



# Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District

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Be sure to visit our new site at the Wyoming County Fair!

Saturday, August 10th - Saturday, August 17th

**AUGUST 2013**

## Tonawanda Creek Watershed

A watershed committee was formed in the fall of 2009 to address natural resource concerns in the large watershed of Tonawanda Creek. Portions of Erie, Genesee, Niagara and Wyoming Counties are within this watershed. Since 2009, the committee has remained very active working with Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper on the development of a watershed management plan along with a variety of public outreach projects.

Most recently, the committee has published a Tonawanda Creek Map Guide. It includes a map of the entire watershed area that has many watershed facts, historical information and several points of interest throughout the watershed. Copies of this Map Guide are now being distributed by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts in the four counties.

Another project that is currently underway is the placement of storm drain medallions which creates awareness that municipal storm drains have a direct impact on water quality within a watershed area. Storm drain markers have



Medallion Storm Drain Marker in the Hamlet of Varysburg

been installed in the Village of Attica, Hamlets of Varysburg, North Java and Johnsonburg and throughout the City of Batavia. This past month, several members of the

Tonawanda Creek Watershed Committee received recognition for their dedication and commitment to improving the Tonawanda Creek and its watershed:



Pictured Left to Right: Greg McKurth, Wyoming County SWCD, Art Buckley, Wyoming County Planning Dept., Elizabeth Bentley-Huber, Genesee County SWCD, Greg Briggs, Niagara County SWCD, James Tuttle, Town of Pembroke, Not Pictured: Kirk Peryea, Citizen Representative from Niagara County and Linda Logan, Tonawanda Seneca Nation HETF.

## Soil Stabilization: Hydroseeding can be the Answer

If you would like to receive your conservation news by email rather than hard copy, please contact :  
Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District at:  
585-786-5070  
or email  
wcdswcd@frontiernet.net

How often have you driven around a construction zone, noticing black silt fence around an area where topsoil has been disturbed? With ditches being cleaned, windmills installed, and other municipal projects taking place during this season, you may be more aware of these areas. While silt fencing is a very beneficial tool for keeping sediment contained in an area, after the finished grading and shaping is complete on a site, establishing vegetation on exposed soil is the best way to prevent soil loss and erosion. The typical way to establish vegetation is by seeding the area. Hand seeding can be effective, but is time consuming, and can be very labor intensive if mulching is incorporated.

Another option to consider seeding an area is hydroseeding. Hydroseeding is the process of combining seed, mulch, and fertilizer with water inside of a tank to create a thick slurry. This slurry is contained within the hydroseeder machine which typically consists of a tank with an

auger, a pump, a reel hose, and a water cannon, all of which are run by the attached engine. The auger serves as the agitator for the tank to prevent the slurry from clumping. The pump forces the slurry into either the reel hose or water cannon, both of which can be fitted with different shaped nozzles to provide different spray patterns, to tailor the application to the situation.

There are many benefits to hydroseeding when compared to other seeding methods. Laying down sod rolls or squares is expensive and time consuming. Hand seeding can be labor intensive and yield results that are less than desirable. Hydroseeding is a fast and effective.

The time and effort involved in hydroseeding is minimal, and the coverage and quality of the seeding is outstanding.

With mulch incorporated directly with



Before: A water retention area adjacent to the Orangeville Power Substation



During: Wyo. Co. Highway Dept. staff operate the Finn T90 hydroseeder to cover the 2 acre area

## Soil Stabilization continued ...

the seed and water slurry, moisture is retained, allowing for quick seed generation, resulting in faster soil stability.

The tackifier, or glue, that is combined with the mulch, allows for the slurry to stick to surfaces with steeper slopes than normal hand mulching can allow for. This also provides piece of mind that wash aways are less likely that materials simply spread over a soil surface.

Although hydroseeding does not provide an "instant" lawn, like sod does, a properly hydroseeded and watered lawn can typically see results in 7 days under normal conditions, and will be fully established and can be ready to mow in 3-4 weeks. Hydroseeding also results in fewer weed seeds and no soil layering, ultimately resulting in healthy root establishment of the seed.

The Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District has a cooperative agreement with the Wyoming County

Highway Department on the operation and maintenance of a 2010 Finn T90 hydroseeder. This machine is holds nearly 1000 gallons of seeding slurry, which can cover  $\frac{1}{4}$  acres of area in a single load. The hydroseeder is used for various projects including road ditches, agricultural best management projects, and stream bank stabilization.

Most recently, Highway Department Staff and Soil and Water Conservation District staff hydroseeded two acres of retention area at the Orangeville Power Substation, stabilizing soils that were prone to erosion. The following photos display the before, during, and after effects of hydroseeding over only a two week period!

If you have any questions regarding the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District's hydroseeding program, please feel free to contact Al Fagan at 786 - 5070.

**FREE**

### Septic System Seminar

When:

Aug. 17th, 2013  
9:30 - 11:30 AM

Where:

Beaver Meadow  
Audubon Center  
North Java

Presented by:

Cornell  
University  
Cooperative Ext.  
& the Java Lake  
Colony Water  
Quality  
Committee



After: The retention area completely hydroseeded



2 Weeks After: The retention area with successful seed generation and growth after only 2 weeks!

## Help Protect Our Waters – Stop the Spread of Invasive Species



Invasive Species Disposal Station (DEC)

Please take advantage of boat washes as well as invasive species disposal stations where available.

Water recreation season is in full swing, and many are enjoying boating, fishing and water sports. What you may not know is that you may be harming the waters in which you love and utilize. When transporting and using equipment from one body of water to another, it may have invasive aquatic plant or animal hitchhikers. When introduced to a body of water, those species can wreak havoc on ecosystems and reduce water quality.

Invasive species are non-native species that cause harm to the environment, economy or human health. They out-compete native species, altering habitat and threatening biodiversity. Aquatic invasive species are a serious threat to our waters, but their impacts can be reduced through awareness and your efforts to follow simple preventative procedures.

For more information on aquatic invasive species, you can visit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website at:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

### Examples of Aquatic Invasive Species that have been found in Western New York

Why is it important?

Aquatic invasive species can:

- Reduce native species and game fish populations
- Degrade ecosystems
- Affect human health and local economy by impairing water quality and use
- Ruin Equipment

These species can cling to boats, fishing equipment and other water crafts, so **before** launching and **before** leaving, please remember to:

**Remove** any visible mud, plants, fish and animals away from water

**Drain** water from equipment on dry land

**Never** release plants, (bait) fish or animals from one body of water to another



Quagga Mussel



Curly-leaf Pondweed



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Water Chestnut



Zebra Mussel

## NRCS Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative

By Mike Shaw, NRCS Soil Conservationist

In 2012, NRCS created the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative which is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers. The goal of the initiative is to assist producers with extending the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The initiative can assist producers with improving plant and soil quality, reducing nutrient and pesticide transportation, improving air quality and reducing energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce.

High tunnels are plastic-wrapped, metal-framed structures that are fairly easy and inexpensive to build. They are designed to extend the growing season into the colder months and help to increase the availability of local produce. In addition, these High Tunnels keep plants at a steady temperature and even conserve water and energy.

High tunnels are similar to greenhouses, except they are considered “passively heated.” That means they do not require electricity to heat – only sunlight. The plastic on the frame actually provides enough insulation to add up to 12 extra weeks to the growing season, depending on location. The inside of a high tunnel boasts its own microclimate, often producing crops of higher quality and quantity than those in traditional farm fields.

In the fall of 2012, Wyoming County producer James Brick expressed interest in applying for a Seasonal High Tunnel to grow local produce for marketing to local restaurants. Mr. Brick applied for funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS-USDA) and following a competitive ranking period was then awarded a contract with cost-share to construct a High Tunnel. In the early summer of 2013, Mr. Brick installed the first Seasonal High Tunnel constructed with funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) inside Wyoming County. Presently

Mr. Brick plans on growing carrots, tomatoes and lettuce from March to November to increase the local produce market in the county.



Currently, Mr. Brick is marketing the produce to two local restaurants in the County and plans on working towards more with the help of his son.



If you are interested in applying for funding for a Seasonal High Tunnel contact the NRCS office at (585) 786-5070 extension 3 or visiting the 'Ag. Service Center' at 31 Duncan Street, Warsaw, NY 14569.

# Water and Soil Conservation Applied

By Mia M. Halter, District Conservationist for Wyoming County, NY



## Project Funding:

A western Wyoming County dairy farm owned by Pete Broughton was funded through the New York Ag & Markets Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement & Control Program and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to install conservation practices to eliminate manure and nutrients being discharged into the watershed. This project was further supported with a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Strategic Watershed Assessment Team (SWAT) Conservationist position. The position, filled by Wyoming County SWCD personnel, requires office and field work and helps with all GLRI-EQIP projects in western NY.

## Project Description:

Pete Broughton has a well sized heifer facility outside Silver Springs, NY. His operation includes a cropping system of silage corn, soybeans, and hay, plus a cover crop following corn

on Highly Erodible Land (HEL) which is cost-shared through his GLRI-EQIP contract. Mr. Broughton's concrete bunk silo is situated on a hill above the farm with a nearby stream running parallel to the bunk and another located below the main heifer barns across the road, both lying within the GLRI area. (The GLRI area for Wyoming County consist of the entire Genesee Watershed)

Mr. Broughton applied for funding under NRCS's GLRI-EQIP sign-up and was selected for funding to install a Silage Leachate Collection System as well as implement cover cropping. The Silage Leachate Collection System practice was installed to protect nearby stream which lies in the GLRI area of concern. In addition to NRCS funding, Mr. Broughton was selected for funding through New York Ag & Markets Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement & Control Program, which contracted the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) in Warsaw, NY to facilitate the design and construction of the Silage Leachate Collection System.

The Wyoming County SWCD took the lead with working with private engineers on the design and construction inspection during the construction of the Silage Leachate Collection System which consisted of a large concrete apron shaped to capture leachate runoff as it leaves the bunk and direct those flows into a collection system that separates the high-flows (rain events) from the more continuous low-flows. The low flows are collected into a buried tank and pumped into a manure spreader, mixed with the manure and spread on cropland.

This story has two levels of success. The first being the application of additional conservation practices applied to the land addressing water quality in both the local watershed and the Great Lakes and second is the ongoing partnerships between different government entities resulting in increased service to the customer.

Overall, this project has greatly improved water quality within the watershed and reduced soil erosion from HEL land.



Front end of bunk silo before construction



Recently installed concrete apron at front of bunk silo



High Flow/Low Flow collection box for silage leachate



Level lip spreader above vegetated treatment area

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COMPOST	LANDSCAPE	RIPARIAN
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ENVIRONMENTAL	PRESERVATION	WETLANDS
HYDROSEEDING	RECYCLE	WILDLIFE

Wyoming County SWCD  
 31 Duncan St.  
 Warsaw, NY 14569



This publication is the quarterly newsletter of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to all District cooperators, all interested landowners and land users, and to the general public. To receive this newsletter, simply send your complete mailing address to our office.

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS

<b>Chairman, At-Large Member</b>	<b>Daryl Heiby</b>
<b>County Supervisor</b>	<b>James Brick</b>
<b>County Supervisor</b>	<b>John Knab</b>
<b>Farm Bureau Representative</b>	<b>Walt Faryna</b>
<b>Grange Representative</b>	<b>Joseph Gozelski</b>

## DISTRICT STAFF

<b>District Manager</b>	<b>Gregory A. McKurth</b>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	<b>Sharon Boyd</b>
<b>Conservation Technician</b>	<b>Allen Fagan</b>
<b>NRCS</b>	
<b>District Conservationist</b>	<b>Mia Halter</b>
<b>Soil Conservationist</b>	<b>Mike Shaw</b>

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