



Crystal Loon Mills CWP

Project Staff: Sarah Duda, WRC Coordinator
Matt Ribikawskis, Graduate Asst.
Paul Davis, MPCA Project Manager

Volume 1, Issue 1
March 2009

Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership

Upcoming Events

- **Shallow Lakes Forum VI, Mar. 30th, Chaska** For more info visit: <http://www.shallowlakes.info/home.html>
- **CWP Project Update & Open House, Date TBA, Lake Crystal**, Join us at 7:30p for refreshments & CWP update.
- **Conservation Drainage Open House, Apr. 7th, N. Mankato Best Western.** Doors open at 6p for free snacks & refreshments.
- **Lake Crystal TMDL Open House, Date TBA, Lake Crystal** For more info visit: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/project-lakecrystal.html>

A Year in Review: Project Update

2008 marked the second year of the CWP project, but the first real year to see projects getting on the ground. Here are some highlights from this year.

Rural Practices:

- **Nutrient Mgmt & Soil Testing:** 3,695 acres enrolled or 36% of the agriculture land in the watershed, \$15,644 in cost-share & \$4,437 in landowner match
- **Wetland Restoration:** 10.6 acres wetlands restored, \$3,180 in incentive payments
- **Buffer Strips:** 0.9 acres buffer installed on CD56, \$270 in incentive payments

Urban/Stormwater Practices (project totals):

- **Rain Barrels:** 25 barrels installed, \$1,250 in cost-share & \$2,210 in citizen and City of Lake Crystal match
- **Rain Gardens:** 18-20 rain gardens planted, \$3,000 in cost-share (SMIF grant)

Lakeshore Practices:

- **Shoreland Restorations:** \$215 in-kind time & services to promote restorations
- **Maintenance & Improvements:** \$2,300 in-kind time & services for improved access & stormwater management on Loon Lake

Educational Activities:

- Duck Days Parade & Kid's Night,
- 1st Annual Photo & Art Contest,
- Water We to Do: Kids Learn about Water Quality,
- Rain Garden & Nutrient Management BMP tours, Water Quality Treatment BMP tour,
- Harmful Algal Bloom Workshop,
- Rapidan Dam Days, and
- Cub Scouts Education & Trash Pick-up Event

Monitoring Activities:

28 samples from County Ditch 56, 55 samples from Crystal, Loon & Mills Lakes

Lake Crystal Watershed to return \$25,000 in funding

Two-thirds of the way through the Clean Water Partnership project, less than half the funds allocated for best management practice implementation have been spent or encumbered. The Clean Water Legacy portion of the Lake Crystal project expires in June this year. Any money not spent on BMP implementation at that time will be returned to the state coffers. And with state budgets tightening up, it is unlikely

that money will be used for water quality projects, either in the CLM watershed or elsewhere in MN. There are also still Clean Water Partnership cost-share and incentive dollars available to landowners for best practices. Approximately \$ 58,000 remains in the budget for actual project work. "Right now that money is ours to spend on projects in the Lake Crystal watershed," says project coordinator Sarah Duda. "Without landowners to sign up for BMPs that

money will have to be sent back," Best practices that could be eligible for cost-share or incentive payments include: wetland restorations, buffer strips, tile-inlet conversions, lakeshore restorations, rain gardens, nutrient & tillage management, grass waterways & sediment basins. If you are interested in cost-share money for a BMP project contact Sarah Duda at sarah.duda@mnsu.edu or visit your local SWCD office.

Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water

Water Resources Center
Minnesota State University Mankato
184 Trafton Science Center, South
Mankato, MN 56001



*Your partners for clean water in
the Crystal Loon Mills Watershed*

*Check out our NEW
website for more info &
upcoming community
events!*

*[http://
mrbcd.mnsu.edu/org/
lakecrystal/index.html](http://mrbcd.mnsu.edu/org/lakecrystal/index.html)*

Crystal Loon Mills CWP Launches NEW Website!!!

Crystal Loon Mills CWP is proud to announce the launch of its NEW website. Here are the answers to some common Q & A regarding the new site.

Q: Where is the CLM website located? The CLM website is located on the Minnesota River Basin Data Center website at: <http://mrbcd.mnsu.edu/org/lakecrystal/index.html>

Q: Who should visit the new website? Everyone! The website contains information for anyone interested in finding out more about the Clean Water Partnership project, including landowners & citizens of Lake Crystal, teachers & students (or anyone looking for fun & educational class room activities), non-watershed residents, & project partners.

Q: What kinds of things can I find on the website? Information about upcoming events, pictures of past events, additional information about best management practices, algal blooms, project partners, info about project staff, and all kinds of other fun stuff.

Q: Can I find recent water quality information on the site too? Yes. Monitoring information is compiled twice a year and posted on the site.

Q: Can I sign up for BMPs or re-

quest cost-share online? No, you will still need to contact project staff in order to sign up for BMPs and cost-share. Contact information for project staff and partners is available on the website.

