NSWA Projects and Events

WHAT'S A RIPARIAN AREA?

Riparian areas are the green belts you see around rivers, lakes, wetlands, and streams. They are the transition areas between the aquatic (water) and terrestrial (uplands) areas, where the extra water results in moist soils supporting water-loving vegetation.

Riparian areas have many important functions - they filter and store water, recharge aquifers, provide habitat for many species and many other functions. Find out more information on the award winning **Riparian Web Portal** . This month we have a blog feature (see below) on the portal and an interview with local stewards, the Liddels, who maintain a wetland area on their property. There is information on registration for the October Watershed Wednesday webinar on guidelines for municipal policies for riparian areas.

Join us! Watershed Wednesday webinars will start up again on Wednesday October 4th and continue the **first Wednesday of every month** over the lunch hour. Grab your lunch and water bottle and join us to discover more about our watershed work with our excellent lineup of speakers. Topics will include Riparian Policy guidelines, the WaterSHED Integrity project and more!

REGISTER HERE

Are you an organization that conserves and restores natural areas in the North Saskatchewan Watershed? We want to hear about your projects and programs! The information will be used to better understand watershed progress and to promote your programs.
Your information will help us to:

- Understand the distribution of conservation and restoration programs across the watershed
- Identify program and project gaps
- Collectively set conservation and restoration goals
- Showcase the good work of our conservation community and highlight available restoration programs.

Complete the survey by August 31, 2023 & you'll be entered into a draw for a portable solar panel & battery pack.

SURVEY

WETLAND EXPLORERS

VRWA kicked August off with our annual Wetland Explorers event in partnership with the Town of Vermilion library! The event has typically been hosted on the Vermilion River, but this year it was held at the Claude Brennan Memorial Trout Pond in Vermilion Provincial Park. We had a total of 16 kids and parents who came out to learn about watersheds and benthic invertebrates from NSWA's Rosey Radmanovich, do some pond dipping for benthic invertebrates, complete a wetland scavenger hunt run by Chris Elder from Vermilion River ALUS, and hear a story read by local

librarian Sheila Heit. A huge thank you to everyone who came out and to the organizers – Sheila Heit, Chris Elder, and Rick Passek – who's support made this wonderful event possible!

THANK YOU, MARIJKE!

We will miss our amazing summer staff person, Marijke! She had a busy summer attending 22 events, lake sampling, publishing social media posts, research and more. We were able to engage so many people thanks to her enthusiasm and hard work. Thank you, Marijke!

We are happy Marijke will be continuing at NSWA this fall with an independent study course at the University of Alberta.

Marijke writes, " Join me as I reflect on my incredible experience and how it surpassed all my expectations, leaving me with newfound knowledge, lasting memories, and a passion for watershed conservation!…."

SUMMER REFLECTIONS

Atimoswe Creek feeds into the North Saskatchewan River near Elk Point, about 175 km east of Edmonton in the Frog subwatershed. It is a prairie fed creek, with flow contributions from spring

runoff and summer storms. This video includes a compilation of photographs taken from the Atimoswe Creek monitoring station from January 2021 to July 2022 and a graph of the Average Daily Flow throughout this time.

The comprehensive **WaterSHED Monitoring Program** encompasses 20 monitoring stations on tributaries from the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River to the Saskatchewan border. The North Saskatchewan River is the source of drinking water for more than 65 communities (including Edmonton) in the capital region. This program improves data collection both upstream and downstream of Edmonton, allowing all partners to make informed decisions for protecting and preserving water in the North Saskatchewan River.

Are you an angler in our watershed? Take part in this survey about local fish consumption in Alberta and help provide information for a University of Alberta research project! You can also check out this helpful tool by My Wild Alberta to determine if the fish you've caught is safe based on Health Canada Mercury Guidelines.

FISH SURVEY

SHOULD I EAT THIS FISH?

Partner Highlights

CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

RIPARIAN WEB PORTAL PROJECTS

NSWA's Senior Project Coordinator for the **Riparian Web Portal,** Mary Ellen Shain, says, “The web portal is available to any conservation group working on riparian areas in Alberta. We encourage project coordinators to use the website to showcase their riparian restoration and conservation projects. Together, we can show-off the efforts of the collective stewardship community.”

Dan and Harriet Liddle are landowners who are enthusiastic supporters of the stewardship community. Read more...

INTERVIEW with DAN LIDDLE

OTHER PARTNER INFORMATION

The **Alberta Lake Management Society** is holding their 2023 Annual Conference in Sylvan Lake, September 12th – 13th. Register for this year’s workshop. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

On September 19th, Dr. Rebecca Rooney will present a webinar on 'Recovery and Resistance: Restoring the wetland plant community after invasive reed control'. Register for this free webinar! This event is part of the **Wetland Knowledge Exchange**’s monthly webinar series.

This summer, **CBC’s Edmonton AM** has featured stories connected to the River. In August, CBC’s Mark Connolly visited the Visser family farm in north -east Edmonton and met Doug Visser and Kayleen Falkenstien from the Edmonton Area Land Trust. The interview describes how the EALT is helping preserve this land and natural area on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. Catch a glimpse of the history of the River -listen to the interview here!

EPCOR is looking at flood mitigation measures as climate change and extreme weather may affect water supplies. Please visit epcor.com/floodprotection and download the August community newsletter for more information. CBC also published an article with more information --Learn more.

Working Well is now taking requests for late October, November and early December workshops. We offer both virtual and in-person options and look forward to continuing to work with WPACs,

municipalities and other organizations to make the live workshops available to private water well owners across the province. If you are interested in hosting a webinar, check out this information.

Alberta Ecotrust Foundation and Kambo Energy Group have partnered to help lower income homeowners in Edmonton and Calgary reduce their energy costs through the Home Upgrades Program.

Celebrating our Watershed

ART, CULTURE AND HISTORY

Interview with Felt Artist Deanne Underwood

Deanne Underwood is a felt artist whose inspiration comes from our prairie landscapes, lakes and mountains. Discover more about her felting work celebrating Canadian landscapes.

INTERVIEW with DEANNE UNDERWOOD

DONATE

YOUR SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY

NSWA is a registered charity. You can donate to support our projects and ongoing work in the watershed. More information on donations is on our website.

DONATE

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