

# Watershed District gives awards for water quality improvements

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District announced the winners of their first annual Water Quality Improvement Award, which was created to recognize residents living within the District who completed a project on their property designed to protect water quality. Jodi See and Elizabeth Shramm, co-chairs of the contest and both from Prior Lake, stated, "We awarded a \$100 prize to four families who installed best management practices with a significant investment of time, money, and hard work. We hope their projects will inspire others to consider what they can do themselves to protect the water resources we all treasure. These families are true stewards in our area as leaders of our effort to help educate our community that everyone, whether you live on the lake or not, makes a difference in the water quality of our lakes and rivers. Every drop counts!" Award winners included:

## Pete and Elizabeth Guidarelli

Grass was removed in the front yard and a rock- and rainingarden was created. The Guidarellis directed the gutters on the house to feed directly into the rainingarden, so they now use much less water and no chemicals and have a beautifully landscaped area.



The Guidarelli home before and after the installation of their rainingarden.



The Martens family installed a strategically-located rainingarden on their property.

## John and Rondi Phillips

Several degraded areas were planted with native plants and habitat for their local beehives was created.

## Gene and Nicole Martens

A rainingarden was installed along with strategically-located rain barrels on bare soils surrounding their new home. Their project involved their children to encourage young members of the community to get involved and learn about water quality stewardship.

## Linda Wiecher

Five rainingardens were installed to improve drainage, native plants were planted along her shoreline, and rain barrels were installed.



A rainingarden and rain barrels helped the Martens family retain soil around their new home. Trees and grass (pictured below) were put in once the home was completed.



The Citizens Advisory Committee was awarded funding for this year's award from the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District and the committee is already planning to continue this award to increase awareness for all members of community and the impact each person has on water quality. Members of the committee and staff of the watershed worked in conjunction with the Board of Managers to implement this well-deserved award for this year's recipients.



Many of the two million trees that have been planted in Scott County with the help of the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District have grown into mature, beautiful trees.

## Order tree seedlings now

Did you know more than more than two million trees have been planted throughout Scott County with the help of the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District's tree program? It's true – and the Scott SWCD's 2017 tree program is now underway, continuing to offer low-cost, high-quality tree and shrub seedlings. In addition to the 32 varieties of tree and shrub seedlings, the SWCD offers five native prairie seed mixes. By planting more trees, native flowers, and indigenous grasses, you are helping to beautify Scott County while also benefiting wildlife and the environment.

No matter the size of your order, staff is available to help you choose the tree species or seed mixes that will fit your needs and to answer any questions you may have. Orders can be placed online at [www.scottswcdtrees.com](http://www.scottswcdtrees.com). If you need any assistance with your order or have any questions, please call the SWCD at (952) 492-5425.