

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Ontario County SWCD
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585)396-1450
www.ontswcd.com
info@ontswcd.com

Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

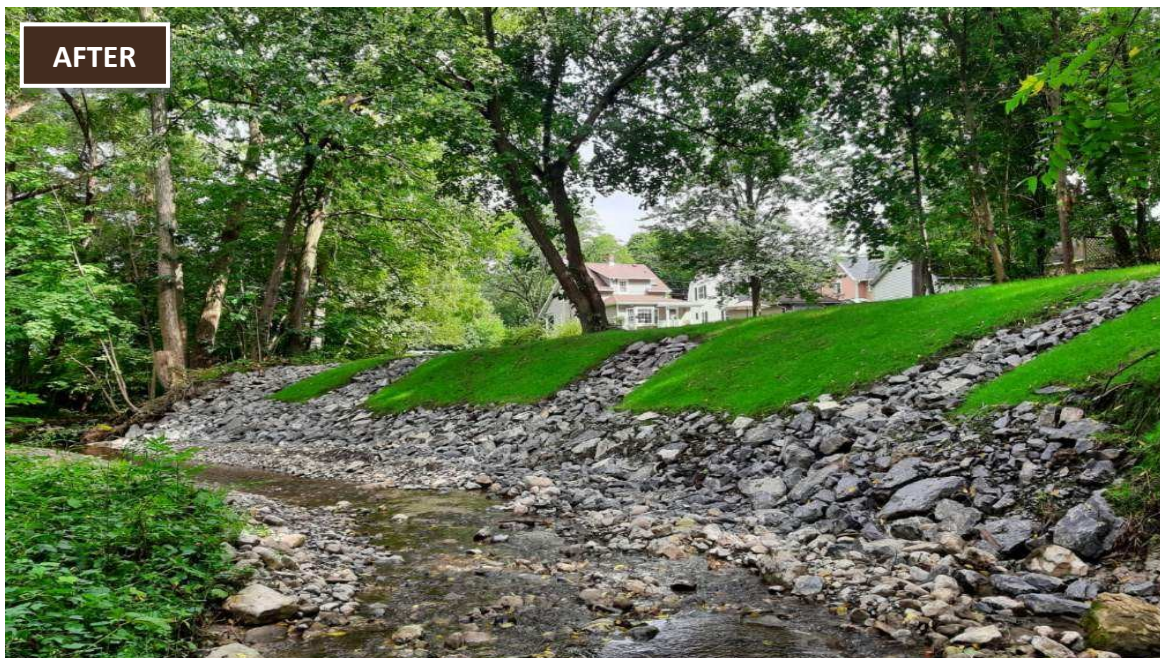


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Streambank Stabilization at Castle Creek

Castle Creek runs through the City of Geneva. A portion of the stream near Brook Street was rapidly eroding and contributing sediment and nutrients to the waterway which drains to Seneca Lake. Estimating lateral erosion at 6 inches per year, stabilizing 150 linear feet of the 6-8 foot high bank will result in approximately 22 tons of soil savings per year. The District took on this project in partnership with the City of Geneva Highway Department and the Ontario County Department of Public Works. Support was provided through engineering, labor and equipment for project installation. Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association's Sediment, Nutrient, and Pollution Reduction (SNPR) program and the District provided funding for project materials. The newly approved Seneca-Keuka 9 Element Watershed Plan highlights projects such as this to reduce sediments and nutrients impacting Seneca Lake, a drinking water source for more than 100,000 people.



Ontario County Board of Supervisors Tour

A recent sunny, warm day in October was perfect for hosting a project tour for the Ontario County Board of Supervisors in the Town of Geneva, the Town of Seneca and the City of Geneva. Supervisors and a few members of the Ontario County Planning Board were able to travel to 5 sites to get an up-close look at a recent streambank stabilization project, a variety of agricultural best management practices, and a few water retention projects. District staff led a lunchtime



presentation followed by the tour with transportation provided by the Regional Transit Service. It can be difficult to convey the scope of projects or the work our District does by mere photos and words, so having people in the field to showcase our work and discuss the positive impacts is a real energizer for us. People came away with a deeper knowledge of District activities and an understanding of our passion for conservation work.



Welcome to our Team Jenny!

Welcome Jennifer May to Ontario County SWCD! Jenny is our new Conservation District Technician. She started August 28, 2023. Jenny is a graduate from SUNY Morrisville where she completed her degree in Natural Resource Conservation and Renewable Resources. She resides in Canandaigua and is looking forward to helping the community of Ontario County.



2023 Tire Recycling was a Success

Total Tires Recycled in 2023:

- ⇒ **Town of Canandaigua: 8.6 tons of tires recycled**
- ⇒ **Town of South Bristol: 8.9 tons of tires recycled**
- ⇒ **Town of Gorham: 7.9 tons of tires recycled**

The Ontario County SWCD helps administer the tire recycling program funded by Ontario County's Department of Sustainability and Solid Waste Management. We handle the registration for the recycling events and help on the day of, checking people in and making sure the proper tires are recycled. We helped with three tire recycling events this year in the Town of Canandaigua, Town of South Bristol, and the Town of Gorham. Thank you to the Towns and their employees for hosting the events and for helping on the day of the event. Highway Department employees help unload tires from vehicles/trailers and load the tires into the roll off containers. They were an amazing help and we could not have held these events without them! If you missed these events and still have tires you would like to recycle, stay tuned for next year's tire recycling opportunities.



Roadside Stabilization in the Town of Canadice



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



After installation is complete, the Flexamat material is then hydroseeded for further stability



Finished Project

Ontario County SWCD partnered with the Town of Canadice Highway Department to stabilize several ditches experiencing severe erosion along Cratsley Hill Road, Jersey Hill Road and Canadice Hill Road. Erosion from steep roadside ditches, such as these, has a direct effect on the water quality in Honeoye Lake. Nutrients are bound to sediments and when erosion occurs and washes these sediments downslope they accumulate in our waterbodies and can help fuel the occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). These particular sites were stabilized using a material called Flexamat. Flexamat is a permeable mat made of woven material overlaid with concrete blocks in a grid pattern. This provides the stabilization needed to withstand flows from stormwater during major rain events while also leaving space between the blocks for vegetation to establish. This vegetation helps to further stabilize the road ditch while also filtering and slowing water. Funding for this project was made possible through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Program with match funding coming from the Town of Canadice in the form of labor and equipment. This project is part of a larger, ongoing effort in the Honeoye Lake Watershed to reduce sediment and nutrient loss from roadside ditches. The District would like to thank the Town of Canadice Highway Department for their expertise in completing these projects!

Protecting Water Quality and Soil Health Around the Finger Lakes

In April 2023, New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets joined New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to announce \$370,000 for the Finger Lakes Cover Crop Initiative. The initiative helps support farmers' use of cover crops to reduce erosion, implement watershed management plans, and protect water quality in and around the 11 Finger Lakes: Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice, Honeoye, Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca, Cayuga, Owasco, Skaneateles, and Otisco.

Under this grant program, Ontario County SWCD has already partnered with multiple farms to plant 400 acres of cover crops this fall in the Canandaigua Lake watershed. This is in addition to thousands of acres of cover crops planted outside of this program.



This fall planted triticale cover crop will be harvested for forage in the spring



Aerial photo of the above cover crop field with a view of the south end of Canandaigua Lake

District Leverages Federal Funding for Agricultural Projects

Ontario County SWCD recently used Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Tier 4 implementation funding and technical time as match to leverage two large federal grant awards. These grant awards, combined with existing AEM Tier 4 Implementation monies will bring \$700,000 in implementation monies to the Finger Lakes Region, and have a total project value of over \$1,000,000. These grant projects have a focus on smaller farm operations and will be used to implement over 20 conservation projects in Ontario and neighboring counties over the next 3 years.

Ontario County SWCD was first awarded \$300,000 in funding through the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) [Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program](#). GLC awarded more than \$1.5 million in grants over 5 states to reduce the runoff of sediment, nutrients, and

other pollutants into the Great Lakes and their tributaries. The District will be partnering with Seneca County and Yates County SWCDs to implement projects focused on reducing phosphorus and sediment entering the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario through the installation of proven structural erosion control best management practices on agricultural lands. Targeting large scale gully and bank erosion sites where soil-bound phosphorus loss to the watershed is highest will help achieve water quality goals in our region.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) [Sustain Our Great Lakes](#) program recently awarded Ontario County SWCD \$200,000 to implement regenerative agricultural projects on working farms. The District is one of 43 projects among 8 states receiving \$17.6 million in grant funding to support new or continuing habitat restoration and enhancement projects. The grant funds will support planning and implementation of regenerative agricultural projects on working farms in the Lake Ontario Watershed. With these funds, the District will seek to improve water quality, soil health, biodiversity and working land resilience by providing technical assistance to landowners through collaboration with up to 10 local farms to install 1,000 acres of prescribed grazing best management practices and facilitate 1,000 acres of cultural soil health-related projects like cover cropping.

Project	Grantee	Amount	State
Pierson Drain Improvements – Phase I	Fort Wayne City Utilities	\$175,000	Indiana
Cascading & Grassed Waterways in St. Marys River	Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District	\$111,800	Ohio
Kingsbury Creek Channel and Floodplain Restoration	South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District	\$300,000	Minnesota
Finger Lakes Phosphorus and Sediment Reduction Project	Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District	\$300,000	New York
Upper Buffalo Creek Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Phase II	Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$178,500	New York
County Road Z and G Stream Restoration	Outagamie County Land Conservation Department	\$116,541	Wisconsin
Neumiller Woods Wetland Improvements: Phase 2	Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network	\$61,142	Wisconsin
Phase 3: Targeted Phosphorus and Sediment Reduction to North Fish Creek and Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior	Northland College	\$299,795	Wisconsin



Save the Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 Soil Health Workshop

Save the date for next year's annual Soil Health Workshop: February 27, 2024! We will have a variety of talented speakers discussing local soil health practices, research, water quality, weed control, manure management, and much more. As always, there will be pesticide credits offered for participants. There will also be delicious food, refreshments, raffle prizes, local vendors, and more.



Upcoming 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training

Upcoming NYS DEC 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training:
Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 8am-12pm

[Click here for more information.](#)

The Ontario County SWCD is holding a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Required Training on November 16, 2023. The course will cost \$100 and pre-registration is required by November 14, 2023. The class is filled on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact the Ontario County SWCD at (585)396-1450 or email info@ontswcd.com for more information. Under the NYS DEC's Stormwater Permit GP-0-20-001, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must



identify at least one trained individual from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP, and have at least one trained individual on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a qualified inspector conduct regular site inspections in accordance with the General Permit. This training is good for 3 years.

Updates to Construction Stormwater General Permits



People involved in construction may be aware of the need for a Construction Stormwater General Permit through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). Recently, NYS DEC issued a [summary](#) of how the Construction General Permit (GP-0-20-001) applies to construction activity on agricultural property. It was created to replace an outdated and erroneous summary document that was being used by the agriculture community. As per 1998 EPA guidance, stormwater discharges from soil disturbance activities for the

purpose of growing crops do not require a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. Construction activities that disturb more than an acre (including smaller areas that are part of a common plan of development greater than an acre) require permit coverage. This excludes routine maintenance (as defined by GP-0-20-001) that is performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity or original purpose of a facility.

For construction activities located in certain [watersheds](#) and construction for which NYS DEC has determined a SPDES, a permit is required .

The preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and weekly inspections are required for all Construction General Permits, although many agricultural projects under 5 acres, such as construction of a barn or other agricultural building, silo, stock yard or pen, may be exempted from required site inspections by a Qualified Inspector.

You can check out the General Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) [factsheet](#) for updates to GP-0-22-001. The GP-0-22-001 was effective January 23, 2023.



Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition Updates

The Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition (OWSC) has been busy in the community at different events and fairs! Some recent events where you might have seen the OWSC table included the Macedon Heritage Festival, the Macedon Lumberjack Festival, and the Climb Aboard Victor Festival (here is a cool [YouTube video](#) showing the event). We love being able to talk with the public about the OWSC, our goals and some of the ways we can keep our waterways clean.

This time of year, it is really important to keep leaves out of our roadside ditches, storm drains, and waterbodies. As leaves decompose, those nutrients enter our waterways, which can cause

a lot of water quality concerns. Try composting your leaves, mowing over your leaves, or disposing your leaves with your town or village pick-up program.



designs. We also had David Hanny and Nicole Cleary, Professional Landscape Architects from Barton & Loguidice (B&L) who presented on stormwater management and water quality improvement projects including topics on Green Infrastructure, Low Impact Development, Roadside Swale and Streambank Stabilization, Case Studies & Lessons Learned, and Grant Funding Opportunities. It was a successful training with about 30 attendees! We plan to offer more stormwater trainings like this in the future.

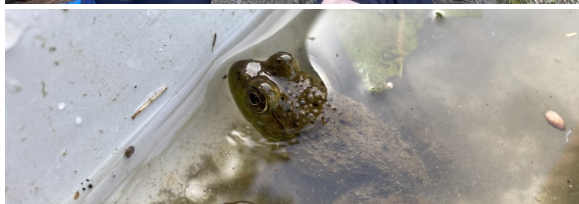


The Ontario County SWCD and the OWSC partnered together to hold a Stormwater Training this fall. The training included a presentation from Luke Scannell, a Professional Engineer with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS DEC) Division of Water in Region 8, who discussed changes made to the Stormwater Management Design Manual and how those changes will affect future



2023 Conservation Field Days

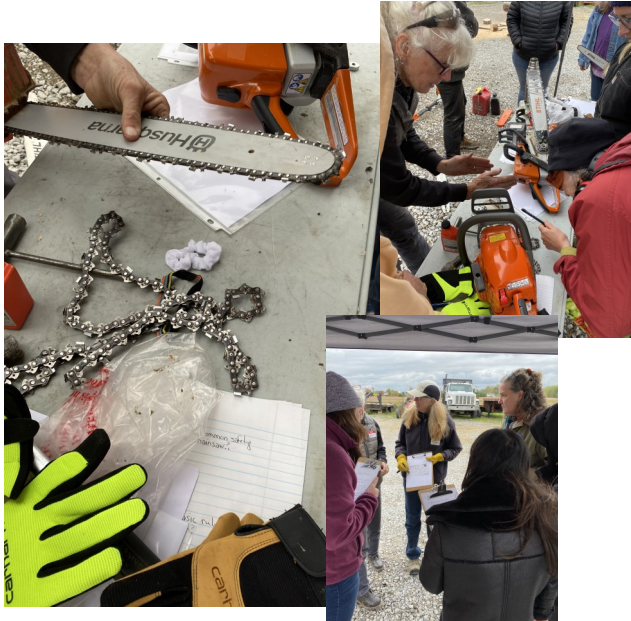
This year's Conservation Field Days was a huge success! We had over 240 6th grade students from all over Ontario County attend the event held at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. The 6th graders learned all about macroinvertebrates at the pond, invasive species, animal tracks and scat, ticks, birds, first-aid, and much more. Thank you to all of our instructors for making this another successful year. This event is organized by Ontario County SWCD and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. A big thank you to Wegmans for providing snacks and lunches for our volunteers! We love seeing all the smiling faces of the students and teachers each year. If your school is interested in attending next year, please let us know.





Recent Outreach in the Community

Ontario County SWCD has been busy out in the community! Below are some photos from just some of our recent outreach. We have been working with local schools and organizations on a variety of programs. If you have ideas or future events that you might want Ontario County SWCD at, please reach out!



We helped out at the Chainsaw and Tractor Safety for Women Workshop at Fire Creek Farms. This event was organized by the American Farmland Trust's Women for the Land Initiative.



Looking for macroinvertebrates and talking about water quality with Marcus Whitman 9th and 10th graders out at the School's ponds



Pollinator Talk at Wood Library

We talked about the importance of pollinators and how to promote them at home. We had a great turn out and loved being able to share knowledge on how to support our bees, moths, butterflies, birds and all of our pollinator species.



Presentation on Ontario County SWCD programs at Muller Field Station's "A Talk on the Wild Side" along with the Finger Lakes Land Trust discussing conservation easements



Backyard Conservation Conversation



The Intricacies of Fall

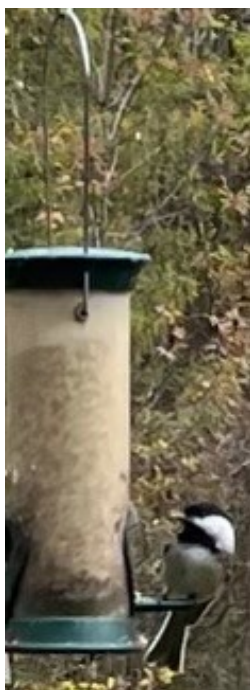


Ta-da! The once green leaves are now brilliant orange or red or scarlet or even purple! Fall or autumn brings many gorgeous sights and challenging trials/tribulations. Humans are not the only ones preparing for the next event... winter. All creatures great and small including plants and trees are also preparing for the upcoming cold. Yes, winter is coming, but let us enjoy fall first.



Like seasons changing or not, the changing seasons of upstate and western New York is happening now. Birds are migrating and leaves are turning. The cool thing about the deciduous

tree leaves is that they are always the distinctive fall color, you just cannot see it because of one word, photosynthesis. Photosynthesis is the process of how plants and trees make their food from carbon dioxide and water. They use chlorophyll, which is always green, to complete this process and the byproduct is oxygen. This essential, both for the plant and for the rest of us, process slows down as the outdoor temperature goes down. Eventually, the chlorophyll breaks down with the fewer hours of sunlight and the existing colors emerge. The tree has now stored the food it needs to survive the winter and the leaves fall.



A lane, a road, a street, a trail are all great places to observe fall colors the trees display but a lot of those places might become inhospitable for the songbirds that call it home for the summer. Those birds tend to head to better areas for survival in what is called a migration. In the case of tufted titmice, black-capped chickadees and nuthatches, they might migrate from the top of the Bristol Hills to the lower valley to avoid the undesirable conditions of winter (ex. snow, wind, ice, lack of cover). Or the ruby-throated hummingbird that heads south from here to arrive all the way in Mexico! Other notable birds that migrate out of our area in the fall include: rose-breasted grosbeak, oriole, indigo bunting and scarlet tanager. Some birds that migrate *to* our area now include: white-throated sparrow, junco, pine siskin and tree sparrow. Get your bird feeders ready and be on the lookout for the awesome winter birds that flock to our neck of the woods this fall!



CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Fall Into Healthy Soil:

Workshop & Farm Tour

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2023
11-1 PM



Register:



- Regenerative Farm Tour at The Woods FLX
- Educational Presentations on soil health and composting
- Complimentary Drinks & Snacks

WWW.CANANDAIGUALAKEASSOC.ORG

Pumpkin (and more!) Composting Event

Now accepting: Pumpkins, Gourds,
Flowers, Hay and Corn Stalks

NO plastic or metal accepted

NOVEMBER 4 • 8:00AM to 11:00AM

NOVEMBER 11 • 8:00AM to 11:00AM

**Ontario County
Parking Lot**

Corner of Ontario Street
and Pleasant Street,
Canandaigua

**Town of Geneva
Transfer Station**

32 White Springs Road,
Geneva



This is a free event and both
locations are open to all
Ontario County residents

For more information visit
OntarioCountyRecycles.org





ONTARIO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Thomas P. Harvey ^{AICP}, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Linda Phillips, Senior Planner, Ontario County Planning Department
585-396-4050

Canandaigua, NY September 28, 2023 The open enrollment period for Ontario County Consolidated Agricultural district No. 1 will be November 1 to November 30, 2023.

Landowners may propose adding land to the Ontario County Consolidated Agricultural District No. 1 by filing such request on the enrollment form available from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors or on-line at <https://www.ontariocountyny.gov/1608/Annual-Ontario-County-Agricultural-Distr> during the open enrollment period between November 1 and November 30, 2022,

A request for inclusion must include tax map identification number and a description of the commercial agricultural operation and/or other activities conducted on each parcel of land proposed for inclusion. In the case of a start-up operation, a description of the operation, and a business plan if available, should be submitted.

Completed enrollment forms should be submitted to:

Kristin Voss, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
20 Ontario Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Requests must be received or postmarked by November 30, 2023.

At the termination of the thirty (30) day period, the tax parcels proposed for inclusion will be submitted to the Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Board for review and subsequent recommendations to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors who will make the final recommendation regarding inclusion of viable agricultural land to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Link to form: <https://www.ontariocountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40203/2023-v2-Annual-Ag-District-Enrollment-form->

Ontario County SWCD Staff:

District Manager: **Megan Webster**

Secretary-Treasurer: **Diana Thorn**

Senior Conservation District Technician: **Tucker Kautz**

Water Resource Technician: **Katie Lafler**

Conservation District Technician: **Tad Gerace**

Conservation District Technician: **Jenny May**

Conservation District Educator: **Alaina Robarge**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Inspector: **Tyler Ohle**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Administrative Assistant: **Jamie Noga**

Ontario County SWCD Board of Directors:

Samuel Casella, Chairman, Practical Farmer

Jim Malyj, Vice-Chairman, NYS Farm Bureau

Kenneth Livermore, NYS Grange

Rich Russell, Ontario County Supervisor

Mark Venuti, Ontario County Supervisor

Edward Jackson, Member At Large

Amanda Amadon, Practical Farmer



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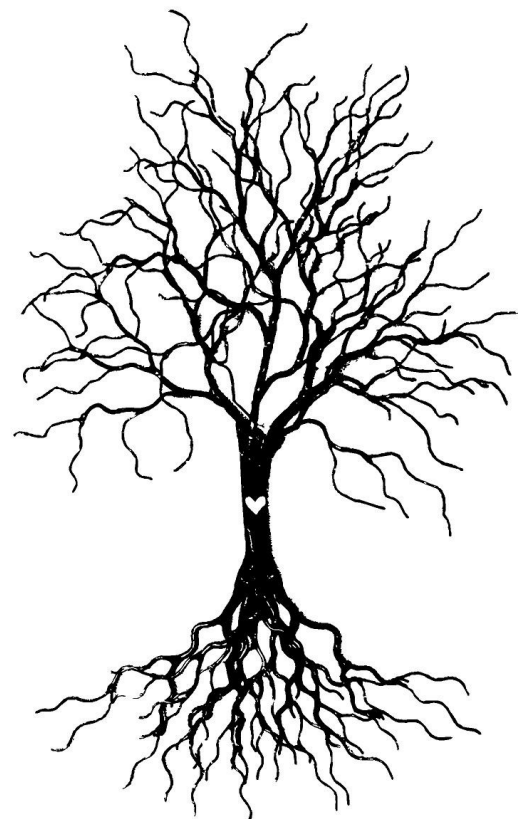
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