



Cayuga County SWCD  
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# Conservation Highlights

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SPRING 2016

## SPECIAL EVENTS:

- MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS—2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10:00 AM
- REGIONAL ENVIROTHON - BEAVER LAKE—APRIL 20TH.
- APRIL 27 TH—LAST DAY TO ORDER TREES
- ARBOR DAY—APRIL 29TH
- EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOP—MAY 4TH (7:45 AM TO NOON) AND MAY 18TH (7:45 AM TO NOON)
- TREE PICK -UP—MAY 6TH, 8 AM TO 6 PM
- OVERSTOCK SALE—MAY 9TH (8AM TO NOON)
- FISH STOCKING SALE ON MAY 16TH, LAST DAY TO ORDER MAY 10TH

## Legislative Days in Albany

Soil and Water Conservation District Directors, Managers and staff from across New York State met in Albany with our Local State Representatives on March 1, 2016. The message that was brought to Albany included supporting and strengthening the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), the Agricultural Non Point Source Grant Program, as well as, the work of Soil and Water Districts. Increased funding is necessary for the Districts so they can continue to build capacity at the local level to support goals that keep NYS's waterways and land resources clean and viable, which in turn, benefits tourism, recreation and local food production for all of NY. The Agricultural Non Point Source Grant Program is a primary funding source for implementation of agricultural related Best Management Practices available only to SWCDs. This opportunity allows Districts to show their Local State Representatives how important the funding is to them and the work that can be done with it.

## 2016 Manure Handling Workshop

A manure handling workshop held on February 24, 2016 by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the Natural Resource Center, 7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY drew over 70 attendees from area farms. Valuable information for farms of all sizes was presented.

The workshop included an overview of tips for evaluating manure handling and transfer systems to reduce risks of spills, some regulatory requirements, spreading concerns, preparation and response to handling spills and a DEC perspective on how to properly handle a spill or runoff event.

This was the third consecutive year that the workshop was held in Cayuga County by the Conservation District and NYS DEC. High attendance of these events has consistently shown that area farms are intent upon handling manure appropriately. Cayuga County farms are noted state-wide for their high levels of environmental stewardship, and the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to be a part of that stewardship.



Above: February 24, 2016 - Manure Handling Workshop at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District.



Daylilies, Hostas,  
Conifers, Fruit Trees,  
Shrubs, etc.  
available for sale

### 2016 Fish Stocking Sale

The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding a Fish Stocking Sale this spring. The Conservation District is currently taking orders for a variety of fish for ponds including: rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, bluegill, black crappie, channel catfish and minnows. Grass carp will also be available, but landowners must have a NYS DEC permit in order to purchase them. Orders will be taken through Tuesday, May 10, 2016. The pick-up date is Monday, May 16, 2015 at 11:00 AM at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Barley rolls will be available for sale to help control algae in ponds. For further information you can also check the District's website at [www.cayugaswcd.org](http://www.cayugaswcd.org).

Rainbow Trout available at the District



## 2016 Spring Tree, Shrub & Groundcover Sale

The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding their 45th Annual Spring Tree Seedling and Groundcover Sale. As in the past, the District is offering a variety of New York grown conifers, hardwoods, shrubs, and groundcovers. These seedlings and other plants are a very low-cost way to prevent erosion and to promote wildlife in your area, as well as create noise and visual buffers, and both snow and wind

breaks. The Conservation District will be taking orders through April 27, 2016. The pickup date will be Friday, May 6, 2016. Supplies are limited, so order early for the best selection. There will also be an Overstock Sale on Monday, May 9, 2016 from 8 am to Noon. To get an order form and description brochure, please call the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District at 315-252-4171 or stop by our office

located on County House Road in Sennett. For further information and updates you can also check the District's website at [www.cayugaswcd.org](http://www.cayugaswcd.org).



## Concrete Sediment Basins

The Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District built 10 concrete sediment basins over the winter months for spring installation. The basins are designed to capture soil particles to reduce nutrient loading in streams and lakes and allow for simple cleanout by road crews. These basins are a simple, durable method to consider for ditch stabilization, especially on steep slopes. The amount of sediment the basins retain positively impacts water quality.



Above: An installed concrete sediment

## 2016 New Nutrient Management Specialist

There is a new face at the District this year. Brian Hall has been hired as our new Nutrient Management Specialist. Brian has 17 years of experience in his professional career working in the field of agriculture environmental planning, and natural resources conservation. He has 12 years of experience working for Soil and Water Conservation Districts and served on many committees including the NYS Conservation District Employees Association Executive Board. Brian ventured out into private industry for a few years and began consulting for agricultural and environmental land

planning. He holds 4 professional certifications; Certified Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM Planner), Certified Crop Advisor (CCA), Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), and Technical Service Provider (TSP) for the USDA-NRCS, is a on the Board of Directors for the NYS Agricultural Land Trust and a proud graduate of the Cornell LEAD NY program class 14. Additionally, Brian has personal agricultural experience as he started and operated a 140 acre farm operation and implemented many best management practices through multiple programs

over 5 years. We look forward to working with Brian and want to welcome him to the team. We would also like to thank our out going Nutrient Management Specialist, John Fraser, for all the hard work and dedication he completed while working at the Cayuga SWCD. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.



Above: Brian Hall