

STEP TAKEN - INCORPORATED!!

Greetings, friends of St. Croix region! Thanks to all of you who participated in public meetings held over the last few years, contributed to the feasibility study, served as advisors, and joined the Board of Directors of the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area (NWW). We are an incorporated 501(c)(3) entity since December 2017 and have seated our first Board of Directors. Some advisors from previous years have agreed to stay the course. See the list of these dedicated people elsewhere in this issue.

POLLINATOR NEWS

Pollinator protection has been much in the news in the last few years. In October 2018 the NWW became the fourth partner with the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, to sponsor this effort within the St. Croix watershed. The St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards have agreed to work in partnership with the NWW to encourage protection of pollinators. Exciting! If your organization wants to take the Pollinator Pledge, write to [Margaret Smith](mailto:Margaret.Smith@northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com), NWW board member and St. Croix Master Watershed Steward, care of northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Communication, Outreach, and Education Committee is currently revising the NWW website, which will feature stories about our cultural, historical, and natural resources; economic development; and most importantly, the people of the watershed. The site will also have an online events calendar that will list festivals, events, and other items of interest in the watershed. Stay tuned for a launch soon and get ready to post your event or activity! Meanwhile, check out the revitalized NWW Facebook page and post any items you think might encourage others to enjoy this beautiful area. You may need a Facebook account to access the page located at <https://www.facebook.com/stcroixheritage/>

THANKS TO OUR 2017-2018 DONORS

Sincere thanks to NWW financial donors since incorporation in 2017

- Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation
- Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative
- Whitson Fund
- Numerous individual donors

JOIN THE REGIONAL MEETINGS PLANNED FOR 2019

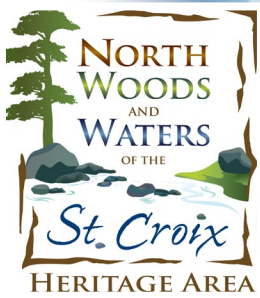
During the feasibility study phase of NWW, over 1200 people participated in regional meetings to identify the critical stories and resources within the region. Planning for similar regional meetings to determine how NWW can best meet the needs of local communities is in early stages. Meetings will be held in each of the watershed's four quadrants: northeast, northwest, southwest, and southeast. These gatherings will bring together chambers of commerce, non-profit and educational organizations, and individuals to celebrate our historic, cultural, and natural resources and to plan for specific programs that will benefit the region. The NWW Program & Projects Committee welcomes your ideas and involvement in these regional meetings. If you would like to participate or contribute in some way, contact committee chair [Lynne Moratzka](mailto:Lynne.Moratzka@northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com) care of northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com.

GIVING

NWW is a new non-profit with few financial resources. An end of year financial gift to North Wood and Water of the St. Croix will help us meet our goals. Send your tax-deductible contribution to:

**North Woods and Waters of the
St. Croix Heritage Area
P.O. Box 212
Taylors Falls, MN 55084**

If you have questions, contact program manager Alyssa Auten at northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com



ACCOMPLISHED ST. CROIX MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS JOIN NWW

In October 2017, thirty energized people completed a St. Croix Master Watershed Steward Certificate Program, a 2-year pilot project (one of three in the nation) funded in fall 2015 by the EPA Office of Environmental Education. The adult learning program was similar to Master Gardener or Master Naturalist programs. The curriculum focused on watershed ecology, leadership, community organizing, and use of the arts to design and implement successful projects. Each steward completed a Capstone Project with a host site within the watershed. The St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards will continue their work on the river in partnership with NWW and will promote the Pollinator Project.

NEXT STEPS – NWW IS WORKING ON ...

- **Congressional designation** – A writing group is revising the statement of national significance for the heritage area based on feedback from National Park Service reviewers. We expect to submit a revised statement during 2019 and then seek Congressional designation.
- **Recruiting additional board members** – We seek Board members who have passion for this region and a deep interest in promoting all the watershed has to offer. Members of the four Ojibwe Tribes in the region have designated positions on the Board. Present needs include finance or economic development expertise, and regional representatives from the northeast part of the watershed (Wisconsin) and the northwest part (East Central Minnesota). Applications are available from program manager Alyssa Auten at northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com.
- **Building the 2019 Program** – In addition to efforts noted elsewhere, work will begin on several other ideas: a passport program to promote heritage places; heritage tourism workshops; familiarization tours for tour guides and tourism writers; and engaging non-profit partners to connect regional stories and events.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

In addition to service on the Board of Directors, you are encouraged to consider participation in these:

- **Committees** – Five committees presently handle the work of NWW (Executive; Programs & Projects; Communication, Education, and Outreach; Finance; and Board and Organization Development)
- **Ambassadors** – To start in 2019; training will be provided for those who seek to represent NWW in their organization or region
- **Speakers' Bureau** – Also to start in 2019, speakers about NWW will be recruited for presentations throughout the heritage area

BOARD MEMBERS, ADVISORS, MANAGER

Board of Directors

- Martha Harding (Chisago City, MN)
- Bill Neuman (Franconia Township, MN)
- Buck Malick (Hudson, WI)
- Carol LeBreck (Barnes, WI)
- Julie Smendzuik-O'Brien (Maplewood, MN)
- Lynne Moratzka (Scandia, MN)
- Margaret Smith (River Falls, WI)

Advisors

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Kathy Bartilson | Rick Olseen |
| Jeremy Koslowski | Danette Olsen |
| Ann Moonen | Christopher Stein |
| Jonathan Moore | John Velin |

Program Manager

Alyssa Auten
northwoodsandwaters.manager@gmail.com

RIPPLES

- Moose Lake and Hinckley celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Hinckley Fire with festivities in August 2018.
- A new Curling Club opened in St. Mary' Point, Minnesota in November 2018. Practice for the 2022 Winter Olympics anyone?