

The Dirt

News from MCSWCD

VOLUME 30
ISSUE 1
MARCH 2007



*Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow*

COLBY MANURE STORAGE



Colby Homestead Farms is a Centennial Farm located mainly in the Salmon Creek Watershed in the Town of Ogden. The Salmon Creek is listed on the NYS DEC Priority Waterbodies List (PWL) with nutrients identified as suspected pollutants and sediment listed as a known pollutant. Agriculture is known to be a source of these pollutants. The installation of several best

management practices (BMPs) planned for the farm will reduce the amount of polluted runoff entering Salmon Creek.



One of these BMPs is the installation of a new manure storage tank. In the fall of 2006, a new tank was constructed to replace an outdated storage facility. The new above-ground tank is 81 feet in diameter and 19 feet tall, it is constructed of glass fused to steel that provides resistance to manure acids inside and the environment outside. The new tank will provide

additional storage capacity to hold manure until field conditions are right for spreading. This project was made possible with support from the NYS Agriculture Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program.

ANNUAL TREE AND SHRUB PROGRAM

The 2007 Tree and Shrub Program deadline is rapidly approaching!

Don't miss this opportunity to order tree and shrub species that can enhance your spring planting project. The District is offering a wide variety of species that can be used for conservation projects, wildlife habitats, and restoration measures.

The **deadline for orders is March 23rd** and inventory is limited. We encourage you to order early to ensure that you get the species you want. The District has a full color catalog available on our website at: www.monroecountyswcd.org. You can also visit the website for more information regarding our tree and shrub species or to get a copy of the order form.

The Tree and Shrub Program is one of the District's favorite events because it allows us to share the beauty and utility of these species with others. Most of the species being offered provide beneficial cover and food for a wide variety of animals. In addition to their benefit to wildlife, nearly all of the Conifers can be used as windbreaks. Windbreaks can lower monthly heating and cooling costs as well as provide protection from blowing snow. Other species are ideal for homeowners concerned with conservation projects.

Shrubs such as Red Osier Dogwood and Streamco Willow are ideal for stabilization projects along areas prone to erosion.

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Manure Storage	1
Tree & Shrub Program	1, 3
Rain Gardens	2
Annual Dinner	2
A Fond Farewell	3
Monroe Co. Envirothon	3
District Personnel	8
Services & Items Available	8

District Deadlines & Dates:

- March 22** - Annual Farm Bureau & District Dinner
- March 23** - Tree & Shrub Order Forms Due
- March 27** - Stormwater Conference and Tradeshow
- April 26 & 27** - Tree & Shrub Distribution
- May 3** - Monroe County Envirothon

TWO RAIN GARDENS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN MONROE COUNTY



This spring the Stormwater Coalition is partnering with the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Rochester (RPWD), and the Town of Penfield to install two rain gardens. The Coalition members are in the beginning stages of planning for these projects. One will be located at Turning Point Park along the Genesee River in the City of Rochester. This rain garden will treat stormwater runoff from the parking lot off Boxart Street. The other will be located on the property of the Penfield Highway Garage on Jackson Road. This rain garden will treat runoff before it reaches the Thousand Acre Swamp.

Rain gardens are gaining popularity as small-scale stormwater treatment solutions. They are designed to detain stormwater long enough to allow it to infiltrate into the ground. As the water infiltrates through the soil pollutants are removed. They also help to reduce peak flow runoff rates. Pollution is removed by the plants as well as bacteria found in the soil and mulch layers. Plants selected for rain gardens are typically deep rooted, which allows them to tolerate both saturated and dry soils. Rain gardens are appealing in both residential and commercial settings due to their aesthetic value and small size.

The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County is supporting these pilot projects through grant funding to encourage developers to explore alternative stormwater treatment options. Both sites are accessible to the public and will have educational signs to inform about the purpose and benefits of rain gardens.

Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District and the
Monroe County Farm Bureau's
Annual Meeting/Rural Urban Dinner

Thursday, March 22nd

6:00 PM at Logan's Party House

1420 Scottsville Road, just south of the airport

Join Us For:

Guest Speaker Sheriff Deputy Charles Campanella

2006 Conservationist of the Year

Great Food

Good Company

Door Prizes

Call the District for Details!

(585) 473-2120 x3

\$18/person w/ advanced registration
by March 13th; \$20/person at the door

Make Checks Payable to:

Monroe County Farm Bureau

Mail to:

WNY Regional Farm Bureau

41 Liberty Street

Batavia, NY 14020

2007 ENVIROTHON

It's not too late to participate!

Register your high school for the 2007 Envirothon Competition before March 31st and join the 26 other local high school teams who'll compete on May 3rd at Ellison Park.

Students learn about local environmental issues using a teamwork approach. While working with five of their friends they will learn about five topics including:

Wildlife, Aquatics, Soils, Forestry and the Current Issues topic: "Alternate/Renewable Energy".

This event is free and open to all high schools in Monroe County. Call Karen Ervay at 473-2120 x3 to register or get further information about how to participate in this unique opportunity.

A FOND FAREWELL

In February, the District said goodbye to Vytautas "Vyt" Burkunas as he retired from more than 30 years with the District. Vyt was the District's Senior Technician and oversaw a variety of programs and projects ranging from the tree and shrub program, fish stocking, pond designs, tile layouts, backyard conservation, and everything in-between. Vyt was also a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) which greatly expanded his expertise. His years of on-the-job training and acquired knowledge were a valuable resource for the District and will be missed. On March 23rd Vyt will be recognized by the Monroe County Legislature for his years of dedicated service.

Vyt is planning trip to Lithuania to see family and friends. He will also be making his way to Egypt; if you see Vyt wish him safe travels and good luck. To many, Vyt was known as the hard-working "pond guy," but we will remember him best as our friend. The District would like to extend Vyt best wishes, good luck, and a fond farewell. Vyt, we will miss you.

ANNUAL TREE & SHRUB PROGRAM...

PLANT A TREE; HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

continued from page 1

Red Osier Dogwood has a moderate to rapid growth rate and can reach a height of 10 feet. This particular shrub can grow in poorly drained soils which make it ideal for planting along stream banks. Streamco Willow can be used in similar applications as the Red Osier Dogwood, but forms a dense thicket. Streamco Willow grows in poorly to moderately drained soils and can reach a height of 18 feet.

In addition to their benefit to the landscape, trees and shrubs can have a positive impact on the environment because they absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen. As we have seen with rain gardens some plant species can be used as natural filters, helping to remove pollutants from stormwater before it recharges groundwater.

If you would like more information concerning the Tree and Shrub Program please contact the District at: (585) 473-2120 x3 or email us at: swcd@monroecountyswcd.org.



Made in Rochester, and proud of it!

1-800-876-0222

Advertise Here!

Reaches more than 2,500 people!

- Affordable rates!
- Help Support the District!

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Monroe County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

1200A Scottsville Road, Suite 160
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 585-473-2120 x3
Fax: 585-473-2124
swcd@monroecountyswcd.org

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Rochester, NY

Permit No. 1256



Printed on Recycled Paper.

Board of Directors:

Chuck Colby

Chairman/Member at Large

Tom Klafehn

Vice-Chairman/Member at Large

Richard Yolevich

Leg. Rep./Treasurer

Stephanie Polowe Aldersley

Leg. Rep.

Selden Chase

Asst. Sec./Farm Bureau Rep.

Mark Greene

Member at Large/Farm Rep.

Rollin Pickering

Ed. Coord./Grange Rep.

USDA NRCS Staff:

Anwar Karim

District Conservationist

District Staff:

Caroline Myers

Executive Director, M.S.

Vytautas Burkunas

Senior Technician, CPESC

Betsy Johnson

Technician

Karen Ervay

Ed. Coordinator/Sec. to Board

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	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 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” \$50ea.
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