Thank you for attending the 2018 MASWCD Annual Convention!

Last week, we hosted the 82nd Annual Meeting and Trade Show of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. A special thank you to the hundreds of individuals – including SWCD board members, staff, legislators, and others who attended and made the convention a wonderful success!

Attendees heard from numerous speakers and attended engaging sessions covering a wide range of topics, including SWCD governance; effective outreach to landowners; BWSR grants; a media panel covering trends and topics in agriculture and conservation reporting; and a plenary session on sustainability and collaboration between public and private sectors.

We were also pleased to welcome Keynote Speaker Dr. Robin “Buz” Kloot, Soil Health Research Associate Professor from the University of South Carolina. Dr. Kloot has traveled the country researching and filming soil health, and shared fascinating stories about his journey and lessons learned.

We also presented several well-deserved awards, including:

**MASWCD/MPCA Community Conservationist Award:**
City of Crosby, nominated by Crow Wing SWCD

**MASWCD/DNR Outstanding Forest Steward Award:**
Erik and Amanda Nelson, nominated by Itasca SWCD

**DNR Division of Ecological/Water Resources Appreciation Award:**
West Polk SWCD

**MASWCD Teacher Award:**
Arik Anderson and the Project E3 Teaching Team, nominated by Mower SWCD

**MASWCD Friend of Conservation Award:**
Al Kean, BWSR Chief Engineer

**MASWCD Legislator of the Year:**
Senator Roger Chamberlain

Outstanding District Employee Award, presented by BWSR:
Donna Rasmussen, Fillmore SWCD Manager

Employee Outstanding Contribution Award, presented by MACDE:
Ben Ruley, Stearns SWCD employee

MASWCD Outstanding Supervisor Award:
Ian Cunningham, Pipestone SWCD Supervisor, past MASWCD President,
member of NACD Executive Board

SWCD of the Year Award:
Sherburne SWCD

Minneapolis Outstanding Conservationist Award:
Bruce Tiffany, nominated by Redwood SWCD

Happy holidays from MASWCD’s new leadership

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we wish you and your families a happy and peaceful holiday season.

We look forward to building on the successes of 2018 and continuing to provide valuable opportunities for SWCD leaders to build strong relationships, carry out effective conservation programs, and advocate for our shared interests statewide.

Roland Cleveland
President
MASWCD Board of Directors

Paul Krabbenhoft
Vice President
MASWCD Board of Directors
Northwest Area 1 Director

Video spotlight: Managing forests with an eye toward water quality in Lake County

Just north of Two Harbors along the Little Stewart River, brothers Larry and Brad Ronning work with the Lake County SWCD to help manage the local forest in ways that eliminate fire hazards while reintroducing trees and wildlife that are beneficial to the local ecosystem.

Click here to watch a short video about this project in Lake County!
This project was also featured in MASWCD’s new educational video about the work of SWCDs across Minnesota. (To watch that full video, click here!)

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**SWCDs in the news**

Soil and water conservation districts from around the state are making headlines! Check out these recent stories:

- **Local father-son farmers get Water Quality Certified** | Wadena Pioneer Journal
- **Video showcases Deerwood Township residents** | Brainerd Dispatch
- **Around Camp Ripley: Ag, forest easements aid habitat, mission** | Brainerd Dispatch
- **Josh and Stephanie Dahl to be honored at state convention** | Winona Daily News
- **Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District celebrates 70 years** | Hutchinson Leader
- **Local conservationists honored at state soil and water conservation district convention** | The Post Review
- **Farm Bill details released: What it means for Minnesota, from farming to food stamps** | Minnesota Public Radio
- **St. Peter farm recognized for conservation practices** | St. Peter Herald

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*If you know someone who might be interested in receiving our updates, share this sign up link.*