

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

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BACK YARD CONSERVATION

Are you interested in learning how to attract more birds and butterflies to your birdfeeders and flowering shrubs? The Backyard Conservation program offers residents of Monroe County information on how to increase food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, control soil erosion and make recommendations on what to plant to beautify the landscape. For more information or to set up an appointment please contact Bob Kiley at 473-2120 x111.

DISTRICT PLANTS STREAM BUFFER



As part of a grant received from the Great Lakes Commission, staff from Monroe County SWCD, Wayne County SWCD, and Town of Chili Department of Public Works planted approximately 1500 tree and shrub species along Black Creek. The section was stabilized in the fall of 2008 along Chili Ave, on Black Creek in the Town of Chili. The trees and shrubs will provide a 15 foot buffer area at the top of the stream bank to act as a filter for pollutants from stormwater runoff, provide a cooling effect for the stream which is beneficial for fish, and provide bank

protection. Species of trees and shrubs planted at the site included White Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*), Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), Streamco Willow (*Salix purpurea*), Redosier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea*).

2008 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

On Thursday March 19th, the District proudly recognized Todd Stevenson as the 2008 Conservationist of the Year. Todd, an employee of the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, was honored for his nine years of dedication to improving local water quality.

Todd Stevenson attended the University of Colorado and SUNY Albany where he received a Masters in Urban Planning. He joined the Monroe County Health Department in 1997 and began working on the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) program, which was a major planning effort to improve water quality in the Lower Genesee River and Lake Ontario. In 2000, Todd was an essential member in the creation of the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition and has been coordinating the group ever since. **Congratulations Todd!**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Back Yard Conservation	1
District Plants Buffer	1
2008 COTY	1
2009 Envirothon	2
Pond Assistance	2
Conservation Field Days	2
Fall 2009 Fish Stocking Program & Order Form	3
District Welcomes Robert Kiley and Kyle Rowe	3
AEM	3
District Personnel	4

2009 District Deadlines & Dates:

- Aug 28**– Fall Fish order deadline
- Sept. 4**– Fish Distribution Program
- Sept. 9**– CPSWQ Exam Review Course
- Sept. 22, 23, & 24** - Conservation Field Days- Ellison Park

Come visit our booth with the Farm Bureau, at the Monroe County Fair.

July 15th-19th
at the County Fair Grounds
2695 East Henrietta Road,
Henrietta

2009 ENVIROTHON

The 18th Annual Monroe County Envirothon Competition was held on May 7, 2009 at Ellison Park. The Conservation District hosted 21 teams of high school students from six area high schools with the assistance of our sponsors; the Monroe County Parks Department, Finger Lakes/Castle Products and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Team members participated in five test stations and an additional information session where they learned about further study at the Rochester Institute of Technology Environmental Science Programs. The competition is a culmination of five topics: Aquatics, Forestry, Current Issues, Wildlife and Soils. Each five-member group competed as a team to find the overall winner and the top scores in each of the five areas of concern. Each year the Current Issue Topic is chosen by the National Envirothon Committee. The current issue topic chosen for 2009 was "Biodiversity".

Here are the results from the local competition:

High Scores in each topic included:

Aquatics: Scoring 76%, Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #4

Current Issues: Scoring 100%, Webster H.S. Team #1

Forestry: Scoring 88%, Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #4

Soils: Scoring 76%, Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #4

Wildlife: Scoring 76%, Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #4

Top Five Overall scores:

1st Place Overall: Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #4

2nd Place Overall: Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #3

3rd Place Overall: Webster H.S. Team #1

4th Place Overall: Churchville-Chili H.S. Team #2

5th Place Overall: Eastridge H.S. Team #1

Churchville-Chili Team #4 represented Monroe County at the New York State Envirothon at SUNY Keuka College on May 27 & 28. They placed 7th overall, against 55 participating teams and took the high score in Soils and Land Use. **Congratulations!**

We would also like to thank Gerry Snow for volunteering and taking team and event photos.

If you (or a student you know) may be interested in participating in the 2010 Envirothon, email Karen Ervay at: karen.ervay@ny.nacdn.net to be placed on the mailing list for next year or call 473-2120 x101.



POND ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

If you have ever considered the addition of a pond to your property, or have ever looked for solutions to drainage issues, a pond may be just the right thing. The addition of a pond to your property can not only add aesthetic beauty, recreational area and increase the value of your property, but can also provide protection from stormwater flooding, create a refuge for wildlife and change an unsightly landscape. With proper site selection, construction and maintenance, the benefits of a pond can impact many aspects of your daily life. Ponds can also be extremely beneficial to crop irrigation, herd watering holes and can be used for fire protection. If you are interested in pond information, have questions or would like a site visit, please contact our office at 473-2120 x3.

CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

On September 22-24, the District will be holding its annual Conservation Field Days, for local 5th and 6th graders. These three days are filled with fun and educational workshops. The Field Days are held in Ellison Park and consist of multiple stations; each station covering a different area of conservation and environmental stewardship. If anyone is interested in presenting a conservation topic during these three days, please contact Karen Ervay at: karen.ervay@ny.nacdn.net or contact our office directly at 473-2120 x3. Instructor sign up deadline is July 30th.

FALL 2009 FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

Pond owners, did you miss your spring program? You can stock your pond for the fall with our September program. With the hard winter came many fish kills throughout Monroe County and the district is here to help restock your ponds. We will offer the following in September: largemouth bass, yellow perch, koi, grass carp, catfish, goldfish, and fathead minnow.

Attention, you can only purchase grass carp if you have three copies of the approved DEC permit. Because of the recent occurrence of certain diseases in bait fish it is also necessary for pond owners to obtain a stocking permit such as a current Farm Fish Pond License. Both permits are free to apply for and the applications are available from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or from the District.

The deadline for ordering is August 28th!!

Distribution is scheduled for September 4th from 11:30-12:30pm at 1200 Scottsville Road. If you are interested in purchasing fish please fill out an order form and return it to Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1200A Scottsville Rd., Suite 160 Rochester, NY 14624. Order forms can be found on our website or picked up from our office.

For more information on ponds, fish, proper stocking rates, habitats, or to obtain a fish order form, or application for the Farm Fish Pond Permit and Grass Carp permit call the office at 473-2120 x111 or go to the District's website:

www.monroecountyswcd.org

WELCOME ROBERT KILEY AND KYLE ROWE

The District would like to welcome two of its newest members, Bob Kiley and Kyle Rowe. Bob earned his Bachelor's degree from SUNY-Potsdam in Environmental Studies and History. He continued his education at SUNY-Environmental Science and Forestry, earning his Master's Degree in Environmental Interpretation. Bob has worked all across the northeastern United States, from New York's Adirondack Mountains to the coastal islands of Maine. He will be administering the District's Tree and Shrub Program, Fish Program, Backyard Conservation Program, and will assist in stormwater related projects.

Kyle is currently an undergraduate at Rochester Institute of Technology studying Environmental Management and Technology. He started with the District in March, to fulfill a Cooperative Education requirement and has been helping with the many programs the District puts on, such as; the Tree and Shrub Program, the Envirothon, Conservation Field Days and assists the Districts staff in many other fields of work.

Welcome Bob and Kyle!

2009 TREE & SHRUB STATS

- **388 Customers**
- **28,500 Trees, Shrubs, & Plants Sold**

The District would like to thank all of its volunteers and customers for another successful tree & shrub program. Remember to give them time and lots of water! If you have any comments, questions, ideas, or would like to be put on the mailing list, please feel free to contact our office.

AEM MORE THAN NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

AEM addresses concerns on all farms, not just large dairies. The program covers farmstead water supplies, pasture management, stream management, green energy practices and many other farm practices. There are specific category worksheets for equine operations, greenhouses, and vineyards as well as organic farm operations. The AEM assessment process can even provide resources to build and maintain positive relationships with neighbors.

This free, voluntary environmentally friendly farm conservation plan, seeks to maximize profits to your operation while enhancing and preserving the natural resources of which we are all stewards in the agriculture/environmental services. AEM helps manage roof water runoff, fertilizer and petroleum storage, stream crossings, exclusion fencing and composting, to name a few Best Management Practices (BMP's).

Farms are important stewards of New York's natural resources, and the AEM program supports farms of all types and sizes in their efforts to be both environmentally sound and economically viable. In this time of environmental awareness, farm-neighbor tensions, and high production costs, AEM'S technical and financial resources are particularly valuable to help farmers maintain their commitment to conservation.

Get started by completing a Tier 1 to help us understand your operation. If you have already completed a Tier 1, find out what options are available for you. If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss the AEM program, check out our website at www.monroecountyswcd.org or call Clark Moore (585) 473-2120.

**Monroe County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

1200A Scottsville Road, Suite 160
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The 'Electronic' Dirt?

Sign up to receive an email link to each new issue, rather than a hardcopy in the mail.

By becoming a "paper-free" subscriber, you will conserve natural resources and lower the District's operating expenses.

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newsletter@monroecountyswcd.org

Please include your name and address in the body of the message.

*Visit our website for more
information at:*

www.monroecountyswcd.org

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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. 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.

District Services & Items for Sale

General Site Visit for erosion problems \$50	Flags—100/bundle \$12	Soil Survey Free!
Backyard Conservation Site Visit (2 hr. limit) \$50/visit	Many Videos & Publications Free!	Tree Mats for weed control 3'x3' \$1.50ea. Or 10 for \$13
Questions/concerns about construction site runoff? Please call our office @ 585-473-2120	Questions on Pond Management? The Pond Guidebook \$17.00 ea.	Wood Duck Box \$25 ea. Bluebird Nest Box \$12.00 ea.
Topo, Wetland, Flood Maps \$1 per photo copy Aerial Photos \$50 for 4 series Digital \$10/site/year	"NYS Stormwater Design Manual" Need Help? Call Us!	"NY Standards & Specs for Erosion and Sediment Control" aka "The Blue Book" \$60ea.
Technical Drainage Assistance (call for fee scale)	Envirothon Competition for area High Schools Free! Call for more information	Soil Group Worksheet for Agricultural Assessments \$35ea