

FACETS of Freshwater



February 2016

Northern Cardinal – Martin County
by Michael Cervantes

February Monthly Normals from the Minnesota Weatherguide Calendar

Temperature: Max 28.9 F Min 12.8 F

Precipitation: .77 in. Snowfall: 7.8 in.

 FRESHWATER SOCIETY

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An April to remember



Steve Woods

All of us here at Freshwater have organized our lives, wished our loved ones well, and braced ourselves for what promises to be a busy April – or as we’re referring to it: April!

We are conducting ongoing training of the next cohort of Master Water Stewards (in three locations)

and keeping up a slate of speaking engagements on groundwater, tied to this month’s release of our report *The Water Underground*. Meanwhile, preparation is underway for the following events.

April 7 – Ice OUT-Loon IN Gala, Nicollet Island Pavilion

April 8-9 – HLRP training starts, Otter Tail Co.

April 13 – George Hawkins free lecture, U of M

April 14-15 – State of Water Conference, Alexandria

April 23 – Urban Waters Forum, Chaska

April 26-27 – NASCA Presentations, Des Moines

May 2 – Water Reuse Conference, St. Paul

Take a look inside for descriptions of these activities and register for our gala today to keep more of this sort of programming coming your way in 2017!

Regards,



Executive Director, Freshwater Society

Ice OUT-Loon IN Annual Gala – Get your tickets NOW!

APRIL 7, 2016 - 5:30-9:00 PM

Nicollet Island Pavilion | Minneapolis, MN

Thawing of the lakes captures statewide attention and is an opportune time to get water messages out. Every spring, the loons return to lakes with good water quality and clarity.

Ice OUT-Loon IN... (continues on page 2)

FRESHWATER SOCIETY

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.

Ice OUT – Loon IN Annual Gala (cont'd from pg.1)

The **Ice OUT-Loon IN Annual Gala** brings together over 300 people for an entertaining evening to raise funds that support Freshwater Society's mission of educating and inspiring people to value, conserve, and protect freshwater resources. Minnesota Public Radio's Paul Huttner will emcee the evening, which includes cocktails, dinner, music, Clean Water Champion Awards, and our silent and live auctions!

We invite you and others who care about our water to join us on April 7. We have filled our venues the last two years and have moved upriver to the larger Nicollet Island Pavilion for 2016. This is a beautiful setting below the Minneapolis skyline and above St. Anthony Falls.

Once again we have outstanding silent and live auction items including:

- One-week stay beachside in Vero Beach, FL. Trip also includes a round of golf at the Moorings Yacht and Country Club and an Eco Sunset Cruise on the Indian River Lagoon.
- Four-night stay at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Village Lodge just east of Yosemite Park
- One-week stay at a quiet cabin in CO, just 19 miles from Steamboat Springs
- Two-night stay at the Streamsong Resort in Florida for two. Includes two rounds of golf on courses ranked #2 and #3 at Golfweek 2015
- Four-hour cruise down the Mississippi River from the bridge of a working tow boat
- Dinner cooked for 10 by renowned Minnesota Chef Beth Dooley
- Extreme Sandbox lets clients play on construction equipment. Five people will spend 2 hours driving 3-4 different types of heavy equipment

Tickets are on sale now!

SINGLE TICKET: \$95 | TABLE OF 6: \$570 | TABLE OF 8: \$760

Register at freshwater.org or call 651-313-5805

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BRONZE SPONSORS



Vero Beach, Florida



Mammoth Mountain, California



Glen Eden Resort, Colorado



Streamsong Resort, Florida



Mississippi River Tow Boat Ride



Chef Beth Dooley Dinner



Extreme Sandbox Group Package

Last call: lake association and river groups needed!

The 2016 **Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership** (HLRP) training has been scheduled for April 8-9 in Otter Tail County, and we have room for a couple more groups to join this year's cohort! If you are a member of a lake or river association in Otter Tail County (or an adjacent county), read on.

HLRP is a program designed to help lake associations and river groups across the state identify and work towards the priorities they have for their water body. More than 400 groups have gone through this program since it started 17 years ago, receiving training and personalized support. Seed funds (\$2,000-5,000) are available, to be used towards achieving goals identified in their management plan.

Final slots will be filled with priority given to Otter Tail County groups, but all slots **must be filled by March 18**. Exact details are still being confirmed, and attendance by 5-8 members of your group each day is required.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Jen Kader at jkader@freshwater.org or 651-313-5807.



Register for the State of Water Conference!



This conference is hosted through a partnership of Freshwater Society, Conservation Minnesota, and University of Minnesota Extension.



This conference is sponsored by:



The health of our waters has become a major topic of discussion in Minnesota, thanks to national trends as well as local actions that have helped to thrust the topic into the spotlight. Don't miss out on your chance to delve deep into the issues at the **State of Water Conference** on April 14-15 at beautiful Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria!

Over 300 community members, state agency officials, and soil and water conservation district staff are expected to attend breakout sessions in four categories: Species Habitat, Water Health, Aquatic Invasive Species, and Local Impacts. Conference attendees will be able to select from 40+ presenters and 24 session topics, and hear the latest news about water issues from agency leaders. Attendees can also go in-depth into the issues with a half-day workshop (four available). What's more, be sure to join us on Thursday to hear from our **keynote speaker Ron Schara** of Minnesota Bound!

Registration for the conference closes on March 25.

Register today, and see you in April! For additional information or questions, contact Jen Kader at jkader@freshwater.org or **651-313-5807**.

SAVE THE DATE: Water Reuse Workshop

Join us Monday, May 2 in the Securian Lounge at CHS Field in Saint Paul for a "first of its kind" event exploring the potential for water reuse in Minnesota.

Minnesota Communities use drinking-quality water for many uses that do not require such high-quality water. In some places, we are draining water resources faster than they are being replenished. Reusing water is a proven and promising strategy for meeting water demands. Yet, reuse projects still face a number of hurdles, and while the benefit is clear, it is difficult to get these projects implemented.

The full-day workshop will engage a wide variety of agency, industry, and non-profit organizational partners to:

- Learn more about what is possible with reuse in Minnesota
- Hear about projects already in the ground
- Identify specific policy and technical barriers blocking more reuse

Ideas generated at this workshop will form the basis of a water reuse policy agenda that Freshwater Society will pursue to take pressure off drinking water systems throughout the state.

Registration will begin soon for the Water Reuse Workshop, so stay tuned! Questions? Please contact Jen Kader at Freshwater Society at **651-313-5807** or jkader@freshwater.org.

Thank you to our funders and sponsors:



If you are interested in sponsoring the workshop, please contact Jen Kader at Freshwater Society at **651-313-5807** or jkader@freshwater.org.

MOOS FAMILY SPEAKER SERIES on water resources



George Hawkins

Free Moos Lecture on Wednesday, April 13

George Hawkins, CEO and General Manager of the DC Water and Sewer Authority, will discuss how our thinking about environmental protection has evolved and the implications for cities. DC Water operates one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in the world and has launched an ambitious and innovative program to improve aging infrastructure in the Washington D.C. region to comply with strict environmental requirements. A recently completed digester system is generating 10MW of electricity – enough for about 7,500 homes. Join us for an exciting evening with one of the rock stars of the water utility world.

**Evolution to
Cleaner Water
and Greener Water
Companies**

April 13

5:30 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Lecture

University of MN - St. Paul
Student Center Theater



It just keeps getting better... 15th Road Salt Symposium a success!

Freshwater Society and Fortin Consulting put on the 15th Annual Road Salt Symposium on February 4, 2016. In spite of a major storm 48 hours earlier, we were at maximum capacity for the second year in a row. The agenda and presentations from the conference can be found on our [home page](#). Environmental Leadership Awards were presented to: Three Rivers Park District, staff at Baker Park; the living snow fence program team from MnDOT; University of MN, and the USDA; Carver County Public Works; City of Roseville Public Works; and Andy Ronchak of the MPCA.

Evaluations have yet to be tabulated but it appears Louis Smith's talk on managing legal liabilities and public expectations was a big hit. His review of recent cases, statutory municipal protections, and a bill (HF 2594) to be heard this legislative session on establishing a certification program that conveys some liability protection for commercial salt applicators were all topics attendees had been wanting to hear. Attendees received U of M Roads Scholar credits once again this year.



Louis Smith
Smith Partners, PLLP

Upcoming Events

APRIL 7 – Ice OUT-Loon IN Gala, Nicollet Island Pavilion, Minneapolis

APRIL 8-9 – HLRP training starts, Otter Tail Co.

APRIL 13 – George Hawkins, free lecture, U of MN, St. Paul Student Center

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

April 23 – Urban Waters Forum, Chaska

April 26-27 – NASCA Presentations, Des Moines

MAY 2 – Water Reuse Conference, CHS Field, St. Paul

Advice from the Field

It was January 16, 2015 when Governor Mark Dayton surprised everyone by announcing he was going to push hard for enforcing existing buffer requirements and call for expanding the amount of buffers adjacent to water features. The topic was suddenly in the mainstream media and stayed there through the regular and special legislative sessions. It was a divisive issue but eventually a watered down version of the Governor's original vision was passed.



Amidst the polarizing discussion was a realization that *somebody* would eventually be tasked with helping landowners comply with the law and explore their options. At the local level this will fall to SWCDs, counties, and those watershed districts that also serve as public drainage authorities. Working with landowners in the wake of the legislative battle requires organizations to be sure about their facts, confident, and absolutely clear about which organization is handling which aspects of this complex work.

In February 2016, we released our [report](#) on how local governments might prepare themselves for the challenge: *Advice from the Field: Preparing for county-level buffer work*. The report consolidates the discussions we had with 32 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in late 2015. We asked Districts what

success would look like two years down the road and what their biggest concerns were at this time. That was enough to set off energetic conversations that any facilitator would have been proud to have ignited.

The report is essentially a proceedings of the workshops (vs. a policy document of the Freshwater Board). The conversations helped operations with different capacities know what to do and explored ways for districts to pool efforts with each other, or their county. As we say in the report, "this is different work."

We hope this peer advice helps SWCDs, WDs, and counties that are the boots on the ground put their best foot forward.

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

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