

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Spring outreach activities completed! Call for Fall Golf Tournament information!

July 2005

RCRCA News

RCRCA staff was very busy the last full week in June. The Cottonwood River Canoe Trip was held Tuesday, June 21st on a beautiful sunny day. The weather was perfect for a day on the river. Thirty one people came out to enjoy the Cottonwood River that day. We had families, couples, friends and even a dog that brought his owner along for a trip down the river. The Redwood River Canoe Trip was scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd. This canoe trip was cancelled that morning, due to the weather conditions, which was the wise choice considering how the day turned out. At the scheduled start time of 11 a.m. we had a temp of 89° F, dew points of 66° F, and wind speeds just under 20 mph. By the estimated trip finish time of 3 to 4 p.m., we had reached 97° F though the dew point had fallen to 63° F, winds had picked up to 28 mph with gusts reaching 36 mph. The temperatures had reached dangerous levels for our most experienced participants and the wind gusts could pose a tipping danger to canoeists. Normally clear and sunny skies are welcome, but considering the conditions, clouds would have been preferred that day!

RCRCA held their annual Coffee on the Projects on Wednesday, June 22nd in Springfield and Friday, June 24th in Vesta. There was a great turnout at Ruby's Heritage House Café in Springfield. Representatives from local NRCS, FSA and SWCD agencies were present to talk with customers. RCRCA provided coffee and rolls to over 60 people in two and a half hours. The event at Vesta was even more successful, as the Vesta Café had to open up additional space to handle all the customers that chose to come out for free coffee and rolls. At the busiest, there was not a chair available in the regular café seating area! It is great to provide a forum for discussing conservation issues amongst local citizens and government agencies there to serve them. The great turnout and positive customer response proved, once again, the value of these events for farmers, landowners and local citizens.

The next RCRCA hosted event will be the 3rd annual "Tee up for the Cottonwood River" golf tournament to be held Thursday, September 8th at the Farmers Golf and Health Club in Sanborn. Call today to sign up your 4 - man team for this best ball tournament!

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.



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Web Site always changing!



There have been many changes and updates to the web site, but there are many more to come. The site is continuously under "construction" as we try to keep up on the latest news and events affecting residents of the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds. 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

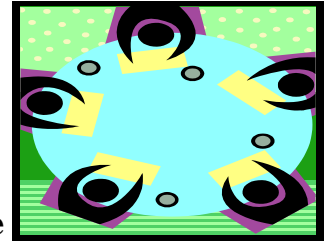
Remember, you can also view the current *RCRCA News* on the web at: www.rcrca.com and click on "Latest Newsletter" under Events/Activities:

RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **May 16, 2005** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Accepted cancellations of two Cottonwood 319 cost share contracts.
- Canoe Trips and Coffee on the Projects events were reviewed.
- Joint Powers Agreement was reviewed, with renewal being sent to the eight county partners. A motion was made and approved to add back the 5% from the voluntary 10% reduction taken for the previous two year Joint Powers Agreement.
- Approved one Cottonwood 319 Cost Share contract for payment in the amount of \$5,835.
- Personnel items were reviewed.
- RCRCA donated \$250 to the SWMACDE Environmental Fair, to be held September 20 - 21.



The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **June 20, 2005** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Approved one Cottonwood 319 cost share contract for payment in the amount of \$4,057.92.
- Approved an amendment to a Cottonwood 319 cost share contract from Murray County for an extension of one year.
- Tabled one Cottonwood 319 cost share application.
- Joint Powers Agreement appropriations were discussed and presentation of the JPA for July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007 was presented to Directors for their signatures.
- Brian Hicks gave a presentation on sub-surface irrigation that helps denitrify tile water and reduce tile line nitrate contributions.
- RCRCA approved signing the resolution and grant agreement for the Lincoln County/Redwood River Watershed Restoration Project Continuation for \$310,000.
- Lyon SWCD is celebrating 60 years and NRCS 70 years of service in Lyon County with a Conservation Tour. RCRCA will donate \$300 towards the tour funds.

The Conservation Corner

Rain Garden... A New Urban Stormwater BMP?

By Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician

About 15 months ago my husband and I purchased our first home in Redwood Falls. After working on a few odds and ends inside the house, I turned my attention to the yard. Growing up on a farm with flower gardens, the traditional grass with shrub foundation plantings looked bare to me. I had heard of rain gardens in the newsletters we get at the RCRCA office and decided to do some research of my own. I liked what I learned and convinced my husband this was a good thing to do – partly because I felt our yard needed some “dressing up,” partly because it’s a good thing to do for the environment. As a conservation professional, I should practice what I preach, don’t you think?

During my research, I learned many things. Rain gardens have many benefits and are low maintenance if perennials and mulch is used. The mulch improves soil tilth, encourages water infiltration, helps prevent the plants from drying out, and helps control the weeds. Native plant perennials keep the expense down – they require no fertilizer, very little supplemental watering after they are established, and they don’t need replacement every year like garden favorites such as petunias and marigolds.

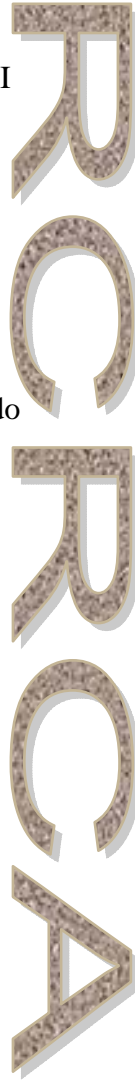
Rain gardens are shallow depressions that collect runoff from driveways, yard, and roof downspouts. The water forms a puddle in the rain garden that slowly infiltrates into the ground over the course of a few hours to a day. (This quick drainage prevents the stagnant water that mosquitoes need for breeding, so to dispel a myth – properly functioning rain gardens do not promote mosquitoes!)

If the water ran off the lot and into the streets, contaminants such as yard waste, auto fluids, and pet waste would be swept along with the water into the storm sewer and eventually into nearby surface waters. Rain gardens can be planted almost anywhere, in any amount of sunlight or shade, in almost any soils, and planted with shrubs, annuals, perennials, or native plants.

Last weekend, my husband and I installed our rain gardens with help from friends and family members. Future newsletter articles will describe the designing and installation processes in detail. If you are interested in putting in a rain garden, live in the Redwood or Cottonwood River watershed, and would like assistance, please feel free to contact me at the RCRCA office (507-637-2142 Ext. 3) or email me at Kelly.Oliver@mn.nacdnet.net.

To sum up, Rain Gardens...

- Improve water quality of nearby streams and lakes
- Do NOT breed mosquitoes – many gardens drain in 24 hrs and mosquitoes need 1 week of standing water
- Attract & provide food for insects, butterflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds
- Attract dragonflies and birds, all which eat mosquitoes
- Provide beauty, color, and fragrance to the yard
- Are low-maintenance with mulch and perennial plants
- Help recharge groundwater supplies & reduce flooding
- Can be placed in full sun, partial sun, full shade
- Can be used in variety of soil types
- Can be planted with natives, perennials, shrubs





1241 East Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Phone: 507-637-2142 Ext.4

Fax: 507-637-2134

Email: rcrca2day@yahoo.com

News of the Day

By TERENCE CHEA, Associated Press Writer - A new study released Thursday (7/14/05) questions the long-held belief that fetuses in the womb are largely protected from dangerous chemicals pregnant women are exposed to. For the study, the Environmental Working Group commissioned independent lab tests on ten random samples, provided by the American Red Cross, of umbilical cord blood from babies born in U.S. hospitals in August and September last year.

The lab tests tested for 413 chemicals and detected 287 in the 10 blood samples, with each containing between 159 and 234 chemicals. Of the contaminants detected, 180 can cause cancer in humans and animals, 217 are known to be dangerous to the nervous system and brain, and 208 can cause birth defects in animals, according to the EWG study, which was peer-reviewed by eight physicians and a toxicologist.



Recycled paper

"The most alarming of all man's assaults upon the environment is the contamination of air, earth, rivers, and sea with dangerous and even lethal materials. This pollution is for the most part irrecoverable; the chain of evil it initiates not only in the world that must support life but in living tissues is for the most part irreversible. In this now universal contamination of the environment, chemicals are the sinister and little-recognized partners of radiation in changing the very nature of the world--the very nature of its life."

--Rachel Carson 1962

July 2005

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

July 2005

- 4th Independence Day!
- 18th RCRCA Board Meeting
- 28th Lyon County SWCD Tour
- 28th 4-H Day Camp at Ramsey Park in Redwood Falls

August 2005

- 15th RCRCA Board Meeting

RCRCA Executive Board of Directors

- Clark Lingbeek, Chairman
- Donald Wellner, Vice Chairman
- Ray Traen, Secretary
- John Schueller, 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 .
- James Johansen, Lincoln Co .
- Phil Nelson, Lyon Co .
- Kevin Vickerman, Murray Co.
- Luke Johnson, 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 Wohnoutka, GIS/Outreach Technician
- Douglas A. Goodrich, Water Quality Technician
- Sharon Voeks, Administrative Officer