

## NEWS RELEASE



**MASWCD**

**For immediate release**

### **LYNN WICHMANN RECEIVES 2007 MASWCD TEACHER AWARD**

**St. Paul, Minn.**—The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has awarded Lynn Wichmann of Balaton with the 2007 MASWCD Teacher Award. The Lyon Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Wichmann for the award.

The award was presented at the 71<sup>st</sup> annual MASWCD convention, held Dec.2-4 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota. This award honors a K-12 educator/professional teacher who has created innovative conservation education activities for reaching students.

In materials provided in support of the nomination, the Lyon SWCD noted that Wichmann goes beyond just teaching the principals of conservation in the classroom – he gives the students an opportunity to experience the natural world outside the classroom and to become directly involved in natural resources management within the community.

With Wichmann playing a main role as the teacher who has the most science classes, the Balaton district maintains consistent working relationships with resource groups such as the Lyon SWCD, Heron Lake Environmental Learning Center, and Lake Shetek Environmental Learning Center. The activities Wichmann coordinates for the K-8 curriculum include several major environmental topics such as: trees, water, soils, landscapes and wildlife. Natural science is also strongly integrated into class projects that focus on geology, natural history, and Minnesota history.

Wichmann, an elementary and middle school science and social studies teacher since 1986, led his students in what may be his grandest project yet - the creation of the Fred Swanson Memorial Nature Trail along a wetland south of Lake Yankton. His students continue to help in trail maintenance and also use the trail as an education resource. The trail and much of Lake Yankton are accessible to the general public, thereby serving many local residents while attracting visitors to the community.

Under the tutelage of Wichmann, students in the Balaton area know their natural science projects will leave a legacy, one that helps ensure their community remains an appealing place to live.

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