

Each year, the 88 Soil and Water Conservation Districts comprising The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), offer the MASWCD Outstanding Conservationist Award to recognize individuals, conservation organizations, and others for outstanding accomplishments with implementing conservation practices and improving Minnesota's natural resources. Each year, SWCDs across the state honor a variety of landowners, ag-producers, lake associations, civic organizations, and others for their efforts to preserve rare or declining habitats, incorporate new management techniques, conserve resources, and reduce the amount of runoff of sediment and nutrients to Minnesota's surface waters.



This year, Wright Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to name

Curt and Judy Forst as Wright County's 2023 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. Since 1999, the Forsts have lived on the shores of Howard Lake and been members of the lake association. In 2001, Curt became Association president. They were instrumental in starting their lake and stream sampling program and treatment of Eurasian Watermilfoil. They promoted partnering with the city to install a public access rain garden, stormwater drain marking, and several shoreline plantings. Curt is also president of the Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations, a member of the Wright County AIS Advisory Committee, and Water Management Task Force.

The Forst's have shown relentless drive working with landowners around the lake to solve erosion issues and connecting partners to implement projects. The Wright SWCD admires Curt and Judy for their continued efforts towards conservation.