

Conservation Connections



Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

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 www.ecswcd.org

Winter 2011 Edition



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Dates to Remember:

- Tree & Shrub Distribution Day at the Marketplace Building at the Hamburg Fairgrounds on April 16, 2011
- 2011 Erie County Envirothon: Workshop Day: March 31, 2011
Test Day: April 28, 2011
- Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop: February 17, 2011
- ECSWCD Board Meeting @ the USDA Service Center on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:30 AM.

COMMEMORATING OVER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ERIE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Francis Gernatt has served as the Chairman of the Board since September 2002 and has been a member of our Board of Directors since December 1980. He also served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Erie/Wyoming Joint Board since 1981, this board oversees 60 linear miles of streambank in the Buffalo River Watershed. His interest began in conservation and farming when he was growing up with his nine brothers and sisters on his family's farm. His hard-working father was born in Austria and held many jobs from working in a coal mine to delivering beer. In 1945 his father decided to settle in Collins, New York and purchased 316 acres and managed a livestock farm with 24 milking cows. His father sold the milk and delivered it by train. In 1956, Francis and his wife Betty took over the family farm and it grew to 110 milking cows. In 1987 the barn was destroyed by fire and the cows were auctioned off, leaving Francis with only memories of his family farm. This didn't stop him from moving on. At the District he used his knowledge to help other farmers. He was a strong supporter of our Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program which offers Erie County farmers technical assistance with the understanding of the importance of learning new techniques through implementing conservation practice designs on their farms.

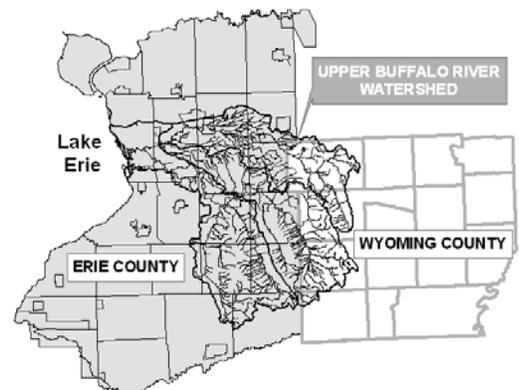


Francis (third from left) with Erie/Wyoming Joint Board Members

Under Francis's leadership, the Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District was able to expand its Board of Directors from five to seven members. During his district career the county eliminated one year of funding for the district yet the district held on. District board meetings were held every month. District conservation work and business was still completed. Even during tough times he was in it for the long haul. And he says, "The job needed to get done."
(continued on page 2)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES AGRICULTURAL GRANT FOR \$675,631 IN THE UPPER BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED

The Conservation District is pleased to announce that it 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 Upper Buffalo River Watershed in Erie and Wyoming Counties. The Upper Buffalo River Watershed drains several streams to Lake Erie including Buffalo Creek, Cayuga Creek and Cazenovia Creek. The partnership with Wyoming County SWCD allows the project to address agricultural water quality concerns across the entire watershed and provides increased benefit of water quality protection to all downstream communities and Lake Erie source water. This project is the third phase of implementation for this watershed and continues the momentum of water quality protection in the agricultural community that has been completed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
(continued on page 2)



2011
**CONSERVATION
 TREE & SHRUB
 ORDER FORM**
 INSIDE/
 ORDER
 DEADLINE:
MARCH 18, 2011
 FOR BEST SELECTION



(continued from page 1)

Commemorating over 30 years...

Francis took the gold at the Farm & Home Center for "The best sample of hay with quality nutrients" award. He also was recognized by the Erie County Agricultural Society in their Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the success of the Erie County Fair. Francis was married for over 65 years to Betty who he affectionately admires. In addition to his five children and twenty-two grandchildren, they have always opened their home to family and also adopted a girl from Brazil.

After thirty plus years of dedicated service, Francis Gernatt is concluding his term as District Board member. We would like to thank him for the distinguished contributions he has made to Erie County as well as express our appreciation for his high quality work, his presence, his strong sense of ethics and his devotion.

(continued from page 1)

Upper Buffalo River grant.....

The grant will provide a total of \$675,631 in funding to cost share the implementation of engineered waste management systems, barnyard runoff management systems and prescribed grazing systems. These best management practices will improve the ability of farm operations to more effectively use and distribute nutrients and organic matter from agricultural sources and to control agricultural runoff.

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 Federal Farm Bill Programs please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/index.html>.

Great Lakes Basin Stream Project

During the Fall of 2010, the District completed construction activities on the Eighteenmile Creek Streambank Restoration and Erosion Control Project in the town of North Collins. The project was partially funded through a grant provided by the Great Lakes Commission with funds from the United States Department of Agriculture.

The finished project resulted in the stabilization of 400+ feet of severely eroded streambank utilizing longitudinal peaked stone to protect the toe and upper bank up to the 10 year storm event. The installation of a riparian buffer along the channel included over 600 Streamco Willow live stakes and whips planted above the rock and along the toe and will help improve the aquatic environment by shading the stream and rock as the plants develop. The water quality benefits of this project also include the reduction of an estimated 5 tons of sediment per year from entering the stream thereby improving habitat for the local fisheries.



Streambank stabilization and riparian enhancement on the South Branch of Eighteenmile Creek in North Collins

This was the fourth project in the past year to be completed in the upper watershed of the South Branch of Eighteenmile Creek with a focus on water quality protection, aquatic habitat improvement and protection of public infrastructure and private property.

It serves as another successful example of how Soil & Water Conservation District's can effectively utilize federal or state grants to supplement private landowner cost-share contributions to benefit natural resource conservation.

Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop
 NYSDEC endorsed 4-hour GP-0-10-001 Training
 For Construction Site Contractors and Operators:

Thursday, February 17, 2011
 @ Erie County Emergency Services Training Facility

Sponsored by: Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District

Please contact Don Stribick for more information: e-mail: don.stribick@ny.nacdn.net
 phone: (716) 652-8480 x 5

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ERIE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2011 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PROGRAM

ORDER BY MARCH 18, 2011. 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 16, 2011. **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	ADAPTATIONS, BEST USES
Blue Spruce	↓	30 - 60'	Rich, moist	☀ ☉ L	☀

WILDLIFE SEEDLING PACKS		QTY	COST
Bird and Butterfly:	2 each - Blackberry, Butterfly Bush, Common Lilac, Spicebush, Strawberry Bush (not fruiting strawberry)	\$14	
Nut Tree Pack:	2 each - American Beech, Hazelnut, Red Oak, Sawtooth Oak, Black Walnut	\$13	
Native NY Wildlife:	2 each - Black Cherry, Elderberry, American Larch, White Pine, Serviceberry	\$12	
Homeowner Tree Pack:	2 each - Black Gum, Honey Locust, Red Maple, Dawn Redwood, Blue Spruce	\$12	

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS		Do not mix species	
10 for \$18	30 for \$51	50 for \$80	
	QTY	COST	

Red Cedar	→ 40 - 50'	Deep, moist, well drained ☀ ☉ L		
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 - Douglas Fir, Hemlock, White Pine, Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce			

EVERGREEN/CONIFER SEEDLINGS Do not mix species in a bundle

10 for \$8	30 for \$21	100 for \$60	500 for \$250	QTY	COST
Austrian Pine	→ 50 - 60'	Tolerates many soils ☀ ☉ L			
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 ☀ L 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 ☀		
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		
Shadblow Serviceberry	→ 6 - 20'	Moist, well-drained ☀ ☉		
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 ☀ ☉		
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 ☀		
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		

THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION FOR CHESTNUTS ON SATURDAY APRIL 30, 2011 AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE IN EAST AURORA.
Other stock that you order must be picked up at the regular distribution on April 16.

AMERICAN CHESTNUT SEEDLINGS 10 for \$20 QTY COST

Am. Chestnut	→ 70 - 90'	Moist, sandy loam ☀ ☉ W		
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GENERAL AGE AND HEIGHT	<i>Bulk Seedling Stock</i>	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
	<i>Bulk Transplant Stock</i>	Grown 2-to-3 years in a seedling bed and 1-to-2 years in a transplant bed; 10-24" height above the roots

Partner Agencies Call on the District to Assist with Flood Recovery

I'm not sure who coined the phrase "When it rains, it pours" but those who have had an extreme rain event rip through their county know just that. For the last year Erie County has been working to mitigate damage that resulted from a rain event that occurred on August 9th, 2009. That's right, "2009," and a year-and-a-half later this construction effort is still underway and will continue into 2011. As we ring in the new year and reflect on 2010, it is important to look at the District's role in restoration efforts for the past year.

The District's role in the County of Erie's stream restoration and protection effort has its foundation through a 9-year partnership with Erie County Highway Department in a County-Wide Stream Maintenance Program. The initial focus of the program called for the District to assist the County Highway Department in removing accumulated debris and other obstructions at or near county infrastructure in order to improve stream flow and to protect county roadways. This program has helped to prevent localized flooding and loss of property, and has provided for repair to damaged roads and bridges. However, extreme rain events and their sometimes disastrous consequences have increased the call for assistance by the County of Erie. Over the past few years Erie County has experienced an increase in large-scale erosion issues which require more involved survey and design work by the District to protect the county's aging infrastructure.

This "call for assistance" has increased the scope of the Stream Maintenance Program and has strengthened the partnership. This partnership became instrumental in setting the stage for District involvement in the 2009 flood response. This response relied on the District's expertise in natural resources planning and management and the District's technical knowledge of stream restoration and protection. District assistance included many hours of implementation work which focused on mapping, estimating costs, surveying, designing, filing permits, working with landowners and inspecting construction. When the federal disaster declaration was made the wave of FEMA funded projects began and the District mobilized for implementation. To date the District has assisted with forty sites totaling over \$400,000 in project costs; the numbers continue to grow as disaster response continues.

On February 22, 2010 USDA-NRCS was authorized to initiate the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program in response to the disaster. EWP is a recovery effort intended to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, or other natural occurrences. More than twenty-five EWP project sites were approved for over five million dollars of funding. Work included clearing debris-clogged stream channels, repairing eroded and unstable streambanks, and protecting jeopardized infrastructure. The District was called on again to assist with surveying, designing, filing permits, working with landowners and inspecting construction. The District also assisted many of the municipal sponsors in securing their necessary local cost-share by coordinating the most efficient matching of existing grant and program funds including the sponsorship of ten sites through the County Highway Stream Maintenance Program. Nine of the ten county sites are completed totaling over \$600,000 and counting.

The District has taken a pro-active approach in providing outstanding technical assistance during emergency response situations and will continue to work effectively with its partner agencies.

Eighteenmile Creek Watershed Ag Implementation Project Completed

The District is pleased to inform that the Eighteenmile Creek Watershed Ag Implementation Project has been completed. Eight best management practices were installed through the New York Ag Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program to protect and improve water quality in streams that discharge into Lake Erie. Milking Center Waste Collection, Silage Leachate Collection and Treatment, Waste Storage Facility, Barnyard Runoff Management and Fencing are conservation practice systems that were installed to contain agricultural pollutants, to allow for the proper use of agricultural nutrients, to divert stormwater, to restrict animals from sensitive areas and to meet the goals of Agricultural Environmental Management Plans (AEM) and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP). For more information on how your farm operation can benefit from Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) please visit www.nys-soilandwater.org/aem/index.html or call the District at (716) 652-8480 ext. 5.



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7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday
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2011 Tree & Shrub order form inside



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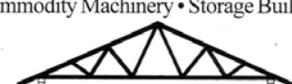
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