



THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD



Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Conservation Field Days	Page 1
Fall Fish Program	Page 2
NYS Fair	
Fall Stormwater Management	Page 3
Invasive Species Highlight	Page 4
AEM	Page 5
Urban Gardens ROC	
Dave Derrick Remembrance	Page 6
WNYSWMTS Schedule	
Volunteer Opportunities	Page 7

Celebrating the 34th Annual Conservation Field Days

What better way for over 900 students to start off their school year than attending the 34th annual Conservation Field Days education event at Ellison Park! Thirteen local schools attended Conservation Field Days this year, allowing their fifth and sixth grade classes to spend a day outdoors learning about various environmental conservation topics ranging from wildlife ecology to stormwater management to local farming to many, many more. New stations and topics this year included tree planting demonstrations, backyard birding, DIY seed balls, and the return of “Cowabunga - The Amazing Dairy Cow” from Monroe County Farm Bureau where students make their own butter.

Eighteen different organizations participated this year including: The Bird House, Braddock Bay Raptor Research, CCE of Monroe County, Cornell University, EquiCenter, Finger Lakes Institute, Friends of Ganondagan, Genesee Country Village & Museum, Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, Monroe County Farm Bureau, Monroe County Parks Department, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Seneca Park Zoo, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Thank you to all of the instructors, volunteers, and sponsors of this event. This event is truly special, bringing so many organizations and schools together to educate and learn about conservation topics and the District is proud to be able to host this event for our local schools!

If you are interested in being involved in next year’s Conservation Field Days event, whether as an instructor or if you are a teacher in Monroe County, please reach out to our office at 585-753-7380 or mcswcd@monroecounty.gov.



2023 District Dates & Deadlines

October 2
Fall Fish Order Deadline

October 6
Fall Fish Stocking Distribution

November 8
WNYSMTS Training #4 - The New MS4 Permit

November 29
WNYSMTS Training #5 - The New Design Manual

Our office will be closed:

Columbus Day—
October 9th

Veterans Day—
November 10th

Thanksgiving—
November 23rd &
November 24th

Fall Fish Stocking Program Reminder!

Distribution will be on **October 6, 2023 at 12:00 pm**

For years our Fish Stocking Program has provided pond landowners with the opportunity to stock or restock their pond at the perfect time of year, ensuring less stress for the fish as they enter their new home. Less stress overall leads to higher survivability of your fish. The order deadline is fast approaching, to order and find more information on our program visit our website,

<https://www.monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>

Distribution is Friday October 6th at 12:00 pm in the District parking lot. Address on final page of this newsletter.

If you missed out on ordering from us this fall, sign up for our mailing list to receive an email when we first announce ordering. Our mailing list can be found on the home page of our website and our next Fish Program will be in the spring.

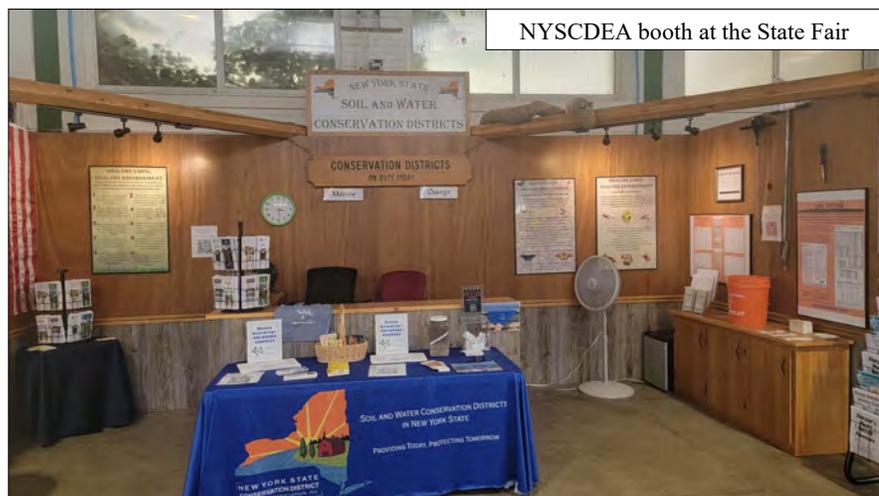
The Great New York State Fair



Each year the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. (NYSCDEA) has a booth in the Horticulture Building highlighting the programs delivered by the Conservation Districts in New York State. The Monroe County SWCD participates on the committee to organize, prepare, and staff this booth for the past 14 years. Every two years, the committee promotes a different "theme" at the booth that highlights a specific program area offered by the SWCDs; this year being "Healthy Lawn,

Healthy Environment." We highlighted 10 lawn care tips like mowing at 3", leaving grass clippings in your lawn, and using phosphorous free fertilizer. We also promoted the installation of pollinator yards/gardens and the use of integrated pest management. Classic booth demonstrations like the [Soil My Undies](#) challenge, guessing the weight of a jar of soil, and Ronny the Raindrop kid coloring contest were also featured again this year.

If you were one of the 932,699 people that attended this year and visited the Horticulture Building, you may have seen us there; if not, make sure to come check us out next year!



Stormwater Management Doesn't End with Summer

The arrival of Fall means the arrival of leaves in your lawn. A large, bulky pile of leaves in your yard will take a long time to decompose, but by practicing proper composting measures you can speed this process right along! If you don't want leaf piles in your yard at all, then an excellent alternative is to mulch the dry leaves. After raking leaves into smaller pile, shredding/mowing them will additionally reduce decomposition time, and allow for less large, bulky leaf piles building up. You can even apply these shredded leaves to your yard to act as a natural fertilizer while they decompose. Just be sure the new leaf mulch layer is less than 3/4 " deep. In similar fashion, shredded leaves make excellent mulch for flower gardens, vegetable gardens, and increasing general soil health.

Another great option is having your leaves collected by municipalities. A great program is put on by the City of Rochester as part of their Materials Give Back Program where they will pick up curbside leaf piles and transport them to be composted. If you are a City of Rochester resident and want to find out more about this great program visit here:

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589936436>. To find out when you can put your leaves out for collection visit: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/leaves/>.

Many towns and villages in Monroe County also offer leaf collections, some starting as early as October 1st, so be sure to visit your town/village website to check for pick-up dates.



Remember that burning leaves is prohibited in New York State year-round.

Keep Pumpkins Out of Landfills

Whether carving them or simply using them as Fall decorations, pumpkins are one of the most popular sights during the Fall. What happens after the season is over though and it's time to ditch the pumpkins for wreaths and Christmas trees? You probably throw them right in your normal garbage contributing to the 1.3 billion pounds of pumpkins that go into landfills each year. Organic materials like pumpkins decomposing in landfills contributes to the release of methane, a harmful greenhouse gas.



Instead of putting pumpkins in landfills consider alternative methods to discarding your pumpkins:

- Chop your pumpkin into small pieces as wildlife food on your property
- Compost the pumpkins like any other food waste, but make sure all candles, wax, and seeds have been removed
- Turn your pumpkin into birdfeeders
- Turn your pumpkins into planters by filling them with soil and flowers

Invasive Species Double Spotlight: New Invasive Insects

Two new exotic pests can now be added to New York state’s invasive species list: the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*) and the elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*).

Box Tree Moth

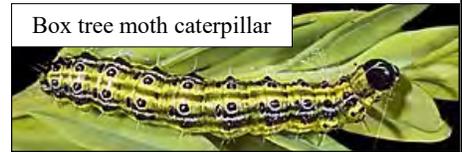


Adult box tree moth

Native to East Asia, the box tree moth was first confirmed in New York state in July 2021 in Niagara County. While not known for sure, it is assumed the moths flew here or were blown here from Ontario, Canada where they have been present since 2018. The caterpillars of box tree moths primarily feed on boxwood plants. These plants become totally defoliated by the caterpillars, which can lead to drastic plant decline and mortality if infestations are heavy enough. Signs to look for on boxwood plants include green-black frass and webbing/silk threads

according to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. There is also evidence of caterpillars feeding on bark after the leaves are gone which can lead to girdling and mortality.

Boxwood plants make an estimated \$140 million in wholesale and retail sales annually in the United States, and thus are an important part of the nursery industry. Boxwood plants are popular landscape plants due to their low maintenance and typical deer-resistance.



Box tree moth caterpillar

Elm Zigzag Sawfly

Another new pest increasing its range is the elm zigzag sawfly (*Aproceros leucopoda*). First confirmed in New York state in August 2022 in St. Lawrence County and found in Allegany County this summer, the sawfly is still at low levels in the state and only minor damage has been seen.

The destruction of elm zigzag sawfly comes from larvae and adults feeding on elm leaves and leaf tissue, leaving only the leaf veins behind. This causes serious defoliation, dieback of branches, and crown thinning. At this time the sawfly has not been shown to cause tree mortality, though the effects of a heavy infestation on an unhealthy or older tree individual may be fatal. Studies also show infested trees are more open to the invasion of other pests and/or pathogens with impacts to forest ecology, the economy, and society. Another concern is the competition between the elm zigzag sawfly and native sawfly species.

Elm zigzag sawflies are able to reproduce without the presence of a male and lay up to 360 eggs in a single year. Adult sawflies are also able to fly up to over 50 miles in a year too, allowing them to quickly spread if unchecked. Their main route of spreading is unknown at this time but it is likely in nursery stock.

Management options at this time is prevention and early detection.



egg

Image courtesy of SLELO PRISM

Funding Opportunity for AEM Tier 3 Farms!

The New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) has announced funding to advance Conservation District’s agricultural conservation goals outlined in their Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Strategic Plan.



All farms with an AEM Tier 3 Plan or equivalent are eligible for this funding. The funding from the SWCC through AEM seeks to implement farm-specific, priority Best Management Practices (BMP) systems that address resource concerns and protect water quality.

AEM is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers make common sense, cost-effective and science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving the State’s natural resources.

Farmers work with local AEM resource professionals to develop comprehensive farm plans using a tiered process.

AEM uses a five-tier voluntary approach to:

- (1) keep track of current activities and potential environmental concerns
- (2) assess existing stewardship and environmental concerns
- (3) develop farm-specific conservation plans
- (4) implement the best management practices identified in the plan
- (5) update plans and conservation practices over time.

To apply for funding through the AEM program, or start your AEM planning process, interested farmers and landowners should contact the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District.

For more information on AEM visit our website at: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page.html>

City of Rochester Celebrates 2nd Annual Urban Gardens ROC

Flower City Milpa Community Garden



On September 9th, 14 community gardens in the City of Rochester participated in the second annual Urban Gardens ROC. This event brings together community gardens in the city giving them a chance to showcase their hard work and beautiful community gardens. As part of the day, gardens host tours, workshops, gardening demonstrations, and more. The public is encouraged to attend and learn more about the urban gardening efforts in this city.



Workshops hosted included a wine capping demonstration, proper food preservation practices, tomato pruning, threshing and seed saving, and more!



Threshing and seed saving workshop

This event is sponsored by the Urban Agriculture Working Group, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District, and the City of Rochester.

Remembering Dave Derrick

The District was sad to learn of the passing of Dave Derrick in June of this year. Dave was a force of knowledge in the world of streams and rivers. Whether offering trainings or assisting with stream projects, Dave was the go-to man for stream projects involving erosion control, restoration, and more. He will be greatly missed!

His obituary reads, “David Leslie Derrick passed away on June 17, 2023, at the age of 66.

Dave was born on September 25, 1956, the son of Leslie Gerald Derrick and Louise Conklin Derrick. His childhood love of the outdoors and rivers and streams manifested into a career in potamology. He spent his entire adulthood traveling the country walking outdoors along streambanks and rivers. He retired after 35 years with Engineering Research and Development Center at Waterways Experiment Station. Since 1996 he has been co-owner and Vice President of River Research and Design (R2d) where he continued his passion of designing stream erosion, control, and restoration solutions and immersing himself in the outdoors he loved so much... Dave was always the loudest person in the room with the biggest smile. He loved his work and his hobbies, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren (Peyton and Jackson Rainer, Kaylyn and Michael May, Ryan and John Reed Derrick and Cooper Jackson). If he wasn't spending time with his grandchildren or buying signs for his grandchildren, then he was talking someone's ear off about his grandchildren. They were the joy of his life.”



Attention Stormwater Management Professionals!

Join us for the final two Western New York Stormwater Management Training being offered this spring to provide education and training for stormwater professionals involved in preparing and implementing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans on development projects.

All courses are 4 hours and taught through ZOOM .

The schedule below shows the remaining courses being offered and more details on the program and each course, including registration and cost can be found on our website:

<https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-48.html>.

WNY Stormwater Management Training Series Schedule	
The New MS4 Permit	11/8/2023
The New Design Manual	11/29/2023

Note: This series is not part of the NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training

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

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram by visiting the links or using the QR codes below!

<http://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountySWCD>

https://www.instagram.com/monroecoswcd_ny/



Volunteers Needed!

The District is looking for volunteers to help with planting efforts on various conservation projects.

Anyone interested in volunteering should reach out to our office through phone or email (contact information to the left).



Board of Directors:

Rollin Pickering
Chair/NY Grange Rep.

Maureen Leupold
Vice Chair/Member at Large

Chuck Colby
Treasurer/Member at Large

Marc Krieger
Asst. Treasurer/Farm Bureau Rep.

Steve Brew
Legislative Rep.

Susan Hughes-Smith
Legislative Rep.

District Staff:

Kelly Emerick
(CPESC, CPSWQ, CPMSM)
Executive Director

James Sroka
Soil & Water Resource Technician

Kristin White
Account Clerk

Jacob Kearney
Conservation Program Specialist



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, please visit our website and sign up for our newsletter mailing list or view it directly 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.