

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

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Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow

IN-FIELD CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION TRAINING FOR LOCAL MS4s

The District, with support from the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition, will be conducting construction site field training sessions for municipal officials and staff throughout the 2007 construction season. There are twenty-five regulated "MS4s" (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) including non-traditional MS4s such as the NYS DOT, Monroe County DOT, SUNY Brockport, and the Rochester Pure Waters District which are now regulated under a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Phase II SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit.

All MS4s must meet six minimum measures, including a provision for inspection of active construction sites to determine whether the sites are in compliance with federal, state and local regulations. Training sessions will be conducted at active construction sites in municipalities designated as MS4s. Please contact our office at 473-2120, x3 for more information about the Construction Site Inspection Training sessions.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY GRANT

Grant funding from the Empire State Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society allowed for the printing of *Garden Villains – invasive plant & tree species of Monroe County*. This brochure, aimed at gardeners and home owners interested in yard maintenance, describes the twelve invasive plants of most concern to Monroe County, provides photos and offers suggestions for alternative native plants. Two thousand brochures were printed in time to debut at the annual Greater Rochester Flower and Garden Show: *Gardenscape*. About one third of the brochures were distributed from several booths at *Gardenscape*, such as the Genesee Land Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, *Upstate Gardener Journal* and Rochester Garden Collaborative. Since the garden show, many requests have come been received from garden groups and non-profit agencies. Please call the District for more details.

2007 TREE & SHRUB STATS

- 563 Customers
- 43,000 Trees, Shrubs, & Plants Sold

The District would like to thank all of its volunteers and customers for another successful tree & shrub program. Remember "Give them time and lots of water."

AEM YEAR THREE

Year 3 of the Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) Program began on May 7th. This year, the program focuses on the **Hamlin –Parma Beach Areas and Honeoye Creek Watersheds**. The focus watersheds cover portions of Hamlin, Parma, Greece, Rush, Honeoye Falls, Mendon, Pittsford, and Henrietta, although farmers anywhere in Monroe County are eligible to participate.

The first step of involvement in the AEM Program is to complete a Tier 1 Survey. If you own farm land in either of the two focus watersheds, you should receive program information, including a Tier 1 Survey, in the mail soon. Your 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 Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District more competitive for limited State funds that will lead to water quality improvement projects on local farms. If you live outside these watersheds or would like more information about the program, please call our office and we will gladly send you program information.

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District Deadlines & Dates:

June 14 - Fish Orders Due

June 21 - Fish Distributed

Sept. 25, 26, & 27 - Conservation Field Days

Apr. - Nov. - In-Field Construction Training for Municipalities

Interested in Advertising with "The Dirt"?

- Reaches more than 3,000 people!
- Affordable rates!
- Supports the District!

2007 ENVIROTHON

The 16th Annual Monroe County Envirothon Competition was held on May 3, 2007 at Ellison Park. The Conservation District hosted 23 teams of high school students from six area high schools, with the assistance of 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 in its Environmental Sciences Program. The competition is comprised of five topics: Aquatics, Forestry, Current Issues, Wildlife and Soils. Each team competed for the top score in each of these topics. The Current Issue Topic is chosen annually by the National Envirothon Committee; this year's topic was "Renewable/Alternative Energy". Here are the results from the local competition:

Top Five Overall Scores:

1st Place Overall: Churchville-Chili (Team 4) - Pictured Right

2nd Place Overall: Churchville-Chili (Team 2)

3rd Place Overall: Eastridge High School (Team 1)

4th Place Overall: Brighton High School (Team 1)

5th Place Overall: Webster High School (Team 1)



Churchville-Chili Team 4 competed at the State competition on May 23-24th at SUNY Cobleskill for the 2nd year in row and finished in 4th place. If you (or a student you know) may be interested in the 2008 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.

2006 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

On Thursday, March 22nd the District proudly recognized the Monroe County Farm Service Agency's County Executive Director, Ted McKay as the 2006 Conservationist of the Year. Ted was honored for his 18 years of dedicated service in delivering programs that promote natural resource conservation to Monroe County agricultural producers and landowners.

Ted was born near Genoa, NY and was raised on a small farm with his five brothers and sisters. After high school, he went on to study Accounting at Cayuga County Community College. Ted then went on to study English and Business at SUNY Albany.

After graduation, Ted was hired, as a temporary employee, by the Cayuga County FSA Office to get their "new" computer system up and running. Later, he was hired full time and one of his responsibilities was to manage the County's conservation programs. In 1989, Ted became the Executive Director in Monroe County and has been here ever since.

Congratulations Ted!

DISTRICT WELCOMES NEWEST TECHNICIAN

On May 7th Dan deRoos joined the District staff as the new Soil & Water Resource Technician. Dan brings a great deal of working knowledge with him in the field of conservation. Dan has held positions with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and joins the District after working for Schultz Associates as an Environmental Engineer. Dan has been getting his feet wet working on stormwater issues in the County.

Welcome aboard Dan!

Advertise Here!

Reaches more than 3,000 people!

- Affordable rates!
- Help Support the District!

SPRING 2007 FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

Pond owners, it is time once again to stock your ponds for the summer. **The District will only be offering two stocking dates this year so do not miss your chance to order!** The same species will be offered as last spring and those include: koi, grass carp, catfish, goldfish, and fathead minnow. Information on these and other fish as well as proper stocking rates, habitats, and the application for the Farm Fish Pond Permit is available for download from the District website:

www.monroecountyswcd.org

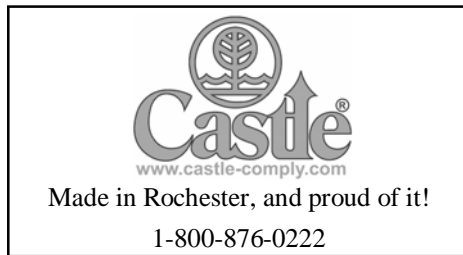
Attention, you can only purchase grass carp if you have three copies of the approved DEC permit. Because of the recent occurrence of certain diseases in bait fish it is also necessary for pond owners to obtain a stocking permit such as a current Farm Fish Pond License. Both permits are free to apply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

The deadline for ordering is June 15th.

Distribution is scheduled for June 21st from 11-12pm at 1200 Scottsville Road. If you are interested in purchasing fish please fill out the order form provided or call the District.

MONEY FOR FARMERS

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offers cost sharing of projects on agricultural land to protect creeks and streams. All participating producers will receive annual rental payments based on the soil's predetermined rental rate. The CREP incentives and cost sharing are used to install practices on tillable land. The incentives and rental payments are meant to reimburse producers for land removed from production. The producer must sign a contract for a minimum of 10 years and is responsible for maintaining the practice for the duration of the program. The Monroe County SWCD is offering an additional incentive payment for farmers to participate in the program by installing a conservation buffer along a stream or creek that borders their land. The minimum width of the buffer is 35 feet and is usually populated with native grasses. The sign-up period is currently underway. For more information about this program or to sign-up please contact the Farm Service Agency's County Executive Director Ted McKay at 473-3440 for more information.



This stub must be completed in full and returned with payment if you wish to order grass carp, koi, catfish, bait, or goldfish. You may also use this stub to update our mailing list if you would like to continue receiving notices for future fish stocking programs.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____ street city zip

Koi ordered _____ @ \$13 ea. = \$ _____ Grass Carp ordered _____ @ \$18 ea. = \$ _____

Channel Catfish ordered _____ @ \$4 ea. = \$ _____ Goldfish ordered _____ @ \$7 ea. = \$ _____

Fathead Minnows _____ @ \$18/100 = \$ _____ Barley Straw _____ @ \$10/bale = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ ***

Make your check payable to: MCSWCD

***Returned checks incur a \$20 fee. **DO NOT ADD TAX**

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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.

Send us an email with “Newsletter” as the subject:

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

Fish Stocking Order Form Enclosed



Printed on Recycled Paper.

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- Tom Klafehn
Vice-Chairman/ Member at Large
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- Stephanie Polowe Aldersley
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- Anwar Karim
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- District Staff:**
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Planning Technician
- Karen Ervay
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- Joshua Wixom
AmeriCorps Intern

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!
Tree Mats for weed control 3' x3' \$1.50ea or 10 for \$13	Many Videos & Publications Free!	Backyard Conservation Site Visit (1 hr. limit) \$50/visit
Questions/concerns about construction site runoff? Please call our office @ 585-473-2120	Pocket Field Guides \$3.25ea OR (3/\$8.75; 5/\$13.50; 7/\$17.25)	Wood Duck Box \$23 ea. Bluebird Nest Box \$9.50 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