

# CONSERVATION UPDATE

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**Upcoming Events:**

- July 21: Fish Pick Up
- July 27 - August 1: Orleans County 4-H Fair
- August 4: Board of Directors Meeting 12:00 pm
- Empire Farm Days: August 11, 12, & 13
- NYS Fair: August 27- September 7
- September 14 Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee Meeting 10:00 am
- September 12: Shoreline Cleanup
- September 26: Tire Cleanup

## TIRE CLEAN UP

The District is planning their tenth annual tire clean up day for September 26, 2015 at the Orleans County Emergency Management Office located at 14064 County House Road from 9 am until Noon. This is a great opportunity to get rid of those old used tires. Since the District began this program we have collected over 5,500 tires from local residents to be recycled.

Everyone planning to bring tires to the cleanup must pre-register so that we have an idea of how many tires we will be dealing with. The registration form is included in this newsletter. The cost is minimal, so don't hesitate, register today! Due to the extra costs and transportation of the tires, we will not be accepting any tractor tires. All passenger vehicle and truck tires are welcome.



## SHORELINE CLEANUP

Each year the Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee Facilitates a cleanup event along the shores of several streams and water bodies within the county. This event is sponsored by the American Littoral Society and coincides with the Annual New York State Beach Cleanup. For 2015, we plan to hold this event on Saturday, September 12th with a rain date of September 19th. This event provides an excellent opportunity for students, scouts, 4-H'ers and adults to fulfill

community service requirements, interact with county agencies (Health Department and Soil & Water Conservation District), and make a significant contribution to our community and environment.

This year we plan to meet on Sept. 12th at Bullard Park on East Avenue in Albion at 9:00 AM. After a brief introduction, we will disperse to several predetermined locations throughout the county to begin the col-



lection. A team captain and at least one other responsible adult is required to supervise each cleanup crew. We will hold a friendly competition between crews to determine who can collect the greatest amount of trash, by weight. Upon com-

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## ENVIROTHON

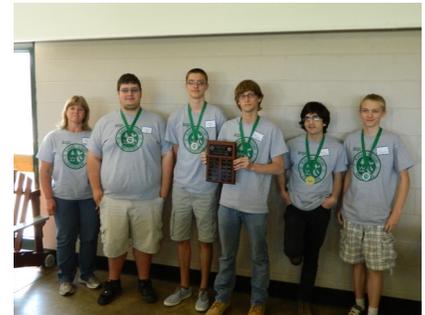
Five students from Lyndonville High School joined hundreds of high school students this May at Hobart & William Smith Colleges to participate in the 2015 New York State Envirothon. Team members Jeremy Foss, Ken Kalson, Ryan Coleman, Haaris Huzair, and Leif Isaacson won the Niagara-Orleans Regional Envirothon competition held at Bond Lake Nature Complex on May 7. They traveled with their advisor, Kathy Wronski, to compete at the state level for scholarships. Lyndonville had one other team compete along with Kendall High School having three teams participate in the local competition.

Local supporters that contributed to this year's event included Congressman Chris Collins, Senator Robert Ort, Assemblyman Steve Hawley, Assemblywoman Jane Corwin, Western New York Energy LLC, NY Forest

Owners Association, Wheatfield Lions Club, M & T Bank, Albion Sports and Graphics, Orleans Poverty Hill Farms, and Newroyal Orchards.

The Envirothon is a series of hands-on contests in which teams of four to five students compete to solve environmental problems in five subject areas including aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current issue. Each team is also required to give an oral presentation based on the current issue, which this year was "Urban/Community Forest".

The Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Niagara and Orleans Counties jointly coordinate the Regional Envirothon to incorporate environmental studies into the school curriculum and expose students to career options in conservation. Beyond motivating students to learn more about



Orleans County Winners from Lyndonville High School  
L to R: Advisor Kathy Wronski, Jeremy Foss, Ken Kalson, Ryan Coleman, Haaris Huzair, and Leif Isaacson

the environment, the Envirothon emphasizes development of practical skills such as research, teamwork and public speaking. Held throughout the U.S. and Canada, the program reaches more than 500,000 students every year. To learn more about the Envirothon visit [www.nysenvirothon.net](http://www.nysenvirothon.net) or call 585-589-5959.

| CONSERVATION SUPPLIES (Tax Included) |  | PRICE        | Qty | COST |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|-----|------|
| Fertilizer Tablets                   | each/100                                       | \$ 0.11/\$10 |     |      |
| Root Dip                             | 1 oz.  | \$ 1.50      |     |      |
| Tree Shelters                        | 2 foot (includes 2' Oak Stake)                 | \$ 5.00      |     |      |
|                                      | 4 foot (includes 4' Oak Stake)                 | \$ 9.00      |     |      |
| Tree Mats                            | used for weed control (includes 5 sod staples) | \$ 2.50      |     |      |
| Marking Flags                        | per flag/per bundle of 100                     | \$ 0.11/\$10 |     |      |
| Bluebird Box                         |  | \$12.50      |     |      |
| Bat Box                              |  | \$12.50      |     |      |
| Kestrel Box                          |  | \$20.00      |     |      |
| Wood Duck Box                        |  | \$30.00      |     |      |
| Winter Nesting Box                   |  | \$25.00      |     |      |
| Rain Gauge                           |  | \$5.50       |     |      |

## CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE, Don't Lose your Benefits!

If you intend to install drainage tile, dig a ditch or clear trees (even orchards) from a field, you need to see if there has been a wetland determination done by NRCS since 1985. If not, then they need to process an AD-1026 form to request to have a determination done by NRCS.

This may be a "desk audit" done by looking at maps, but it may require a field visit with the biologist to survey the plant species present in a possible wetland area. This, obviously, can only be done in the growing season.

If you are ever determined to be "out-of-compliance" with the rules

for Wetlands or Highly Erodible Land, your crop insurance subsidy will disappear. Currently, most crop insurance premiums are subsidized at 62% of the cost. You could also lose all other USDA program benefits. These are not something you want to lose.



### STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

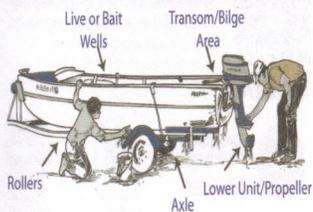
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can degrade a body of water, impair boating and fishing, threaten native plants and animals, and destroy habitat. Once aquatic invasive species are established, eradication is almost impossible.

#### When you leave a waterway:

- Check for and remove any visible plants or debris
- Clean and drain your boat and equipment
- Dry everything that came into contact with water

#### WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



C-200 (1/13)

## PLEASE DON'T TOUCH!

Giant Hogweed season is with us and we have plenty of it scattered around our county. The sap, when combined with sunlight and moisture, can cause painful burns, permanent scarring and even blindness. If you find a patch, the DEC would like it to be reported to them. They have a special hotline at 845-256-3111 that can be used to report the location and offer information on control tips. The best way to report, however, is to



send an email to: [ghogweed@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ghogweed@gw.dec.state.ny.us) and include pictures, location and information on the number of plants found.

More information on the plant can be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/39809.html> This website has basic information and links to other sites that will help in identifying the plant, as well as pictures of other plants sometimes confused with the hogweed.

If you think you have an infestation, please call our office at 585-589-5959 ext. 5 to let us know so we can monitor what is happening in the county.

## CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

On May 26 and 27, sixth grade students from school districts in Orleans County participated in the 47th annual Conservation Field Days.

Conservation Field Days is a program sponsored by Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn about different local environmental/conservation issues and careers.

Students heard from professionals and volunteers

on topics such as A new era of tractor engines, Use of hunting and trapping in wildlife management, Zoo conservation and careers, Surface Water Runoff, The United State Fish and Wildlife Service, Heritage Sheep, composting, and several others.

Conservation Field Days is a multidisciplinary program, incorporating not only biological and scientific principles, but also



Orleans County SWCD demonstrating Surface Water Runoff

logical thinking and creative arts as participating students design pictorial representations of environmental principles.