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## Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter



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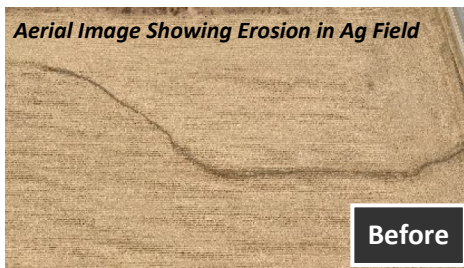
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### UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY:

- Next OCSWCD Board Meeting: July 21
- Rain Barrel Workshop: July 27
- Free Tire Recycling: August 8
- Grazing Workshop: August 24

## Erosion & Sediment Control Projects in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed

*Aerial Image Showing Erosion in Ag Field*



Ontario County SWCD just wrapped up multiple erosion and sediment control projects in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. This project utilized funding from the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA). The first project included installing a basin to collect water coming from a road culvert. High flows of water are then redirected into a grassed waterway with underground tile to eliminate erosive overland flows which have caused severe cutting in the agricultural field. This system will help manage erosion in the agricultural field, and reduce sediment loss by up to 20 tons of soil/acre/year across the project site. The project was stabilized through hydroseeding by the Ontario County Highway Department. This erosion and sediment control project will prevent soil from entering streams leading to Canandaigua Lake. The farm expressed concerns about the eroding area for several years and worked closely with Ontario County SWCD to develop a management plan that meets both water quality concerns while still allowing the field to be farmed efficiently.



*Ontario County Highway Department Hydroseeding the Grassed Waterway*



Like us on Facebook [@OntarioCountySWCD](https://www.facebook.com/OntarioCountySWCD) to stay up-to-date with the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District!



## Erosion & Sediment Control Projects in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Continued...

On another project, the Ontario County SWCD partnered with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and the Town of Gorham on an erosion control project with cost-share funding provided through the Finger Lakes Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) program. The project consisted of installing 2 water control structures along with the stabilization of 700' of streambank on a length of stream that was severely eroding through a farm field. This project resulted in the installation of both water retention as well as hard structures to control water volumes and help prevent erosion. This project will prevent the loss of an estimated 52.5 tons of soil per year on the stretch of treated streambank.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



## Fisher's Park



The Ontario County SWCD is working with United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Town of Victor on a project on Irondequoit Creek at Fisher's Park with funding through the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance. This project involves the installation of 150 feet of toewood structure which is a nature based streambank stabilization practice. This technique will help to stabilize the streambank and provide enhanced aquatic habitat for trout species. The construction will start this summer so stay tuned this fall for the final photos! At the end of June, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation electroshocked this section of Irondequoit Creek to complete a fish survey. Here are some photos of the electroshocking process where they momentarily stun the fish with low voltage electricity and



then capture the fish to measure and release. Next year, we hope to electroshock the same area and collect more data to determine if the installed project has provided better trout habitat.





## Free Recycling of Ag Plastics

Do you have agricultural plastics that need to be recycled? Email [info@ontswcd.com](mailto:info@ontswcd.com) or call (585)396-1450 with your interest so we can gauge local recycling needs. Only non-refillable plastic containers from 1 gallon to 55 gallon barrels made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE) embossed with recycling symbol #2 on the bottom are acceptable and they must be clean. Collection dates and locations are based on the anticipated amount to be collected. As we build a list of interested producers, we can work on expanding the program in Ontario County each year.



## Grazing System Project

We recently completed a watering system as part of a prescribed rotational grazing system on a farm in the Town of Gorham with cost-share funding through the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. The project consisted of installing a water well and a watering facility to act as a pasture water supply. This project will allow for prescribed grazing on up to 40 acres of pasturelands. The well installed through this project feeds a buried 1,725 gallon reserve tank that is then connected into a pressure tank that

serves 820' of uphill underground water lines connected to a frost free hydrant system. The farm can now run additional above ground lines from these hydrants on its grazing rotations and allow the animals to fulfill their watering needs without having to leave the distant paddocks. A well-managed grazing system can help reduce sediment and nutrient losses to the watershed by spreading nutrients out across the pasture and reducing overgrazing, thus, improving the condition of the groundcover and forages in a pasture system.





## What is that green stuff?

For some, early summer means their once beautiful pond turns green with a dense layer of small, pearl like plants. Duckweed is the smallest flowering plant known and consists of a single flat oval leaf usually no more than a ¼ of an inch long. These plants are often transported from waterbody to waterbody on the bodies of waterfowl. In spring, specialized buds called turions begin to grow and rise from the bottom of ponds, lakes and streams. These plants rapidly reproduce and float on the surface creating a thick green mat of vegetation. The rate at which duckweed can grow and cover a pond can be alarming and is sometimes mistaken for algae growth. However, duckweed is a native plant to our area and plays an important role in the ecosystem. Duckweed is an important food source for aquatic waterfowl and fish, and also provides important cover for species of frogs, turtles, and fish. Due to its rapid growth, the plants are used for bioremediation of waterways with excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. Harvesting the plants can also be a way to remove pollutants from a waterway. While there are many benefits to duckweed, excessive growth does have the potential to deplete oxygen levels if the surface of the pond is covered for an extended period of time. Possible management options are to physically remove material from the surface or install a bubbler or fountain system which keeps duckweed colonies pushed to the edges of the waterbody, allowing for open water and oxygen exchange. Often mixed in with duckweed is watermeal. For a good video describing duckweed and watermeal, [click here](#). It is crucial to know what a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) looks like since this can result in illness in humans and even death in pets. It should not be touched or ingested. If you are out paddling or fishing and you are unsure of the difference, always play it safe and avoid it. For more information on HABs, [click here](#). For an excellent fact sheet/sign about HABS, [click here](#).

Photo Credit: Lindsay McMillan, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association [canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org)



Duckweed and Watermeal

## Cover Crop Trial Underway

May



We are working with Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) on an interseeding strip trial on a local farm in Stanley. SARE is leading interseeding strip-trials in the 2021 growing season on farms from southern PA through central NY. The goal of this project is to identify: (1) the regional

fit for interseeding, (2) the management factors that limit its success, and (3) the soil health and conservation benefits. So far, the corn was planted directly into rye cover in May and the rye was sprayed. In mid-July, they interseeded a cover crop mix into standing corn.



Mid-July





# Backyard Conservation Conversation



With the beautiful summer weather, we spend so much more time in the outdoors. You may enjoy gardening, hiking, camping, or even mowing your lawn. We all know about the dangers of touching poison ivy, even if you haven't battled the reaction of that evil plant. There are several other poisonous plants that may be in your front yard that you might not have heard about.

Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is an invasive plant from Europe and Asia that has become naturalized in North America. It is well suited for colonizing disturbed areas but can also be found in open fields and lawns. Wild parsnip sap can cause painful, localized burning and blistering of the skin. Wild parsnip can be found growing in a broad range of habitats, especially along roadsides, in fields and in pastures. It is common in the United States and Canada and is widespread in New York. DEC encourages the public



*Wild Parsnip; photo credit: NYS DEC*

to report sightings of this invasive plant to [iMapInvasives](#). There are no state or federal programs to remove wild parsnip in New York State because the plant is so widespread across much of New York. If you are interested in removing wild parsnip on your own property, please be sure to wear long sleeves and pants as well as gloves and avoid any contact with the sap of the plant. Manual removal of plants can be effective for small areas. Cutting roots 1-2 inches below the soil or pulling plants by hand should be done before they have gone to seed. If removing plants after seeds have already developed, cut off the seed heads and put them in plastic bags. Leave the bags out in the sun for one week to kill the seed heads before disposal. Mowing wild parsnip after flowers have bloomed but before seeds have developed can kill the plants. Some plants may re-sprout, making it necessary to mow the area again. [Click here for more info](#). Be on the lookout for Wild Parsnip along your roadside and in the area between where you mow and the start of a wooded area. Do not touch Wild Parsnip!

*Giant Hogweed; photo credit: NYS DEC*



**If you seed Giant Hogweed,  
call 845-256-3111 or email  
[ghogweed@dec.ny.gov](mailto:ghogweed@dec.ny.gov)**

**\*Danger Alert\*** Not extremely common but giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*) is a VERY LARGE, invasive plant that can cause painful burns and permanent scarring. Brushing against or breaking the plant releases sap that, combined with sunlight and moisture, can cause a severe burn within 24 to 48 hours. Giant hogweed is a Federally listed noxious weed and NYS law prohibits its possession with the intent to sell, import, purchase, transport, introduce or propagate. Giant hogweed is a biennial or perennial herb in the carrot family (Apiaceae) which can grow to 14 feet or more. Its hollow, ridged stems grow 2-4 inches in diameter and have dark reddish-purple blotches. Its large compound leaves can grow up to 5 feet wide. Its white flower heads can grow up to 2 1/2 feet in



## Backyard Conservation Conversation Continued...

diameter. White flowers with 50-150 flower rays clustered into an umbrella shaped flower cluster up to 2.5 feet across. Stems are green with extensive purple splotches and prominent coarse white hairs. Stems are also hollow, ridged, 2-4 inches in diameter, and have a thick circle of hairs at the base of the leaf stalk. For more information, [click here](#).



*Giant Hogweed*  
Photo credit: NYS DEC



*Cow Parsnip*  
Photo credit: NYS DEC

Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum sphondylium*) is a large plant that grows 3-10 feet tall. Leaves are 12"-18", rough and hairy, and divided into 3 segments with coarsely toothed leaflets and a broad wing at the base of each leaf stalk. Stems are rough, hairy, hollow, and grooved. The plant has white or cream colored flowers that bloom in mid-summer. These flowers have 5 petals of different sizes and are arranged in broad, flat-topped clusters at the top of short stalks. Cow parsnip grows in a variety of habitats including woodlands, forest openings, grasslands, stream and river edges and along roadsides. Its sap contains a phototoxin that reacts with ultraviolet light to cause skin irritation ranging from a mild rash to severe blistering. Cow parsnip is relatively uncommon in New York, and is most often found in the cooler parts of the state. Typical habitats are usually near water and in rich, moist soil, often along stream banks, in meadows, and in wet ditches. It also grows well in partial shade along roads and in floodplain forests. Cow parsnip blooms in late May to late June, which is typically earlier than giant hogweed. Unlike the invasive introduced species giant hogweed and wild parsnip, cow parsnip is native to North America and is found almost everywhere in the U.S. except the south. It is very cold-hardy, and is most abundant in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Like giant hogweed sap, cow parsnip sap contains

furanocoumarins (fyur-a-no-coo-MAR-inz), phototoxic chemicals that are activated by ultraviolet rays in sunlight. If the sap gets on skin and is then exposed to sunlight, it can cause a blistering itchy rash. Cow parsnip is not considered to be as toxic as giant hogweed, but like its smaller relative, wild parsnip, it can still cause nasty burns that take weeks or months to heal and can leave scars. If the plant touches your skin, immediately wash the area with soap and water and protect from sunlight for 48 hours. For more information, [click here](#).

A very common plant is Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*) which earned its common name from a legend that tells of Queen Anne of England (1665-1714) pricking her finger and a drop of blood landing on white lace she was sewing. Belonging to the carrot family, Queen Anne's lace is a biennial that is also known as wild carrot. The flat-topped umbel of white flower clusters are 2 to 4 inches wide. The central flower cluster is usually deep purple. When fruiting, the umbel becomes concave and resembles a bird's nest. It can cause an allergic reaction. [For more info on all of these plants and lookalikes, click here!](#)

*Queen Anne's Lace*





# Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition: Town of Victor takes on Stormwater Management



The Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition (OWSC) is a group of 8 government entities that work cooperatively to fulfill the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements and meet the 6 Minimum Control Measures set forth in the Permit. The Town of Victor is one of the municipalities working to keep our waterways clean.



*Stabilization at Miles Cutting Lane*

This past winter the Town of Victor has been able to get several stormwater projects completed in between maintaining roads during winter conditions. Their Highway Department completed maintenance on 19 different stormwater facilities within the Town's Drainage Improvement Area. This work included replacing pipes, maintaining structures, removing trees, and removing sediment that built up over time. This work will help drainage flow in these

areas as it was intended to per the approved design of each stormwater facility. It also improves the treatment of stormwater in the Town of Victor.

The Town of Victor also sent letters to all property owners outside of the Town of Victor Drainage Improvement Area that are responsible for a stormwater facility on their property. This letter references the Town Code and asks the property owner to have their stormwater facility inspected and submit the report to the town along with a remediation plan for any concerns that arise during the inspection. This will also help with drainage and stormwater treatment in the Town of Victor.



*Pond maintenance at Scudder Mills*

The Town of Victor monitors stormwater runoff at active construction sites. There are currently 34 projects in the Town that have active Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plans (SWPPP) coverage through the



*Erosion mat at High Point Business Park*

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). As part of the Town's Stormwater Management Plan, the Town monitors these sites for things like erosion and sediment control so they stay in compliance with their SWPPP coverage.

For more information on the Town of Victor's Stormwater Management Program and contact information please [click here](#). For more information on the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition, go to [www.owsc.org](http://www.owsc.org).





# RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP

JULY 27, 2021 AT 6:30PM

VICTOR MUNICIPAL PARK  
6680 PAPARONE DR  
VICTOR, NY 14564

**\$30 PER RAIN BARREL**



**To register, call (585)396-1450 or  
email [alaina.robarge@ontswcd.com](mailto:alaina.robarge@ontswcd.com).**

Join the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition and the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District for a rain barrel workshop. We will start with a short presentation with a demo on how to build your barrel. We will then help you build your own 55 gallon rain barrel. Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to protect our environment and save money. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains or streams. The water from your barrel can be used for watering gardens and lawns, washing cars, cleaning outdoor furniture, and the list goes on.





# Residential Tire Recycling Event:

Sunday, August 8, 2021

8:00am – 11:00am

Town of Geneva  
Recycling & Disposal Station  
32 White Springs Rd



## ***\*Advanced Registration Required\****

*Space is limited. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.*

**The registration period is from July 19, 2021 to August 4, 2021**

**This event is a free event for ALL residents of Ontario County.**

- Maximum of 10 tires per household permitted
- MUST PRE-REGISTER and bring ID to Event
- Only car and light truck tires will be accepted
- All tires must be clean and free of debris
- No tires on rims will be accepted
- Tires will not be accepted from commercial facilities

*Tires not meeting these requirements will not be accepted.*

Please contact Ontario County  
Soil & Water Conservation District at  
(585)396-1450 to register.





# Grazing Workshop

August 24, 2021

***Choose your preferred time and location:***

9:00am-11:00am at Leon Brubacher's Farm  
1080 Sprout Hill Road, Himrod, NY

**OR**

1:00pm-3:00pm at Andrew Hoover's Farm  
4563 State Route 247, Stanley, NY

This outside event will involve a pasture walk to learn more about grazing operations and best management practices with speakers Fay Benson and Troy Bishopp, the "Grass Whisperer". This is a free event.

The first 15 people to register will receive *The Art and Science of Grazing* book by Sarah Flack. Free grazing sticks are available for attendees while supplies last!



Yates County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

**To register, call  
(585)396-1450  
or email  
[info@ontswcd.com](mailto:info@ontswcd.com)  
**Register by 8/20/21****



# Ontario County SWCD Staff:

District Manager: **Megan Webster**

Treasurer/Secretary: **Diana Thorn**

Senior Conservation District Technician: **Tucker Kautz**

Water Resources Technician: **Katie Lafler**

Conservation District Technician: **Tad Gerace**

Conservation District Educator: **Alaina Robarge**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Inspector: **Tyler Ohle**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Administrative Assistant: **Jamie Noga**

## Ontario County SWCD Board of Directors:

**Samuel Casella**, Chairman, Practical Farmer

**Kenneth Livermore**, Vice-Chairman, Grange

**Rich Russell**, County Supervisor

**Mark Venuti**, County Supervisor

**Jim Peck**, Farm Bureau Representative

**Edward Jackson**, At Large

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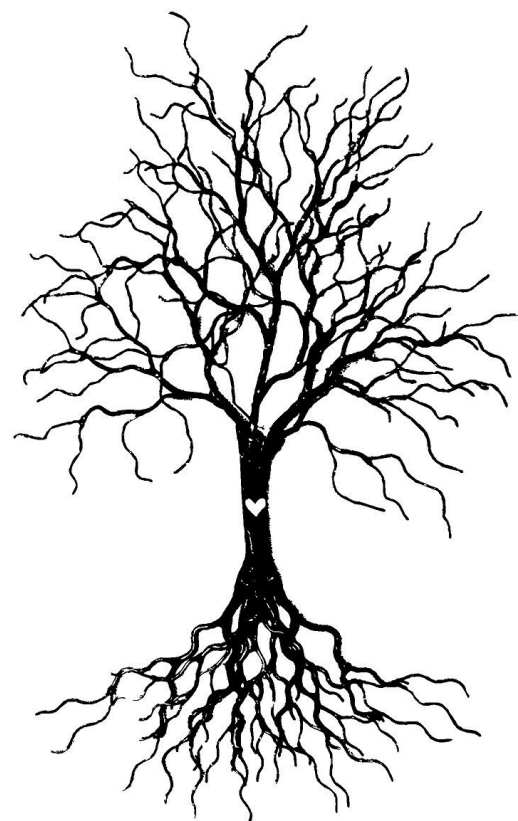
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