

# 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



**Semi-Annual District Newsletter**

**Winter, 2009**

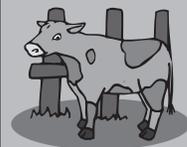
## BLUEBIRDS ARE LOOKING FOR NESTING SITES—CAN YOU HELP?



Now is the time to get Bluebird Nest Boxes up to provide nesting sites for these beautiful songbirds. The bluebirds will thank you by relieving your yard of many unwanted insects. We have bluebird nest boxes available at our office for only \$12.00. Help the NYS bird make a comeback by providing them with a place to call home!

## Inside this Edition:

New At-Large Board Member	1
Buffalo Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration Grant	1
Envirothon Sponsors	2
NRCS Sign-ups	2
FSA MILC Program	2
Tree & Shrub Order Form	3,4
Businesses Who Make This Newsletter Possible	5
CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program)	6



## Important Dates:

- Tree & Shrub Distribution Day at the Marketplace Building at the Hamburg Fairgrounds on April 18, 2009
- 2009 Erie County Envirothon: Workshop Day: April 2, 2009 Test Day: April 30, 2009
- Join us for Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District's Board Meeting @ the USDA Service Center on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 AM
- Bass/Minnnow Summer Program July 2009

## ERIE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT WELCOMES SAMUEL J. CHIAVETTA

The District Board and staff are pleased to announce the appointment of Samuel J. Chiavetta to the At-Large Director vacancy for the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors.

Samuel attended Cornell University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. He maintains an active role within the community. He is Chairman of the Town of Brant Planning Board, is on the nominating committee for the National Grape Cooperative and has worked at CB Foods & Gernatt Asphalt Products.



Samuel has worked and lived on fruit and vegetable farms in Brant, New York for over 30 years. The District Board and staff are very glad to have Samuel's expertise available to the District and to Erie County.

## Buffalo Creek Watershed Update



Stabilization of severely eroded streambanks along Buffalo Creek in Elma, NY

With construction activities concluded on the final stream project just weeks before the first snowfall of the season, the District is pleased to announce the completion of the Buffalo Creek Watershed Riparian Habitat Restoration Grant. A total of 10 severely eroded streambank sites were addressed in this grant program, which is administered through a cost-sharing structure which helps offset an individual landowner's financial burden to complete a stream restoration project. Approximately 2,280 linear feet of streambanks were stabilized with rock riprap and hundreds of beneficial riparian plantings utilizing bioengineering techniques including live stakes, wattles/fascines, whip plantings and brush layering. Project sites were located in the towns of Aurora, Cheektowaga, Colden, Elma, Holland, Lancaster, Marilla and Wales with restoration occurring along 5 different streams including Buffalo, Little Buffalo, East and West Cazenovia and Cayuga Creek. The committed efforts of District and NRCS staff, combined with landowner resources and the professional work of the local contractors involved, helped to achieve the program goals of water quality protection and riparian habitat enhancement within the Buffalo Creek watershed. Congratulations to everyone involved!

**HURRY!**  
**2009 TREE & SHRUB CONSERVATION ORDER FORM INSIDE!**  
**ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 20, 2009**  
**FOR BEST SELECTION**



Butterfly Bush

## Are you up for a Challenge?...



Over 125 volunteers, students and educators participated in the 2008 E.C. Envirothon



Forestry      Aquatics  
Current Issue  
Wildlife      Soils

Erie County high school students are getting ready for the 2009 Envirothon and are preparing for the challenge of a program which broadens their natural resource studies. Are you up for the challenge of helping us continue to make this program a success? The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation is currently seeking donations for this worthwhile science based environmental program open to all Erie County High School students, free of charge.

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

*Thank you!*

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Visteon Climate Control Systems, Ltd                | Earth Dimensions, Inc. |
| The Sallie Mae Fund/Pioneer Credit Recovery         | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.   |
| M&T Bank  | Buffalo Creek, Inc.    |
| N.Y. Forest Owners Association                      | 3rd Rock, LLC          |
| Upstate Farms Cooperative, Inc.                     | Pine Grove Nursery     |
| Eastwood Industries, Inc.                           | D&H Excavating, Inc.   |
| International Association of Machinists & Aerospace | Fox Construction       |
| Glen-Coe Conservation Society                       | S.C.O.P.E., Inc.       |
| Erie County Farm Bureau                             | Tops Markets           |
| Erie County Water Quality Committee                 | Wegmans                |
| Panera Bread  | Wal-Mart               |

If you choose to donate, your organization will be recognized at the Envirothon, your name will be printed on the back of the t-shirts and listed on the program given to all participants. Also, it is a great way to be associated with a positive program which shows commitment towards our youth in the community. Additional information on the Envirothon is available on our website, [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org), or by calling the District at 652-8480.



### SIGN-UP FOR 2009 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

The EQIP and AMA programs offer financial and technical assistance to install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land where there is an existing environmental concern. WHIP helps landowners develop and improve important wildlife habitat for grassland nesting birds and may include other wildlife habitat improvement options such as invasive plant control or shrubland habitat management in the 2009 application cycle. WRP offers landowners the opportunity to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands on farmland that was drained or otherwise manipulated for agricultural production, through easements or restoration agreements. Because of the popularity of these programs, applications are competitively ranked according to established criteria, and are funded based on their ranking.

These cost-sharing programs are designed to help farmers and other landowners address natural resource problems such as soil erosion, animal waste management, or lack of wildlife habitat.

Please contact John Whitney (716) 652-8480 at the NRCS East Aurora Field Office if you have questions or wish to complete an application.

## ERIE COUNTY FSA NEWS

The 2008 Farm Bill reauthorizes the MILC Program. Under the 2008 Act, the MILC payment rate and the production limit are modified, depending on when the milk is produced. In addition, a "feed cost adjuster" is introduced as well, which adjusts the \$16.94 per hundredweight benchmark price upward depending on the cost of feed rations. The production limit per operation is now 2.985 million pounds each fiscal year. During the initial signup application period (Dec. 22, 2008 - Jan. 21, 2009) dairy operations may select the month of the fiscal year to start receiving payments. Producers submitting applications after Jan. 21, 2009 will not have that option. They will be able to select the month they come in as their start month or a later month in which the MILC rate is not known.

Signup has also started for the 2009 Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment (DCP) Program for farms with base acres. You can signup at the Erie County FSA Office. Signup will continue until June 1, 2009. The June 1, 2009 deadline is mandatory for all participants. FSA will not accept any late-filed applications. Please call the office at 652-1400 to schedule an appointment.

# 2009 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PROGRAM

**ORDER BY MARCH 20, 2009.** 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. A fee will be applied for returned checks. No refunds will be offered for orders not picked-up. **KEEP THIS SECTION FOR YOUR RECORDS. RETURN ONLY THE ORDER FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

<b>GROWTH RATE:</b> ↑ Fast → Moderate ↓ Slow	<b>LIGHT PREFERENCE:</b> ☀ Full Sun ☉ Partial Sun ● Shade
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<b>ADAPTATIONS / BEST USES:</b>	
🌱 Wetlands 🌲 Christmas Trees E Erosion Control	L Windbreak W Wood Products 🐾 Wildlife Food and Cover

<b>HOW TO READ SEEDLING ORDER CHARTS:</b>				
VARIETY	GROWTH RATE	MATURE HEIGHT	SOIL PREFERENCE	LIGHT PREFERENCE
Blue Spruce	↓	30 – 60'	Rich, moist ☀ ☉ L 🌲	

<b>WILDLIFE ATTRACTING SEEDLING PACKS</b>		QTY	COST
<b>Native NY Wildlife:</b>	2 each - White Pine, Black Cherry, White Spruce, Serviceberry, Hazelnut	\$12	
<b>Homeowner Pack:</b>	2 each - Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Sugar Maple, Paper (White) Birch, Pin Oak	\$12	
<b>Nut Tree Pack:</b>	2 each - Black Walnut, Red Oak, Hazelnut, American Beech, Sawtooth Oak	\$12	
<b>Bird and Butterfly:</b>	2 each - Chokecherry, Butterfly Bush, Common Lilac, American Elderberry, Raspberry (everbearing)	\$14	

<b>EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS</b>		Do not mix species	
10 for \$18	30 for \$51	50 for \$80	
	QTY	COST	
<b>American Arborvitae</b> ↓ 20 – 30' Deep, moist, sandy ☀ 🌱 L 🌲			
<b>White Pine</b> ↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ 🌱 L 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Blue Spruce</b> ↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ L 🌲			
<b>Norway Spruce</b> ↑ 40 – 60' Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ L 🌲			
<b>White Spruce</b> → 40 – 60' Moist loam, alluvial, tolerant ☀ ☉ 🌱 L 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Balsam Fir</b> ↓ 45 – 75' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ ☉ 🌲			
<b>Douglas Fir</b> → 40 – 80' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ 🌲			
<b>Fraser Fir</b> ↓ 30 – 40' Cool, moist, well-drained Loam ☀ ☉ 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Hemlock</b> → 40 – 70' Moist well-drained, acid ☀ ☉ ● W 🐾			

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

<b>EVERGREEN/CONIFER SEEDLINGS</b>		Do not mix species in a bundle	
10 for \$8	30 for \$21	100 for \$60	500 for \$250
	QTY	COST	
<b>Austrian Pine</b> → 50 – 60' Tolerates many soils ☀ ☉ L 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Scotch Pine</b> → 30 – 60' Acidic, well-drained ☀ 🌲			
<b>White Pine</b> ↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ 🌱 L 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Blue Spruce</b> ↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ L 🌲			
<b>Norway Spruce</b> → 40 – 60' Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ L 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>White Spruce</b> → 40 – 60' Moist loam, alluvial, ☀ ☉ 🌱 L 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Concolor Fir</b> ↓ 30 – 50' Deep, rich, gravelly/sandy loam ☀ 🌲 W			
<b>Douglas Fir</b> → 40 – 80' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ 🌲			
<b>Fraser Fir</b> ↓ 30 – 40' Cool, moist, well-drained loam ☀ ☉ 🌲 W 🐾			
<b>Hemlock</b> → 40 – 70' Moist, well-drained, acid ☀ ☉ ● W 🐾			
<b>Japanese Larch</b> ↑ 70 – 90' Moist, well-drained ☀ 🌱 W 🐾			

<b>CONSERVATION SHRUBS SEEDLINGS</b>		Do not mix species in a bundle	
10 for \$10	30 for \$27	50 for \$40	
	QTY	COST	
<b>Sargent Crabapple</b> → 6 – 8' Well-drained ☀ W 🐾			
<b>Red Osier Dogwood</b> ↑ 7 – 9' Moist soils ☀ ☉ 🌱 E 🐾			
<b>American Elderberry</b> ↑ 5 – 12' Moist soils, adaptable ☀ ☉ 🌱 W 🐾			
<b>American Filbert (Hazelnut)</b> → 8 – 18' Well-drained, loam, pH tolerant ☀ ☉ W 🐾			
<b>Rugosa Rose</b> ↑ 4 – 6' Fertile, slightly acid loam, salt tolerant ☀ E			
<b>Shadblow Serviceberry</b> → 6 – 20' Moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ 🌱 W 🐾			
<b>Streamco Willow</b> ↑ 12 – 15' Moist, slightly acid ☀ ☉ ● 🌱 E			

<b>BROADLEAF DECIDUOUS SEEDLINGS</b>		Do not mix species in a bundle	
10 for \$10	30 for \$27	50 for \$40	
	QTY	COST	
<b>Paper (White) Birch</b> ↑ 50 – 70' Moist, acid, well-drained loam ☀ W 🐾			
<b>River Birch</b> ↑ 40 – 70' Moist, acid ☀ ☉ 🌱 W 🐾			
<b>Black Cherry</b> → 50 – 60' Deep, moist, fertile ☀ W 🐾			
<b>Red Maple</b> → 40 – 60' Moist, slightly acid, tolerant ☀ ☉ 🌱 W 🐾			
<b>Sugar Maple</b> ↓ 60 – 75' Well-drained, fertile ☀ ☉ W			
<b>Northern Red Oak</b> ↑ 60 – 75' Well-drained/sandy, slightly acid ☀ W 🐾			
<b>Sawtooth Oak</b> → 35 – 45' Well-drained, acid, adaptable ☀ W 🐾			
<b>White Oak</b> ↓ 50 – 80' Deep, well-drained, moist, acid ☀ W 🐾			
<b>Hybrid Poplar</b> ↑ 80' + Moist, silty or loamy ☀ 🌱 W 🐾			
<b>Sycamore</b> ↑ 75 – 100' Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ ☉ 🌱			
<b>Tuliptree</b> ↑ 70 – 90' Deep, moist, well-drained loam ☀ W 🐾			
<b>Black Walnut</b> ↑ 50 – 75' Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ W 🐾			

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

American Chestnut is offered as part of a conservation effort to perpetuate the species until a control for Chestnut blight can be developed.

<b>EVERGREEN TRANSPLANT PACK</b>		\$20	QTY	COST
2 each - Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, White Pine, Blue Spruce, White Spruce				



# Conservation Connections

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

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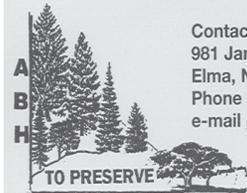
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- Michael Shinnick, Area I Ag. Engineer

*Office Hours:*

- 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday
- 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM Friday

*The Natural Resources Conservation Service*

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Tree & Shrub  
 Order Form  
 Enclosed

## CREP Project Completed in Cattaraugus Creek Watershed

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a state - federal - private partnership funding program that provides financial incentives for local farmers to take stream - side land out of production and plant vegetative buffer strips that consist of native trees and grasses. The vegetative buffer strips aid in filtering out nutrients, sediments, and fertilizers from nearby pasture and crop land before reaching any nearby stream or water body. In return farmers are paid annual rental payments for the buffer areas that are taken out of production for the duration of the CREP contract which could be a period of 10 to 15 years. Cost sharing opportunities of up to 50% for the installation of conservation practices to help manage livestock and crop production around the buffer areas is also available. Eligibility for this program requires proposed area to be located in an eligible watershed, the area must have been in crop production or marginal pastureland for four of six years, and be physically and legally capable of being cropped.

This past October marked the completion of one successful CREP project in Erie County on Bockhahn Bros. Dairy farm in the town of Sardinia. The project included the installation of high tensile fencing surrounding and protecting a tributary to Otis Creek from animals having full access to the stream as a water source for surrounding pasture on the farm. Total buffer area adds up to be a little over 11 acres with a new gravel laneway equipped with a stabilized stream crossing constructed to move cattle from the barn to nearby pasture areas with minimal environmental impact. Also under the program a spring development was constructed to collect water from a nearby seep in the pasture area and used as an alternate water supply for pasturing animals rather than using the stream as a water source. The installation of these practices which were cost shared through the New York State CREP program are an integral part of the existing grazing system for the farm and aids in filtering out nutrients and sediments before reaching the nearby stream.

For more information about the program contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) or County Soil & Water Conservation District.

### District Products and Services

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS	\$ 8.70	TREE SHELTERS —3 FOOT	\$ 3.50
DOQQ PRINTS (8 1/2 x 11)	\$ 1.09	FINDER POCKET FIELD GUIDES	\$ 4.35
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