

ALBANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS

Website: www.albanycounty.com/swcd

Summer/Fall 2010

Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District

PO Box 497
24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
518-765-7923

District Directors

John Santacrose
Chairman/At Large
Charles Houghtaling
Vice Chair/Co. Legislator
Edward Kleinke
Farm Bureau
Herbert Reilly
County Legislator
Howard A. Shafer
Grange Rep.

District Staff

Susan L. Lewis
Administrative Manager/
Technical Assistant
Joseph F. Slezak
Field Manager
Peter S. Bayzon
Natural Resource
Specialist

USDA, NRCS

Eric Swanson
Acting District
Conservationist

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm
Board of Directors
Meetings
Second Tuesday Of Each
Month At 1:00pm

Farm To Receive Funding To Help Protect Basic Creek Watershed J. Slezak



The District has been approved for \$153,573.70 in funding to assist a Town of Westerlo Beef farm, located in the Basic Creek Watershed, with the installation of conservation projects that protect water quality and reduce soil erosion. The project, one of 37 selected out of 82 submitted statewide, will be funded by Round 16 of the Agricultural New York State Non Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program. Conservation work on the farm could begin this fall and is expected to be completed in the next two to three years. The projects will involve a collaborative effort

by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (NYSSWCC), a private engineer and, of course, the farmer.

Please contact the SWCD office if you are a farmer interested in this program. Staff can schedule a visit, provide program details, an introduction to Agricultural Environmental Management and gather important information about the watershed and farm.

Pond Management- Duckweed and Watermeal P. Bayzon

Duckweed and watermeal are free-floating plants that can completely cover the surface of a pond. Duckweed and watermeal plants are very small, with watermeal being the smallest flowering plant known to exist. In addition to making a pond unsightly and unappealing for swimming, thick growths of these plants can harm the fish population. A surface layer of duckweed or watermeal will prevent sunlight from reaching the deeper

parts of the water column. This means that underwater plants and algae can no longer photosynthesize and produce oxygen therefore lowering the dissolved oxygen that can stress or even kill fish. While the individual plants look like leaves, they are not true leaves and are often called fronds. Duckweeds are typically less than 1/4 inch in width, with some species not even exceeding 1/8 inch in

(Continued on page 2)



Pond Management- Duckweed and Watermeal Continued

Items For Sale At The District Office

Bluebird House	\$11.25
Butterfly House	\$12.04
Bat Box	\$13.89
Small (3lb) Feeder	\$15.00
Large (6lb) Feeder	\$20.00
Planting Gel (1 oz)	\$1.50
Marking Flags	\$8/100
Weed Mats	\$8/10
Fertilizer Tablets	\$10/100
Topographic Maps	\$6.48
Rain Gauge	\$5.00
All of the above items are subject to 8% sales tax.	
NY Standards and Specifications For Erosion and Sediment Control	\$50.00
Erosion & Sediment Control Field Notebook	\$27.00
Stormwater Management Design Manual	\$32.00

All prices are subject to change

Also available for review:

- **Albany County Soil Survey**
- **Flood Rate Maps**
- **NYS Freshwater Wetlands Maps**
- **Historic Aerial Photographs**
 - 1940 1" = 660'
 - 1952 1" = 660'
 - 1960 1" = 660'
 - 1969 1" = 1320'
 - 1977 1" = 1320'

size. Typically, a single root hangs from under each frond from which the plant obtains its nutrients. Watermeal is considerably smaller, being about 1/32 of an inch in width or about the size of a pinhead. It has no root and obtains nutrients thru the underside of the floating frond. Duckweed and watermeal can be spread easily from one pond to another by humans, or probably more frequently, by ducks and geese. It is easy for these small plants to become lodged in the feathers of birds and then transported. Once the plants are in the pond the seeds will overwinter on the bottom of the pond.

Prevention is the key to eliminating the need for costly, annual control measures to eliminate a nuisance duckweed or watermeal problem. These plants require a lot of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) to grow, so typically they are found in nutrient-rich environments such as in ponds that receive drainage from nearby leaky septic fields, fertilized lawns, Canada geese and other similar situations. Also large amount of leaves entering into the pond during fall can lead to problems in successive years. Limiting nutrient inputs can eliminate or reduce the duckweed problem the following year in many ponds. However, it may take several years for total prevention to occur in some ponds, particularly older ponds with a thick accumulation of black bottom sediments.

Control:

Manual control involves physically removing the duckweeds or watermeal from the pond. Because of the explosive growth pattern of these small plants, few pond owners succeed in having manual removal solve their problem entirely. Best results are obtained if the owner regularly removes the duckweeds as they begin to become apparent. If attempted it should be done on a day when wind has pushed the duckweeds to one side of the pond. Keep in mind that duckweeds thrive in protected ponds so an owner may have to wait for a very windy day to try this. Once the duckweeds are pushed to one side take a fine mesh dip net and start removing. Long-handled swimming pool nets work well. Remove as much as possible and repeat the process as needed. Make sure when disposing of the plants take them far away from the pond making sure they do not flow back into the pond during a rain event.

Grass Carp and Koi fish species eat duckweeds & watermeal. Grass carp (White Amur), however, will generally consume other aquatic plants first. The fast reproductive potential of duckweeds allows nuisance levels to build while the grass carp are eating other plants. Also, large grass carp struggle to eat such small plants, which is likely why they prefer more substantial plants to eat. Koi are a smaller cousin to the grass carp rarely exceeding 12 inches in length. They are quite willing to eat duckweeds and watermeal and their small size allows koi to more efficiently consume them. They can prevent or reduce a duckweed problem if stocked early in spring prior to duckweed appearing. They cannot eradicate an existing problem as consumption by koi cannot keep pace with duckweed budding. One drawback is that koi are vulnerable to predation by herons and large bass and maintaining them in sufficient numbers may be difficult. Domesticated waterfowl like ducks eat duckweed and watermeal and can prevent nuisance populations of either. However, their defecation can lead to serious nutrient problems and cause a filamentous or planktonic algae bloom.

Duckweed and watermeal can be controlled with chemical herbicides although watermeal is much tougher to control than other duckweeds. In NYS most of these chemicals are restricted and can only be purchased by a licensed applicator. A landowner can obtain a permit to allow them to purchase these chemicals to treat their pond. The cost can be considerably high and the permitting process can appear to be drawn out. As with all chemicals, always be sure to read product labels for specific information on rates, application techniques, and safety.

Small to medium ponds tend to fare very well with a combination of surface skimming and biological control, while larger bodies of water may require a more complicated approach like chemical control. In the end Duckweed and watermeal like all other pests should be controlled early. If identified early and several techniques are used in control, your pond can be enjoyed by swimmers and wildlife for years to come.



Fall Fish Sale 2010

Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District
(518) 765-7923



ORDER DEADLINE : Friday, September 24th 2010

PICK-UP : Friday Morning, October 1st 2010 : you will receive notification of the time

Quantity	Species	Price	Total Cost
	4-6" Rainbow Trout	\$1.65 each	\$
	4-6" Brook Trout	\$1.75 each	\$
	2-4" Yellow Perch	\$1.10 each	\$
	3-5" Largemouth Bass	\$1.90 each	\$
	6-8" Channel Catfish	\$1.90 each	\$
	Fathead Minnow (forage fish)	\$.16 each	\$
Subtotal			\$
8% sales tax			\$
Total			\$

A Farm Fish Pond License is needed to stock your pond. Contact
NYSDEC at 607-652-7366 or the District for an application.

NAME _____

ADDRESS (for reminders) _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

DAY PHONE # _____

HOME PHONE # _____

Please note : The District is not responsible for any mortality of stock which may occur during transport. Refunds will not be given for failure to pick up your fish on the designated pick up day. If you cannot pick up your fish, you must make arrangements to have them picked up. We have no way to hold your fish.

SEND PAYMENT AND ORDER FORM TO:

Albany County SWCD
PO Box 497
Voorheesville, NY 12186

NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT

There will be a \$30 charge for any returned checks.

BASS:

- Maximum pond temperature during July and August is 75-85 °F
- Pond depth should be 6-8 feet
- Stocking ratio : 75-100 per acre with forage fish at a rate of 750-1000 per acre

RAINBOW TROUT:

- Maximum pond temperature during July and August is 65-70 °F
- Pond depth should be at least 8-10 feet
- Stocking ratio : approximately 600 fish for
- **Trout should not be stocked with bass**

MINNOW:

- In newly built ponds it is best to stock with minnow prior to stocking fish
- Recommended stocking ratio 750-1000 per acre

CATFISH:

- Warm or cold water
- Temperature must exceed 70°F for 2-3 weeks in order to reproduce
- Will cohabitate with most other fish

YELLOW PERCH:

- prefers shallow, weedy protected sections of ponds
- eats a variety of aquatic insects

Delivery : Orders will be available for pick-up at the District Office parking lot on Martin Road in Voorheesville, Friday Morning, October 1st. During the week of September 20th you will receive confirmation of your order and an exact pick up time. **If you do not receive confirmation before September 28th, please call the District ASAP**

Container Suggestion - Please bring a clean container with your own pond water, not tap or well water. Line each container with an unscented, heavy duty garbage bag and fill 3/4 full with water.

For increased survival, fish can be bagged and oxygenated for an additional fee of \$1.00 per bag (to be collected at pickup site)

Albany County Soil & Water
Conservation District
PO Box 497, 24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
(518) 765-SWCD
(765-7923)

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DELMAR, NY
PERMIT NO. 6

Return Service Requested

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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**Liam has a
baby sister!**

On May 18th, Joseph
and Jessica Slezak
became the proud
parents of a beautiful
baby girl!

**Fionnula Mae
9lbs. 7oz.**

CONGRATULATIONS!!!



"Plant It For The Planet" t-shirts
are now available at the District
office for \$10.00 a piece.
We have small, medium, large,
and extra large.

Interested in the 4 Hour Erosion & Sediment
Control Training?
Contact the office to be added to our list. We
will be offering this course again in October.

Help us to cut costs and reduce waste!

Would you like to receive our newsletter
by email? Please email us at
susan.lewis@ny.nacdnet.net or call
518-765-7923 and provide your name and the
mailing address at which you received
this newsletter.