



# THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD

## New Soil & Water Planning Technician

Jeremy Paris is the newest member of the Soil and Water Conservation District team. Jeremy grew up in Henrietta and attended SUNY Morrisville College and SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry, where he studied wood products and forestry.

Jeremy is a Certified Crop Advisor and comes to us with 8 years of experience in the agricultural industry, where he has worked with numerous farms throughout the northeast; helping to implement various engineering and conservation practices on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) dairy farms. Jeremy also has extensive experience with precision agricultural practices, surveying and GIS mapping.

Jeremy will be managing Monroe County's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program where he will be working with the farms to plan and implement conservation practices to control erosion, hold soil in place and manage farm nutrients.

Jeremy is a father and husband. He also enjoys working on his horse farm, fly-fishing, snow shoeing and is an avid hockey player.

We are excited to have Jeremy as part of our District!



New Technician Jeremy Paris



*Providing Today,  
Protecting Tomorrow*

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## 2016 Tree and Shrub Program Pick Up REMINDER

Mark your calendars! If you pre-ordered trees, shrubs or plants this year this is your reminder that the pick-up will be held at the Monroe County ecopark facility, 10 Avion Drive Rochester, NY 14624.

Plan to come by **April 21 or 22 from 9 AM to 5:30 PM** to get your order.

Note that the Monroe County ecopark will be open for order pickup only and will not be available for drop off of household recyclable materials. For more information on the ecopark facility, location, and directions please visit the ecopark website at: [monroecounty.gov/ecopark](http://monroecounty.gov/ecopark)

Didn't put in a pre-order?

We will have our overstock sale on **April 23 from 9 AM to 12 PM**, 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.

## 2016 District Dates & Deadlines

**April 21 & 22**  
Tree and Shrub  
Distribution at ecopark

**April 27**  
Erosion and  
Sediment Control  
Training in Webster

**May 11**  
Fish Stocking Program  
Distribution

**May 19**  
Envirothon Competition

## Are You a Woodlot Owner?

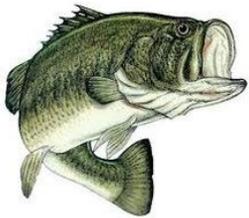
Some landowners end up being woodlot owners by accident. The woods either “came with the farm” or it is something they inherited without really knowing what they were getting. So you have it, now what do you do with it? There are many ways to look at the property, but the first question should be: How do you, as a landowner, use your woodlot?

Many people think about their forests primarily as a recreational resource. Woodlots are a place to hunt, walk or to just get away. You may also consider it part of your legacy or estate; something to pass on to the next generation of family. The woodlot can be all of these things; it can also be a source of income. A periodic timber harvest done correctly, not only gives you cash for your trees, but can increase the land value far into the future. Cutting and managing timber greatly affects wildlife habitat, food sources and water availability. It’s important to carefully plan your objectives and tailor that plan to exactly what your vision might be.

How do you come up with a plan? And where do you start? There are numerous resources online, but local resources such as the Department of Environmental Conservation, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and private foresters are a good start. By contacting these resources, you should explain as to what objectives and direction you would like to take with your woodlot. Some of them may be wildlife habitat, hunting, growing timber or forest farming--such as growing mushrooms or making maple syrup. But when all is said and done, the final decision about your land must come from you. For more information, contact our Planning Technician, Jeremy Paris (585) 753-7380.



Buckets attached to Sugar Maple trees to collect sap for boiling into Maple Syrup



## Spring Fish Stocking **Save the Date: May 11, 2016**

Spring will arrive before you know it and you’ll need to assess whether restocking fish is needed for your pond. Keeping in mind whether your pond is relatively new or if it’s not been stocked in some years this may be the right time to move forward with an order.

Maybe you’re looking to control the unwanted excess of aquatic vegetation in your pond. If that’s the case our **Spring 2016 Fish Stocking Program** will include Triploid Grass Carp commonly stocked to help control submerged vegetation. Note that this fish is stocked by permit only through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). You would need to apply and be approved to stock prior to placing an order. 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.

Our Spring Fish Stocking distribution will be on **May 11<sup>th</sup> between 11:00 AM– 12:00 PM**. We will be offering several varieties of fish including: fathead minnows, perch, catfish, koi, triploid grass carp and others. New this year, we will also be offering bags of fish food in a few different sizes. Our order form will be distributed via email next month along with the option to download the form from our website.

Contact our office to be sure you’re on the mailing list and we’ll forward you the ordering details in April. Questions? Contact our office at (585)753-7380.

## Volunteers Needed for Environmental Education!

Are looking to be more active in the world of conservation but aren't available long term? If you answered yes - we may have the perfect opportunity for you! The Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District is currently recruiting instructors and volunteers for the upcoming Envirothon and Conservation Field Days environmental education events.



The Monroe County Envirothon will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> with the Conservation Field Days being scheduled for September 20, 21 and 22, 2016. Both events are held outdoors at Monroe County's Ellison Park. We're working on recruitment and school registrations for both events in the coming months and expect 150 students to attend the Envirothon (a high school Environmental Competition) and approximately 1300 students to attend the Conservation Field Days!



Monroe County Farm Bureau Vice President, Jenny Lundberg, teaches students about the importance of dairy cows at the 2015 Conservation Field Days event

Both events are huge undertakings and we need your help! In order to offer a truly unique, fun-filled and valuable learning opportunity we are recruiting many individuals to help with a variety of different duties including: management of participants, instruction (for those that have expertise in an environmental field), taking pictures, event set up and break down and checking in groups as they arrive.

If you're not familiar with these events note that the Envirothon and Conservation Field Days events are unique in that they take place in the outdoors offering school groups the chance to travel through a series of environmentally themed learning (or testing) stations where they become more aware of local environmental topics and concerns.

Contact Karen Ervay at (585) 753-7380 or email her directly at: [karenervay@monroecounty.gov](mailto:karenervay@monroecounty.gov) to register! Don't wait, it'll be here before we know it!

**For more information on the Envirothon competition, please visit the New York State Envirothon website:**

<http://www.nysenvirothon.net/index.html>

**For more information on the Conservation Field Days event, please visit the MCSWCD website:**

[www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)

## District Says Good Bye to Technician

After just 2 years with the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Soil & Water Resource Technician, Katie Jakaub, accepted another position with the regulatory agency, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Katie's primary role with the District was assisting with instructing the NYS DEC 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training for contractors throughout Monroe County. She also assisted residents and municipalities within the County on stormwater runoff related issues such as construction site erosion control and permit assistance. In leaving, Katie stated that during her time with the District, she enjoyed getting to know everyone she interacted with from municipal officials and agency employees to residents within the County.

## Lawn Care Tips, Tools and Timing

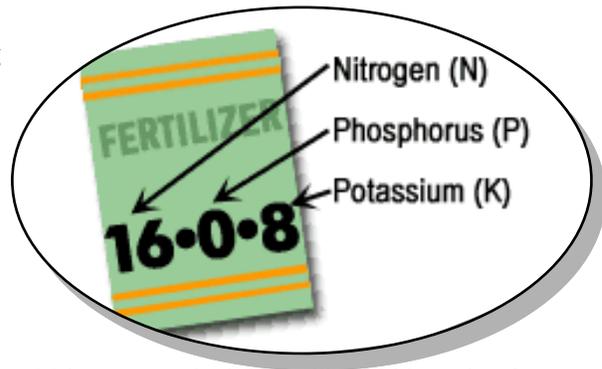
Spring is just around the corner, and taking a look at how to make lawn care more sustainable is something to start thinking about as the snow begins to melt.

It's actually rather simple to do your part in making sure our water is clean for a long time to come; and it can all be done right in your own backyard by paying attention to how you fertilize your lawn.

A typical stormwater pollutant is traditional residential fertilizer. You might be thinking to yourself, how could my fertilizer in my yard harm anything? Well, here is how it happens. You apply a

fertilizer containing phosphorus on your yard, but have forgotten to check the weather that day, and it begins to rain. That rain, a.k.a. stormwater runoff, will carry the phosphorus and other chemical agents off of your lawn and into storm sewers, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, ponds, or other surface water bodies. Phosphorous in water has been linked to reduction in oxygen necessary for fish to breathe, algae that turns water bodies green, and algae that can degrade our drinking water.

On the other hand, it starts getting dry out, and you're afraid your grass is going to turn brown, so you put out the water sprinklers. You may think the granules have had time to settle and will not wash off, but even after a few days, all that extra phosphorus is going to leach into our groundwater. One easy tip to sustainable lawn care is to know what you are putting down and its effects on the environment.



Make sure you check for fertilizers without phosphorus



Sweep grass off of the street before it enters the storm sewers

Not only this, but also, due to law changes in NYS in the last few years, it is now illegal to put any fertilizer containing phosphorus on your lawn unless you have a soil test done to prove deficiency, or if you are trying to establish a new lawn. Additionally, application of any fertilizer containing nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium is prohibited between December 1 and April 1.

If you knew that you could still have a beautiful, healthy, green lawn without using traditional fertilizers, would you? The first step in making a change is to get a soil test. A soil test will tell you exactly what nutrients your lawn needs, if any. Once you know what your lawn is in need of, you can be sure to feed it only what is needed.

Additionally, another contributing factor to be on the lookout for is leaving grass clippings in the street after mowing. Grass clippings contain high amounts of phosphorus. Simply sweep or use a blower to push the clippings off of the street and back into your lawn to reduce the negative impact.

As you can see, making a small change in lawn care to benefit the local ecosystem is surprisingly easy. The best option is to not apply fertilizer if you don't really need it, or apply only what is needed per your soil test results. But always remember: a healthy lawn starts with healthy soil. Get a soil test, and apply fertilizers with caution and care. Do your part to make a positive impact on the water quality!

**Monroe County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

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[www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)



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