

Sauk River Watershed District

524 4th St South
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

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*Thank You
Volunteers
for all your time,
effort and energy
given to help
water quality!*

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- Chub Hensley,
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- Ken Robinson,
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Sauk Centre, MN 56378
(320)352-2231

Send Comments and
Questions to:
srwd@srwdmn.org
visit www.srwdmn.org

Fishy Facts...

Minnesota has 158 known fish species swimming in over 4 million acres of water.
Minnesota sells an average of 1.2 million fishing license per year.
In 2006, 1.58 billion dollars were spent on fishing in Minnesota.
35 million pounds of walleyes were harvested out of MN waters, along with 3.2 million pounds of northern pike, and 64 million pounds of panfish in 2006.

Join Our Mailing List!!

Like what you see in the newsletter? Interested in our education series? Curious what is going on at SRWD? All this and then some? Join our contact list to get our newsletters, education alerts, and so much more via mail or email. Contact us via phone, email, or mail and let us know you want to be on the contact list.



Sauk River Watershed District Newsletter



Shoreline Restoration It Will Grow on You!



The shoreline along Sinclair Lewis Park had been deteriorating for many years, and was greatly in need of maintenance. To stabilize the shoreline, a natural approach was implemented using native plants and materials. The idea behind natural stabilization is to reduce the effects of waves damage, but also to armor the shoreline from stormwater run-off and high water levels. Native plants are ideal for stabilizing banks, due to their extensive and deep root systems that hold the soil in place. The native plants also create a more natural, environmentally friendly and aesthetically pleasing shoreline. Native plants create a natural buffer zone enabling a filtration system to be established. The filtration system in this case would slow the run-off from the impervious sidewalks and parking lot, and allow more absorption into the ground. Through this process, water quality is preserved by preventing pollutants and sediment from entering Sauk Lake. — *Continued on page 3*



BEFORE 2001



ONE YEAR AFTER 2003

**Sinclair Lewis Park
Sauk Centre**

Total Project Material:

- 15 cubic yards of field rock riprap
- 67 square yards of filter fabric
- 3,138 square yards of straw blanket, 4,000 blanket stakes
- 20lbs. of annual rye grass
- 12lbs. of native grass seed
- 15lbs. of wildflower seed
- 8,256 grass and flower plugs
- 41 shrubs
- 15 trees

New Faces To SRWD



Paul Hetland has joined the Sauk River Watershed Board representing Stearns County. He is also the City Administrator of Freeport.



Brian Sanoski has joined the Sauk River Watershed District as an inspector and technician. He holds a B.S. degree in environmental studies.



Fall





Watershed Education Programs... Not Just Kid's Stuff



Lower Sauk Waterfestival Learning with a Splash

The Second Annual Lower Sauk Waterfestival held at Millstream Park in St. Joseph was a huge success! Over 375 4th grade students from St. Joseph, Waite Park, and St. Cloud Schools attended the event. Thirty five environmental agencies and organizations shared their expertise of our freshwater resources. The hands-on approach allowed students in groups of 20 to visit eight different stations for 25 minutes each. The waterfestivals are an excellent opportunity for the students to experience a variety of educational aspects and experiences that they might not necessarily have inside a classroom. There has been nothing but positive feedback from the waterfestival, and many of the teachers and volunteers are looking forward to next year. A big thank you goes out to the all the volunteers and donations that make the waterfestivals possible, without your support the waterfestivals would not happen!



Hands on Learning Moves Outside The Classroom Walls

The SRWD is excited to be working with the many area schools to promote and implement environmental education at new levels. So far this year, our new education coordinator has worked with over a dozen schools with lecture and laboratory experiences. The programs have varied from full-day, hands-on field events, to hour long in-class lectures. The SRWD works with individual schools and teachers to develop, set-up, and implement all aspects of the learning experience. Many schools indicated that they would like more hands-on learning, but are limited



Shoreline Restoration Workshop

The SRWD along with U of M extension held a shoreline Restoration Workshop October 13th. This workshop examined the importance of shoreland restoration in protecting stream and lakeshore areas with landscaping techniques and native plant species. There were also discussions and photos of the wide variety of landscaping options and a vast selection of native plants shown.

Fishy Water Quality Message Traveling Library Board

The Traveling Library Board for this year will focus on the importance of the watershed, and clean water for fish life and production. The library board is a very popular education tool that each school in the watershed district has the opportunity to display for a week during the school year.



by resources and time. The SRWD is able to assist these schools by offering a wide variety of resources from materials to teaching experience. The SRWD plans on expanding its current education programs to include curriculum kits for upper level classes. Area teachers continue to praise the SRWD for its diverse education programs and its willingness to adapt to the changing student population and various school's circumstances.

Water Quality Trading

The SRWD along with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Stearns County SWCD is looking at bringing a new program to the watershed district. Water quality trading is an innovative approach to achieve water quality goals more efficiently. Trading is based on the fact that sources in a watershed can face very different costs to control the same pollutant. Trading programs allow facilities facing higher pollution control costs to meet their regulatory obligations by purchasing environmentally equivalent (or superior) pollution reductions from another source at lower cost, thus achieving the same water quality improvement at lower overall cost. SRWD is working to attain grant funding for the development of this program; more information to follow.



Over a Decade of Service!

The SRWD would like to thank Gene Waldorf for over a decade of service as the Big Birch Lake President. Gene recently stepped down as the president, but will continue to serve on the lake association as an area manager. The Big Birch Lake Association under the leadership of Gene has become one of the most influential and productive lake associations. The list of projects and environmental improvements is extensive, and there is a noticed improvement to water quality. Keep up the great work, and thanks Gene for all your sacrifices and dedication.

Pollution Prevention By Retention Stormwater Ponds in Action

As more houses, driveways, streets, and parking lots are being constructed, the amount of land available for rainwater to soak into continues to decrease. Instead of the rainwater soaking in, it flows off of roofs and flows across paved surfaces the whole time picking up nutrients, pollutants and debris. The water then flows into gutters and storm sewers that discharge into the lakes and streams we swim, fish, and use for drinking water. Stormwater ponds are used to control the nutrients and pollution in the stormwater runoff. They do this by slow-ing and detaining the water allowing for sediments to settle out and nutrients to be used up by plants and bacteria. In addition to reducing pollution, ponds can also help control the big rush of stormwater into a lake or stream after a heavy rain, and therefore prevent flooding. Stormwater Ponds can also be very aesthetic and can be a habitat benefit to wildlife. Native plants and

Restoration continued from page 1

Eroding shoreline or over grazed lake and stream banks are known to contribute excess nutrients and sediment to our lakes and streams. By restoring these riparian areas back to native vegetation these areas become more stable and creates buffer zones to trap nutrients from storm water runoff. Some of the benefits of restoring riparian areas include, but not limited to, the following:

- Less long-term maintenance
- Improved fish and wildlife habitat
- Protects water quality by filtering runoff
- Discourages nuisance geese
- Provides privacy
- Add aesthetic value to lakes and streams.



The SRWD has teamed up with our partners to technically and financially assist lakeshore and stream bank owners with all phases of shoreline restoration. Grants and loans are available. Contact Lynn at the watershed office for more information.



As The Monitoring Season Winds Down...

The SRWD would like to thank all of our volunteer monitors throughout the watershed district. Without volunteers we would not be able to continue doing all the great projects and monitoring. The volunteers donate their time, mileage, and efforts all in the name of water quality. **Thank You !**



grasses can be used for pond shoreline cover to stabilize the banks, but also to provide food and cover for birds, and other animals. Aquatic plants can be used in the wetter areas along the shore providing food and cover for many birds, frogs, and turtles. The stormwater ponds seen above were constructed in the summer of 2007 to reduce the runoff from recently developed Osakis industrial park.