



Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District

## Nature Talks

December  
2016

[2016 Conservation  
Cooperator](#)

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The SWCD Office will be closed the following days:

**Christmas Observed**  
[Monday 12/26/2016](#)

**New Years Observed**  
[Monday 01/02/2017](#)

**MLK Jr Day**  
[Monday 01/16/2017](#)

### Upcoming Events

**Citizen Pruner Class**  
[Saturday 03/11/17](#)

## Peter and Debra Jensen of Baldwin Township named as the 2016 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator



SWCD Supervisor Roger Nelson presenting the Conservation Award to Debra & Peter Jensen.

The Outstanding Conservation Cooperator Award is presented annually and honors those who dedicate themselves and their talents to the conservation and wise use of our renewable natural resources. Peter and Debra Jensen were named the 2016 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator for Sherburne County. The Jensen's steward nearly 200 acres of land in Zimmerman, bordered on the east and south by Battle Brook, and completely surrounding Lily Lake. The first 80 acres

were purchased in 1992. In the years since the Jensen's worked to purchase the remaining 110 acres. In 2001, 166 acres became a certified Tree Farm. In 2005, 70 acres were enrolled into the MN Land Trust, forever protecting the land surrounding Lily Lake. The Jensen's management has been guided by a MN DNR Forest Stewardship Plan for the past 12 years. In 2015 they hosted a MN Forestry Association Field Day and welcomed over 200 people onto their land. The Jensen's are so deserving of this recognition. Peter and Debra have developed a symbiotic relationship with the land and are continually learning its language and responding to its needs. They understand that planting, growing, tending and harvesting trees are just a small part of caring for the land. Their motivation lies in the simple pleasure of working on the land and leaving it better than they found it.

## Welcome the new SWCD District Technician

Sherburne SWCD would like to welcome



Miranda Wagner as our new District Technician. Miranda started her career with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2010, working with farmers to address resource concerns. Her career has brought her to several counties in North Dakota and Minnesota, but she is excited to be back in Sherburne County after previously working here for 3.5 years. Miranda attended North Dakota State University and received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Natural Resources Management. Outside of work, Miranda is kept busy chasing around her 2.5 year old son and loves getting outdoors whether it be a trip to the zoo or the cabin for a weekend of snowshoeing. She looks forward to working with the residents of Sherburne County and can be contacted at 763-241-1170 extension 4 or [mwagner@sherburneswcd.org](mailto:mwagner@sherburneswcd.org).



Miranda Wagner SWCD District Technician

## Minnesota Buffer Strip Law Update

The Minnesota Buffer Strip Law was passed in 2015 and requires landowners to install buffer strips along State Protected Waters and Public Drainage Ditches. This law requires a 50-foot perennial vegetative buffer along public waters (lakes and watercourses) and 16.5 feet on public ditches. Details about the law can be viewed online at:



<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>. In July 2016, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published the official perennial vegetation buffer map found here: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html>.

Sherburne County SWCD staff have begun their review of affected parcels and will be sending letters to landowners that are currently without the minimum buffer requirement in December. Staff will also be holding an informational meeting this winter regarding the Minnesota Buffer Strip Law and compliance. Non-compliant parcel property owners are not required to work with the SWCD to be in compliance with the law however we will be able to assist you with a free site evaluation, seed plan, and conservation planning options as well as financial assistance options. Please contact [Dan Cibulka](#) or [Miranda Wagner](#) at 763-241-1170 extension 4 if you would like to schedule an appointment or if you have any questions.

## New AIS Grant Program



## Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District has a newly developed Grant program available for AIS prevention efforts in 2017.

This program's purpose is to:

- Financially assist Sherburne county groups like lake associations with creating plans to prevent AIS introduction or spread into area lakes.
- Monitor waterbodies for AIS
- Manage current AIS infestations in hopes of reducing their populations and limiting their spread to other waterbodies.

To learn more about AIS Grant Program visit:

<http://www.sherburneswcd.org/aquatic-invasive-species-ais.html>

For questions, please contact [Dan Cibulka](#) at 763-567-5369.



## Cost Share Available to Establish Native Pollinator Habitat



It is certainly not breaking news that our beloved pollinators are in decline; populations of honey bees, native bees, and butterflies - especially the monarch have experienced a sharp decline that threatens the sustainability of our food production. Every 3rd bite of food we eat is from a plant that required pollination by an insect or animal. Chocolate and coffee are two of my favorites! Locally, important fresh market crops like apples, melons, tomatoes, cucumbers and green beans are all thanks to the hard work

of many pollinators. The decline in pollinators is linked to factors like: pesticides, loss of habitat, parasites and disease.

There is no silver bullet for solving this world-wide problem and it will take the efforts of many, implementing changes within their own capacities. Perhaps you have considered trying to make a difference somewhere on your property - setting it aside for nature and pollinators? Native prairie provides ideal habitat for pollinating insects that are such an integral part of our food chain. Made up of a diverse mix of grasses and flowering plants, prairie also provides nesting habitat for song birds and upland game birds.

The Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has cost share available to help landowners establish native prairie for pollinator habitat. If you are interested in

learning more about this opportunity and how you can be part of a solution - contact [Gina](#) or [Miranda](#) @ 763-567-5376.



Wishing you a Beautiful Holiday Season and a New Year of Peace and Happiness

-Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District-  
Francine, Andie, Bill, Dan, Franny, Gina, Miranda

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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.

