

# THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

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## New Executive Director Hired at MCSWCD

As of October 4th, 2010 Kelly Emerick is the new Executive Director for the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District. She has been with MCSWCD since May of 2008 as a Soil and Water Resource Technician. Ms. Emerick has been involved with the NY SPDES General Permits for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems since 2006, and is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control, a Certified Professional in Stormwater Quality, and a Certified Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Specialist. Ms. Emerick provides education and outreach on the NYS Phase II stormwater regulations and erosion and sediment control to contractors, developers, engineers and municipal staff in Monroe County. She conducts stormwater construction inspections and stormwater pollution prevention plan reviews. Ms. Emerick has 6+ years experience with Soil and Water Conservation Districts including a Conservation District Technician position with Cayuga County SWCD for nearly 4 years. Ms. Emerick has worked with many local landowners and residential homeowners on identifying water quality issues, and planning and implementing solutions to the problems. Ms. Emerick has an Associates of Applied Science degree in Natural Resources Conservation from Finger Lakes Community College, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Conservation from Cornell University.



## District Receives Grant Award for Agricultural Best Management Practices

The Monroe County Soil and Water District recently teamed up with several other conservation organizations to successfully apply for EPA Funding through the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant. This Grant proposal, titled “Improving Water Quality in the Lake Ontario Basin” was organized at the regional level by the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, and includes projects throughout the Lake Ontario Drainage Basin in the Western and Central part of the State. Through this funding opportunity, the District will focus on agricultural resource concerns that have the potential to contribute sediment, excessive nutrients, and priority pollutants to Lake Ontario. This grant has secured over \$998,000 to be cost shared on agricultural conservation projects in Monroe, Niagara, Onondaga, Orleans, Oswego, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties. Monroe County has been awarded \$140,000 in grant funding.



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### 2010 District Deadlines & Dates

**11-10-10** — Sign-up deadline for 4-Hour Contractor Developer Training in Greece.

**11-17-10** — 4-Hour Contractor Developer Training in Greece.

**11-23-10** — Sign-up deadline for “New” Hydrology workshop

**11-30-10** — “New” Hydrology workshop.

**12-08-10** — Sign-up deadline for 4-Hour Contractor Developer Training in Webster.

**12-15-10** — 4-Hour Contractor Developer Training in Webster.

## Western New York Stormwater Management Training Series

The Western New York Stormwater Management Training Series is back! This year Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County are proud to sponsor the wide variety of workshops created by and taught by Don W. Lake Jr. PE, CPESC, CPSWQ. Don has presented at over 1,390 workshops and training seminars across the United States and his 30+ years of experience offers design engineers, municipal officials, landscape architects and stormwater professionals one of the best trainings in the state. Don is widely considered New York State’s stormwater “guru,” and is the principal author of the *New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control* aka the “Blue Book.” These workshops will be focusing on new “Green Infrastructure” requirements for NYS stormwater retrofits, the new rainfall distribution data from Cornell University and more!

Course	Date
<b>“New” Hydrology</b>	<b>11-30-2010</b>
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>	<b>1-6-2011</b>
<b>Design of Filtering &amp; Infiltration SMP’s</b>	<b>2-1-2011</b>
<b>Stormwater Design on Redevelopment Projects</b>	<b>3-1-2011</b>
<b>Stormwater Retrofit Planning &amp; Design</b>	<b>3-29-2011</b>

All workshops are one-day sessions with a fee of \$230. Fees include handouts, refreshments, and lunch. For more information and descriptions of these classes, registration forms, and brochures please visit our website at [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org).

### TOUR OF ROCHESTER’S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICES A HUGE SUCCESS!

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County held a bus tour on September 22nd to showcase the innovative stormwater management “Green Infrastructure” practices of Monroe County. Sites visited during the tour included: the Rochester Institute of Technology's Perkins Roadside bioswale, the University of Rochester’s Robert B. Goergen Hall bioretention cell, the Seneca Park Zoo’s new parking lot rain gardens, and the Town of Irondequoit’s porous pavement at Secret Cove Park. Recent updates to the New York State stormwater regulations now require the incorporation of these types of practices to reduce runoff from developed areas. Thirty-eight people attended the trip including municipal officials, design engineers and stormwater professionals.



Paula Smith (Monroe County Stormwater Coalition) demonstrating the infiltration capabilities of the porous pavement at Secret Cove Park.



The water infiltrating through the porous pavement a few seconds after five gallons of water was poured on it.

## DISTRICT LOOKING FOR CANDIDATE FARMS FOR AGRICULTURAL GRANT



Monroe County SWCD is currently looking for farmers and landowners that are interested in participating in a cost share grant program for projects in the Black Creek and the Oatka Creek Watersheds. Practices that will be considered must be on agricultural land and will focus on erosion and sediment control projects.

Farmers and landowners in the Black Creek or Oatka Creek Watershed that are either interested in participating in this cost share program, or hearing more about the opportunity, please contact the District Planning Technician, Tucker Kautz at 585-473-2120 x108.

### Best Management Practices that may qualify for this program include:

- ✔ Diversion ditches
- ✔ Grassed waterways
- ✔ Cover cropping
- ✔ Water and sediment control basins
- ✔ Riparian buffer planting
- ✔ Stream bank stabilization work
- ✔ Pasture improvements

## 2010 CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conservation Field Days event was held in Ellison Park on September 28th, 29th and 30th. The Conservation District was pleased to work with the fifteen area schools who registered for the event (a total of approximately 1400 students). Despite the rainy weather, we were able to host two of the three days at this wonderful Monroe County Park. Special thanks go to the Monroe County Parks Department and Wegmans for sponsoring this event.



Friends of Ganondagan presenting on the ways that Native American cultures used animal hides and other natural materials.

Guest presenters included: The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, General Motors, League of Women Voters, Monroe County Farm Bureau, the Monroe County Parks Department, the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, the Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care, Friends of Ganondagan, Green Village Consulting, the University of Rochester and representatives from numerous other area agencies.

The Conservation Field Days concept is simple; bring together a student's excitement for the outdoors, environmental professionals willing to share their expertise, and a casual "fair-like" structure for them to share information. We strive to teach students about important environmental issues while having fun in one of our most beautiful Rochester area parks.



New York State Environmental Conservation Officers presenting on the Environmental Conservation Law.



## NYS-DEC ENDORSED CONTRACTOR DEVELOPER TRAININGS AVAILABLE

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District will be offering the NYS-DEC Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training in November and December of this year. This training is required for all contractors involved in soil disturbing activities. Training was required by May 2010. November 17th from 8am to 12pm, the training will be held at the Greece Town Hall Main Community Rooms A & B located at 1 Vince Tofany Blvd. On December 15th from 8am-12pm, the training will be held at Liberty Lodge in Finn Park located at 850 Maple Drive in the Town of Webster. For more information please contact the District at (585)473-2120x3.

## Monroe County Soil & Water

### Conservation District

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### District Staff:

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(CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4s)

*Executive Director*

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

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Tucker Kautz

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Caroline Myers

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### USDA NRCS Staff:

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*District Conservationist*

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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](http://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.

## 2011 AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

What is an Agricultural Assessment? NYS law provides a local mechanism for protecting and promoting availability of land for farming purposes, and provides tax benefits by limiting farmland assessment values. By applying and qualifying for an agricultural assessment, farmers can receive a reduction in land taxes.



- Generally, the property must be 10+ acres (<7 acres must earn \$50,000+)
- Land must be used for the production of crops within last two years
- Annual gross sales of agricultural products must average \$10,000+
- Equine: must be 10+ acres, board 10+ horses, and generate \$10,000+ in boarding

What is the process? Landowner's should contact their Town Assessor or the Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss eligibility requirements. If the property appears to qualify, a Soil Group Worksheet Request form per assessment should be submitted to the district by **February 18, 2011**. The cost is \$40.00. Worksheet forms can be obtained at [http://www.monroecountyswcd.org/Soil\\_%20Group\\_%20Request\\_%20Form.pdf](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org/Soil_%20Group_%20Request_%20Form.pdf)

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