

Conservation Connections



Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District

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 www.ecswcd.org

Summer 2011 Edition



Tree & Shrub Conservation Program pg.2

District Welcomes New Board Member— Raymond Waterman



Our newest board member is Ray Waterman, who is a lifelong farmer and was recognized twice as a “World Champion Giant Pumpkin Grower.” He is the founder of the World Pumpkin Confederation, operates a seed business and farms vegetable and seed crops in Collins, New York.

Ray is a dedicated board member whose top priority is to support agriculture in Erie County and to help farmers manage their farms with good conservation habits. He is pro-active in helping preserve our natural resources. The District is very pleased to have Ray on its Board and looks forward to his involvement in District affairs.

In addition, Ray managed Waterman’s Inc., a family restaurant in Collins and maintained a produce store. He is a member of the Erie County Farm Bureau. Presently he spends most of his time as a plant breeder and is “growing” his seed company.

Ray received his Associates degree in Applied Science and Animal Husbandry at NYS Agricultural & Technical College at Alfred, and he resides in Hamburg with his wife, Mary Kay. He has three children Catherine, Maureen and Andrew and five grandchildren.

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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.
- 11th Annual Reinstein Fall Festival— September 17—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.



Spring Brook channel repair project in the Village of Springville

Over \$5 Million in EWP Financial and Technical Assistance Work Completed

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) work that began after the extreme rainfall and runoff events of August 9 & 10, 2009 are now complete. NRCS and area SWCDs provided engineering assistance and NRCS provided financial assistance in support of more than 25 separate streambank stabilization and channel repair projects including projects in Erie, Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties. Most projects were completed with 75% federal financial assistance although 3 of the projects were eligible for 90% assistance since the sponsor qualified as a low income community under EWP rules.

The largest of these projects was the Village of Springville’s South Buffalo Street Drop Structure Project to stabilize the channel banks of the Spring Brook channel and to allow for repair of utilities and the reopening of South Buffalo Street. The smallest project was a clearing and snagging project near the headwaters of 18 Mile Creek in the Town of Concord. A dozen different governmental units sponsored projects including 3 projects sponsored by the Seneca Nation of Indians. EWP is always a massive team effort with many people involved from the sponsors to the landowners, to permitting agencies, to the contractors who do the work, to the vendors supplying materials like fill, rock and plants. Thanks to all for the dedication and hard work required to complete this emergency work.



New District Engineer

The District Board of Directors would like to welcome Christopher Fry as the Districts’ newest employee. Christopher will serve as Conservation District Engineer. His responsibilities will include survey and design of the Districts’ various agricultural and streambank stabilization / restoration programs including local, state and federal grants and contractual obligations. His background includes preparing hydrologic and hydraulic engineering design calculations, providing storm-water construction reports and pollution prevention plans, and generating hydraulic, structural and geotechnical designs. Chris has a BS in Civil Engineering with a professional concentration in Environmental Engineering from Clarkson University and is a New York State licensed Professional Engineer. In his spare time Chris enjoys hiking, fishing and camping.





Buffalo Homeschoolers take the Gold at the Erie County Envirothon

We are pleased to announce the winners of our Erie County Envirothon—Congratulations Buffalo Homeschoolers! Our Envirothon offers students the opportunity to use teamwork to complete a series of challenges in the subjects of wildlife, forestry, aquatics, soils and a current issue topic. The 2011 Envirothon current issue topic was “Salt & Fresh Water Estuaries.”

Not only is the Envirothon a chance for students to spend a day enjoying the outdoors, it is an excellent opportunity to learn from and connect with local field specialists. To prepare for the Envirothon challenge, students attend a workshop at which local natural resource professionals give presentations on the various Envirothon topics. This year’s workshop presenters included local soil scientists, fisheries biologists, field technicians, foresters, conservationists, and naturalists.

The 2011 Erie County Envirothon was held on March 31st and April 28th, 2011 at Elma Senior Center/Village Green Park. Buffalo Homeschoolers earned the privilege of advancing to the New York State Envirothon which was held at Hobart & William Smith College on May 25th to 26th, where they placed 7th out of 47 counties throughout the state and took first place in the wildlife category. Job well done!

Not only does the Envirothon educate students but it also promotes community participation. Volunteers from a number of our partner agencies, senior citizens from the Elma Senior Center and University of Buffalo students who are majoring in environmental studies all helped make the Envirothon a success this year. We would like to acknowledge a few of our top sponsors who help support the program every year: M & T Bank, ecology & environment, inc. and Wal-mart.

The Erie County Envirothon is open to all Erie County high schools. For more information or to register for the 2012 Envirothon, please contact Melanie Saunders at the District Office (716) 652-8480.



(L to R) Joshua Heim, M&T Assistant VP of Government Banking, and members of Buffalo Homeschoolers winning team—Elias Ayoub, Abe Kenmore, Alanna Sade-Milborg, Ellie Rummell, & Mario Ayoub

Cattaraugus Creek Ag Implementation Grant Completed

The District is pleased to announce that the Cattaraugus Creek Watershed Ag Implementation Project has been completed. Thirteen best management practices were installed to protect and improve water quality in streams that discharge into Cattaraugus Creek. Milking Center Waste Collection, Silage Leachate Collection, Barnyard Run-off Management, Alternate Water Supply, Stream Crossing and Fencing are the 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 (AEM) Plans 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.



Riparian Corridor Restoration:
Animal exclusion w/fenced laneway & stream crossing

2011 Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale Results:

Total seedlings & transplants distributed in Erie County:
47,500

Total Orders:
695



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- Bluebird House \$13.50
- Bat Houses/bachelor \$13.50
- Bat Houses/2-chamber \$20.00
- Tree Shelters 3' \$ 3.50
- Tree Shelters 5' \$ 5.00
- Topographical Maps(7.5 min.series) \$ 8.70

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Planning for the Future of Farms in Erie County



If you have ever wanted an opportunity to share your ideas about what can be done to strengthen the viability of our farms and protect farmland, now is your chance!

Erie County received a state grant to develop a new Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan (the last one dates back to 1996). A significant portion of the process involves gathering input from the farm community and others who are interested in local farms. An initial public meeting was held in East Aurora in March. Individual interviews of a representative sample of farmers, local officials, and economic development staff will take place this summer.

Reviewing and processing information gathered from the farm community and interested county residents will fall to the county Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board who, with guidance from the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning and consultant American Farmland Trust, will compile a set of recommended actions for the county to undertake.

Upcoming opportunities to provide input will occur in the form of focus group sessions held this summer in various parts of the county (attendance at the most convenient session is recommended, as each session is designed to solicit input on the same set of topics):

- 1.) Monday, June 13th 6 p.m. Lafayette Presbyterian Church, 875 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, at the corner of Lafayette and Elmwood
- 2.) Thursday, July 28th 7:30 p.m. Eden Town Hall, 2795 E. Church St., Eden
- 3.) Tuesday, August 16th 7:30 p.m. Alden Town Hall, 3311 Wende Rd., Alden

Anyone with interest in farms and farmland in Erie County is welcome to attend. No reservations are necessary. Contact Diane Held, 652-0100 or dheld@farmland.org, with questions.

AEM Program Progress & Future Goals for This Coming Season



The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program is a locally lead conservation planning, implementation and educational program offered by Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District. The goal of the AEM program is to work with all agricultural operators to improve the quality of natural resources that are important to agriculture and to the community. Resources of concern include soil, water, air, wildlife, domestic animals, human health & safety and energy. AEM is accomplished through a partnership with various private sector, local, state, and federal agencies who work together to provide assistance and technical support to install the necessary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of those resources.

Last year the AEM program enrolled 17 new participants and the District continued its conservation planning and implementation efforts on 25 farms. To date there are well over 200 Erie County agricultural operations actively participating in AEM. Also, the District expanded its AEM Program by partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County (CCE) to provide two agricultural educational workshops featuring the topics of Soil Health and Integrated Pest Management.

The District's plan for the AEM program this year is simply to continue to provide assistance and technical support based on the needs of agricultural operators in Erie County. The District's partnership with CCE has been successful and we will sponsor 4 or 5 educational events this year. Topic ideas for future events include Farmstead Planning, Cropland Conservation, Nutrient Management, Pasture Management, and Pest/Pesticide Management. Detailed announcements for agricultural workshops will be released later this summer. For more information about the workshops or to suggest a workshop topic contact the ECSWCD at 716-652-8480.

✂ Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District 2011 Fish Stocking Order Form

Order Deadline:
July 11th, 2011

Species	Price	Qty Ordered	Cost
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 _____	_____



Pickup: 10:00 AM
July 23rd, 2011

Minimum order is: 25 Bass or 100 Minnows.

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 James Sroka, Water Quality Technician
 Allen Young, Water Quality Technician
 Christopher J. Fry, P.E., District Engineer

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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