

# Watershed Watcher

A publication of the  
Cannon River Watershed Partnership



## *2nd Annual Watershed Wide River Cleanup Results*



*Minnesota Rovers are the scrap metal champs.*

September 18th dawned cool and cloudy, but that did not deter the 186 volunteers who took part in the 2nd Annual Watershed Wide River Cleanup hosted by Cannon River Watershed Partnership. Due to high water, that got much higher the next week as it turned out, we were only able to cleanup along the shorelines and not get into the water as much as we had hoped.

Even so, groups working in Owatonna, Medford, Faribault, Shields Lake, Northfield, and Cannon Falls collected approximately 23,000 pounds of trash! Volunteers included St. Olaf and Carleton College students, the Minnesota Rovers, Coca Cola employees, the Shields Lake Association, the Knights of Columbus and many others. We even had one person from Austria! Okay... so maybe he didn't come just for the cleanup, but he still helped!

People contributed in a variety of ways: some picked up trash, others drove trucks to haul the trash, while some assisted by staffing the registration area. Interesting finds included: a bike, fencing, cement block, scrap metal and pipes, the seat from a car, softballs, tires, tires, and more tires. Of course there were also lots of pop cans, paper, wrappers, and trash. Many hands might not have made for light work in this case, but the camaraderie of the groups made for an enjoyable time to clean up the water we love. Sincere thanks to all who assisted! CRWP plans to continue this event next year. We hope you all can join us for the 3rd Annual Watershed Wide River Cleanup in September 2011.

*Beth Kallestad*

# The Current

from the Executive Director

The torrential rains of September 22nd and 23rd and the floods they caused have been front and center for many of us. Recovery efforts are underway as we deal with the aftermath of the highest waters on record. It's safe to say that the four to eight inches of rain that fell on already soaked ground was a problem. This rainfall coupled with the changes we humans have made this century to get rid of our natural sponges (wetlands) and the increase in the amount of hard surfaces that water can runoff add up to a lot of water that makes it to the rivers and lakes. The river responds in the only way it can and that is to flood.

Flooding in itself is not all that unusual and not always a bad thing. To the businesses and individuals who were harmed it certainly is bad. This flood resulted in the release of untreated sewage to the water as cities struggled with swamped wastewater plants. When this happens, bacteria and chemicals enter the water and can make it unsafe for human contact. Woody debris in the river can back up water and be a hazard for recreation while sediment can fill in the habitat fish need.

However, most floods are smaller than this recent event and are important to how rivers function. While the landscape after a flood may look permanently damaged, the recovery of the natural areas can be pretty quick. The waters leave behind nutrients and moisture in the floodplain that help trees like cottonwoods and silver maples become established and grow. The fast moving waters help to move large gravel and boulders that may create new habitat for some fish and insects. The woody material that can cause problems also has benefits by creating habitat and providing food needed by some wildlife.

Keep an eye on the Cannon River Watershed Partnership website, <http://www.crowp.net>, as we plan some public discussions to talk about what we can all do to help keep water on the land and reduce the chances of another record flood.

*Beth Kallestad*

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## Le Sueur County Lake Volney Park Restoration



*Before.*

shaped to direct water to the previously installed DNR Shoreland Habitat Restoration buffer to the west and east of the beach. MS Excavating did the earthwork and D&J Landscaping did the plant work. Funding was available through the MPCA Clean Water Partnership Program and the County Parks Department.

In 2008, Lake Volney Lake Association Board members presented a list of projects to Le Sueur County Environmental Services that they felt were necessary to improving the water quality of Lake Volney. One project was the Lake Volney County Park. It had a very long slope that was mowed from the road to the water's edge. The beach was not in good shape. The sand would wash away. In 2009, it was decided to move the beach up slope of the water's edge and seed the area between the beach and the water with native plants. The native buffer was planted with deep rooted plants that will protect the shoreline from erosion. The beach was placed in a selected area to break the long slope. The land was



*After.*

*Lauren Klement*  
*Le Sueur County Environmental Services*

## Septic Inventories: What Are They and Why Do Them?



Sampling for sewage. ▲

Probing a yard for a drainfield. ►

Septic tank inspection. ▼



Septic systems have gotten a lot of attention in the last few months in Rice County because of citizen complaints about Rice County's septic inventory. But what exactly is a septic inventory? And why are counties increasingly doing them?

The goal of a septic inventory is to reduce pollution by fixing polluting septic systems. A county chooses a priority area to focus on. For example, Rice County chose to start its inventory around Roberds Lake, which has many lakeshore residents, has lots of boat traffic and fishing, and has serious summer algae problems. Le Sueur County has applied for funding to do a septic inventory on the German-Jefferson Chain of Lakes, which also has a lot of lakeshore residents and algae problems.



In the priority area, property owners are notified that the county will be coming out and looking at their septic system. County staff then goes out and looks at each property's septic system, tagging those that are polluting. Usually in a septic inventory a county does not do a full septic system inspection. Instead they look for the worst polluting systems, those that are surfacing or discharging to a waterway. Property owners, who are identified as having a polluting septic system, must fix them.

Septic inventories are becoming more common because they are an effective way to reduce pollution in sensitive areas, and counties can apply for money to do them through the Clean Water Fund passed in 2008.

If you are interested in the media coverage of Rice County's septic inventory, we have links to many of the articles from the Faribault Daily News on our Community Wastewater page on our website. (<http://www.crowp.net/Programs/Conservation/Wastewater/Wastewater.html>). Other questions about the inventories? Give me a call at (507) 786-3914 or email me at [aaron@crowp.net](mailto:aaron@crowp.net).

*Aaron Wills*

# Thank You to Our River Cleanup Volunteers!

## **Cannon Falls**

Site leader Luke Bistodeau and 3 volunteers including, Jim Bassett, Terry & Norma Gilbertson.

## **Faribault**

Site leader Leslie Kennedy and 10 volunteers including, David & Julie Charlton, Jane Egerdal, Diana Hering, Bob & Carrolle Johnson, Scott Kennedy, Gary Wagenbach and Tom & Nicole Wagleitner.

## **Medford**

Site leader Tony Durand and 7 volunteers including, Chase Hanson, Mike Keller, Janette Sanford, Jim Slifka, Paul Sontheimer, William C. Stransky and Jonathan Wagaman.

## **Northfield (Carleton Arboretum)**

Site leaders Nancy Braker and Mary Savina and 27 volunteers including, Sarah Alexander, Tasha Patrick & Toby Anderson, Tanmay Annachhatre, Julia Bargmann, John & Wesley Brand, Cora Brown, Tony Daza, David Himelick, Beksahn Jang, Laura Karson, J. Lin, Susan Marsh, Michael Massad, Emma Rapperport, Mandy Everhart & Mark Ring, Naomi, Bella & Tori Rushing, Nora Schamtz, Andrea Tellez, Jean Vick, Ella Mae Walker, Adrienne Wilber, Ray Yong

## **Northfield (Sechler Park)**

Site leaders Aaron Wills and Beth Kallestad and 43 volunteers including, Edmund Babcock, Cindy Banchy, Phillip Beardsley-Schoonmaker, Barbara Christensen, Emma Cornwell, James Daly, David Emery, Erin Frankson, Dale & Dylan Gehring, Leota Goodney, Stacey Grimes, Katie Halvorson, Jon Henn, Dann Henseler, Kim Henze, James Holden, Dan Jorgenson, George Kinney, Brent Larson, Katherine Lewis Kennedy, Rich & Virginia Lorang, Jeanne Maier, Kirsten Maier, Kwany Mi, Judy Minor, Jan Mitchell, Zephyr Mohr-Felsen, Robert Nicholson, Kayla Peterson, Daniel Pirtle, Richard Purkarthofer, Tyler Refsland, Adelyn Rosenwinkel, Patricia Ryan, Ali Seline, Norman Smythe, Annie Stopyro, Becca Tobin, John VanBergen, Kris Vohs, Jeff Zaworski.

## **Owatonna**

Site leaders Matt Durand and Ryan Kubat and 68 volunteers including, Amanda & Tim Andrews, Chris & Jason Andrews, Lilia Aragon, Brandon Balzer, Susan, Rebekah & Agigail Bendorf, Wendy & Brayden Bentley, Pam & Terry Broderick, Carson & James Brown, Elena & Joseph Bueltel, Dave Burbank, Darin Burns, Greg Crowley, Don Daily, Ryan Domeier, Edgar Esquivel, Walter Ewald, Olivia Felland, Kevin Gavin, Don & Therese Gerber, Merv Henke, Kyle Holmen, Terry Kiefer, Deb Knutson, Adam Kubat, Tucker Larsen, Darnell Linde, Ghoutham Manokar, Anthony Martinez, Sheryl McLaughlin, Tom & Celia Meagher, Jim Merle, Paula Meyers, Anna Moe, Ethan Pick, Riley Resler, Scot Rogne, Brian Sanburn, Scott Schultz, David Schutter, Jan & Hayward Sease, Ron & Josi Segner, Randy Sellner, Emma & Christopher Smith, Charles Stoll, Justin Storm, Eric, Jamie & Aiden Stowe, Bryan Ulferts, Jason Vogelsang, Jason & Riley Wagner, Kevin Wanous and Leah & Ann Watts.

## **Shields Lake**

Site leader Rick Elsen and 18 volunteers including, Jim & Linda Becker, Jason & Michelle Bottke & family, Kurt Cruikshank, Randy, Shirley & Ryan Cunningham, Mike Deeny, Joyce Elsen, Dick Misgen, Harold & Georgia Redman, Maximo & Nancy San Roman, Larry Smisek.

We unfortunately had to cancel our two canoe only sites in Welch and Red Wing because of safety concerns with high water. Thank you to the Willing Welchers and Red Wing Environmental Learning Center who had planned to help out at those sites.

*We apologize if your name has been omitted. Please contact Leslie Kennedy at (507) 786-3915 or [leslie@crwp.net](mailto:leslie@crwp.net) and we'll correct the omission.*



Tires,



tires, tires...



Barb Christensen and John VanBergen with their load of fencing.



# Geocache Trash For Trash

As a way to help us have a better idea of where the "big stuff" is we need your help. Like to use GPS? Why not start geocaching for trash? If you are out on the rivers and see materials that should be removed take a GPS reading and send us the coordinates. Email the information to [beth@crvp.net](mailto:beth@crvp.net). We'll start to compile a map of the trash that can be used for our future cleanups.



## River Cleanup Sponsors

- Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation**
- Waste Management**
- Red Wing Shoe Company Foundation**
- Xcel Energy Corporate Citizenship**
- City of Owatonna**
- Ellingson Companies**
- Thousand Hills Cattle Company**
- Coca Cola**
- College City Beverage**
- Countryside Animal Hospital**
- Welch Mill Canoeing and Tubing**
- Benjamin Bus**
- Kent Rossi, Attorney at Law**
- Nerstrand Agri Center**
- RMB Environmental Laboratories**
- Sargent's Nursery**
- Witt Brothers Service**



Dave and Julie Charlton cleaning up King Mill Park

## Health of the Cannon

The Cannon River and the health of its tributaries are being threatened by natural and human pollutants. These pollutants are preventing state usage designations from being achieved. Through our volunteer efforts, 355 water samples



*St. Olaf students collecting bug samples in Rice Creek.*

have been collected this year on 33 streams and five lakes. Information collected will determine conservation steps and clean-up plans needed to make the Cannon River a swimmable and healthy river.



*Lee Ganske and Bernie Baumann collect a lake sample on Tetonka Lake.*

This monitoring project funding is to be completed by June, 2011. The Cannon River Watershed Partnership will continue water monitoring through 2013 utilizing another state grant. If you are interested in participating in the citizen stream or lake monitoring programs or if you have questions, please feel free to contact Lucas Bistodeau at (507) 786-3912 or [lucas@crwp.net](mailto:lucas@crwp.net).

I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the citizen stream volunteers for their hard work and dedication making this monitoring season a success!

*Lucas Bistodeau*

## Thank You Volunteers!

### Stream Sampling Volunteers

Matt Chowen  
Steve Salaba and family  
Chris Broden  
Dick Dalton  
Cathy Larson  
B-J Norman  
Pat & Bev Watson  
Patty Gavin  
John Van Bergen  
Charles Fratzke  
Barbara Christensen  
Peg Schwendeman  
Steve Larson  
Gary Wagenbach  
Mark Wolff  
Marcia Hetlevedt  
...and all other citizen stream volunteers!

Matt Malecha  
Gary Wagenbach  
Roger Wilkowske

### Northfield River Walk Market Fair

George Kinney

### Steele County Fair

Byron Brady  
Dave Burbank  
Nicholas Buttera  
Susie Eglund  
David Goodnature  
Diana Hering  
Ryan Kubat  
Kevin Wanous  
Jim Waddell

### DJJD Parade

Aleta Kolan  
Emily Garlitz  
Sydney Gill  
Julia Kallestad

### Office Volunteers

Bob and Carrolle Johnson  
Jim Waddell

### Rice County Fair

Jane Egerdal  
Rich Lorang

*River Cleanup volunteers are listed on page four.*

## Welcome New Members!

Corporate Recognition  
Ellingson Companies  
Josten's  
Dianah Sexter

## 2011 Drainage Basin Monitoring

The Cannon River drainage basin is scheduled for a thorough state run monitoring effort next year. This new monitoring effort is conducted on a 10 year rotation for each of the 81 major drainage basins in Minnesota. The strategy consists of collecting samples on smaller drainage basins within each of these 81 major drainage basins. This also includes major basin outlet points to provide a complete evaluation of stream condition and health. A large share of the monitoring sites will be at stream end points. These stream end points will evaluate stream health, pollutants in the water and fish. This will determine if stream and lake life, fish consumption advice and outdoor uses are meeting state standards. In addition, streams that do not meet state standards will be evaluated to identify problem areas. These problem areas are targeted for future natural improvement projects.



*Stream bug identification can determine stream health.*

## Lucas Bistodeau

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### Meet the Board

#### Matt Durand

As Storm Water Manager for the City of Owatonna, Matt first came into contact with the work of CRWP when the city received a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to encourage low impact development practices and educate residents about storm water issues. CRWP teamed up with Owatonna to provide education and outreach regarding storm water. Matt became hooked on the organization when he saw how effective we were, and wanted to help support our other programs.

Matt and his wife Jessica, along with their three children, love to get outdoors together. Matt feels that as a father he has an important role in helping his children learn to love the out of doors through enjoying it together as a family.

Matt's background is in construction project management, where he oversaw the installation of erosion and sediment control practices in commercial and residential projects. He uses his motivational skills to run CRWP's River Cleanup in Owatonna. Matt is also currently heading up a board committee that is developing a business plan and he is interested in exploring how CRWP can help facilitate watershed districts that could work on a local level to help provide public education. He has been a great addition to the board where we appreciate his energy and keen interest in all of our projects!

## Nancy Braker

### CRWP Board Member



*Ryan Kubat (left) and Matt Durand (right) at the 2009 CRWP River Cleanup.*



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 Lorn Manthey - Dakota Co.  
 Jim Waddell - Rice Co.

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**CRWP Staff**

Beth Kallestad - Executive Director  
 Lucas Bistodeau - Water Monitoring Program Coordinator  
 Sheila Craig - Community Sewage Treatment Facilitator  
 Leslie Kennedy - Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator  
 Aaron Wills - Community Sewage Treatment Facilitator

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Our mission is to engage people in protecting and improving the water quality and natural systems of the Cannon River watershed.



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