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Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter



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Manure Storage in the Seneca Lake Watershed

The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District recently worked with a farm in the Seneca Lake Watershed to complete a 7 million gallon manure storage facility in the Town of Seneca. This project was made possible with cost share assistance provided by the New York State Department of Ag & Markets through the Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program. Due to the scope of work for construction, the District performed site inspections to assist the farm with Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) permitting requirements. These inspections ensure that all erosion and sediment controls such as silt fence, ground stabilization and waste disposal are installed correctly and functioning.

Adequate manure storage capacity is an important best management practice when trying to protect water quality and improve overall farm health. The farm will now be able to store manure through the winter months and apply manure to fields when conditions are favorable as prescribed by the farm's nutrient management plan. This method of manure application reduces the amount of excess nutrients leaving fields in the form of runoff that contributes to water quality issues. The installation of this storage is an example of the farm's commitment to protecting water quality in the Finger Lakes.



How It's Made: Grassed Waterways

A grassed waterway is a great way to convey large water flows of water across cropland in a non-erosive manner. Typically this Best Management Practice (BMP) would be used to solve gully erosion problems in areas where stormwater volumes are too high to store and/or fit into an underground outlet system. A grassed waterway follows the natural flow contours of the land and typically requires a very shallow but wide channel. It may be hard to believe, but a 30' wide grassed waterway that is only 1' deep can handle well over ten times the water volume of a 12" underground outlet installed at a similar grade!



The first step is to install an underground outlet support line. This line should be perforated and will be slightly offset (10'-15') from the waterway centerline and serves to take low flow as well as keep the waterway dry for equipment crossing.



At the top of the waterway, a standpipe with rock protection installed around it is connected to the underground outlet.



The next step is to shape out the waterway path with a bulldozer. It is very important to manage the topsoil carefully. Subsoil should not be mixed with topsoil in the waterway, nor should it be pushed out onto the adjacent cropland. Any large volumes of subsoil should be removed completely. We like to build waterways that are 6"-12" deep and we will adjust the width before depth to meet capacity requirements so that subsoil impacts are minimal. The sides of the waterway are graded level to allow the sheet flow of water into the channel.

Grassed Waterways Continued...



A properly completed waterway is usually a very subtle depression after grading and topsoil replacement is complete. Excess topsoil can be spread very thinly into the adjacent field and the farmer can then work it in with a disk or chisel plow.



Establishing seeding in the waterway should be completed as quickly as possible. Waterways are very vulnerable structures in the weeks after construction. We like to use a hydroseeder or straw mulcher to give the waterway its best chance at success.



The farm should mow the completed waterway a few times per year. A properly completed grassed waterway is an asset to both the farm and the watershed.

Agricultural Round Table Event: May 3, 2022

You are invited to join Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency, and the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District on May 3, 2022 at 6:30pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua to learn more about what these public agencies have to offer.

To register call, 585-394-3977 x 427 or email nea8@cornell.edu.



2022 Summer Soil Health Workshop

The Ontario County and Yates County Soil & Water Conservation Districts along with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association will be holding a summer Soil Health Workshop in mid-July. There will be 2 sessions to choose from; one in the morning and one in the evening. The sessions will be held at a farm in Yates County and a farm in Ontario County. We hope to have more information finalized soon and will let you know! It will be a free event with snacks and refreshments.

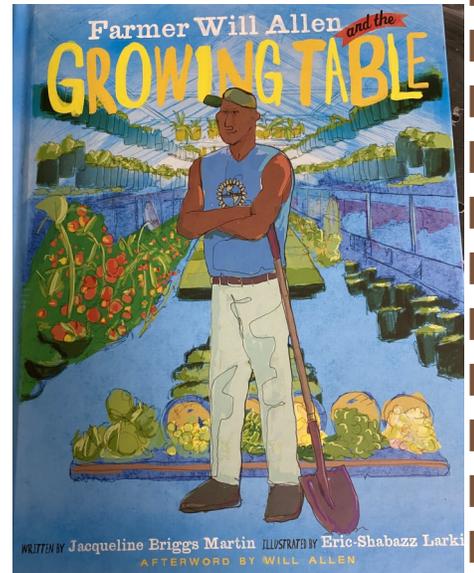


Ag Literacy

Each year, New York Ag in the Classroom selects a book for ag professionals to read in second grade classrooms across the state. The volunteers engage the students in a paired hands-on activity related to the book to extend learning. This year, we helped Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County with the event at Canandaigua Primary School. We read the book *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table*, by



Jacqueline Briggs Martin, with the 2nd grade students in their classroom. We discussed soil health, composting, greenhouses, and how you can farm anywhere. We then had red wiggler worms for the students to learn about in a hands-on activity. They learned all about how worms can help with soil health. It was a fun day for all!



A Lifetime of Service to the Agricultural Community

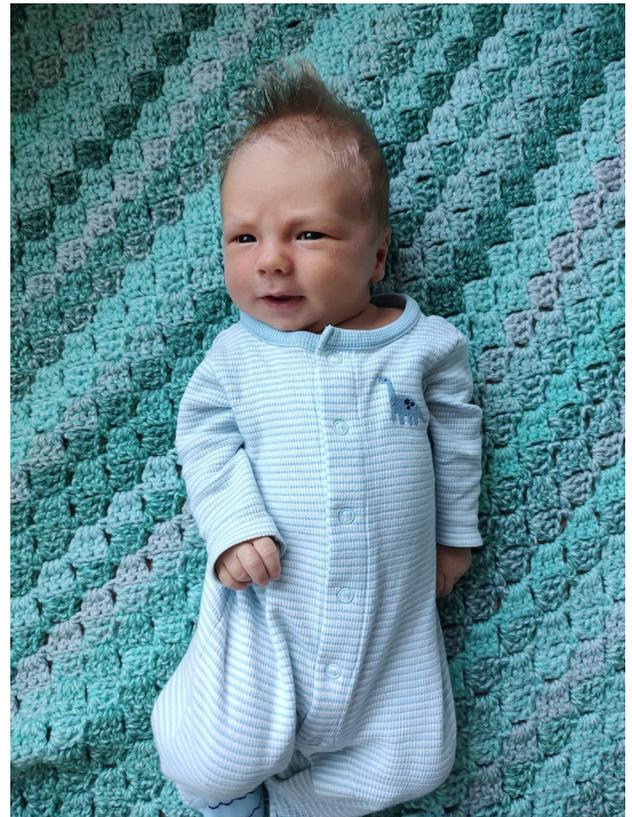
After 20 years of service, Jim Peck is stepping down from his role as Director for the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District. As a representative for the Farm Bureau, Jim has brought his extensive knowledge, experience and common sense in service to Ontario County. We are sorry to lose Jim as a Board member, but happy to know he will remain a strong part of the farming and conservation community. Jim has been an integral part of the District, bringing his experience from ConsulAgr, Inc. as an Accredited Agricultural Consultant (AAC), as well as being a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) and Professional Animal Scientist (PAS). Sam Casella, Chairperson of Board shared "We have been fortunate to have Jim share his wealth of knowledge and humor with the District over the past two decades and I know I speak for the entire Board." ***Thank you Jim!***



New Addition at Ontario County SWCD

Miles Daniel Kautz was born on April 5, 2022 standing at 21 inches tall and weighing 8 pounds 14 ounces. Miles is not much for cracking a smile just yet but is quick to throw out the "blue steel" look when he is ready for his next meal.

Congratulations to Tucker Kautz, our Senior Conservation District Technician, his wife Courtney, and their daughter Maddie on the new addition to the family!



The Importance of a Septic Inspection

Buying a house? Do not waive the septic inspection. With the current wild market on house sales, a new phenomenon appears to be occurring. Buyers, sometimes at the advice of their realtor, are occasionally skipping the all-important onsite wastewater treatment (septic) system inspection. That is not a wise decision for many reasons. Stated in a recent article by the editor, Jim Kneisxel of Onsite Installer Magazine, "a few hundred dollars spent now can save prospective homeowners huge amounts of money down the road." Meaning, having an unbiased, professional, experienced inspector conduct an inspection of the septic system in question prior to a deed transfer is of extreme importance. Kneisxel goes on to say "previous care of a septic system requires an experienced eye and I would say that even many general home inspection companies are not adequately trained to look for clues of an abused, neglected or failing onsite system."



Properly functioning septic leach area

This photo shows a small amount of fluorescent red dye flushed down the toilet in the house and surfaced in the failing leach area



Local realtor, Jane Gavett says, "I always contact the Soil and Water office every time there is a septic system on a property sale. That way I know a proper and professional inspection will be completed to help protect my client." Fortunately, some towns in Ontario County require, by local law, that the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District provide a detailed septic inspection prior to every home sale and even some rental agreements. The details of town requirements are reviewed in depth during our annual Realtor Workshop. An updated list can be found on our [website](#) or information can be emailed directly to you. The office can conduct septic

inspections in any town if requested.

The importance of a septic inspection goes deeper than protecting the buyer, seller, realtor(s), lender, underwriter and attorney (s). A properly functioning septic system has little or no negative effects on the surrounding environment. Ideally, septic effluent is treated by the existing soil prior to contacting groundwater. A failing septic system is highly detrimental to the environment and poses an enormous public health risk. Be sure to call or email the office while deciding if you need a septic inspection for a real-estate transaction.



Failing septic leach area

Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition



The Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition (OWSC) has been busy increasing their outreach efforts and work with the community. Recently, the Ontario County SWCD, the Town of Victor, and the Town of Farmington hosted an OWSC educational table at the Victor Intermediate School for their Super Science Saturday Earth Day Environment Expo on April 23, 2022. They had educational handouts, coloring books, the interactive watershed model, and a display showing photos of stormwater best management practices in the area.

If you are looking for some ways to protect our environment and our local waterways, the OWSC has a detailed website on ways to take action. Go to: www.owsc.org/take-action to find out more!



2022 Tree & Shrub Sale



What a year! The Ontario County SWCD's annual Tree and Shrub Sale was a huge success. We sold over 6,000 trees and shrubs to our local community. We sold plenty of tree planting supplies and bluebird nest boxes as well!



Thank you to the Ontario County Fairgrounds for letting us use their beautiful Carriage Barn for the tree sale pick-up this year, as well as the dairy barn for preparation and packing. What a great way to celebrate Earth Day! If you ever have any tree or shrub planting questions, feel free to give us a call or check out our [Tree Planting Guide](#) on our website.



2022 Western Finger Lakes Regional Envirothon



The 2022 Western Finger Lakes Regional Envirothon was a success with 10 teams from Ontario, Seneca and Yates Counties. The teams completed 5 exams focused on forestry, aquatic ecology, soil and land use, wildlife, and the current issue of "Waste to Resources." They also had to complete an oral presentation on the current issue which

involved designing a comprehensive local solid waste management plan. The overall winner of this regional competition was the Marcus Whitman team pictured to the left. Congratulations! This event requires tons of preparation and studying. We also want to thank the dedicated teachers and assistants that organize the teams and make it possible for their school to participate in the Envirothon.



The Marcus Whitman team will represent Ontario County at the New York State Envirothon. The winning Yates County team moving on to the state event is from Penn Yan (pictured to the right). The winning Seneca County team moving on the state event is from Romulus (pictured below). Again, a huge congratulations to all 3 teams moving on to the NYS Envirothon which is at the end of May at Hobart and William Smith



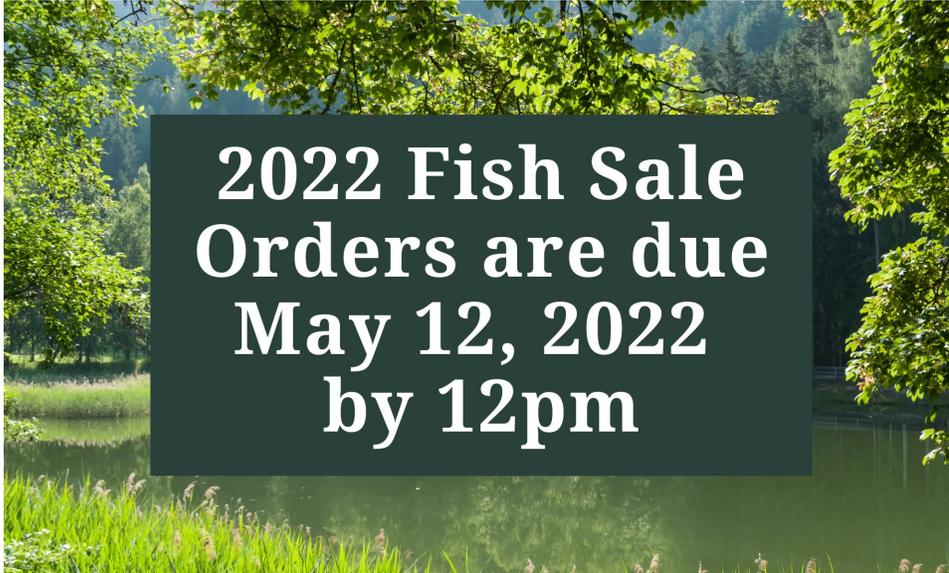
Colleges. It is a 2 day competition. The first day includes their oral presentations and the second day includes the tests in all 5 categories. Good luck to all competitors at the NY State Competition! Thank you to the volunteers and instructors for helping to create the exams and taking time out of their busy schedules to help run this event! Thank you to Finger Lakes Community College for hosting the event and assisting with set-up, especially when poor weather made us move the event indoors. Wegmans generously donated funds to cover healthy snacks for all of the students as well as lunches for each volunteers.



Spring Fish Sale

Interested in stocking your pond with fish? This year we are selling fathead minnows, largemouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, triploid grass carp, and fish food. [Click here for the order form](#). Order forms are due by noon on

May 12, 2022. Fish pick-up is on May 19, 2022 at noon at the Ontario County SWCD parking lot (480 N Main St, Canandaigua). Make sure you bring your own container of pond water to pick-up the fish.



**2022 Fish Sale
Orders are due
May 12, 2022
by 12pm**



SPRING 2022

Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership

Note from the lake specialists:

As we enter peak lake season we also enter a new phase of the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan (9E). Up until now we have been focusing our sights on actually representing the present conditions and trends, while setting our eyes on an idealized – but reasonable – future for the watershed. From this point onwards we will be working on exactly how we best bridge the gap between the present and that future. Much of the articles you'll find in this issue – as well as past and future issues – highlight specific actions and projects that can get us to that future, as well as the groups that can make it happen. The 9E will lay out the technical foundation for what is to come over the next several years, but we hope you continue to enjoy the extra stories, pictures and details the newsletter format offers us. Thanks for reading!

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Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership Spring Newsletter

The Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership (SKWP) recently sent out their spring 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 Spring Issue.](#)

On April 25, 2022 the SKWP and the Land use Leadership Alliance (LULA) held a training

for “Sustainable Keuka and Seneca Lakes.” They had 5 speakers who discussed topics related to watershed health. Ontario County SWCD had a table at the event with the watershed model and numerous healthy lake handouts. The Ontario County SWCD also helped design the presenter posters for the event.





Residential Tire Recycling Event:

Saturday, May 14th, 2022
8:00am - 11:00am
Town of Seneca Highway Department
3649 Flint Road



****Advanced Registration Required****

Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

The registration period is from April 25, 2022 to May 11, 2022

This event is a free event for ALL residents of Ontario County.

- Maximum of 10 tires per household permitted
- MUST PRE-REGISTER and bring ID to Event
- Only car and light truck tires will be accepted
- All tires must be clean and free of debris
- No tires on rims will be accepted
- Tires will not be accepted from commercial facilities

Tires not meeting these requirements will not be accepted.

**Please contact Ontario County
Soil & Water Conservation District at
(585)396-1450 to register.**





2022 Residential Tire Recycling Events



Advanced Registration Required

Town of Seneca: Saturday, May 14th, 2022 from 8:00am - 11:00am

Town of Manchester: Saturday, July 16th, 2022 from 8:00am - 11:00am

Town of Richmond: Saturday, September 17th, 2022 from 8:00am - 11:00am

This is a free event for ALL residents of Ontario County.

- Maximum of 10 tires per household permitted
- MUST PRE-REGISTER and bring ID to Event
- Only car and light truck tires will be accepted
- All tires must be clean and free of debris
- No tires on rims will be accepted
- Tires will not be accepted from commercial facilities

Tires not meeting these requirements will not be accepted.

Please contact Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District at (585)396-1450 to register.





EVENT SPONSORED BY:



Lake Friendly Living

FOR WATERSHED RESILIENCY

MAY AWARENESS MONTH
TUESDAY, MAY 17TH, 6:30PM

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

When you attend the May 17th Rain Barrel Workshop, there will be a short presentation on some lake-friendly living tips to manage stormwater around your home. Alaina will have already cleaned and drilled the 55-gallon plastic food-grade barrels for you. She will demonstrate how she prepared them, and how to assemble them. With assistance from Alaina and others, you will assemble your own rain barrel and take it home! It is such a fun evening learning about conserving water, protecting our local lakes, and making a difference in our environment.

Cost per rain barrel is \$20 and can be paid at the CLWN website:
<https://www.cayugalake.org/volunteer/donate/>.
Payment must be received prior to the program.

ALAINA ROBARGE

Alaina Robarge is the Conservation District Educator for the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District. She also works for Seneca County Soil & Water to provide educational events like this in Seneca County. She has been with the District for almost four years.

LOCATION

Canoga Fire Hall

3576 NYS Rt 89, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

TO REGISTER, VISIT:

WWW.FLRWA.ORG/LAKE-FRIENDLY-LIVING

Ontario County SWCD Staff:

District Manager: **Megan Webster**

Treasurer/Secretary: **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**

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Kenneth Livermore, Vice-Chairman, Grange

Rich Russell, County Supervisor

Mark Venuti, County Supervisor

Edward Jackson, At Large

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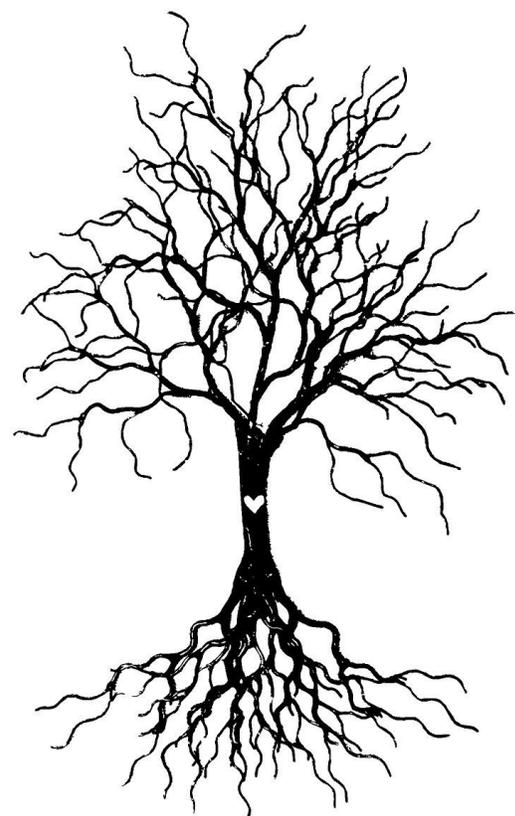
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