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CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Methane Bio-Digester Update

We are in the final phase of construction on the regional methane bio-digester. However, there is still work to get done before commissioning. We have tested the pumps and valves with water and our tanker trucks for the manure are almost ready for delivery. Our German engineers were here for two weeks programming software.

When complete our plant will generate approximately 1/2 megawatt of power. This is enough power to supply the public safety building, nursing home and District's buildings with a small amount left to sell back to the grid. Also a by-product of our genset is hot water which we will pipe to the jail to feed their boiler. This should cut their natural gas consumption by 50%.

► **Right:** Methane Digester Facility at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District Campus. **The Digester is scheduled to be on-line this Fall.**



▼ **Below:** John Graham from NYSDEC giving a lesson on Forestry at Conservation Field Days at Emerson Park.



Conservation Field Days-

This year's Conservation Field Days were held on September 20th and 21st, 2011 at Emerson Park. Over 300 sixth grade students from Union Springs, Southern Cayuga, Tyburn Academy, and St. Joseph's, attended. Stations covered a wide variety of topics, from migration, to aquatic insects to forestry, etc. Many thanks to all those who hosted a station!

Special Events

- **MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS—2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10:00 AM**
- **OCTOBER BOD MTG. CHANGED TO 10/19 AT 10:00 AM**
- **OFFICE CLOSED—COLUMBUS DAY—10/10**
- **OFFICE CLOSED—VETERAN'S DAY—11/11**
- **OFFICE CLOSED—THANKSGIVING 11/24 & 11/25**

Waste Storage Facility



This concrete waste storage facility was installed in the Owasco lake watershed. It will provide the landowner the ability to manage manure during the winter months to prevent having to spread on frozen ground. The installed alleyways will enable the producer to direct manure from the barnyard areas to the waste storage facility and will also serve to contain high nutrient runoff and prevent it from mixing with clean water. Waste from the storage will be applied to fields located away from hydrologically sensitive areas during a time of the year that is more suitable to crop production. These practices will provide the landowner a management tool to



prevent loss of nutrients from snow melt and runoff and will also supply nutrients to crops during maximum uptake and thereby reduce the need for additional fertilizers.



Wood Waste Recycling Program

The District's tubgrinder and excavator with hydraulic shears process large quantities of wood waste quickly and efficiently into readily usable wood mulch. This year more than 45,000 cubic yards of woody debris was recycled for approximately 23 municipal organizations.



NYACD 2011 Diversity Award -

The Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District is the proud winner of the NYACD 2011 Diversity Award which was presented to them at the NYACD Annual Meeting on Oct. 17th & 18th in Utica, NY. The award represents the diverse programs and jobs performed by the District over the years.

In Memory of Thomas Kincaid

This newsletter is being printed in memory of Tom Kincaid. Tom died unexpectedly on October 15th, 2011. Tom was employed by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District for 5 years as a Working Foreman. **Tom was a very dedicated employee and will be missed by all.**

- Your Conservation District Family -