

Raingarden, Native Prairie and Shoreline Workshops Planned for this spring



A former florist, Laura Blue and her husband Lynn (pictured above) enjoy landscaping with plants and flowers that originally grew in Minnesota (natives). When they heard about local workshops that could teach them about planting these hardy, low-maintenance AND perennial grasses, shrubs and flowers while keeping rainwater runoff from their roof and driveway on their property, they decided to attend. Two months later, the New Prague couple had converted a shady, sometimes soggy part of their lawn into an organized 300-square-foot raingarden. Now in its second year, their raingarden is well-established, and the Blues are enjoying the many phases of colors on plants that grow thicker and taller every year. They have also witnessed a dramatic increase in the number of pollinators, including bees, butterflies and birds. Living near Raven Stream, they understand the important of capturing rainwater from their roof, keeping lawn clippings on the lawn,

limiting fertilizer use and being aware that pollutants on their property flow directly into nearby rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands.



“Creating Your Raingarden” Workshops

Four workshops on “Creating Your Raingarden” are planned for this spring throughout Scott County.

The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, April 30	6:30 to 8 p.m.	McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center, Savage
Saturday, May 2	10 to 11:30 a.m.	Scott County Library, Shakopee
Tuesday, May 5	6:30 to 8 p.m.	Parkview Room, Prior Lake City Hall
Thursday, May 7	6:30 to 8 p.m.	Community Room, State Bank of New Prague

** By attending one of the workshops above, you may be eligible to receive up to \$250 in funding assistance for plants, compost and labor if you install a raingarden.*

Sponsors include Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms, Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO), Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, Vermillion River Watershed, City of Prior Lake and City of Savage.

For more information about this topic, contact the Scott SWCD at (952) 492-5425



“Maintaining Your Native Prairie” Workshop

How do you maintain your native prairie? When and why should you burn native prairie? These and other questions will be answered at an upcoming “Maintaining Your Native Prairie” workshop on **Saturday, May 9, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Scott County Conservation Center** (fairgrounds) in Jordan. Landowners who have planted native prairie in the last few years will benefit from information presented in this workshop. Weather permitting, participants are welcome to join a field trip at a nearby prairie where an actual burn will take place following the workshop.

Sponsors include Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO), Shooting Star Native Seed, Applied Ecological Services, Minnesota Native Landscapes, Prairie Land Management Professionals and Zumbro Valley Native Landscapes.

“Restoring Your Shoreline” Workshop

If you are seeing more and more of your shoreline disappear each year, an opportunity to learn how to protect and restore this area with seeded or planted buffers between lawn and lake is being offered this spring. Natural shorelines keep our lakes cleaner and improve habitat for both aquatic life and other animals. The “Restoring Your Shoreline” workshop is slated for **Thursday, May 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Parkview Room at Prior Lake City Hall.**

** Some funding assistance may also be available.*

Sponsors include Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO), Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District, Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, Vermillion River Watershed and the City of Prior Lake.

You can register for any of these workshops by visiting www.scottswcd.org/workshops or by calling the Scott SWCD office in Jordan, (952) 492-5425.