



THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

The Fall Fish Stocking Program is Here! October 11, 2018

As fall approaches and water temperatures start to drop, it may be a good time to think about restocking the fish in your pond. Stocking ponds when water temperatures are lower can decrease the stress that your new fish experience and help increase their survivability. Our Fall Fish Stocking event provides a great opportunity to add more fish to your pond, or to order other environmentally friendly alternatives to increase your pond's health and aquatic habitat.

Are you looking to control the unwanted aquatic vegetation in your pond? If so, you may want to consider stocking Triploid Grass Carp in your pond. However, please note that in order to stock Triploid Grass Carp, you will need to first obtain a stocking permit through NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). A copy of the permit will need to be sent to us along with your order form if you wish to order these carp. For those interested in Triploid Grass Carp please contact the NYS DEC Fisheries Department at (585) 226-2466 or visit their website for application details.

Are you having issues with algae growth in your pond? Before you add any chemicals that may harm the aquatic organisms in your pond or anything downstream, you should consider ordering barley straw and adding it to your pond. Adding barley straw in the fall can help to get a jump start on inhibiting algae growth in the spring as the ice melts off the pond and the barley straw breaks down.

Distribution will be on **October 11th between 12:00 PM– 1:00 PM.**



Triploid Grass Carp from previous distributions

The fish we will be offering this fall include fathead minnows, perch, catfish, triploid grass carp and others. Our order form has been distributed via email and is available for download on our website: monroecountyswcd.org under programs and services. All fish must be pre-ordered. Please have orders and payment submitted to our office by Friday October 5th. You can place orders online by visiting our website at www.monroecountyswcd.org.

Not ready to order fish for the fall? Contact our office or click [here](#) to be sure you're on the mailing list so we can forward you the ordering details for future distributions. Questions? Contact our office at (585)753-7380.



*Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fish Stocking Program	Page 1
2017 Conservationist of the Year Award	Page 2
Celebrate Agriculture Dinner	
Farewell to Technician	Page 3
Invasive Species Spotlight	
Interseeder Program	Page 4
Conservation Tillage	
2018 Conservation Field Days	Page 5
Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	Page 6

2018 District Dates & Deadlines

October 3

NYS DEC - Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training

October 11

Fall Fish Stocking Program Distribution

November 29

NYS DEC - Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training

2017 Conservationist of the Year Award

The District awarded 2017 Conservationist of the Year Award to the Director of the Monroe County Parks Department and Seneca Park Zoo, Lawrence Staub, Jr. Larry received his Bachelor’s Degree in Asian studies from the University of Albany, State University of New York. He has since enjoyed a professional career in government for 31 years. Larry has had numerous accomplishments throughout his career including, but not limited to, the construction of the Lamberton Conservatory, establishment of multiple dog parks, improving and overseeing the Rochester Lilac Festival and creating programs and events for residents and families in our parks.

He has supported the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District’s Envirothon & Conservation Field Days programs over the last decade by providing his staff and the County’s Ellison Park in the Town of Penfield to host these events each year. Larry has also showed great commitment toward the conservation and preservation of soil and water resources by partnering with the District to implement conservation projects for water quality improvement and invasive species management and mitigation. Under Larry’s leadership, the Monroe County Parks Department has committed to mitigating the effects of Emerald Ash Borer on forests and riparian areas by planting thousands of trees within three of our County Parks. The District is honored to present Larry Staub, Jr. with the 2017 Conservationist of the Year Award. Congratulations Larry!



MCSWCD Director K. Emerick with Lawrence Staub, Jr. after presenting him with the 2017 Conservationist of the year award

2018 Farm to Table Celebrate Agriculture Dinner

To celebrate agriculture and promote agricultural education, the District partners each year with the Monroe County Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County to host the Farm to Table Celebrate Agriculture Dinner. This event brings people such as farmers, residents, and legislators together to enjoy delicious locally grown food from Monroe and neighboring counties while raising money for the Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship.

The 2018 dinner was held on August 12 at the Club House in Durand Eastman Park with more than 100 people attending. The food was delicious and all prepared by Rochester’s own Chef’s Catering. Bucket and 50/50 raffles were held throughout the night along with a silent auction containing wonderful prizes!



Above: Attendees enjoying the outdoor seating at the Durand Eastman Clubhouse
Left: Some of the food from the dinner

Farewell to District Resource Technician

Molly Swearingen joined the District back in May, 2016 after working with the Livingston County Department of Health. As a Resource Technician, she conducted many erosion and sediment control construction site inspections, provided technical assistance and guidance to municipalities and landowners, and worked on many stormwater management projects. During her time at the District, Molly also helped instruct the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) endorsed 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training. She also earned her Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification. Molly enjoyed her time at the District saying, "I learned a lot over the past two years. I was able to work on many different projects while making a difference." The District is sad to see Molly go as she starts her new job working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in air pollution and wish her all the best now and into the future!



Molly at one of many construction site inspections she conducted

Invasive Species Spotlight: PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)

This time of year, Purple Loosestrife is in full bloom. Due to its attractive purple flowering and ease of care, it is sometimes planted in home gardens. However, this plant is a highly invasive plant that spreads rapidly and can take over ecosystems.

Purple Loosestrife is a wetland perennial plant native to Eurasia. The species forms large, monotypic stands and often times out competes other native plant species. It is well adapted to colder temperatures and has a vigorous rootstock that serves as a storage organ, which provides resources for growth in early spring and re-growth if the plant is damaged by cuttings. Seedling densities can approach 10,000 - 20,000 plants/m² with growth rates exceeding 1 cm/day. A single mature plant can produce more than 2.5 million seeds annually which can remain viable after 20 months of submergence in water. Although this plant is typically found on wetland fringe areas, given its hardy nature and tolerance to dryer conditions, it can also be found outcompeting native plants in upland areas as well. Management options for this species are:

Digging/pulling: Typically done for small stands 1-2 times per year. This method must be done for a minimum of 3 years to eliminate re-sprouting.

Cutting: Cutting and mowing can be effective if done at least 3 times a year and before the flower heads go to seed. This method is most effective using a bagging mower. Continual mowing is required to eliminate re-sprouting.

Biocontrol: Biocontrol can typically have a greater effect on large areas of purple loosestrife. There are two leaf feeding beetles, *Galerucella californiensis* and *G. pusilla* that have shown to be effective in controlling purple loosestrife. These beetles can be introduced to an ecosystem through a permitting process with NYS DEC. It is also suggested that a botanist surveys the area prior to introduction of the biocontrol method.



Purple Loosestrife in flower

Genesee River Watershed Coalition Interseeder Program

GENESEE RIVER WATERSHED
COALITION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



The Genesee River Coalition of Conservation Districts will continue to run its interseeding program through 2019. Interseeding is the planting of cover crops in a standing cash crop to prevent soil erosion and return nutrients into the landscape. Interseeding is a good way to guarantee no bare soil throughout the year in areas where establishing a cover crop prior to frost could be a challenge. The Coalition has two interseeders available for rent, at \$15/acre. Information on seed mixes and chemical programs are also available. The interseeders are 6 row units built by Interseeder Technologies from Penn State; one machine has no-till drill

capabilities, and may be used in grain crop rotation planting as well. For more information about the program, please contact Stephanie Castle at stephaniecastle@monroecounty.gov.

Conservation Tillage

Conventional tillage systems (moldboard and disc plows) have traditionally been used as a method to prepare the soil for planting, control weeds, remove plant residue, and loosen compacted surface soil. While tillage can be a critical component in a successful farm operation; minimizing soil disturbance in a

field can lead to benefits such as reduced soil erosion, decreased fuel usage and reduced subsurface soil compaction from multiple tractor passes. One of the biggest impacts in improving soil health is instituting a reduced or conservation tillage system. Instead of dragging the “old moldboard” plow across a field; in a reduced tillage system, the goal is to disturb as little soil as possible. To retain surface residue organic matter, reduce soil erosion and increase water infiltration. By Changing the tillage system from conventional to no-till will not only increase soil health, but can reduce carbon emissions by 8,800

lbs. for every 10 acres and going from conventional to reduced tillage will reduce carbon emissions by 2,200 lbs. for every 10 acres. Some examples of reduced tillage systems include:



A Strip-Tiller in Use

Some examples of reduced tillage systems include:

Mulch-Till: Non-inversion method of tilling by the use of vertical tillers, chisels or disks; spreading surface residues evenly across a field.

Strip-Till: In a strip-till system, seeds are planted into narrow strips of tilled soil that are created prior to planting; this allows the grower to apply nutrients at the same time as tilling. In contrast to no-till, the strips allow warming of the soil in early spring.

No-Till: Is exactly what the name says. Growers plant right into the previous year’s residue, using a special drill to cut through the organic matter on the soil surface.

While a reduced tillage system does not fit every farm operation, changing the mindset to nurturing soil health can greatly impact yields, fertilizer use and pesticide efficacy; for the better.

Starting the School Year Right with Environmental Education

Fifth and sixth grade students from various schools all throughout Monroe County started off the school year at the 2018 Conservation Field Days event! Nearly 1,000 students attended the outdoor environmental education event. Conservation Field Days is a 3-day event held at Monroe County’s very own Ellison Park that offers students a chance to learn about a wide variety of environmental topics from professionals in the field including recycling, wetlands, invasive plants and animals, water quality and much more!

The District would like to send a huge thank you to all of the instructors listed below who volunteer their time for this event!

Tina Stevens, Monroe County Department of Environmental Services

Scott Dean, New York State Department of Public Service

Mark Almekinder, Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC)

Kaeti Stoss, Delta Environmental

Evan Lowenstein, Green Village Consulting

Juliana Smith, US Army Corps of Engineers

Delanie Spangler, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

MaryAnn Cady & Norma Platt, High Acres Nature Area

Jack Watson, Retired, New York State Department in Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

Caroline Kilmer, Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

Bruce Hummel, NYSDEC

June Summers, Genesee Valley Audubon Society

Haley Pasquale, Rochester Museum and Science Center

Cumming Nature Center

Andie Graham, The College at Brockport

Matthew Futia, The College at Brockport

Tiffany Clay, The College at Brockport

Greg Lawrence, The College at Brockport

Alex Silva, The College at Brockport

Nicole Juda, The College at Brockport

Betsy Ukeritis, NYSDEC

Karl Korfmacher, RIT

Lois Dannenberg, Broccolo Tree and Lawn Care

Harvey Limbeck & Keith Egnor, Friends of Ganondagan

Garrett Koplun, NYSDEC

Maureen Leupold, MCSWCD Board of Directors

Jenny Lundberg, Monroe County Farm Bureau

Corey Bryant, Monroe County Parks Department

Ryan Loysen, GreenSpark Solar

Thank you to the Monroe County Parks Department for donating the use of Ellison Park for this event and Wegmans for sponsoring this event!

Also, thank you to the schools from all over Monroe County who attended this years event. If you and your school are interested in attending next year’s Conservation Field Days or would like to volunteer, contact our office at mcswcd@monroecounty.gov so we can add you to our contact list!



Students exploring wildlife through pelts, skulls and fake scat



Learning about native and invasive fishes in New York State



Learning about land use and its impact on water quality



**Monroe County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

145 Paul Road, Building 5
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 585-753-7380
M-F 8am-4pm

mcswcd@monroecounty.gov
www.monroecountyswcd.org



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Josh LaFountain
(NYSE&SCC)
Soil & Water Resource Technician

Stephanie Castle
Watershed Agricultural Coordinator

Megan Aubertine
Conservation Intern

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: A New Tool in Conservation

Recently, the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District has acquired an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). This new tool will allow the District to capture high resolution aerial photography and be able to monitor and evaluate existing soil and water conservation issues with-in the County. The UAV has a flight time of 30 minutes, is capable of capturing 20 megapixel pictures and has the ability to capture 4K video.



Above: A picture taken from the UAV of Mendon Ponds Park
Below: The UAV



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. 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 age, 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.