



# Salo Wins Minnesota Conservation Award

New York Mills Fifth Grade Teacher Doug Salo is the 2022 recipient of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Teacher Award. Each year, the state's soil and water districts honor a K-12 teacher who has created innovative student conservation education activities.

Since he started teaching 38 years ago, Mr. Salo has seen benefits of working with local soil and water districts. He credits both his nephew Wade Salo along with the Project 56 format for the increase in soil and water projects the past decade. Wade (who passed away from cancer in 2020) was a soil and water district employee who visited the fifth grade each year to discuss the water table. Moving to Project 56 (a middle school format for 5th-6th grade) allowed more time for Mr. Salo to spend on science and other projects.

Mr. Salo says these projects are important because conserving is a lifelong skill.

East Otter Tail Soil & Water employee Nate Weise presented Mr. Salo with his award last week. "He is to blame for the award," said Salo.

During Conservation Week in May, NY Mills fifth graders visit Walker Lake Fish Hatchery. Soil & Water employee Liz Weise runs the program at Walker Lake and is also with NYM on the wildflower pollinator project. Mr. Salo credits this field trip in teaching foundations for the Science MCA test.



Fifth and sixth graders spent some time packing the ground in preparation for planting a wildflower bed, in partnership with Perham Soil and Water. "Perham Soil & Water have helped our students every time I have asked," Said Salo.

Doug Salo's nephew Wade Salo shared his soil and water expertise with 5th graders. Mr. Salo says the soil & water are a great resource for his classroom.

