

Projects are in the ground!



What a great weekend. The rain fell, but work got done! It was just wonderful to see your work, your study, your planning, all come together in tangible projects. I want to share a couple observations and make a request.

While I was at the site of the project being installed by Roxanne Stuhr, Erika Spande and Susan Tincher, we had two neighbors pay us a visit. Roxanne's neighbors Sherry and Jerry stopped by and were very impressed at the garden and how it functions in a rain shower. They asked Roxanne to help them plan and install a similar raingarden in their backyard next spring.

Susan's husband Jim was there helping, and mentioned to me that some folks at a church in the Fulton neighborhood are also planning to install a raingarden. Tuesday, Jim made an email introduction to the folks involved in this effort. I will follow up with them, and hope to pair them up with a Steward in the neighborhood to give them support on their project.

I mention these two stories, because these are exactly the kinds of interactions we are hoping you will [report on the web site](#). As we move ahead with this work, we want to track who you all talk to, and what happens as a result. So, here is the request- When you chat with people about the work you are doing as Stewards, please record the addresses of where those folks live. No need to have names. But **we do want addresses**. We'd like to see if the folks you talk to end up taking some sort of action to improve or protect water. The only way to do that is to let us know you talked to them.

Thanks again for all your terrific work this weekend. I am so proud to be working with all of you.

-Peggy Knapp

Meet Green Corp's Lauren Sampedro.....

Hi, I'm Lauren Sampedro, and I am The Freshwater Society's first GreenCorps member. GreenCorps is the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's version of the Americorps program, which is a national service program. There are 28 GreenCorps members, and each member is placed at a host site to assist in needs like reducing water runoff and improving water quality, encouraging others to adopt environmentally friendly practices, reducing waste and increasing recycling, or reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution.

At The Freshwater Society, my aim is to help increase water quality, reduce stormwater runoff, and to educate and encourage others to implement actions that reduce stormwater runoff from their properties. To accomplish my goals, I am working on the Master Water Stewards program and communicating with current Master Water Stewards. I will soon begin helping with the recruitment of new Master Water Stewards. In my first week with The Freshwater Society, I attended a meeting at the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District with lake association members and listened to a passionate discussion of those members. This meeting was so great to see, in that these lake association members are so dedicated to protecting their lakes and want to do anything they can to prevent/find solutions for pollution and invasive species.



I also met 15 of the current Master Water Stewards and talked with them and listened to them discuss their Capstone projects.

Additionally, I documented two raingardens going into the ground with video and pictures, as well as helped lay down mulch on those raingardens. I also helped create a list for Macalester students to give to homeowners on what simple things they can do at home to protect waterbodies, and I made postcards for a Master Water Stewards group. Lastly, I've helped plan and coordinate Master Water Steward raingarden installations and the outreach portion of the projects, bought food and raingarden installation materials for both portions of the projects, largely communicated with many of the Master Water Stewards, as well as created a fundraising page for The Freshwater Society.

I look forward to the rest of this year with the Master Water Stewards!

We are recruiting for next years class!

Tell your friends and family to apply!



Community Leadership for Clean Water

- ◆ **Are you concerned about water pollution?**
- ◆ **Is there a drainage problem in your neighborhood that you want to fix?**
- ◆ **Want to get off the sidelines and make a real change?**

You don't have to be an expert, we'll show you the way! The Master Water Stewards program is a great opportunity to learn how to solve environmental problems in your community and find a local network of energized leaders.

Join us for the 2014 class of Stewards

Applications Available Now at masterwaterstewards.org

For more information, contact Peggy Knapp at pknapp@freshwater.org
763-219-1252

Master Water Stewards work with their community to:

Assess Watersheds—identify their pollutant sources and create strategies for reducing these pollutants.

Educate Communities—help neighbors understand the most pressing environmental problems in their area.

Reduce Pollutants—work with communities to target pollution sources such as pet waste, fertilizer or pesticides.

Coordinate Action—help communities reduce the polluted runoff by coordinating the installation of rain gardens, rain barrels and other Rainscaping techniques.



Master Water Steward Certification Program
www.masterwaterstewards.org



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