

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

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2008 TREE PROGRAM BEGINS



It is that time of the year again, the District is pleased to announce its annual Tree and Shrub Program!

We are continuing a long standing tradition of offering a diverse selection of tree and shrub species for people to plant and enjoy. These species offer a wide variety of benefits, ranging from soil stabilization and habitat improvement to beautification. Trees and shrubs can add value to your home while improving the environmental health of your property. A tree or shrub can also be the perfect gift for all nature lovers, be they family or friends. We also offer Gift Certificates which may make your holiday shopping a bit easier!

A few new items added this year include: White Flowering Dogwood, Sassafras, Chestnut Oak, Daylily and a new multi-pack of Native Flowering trees and shrubs.

Each of these are particularly attractive to both wildlife and humans. Look inside this issue for more details!

The District will continue to offer milorganite. If you aren't familiar with this product, it's a 100% organic fertilizer. It is EPA approved and has a breakdown of (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium) 6-2-0. It also includes micronutrients to help your trees and shrubs thrive. Although it does have an odor, you many find that this is a big benefit as the odor often deters deer. We will also be offering the phosphorus free fertilizer (10-0-20) mix. Phosphorus is a pollutant of concern in our local waterways and fertilizer runoff is a known source. Fertilize your plants and reduce water pollution by using this product.

Orders must be received by March 21st, for distribution on April 24th and 25th. Don't delay, selection is best the earlier you order!

DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBER



The District would like to welcome its newest technician, Henry Kelsey. Henry has a B.S. degree in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University. Henry has returned to Western New York after six years working as a Watershed Resource Conservation Specialist with the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program at the Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District.

He will be administering the Agricultural Environmental Management Program and other related programs to help meet the needs of our local producers.

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We're Listening.....

In an effort to meet the needs and requests of our customers we have made a few changes for the 2008 Tree/Shrub Program.

- Of the 34 plant species offered this year, 18 are larger stock than last year;
- Prices for many 50 packs have dropped to provide cost savings for our customers;
- A few non-native species traditionally offered have been replaced with native species.

District Deadlines:

Feb. 22 - Soil Group Worksheet Request forms due

March 21 - Tree & Shrub Order Forms due

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE

As of the end of November, the District has received one third of the expected AEM Tier 1 responses from landowners and farmers in both the Hamlin-Parma Beach Watershed and the Honeoye Creek Watershed. These watersheds include parts of Hamlin, Parma, Greece, Rush, Honeoye Falls, Mendon, Pittsford and Henrietta. We're pleased that we have had a good response so far but still need more responses to reach our goals.

If you haven't yet sent your response to the Tier 1 Survey, please consider doing so. If you have sent your response and are interested in completing a Tier 2 Assessment, please call our office to set up an appointment. Tier 2 assessments (typically last

one to two hours) and can be done in our office or at your farm.

Participation in the AEM program allows the District to document the importance of agriculture in the county, opens up grant and funding opportunities to farmers and makes the District more competitive for limited funds that will lead to water quality improvement projects on local farms. The voluntary, confidential program is open to all farmers and agricultural landowners regardless of location in the county. If you have questions about AEM please call our office at 473-2120 x3.

FEATURED/NEW TREE AND SHRUB SPECIES

Chestnut Oak: This deciduous tree is a medium-shaped native and long lived with a moderate growth rate reaching 60 feet. Acorns are large appearing when it is nearing 20 years old. Autumn color is chartreuse to yellow-brown. Free of major pests and diseases it prefers full sun and low moisture. *20-40" seedlings are available at \$15 for 10 and \$64 for 50*

Sassafras: This small tree grows between 20-40 ft. and prefers moist sandy loam soils. Flowers are small but showy, bright yellow-green in early to mid-spring. Males and females on separate trees. The berries are found on female trees and are a favorite of songbirds. The foliage is browsed by deer and small mammals. *18-24" seedlings are available at \$12 for 10 and \$53 for 50*

White Flowering Dogwood: With a beautiful show of white blossoms in spring and bright red berries in fall and winter this native tree is a favorite for it's color and growth habit, spreading horizontally with a semi-rounded shape. It prefers well-drained, acid soils and likes watering in the summer. *18-24" seedlings are available for \$12 for 10 and \$53 for 50*

Native Flowering Packet: A new variety packet offered this year, having a mix of native trees and shrubs to increase wildlife and conservation enhancement while providing color as they bloom. Each packet ordered includes 2 ea. of: Sandcherry, Chokecherry, Spicebush, Washington Hawthorne and White Flowering Dogwood. *This multi-packet has 18-24" seedlings for \$18 each packet of 10*

Please see our online catalog for pictures of these and other species.

SEEDLING PLANTING TIPS

There are a number of important things to keep in mind to ensure maximum survival of your seedlings.

1. Do not allow your seedlings to dry out, but don't drown them either. "If they dry, they die" - but don't submerge your seedlings' roots for more than 1-2 hours immediately prior to planting.
2. It is best to plant the seedlings immediately. If there will be a delay of more than a few days, they should be temporarily planted in a shallow trench and covered with moist soil.
3. Transport and handle seedlings carefully. Hold them by the base of the stem and avoid any root damage.
4. Rooting gel will hold moisture in the root zone during temporary storage, planting, and the first few months in the ground.



5. Plant seedlings so the crown is level with the surface of the ground, making sure that all roots are covered. Place the roots straight down the hole in a natural arrangement. Do not bunch, spiral, double-over or bend roots.



6. Using your toe, press down on the soil around the seedling to remove air pockets.



7. Mulch or use landscaping fabric around the seedlings to conserve moisture, reduce competition from weeds, and minimize extreme temperatures in the root zone.
8. Consider using tree shelters for hardwood trees. Tree shelters reduce moisture stress, help you locate the seedlings, and protect from mice, rabbits, and deer.

USE THIS CALENDAR TO REMIND YOU WHEN TO PICK UP YOUR TREE ORDER!

"Remind-Assist"- Please save and post in a visible location!

SWCD Tree Order Pick-up/Distribution Schedule

APRIL 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Tree Order Distribution 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.		
27	28	29	30			

***Tree Pickup will be located BEHIND Building A at the Monroe Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, 1200A Scottsville Rd., Rochester, NY 14624**

CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS EVENT A SUCCESS

The Conservation District hosted the 19th annual Conservation Field Days event in Ellison Park on September 25, 26 and 27th. Eighteen area schools registered for the event with approximately 1500 students. Despite the rain, the event was again a success. The District appreciates the continued support we've received from the Monroe County Parks Dept. and **Wegmans** to help keep this program available to our area schools.

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. The goal of this event is to teach students about important environmental issues while having fun in one of our most beautiful area parks.

Guest presenters included: Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Monroe County Dept. of Environmental Services, League of Women Voters, Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care, Friends of Ganondagan, Green Village Consulting, The NYS DEC, The NYS Dept. of Transportation, University of Rochester, Monroe County Health Department, Rochester Orienteering Club, Ducks Unlimited, Springdale Farm, The Water Education Collaborative, NYS Public Service Commission, The Seneca Park Zoo Society, and staff from the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Interested in instructing or having your local sixth grade class participate? Contact Karen Ervay for information regarding the 2008 event to be held Sept. 23-25th at Ellison Park. Call 473-2120 x101 for details.

RESTORATION COMPLETE!

Marvin Vahue proudly stands in front of his Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) sign provided by USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for setting land aside to restore wetland wildlife habitat for reptiles, amphibians and migratory birds.

Vahue is one of many private landowners who completed wetland restoration enhancements with WRP in New York. NRCS has 1,267 contracts (50,266 acres) enrolled in WRP where 872 are easement contracts (45,802 acres). Since NY program inception, over \$43 million dollars have been contracted for these projects. This is an easement site where NRCS provided financial and technical assistance towards acquiring the easement and completing the restoration.

Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, or restoration cost-share agreements. Landowners and tribes may file an application for a conservation easement or restoration agreement with USDA to restore and protect wetlands at anytime. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, but retain private ownership. More information regarding WRP and other USDA programs may be obtained by contacting the USDA Service Center, 1200A Scottsville Road, NY, 14623, 585-473-2120 or visit the USDA-NRCS website:<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmland/2002/>. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



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The ‘Electronic’ Dirt?

Sign up to receive an email link to each new issue, rather than a hard-copy in the mail. By becoming a “paper-free” subscriber, you will conserve natural resources and lower the District’s operating expenses. Send us an email with “Newsletter” as the subject:

newsletter@monroecountyswcd.org

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

*View our Tree & Shrub
Program catalogue on the web!*

www.monroecountyswcd.org

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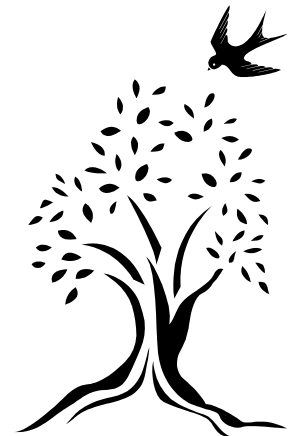
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**TREE & SHRUB ORDER
FORM ENCLOSED!**



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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	\$50	Flags—100/bundle	\$12	Soil Survey	Free!
Tree Mats for weed control 3'x3' \$1.50ea or 10 for \$13		Many Videos & Publications	Free!	Backyard Conservation Site Visit (2 hr. limit)	\$50/visit
Questions/concerns about construction site runoff? Please call us @ 473-2120		Pocket Field Guides OR (3/\$8.75; 5/\$13.50; 7/\$17.25)	\$3.25ea	Wood Duck Box	\$25 ea.
Topo, Wetland, Flood Maps \$1 per photo copy		“NYS Stormwater Management Design Manual” Need Help? Call Us!	\$42ea	Bluebird Nest Box	\$11 ea.
Aerial Photos \$50 for 4 series Digital \$10/site/year		Envirothon Competition for area High Schools Call for more information	Free!	“NY Standards + Specs for Erosion and Sediment Control” aka “The Blue Book”	\$60 ea.
Technical Drainage Assistance (call for fee scale)				Soil Group Worksheet for Agricultural Assessments	\$35ea