

# Conservation Connections



**Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District**

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[www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org)



*Winter 2012 Edition*



## CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECEIVES AGRICULTURAL GRANT FOR CATTARAUGUS CREEK 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 Cattaraugus Creek Watershed in Erie and Cattaraugus Counties. The Cattaraugus Creek Watershed basin drains 533 square miles in southern Erie County and northern Cattaraugus County to Lake Erie. The partnership with Cattaraugus 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, Clear Lake source water and Lake Erie source water. This project is the second 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.

Total project will exceed 1.4 million dollars to cost share the construction of engineered waste management systems for manure, silage leachate, milkhouse effluent, and barnyard runoff; 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/farbill/2008/index.html>

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### Dates to Remember:

- Tree & Shrub Distribution Day at the Marketplace Building at the Hamburg Fairgrounds on April 14, 2012
- 2012 Erie County Environment: Workshop Day: March 29, 2012  
Test Day: May 3, 2012
- Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop: February 23, 2012

## STREAM UPDATE: BUFFALO RIVER WATERSHED EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROJECT & 2011 ACTIVITY SUMMARY



Work along East Cazenovia Creek

In September the District was notified that its' latest stream-related grant application was selected for funding under the Great Lakes Commission's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Watershed Program. The goal of this grant will be the restoration of eight erosion sites in Erie and Wyoming Counties along Buffalo and East Cazenovia Creeks. A project kickoff meeting was held in conjunction with the November Erie-Wyoming County Joint Watershed Board meeting. The District extends an appreciative thank you to Congresswoman Kathleen Hochul who was unable to attend the meeting but did send a representative in her absence.

The majority of project sites will focus on the restoration of historical joint board structures. These streambank stabilization structures were installed in the 1960's by the Soil Conservation Service and line approximately 57 miles of streambank throughout the Buffalo River Watershed - this encompasses the Buffalo, Cazenovia and Cayuga Creek subwatersheds. The main purpose of the historical program was to reduce silt and sedimentation in the Buffalo River portion of Buffalo Harbor by controlling streambank erosion and by promoting best management practices on farms and riparian properties throughout the watershed. These 50+ year old structures have taken a lot of punishment from stream flow over

the years and many are still in good condition however several require immediate attention in order to stabilize erosion and reduce sediments from entering the stream. With the main goal of water quality protection, over the 20 year anticipated lifespan of the installed best management practices (although typically longer), we calculate an expected reduction of approximately 4,780 tons of sediments from entering the Buffalo River watershed. Construction of the first project was completed in mid-December right before the start of winter.

\*\*\*

2011 was another busy year working along our local waterways as the District was involved with 10+ streambank stabilization projects, several debris jam removals and multiple landowner requests for site evaluations and technical assistance. The stream project totals include the stabilization of over 2000 linear feet of eroded streambank with hundreds of biotechnical plantings installed to improve the riparian habitat.

**2012 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB ORDER FORM INSIDE! ORDER DEADLINE: MARCH 16, 2012 FOR BEST SELECTION**

# USDA ANNOUNCES RANKING DATES FOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVES



The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the ranking dates for the On-Farm energy, Organic, Seasonal High Tunnel and Air Quality conservation initiatives. These initiatives offer technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

- The On-Farm Energy initiative allows producers to work with NRCS to develop Agricultural Energy Management Plans (AgEMP). The AgEMP help producers assess energy consumption on their operation.
- The Organic initiative helps organic-certified producers install conservation practices specifically for organic production. In FY 2012, applicants will be evaluated continuously during the ranking periods. Those applicants meeting or exceeding a threshold score may be approved for an EQIP contract. Those that do not meet this threshold will be deferred to the next period.
- The Seasonal High Tunnel pilot initiative helps producers plan and implement high tunnels, which extend growing seasons in an environmentally sound manner. More than 4,000 high tunnels have been implemented through this initiative over the past two years.
- The Air Quality initiative assists producers with implementing conservation practices that address air quality concerns. Practices like cover crops and implementing nutrient management practices mitigate and prevent air quality problems. This initiative is offered in Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Montana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Ranking dates for the On-Farm Energy, Organic and Seasonal High Tunnel initiatives end on February 3, March 30 and June 1, 2012. Ranking dates for the Air Quality initiative end on February 3 and March 30, 2012.

## COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you were Hispanic or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. If you want to register your name to receive a claims package, access the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Call Center 1-888-508-4429 or Website: [www.farmerclaims.gov](http://www.farmerclaims.gov). For guidance, you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community. USDA cannot provide legal advice to you.

### Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop

NYSDEC endorsed 4-hour  
GP-0-10-001 Training  
For Construction Site  
Contractors and Operators:

Thursday, February 23, 2012  
@ 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.nacdnet.net](mailto:don.stribick@ny.nacdnet.net)

or  
phone: (716) 652-8480 x 5

### Vacancy Announcements

for  
E. C. Soil & Water Conservation District  
Board of Directors  
At-Large Position/3 year Appointment  
&  
Grange Representative/3 year Appointment

Responsibilities include:  
Governing District activities  
Attending monthly District Board meetings  
Representing the District at local and  
state functions

Interested candidates should send a resume to  
John J. Mills, Chairman of the Board at:  
50 Commerce Way,  
East Aurora, NY 14052 by 2/29/12

Candidates must be  
Erie County Residents and U.S. Citizens  
This is a volunteer position

For more information, please contact:  
Mark Gaston at 652-8480

### CONGRATULATIONS!! Mark & Brandi Gaston

Wyatt Walter  
November 14, 2011  
8 lbs. 10 oz.



Wyatt joins big sister Sophia.



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Cell: (716) 308-8220  
Fax: (716) 821-1607



### Public Notice

Erie County Soil &  
Water Conservation  
District's Board  
Meeting  
is held at the USDA  
Service Center on the  
second Tuesday  
of every month  
at  
9:30 A.M.

Available to  
purchase at the District:

Wildlife Boxes  
Fertilizer Tablets  
Finder Pocket Books  
Marking Flags  
Tree Shelters  
Topographical Maps  
Reusable Totes

ERIE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# 2012 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PROGRAM

**ORDER BY MARCH 16, 2012.** 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 14, 2012.  
**DETACH AND RETURN ONLY THE ORDER FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE. Keep the remaining pages for your records.**

<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	L Windbreak	Christmas Trees
W Wood Products	E Erosion Control	Wildlife Food and Cover

<b>HOW TO READ SEEDLING ORDER CHARTS:</b>					
VARIETY	GROWTH RATE	MATURE HEIGHT	SOIL PREFERENCE	LIGHT PREFERENCE	ADAPTATIONS, BEST USES
Blue Spruce	↓	30 - 60'	Rich, moist	☀ ☉ L	W E

WILDLIFE SEEDLING PACKS		QTY	COST
Bird and Butterfly:	2 each - Blackberry, Butterfly Bush, Common Lilac, Spicebush, American Beauty Bush	\$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 - White Birch, Honey Locust, Red Maple, Dawn Redwood, Blue Spruce	\$12	

**CONIFER TRANSPLANTS** *Do not mix species within a bundle*  
 Bundles: 10 for \$18 30 for \$51 50 for \$80 QTY COST

Red Cedar	→ 40 - 50'	Deep, moist, well drained ☀ OL		
American Arborvitae	↓ 20 - 30'	Deep, moist, sandy ☀ L		
White Pine	↑ 50 - 80'	Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ L W		
Blue Spruce	↓ 30 - 60'	Rich, moist ☀ OL		
Norway Spruce	↑ 40 - 60'	Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ OL		
White Spruce	→ 40 - 60'	Moist loam, alluvial, tolerant ☀ OL L W		
Balsam Fir	↓ 45 - 75'	Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ OL		
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 ☀ OL		
Hemlock	→ 40 - 70'	Moist well-drained, acid ☀ OL W		

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

**CONIFER SEEDLINGS: Pine, Spruce** *Do not mix species within a bundle*

Bundles: 10 for \$8 25 for \$18 100 for \$60 500 for \$250		QTY	COST
Austrian Pine	→ 50 - 60'	Tolerates many soils ☀ OL	
Scotch Pine	→ 30 - 60'	Acidic, well-drained ☀	
Blue Spruce	↓ 30 - 60'	Rich, moist ☀ OL	
Norway Spruce	→ 40 - 60'	Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ OL W	
White Spruce	→ 40 - 60'	Moist loam, alluvial, ☀ OL L W	

**CONIFER SEEDLINGS: White Pine, Fir & Other** *Do not mix species*

Bundles: 10 for \$9 25 for \$20 100 for \$70 500 for \$275		QTY	COST
White Pine	↑ 50 - 80'	Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ 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 ☀ OL	
Hemlock	→ 40 - 70'	Moist, well-drained, acid ☀ OL W	
Japanese Larch	↑ 70 - 90'	Moist, well-drained ☀ L W	

**CONSERVATION SHRUB SEEDLINGS** *Do not mix species within a bundle*

Bundles: 10 for \$10 25 for \$23 50 for \$40		QTY	COST
Sargent Crabapple	→ 6 - 8'	Well-drained ☀	
Red Osier Dogwood	↑ 7 - 9'	Moist soils ☀ OL E	
American Elderberry	↑ 5 - 12'	Moist soils, adaptable ☀ OL	
American Filbert (Hazelnut)	→ 8 - 18'	Well-drained, loam, pH tolerant ☀ OL	
Rugosa Rose	↑ 4 - 6'	Fertile, slightly acid loam, salt tolerant ☀ E	
Shadblow Serviceberry	→ 6 - 20'	Moist, well-drained ☀ OL	
Streamco Willow	↑ 12 - 15'	Moist, slightly acid ☀ OL E	

**BROADLEAF TREE SEEDLINGS** *Do not mix species within a bundle*

Bundles: 10 for \$10 25 for \$23 50 for \$40		QTY	COST
Paper (White) Birch	↑ 50 - 70'	Moist, acid, well-drained loam ☀ W	
River Birch	↑ 40 - 70'	Moist, acid ☀ OL	
Black Cherry	→ 50 - 60'	Deep, moist, fertile ☀ W	
Red Maple	→ 40 - 60'	Moist, slightly acid, tolerant ☀ OL W	
Sugar Maple	↓ 60 - 75'	Well-drained, fertile ☀ OL 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 ☀ OL	
Sycamore	↑ 75 - 100'	Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ OL	
Tuliptree	↑ 70 - 90'	Deep, moist, well-drained loam ☀ W	
Black Walnut	↑ 50 - 75'	Deep, moist, rich soils ☀ W	

**BROADLEAF TREE SEEDLINGS - Featured Introductions**

Bundles: 10 for \$12 25 for \$28 (two bundle sizes only)		QTY	COST
Basswood (Am. Linden)	→ 60 - 80'	Deep, moist, fertile ☀ OL W	

**AMERICAN CHESTNUT SEEDLINGS** 10 for \$20 QTY COST

Am. Chestnut	→ 70 - 90'	Moist, sandy loam ☀ OL W	
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*Chestnuts will have a separate pick up at the East Aurora Office on April 21, 2012*



# NY LAKE ERIE WATERSHED GROUP FORMED

Lake Erie is the southernmost Great Lake and is also the shallowest with an average depth of 62 feet. This makes it the warmest and most biologically active of the Great Lakes which has allowed for a booming commercial fishing industry and for many other industrial and recreational opportunities. Because it is part of the largest freshwater resource in the world Lake Erie's watershed is densely populated, extensively farmed and highly industrialized. Lake Erie, with drainage from Ontario, Canada and the States of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, is impacted by the activities of approximately twelve million residents and it is critical that watersheds that drain to Lake Erie are effectively managed.

A ravaging flood event in August of 2009 initiated the response of municipal officials in southern Erie County to lead a grassroots effort to manage their local watersheds draining to Lake Erie. The storm event highlighted localized flooding problems, excessive debris accumulation in area streams and overall non-point source pollution issues affecting their respective communities and ultimately Lake Erie. These watershed concerns were brought to Erie County Water Quality Committee which facilitated a more regional discussion of the issues. As a result of the discussion Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) was formed as a membership of stakeholders intending to alleviate non-point source pollution issues affecting Lake Erie. The discussion identified that watershed management efforts through LEWPA should encompass all of the Lake Erie Watershed along the 92 miles of New York shoreline and, therefore, LEWPA includes the memberships of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie Counties.

LEWPA's mission is to foster collaboration and partnerships within the New York portion of the watershed to address our regional water quality and quantity concerns and in doing so, protect and enhance our Lake Erie resource. The mission will be furthered through the implementation of the following nine objectives:

- Implement a watershed management approach to protecting water quality.
- Leverage community assets and other support.
- Reduce point source and non-point source water pollution.
- Protect and enhance swimming, fishing, and other recreational activities.
- Reduce the impacts and costs of flooding.
- Conserve, protect, and restore natural habitat.
- Identify, prioritize, and quantify specific problems and their solutions in support of the mission.
- Build community stewardship through education and outreach to improve community awareness of the value and importance of Lake Erie and increase community involvement in preserving the lake as a resource.
- Address failing and outdated municipal infrastructure needs.

The LEWPA Board includes members from Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie Counties. Each county will be responsible for choosing its representatives which include local government, county government and the Soil and Water Conservation District. The inaugural meeting of the LEWPA Board will be January 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 in the Town of Eden; it is open to the public. For additional information please contact Mark Gaston, District Field Manager.

## 2011 WINNERS & DISTRICT NEWS



Erie County Farm Bureau President, Bryant Zilke with 2011 agricultural award recipient, Mark Gaston, Erie Co. SWCD Field Manager.



Joel Squelch and girlfriend, winners of the bird feeder, compliments of Bulldogs Feed Company. ECSWCD held a raffle at the conservation building at the E. C. Fair.



Buffalo Homeschoolers win the 2011 Erie County Envirothon coordinated by ECSWCD. Joshua Heim, M&T Bank Vice President of Government Banking on left.



Lucky winners of a bluebird house compliments of ECSWCD.



The Department of Conservation, Law Enforcement Division, demonstrates a canine presentation at the Erie County Envirothon.



Ms. Kaminski, winner of a bluebird house, compliments of ECSWCD's Reinstein Woods Fall Festival raffle.



Ronny the Raindrop celebrating Red, White & You at the E.C. Fair.



Alexandra Ayers, UB Environmental Studies student, is completing another six-month internship with the District.

Visit us online at [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org)

Directors:

Raymond Waterman - At Large  
Calvin Kohn - Grange  
Stanley Travis - Farm Bureau  
Vacant - At Large  
Samuel J. Chiavetta - At Large  
Pending - County Legislator  
John J. Mills - County Legislator



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James Sroka, Water Quality Technician  
Allen Young, Water Quality Technician  
Don Stribick, District Technician

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

John Whitney, District Conservationist  
Michael Shinnick, Area I Ag. Engineer  
Suzika Pagan Riestra, Soil Conservationist

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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2012 Tree & Shrub order form inside

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