

Conservation Connections

Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.ecswcd.org



Quarterly District Newsletter

Summer 2003

Orchard Park Wins Erie County Envirothon

For the second year in a row, students from Orchard Park High School became the Erie County Envirothon champions. The 2003 Erie County Envirothon was held on May 1st at the Erie County Forest on Genesee Road in Sardinia. Teams of high school students competed to achieve the highest score in the Envirothon test categories of aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife, and the 2003 current issue "Agricultural Land Conservation and Preservation."

The Orchard Park team will advance to the New York State Envirothon to be held on May 28th and 29th at SUNY Morrisville,



The Orchard Park High School Envirothon team, shown here receiving their award from Erie County Envirothon Coordinator Megan Gollwitzer, took top honors for the second year in a row.

where they will compete against other Envirothon winners from counties throughout New York State. The winning team at the State Envirothon will proceed to the Canon National Envirothon. Scholarships are awarded to the highest scoring teams at both the state and national competitions.

Schools participating in the 2003 Erie County Envirothon included Bishop Timon St. Jude High School, East Aurora High School, Immaculata Academy, Lakeshore Central High School, Orchard Park High School, Park School, Springville-Griffith Institute, West Seneca East High School, and Williamsville North High School. The Erie County Envirothon is held annually and is open to all high schools in Erie County. For more information on the Envirothon, please contact Megan Gollwitzer, Erie County Envirothon Coordinator, at 652-8480.

Through youth education, the Envirothon strives to ensure the success of future conservation efforts by fostering a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the natural world in students. The District is grateful to the following sponsors who contributed to this investment in our future:

- | | |
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87,000 Trees and Shrubs Planted

The District had another great year with the annual Conservation Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale. Through the program a total of 87,000 tree and shrub seedlings and transplants were distributed to Erie County residents. Thank you to all our customers. Remember that you have purchased starter plants and the more care and protection you provide to them the better your results will be.

The District is grateful for the help and support of the following: AmeriCorps of West Seneca, People Inc., Master Gardeners of Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Masterson's Home and Garden Showplace, Tops Market of East Aurora and Jubilee Market of East Aurora.

 ★ ENVIROTHON RAFFLE ★
 ★ **Win a Buffalo Sabres Hockey Stick!** ★
 ★ *autographed by #71 Jochen Hecht* ★
 ★ Tickets available at Erie County ★
 ★ SWCD or call 652-8480 ★
 ★ **Donation: \$1.00** ★
 ★ All proceeds will support the Erie County Envirothon ★
 ★ Drawing will be held September 30, 2003 ★



Stream Cleanups Help Improve Our Waterfront

Over 300 people helped clean up Scajaquada Creek and several sites on the Buffalo River in April. The cleanup events were sponsored by Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers, Scajaquada Creek Watershed Advisory Council and Keep WNY Beautiful. Volunteers picked up litter and large debris from the stream and banks at the annual cleanup on the Scajaquada Creek Pathway near Delaware Park, and Bob Hartl from 1-800-GOT-JUNK? donated his services to haul away the debris. This year, thanks to a newly replaced railing along the path, only two shopping carts were found in the stream.

The Valley Community Center, Buffalo Paddle Club, Buffalo State College athletic department, Canisius College and many other volunteers scoured the waterfront at several sites along Buffalo River and 10 huge truck loads of debris were hauled away by the County and Rigidized Metals. Cleanup areas included Old Bailey Woods, Seneca Bluffs, North Legion Drive, Hamburg Street, Ohio Street and Smith Street. Several local industries also worked on the Buffalo River cleanup.

Through the continued efforts of hardworking volunteers, our local waterfront can be cleaner and more enjoyable. Aquatic and riparian habitat and water quality can be improved too. To volunteer or for more information visit www.fbnr.org ♦

District Welcomes New Board Member—Legislator David Dale

The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to welcome Erie County Legislator David Dale to its Board of Directors.

As Legislator of District #5 representing the Village of Sloan, west Cheektowaga, and the City of Buffalo's Broadway, Fillmore, and Lovejoy neighborhoods, Mr. Dale maintains an active role within the community. Among numerous other activities, Mr. Dale is Vice Chairman of Mid Erie Mental Health Services, Lieutenant for the Buffalo Police Reserve, and sits on the Legislature's Energy and Environment and Ad Hoc Regionalism Committees. Prior to his appointment to the Erie County Legislature, Mr. Dale maintained a private law office in Buffalo for 15 years, and has represented the interests of Sloan as Village Attorney since 1997.

A native of Buffalo, Legislator Dale graduated Cum Laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and completed his Juris Doctor degree at Northwestern University School of Law.

The District looks forward to Mr. Dale's involvement on the Board of Directors. ♦

Fish Stocking Program

The District is pleased to offer its annual summer fish-stocking program. The District offers largemouth bass for summer stocking of warm-water and cool-water ponds. Largemouth bass perform well for sport fishing in ponds that are one-sixth acre or larger. Bass are initially stocked at rate of 100 per surface acre (43,560 square feet) and the population will thrive if appropriate management practices are followed. More information about fish stocking can be found in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Information Bulletin #116 *Fish Management in New York Ponds* which is available at Erie County Cooperative Extension at 652-5400, and at the District.

Feeder fish should also be stocked for the bass. The District offers fathead minnows, which are stocked at a rate of 400 minnows per surface acre. Ideally minnows should be stocked one year before a new introduction of bass. If minnows are stocked at the same time as the bass, it is a good idea to provide habitat and hiding places or a nursery area for the minnows to develop in. Some weed growth

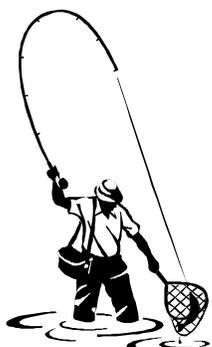
in the pond is desirable; it gives the forage fish cover and attracts insects and other food for the fish.

A pond stocking permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is necessary to stock pond fish. A simple NYS DEC application is available at the District office.

The District also offers a selection of rainbow, brook, and brown trout in its annual fall fish-stocking program. Do not stock other fish species if you plan to stock trout. Call the District for ordering information for trout.

To order bass and/or minnows, please send the completed order form below and a check or money order payable to Erie County SWCD, 50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, NY 14052. **The fish will be available at the District office for your pickup on July 19 at 10:00 AM ONLY.** Please arrive at 10:00 and provide transport buckets or garbage cans with water from your pond. DO NOT use tap water. Approximately ten fingerlings per gallon of water can be safely transported. Aeration should be provided if transport time exceeds 45 minutes. ♦

Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District 2003 Bass Stocking Order Form				Order Deadline: July 11, 2003	
Species	Price per Fish	Qty Ordered		Cost	
1-1½" Largemouth Bass	\$0.80 each	_____	\$	_____	
1-2" Fathead Minnows	\$0.17 each	_____	\$	_____	
Name _____				Subtotal \$ _____	
Address _____				+ 8% Sales Tax \$ _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____				TOTAL ORDER \$ _____	
Phone _____					



Mark Your Calendar! (We'll be there!)

◆ Fleet Waterfest - August 2 & 3

Activities for the whole family, a Tall ship and more at the Erie Basin Marina, call 691-5456 for more information

◆ Erie County Fair - August 7-17

Visit our displays in the Conservation Building and Grange Building at the Hamburg Fairgrounds

◆ WNY Earth Day Expo - August 17

The annual Expo moves to the Buffalo Zoo this year. Make a day of it! - Visit the zoo and check out environmental displays and activities with the theme "Make Every Day Earth Day," see www.wnyearthday.org for more information

◆ Society of American Foresters National Convention - October 25-29

Workshops, exhibits, field tours, job fair and special events at the Buffalo Convention Center - register at www.safnet.org

Spotlight on New District Staff: Denise Goinski

The District Board and Staff welcome Denise Goinski to the new position of Account Clerk/Typist. A certified paralegal, Denise attended Erie Community College and Hilbert College and worked for a local law firm for several years performing bookkeeping duties for Trust and Estate accounts. She is a native Buffalonian, and lives in South Buffalo, where she enjoys gardening, walking and cooking. We're glad to have Denise here to keep the District running smooth! ♦

District Products and Services

Backyard Conservation Kits	\$14.00
USGS Topographic Maps	\$5.00
Erie County Base Map	\$5.00
Bluebird Nest Boxes	\$11.00
Bat Houses	\$12.00
Wood Duck Nest Boxes	\$23.00
Marking Flags or Fertilizer Tablets	10¢ ea.
Tree Shelters - 5 foot	\$4.45
Tree Shelters - 3 foot	\$3.25
Finder Pocket Field Guides	\$4.00
Peterson's Flash Guides	\$6.00
Bird Watcher's Digests	\$3.50
Fish Management in NY Ponds (CCE #116)	\$5.00

Please add 8% sales tax to above items

Technical Assistance: Erosion control, farm drainage, water quality, conservation planning, streambank restoration (please call our office for more information)

On-Site Evaluation and Pond Layout	\$600.00
Soil Group Worksheets (per parcel)	\$15.00

Invasive Plants Now Spreading: Garlic Mustard

Chances are, if you've been walking in the woods lately, you've seen Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). It invades forested communities and edge habitats, has no known natural enemies in North America, is self-fertile, and difficult to eradicate once established. Garlic mustard is one of the few alien herbaceous species that invades and dominates the understory of forested areas in North America. The best and most effective control method for *A. petiolata* is to prevent its initial establishment.

Garlic mustard seedlings emerge in spring and overwinter as basal rosettes. In the spring of the second year the rosettes produce flower stalks, set seed, and subsequently die. Basal leaves are dark-green and kidney-shaped with scalloped edges, 2-4" in diameter. Stem leaves are alternate, sharply-toothed, triangular, and average 1-3" long, gradually reducing in size toward the top of the stem. New leaves produce a distinct garlic odor when crushed.

The plants usually produce a single unbranched flower stalk. Flowers are produced in spring and consist of four white petals that narrow abruptly at the base. Seeds ripen and disperse between June and September. Adult plants average 2-3' tall at the time of flowering.

Garlic mustard grows on most soil types, frequently grows in well-fertilized sites, and is common in stream-associated habitat. *A. petiolata* spreads exclusively by seeds, which are transported on boots, by roadside mowing, and by rodents and birds.



The preferred method of control is to remove all Garlic mustard plants prior to seed production until the seed bank is depleted, potentially 2-5 years. Cutting of flowering stems at ground level provides the most effective control with minimal or no side effects, but has a high labor cost. Cutting with a weed whip may distribute cut stems and seeds across the site; care should be taken to collect and remove cut material whenever possible. Pulling is very labor intensive but effective if the upper half of the root is removed. Burning and herbicide application both provide control at a lower labor cost, but fire may increase total presence of *A. petiolata* and herbicides may negatively impact native ground-layer species. In all cases, control must be continued annually until the seedbank is exhausted. Late fall is usually the preferred season for control, as native plants are dormant. For more information on garlic mustard or other invasive plants consult: www.ipcnys.org, plants.usda.gov, or www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu ♦

We're on the Web! www.ecswcd.org

It's under construction for now, but soon The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District website will have project updates, past issues of our newsletter, and much more! We're adding new things every day!

Directors:

Francis Gernatt - At Large
 Jeanne Z. Chase - County Legislator
 David Dale - County Legislator
 Calvin Kohn - Grange
 David Phillips - Farm Bureau
 Darlene Vogel - At Large
 Rosemary Bapst - At Large



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Cally Miklasz, Executive Secretary/Treasurer
 Mark Gaston, District Field Manager
 Brian Andrzejewski, Senior Civil Engineer
 Don Stribick, District Technician
 Ellen Ilardo, Water Quality Technician
 Chris Enser, District Technician
 James Sroka, Water Quality Technician
 Denise Goinski, Account Clerk Typist
 Megan Gollwitzer, Program Assistant
 Philip Mogavero, GIS Analyst

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

John Whitney, District Conservationist
 Michael Shinnick, Area I Ag. Engineer
 Sarah E. Kron, Soil Conservationist

District Board meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the second Wednesday of each month.

Office Hours:

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday

Conservation Connections is a quarterly publication of the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District. Advertiser support helps make this newsletter possible. Remember these businesses when you need the products, services and expertise they offer.

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