



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service Earth Team

Volunteer Showcase

Earth Team Volunteer Makes a Difference in Arkansas & Minnesota

It's hard to believe that it's been 21 years since Sherry Watson became an Earth Team Volunteer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Arkansas. Ms. Watson began her journey in volunteering when her husband Gary was an NRCS District Conservationist.

Sherry continued her volunteering with the NRCS when her husband moved to Marshall, Minnesota to work as the Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations.

Over the years, Sherry has helped the NRCS in many ways. "Exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair and taking pictures at events such as Farm Fest and the 1,000th easement event," said Gary. "The tasks Sherry worked on were important components of NRCS conducting outreach."

The Earth Team is NRCS' volunteer workforce that is making a difference in every county in the nation. NRCS works with private landowner to improve soil quality, conserve water, improve air quality and enhance wildlife habitat. "This seemed to be perfect fit for Sherry," said Gary. "Getting to know people in a community is important and having Sherry serve as an ETV made sense."

The Earth Team offers many opportunities for people who are interested in volunteering to improve the nation's natural resources.



L-R: Shawnn Balstad, DC, Ada; Sherry Watson, Earth Team Volunteer and Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist, participated in the 1000th Easement event in Ulen, Minnesota.

"Volunteering at NRCS has been something Sherry has enjoyed," said Gary. "Mrs. Watson likes to contribute in her community and serving as an Earth Team Volunteer has been a win-win."

For more information regarding the Earth Team Volunteer program in Minnesota, please contact Julie MacSwain at (651)-602-7859 or via email at: Julie.macswain@mn.usda.gov.

The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the National Earth Team Office at 888-526-3227 or visit:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/EarthTeam>

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