

# Conservation Connections



## Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.ecswcd.org



### 2009 *TREE & SHRUB* *RESULTS*

The District distributed  
47,200 trees & shrubs to  
Erie County residents

Semi-Annual District Newsletter

Summer, 2009

### ERIE COUNTY ENVIROTHON RAFFLE

#### Buffalo Bison Tickets

#### KB Lift Tickets

Buffalo Sabres  
Hockey Stick signed  
by Patrick Kaleta



Donation  
\$1.00

## DISTRICT HELPS PROTECT BRIDGE AND STABILIZES STREAMBANK AT LANDON BROOK IN TOWN OF BOSTON

The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District has been working with the Erie County Highway Department to stabilize the severely eroded streambank and protect the bridge on Boston State Road. This project has saved an estimated \$1.5 million dollars which would have come out of the taxpayers pocket by eliminating the need to replace the bridge. Our county-wide streambank maintenance program not only allows us to assist the highway department with a cost-saving approach but it also allows us to provide preventative maintenance to Erie County streambanks before small problems turn into large, catastrophic, costly problems.

In October of 2008 the District secured the services of local contractor Eastwood Industries Inc. to complete the largest stream restoration project to date through the program. The main objective was to protect Boston State Road and the bridge over Landon Brook. The project stabilized approximately 800 linear feet of streambank and included 400 feet of longitudinal peaked stone toe protection, channel alignment modification, the installation of four rock grade control structures to stabilize the stream bed and hundreds of biotechnical plantings to restore the stream to its proper form and function.

The project improves water quality within the 18 Mile Creek Watershed by reducing sediment inputs into the stream; sedimentation being one of the largest sources of pollution in the watershed.

The stream maintenance program will continue in 2009 and 2010 as a number of projects have already been surveyed and are currently in the design stage. The priority list includes: West Tilden Road bridge, New Oregon Road slide, Boston State Road slide, Route 240 erosion and Taylor Hollow bridge. On several of these projects, the District has been able to match county dollars with state and/or federal grant funds secured through recent District efforts. Initial projects saw the District assist the County Highway Department in removing channel/debris obstructions and accumulated sediments to improve stream flow and help prevent localized flooding as well as protecting county roads and bridges. Currently, project survey and design work has increased in complexity with a focus on severe erosion issues. The District looks forward to its' active role in protecting county infrastructure.



Before Photo: Landon Brook site



After Photo: Landon Brook site

### Inside this Edition:

Highway Partnership Projects	1
Integrated Pest Management	1
2009 Envirothon Wrap up	2
Erosion & Sediment Training	2
Earth Team Volunteers	3
Emerald Ash Borer	3
Grassland Incentive Program	3

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## FARMERS NEEDED: INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Cornell University Cooperative Extension (CUCE) and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning are looking for area growers to participate in a US Environmental Protection Agency Food Quality Protection Act/Strategic Agricultural Initiative Program grant. Based on the concepts of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), this program is looking for farmers who can, with assistance from CUCE, utilize biopesticide techniques in the 2010 growing season. The effectiveness of these IPM techniques will be measured as compared to standard pest control strategies currently being used.

Three crop specific IPM workshops are being planned for this fall. Workshop participants will be eligible to be part of the program, however, the grant only accommodates up to 10 participants. In addition, field/twilight meetings are being planned for the summer of 2009 to show practices that may be implemented during the 2010 growing season. To learn more about the program, a brochure is available at [counties.cce.cornell.edu/erie](http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/erie) or contact Sharon Bachman, CUCE Agricultural Educator, at 652-5400 x 150.



Springville wins the 2009 Erie County Envirothon!

## SABRETOOTH MAKES A GUEST APPEARANCE AT OUR 2009 ERIE COUNTY ENVIROTHON

With all the talk today about “going green” it is comforting to know that the Sabres Organization is in the mix of making an environmental effort. On April 30th, 2009 the Sabres “Green Ambassador”, Sabretooth, made a special appearance to honor the winners of our 2009 Erie County Envirothon and to support the District’s mission of youth education in environmental awareness. Sabretooth kicked off our awards presentation and gave all participating students a green team decal.

The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District coordinates the Envirothon annually and it is open to all high school students in Erie County. It gives students the opportunity to have fun in the outdoors by sifting through soils to examine soil profiles, trek through the woods to identify tree species and dip into streams in search of aquatic life. What better way to learn about the natural world than to have our local partner agencies such as U.S. Fish & Wildlife, The Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Office of Parks and Recreation Historical Preservation, Earth Dimensions & Earth Spirit present workshops to students, prepare exams and then come back on Competition Day to proctor the exams.

Fourteen teams from eight schools including Springville, Orchard Park, East Aurora, North Collins, Buffalo Homeschoolers, Holland, Lakeshore, and West Seneca West participated in the 2009 Erie County Envirothon.

Elma Senior Center/Village Green Park in the town of Elma was the perfect setting for our event this year. Tucked in the heart of Elma, this beautiful park with its sheltered areas, gazebo and the rapids of Buffalo Creek a stone’s throw away was ideal for students to learn about the environment outdoors. Vicki Defoe, Director of Senior Services, and her amazing group of seniors including Jim and Ruby Coronado, Paul Faleski and Janice Mings all volunteered their time to make the 2009 Erie County Envirothon a success.

The District would also like to thank the following organizations for their contributions to our program, M&T Bank, Wal-mart, Ecology & Environment, Elma Senior Center/Village Green Park, Earth Dimensions, Malcolm Pirnie, Panera Bread, NY Forest Owners Association, S.C.O.P.E., 3rd Rock, Glen-Coe Conservation Society, Eastwood Industries, Fox Construction, Erie County Farm Bureau, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers—585, Valu Home Centers, Upstate Farms Cooperative, BJ’s Wholesale Club, Kissing Bridge, Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bisons, Tops, Wegmans, & Tim Hortons. Please support these businesses as they are generous in giving back to our community. Any schools or students interested in participating in our program next year please call Melanie J. Saunders, Erie County Envirothon Coordinator, at (716) 652-8480.

## FIRST EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL TRAINING WORKSHOP COMPLETED

Erie County SWCD with the assistance of the WNY Stormwater Coalition completed the delivery of an Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop on May 14, 2009 at the Erie County Fire Training Facility in Cheektowaga, New York. Don Stribick, Conservation District Technician, CPESC and Paula Smith CPESC, CPSWQ presented the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) endorsed 4-hour training to contractors, developers and consulting firms. Seventy-four trainees successfully completed the training and are now recognized as *Trained Individuals* or *Qualified Inspectors*.

All contractors and subcontractors working under the NYSDEC Permit GP-0-08-001 (SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity) must identify at least one *trained individual* from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and have at least one *trained individual* on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Developers must have a *qualified inspector* conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-08-001.

All *qualified inspectors* and *trained individuals* must complete 4 hours of training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control through a program endorsed by NYSDEC, SWCD or CPESC, Inc. every three years. Upon completion, each participant will receive a NYSDEC registration number that is valid for 3 years. *Trained individuals* must be on-site by May 1, 2010. Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), LA’s and PE’s are exempt from these training requirements. Currently, this training does not provide continuing education credit for Code Enforcement Officers, municipal officials, or licensed professionals.

More local training workshops will be offered by the District in late 2009 and early 2010. Call the District at (716) 652-8480 ext. 5 or email don.stribick@ny.nacdn.net to be placed on a mailing list. Check the NYSDEC website for other workshop announcements at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8699.html>.

**Eastwood Industries, Inc.**

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## EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEERS – A PART OF THE TEAM!

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service has volunteer opportunities. Volunteering began with the organization of conservation districts in 1937. The purpose of the Earth Team is to expand NRCS services by using volunteer time, talent and energy to help accomplish the NRCS mission. In recognition of the interest and skills many Americans have in conservation, Congress passed legislation-Section 1526 of PL97-98, Food and Agriculture Act—in 1981 permitting the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to use volunteers. In 1985 the volunteer effort was organized as Earth Team, primarily due to the Farm Bill and the increased workload of NRCS. Since 1982 approximately 428,000 Earth Team volunteers have donated more than 13 million hours.

The Earth Team needs volunteers with skills and time to share in the community to assist in conservation planning, data entry, filing, editing, surveying, mapping, and resources inventories.

To learn more about the Earth Team and how you can become involved, visit our website at: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/volunteers) or call 1-888-LANDCARE(888-526-3227) or contact your local USDA/NRCS District Conservationist for details (716) 652-8480.

## CONFIRMATION OF EMERALD ASH BORER IN CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

The first occurrence of emerald ash borer in New York State was confirmed by the NY Department of Agriculture and Markets and Department of Environmental Conservation on June 17, 2009 in Randolph, NY. An invasive beetle native to eastern Asia, EAB kills all species of ash trees in North America, and has the potential to cause severe economic and ecological damage. First detected near Detroit in 2002 it has now spread to 13 states, the District of Columbia, and two Canadian provinces. Ash mortality is 100% near Detroit and is widespread in all the affected areas.

With establishment of EAB in NYS we can expect tremendous economic impacts in forests where ash is a common timber species and in urban areas where ash are frequently planted as street trees. EAB will impact a wide range of stakeholders from homeowners and small woodlot owners to municipal governments and large timber companies. Horticultural and specialty industries that rely heavily on ash, such as baseball bat and tool handle manufacturers, will be severely impacted by necessary quarantine regulations and the potential complete loss of ash. Ecological effects of EAB will be greatest in areas where ash is most abundant, such as along streams and rivers, in northern wetlands, in second growth woodlands of abandoned agricultural fields, and in the extensive upland forests of NY's southern tier.

We must all work together to "Slow the Spread" of the EAB. Slowing the spread of EAB will allow more time to research, refine, and implement sustainable management options and allow communities to plan for the eventual arrival of a devastating pest:

- DO NOT MOVE FIREWOOD! Movement of ash firewood is the most common method of long-distance spread. Current DEC firewood regulations limit the transportation of untreated firewood to less than 50 miles from its source and prohibit the import of firewood in to NY unless it has been treated to kill EAB.
- Early detection and rapid response are key elements to slowing the spread and minimizing the impact of EAB. Be aware of the sign and symptoms of EAB for early detection. Have plans in place for a rapid response to EAB detection. Trees cut for firewood or other uses should be inspected for signs of EAB. If EAB is detected or suspicious signs are present NYSDEC should be immediately notified. Improper disposal of infested material can hasten the spread of EAB.
- If EAB is located in your area, cooperate with state and federal agencies to assist their efforts for eradication and control. To get more information visit: [www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info) or [www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7253.html). If you detect EAB or EAB damage, call your county Cooperative Extension, Regional NYSDEC office, or NYSDEC at (866) 640-0652 or (518) 402-9425.

### LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM /GRASSLAND PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT

The Grasslands Landowner Incentive program is a unique initiative funded by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and administered by Department of Environmental Conservation for the protection and management of at-risk grassland bird habitat on privately-owned land. Since 85% of the State's grassland acreage is privately owned, we expect that this program will be highly beneficial to our declining grassland bird populations.

Through this program the DEC will reimburse landowners at a set rate for grassland management. To determine eligibility visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/grants.html>. Completed pre-application forms must be submitted to the DEC by August 1, 2009.

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**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.



CONSERVATION  
 CONNECTIONS  
 SUMMER EDITION

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