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Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

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SUMMER 2010

Doug Bos receives NACD Legislative Scholarship

For the third 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.

Doug Bos from the Rock SWCD was the recipient of the 2010 scholarship. He was very eager and interested to take part in conservation efforts at Washington D.C.

MASWCD President, Steve Sunderland, and Assistant Director, Sheila Vanney also attended the recent conference. Meetings were held with Rep. Collin Peterson and with staff from the offices of Rep. Tim Walz, Rep. Betty McCollum, Rep. Michele Bachmann, Rep. Jim Oberstar, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Sen. Al Franken.

Doug stated "The conference was a great place to connect and discuss issues that affect all of us who work with

and promote conservation across the United States, along with the chance to promote conservation to our legislative representatives." The 2009 Scholarship went to Grant Pearson, from Stearns SWCD, who also had a great experience. The MACDE Board of Directors plans to keep this annual scholarship available to its members.

Photo below: Steve Sunderland (left) and Doug Bos (right) pose with staff from Senator Al Franken's office.



L to R: Doug Bos (Rock SWCD); Steve Sunderland (MASWCD President); Sheila Vanney (MASWCD Assistant Director) outside the House Agriculture Committee hearing room, after meeting with Rep. Collin Peterson, Chair of the Committee.



BWSR Academy & Annual MACDE Meeting

The MACDE Board of Directors urges all MACDE members to attend the upcoming BWSR Academy training. The dates of the Academy are October 26-28, and will be held at the Breezy Point Conference Center near Brainerd.

Training to be included will feature the following tracks: Program Administration; Technical; Organization Capacity, and Miscellaneous. More in-

formation about the Academy can be found on the BWSR website: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/academy/index.html>.

Those employees who were [MACDE members](#) on or before June 3, 2010, will receive a \$20 discount on their registration.

MACDE will also be holding it's **Annual Membership Meeting** on **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26th, at 9:00 AM**. The meeting

will be held before the Academy kicks off, so you can attend all the training offered at the Academy.

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



Opportunities are never lost; someone will take the one you miss. ~Author Unknown

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. ~Theodore Roosevelt

I quit being afraid when my first venture failed and the sky didn't fall down. ~Allen H. Neuharth

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.

Trees for Wadena

The following article was submitted by Anne Oldakowski, Forestry Technician with the Wadena SWCD

"The city of Wadena has lost a large part of their community forest due to the tornado," says Anne Oldakowski, a forestry technician with the Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District.

The Wadena Area Replant Project has been created by a group of thoughtful citizens, many who are involved in businesses within our community. The goal of the project is to raise \$100,000 to replant 10,000 trees into Wadena in 2011.

Why donate? The community wants their trees back. \$100,000 = 10,000 trees...a huge start to bringing back Wadena's stature as a Tree City USA.

Erik Osberg from Edward Jones Investments is part of this group. "\$100,000 could maybe replace one home for one family, or we could plant 10,000 trees and change the landscape of our community, forever!"

Trees provide numerous benefits including energy savings, stress reduction, a connection with nature, absorption of carbon dioxide, oxygen production, increased property values, habitat for wildlife and control erosion.

A website has been created for the project: www.treesforwadena.com, where you can donate online through giveMN.org and the Initiative Foundation. Any monetary amount is welcome and we encourage everyone to spread the word in your circles of friends. You can also view progress of the project on the website, which will soon include a discussion board on donating trees and volunteering to help replant our community. You can also follow the project on Facebook as Wadena Area Replant Project.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Anne or Molly at the Wadena Soil & Water Conservation District at 218-631-3195 ext 3.

Highlights from July 30, 2009

MACDE Board Meeting

- MACDE will partner with MASWCD, and will be supporting an "Outstanding Administrative Professional" award annually. The first award will be given out at the 2011 MASWCD Convention.
- In an effort to reduce training costs to SWCD's, the MACDE Board is again encouraging all MACDE staff to attend the [BWSR Academy](#) training. **The MACDE Annual Meeting will also be held in conjunction with the Academy, starting at 9 AM on October 26.** *The employee receiving the Extraordinary Contribution Award will be announced at that meeting, please make every effort to attend if you're a member!*
- Area Training Funds—the MACDE Board has set aside \$300 per AREA for training of staff. If you have a training scheduled for 2010, contact your area director to see if you have remaining funds!
- MACDE will again be selling raffle tickets, which will be arriving at offices soon!
- **NEXT MEETING DATE: AUGUST 26, 2010 at the Stearns County USDA Service Center.**

