

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

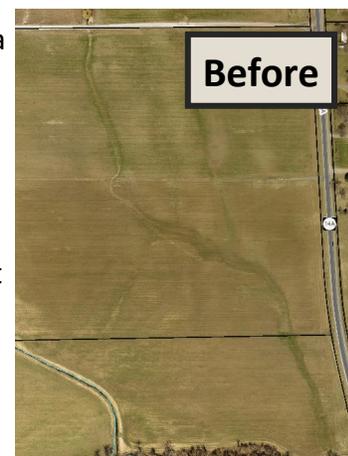


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Grassed Waterway	1
How much soil are you really losing?	2,3
Manure Storage	4
Soil & Manure Testing Services	4
Tire Recycling	5
Winter Soil Health Workshop	5
Conservation Kick	6
New Survey Equipment	6
Cover Crops	7
Diversion Project	7
Summer Soil Health Workshop	8
OWTSIT	9
4-Hour Course: November 10	9
2022 Conservation Field Days	10
Fun on the Farm	10
Backyard Conservation	11
Rain Barrel Workshop	12
SKWP Newsletter	12
Ag District Open Enrollment	13
Pumpkin Recycling	14
Realtor Workshop	15
Staff & Board Members	16
Sponsors	16+

Grassed Waterway in the Town of Seneca

Utilizing funding from the Agricultural Environmental Management program, the District assisted a farm to install a Tier 4 implementation project. This large structural erosion control project in the Seneca Lake watershed consisted of a 2,300ft long, 30ft wide, 1ft deep grassed waterway system installed to control gully erosion caused by concentrated water volumes washing across a large tract of cropland. The waterway included a large 12in underground outlet pipe that was installed under the waterway to handle low water flows between storm runoff events. This grassed waterway has



We utilized straw mulching to stabilize the waterway before grass became established



over 35cfs capacity and will convey large storm events across the farmland in a non-erosive manner.

Spreading the water volumes through a wide, shallow, sod channel that follows the natural contour of the land allows us to slow down the velocity of the water leaving the cropland. The completed project has an expected soil savings of 92 tons of soil saved per year on the affected acreage.



How much soil are you really losing?

One of our primary goals as a Soil & Water Conservation District is to keep soil in place. During field visits, one question often comes up: ***Is this erosion a concern?*** Erosion can be hard to quantify. Sure, there are many models out there that determine average loss, but understanding how this soil is lost can be key in educating landowners and guiding them when making management decisions.

Gully Erosion

The most common request for assistance from landowners is how to deal with gully erosion. Gullies are a visible eyesore and can make a field rough to work with equipment. A gully that forms in a farm field year after year is indicative of a water volume that likely needs to be managed. A few easy in-field measurements can quickly help you come up with some good estimates of how much soil is really being lost. A cubic foot of soil weighs about 75lbs so if a gully is 1ft wide by 1ft deep, we can use this formula to come up with a pretty good estimate. We like to break the number into a soil loss by acre. In the case above, if a square acre is about 208ftx208ft and has a 1ftx1ft gully cut, the field is losing 16,000lbs, or 8 tons per acre, per year in the affected area. This is actually a smaller gully, and we often see in-field gullies that are eroding at rates of over 20 tons per acre per year!



120 tons of soil loss per acre



20 tons of soil loss per acre

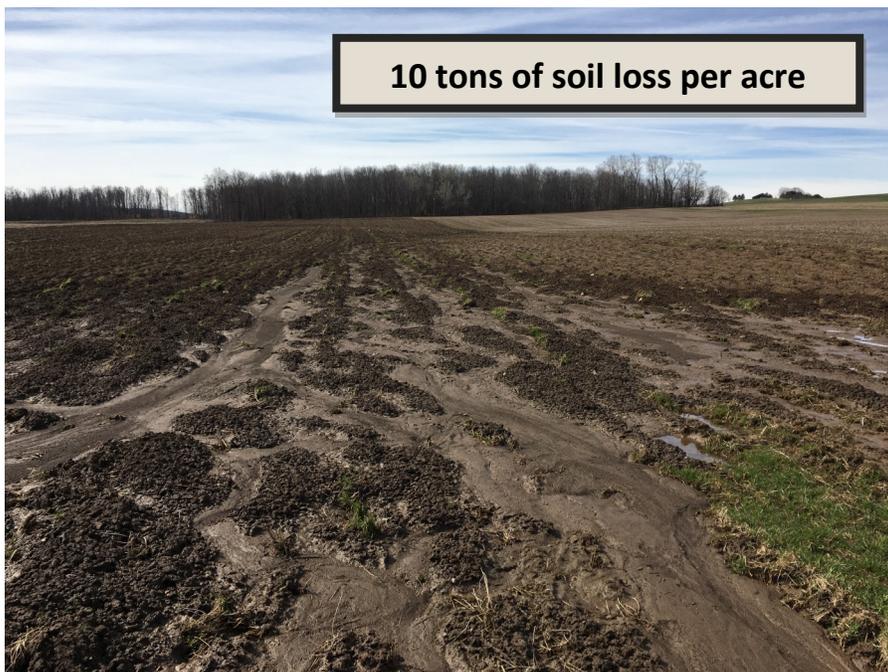


How much soil are you really losing?

Continued...

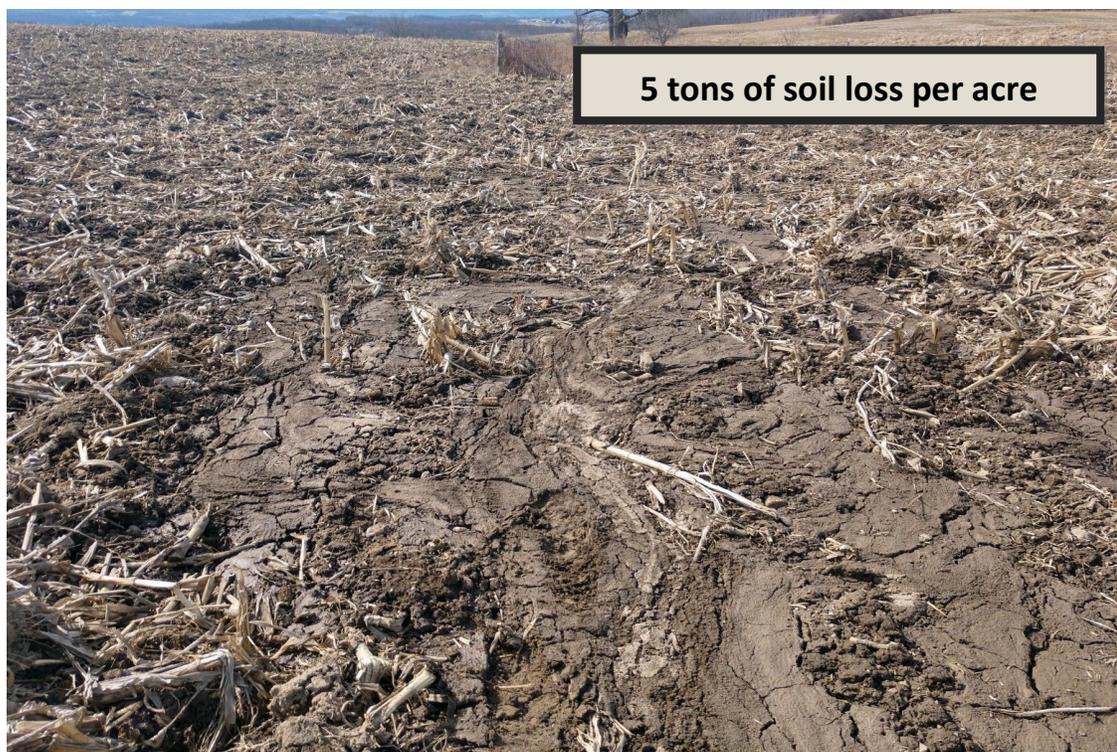
Rill Erosion

Rill erosion is a problem, but is often considered manageable and many times ignored and just tilled and planted by the landowner. Because it can be spread out over a wider area, rill erosion can be hard to measure and harder to discern where it starts or ends. Rills occur in the topsoil layer, and as they get deeper, the problem transitions into gully erosion. If you view the edges of where the rill starts, you can use the undisturbed furrow as a baseline reference to estimate how much soil has moved. Most rills are under 4 inches in depth and have a total soil loss of 10 tons per acre or less. A square foot perimeter measurement of the effected area can give you an estimate of soil loss.



Sheet Erosion

Sheet erosion occurs when a shallow sheet of topsoil is moved as a whole unit. Sheet erosion does not usually have distinctive cuts or water paths and can be harder to identify. Many landowners will ignore this type of erosion, but that is a mistake because over time all that soil loss really adds up. Most sheet erosion rates are 5



tons per acre or less, but sheet erosion can happen over a large sloped area and can lead to a large soil loss event.

Putting it all together

Many times, all three kinds of erosion are occurring on the same site. It begins with sheet erosion, and rills are formed as the water volumes increase, and as the water concentrates gullies start to form. Tackle these issues early and save your soil!

Manure Storage Complete

We recently worked with a farm to help install a waste storage and transfer project with funding from the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program Round 25. This project consisted of installing a 3.7 million gallon lined manure storage and a 1.3 million gallon lined silage leachate waste storage facility on a dairy farm in the Town of Phelps. This new waste storage facility gives the farm the ability to store over 6 months of manure as well as the ability to store all annual low flow and high flow runoff from the bunk silos. This project was unique in that it allowed us to repurpose the old earthen manure storage into a useful Best Management Practice (BMP) by re-grading the storage basin and lining it with a plastic liner so it could hold the silage bunk runoff. All waste streams



are piped underground from the farm to the new facility. The high flow bunk silo runoff can now be stored, diluted and used for irrigation if needed. All other stored waste product will be applied to the farm cropland per the farm’s Certified Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

Soil & Manure Testing Services Available

The District has been given the opportunity through the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program to assist producers with soil and manure testing on their farms. Testing is an important management tool which allows farms to gain more information about the health and fertility of their land. Soil test results combined with sound crop rotation provides the farm with information to apply fertilizer at a specific rate to optimize crop yields. This helps to avoid over or under application of fertilizer with under application resulting in crop yield loss and over application resulting in increased opportunities for nutrient runoff as well as increased farm expense. Any farm, except those currently regulated by a CAFO General Permit, are eligible to participate. Three different tests are available: basic soil nutrient testing through DairyOne, manure and compost nutrient testing, and the Cornell Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) “Standard Soil Health Analysis Package”. Farms may choose sample methodology and which fields to sample from, however limits will be set based on interest and testing desired. The cost of the soil testing is free; farms are simply asked to collect their own samples. The District will transport samples for testing and return results to the farm to then be utilized when making fertilizer prescriptions. Any farm interested in participating in this program should reach out to the District. This year, the District facilitated soil testing on over 1,100 acres of crop land.



A local farmer-in-training demonstrates his soil sampling technique using a soil probe

Tire Recycling Wrap-Up

Ontario County SWCD assisted the Ontario County Department of Sustainability and Solid Waste to coordinate 3 residential tire recycling events in 2022. These events were free for Ontario County residents and were limited to 10 tires per household. Over **26.4 tons** of car and light truck tires were recycled through this program! Thank you to the Town of Seneca, the Town of

Manchester, and the Town of Richmond for hosting these events at your facilities and for providing employees and volunteers to help load tires into containers.

If you are interested in future recycling events or have questions about where to recycle different items, visit the [Ontario County Recycles website](#) for more information and to stay tuned for 2023 tire recycling event dates.



**SAVE THE DATE:
WINTER SOIL HEALTH
WORKSHOP
MARCH 1, 2023**

**Ontario Produce Auction
4860 Yautzy Road, Stanley, NY**

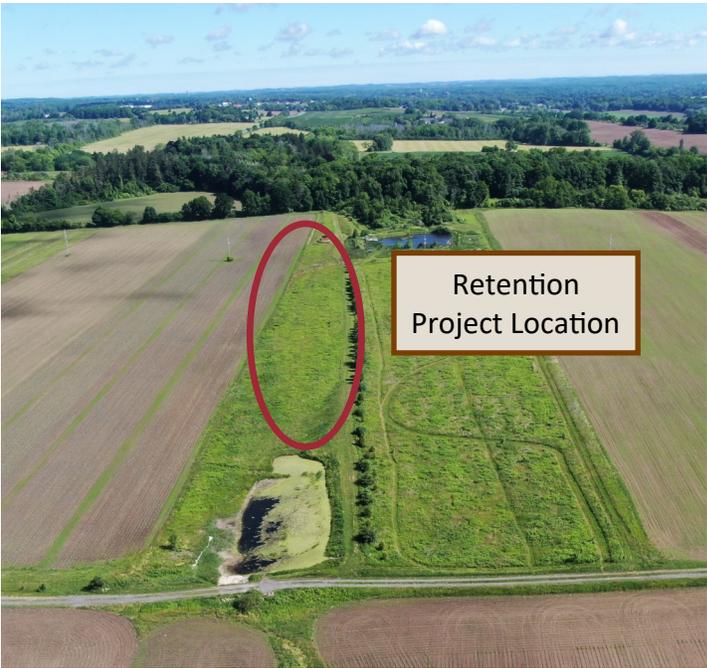



Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District

ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

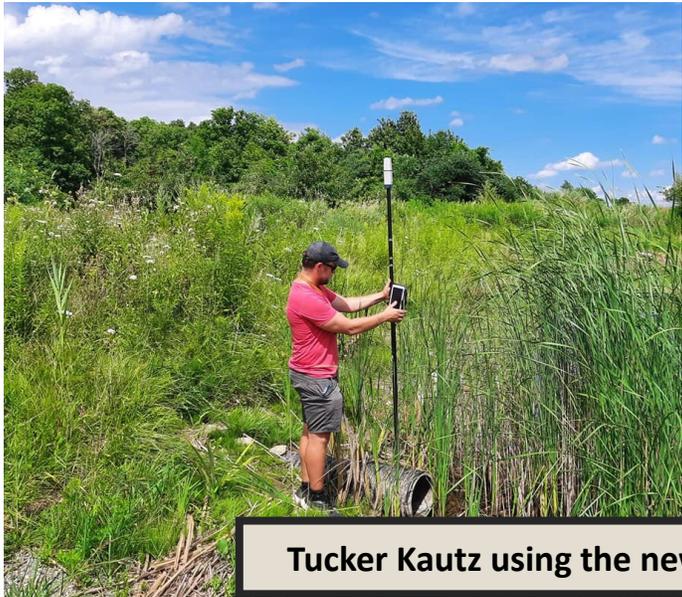
Conservation Kick

The Town of Geneva was recently awarded \$10,000 from the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) Conservation Kick program to implement improvements on a local farm. This funding will be matched by the Town of Geneva and the District has been assisting with the design and implementation. A switch in landowners and change of project location required a complete reworking of project design but the District was able to quickly adapt and locate another worthy project. The new project will consist of two upland water retention basins, but unlike with a traditional water and sediment control basin (WASCOB), these basins will have outlet controls as well as long term water storage. As a result they will function more like a wetland or vernal pool, and will yield additional benefits over the more traditional design. Originally sited in the Castle Creek sub-watershed, the new project location is on a farm in the Wilson Creek – Seneca Lake sub-watershed. With a modeled annual load of 0.79 pounds of phosphorus per acre, the *Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan* identifies this as a priority area and sets a target phosphorus load reduction of 30%. As such, this is one of many such improvements to be implemented in the coming years in this area. Stay tuned for more on this...



New Survey Equipment

The Ontario County SWCD recently purchased new survey grade GPS equipment. We have used GPS survey for the last few years and this technology is highly efficient, allowing us to complete surveys in hours that might have taken days running a laser unit. This new unit operates at centimeter accuracy while being the size of a can of soda!



Tucker Kautz using the new equipment to survey a project

Great Lakes Commission Funds Cover Crops

Funding has been obtained from the Great Lakes Commission through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to support sediment and nutrient reduction through the work of the Seneca Watershed Steward, Ian Smith, and Soil & Water Conservation District partners. Even with this year’s dry summer, Ontario SWCD has been working with farms in the Seneca Lake watershed to install cover crops this year and plan for next year’s planting. This year’s cover cropping program included interseeding into standing grains in June and July, planting mixed species cover crops after wheat harvest in early August, and planting cereal grains in early October as a cover after corn silage harvest. We look forward to installing over 1,000 acres of cover crops through this funding. Farms who are interested cover crop programs can contact the District for more information.



Planting the cover crop after wheat harvest



The tillage radish/clover cover crop mix is looking great after 40 days of growth!

Diversion Project in the Town of Canandaigua

The District is working to complete the final projects funded under Round 24 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program. The grant focused on erosion and sediment control in our County’s northern watersheds. This particular project site had a large volume of water which needed to be transported in a non-erosive manner around a field and pasture that was having issues with both drainage and erosion. A 1,200ft sod diversion swale was installed to maintain the integrity of the surrounding agricultural land and provide an outlet for additional underground drainage. The diversion was installed at an average depth of 2ft with 5:1 bank slope for easy maintenance with a mower. This diversion project also allows for 35ft of maintainable buffer between the pasture and the ditch. This project has an estimated soil savings of 24 tons of soil saved per year on the affected farmland.



Summer Soil Health Workshop

The Ontario and Yates County Soil & Water Conservation Districts worked together to put on a summer soil health workshop with local farmers on July 20, 2022. The event included a talk about drainage and stormwater best management practices that can be used to improve farm viability while also helping to protect the watershed. The event was held at a local farm in Penn Yan. The workshop included a wagon tour of several installed projects.

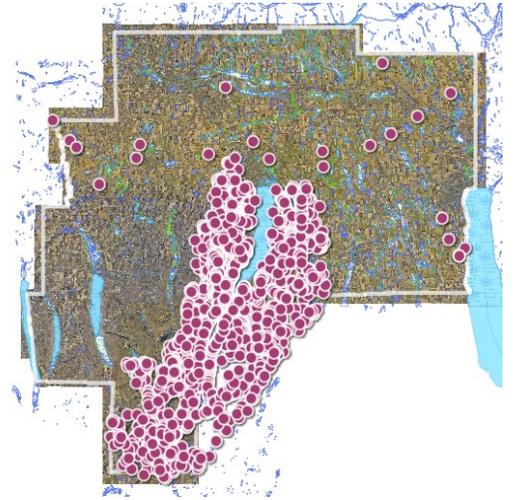
The purpose of the workshop was to have an open discussion on ways for farms to deal with extreme weather events, review recent farm projects, and discuss water management and tile drainage. While it seems hard to contemplate with this summer's rain fall patterns, all farms in the area are facing increased issues with heavier than normal runoff events when the rain does fall. Topics of discussion included farmstead runoff control, field based erosion control, and manure management practices. Presenters discussed how climate change impacts the amount and intensity of water resulting in problems for the entire watershed as a whole. Discussion ensued on how these runoff events impact agriculture and how the practices we install need to factor in these increased rainfall events. Farmers walked away with some ideas on types of projects that could be used on their farm.



Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Tracking

Failing and substandard onsite wastewater treatment systems are a source of nutrients and pathogens to our local waterbodies. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ranks improperly functioning onsite systems as one of the State's top ten water quality problems.

Onsite wastewater treatment systems are features of most rural residences in Ontario County. The District has a robust program of septic inspections through staff, registered by the NYS Onsite Training Network, to conduct inspections of onsite wastewater treatment systems for property deed transfers, change of use, expansion and/or complaints. In addition, many systems require periodic inspections due to their proximity to a shoreline.



Tracking on-site treatment systems is an important tool to protect water quality. Enhanced tracking of onsite systems facilitates better onsite system maintenance and management, ultimately helping to reduce their pollutant loading to our local waterbodies. With financial assistance from Ontario County Water Resources Council, FLOWPA and the Canandaigua Watershed Commission, the District recently transitioned to a web-based geodatabase that allows the District to upgrade and integrate the program for use throughout Ontario County, including users outside of the Canandaigua Lake watershed. This enhanced platform allows the District to continue providing information and management resources to all of Ontario County.

Upcoming NYS DEC 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training



Thursday, November 10, 2022 from 8am-12pm

[Click here to register!](#)

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 10, 2022 from 8am-12pm at Ontario County SWCD, 480 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY. This course will cost \$100 and pre-registration is required by November 7, 2022. You will need to send in a copy of your driver's license with your check. 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.

Conservation Field Days Wrap-Up



The 2022 Conservation Field Days was a success! The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County partner together each year to hold the event at 4-H



Camp Bristol Hills for the 6th graders in Ontario County. This year we held the event over a 3 day period (September 20-22). The classes attended each station for 20 minutes. We had about 450 students from 6 schools attend this year's event. The stations included information on pond life, watershed health, tick prevention, forestry, invasive species, poisonous plants to avoid, birds, composting, and wildlife. A huge thank you goes out to our instructors for providing an amazing educational experience for our local 6th graders. We could not have done this without them. We look forward to planning the 2023 event!

Fun on the Farm

Ontario County Agriculture presented Fun on the Farm this September, hosted by Fa-Ba Farm. The two day event is a great way to introduce agriculture to our community. Friday's event saw over 1,000 kids enjoy a tour of the farm by a hay wagon ride, educational presentations, and of course ice cream! District staff presented soil health topics to a variety of age groups. The Soil Your Pants display, highlighting biological activity in our soils, was a hit with the composted underwear. A display of the rainfall simulator showed the importance of cover crops and keeping cover on soils throughout the year.





Backyard Conservation Conversation



What is Molting?

Never fear, the bald blue jay in your backyard is not sick...it is molting. Molting is the process of replacing all or some of the feathers on a bird. Most birds around here do one complete molt per year.

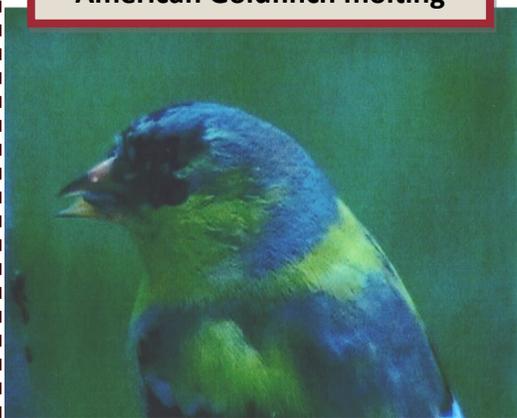
According to the famous [Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds website](#), feathers are 'dead' as similar to our hair or nails and are made of the same basic protein: keratin. So, if and when feathers get damaged or broken, they cannot heal themselves and they have to be replaced. The replacement of all or some feathers is called **molt**. Since molting can be highly variable we will concentrate on the two most common molts. The first is one complete molt per year and the other is one complete and one partial molt per year.



Blue Jay molting



American Goldfinch molting



Molting helps keep birds in tip top flying condition. Molting occurs as a response to hormonal changes on account of seasonal changes. You can believe it takes a bunch of energy to create new feathers. Therefore, timing is everything. Birds avoid pressure packed times of breeding and migrating to molt.

Two ornithologists, P. S. Humphrey and K. C. Parkes, developed a system where the concept is that all birds have a basic plumage and some bird species also have an alternate plumage. Some might call the basic a disguise. So, the male scarlet tanager's brilliant red summer plumage is actually its alternate plumage while the subdued yellow/olive drab coloration the rest of the year is its basic plumage.

Examples of some local bird favorites that do one complete molt per year are the loveable chickadee, the speedy ruby-throated hummingbird, the boisterous blue jay and our New York State bird the eastern bluebird. Some species do a complete molt and a partial molt in a year, such as, indigo buntings, scarlet tanagers, American goldfinches and all the super cool warblers. In this group, they lose all their feathers after nesting to revert back to their basic plumages. However, just before the next breeding season, the males do a partial body feather molt (to their 'breeding'/bright colors) and the females replace their important camouflage feathers with new fabulous camouflage feathers.

If a bird loses an entire feather anytime during the year, a new one will grow back immediately. That way the bird does not have to wait in the pits until the next full or partial molt to get back to pristine shape.

Now you know your bird friends like a cardinal with a black head is not odd or a blue jay sporting a mullet is only a short term life hack to re-grow upgraded feathers and be the best a bird can be. Molting can be awkward but rewarding at the same time.

Rain Barrel Workshop in Naples

We had an awesome evening in Naples for our rain barrel workshop in July. Thank you to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association for organizing and sponsoring the event and to the Naples Brewing Company for being incredible hosts. We had so much fun! Rain barrels are a great way to capture water and protect water quality so stay tuned for spring and summer 2023 rain barrel workshops so you can build your very own barrel.



AUTUMN 2022



Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Lake Monitoring and Research...2
- Water Treatment...3
- Agricultural Projects...4
- Voices from the Lake...5
- Soil & Water Highlights...6
- Community Outreach...7
- Municipal Voices...8
- Contributing Authors...9
- Credits...10

Note from the lake specialists:

This newsletter – and the partnership responsible for making it happen – was started in conjunction with development of the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan for Phosphorous to share a broad array of water quality related information and, in turn, spark public participation in development of the 9E. With the final version of the 9E now approved, we enter a new phase where our work will be focused on executing the actions proposed in it. Moving forward, this newsletter will be focused on sharing information about specific improvement projects, and follow a biannual spring/fall release. While we hope you enjoy reading this edition – and will continue reading future editions – there is a lot of work to be done and we all best get on doing it!

Ian Smith
Seneca Watershed Steward
ismith@hws.edu
601 South Main St
Geneva, NY 14456
(315) 781-4559

Colby Petersen
Keuka Lake Manager
colby@ysoilwater.com
417 Liberty St
Penn Yan, NY 14827
(315) 536-5188





Ontario County SWCD

Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership Autumn Newsletter

The Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership (SKWP) recently sent out their autumn newsletter. This newsletter is to coincide with the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan that is being formed and will keep all watershed community members informed of the latest work being done to help protect our shared aquatic resources for generations to come. The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District helps the SKWP create the quarterly newsletters. [Click here for the SKWP Autumn Issue.](#)

2022 ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD NOVEMBER 1ST - 30TH

Ontario County farmland owners may request that their land be added to a New York State Agricultural District between November 1-30, 2022. State law requires that farmland owners be given a 30-day period every year during which they can request their land be added. The New York State Agricultural District Program is a voluntary program that provides farmland owners and farmers certain advantages and protections if the land stays in the Agricultural District. For additional information on the New York State Agricultural District Program, click [here](#). For information on Ontario County Agricultural Districts, click [here](#).

How to apply

Landowners must submit an original signed enrollment form to Ms. Kristin Mueller, Clerk of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, 20 Ontario Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Download a form at <https://ontariocountyny.gov/1608/Annual-Ontario-County-Agricultural-Distr>.

At the close of the review period, the requests will be reviewed by the Ontario County Agriculture Enhancement Board. They will then make recommendations regarding suitability of the land for inclusion in an Agricultural District to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors then reviews and approves the list of properties for submission to the Commissioner of New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for final approval.

If you have questions, contact Julie Barry, Senior Planner, Ontario County Planning Department at 585-396-4416 or julie.barry@co.ontario.ny.us.



Pumpkin (and more!) Composting Event

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

NO plastic or metal accepted

NOVEMBER 5TH • 11:00AM to 1:00PM

NOVEMBER 12TH • 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

**Town of Victor
Transfer Station**

60 Rawson Road, Victor

All locations are open and free
to Ontario County Residents



For more information visit
OntarioCountyRecycles.org



A WATER WORKSHOP FOR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

5.5 Continuing Education Unit Credits Approved by NYS Department of State Division of Licensing Services

When: Thursday, February 9, 2023 from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424

Cost: \$50.00 due by February 7, 2023

Lunch will be provided (please inform us of dietary restrictions)

Return Registration and Payment To:

Ontario County SWCD
480 North Main Street
Canandaigua NY 14424



Please make checks
payable to:
Ontario County SWCD

You will learn about:

- Groundwater/Surface Water Basics
- Recognizing Wet Lots
- Wells, Presented by Richard Moravec of Barney Moravec, Inc.
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Stormwater Management

Name: _____

Company: _____

Realtor License Number: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

If you have any questions, please call Alaina Robarge at (585)396-1450 or email her at alaina.robarge@ontswcd.com

Ontario County SWCD Staff:

District Manager: **Megan Webster**

Secretary-Treasurer: **Diana Thorn**

Senior Conservation District Technician: **Tucker Kautz**

Water Resources Technician: **Katie Lafler**

Conservation District Technician: **Tad Gerace**

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

Kenneth Livermore, Vice-Chairman, Grange

Rich Russell, County Supervisor

Mark Venuti, County Supervisor

Jim Malyj, Farm Bureau Representative

Edward Jackson, At Large

Amanda Amadon, Practical Farmer



Like us on Facebook [@OntarioCountySWCD](#) to stay up-to-date with the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District!

Thank You to our newsletter sponsors for their incredible support!

Call us for a free quote today!

HEAT PUMP REBATES ARE HERE!

Save up to 70% on your Heating & Cooling Costs

GREENGUYS MECHANICAL.COM
HVAC FOR THE MODERN WORLD
(585) 667-4828

Thank You to our newsletter sponsors for their incredible support!

FARM DRAINAGE • CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT • EXCAVATION



ALLEGHANY FARM SERVICES

Drew & Chad Klotzbach
7342 Alleghany Road
Basom, NY 14013

ALLEGHANYFS.COM
info@alleghanyfs.com
Call 585.762.4411

Replace your propane or oil furnace or boiler and...

Reduce Your Heating Costs by 50 to 70%



Convert to GEOTHERMAL HEATING & COOLING!!

Incentives cover up to 50% of the installation cost. Financing available for the rest.



Lake Country Geothermal (585) 802-7924 info@LCGeo.com
www.LCGeo.com

Thank You to our newsletter sponsors for
their incredible support!

Dependable..... Septic & Waste Solutions

A-VERDI
Septic Service



A-Verdi Cos LLC
14150 Rte 31 Savannah, NY 13146
www.averdiseptic.com



Meadowview

TREE FARM • NURSERY • LLC

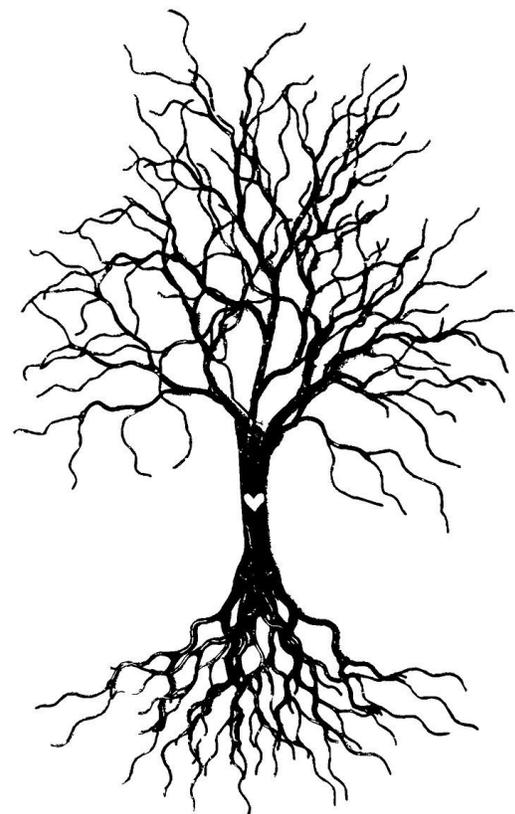
QUALITY PLANTS, LOCALLY GROWN SINCE 1983

SEEDLINGS • TRANSPLANTS • INSTALLS

EXCAVATION • SITE WORK • SNOW REMOVAL

NAPLES, NEW YORK

585-694-8864



"PROMOTING TREE PLANTING IS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO."