

# Nature Talks

Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District

**Nature Talks**  
September 2015

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## Upcoming Events

**Elk River Watershed Cleanup**

**October 3, 2015**  
9:00 am to 11:00 am

**MFA** Fall Family Forestry Field Day



**DATE:** Saturday, Oct. 10th, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00am - 3:00pm

**LOCATION:** 30045 136th Street  
Princeton, MN 55371



(Follow signs from 169 & Co Rd 9)



### Sponsored By



## Family Forestry Field Day

Please mark your calendars and join us for MFA Fall Family Forestry Field Day! This fun outdoor event will be filled with demonstrations, resource exhibits and activities for children of all ages!

**[For More information, Click Here.](#)**

## Fall Family Forest Field Day!

October 10, 2015  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

A day of exhibits, demonstrations and children's crafts. Fun for the whole family!

## Urban Beekeeping



Beekeeping is a hobby that's growing in surprising places! People want to do their part to help bees, and they want to grow more food locally.

Rooftops including Minneapolis City Hall, Weisman Art Museum and several downtown hotels like the Fosahy Tower (now the W hotel) are now host to beehives. Minneapolis and St. Paul were among the first cities to allow beekeeping in urban areas. Urban rooftops make great locations for bee colonies because foraging bees can access a wide variety of flowering plants and less likely to be exposed to harmful pesticides and other chemicals. And because they pollinate plants as far as three miles from their hives, urban gardeners growing food and flowers benefit greatly too. A lot of bees live in a hive. The number is highly variable based on the time of the year and location, but hives can contain from 10,000 to 60,000 honey bees. During an average growing season, the bees will produce about 25 pounds of honey.

More information on bees and beekeeping can be found at:

<http://www.mnbeekeepers.com/>

<http://www.beelab.umn.edu/>

### 5 ways you can help bees

- Plant things that bees like.
- Provide bee habitat.
- Eliminate pesticides from your garden.
- Let your vegetables produce flowers.
- Support local beekeepers by buying honey, bees wax and other bee sourced items.



## Keep An Eye Out For AIS



Shoreland

Owners-

Keep an eye out for Aquatic Invasive Species!

After a summer filled with boating and swimming, the fall season is fast approaching with all of its own joys and activities. It's also time for the "cabin close-up", which is a wonderful opportunity to inspect for Aquatic Invasive Species on docks, swim rafts, and other water-related equipment that are being removed from the water. These items have been in the water for months, creating a secure space for zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and other invasive

to take hold. Along with visually inspecting pontoons, boat lifts, dock posts, etc. for full-grown adults, it may be necessary to run your hands along smooth surface to locate young mussels. When small, juveniles will feel gritty, like sandpaper underneath your fingertips. If you do find and/or suspect a new infestation of any invasive species, please call a local

DNR AIS Specialist or the SWCD Water Resource Specialist using the contact information below.

DNR AIS Specialist, Christine Jurek: 320-223-7847

DNR AIS Specialist, Courtney Millaway: 320-223-7847

SWCD, Water Resource Specialist Tiffany Determan: 763-241-1170 x 132

## Fall Tree Tips

As trees are preparing to showcase their fall colors, you can help them prepare for the chilly (but hopefully not too chilly) winter to come.

**Follow these fall tree care tips to keep your trees strong and healthy:**

### Mulch

Surround your trees with a layer of organic composted mulch to hold in moisture and reduce temperature extremes. Apply mulch in late fall after the ground has frozen.

### Planting

Most trees can be planted in fall. The temperatures are cooler, stressing the trees less and allowing them a better chance to get their roots established.

### Pruning

Get out the pruning saw and remove out dead branches to prevent issues in the winter.

### Wrapping

Wrap young or newly planted tree trunks with tree-wrap to prevent sunburning over winter. Wrap in late fall and remove in early spring.

### Evergreens

Evergreens lose water through their needles all winter.

Water them thoroughly before the ground freezes, and don't forget the mulch!



## Rum River Watershed Monitoring

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), with support from local governmental units, collected water samples from lakes and streams in the Rum River Watershed in 2013 and 2014. According recently-released results, 28 lakes and numerous stream reaches (including Mille Lacs Lake and the Rum River) have good water quality and meet state standards. However, some lakes and streams that were sampled do not meet state standards.



Studies, called Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), are underway for each impaired water to determine the amount of pollutant reduction needed to meet state water quality standards.

**A public meeting will be held to discuss these results at the Isanti County Government Center, on Thursday, October 1, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**

Attendees will hear more detail and will be asked to share their personal knowledge about these lakes and streams, which may help inform and shape future management. MPCA and local government representatives will be present.

The restoration and protection plans for area lakes and streams, once finalized in early summer 2016, will be used by counties, soil and water conservation districts, lake groups and others. Having these management plans will also help locals compete for state grants.

For more information about the watershed study and how you can get involved, please visit the website at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/watersheds/rum-river.html> or contact [Tiffany Determan](#), 763-241-1170 x 132.

## Elk River Watershed Cleanup Day

For eight years now, Sherburne SWCD and a team of businesses, agencies and volunteers (like you!) have taken to the Elk River to remove literally tons of trash. Please join our team and help us keep the river clean! The cleanup lasts only 2 hours. Groups meet at Lakeside Park in Big Lake to enjoy coffee and light snacks before heading out to 3 different cleanup areas along the Elk River and its tributaries. Some unusual items collected in the past include car tires, a microwave, and a very heavy car hood.

For more info, contact [Franny](#) at 763-241-1170 x 4.

Help us keep the river clean!



# 8TH ANNUAL ELK RIVER WATERSHED CLEANUP

OCT. 3RD

9-11 AM

Lakeside Park  
101 Lakeshore Dr.  
Big Lake, MN 55309

## CLEAN UP LOCATIONS

Big Lake | Becker/Clear Lake | Big and Mitchell Lakes

Volunteers should dress for the weather, gloves and safety vests will be provided along with a light snack and coffee



Contact Frances Gerde to register  
fgerde@sherburneswcd.org  
763-241-1170 ext. 4

[abumgarner@sherburneswcd.org](mailto:abumgarner@sherburneswcd.org) | <http://www.sherburneswcd.org>

Sherburne SWCD  
14855 HWY 10  
Elk River, MN 55330

If you would like more detailed information on any of the items listed above,  
please feel free to contact the office at (763) 241-1170 ext. 4.