
As of January 2016 we are going totally Green with our Newsletter! We will no longer be mailing out hard copies. The only way to continue to receive the newsletter is by email so please call (585)589-5959 ext. 5 to give us your email address or email judy.bennett@ny.nacdnet.net so that we can update our email list. Thank you and have a great 2015!

TREES

The District held its annual tree and shrub sale April 24th and 25th at the Orleans County 4-H Fairgrounds. A special thank you goes to the Sportsmen's Federation for the use of their Log Cabin for this program.

The program provided over 6,500



seedlings and transplants to area residents. We would like to thank all of our customers for continuing to support this program.

If you would like to have a certain species of tree offered in our program next year, please give Judy a call and she will try to have it available.



ORLEANS COUNTY 4-H FAIR

The District will once again have an informational booth set up in the Conservation Log Cabin during the Orleans County 4-H Fair from July 27 through August 1. Make sure to stop in and see us and to enter to win some free tree seedlings. Each evening, except for the 27th, two winners will be drawn for the tree seedlings. The winners will then be able to pick up their free seedlings during the District's Annual Tree and Shrub Sale next April.

Knowlesville Diversion Ditch

For the past 25 years there have been records of the Hamlet of Knowlesville having a serious problem with flooding. Many years ago a culvert was constructed that goes under the Erie Canal by the Knowlesville Road canal bridge and starts behind the houses on Presbyterian Road. Over the years debris has blocked part of this culvert not allowing it to flow at full capacity. Last year the Ridgeway Highway Department cleaned debris out of part of this culvert to allow the water to flow better, but cleaning this culvert is very time consuming and dangerous due it being a confined space and being such a long, old culvert.

Many ideas have been thought of to try and reduce the amount of water that flows to this culvert but none of them seemed to be feasible, until two years ago when the idea was brought up to create a diversion ditch to reduce the amount of water flowing towards Knowlesville. This diversion ditch project would still allow water to flow through the existing ditch that enters the Hamlet of Knowlesville, but the water would be limited by an orifice (3' culvert) upstream. When the 3' culvert is to maximum capacity the excess water will flow into the diver-

sion ditch that runs north through the woods, across the back of a farm field and across the old trolley tracks, eventually flowing into the Canal Wide Waters, where it will continue downstream.

This project came with its own obstacles to jump through. One being that the existing ditch is located on private property and that permission from the landowner would have to be obtained before the project could go any further. Another being that the existing ditch was located in a NWI wetland (National Wetland Inventory), where the diversion ditch would start. This meant that several permits would have to be obtained through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). A permit would also have to be obtained from the N.Y.S. Canal Corporation, which would allow permission to discharge water onto their property and grant access to their property.

After obtaining permission from the landowner, a plan was developed. This plan along with several permit applications was sent out to several organizations, first was the NYS Canal Corp to allow us permission to move forward with this project. After obtaining that permit, the plans along with lots of other paper work was sent out to USACE and NYS DEC for approval. After several site visits involving Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District, Town of Ridgeway Highway Department, and several representatives from USACE and DEC and years of debating back and forth on certain

aspects of the project, a permit was finally obtained to move forward with this project.

The next step was to find a time when equipment and operators were available for work to commence on this project. The Orleans County Highway Department started work on this project in December of 2014. This was not the regular ditching project that they were used to. This ditch has a section that is 7.5 feet deep where they had to cut through a hill to get the water to flow north. The majority of the ditch was constructed during December, but after a few winter storms and a deep freeze construction had to stop due to the ground being too frozen. After waiting until late spring, when the area was dry enough to continue work, the ditch was finally completed in June 2015. With help from the Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Town of Ridgeway Highway Department the ditch was seeded and bale mulched. This ditch like any other ditch or waterway that we design was made so that it could be easily maintained and mowed throughout the years, so that it will not grow up to trees and brush that will slow the flow of the water down.

Through the help of the Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District, Orleans County Highway Department, Town of Ridgeway Highway Department, NYS DEC, and the US Army Corp of Engineers, this project was completed to resolve the flooding issue in the Hamlet of Knowlesville.



During Construction
←
→
After Construction



AEM: Protecting, Managing and Improving Natural Resources



The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program is a locally led conservation planning, implementation and educational program offered by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Through AEM, your local district is able to increase farm awareness on environmental stewardship while also working to put farmers in touch with different grant funding opportunities available for farm conservation practices.

This last year we were able to help

develop 15 conservation plans designed to protect farmland and prevent erosion and possible pollution. This is in line with the District's long term goal to expand our local AEM program focus into increased implementation of best management practices based on priority resource concerns as identified through prior outreach and planning.

AEM year 10 accomplishments:

Tier 1 inventories	24
Tier 2 Assessments	7
Tier 3 Conservation Plans	3
Tier 4 Implementations	1
Tier 5 Evaluations	8
Tier 5 Additional Plans	4

Anyone with interest or questions on the AEM program in Orleans County can contact the District Technician, Megan McAnn, at (585)589-5959 ext. 107.

Bio from New USDA NRCS Resource Conservationist, Bob Bills

I grew up in the Pine Barrens of South Jersey and fondly remember the huge farms down there, full of peppers, tomatoes, cranberry bogs, etc. before the development boom of the late 60's/ early 70's. I attended Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks and the Univ. of Maine at Orono with a BS in Forest Management. I hold licenses in Maine as a Prof. Land Surveyor, Forester, and Septic/Wastewater System Designer, and was self employed as a land use consultant until joining the NRCS staff in Maine in 2011.

When not at work I love canoeing streams from flatwater to whitewater, fishing, spending time with my three

(all grown up now) daughters, and sightseeing a special interest since childhood, the Erie Canal. I want to thank those of you I have already met for welcoming me to New York!

I've worked in Southern Maine with farmers and forest landowners and in Northern Maine with big potato farms- but you folks here have some really unique landscapes, climates, and even a huge lake or two that I am already fascinated with. I look forward to meeting with you on your farms and working together to meet both your goals and those of NRCS...



SHORELINE CLEANUP (CONTINUED)

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.



Trailer full of tires and other garbage cleaned up

The Orleans County Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.



Orleans County Soil & Water
Conservation District

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**Come see us at the
Orleans County 4-H Fair
July 27 - August 1**

Tire Clean Up Registration: Deadline September 18, 2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Number of Passenger Tires:

on Rims _____ X \$2.00 per tire = _____

not on Rims _____ X \$1.75 per tire = _____

Number of Truck Tires (19-1100 series):

on Rims _____ X \$13.50 per tire = _____

not on Rims _____ X \$7.00 per tire = _____



Total Amount Due at time of Drop Off _____

Please mail registration form to Orleans County SWCD, 446 West Ave., Albion, NY 14411.

Payment is expected at time of drop off. This will be your only notification so please be sure to write down the date! Date of drop off: September 26, 2015 at 14064 County House Road, 9 - Noon.