



WRIGHT SWCD NEWS

Winter 2024 Newsletter of Wright Soil & Water Conservation District

2023 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST CURT AND JUDY FORST

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Our Mission: To be the trusted leader in natural resource conservation in Wright County.

Wright Soil and Water Conservation District was proud to name Curt and Judy Forst as our county’s 2023 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year.

Since 1999, the Forst’s 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.

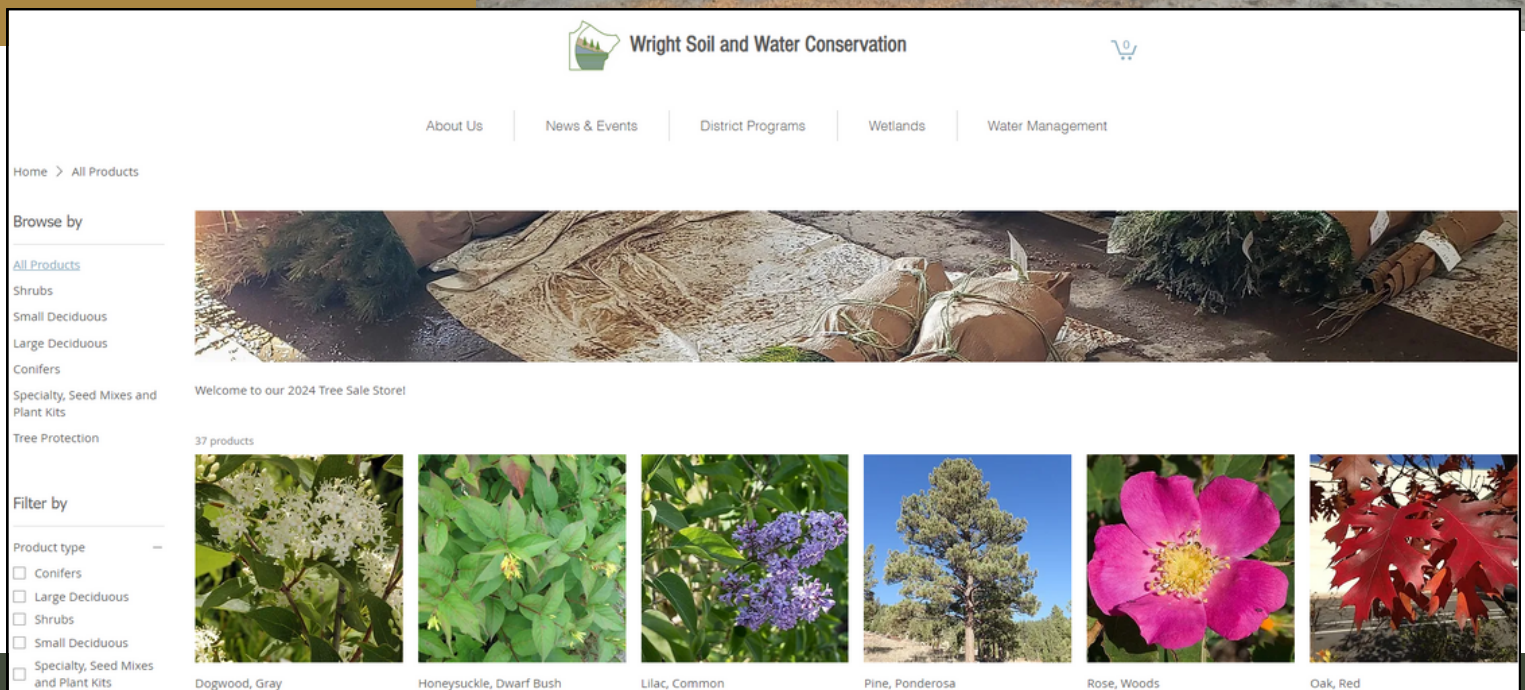
The Forst’s have shown relentless drive working with landowners around the lake to solve erosion issues and connecting partners to implement projects. The Wright SWCD admires Curt and Judy for their continued efforts towards conservation.



TREE PROGRAM 2024

The Wright SWCD Tree Program offers inexpensive bareroot tree seedling each spring for conservation planting.

Tree Program Store is NOW OPEN for anyone on our website! wrightswcd.org
Order soon, supplies are limited.



A NOTE FROM THE DESK OF ERIC MATTSON:

It has been an unusual winter thus far. Maybe you have been thinking about spring planting lately. Winter may not be finished with us yet, but it is a great time for preparation.

Browse the Tree Store on our new website and plan for spring planting. We have a "Fruit and Nut 10 Pack" this year along with two native plant kits and two seed mix options.

Tree tubes and stakes are offered again.

They will ship direct to you from the manufacturer and do not need to be ordered separately from trees. Tree pickup times are planned for late April.



TREE LIST



Wright Soil & Water Conservation District

311 Brighton Ave S. Suite C
Buffalo, MN 55313
763-682-1970
Email: eric.mattson@usda.gov

2024

ONLINE ORDERS DUE Monday April, 15th

Bare Root Seedlings sold in bundles of 25

	Species	Size	Price
Shrubs	Cranberry, Highbush	18-24"	\$40.00
	Dogwood, Gray	18-24"	\$40.00
	Honeysuckle, Dwarf Bush	18-24"	\$40.00
	Lilac, Common	12-18"	\$40.00
	Rose, Woods	18-24"	\$40.00
	Spicebush	18-24"	\$40.00
	Thimbleberry	12-18"	\$40.00
	Winterberry	18-24"	\$40.00
Small Deciduous	Apple, Domestic	18-24"	\$40.00
	Cherry, Pin	18-24"	\$40.00
	Chokecherry	18-24"	\$40.00
	Hawthorn, Downy	12-18"	\$40.00
	Redbud	18-24"	\$40.00
	Willow, Bebb's	18-24"	\$40.00
Large Deciduous	Aspen, Quaking	18-24"	\$40.00
	Birch, Yellow	12-18"	\$40.00
	Butternut	18-24"	\$40.00
	Coffeetree, Kentucky	18-24"	\$40.00
	Oak, Chinkapin	12-18"	\$40.00
	Oak, Northern Red	12-18"	\$40.00
	Maple, Sugar	18-24"	\$40.00
	Maple, Red	18-24"	\$40.00
Sycamore, American	18-24"	\$40.00	
Conifers	Arborvitae, American	10-16" (2-1)	\$40.00
	Balsam Fir	8-14" (2-1)	\$40.00
	Cypress, Bald	18-24" (1-0)	\$40.00
	Black hills Spruce	8-15" (2-1)	\$40.00
	Ponderosa Pine	7-15" (2-2)	\$40.00
	White Pine	8-15" (2-1)	\$40.00
Variety Pack	Fruiting 10 Pack- 2 each of: Allegheny Serviceberry, American Plum, Flowering Raspberry, Northern Pecan, Persimmon		\$40.00
Native Seed Mixes	Mesic Prairie - medium/clay	covers 1,000 sq ft	\$50.00
	Pollinator - dry/mesic	covers 1,000 sq ft	\$60.00
Native Plant Kits	Part Shady Garden Kit - 6 species, 36 plants		\$60.00
	Sunny Upland Garden Kit - 6 species, 36 plants		\$60.00

NEW ONLINE STORE
Use QR code:



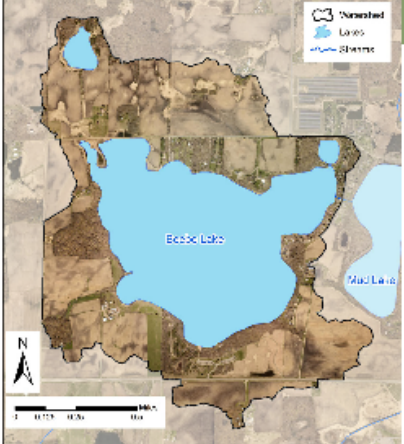
wrightswcd.org/tree-program-store

Water Quality Information Readily Available On Our New Website

Are you curious about the water quality of a lake in Wright County? Thanks to some wonderful volunteers, over 30 lakes in Wright County have data available, some going back over 20 years.

This data can now be viewed on the water monitoring page on our new website. An interactive map allows users to click on select lakes and view a pdf with the data and explanations.

Beebe Lake Quick Guide



Summary

Lake ID: 86-0023-00 **Nearby:** St. Michael, MN

Surface Area: 323 acres

Watershed Area: 958 acres

Ordinary High Water Level: 969 ft


Max Depth: 39 ft **Average Depth:** 14 ft

AIS: Curly-leaf pondweed, common carp, Eurasian watermilfoil

Impairments: Nutrients, Fish Life

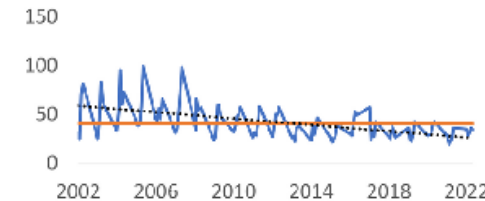
Classification: **E**

A classification of E means the lake is Eutrophic or "well nourished". Contrary to it's meaning these lakes are generally considered impaired. The water is generally green with algae especially later in the summer. Some recreation will be hindered. Fisheries may be limited.



How to read the graphs

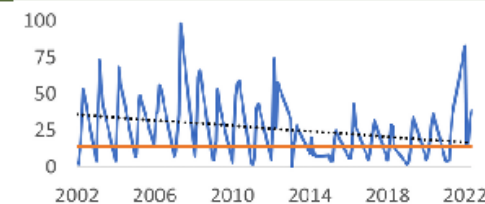
The solid blue lines show the change in water quality. The lower the line the healthier the lake. The SWCD's goal is for the solid blue line to be below the orange line. This is the threshold for impairment. The dotted line shows the trend over time. A minimum of 5 years of recent data is required for a trend.



Phosphorus

Phosphorus is needed by plants and animals to survive, but can cause algae blooms if there is too much phosphorus available. Some sources of high phosphorus are fertilizer, human and animal waste, and soil erosion

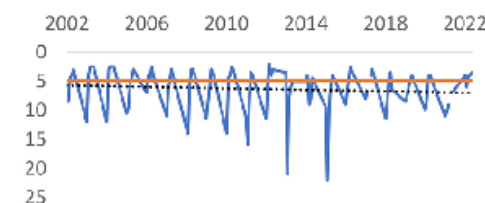
Trend: Improving



Chlorophyll-a

Chlorophyll-a is a measurement of the amount of algae in a lake. Some algae can produce dangerous toxins. High algal concentrations threaten aquatic life and can impede recreation and enjoyment of the lake

Trend: Improving



Clarity

Clarity is affected by the abundance of algae and sediment in the water column. Low clarity means sunlight does not reach deeper portions of the lake to support plant and animal life. In this graph the lower the line the deeper sunlight can penetrate

Trend: Improving



If a lake you are interested in doesn't have data you can volunteer! Samples are taken once a month in May, June, July, August, and September. Analysis costs in 2023 were \$300. Data is then worked up by SWCD staff to make the graphs. In addition, the data is used by SWCD staff and state agencies to make conservation minded decisions. Contact Alicia O'Hare alicia.ohare@usda.gov to learn more.



Volunteer Training

Volunteer sample collection

Lab Analysis

Data posted online

Data used by local organizations

Data used by County Water Plan

Data used by MPCA

WHITNEY PETERSON

Operations Specialist



Whitney started with the District in September of 2023. Her interest and exposure to Soil and Water Conservation Districts peaked in December 2022, when her husband's farm operation was awarded the Area IV Outstanding Conservationist of the Year. She spent the previous eleven years working for a global agricultural company, with the last nine years focused on seed sales and production in Central Minnesota.

Whitney holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. She assists with accounting, benefits, grant reporting, marketing and promotions, event logistics, along with supporting the District Manager and our Board of Supervisors.

2023 Photo Contest Winners



Each year Wright SWCD hosts a photo contest and uses the submitted photos on our website, in reports, and on social media. The unedited, non-photoshopped pictures must be taken in Wright County between January 1 and December 1.

The four categories are: 1) Landscape & Wildlife, 2) Active Recreation, 3) Humorous or Unusual Observation, and 4) Conservation Efforts.

1st place winners receive \$100 and 2nd place winners receive \$50 in each of the four categories. Multiple entries are accepted.

Check out our website wrightswcd.org for additional details and the entry form!



**WRIGHT SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

311 BRIGHTON AVE SOUTH, SUITE C
BUFFALO, MN 55313
763-682-1970