

# Clean Water Starts Here



A rain shower might not be the perfect time to install a raingarden, but it does make the point that we need to make more water soak into the ground. The first group of Master Water Stewards was out in force on Saturday, September 28, installing raingardens, connecting downspouts to rain barrels, and working with their neighbors to reduce polluted runoff.

The Master Water Stewards program is a partnership between the Freshwater Society and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, funded by the Clean Water Fund. The program recruits, educates and certifies local community leaders who can work with their communities to reduce urban runoff.

On this rainy weekend, Stewards completed projects on three residential sites in South Minneapolis. The projects are the final step in a certification process similar to a Master Gardener, or Master Naturalist, certification. Stewards participate in a 50-hour course of study, learning everything

from the history of water policy, to the basics of environmental decision-making and community engagement, to how and where to build a raingarden.

Teams of Stewards collaborate to complete a Capstone project that involves installing a stormwater management project like a raingarden, and conducting an education and outreach campaign in their neighborhoods.

Applications for the 2014 class of Master Water Stewards opened on October 1. Through the generous funding provided by the Clean Water Fund, classes in 2014 are offered at no cost to Stewards. Applicants must live in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and preference will be given to candidates in the middle section of the watershed, in St. Louis Park, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Richfield. For more information, or to apply to become a Master Water Steward, go to <http://masterwaterstewards.org/>



## Saving Money, Time and Fish in Rochester



The Freshwater Society collaborated with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the City of Rochester in sponsoring an open house event on October 24 in Rochester.

*Save Money, Time and Fish* brought together experts on topics such as salt products, transitioning to liquid deicers, calculating application rates, maintaining safety and protecting the environment. Rochester area private maintenance companies and building owners and managers were invited to learn how to reduce their salt use while maintaining safety and also reducing costs.

Freshwater Society is working with the MPCA to produce a Chloride Management Plan for the Rochester area. The Plan will make recommendations on what can be done in Rochester to help prevent chloride pollution in the area lakes and rivers. The Society is also hosting an MPCA certification course for **Parking Lot and Sidewalk Winter Maintenance** in Rochester on November 25.

## Join the Society – Get the Weatherguide!

Become a new member of the Freshwater Society and you'll receive the new, *2014 Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar*. It's a win-win! Help us protect freshwater resources and you'll enjoy a plethora of amazing regional photography, Nature Notes, weather history and meteorological information, gardening tips and much more. **Become a member!**



## PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have a fall photo that is worthy of being published? Whether you're a seasoned photographer or are just picking up the hobby we want to see your work!

**Enter** the Fall Facebook photo contest for the 2015 Minnesota Weatherguide Environment Calendar!

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### Make a difference!

- **TAKE ACTION** support the Freshwater Society!
- **BECOME** a Master Water Steward.
- **PROTECT** water when you do your fall yard work.
- **ATTEND** a lecture.



# FACETS of Freshwater



Milkweed and Asters  
Photo By Jonathan Mortenson

**OCTOBER 2013**  
Weather Facts and Photo from *MN Weatherguide Environment Calendar*  
Monthly Normals: Temp. Max: 58.0 F Min: 39.7 F Precip: 2.43 in. / 0.6 in. snow



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 5  
**Moos Series Lecture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus**
- November 6  
**Metro Summit, Hopkins, MN**
- November 14  
**Give to the Max Day**

## In this issue

From the desk of Joan Nephew ..... 2

Metro Summit Focuses on Legacy Funding ..... 2

David Schindler will Shed Light on Public Policy . . 3

Freshwater Publications Through the Years..... 3

Chapman Tells Us Not to Sell Our Boats..... 3

Clean Water Start Here..... 4

Saving Money, Time and Fish in Rochester ..... 4

What Can I Do? ..... 4

Photo Contest..... 4

## Please Help Support Freshwater!

It's that time of year when donors throughout the state are captivated by a whirlwind of media messages asking them to support their favorite charity for Give to the Max Day. This year, Give to the Max Day is scheduled for Thursday, November 14.

In 2012, this event inspired more than 53,000 generous donors from Minnesota and beyond to give \$16.3 million dollars, shattering previous event records.

We hope we are meeting your expectations for protecting water now and for future generations. If so, please support our programs by **donating** to Give to the Max Day—programs that you've learned about throughout the year, such as:

- Master Water Stewards** – Community leaders are trained about water pollution, reach out to the public and install water protection projects in their neighborhoods.
- Minnesota FarmWise** – Conservation-minded farmers mentor others on sustainable farming practices.
- Moos Speakers Series** – Internationally known environmental experts share their cutting-edge ideas to address water issues.



Moos Speakers Series

Your donations make these programs possible. Please don't wait for Give to the Max Day on November 14 to make your contribution. **Please give now.** Enjoy looking at the fundraising pages created by our staff and board members and learn more about our featured projects.

Thank you for all you do for **FRESHWATER!**



Master Water Stewards



Minnesota FarmWise

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).

*From the desk of Joan Nephew  
Freshwater Society Executive Director*



Joan Nephew

October has always been one of my favorite months! As a child, it was my favorite because my birthday is in October (not so much now with the years zooming past). But the change of the seasons, the glorious colors in the landscape with the progressive change of maple trees from green, yellow and orange to red keeps you happy and warm, even if you are trying desperately to ignore the inevitable approach of winter. This fall, we have other reasons to celebrate. Groups all over the Twin Cities are gathering to keep leaves, grass and other organic materials out of their streets and stormwater systems. Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality reduce the phosphorus and nitrogen that eventually run into our rivers, streams and lakes, feeding excess algae and causing water quality problems.

It reminds us of the important connection that what we do on the land affects the water. A special shout-out to the Jack and Jill Club of Minneapolis. Eighty families volunteered in a four-block area around the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center to conduct a Community Clean-Up for Water Quality. They picked up trash, cleaned the community center with organic cleaners and maintained the landscape around the center. And this will become an annual event!

More than 600 Girl Scouts River Valleys troops are also doing Community Clean-Ups for Water Quality, removing leaves from the streets and alleys and reaching out to neighbors to help in the effort.

So as you are out doing those final yard clean-ups, take a few minutes to also clean the streets and boulevards by your homes. Support the work of these future leaders in protecting our lakes, rivers and streams. Better yet, organize a Community Clean-Up for Water Quality in your neighborhood. Find out how at [Clean Water Starts Here](#).

Sincerely,

**Metro Summit Focuses on Legacy Funding**

Join us November 6 for this year's Metro Summit for individuals and groups committed to protecting lakes and rivers. This event – sponsored by the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and hosted by the Freshwater Society – is for anyone interested in protecting and improving Minnesota's surface water resources: individual citizens, lake or river associations and local government representatives.

Most of us have heard about the Legacy Fund amendment passed in 2008 that dedicates sales tax revenue to, among other things, protecting water resources. At this year's summit, Steve Woods, assistant director of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, will discuss how citizens and local government units can access and use that money. There also will be a panel of citizens and local government representatives reporting on their use of Legacy money and the results they achieved.



The event will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday November 6 in Room 233 of the Eisenhower Community Center in Hopkins. There is a \$10 registration fee to cover dinner. Register and pay on-line.

**Items of Interest**

Links to original reports on water availability, water pollution and water policy are archived on the [Reports and Research](#) page of the Freshwater web site.

There is some intriguing research there by agencies and organizations as diverse as the U.S. Geological Survey, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Pew Environment Group. You can look up a report that puts Minnesota water use into a national perspective, and you can read about Chesapeake Bay pollution caused by giant chicken farms.

Browse through the web page. You will find something that interests you.

*November 5th Moos Speaker Series  
David Schindler will Shed Light on Public Policy*

Are the decisions that our political leaders make about water and the environment based on sound science?



Too often they are not, says David Schindler, one of the world's leading freshwater ecologists. Too often, according to Dr. Schindler, an emeritus professor at the University of Alberta, politicians and policy-makers in both Canada and the U.S. decide what they want to do, then look for science to back up their choices.

On Tuesday, November 5, Dr. Schindler will deliver a free public lecture in St. Paul on the tension – often conflict – between science and public policy. The title of his presentation is: "Letting the Light In: Providing Environmental Science to Direct Public Policy."

The lecture is sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. [Register to attend](#). It will be presented at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 5, in the theater of the [Student Center](#) on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus.

If you cannot be with us in person, watch the lecture on [streaming video](#).

**Freshwater Publications Through the Years**

**25 YEARS AGO**

In 1988, the Journal of Freshwater published a package of articles on farm chemicals and water pollution. The lead article was titled *When Agrichemicals and Groundwater Meet: Understanding the Connection*. It was written by George R. Hallberg, who then was supervisor of the Environmental Geology Section of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. [Read a PDF](#) of that article.

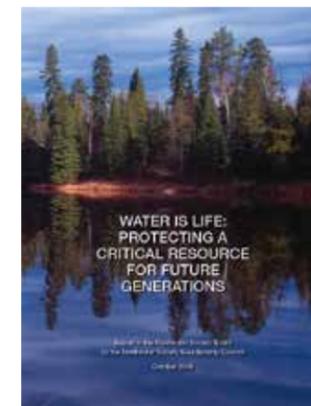
**10 YEARS AGO**

The "Aquatic Nuisance Species Digest," published by the Freshwater Society, reported in February 2003 that Congress was considering a National Aquatic Invasive Species Act that would offer "much-needed federal authority and funding to aggressively advance prevention and control of aquatic invasive species on a national scale." The journal reported on two groups – the Great Lakes Commission and the Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species – calling for greater efforts to keep invasive species from traveling into the Great Lakes via the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. Today preventing invasive Asian Carp from entering Lake Michigan through the canal is still a huge concern. [Read a PDF](#) of that publication.



**FIVE YEARS AGO**

In October 2008, the Freshwater Society published *Water Is Life: Protecting A Critical Resource For Future Generations*. The report, which covered both groundwater and surface waters, resulted from a six-month strategic planning process led by a blue-ribbon citizen advisory committee. The report contained a number of recommendations for state policymakers and for the Freshwater board. One of the report's key conclusions was that water scientists, water planners and policy-makers lacked consensus on the important question of whether Minnesota's groundwater pumping was sustainable. Following publication of that report, Freshwater joined the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center in sponsoring two workshops for groundwater professionals. In the spring of 2013, Freshwater published a follow-up to the groundwater portion of the *Water Is Life* study. Read [Water is Life](#). Read a [summary of the discussion](#) at those two workshops. Read the follow-up report, [Minnesota's Groundwater: Is our use sustainable?](#)



**Chapman Tells Us Not to Sell Our Boats**

On October 8, Duane Chapman, a U.S. Geological Survey biologist who is a national leader in efforts to study, control and prevent the spread of Asian carp, delivered the 12th lecture in a Freshwater speaker series on water and the environment.

Chapman, who leads research on Asian carp at the USGS Environmental Research Center in Columbia, Mo., spoke on "The Biology and Management of Asian Carp: Lessons for Minnesota."

He gave a somewhat upbeat appraisal of the likely impact of Asian carp on Minnesota water and Minnesota fish, saying there may still be time for research to find a way to halt the spread of the carp before they establish themselves in our lakes and rivers. An avid fisherman, Chapman offered this advice to Minnesota anglers: "I wouldn't sell my boat."

[View video](#) of his talk. Read a [MinnPost.com article](#) on it. Read a [USGS news release](#), issued October 28, about research Chapman led that found evidence of grass carp, one species of Asian carp, reproducing in a watershed feeding Lake Erie. The research is a warning that all the Asian carp species may be able to survive and reproduce in the Great Lakes.

The University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and the university's College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences joined Freshwater in sponsoring Chapman's lecture.