

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Spring outreach programs a success!

The RCRCA 2004 outreach programs have gotten off to a great start. Coffee on the Projects were held during the week of May 17th - May 21st. Almost 400 people attended the coffee events at local cafés throughout the Redwood and Cottonwood watersheds. RCRCA staff were able to circulate among the attendees and answer questions, discuss concerns or even just sit down and visit with local landowners. We received very positive feedback about this event from most everyone involved.

The Redwood and Cottonwood River canoe trips were held just over a month later, on June 22nd (Cottonwood) and June 25th (Redwood). The canoe trips were supposed to have been held the preceding week, but were delayed due to the high water levels in the rivers caused by heavy rains in early June. The postponement did have an effect on turnout, as some people were unable to adjust their schedules to join us on the new dates. We were still able to take a trip down the Cottonwood River with 21 people using 9 canoes and 2 kayaks. The Redwood River trip was attended by 11 people in 6 canoes.

Although attendance was much smaller for the canoe trips than for the coffee on the projects, the canoe trips provided a more intense and in-depth experience for the participants.

We are looking forward to our last event of the season, the second annual "Tee-up" for the Cottonwood River. This is a 4-person best ball golf tournament held at the Farmer's Golf and Health Club in Sanborn. The tournament is set up for Thursday, September 9th. There is a limit on the number of teams that can participate, so sign up quickly to reserve your spot. Sign up your whole team, or just yourself and we can form a team for you to play with. There will be door prizes, quiz prizes as well as refreshments for participants.

RCRCA Engineering Technicians Available to Assist You!

Kelly Oliver and William Moldestad, Engineering Technicians for the Cottonwood River watershed are available to assist local landowners, NRCS staff, and SWCD staff. Our current projects are waiting for Army Corps of Engineers approval giving us the ability to help with surveying, design, and construction of conservation practices. If you need help and have a waiting list, contact RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext 4 for assistance.

August 2004

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New Look for Web Site!



There have been many changes and updates to the web site, but there are many more to come. The site is still under "construction" for the next couple of months. Thanks for your patience!

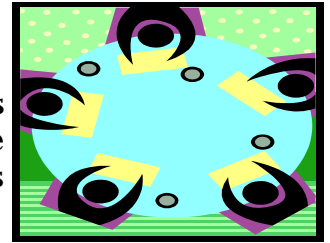
If you have any ideas about what you'd like to see on the web site, call 507-637-2142, Ext. 4. Suggestions can also be e-mailed to: shawn.wohnoutka@mn.nacdnet.net
Remember, you will be able view *RCRCA News* through the web site at: www.rcrca.com and click on "RCRCA News."

RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **June 21, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Discussed the possibility of Minnesota River Basin Levy from previous meeting. Executive Director is leaving and levy possibility at this time will not happen. Board discussed levies like the one proposed by various SWCDs in Minnesota.
- Approved two Cottonwood CWP319 cost share projects for payment.
- Approved one Cottonwood CWP319 contract for cost share and payment.
- Passed resolution for Lincoln County/Redwood River Watershed Restoration Project CWP continuation.
- Passed resolution for Redwood River Watershed Phosphorous TMDL Compliance Project.
- Passed resolution for Cottonwood River Restoration Project.
- Cost share on damage repairs of cost share project from the heavy rains was discussed and approved at the 75/25 split, the same as other cost share applications.
- Discussed Lake Redwood dredging and Lake Benton LCMR proposals.
- Reviewed Coffee on the Projects with Board and informed on canoe dates.



The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **July 19, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- ♦ Approved two Cottonwood CWP319 cost share project for payment.
- ♦ Board passed a motion stating RCRCA cost share funds will not be used to piggyback on any EQIP funded projects. One Cottonwood CWP319 contract, which piggybacked on an ag waste with EQIP funds, was discussed and not approved.
- ♦ Approved one CWP319 contract for cost share.
- ♦ Board discussed the maintaining of the Minnesota River Basin and the hiring of an Executive Director with University of Mankato Water Resources Center.
- ♦ Discussed canoe outings on the Cottonwood and Redwood Rivers. Informed the Board about the Golf Day on Thursday September 9th, 2004.

The Education Corner

CONSERVATION DAY FOR WOMEN TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 8th

By Marcia Heiling, Redwood SWCD Educator

After another successful event last year, a conservation day for women landowners and operators will be held September 8, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at the Mediterranean Club in Tracy, MN.

“Where Does Your Water Flow? – Funneling Resources for a Healthy Watershed” is a cooperative effort of soil and water conservation districts in Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock and Yellow Medicine counties, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Assistance is provided through grants from the Coteau des Prairies RC&D and Lincoln/Lyon Electric Cooperative.

Women landowners and operators, and others who work closely with farming operations are invited and encouraged to attend. Presentations for the day will include information related to the specific watershed in which participants live, ways our activities affect the watershed and measures that can be taken to protect and improve a watershed.

While many women are interested in learning about programs and new developments, they often do not feel comfortable going to workshops on the issues. This conservation day is designed to provide a comfortable atmosphere to seek answers and gain new information, while providing opportunity for fellowship to share ideas and concerns.

Presenters include representatives from the soil and water conservation districts in the participating counties. The cost is \$8.

To register, or for more information, please contact a participating SWCD. Registration deadline is August 30th.

New stream trunk available for local educators!

By Shawn Wahnoutka, RCRCA educator

RCRCA has put together a stream trunk. The stream trunk comes complete with all the tools needed to collect and analyze water quality samples, as well as collection and observation of macro-invertebrates. The trunk is also loaded with resources for educators such as books, guides and activity plans. The stream trunk is available for check out and use by anyone interested in teaching youngsters about local streams, ponds, rivers or the animals, bugs and vegetation that are found there and how all these things work together to create a unique ecosystem.

If you are interested in learning more about the stream trunk, stop by the RCRCA office to take a look and ask questions. You can also call with questions or requests to check-out the stream trunk at 507-637-2142 Ext. 4.



Stream trunk accessories: books, guides, sampling containers, holding tank, magnifying glasses, discovery scope, kick-net, T-tube, water quality sampling equipment and more!

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We're on the web!
www.rcrca.com



Photo courtesy of the USGS.

"Never try to walk across a river just because it has an average depth of four feet."

- **Martin Friedman**

August 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2004

- 3rd, 4th, 5th Farmfest at Gilfillan Estate
11th Girl Scouts "Water Quality Program"
16th RCRCA Board Meeting

September 2004

- 8th Women's Conservation Day
9th RCRCA "Tee Up" for the Cottonwood River Golf Tournament

RCRCA Executive Board of Directors

- Clark Lingbeek, Chairman
Donald Wellner, Vice Chairman
Ray Traen, Secretary
Steve Johnson, Treasurer
Glen Sorensen, Public Relations & Information
Phil Nelson, Member at Large

RCRCA Full Board of Directors

County Commissioners

- Donald Wellner, Brown Co .
Norman Holmen, Cottonwood Co .
David Norgaard, Lincoln Co .
Phil Nelson, Lyon Co .
Steve Johnson, Murray Co.
Jamie Dubbelde, Pipestone Co.
John Schueller, Redwood Co.
Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine Co

SWCD Board Members

- Jack Vogel, Brown
Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood
Glen Sorensen, Lincoln
Ray Traen, Lyon
Paul Posthuma, Murray
LeRoy Stensgaard, Pipestone
Tom Daub, Redwood
Burton Kuehn, Yellow Medicine

RCRCA Staff

- James Doering, Executive Director
Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician
William Moldestad, Engineering Technician
Shawn Wahnoutka, GIS/Outreach Technician
Douglas A. Goodrich, Water Quality Technician
Sharon Voeks, Administrative Officer