



Niagara County
Soil And Water
Conservation District
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
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www.niagaraswcd.com



Tree
Order Form
Enclosed

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Niagara Nature News

An Environmental Publication by
Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District

Winter 2009

District Rehabilitates Royalton Ravine Pond



The pond at Royalton Ravine Park is over 30 years old and was in need of some maintenance. Uncontrolled vegetation around the pond made fishing access to the pond virtually impossible and the water column was completely choked with milfoil, providing only a few hundred square feet of open water in the 1.5 acre pond. The pond had an average depth of just over 3 feet deep due to the muck that had accumulated through the years. The aquatic vegetation and muck was dredged to recreate the deep water areas and to provide for more open water in the pond. With the recent rains, the pond is full again and the grass planted around the shoreline is growing. The project will be completed next year when the muck that was dredged from the pond is dewatered to the point where it can be spread and seeded. The District obtained funding through a conservation assistance grant to complete this project.

Calling All Schools!

The District's two FREE educational programs are in the planning stages. More detailed information will be sent to all Niagara County schools in early 2009.

The **2009 Regional Envirothon** for grades 9-12 is celebrating its 20th Anniversary and will be held May 7th. Four topics remain the same – aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife. The current issue subject this year is "Biodiversity in a Changing World". Reference materials can be found at www.nysenvirothon.org. Start studying now to get a jump on your competition as scholarships are at stake.

Environmental Field Days for grades 5-6 is set for June 2nd and 3rd at Royalton Ravine Park in Gasport. This fantastic outdoor learning experience offers over 30 different topics. Any school wanting to attend this award-winning event can call the office now to reserve a spot.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe."
- John Muir (1838-1914) Conservationist, Author, Explorer
Also known as the "Father of our National Parks Service"

Bird Profile

Species of
Concern –
Threatened



Northern Harrier (*circus cyaneus*)

Description:

Also known as the "Marsh Hawk", this 16-24" slender-bodied raptor has a long tail, white rump and long, yellow-orange legs and feet. Its 45" wingspan is held in a shallow "V" when in flight. The adult male has a gray head, breast and back, with black-tipped wings and yellow eyes. The female adult is dark brown with tawny-edged feathers. The tail is brown with dark bars. Females are born with brown eyes which turn yellow at about three years of age. Juveniles resemble adult females, but with more of a cinnamon coloring.

Habitat:

Harriers are found in marshes, agricultural fields, meadows, and open grasslands.

Nesting Activity:

During the breeding season, the males perform elaborate courtship flights consisting of a series of u-shaped maneuvers. Most males mate with one or two females at the same time – some pairing with up to five in one season. Their flimsy nests are made out of grass and sticks on a mound of vegetation in a marsh or shrubby meadow. The clutch averages 4-5 pale bluish white eggs, with or without light brown spots. When hatched, they are covered in white down, with eyes open. They fledge after 30 days, but stay close to the nest for another 3-4 weeks.

Diet:

Harriers hunt "on wing", flying low over the ground and taking prey by surprise. They may cover up to 100 miles a day. Unlike other hawks, they also rely on keen hearing as well as vision. Their disk-shaped faces, like those of owls, enable them to amplify sound. They prefer small mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs, but have been known to take larger prey, such as a rabbit or duck, by first subduing it with drowning.

Call:

They are usually silent, except at the nest where they utter a rapid *kee-kee-tee* or a sharp whistle.

Range:

Northern Harriers breed in North America from Alaska to the Canadian Maritimes and south to Virginia, Kansas, California, Mexico, and the southern U.S., except in the southeast states. Wintering occurs from southern Canada to South America and also in Eurasia.

Other Interesting Facts:

Declines in Northern Harrier populations have been observed in recent decades. They have been listed since 1971 on the National Audubon Society's Blue List, which cautions against impending losses and gives the public suggestions for assisting in the comeback of the species before it hits the threatened and endangered lists. The NYS DEC website states that declines are primarily due to loss of breeding habitat and/or the effects of pesticides; such as reforestation, loss of wetlands, changes in land use and industrial development. Protection of suitable habitat is the most vital need of Northern Harriers, which have already been added to the *endangered* list in the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Harriers are currently listed as *threatened* in NYS.

Ag Assessment Deadline February 27

For the District to complete your soil group worksheet for the Ag Assessments we will need some information that you can obtain from your Town Assessor. FIRST, speak with your Assessor to be sure you are eligible. We charge \$15 per parcel and do not want to charge you for something you do not need. Then bring the following information from your Assessor to our office:

- 1) Copy of your most current tax map showing your property boundaries and acreage total
- 2) Your SBL/tax number
- 3) Know if your parcel is in an ag district or if you are an individual commitment

Remember that your Town Assessor needs this by March 1st, so please bring in your paperwork at least one week in advance to be sure it can be completed by the deadline. Thank you for your help in making this process easier for everyone.

Celebrate Arbor Day by Planting Seedlings

Arbor Day is a national observance to honor trees and the important part they play in our lives. Julius Sterling Morton, a Nebraska newspaper editor, believed that planting trees would help provide shade, prevent soil erosion and beautify his state. He mentioned creating a "tree planting day" at an agricultural meeting in 1872, and in April of that year the first Arbor Day was held. Many states soon adopted the event and today it is observed around the world.

Trees perform a major environmental role by providing shade, shelter, food and fuel. They help with soil erosion, serve as windbreaks, protect and feed wildlife, are a source for paper products, and give us great landscapes to view. And what better activity is there in your youth than to climb high up into its mighty branches to see things from a different perspective? Trees serve both our needs and our pleasures.

In New York State, Arbor Day is always celebrated on the last Friday in April ... which just happens to be our tree seedling pickup date. So order some seedlings and then plan on sharing the day with your family, friends, school students, church members and local community groups planting a few trees to benefit future generations.

The Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District is a local government subdivision under New York State law. The District was established as a public benefit by the County of Niagara in 1954. Your support of our tree seedling program aids in the District's conservation efforts to protect natural resources and water quality for our residents. In these wavering economic times, we thank you for your continued assistance in fulfilling our goals.

Non-Discrimination Statement

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2009 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (2)	9-12"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Fir, Balsam (2)	9-12"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	12-18"	\$15.00	\$28.00	\$48.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$38.00		
Fir, Fraser (3)	9-12"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$52.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	8-14"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Pine, Red (2)	10-16"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Pine, Scotch (2)	10-18"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Pine, White (2)	10-16"	\$14.00	\$26.00	\$45.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$13.00	\$24.00	\$42.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$38.00		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$12.00	\$22.00	\$38.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5 yrs)	10-18"	\$16.00	These four items are transplants- order in tens only	
Pine, White (2+2=4 yrs)	8-14"	\$15.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+2=4 yrs)	14-20"	\$16.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+2=4 yrs)	10-16"	\$16.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Alder, Black (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Chestnut, Chinese (1)	10-16"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Crabapple, Sargent (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Filbert, American (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Locust, Black (1)	12-18"	\$7.00	\$15.00	\$27.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Mulberry, Red (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Oak, Sawtooth (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Oak, White (1)	6-12"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Poplar, Hybrid (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Sycamore (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Tuliptree (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		

SPECIAL SALE (limited supply) - see tree description sheet for important information!

Chestnut, American (1)	10"	5 seedlings for \$13.00		
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THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER!!

PICKUP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 24, 2009 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 25, 2009 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Merchant Building - Niagara County Fairgrounds - 4487 Lake Ave (Rt 78), Lockport

For Information Call #434-4949

Extra Trees: Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash basis on the above pickup dates.

DECIDUOUS SHRUBS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Butterfly Bush (1)	12-18" RC	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Cranberry, American (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Dogwood, White Flowering (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Elderberry (1)	12-18" RC	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Forsythia (2)	18-24"	\$10.00	\$21.00	\$39.00		
Lilac (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		
Nannyberry (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Olive, Autumn (1)	6-12"	\$7.00	\$15.00	\$27.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$8.00	\$17.00	\$31.00		
Serviceberry (1)	12-18"	\$9.00	\$19.00	\$35.00		

GROUNDCOVERS		Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Ivy, English	50 Rooted Cuttings/Bundle	\$19.44		
Myrtle	50 Rooted Cuttings/Bundle	\$22.68		
Pachysandra	50 Rooted Cuttings/Bundle	\$19.44		

OTHER ITEMS		Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Countryside Wildflower Seed - Large 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)		\$12.96		
- Small 3/4oz bag (covers 450 sq ft)		\$7.02		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)		\$86.40		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)		\$49.68		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)		\$42.12		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)		\$3.51		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)		\$10.80		
Bat Roost		\$14.58		
Bluebird House		\$14.58		
Wood Duck Box		\$28.08		

NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included

Total Order \$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Full payment must accompany your order - Payable to:
Niagara County SWCD, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For additional information call#434-4949.

Order# (Office Use Only)

Please Note: If you are placing an order after March 1, 2009 contact us first to check selection availability.
Last day to order seedlings is March 20, 2009

Clip & Save

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PICKUP INFORMATION ON OTHER SIDE

Mark Your Calendars Now - No Other Notice Will Be Sent!

Seedling orders are filled on a first come, first served basis. As we have no control over the weather or your choice of planting sites, times or techniques, the SWCD WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE for your trees and shrubs after they leave our distribution center. We cannot offer refunds or replacements. All trees and shrubs sold are to be used for effective conservation practices and will not be planted for ornamental purposes. Trees and shrubs sold will not be removed with roots attached for resale. This is in compliance with NYS Sale and Use Tax Regulations, 20 NYCRR, Section 529.2(c).

EVERGREENS

Cedar, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Pyramidal. Lacy, feathery, light green needles on flat branches. Grows to 60' in loamy, moist soils. Slow grower used for windbreaks, hedges, and wildlife food and cover. Also known as "American Arborvitae".

Fir, Balsam (*Abies balsamea*)

A favored Christmas tree due to its aromatic fragrance. Has soft, 1" flat, deep green needles. Medium growth rate to 75' in cool, moist locations. Also excellent for wildlife food and shelter.

Fir, Concolor (*Abies concolor*)

Also known as "White Fir". Has silver trunk and dense, silver-blue needles with bluish band. Likes rich, loamy soils. Grows to 100'. Easy to care for, makes great ornamental.

Fir, Douglas (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Very popular fir used as Christmas trees, lumber, windbreaks and ornamentals. Grows to 100' in well-drained soils. Holds small, soft, green needles for a long time and shears well. Good resistance to disease.

Fir, Fraser (*Abies fraseri*)

Premier Christmas tree. Grows to 40'. Needs well-drained soils. Intolerant of hot, dry places. Horizontal branches of shiny 1" green needles and gray bark. Slow grower. Great fragrance.

Pine, Austrian (*Pinus nigra*)

Fastest growing pine. Grows to 60' in heavy clay to light sand soils. Has long, dark green 5" needles in bundles of two. Pollution and salt tolerant. Makes a good Christmas tree and a hardy windbreak.

Pine, Red (*Pinus resinosa*)

Long, soft, dark green needles. Grows to 75'. Very tolerant to sandy, dry, exposed sites. Native tree valued for timber and windbreaks. Excellent for reforestation. Very hardy.

Pine, Scotch (*Pinus sylvestris*)

Grows to 60' in wide range of soils, except poorly drained. Short blue-green needles grow in pairs. Bark becomes orange-brown with age. Well shaped, hardy pine with good needle retention. Great Christmas tree.

Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*)

Shade tolerant native, grows well in variety of soils, except wet, clay. Fast growth to 100'. Long, soft, green needles in bundles of five. Graceful, plume-like crown. Good for timber and Christmas trees. Sensitive to salt and windburn.

Spruce, Blue (*Picea pungens*)

Most popular of all spruces. Stiff, 1" needles range from dark green to silver-blue, depending on soil conditions and age. Grows best on moist, rich soils and will not tolerate drier conditions. Prefers full sun. Slow starter, reaching 100' at maturity.

Spruce, Norway (*Picea abies*)

Fastest growing spruce. Has extremely attractive, strong, sweeping branches. Shiny 1" flat needles. Prefers well-drained, moist soils. Grows to 100'. Recommended for windbreaks and screens.

Spruce, White (*Picea gleuca*)

Very hardy native, does well on variety of soils. Endures heat, drought, and crowding conditions. Grows to 60'. Dense, stiff, light green 1" needles. Good for windbreaks, pulpwood, and Christmas trees.

DECIDUOUS TREES

Alder, Black (*Alnus glutinosa*)

With a total growth rate of up to 6' per year, this fast-growing cousin of the Birch family is a great shade or windbreak choice. It prefers moist to wet soils and full sun to reach its potential of 60' high and 20' wide. Its dark, glossy green leaves remain late into the fall. Cone-like fruits appear in late spring. This nitrogen-fixing tree is good for rural and urban areas, wet sites where it provides erosion control, and is adaptable to harsh environmental conditions.

Birch, Native (*Betula papyrifera*)

Does well in cool, moist locations. Can reach 80'. Oval leaves turn bright yellow in fall. Also known as "Paper Birch" because its snow white bark peels off in paper-thin layers and "Canoe Birch" since it was used by Native Americans to make canoes.

Cherry, Black (*Prunus serotina*)

Fast growth to 60' in various soil types. White flower clusters in May produce edible black fruits. Green leaves turn yellow-red in fall. Native tree used for furniture, firewood, jam, wine, wildlife food source.

Chestnut, Chinese (*Castanea mollissima*)

Shrub-like tree grows to 50'. Prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Dense serrated leaves turn bronze in fall. Produces tasty nuts. This blight resistant form used to replace American Chestnut in some areas.

Filbert, American (*Corylus americana*)

Also known as "Hazelnut" this large, multi-stemmed native prefers rich, well-drained soils and is pH adaptable. Growing to 8-15' tall, it is shade tolerant. Its long slender 8" catkins produce an acorn-like nut in late September that is enjoyed by humans, small mammals, deer, ruffed grouse and other large birds.

Locust, Black (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

Hardy, fast growing upright tree to 60'. Prefers full sun. Likes various soil types, has nitrogen-fixing ability. Fragrant, white, pea-like flowers in June. Used for fence posts, firewood, erosion control.

Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)

Known for its bright red flowers in early spring. Green foliage turns a brilliant red-orange in fall. Grows fast to 100'. Tolerates wet, swampy to rocky soils. Widely used for wetland plantings. Great for wildlife habitat.

Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)

State Tree of NY. Outstanding native grows to heights of 100'. Does best on well-drained soils. Dark green leaves turn brilliant yellow to fiery orange-red in fall. Used for maple syrup, lumber, firewood, wildlife habitat, or as an ornamental.

Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)

Does well on sandy to rich, loamy soils. Grows fast to 90'. Lustrous green leaves turn reddish-brown in fall. Small red flowers in Spring. Produces 1" acorns. Tolerates city conditions. Excellent for lumber and wildlife.

Oak, Sawtooth (*Quercus acutissima*)

Dense, wide spreading tree grows to 40' in well-drained, acidic soil. Drought tolerant. Small acorns are favorite food of wild turkey, which gives it a nickname of "Gobbler Oak". Leaves are similar to Chestnut leaves, 4-8 inches long with pointed teeth.

Oak, White (*Quercus alba*)

A popular shade tree that grows to 60-80' tall and about the same in width. Its branching is irregular and has attractive flaky, light gray bark. Rounded, grayish-green 4-8" long leaves become purple-red in the fall. Prefers full sun and acidic soil. Its small 1" acorns are popular with wildlife.

Poplar, Hybrid (*P. deltoides x nigra*)

Extremely hardy. Grows rapidly to 80' on various soils, even poor conditions. Wide crown of silvery green leaves. Used frequently in wetlands and environmental improvement areas.

Red Mulberry (*morus rubra*)

Medium-sized native tree that reaches 60-70' tall. Tiny green flower clusters in early spring change to cylindrical red-purple fruits. Sweet, juicy, and ready to eat in summer by both wildlife and humans. Dark green leaves turn yellow in fall. Prefers full sun and moist soils. Wood used for fenceposts, agricultural implements, furniture and interior finish.

Sargent Crabapple (*Malus sargentii*)

A dwarf broad-growing tree that grows to a height of 6-10" and almost twice as wide. Pink buds open to sweetly fragrant white flowers, followed by small bright red fruit which are enjoyed by birds. Needs full sun and is quite adaptable to various soils. Autumn foliage is orange/yellow.

Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)

This native tree is fast growing to 75+ feet and has a massive trunk with coarse, mottled bark. It prefers moist soils and full sun. Deep red flowers in late March are followed by tan fuzzy-looking rounded fruit and yellow-brown autumn foliage. Good urban tree. Can be used on difficult sites.

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

A native shade tree that grows to 70-90'. Its massive trunk boasts attractive gray bark with fine light gray furrows. Has unique tulip-shaped 5-8" long leaves that turn a showy golden yellow in fall. Blooms beautiful flowers May thru June that also resemble yellow-green tulips with a reddish orange center. Likes full sun but is intolerant of dry sites. Prefers moist, slightly acidic soils.

Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)

Grows well in deep, moist soils to 100'- fast at first, then slows down. Broad, oval crown. Compound leaves of 15-25 dark green leaflets. Large flavorful nuts. Valuable timber used for furniture and cabinets.

Help Bring Back the American Chestnut!

(Listed under "Deciduous Trees" on the order form)

The American Chestnuts were one of the most plentiful, versatile and valuable forest trees in the eastern United States. A rapidly growing hardwood tree, it was an important component of forestland that covered millions of acres. The American Chestnut was a tall, straight tree growing to 100'. Its beautiful wood was widely used for railroad ties, fence posts, construction lumber and furniture. It was also very important for wildlife, providing a prolific amount of nuts for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and black bears.

In 1904, an Asian bark fungus was noticed on Chestnut trees in the Bronx Zoo, and by 1950 it is estimated that over 3.5 billion trees were killed, virtually eliminating most natural stands. Virgin stands can still be found in Oregon, Michigan, Tennessee, and most recently in Georgia. There is something about these areas that has allowed American Chestnuts to endure the blight, possibly due to dry conditions along rocky ridges. The fungus that causes the blight thrives in a moist environment. Several organizations are attempting to re-establish American Chestnuts in different parts of the eastern US. They are developing disease-resistant trees using seeds from the few groves still in existence.

American Chestnuts do best on porous soils of moderate depth and fertility, such as rocky hillsides and gravelly or sandy soils. Plant all seedlings less than 100 yards from each other where their roots will not be disturbed. Rapid growers, they produce nuts within 7-10 years.

****DECIDUOUS SHRUBS******Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)**

Multistemmed with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. Needs heavy pruning each spring to keep under control. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies.

Cranberry, American (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Fast growing native prefers well-drained to moist soils. Grows 8-12'. White flower clusters in May. Edible red fruits mid-summer through winter. Yellow to red fall color.

Dogwood, White Flowering (*Cornus florida*)

One of the best native northeastern, ornamental shrubs. Grows well in rich, moist soils to 40'. White flower clusters produce bright red berries in fall. Green leaves turn scarlet.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Grows in any type soil. Vigorous grower to 12'. Multistemmed with clusters of purple-black fruits in late summer, used for jams and wine. A good wetland plant. Great food source for wildlife.

Forsythia (*Forsythia x intermedia*)

A great plant for fast screen. Upright growth to 7' in ordinary to poor soils. Early spring bloomer with deep golden flowers. Place in full sun for maximum flowering. Tolerant to city conditions.

Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Easy to grow, old-fashioned favorite. Masses of fragrant white to lavender flowers and bright green leaves in Spring. Will grow in well-drained soils to 15'. Makes beautiful natural screen, spreading 6-10'.

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)

Excellent native wildlife shrub reaching 12-15'. Tolerates both sun and shade, and is adaptable to various soil conditions. Bears small, creamy-white flowers in mid-May. Appealing fruits will attract birds and wildlife. Has a purplish-red fall color. Can be trimmed as small tree or used for hedges.

Olive, Autumn (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Fast growing, hardy shrub that grows in variety of soils. Narrow, silver-green leaves with yellow flowers. Red berries in fall. Good as screens and for wildlife food. Will get up to 12' and spread 4-6'.

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

Also known as "Althea". Grows in various soils to 12'. Small green leaves with rose-type flowers July to September. Ph adaptable. Upright growth allows for hedging along buildings or as stand-alone ornamental.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

A native to North America, this 6-20' suckering multi-stemmed shrub thrives on moist, well-drained acidic soil and tolerates a wide pH range. White flowers in April produce dark purplish fruits in June. That is how it got its other recognized name of "Juneberry". This shrub is enjoyed by many types of birds. Prune regularly for best fruit production.

****GROUNDCOVERS / SEEDS******Ivy, English (*Hedera helix*)**

Familiar vine with broad, flat green leaves with whitish veins. Grows fast in various soils and heavy shade. Tolerates city conditions. Use as a 90' climber or 6-8" groundcover.

Myrtle (*Vinca minor*)

Also known as "Periwinkle". Has shiny green leaves and lilac-blue flowers in spring. This 3-6" high, ground hugging plant grows well in areas where grass won't. Likes well-drained soil. Does best in full to partial shade.

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

A carpeting plant that has an interesting leaf pattern and inconspicuous white spike flowers. Grows 6-12" high in well-drained soil. Excellent for heavy shade.

****OTHER ITEMS******Countryside Wildflowers**

A 100% pure seed mix of balanced blends of annual and perennial native wildflowers. Good for renovating old pastures, commercial sites and unused portions of lawn. Can be planted on moderate slopes to stabilize soil. Will grow in all soil types, even poor. The better the site, the better the outcome.

Deer Plot Mix

Mix of annuals and perennials that will attract and maintain deer. Includes several ryes, clovers, wheat, alfalfa, timothy, proso millet, birdsfoot trefoil, sainfoin, lathco flatpea, cicer milkvetch, and much more. Also good for birds and rabbits. Annuals provide growth the first year and act as nurse crop for perennials. Plant generously in open fields, along trails, or the edge of woods.

Tall Mix

Contains 20 short and tall varieties of annuals, including sorghums, millets, beans, and sunflowers. Grows 4 to 8 feet tall. Excellent for planting along fence lines, edges of woods, and strips in fields. Attracts pheasant, dove, quail, and turkey.

Fertilizer Tablets

A slow-release pellet 20-10-5 (nitrogen-phosphorous-potash) made specifically for 1-2 year old seedlings. Safe, easy to handle, convenient. Planting instructions included.

2008 Annual Report of Accomplishments

Trees Sold by District	60,100 seedlings to 689 customer
Ag Value Assessments	143 for a total of 8570.64ac
Ponds Stocked	3,242 fish to 53 customers
Pond Site Evaluations	11
Grant/Permit Assistance	1
Technical Preliminary Evaluations	19
Resource Map Requests	102
Educational Programs:	
Environmental Field Days	- 930 fifth & sixth grade students
Regional Envirothon	- 11 teams from Niagara Co
Public Presentations	- 1 (U.B. Grad Student workshop)
Newsletter mailed twice a year	to over 4,550 homes/businesses
Tile Drainage Surveyed	97,338 ft
Open Ditches Surveyed	15,075 ft
Landowner Drainage Assistance	3
Stream Sites reviewed	3
AEMs completed	Tier I 9
	Tier II 5
	Tier IIIA 7
	Tier IV 6
	Tier VA 1
No-Till Drill Plantings	130 ac
Grazing Mgmt Assistance	5 farms
Silage Leachate Systems	4 installed
Nutrient Mgmt Plans	2
Ag Waste Storage Facilities	2
Barnyard Runoff Mgmt Systems	3
Pesticide Handling Facilities	1
WHIP Assistance	5
WRP Assistance	3
Wetland Restorations	50 ac
EQIP Assistance	16
EQIP - New Applications	22



Program Partnerships

Niagara County Public Works, Sheriff's Work Program,
 Cities of Niagara Falls, Lockport, North Tonawanda
 Towns of Hartland, Somerset, Newfane, Wilson, Porter, Royalton
 US EPA, US Army Corps, US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA,
 NYSDEC, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
 Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York Power Authority,
 Aquarium of Niagara, NC Federation of Conservation Clubs,
 Tuscarora Environment Program, Ecology and Environment Inc

Highlights

- * Received total of \$465,398 in grant monies for the betterment of Niagara County
- * Continued work on 18mi Creek Burt Dam area
- * Joint project with Federation of Conservation Clubs: Don Bronson Memorial
- * Participated in 2008 Clean Sweep
- * Participated in 2008 Newfane Environmental Days
- * Participated in 2008 Wildlife Festival at Power Vista
- * Assisted with 4H Youth Pheasant Program
- * Assisted with Safari Club Pheasant Program
- * Worked with Cooperative Extension on engineering, drainage and hydroseeding for new beef barn construction on Fairgrounds
- * Donated grant funding and engineering for Royalton Ravine Park pond rehabilitation

*Press Release from the Council
of Great Lakes Governors
October 3, 2008*

**President Bush Signs Great
Lakes Compact**

The Great Lakes Governors applauded President George W. Bush for signing a joint resolution of Congress providing consent to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. The President's action marks the final step in the Compact's approval process thus enabling these historic protections to become law.

In December 2005, following a nearly five-year negotiation, the Governors of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin reached agreement on the Compact. The Compact provides a comprehensive management framework for achieving sustainable water use and resource protection. The eight Great Lake States reached a similar good faith agreement with Ontario and Quebec in 2005, which the Provinces are using to amend their existing water programs for greater regional consistency.

During 2007 and 2008, each of the eight Great Lakes State legislatures ratified the Compact. (Both the Assembly and the Senate in New York voted in favor of it in February. Governor Paterson signed it on March 4, 2008.) National legislative approval was completed by the U.S. Senate on August 1, 2008 and by the U.S. House of Representatives on September 23, 2008.

Governor David Paterson said, "I thank President Bush for carrying out the will of Congress and signing this important piece of legislation. The Compact will ensure that harmful water diversions are controlled and the Great Lakes ecosystem is protected for future generations."

The Compact includes the following points:

* Economic development will be fostered through sustainable use and responsible management of Basin waters.

* In general, there will be a ban on new diversions of water from the Basin but limited exceptions could be allowed in communities near the Basin when rigorous standards are met.

* Communities that apply for an exemption will have a clear, predictable decision-making process; standards to be met and opportunities to appeal decisions. These processes and standards do not exist under current law.

* The States will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Basin water. The States will have flexibility regarding their water management programs and how to apply this standard.

* Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed, and they will be reviewed every five years. Each State will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program that may be voluntary or mandatory.

* There is a strong commitment to continued public involvement in the implementation of the Compact.

A broad, bi-partisan consensus has been built in support of the Compact. The Compact was developed in collaboration with regional partners who have also played a key role in its implementation. Members of Congress, state and local government officials and stakeholders have all been instrumental.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure – important to our nation and the world as both an environmental and economic asset. Our national economy depends on the Great Lakes for industrial uses, hydropower, maritime commerce, agricultural irrigation and many other uses. The Great Lakes are also a globally unique and important environmental resource. The Compact will ensure that the lakes are used sustainably in order to continue to provide benefits to us all.

Additional information is available at www.cglg.org.

**Support the Bigger
Better Bottle Bill**

NY's Returnable Container Act, known as the "Bottle Bill", requires a 5-cent refundable deposit on beer and soda containers sold in New York. Since it was enacted in 1982, the bottle bill has been our state's most successful recycling and litter prevention program.

Over the past 25 years more than 90 billion bottles and cans have been returned and recycled. More than six million tons of plastic, glass and metal

have been kept out of our landfills and incinerators. There is less litter and broken glass in our streets, parks, playgrounds and beaches, making them safer, cleaner and more attractive.

The New York Public Interest Research Group, along with more than 600 other groups, businesses and local governments, support the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill" campaign which would:

#1 Make our communities cleaner and increase recycling by updating the bottle bill to include deposits on non-carbonated beverages such as water, teas, and sports drinks. Nearly 3 billion non-carbonated containers end up in the trash or as litter because they don't have a deposit.

#2 Generate new funding for local environmental needs by requiring beverage distributors to transfer any unclaimed deposits to the State Environmental Protection Fund. Currently, beverage companies are keeping an estimated \$140 million a year in unclaimed deposits from bottles and cans not returned. New York is out of step with many other states, which require companies to return unclaimed bottle deposits to benefit the public.

Both the Governor and the NYS Assembly proposed including the Bigger Better Bottle Bill in the state budget. But for the second year in a row it has been blocked by the Senate.

(Reprinted from www.nypirg.com)

Conclusion...

NY Association of Conservation Districts is also in favor of this legislation. With the public being increasingly health conscience, less soda and more water and sports drinks are being consumed. It just seems to make sense to add them to the process of recycling. After 25 years, you can see recycling deposits have made a difference. Most of us should be used to the process, so it's nothing new, just an addition to what will be eligible for return. And in regards to the unclaimed deposit monies, it should have been benefiting the public from day one to begin with. You can help by contacting your Assembly and Senate representatives to let them know you are in favor of this environmentally-sound legislation and urge them to pass it the next time it comes before them!

Paper or Plastic?

By Darcy Tone

So...ok, I admit that my formidable growing up years spent in the 1960s has always made me feel like I should be a bit more "earthy" when it comes to health and environmental concerns. Or that I should do and use things in a more "natural" way. And I also freely admit that during my half-century of life I have come to love convenience as much as the next person. But enough is enough! When I am at the grocery store next week and the cashier asks "paper or plastic?" I'm going to say "neither, thanks" and hand the cashier my reusable bags.

What brought me to this point in my life, you ask? Well, after researching some information for this article and finding out what I found out, I realized I must get back to my '60s roots and help save the planet! I figure this is an easy, doable way that I can contribute.

Consider these facts:

Plastic bags never fully decompose, leaving them in the landfill for up to 1000 years or ending up in our waterways. Thousands of sea turtles, whales, and other marine mammals die each year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food. Birds and other small animals get tangled in them, leaving them stranded and vulnerable to prey.

Plastic bags don't biodegrade, they photodegrade - breaking down into small toxic bits, contaminating the soil and waterways and entering into the food web as "plastic dust". The dust and other biotoxins, such as PCBs that the plastic dust accumulates, are passed up the food chain from fish to humans! So whether land or sea, plastic bags are harmful to our environment and can cause death.

Plastic is made from a non-renewable resource: petroleum. Manufacturing it contributes to diminishing resources and damage to the environment from the petroleum extraction process.

Paper, on the other hand, uses a renewable natural resource: trees. Trees can continuously be replanted, but do take years to grow. Turning trees into paper is a much longer process that utilizes water, electricity, chemicals, and fossil fuels.

The manufacturing and use of paper bags generates 70% more air emissions (CO₂) than plastic bags. Also, paper bags contain ink products which contaminate both soil and water.

Unlike plastic, paper bags can biodegrade in just a few months, but they need light and air to break down, conditions which most landfills don't provide. Therefore, paper bags can produce 80% more solid waste than plastic bags.

Here's the dilemma:

Manufacturing and recycling of either paper or plastic consumes large amounts of our natural resources, with the majority of it ending up in landfills anyway. And they can actually cost more to recycle than to produce in the first place. So there is no difference between paper or plastic bags...both affect our environment, health and finances. The Sierra Club reported that if every NY resident reduced their consumption of plastic bags by just 1 per year it would reduce waste by five million lbs. and save \$250,000 in disposal costs.

Ways to deal with this:

Things are happening worldwide because of this plastic overload. Other countries are coming to terms with this problem in various ways. Ireland developed the *PlasTax* in 2002, charging a fee of 15 to 20 euro-cents for each bag, dropping their bag usage by 90%. Others have followed their example such as Australia, New Zealand, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, Kenya, South Africa, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Scotland and the United Kingdom. In Bangladesh, plastic bag bans revived the need for jute bags, creating jobs and providing communities with a means of sustainable living. In Africa, windblown plastic bags are so prevalent that small scale, home-based businesses have sprung up where the bags are collected and weaved into hats and larger bags. Many countries have banned the bags totally, so if you go shopping you'd better bring your own bag or risk being extremely inconvenienced at getting your purchases home.

In 2006, San Francisco did a study on plastic bags that showed stores issued more than 50 million per year. It is considering a 17-cent surcharge on both paper and plastic bags at major stores to encourage shoppers to bring their own cloth bags. San Francisco hopes its

legislation will be used as a model for other U.S. cities.

Unless recycled, the life of the bag is only as long as it takes you to get home and unload. But in the landfill it will sit for centuries, which just doesn't seem cost effective for the environment. It's truly embarrassing that the U.S. is so far behind other countries around the world!

How you can help:

NYSDEC's "Precycling" idea is the best way to start - PREvent waste before you have the need to reCYCLE - stop waste before it happens. Squeeze the life out of every bag you already have by creatively using it for many things until it literally falls apart! Buy items in bulk when possible to forgo the extra packaging and use washable containers instead of plastic wrap and storage bags. Next, begin using reusable bags. There are many to choose from...find one that is the right size and design for your lifestyle. If the number of plastic and paper bags used goes down, then too will the production of them go down, saving our environment by using less natural resources and putting less toxic wastes into the air, water and soil. Be pro-active: If you don't find recycle bins or inexpensive reusable bags at your store, ask the manager about it. Also call or write your local politicians about increasing recycling in your area. Every little bit helps.

A famous quote from Margaret Mead says "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." So if all of us decide to make just one small, conscientious change in our daily life, how hard would it be? Once we break away from our learned habits (which studies say takes only about 21 days to do) it shouldn't be so inconvenient to just carry around a reusable bag (or as I prefer to call it *my shopping tote*). Really now, how hard would it be to keep up with the rest of the world? By working together, each of our individual changes would add up to one big major change for the environment. I'm up for the challenge of doing my little part to save the planet, how about you?

Sources:

US EPA, NYS DEC, Sierra Club, American Chemical Council, The Clean Green Bag Co, Greenfeet.com, Earth911.com, Reusablebags.com

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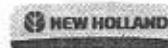
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