



FRESHWATER

ORGANIZE A SHORELINE CLEANUP EVENT

Want to keep our waters healthy? **Anyone** can mobilize a group and plan a cleanup event, or adopt a shoreline that you clean up each year. Our **Adopt a River** program will support you with the planning tools you need!

Why organize a cleanup? Make water safer for all, prevent pollution downstream and connect with fellow volunteers.

When should I plan a cleanup? Earth Day or anytime!

Where should I clean? Any shoreline – river, lake, stream or wetland. Consider one where you work, live or play.

Who should I invite? Cleanups are great for family, work teams, social groups, scouts or your groups/teams, and more.

How do I get started? Check out our online toolkit at freshwater.org/adopt-a-river.

Think you don't live near a shoreline? Think again! Most storm drains send water directly into lakes and rivers untreated, carrying everything it picks up along its journey. A neighborhood cleanup anywhere helps our waters!

APRIL PHENOLOGY

Jim Gilbert's Nature Notes

First week of April

Pasqueflowers are blooming on Minnesotan prairies. Watch for returning great blue herons and American coots, plus large V-formations of tundra swans on their way to nesting grounds within the Arctic Circle.

On a spring day in the 50s, it's possible to get a glimpse of a mourning cloak butterfly, one of a few adult butterfly hibernators. Their purple-black wings with yellow margins act as solar panels, absorbing heat from the Sun, making flight possible. Canada geese incubate eggs, while American robins and blue jays build nests.

Second week of April

Soon after we see the first common dandelion flowers, we can expect the first purple martins to return. After wintering in southern Brazil, a certain population of purple martins come to Minnesota to feed on insects and to nest.

Wood frogs, which make barking calls, and boreal chorus frogs that sound like metallic clickers, can be heard from shallow ponds. In northeast Minnesota, ruffed grouse begin drumming and migrating dark-eyed juncos are numerous.

Third week of April

Magnolia trees, forsythia shrubs and crocuses could be blooming, and lawn grasses greening. More common loons and ospreys arrive. Eastern bluebirds are nest building. Little brown bats return to bat houses. Look for early blooming woodland wildflowers such as sharp-lobed hepaticas and bloodroots.

April 13, 2024: This was the first 80-degree day of the year for much of southern Minnesota. The high hit 85 degrees in the Twin Cities and 88 degrees at Mankato. Apricot trees were in bloom.

Fourth week of April

The air is filled with spring bird music. We hear the rattling sounds of belted kingfishers, woodpeckers drumming, the chattering of tree swallows, mourning doves cooing, the "cheer-up" song of the American robins and the remarkable melodic accomplishments of the song sparrows.

White-tailed deer bucks begin growing antlers. Gardeners plant potatoes and onions, and seed in leaf lettuce, radishes, peas and spinach.

The first Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, 1970, was dedicated to raising awareness about adopting sustainable lifestyles to reduce waste and environmental destruction.

Over the past 56 years, significant strides have been made in cleaning up rivers and lakes, protecting natural ecosystems, recycling and more, but we have a long way to go if we are to live sustainably in harmony with nature.

Fifth week of April

Crabapple trees and common purple lilacs could be blooming. Wild ginger, large-flowered bellwort, Virginia bluebells and Dutchman's-breeches are among the blooming woodland wildflowers.

Daffodils, native to Europe and Asia, bloom from bulbs planted in early autumn. The flowers have a star of petals around a trumpet-like structure, and come in yellow, white, yellow and white, or yellow and orange combination. There is no need to lift daffodil bulbs after bloom time until they become crowded. Just enjoy the blooms each spring.

Southern, central and western Minnesotan farmers plant corn, soybeans, spring wheat, oats, sugar beets and green peas.

LOOK FOR ...



First leaves emerging in tree tops (Carver County)

2024	April 15
2023	April 28
2022	May 6
2021	April 6
2020	April 26
2019	April 25
2018	May 4
2017	April 13
2016	April 15
2015	April 27



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