

Master Water Stewards

Community Leadership for Clean Water

Master Water Stewards January 2017 Newsletter

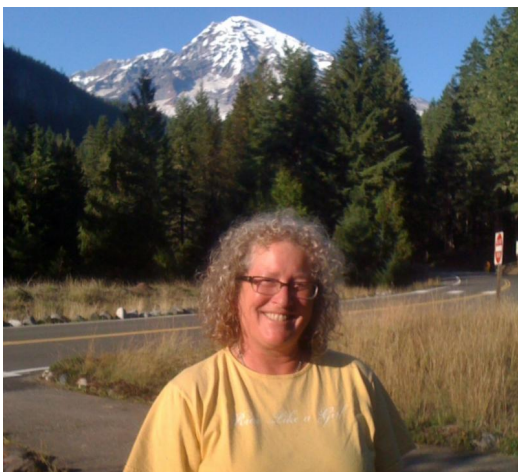


Just because it's winter, doesn't mean you can't get involved in protecting Minnesota's water! Read on to learn about Master Water Stewards news, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events.

Steward News

Change is in the Air

We have exciting news about staffing changes at Freshwater Society. **Peggy Knapp**, Director of Programs, has shifted to half-time effective January 1 to undertake special projects for the Society before retiring at the end of June 2017. She will remain as manager of our ongoing work examining the statewide Technical Service Area network. **Leslie Yetka has been named the new Director of Programs and Director of Master Water Stewards** effective January 1, and is already leading vigorous internal discussions about current and future programming offered by Freshwater Society and the Master Water Stewards Program.



Since 2009, Peggy has brilliantly led groundbreaking work preparing individuals and organizations to actively solve water problems in their communities. As she frequently asserts, "we have enough plans, we need more do." She has successfully promoted Community Cleanups for Water Quality, and developed a Minnesota rendition of the Master Water Stewards Program. More than anything, she has consistently exhibited the daring collaborative skills one would expect from an alum of Dudley Riggs Improv Troupe, CNN, Newton's Apple, and Hometown.

Leslie joined Freshwater Society six months ago from University of Minnesota Extension, after many years working in water resources management, education, and community engagement. Her fresh perspective on what we do has already generated new ideas, including ways to broaden the reach of the Master Water Stewards program. Her background and experience in municipal government and watershed management will serve us well as we formalize our services that involve public engagement and planning, including new initiatives in planning for community water resilience. With many years of experience working with the public, Leslie brings a decidedly practical approach to getting and keeping people involved. "Don't ask people their opinion if you're not going to use their input," she advises those more inclined to conventional engagement efforts.



2013-2016 Annual Report

Over the past three years, Master Water Stewards have been working hard in their communities to help protect Minnesota's natural waters.



As part of ongoing efforts to highlight this work and to help promote the program to prospective Stewards and Partners, Freshwater has put together an Annual Report highlighting achievements of the program from 2013-2016 with the goal to begin releasing new reports every year to track developments and ongoing achievements of our Master Water Stewards.

The report includes profiles of a number of Steward capstone projects and provides the latest statistics on volunteer hours served, gallons of water infiltrated annually, and much more. The report is available [on our website](#).

New Year, New Website

Freshwater's GreenCorps member Shanti has been busy the past few months updating the Master Water Stewards website. Along with a new look and edited content, we've also added a number of new pages including a [By the Numbers](#) page that highlights all the hard work and achievements of Stewards throughout the program.

Click through the website to learn about up to date information on the

program at www.masterwaterstewards.org and feel free to email Shanti at spenprase@freshwater.org if you have any comments or suggestions about content you'd like to see on the website!

2016 Master Water Stewards Graduation



Congratulations 2016 Stewards!

On December 6th, we celebrated the graduation of the 2016 Stewards at Hamline University. Stewards shared their capstone projects through a number of visual displays. Members of the community, past Stewards, and watershed management staff and many more were in attendance.

Volunteer Opportunities

Big Island and Back Ski Event January 28 | Excelsior Docks

This year's event will include ski, snowshoe races and ski/snowboard races. A portion of proceeds support Freshwater Society.

Stewards are needed to help table a booth on water quality and MWS at the event. Contact Deirdre (dcoleman@freshwater.org) for more information.

[Learn more about the event >](#)



If you have any volunteer opportunities you'd like to share with other Stewards, remember to contact your email lists!

Every Steward is a member of a number of email lists including a program-wide Steward list and a list for your specific partner organization. Please feel free to use these lists as an asset for sharing volunteer events!

Contact Alex (avanloh@freshwater.org) if you have questions about your email list subscriptions.

Upcoming Events and Continuing Education

Big Island and Back Ski Event January 28 | Excelsior Docks

This year's event will include ski, snowshoe races and ski/snowboard races. A portion of proceeds support Freshwater Society.

[Learn more and register >](#)



Road Salt Symposium Thursday, February 2 | NEW LOCATION in Mounds View

Learn about solar-powered roads - an promising innovation in road maintenance - liability protection, innovations, tools, and practices to reduce salt use while maintaining safe roads. **Stewards can receive a special \$50 off rate.**

Call Alex at 651-313-5814 to register. [Click here for information about the event.](#)

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Save the Date: Pollinator Class Tuesday, March 7 | Location TBA

The presentation will highlight photos and information on pollinators and other beneficial insects to our ecosystems. More information to come!



Water-friendly Job Listings

Permitting and Professional Outreach Coordinator Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

The Permit and Professional Outreach Coordinator is responsible for the permitting program and development and implementation of professional trainings and outreach about our water resources. The individual will work with the permitting team in reviewing and managing the permitting program for the District. He or she will also work in partnership with staff, the District Engineer, agency and city counterparts, community members and private contractors to develop and implement trainings for professionals and the public whose work or activities impact water resources.

More information available [here](#).

Deadline to apply: January 27th.

More Job Listings

Check out these other sites for additional water-friendly jobs!

[Board of Water and Soil Resources](#)

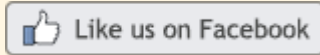
[Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees](#)

[Water Resources Coordinator Group of Minnesota](#)

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Freshwater Society | 651-313-5800 | freshwater@freshwater.org | http://www.freshwater.org



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