

Best known for his television shows “Good Fishing” and “Outdoor Secrets,” Babe Winkelman has been sharing his passion for the outdoors with America for more than 35 years. Winkelman grew up on a small farm near Duell, Minn., where he learned the value of protecting and preserving natural resources for future generations. Today, his focus on conservation allows him to highlight the importance of SWCDs.

For the past ten years, Winkelman has been transforming his 260-acre property near Perham into a showcase for conservation. While working closely with local government staff and using several state and federal programs, Winkelman planted more than 13,000 trees, installed 25,000 feet of weed fabric, restored 58 acres of native prairie, cleared more than 10,000’ of wildlife trails, and maintained several acres of food plots. His remaining tillable acres utilize residue management and cover crop planting practices to prevent erosion and maintain soil health.



[Click here to watch an episode of “Outdoor Secrets,” which features the East Otter Tail SWCD’s tree planting and weed matting crew on Winkelman’s property in Perham.](#)

Darren Newville, East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, said, “The project featured on Babe Winkelman’s recent ‘Outdoor Secrets’ television show are a prime example of the SWCD staff working with private landowners to put conservation on the ground. This particular CRP project set aside some marginal farm land that was susceptible to erosion, and created some great wildlife habitat that will provide travel corridors between other existing habitats.”

At the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (MASWCD) annual convention in December, the East Otter Tail SWCD selected Babe Winkelman as the 2012 Outstanding Conservationist.

“Mr. Winkelman’s dedication to installing best management practices on his land, coupled with his vision for protecting Minnesota’s natural resources make him a model conservationist,” said LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director. “MASWCD is proud to honor his achievements through the Outstanding Conservationist Award.”

*Content for this story was provided by EOT SWCD.*