

NEWS RELEASE



MASWCD

For immediate release

ALLAN LYNK NAMED OUTSTANDING FOREST STEWARD

St. Paul, Minn.—The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry have awarded Allan Lynk of Wadena with the 2008 Minnesota Outstanding Forest Steward Award. The Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) nominated Lynk for the award.

The award will be presented at the 72nd annual MASWCD Convention, which will be held Dec. 7-9 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront, St. Paul, Minnesota. The award honors landowners who have implemented innovated forestry conservation activities, demonstrated leadership, and achieved significant results in the protection of Minnesota's forestry resources.

Lynk has completed woodland management activities which have included 5 acres of tree plantings to add diversity to the property, and controlling the non-native, invasive species – buckthorn - on 44 acres through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program. Once the SWCD made Lynk aware of presence of the invasive buckthorn, Lynk began contacting adjoining landowners, who are now also working to control buckthorn. He has also helped spread the word on buckthorn to local garden clubs and has held a buckthorn workshop on his property.

Lynk has a Forest Stewardship Plan for his 2 properties, totaling 83 acres. The plan was developed for him in 2006 by staff with the Wadena SWCD. Lynk says that advice from the SWCD has helped him make many decisions on his forest lands, including decisions related to thinning, harvest, insect damage assessment and other general forest issues. In particular, Lynk is seeking to prevent shoreline erosion and protect the water quality of the Crow Wing River through his forest management techniques.

In its nomination of Lynk, the SWCD notes that, “Allan is a spirited, enthusiastic problem solver, continually stating, ‘If I don’t do it, who will?’ He is not afraid to tackle problems and is excited about managing the woodland as best as he can. He understands the importance of keeping forestlands healthy by diversifying your tree species and controlling invasive species.”

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