

Freshwater News

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Facets of FRESHWATER



FALL ON OBERG MOUNTAIN | TOM SAMUELSON | 2018 MINNESOTA WEATHERGUIDE ENVIRONMENT CALENDAR

September 2018

September monthly normals
from the Minnesota Weatherguide
Environment™ Calendar:

Temperature: Max 71.7°F Min 52.4°F

Precipitation: 3.08 in.

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Minnesota lakes & rivers!**

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FRESHWATER

On long-term experiments and tools of first resort



by Steve Woods,
executive director

I've written and spoken repeatedly over the last year about how the 35-year "experiment" known as

the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982 has been a huge success. Great bipartisan legislation, signed by a Republican governor, and successfully put into effect by local governments. Sure there were a few stumbles on the way, but three decades of data shows there was far more success.

Another long-term experiment didn't have such a spectacular outcome. From 1986 to 1990, Freshwater



mounted a series of heavyweight conferences and publications on agrichemicals and groundwater. We did this with state and federal agencies, The Fertilizer Institute, Farm Bureau, Minnesota Extension Service, National Agricultural Chemicals Association, and speakers from a dozen states plus the Soil and Water Conservation Society's legendary leader, Norm Berg. This massive undertaking laid much of the foundation for the science behind the Minnesota Groundwater Protection Act of 1989.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the act, it has been in the news

Long-term, continued on page 3

Freshwater is a nonprofit organization dedicated to inspiring and empowering people to value and conserve our freshwater resources.

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FRESHWATER

2424 Territorial Road Suite B
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-313-5800 | freshwater.org
freshwater@freshwater.org



Freshwater celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Mary Salisbury, development officer

We want you to help us celebrate!

This year marks Freshwater's fiftieth anniversary. In 1968, a local businessman and visionary group of individuals and institutions came together to create the very first freshwater research lab in Minnesota. Fifty years later, we are celebrating that legacy and the decades of work for water that followed.

One way we're doing so is to publish the story of our evolution over 50 years. Part of the project includes a timeline with images and vignettes from the students, researchers, scientists, and citizens who have contributed to our

work over the years. Please stay tuned in October for the release of this history publication — and throughout the year to read more stories in print and online.

We're also celebrating with a birthday party: our **50th Anniversary Celebration** at the Minnesota History Center on October 25. **As a guest you'll enjoy complimentary entrance to the gallery exhibit, 1968.** Wow, *1968 really was quite a year!* You'll hear from special guests about the continued importance of our work for water — then and now.

You are a key part of this story. We sincerely hope you will join us to celebrate the past, present, and future of healthy water in our state!

Freshwater 50th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, October 25 | 6-8 pm | Minnesota History Center

Admission is free, but please let us know you're coming: tinyurl.com/freshwater50



Volunteer to protect our water

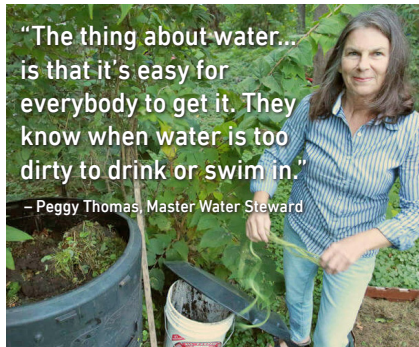
by Connie Lanphear, communications and program manager

Standing in front a classroom full of second-graders at Linwood Elementary School in St. Paul, Peggy Thomas led them through the story of water in their Summit Hill neighborhood. They listened attentively as she told them about the water cycle and how their community was covered with hard surfaces that did not allow water to soak into the ground. She taught them about storm drains and showed them photos of underground systems that carry polluted water to the river, the source of their drinking water. They *got* it.

She also told them they could do something to improve the health of that water. And they did. The following spring at nearby Linwood Recreation Center they helped restore a neglected raingarden, revive overgrown terrace gardens, and make art using water from a rain barrel and sediment from the Mississippi River. Their hands-on work made a deep impression on them and reconnected the center with its community.

Peggy's road to the classroom started with her involvement in the Master Water Stewards program, developed by Freshwater to equip citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to help improve our water at the grassroots level.

Applications are now being accepted for the next cohort of Master Water Stewards. Deadline, September 30, 2018. For information, visit masterwaterstewards.org or contact Deirdre Coleman, dcoleman@freshwater.org or 651.313.5806.



Long-term, continued from cover

because of a drawn-out rules process addressing nitrogen fertilizer.

Everybody wanted to avoid regulation because it is intrusive, costly to all, and usually not very flexible. It is a tool of last resort. But data is data, and after 30 years the data collected by the Department of Agriculture shows that the tools of first resort — voluntary best management practices, application of technology, and cost-sharing — haven't stemmed the increase of nitrogen found in our waterways and drinking water supplies.

As the proposed rules creep forward during the waning days of the Dayton administration both sides in the debate are dissatisfied. Farmers say the rules are not fair to them, and supporters of regulation counter by

saying it's not fair for rural towns that are faced with expensive upgrades to remove the pollution from their family's drinking water.

Supporters say 30 years is long enough to try. Farmers counter that today's technology is making significant inroads to manage fertilizer efficiently.

As we head into the 2019 session, Freshwater is pushing hard to get state government working on adding aquifer recharge as a critical tool to ensure and protect the water supplies our regional economies need to thrive. As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Groundwater Act, it's a nice non-regulatory method — a tool of first resort — to stretch our water supplies for the next generation.



Tending our shared waters

by Shanai Matteson, Water Bar

Freshwater and Water Bar & Public Studio have received an Action Grant from the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization to develop and pilot a new public education program on water. This program will blend cultural stories about water gathered from local communities with water science and policy, resulting in a new effort to prepare "Water Tenders" (local water educators) from north and northeast Minneapolis to serve water at Water Bar and other community events.

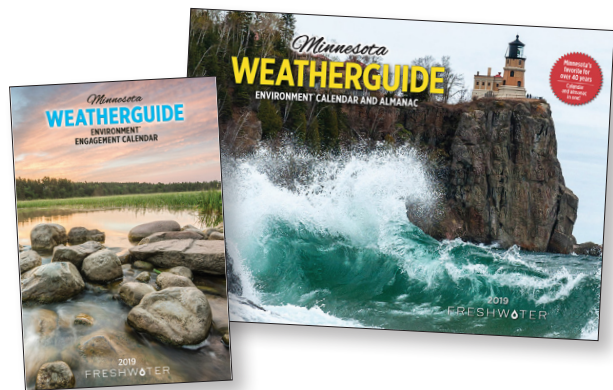
"At Freshwater, we use science to educate and inspire people to value and protect water," said Leslie Yetka, director of programs. "We are thrilled to have this opportunity to partner with Water Bar to explore ways that art and culture can add depth and meaning to our water education programs, in ways that speak to the important role culture plays in our connections with water and environment."

The new Water Tender curriculum will be developed through a series of listening sessions with local community partners, and will be piloted through two Water Tender trainings this winter. New Water Tenders will serve water at the Water Bar and other water outreach and education events. They will also receive stipends to collaboratively develop five new Water Bar programs at host sites within the community.

For more info, contact Shanai Matteson at [952-686-1340](tel:952-686-1340) or shanai@water-bar.org

Weatherguides: Minnesota's favorite calendar for more than 40 years!

The calendars you know and love are ready to ship! Get yourself a copy and buy some extra copies to give away. This year's editions are full of the same stunning photography; information on meteorology, phenology, astronomy; features from your favorite KARE 11 and MPR meteorologists; gardening tips; and more.



Consider selling Weatherguide calendars to raise money for your organization. You can earn up to \$10 for each calendar sold!

Order your calendar online at freshwater.org/weatherguide-calendars

To place your order by phone or learn more about fundraising opportunities, contact Connie at 651-313-5808 or clanphear@freshwater.org.

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1/ What is the most common water mammal predator in Minnesota?
- 2/ What dried flowers provided stuffing for soldiers' life jackets during WWII?
- 3/ How often does the Sun "go quiet", meaning storm activity is almost non-existent and there are no sunspots for months at a time?

Find these and many more interesting facts about our state's natural world in the 2019 Weatherguides!

1/ Mink. They can remain underwater for many minutes, helping them pursue prey both in water and on land. 2/ Milkweed, a critical pollinator plant for monarchs. 3/ Every 11 years, next occurring in 2019.

McKnight Foundation awards \$200,000 grant

by Mary Salisbury, development officer

The McKnight Foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. They've been a long-time grantor to Freshwater, investing in our work for clean and healthy water in our region. Safe and reliable water is critical to our daily lives here in Minnesota.

Our history with McKnight runs deep. They were one of our original funders in the 60s when we first formed. They were part of a group of individuals and institutions that banded together to build a freshwater research laboratory in Navarre, a legacy that lives on today in our continuing work to educate and inform citizens across the state.

Fifty years later, they have awarded Freshwater \$200,000 for two years of work to improve water quality and quantity within the Minnesota River watershed. The work spans policy, watersheds, and local projects. We look forward to bringing you the stories of this work in the months to come.

Join us in thanking McKnight for improving life for us all.

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Upcoming events

Minnesota Water Resources Conference

October 16-17, 2018

RiverCentre, Saint Paul

Immerse yourself in innovative, practical, and applied water resource engineering solutions, management techniques, and current research about Minnesota's water resources.

Learn more: ccaps.umn.edu/minnesota-water-resources-conference

Confluence: Annual Gathering of Master Water Stewards

October 16, 2018 | 6-8:30 pm

Theodore Wirth Trailhead Bldg, Minneapolis

Join us for a night of inspiring stories! Connect with others and celebrate the current class of newly-minted Stewards. Event is free but you must RSVP: freshwater.org/mws-confluence-registration/

Freshwater 50th Anniversary Celebration

October 25, 2018 | 6-8 pm

Minnesota History Center

Celebration of Freshwater includes FREE admission to the exhibit, 1968 at the History Museum. See more on page two. Event is free but RSVP here: tinyurl.com/freshwater50

Give to the Max Day

SAVE THE DATE: November 15, 2018

The biggest day of giving in Minnesota is just around the corner! Watch for details of a festive celebration of our Weatherguide calendars and an opportunity to support Freshwater.

18th Annual Road Salt Symposium

SAVE THE DATE: February 7, 2019

Plymouth Creek Center

Make plans to attend the annual Road Salt Symposium, to hear the latest innovations, trends, and best practices for reducing salt use while maintaining safe roads. Details coming soon!