



Waterways Month returns to library

CRWD offering picture displays, numerous presentations throughout June

AUSTIN, Minn. – Tuesday, June 10, 2014 – Waterways Awareness & Appreciation Month has returned to the Austin Public Library, offering public presentations and a photo poster display area throughout June.

Poster-size prints of historic and recent images taken within the Cedar River Watershed in the Austin area are on display in the back-center area of the Austin Public Library, 323 Fourth Ave. N.E., along with a table of free informational handouts about the CRWD, its “Adopt-A-River” cleanup program and more. Newly updated Cedar River State Water Trail brochures created by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources also are available to anyone who visits that area.

Similar to the CRWD’s inaugural Waterways Month in June 2013, this year’s offerings will include five free, public events covering a variety of topics related to the Cedar River Watershed District and enjoying the outdoors. Each of the five events will be offered in the library’s large meeting room.

This **Saturday, June 14**, will offer the first public event – a free, all-ages showing of the **movie “Can You Canoe?” by The Okee Dokee Brothers**, a Grammy Award-winning, Americana folk duo based in Minneapolis. It is a 40-minute, supplemental film to the duo’s award-winning CD “Canoe You Canoe?” that follows the two as they paddle the Mississippi River from its origins in northern Minnesota down to St. Louis.

The Okee Dokee Brothers perform family music aimed at inspiring children and their parents to get outside and experience nature. The “Can You Canoe?” film celebrates canoeing, camping and enjoying nature.

CRWD also will have one of its blue kayaks on display for children to check out and see what it’s like to sit in a kayak.

On **Tuesday, June 17 from noon to 1 p.m.**, CRWD’s resource specialist Justin Hanson will give a presentation titled, **“The Future of East Side Lake,”** that will focus on the man-made lake’s current status and how a major, multi-year project upstream will help improve its water quality. Hanson will discuss a nearly \$2.1 million project approved by state officials this spring for projects in the Dobbins Creek Watershed, which feeds Austin’s East Side Lake. A dam on Dobbins Creek forms East Side Lake before the creek flows into the Cedar River in southeast Austin.

Austin City Engineer Steven Lang will offer a **flooding presentation from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19**, providing updates on the city’s flood-protection plans and current projects that include the ongoing, major construction of flood walls and berms in the Downtown Mill Pond area.

On **Tuesday, June 24, from noon to 1 p.m.**, the CRWD’s public outreach coordinator Tim Ruzek will give a photo presentation of dozens of historic images from the Cedar River Watershed in the Austin area dating back to the late 1800s. The presentation also will include comparison photos to how certain areas look today, including the North Main Street area near the Downtown Mill Pond. Images will include old photos as well as artist renderings that were used for postcards.

Long-time Austin photographer Nate Howard will present **“Photography in the Cedar River Watershed” from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26**. Howard will share his photos and stories from his many years of taking pictures along the Cedar River and other local waterways.

Cedar River Watershed District

In April 2007, state and local officials formed the CRWD in response to the Cedar River Watershed’s top, worst-known floods occurring in 2000 and 2004. The CRWD’s top priorities are aimed at reducing flooding and improving water quality within the Cedar River Watershed. Promoting water recreation is another priority, with the CRWD leading an effort that in 2012 led to the State of Minnesota officially designating the Cedar River as a State Water Trail under the Department of Natural Resources program.

CRWD, 1408 21st Ave. N.W., Austin, MN, 55912, (507) 434-2603 www.cedarriverwd.org “Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CedarRiverWD

WATERWAYS MONTH – PRESENTATIONS

(All events are FREE and will be in Austin Public Library’s large meeting room)

Saturday, June 14 (1-2 PM)

Free, all-ages showing of the movie **“Can You Canoe?”** by The Okee Dokee Brothers, a Grammy Award-winning, Americana folk duo.

Tuesday, June 17 (12-1 PM)

“The Future of East Side Lake” by Justin Hanson, resource specialist for the Cedar River Watershed District.

Thursday, June 19 (6:30-7:30 PM)

“City of Austin flood project update” by City Engineer Steven Lang.

Tuesday, June 24 (12-1 PM)

“Historic Images of the Cedar River” by Tim Ruzek, CRWD public outreach coordinator.

Thursday, June 26 (6:30-7:30 PM)

“Photography in the Cedar River Watershed” by long-time Austin photographer Nate Howard.

CONTACTS

Tim Ruzek, CRWD public outreach
507-993-2518 (cell)
tim_ruzek@yahoo.com