

Nominee: Todd Jenson, 1627 4th Ave West, Monroe, WI 53566 608-325-4195 ext 119

Todd.Jenson@wi.nacdnet.net

Award Category: Outstanding Conservation Employee- County Conservationist

Green County Land and Water Conservation Department, County Conservationist. 28 years of service as County Conservationist. 36 total to Green County.

Education: University of Wisconsin- Platteville Bachelor of Science, May 1986, Major: Crop & Soil Science
Minor: Animal Science

Todd Jenson started working for Green County Land Conservation Department in February of 1987 and has walked many miles to lay contour strips, surveyed for barnyards, roof gutters, diversions, waterways, grade stabilization structures and streambank work and oversaw construction of these and more practices. He started as a Project Technician, moving to a Conservation Technician in 1990 and took on the County Conservationist role in 1995.

Co-nominators: Tonya Gratz
1627 4th Ave West
Monroe, WI 53566
608-325-4195 ext 121
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Susan Nelson
County Board Supervisor
District 10
Member Land & Water Conservation Committee
snelson@greencountywi.org

Todd has been instrumental in assuring that the land and soil judging contests are held in Green County and the Southwest Area. He graciously agreed to be featured in a locally produced video that teaches kids and teachers about land judging in Wisconsin that has been watched 264 times. He has been engaged in the process of rulebook revisions and trialing new ideas. He is always happy to teach others about soils and their properties. The last two falls, he volunteered to fill in for a tech college soils class showing them recently dug soil pits. The Green County Land Judging Contest has had the tradition of holding the contest at a local farm and then everyone goes to the Moose Lodge in Monroe for awards and lunch. The contest was so popular this fall, that lunch couldn't be planned due to too many people for the building's occupancy.

Something unique to the Green County LWCD office is a weekly radio program on WEKZ that has been said to be the oldest continuous running program. Todd has done the lion's share of coming up with topics and recording it weekly for airing on local radio Monday mornings. The radio station used to provide cassette tapes that Todd would record his 3-5 minute educational blurb, updates and reminders on and then a station employee would physically pick them up from the office. The county has since updated to recording the programs on the computer and then emailing it to the station.

Todd is a good supervisor in that he is willing to let employees try new ideas for outreach and programs and will support their success. He is not a micromanager, he gives pretty free reign to employees which is greatly appreciated. He is calm and willing to reach out for help and others opinions when faced with big decisions, maybe even controversial, like large farms moving into the county. He is willing to meet with landowners to give them advice no matter how small the problem. He maintains the department's budget within all guidelines set forth by the county. He has been a lasting asset to the county with his wealth of institutional knowledge gleaned over the last 36 years.

Message of support:

As County Conservationist and Department Head, Todd Jenson has maintained the Land and Water Conservation department's budget within all guidelines set forth by the county. Education of County Supervisors and Committee members is also a role of Todd's. He often brings speakers and partner staff to address current topics at committee meetings. Open to new projects and roles, this past year the department acknowledged the value of the County Clean Sweep program and will be taking that program under the Land and Water Department workload and budget moving forward. He has been a lasting asset to the county with his wealth of institutional knowledge gleaned over the last 36 years. The County recognizes the outstanding value Todd Jenson has brought to the land owners and residents of Green County!

Kristi Leonard, Green County Board of Supervisors – and Land and Water Committee Chair