



Cayuga County SWCD

7413 County House Rd.

Auburn, NY 13021

(315)252-4171

cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org

www.cayugaswcd.org



### Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program—

The Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program is well under way this summer. The program’s objectives are to increase the accessibility and usability of the county’s water bodies, while seeking to leave the lakes in the most ecologically intact manner possible. The water bodies that our program covers are Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake, Otter Lake, Lake Como and Fair Haven Bay. We are seeing two to three times the amount of weeds this year than at the same time in the past. We are also harvesting in areas that we have never seen growth in before. We believe that the excess of weeds is being caused by the heavy rains and cooler spring temperatures which created a mix of cold and turbid waters that initially inhibited weed growth. This can be confirmed by our early season scouting, which did not reveal much weed growth until mid to late June. Those same rains washed volumes of nutrients and sediment into the streams and ultimately into the Lakes where they became growing grounds and fertilizer for the weeds. Then once the heat hit in July . . . the weeds exploded. For daily or weekly updates of where the harvester is, please visit us on Facebook. We will also be generating a full report on the Cayuga County AVC program at the end of the harvesting season.



Picture above shows the harvester, transporter and truck used for the Aquatic Vegetation Control program.

#### Special Events:

- MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS (2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 10:00 AM)
- JULY 4TH, 2013—HOLIDAY AND OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
- NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT—AUGUST 4TH -9TH, 2013 IN BOZEMAN, MONTANA
- EMPIRE FARM DAYS—AUGUST 6TH—8TH, 2013 IN SENECA FALLS.
- STATE FAIR BOOTH—AUGUST 22ND—SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2013 AT THE NEW YORK STATE FAIRGROUNDS IN SYRACUSE.
- LABOR DAY—SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2013—HOLIDAY AND OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
- CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS—SEPTEMBER 18TH AND 19TH, 2013 AT EMERSON PARK
- HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS DAY—SEPT. 21ST, 2013
- HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY—OCT. 26TH, 2013.



### Moon Beach, Sterling Planting Project—(picture to the left)

The District was approached by several landowners on Moon Beach, at the northern tip of Cayuga County in Sterling, seeking assistance for long term erosion issues on the shoreline of Lake Ontario. This erosion is negatively impacting their properties and adding large amounts of sediment to Lake Ontario. The area has extremely steep banks, at a height of 15’ or more, which are subject to several erosive actions. While no funding was available, the District was able to obtain plant materials from the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center in Big Flats at no cost and have our summer crew plant them. Plant material used included three different species of willows, dwarf sand cherry, redosier dogwood and prairie cordgrass. These sites are an experimental use of “soft engineering,” using plants rather than rock or concrete walls on shoreline erosion. The District will work with the landowners over the years to come to monitor the success of the project.

# Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

If anyone is interested in [pasture or cover crop seeding](#) with the no-till drill please contact [Jason Cuddeback](#) or [John Fraser](#) at the Cayuga County SWCD office.

## Half Acre Farm Bunk Leachate System—

During the spring of 2013 District staff completed construction on a bunk silo leachate system for a 200 cow dairy farm in the Cayuga Lake watershed. Silage leachate contains high concentrations of nutrients, acid, and has a high Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD). If leachate gets into soil or water, it can damage the quality of ground and surface water. This project received funding from the NYS Agricultural Non-point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program. The following components have been installed:

A low flow collection system encircling the bunk that transports concentrated leachate to an existing manure storage.

A concrete apron that directs surface runoff from the bunk silo to a high flow/low flow separator.

A high flow/low flow separator that captures runoff from the bunk and directs it either to the manure storage or to a vegetated treatment area.

A grassy vegetated treatment area (VTA) that filters the more dilute runoff from the bunk silo following a precipitation event.

Curbing that excludes leachate from an existing clean water system.

A drip trench that diverts clean roof water from the site.



**Above :** Low flow collection system surrounding the bunk silo.

**Above:** Concrete high flow/low flow separator.

## 2013 Ulster County— The Mount Academy

**To the right:** Level lip spreader distributes dilute runoff across the top of the VTA.



## Summer Fish Stocking Sale

Fish are still available for pond stocking. If you are interested, please call the office or check out our website for more information.



**NYS Envirothon -** The NYS Envirothon took place on May 30th and 31st, 2013 at Morrisville State College, Morrisville, NY. The winning team as shown to the left: The Mount Academy Team from Ulster County will be moving on to the North American Envirothon in Bozeman, Montana on August 4th—9th, 2013. Congratulations team and good luck at the North American!