




Cleanup Review

Winter Issue 2011 Vol. 20, No. 2

NOTE TO READERS:

By this time next year (January 2013), the Cleanup Review will be provided only in an electronic format. Please help us transition by going to our home page website and clicking on the red envelope icon as shown  on the left. Clicking on this icon will bring you to a separate page where you can choose to subscribe to the Cleanup Review electronically. Along with this newsletter, you can also choose to get updates for state water trails, fishing, boating, hunting, and more. Thank you for helping us make this shift, resulting in a tremendous cost savings. If you have any question please contact either the Adopt-a-River Program Coordinator at 651-259-5630 or the Water Recreation Specialist at 651-259-5620.

6 Million Pounds of Trash Removed!

Throughout the course of the 2011 cleanup season, the Adopt-a-River program inched closer and closer to a new milestone: 6 million pounds of trash removed from our public waters since 1989. The data collected from over 3,000 cleanups continues to show the monumental impact Minnesota volunteers have had on the improvement of our waterways. It has been a long road getting to the 6-million pound level for Adopt-a-River. It has involved the efforts of 86,000 volunteers working with thousands of cleanups. Six million pounds divided by 86,000 volunteers equals an impressive 70 pounds per person. The 3,100 cleanups have ranged from massive community river efforts with many people who remove very heavy objects with power equipment to very small efforts involving only one person (occasionally with the addition of their dog) and only a few pounds of trash.

We as water advocates are looking toward a day when significant trash will no longer accumulate in and around our public waters. The hope is to see that the clutter of civilization is removed from the landscape before great accumulation occurs. It will take all of us working together!

The Voice Behind the Phone



Longtime volunteer Terri Phillips was instrumental in contacting adopt groups.

Recently we enlisted the help of longtime volunteer Terri Phillips to contact adopt groups in order to document cleanups that may have not been reported. Terri's efforts were successful in reaching many of our volunteers and helped the program learn more about the pounds collected, the number of volunteers involved, and the number of hours invested. The information she gathered not only pushed us over the 6-million-pound mark, but it also improved the accuracy and integrity of the information in our database.

"I like volunteering for the MN DNR, because I get to help make the Earth cleaner, while getting to know and work with wonderful people."

~Terri Phillips

2011 Boston Scientific Cleanup was a Success!!

On October 15, 2011 28 volunteers, recruited by Boston Scientific cleanup coordinator Alyssa Whiting, each spent 2.5 hours removing rubbish from Pig's Eye Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) in St. Paul, Mn. This event was assisted by the Mn DNR and Conservation Corps- Minnesota. The weather was gorgeous and spirits were high as the volunteers eagerly tried to fill as many bags as possible. The site was covered with clusters of driftwood embedded with bottles, toys, styrofoam, and thousands of other items carried onto the island by the Mississippi River's fast moving current during a record year of continuously high water. Overall, their group removed 2,000 pounds of rubbish, including 25 tires collected by another adopter, Jeremy Werle!!

Thank you to Tennis Sanitation, who provided the dumpster, Metro Mosquito Control District, who disposed of the unmounted scrap tires as part of their mosquito-habitat control efforts, and to Upper River Services, who provided transportation to the island, delivered a portable toilet, and ferried the volunteers themselves.

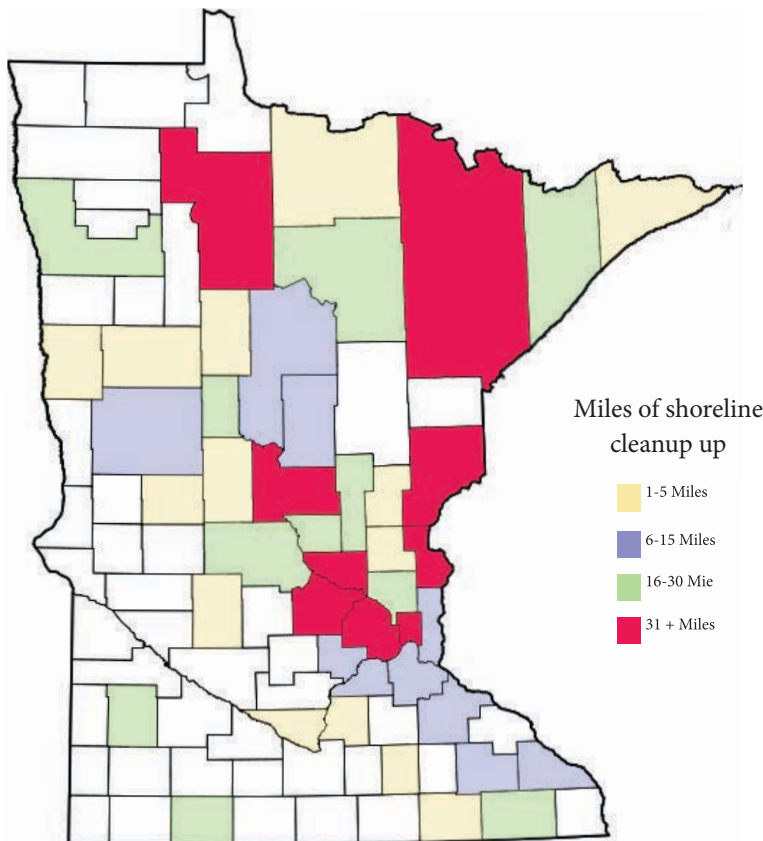
Thank you to our "adopter" Jeremy Werle who earlier collected 25 tires from the Mississippi River near the I-494 bridge in South St. Paul and Newport this year! Following the SNA cleanup, volunteers were able to also load Jeremy's tires. He had them tied down as a precaution against their washing away.



25 tires collected by Jeremy Werle.



2 volunteers and boat pilot with tires.



2011 Results

*2011 Adopt-a-River Facts (and the season is not over!)

# of Volunteers	1,852 people
# of Active Groups	196 groups
# of Pounds Collected	46,094 lbs
# of Miles Cleaned	656 miles
# of Cleanups	114 cleanups
# of Volunteer Hours	5,376 hours

*current as of 12-1-2011

Union: A Deer and Two Herons

This was the title of the 18th Minnesota Adopt-a-River sculpture that was on display at the 2011 Minnesota State Fair. It was created by sculptor Raina Belleau, a Minneapolis native, who is a 2011 graduate of Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) in Minneapolis, Mn. Raina's other works have appeared in nine exhibitions locally and she has received various awards. Upcoming exhibitions of her work include a December 2011 showing at Altered Esthetics gallery in Northeast Minneapolis and a January 2012 show at Plains Art Museum in Fargo, North Dakota. Her state fair sculpture was assisted by MCAD with its 10,000 square-foot 3D shop, plasma torch, MIG welders, sand blaster, cold saw and five-ton monorail hoist.

Some of the materials for Raina's 500-pound, 8-point buck and pair of herons were gathered at the 20th Adopt-a-River Riverboat Cleanup on June 15, 2011 in the Pig's Eye Lake section of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul. It also included materials removed from cleanup efforts on the Minnesota River in Belle Plaine. In the very near future we will know where this sculpture will be re-located. It will then continue to deliver its water stewardship message to the community.



Sculpture at 2011 state fair grounds.

The sculpture contains dozens of recognizable materials, all from river cleanups. After approximately 240 hours of work, a white-tailed deer and two herons have emerged. They represent the artist's understanding of interdependence between all creatures along the river. This sculpture recognizes the outstanding efforts of Adopt-a-River volunteers. As explained by Raina:

"People and animals share the Earth's air, water and land and we are all dependent on one another for our survival. This sculpture of two herons nesting in the branched antlers of a white-tailed deer symbolically represents this interdependence. While collecting materials to make this sculpture, I was struck by the need for people to be more conscious of their impact on Minnesota's wildlife. We all need to safeguard our earth and water so that all of us, both human and animal, can live and thrive."

UNIQUE ITEMS USED IN THIS YEAR'S SCULPTURE

- Barbie Head
- Plastic bags
- Pliers
- Dog toy
- Baby rattle
- Belt
- Tent Stake
- Truck Door
- Basketball
- Jacket



Raina combing through rubbish for sculpture material.

Photo by: Minnesota College of Art and Design

Beyond Minnesota!

2011 International Adopt-a-Highway Association Webinar



On November 9, 2011 Adopt-a-River staff met with the International Adopt-a-Highway Association through an annual webinar to share success stories and bounce around ideas for the improvement of individual programs. This year the presenters represented 9 states. One presentation noted changes in public attitudes about trash since the memorable image of Iron Eyes Cody, with a solitary tear rolling down his cheek was released in 1973 by Keep America Beautiful (KAB), a nationwide foundation. A recent survey done by KAB survey has determined that the littering measured in their 1968 has dropped by 61%!

Editor's note: The Minnesota Adopt-a-River program has met with the IAAHA since it was founded in 1996. It's an educationally based, non-profit organization dedicated to creating and sustaining a global litter-free highway system using volunteers. (www.adopt-a-highway.org)

The Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful program has created a motto to encapsulate the main points of their work: "Prevent It!" "Clean It!" "Keep It!" These clear phrases have helped motivate Pennsylvania residents to remove 78 million pounds of trash from fields, streets, and waterways, all contributing to the health of the environment and natural resources. These focused efforts have saved the state literally millions of dollars. They estimate that it costs nearly \$800 to remove a ton of Pennsylvania highway litter. This equates to approximately \$31,200,000 in savings to that state since 1990.

Although Vermont doesn't have an Adopt-a-

Highway or Adopt-a-River program, they have been able to create a yearly event that is cherished by the state's residents. "Greenup Vermont" is a non-profit organization that raises public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment and promotes stewardship through this state-wide cleanup on the first Saturday in May. The next one is scheduled for May 5, 2012. This group distributes green cleanup bags and an assortment of promotional materials, including an essay competition and a theme song. In 2010, Greenup Day celebrated its 40th anniversary.



A Bag's Life Mascot.

Image created by: "A Bag's Life" program

"A Bag's Life", is a new, growing program that focuses on the recycling of plastic bags and related products. With the help of a well developed website and a likeable mascot, the program has reached a younger audience through video games. It has created a user-friendly database that shows where plastic bags can be recycled at thousands of retail sites. It also hosted 150 events on America Recycles Day this past November 15th.

The 2-hour Adopt-a-Highway webinar provided concrete ideas that the Minnesota Adopt-a-River program can consider for implementation in order to increase the efficiency and impact of volunteer efforts and cleanup events. In November 2011, the Adopt-a-River Program began an upgraded, electronic process to register a new group or individual. Along with a new registration form, a new or existing adopt group can order supplies with an electronic form. This will cut down on paperwork and expedite the delivery of necessary supplies and information. Paper versions are still available for those who are more comfortable with that system. They can be accessed at dnr.state.mn.us/adoptriver/registration.html and dnr.state.mn.us/adoptriver/supply-order.html



Plant Page



Duckweed: (Lesser) *Lemna minor*, (Greater) *Spirodela polyrrhiza*

Family

Lemnaceae (Duckweed Family)

Common Name

Lesser duckweed, Greater duckweed, and water lentil.

Habitat

This aquatic plant is found all over the world. It can be seen floating on calm, freshwater ponds, lakes, rivers, backwaters, and in quiet streams in many temperate regions of the northern and southern hemispheres, including North America, Eurasia, Australia, and New Zealand.

In environments that are windy and/or have heavy wave action, little or no duckweed will grow because it is swept away.

Identification

Tiny, free-floating green plants. Duckweed typically consists of a leaf or cluster of leaves with small roots that hang down into the water; leaves and stem are not distinguishable for each other.

These plants are often mistaken for algae. It may form a thick, green blanket on the water surface. Unlike algae, duckweed is not interconnected, as is filamentous algae.

Up close, a singular duckweed plant resembles a "golf tee". They range from 1-15 mm in size.

Sources:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; <http://www.rook.org/earl/bwca/nature/aquatics/lemna.html> (Extracted 10-15-2011); Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants, Borman, Karth, and Temte, 1997.



Even in this soon-to-be-cleaned tire-filled pond at Belle Plaine State Wayside, duckweed provides food for ducks, fish, and muskrats.

Fun Fact! Duckweed is among the simplest and smallest flowering plants in the world! All it has is a floating leaf and a few roots, no stem!

Uses

Duckweed is very important in the food chain. These plants reproduce quickly, are plentiful, and are easy for waterfowl and aquatic species to harvest. A duckweed mat provides shade for fish and a home for a duck's favorite food: duckweed and little bugs! Although human beings don't eat duckweed, we use these plants to absorb excess nutrients from surface waters, including nitrogen and phosphorus, and to reduce suspended sediment.

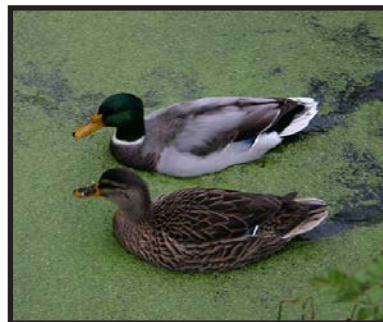


Photo by: Diane Michaud

Ducks swimming on pond where they munch on duckweed.

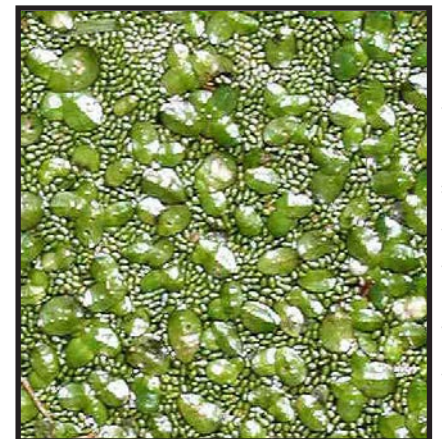


Photo by: Jack Schmiding Productions

Duckweed interspersed with common watermeal (*Wolffia columbiana*).



On the Water

Fall and Summer 2011 Photo Submissions



Submitted by: Bob Douglas

University of Saint Thomas Green Team: St. Paul campus, active since 1992 on Mississippi River.



Submitted by: Benjamin Lamb

Cummins Power Generation: Fridley, active since 2009 on Rice Creek (Anoka County).



Submitted by: Joe Beatrice

Hastings H.S. Field Biology: Hastings, active since 1999 on Vermillion River.



Submitted by: Alexander Kasak

Rotaract of Austin: Austin, active since 2011 on Cedar River.

New Groups Since July 2011:

- Civics in Action, Class 2011-2012
- Collegians for a Constructive Tomorrow
- Sierra Club Volunteers -Minnehaha Creek
- Rum River Scum Runners
- Howard Crawford and Jon Erichson Families



Photos by: Eagle Cliff Campground

Eagle Cliff Campground: Lanesboro, active since 1999 on Root River.

Thank you to all volunteers for sending in your reports and cleaning Minnesota's waterways. You are an encouragement to everyone who is striving to improve our environment, wildlife habitat, and drinking water!

Adopt-a-River BULLETIN



Reminder!

Winter clean ups are possible! A great deal of litter gets washed onto the shore or is left on the ice during the winter months. It's important to remove trash that may sink or float away during this opportune time before the ice melts. Please contact your local DNR office or visit the Mn DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us to find out when the dates for "ice off" are for your region.

This is our new volunteer recognition, a removable window decal that is available to any Adopt-a-River groups who request it. It's a token of our appreciation to the wonderful work you do to improve our public waters.



Actual Size = 3.625"

Official State Recognition!

One time each year new groups are recognized by the Governor and DNR Commissioner for their service to the State. 19 groups this year have attained the distinction of "adopter". Their total efforts added up to 10,318 pounds of trash removed from the public waters and 2,426 hours of effort expended by 296 volunteers.

Need a Gift?

Here is a fun way to get you and your friends involved. Offer your help to a friend and encourage them to adopt a river, stream, pond, access, fishing pier, wetland, ravine, or ditch. It's a great way to help clean Minnesota's waterways and provide a healthy environment to paddle, swim, and fish. Along with improving the habitat for wildlife like loons and walleye. Any canoeist, bird watcher, or other environmental enthusiast will immensely enjoy this activity.

Adopt today!



Cleanup Review is published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Adopt-a-River Program in the Division of Parks and Trails.

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Adopt-a-River

Cleanup Review Newsletter

Volume 20, No. 2 Winter 2011

**Thank you State Fair
Volunteers!**

In this issue...

6 million pounds

- Boston Scientific Success ...pg. 2**
- State Fair 2011 Sculpture ...pg. 3**
- Beyond Minnesota ...pg. 4**
- Duckweed Feature ...pg. 5**
- Photo Submissions ...pg. 6**
- Bulletin Board ...pg. 7**



This is only the top of this sculpture! For more information on this star attraction at the 2011 Minnesota State Fair see page 3.

CLEANUP STATISTICS: DECEMBER 2011

3,143 cleanups - **86,373** volunteers - **6,010,577** lbs collected - **11,149** miles cleaned
(since program began in 1989)