



RENSSELAER COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Department of Agriculture & Life Sciences Building
61 State Street, Troy, NY 12180
(518) 271-1740

www.Renscosoilandstormwater.org



2019

NEWSLETTER



In this issue:

- SWCD Welcomes New Staff
- No-Till Drill Program
- Cover Crop Program
- Stream Stabilization Project
- AEM
- Fish Stocking Program
- Meetings
- E&SC Training & Tree Programs
- Manure Storage Construction
- Awards

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Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District

As 2019 comes to a close, the Rensselaer County SWCD reflects on a few items over the past year and looking forward to a refreshed 2020 with new staff!

SWCD Welcomes New Staff

Howie Miller is one of our new staff members to the SWCD! Howie has an engineering background with over 15 years environmental field experience. He has managed construction, subsurface investigations, excavations and site restoration. Additionally, he is well experienced in material sampling, health and safety plan implementation, and erosion and sedimentation control inspection. He has most recently managed an environmental engineering program for a Class 1 railroad. He currently holds 5 non professional designations as well as several safety training certifications.



Megan P. Myers is another one of our most recent staff members at Rensselaer County's SWCD. Megan is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), a certified Senior Ecologist, and Certified Lake Professional (CLP). She has 15 years of experience as a Wetland Specialist in the field with an engineering firm, primarily throughout Berkshire County, MA and Bennington County, VT. Megan is also on the Board of Directors of the Soil and Water Conservation Society's Empire Chapter.



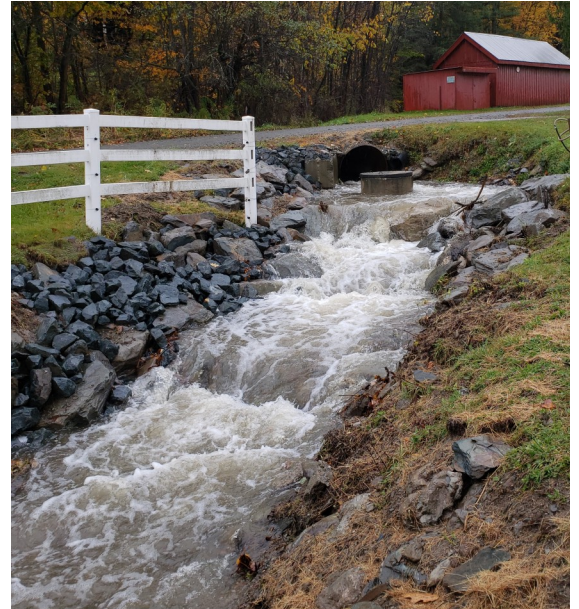
No-Till Drill Rental Program

For rent to Rensselaer County residents from the District is our Haybuster 107c No-Till Drill. The district is proud to share that this program has provided service in benefiting many residents in the county in 2019. This equipment allows you to plant small grains, legumes, and grasses on your fields while saving the time, money, and labor costs associated with tillage operations. By switching to No-Till, you also help conserve and build soil organic matter, improve soil moisture, reduce soil erosion, reduce soil crusting, and potentially reduce the amount of fertilizer lost and needed each season due to improved soil conditions. For more information, call the District office at: (518) 271-1740 ext. 3. The cost is \$12.00 per acre. For this program, we only ask that the district is named as an additional insured on your liability and property insurance for the specific piece of equipment.



2019 Stream Project

A successful stream stabilization project used with secured Part C Conservation Funds on a local farm in Grafton, NY. Once the stream work was completed by a contractor, all exposed soils were seeded and mulched by the SWCD staff.



2020 Cover Crop Program

The district secured funds for the upcoming year to offer a **Cover Crop Program** to local farmers within the county. The intent of this program is to aid in stabilizing highly erodible soils (HEL) and soil health by supplying free winter rye seed to farmers to apply across their fields in need during the year 2020.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

Agricultural Environmental Management (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 natural resources. Farmers can work with local AEM resource professionals from the district to develop comprehensive farm plans using a 5 tiered process. For more information and if you are interested in completing an AEM Assessment, please call Rensselaer County SWCD at (518) 271-1740 ext. 3 or stop by the district office and see Dianna or one of our staff members.

Dianna L Stanton, District Conservationist

USDA NRCS Service Center

61 State Street, Troy, NY

Dianna.Stanton@NY.USDA.gov

(518) 598-2344 (mobile)



2019 District Fish Stocking Program

Each fall, the Conservation District offers a crayfish and fish sales supplied by Hickling's Fish Farm. These fish species include but are not limited to: Largemouth Bass, Catfish, and Trout for recreational fishing, educational programs, and wildlife habitat improvement.

For more information, or if you would like to be added to the mailing list; contact the Conservation District at: 518-271-1740 or E-mail Megan Myers, Conservation District Technician at: Megan.Myers.RenscoSWCD@gmail.com.

A stocking permit from the DEC is required for stocking any water of the state, including [stocking private waters](#). Fill out the [stocking permit application \(PDF\)](#) and return it to the appropriate DEC office. For more information, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7739.html> or contact the NYS Bureau of Fisheries at 518-402-8890.



To the left is a photograph of Saige Myers, a local 4Her, picking up fish to stock in the lake she lives on for fisheries improvement.

2019 WQCC Meeting

An end of year Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) Meeting was held by the SWCD on Thursday December 19, 2019 in Troy, NY. Twelve partners were in attendance, including but not limited to the USDA NRCS, PRISM, Rensselaer Land Trust, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Farm Bureau, FSA and Rensselaer County Agriculture Economic Developer, Donna Murray. Many connections were made between partners.

BOD SWCD Meetings

The Rensselaer County SWCD Board of Directors (BOD) meets the second Tuesday of each month and is made up of the following individuals:

Chairman: David Schmidt

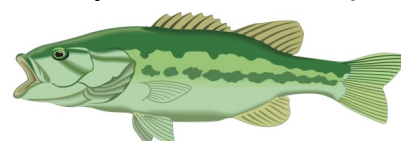
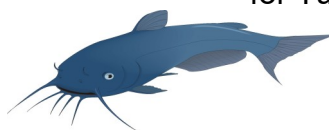
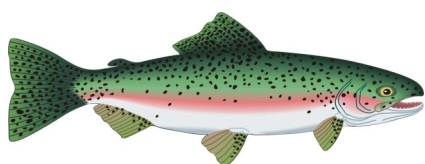
Vice Chairman: Charles Peter

Secretary: Todd Tesman

Farm Bureau Representative: Ken Herrington

Treasurer: James Sullivan

The next SWCD board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 2:30pm.



Erosion and Sediment Control Training

A NYS DEC endorsed 4 hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training is available online. Under the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, certain contractors (Trained Contractor) and certain Qualified Inspectors are required to complete four hours of DEC-endorsed training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control (E&SC) every three years. To satisfy this training requirement, DEC has partnered with county Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state to deliver a four-hour E&SC training course. In addition, DEC accepts the following training options as meeting the four-hour endorsed training requirement:

- The NYS Conservation District Employees' Association online version of the DEC endorsed four-hour E&SC course.
- The NYS Builders Association Online version of the DEC endorsed, four-hour E&SC course.
- The one-day "CPESC Exam Review Course" for those taking the CPESC exam.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.nyscdea.com/nys-dec-endorsed-4-hour-erosion-sediment-control-online-training/>

School Seedling Program

The Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery offers a free native shrubs and trees in their **School Seedlings Program** to schools and educational organizations. All schools located within New York State - public, private, nursery, elementary, secondary, vocational, college, university, and any youth education-based organization are eligible. All you need to do is download the application at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9393.html> and apply! For questions about your application please contact the nursery at 518-581-1439.

Buffer in a Bag Program

Anyone who owns or manages at least 50 feet of land along a stream or waterbody in New York State is eligible to receive a **free bag** of native seedlings. Properties with 50-99 feet of streamside land are eligible for one bag, and properties with 100 or more feet are eligible to apply for two bags. Applicants must provide photos and information indicating where the trees will be planted. There is a limited supply and recipients are selected first-come, first-served. Not sure if your site fits these criteria? Contact the Trees for Tribes program by calling (518) 402-9405 or emailing treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov. Applications will be available in February of 2020 and can be found on the NYS DEC website at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115903.html>.

Trees for Tribes Program

The **Trees for Tribes Grant Program** supports efforts to reforest New York's tributaries that flow into and feed larger rivers and lakes. The goal of the program is to support communities in planting young native trees and shrubs along stream corridors to prevent erosion, increase flood water retention, improve wildlife and stream habitat, as well as protect water quality.

An eligible type of project are riparian tree plantings, consisting of planting native trees and shrubs along streams on public and private property improves wildlife habitat, water quality and climate and storm resiliency. Eligible activities include landowner outreach and education, planting plan development, site preparation, riparian planting (including native trees and shrubs, plant shipping costs, tree tubes, weed mats, stakes), equipment rentals, contractor and staff expenses. Eligible applicants include municipalities, academic institutions, and 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations and other groups such as unincorporated river associations whose projects are located within the eligible geographic boundaries defined in this Request For Applications, which can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/113412.html> on the NYS DEC website.

1.5 Million Gallon Manure Storage Project

During the fall of 2019, the Rensselaer County SWCD aided in securing funds and the ground breaking of a 1.5 million gallon manure storage facility in Rensselaer County on a large farm in Poestenkill, NY. This new storage will ultimately result in improved water quality.

Agricultural Field Before Construction



Manure Storage During Construction



Manure Storage Near Completion



2019 Awards

During the 2019 Dairy Princess Banquet, three local families received awards. A Communications Award was handed out for the Harvest Connections Program to Donna Murray and Kayela LeAnn Statom, two Special Conservation Awards were given to the Soul Fire Farm and Kiyolin Farm, and a Service to Agriculture Award went to Goyer's Power Equipment, Inc..



50 Years of Service with the Rensselaer County SWCD!



Tom Sanford, SWCD Manager

Back in March of 2019, Tom received recognition for his 50 years of dedicated service to the conservation of New York's natural resources by the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association. Tom has been with the Rensselaer County SWCD since April of 1969! Congratulations Tom and thank you for your hard work!