



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Volume 19, Issue 4
WINTER 2013

Pasture Watering System

This fall, the Cayuga County SWCD worked with the Skaneateles Watershed Agricultural Program to install 685' of buried waterline with three hydrants in a pasture at the Song Meadows Alpaca Farm in the Town of Niles. The project also included installing 30 feet of dripline along one barn to control the roof runoff.



Watering systems in a pasture are an integral part of a prescribed grazing system. These watering systems eliminate the need for animals to travel to the barn to get water, which in turn prevents erosion in the laneway and the congregation of animals in a barnyard. Prescribed grazing systems also prevent erosion and improve water quality by keeping land vegetated with perennial grasses and legumes.



Above: Delineating a wetland boundary at the Montezuma Heritage Park.

The Swamp School

In August, Marc Seelinger from the Swamp School came to the SWCD to hold a wetland delineation class. This was the Swamp School's first class in the Central New York area. Nine students attended the weeklong class that included field exercises at three wetland sites in Cayuga County.



Cayuga County SWCD
7413 County House Rd.
Auburn, NY 13021
(315) 252-4171
www.co.cayuga.ny.us/soilcon/

Monthly Board Meetings

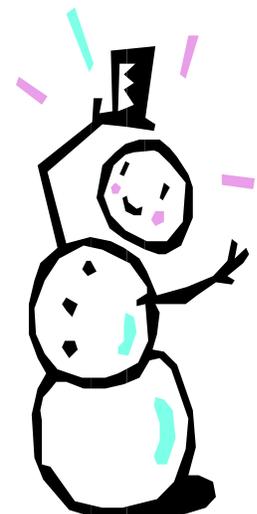
2nd Wed. of the month at 10 am

January 8, 2014
February 12, 2014

Holidays

The office will be closed on the following days:

Dec. 25, 2013—Christmas Day
Jan. 1, 2014—New Year's Day
Jan. 20—Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 17, —President's Day



• **Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**



Cayuga County Regional Digester Update-

Our digester project has taken great strides this past year. In the spring, we re-started the production of methane and soon after, our generating plant was running on bio-gas. The year has been a bit challenging as we have worked through various issues as the plant came up to full function. But through it all, we have demonstrated that the German based digester design works well, as do the other new technologies that we incorporated into the plant. We are a bit unique in the United States as we are using the regional digester concept, where we truck the feed-stock in. This model is widely used in Europe. We have hosted a number of visitors this year, as many people hear about the project and wish to come take a tour. The guest from the furthest distance was from Australia. Now three SUNY schools are exploring the opportunity to use our digester as an example for new digester construction at Morrisville, Cobleskill and Delhi. If you would like to take a look at our digester, or just have questions, stop in between 8am and 2pm.



Erosion & Sediment Control Trainings

In New York State, all construction projects that create an acre or more of disturbed soil must have a SPEDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity. All contractors completing earthwork on SPEDES permitted sites must have at least one individual on site that has completed a four hour erosion and sediment control training course. To be kept current, the training must be completed once every three years. The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering these trainings to contractors, developers, inspectors, engineers, and government employees.

Upcoming trainings will be held on the following Tuesdays:

- January 14, 2014
- February 11 & 25, 2014
- March 11 & 25, 2014
- April 8 & 29, 2014
- May 13, 2014

For more information or to register for training, please visit the Cayuga County SWCD website at <http://www.cayugaswcd.org/>



TRADE-A-TREE FOR A TREE—

After Christmas this year, trade in your old tree for a free transplant! The Cayuga County Trade-a-Tree for a Tree program offers residents an opportunity to recycle their Christmas tree in exchange for a White Spruce transplant (transplants will be available for

****Trade-a-Tree Dates & Times**

- Dec. 26-27
8 am— 4 pm
- Dec. 30
8 am— 4 pm
- Dec. 31
8 am— Noon
- Jan. 2-3
8 am—4 pm
- Jan. 4 (Sat.)
8 am—Noon
- Jan. 6-10
8 am—4 pm
- Jan. 13-17
8 am -4 pm

pick-up in the spring at the Tree Sale).

It's fast, easy, and free! Location: Cayuga County Natural Resource Center @ 7413 County House Road, Auburn.