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Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

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Grant Pearson receives NACD Legislative Scholarship

For the second year, the MACDE Board of Directors voted to give a \$2,000 scholarship to one of its members to attend the NACD Legislative Conference in Washington DC.

Grant Pearson from the Stearns SWCD was the recipient of the 2009 scholarship. He was very eager and interested to take part in conservation efforts at Washington D.C.

Speakers included NRCS Chief Dave White, Asst. Secretary's from Dept. of Interior, EPA and U.S. Forest Service. Carole Jett, Deputy Chief of Staff to Sec. of Ag Tom Vilsack spoke during the luncheon. Grant met with NACD CEO Doug Loudenslager and NACD President Steve Robinson.

Grant had the experience of

meeting with staff from Senator Amy Klobuchar's and Al Franken's office. He also met Representative Collin Peterson and Anne Simmons who is



L to R: Doug Loudenslager (NACD CEO); Steve Sunderland (MASWCD President); Grant Pearson (Stearns SWCD).



Minnesota was represented well at the NACD Legislative Conference!

The MACDE Scholarship is a fantastic opportunity for MACDE Members to experience Conservation efforts at the highest level — in Washington D.C.”

The 2008 Scholarship went to Pam Tomevi, from Koochiching SWCD, who also had a great experience. The MACDE Board of Directors plans to keep this annual scholarship available to its members.

BWSR Academy Training

The MACDE Board of Directors urges all MACDE members to attend the upcoming BWSR Academy training. The dates of the Academy are November 2-4, and will be held at Craguns Conference Center near Brainerd.

Training to be included will feature the following tracks: Program Administration; Technical; Organization

Capacity, and Miscellaneous. More information about the Academy can be found on the BWSR website: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/academy>.

Those employees who were members of MACDE on or before July 30, 2009, will receive a \$20 discount on their registration. MACDE will also be holding it's annual Board

meeting on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th**, beginning at 1:30 PM.
Hope to see you all there!



Do you have something you'd like to see included in the Newsletter? Have an idea for a website posting? Or need more information on something? Contact your MACDE Area Director or:

Felicia Brockoff, MACDE President
E-mail: fbrockoff@co.carver.mn.us



Think about it...

When you throw dirt, you lose ground. ~Texan Proverb

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. ~Thomas Fuller

Now that it's all over, what did you really do yesterday that's worth mentioning? ~Coleman Cox

MACDE Mission

- Provide a means of communication between district employees to exchange information and ideas that encourage unification and coordination of our district programs.
- Help to establish and support a continuing education program for all district employees.
- Provide input into the activities of MASWCD and the Board of Water and Soil Resources, to increase the contribution of district employees and effectiveness of districts and their programs.
- Inform district employees of current events and job opportunities.
- Strive to maintain a stable and harmonious working relationship between districts, employees, supervisors, and cooperating agencies.

Native and Non-Invasive Plants

The MACDE Board of Directors would like to remind Districts that with the 2010 tree season approaching, Districts should review their tree/plants list to insure there are only native plant species on those lists.

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) policy *requires* the use of NATIVE and NON-INVASIVE plant material in SWCD sales and conservation plans (see the June 12, 2009 memo sent out from Steve Sunderland, MASWCD President).

Districts can also refer to the BWSR state cost share handbook which reads *"The state is concerned about invasive non-native species. The State Cost-Share Program prohibits the seeding/planting of invasive non-native species on State Cost-Share Program conservation practices where they are likely to colonize more desirable stable plant communities. Where the SWCD determines that site conditions necessitate the use of invasive nonnative species, prior to planting, the SWCD must include a copy of the justification to plant invasive non-native species in the project file (please refer to Invasive Non-Native Species Policy found later in Part V)."*

There are many websites Districts can go to for more information. A few of them are listed below for your reference:

- http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees_shrubs/index.html
- <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/invasives.htm>
- <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>
- <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>
- <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/index.cfm>

Highlights from July 30, 2009

MACDE Board Meeting

- MACDE has received its OWN tax identification number. Previously, the SWCD that the Treasurer was from, is the number that has been used. The Board of Directors is now looking into the possibility of becoming tax exempt, under the 501(c)(4) exemption for "Local Associations of Employees."
- Jim Lemmerman gave the Board a report on Emerald Ash Borer, along with various handouts. **When ordering your stock for the 2010 tree sales, please remember to provide those species that are native to Minnesota!**
- Area Training Funds—the MACDE Board has set aside \$300 per AREA for training of staff. If you have a training scheduled for 2009, contact your area director to see if you have remaining funds!
- In an effort to reduce costs to SWCD's the MACDE Board is encouraging all MACDE staff to attend the BWSR Academy training in November. The MACDE Annual Meeting will also be held in conjunction with the Academy.
- MACDE will again be selling raffle tickets, which will be arriving at offices soon!

