

COMMITTEES

- Beaver Dam Creek Tributary Restoration Task Force
- Cornell University's L.I. Horticultural Research & Extension Center—Advisory Council
- Earth Team Coordinator
- L.I. Agricultural Stewardship Working Group
- L.I. Ag Forum Planning Committee
- L.I. Regional Envirothon
- Long Island Weed Management Area Working Group
- Lower Hudson-L.I. Resource Conservation & Development Council
- 2007 Canon Envirothon Committee
- NYACD
- NYS Conservation District Employees Association
- NYS Envirothon
- L.I. Native Grass Initiative
- Peconic Estuary Technical Advisory Committee
- Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services Peconic River Project
- Suffolk County Land & Water Invasive Species Task Force
- Suffolk County Vector Control Long Range Planning Committee
- Suffolk County Water Quality Protection & Restoration—Review Committee
- South Shore Estuary Reserve



Amanda Barber - NYSCDEA; George Proios, Chairman & Tom McMahon, District Manager - Suffolk Co. SWCD.

The NYS Conservation District Employee's Association support Districts throughout the State. Each year during their annual Water Quality Symposium they present awards in seven categories. In 2006, George Proios, District Board Chairman was honored with the prestigious "District Director Award", which recognizes a Director who has shown leadership, supervision and total dedication to the District through support of its image, activities and personnel.

AWARDS, AWARDS, AWARDS

Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service proudly accepted three "Friends of Long Island Agriculture" awards presented by the Long Island Farm Bureau at the 2006 annual award ceremony. On Saturday, March 4, 2006 at Polish Hall in



Joe Gergela, Executive Director - L.I. Farm Bureau; Tom McMahon, District Manager - Suffolk Co. SWCD; Allan Connell Dist. Con. - USDA NRCS; George Proios, Chairman - Suffolk Co. SWCD & Bob Nolan, President - L.I. Farm Bureau.

Riverhead 200 members of the agricultural community honored George Proios, District Board Chairman; Thomas J. McMahon, District Manager and Allan Connell, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS with "Friends of Long Island Agriculture" awards for their outstanding support of farmers throughout Suffolk County. "Often we overlook the dedication of government employees who work diligently behind the scenes. George, Tom and Allan have consistently supported the agricultural community in Suffolk County for years with little recognition. We felt their time was long overdue," said Joe Gergela, Executive Director, Long Island Farm Bureau. The District and NRCS sponsor federal cost share programs and assist farmers in implementing Best Management Practices on their land. They are responsible for bringing millions of dollars in federal and state funding to Suffolk County.

EELGRASS

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA NRCS successfully secured \$41,800 from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) for a unique project working with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Marine Program to re-establish eelgrass within the Peconic Bay National Estuary.

Eelgrass is critically important to the near shore ecosystem in Long Island's bays and estuaries. Several species of bait fish as well as flounder, fluke and striped bass use eelgrass meadows during various stages of their life cycle. In addition, the presence of eelgrass helps to support the regionally significant bay scallop industry and can favor the growth and survival of hard clams.



Eelgrass is planted directly into the bay floor.

Eelgrass once occurred in abundance on shorelines around the Peconic Estuary, but today it only exists at a few sites. Recent improvements in water quality in the Peconic Estuary resulting from non-point source pollution prevention and other best management practices have created additional areas where the grass can survive. However, natural re-vegetation is very slow, taking several decades under the most favorable conditions. This project involves a pro-active planting of eelgrass to accelerate the natural re-vegetation process.

Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District • 423 Griffing Ave • Riverhead, NY 11901 • 631-727-2315

Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

THE DISTRICT QUACKS OVER \$199,000 GRANT

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District has successfully secured a \$199,000 state grant for the Jurgielewicz Duck Farm located in the Town of Brookhaven. The financial support will be used to upgrade the existing waste treatment system on the farm.



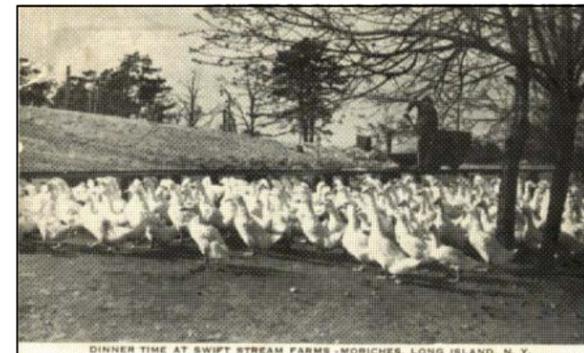
Jurgielewicz produces approximately 100,000 ducks annually.

The Jurgielewicz Duck Farm, like most animal farms, is classified as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO). A CAFO is a facility where 1,000 or more animal units are confined for 45 days or longer per year and vegetation is not sustained on the facility. The regulations affecting CAFOs evolved from the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The goal of the 1972 CWA was to restore surface waters for swimming and fishing in the USA. Among its main provisions, it prohibits the discharge of pollutants from point sources to surface waters in the United States except as authorized by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation.

"The funding will be used to purchase a clarifier, which will be added to the farm's existing Waste Treatment System. The clarifier will separate solids from the wastewater greatly improving the effluent. The project's estimated cost is approximately \$300,000," said Thomas McMahon, District Manager of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The application was submitted in April 2006 under Round XIII of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Control and Abatement Program (ANSCAP). The ANSCAP is a competitive grant program that is administered by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. It awards cost-share funding to county Soil and Water Conservation Districts to address water quality challenges facing farms around the state. No other agencies are eligible to apply for funding through this program. Funding for ANSCAP is provided through the state's Environmental Protection Fund. The Committee received 66 eligible applications and 43 projects were awarded funding.

"Improving water quality is a county-wide commitment and I applaud the District's efforts in obtaining the funding for this project which will provide the assistance to the farmer to implement the necessary controls to further protect our water resources," said Joe Gergela, Executive Director, Long Island Farm Bureau.



In the 1950s there were 60+ duck farms located on Long Island; today only 3 are in operation.

Board of Directors

George Proios
Chairperson
Member at Large

Daniel P. Losquadro
Director
S.C. Legislator

Lloyd Corwin
Director
Farmer

Joe Gergela
Director
L.I. Farm Bureau



SWCD Welcomes S.C. Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

District Staff

Thomas McMahon
District Manager

Elizabeth Condon
Sr. Account Clerk Typist

Paul TeNyenhuis
Sr. Soil District Technician

Sharon Frost
Soil District Technician

Nicole Spinelli
Soil District Technician

Polly Weigand
Soil District Technician

USDA-NRCS
Allan Connell
District Conservationist

Brian Zimmerman
Soil Conservation Technician



L.I. NATIVE GRASS INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Long Island Native Grass Initiative (LINGI) has made great strides in 2006 towards

fulfilling their mission to create a local warm season grass source for grassland restoration and landscaping activities. The LINGI working group is composed of numerous governmental, non-profit, and nursery professionals, as well as scientists, and the public. It is headed up by Polly Weigand, a Suffolk County Soil District Technician.

Pooling resources and knowledge bases enabled LINGI to increase membership, host a grass identification and seed collection workshop for group members and volunteer collectors, select the target species for collection, determine collection sites, and apply genetically-sensitive collection techniques. The resulting efforts were reflected in a second year of seed collection from at least 5 sites in the Towns of Southampton and East Hampton. In addition, the collection sites expanded into Sayville and Hempstead Plains Grasslands.

The next step towards increasing seed quantities is germinating the harvested seed and establishing the seedlings on founder plots. This is slated to occur in 2007, however; due to the time involved in scientifically harvesting and reproducing the seed, a measurable seed source for market opportunities is at least 5 years off. But, with subsequent seed collections and an expected increase in the demand for native genotyped seed, we have no doubt this program will continue to.. Go to seed!



LONG ISLAND ENVIROTHON AWARDED \$8,800 FROM THE EPA

The 9th Long Island Regional Envirothon is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation & Museums' Old Bethpage Village Restoration site. In this outdoor competition, high schools participate by registering one or two 5-member teams that answer written and hands-on questions in five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current issue, which this year is "Alternative/Renewable Energy." Top scoring teams receive college scholarship money, placement awards, school prizes and also move on to compete in the New York State Envirothon, to be held May 2007.

The Long Island Regional Envirothon is pleased to accept an \$8,800 environmental education grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "During the highly competitive grant process the EPA recognized the terrific benefit the Envirothon program is to the students in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Their support is greatly appreciated," said Sharon Frost, Suffolk County Soil District Technician. The funds will be used to promote Environmental Sciences career development. Other sponsors include: Canon, New York Power Authority, KeySpan Foundation, Suffolk County Water Authority and Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation & Museums.

The Envirothon is the largest environmental education competition on Long Island. It provides support for science teachers as the learning objectives, study guides and reference materials of the competition have been written to correlate with the New York State Department of Education's Learning Standards. All Nassau and Suffolk high schools are eligible to participate in this competition.

The Sachem H.S. North team was the Suffolk County winner of the 2006 L.I. Regional Envirothon and went on to compete in the NYS Envirothon. They placed third in Oral Presentation and sixth in New York State against 53 county teams at the state level.

The fierce competition began Wednesday, May 24th with the Oral Presentation portion of the event. Sachem showed-up seasoned teams by scoring a high 93.3. The next day during the station testing, they were the team many spectators were watching. Sachem's final score, 445.3, only a mere 50 points behind the winners from Tioga County who had their 5th state win. Brookhaven Supervisor Brian X. Foley presented each team member and their advisor with proclamations for their achievement.



Advisor Aimee Blumberg; team members: Katie Kanakos, Nilus Klingel, Alyssa Kenny, Kelly McGlinchey and Priscilla Samartano; Thomas McMahon and Brookhaven Supervisor Foley.

DISTRICT DISTRIBUTES \$400,000 TO FARMERS FOR CONSERVATION



Completed Agrichemical Mixing Pad will be installed on 15 farms in Suffolk County.

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) joined forces last year resulting in an Environmental Benefit Project that will help protect Long Island's groundwater. The program assists farmers in funding the construction of Agrichemical Mixing Facilities.

An Agrichemical Mixing Facility is a structure designed to provide an area for mixing on-farm chemicals such as pesticides and herbicides. It protects the environment by containing these chemicals during the loading of field sprayers.

Where does the funding come from? The NYS DEC imposes fines on entities throughout the State for violations. When the funds are collected they are deposited into the Environmental Benefit Project account. The NYS DEC then authorizes the Regional Office to reinvest the funds locally.

This year the NYS DEC committed \$400,000 from the Environmental Benefit Project fund to off-set the cost of constructing Agrichemical Mixing Facilities on farms in Suffolk County. Each facility costs approximately \$30,000 to construct. The funding provided by the NYS DEC will reimburse farmers 75% of the total cost. Fifteen farmers have registered for the program; four projects have been completed and eleven more have designs underway.

"This is an awesome program for the agricultural community in Suffolk County and I have encouraged all interested farmers to contact the Soil and Water Conservation District to take advantage of this financial opportunity," said Joe Gergela, Executive Director, Long Island Farm Bureau.

District services provided...

Agriculture

- Engineering Practices
- Irrigation Design
- Ag. Value Assessment
- Agronomic Practices
- Erosion Control
- Conservation Planning
- Pest Management Techniques
- Cost-share Programs
- Transition to Organic Farming Assistance
- Technical Assistance



Learning about the latest technologies is a high priority for District & NRCS staff.

- Practice & Installation Supervision
- Drainage Systems
- Agricultural Waste Systems

Landowners

- Bluff Erosion Recommendations
- Conservation Information
- Educational Materials
- Wildlife Watering Facilities
- Pond Assistance
- Soil Erosion & Drainage
- Soils Information
- Wetland Restoration Program
- Wildlife Management

Education

- Conservation Materials
- Programs Guides

Municipalities

- Nonpoint Source Pollution Remediation
- Site Plan & Subdivision Reviews
- Grant Partnerships
- Watershed Management

Environmental Consultants

- Natural Resource Maps
- Aerial Photos



District staff designed this grassed waterway to address the erosion on a local farm.