



DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dakota County Extension and Conservation Center
4100 220th Street West, Suite 102
Farmington, MN 55024
Phone: (651) 480-7777
Fax: (651) 480-7775

News

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For more information call: Laura Jester 651-480-7784

Joe Beattie of Hastings Receives Outstanding Conservationist Award

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District is proud to announce their selection for the Outstanding Conservation Award for 2009: Joe Beattie of Hastings. Joe received this honor due to his tireless conservation work including restoring wetlands and prairies in and around Hastings, promoting conservation through teaching and leading, and being an engaged citizen on advisory committees.

Joe is a biology teacher at Hastings High School where he inspires students to study, restore and care for their natural surroundings. He gets kids in the field – collecting bugs in the Vermillion River to understand water quality, collecting native seeds in the sand coulee area to restore rare habitats, and collecting trash from rivers and streams. Each year he holds a “floating classroom” on the Vermillion River where kids learn, first hand, about watershed management and the valuable floodplain ecosystem.

Joe’s conservation work reaches far beyond the classroom, too. Since 1999, he has led a team of adult volunteers who collect wetland data each summer through the Wetland Health Evaluation Program; he is an active member of the Vermillion River Watershed Planning Commission, the Mississippi Makeover Citizen Advisory Group, and the Hastings Environmental Protectors; and he never misses an opportunity to discuss conservation with local officials, agencies and organizations. Joe is a great example of a “citizen in action.” Through leading, teaching, and volunteering, he does a great deal to inspire future conservationists and improve our ecosystems in Dakota County!

Joe will be recognized and commended on his award at a luncheon at the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts in Duluth on December 8th.