2016 Conservation Partners of the Year
Tom and Marcie Conroy

The Traverse Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board of Supervisors are pleased to announce their selection of the 2016 Traverse County Conservation Partners of the Year: Tom and Marcie Conroy and family. The Conroy’s are recognized for their dedication to the preservation of wildlife habitat and protection of natural resources in our County. The family plans to formally accept their award along with candidates from around the state during the annual Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts convention in Bloomington this December.

Tragically, Tom’s father passed away after a car accident when Tom was only 14. Ten years later, Tom began farming on his own. He and Marcie married in 1976 and raised two children, Trent and Anna, on the farm. Tom was a charter member of the Minnesota Barley Council and served for six years. During that time, he was appointed as a director of the American Coalition for Ethanol. Currently, Tom works as a district sales manager for NuTech Seed but remains actively involved in the management of the 800 acres he now leases to his son and another young farmer. He was excited to try foliar feeding soybeans this summer which serves to reduce the amount of land applied crop fertilizers. Tom is an avid fisherman and is excited about the improvement in the water quality of Lake Traverse he has experienced over the past ten years.

Tom and Marcie have enrolled over 70 acres of their land into Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices including tree plantings, filter strips, wetland buffers, and native habitat which also serve to improve water quality of our local lakes, rivers, and wetlands. They take pride in the wildlife habitat they have established near their home. They enjoy watching deer and pheasants forage within the CRP. Tom and his children also enjoy hunting on the family’s land. Tom has been a member of the Traverse County Sportsman’s Club, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited for over 35 years.
Tom and Marcie are pictured overlooking a wetland restoration project near their home.

Several rows of Tom’s field windbreaks are pictured below: