

2013 Master Water Steward Bios

Betsy Blume

Betsy has always lived near water. Growing up a few blocks from Bassett Creek she spent hours wading, swimming, fishing and clam digging with neighbor kids. She remembers stepping on glass a few times in the creek and even as a kid wondering about who cares for this creek? Betsy lives close to Minnehaha Creek now and appreciates the sense of awe and calm she feels when walking and biking along the creek. Her full time profession nursing and also coaches people regarding their health. She looks forward to learning how to share practical ways people can protect these water resources for the fauna that inhabit them and for people to enjoy now and in the future.

Jacqueline Di Giacomo

Jacqueline's interest for the environment began in grade 11 while taking a physics course where teacher introduced Nuclear Power and Nuclear Waste Management. She studied at the University of Toronto and chose a course pathway with an environmental theme when, at the time, there was no such thing as an "Environmental Department". With a background in Chemical Engineering with a Nuclear Engineering specialty, her research and plant design projects involve environmental topics such as tritium air monitors and reducing organic waste in effluent to acceptable regulatory limits for a local company. In her professional engineering life, she worked for the Canadian Federal Regulator for Nuclear Power as a Project officer for over eleven years. She was involved in many environmental issues and continued to take graduate courses such as water and waste water management at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University. Presently as a stay-at-home-mother, she carries over that care and concern for the environment to her family and that has always been an integral part of the educational aspect of her current career. The environment is one of her passions, and she also loves and cares for the water in our environment. She grew up exploring fresh water bodies in Canada and spent nine years in Oregon prior to moving to Minnesota in August 2011. Her family enjoys the beautiful water bodies and coastline of the Pacific Northwest from Canada to California and looks forward to exploring our new home in the years to come especially her waterways.



Meghan Durkin

Meghan Durkin has lived in Minnesota for the past 12 years, constantly surrounded by water and the beautiful MN lakes. She has always had an interest in sustainability and our environment, but approached her final years as a Psychology graduate at the University of St. Thomas and really began to develop a passion around sustainability. She was delighted when the Freshwater Society came to speak at Cargill where she learned about the Water Steward program, which seemed like the perfect opportunity to begin making a difference in her own community. Meghan loves the outdoors and is itching for Spring to finally arrive. Running outside around the Twin Cities lakes and reading in the sunshine are some of her favorite things. She is looking forward to getting a new Vizsla puppy in the spring and can't wait to spend all of her free time outside at the dog park, exploring the cities, and spending time with family and friends. She is excited for this opportunity to further understand the impact we all have on our water systems and what we can do to make a positive change.

Kristina Geiger

Kristina grew up tramping around the banks of Minnehaha Creek in south Minneapolis. All her adventures there - swimming, tubing, and chasing after her ne'er-do-well dogs - taught her a love of the outdoors that led her to pursue a career in environmental conservation. She wants to become a Master Water Steward to work with her neighbors to steward the health of the Minnehaha Creek watershed. She hopes to get the practical, hands-on experience managing stormwater so that she can teach and lead others to do the same.

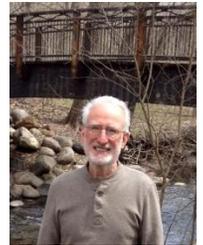


Sheila Goeken

Currently self-employed, Sheila previously worked as an editor at Thomson Reuters, Minnesota Physician Publishing, and NordicTrack and as an English instructor at several community colleges in the Twin Cities area. She received her Master Gardener certification in 2007. She volunteers with a few dog rescue organizations and is raising two rescued dogs. She is interested in becoming a water steward for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District because she has lived near the creek since moving here in 1987 and has spent many hours exploring the waterway. She looks forward to learning more about the creek and helping to preserve the area for the future.

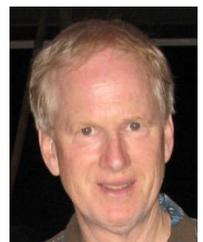
Terry Hammink

Terry lives near Minnehaha Creek in Minneapolis, east of Nicollet. He walks, bikes or skis along Minnehaha Parkway nearly every day, sometime alone, and more often with his wife, or daughter, or grandchildren. Terry and his wife are part time caregivers for their grandchildren, who live less than a mile away. Terry has valued and enjoyed the Creek and lakes of Minneapolis for decades and has increasingly developed more awareness and concern regarding stewardship and preservation of our beautiful and valuable water resources. He was very happy to learn about the Master Water Steward program and to have the opportunity to participate in the class for 2013. He looks forward to forming partnerships in the community that can make a positive difference for our water.



Bruce Jones

Bruce is an architect approaching retirement age, but too poor to retire. He is currently self-employed, living part time in South Minneapolis near the creek at about 10th Avenue South. As a kid in St Paul, you couldn't keep him out of the streams and lakes, playing & fishing. His design education took place during the '70s which was a time of expanding "environmental consciousness". Sometimes he feels that he missed his calling by not making this work more a direct part of my professional life, but is trying to make up for it in his geezer-dom! Bruce does stream monitoring for PCA, volunteers with the DNR, and has done stream invertebrate sampling and ID in Carver County. He also serves on a volunteer advisory committee in Carver County called Water, Environment and Natural Resources. He enjoys fishing for trout & warm water variety's, as well as canoeing, kayaking and all that fun stuff. He is very excited about this program and cannot wait to get started!



Joe Knaeble

Joe was raised in N Minneapolis and at 19 moved to a dairy farm and worked for 5 years as hired hand. He began his career in building trades as a carpenter/laborer in his mid-20's and worked for over 20 years as a carpenter/remodeling contractor. In the early 1990's he made a career change into building materials reuse, working with 2 non-profit organizations in efforts to reclaim reusable building materials most of which would ordinarily end up in the landfill. Most notably, he was on the startup and management team (10 years) of the ReUse Center in Minneapolis, MN a project of the Green Institute. In 2005 Joe started Better Homes & Garbage a small for profit business specializing in collecting, reclaiming and selling reusable building materials. His most notable green building projects over last 30 years have been building a super insulated home in the mid 1980's, building a cabin with approximately 50% reclaimed materials, putting on addition to the same cabin with 80- 90% reclaimed materials and the renovation/restoration of 1910 home in South Minneapolis using many reclaimed period materials while making the home more energy efficient. He is an avid outdoors person adept at traveling by canoe in both lakes and rivers, and is also an avid cross country skier and bicyclist among other outdoor activities. Joe has decades of a commitment to minimize negative environmental impacts of humans on both a personal and community level.

Carol F. Kuechler

Carol has been a Minneapolis resident for the past 36 years and loves living in the city! For 22 years she has lived just up the [Cedar] sledding hill from the Minnehaha Creek and has watched its ebbs and flows with both joy and in recent years, grave concern. She has not really known much about how to have an impact other than monitoring what goes into the street in front of her home, but as she heads into a new phase of her life, she is drawn to this opportunity to learn valuable information along with an opportunity to use it to the benefit of our precious natural resources. Carol has been an educator for over 20 years – her second career – and values both education and its application for the enrichment and support of all. She hopes to become educated about the issues and possible solutions for effective stewardship of our water resources in order to partner with other organizations that value natural resources, to bring awareness of these issues, concerns, and their impact on our lives to those in the city and beyond. As a grandparent Carlo is particularly motivated to have these resources for our children, and believes in the importance of working collaboratively with other neighbors and partner organizations to implement the solutions identified.



Jeanne LaBore

Jeanne is a native Minnesotan who strives to spend as many hours out of doors as possible. Her career as an Information Systems Analyst makes this goal challenging. Already a certified Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, she is eager to add yet another certificate to her list of credentials. Ask Jeanne about the Emerald Ash Borer.



Michael McCabe

Michael is a retired Minneapolis/Hennepin County librarian. He grew up in SW Minneapolis, and he and his friends spent a lot of time at Lake Harriet & the creek.

Michael believes that fresh water is becoming more and more an important issue and welcomes the chance to learn and be able to teach what an individual can contribute to making sure we pass along to future generations what we have been entrusted with.

Erika Spande

Erika is a landscape designer and maintenance supervisor with a residential design build firm. She has a passion to raise awareness and promote designing, planting and maintaining landscapes and rooftops with water quality in mind. She earned an AAS Degree in Landscape Design and Construction and believes we can make a positive impact on our environment by implementing low-impact design and maintenance practices whenever possible. Erika believes outreach into our communities is critical and that is why she wants to become a Master Water Steward.

Dave Stack

Dave is 64 years old and lives with his wife in the Minneapolis neighborhood of Linden Hills in the Minnehaha Creek watershed. Up until a few years ago, he lived in the Harrison Neighborhood of North Minneapolis in the Bassett Creek watershed, where he still owns his old home as a rental house. Dave became more strongly interested in watershed issues in the late 90's when an environmentalist activist named Amy Middleton came to the Harrison Neighborhood. She started, and facilitated for a few years, an organization called the Friends of Bassett Creek. He became a member of this group which focused on watershed issues. Amy and Sarah Clark developed a pamphlet on rain gardens which the friends of Bassett Creek placed on their website. This rain garden pamphlet prompted Dave's interest in rain gardens.

Roxanne Stuhr

Roxanne grew up and lived in the Red River Valley. There, she grew accustomed to thinking about water and its relationship to the land and the people who live there. The flat topography and spring floods often challenge the area. Activities there are dictated by a rich, heavy clay soil, which is less forgiving when extremely wet or dry. Early on, this old Lake Agassiz basin and the agriculture it supports heightened Roxanne's curiosity about the environmental relationships between soil, water, plants, people and all other living communities. Pursuing certification as a Master Water Steward was a natural step in the evolution of Roxanne's interests and her career.



Her first degree is in Business Administration. Her love and curiosity for landscape and our connections to it moved her to return to school to receive a degree in Landscape Architecture in 1995. Since then, she has been employed as a landscape designer, project manager and consultant working for several, diverse organizations throughout the Twin Cities. In 2012, she started her own firm, True Nature Design, to harness all of her abundant experiences in an effort to create and support holistic, ecologically diverse landscapes. It was and continues to be rare to see Roxanne indoors, as the outdoors is her playground and her greatest source of inspiration and wonder. She continues to invite others into the discoveries nature has to offer, and she believes those associations lead to an overall sense of wellbeing, the blurring of boundaries with interactive communities, and a broader stewardship of Earth's resources.

Susan Tincher

Susan is an administrative assistant at an advertising/PR agency. She has a degree in geography from the University of Minnesota, with a concentration in planning and GIS. She loves Minnehaha Creek—walking along it (and on it, during the winter)—tubing down it—and enjoying nature by it. She enjoys her Freedom Lawn. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband Jim and two children.



Katharine Winston

Now that Katharine has retired, she wants to devote extra time for giving back and do her part to enrich the environment for the generations that follow. HOBBIES: salsa dancing, exploring the neighborhood while walking the dog, gardening, entertaining grandchildren. She is retired from phone sales (online, print for legal research - WestLawNext, Legal Solutions) at Thomson Reuters (West Publishing).

**Jen Wendland**

Jen is a former Community Organizer for the Whittier neighborhood in south Minneapolis and currently works for Conservation Corps and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in the area of water recreation and stewardship. Jen applied to be a Master Water Steward because she recognizes and values the pivotal role that water plays in our lives, as well as its fragility. She also recognized the role she could play in working with communities to foster a greater sense of stewardship for and address the health of watersheds. Her current occupation and future professional goals are rooted in the understanding of the threat posed to communities by falling water tables, water scarcity, and the current damage being done to watersheds. As a Master Water Steward in an urban environment, she hopes to reduce the instances intersections flood out, reduce pollutants from urban runoff, increase the beauty of the neighborhoods, and help people see the connection between the where they live and the river, thereby creating an intrinsic desire to protect and enhance freshwater resources.

