

# THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

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*Providing Today,  
Protecting Tomorrow*

## Final Notice: The Conservation Connection is Going Digital!



This issue of the Conservation Connection will be the last issue that will be printed and mailed. In 2014, the Conservation Connection will only be available in electronic form. To ensure that you continue to receive this newsletter, please email the District at [karenevay@monroecounty.gov](mailto:karenevay@monroecounty.gov), with your first and last name, home address, and preferred email address.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

## District Launches 2014 Conservation Tree and Shrub Program



Although winter is here, it's never too early to start looking ahead towards spring, and a great place to start is with the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District's 2014 Tree & Shrub program!

In addition to the 7 new species being offered in the spring of 2014 (see page 2 for new species info), the District has introduced several new species of plants into our popular variety packs. New additions in Wildlife and Conservation Multi-Packs include: A Hummingbird & Honeybee Pack with shrubs and perennials including wild red columbine, larkspur, red root, Jacob's ladder, and beauty berry. The Wildlife and Conservation Multi-Packs allow suburban and urban homeowners a variety of five different species of trees, shrubs, and/or plants with two of each species, rather than ten plants of an individual species. For more information on any of the trees, shrubs, and groundcovers being offered this year, please log onto our website and view the 2014 Tree and Shrub Catalog: [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org) or call the office at (585)753-7380.



The Conservation Tree & Shrub program will be held at the Monroe County **ecopark** facility located at 10 Avion Drive, Rochester, NY 14624. The ecopark provides a "one-stop drop-off" location for county

residents to bring their items to be disposed of or recycled. For more information on the ecopark facility, location, directions, hours of operation, and items accepted, please visit the ecopark website at: <http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark>

The Conservation Tree and Shrub program is a pre-order program where all orders must be received by **March 7, 2014**. This year's order form is enclosed on page 3 & 4 of this newsletter. The distribution of the plant material will occur on **April 17 and 18 from 9am to 5:30pm**. The overstock sale, which sells all of the remaining plant stock, will be on **April 19 from 9am to 12:00pm**. We have a limited availability of plant stock at the overstock sale, so to ensure we can meet your needs we encourage you to pre-order!

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### 2014 District Deadlines & Dates

**1/7/2014**

4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training Registration Deadline

**1/14/2014**

4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training in Webster

**1/23/2014**

Envirothon Workshops at RIT.

## **New Featured Tree & Shrub Program Species for 2014**

The District receives comments and requests for species to be added to our Conservation Tree & Shrub Program, and we consider all suggestions and appreciate our customer's input. This year the District has added several new native species in response to these requests and they are highlighted below:

**Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)** is a multi-stemmed native shrub that grows to a height of 12 feet. Flowers grow in dense, round, 1 inch diameter clusters which bloom from June to September. This shrub is best adapted to saturated soil conditions from shorelines to swamps in full sunlight. It can tolerate growing in water depths of up to three feet. Butterflies, bees and hummingbirds are attracted to the plant for its nectar, and waterfowl and shoreline birds consume the seeds and use this species as cover.



**Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)** is a native shrub growing to a maximum height of 15 feet. Dense branches grow in a zig-zag pattern with an upright spreading crown. Small greenish to yellowish-white flowers bloom from April to June with scarlet red to orange fruit maturing by late summer. The red globular fruit remains attached to the plant through the winter months making it very popular for landscaping. In addition, fruit are eaten by many small mammals and at least 48 different species of birds.

**River Birch (*Betula nigra*)** is a deciduous medium to large sized native tree, growing from 40 to 70 feet tall. The exfoliating gray-brown to ivory to copper colored bark makes this tree a very popular ornamental and landscaping tree. River birch can tolerate poorly drained to well drained soils making it very versatile, however the species is shade intolerant. Typically planted for erosion control along streams, this tree also provides habitat and food for many small mammals and birds.



**Sweet Crabapple (*Malus coronaria*)** is a deciduous medium sized tree native to New York, growing to a maximum of 35 feet tall. This species is known for its very fragrant, white to white-pink flowers, blooming from May to June. One inch sized yellowish-green crabapples ripen in the fall. Contrary to the name, the sweet crabapples are very bitter making them ideal for jams. This species is great for wildlife as a food resource for butterflies and bees during the bloom and mammals once the fruit ripens.

**Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)** is a native biennial flower growing to about 3 feet tall with yellow flowers with dark brown spherical centers. Flower stalks appear in early summer and bloom from June to September. This species can grow in a wide range of soils from well drained to somewhat poorly drained. Not only is this species planted for landscaping purposes, but Black-Eyed Susans are an important critical area seedling used for erosion control purposes.



### **New York Fern**

#### **(*Thelypteris noveboracensis*)**

is a deciduous fern with leaves about 18 inches long and about 6 inches wide. Growing in tufts from main root clump, the New York fern grows in moist woodlands in full to part shade.



#### **Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)**

is a herbaceous perennial wildflower growing to about 2 feet tall and blooming from April to May. This species prefers full sun to part shade. The pale pink to deep pink flowers attract butterflies and makes for a great ornamental flower.

For more information on these species and others that are offered, please visit the Conservation Tree and Shrub Catalog on the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District website at: [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)

## Great Lakes Commission Grant Funds Available

The District has continued to make progress on various erosion control projects through the 2010-2014 Black and Oatka Creek Erosion and Sediment Control Grant. Best Management Practices completed through this project so far include 4 Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB) designed to curtail concentrated flow across farm fields, 59 acres of rotationally grazed pasture established on prior open row crop land, and 420 acres of cover cropping completed on cropland to stabilize open soil after production crop harvest. The District currently has work underway to complete a conversion of 12 more acres of open row crop land to a pasture system and planning has been completed for 2 more WASCOB basins to be installed in 2014.



Fencing installed at local farm for prescribed grazing project.



Great Lakes Basin  
Program for  
Soil Erosion and  
Sediment Control  
[www.glc.org/basin](http://www.glc.org/basin)

There is still funding available for farm projects in these two watersheds that can be used for erosion control on farms. Eligible projects include grazing, grassed waterways, diversions, and other similar erosion control practices. Cover cropping is no longer eligible for this grant as there is not adequate time left in the grant for new applicants to fulfill the 3 year commitment that is tied into the practice. Farmers and landowners who own active farmland in the Black or Oatka Creek Watersheds that are interested in participating in projects should contact Tucker Kautz at 585-753-7380 by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Farms must be ranked to determine project eligibility.

## Don't forget! Send in your Agricultural Exemption Forms for the 2014 Tax Season!



NYS law provides a local mechanism for protecting and promoting availability of land for farming purposes, and provides tax benefits by limiting farmland assessment values. By qualifying and applying for an agricultural assessment, farmers and landowners can receive a reduction in land taxes.

**What is Considered "Agricultural Land"?** Land considered as agricultural includes: croplands, farm woodlands, pastures, orchards, vineyards, sugarbush, support land, and crop acreage either set aside or retired under Federal supply management or soil conservation programs. Other eligibility requirements may apply.

**What is the process?** Landowner's should contact their Town Assessor or the Soil & Water Conservation District to discuss eligibility requirements. If the property appears to qualify, a Soil Group Worksheet Request form per assessment should be submitted to the District by **February 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**. The cost is \$40.00 per parcel assessed. Request forms are available at the District website: [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)

## District Welcomes New Technician

Monroe County SWCD would like to welcome Katie Jakaub, our newest Soil and Water Resource Technician, to the District. Katie formerly worked for the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program as a head inspector, where she spent time in the field identifying water quality concerns within the watershed. While earning her degree in Natural Resources Management & Policy from Paul Smith's College, Katie worked for a couple of different environmental agencies, including the United States Forest Service and the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. When not in the office, she enjoys time outdoors kayaking, hunting, snowboarding, and when the time allows, hiking a few more high peaks in the Adirondack Mountains. Welcome Katie!



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Conservation District**  
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(CCA)  
*Soil & Water Planning Technician*

Katie Jakaub  
*Soil & Water Resources Technician*

Karen Ervay  
*Education Coordinator/Sec. to Board*

**USDA NRCS Staff:**

Anwar Karim  
*District Conservationist*



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MonroeCountySWCD](http://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountySWCD)

**NYS-DEC ENDORSED EROSION AND SEDIMENT  
CONTROL TRAININGS**

MCSWCD will be offering the NYS-DEC Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control course every month through June of 2014. These classes will be held at various locations throughout Monroe County as seen in the table below. For detailed information & registration information, please visit our website at [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org) or call Bob Kiley at (585)753-7380.

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
January 14th, 2014 8:00AM-12:00PM	Town of Webster-Liberty Lodge at Finn Park 850 Maple Drive, Webster, NY 14580
February 27th, 2014 8:00AM-12:00PM	Penfield Town Hall-Main Auditorium 3100 Atlantic Avenue, Penfield, NY 14526
March 26th, 2014 8:00AM-12:00PM	Town of Perinton- Public Works Facility, Building A, Room 208 100 Cobb's Lane, Fairport, NY 14450
April 24th, 2014 8:00AM-12:00PM	Parma Town Hall-Main Board Room 1300 Hilton-Parma Road, Hilton, NY 14468
May 21st, 2014 8:00AM-12:00PM	Riga Town Hall-Main Court Room 6460 Buffalo Road, Churchville, NY 14428
June 18th, 2014 8:00AM-12:00PM	Town of Ogden-Main Meeting Room 269 Ogden Center Road, Spencerport, NY 14624

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 email address or view it online at [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org). Programs and services offered through the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the County of Monroe, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, and fundraising programs. All 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.