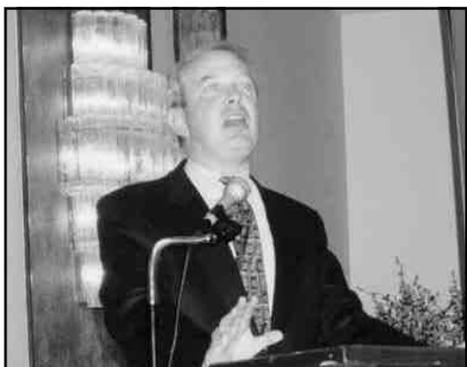


## Rural and Urban Neighbors Banquet

The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County held their fourth annual Rural and Urban Neighbors banquet on October 21, 2003. District and Extension staff, elected officials, and rural/urban landowners came together to share a meal and recognize conservation efforts in Erie County over the past year.



Laurence Rubin, Commissioner of Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, discussed working together to preserve the both the rural and urban natural resources of Erie County.

Laurence K. Rubin, Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, presented the keynote address in which he emphasized the importance of building strong interrelationships between Erie County's diverse suburban, urban and rural communities. He thanked both the District and the Cooperative Extension for their collaborative efforts to create a shared concern in both urban and rural areas for natural resource preservation and community betterment through educational and technical assistance.

Each year at the Rural and Urban Neighbors Banquet, the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes outstanding individuals that promote the District's mission; awards are given in the categories of "Educator of the Year," "Cooperator Achievement," "Friend of the District," and "Volunteer of the Year." The District was pleased to present this year's awards to the following recipients:

*Educator of the Year Award* – Sandy Geffner, Earth Spirit Educational Services, Inc.

*Friend of the District* – Mark Lazara, West Seneca AmeriCorps

*Cooperator Achievement* – John and Ruth Phillips, Charles Bauer, Church Street Farms and Marzolf Farms

*Volunteer of the Year Award* – People Inc. ♦



Mark Lazara, Director of the West Seneca AmeriCorps (right), accepted the "Friend of the District" award with AmeriCorps members (left to right) George Case, Corey Hunter and Stephanie Zajac.



Cally Miklasz (left) presented Sandy Geffner, an Ecologist with Earth Spirit Educational Services, with the "Educator of the Year" award.

## District Assists Bureau of Forestry on Draft Erie County Forest Management Plan

For the past several months, a partnership of agencies and organizations in Erie County have been developing the Erie County Forest Management Plan. A draft is now complete will be available in mid-December.

The District has been working with the following partners on the plan: Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry; Earth Spirit Educational Services, Inc.; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; University at Buffalo; and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. To obtain a copy of the draft plan go to our website at [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org) or call the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry at (716) 858-8351. ♦

## Agricultural Pesticide Clean Sweep

In time to see the first snowfall of the season, the Agricultural Pesticide Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Collection was held on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at Chestnut Ridge Park in Orchard Park. The Clean Sweep event allowed agricultural production pesticide users the opportunity to dispose of unused, unwanted or banned pesticides free of charge. This service may otherwise be too costly for individuals to carry out on their own.

The number of participants, type of waste and weight of the hazardous waste were collected by Clean Harbors, Inc., a waste disposal contractor. This year's event was sponsored by the Erie County Water Quality Committee in partnership with the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning (DEP) and the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Pesticide Clean Sweeps have been organized by state and county governments to protect surface and ground water supplies from potentially-contaminating chemicals, such as DDT, parathion, chlordane, and methoxychlor. The collection contractor is responsible for the proper disposal of the material. This is done by either burning at high temperatures or disposal at a hazardous waste landfill.

The inaugural event was held in 1980, and 42 states have now conducted at least one event. If you happened to miss this event another is being considered for spring 2004. ♦



**Directors:**

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



**Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
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Cally Miklasz, Executive Secretary/Treasurer  
 Mark Gaston, District Field Manager  
 Don Stribick, District Technician  
 Ellen Hahn, 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  
 Vacant, 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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*Happy Holidays!*

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**East Aurora Field Office Staff**

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[www.tricotountyupply.com](http://www.tricotountyupply.com)

# Conservation Connections

## Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, New York 14052-2185  
Telephone: (716) 652-8480 Fax: (716) 652-8506  
[www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org)



Quarterly District Newsletter

Winter 2003

## This could be your last issue of *Conservation Connections!*

The current issue of *Conservation Connections* is available on our website! We encourage you to view future issues of our newsletter online to help us save valuable natural resources.

If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, please notify us at [info@ecswcd.org](mailto:info@ecswcd.org) or by phone at 652-8480.

Check out [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org) for past issues of our newsletter, project updates, publications and much more! ♦

### Best Wishes to District staff who are moving on:

Brian Andrzejewski, Senior Civil Engineer, has accepted a position with a local engineering firm. Brian has contributed valuable expertise to our Stream and Ag Programs and will be missed. Mark Schreier will be completing his internship with the District in January. Mark has assisted with many programs, including stream inspections and mapping. Best of luck to Brian and Mark!

## Conservation Tree and Shrub Seedling Program

The District's annual Conservation Tree and Shrub Seedling Program is underway – order early for best selection. Seedlings make a unique and thoughtful gift – Gift Certificates are available for stocking stuffers or under the tree.

### Order Form Inside!

36 varieties of seedlings including:

Hardwoods ▪ Evergreens ▪ Shrubs ▪ American Chestnuts

3 varieties of transplants including:

White Pine ▪ Douglas Fir ▪ Blue Spruce

Seedling combination packs for attracting wildlife including:

Native NY Wildlife ▪ Bird & Butterfly ▪ Nut Tree ▪ Homeowner

Wildflower seed mixes

Fertilizer tablets ▪ Marker flags ▪ Tree shelters

**Deadline for Ordering:  
March 26, 2004**

## High School Educators and Students:

### Sign Up Now for the 2004 Erie County Envirothon!

If you are an Erie County high school student interested in the outdoors or environmental sciences, the Envirothon is an ideal opportunity for you! Coordinated by the District, the Erie County Envirothon is an annual, hands-on natural science competition that brings students from throughout the county together for a unique and fun outdoor experience.

Participants in the Envirothon learn about and are challenged in the subjects of forestry, wildlife, aquatics, soils, and a current issue topic. This year's current issue topic is "Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment." To prepare for the Envirothon, students study the various Envirothon topics with help from local natural resource field professionals such as ecologists, conservationists, biologists, foresters, soil scientists and field technicians from several local natural resource agencies. During the competition, students work as a team to achieve the highest score in the Envirothon test categories. All students are rewarded for participation; the winning team of students at the Erie County Envirothon earns the privilege of advancing to the New York State Envirothon to be held at SUNY Morrisville on May 26 and 27th, where they will compete against local Envirothon winners from counties throughout the state. The winning team at the New York State Envirothon qualifies for the Canon National Envirothon. At both the State and National levels, top-scoring teams have the opportunity to win college scholarships and other prizes.

Not only is the Envirothon a unique chance for students to spend a day enjoying the outdoors while working as a team, it is an excellent opportunity to interact with and learn firsthand from local field professionals. The Envirothon is a helpful supplement to environmental or natural science curriculum, and fosters the development of students' research, teamwork, and professional skills. It is an internationally recognized program, and compliments students' college applications and resumes.

Past Envirothon participants have described the program as a "rewarding and fun" learning experience with "unique field experiences that allow students to use teamwork to achieve a common goal in the environment."

We hope that you will join us for this year's Envirothon to be held at Chestnut Ridge Park on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to register for the 2004 Erie County Envirothon, please contact the District office at 652-8480. Further information on the New York State Envirothon is available at [www.nysenvirothon.org](http://www.nysenvirothon.org). ♦

## Holiday Gift Idea: Bluebird Nest Box

Don't know what to get that special someone this holiday season? How about a gift of learning and conservation? Did you know that the bright blue Bluebird is the New York State bird and its numbers have decreased because of the loss of nest cavities? How about giving the gift of a bluebird nest box and spreading the message about Bluebird Conservation. The District has bluebird nest boxes crafted by a local woodworker for sale (\$11.00 plus tax) at the District Office in East Aurora. We can provide you with information to make the installation and care of the box a learning experience and a fun family project. Bluebirds are

generally rural birds, however, some suburban and urban songbirds such as Chickadees and House Wrens also use the nest boxes.

Other gifts for sale at the District Office are:

- Bat boxes
- Wood Duck nest boxes
- Pocket field guides
- Peterson Flash Guides
- Bird Readers Digests
- USGS 7.5-minute series topographic maps

See below for price list.



## 2004 Envirothon Raffle Winners

Thank you to everyone who purchased Envirothon raffle tickets. Your donation will help to ensure the success of the 2004 Erie County Envirothon. Congratulations to the following raffle winners:

### Buffalo Sabres Autographed Hockey Stick:

Betty Gernatt, Collins

### Kissing Bridge Lift Passes:

Bob Lorek, Elma; Bernard Dombrowski, Derby

### Colden Tubing Company Lift Passes:

Derrick Wojcik, Elma; Lian Kelley, Belfast

The Erie County Envirothon relies on the generosity of local organizations, business and individuals for support. A hearty thank you goes out to Kissing Bridge Corporation and the Buffalo Sabres for their generous donations.

## NRCS News

### Staff Changes

East Aurora Soil Conservationist, **Sarah Kron**, has accepted a promotion to the District Conservationist position in Columbia and Greene Counties in the Hudson Valley. We congratulate Sarah on her promotion and thank her for her contributions to the soil and water conservation programs in Erie County. Best wishes, Sarah.

We expect the East Aurora soil conservationist vacancy will be filled over the next few months. People interested in NRCS positions can visit the NRCS web page at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) and click on the "employment" tab. Please feel free to phone the East Aurora NRCS office if you have any questions, phone 652-8480 or e-mail [john.whitney@ny.usda.gov](mailto:john.whitney@ny.usda.gov).

### 2004 Program Sign-ups

Since the federal USDA "spending bill" has been delayed again this year, we do not yet know what funds will be available for federal conservation programs in New York State during fiscal year 2004. We expect funds will be available for the following programs:

**EQIP** - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (*ranking procedure will be revised for 2004!*)

**WHIP** - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

**WRP** - Wetland Reserve Program

**FRPP** - Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (municipalities and land trusts only)

**GRP** - Grassland Reserve Program

**AMA** - Agricultural Management Assistance Program

**CSP** - Conservation Security Program (*New for 2004!*)

**CRP Buffers** - Conservation Reserve Program Cont. Sign-up (FSA administered)

**CREP** - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (*New for 2004!*)

For more information on these and other programs visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov) and select the "Programs" along the top of the page. We can take sign-ups for many of these programs at any time though processing will be delayed until we know more about funding. Please contact the East Aurora NRCS office if you would like to start the sign-up process for one or more of the USDA soil and water conservation programs. ♦

## District Products and Services

Backyard Conservation Kits	\$14.00
USGS Topographic Maps	\$8.00
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	\$4.60
Tree Shelters - 3 foot	\$3.30
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 8.25% 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

# 2004 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PROGRAM

**ORDER BY MARCH 26, 2004.** Seedling orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. As we have no control over the weather or your choice of planting sites, times or techniques, the Erie County SWCD will not be responsible for your trees and shrubs after they leave our distribution center: we cannot offer refunds or replacements. Seedlings are sold in bundles of the same species only. Please do not mix species. **Keep this section for your records—return ONLY the order form on the right.**

<b>GROWTH RATE:</b> ↑ Fast → Moderate ↓ Slow	<b>LIGHT PREFERENCE:</b> ☀ Full Sun ☉ Partial Sun ● Shade
--	---

<b>ADAPTATIONS / BEST USES:</b>	
🌿 Wetlands 🌲 Christmas Trees E Erosion Control	🌿 Windbreak W Wood Products 🐾 Wildlife Food and Cover

HOW TO READ SEEDLING ORDER CHARTS:					
VARIETY	GROWTH RATE	MATURE HEIGHT	SOIL PREFERENCE	LIGHT PREFERENCE	ADAPTATIONS/ BEST USES
Blue Spruce	↓	30 – 60'	Rich, moist	☀ ☉	🌿 🌲

WILDLIFE ATTRACTING SEEDLING PACKS		QTY	COST
<b>Native NY Wildlife:</b>	2 each - White Pine, River Birch, Flowering White Dogwood, White Spruce, Serviceberry, Highbush Blueberry - Jersey (midsummer fruiting)	\$16	
<b>Bird and Butterfly:</b>	2 each - Common Lilac, American Elderberry, Black Cherry, Butterfly Bush, Red Osier Dogwood	\$12	
<b>Nut Tree Pack:</b>	2 each - Black Walnut, White Oak, Hazelnut, Northern Red Oak	\$12	
<b>Homeowner Tree Pack:</b>	2 each - Blue Spruce, Austrian Pine, Sugar Maple, Paper (White) Birch, Northern Red Oak	\$12	

AMERICAN CHESTNUT		QTY	COST
10 for \$20			
American Chestnut	→ 70 – 90' Moist, sandy loam ☀ ☉ W 🐾		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS		QTY	COST
10 for \$15			
White Pine	↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ 🌿 🌲 W 🐾		
Blue Spruce	↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲		
Douglas Fir	→ 40 – 80' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ 🌲		

EVERGREEN/CONIFER		10 for \$7	30 for \$18	100 for \$50	500 for \$200	QTY	COST
Am. Arborvitae	↓ 20 – 30' Deep, moist, sandy ☀ 🌿 🌲 🐾						
Austrian Pine	→ 50 – 60' Tolerates many soils ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲						
Red Pine	→ 50 – 80' Dry, acid, sandy, gravelly ☀ 🌿 🌲 W						
Scotch Pine	→ 30 – 60' Acidic, well-drained ☀ 🌲						
White Pine	↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ 🌿 🌲 W 🐾						
Blue Spruce	↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲						
Norway Spruce	→ 40 – 60' Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲 W 🐾						
White Spruce	→ 40 – 60' Moist loam, alluvial, ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲 🐾						
Balsam Fir	↓ 45 – 75' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ ☉ 🌲						
Concolor Fir	↓ 30 – 50' Deep, rich, gravelly/sandy loam ☀ 🌲 W						
Douglas Fir	→ 40 – 80' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ 🌲						
Fraser Fir	↓ 30 – 40' Cool, moist, well-drained loam ☀ ☉ 🌲 🐾						
Hemlock	→ 40 – 70' Moist, well-drained, acid ☀ ☉ ● W 🐾						
Japanese Larch	↑ 70 – 90' Moist, well-drained ☀ 🌿 W 🐾						

CONSERVATION SHRUBS		10 for \$9	30 for \$24	50 for \$35	QTY	COST
Sargent Crabapple	→ 6 – 8' Well-drained ☀ 🐾					
Red Osier Dogwood	↑ 7 – 9' Moist soils ☀ ☉ 🌿 E 🐾					
American Elderberry	↑ 5 – 12' Moist soils, adaptable ☀ ☉ 🌿 🐾					
American Filbert (Hazelnut)	→ 8 – 18' Well-drained, loam, pH tolerant ☀ ☉ 🐾					
Rugosa Rose	↑ 4 – 6' Fertile, slightly acid loam, salt tolerant ☀ E					
Saskatoon Serviceberry	→ 6 – 20' Moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ 🌿 🐾					
Streamco Willow	↑ 12 – 15' Moist, slightly acid ☀ ☉ ● 🌿 E					

BROADLEAF DECIDUOUS		10 for \$9	30 for \$24	50 for \$35	QTY	COST
Green Ash	↑ 50 – 60' Moist, fertile ☀ 🌿					
White Ash	↑ 50 – 80' Deep, moist, well-drained, pH adaptable ☀ W					
Paper (White) Birch	↑ 50 – 70' Moist, acid, well-drained loam ☀ W 🐾					
River Birch	↑ 40 – 70' Moist, acid ☀ ☉ 🌿 🐾					
Black Cherry	→ 50 – 60' Deep, moist, fertile ☀ W 🐾					
Red Maple	→ 40 – 60' Moist, slightly acid, tolerant ☀ ☉ 🌿 W 🐾					
Sugar Maple	↓ 60 – 75' Well-drained, fertile ☀ ☉ W					
Northern Red Oak	↑ 60 – 75' Well-drained/sandy, slightly acid ☀ W 🐾					
White Oak	↓ 50 – 80' Deep, well-drained, moist, acid ☀ W 🐾					
Hybrid Poplar	↑ 80' + Moist, silty or loamy ☀ 🌿 🐾					
Sycamore	↑ 75 – 100' Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ ☉ 🌿					
Tuliptree	↑ 70 – 90' Deep, moist, well-drained loam ☀ W 🐾					
Black Walnut	↑ 50 – 75' Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ W 🐾					
Butternut (White Walnut)	↓ 40 – 60' Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ W 🐾					

**BARE ROOT SEEDLINGS RANGE IN SIZE FROM 6 – 24 INCHES**

## BE A CONSERVATIONIST

Planting tree and shrub seedlings will:

- Provide wildlife food and habitat
- Stabilize erodible land
- Protect water quality
- Shelter crops and landscape
- Reduce air pollution
- Reduce heating/cooling expenses

## 2004 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### Online Seedling Information

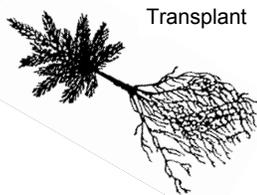
Visit our website at [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org) for seedling descriptions, planting tips and more!

### Bluebird Nest Boxes

Mount nest boxes to help the New York State bird increase its population—Bluebirds also control unwanted insects in your garden!

### Transplants

Three Evergreen species (Blue Spruce, White Pine and Douglas Fir) available as transplants—more mature plants with thicker stems, more branching and larger root systems than bare-root seedlings



Transplant



Bare-root seedling

**ORDER BY: MARCH 26, 2004**

**PICK-UP DATE: APRIL 24, 2004**

Confirmation of order and pick-up date will be sent to you.

Pick-up will be at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, New York on April 24, 2004.

### Protect your investment with TREE SHELTERS \*

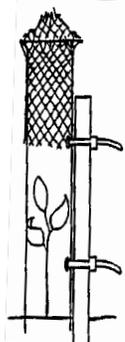
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*Each tree shelter tube comes with a support stake, ties and bird net*

- Increase the success rate of plantings
- Encourage healthy growth
- Reduce animal, wind and mowing damage
- Conserve moisture
- Support maturing trees

**ORDER TREE SHELTERS WITH YOUR SEEDLINGS!**

\* For broadleaf deciduous trees only



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Bluebird and Bat Houses • Wood Duck Boxes  
Field Identification Guides • Planting Spades  
Topographical Maps • Backyard Conservation Kits

Gift Certificates also available in any denomination

## ERIE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2004 TREE & SHRUB ORDER FORM

SEED MIXES/PLANTING SUPPLIES (Tax Included)	QTY	COST	TOTAL
Sunny Wildflower Seed Mix 2500 sq. ft. coverage		\$10.00 ea.	
Bird/Butterfly Wildflower Seed Mix 1350 sq. ft. coverage		\$12.00 ea.	
Old Glory Seed Mix (Red, White, Blue) 2500 sq. ft. coverage		\$12.00 ea.	
Shady Wildflower Seed Mix 1200 sq. ft. coverage		\$10.00 ea.	
Annual/Overseed Wildflower Mix 1700 sq. ft. coverage		\$10.00 ea.	
Fertilizer Tablets		10 / \$1.10	
Orange Marker Flags		10 / \$1.10	
5' Tree Shelter (promotes fast growth and protects seedling)		\$5.00 ea.	
3' Tree Shelter (provides protection benefits)		\$3.60 ea.	
BLUEBIRD NEST BOX		\$12.00 ea.	

SEEDLING DESCRIPTION	QTY	COST	TOTAL
TAX EXEMPT			

RECEIPT NO. (OFFICE USE)

TOTAL ENCLOSED  
(Do Not add Sales Tax) \$

**Seedlings are sold in bundles of the same species only.  
Please do not mix species.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REMIT THIS SECTION WITH PAYMENT**

Make your check or money order payable to:

**Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District  
50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, New York 14052-2185**

**ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 26, 2004**