



Niagara Nature News
 An Environmental Publication by Niagara County
 Soil & Water Conservation District
 SUMMER 2013 - ENEWS

Niagara County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 4487 Lake Avenue
 Lockport, New York 14094
 Phone: (716) 434-4949
 Fax: (716) 433-1070
 www.niagaraswcd.com



**EPA HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PLANS
 FOR EIGHTEENMILE CREEK**

On June 5, 2013, representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency held a public informational session to discuss EPA's plans for investigating and remediating the Eighteenmile Creek Superfund site. The EPA invited residents, property owners along the creek and in the watershed, representatives from all levels of government and other interested parties, to a meeting which highlighted the federal governments plan to address the contamination present in creek sediments as well as within a number of residential and commercial/industrial properties in Lockport, NY. More meetings are expected to occur in the near future as additional data is collected and remediation plans are developed and finalized.

EPA Approach for Eighteenmile Creek Superfund Site

Site investigation and clean up will be performed in (3) three different actions:

- Action 1:** Contaminated residential properties in the creek Corridor Site.
- Action 2:** Contaminated industrial and commercial properties in the creek Corridor Site.
- Action 3:** Contaminated sediment in the creek from Lockport to Lake Ontario.

Need More Information ?

EPA personnel will be happy to answer your questions or add you to the Eighteenmile Creek Site mailing list. Here are (3) three ways to get the information you need:

Call or email:

- Mike Basile, Community Involvement Coordinator at (716) 551-4410 or via email at basilemichael@epa.gov
- Tom Taccone, Remedial Project Manager at (212) 637-4281 or via email at taccone.tom@epa.gov

You can also access information about the Superfund Site at:

www.epa.gov/region2/superfund/npl/18milecreek

EPA has also established a repository for all documents associated with this site at the following location: Lockport Public Library, 33 East Avenue, Lockport, NY 14094

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Mark J. Seider, P.E.
District Engineer
mark.seider@ny.nacdnet.net

Darcy Rae Tone
*District Secretary/Education
 Program Administrator*
darcy.tone@ny.nacdnet.net

Victor F. DiGiacomo, Jr.
Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
victor.digiacom@ny.nacdnet.net

Gregory Briggs
Natural Resource Laborer
gregory.briggs@ny.nacdnet.net

USDA NRCS
Charles Kesterson
Soil Conservationist
charles.kesterson@ny.usda.gov
 (716) 434-4949 Ext. 110

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NCTC COMPETES AT STATE ENVIROTHON



2013 Niagara County Envirothon Winners

T: Austin Heschke, Jason Gerety
B: Cory House, Brittany Samlpe

Four students from Niagara Career and Technology Center (NCTC) joined hundreds of high school students this past month at Morrisville State College in Morrisville, NY, to participate in the 2013 New York State Envirothon. Team members Austin Heschke, Jason Gerety, Cory House and Brittany Sample recently won the Niagara-Orleans Regional Envirothon competition held at Bond Lake Nature Center. They traveled with their advisor, Paul Dewey, to compete at the state level for scholarships and the opportunity to represent New York at the international 2013 North American Envirothon this summer at Montana State

University in Bozeman, MT. Other participating teams were from Royalton-Hartland, Lyndonville and Kendall.

Sponsored by New York Power Authority for over twenty years, other local supporters included M&T Bank, Newroyal Orchards, and Orleans-Niagara BOCES Conservation Class.

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 "Sustainable Rangeland Management".

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 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 or call #716-434-4949.

FYI...

The District has a No-Till drill available for your next conservation seeding project.

\$50 delivery charge and \$15/acre rental fee

We provide drill delivery and cleaning. Customer provides own seed.

(716) 434-4949 Ext. 4



Winner of the 2013 Conservation Education Raffle

Gary Clark won an Adirondack Love Seat & Table!!

CALLING ALL AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE OWNERS

Have you planted any American Chestnut trees purchased through the SWCD tree seedling program? The Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs is looking for your help. They are interested in discussing how well your trees are growing. The Federation is basically looking to discuss survival and mortality rates and assess what conditions will provide for the best growing conditions possible.

The Federation is actively trying to bring back the American Chestnut to our local landscape. Currently they are conducting a conservation project which

can provide American Chestnut trees to landowners who have sites that are well suited for successful growth. They are also looking for individuals who may be interested in donating American Chestnut seeds to aid in restoring these trees to our area.

If you are interested in helping the Federation by discussing your Chestnut tree plantings, would like to participate as a seed donor site, or are interested in receiving Chestnut trees to plant on your property, please call Chris Schotz at (716) 731-1641.



Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs
www.outdoorsniagara.com/niagaracountyfederation.htm

The American Chestnut Foundation
<http://www.acf.org>

The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our programs aid in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for your continued assistance in fulfilling our goals.

2013 POND STOCKING AND GRASS CARP PROGRAMS

Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: August 30, 2013

Pickup Date: Thursday, September 12, 2013 10:00am SHARP

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and 500-600 minnows per surface acre. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond before stocking is one year. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. Applications are available in our office.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. Your order will be pre-counted and in an aerated bag for your convenience. You will just need to bring a box or cooler in which to stabilize the bag for transport. Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so **PLEASE BE PROMPT!**

Triploid Grass Carp for Aquatic Weed Control

Order Deadline: August 30, 2013

Pickup Date: Tentatively scheduled for the third/fourth week of September

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 10-12". Stock grass carp only in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order. If you require a permit application, our office retains a supply of them.

Pickup Information: Tentative pickup will be the end of September at the County Fairgrounds, Rte. 78, Lockport. We will contact you by phone when a definite date has been scheduled. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp) filled 1/2 full with pond water. These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. For more information on Triploid Grass Carp and how they can benefit pond weed control, call #434-4949 ext.115

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of this form, payable to Niagara County SWCD. Keep the top portions as your delivery date reminders.

2013 Pond Stocking Program			
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount
Largemouth Bass 2" - 4"	25/\$54		
Channel Catfish 4" - 6"	12/\$32.00		
Perch 1-2"	25/\$38		
Sunfish 1-2"	25 /\$34		
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20		
Koi (asst. colors) 4"	4/\$32		
Golden Shiners 2-3"	50/\$26		
		Subtotal	
		+ Delivery	\$5.00
		Total Due	
(NYS sales tax included as required)			
Name: _____			
Address: _____			
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____			
Daytime Phone: _____			
Mail to: Niagara County SWCD			
4487 Lake Ave.			
Lockport, New York 14094			

2013 Triploid Grass Carp Program	
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
Address: _____	
Daytime Phone: _____	
Number of Carp _____	
X	\$21/fish
+ Delivery	\$3.00
Total Due _____	
(NYS sales tax included as required)	
Mail payment WITH ALL 3 ORIGINAL	
COPIES of your DEC Permit to:	
Niagara County SWCD	
4487 Lake Avenue	
Lockport, NY 14094	

FISH FACTS

The following are brief descriptions of the fish we offer for our Pond Stocking and Triploid Grass Carp programs. Order forms are included in this newsletter on page # 3.

Largemouth Bass – Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state's most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they'll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfishes are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4 ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Fathead Minnows – Fathead minnows are small in size, averaging 2 to 3 inches in length. They are sturdy, heavy bodied fish with small mouths and a lateral line that stops under the dorsal fin. They are generally dull in color, with dark bodies and a slight brass tint on the sides. They prefer ponds and slow moving water in streams. They can tolerate muddy water, and are occasionally found in roadside ditches. In addition, fathead minnows can tolerate water with salt in it.

Golden Shiners - The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the US. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they primarily feed on zooplankton. The golden shiner spawns several times throughout spring and summer. Spawning can be aided with the use of structures such as sunken evergreens or stacked pallets. The abundant reproduction of this fish makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory species are present. These fish are slightly larger than fathead minnows and are preferred by large predators.

Triploid Grass Carp – The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called "triploid" since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries.

Perch - The true perch of New York State include some of the best tasting and most popular freshwater fishes. As a family, they are widely distributed, adaptable to a wide range of habitats, and fun to catch on rod and reel. In addition, the less known members of the perch family, the darters, are probably the most colorful freshwater fish in North America. True perch are spiny-rayed fish which have one or more sharp spines on their fins. While they are quite variable in appearance, they all are slender in body shape, have two dorsal (back) fins, and one anal fin. True perch can be separated into two groups: larger perches and smaller perches.

Sunfish - Sunfish are small- to medium-sized fish with a single anal (bottom rear fin) and a two-part dorsal (back) fin. They are spiny-rayed, with one or more sharp spines found on their dorsal, pelvic (bottom front) and anal fins. These spines help protect adult fish from being eaten by larger fish and can prick the fingers of any angler who is not careful when removing the hook.

Koi - Koi are descendants of the minnow family. They have been selectively bred for more than 1000 years to produce the brilliant colorations that we have today. The Japanese cherish these fish for their colors and longevity. Koi are great at eating filamentous algae and some submerged plants making them a great compliment to grass carp. Koi become almost "dog tame" and will feed from your hand with minimal training. Larger koi live well with large mouth bass and other game fish.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Trees Sold - 35,350 to 481 customers
- Ag Value Assessments - 91 totaling 4,502 acres
- Ponds Stocked - 3,740 fish to 16 ponds
- Grass Carp - 70 carp to 12 ponds
- Pond Site Evaluations - 11
- Resource Map Requests - 15
- Environmental Field Days - 365 students
- Regional Envirothon - 10 teams
- Classroom & Outdoor Events - 6,350 students
- Newsletters - 4,200 mailed twice a year
- Permit Assistance - 4
- Technical Assistance - 13
- Resource Map Requests - 15
- Drainage/Ditching Surveyed - 115,918 ft
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement - 11 sites
- Invasive Weeds Project - 2
- Mined Land Reclamation - 1
- Riparian Buffers - 6
- Dry Hydrants - 3
- Silage Leachate Systems - 1
- Ag Waste Mixing Facilities - 1
- Barnyard Runoff Mgt. Systems - 1

TREE PROGRAM THANKS!



The District would like to thank the entire community for their never-ending support of this program. Together we are planting over 35,000 seedlings in and around the county this year! Thanks so much for assisting in the reforestation and wildlife habitat enhancement of our area.

A big thank you to Mike Bienas, the ladies over at Farm Services Agency and the gents of the Niagara County Sheriffs Work Program for all their help. A special thanks to TOPS Wrights Corners, and TOPS Lockport for all the packaging supplies. Please remember to support our local businesses!!



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE FARM BILL PROGRAM UPDATES AND SIGN-UP DEADLINES:

***Most NRCS Conservation programs are continuous sign-up. If you have questions about a particular program or initiative, please don't hesitate to ask.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI-EQIP) – An official sign-up has not been announced at this time. However, some level of planning will be needed to have a competitive application. If your farm is located within the Four, Twelve, Eighteen Mile or Johnson Creek watersheds and there is a resource concern that needs to be addressed, please feel free to contact the USDA NRCS Lockport field office. The GLRI under the Environment Qualities Incentives Program (EQIP) helps assist producers implement conservation practices to reduce or prevent soil nutrient and sediment losses in fields due to water runoff. Available agronomic practices to consider are Pest Management, Adaptive Nutrient Management, Cover Crops, Filter Strips and Riparian Buffers, Diversions, Grassed Waterways, No-till and Zone Tillage Systems and Agrichemical Handling Facilities.

New York Natural Resources Conservation Service
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ny/home/>

NEW COASTAL FLOOD RISK WEBPAGES RELEASED BY FEMA

The FEMA Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA), Risk Analysis Branch is pleased to announce brand new Coastal Flood Risk webpages [<http://www.fema.gov/coastal-flood-risks>] on [FEMA.gov](http://www.fema.gov). As a result of FEMA headquarters collaboration with federal coastal partner agencies, FEMA regions, and contractors, the coastal flood risk webpages: Provide information about current and ongoing FEMA coastal flood mapping projects; Explain the coastal flood risk study process; Feature a coastal frequently asked questions section; Offer guidance on rebuilding after a coastal storm and; Include almost 200 Coastal Flood Risk Resources like brochures, pamphlets and flood studies.



To meet the needs of the wide variety of citizens concerned with coastal flood hazards, tailored webpages were also developed for the following stakeholders:

- Homeowners, Renters, Business Owners and General Public [<http://www.fema.gov/coastal-general-public>]
- Community Officials [<http://www.fema.gov/coastal-community-officials>]
- Real Estate, Insurance, and Lending Industry Professionals [<http://www.fema.gov/coastal-realestate-insurance-lending>]
- Cooperating Technical Partners, Engineers, Surveyors, and Contractors [<http://www.fema.gov/coastal-ctp-engineers>]
- Home Builders, Developers, and Construction Professionals [<http://www.fema.gov/coastal-builders-developers-construction>]

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WEB - www.pondandlakehelp.com

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Newfane, NY 14108

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(716) 778-5499

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