



THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

Eastridge High School Achieves a Top 10 Score at NYS Envirothon!

May 26 and 27th were exciting days for this enthusiastic group of high school students from Eastridge High School. They represented Monroe County at the 26th Annual New York State Envirothon Competition at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva. Placing in the top 10 is very challenging now that there are typically more than 40 teams vying for the Championship.



Local Envirothon Winners from Eastridge High school from left: Lauren Hartley, Dylan Comfort, Colby Dayton, Danielle Urich, Felicia MacLaren.

After winning the local Monroe County Envirothon on May 1st, where they competed amongst nineteen teams from area high schools, Eastridge High went on to place 7th overall with a score 411.33 at the New York State Championship. They were also in a three way tie for high score in the Aquatic Ecology topic.

The Envirothon Competition is an annual competition that the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District organizes providing the opportunity for area high schools to register teams with an interest in testing their knowledge of five environmentally themed topics. It includes hands-on and challenging questions to



A student attempts to identify a tree during the forestry exam.

test each team in such areas as: Aquatics, Forestry, Current Issue/ Urban Forestry, Soils and Wildlife.

Our local event held on May 1st included teams from five area school districts: Brighton High School (2014 Monroe County Champions), Brockport High School, Churchville-Chili High School, Eastridge High School, and Our Lady of Mercy High School. **(CONT. ON PAGE 2)**



*Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Envirothon	Page 1
Envirothon (cont.)	Page 2
New Technician Steven Popp	
Riparian Tree Planting Program	Page 3
Fish Stocking Program	
Eco-Friendly Car washing	Page 4
Conservation Field Days-VOLUNTEERS WANTED	Page 5
AEM	Page 6
Celebrate Agriculture Dinner	

2015 District Deadlines & Dates

August 15th

Celebrate Agriculture
Dinner 5:30 p.m.

September 22nd-24th
Conservation Field Days

October 1st

Fish program order
deadline

October 8th

Fish Distribution

(CONT. FROM PAGE 1) This year's competition was an exciting one with ties for high score in several of the topics. Tie breaker points for the three-way tie in the Urban Forestry and for the top score for the Oral Presentations finally lead to the following Monroe County Envirothon results:

- 1st Place Overall: Eastridge High School, Team 1
- 2nd Place Overall: Brighton High School, Team 1
- 3rd Place Overall: Brighton High School, Team 3
- Aquatics High Score: Eastridge Team 1
- Current Issues/Urban Forestry High Score: Eastridge Team 5
- Forestry High Score: Eastridge Team 1
- Soils High Score: Brighton Team 3
- Wildlife High Score: Brighton Team 1
- Oral Presentation High Score: Brighton Team 2



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE TEAMS THAT PARTICIPATED!

Welcome Our New Technician: Steven Popp

Steven Popp is the newest member of our team. A native of Monroe County, Steve grew up in Fairport, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science in 2011 from Paul Smith's College in New York.

Steve first began his commitment to conservation when he started his degree at Finger Lakes Community college, where he participated in conservation trips to Alaska and Newfoundland. He comes to Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District from Monroe County Pure Waters, where he served as a Pure Water Technician since 2011. He was part of a team responsible for the operation of pump stations throughout the county.

Prior to this, Steve held a number of conservation-related positions during his college years. He was a Supervisor and Management Technician for the Adirondack Watershed Institute, where he was responsible for a team of divers who controlled the Eurasian watermilfoil population. Steve also worked as an intern for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and completed a capstone project on the predation and population of snowshoe hares native to the Adirondack and northern regions.

A husband and father, Steve enjoys participating on the Woodsmen's alumni teams for Paul Smith's & FLCC, and is currently a volunteer firefighter/EMT at the Brighton Fire Department.



Steve joins MCSWCD as a Soil and Water Resource Technician.

Riparian Tree Planting Program Available for the Genesee River Basin

Trees for Tribs is a New York State Program that promotes native tree planting along streams. Trees provide many benefits to streams, including stream bank stabilization, sediment reduction, and habitat for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. For 2015, Trees for Tribs has a local focus in the Genesee River Basin where private landowners, community groups, and local governments will be given free or low cost trees to plant along streams in high priority areas of the Genesee River Watershed. If you are interested in getting more information on possibly planting trees along your stream in the Genesee River Watershed, you may contact your local County Soil and Water Conservation District for more information.



A riparian buffer is planted with trees alongside Black Creek.

Save the Date!

Fish Stocking Program to Take Place October 8, 2015



Getting ready for the spring 2015 fish distribution.

Have you just gotten your grass carp permit and realized that you missed our spring stocking date? Did you just forget to place the order in time? No need for concern, our office is organizing the next distribution date for October 8th, 2015, so save the date! We'll continue to offer koi, fathead minnows, largemouth bass, yellow perch, catfish, and triploid grass carp for this stocking date. You can download the order form directly from our website: www.monroecountyswd.org or contact our office and we can email it to you.

If you have experienced a significant fish kill due to the harsh winter, or you are looking to decrease aquatic vegetation growth in your ponds, we can meet your needs with bait fish, bass, perch and triploid grass carp. Grass carp can improve the clarity of your pond by consuming submerged weeds without chemicals. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** triploid grass carp can only be purchased once you obtain a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. If you have a need for that permit, please contact the NYS DEC office at: (585) 226-2466 and ask for the Fisheries Department for details on applying for that permit. Once you receive your permit you can place an order through our office.

The District's Fish Stocking Programs are based on customers preordering and prepaying where each pond owner sends the order form into our office (along with the permit documentation if ordering grass carp) prior to the distribution date. Check our website for details in August to print the order form, or to review conservation district program, wildlife or land management information by visiting: www.monroecountyswd.org or call our office at: (585) 753-7380.

Hand Washing Your Vehicle at Home the Eco-Friendly Way

There's nothing quite like the satisfaction of a clean, hand-washed car sitting in the driveway. You take a step back to admire your hard work, sham cloth still in hand, as you wipe the sweat from your brow. You just spent the last 3 hours under the blistering sun scrubbing, rinsing, and polishing your pride and joy. But as you stand there, lost in thought, your pretentious neighbor from across the cul de sac struts over, forcing you to snap out of your reverie. He harps on you about letting the wash water from your vehicle flow directly into the storm drain inlet located at the end of your paved driveway. "Don't you know that these storm drains discharge directly to our waterways without being treated beforehand? That's our drinking water!" As annoyed as you might feel, maybe he has a point.

During the summer, car washing is a weekly occurrence for residents and a popular way for organizations such as scout troops, schools, and sports teams to raise funds. However, this can result in high loads of nutrients, metals and hydrocarbons during dry weather conditions in many watersheds, as the detergent-rich water used to wash the grime off our cars flows down the impervious surfaces such as roads and driveways, and into the storm drain. This doesn't mean that you can no longer take part in hand washing your car at home. There are just environmentally safer ways of doing so.

The first thing you can do is move your vehicle off the pavement and onto a permeable surface such as your lawn or a gravel area. Grass and soil work as natural filters, breaking down some of the pollutants in your wash water and preventing them from running off into the nearest storm drain. Secondly, try using a biodegradable detergent. There are many options you can pick up at your local market, or you can even make your own using ingredients you probably already have in your pantry. Also, be sure to use a hose with a nozzle so water isn't wasted while it's not being used. This saves our water and helps prevent polluted runoff from going into the gutter, storm drains, and eventually our local creeks and rivers.

Lastly, for the sake of your precious time and energy, and of course the environment, consider using a commercial car wash. Commercial car wash facilities often recycle their water or are required to treat their wash water discharge prior to release to the sewer system.

Preserving our local waterbodies is an on-going and ever challenging task. Everybody is responsible for clean drinking water and doing your part can be as easy as keeping these simple steps in mind when washing your vehicle at home.



Washing your car on impervious surfaces allows contaminated wash water to flow freely into the nearest storm drain inlet and ultimately our drinking water.



Washing your car on a lawn or gravel area allows water to infiltrate and become filtered before entering our waterways.

WANTED

Instructors and Volunteers for Conservation Field Days

It's that time again, when our staff is recruiting instructors and volunteers for the upcoming Conservation Field Days scheduled for Sept. 22, 23 and 24th at Ellison Park. We've already registered approximately 1300 students to attend this wonderful event!

The Conservation Field Days is a huge undertaking! In order to offer a truly unique, fun-filled and valuable learning opportunity we need to recruit many individuals to help with attendee management, instruction, taking pictures, and checking in groups as they arrive.

If you're not familiar with the Conservation Field Days event, its uniqueness comes from offering school groups the chance to travel through a series of environmentally themed learning stations where they become more aware of local environmental topics and concerns.

Are you a retired teacher? Do you work in the environmental field or for an organization that may be interested in instructing? Are you looking to volunteer for a few hours and enjoy being around kids? If you answered yes, please contact Karen Ervay at: 753-7380 or email her directly at: karenervay@monroecounty.gov to register! Don't wait, it'll be here before we know it!



All Aquatic Solutions

FULL SERVICE WNY Lake & Pond Management
Company. Residential/Commercial



- ▶ DEC Certified Invasive Plant & Algae Control
- ▶ Aeration & Fountain Sales & Installation
- ▶ Affordable Service, Grass Carp, Game Fish

www.smithcreekfishfarm.com

FREE ESTIMATES (585)322-7805



Agricultural Environmental Management in Monroe County

The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program is a free and confidential conservation planning program offered to the farmers of New York through county Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Through AEM, your local District is able to increase farm awareness on environmental stewardship while also working to put farmers in touch with different grant funding opportunities available for farm conservation practices.



The current focus watersheds for Monroe County in the 11th year of AEM are Honeoye Creek, Irondequoit Creek, and Four Mile Creek. Throughout the year the District will be working to move more farms in these watersheds into the implementation of conservation practices on farmland. We have previously focused on outreach in these watersheds, and several farms are ready to move into implementation of on the ground practices through the AEM process. This is in line with the District's long term goal to expand our local AEM program focus into increased implementation of best management practices of priority resource concerns as identified through prior outreach and planning.

Anyone with interest or questions on the AEM program in Monroe County can contact the District Planning Technician, Tucker Kautz, at (585)-753-7380.

Monroe County Farm Bureau

*invites you for an evening of
local food & drink for our annual*

Celebrate Agriculture Dinner

*Our "Farm to Table" dinner will be held
at the Rush Fire Hall*

August 15, 2015

5:30 pm

*1971 Rush Mendon Road
Rush, NY 14543*

Tickets - \$20 per guest

*RSVP by August 1st
(585)-343-3489*



**Monroe County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

145 Paul Road, Building 5
Rochester, NY 14624
Phone: 585-753-7380
Fax: 585-753-7374

kellyemerick@monroecounty.gov
www.monroecountyswcd.org



Made in Rochester, and proud of it!
1-800-876-0222



Printed on
Recycled Paper!

Board of Directors:

Rollin Pickering

Chairman/ NY Grange Rep.

Mark Greene

Vice-Chairman/ Farm Rep.

Joshua Bauroth

Treasurer/ Legislative Rep.

Richard Yolevich

Legislative Rep.

Bill Chase

Farm Bureau Rep.

Chuck Colby

Member at Large

Tom Klafehn

Member at Large

District Staff:

Kelly Emerick

(CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4s)

Executive Director

Tucker Kautz

(CCA)

Soil & Water Planning Technician

Katie Jakaub

Soil & Water Resource Technician

Steven Popp

Soil & Water Resource Technician

Karen Ervay

*Education Coordinator/Secretary
to Board*

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Rochester, NY

Permit No. 1256



**Like us on
Facebook!**

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

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 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.