



Saturday, April 11, 2009

Revegetation projects around area lakes

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation office is contributing these articles.)

Early this spring the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) will be assisting Sherburne SWCD in shoreland revegetation projects around both Big and Mitchell Lakes. MCC crews were contracted with to assist in the projects through a grant that was made available last spring as part of Clean Water Legacy Funding that the legislature appropriated over the state fiscal years of 2008-2009. Due to the lack of staff time needed to complete the projects, Sherburne SWCD staff decided to apply for the grant which would provide both crew time and the equipment necessary to complete the shoreland restorations. As a result, the SWCD was awarded the grant which enabled 450 MCC crew hours which provides the time and staff necessary to get the work done!

The MCC is a "statewide non-profit organization that provides hands-on environmental stewardship and service-learning opportunities to youth and young adults while accomplishing priority and cost-effective conservation, natural resource management projects and emergency response work.

The purpose of the projects around Big and Mitchell Lakes is to protect the good water quality by establishing native shoreland restoration and stabilization at sites that have been pre-determined to be in need or restorations.

The MCC crews will be assisting by making and installing brush bundles to be used for wave breaks at unstable shoreline sites and by planting native vegetation at several sites around the lakes.

If you would like to learn more about the services that the Minnesota Conservation Corps provides please visit their website at: <http://www.conservacioncorps.org>

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Tree planting day set for Saturday at History Center



Families helped plant trees last year during Tree Day 2008. (Submitted photo.)

Submitted Article

Saturday, May 2, the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District and the Sherburne History Center will sponsor Tree Day 2009 at the Sherburne History Center in Becker. Gina Hugo of SWCD and Bobbie Scott of the History Center will oversee the planting of two hundred trees in a windbreak on the grounds of the future county fairgrounds.

Elk River Cub Scout Pack 111 out of Parker Elementary School will be helping out with the planting. Members of the public are also invited to participate in this Sherburne County rite of spring. Participants should gather at the south end of the History Center parking lot by the Bailey Gas Station at 9 a.m. We will then make our way over to the tree planting site.

This is a great activity for the whole family. Scott points out that in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, kids and adults planted trees every spring

"Kids at the different country schools and 4-H clubs were very involved in the tree planting," says Scott. "In fact, between about 1943 and 1963, six million trees were planted by foresters and volunteers in Sand Dunes State Forest!"

As the trees in this windbreak grow, they will help keep the sandy soil from blowing away. Gina Hugo of SWCD notes that "It's important for us to plan ahead and renovate the current windbreak now so the new trees have a chance to grow before the old ones are all dead."

This event is free and will take place rain or shine.

Shovels will be provided. Please call the History Center at 763-261-4433 or 763-262-4433 (metro line) for more information.