

FACETS of Freshwater



August 2015

Lake Hiawatha Cascade
by Jonathan Mortenson

Weather Facts and Photo from *MN Weatherguide Environment Calendar*
AUGUST MONTHLY NORMALS
 Temperature: Max 80.5 F Min 61.8 F Precipitation: 4.3 in.



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Warming Water Temps



Steve Woods

It was during the summer of 2013 that I first noticed freakishly warm water temps in Lake Superior. Our three-man sailing crew was outnumbered as we attempted to manage four young passengers. Nearing exhaustion, we sent them into the lake while anchored off of Raspberry Island in the Apostle Islands. It was only after noticing they had been in and out of the water for over an hour that it dawned on us that we could typically only tolerate about ten minutes.

We enjoyed the water temps for several days though my trip journal shows that my thoughts drifted to what these temperatures would mean to the commercial fisherman and lake trout. The concern isn't that it was really warm one year but that year after year the temperatures spikes are trending upward.

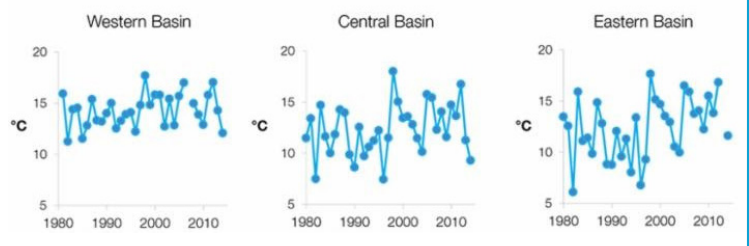
Recent field research conducted off the stern of the 40-ft *S/V True North* indicates that this year is more in line with a ten-second immersion.

Regards,

STEVE WOODS

Executive Director
Freshwater Society

Average Summer Water Temperatures (July-September, 1980-2010)



Courtesy: Circle of Blue, NOAA, MN Sea Grant

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All Paddlers Welcome!



Join us for the 2nd Annual Big Island & Back 10K Paddle Saturday, August 15th at 9 a.m.

Come for some fun on the water – stay for the after-party! Grab your canoe, kayak, or paddleboard and head to Excelsior for a friendly race around Big Island and Back. The race begins near the swim area at Excelsior Beach Park. Paddlers of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to come out on Lake Minnetonka for a great community event and fundraiser.

Don't miss the after-party at Excelsior Brewing Company, beginning at 10 a.m., with refreshments from the Suburban Restaurant, music, and of course, beer! Awards and door prizes at 11 a.m. Make a day of it and explore beautiful Excelsior! Proceeds from race entry fees will be donated to the Freshwater Society and ICA foodshelf. –Deirdre Coleman



We need volunteers! Contact dcoleman@freshwater.org or **651-313-5806** if you'd like to help with this fun event.

From the “We Can Take a Hint” Department

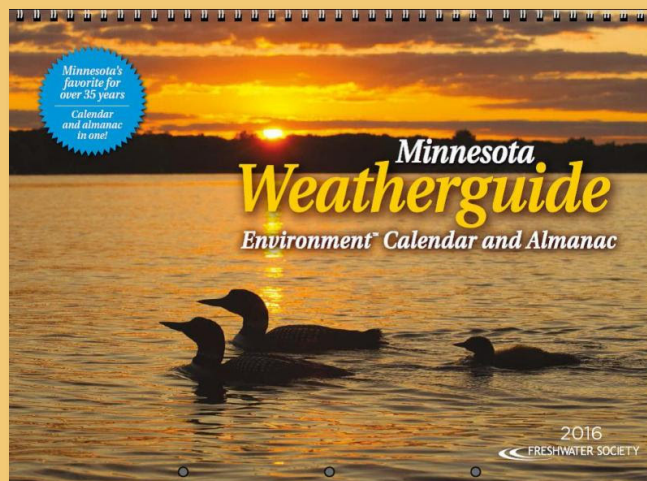
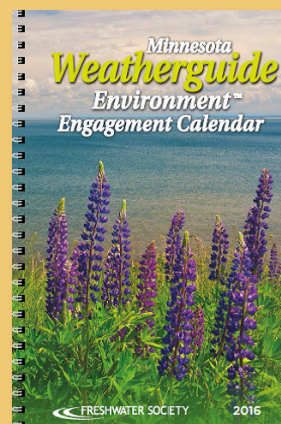
I did a public presentation about water early in my new role here at the Freshwater Society and was taking questions from the audience. The very first question was, “I loved your engagement calendar – why aren't you making it anymore?” All I could stammer out was a weak, “Beats me. I'm new here. Let me check into that.”

During the past three years we've heard that same question in numerous emails, phone calls, letters, and at the KARE 11 Barn at the State Fair.

So, back by popular demand, we present the 2016 Minnesota Weatherguide Engagement Calendar! It's a 6x9, 120-page weekly planner with nature photos, meteorology, nature notes, and astronomy information! Pick one up, along with the wall calendar, at KARE 11 at the fair later this month or order at

www.freshwater.org.

– Steve Woods



15.9 oz., 56 pages
(9.5x13) of nature photos,
meteorology, nature notes,
astronomy, and more



The Well-Fed Brain

With my job change of more than a year ago, I no longer needed some of my trusted information sources. I kept them out of habit and digital laziness, but soon found I needed to pick up different ones for my new role. Twitter feeds, email and Facebook can overwhelm anyone's ability to stay current. I'm grateful there are people compiling information for us all, but I don't read as much as I should. In other words, receiving all these news feeds and research consolidations isn't enough – one needs to *read* them...

I recently polled a couple dozen professionals about where they go to stay informed. Many said they struggled to keep up in both technical and policy fields, and eventually felt guilty as they deleted an unread newsletter for the fourth month in a row. Each received a long list of sources culled from our staff's sources, and the respondents indicated which of these they used, plus added others. The sites mentioned are listed below with the bolded being the most common.

WATER MANAGEMENT SITES:

MN River Bi-weekly update

MPCA Waterfront Bulletin

MPCA Watershed Connections

Facets of Freshwater
(not even on our starter list, so thank you!)

Iowa Water Center News

UPDATES: UMN stormwater research

MEP MN Environmental Insider

US EPA

MN Groundwater Association newsletter

BWSR Snapshots

POLITICO's Morning Ag

Stormwater & Water Efficiency Magazines

SWCS Conservation Newsbriefs

GENERAL NEWS SITES:

Agrinews

MNPost

Above the Fold

MPR

The Daily Climate

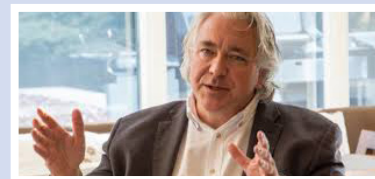
I was surprised by some noteworthy absences from the list in this admittedly non-scientific survey. I'm still sifting through some of the more obscure sites for hidden gems. (Ever hear of the James Hutton Institute?) There is a lot of information out there and we'll keep trying to make sense of the cacophony.
– Steve Woods

Following a successful three year pilot in Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, our popular Master Water Stewards program is now expanding to multiple watersheds around the metropolitan area. Contact Deirdre Coleman to see if your Watershed District is participating!
dcoleman@freshwater.org
or 651-313-5806



MOOS FAMILY SPEAKER SERIES *on water resources*

Freshwater Society is excited to announce two speakers headlining the 2015-16 Moos Family Speaker Series.



Bill Stowe, CEO and General Manager of Des Moines Water Works, will talk about the challenges facing a public drinking water utility downstream from intensively farmed cropland. Earlier this year, Des Moines filed a lawsuit against upstream drainage districts alleging that they should be regulating the nitrogen pollution coming from drain tiles. Mr. Stowe will present two free lectures:

Protecting Surface Waters in Agricultural Watersheds

November 3, 7:00 p.m.

University of MN, St. Paul Student Center

November 4, 3:30 p.m.

City Center Hotel, Mankato



George Hawkins is the CEO and General Manager of the DC Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Hawkins has launched an ambitious

program to improve aging infrastructure in the Washington DC region and comply with strict environmental requirements to protect the Chesapeake Bay, Potomac River, and other local water ways. Improvements include a digester system that will be the region's largest source of renewable energy. Stay tuned for the date and time of Mr. Hawkins presentation in St. Paul and the announcement of a third speaker in the Moos Family Speaker Series.

– Darrell Gerber

Stowe Lecture Sponsor

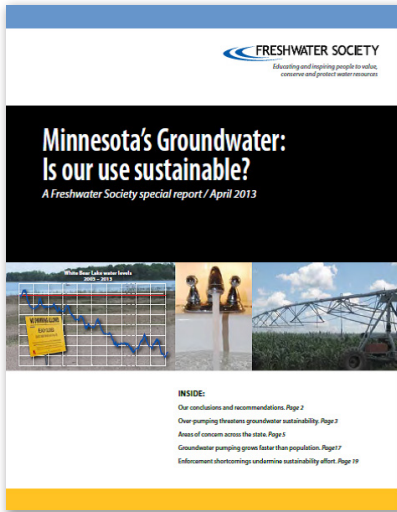


Lecture Series Sponsor

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Taking Another Look at MN's Groundwater

The Freshwater Society is updating an influential 2013 report **Minnesota's Groundwater: Is our use sustainable?** The report got people's attention because it made clear that, even in the land of 10,000 lakes, we can no longer operate under the assumption there is more than enough groundwater for everyone. Increasing occurrences of localized groundwater conflicts and decreasing surface water levels due to over pumping groundwater are warning signs of unsustainable groundwater use. Minnesota has taken a number of steps toward better management of our groundwater since 2013 and it is time to see where we are.



The 2013 report suggested a handful of policy actions to move Minnesota towards a more sustainable use of groundwater. Some of the recommendations were to:

- Set sustainability-based withdrawal limits,
- Ensure funding levels are sufficient to support management efforts,
- Improve enforcement to bring violators into compliance,
- Provide feedback to new well owners early as to the likelihood they will encounter difficulties finding sufficient water, and
- Create Groundwater Management Areas where groundwater is most threatened.

The upcoming report continues a string of Freshwater Society reports since the 1980's that focus on the vital water resource hidden below our feet. Stay tuned for a look at where progress has been made, what remains to be done, and what we know now that we didn't know then.

—Darrell Gerber

Upcoming Events

AUGUST 11–12
Land. Lakes. Legacy.
Conservation In Action Tour

AUGUST 15
Big Island and Back
10k Paddle, 9 a.m.
Excelsior Beach, Excelsior

AUGUST 27- SEPTEMBER 7
MN State Fair, Stop by
KARE 11's Red Barn and get
a great deal on 2016 Wall and
Engagement Weatherguide
Calendars. Holiday shopping
while enjoying a corn dog!

SEPTEMBER 19
MWMO
Grand Opening of
Stormwater Park and
Learning Center

Support Our Programs & Enjoy the Wonders of Minnesota

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!

—Jeanne Prok



Photo by Mary Lynn Cervantes