

Conservation Connections

Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, New York 14052-2185
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www.ecswcd.org



Semi-Annual District Newsletter

July, 2005



An Uncertain Future for the District—

County budget cuts threaten the continuation of ECSWCD's services

Despite being cut entirely from the 2005 county budget, the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District has been able to provide limited services and programs to Erie County residents for 2005, thus far. However, continued budget cuts will eliminate valuable District conservation programs, as well as other essential conservation projects, services, and **over a million dollars in state and federal grant funds** secured by the District that benefit Erie County residents. The District's ability to continue work on important conservation projects and to pursue additional opportunities for outside funding and partnerships in 2006 is dependent upon your support. As the Erie County Legislature works towards the development of a county budget for 2006, please remember to support funding for Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District. A relatively small investment now to preserve, protect and enhance Erie County's natural resources will have many returns for the present and future generations of Erie County residents.

Springville High School Wins the 2005 Erie County Envirothon



Springville High School's Envirothon team won the Erie County Envirothon and represented Erie County at the New York State Envirothon, where they placed 5th out of 50 teams from throughout New York State.

Congratulations to Springville High School's Envirothon team—the 2005 Erie County Envirothon first place winners! Coordinated by Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Envirothon is an annual educational competition that challenges students in the environmental conservation topics of forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics, and a current issue topic. The 2005 current issue topic was "Managing Cultural Resources."

To help students prepare for the challenge, an Envirothon workshop is held at which local natural resource professionals including soil scientists, conservationists, biologists, foresters, and other field professionals present hands-on workshops addressing each of the Envirothon competition categories. This year's workshops featured representatives from US Fish and Wildlife Service, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Earth Spirit Educational Services.



Students at the Erie County Envirothon's outdoor "Soils" station use teamwork to solve test questions.

Envirothon continued...

The Erie County Envirothon was held on April 28th at Woodlawn Beach State Park, and was attended by students from various high schools throughout Erie County. The District thanks all of the sponsors and volunteers who made this year's event possible.

56,000 Trees and Shrubs Planted



West Seneca Americorps members assisted with the preparation of tree and shrub seedlings for distribution to Erie County residents.

The District's annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale was held on April 23rd. Through this year's program, a total of 56,000 tree and shrub seedlings and transplants were distributed to Erie County residents for planting.

Through the Tree and Shrub Seedling Program, the District promotes conservation plantings to improve soil and water quality and to enhance wildlife habitat and forestry resources throughout Erie County. The District's Annual Tree and Shrub program has established significant popularity among Erie County residents; in just the past five years, approximately 400,000 have been distributed and planted as a result of the program.

Thank you to the Erie County Legislators who distributed this year's Tree and Shrub order forms at their District offices. The District would like to thank all of the 2005 Tree and Shrub Sale customers, and is especially grateful for the help and support of the following local groups and businesses: AmeriCorps of West Seneca, Master Gardeners of Erie County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Market In the Square of West Seneca, Masterson's Garden Center, and District volunteers.

Visit us online at www.ecswcd.org

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

Office Hours:

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

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM Friday

Directors:

- Francis Gernatt - At Large
- Calvin Kohn - Grange
- Stanley Travis - Farm Bureau
- Darlene Vogel - At Large
- Rosemary Bapst - At Large
- Jeanne Chase - County Legislator
- Tim Wroblewski - County Legislator

Staff:

- Mark Gaston, District Field Manager
- Don Stribick, District Technician
- Dan Bennett, Assistant Civil Engineer
- Megan Gollwitzer, District Technician
- Kathleen Pumm, Account Clerk Typist



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 50 Commerce Way
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Bat Houses	\$12.00
Wood Duck Nest Boxes	\$23.00
Marking Flags, Fertilizer Tablets	\$.10
Tree Shelters - 5 foot	\$ 4.62
Tree Shelters - 3 foot	\$ 3.33
Finder Pocket Field Guides	\$ 6.00
Bird Watcher's Digests	\$ 3.00
Fish Management in NY Ponds (CCE #116)	\$ 5.00
Guidelines for Urban Erosion & Sediment Control (1997 edition)	\$25.00
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