replumbing" of the agricultural landscape and some of the tough trade-offs society has been deferring discussion on. – Steve Woods

Read a Q & A with Bill Stowe. [Register](#) EARLY to attend the speaker series – limited seating!!

## MOOS FAMILY SPEAKER SERIES

*on water resources*

**November 3 - 7:00pm St. Paul Student Center**  
◆ 5:30pm reception and discussion

**November 4 - 3:00pm Mankato City Center Hotel**  
◆ 4:30pm reception and discussion (Mankato Brewery)

**Protecting Surface Waters in Agricultural Watersheds**  
William (Bill) Stowe, CEO and General Manager Des Moines Water Works

Learn how the Des Moines Water Works mission is to provide safe, affordable and abundant drinking water. This lecture will explore the complexities of meeting this mission in an area of intense agriculture. Upstream pollutants do have downstream costs. How might systems change to reflect this?

College of Biological Sciences  
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## MCWD Honors Master Water Steward Program

The Freshwater Society's Master Water Steward Program was this year's recipient of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's Watershed Heroes Citizen Engagement Award. MCWD has been a great partner in this program the last three years and we are excited to add this award to this program's many accomplishments.

See more about what is happening in the Master Water Steward program at [masterwaterstewards.org](http://masterwaterstewards.org)



Peggy Knapp accepts the Watershed Hero Award

## Upcoming Events

**NOVEMBER 3 – Moos Family Speaker Series: Bill Stowe**, U of MN, St. Paul

**NOVEMBER 4 – Moos Family Speaker Series: Bill Stowe**, U of MN, St. Paul

**DECEMBER 1 – Metro Summit**, Eisenhower Community Center, Hopkins

**JANUARY 30 – Big Island and Back Nordic Ski Dash**, Lake Minnetonka

**FEBRUARY 4 – 15th Annual Road Salt Symposium**, MN Landscape Arboretum, Chaska

**APRIL 14-15 – 2016 State of Water Conference**, Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

## Get to know Jen Kadar – Freshwater Society’s new Program Manager

### Where are you from?

Little Canada, MN (it’s a real place, just north of Saint Paul).

### When did you first know that you wanted to work in the

### natural resource world?

 I think I was always going in

this direction. I remember one time taking the bucket from my sandbox and my mom’s salad tongs and heading down the street on my tricycle to pick up trash from the gutter. I also have incredibly fond memories of spending recess, and other outdoor play times in early elementary school, making “mini ecosystems” in a 5-gallon bucket. I would find mud or sand to stick in first, and then put leaves and grass and sticks in next.

Then, I would scour the grounds for toads or other small creatures to put in the little home that I had made, and then just sit and watch until it was time to go back inside. I don’t know if I ever thought about working in this field at that age, but I definitely knew where I wanted to spend my time – outside.

**What did you study in school?** I received my bachelor’s degree in International Relations from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. Within this area, I focused my studies on community-based alternatives to top-down development models and the importance of local capacity building in creating resilient



communities. Currently, I am pursuing my Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey School for Public Affairs, in which I am concentrating on community-based resiliency and sustainability, and how we help communities of all sizes grow, adapt to, and thrive within a changing climate.

**Where is your favorite place to go on vacation?** My husband and I spent our honeymoon up in Superior National Forest, at a cabin off the grid located about half way between Lutsen and Grand Marais on an inland lake. At least once a year we try to get back out there. Otherwise, more than any particular place, my favorite way to vacation is picking a State Park we haven’t been to yet (one with access to bike trails and canoeing) and heading out with our bikes and camping gear for a weekend away.

**What are your hobbies?** I love to play Scrabble, garden (our full backyard is one giant food producing garden), read, play my tuba, play ping pong, bake, and engage in my local community.

**What are you most excited for in your job at Freshwater Society?** I am so excited to help build local capacity across the state to tackle water resource issues, and to work with communities in transformative relationships to bring about real change. Freshwater Society is doing amazing work engaging and educating residents, researching important topics, and advocating for policy change, and it is truly an honor to be a part of this organization.



It’s no secret that Minnesotans value and care for the waters at the center of the state’s identity. While water quality is a chief concern for many, sometimes it can be difficult to know how to make a difference. Questions of all sorts can hold people back from taking action or pulling the right levers, questions like: What is causing the decline in water quality? How do we fix it? Who can help? Who is going to pay for it?

Fortunately for lake and river lovers across the state, there is a program designed to answer those questions, and more. Started by the Initiative Foundation more than 15 years ago, the [Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership](#) (HLRP) is a program designed to deliver guidance and resources to groups across the state to develop a community-based plan of action to address their local water resource issues. Freshwater Society is collaborating with the Initiative Foundation to sustain the program. Through HLRP, participants receive training to build their capacity, connect with local technical and agency leaders, identify community-based goals for their water body, and develop a strategic Lake or River Management Plan to guide them in their next steps. Our partners at the West Central Initiative have generously made up to \$5,000 available for each of the participating groups to implement a priority action from the management plan next steps. Our partners at the West Central Initiative have generously made up to \$5,000 available for each of the participating groups to implement a priority action from the management plan.

In order to provide quality, personalized support for each group involved, Freshwater Society works with up to 8 lake or river associations at a time, and is recruiting in Otter Tail County for the current round of HLRP. If you live or recreate in Otter Tail County and want to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact **Jen Kadar** at Freshwater Society for more details and to sign up.

The Freshwater Society has received funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund through the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources to run the program in Otter Tail County.

## DONOR PROFILE

*(continued from page 1)*

around the world container ship trip, and now a runabout used mostly on the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities.

**What pressing issues do you see in the realm of water management?** First, don’t step backwards. I live steps from the Mississippi in St. Paul and have seen pictures of the historical floating masses of garbage and foam by Harriet Island. We must preserve the conservation of those who have come before us. Second, we must find a way to build on our collective successes and find a balance between agricultural and environmental interests. We must work to be stewards for the future so that my grandkids’ grandkids have fresh water and all that it brings.

**Why do you support the Freshwater Society?** I support the Freshwater Society because of their mission to “promote the conservation, protection and restoration of all freshwater resources.” They understand the science and the politics of preserving water above and below the ground. I like where they are headed with their outreach efforts and I particularly appreciate their organizational abilities to bring scientific expertise to difficult problems.

**Any history lessons we need to remember when it comes to water?** I teach a course on Minnesota history and fresh water is central to our stories. From wild rice, to mills, to hydroelectric, to “going to the lake,” to the recovery of the wildlife and fish, we touch on it all. I also always emphasize that conserving these resources didn’t, and doesn’t, just happen – it required engaged, thoughtful people who care.

**Any favorite memories on the water from your adult years?** Seeing Lake Superior for the first time. For a kid from the Midwest it was my first sight of BIG water. I’ve now sailed nearly all of the Lake and it still thrills me. Just last week my wife and I came around Pine Bend on the Mississippi and only half a mile or so from the refinery stacks we saw about 75 American White Pelicans slowly lift off a sand spit and gradually whirl to gain altitude in that way that they do. Seeing them flock for migration as I close out the boating season on the river is something I cherish.

# 2015 Metro Summit for Lake and River Groups



Source: triplepundit.com

Many community groups across the Twin Cities are dedicated to protecting and improving the lake or river they care about. Whether they are lake associations, homeowners associations, neighborhood associations, or even groups of neighbors pitching in, the metro area is lucky to have so many residents taking an active role. However, for those just starting off or looking to reinvigorate their group, figuring out the first step or next step can be daunting.

The **Metro Summit for Lake and River Groups** aims to give community groups the tools and knowledge they need to make a real impact on the water they care about. The Summit is also a great time to connect and network with other groups engaging in this work so we can learn from each other and work together.

This year's Summit will take place on December 1, 5:30-8:30 pm and will focus on what residents can do – above and below the surface – to improve water quality. Check out the lineup of speakers and register [here](#).

– Jen Kader



## Big Lake to receive \$50,000 grant from Celebrate Your Lake program

Residents of Big Lake had big reasons to celebrate last month – 50,000 reasons, in fact. After months of public voting and social media campaigning, it was announced that their namesake lake was the recipient of this year's \$50,000 conservation grant from Michelob Golden Light's Celebrate Your Lake program.

Recognizing that the lakes are synonymous with Minnesota itself, Michelob Golden Light is committed to Minnesota's lakes, and has partnered with Freshwater Society to administer the grant funds. Now in its third year, Celebrate Your Lake gives lovers of Minnesota's lakes the chance to vote for their favorite lake to keep clean and clear. Past recipient lakes include Albert Lea Lake (2013) and Fairmont's Chain of Lakes (2014), and projects using the funds have included shoreline restoration, creation of a new boat launch, and installation of new public-access docks.

Reacting to the announcement, Big Lake Mayor Raeanne Danielowski said, "On behalf of the community of Big Lake I want to thank everyone that voted for our lake to be this year's winner of the Celebrate Your Lake program. We are looking forward to working with the Freshwater Society and other community members to identify the best way to leverage this grant opportunity to help keep Big Lake clean and an asset to our community, now and into the future." –Jen Kader



## Your timing is perfect! Join now and receive the 2016 MN Weatherguide!

Become a member or renew your Freshwater Society **membership** and you'll receive a **complimentary** 2016 Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar!

Enjoy amazing regional photos, Nature Notes by Jim Gilbert, weather history, KARE 11 and MPR meteorological information, gardening tips and much more. Your purchase supports the protection of freshwater resources!



Photo by Mark Paulson



My name is Alex Van Loh and I am the 2015-2016 Minnesota GreenCorps member at Freshwater Society. I went to high school in Duluth, but have lived in several places throughout the state. I graduated from Saint John's University in Collegeville in 2014 with a degree in Biology and a minor in German. I then crossed the (saltwater) pond to spend a year living and teaching in Erfurt, Germany, with the Fulbright program. I enjoyed immersing myself in the culture and observing the widespread environmental awareness – Germans take recycling and composting very seriously. It only takes one impassioned visit from the Hausmeister to keep you from putting your waste in the wrong bin! As much as I loved living and learning in Germany, it's good to be home again and enjoying Minnesota's natural beauty. Aside from conservation and the German language, my passions include camping, improv and sketch comedy, microbrews, and making music.

Minnesota GreenCorps is an Americorps program that focuses on protecting and preserving Minnesota's natural environment, while training a new generation of environmental professionals. Members serve at 40 different host sites throughout the state, supporting programs that aim to improve water quality, reduce air pollutants, increase recycling and composting, and assist community members to take eco-friendly actions.

At Freshwater Society I will be working on the Master Water Stewards program which is particularly exciting this year as it expands to include more watershed districts. The program certifies and supports community members to become leaders and stormwater experts. The stewards then act locally, implementing education and outreach events and installing stormwater best management practices in their neighborhoods. I look forward to assisting the stewards and becoming a certified steward myself! This year promises many great chances to learn and help protect Minnesota's water resources.