

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

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WESTERN NY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM: SPRING 2010



Stormwater runoff is one of the nation’s greatest threats to clean water, as rain and melting snow can pick up contaminants while flowing over rooftops, soil, construction sites, lawns and paved areas en route to our waterways. Pollutants such as excess nutrients, bacteria, oil and grease, pesticides, and sediment can degrade the quality of drinking water, damage fish habitat, and also impair recreational uses of water bodies by making them unsafe for swimming, boating and fishing. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, *half of our nation’s impaired waterways are affected by urban/suburban and construction sources of stormwater runoff.* Controlling stormwater at its source can drastically reduce pollution of our local surface waters, through best management practices (BMPs) such as maintenance of stormwater management ponds, infiltration and filtering practices, and usage of open swales.

MCSWCD has developed the WNY Stormwater Training Series to **instruct professionals in the planning, designing, and implementation of Stormwater BMPs and Erosion and Sediment Control.** This series is geared towards consulting and municipal design engineers, code enforcement officers, teachers, landscape architects, municipal staff and planning board members, and land-use planners and developers. All workshops are instructed by **Don W. Lake, Jr.** (PE, CPESC, CPSWQ), who has over 30 years of experience in the arena of stormwater management. Workshops are located in Henrietta. For more information and to register for classes, visit the MCSWCD website at www.monroecountyswcd.org.

Course	Date	What You Will Learn
Better Site Design	3/17/10	Planning concepts and methodologies for reduction of pollutant loads & runoff, through incorporation of “green infrastructure” and low-impact development
Fundamentals of Erosion & Sediment Control I	5/4/10	Evaluation of site risk & hydrologic impacts, calculation of soil loss, and preparation of comprehensive erosion & sediment control plans
Fundamentals of Erosion & Sediment Control II	5/5/10	Design erosion & sediment control plans and conduct inspections of an active construction site

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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 our operating expenses. Send us an email at:

newsletter@monroecountyswcd.org with “newsletter” as the subject and your name & address in the body of the message.

Dates & Deadlines:

- March 17:**
Tree & Shrub orders due
- March 25:**
Annual Banquet
- April 22-23 (9am-6pm):**
Tree & Shrub order pick-up
- April 24 (10am-1pm):**
Tree & Shrub overstock sale

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE



New York State's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program supports farms of all types and sizes in their efforts to be environmentally sound and economically viable. By bringing together technical assistance and cost-share funding in the conservation planning process, AEM is able support families in their efforts to farm cleaner and greener into future generations. The program is offered as a free service to farmers in Monroe County. Participation in AEM allows the District to document the importance of agriculture in Monroe County, while making the county more competitive for the limited funding opportunities available for the implementation of water quality improvement projects on local farms. Our current goal is to expand the AEM program in the Black Creek and Little Black Creek watersheds. While our current

efforts are focused on these watersheds, the AEM program is open to all interested farmers and agricultural landowners *regardless of location in the county*. We urge any farmers that may be interested in the AEM program to contact the District at (585)473-2120 x3 for information.

FARMER PARTICIPATION

Black Creek Watershed Statistics:

- * 71: Tier-1 Survey Worksheets completed
- * 10: Tier-2 Farm Assessments completed
- * 4: Tier-3A Conservation Plans completed
- * 1: Tier-3A Conservation Plan in progress

Little Black Creek Watershed Statistics:

- * 16: Tier-1 Survey Worksheets completed
- * 2: Tier-2 Farm Assessments completed
- * 1: Tier-3A Conservation Plan in progress

New Open-Burning Regulations Released by DEC

In order to reduce harmful air pollutants and help prevent wildfires, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has **extended restrictions on open burning in New York State**. The open burning of residential waste is now prohibited statewide. Towns, villages, cities and counties can pass ordinances that are stricter than, and not inconsistent with, the open-fires regulations. You should check with local authorities to determine if local law requires a permit, or further limits open burning. **The new regulations do not apply to the following activities:**



- * On-site burning of limbs and branches between May 15th and the following March 15th in any town with a total population less than 20,000.
- * Barbecue grills, maple sugar arches and similar devices, and small cooking- and camp-fires.
- * Liquid petroleum-fueled smudge pots to prevent frost damage to crops.
- * Ceremonial or celebratory bonfires, or disposal of a flag or religious item.
- * Prescribed burns performed according to state regulations.
- * Individual open fires to control plant and animal disease outbreaks (as approved by DEC), and open fires as necessary to control invasive plant and insect species.
- * "Organic Agricultural Waste" may be burned on-site where grown or generated, including brush and wood produced by clearing fields and other activities. The fire must be located on contiguous agricultural land larger than 5 acres, and the materials must be capable of being fully burned in 24 hours. The burning of pesticides, plastics or other non-organic material is prohibited.

Site Plan Review Training for Code Enforcement Officers

District will be offering a site plan review training course for planning boards and municipal officials. The focus of this course is reviewing site plans and subdivision proposals for water quality concerns, with two main sections: 1) Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) during the active construction phase, and 2) post-construction, permanent stormwater management. The course is oriented for building inspectors and planning/zoning board members, but is potentially applicable for designers and others with limited experience in ESC and stormwater management. The course will provide **2 Continuing Education Credits** to code enforcement officers and planning/zoning board of appeals members when completed. Class will be held **March 23, 2010 from 9:00 - 11:00am at the Town of Webster Liberty Lodge in Finn Park. Cost is \$20**, with free admission to members of the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition. Please visit our website at www.monroecountyswcd.org for more information and to register for the class, or email Kelly Emerick: Kelly.Emerick@ny.nacdnet.net.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION IS BACK!

Ever wonder what kind of tree is growing in your backyard? Are you interested in learning how to attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies to your birdfeeders and flowering shrubs? In an effort to improve natural habitat across Monroe County, the District is now scheduling Backyard Conservation appointments for this spring and summer. The program offers information to county residents on how conservation practices can help to preserve natural resources, increase food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, control soil erosion and improve water quality, inspire a stewardship ethic, and beautify the landscape one backyard at a time. Contact Bob Kiley for details: (585)473-2120 x111 or Robert.Kiley@ny.nacdnet.net.



Stream Investigation, Stabilization & Design Workshop: *To be instructed May 18–20, 2010 by DAVE DERRICK*

Dave Derrick is a Research Hydraulic Engineer for the US Army Corps of Engineers Research & Development Center Coastal & Hydraulic Laboratory, and will be teaching an exciting stream workshop in Monroe County from **May 18-20**. This workshop will introduce the methodologies and



procedures for **initiating, planning, analyzing, and ultimately designing long-term sustainable river and stream stabilization or restoration approaches.**

Innovative, environmentally sensitive, and cost-effective approaches to channel restoration will be discussed, and comprehensive case studies will be presented.

For more information, contact the District at (585)473-2120 x3 or visit our website to view details.

** Advertise Here **

- * Reach more than 3,000 people!
- * It's affordable!
- * Help support the District!

Want to **VOLUNTEER?**

We are seeking assistance with the **Tree & Shrub Program** and the **Envirothon!**

Email : Karen.Ervay@ny.nacdnet.net



Made in Rochester, and proud of it!

1-800-876-0222

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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.

REMINDER:

View our Tree & Shrub Program catalog and order form on the web!

Orders must be placed by MARCH 17, 2010.

www.monroecountyswcd.org

Please call the district if you would like a hard-copy sent to you in the mail.

**“CELEBRATE AGRICULTURE”
 Annual Meeting & Banquet**



THURSDAY, MARCH 25TH



@ the Monroe County Fair and Expo Center: Welcome Court
 2695 East Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, NY

Featuring Live Music and Guest Speaker

Call in reservations to the Farm Bureau: (877)383-7663; Cost is **\$20/ticket**

Doors open @ **6:00 pm** and dinner served @ **7:00 pm**