

# Conservation Connections

## Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Telephone: (716) 652-8480 Fax: (716) 652-8506  
www.ecswcd.org



Semi-Annual District Newsletter

January, 2005

## Conservation District Receives Grant for Eighteenmile Creek



Sites of erosion, such as the one shown above in the Town of Collins, will be addressed by the Partnership Program.

The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District has received official word from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that it has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$326,706 to address streambank erosion problems in the Eighteenmile Creek Watershed. The funds were made available through the Environmental Protection Fund. The state grant will be matched by funds from private landowners, participating municipalities, the District, and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, bringing the total value of the project to \$654,000.

Continued on page 2...

## High School Students & Teachers:

### Sign Up Now for the 2005 Erie County Envirothon!

If you are an Erie County high school student interested in the outdoors or environmental science, the Envirothon is an ideal opportunity for you! Coordinated by the District, the Erie County Envirothon is an annual, hands-on environmental studies competition that brings students from throughout the county together for a unique and rewarding 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 "Managing Cultural Resources." 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 local environmental 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 Oswego on May 25 and 26th, where they will compete against local Envirothon winners from counties throughout the state.

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### 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! ♦

### Conservation Tree and Shrub Seedling Program

The District's annual Conservation Tree and Shrub Seedling Program is underway – order early for best selection.

#### Order Form Inside!

32 varieties of seedlings including:  
Hardwoods • Evergreens • Shrubs • American Chestnuts

7 varieties of transplants including:  
White Pine • Douglas Fir • Blue Spruce • Norway Spruce  
Fraser Fir • White Spruce • American Arborvitae

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 25, 2005**

## Eighteenmile Creek Partnership Program

...continued from page 1

The project goal is to implement structural or biotechnical streambank stabilization practices on properties where land, homes, public facilities and other structures are threatened by erosion. According to District Field Manager, Mark Gaston, "The Eighteenmile Creek Streambank Stabilization Partnership Program will have numerous environmental benefits including streambank erosion control, improved water quality, improved aquatic habitat, reduction in sedimentation, and increased recreational opportunities."

Through the efforts of Erie County Legislators (in 2001) Fred Marshall, Jeanne Chase and Dale Larson, funds were made available for an on-site inspection by staff from the Soil and Water Conservation District. The District inspected the streambanks for areas of erosion, banks that lack adequate vegetation, and sites of serious significant debris accumulation with potential to cause localized flooding and bank erosion during high flow situations. The inspection was conducted between Spring 2001 and Spring 2002.

The inspection provided a current assessment of the extent of the problems and helped the District develop an estimate of costs to apply any necessary streambank stabilization practices. Normally, private landowners wishing to maintain streambanks located on their property must do so at their own expense. However, the extensive labor and associated costs of routine maintenance is often beyond the financial capabilities of private landowners. The ultimate goal of the District's effort was to protect both public and private property in the Eighteenmile Creek area while preserving its natural beauty and value as a wildlife habitat and community resource. Based on the outcome of the inspection, the District began the process to apply for cost share assistance to address high priority sites.

The Eighteenmile Creek Streambank Stabilization Partnership Program was the tool chosen to address the high priority sites identified by the stream inspection. This program is modeled after a successful pilot project completed in the Buffalo River Watershed that functions as an ongoing sustainable approach to addressing streambank erosion and associated problems. This innovative program formulates a unique partnership between Erie County, six of the seven municipalities in the watershed, and the private landowners whose property is adjacent to the watercourse. Through cooperation and consolidation of resources, the program will increase its positive impact on the watershed.

The Erie County SWCD will function as project administrator by administering project funds, providing design and cost estimates, supervising construction, and assisting with necessary permits. Construction will take place through 2005 and 2006 to restore over 3,400 linear feet of streambank in the Eighteenmile Creek Watershed. ♦

## Spotlight on New District Staff: Kathleen Pumm



The District Board and Staff are pleased to welcome Kathleen Pumm to the position of Account Clerk Typist. Kathleen is a native of the Buffalo area and currently resides in the Town of Lancaster.

Previously an Account Clerk Typist for the Erie County Health Department and a secretary for a local church, Kathleen brings valuable experience to the District.

In her spare time, Kathleen enjoys spending time with her family and friends, relaxing near water, and going to craft shows. Welcome, Kathleen! ♦

## District Welcomes New Board of Directors Member - Legislator Tim Wroblewski



The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to welcome Erie County Legislator Tim Wroblewski to its Board of Directors.

After six years of service as a councilman in West Seneca, Mr. Wroblewski was elected to the Erie County Legislature in January, 2004.

As Legislator of District #9 representing the West Seneca area, Mr. Wroblewski maintains an active role within the community. Last year Legislator Wroblewski served as chairman of Community Enhancement Committee, vice-chair of the Government Affairs Committee and was a member of the Public Safety Committee for the Erie County Legislature. While in office, his main focus is "to improve the quality of life for all Erie County residents regardless how difficult the vote."

The District appreciates Legislator Wroblewski's involvement on to the Board of Directors, and his dedication to the improvement of Erie County. ♦

## Envirothon

...continued from page 1

The winning team at the New York State Envirothon qualifies for the Canon National Envirothon – North America's largest environmental competition. At both the State and National levels, top-scoring teams have the opportunity to win college scholarships.



2004 Envirothon participants enjoyed a live owl exhibit.

Not only is the Envirothon a unique chance for students to spend a day enjoying



An ecologist teaches participants about forest ecology and wildlife.

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 7<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to register for the 2005 Erie County Envirothon, please contact the District office at 652-8480 or visit the District's website at [www.ecswcd.org](http://www.ecswcd.org). Further information on the New York State Envirothon is available at [www.nysenvirothon.org](http://www.nysenvirothon.org). ♦



Participants learn about principles and techniques of forestry from a DEC Forester.

# 2005 CONSERVATION TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PROGRAM

**ORDER BY MARCH 25, 2005.** 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. 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.

<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	🌿 Windbreak W Wood Products 🐾 Wildlife Food and Cover

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, Black Cherry, White Spruce, Serviceberry, Red Osier Dogwood	\$14	
<b>Homeowner Pack:</b>	2 each - Blue Spruce, Fraser Fir, Red Maple, Paper (White) Birch, Northern Red Oak	\$12	
<b>Nut Tree Pack:</b>	2 each - Black Walnut, White Oak, Hazelnut, Butternut, Sawtooth Oak	\$12	
<b>Bird and Butterfly:</b>	2 each - Sassafras, Butterfly Bush, Common Lilac, American Elderberry, Highbush Blueberry - Jersey (Mid-Summer Fruiting)	\$14	

## AMERICAN CHESTNUT

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

## EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS

10 for \$15	QTY	COST
American Arborvitae ↓ 20 - 30' Deep, moist, sandy ☀ 🌿 🐾		
White Pine ↑ 50 – 80' Fertile, moist, well-drained ☀ 🌿 🌲 W 🐾		
Blue Spruce ↓ 30 – 60' Rich, moist ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲		
Norway Spruce ↑ 40 - 60' Acid, sandy, moist, well-drained ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲		
White Spruce → 40 – 60' Moist loam, alluvial, tolerant ☀ ☉ 🌿 🌲 🐾		
Douglas Fir → 40 – 80' Moist, well-drained, slightly acid ☀ 🌲		
Fraser Fir ↓ 30-40' Cool, moist, well-drained Loam ☀ ☉ 🌲 🐾		

## EVERGREEN/CONIFER

10 for \$8	30 for \$21	100 for \$60	500 for \$250	QTY	COST
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
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 🐾				

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



## Mark Your Calendar! (We'll be there!)

### ◆ Winterfest at Chestnut Ridge Park

January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 - 5 PM

Stop by Chestnut Ridge Park and enjoy winter fun for the whole family at Winterfest, coordinated by the Erie County Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Activities will include sledding, snoeshoing, live music and displays in the main casino from various community organizations.

## Rural and Urban Neighbors Annual Banquet

The Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District held their fifth annual Rural and Urban Neighbors banquet on November 18, 2004 at Ripa's Restaurant. District and Extension staff, elected officials, and rural and urban landowners gathered together to recognize another year of conservation efforts in Erie County.



Don and Dan Spoth received the 2005 Cooperator Achievement Award in recognition of their farmland protection efforts in the Town of Amherst.

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 presented in the categories of "Cooperator Achievement," "Educator of the Year," "Friend of the District," and "Volunteer of the Year." The District was pleased to present this year's awards to the following recipients:

*Cooperator Achievement* – Don and Dan Spoth of Spoth's Farm and Greenhouse

*Educator of the Year* – Teachers Eunice Reinhold and Matt Clayton of Springville High School

*Friend of the District* – Steven Doleski and Chuck Cranston of the Department of Environmental Conservation

*Volunteer of the Year Award* – Fred Tornow, Aaron Rimmer, Mickey Durfee, Joanne McMullan

This year's keynote speaker was David Kay, an Extension Associate of Applied Economics at Cornell University of Agriculture and Life Sciences, who presented an address on farmland protection.

Staff from the Cornell Cooperative Extension and Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District worked collaboratively to make the 2004 Rural and Urban Neighbors Banquet a success. ♦



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County Executive Director Dan Harris (left) and Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District Field Manager Mark Gaston (right)

## NRCS News

### "CSP"—Select WNY Watersheds Now Eligible for Funding

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is one of the new federal conservation programs authorized under the 2002 Federal Farm Bill. This new program is unique among the suite of programs available through USDA. It is *not* intended to provide assistance for treatment of severe environmental problems on farms. Rather, it rewards farmers for their current and future conservation stewardship work. It is a "green payments" program rather than a traditional financial assistance program and is targeted towards farms that are already doing good conservation work. CSP payments are considered "entitlement" payments instead of incentive or cost-sharing payments. Payments can be **stewardship payments, existing practices payments, or enhancement payments.**

CSP is designed to "reward the best and motivate the rest" by providing financial and technical assistance to support on-going conservation work on cropland, pastures, forestlands and farmsteads and private and Tribal working lands throughout the country.

Until this year, CSP was only available in pilot watersheds in select states. Beginning with fiscal year 2005, the program has become more widely available and the first priority watersheds in New York State have been approved for funding. In Western New York, farms within the **Buffalo/Eighteenmile Creek** and **Tonawanda Creek** watersheds are eligible. This covers about two-thirds of Erie County as well as southern Niagara County and significant parts of Genesee and Wyoming Counties along with the Tonawanda Indian Reservation (Tonawanda Seneca Nation). Other watersheds will be added in future years so that the entire State is covered over an **eight year cycle.**

Farmers are encouraged to begin contacting local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) offices in anticipation of a sign-up period which will begin early in 2005. The application process uses a combination of a **self-assessment workbook, interviews** and, in some cases, **farm visits** to determine and document each farm's conservation activities and needs. Conservation Plans are prepared and financial payment contracts are written for eligible farms. Farmers will be encouraged to apply for funding under other programs if needed practices are not covered under CSP or if it turns out the farms do not meet the eligibility criteria for one of the **three funding categories.**

Land already enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program and Grassland Reserve Program is not eligible. Otherwise, most farms with the priority watersheds are likely to be eligible under one of the three funding categories (**Tiers I, II and III**).

Eligibility and determination of the appropriate funding tier will be based on evaluation of surface and groundwater quality, air quality, soil quality, irrigation water management, nutrient management, pest management, energy conservation, prescribed grazing and forage management, riparian buffers, waste utilization and other resource issues.

Visit the **programs** section of the NRCS web page ([www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)) for more information about CSP and other conservation programs. Landowners are also encouraged to contact their local NRCS/SWCD office. Just ask to have your name added to the CSP list. We'll be sure to contact you when the official sign-up period is announced. In Erie County, phone 652-8480 or send an e-mail note to [john.whitney@ny.usda.gov](mailto:john.whitney@ny.usda.gov). ♦

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

**Directors:**  
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 James Sroka, Water Quality Technician  
 Megan Gollwitzer, District Technician  
 Philip Mogavero, GIS Analyst  
 Kathleen Pumm, Account Clerk Typist

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:**  
 John Whitney, District Conservationist  
 Michael Shinnick, Area I Ag. Engineer  
 Olga Marinesco, Soil Conservationist

District Board meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of each month.

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

\* The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U. S. Department of Agriculture, does not endorse the products or services advertised in this publication. Views and opinions expressed are not those of NRCS, USDA or the Federal Government.

**2005 Conservation  
 Tree & Shrub  
 Seedling Program  
 Order Form Inside**



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USGS Topographic Maps	\$ 8.00
DOQQ Prints (8 1/2x 11)	\$ 1.00
Bluebird Nest Boxes	\$11.00
Bat Houses	\$12.00
Wood Duck Nest Boxes	\$23.00
Marking Flags, Fertilizer Tablets	\$ .10
Tree Shelters - 5 foot	\$ 4.62
Tree Shelters - 3 foot	\$ 3.33
Finder Pocket Field Guides	\$ 6.00
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Fish Management in NY Ponds (CCE #116)	\$ 5.00
Guidelines for Urban Erosion & Sediment Control (1997 edition)	\$25.00
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