

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

Educational events reaching year-round!

Last issue, we covered our spring outreach programs and our upcoming golf tournament. The golf tournament was also a great success! The event was hosted at the Farmer's Golf and Health Club in Sanborn, MN. It was a beautiful, sunny Thursday with light winds. A perfect day to be out on the course. We had 46 ladies and gentlemen come out and join us for 18 holes of golf, a light lunch and an early dinner of hot dogs, brats and burgers.

We put on three major events a year at RCRCA (Coffee on the Project, Canoe Trips and the Golf Tournament), but our educational outreach extends beyond these adult-orientated activities. Last April I spoke to students at Marshall High School. On Earth Day, we set up our stream table at a local elementary school. In May, two RCRCA employees worked the envirothon in Camden Park, and we set up the stream table again, this time for conservation day in Yellow Medicine County. The next events were the Coffee on the Projects and the Canoe trips. August saw another stream table demonstration, along with hands-on activities at Ramsey Creek with the local girl scout troop. A special thanks to the Redwood SWCD educator for allowing us to partner with them on this activity. September brought the golf tourney, as well as the two day environmental fair in Slayton, with many schools from across Southwestern Minnesota attending. Now October has brought us back into Marshall high school to speak to their environmental sciences class about the Redwood Watershed. We have also made plans to talk to elementary students in Sleepy Eye, this November.

As the title of this article states, we are beginning to reach out and provide education events to local watershed residents on an almost year-round basis. If you or someone you know would like to have RCRCA come out and talk to your group, set up the stream table or would like to utilize the stream trunk, give us a call at 507-637-2142 Extension 4 and ask for Shawn. We would also like to know of any events going on in your area where it may be beneficial for RCRCA to participate or attend.

October 2004

RCRCA News



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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.

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

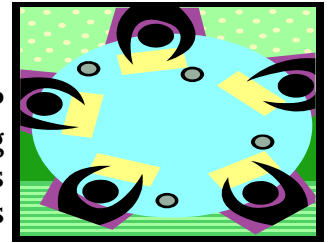
Remember, you can also view *RCRCA News* on the web at: www.rcrca.com and click on "Latest Newsletter" under Events/Activities:

RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **August 16, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Board discussed piggy backing RCRCA cost share funds with EQIP fund contracts. After discussion motion made July 19, 2004 stating "RCRCA funds would not be used with any EQIP funded project" was rescinded. A new motion was passed stating "no RCRCA cost share funds would be used to piggyback on EQIP funded practice standards for fabricated livestock shelters.
- A Cottonwood CWP319 contract passed at the July meeting was using EQIP funds. A reduction from the \$8,000 amount was changed to \$6,000 due to the fact that cost share can not exceed 75% of the total project cost.
- Doering updated Board on bonding bill proposal for Lake Redwood.
- Information on the September 9, 2004 Watershed Golf Day was shared with Board members.



The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **September 20, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Approved payment of two Cottonwood CWP319 and one Redwood CWP319 contracts.
- ♦ Reviewed and approved one Cottonwood CWP319, as well as one Redwood CWP319 contracts for cost share.
- ♦ Goodrich and Wahnoutka received their one year annual review and were given a step increase.
- ♦ At the March 22, 2004 RCRCA Board meeting three small dam repairs to be done by Area II were approved. The final quotes were presented and approved to pay 75% on the lowest amount for the repair not to exceed 75% of the quotes.
- ♦ Board approved and signed two grant resolutions for the Cottonwood River (Lower Minnesota TMDL) Phosphorous Reduction Project and an Emergency Stream Bank Stabilization Protection in Brown County for the Cottonwood Watershed.

The Education Corner

Conservation Security Program (CSP)

By Shawn Wohnoutka, RCRCA educator

The CSP was implemented in eighteen watersheds across the United States for 2004. This period has just ended (September 30, 2004) and a new set of watersheds will soon be selected. The Redwood River watershed has been nominated to be among those enrolled in the 2005 CSP sign-up season (October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005).

Some background information for those interested in enrolling if the Redwood River watershed is selected to participate. The land must be privately held agricultural land, not already enrolled in other conservation programs such as CRP, WRP or GRP and land converted to cropland after the enactment of CSP is not eligible.

Landowners who receive cash payments for renting land and don't share in the risk of producing commodities can not enroll that land. On the other hand, the farmer who rents that land and does risk his investment in the production can enroll that land as long as he meets certain requirements for having control over that land (long-term rental or lease contract).

The CSP self assessment workbook is available online at <http://www.rcrca.com/> or at the Natural Resources Conservation Service web site, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>. We have also posted a simplified flow chart for the CSP application process on our RCRCA website.

CSP is a competitive program, not everyone will qualify. The objective of CSP is to "Reward the Best, Motivate the Rest". CSP eligibility requires applicants to have already implemented a high level of existing conservation. At a minimum, they will need to have soil erosion and water quality practices in place, including nutrient and pest management.

Contact your local NRCS representative for more information.

(Information source: CSP Self-Assessment Workbook)

Special Thank You to Golf Tournament Supporters!

By Shawn Wohnoutka, RCRCA educator

RCRCA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many businesses and individuals who helped make the 2nd annual "Tee Up" for the Cottonwood River Golf Tournament on September 9th such a success. All of the businesses listed below are due a thank you for their generosity with prize donations for tournament participants.

RCRCA

KNUJ 860 AM & BRAT 107.3 FM (Co-Sponsor)
Gramstad Lumber Company, Sanborn
Fox Brothers International, Sanborn
Tom & Jerry's Bar, Sanborn
Deutschland Meats, Sanborn
Scott-Preusse, Redwood Falls
National Wildlife Turkey Federation,
-Redwood Falls
Meadowland Farmer's Co-op, Lamberton
Harvest Land Co-op, Morgan
Phat Pheasant Bar, Windom
Runnings Fleet & Farm, Springfield
Kohls-Wheelborg Chevrolet, Springfield
Subway, Springfield
Sleepy Eye Stained Glass, Sleepy Eye
Miller & Sellner Implement, Sleepy Eye
Bruggeman Company Inc., Sleepy Eye
Lambrechts, New Ulm
Nicklasson Athletic Company, New Ulm
Applebee's, New Ulm
Joni's Restaurant & Catering, New Ulm

We would also like to thank the Farmer's Golf and Health Club in Sanborn, for allowing us the use of their golf course. A special thank you to Joni's Restaurant & Catering for providing excellent lunch and dinner meals.

Lastly a thanks to all who came out and joined us for 18 holes of golf on the banks of the Cottonwood River.

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



"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use."
- Galileo Galilei



October 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

October 2004

- 18th RCRCA Board Meeting
- 31st All Hallows Eve (Halloween)

November 2004

- 11th Veterans Day
- 15th RCRCA Board Meeting
- 25th Thanksgiving

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

