

THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

Conservation Tree and Shrub Program Order Deadline Approaching

The pre-order deadline for the 2012 Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District's Annual Conservation Tree and Shrub Program is fast approaching. To ensure that your order is placed, all order forms must be postmarked by **March 18, 2012**. For those that are unaware, this program offers bare root tree and shrub seedlings to homeowners at a very low price! To download an order form or view a detailed description of each of the 35+ species that are being offered, please visit our website at www.monroecountyswcd.org or call us at (585) 473-2120 x3. Once you have downloaded and filled out your order form, please mail the form to our office at 1200A Scottsville Road, Suite 160, Rochester, NY 14624.



For those that have already received confirmation of their orders, this is a reminder that the pick-up for the Conservation Tree and Shrub Program will be at a new location this year. Distribution will be held at the new Monroe County **ecopark** facility located at 10 Avion Drive Rochester, NY 14624 on **April 19th & April 20th from 9AM to 6PM**. For more information on the ecopark facility, location, and directions please visit the ecopark website at: <http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark>

Note: We will have an overstock sale, on April 21st from 10 am to 2 pm, selling the remaining plant stock on a first come, first serve basis. Some species may not be available at the overstock sale, so pre-order to ensure that your preferred species of trees or shrubs are available for purchase.

3rd Annual Pick Up The Parks Event

The third annual Pick Up The Parks event will take place on Saturday, April 28th, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM. Interested volunteers should meet at 9:00AM for a short orientation at the following lodges and shelters: Church Lodge at Churchville Park, Sunset Shelter at Durand Eastman Park, Roundhouse Shelter at Genesee Valley Park, Ski Lodge at Northhampton Park, Rand Lodge at Powder Mills Park, Wegman



Genesee Valley Park

Lodge at Seneca Park, and Parkview Lodge at Webster Park. A "Thank You" picnic will follow from 1:00PM to 3:00PM. The picnic will include an e-scrap recycling event, as well as an Eco-Fair with information booths from local environmental and recreation groups. All questions should be directed to Ryan Loysen at rloysen@monroecounty.gov Come help clean up debris and other trash from our beautiful county parks!

VOLUME 36
ISSUE 1
MARCH 2012



Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tree and Shrub Program Order Deadline	1
Pick Up The Parks Event	1
Larkin Creek Stabilization Project	2
Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Project	2
Pond Damage	3
Volunteers Needed	3
New District Intern	3
2012 Spring Fish Program	4

2012 District Deadlines & Dates

Tree & Shrub Order Due
3-18-2012

WNY Stormwater Management Training Series—Stormwater Management for Linear Projects Class
3-20-2012

NYS-DEC Endorsed Erosion and Sediment Control Training
3-29-2012

Tree and Shrub Distribution at the Monroe County ecopark!
4-19-2012 & 4-20-2012

Tree and Shrub Overstock Sale at the Monroe County ecopark
4-21-2012

Pick up the Parks Event
4-28-2012

Monroe County Envirothon
5-3-2012

Larkin Creek Streambank Stabilization Project

The Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District assisted the Town of Greece with the permitting, design, and construction oversight to stabilize 175 feet of Larkin Creek located off of Guinevere Road. Grant funding for this project was awarded to the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Environmental Protection Fund. The banks of Larkin Creek were regraded in an effort to alleviate the severe erosion problems seen in the picture below (*left*). To stabilize the eroding banks, an Enkamat, which is a non biodegradable rolled erosion control mat (*right*), was installed to stabilize the banks of the creek. Once the Enkamat was installed, a high-performance growth medium known as Flextera, was applied to the disturbed soils. Seed began to germinate within 5 days, and the lush grass growth seen below was only 1 month after installation. Gentler, reinforced side slopes and lush vegetation will offer a greater resistance to erosion and sloughing of the stream banks. This project will reduce an estimated 11 tons of sediment from entering Larkin Creek every year. Sediment smothers habitat, increases water temperatures, transports pollutants, and degrades recreational uses of streams.



Enkamat is a three-dimensional turf reinforcement mat manufactured from nylon that is open and available for soil, mulch, and root interaction.



Before



After

District Completes Large Erosion and Sediment Control Project on Local Farm



An example of Water & Sediment Control Basin surface inlet.

Using Great Lakes Commission cost share funds provided through the Black & Oatka Creek Sediment Reduction Project, the District recently completed a large Water and Sediment Control Basin (WASCOB) system on a tract of Monroe County farmland located in the Black Creek Watershed. This project, implemented on the Paul Stein & Sons Farm, included installing 4 WASCOB basins on a 106 acre parcel of steep sloped agricultural land. The four control basins were strategically placed across sloped portions of the field to collect water washing down the slope and release it slowly through a surface inlet and an underground outlet system. With the installation of these basins, it is estimated that 132 tons of soil will be kept from eroding off this tract of cropland each year, leading to a significant reduction of soil entering into the Black Creek Watershed.



One of the four Water and Sediment Control Basins that was constructed on the Paul Stein & Sons Farm as part of this erosion reduction project.

Pond Damage From Common Critters

Did your pond go dry last year? Did you notice that the water level in your pond was the lowest it has been in many years? The summer of 2011 was one of the hottest summers on record, and many pond owners saw the water levels in their ponds slowly recede. Limited amounts of rain and hot temperatures pose a threat to maintaining functional water levels in your pond, but there are many other reasons that ponds lose water.

The most important factor for pond construction is soil composition. Generally, soils that are conducive for a pond should have a low permeability rate, high clay content, and slow infiltration rates.



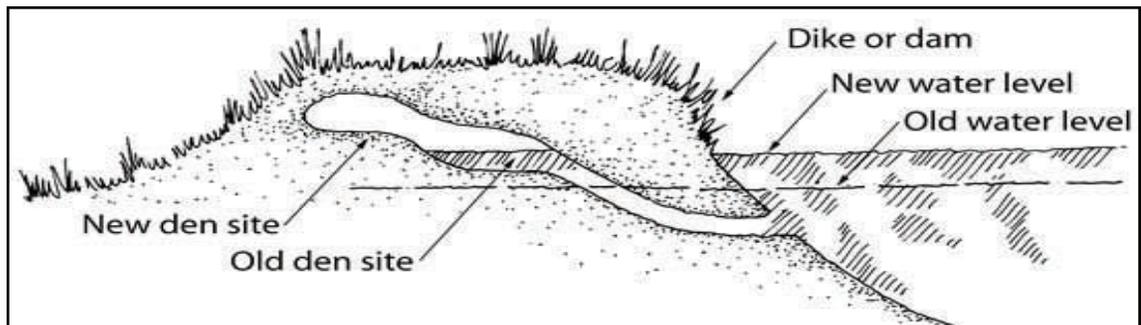
A muskrat burrow that has compromised the clay liner causing the ponds water level to drop.

Clay soils retain water much more readily than sandy soils, so many pond owners install a clay liner to ensure that the water levels do not fluctuate. Unfortunately, common critters like the muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), burrow through the clay liner,

inadvertently compromising the seal and draining the pond. This medium-sized, semi-aquatic rodent is native to North America and constructs dens by burrowing into the side of the pond below the surface of the water. The mammal will then tunnel away from the water and up above the high water mark so that water does not enter the main living quarters. To determine if a muskrat may be the cause of your ponds inability to retain water, check around the pond for evidence of muskrat activity, such as gnawed down cattails and any visible burrows. The muskrat is most active at dawn and dusk, so a trip out to the pond at dusk with a flashlight is a good test to see if any are inhabiting your pond. If muskrats are a nuisance in your pond you may contact the NYS-Department of Environmental Conservation at (585) 226-2466 for more information on trapping regulations.



*The muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) is a small mammal that burrows through the clay liners of ponds compromising the seal, resulting in the pond draining.*



A cross section depicting a muskrat den.

The District is now recruiting volunteers for the 2012 Monroe County Envirothon!

The 2012 Monroe County Envirothon will be held on May 3rd, 2012 at Ellison Park in the Town of Penfield. The Envirothon is an annual environmental education event for high school students. If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information please contact Karen Ervay at karen.ervay@ny.nacdnet.net or (585) 473-2120 x3 by April 1st.

New Conservation District Intern

In January 2012, Nahid Carter joined the District as the new Soil and Water Intern. Nahid attends Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) where he is currently working on completing his Masters thesis exploring the use of remote sensing to inventory forested landscapes on the RIT campus. Since starting at the District he has been working on preparing soil group worksheets for agricultural assessments, updating the District's website, and assisting with the 2012 Conservation Tree and Shrub Program, as well as a number of other projects. Welcome Nahid!

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
www.monroecountyswcd.org



Made in Rochester, and proud of it!

1-800-876-0222



Printed on
Recycled Paper!

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Rochester, NY

Permit No. 1256

Board of Directors:

Rollin Pickering

Chairman/ NY Grange Rep.

Mark Greene

Vice-Chairman/ Farm Rep.

Richard Yolevich

Treasurer/ Legislative Rep.

Joshua Bauroth

Asst. Treasurer/ Legislative Rep.

Vacant

Asst. Sec./ Farm Bureau Rep.

Chuck Colby

Member at Large

Tom Klafehn

Member at Large

District Staff:

Kelly Emerick

(CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4s)

Executive Director

Robert Kiley

(CPESC-IT, M.P.S.)

Soil & Water Resources Technician

James A. Balyszak

Soil & Water Resources Technician

Tucker Kautz

Soil & Water Planning Technician

Karen Ervay

Education Coordinator/Sec. to Board

Nahid Carter

District Intern

USDA NRCS Staff:

Anwar Karim

District Conservationist



Please Visit Our Website at:

www.monroecountyswcd.org

2012 Spring Fish Stocking Program in June!

Planning on stocking fish in your pond this spring? The District's Spring 2012 Fish Stocking Program will be held in June, and the District will be selling fathead minnows, goldfish, catfish, koi, and triploid grass carp.

The order form for the program is not yet available, but will be finalized and distributed in April. If you are interested in the program

and would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Bob Kiley at (585) 473-2120 x111. If you are looking for more information on the fish species being offered or on stocking rates, please check out our new fish catalog available on our website at www.monroecountyswcd.org



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.