

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

VOLUME 32
ISSUE 2
JUNE 2008



Ag Non-point Source Abatement & Control Grant Program

This grant program was established in 1994 by the State of New York to assist farmers in preventing water pollution from agricultural activities by providing technical assistance and financial incentives. Soil & Water Conservation Districts apply for competitive grants on behalf of farmers and coordinate funded activities. Grants can cost-share up to 75% or more of a project that helps to protect water quality.

This state wide program is coordinated by NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets with funding being provided from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The grant is issued on a per watershed basis with money being allocated in areas with the greatest environmental risks.

The grant deadline is usually the first week of November. This year, the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District is applying for three grants in the following watersheds: Braddock Bay, Honeoye Creek, and Irondequoit Creek.

Any farmer interested in applying for this next round of funding must enroll their farm in the AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) program. This program provides a cost free and confidential environmental risk assessment of your farm. For more information on AEM and the grant program call us at (585) 473-2120 ext 3.

The District Welcomes it's Newest Legislative Board Member

Carrie M. Andrews (D), has been appointed as the District's newest Board member. She represents the 21st district and is the youngest woman ever elected to the Monroe County Legislature. Carrie holds a Bachelors of Science degree from Cornell University. She is active in the community as a member of both Metro Justice and the Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board. Carrie works as a Labor Relation Specialist with New York State United Teachers. Welcome Carrie!

2007 CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

On Friday, March 28th, the District proudly recognized the New York State DEC Region 8 Stormwater Control Specialist Paula Smith, as the 2007 Conservationist of the Year. Paula was honored for her 14 years of dedication and commitment to conservation, and her ongoing efforts to protecting water quality.

Paula graduated from Empire State College with a degree in environmental science and holds two associates degrees in civil technology and environmental control. Paula is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Quality. Paula's career began in the private sector as a civil technician for engineering consultants. She then worked with the Conservation District, here in Monroe County, on stormwater issues for 10 years, three of which as the Executive Director. Through her efforts, she has helped make Monroe County a leader statewide in stormwater management issues. Congratulations Paula!

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2008 District Deadlines & Dates:

June 6- Fish Orders Due

June 12 - Fish Distributed

June 18 - Stormwater Workshop
Greece Town Hall
from 8:30am-4:00pm

Sept. 23, 24, & 25 - Conservation Field Days @
Ellison Park

Interested in Advertising with "The Dirt"?

- Reaches more than 3,500 people!
- Affordable rates!
- Supports the District!

2008 ENVIROTHON

The 17th Annual Monroe County Envirothon Competition was held on May 1, 2008 at Ellison Park. The Conservation District hosted 20 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 Program. 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 2008 was "Recreational Impacts for our Natural Resources". Here are the results from the local competition:

High Scores in each topic included:

Aquatics: Scoring 80%, Team 1 from Webster Schroeder H.S.

Current Issues: Scoring 80%, Team 1 from Churchville-Chili H.S.

Forestry: Scoring 88%, Team 1 from Churchville-Chili H.S.

Soils: Scoring 72%, Team 3 from Churchville-Chili H.S.

Wildlife: Scoring 72%, Team 1 from Churchville-Chili H.S.

Top Five Overall scores:

1st Place Overall: Churchville-Chili High School Team 1

2nd Place Overall: Webster High School Team 1

3rd Place Overall: Brighton High School Team 1

4th Place Overall: Churchville-Chili High School Team 2

5th Place Overall: Brockport High School Team 3

Churchville-Chili Team 1 represented Monroe County at the New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cobleskill on May 21-22nd. They placed 8th overall out of 55 teams! What a great achievement for them all.

If you (or a student you know) may be interested in participating in the 2009 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.



Water Quality: Did You Know?

The Water Education Collaborative (WEC) is a coalition of organizations that work together to increase water quality education in the community. The purpose of the Collaborative is to inspire people to help protect and improve water quality in the streams and other water bodies of the Genesee Region watershed, and ultimately our greatest natural resource: Lake Ontario.

Most of the pollution in the Genesee Region watershed comes from polluted stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. As it flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns it washes pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land; into storm drains, sewers and ditches. Usually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers without any treatment.

Near your home, stormwater enters grated storm drains. They collect the stormwater runoff and convey it to streams, rivers, and other local water bodies. A primary focus of the WEC's message is to keep household pollutants out of these storm drains. Following are some simple things you can do to reduce stormwater pollution from your home.

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and according to directions on the label.
- Use a commercial wash to wash your car.
- Don't dump oil in the storm drain.
- Dispose of household hazardous wastes (old paints, auto fluids, unused pesticides, pool chemicals) properly. In Monroe County call 753-7600, option 3, to schedule an appointment for disposal.
- Pick up your pets waste and dispose of it in your garbage.



To obtain more information on this topic and the H2O Hero's efforts, visit www.h2ohero.org, and be an H2O Hero!

SPRING 2008 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 minnows. Information on these and other fish as well as proper stocking rates, habitat information 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 6th!

Distribution is scheduled for June 12th from 11am-12pm at 1200A Scottsville Road. If you are interested in purchasing fish please fill out the order form below and mail it to our office or call the District with any questions.



Welcome Kelly Crossett and Nicole Angelo

The district would like to welcome two of its newest members, Kelly Crossett and Nicole Angelo. Kelly Crossett has a Bachelors degree in Natural Resource Conservation from Cornell University. Kelly came to Monroe County after working for Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District for four years as a Conservation District Technician. Kelly is a certified professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and will be assisting with the stormwater and agricultural programs.

Nicole Angelo has a Bachelors degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Aquatic Ecology from SUNY Brockport. Nicole started with the MCSWCD in January as an intern. The internship opportunity came from volunteering with the district for the 2007 Conservation Field Days. Nicole has been assisting with the many projects and services that the district provides, including the 2008 Tree and Shrub Program and the Envirothon Competition.

Welcome Kelly & Nicole!

2008 TREE & SHRUB STATS

- **548 Customers**
- **37,000 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!

This stub must be completed in full and returned with payment if you wish to order grass carp, koi, catfish, minnows, 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 _____ @ \$14ea. = \$ _____ Grass Carp ordered _____ @ \$20 ea. = \$ _____

Channel Catfish ordered _____ @ \$4 ea. = \$ _____ Goldfish ordered _____ @ \$8 ea. = \$ _____

Fathead Minnows _____ @ \$20/100 = \$ _____ Barley Straw _____ @ \$10/bale = \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ ***

Make your check payable to: MCSWCD

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

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District

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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

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Chairman/Member at Large

Tom Klafehn
Vice-Chairman/ Member at Large

Richard Yolevich
Leg. Rep./Treasurer

Selden Chase
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Mark Greene
Member at Large/Farm Rep.

Rollin Pickering
Ed. Coord./Grange Rep.

Carrie M Andrews
Leg. Rep.

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Anwar Karim
District Conservationist

District Staff:

Caroline Myers
Executive Director, M.S.

Dan deRoos
Soil & Water Resource Technician

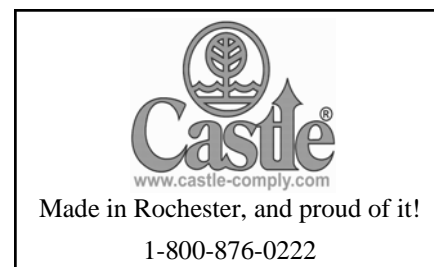
Henry Kelsey
Soil & Water Planning Technician

Kelly Crossett
Soil & Water Resource Technician

Karen Ervay
Ed. Coordinator/Sec. to Board

Nicole Angelo
Intern

Fish Stocking Order Form Enclosed



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 (1 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	Pocket Field Guides \$3.25ea OR (3/\$8.75; 5/\$13.50; 7/\$17.25)	Wood Duck Box \$25 ea. Bluebird Nest Box \$11.00 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