

Conservation Connections



Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, New York 14052-2185
Telephone: (716) 652-8480 Fax: (716) 652-8506
www.ecswcd.org

Summer 2010 Edition

District Welcomes New Board Member— Legislator Christina Bove

The Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to welcome Erie County Legislator Christina Bove to its Board of Directors.

Mrs. Bove earned both her bachelors and masters degree in education and graduated summa cum laude. In addition to her involvement with community organizations, Mrs. Bove currently serves as a member on the Legislature's Finance and Management Committee, Chair for the Public Safety Committee and Vice-Chair for Economic Development.

As representative of the 9th Legislative District she will represent West Seneca and South Cheektowaga. Mrs. Bove was referred to as the "People's Candidate" because of her loyalty and commitment to her constituents. She is pro-active to the needs of her community and committed to the people whose lives are impacted by her efforts.

She is presently co-sponsoring a local law which would require pawnshops to be licensed to help police identify stolen merchandise and has consistently secured grants and funding for various community projects.

The District looks forward to Legislator Bove's involvement on the Board of Directors.



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Mark your Calendar (We'll be there):

- Erie County Fair—August 11 to 22—Visit our displays in the Conservation Building and Grange Building at the Hamburg Fairgrounds.
- 10th Annual Reinstein Fall Festival—September 18—Kick off the fall season by spending a day in the woods! Crafts for kids, live animals, guided nature walks, hands-on activities, food and more.
- District Board Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of each month.



Emergency Watershed Protection in Response to August 2009 Storm Damage and Flooding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. EWP is a recovery effort intended to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms or other natural occurrences. With the exception of the EWP floodplain easement option, EWP projects must have local sponsors. NRCS may cover up to 75% of the cost of eligible construction work associated with restoration activity (90% within limited-resource areas as identified by U.S. Census data). Remaining costs must be covered by local sources and can be cash and/or in-kind services. Funding for the program is provided through congressional appropriations.

Authorized work includes but is not limited to:

- Clearing debris-clogged stream channels
- Repairing eroded and unstable streambanks
- Protecting jeopardized water control structures and public infrastructure
- Establishing permanent easements on floodplains to restore floodplain functions (and eliminate future cropping or development)



Gas pipeline and County Road jeopardized by erosion in the Town of Boston

More than 25 eligible project measures are in the design, contracting and construction phases in southern Erie County, and northern Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties in response to the unusually severe storms and flooding of August 9 & 10, 2009. Once an EWP project is approved, that work becomes a top priority activity for local staff and, typically, additional personnel are brought in to help as well. Already, local engineering staff has been supplemented with the assistance of personnel from Batavia, Geneseo, Warsaw, Syracuse, and Florida and Montana. All work is expected to be completed by September 30, 2010. Federal EWP assistance is estimated to exceed 5.5 million. It's going to be a very busy summer. For more information, see: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/> and <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/Floodplain/index.html>



Congratulations to Springville High School

Springville wins the 2010 Erie County Envirothon! The Erie County Envirothon competition day was held on April 29th at Elma Senior Center. Teams of high school students from throughout Erie County competed to achieve the highest score in the Envirothon categories of aquatics, soils, forestry, wildlife, and the 2010 current issue "Protection of ground water through urban, agricultural and environmental planning".

Springville's winning team advanced to the New York State Envirothon, held on June 2nd and June 3rd at Keuka College, NY where they competed against other Envirothon winners from counties throughout New York State. The Springville team placed 5th out of 51 teams and 1st in the oral presentation category. For more information on the New York State Envirothon, visit www.nysenvirothon.net.

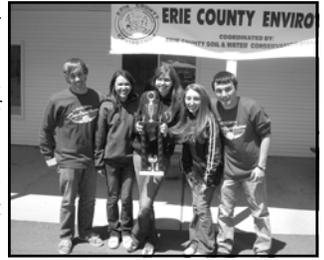
Schools participating in the 2010 Erie County Envirothon included Holland High School, Lakeshore Central High School, Orchard Park High School, Springville High School, Nichols School, Iroquois High School, West Seneca West High School, North Collins High School, and Buffalo homeschoolers.

The Envirothon strives to ensure the success of tomorrow's conservation efforts by fostering environmental stewardship in today's students. The District is grateful to the following sponsors who generously contributed to this investment in our future:

M & T Bank
Elma Senior Center/Village Green Park
Zonta International/District IV
Earth Dimensions
Buffalo Sabres
Valu Home Center
Glen-Coe Conservation Society
NY Forest Owners Association/Niagara Chapter
Savilles Farm Market
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Fox Construction, Inc.
Tim Hortons
Kissing Bridge
Upstate Farms Cooperative, Inc.
Eastern Mountain Sports



Member of Springville's team—
Derek Horshcel, Chelsea
Zalikowski, Stacie Zwolski and
Becca Herbert, Ryan Dygert

Great Job!

**1st
Place**
Springville
High School



2010 Tree and Shrub Program Results: 48,450 Tree & Shrubs Planted

The District had another great year with the annual Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale. Through the program a total of 48,450 tree and shrub seedlings and transplants were distributed to Erie County residents.

Thank you to all of our customers who are actively involved in conserving natural resources, enhancing forestry resources and for developing and caring for wildlife habitat in Erie County.

If you would like to order seedlings in 2011, please call to add your name to our mailing list or check our website at www.ecswcd.org in January 2011 for the updated order form.



Spotlight on New NRCS Staff: *Suzika Pagan Riestra*

Suzika Pagan Riestra, originally from Puerto Rico, has a Doctorate in Agronomy from Texas A&M University and a Master in Science in Animal Science from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez. Currently, she is a Soil Conservationist at the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in East Aurora. Her areas of interest include animal production systems involving dairy cattle and small ruminants, forages and nutrient management. Suzika also has experience in the evaluation of warm season legumes, and by-products for use in animal nutrition. At NRCS, she is looking forward to integrating agronomic practices to improve the conservation of natural resources in the farms of Erie County.

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Grazing and AEM could be the solution for you!

Hard economic times are nothing new to northeast farmers. NYS farmers have been struggling with decreased revenues (ex. milk and beef prices) and inflated input costs (ex. grain and fuel) for years. During economic hardship, farms like any other business evaluate their situation and restructure to become more efficient. One solution to efficiency that livestock farms in the northeast have started to adopt is intensively managing pasture as a source of forage. The utilization of pasture by livestock farms is nothing new, however, it is a practice that has historically been underdeveloped as it was cheaper to mechanically harvest crops.



Many farmers of the northeast are changing the way they utilize their pasture and hay fields. Intense Rotational Stocking (IRS) also referred to as rotational grazing or prescribed grazing is a method of managing both livestock and pasture resources to cut cost and maximize profits. The fundamentals of IRS are dividing large pastures into smaller units (paddocks) based on carrying capacity, and rotating livestock through the paddocks at specific times to maximize forage production and nutrient content, while maintaining plant health and vigor.

IRS has a lot of attractive benefits such as decreased labor costs, cull rates, herd health costs and increased net return per cow and a higher net return per acre than other forages such as hay or corn silage. The key to realizing the maximum benefits of IRS is the level of management applied to the system.

IRS is just one of the suite of practices that can be planned and implemented with the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. AEM is a locally lead, voluntary, incentive based program that helps farmers operate environmentally sound and economically viable businesses. Through the AEM program ECSWCD can collect and hold in confidence, farm specific information that is used to develop a conservation plan to complement the existing environmental stewardship being done by the farm. AEM can be utilized by any large or small agricultural operation of any kind including but not limited to, equine, livestock, poultry, and fruit/vegetable farms. For more information about AEM contact ECSWCD at 716-652-8480.

Summer Fish Stocking

The District's annual fish stocking program for pond owners will take place this July with the scheduled fish distribution on Saturday July 24th at 10am in the District parking lot at the East Aurora field office.

Orders for Largemouth Bass fingerlings and Fathead minnows are currently being accepted. New to the program this year, Grass Carp are also being offered as a biological method to help reduce widespread aquatic vegetation in ponds.

To stock Grass Carp a special permit is required from the NYSDEC. If you plan on purchasing Grass Carp, make sure you get the permit application in weeks before the fish distribution as you will be required to produce the permit to pickup your fish. Also don't forget, a general pond stocking permit from the NYSDEC is necessary to stock pond fish. Both applications are available at the District office. All fish will be provided in cool water, oxygenated bags to make transport a simple process.

To order fish, send the order form below and a check or money order payable to Erie County SWCD, 50 Commerce Way, East Aurora, N.Y. 14052

✂ Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District 2010 Fish Stocking Order Form

Order Deadline:
July 12th, 2010

Species	Price	Qty Ordered	Cost
8-12" Grass Carp	1 fish for \$20.00	_____	\$ _____
1-2" Largemouth Bass	25 fish for \$36.00	_____	\$ _____
1" Fathead Minnow	100 fish for \$22.00	_____	\$ _____
Name _____			Subtotal \$ _____
Address _____			TOTAL ORDER \$ _____
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	_____
Phone _____			



Pickup: 10:00 AM
July 24th, 2010

Minimum order is: 1 Grass Carp or 25 Bass or 100 Minnows.

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- Stanley Travis - Farm Bureau
- Darlene Vogel - At Large
- Samuel J. Chiavetta - At Large
- Christina Bove - County Legislator
- John J. Mills - County Legislator

Staff:

- Mark C. Gaston, District Field Manager
- Melanie J. Saunders, Secretary/Treasurer
- Don Stribick, District Technician
- James Sroka, Water Quality Technician
- Allen Young, Water Quality Technician

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service:

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

Office Hours:

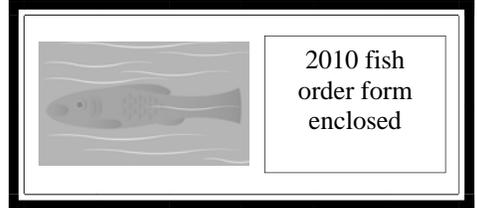
- 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Thursday
- 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM Friday

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