

THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

2011 Monroe County Envirothon

The 20th Annual Monroe County Envirothon Competition was held at the Rochester Institute of Technology on April 29th, 2011. This year 20 high school teams from Monroe County participated in the competition. Despite the cold windy day, the student's had a great opportunity to test their knowledge of environmental topics and enjoy some time on the RIT campus. This year, as in the years before, the teams consisting of five students tested their knowledge on environmental topics including: Aquatics, Forestry, Current Issues, Wildlife, and Soils. The current issue topic for this year's competition was estuaries. For the first time in the Monroe County Envirothon's history an oral presentation was added to the competition in order to help students use critical thinking skills to solve an environmental problem.

The winning teams in each individual topic were: Aquatics: Churchville-Chili Team 2; Forestry: Churchville-Chili Team 2; Current Issues: Churchville-Chili Team 1; Soils:



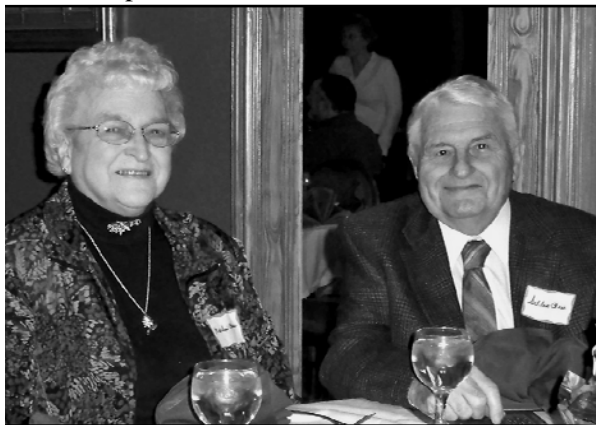
Churchville-Chili High School Team #2

Churchville-Chili Team 2; Wildlife: Churchville-Chili Team 1; Oral Presentations: Tie, Eastridge Team 3 and Our Lady of Mercy Team 2.

Churchville-Chili High School was very successful in the competition this year and received 1st-4th place in the overall scores. Churchville-Chili's Team 2 took home first place in the overall competition and they placed 8th in New York State Competition at Hobart & William Smith College May 25 and 26th. Congratulations to them!

Conservationist of the Year

The District recently named Selden Chase as the 2010 Conservationist of the Year. Selden and his wife Marilyn (right) have owned and operated Chase's Greenhouse and Florist in Rush, NY for over 50 years. He has served as a Rush Town Councilman for 16 years and been part of many other community organizations including Monroe County Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Monroe County Farmland Protection, and Greater Rochester Florist Association. Selden has stepped down from the Board of Directors for the MCSWCD this year after 25 years of service. The District would like to thank him for his dedicated years of service. He will be greatly missed!



Selden and Marilyn Chase

Goodbye & Good Luck

Caroline Myers Kilmer has left MCSWCD to pursue other stormwater career opportunities. During her seven years as Executive Director with the District she assisted Monroe County to become one of the leaders in the New York State Stormwater program by initiating such projects as the Western New York Stormwater Training Series at MCSWCD, offering NYS DEC required 4 hour erosion and sediment control training sessions, and providing extensive training and project assistance to the municipalities of Monroe County. The District would like to wish Caroline good luck and best wishes on her future endeavors.

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Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow

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2011 District Deadlines & Dates

6/28/2011
CPSWQ Review Course

7/12/2011
CPESC/CPSWQ/CMS4s Exams

8/2011
Fall Fish Stocking Deadline

9/2011
Fall Fish Stocking Pick-Up

9/27-9/29/2011
Conservation Field Days

Local Farmer Receives Agricultural Environmental Management Award

Farmers have long been regarded as the original stewards of the land because a farm's livelihood directly depends on the health and vitality of the soil and water resources. The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program was designed to help farmers further protect soil, water, and other important natural resources. By participating in AEM, farmers can document their environmental stewardship and contribute to a positive image of agriculture in their communities.

Each year County Soil & Water Conservation Districts get the option to recognize a farm that has shown a commitment to working through the Agricultural Environmental Management program to get conservation on the ground. On March 23rd, 2011 at the Celebrate Agricultural Banquet, the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District (MCSWCD) recognized a Churchville farmer that has been working with our AEM program since 2006. Over the last 5 years, Kim Zuber, of Zuber Farms LLC has been working with the District, private planners, engineers, and local contractors to implement conservation practices on his farmstead. This farm proves to be environmentally aware, follows a full farm nutrient management plan, and has been steadily implementing conservation practices suited for the operation. Recent projects that the farm has worked on with the District include: a barnyard runoff management system, a vegetated filter strip, and a permanent hay planting. Zuber Farms is also currently working with the District on expanding on agronomic conservation practices throughout their active farmland. Kim is an active member of the Monroe County Farm Bureau and serves as a good representative of agriculture to the local community.

(L-R) Casey Sutherland, Eddy Castaneda, & Kim Zuber of Zuber Farms, and Kelly Emerick & Tucker Kautz from the MCSWCD with the AEM award presented at the celebrate Ag Banquet in March.



Riparian Buffer Planted in Riga

The District recently planted a riparian buffer along a tributary to Black Creek in the Town of Riga. A riparian buffer is well vegetated strip of land adjacent to a creek, stream or river that increases water quality by intercepting polluted runoff before it enters the creek. The buffer acts as a filter for contaminants like sediment, pesticides, nutrients and other pollutants in runoff. These pollutants and many others enter our waterways



District Intern Brittany Bourdon plants an arrowwood seedling along the unnamed tributary to Black Creek.

negatively impacting them. Black Creek has been recognized by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency as being impaired by sediment and nutrients. This riparian buffer will limit the amount sediment and nutrients entering Black Creek. The buffer strip will also help hold the bank of the tributary in place reducing streambank erosion, and will also provide shade for the creek reducing the water temperatures.

The 15 foot wide, 400 foot long riparian buffer strip was planted between the tributary and the adjacent farm field. About 150 common elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and 150 arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) seedlings were planted in three staggered rows within the buffer strip. These two native shrub species were selected because they both can tolerate roadside salt spray, do not exceed 15' in height, and grow well in moist soil conditions with full sun.

Not only will this buffer improve water quality in the tributary to Black Creek, but these plant species will also provide habitat for both large and small mammals, insects, and a variety of songbirds. Both species of shrubs produce small berries, which are an important food source for songbirds during the summer and fall.

EPA's Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program: Critical Information for Farmers

1) Is my farm covered by SPCC?

If your farm meets all of the criteria listed below then your farm is covered by SPCC, and you must have a plan in place, regardless of farm type (crop, dairy, etc.)

- a. Stores, transfers, uses, or consumes oil or oil products, such as diesel fuel, gasoline, lube oil, hydraulic oil, adjuvant oil, crop oil, vegetable oil, or animal fat; and
- b. Stores more than 1,320 US gallons in aboveground containers or more than 42,000 US gallons in completely buried containers; and
- c. Could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to waters of the US or adjoining shorelines, such as interstate waters, intrastate lakes, rivers, and streams*

*If a farm decides that a spill on their operation does not have reasonable expectation to reach a waterbody of the US, this decision should be documented to be made available if requested.

3) When should I prepare and implement an SPCC Plan?

Farms in operation *on or before August 16, 2002*, must prepare a plan or maintain/amend their existing Plan by *November 10, 2011*. Any farm that started operation *after August 16, 2002, but before November 10, 2011*, must prepare and use a Plan by *November 10, 2011*. Farmers looking for more guidance on this can call the MCSWCD AEM coordinator, Tucker Kautz at 585-473-2120. Fuel storage risk assessment is available through the AEM program, and a confidential onsite farm visit can be scheduled.

2) What information will I need to prepare an SPCC Plan for my farm? **

- a. A list of the oil containers at the farm by parcel (including the contents and location of each container);
- b. A brief description of the procedures that you will use to prevent oil spills. For example, steps you use to transfer fuel from a storage tank to your farm vehicles that reduce the possibility of a fuel spill;
- c. A brief description of the measures you installed to prevent oil from reaching water
- d. A brief description of the measures you will use to contain and cleanup an oil spill to water; and
- e. A list of emergency contacts and first responders.

**Farms storing less than 10,000 gallons of above ground fuel may self certify their SPCC plan as long as no one single tank on the farm stores over 5,000 gallons. Farms storing over 10,000 gallons must have their SPCC plan certified by a private engineer.

The District Welcomes New Soil and Water Resource Technician

A new addition to the MCSWCD staff is James A. Balyszak. James, who will be the District's new Soil and Water Resource Technician, is a 26 year old native of the Finger Lakes Region of New York. James received a Bachelor's of Science in Biology with a focus in environmental biology, ecology and geology from Syracuse University in 2006. For the past four and half years James has lived in South Florida and worked for a private lake and wetland management company. While working there his primary work focus was on the control of invasive aquatic and terrestrial plant species. This work required him to deal closely with plant and animal populations native to South Florida including fish, birds, snakes and alligators. James' position with the District will be working closely with the stormwater management program in Monroe County. Welcome James!



Interested in Conservation Education?

The District will be hosting its 23rd annual Conservation Field Days event at Ellison Park on September 27th, 28th and 29th, 2011. We are now accepting registrations for school groups, instructors and volunteers.



The Conservation Field Days are intended to encourage each student's excitement for the outdoors while having environmental professionals share their expertise in a casual atmosphere. If you would like to participate please contact Karen Ervay at 473-2120x3 or karen.ervay@ny.nacdnet.net.

2011 Tree and Shrub Sale a Success!

This year the District sold **21,750 trees, shrubs, and other plants** to over **437 customers** during our annual plant sale. We would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make the sale possible and also the customers for helping support MCSWCD!



Monroe County Soil & Water

Conservation District

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(CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4s)

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(CPESC-IT, M.P.S.)

Soil & Water Resource Technician

James A. Balyszak

Soil & Water Resource Technician

Tucker Kautz

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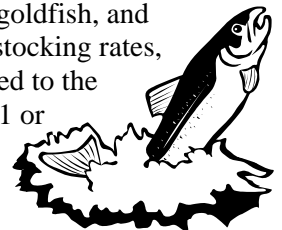
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Fall Fish Program

Did you miss the District's Spring Fish Program? You can still stock your pond this fall with the District's fall fish program! This fall we will be offering: largemouth bass, yellow perch, koi, triploid grass carp, catfish, goldfish, and fathead minnows. For more information on ponds, fish, proper stocking rates, habitat, Farm Fish Pond Permit, Grass Carp Permit or to be added to the fish program mailing list, please call the office at 473-2120 x111 or go to the District's website: www.monroecountyswcd.org. A flyer and order form for the fall program will be distributed separately at a later date this summer.



Check out our new website!

The Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District recently redesigned our website!

Be sure to visit it at www.monroecountyswcd.org.



This newsletter is published quarterly by the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to interested landowners, land users, and to the general public. If you would like to receive our newsletter, call us with your mailing address or view it online at www.monroecountyswcd.org. Programs and services offered through the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the USDA NRCS, County of Monroe, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, and fundraising programs. All NRCS & SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Our Board of Director meetings are open to the public; please call for information.