

Conservation Connections



Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.ecswcd.org

Winter 2010 Edition



Erie County
Envirothon
Raffle Winner

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Dates to Remember:

- Tree & Shrub Distribution Day at the Marketplace Building at the Hamburg Fairgrounds on April 17, 2010
- 2010 Erie County Envirothon: Workshop Day: April 1, 2010 Test Day: April 29, 2010
- ECSWCD Board Meeting @ the USDA Service Center on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 AM



Tree &
Shrub
Order
Form
Enclosed

**2010 CONSERVATION
TREE & SHRUB
ORDER FORM INSIDE!
ORDER DEADLINE:
MARCH 19, 2010**

Conservation District Receives Agricultural Grant for Seven Creeks Watershed

The Conservation District has been awarded funding through the New York State Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program for implementation of agricultural best management practices in the Seven Creeks Watershed. Seven Creeks Watershed drains several streams directly into Lake Erie and includes the Towns of Brant, Eden, Evans and North Collins, and the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation.

This project will provide a total of \$268,195 in funding to cost share the implementation of an engineered waste management system that will improve the capacity of a farm operation to properly recycle nutrients and organic matter back into the farm's field crop production. This project will combine with funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Air Quality Initiative to additionally address odor and reduction of methane releases.

For more information regarding the New York State Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program please visit <http://www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem/nonpoint.html>. For more information regarding the USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program Air Quality Initiative please visit http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip2009/air_quality/overview_2009.html

Stream Team Update: Fall 2009

Due to consistently rainy conditions throughout the summer, conservation efforts on our local streams primarily focused on field evaluations, surveys and designs. The rain climaxed with a large storm event on August 9th that produced heavy flooding and resulted in an emergency declaration for the southern portion of the county. The District assisted numerous streamside landowners with technical and permitting guidance for stabilization work in addition to providing site assessments on stream impacted county infrastructure.

As the leaves began changing colors with the arrival of the fall season, construction commenced on several severely eroded streambank sites. Two of the projects were authorized under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program with four additional projects sponsored through the Districts' on-going state grant cost share programs. District and NRCS staff balanced multiple tasks involving permit applications, land right easements, landowner, municipal and county coordination, contractor notifications and site showings, construction inspection and plant material preparation and installation, all this in addition to the "normal" conservation workload. The final results of these efforts total approximately 2000 linear feet of stabilized streambanks and over 2000 riparian plantings with the achieved benefits of water quality and aquatic habitat improvement and the protection of public infrastructure and streamside properties. All of this critical work could not have been accomplished if not for the coordinated team approach and interagency support as well as for the diligent labor of several of our local area contractors.

The District is also pleased to announce that we have secured additional support to address approximately 400 linear feet of severe erosion in the upper watershed of the South branch of Eighteenmile Creek. This project will be partially funded through a grant provided by the Great Lakes Commission with funds from the United States Department of Agriculture. Project construction is anticipated to occur late in the summer of 2010.



835 linear feet of streambank stabilization and riparian plantings on Eighteenmile Creek in Boston N.Y.



2010 CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABLE

State Conservationist Astor F. Boozer of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced a January 22, 2010 application deadline for New York farmers and private forestland landowners to be considered for 2010 Conservation Program funding. These programs include: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative, the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). EQIP, CBWI, AMA and WHIP are voluntary conservation programs that provide financial and technical assistance to landowners willing to implement practices to improve natural resources and wildlife habitat on privately owned agricultural and forest lands. These conservation programs were authorized or amended in the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). "We are pleased to offer landowners in New York opportunities to address resource concerns related to soil, water, air, plants and animals through a variety of programs" said Boozer. "The result will be cleaner water, more productive soils, healthier forests, and more abundant wildlife for all New York residents."

EQIP is a comprehensive program that helps agricultural producers to implement practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, enhance grazing management, manure management, wildlife habitat management, and more. Assistance can be in the form of engineered structures, such as manure handling facilities, and conservation field practices such as grassed waterways. Additionally, EQIP includes incentive payments for adopting new management techniques that achieve greater environmental benefits. This year producers will be able to apply for eligible practices under several EQIP Focus Areas including: Livestock Waste, Cropland, and Grazing. Private forestland owners will also have the opportunity to apply for practices that improve the health and productivity of their woodlands under the EQIP Forest Management Initiative.

In Erie County, call (716) 652-8480 for an appointment to begin the application process. January 22nd is the first application deadline.

Earth Team Volunteer of the Year Award



Fred Tornow (right) accepts the NRCS State Earth Team Volunteer of the Year award from Dennis DeWeese, Assistant State Conservationist of Operations

ECSWCD & NRCS NEWS



Erie County Fair Winners

(From left to right) Zona Shreves, Leslie Gayle, & Sheila Brawn were the lucky winners of wildlife boxes donated by Nature's Woodcraft & Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District

New District Staff: Allen S. Young



The District board and staff welcome Allen Young to the position of Water Quality Technician.

Allen is a SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Management and a minor in Water

Resources Management. He has relocated to East Aurora from Meridale, New York where he grew up working on a local farm in the Catskill Mountains. Allen is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing and snowshoeing. He is looking forward to using his technical education and strong farm background to help the district implement their programs and further natural resource conservation in Erie County.

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ERIE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2010 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PROGRAM

ORDER BY MARCH 19, 2010. 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, Erie County SWCD will not be responsible for your plant stock after it leaves our distribution center. A fee will be applied for returned checks. No refunds will be offered for orders not picked-up. DISTRIBUTION DAY IS APRIL 17, 2010. **DETACH AND RETURN ONLY THE ORDER FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE. Keep the remaining pages for your records.**

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

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

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

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS		Do not mix species	
10 for \$18	30 for \$51	50 for \$80	
	QTY	COST	
American Arborvitae ↓ 20 – 30' Deep, moist, sandy ☀ ↓ L			
White Pine ↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ ↓ L W			
Blue Spruce ↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ L			
Norway Spruce ↑ 40 – 60' Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ L			
White Spruce → 40 – 60' Moist loam, alluvial, tolerant ☀ ☉ ↓ L W			
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 ☀ ☉ W			
Hemlock → 40 – 70' Moist well-drained, acid ☀ ☉ ☉ W			

TRANSPLANT PACK	\$20	QTY	COST
2 each - Fraser Fir, Douglas Fir, White Pine, Blue Spruce, White Spruce			

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Phone: (716) 652-8480 ext. 5
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EVERGREEN/CONIFER SEEDLINGS		Do not mix species in a bundle	
10 for \$8	30 for \$21	100 for \$60	500 for \$250
	QTY	COST	
Red Cedar → 40 – 50' Deep, moist, well drained ☀ ☉ L W			
Austrian Pine → 50 – 60' Tolerates many soils ☀ ☉ L W			
Scotch Pine → 30 – 60' Acidic, well-drained ☀			
White Pine ↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ ↓ L W			
Blue Spruce ↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ L			
Norway Spruce → 40 – 60' Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ L W			
White Spruce → 40 – 60' Moist loam, alluvial, ☀ ☉ ↓ L W			
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 ☀ ☉ W			
Hemlock → 40 – 70' Moist, well-drained, acid ☀ ☉ ☉ W			
Japanese Larch ↑ 70 – 90' Moist, well-drained ☀ ↓ W			

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

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

GENERAL AGE AND HEIGHT

Bulk Seedling Stock
Grown in seedling beds
Evergreen: 3 years old; 10-18" height above the roots
Deciduous: 1-to-2 years old; 12-24" height above the roots

Bulk Transplant Stock
Grown 2-to-3 years in a seedling bed and 1-to-2 years in a transplant bed;
10-24" height above the roots.

NEW REGULATION ON OPEN BURNING TOOK EFFECT OCTOBER 14, 2009

In effort to reduce harmful air pollutants and help prevent wildfires, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has extended restrictions on the open burning of residential waste effective October 14, 2009. The open burning of residential waste will be prohibited in all communities statewide, regardless of population, with exceptions for burning tree limbs and branches at limited times and under other specific circumstances (detailed below).

Chairman of the Environmental Board and Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis said: "Burning household trash is dangerous on several levels. It can release potentially dangerous compounds—dioxins and other potential carcinogens—from materials burned in backyard fires. And it is the largest single cause of wildfires in the state."

Once considered harmless, recent studies demonstrate that open burning releases substantial amounts of dangerous chemicals into the air. A study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in conjunction with DEC and the New York State Department of Health, found that emissions of dioxins and furans from backyard burning alone were greater than those from all other sources combined for the years 2002-04. Trash containing plastics, polystyrene, pressure-treated and painted wood and bleached or colored papers produce harmful chemicals when burned. The study found that burning trash emits arsenic, carbon monoxide, benzene, styrene, formaldehyde, lead, and hydrogen cyanide, among others.

"While bygone generations burned their garbage, that practice must end. Decades ago, garbage didn't contain plastics, foils, batteries, paper bleached with chlorine and other materials used today," Commissioner Grannis said.

In addition to releasing pollutants, open burning is the largest single cause of wildfires in New York State. Data from DEC's Forest Protection Division show that debris burning accounted for about 40 percent of wildfires between 1986 and 2006—more than twice the next most-cited source. In 2006 alone, debris burning triggered 98 wildfires in the state.

"The extension of the ban on open burning to all municipalities in New York will afford people living in all communities the chance to breathe air that is free from the contaminants that are byproducts of open fires," said Michael Seilback, Vice President of Public Policy and Communications at the American Lung Association in New York. "We thank and commend Commissioner Grannis and the DEC for adopting these regulations that will undoubtedly improve the quality of the air we all breathe and improve the lives of people suffering from asthma and lung disease."

Open burning of residential wastes in any city or village or in any town with a population of 20,000 or more has been prohibited since 1972. DEC moved to expand the prohibition to all communities after holding meetings to receive input from stakeholders and state agencies. A proposal was released in May 2008 and was followed up with public hearings and an extended public comment period. Approximately 1,800 comments were reviewed by the DEC.

As a result of public comments, modifications were made to the original proposal to include an exemption for burning of tree limbs and branches in smaller municipalities during certain times of the year.

The regulation bans all open burning except for the following:

- On-site burning of limbs and branches between May 15th and the following March 15th in any town with a total population of less than 20,000.
- Barbeque grills, maple sugar arches and similar outdoor cooking devices.
- Small cooking and camp fires.
- On-site burning of organic agricultural wastes, but not pesticides, plastics or other non-organic material.
- Liquid petroleum fueled smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops.
- Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires.
- Disposal of a flag or religious item.
- Burning on any emergency basis of explosive or other dangerous contraband by police, et.
- Prescribed burns performed according to state regulations.
- Fire training with some restrictions on the use of acquired structures.
- Individual open fires to control plant and animal disease outbreaks as approved by DEC upon the request by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets.
- Open fires as necessary to control invasive plant and insect species.

A complete outline of common questions and answers on the new regulation is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/58519.html> on the DEC website.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Erie County Envirothon Raffle:



Max Sebzda

Buffalo Sabres Hockey Stick autographed by Patrick Kaleta:
Max Sebzda, Springville
 Kissing Bridge Lift Passes:
Lorraine Colon, Amherst & John Giusiana, Lewiston
 Sets of Buffalo Bison Tickets:
Eric Duma, Hamburg



Lorraine Colon & daughter, Noelia

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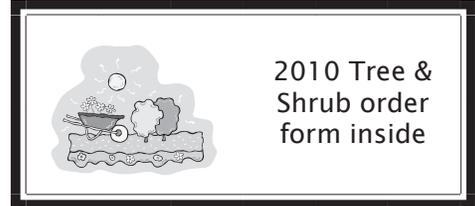
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7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday
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