



Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District

Roy Lake Lakeshore Restoration Project

With the April showers and the May flowers also brings outdoor projects. Kathy Rasch, Resource Technician, teamed up with Mary Blickenderfer, U of M Extension Shoreland Specialist and project manager - organized and presented a lakeshore restoration project on Roy Lake over the 2009 Memorial Day weekend.

This workshop was planned to assist shoreline owners interested in protecting and restoring their lakeshore and anyone interested in learning more about using native plants and materials to protect shorelines. The workshop covered the basics on the “why’s and how-to’s” of installing a lakeshore protection or restoration project using

indigenous plants and natural materials. Participants had an opportunity to plan a project for their lakeshore and get hands-on experience as they helped plant the native aquatic, transitional and upland buffer plants. They also installed a coco log and brush bundle in the water near the shore to help protect the aquatic plants.

There were 13 participants working with Kathy and Mary on this project. The landowner was extremely pleased with the outcome all the while helping the participants learn and complete this project which will prove to be beneficial to taking future measures towards shoreline restoration projects.



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Who's New

The year 2009 brings a few new faces to the SWCD office. The District Manager position opened up after Karen TeHennepe decided to leave the SWCD, at that time John Knisley came aboard (in early December of '08). Shortly thereafter

Wade Robinson, Resource Technician, moved with his family to Arizona. It was soon decided that one more person was needed to help manage the office duties so in April, Stacy Cooper was hired on as Office Manager.

Surely not to be overlooked, the NRCS office has a new face as well and is pleased to announce that in early May, Cari Rebeschke gave birth to a bouncing baby boy, named Brennen.



“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.”

Clean Water Legacy Project

This stream bank restoration project was aimed at reducing the erosion and sedimentation of Silver Creek in Clearwater County at 3 sites that were impacted the most. The stream bank of this large outside bend was experiencing severe erosion resulting in large chunks of sod sloughing off into Silver Creek. The water conveyed by the road ditch was also contributing to the erosion problem; as there was a large gully/washout that had been incised into the stream banks as well.

Armed with the cooperation of the landowners and a CWL Grant, we were able to implement stream bank restoration measures on these sites. After completion, it was estimated that sediment and phosphorous loads to

the creek reduced significantly. Excessive sediment and phosphorous levels lead to decline in water quality and stream health and diversity. Most of the construction work was done in 2008 with final tree and shrub plantings completed in 2009 by the Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC).



MCC at work



Before

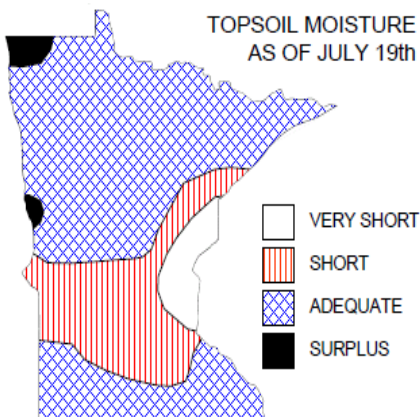


After

2009 ree Sales

The 2009 tree season went very well. The SWCD took orders from over 70 landowners for 24 different kinds of trees adding up to over 23,000 individual trees being sold in both seedling and transplant sizes as well as bare-root form.

For future sales, the SWCD is planning the 2010 tree sales roster to consist mainly of trees and plants native to northern Minnesota.



CUSTOM TREE PLANTING JOB



2009 consisted of 1 custom planting job spanning over 1½ acres utilizing 750 trees

*“He who plants a tree,
plants a hope.”*

~Lucy Larcome~
From ‘Plant a tree’

Forest Stewardship

The SWCD is offering Forest Stewardship plan-writing services to landowners. With the help of the Minnesota DNR, this service is offered at low cost to eligible landowners. Interested people should contact Kathy Rasch at Clearwater SWCD.



Topsoil, Precip and Temps—it’s all relative!

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES FOR THE WEEK ENDING July 19, 2009: Temperatures averaged from 9.5 degrees below normal in the Northwest and North Central Districts to 6.2 degrees below normal in the Northeast District. Extremes: 34 degrees in Staples; 84 degrees in Redwood Falls. Precipitation averaged from 0.99 inch below normal in the Southeast District to 0.59 inch above normal in the North Central District. Greatest weekly total of 3.42 inches was recorded in Aitkin.



Weed Spotlight: Noxious Weeds

(leafy Spurge & wild parsnip)

Leafy Spurge

Euphorbia esula, commonly known as the **Green Spurge** or **Leafy Spurge**, is a species of spurge native to central and southern Europe (north to England, the Netherlands, and Germany), and eastward through most of Asia north of the Himalaya to Korea and eastern Siberia.

It is an herbaceous perennial plant that can grow to over 3 feet tall, and appears in late spring, while the actual flowers do not develop until early summer. All parts of the plant contain a toxic white milky sap.

It reproduces readily by seeds that open explosively, dispersing seed up to 15 feet from the parent plant and has a high germination rate and may remain viable in the soil for at least seven years which can also spread vegetatively from the root system.



Wild Parsnip

Wild parsnip is a member of the *Umbelliferae* (*parsnip*) family. Rosettes grow close to the ground and bear leaves averaging six inches in height. Depending on the habitat and growing conditions, individual flowering plants range to over four feet in height and are a monocarpic perennial

Wild parsnip can be confused with prairie parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*), a native prairie species listed as threatened in Wisconsin. Comparatively, flowers of the prairie parsley plant are light-yellow, sparse, and typically found at the end of the stem.

Wild parsnip can cause phytophotodermatitis to the skin. If the plant juices come in contact with skin in the presence of sunlight, a rash and/or blistering can occur, as well as skin discoloration that may last several months.



Emerald Ash Borer

Since 2002, emerald ash borer has killed tens of millions of ash trees in neighboring states. With the second largest concentration of ash trees in the country, Minnesota has much to protect. Here is what you need to know:

- Ash trees lack a way to defend against these pests. Once an ash is attacked, it will be killed.
- Look for 1/8 inch, D-shaped exit holes in trees. These are the result of borers leaving the tree once they have become adults.
- Do not apply insecticides to ash trees out of the likely range of emerald ash borer.
- Do not transport firewood, even within Minnesota



Clearwater SWCD

312 Main Ave N
Suite 3
Bagley MN 56621
(218)694.6845

Got environmental questions?

Contact our friends at:

**Clearwater County
Environmental Services**

213 Main Ave N

Department 206
Bagley MN 56621

www.co.clearwater.mn.us/Government/deptlist/EnvServHome.aspx

Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

After the July '09 Board Meeting, there will be 5 meetings that remain for '09. As of the publishing of this newsletter, the following dates and places are set – however the dates & places are subject to change. Notice of any change will be posted at the Bagley USDA Service Center prior to the meeting.

Please note that the meetings –starting in September– will commence at 9:00 a.m.

August 20 th	Clearbrook City Council Chambers	8:00 a.m.
September 17 th	Bagley USDA Service Center Board Room	9:00 a.m.
October 15 th	Bagley USDA Service Center Board Room	9:00 a.m.
November 19 th	Bagley USDA Service Center Board Room	9:00 a.m.
December 17 th	Bagley USDA Service Center Board Room	9:00 a.m.

Thank you for thumbing through our first edition of the SWCD newsletter. We hope to be able to bring you updates from time to time via a letter like this. Be sure to check out our website for new items and programs through out the year.

Lake Testing

The SWCD is working with 2 lake-monitor programs for the summer of '09.

The SWCD staff tests 5 area lakes on a rotating basis for one of the programs. The other program implemented is the Clean Water Legacy Surface Water Assessment Grant. This is a 2-year grant that began in 2008. Under this plan, citizen volunteer monitors get water samples from 19 area lakes. After the samples are collected, they are then sent to a lab in Detroit Lakes for testing. This is all done inside a 24-hour window and the results have a relatively quick turnaround time as well.

Area lakes are being monitored for phosphorous, chlorophyll, e-coli and fecal coli form which are early indicators of water quality and lake health. Higher readings can be used to gauge nearby land-use concerns. If there are problems, having good water quality data makes it easier and more successful in getting grant dollars to help landowners address and correct water problems.



Clearwater County Fair

With the publishing of this newsletter, the County Fair should be well underway. There is much to take in–relative to exhibits AND food! The SWCD will be there again this year with information on Working Trees for Agriculture and also Working Trees for wildlife.

Area VIII Fall Meeting & Tour

The Clearwater SWCD is pleased to host the 2009 Area VIII Fall Tour & Meeting. We hope to tour a local bustling organic dairy farm and learn of efforts of pasture management for the benefit of livestock as well as land. We'll stop by a local wild rice producer and hear about the state grain and its link to an ecosystem for wildlife habitat as well as provide a substantial flood protection for nearby land. This tour will show how and where the SWCD can partner with the public to benefit the land.

