

NEWS RELEASE



MASWCD

For immediate release

ALLAN AMBROSE RECEIVES 2008 MASWCD TEACHER AWARD

St. Paul, Minn.—The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has awarded Allan Ambrose of Ogilvie, Minn. with the 2008 MASWCD Teacher Award. The Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District nominated Ambrose for the award.

The award will be presented at the 72nd annual MASWCD convention, to be held Dec.7-9 at the Crowne Plaza Riverfront, St. Paul, 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 Kanabec SWCD noted that the variety of programs taught by Ambrose provide students with opportunities to get hands on experiences both in the field and in the classroom.

Ambrose has incorporated into his education plan projects such as the Riverwatch Program, an Environmental Management contest, and Department of Natural Resources education tools such as the School Forest program, Project Wild and Project Learning Tree.

Now in its thirteenth year, the Riverwatch program in Ogilvie involves students in both field and laboratory studies. Ambrose oversees students collecting aquatic insects from a certain stream section each year. The insects are then identified and put into a database to study and determine the health of the stream. The program has shown very interesting results. The stream health has improved, since the farmer who owns the land along the stream has installed vegetative plantings, livestock exclusion from the stream and feedlot runoff improvements. Students helped plant the new vegetative buffer in 1995. The farmer worked with the Kanabec SWCD and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to install his practices.

The school nature and forest area, next to the school grounds, includes nature trails that are maintained annually by Ambrose's students. In addition to being the site for Ambrose's environmental management contest, community members use the walking trails and fifth and sixth grade science and biology classes use the nature area for outdoor class work.

Not only have Ambrose's activities benefited the landowners and community members by improving stream health and providing walking trails, but Ambrose has seen several students go on to work in the field of natural resource management – a true testament to the impact his activities are having on the youth. Ambrose can rest assured that his conservation education efforts will have positive long-lasting effects.

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