



# CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

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WINTER 2014

## Moon Beach, Town of Sterling

Erosion on Moon Beach has been an ongoing source of nutrients and sediments directly into Lake Ontario, as well as causing significant property damage. The District worked with two property owners to protect a total of approximately 260' of shoreline from erosion by placing very large stone blocks at the toe of the slope, drainage behind the blocks and regrading and placing rip-rap stone at the top of the slope. The District also shaped and re-seeded the top of the slope where it had been disturbed. We hope to be able to continue this work on other properties on Lake Ontario in an effort to protect the Great Lakes from excessive sedimentation and nutrients.



Before



After



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

### Monthly Board Meetings

2nd Wed. of the month at 10 am

January 14, 2015  
February 11, 2015

### **\*\*Holidays\*\***

**The office will be closed on the following days:**

Dec. 25, 2014 — Christmas Day  
Jan. 1, 2015 — New Year's Day  
Jan. 19, 2015 — Martin Luther King Day

## CAFO Inspections

A farm is considered a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) when it stables or confines above a certain number of animals. In New York, a dairy farm would generally be considered a CAFO if it confines 200 or more mature cows. All CAFO's are required to obtain a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Under the CAFO permit, a farm must follow a current Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) developed by a certified planner. The CNMP specifies the crop rotations, manure and fertilizer applications, as well as any structural best management practices (BMP's) that are needed to protect water quality. In addition to following the CNMP, the farmer must keep thorough records to document their compliance with their permit and the CNMP. Every year the DEC staff conducts inspections on several CAFO farms. At an inspection, the DEC meets with the farmer and their certified planner to review the CNMP and the farm's records to make sure that everything is up to date and that the farm is following their plan. The DEC also looks at the farmstead to make sure that all of the required BMP's have been installed and are working properly. Cayuga County SWCD staff has been attending these CAFO inspections. At the inspections, the District representative looks for opportunities to implement BMP's that will further protect water quality. If such a need arises, the District will work with the farm through the Agricultural Environmental Management program to plan and implement these practices.



## Emerson Park Sailboat Launch—Town of Fleming

The shoreline of Owasco Lake at the Emerson Park sailboat launch has been steadily deteriorating. Sediment and nutrients are being washed into the lake as the shore erodes. As this is a public access point to Owasco Lake, not only water quality is being affected by the erosion, but public perception of the lake as well.

The District reshaped and armored 193' linear feet of the bank utilizing stackable riprap stone placed on geo-textile fabric. Stone was keyed 2 feet into the lake bottom to protect the toe from erosion and installed up the bank to the mean high water mark of the Lake. The bank was graded to a manageable slope, seed and mulch were applied to the site.



## 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 Wednesdays:

- January 21, 2015
- February 18, 2015
- March 4 & 25, 2015
- April 15 & 29, 2015
- May 20, 2015

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 Pine transplant (transplants will be available for 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.

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

- Dec. 29-30  
8 am— 4 pm
- Dec. 31  
8 am—noon
- Jan. 2  
8 am—4 pm
- Jan. 5-9  
8 am—4 pm
- Jan. 12-16  
8 am—4 pm