

# WATER PLAN NEWS

January 30, 2008

DOUGLAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
WWW.DOUGLASSWCD.COM

## Cost-Share Available

There is currently cost-share available for shoreland restoration (lakescaping) and rain garden projects within the Chippewa and Long Prairie River Watersheds. Other projects maybe eligible for funding upon request. In addition, DNR Shoreland Habitat

Program funds will be available to anyone in the county who wishes to restore shoreline under the DNR guidelines beginning July 1, 2008.

Call or stop by the SWCD office for more information.



*Rain garden on Lake Ida installed last summer with cost share from the Long Prairie Watershed.*



*An integrated sampler is used to collect water samples for analysis.*

## Lake Monitors Needed

The District has received Clean Water Legacy funds from the MPCA to increase lake monitoring efforts in Douglas County. The Surface Water Assessment Monitoring Grant will fund two years of water quality monitoring on fifteen lakes that do not have significant phosphorous and Chlorophyll a

data, but do have Secchi disk readings.

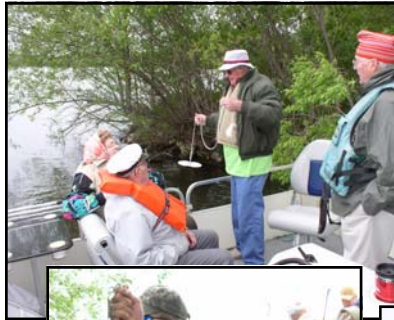
Contact the SWCD if you are interested in or already are collecting samples on Aaron, Freeborn, Gilbert, Jessie, Little Oscar, Lottie, Louise, Mill, Moses, North Union, Pocket, South Oscar, Stoney, Stowe, or Little Chippewa Lakes.

## Upcoming Events

- Feb. 7—Douglas SWCD Tree Open House. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. @ USDA Service Center.
- Feb. 29—Environmental Scholarship Essay Deadline
- Mar. 8— Viking Sportsmen Habitat Day @ Viking Plaza Mall
- Apr. 30— Kids' Groundwater Festival @ Runestone Community Center
- May 6— Build Your Own Rain Barrel workshop. 7 p.m. @ Public Works Building
- May 15—RMB Lake Monitoring Training (6:30 p.m.) and Equipment pick up (7 p.m.) @ Public Works Building
- May 24—Awake the Lakes: Kids Fishing, Information Booth, and Historic Boat Tours

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*Awake the Lakes will be May 24th.  
Don't miss out on the fun!*

## Build Your Own Rain Barrel



A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your rooftop to use later for things like lawn and garden watering.

The District will be hosting a hands-on rain barrel workshop on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Public Works Building. Hardware and plastic barrel kits will be available for sale for all those who register by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Why use a rain barrel?

- Rain barrels help lower water costs (a rain barrel can save approximately 1,300 gallons of water during peak summer months)
- Storing rainwater for garden and lawn use helps recharge groundwater naturally.
- Rain barrels reduce water pollution by reducing stormwater runoff, which can contain pollutants like sediment, oil, grease, bacteria, and nutrients.
- Rain barrels are inexpensive and easy to build and install.