



Lake Leader

PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP OF POLK COUNTY'S NATURAL RESOURCES

SUMMER 2019

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Wetlands 101

What are wetlands?

Minnesota supports a wide variety of wetlands types, ranging from the classic duck pond fringed by cattails to forested wetlands, shrub wetlands, wet meadows, and bogs. Some wetland types have little to no surface water for all or part of the year. Wetlands located around the lake shores are called fringe wetlands and they are also protected.

Why are wetlands protected?

Wetlands provide a variety of benefits including water quality, flood control and low flow augmentation, and fish and wildlife habitat. Wetlands benefit water quality by filtering and absorbing pollutants from surface water runoff before it enters lakes and rivers downstream. Wetlands serve as holding areas for surface water which can benefit flood control and low flow augmentation. When rainfall is heavy, wetlands slow the waters, reducing flood damage and soil erosion downstairs. During a drought, water stored in wetlands maintains stream flows and may help recharge groundwater. Wetlands provide homes and feeding areas for many species of fish and wildlife.

History

In 1991, reacting to public concern about Minnesota's disappearing wetlands, the Legislature approved and the Governor signed the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The purpose of WCA is to maintain and protect Minnesota's wetlands and the benefits they provide. To retain the benefits of wetland and reach the legislation's foal of no-net-loss of wetlands, WCA requires anyone proposing to drain, fill, or excavate a wetland first try to avoid disturbing the wetland, second try to minimize any impact on the wetland, and finally replace any lost wetland acres, functions, and values.

Conclusion

If you think you have a project that might affect a wetland you should contact Rachel Klein at the East Polk SWCD, 218-563-2777, prior to the work being done to determine if a wetland will be impacted. Remember that an area can be a wetland even if it does not appear wet on the surface. Some shorelines are also considered wetlands and there are limitation that exist for recreational purposes. If it is determined that a wetland may be impacted through your project you may need to fill out a Combined Project Application form which are available at the SWCD office. The SWCD can also provide assistance locating wetlands for perspective landowners on properties for sale.

Rain Barrels– DIY



East Polk SWCD offers a workshop every spring to create your very own Rain Barrel with a cost-share opportunity. \$80 gets you a barrel and kit along with hands on instructions on How to Make A Rain Barrel: plus education on all the benefits of saving rain water. Then 50% will be cost shared back in your pocket once completed, so \$40 and your time is all it takes.

Can't make it to a workshop? Then here are instructions to create your own from the comforts of your home.

Contact Kelsey with any questions!
hedlund.eastpolk@gmail.com

Supplies:

-1 Large Plastic Garbage Can

**MAKE SURE IT IS CLEAN TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION

-1 Tube of Watertight Sealant

-Teflon Tape

-2 Rubber O-rings

-2 Metal Washers

-1 Hose Clamp

-1 Spigot

-Landscaping Fabric

**LARGE ENOUGH TO COVER TOP OF BARREL

WORKSHOP

APRIL 30th, 2019 @6PM

At the McIntosh

Community Center!

Call 563-2777 to register!

STEP 1– DRILL A HOLE

Use a drill bit to make a hole near the bottom of the barrel for the spigot

Use a bit smaller or the same size of the spigot

STEP 2– INSERT SPIGOT

Place a metal washer on the threaded end of the spigot. Then put a tight fitting rubber washer over the threads to help hold washer in place and prevent

leakage.

STEP 3– SEAL IT UP

Apply bead of waterproof sealant over rubber washer and insert the spigot into the whole. Wait for sealant to dry, then put a rubber washer on followed by another metal washer onto the threads of the spigot inside the barrel. Secure the spigot in place with the hose clamp.

It is important to keep spigot from coming loose. (You can also use Teflon Tape to seal the hole)

STEP 4– MAKE ENTRY AND EXIT HOLES

Cut a hole in the lid of the rain barrel.

This hole sits under the downspout of your home so the water runs into it. Cut the whole large enough to accommodate the water flow.

Also drill a hole or two near the top of the rain barrel to prevent overflow, or connect two barrels with PVC for any overflow.

STEP 5– SEAL THE TOP

Cut a piece of landscaping fabric to sit over the top, then put the lid over the top to secure it.

This creates a barrier that prevents mosquitos and other pests from getting into the barrel.

STEP 6– PLACE BARREL

Position it directly underneath the downspout in a spot that is most convenient.

Set on platform to give more pressure for a hose, and so it is easier to fill up watering cans.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Zebra Mussels-*Dreissena polymorpha*, are striped, D-shaped mussels with two hinged valves connected by a ligament. Zebra mussels are very small, 1/4 of an inch to 1 1/2 inches long. Their stripes are brown and yellow and alternate. Zebra Mussels are very sharp.

These invasive mussels attached to any hard surface under water, man-made or natural structures. Native to Eastern Europe and Western Russia, Zebra mussels were accidentally brought over on cargo ships. When ballast water was discharged, the mussels spilled into the Great Lakes infecting them in 1988. Zebra mussels are spread by being transported by water related equipment like boats and docks.

One female zebra mussel can produce 100,000 to 500,000 eggs per year. Once the eggs are fertilized, they develop into “Veligers” which are free living larvae. These larvae can attach to boats, docks, lifts, swim rafts, etc. and infect waters in which these structures are put in. Adult mussels can survive up to 5 days in dry conditions and up to 21 days when its wet. The Veligers can only survive in the water filled areas like bait containers and live wells.

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Impacts from Zebra mussels include but are not limited to:

- Encrusting equipment: like boats and docks, ruining the performance and efficiency.
- Harm to swimmers and pets: Zebra mussels are very sharp and can easily cut when stepped on.
- Competition with Native Species: one mussel can filter a quart of water per day and may filter out the food particles that other larval fish and animals eat.
- Attaching to Native Mussels: Zebra mussels will attach to the native mussels in our waters and end up killing them.

What can you do?

- Clean. Drain. Dry. Prevent the transportation of AIS on your watercraft and equipment!
- Visit the MN DNR Website for more information.



<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/index.html>



East Polk SWCD

240 Cleveland Ave.
P.O. Box 57
McIntosh, MN 56556

Ph: 218-563-2777
www.eastpolkswcd.org

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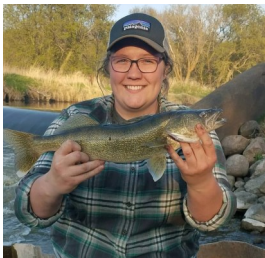
New Manager and New Technician

Rachel Klein:
District Manager



My name is Rachel Klein and I am a District Manager, former District Technician, at the East Polk SWCD. Two years ago, I worked for the District as the Area Certification Specialist with the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. I briefly left the for a year to explore another opportunity but have been back with the District since February 2018. My responsibilities include the buffer program, being the county feedlot officer for all of Polk County, administering the Wetland Conservation Act program, assisting with our lake monitoring program, and administration of the financials and day to day operations of the district. I attended the University of Minnesota Crookston and have my bachelor's degree in Agronomy with a minor in Agricultural Business. My husband and I have a Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified hobby farm/feedlot in Red Lake County. We have horses, laying hens, dairy goats, and a small herd of cattle and sheep.

Kelsey Hedlund:
District Technician
& Admin Assistant



My name is Kelsey Hedlund and in August 2018 I joined the East Polk SWCD as the District Technician and Administrative Assistant. My responsibilities include assisting with shoreline restorations, tree sales, the Wetland Conservation Act, and lake and stream monitoring. Previously I worked for the Soil Conservation District in Stutsman County, North Dakota as the technician and planted over 300,000 trees! I am originally from East Grand Forks, MN and now reside in McIntosh. I went to college at the University of MN in Crookston for Natural Resource Management. I have a love for the outdoors, trees and plants. On my spare time you can find me hunting, fishing, and spending time with my dog. I look forward to meeting the landowners and working along side you to help promote conservation on the land we cherish around us.