

Awards for 2005 were given at the Minnesota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting on March 3, 2006 in Owatonna, MN

Outstanding Service Award for 2005

Michael Appel, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist

The Outstanding Service Award is available annually to a Minnesota Chapter SWCS member who has ten years or more of service to the Chapter. The Chapter would like to recognize Mike Appel not only for his many years of service to the Chapter, but his outstanding leadership in southwest Minnesota. He has contributed countless hours as past Secretary to the Minnesota Chapter. Mike exemplifies what it means to be an active, contributing member to the Minnesota Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Commendation Award for 2005

The Commendation Award is available annually to Minnesota Chapter SWCS members for their commendable service to the Minnesota SWCS. The Chapter did not receive any nominations for this award this year.

Honor Award for 2005

The Honor Award is available annually to members or non-members for accomplishments in the natural resource field. The Chapter did not receive any nominations for this award this year.

Merit Award for 2005 (2/year)

Glen Kajewski, NRCS Thief River Falls

The Merit Award is available annually to a SWCS member or non-member group, agency, business, product, etc. for accomplishments or contributions to the natural resource field. The Chapter would like to recognize the Glen Kajewski for his work with the NRCS and his ongoing leadership on conservation projects. Glen has a strong ability to work with people and has great understanding of the importance of getting conservation on the land.

Jerry Spetzman, Chisago County Environmental Services

The Merit Award is available annually to a SWCS member or non-member group, agency, business, product, etc. for accomplishments or contributions to the natural resource field. The Minnesota Chapter would like to recognize Jerry Spetzman for his work at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture where he was responsible for developing and implementing materials and programs

designed to educate children, homeowners and lawn care industry professionals about watersheds, lake management, ground water, responsible lawn care, landscapes, and their responsibilities to protect water quality. He has acted as project leader in a number of important projects and has provided primary staff support. In addition, he has acted on steering committees for a number of urban and rural projects. Jerry has been a member of Minn. SWCS for about 10 years.

News/ Media Award for 2005

The News/Media award is available annually for the dedication and promotion of natural resource issues in the news or media. The Chapter did not receive any nominations for this award this year.

Education Award for 2005

Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District

The Education Award is available annually to an individual, group, agency, etc. for their contribution to the conservation education of adults and/or youth. The Minnesota Chapter of SWCS would like to recognize Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the SWCS Education Award. Goodhue SWCD has a long record of education of adults and youth in the county. They have conducted a conservation field day for the sixth graders in the county annually for over 17 years. Encouraging school-aged children to participate in the MASWCD Poster and Essay contests has resulted in a number of area and statewide winners. The SWCD has hosted various tours for legislators and county officials that have had noticeable, positive impacts. They have also worked with the regular newspapers in the county as well as specialty publications to extend the conservation message throughout the area.