



Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District Conservation News

WINTER 2011/2012



BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Ashley Marolf
Chairman

Gary Rosiczkowski
Vice Chairman

John Rohr
Secretary

William Burke
Legislator

Patrick Wallace
Legislator

STAFF:

Nichelle Billhardt
District Manager

Michael Durant
District Technician

Carla Luther
District Treasurer

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ag Assessment	2
Mined Land Permits	2
Land Judging	2
Tree Order Form	3-4
Recycling Ag Plastics	5
Conservation Buffers	5
District Services	6



Visit us on
facebook!

2012 Tree & Shrub Sale - **New Items!**

The District is currently taking orders for the 2012 Tree & Shrub Sale. The following species are new to the order form which you will find inside this issue.

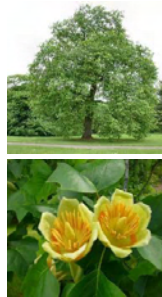
Order Now, Quantities are limited!
EARLIER ORDER DEADLINE-March 16th!



The **White Flowering Dogwood** is a small, bushy, ornamental tree that blooms with white flowers from May to June and has scarlet red fruit clusters. It's bark is deeply ridged and broken resembling alligator hide. In fall and winter months small wildlife feed on the fruit it produces.



The **Tulip Tree**, a member of the Magnolia family, is rapid growing and can grow up to 120' tall. From April to June they produce tulip shaped light greenish-yellow flowers. In Autumn, leaves turn a bold yellow. It's wood is soft and easily worked making it a popular choice for furniture and veneer.



The **Butterfly Bush** has weeping grey-green foliage and fragrant, purple blooms that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. They can grow 6-16' tall and 4-15' wide. Tiny tubular flowers are arranged to form cone shaped clusters 3-18" long that bloom from late spring to first frost.



The **Bluecrop Blueberry Bush** will produce mid season berries that are larger than average, light blue and very flavorful. The upright, open bush grows 4-6'. When planting blueberries, it is beneficial to mix varieties. These pair nicely with the Jersey variety that we also offer. (Jersey's are a medium size very sweet berry.) Blueberries require acidic soil.



See Inside for Order Form!

Funding Opportunity: AgNPS Round 18

The District has the distinct opportunity to apply for grant funding from New York State's Environmental Protection Fund through the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (AGNPS), on behalf of farms in Lewis County. This program is set up to support the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program. It does so by cost sharing conservation plans and projects that will reduce and/or prevent the nonpoint source contribution from agricultural activities. Best Management Practices (BMP's) are installed to keep nutrients on the farm, where they are needed the most, and out of our waterways. The farm is kept productive and the quality of our water is protected.

The District will be writing proposals under Round 18 of the AGNPS Grant Program with a due date of January 9th. Any farm interested in being included in the proposal for implementation of agricultural conservation practices should contact our office no later than December 30th, 2011 to discuss proposed projects and eligibility. Participation in the AEM planning process is required, but there is no charge to

the farm for these services. Applications are entered on a group watershed basis with the emphasis on water quality. Don't know what watershed you farm in? Contact the District! We can provide you with the natural resource information about your property that you wanted to know but were too afraid to ask!

Best Management Practices that can be cost shared include:

- Access Road Improvement
- Composting
- Barnyard Runoff Management System
- Conservation Tillage
- Critical Area Protection
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Diversions
- Milking Center Wastewater Treatment
- Mulching – Vineyards/Cropland
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Manure Storage System
- Prescribed Grazing System
- Riparian Buffer
- Silage Leachate Control



Unsure if your parcels qualify for Agricultural Assessment?

Contact your local assessor to determine eligibility.

Ag Assessment & Soil Group Worksheets

Landowners filing for an agricultural assessment in 2012 must file applications with their local town assessor by March 1st. To complete an application for an agricultural assessment exemption, landowners must have a Soil Group Worksheet prepared by the Soil & Water Conservation District for each tax parcel they intend to enroll.

Determining Eligibility:

- Land generally must consist of *seven or more acres used in the preceding two years* for the production or sale of crops, livestock, or livestock products.
- The annual *gross sales* of agricultural products generally *must average \$10,000* or more for the preceding two years
- Land that does not meet the above requirements may still qualify for Ag Assessment. Please contact your town assessor to determine eligibility.
- Eligibility is determined by the Town Assessor or Board of Assessors, not by the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Maintaining Eligibility:

- Landowners who have previously had a soil group worksheet completed for a tax parcel do not need a new one unless the total parcel acreage changed. If the parcel has changed contact the Soil & Water Conservation District and request a revised worksheet.
- Agricultural land does not automatically receive an agricultural assessment exemption; Landowners must apply each year with their assessor to remain eligible.

Call the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office at **315-376-6122** to have a soil group worksheet completed. Please have your current tax bill (for each parcel) available when you call, so that a member of the SWCD staff can collect necessary information over the phone. There is a \$30.00 per parcel charge for new worksheets and a \$15.00 per parcel charge for revised worksheets. Worksheets are completed in the order they are requested. Once the worksheet is completed you will be contacted so you can make an appointment to review, sign and pick up your worksheet(s). Give us a call if you have any questions, we will be glad to help!

Mined Land Reclamation Permits



Did you know that if you excavate more than 750 cubic yards or 1000 tons of any mineral including topsoil, sand, and gravel from one site then the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requires you to have a Mined Land Reclamation Permit?

A mining permit consists of a topographical survey of the site, a written plan to outline the mining process, and a reclamation plan. The written plan takes into account such things as the method of mining, mineral descriptions, storm water control, and noise and visual disturbances. Once the mining process is complete the mined

land reclamation plan is utilized to stabilize soils with vegetation and reclaim the land.

Once a Mined Land Reclamation Permit is obtained it remains effective for a five year term. Every five years, for the life of the mine, the site must be re-surveyed and a permit renewal application must be submitted to the DEC.

If you are currently excavating topsoil, sand, gravel or any other mineral and exceed the thresholds mentioned above you are "flying under the radar" and face the possibility of fines or civil action from the DEC.

If you are interested in starting a new mine or if you currently have a mine that needs permitting, the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District can help. We currently survey, and write permits for all Lewis County municipalities and for private landowners. If you would like more information please give us a call at 376-6122.

2011 FFA ★

Land Judging

COMPETITION RESULTS

Senior Division Leading Teams

1st-South Lewis
2nd-Alexandria Bay ★ *Great Job!*
3rd- Lowville

Senior Division Individual Scores

1st- Josh Genter, Lowville
2nd- Ashtin Tripp, South Lewis
3rd- Meagan Bourgeois, South Lewis

Junior Division Leading Teams

1st- South Lewis
2nd-Beaver River
3rd- Lowville ★

Senior Division Individual Scores

1st- Jake VanBeeber, South Lewis
2nd- Delaney Ostrander, South Lewis
3rd- Noah Livingston, Alexandria Bay

★ **Thank You to the 2011 Host's**
A & M Tabolt Farms of Croghan!

Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District 2012 Bare Root Tree & Shrub Sale Order Form



Seedlings	Species & Size	Soil Preference ¹	Growth Rate ²	Sun ³	10	25	50	100	Qty	Total
	White Pine 3-0, 10-16"	SLC-M/D	Moderate/Fast		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Col. Blue Spruce 3-0, 10-16"	SLC-M/D	Slow/Moderate		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	White Spruce 3-0, 10-16"	SLC-M	Moderate	●	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Norway Spruce 3-0, 10-16"	Loam, Clay-M/D	Moderate/Fast		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	White Flowering Dogwood 12-24"	Loam, Clay-M	Slow/Moderate	●	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Tulip Tree 12-24"	Loam-M	Fast		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Sugar Maple 18-24"	Loam-M/D	Moderate/Fast	●	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	White Oak 12-18"	SLC-M/D	Slow/Moderate	●	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
Black Walnut 18-24"	Sand, Loam-M/D	Fast		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80			

NEW

NEW

Transplants	Species & Size	Soil Preference ¹	Growth Rate ²	Sun ³	25	50	80	125	Qty	Total
	Balsam Fir 3-2, 10-18"	SLC-M	Slow		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 125		
	Fraser Fir 3-2, 10-18"	Loam-M/D	Slow		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 125		
	Col. Blue Spruce 2-2, 18-24"	SLC-M/D	Slow/Moderate		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 125		
	Red Pine 2-1, 15-18"	Sand, Loam-M/D	Fast		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 125		
	White Spruce 2-2, 18-24"	SLC-M	Moderate	●	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 125		
Norway Spruce 2-1, 15-18"	Loam, Clay-M/D	Moderate/Fast		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 80	\$ 125			

NEW

Shrubs & Fruit	Species & Size	Soil Preference ¹	Growth Rate ²	Sun ³	15	30	50	80	Qty	Total
	Lilac 2-0, 1-2'	SLC-M/D	Moderate		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Butterfly Bush 1-0 1-2'	SLC-M/D	Fast		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Elderberry 1-0, 1-2'	SLC-M/D	Moderate		\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 80		
	Blackberry (Darrow) 1-0, 6-12"	SLC-M/D	Moderate		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 95	\$ 180		
	Raspberry (Latham) 1-0, 6-12"	SLC-M/D	Moderate		\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 95	\$ 180		
	Blueberry (Jersey) 1-0, 6-12"	Acidic Required	Moderate		\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 115	\$ 220		
Blueberry (Bluecrop) 1-0, 6-12"	Acidic Required	Moderate		\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 115	\$ 220			

NEW

NEW

Packets	Packet Name	Contents	Price	Qty	Total
	Butterfly Packet	Contains 2 Each of: American Beauty Bush, Butterfly Bush, Liatris Spicata, Lilac, Stella de Oro Daylily	\$ 15		
	Nut Tree Packet	Contains 2 Each of: American Beech, Black Walnut, American Filbert, Red Oak, Pin Oak	\$ 15		
Songbird Packet	Contains 2 Each of: Black Gum, Staghorn Sumac, Elderberry, Sassafras, Arrowwood	\$ 15			



- 1- Soil Preferences: SLC = Sand, Loam or Clay
M=Moist (well drained) D= Dry
M/D= Moist (well-drained) or Dry

EARLIER DEADLINE!
Orders Due by March 16th

Front Total	
--------------------	--

- 2- Growth Rates: are as listed - Slow, Moderate, Fast, Slow to Moderate or Moderate to Fast
3- Sunlight Preferences: Full Sun= Partial Sun/Partial Shade= Full Shade= ●

More Items on Back!

Wildflower Seeds		Countryside Sunny Mix: This wildflower mix lends itself to full sun and drier conditions, still with a full spectrum of color. Perfect for low maintenance areas in your landscape. 1 oz pkg (covers 625 square feet) \$ 2.50 4 oz pkg (covers 2500 square feet) \$ 9.00	Pkg Size	Quantity	Total
		Countryside Shady Mix: This mix is designed for lower light conditions but will perform in full sun also. This mix will not tolerate dense shade, but does well with dappled or part day sun exposure. 1 oz pkg (covers 300 square feet) \$ 2.50 4 oz pkg (covers 1200 square feet) \$ 9.00			

Other	Tree Mats	3'x 3' Woven Weed Mat with 6" Staples.	\$2.00 each		
	Marking Flags	36" Wire Post, Fluorescent Pink Plastic Flags	10 for \$1.50		
	Tree Tubes	4' Vented Tree Tube with Stake & Bird Net Cap	\$5.00 each		
	Fertilizer Tablets	N-P-K (20-10-5) Feeds up to 2 years per tablet	10 for \$1.00		

Earlier Order Deadline!
Orders Due FRIDAY, MARCH 16th
No Deliveries! Payment Due With Order!
Pick Up Dates are Thursday & Friday
April 26th & 27th
(A reminder postcard will be mailed to you)

Back Total	
Front Total	+
TOTAL DUE with Order	

Make Checks or Money Orders Payable to: Lewis County SWCD

Mail Completed Order Form with Payment to :

Lewis County SWCD
5274 Outer Stowe Street, Suite #1
Lowville, NY 13367



PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

Customer Name	
Mailing Address	
Daytime/Msg. Phone	
Amount Enclosed	\$ Check #
Due to the perishable nature of nursery stock the SWCD is not responsible for their condition after pickup by the customer or if picked up after the scheduled dates. I hereby certify that the nursery stock obtained will be planted for the purpose of conservation.	
Customer Signature & Date	

Recycling Ag Plastics Program (RAPP)



The Lewis & Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation Districts now have an Ag Plastics Baler available to farmers. Funding for the baler was made possible by Cornell Cooperative Extension through the Recycling Ag Plastics Project (RAPP) and the DEC. Currently, the baler is available for on-farm baling of Ag plastics including bunk silo covers, ag bags, and bale wrap.

For farms that would like to participate, the district will deliver the baler to your farm and provide the mandatory safety training on baler operation. Once a farm has been trained, subsequent on-farm baling can be completed by farm staff. In order to be acceptable, plastic should be stored in small bundles and kept as clean and dry as possible. Black and white plastic and bale wrap cannot be mixed in the same bale. If you use both on your farm please store them separately. It takes approximately 1000

pounds of plastic to make a full 4ft x 4ft bale. Once a bale is completed it will have to be stored on the farm until it can be picked up for manufacturing by the RAPP staff.

The Recycling Ag Plastics Project continues in their efforts to find and develop markets for recycled plastics. New markets for the recycled plastic include sidewalk paving bricks, garbage bags, and plastic lumber. But, as in any fledgling industry, they are challenged to find buyers for the plastic while simultaneously encouraging farmers to supply a steady stream of plastic. In the future, it is hoped that enough consistent buyers can be found to allow a regular pickup schedule and then regular collection days could be established at the county transfer site.

There is no charge for using the Ag Plastics Baler. If you would like more information regarding RAPP or would like to schedule an appointment to use the Ag plastics baler on your farm please call the Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District at 315-376-6122.

Conservation Buffers

Living in our rural agricultural community you have probably seen lots of Conservation Buffers and paid them no mind. You probably never thought about what they are, why they are there, and the purpose they serve. Why do trees and shrubs line driveways and parking lots? Why do you see this vegetation in farmer's fields, and along waterways? The answer is simple, Conservation.

Buffers can be plantings of grasses, shrubs, trees, or a combination of all three. They are found along streams, lakes, ponds and wetlands, next to roads and driveways, in and along agricultural fields and even around residential and commercial property and parking lots. Though some grow naturally, others are strategically planted to keep pollutants from spreading and reaching our water sources.

Buffers play a very significant role in protecting our soil and water. These vegetated areas can improve soil and water quality by removing sediment, fertilizers, pesticides and other pathogens. They protect the soil from wind and water erosion and serve as home to many species of wildlife. When planted streamside, they improve fish habitat while aiding in streambank stabilization.

For farmers, conservation buffers can make great use of areas that cannot or should not be cropped. They can be planted to square off or line fields while providing a positive environmental impact. They aid in keeping nutrients on the fields where they are needed most and protect streams and other water sources. Planting buffers help farmers to comply with environmental regulations and show that the landowner is making a conscientious effort to protect our natural resources.

Not just for farmers... planting buffers near your home can help save you money. A windbreak placed around your home could help save on heating and cooling costs and protect your home from wind damage. According to the US Forest Service Center for Urban Forest Research just three trees placed correctly around your home can save you up to 30% of energy use. Planting a living snowfence can help to minimize snow buildup along roadsides and in your driveway reducing removal costs. If you have a waterway on your property, plantings can help prevent land loss due to erosion and help stabilize fish habitat. A well planned buffer can also enhance the appearance of one's property increasing its resale value.

Some farmers and landowners with acreage may qualify for direct economic benefits from the installation of conservation buffers. The USDA offers various financial incentive programs in an effort to encourage the establishment of these conservation plantings. For more information on the various programs offered by USDA NRCS call the local office at (315) 376-7021 or contact the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District at (315) 376-6122.

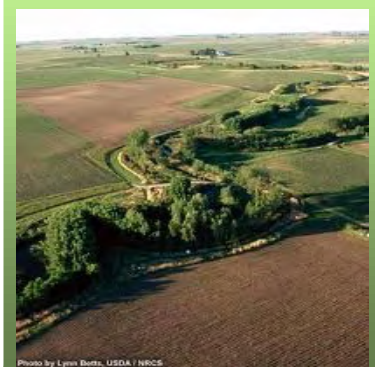


Photo by Lynn Barthe, USDA / NRCS



Lewis County Soil & Water
 Conservation District
 5274 Outer Stowe Street, Suite #1
 Lowville, New York 13367
 Phone (315) 376-6122
 www.lewiscountysoilandwater.com

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 97
Lowville, NY

Happy Holidays!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

How can the Soil & Water Conservation District help you?



Public Health & Safety

- Water Supply Protection
- Flood & Emergency Watershed Protection
- Road Right of Way Maintenance
- Road Salt Monitoring & Safe Storage
- Septic System Siting & Maintenance
- Emergency Spill Containment Plans at the Farm and Watershed Level
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Rural Fire Protection



Natural Resources Management

- Agricultural Environmental Management
- Mined Land Reclamation
- Forest Management
- Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management
- Stream Corridor Restoration
- Wetland Construction & Restoration
- Aquatic Weed Control
- Shoreline Protection
- Waste Recycling



Project Implementation

- Grant/Contract Administration
- Interagency/ Inter-municipal Agreements
- Permit Applications
- Project Survey, Design & Layout
- Construction Inspection
- Implementation of BMP's on Public & Private Lands
- Operation & Maintenance



Land Use Planning

- Soil Interpretations
- Site Plan Reviews
- Environmental Review Teams
- Stormwater Management
- Stream Corridor & Floodplain Management
- Farmland Protection
- Watershed Protection Plans
- GIS Data Management
- Recreation & Open Space Planning



Public Involvement

- Addressing Customer Needs
- Identifying Key Audiences
- Public Participation/Stakeholder Advisory Groups
- Networking
- Coalition & Consensus Building
- Conflict Resolution/ Complaint Investigations
- Environmental Education