



RILEY  
PURGATORY  
BLUFF CREEK  
**WATERSHED DISTRICT**



2016 Calendar

**PROTECT. MANAGE. RESTORE.**

# Managers, Staff & Consultants



## Board of Managers

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Board of Managers meets on the first Wednesday of each month, 7:00 pm, at the District Office: 14500 Martin Drive, Eden Prairie.

Left to right:	Term expires
Richard Chadwick (Chanhassen)	July 2018
Jill Crafton (Bloomington)	July 2018
Perry Forster (Eden Prairie)	July 2017
Leslie Yetka (Minnetonka)	July 2016
Mary Bisek (Minnetonka)	July 2017

## Staff

**Dr. Claire Bleser**  
District Administrator  
952-607-6512

**Michelle Jordan**  
Water Quality &  
Outreach Coordinator  
952-607-6481

**Josh Maxwell**  
Conservation Technician II  
952-607-6486

## Consultants

**Scott Sobiech**  
District Engineer  
Barr Engineering Co.  
952-832-2755

**Smith Partners PLLP**  
Legal Advisor  
612-344-1400

# 47 Years of Watershed Protection

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District was established on July 31, 1969. Watershed districts are local governments charged with protecting and improving the water resources in our communities.

The Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District encompasses all the land that drains into any of the three creeks in its name. At approximately 50 square miles, it includes parts of seven cities (Bloomington, Chanhassen, Chaska, Deephaven, Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and Shorewood), and two counties (Carver and Hennepin).

## Wencl Retires, Chadwick appointed

After 9 years of service, Ken Wencl retired from the board of managers. Under Ken's leadership, the District revised its 10-year plan, became leaders in carp management and implemented restoration and water quality improvement projects. The District would like to thank Ken for his years of service. He will be missed.

Carver County Commissioners welcome Richard Chadwick to the board of managers. From a young age, Richard has enjoyed being on the water. He has lived for over 30 years in our District and has worked with public entities as a litigator for the League of Minnesota Cities. Manager Chadwick began his 3-year term last August. The District looks forward to continuing to work with him.

The district is led by residents and water professionals. Five managers (four appointed by the Hennepin County Commissioners and one by the Carver County Commissioners), serve three-year terms directing district activities.

The district partners with local communities to identify top priorities and plan, implement, and manage efforts to protect and improve the waters in its boundaries. The district also works to educate and engage community members in stewardship. Watershed activities are funded through property tax levies.

## Summer Tour a Success

Over 40 community members and local leaders joined the district on a tour of the watershed on July 27, 2015. After gathering at the district office, attendees boarded a bus for a two hour trip to get to learn more about the water resources in the district, the threats to their health, and the work the district is undertaking to protect them.



## Volunteers monitor for AIS

A new district program launched in 2015 enlisted community members to help monitor for invasive mussels. Fourteen lake shore residents volunteered for the Adopt a Dock program in its first season. Volunteers hung monitoring plates off of their docks, and checked them monthly for possible mussel growth. The district is happy to report that no mussels were detected. This fits with monitoring efforts by staff at public boat ramps and in water samples, which also did not detect mussels. Interested in volunteering in 2016? Contact the district: [mjordan@rpbcd.org](mailto:mjordan@rpbcd.org); 952-607-6481



*A volunteer pulls up monitoring plates to check for AIS.*

## Creek assessment tool gives insights

Prioritizing creek restoration projects can be challenging, especially when the sites in need of help are located in multiple creeks. The Creek Restoration Action Strategy (CRAS) is a tool for identifying stream reaches in greatest need of restoration, beginning with consistent assessment of creek conditions. In developing the CRAS, eight important prioritization categories were identified and grouped into two tiers: infrastructure risk, channel stability, public education, ecological benefits, water quality, project cost, partnerships, and watershed benefits.

This tool developed by the district and Barr Engineering, is being implemented across the three creeks within the district. The CRAS study has allowed the district to focus efforts on high-benefit projects in a cost-effective manner. This tool is a living document that is updated as the district continues to assess changes in the creeks over time.



## Raingarden grant helps Bluff Creek

Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Chanhassen received a cost share grant from the watershed district to construct a rain garden on their property. The garden captures and filters runoff from the church's 1.41-acre parking lot. It removes pollutants like phosphorous and sediment before they can enter nearby Bluff Creek.

The project was a partnership of the church, the district, the City of Chanhassen, and the Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District. It was funded in part by a Clean Water Land and Legacy Fund Grant.

Interested in a cost share?  
Contact the district: [mjordan@rpbcd.org](mailto:mjordan@rpbcd.org)





# JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p><b>Water Tip</b> Use salt sparingly on your sidewalk and driveway. When ice and snow melt, they carry the salt to storm drains, and into our lakes and creeks, polluting them. Always shovel first, and start early before the snow has been walked on. If you need to use salt, one pound (a heaping 12 ounce coffee mug) is enough for two average parking spaces.</p>					<p><b>1</b></p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office</p>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>● New moon</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	
<b>17</b>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Martin Luther King Day</p>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>○ Full moon</p>	
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
<b>31</b>						<p><b>Dec 2015</b></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p><b>Feb 2016</b></p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>



“What I like about this district is the diversity in having three watersheds. It also offers the challenge of understanding each and developing a plan to solve their respective problems.”

—Perry Forster, Manager at RPBCWD

# FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> ● New moon Chinese New Year	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Washington's Birthday President's Day	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> ○ Full moon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<div data-bbox="667 1159 842 1284" data-label="Section-Header"> <h2>Water Tip</h2> </div> <div data-bbox="863 1159 1394 1278" data-label="Text"> <p>In the photo above, an aeration unit on Rice Marsh Lake helps keep blue gill fish alive. Blue gills eat carp eggs, helping to control the carp population and creating cleaner water.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="667 1305 1402 1481" data-label="Text"> <p>The aeration unit also makes a thin spot in the ice. Be careful here, and on any lake this winter. Wait for at least four inches of clear solid ice before walking on a frozen lake. ATVs need at least 5 inches, and trucks need 12. Never drive on ice at night or when it is snowing. Tell someone your plans when venturing on the ice and carry a pair of ice picks.</p> </div>				

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Mar 2016										
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27	28	29	30	31						

“One of my favorite parts of working in this district is watching the seasons change. From early spring to late fall, we are on the water every week and you begin to see patterns in the water and the landscape.”

—Michelle Jordan, Water Quality and Outreach Coordinator at RPBCWD





# MARCH 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	3	4	5
6	7	8 ● New moon	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight savings begins	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20 Vernal Equinox	21	22	23 ○ Full moon	24	25	26
27 Easter	28	29	30	31		

## Water Tip

As you think about spring and getting out in the yard, consider planning a project to help keep our lakes and creeks clean. The district offers cost share grants to help with projects like rain gardens and shoreline buffer plantings. Find out more about the program on our website: [rpbcwd.org](http://rpbcwd.org).

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"I really like the diversity of water resources in the district, and the ease of access to them. This district offers a vast array of recreational opportunities that are just a walk, bike, or swim away."

—Josh Maxwell, Conservation Technician at RPBCWD

  
RILEY  
PURGATORY  
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WATERSHED DISTRICT

# APRIL 2016

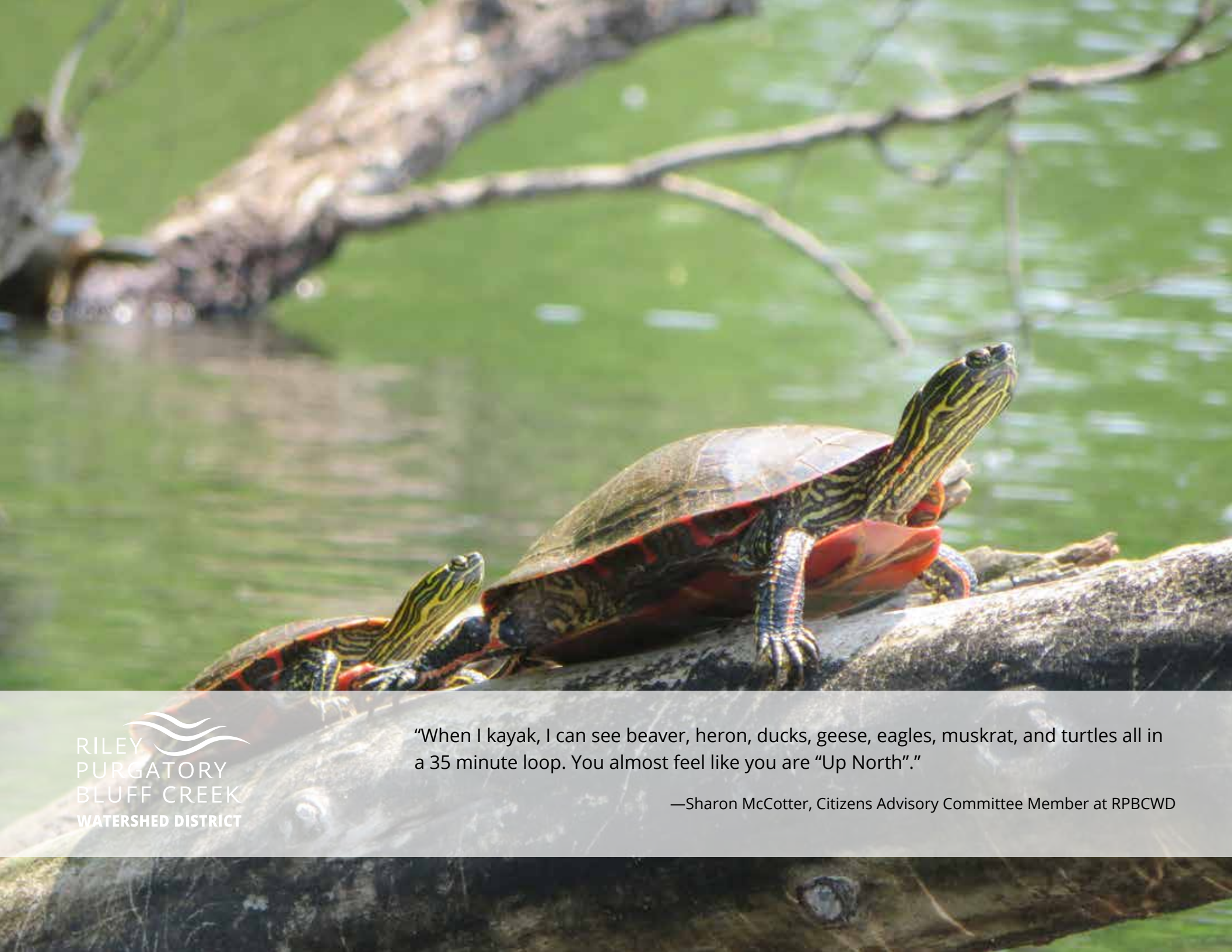
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Water Tip</b> Have your soil tested before you fertilize. It is crucial to only add the nutrients your soil really needs because fertilizer poses a serious threat to water quality. Rainwater runoff carries it into streams and lakes, where it promotes the growth of harmful algae. Excess nitrogen in fertilizer can also seep into groundwater, which is the primary source of drinking water in our district. The University of Minnesota offers inexpensive soil testing services (<a href="http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu">http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu</a>).</p>					1	2
3	4	5	6 RPCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	7 ● New moon	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 ○ Full moon  Earth Day Passover begins	23
24	25	26	27	28	29  Arbor Day	30  Passover ends

**Mar 2016**

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**May 2016**

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RILEY  
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WATERSHED DISTRICT

“When I kayak, I can see beaver, heron, ducks, geese, eagles, muskrat, and turtles all in a 35 minute loop. You almost feel like you are “Up North”.”

—Sharon McCotter, Citizens Advisory Committee Member at RPBCWD

# MAY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
1	2	3	4	5 RPBCWD Board Meeting 6 pm Evening with the Watershed - 7 pm - Chan American Legion	6 ● New moon	7																																																																																				
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14																																																																																				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 ○ Full moon																																																																																				
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29	30 Memorial Day	31	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 2016</th> <th colspan="7">Jun 2016</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Apr 2016							Jun 2016												1	2						1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30
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## Water Tip

Aquatic invasive species pose a threat to local lakes and creeks. They reduce game fish populations, degrade the ecosystem, and can make lakes and streams unusable by boaters and swimmers. Protect our waters by removing aquatic plants and water from your boat and trailer whenever you leave a lake. Make sure to pull the boat plug and dispose of unused bait in the trash. Find out more at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us).

"I enjoy exploring the trails and boardwalks that traverse through the parks adjacent to Purgatory Creek."

—Paul Bulger, Citizens Advisory Committee Member at RPBCWD



# JUNE 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	2	3	4 ● New moon
5	6	7  Ramadan begins	8	9	10	11
12	13	14  Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19  Father's Day	20 ○ Full moon  Summer Solstice	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Water Tip

Smart lawn care is also good for water. Only water during dry weather, and then only 1 inch per week. Keep your grass at three inches or higher, and when you cut it, leave the clippings on your lawn. Longer grass has longer roots and needs less water. Grass clippings add natural fertilizer to your lawn. Sweep up any clippings that fall on your driveway or the road, so they do not end up in our lakes and creeks, where they can promote the growth of harmful algae.

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Jul 2016						
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“Our watershed district is filled with a wide variety of quality natural resources to enjoy from woods and wetlands to birds, bees and butterflies.”

—Mary Bisek, Manager at RPBCWD





# JULY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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## Water Tip

Before you reach for a pesticide, try these tips to control pest insects and reduce the amount of pesticide reaching our waters. Use native plants, they are the most resistant to local pests. Water in the morning. This allows plants to dry for the cool evening, making them less susceptible to disease and insects that feed at night. Plant shrubs and trees with fruits near your garden to encourage birds which feed on pest insects.

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3	4 ● New moon Independence Day	5	6 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	7	8	9																																																																														
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24	25 Watershed Tour	26	27	28	29	30																																																																														
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“I enjoy the visits we get from eagles after ice-out on Lake Riley. We also have loons that visit on their migration north, and some years a couple of them decide to stay for the summer.”

—Bob Adomaitis, Citizens Advisory Committee at RPBCWD

# AUGUST 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																																
	1	2 ● New moon	3 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	4	5	6																																																																																																
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## Water Tip

Most of the water we use in our homes and yards in the district comes from groundwater. This water can be hundreds or even thousands of years old and is being pumped at increasing rates. Help conserve water by installing faucet aerators and low-flow shower heads and toilets in your home, and rain sensors and rain barrels in your yard.



  
RILEY  
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BLUFF CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

“What I like about my watershed is being able to sit at night and watch the skies while hearing crickets and frogs, and every so often even an owl.”

—Claire Bleser, Administrator at RPBCWD

# SEPTEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Water Tip</b> September is a beautiful time to wander in the outdoors. With fifteen lakes, three creeks, and abundant wetlands, there is much to explore in our district. Check with your city for a trail map, and take your next lunch break outside. Check the watershed website, or join the mailing list to find out about events the district is hosting.				1 ● New moon	2	3
	4	5 Labor Day	6	7 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16 ○ Full moon	17
18	19	20	21	22 Vernal Equinox	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 ● New moon	

**Aug 2016**

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**Oct 2016**

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"I have fond memories as a child of flying kites high above the Minnesota River, along the bluffs of the watershed. I marveled at how the wind would blow our kites sky high, while far below the river flowed to the mighty Mississippi. I would realize later in life how incredibly important the landscapes of the watershed were to protecting that great river, as well as all of the lakes and creeks that flow towards it."

—Leslie Yetka, Manager at RPBCWD



# OCTOBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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## Water Tip

Vegetation along streams is important for keeping streams healthy. Trees, grasses, and other plants help to hold the soil in place, preventing erosion. They also shade and cool the water, slowing algae growth and improving the conditions for fishes and insects. Overhanging vegetation creates additional habitat for aquatic animals. Stream vegetation can also help filter pollutants from stormwater before it reaches the creek.

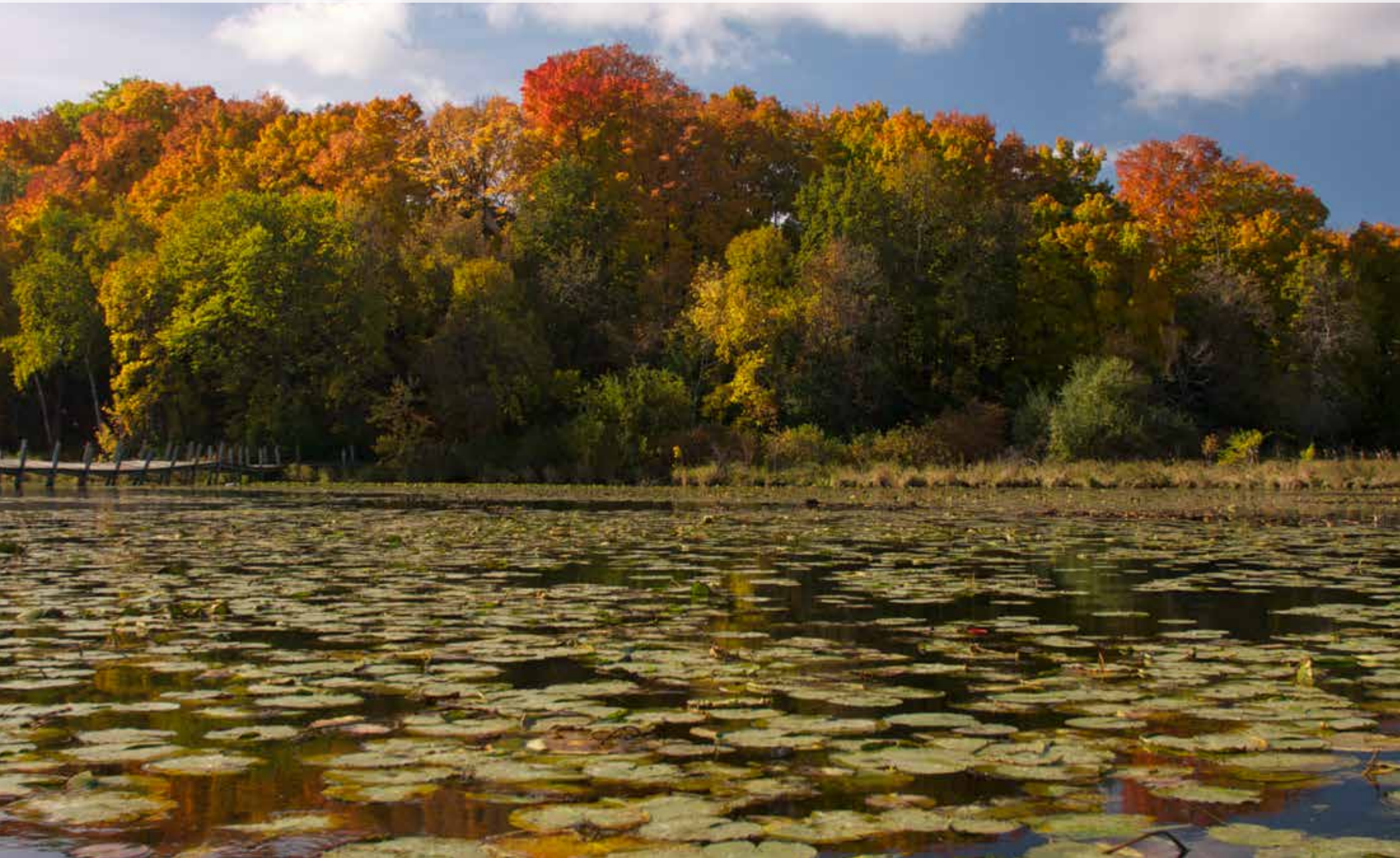
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2	3 Rosh Hashana	4	5 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	6	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12 Yom Kippur	13	14	15
16 ○ Full moon	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 ● New moon	31 Halloween					

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“What I like about living in the watershed district is all the birds: eagles, loons, wood ducks, hummers, orioles, pileated woodpeckers. And, getting to have a 300 acre “water feature in my back yard.”

—Laurie Hable, Citizens Advisory Committee at RPBCWD





# NOVEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																											
		1	2 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	3	4	5																																																																																											
6 Daylight savings time ends	7	8 Election Day	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12																																																																																											
13	14 ○ Full moon	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																											
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26																																																																																											
27	28	29 ● New moon	30	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2016</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2016</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2 3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Oct 2016													1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						Dec 2016													1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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## Water Tip

Prepare your home and garden for winter. Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams and roof damage. Inspect shovels and snowblowers to make sure they are ready for that first snow. Plant a cover crop in your garden. They help maintain nutrients, decrease erosion, and add organic matter to the soil.



# DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Water Tip</b> Below 15 degrees F, salt is no longer effective to melt ice and snow. Adding more salt will not make a difference. At this temperature, add a small amount of sand to provide traction. Check the weather, and when a cold snap is approaching, get out and remove as much snow and ice as you can.				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 RPBCWD Board Meeting 7 pm - District Office	8	9	10
11	12	13 ○ Full moon	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice	22	23	24
25 Hanukkah begins Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa	27	28	29 ● New moon	30	31 New Year's Eve

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