

THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

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*Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow*

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Reminder: Don't Forget to Pick Up Your Trees!

For those who have pre-ordered, this is a reminder that the pick-up for the Conservation Tree and Shrub Program will be held at the Monroe County ecopark facility located at 10 Avion Drive Rochester, NY 14624 on **April 17th & April 18th from 9 AM to 5:30 PM**. For more information on the ecopark facility, location, and directions please visit the ecopark website at: <http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark>



For those who did not have a chance to pre-order, we will have our overstock sale, on April 19th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., selling the remaining plant stock on a first come, first serve basis. Some species may not be available at the overstock sale. For next year, be sure to pre-order to ensure that your preferred species of trees or shrubs are available for purchase.

Upon entering the ecopark, you may notice all the innovative waste collection facilities within the campus. This is because the ecopark, formed by an agreement between Monroe County and Waste Management, acts as a “one-stop drop-off” location for Monroe County residents to dispose of or recycle certain household items.

Don't forget to check out the ecopark's website for a list of items you can bring to recycle when you come to pick up your trees. Additionally, you may be interested to know that there is compost available for free at the ecopark! It's self serve so be sure to bring your own shovel and container.

Calling All Envirothon Volunteers!

Are you available May 1st to enjoy a day outdoors? Are you interested in helping to deliver a unique environmental learning experience to local high school students?

If you answered YES please consider participating as a volunteer to help at this wonderful event. The Envirothon is an annual high school environmental competition for students to learn and compete on their knowledge of five important topics including: soils, wildlife, current issues, forestry and aquatics. It will be held in Ellison Park from 8:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on May 1st.

Those interested should contact Karen Ervay at: karenervay@monroecounty.gov to register. We are currently recruiting judges and volunteers (to assist with team check-in, take pictures, etc.). Contact her by April 10th to be sure we have time to accommodate everyone!

2014 District Deadlines & Dates

4-1-2014
WNYSWTS: Computing RRv and Making GI Green

4-17-2014
4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training Registration Deadline

4-17 & 4-18-2014
Tree & Shrub Pick-up at the ecopark

4-19-2014
Tree & Shrub Overstock Sale at the ecopark

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant Project

Monroe County SWCD recently completed water quality improvement projects on 4 local farms utilizing cost share assistance through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program. The largest project was implemented on Conrow Farms, a fruit, hay, and vegetable farm in the town of Clarkson where we worked with the landowners to construct an agrichemical handling facility to provide a contained, environmentally



This completed fuel containment system at Conrow Farms has significantly reduced the risk of a petroleum spill.

friendly place to store and mix agricultural chemicals while eliminating field mixing of chemicals near natural waterbodies. On this same farm, the District also worked with the owners to implement a fuel secondary containment system to reduce the risk of a spill at the farm petroleum storage site. The new tanks now sit in concrete containment vessels on a heavy use area to prevent erosion from heavy traffic.

The next project that the District completed was on Poverty Hollow farm in Perinton, a local horse boarding and training facility, where we worked with the landowners to implement exclusion fencing along a stream to exclude animals from the

riparian area. This project is intended to eliminate stream bank erosion and nutrient loading from heavy animal traffic in the floodplain.

A third farm project completed through this program was on Krenhafen Farm, a Dairy in Riga, where we worked to construct a covered barnyard to eliminate an outdoor feedlot that existed overtop an aquifer, adjacent to a stream. The construction of this building will eliminate nutrient runoff into groundwater and adjacent water bodies. A barn roof water runoff management system and access road were also constructed on this farm to further protect water quality.



A newly erected exclusion fence at Poverty Hollow Farm restricts animals from the riparian area of a nearby stream. This will reduce streambank erosion and nutrient loading, ultimately leading to enhanced stream health and overall water quality.

The last project that we completed through this grant program was on Hopkins Farm, a local cash crop and vegetable farm located in Pittsford, where we replaced two older fuel tanks with two new double wall fuel secondary containment tanks. The new fuel storage tank sits on a newly designed heavy use area as well.

Common Pond Stocking Mistakes

Stocking a pond is a great way to maximize the use, benefit, and recreational value of this interesting land feature. Unfortunately, there are many challenges to stocking ponds. Not knowing what species are already present in the pond is one of the largest management issues with stocking new fish species in the ecosystem.



Knowing what species have been stocked in the pond (if any) is critical to ensuring that the species of fish you are looking to stock will survive and thrive in your pond. For example, a common mistake is to introduce minnows to a pond already stocked with a predator species such as largemouth bass. As you release your newly purchased stock of minnows, the bass lurk waiting to ambush the confused and unaware minnow species. Within an hour, your investment in minnows turned into a feeding frenzy for the predator fish species in the pond.

To stock your recreational bass pond with minnows, it's suggested to manage and cull the larger fish prior to introducing the minnows to the pond. In addition, it is recommended that you stock the fish in heavy cover to eliminate the potential feeding frenzy.

Make sure to do your research prior to introducing a new fish species to your pond. If you're not sure what may already exist, take a net to different areas of the pond and fish out a few samples at each spot. This will give you a rough inventory of your pond's existing fish species.

Have a pond that you're looking to stock? You're in luck! Monroe County SWCD will be once again offering a list of fish species to choose from during our 2014 Fish Stocking Program. The order form for the Program is not yet available, but will be finalized and distributed in the month of June. If you are interested in the Program and would like to be added to the email list, or are looking for more information on stocking, please contact the District at (585) 753-7380.



Farewell to District Technician

After five years of service to the District, Bob Kiley has accepted a new position as the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works in the Town of Irondequoit. "I'm indebted to the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District and all of the Districts throughout New York State. The District awarded me an opportunity to serve my community and grow both personally and professionally. The District office of only five does so much work; providing the municipalities of Monroe County with environmental technical assistance, farms with grant opportunities, landowners and citizens information and consultation on environmental issues, and much more. I'm proud to have been part of the Soil and Water District and look forward to working with them in the future" Kiley said. We wish him well, and look forward to working with him as well.

**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



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Monroe County 2014 Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program

Monroe County SWCD will once again be working with USAg Recycling Inc. to offer local agricultural producers a convenient option for disposing of their empty agricultural plastic containers for the 2014 crop season.



In the 2013 growing season, 5,700 gallons of plastic containers were recycled in Monroe County, including this truckload from Conrow farms in Clarkson!

USAg Recycling Inc. will be accepting agricultural plastic containers in June & October of this year. The service is free to farmers and provides an environmentally friendly alternative to burning or throwing away agricultural containers. Collected containers are ground into chips and recycled as corrugated plastic field drainage pipe and other ACRC approved products.

Containers accepted are HDPE #2 plastic containers, ranging from less than 1 gallon to 55 gallon barrels. Large 250 gallon shuttle totes must be cut into 2 foot wide pieces and be free of any hardware. To be acceptable for recycling, plastic containers must be empty, clean, uncapped, and dry.

To help store containers until pick up time, bags that hold 50 to 60 – 2.5 gallon containers are available for free upon registration. To register for the 2014 program please contact Tucker Kautz with Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District at (585) 753-7380.

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 ace, 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.