

COMMITTEES

- Beaver Dam Creek Tributary Restoration Task Force
- Canaan Lake Watershed Advisory Committee
- Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center - Advisory Council
- Great Cove Watershed Advisory Committee
- Forge River Task Force
- Long Island Agricultural Stewardship Working Group
- Long Island Agricultural Forum Planning Committee
- Long Island Green Infrastructure Conference Committee
- Long Island Invasive Species Management Area
- Long Island Native Plant Initiative
- Long Island Regional Envirothon
- Lower Hudson-Long Island Resource, Conservation & Development Council Inc.
- New York Association of Conservation Districts
- NYS Conservation District Employees Association
- NYS Invasive Species Advisory Committee
- Peconic Estuary Technical Advisory Committee
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services Peconic River Project
- Suffolk County Land & Water Invasive Species Advisory Board
- Suffolk County GIS Users Group
- Suffolk County Vector Control Long Range Planning Committee
- Swan River Advisory Committee
- South Shore Estuary Reserve
- Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Committee—Advisor
- Suffolk County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

2013 INTERN



Intern Deanna Robertazzi spent two months with us during the summer. As an Engineering and Applied Science major at SUNY Stony Brook her background was very useful. She helped to advance the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the District with map development and field work. For her short stay with us she gave a renewed sense of energy and ideas. Thank you Deanna!



Liz Camps, USDA
NRCS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

On March 23, 2013, Liz Camps was appointed NRCS District Conservationist. She holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. Her District covers Manhattan, Staten Island, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk. She began her career working for the USDA Forest Service - Research Division. For the past 9 years Liz has been with NRCS concentrating her efforts in assisting the agricultural community with putting conservation on the ground.

We congratulate Liz in her new position and look forward to working with her for years to come.

STORMWATER WORKSHOP GI DESIGN FOR REDEVELOPMENT & RETROFIT PROJECTS

By Ann Marie Calabro



John Dunkle, workshop speaker.

On September 18, 2013 the District hosted a successful and informative educational program for planning and zoning board members, municipal engineers, building and public works department employees, landscape architects, regional planners and developers which was presented by John Dunkle. John, who is well respected in his field, has been practicing civil engineering since 1981, specializing in site development, planning, and environmental protection, with emphasis on drainage and erosion control. Working with both private developers and municipalities, John has prepared and reviewed SWPPPs, provided guidance for MS4s, participated with NYS DEC in the development of the current stormwater regulations, and conducted stormwater trainings for contractors, developers, engineers, and municipal officials. This workshop addressed the unique challenges and opportunities for providing Green Infrastructure stormwater management on redevelopment and retrofitting projects. In our ever developing urban environment it is necessary to learn new ways to retrofit projects and manage stormwater runoff as it is an increasingly serious issue as development continues on Long Island. This workshop also provided instruction including permit requirements, and the available practices for stormwater management on previously developed sites, emphasizing specific design elements for water quality and quantity management and runoff reduction. Attendees earned 7 PE credits. We would like to thank John for making the trip from Syracuse and offering this opportunity to provide such an "out of the box" lesson in stormwater management.

LOOKING BACK ON 2013



Paul TeNyenhuis, District Manager.

The District accomplished many activities this year, but there are a couple which I believe are important to highlight. First, we welcomed Legislator Al Krupski to the District Board, who brings a wealth of agricultural, governmental, and environmental experience with him. Legislator Krupski (Al) is a fourth generation vegetable farmer. We are excited that Al will be serving on our Board of Directors and very much look forward to his leadership.

I also want to take the opportunity to highlight the cooperative partnership that Suffolk and Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation Districts continue to maintain. We have coordinated our 2nd Annual Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo at Brookhaven National Laboratory and are planning our third event already. We also partnered to install a rain garden at the Cold Spring Harbor Library and Environmental Center adjacent to the Cold Spring Harbor Estuary which shares a border between Nassau and Suffolk Counties. This project was funded through a Scott's Paper Towel Company nation-wide competition awarded to the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Both Districts also support the Long Island Regional Envirothon, an all green event which regularly hosts more teams than the New York State Envirothon. The success of these three educational events strengthens our programming, maintains the recognition of Districts, and helps us successfully advance conservation across the Long Island region.



SUFFOLK COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District

2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

Board of Directors

George Proios
Chairperson

Joe Gergela
Director
L.I. Farm Bureau

Phil Schmitt
Director
Farmer

Sarah Anker
Director
S.C. Legislator—District #6

Al Krupski
Director
S.C. Legislator - District #1



The District welcomes new
Board Member, Suffolk
County Legislator Al Krupski.

District Staff

Paul TeNyenhuis, CPESC
District Manager

Elizabeth Condon
Principal Account Clerk

Sharon Frost
Soil District Technician

Polly Weigand
Soil District Technician

Ann Marie Calabro
Soil District Technician

USDA-NRCS

Liz Camps
District Conservationist

Allan Connell
Conservation Specialist

SECOND ANNUAL L. I. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE & EXPO

By Elizabeth Condon



Town of Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine speaks at the
2013 L.I. Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo.

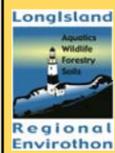
On June 12, 2013 the Suffolk and Nassau Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other Long Island environmental agencies organized its Annual Long Island Green Infrastructure Conference & Expo. Hosted for the second year at Brookhaven National Lab (BNL), the day-long conference focused on "How to Address Water and Energy Issues and Benefit by Going Green during Tough Economic Times."

The keynote speaker was Judith A. Enck, US EPA Region 2 Administrator. "Green infrastructure is a fiscally responsible answer to many water challenges, and helps build healthier communities. The investments that Long Island communities make today will be a catalyst for sustainable growth and environmental protection for years to come," said Regional Administrator Judith Enck.

The audience consisted of approximately 200 people including municipal officials, planners, consultants, property owners, developers and other interested individuals. This conference facilitated the successful use of green technologies to manage water quality and energy issues by offering a choice of individual sessions led by leaders in the field. Cost effective green infrastructure techniques that increase sustainability, promote economical use of renewable energy, increase stormwater infiltration and effective watershed management, and prevent adverse impacts to Long Island's valuable water resources, as well as regional success stories were presented. These showed how green infrastructure has been successfully implemented and how these methods can be funded in a tough economy. Model projects that were illustrated include for example; Onondaga County's "Save the Rain" program demonstrating gray infrastructure practices and an innovative green infrastructure plan design to reduce the effects of stormwater pollution on neighboring water bodies; and New York City's Neighboring Demonstration Area, a project consisting of bioswales, elongated tree pits, and green streets. Costs, functionality and conflicts with local codes and ordinances regarding green infrastructure use were discussed. Other sessions addressed green infrastructure relating to coastal resiliency and LEED (Leader in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings. Attendees were invited to tour BNL's 94,500 square foot Research Support Building that has been certified as LEED GOLD by the US Green Building Council. Professional education (PE PDH), and landscape (AIA) credits were offered. Additional opening speakers included a representative from BNL, Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski, Suffolk Board Chairman George Proios, and Suffolk and Nassau District Managers, Paul TeNyenhuis and Brian Zimmerman.

In addition to Suffolk and Nassau County SWCDs, the Long Island Green Infrastructure Coordinating Committee includes representatives of Hempstead Harbor Protection Committee, Manhasset Bay Protection Committee, New York Sea Grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County and Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee. Cost of the conference is funded by local sponsors and exhibitors and a nominal registration fee.

Suffolk and Nassau SWCDs plan to present the 3rd Annual Long Island Green Infrastructure Conference scheduled to be hosted in June 2014 at the "Yes We Can" Community Center in Westbury, a LEED Platinum building, focusing on Green Infrastructure entitled "Preparing for the Next Storm." For more info please visit www.ligconference.org.



THE LONG ISLAND ENVIROTHON
By Sharon Frost

The 2013 Long Island Regional Envirothon was a successful event. We had 47 teams, of five students each, compete at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration in Old Bethpage, New York. We were fortunate to have Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski address the students at the Welcoming Ceremony this year. In his inspirational speech, he told the students how he admired them for their dedication to Long Island's environment.

Chaminade and Sachem North High School took top honors for Nassau and Suffolk Counties, respectively. They went on to compete at the New York State Envirothon, which was held at SUNY Morrisville in May.

This local component of the state and national competitions are held annually in late spring and based on five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current issue, which for this year was Sustainable Rangeland Management.

Each member of the winning team, from each Nassau and Suffolk, receives a \$500 scholarship. The LI Regional Envirothon has awarded over \$55,000 in scholarship money in its tenure. In addition, each team receives paid registration and transportation to the New York State Envirothon competition.

"We are very proud that our local elected officials acknowledge the importance of the program and the dedication, enthusiasm, and perseverance of the teachers and students who participate," said Sharon Frost, LI Regional Envirothon Coordinator.

The 2014 Long Island Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, April 30th at the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts in Wheatley Heights, New York.

AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS BALER PROGRAM

By Ann Marie Calabro

The District completed another busy season helping nurseries and growers to efficiently remove and recycle their agricultural plastics. We successfully diverted roughly 50,000 pounds of greenhouse plastic from being carted to a landfill and/or possibly burned. The machine creates plastic cubes each containing about 1,000 pounds of plastic. The baler makes the plastic easier to handle and more marketable for recycling. We would like to encourage more growers to participate in the program as well as marinas. The cost associated with the program is designed to benefit the producer. The machine can be rented for a nominal fee of \$100 per day recycling your own plastic, or you there is no fee if the grower allows us to cart away and recycle the plastic. Depending on the size of the operation either option would prove to benefit the farmer while doing something great for the environment.



Big Foot Baler at North Fork Nursery in Jamesport.

DISTRICT ASSISTS FARMERS IN SECURING MILLIONS TO REPAIR DIKES DAMAGED BY HURRICANE SANDY

By Sharon Frost



Salt Air Farm in Cutchogue.

Hurricane Sandy was the most destructive storm in recent history. In its wake 4.5 miles of dike systems that protect five farms were damaged. They are located in the hamlets of Cutchogue and Orient and protect approximately 790 acres of prime farmland some of which have been farmed for more than 200 years.

During the storm the dikes breached in several locations causing severe flooding to fields and irrigation ponds. Emergency work was completed quickly to protect the farmland from the immediate threat of continued salt-

water intrusion. However, the entire system was destabilized and its restoration was vital to the future farming of these properties in order to maintain the quality of the groundwater and surrounding surface waters.

According to the Long Island Sound Study, November 2009, "Sea level rise is expected to increase the severity of storm surges and coastal flooding. Storm surge results from a combination of sea level rise, increased tidal range, and heavy precipitation, all of which are expected to increase as a result of global warming. A recent study of the effects of projected sea level rise in the Metropolitan East Coast Region predicted that regional 100-year flood levels could increase by 9.8-11.5 feet in the next decade." This projected rise in sea level will result in a loss of viable cropland unless the dikes are restored and upgraded.

These dikes are an integral protective barrier for the surrounding surface water, groundwater, and fresh water wetlands. The dikes protect Peconic Bay Estuary from agricultural run-off and prevent sediment deposition into the creeks and rivers. They also prevent saltwater intrusion to fresh water wetlands and irrigation ponds, and prevent flooding on prime farmland, public property, and private homes. It is critical that these structures were restored.

After quick assessment the District began looking for funding sources. With the help of Senators Gillibrand and Schumer and the Long Island Farm Bureau we were able to secure 2.4 million through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Program Flood Recovery Fund.



LONG ISLAND SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING (LISW)

by Allan Connell

For almost 40 years, Long Island vineyards have worked hard to develop unique and safe practices for producing quality wine grapes. East End vineyards and wineries have grown to create their own definition of sustainability that is based on their role as stewards of the rich agricultural heritage of the Long Island.

Long Island Sustainable Winegrowing (LISW) is a not-for-profit organization that provides education and certification for Long Island vineyards. LISW uses international standards of sustainable practices in quality wine-grape production that have been refined for the Northeast utilized through the VineBalance Workbook that identifies best management practices for vineyards and has state wide applicability. These practices are based on an independent 3rd-party-verified checklist system consisting of recommended and prohibited practices and materials, thoughtful planning and numerous ecological options.

According to the LISW, the viability of local vineyards is dependent on their ability to steward their land in a way that allows it to stay healthy and productive into the future. They see their vineyards as a holistic ecological system and they strive to develop viticultural practices that produce the highest quality fruit possible, while also being sensitive to the environment and financially viable over time.

The LISW is a new way to look at sustainable agriculture that ensures that we have clean water and air, a healthy workforce, healthy soils and healthy vines. The program is committed to the following:

- To implement cultural practices and solve problems that reduce and minimize the use of chemicals and fertilizers, with the goal of protecting the farmer, the environment, and society at large.
- To encourage practices that promote and maintain high biological diversity in the whole vineyard.
- To maintain and conserve healthy and fertile soils to produce grapes for years to come.
- To encourage practices that protect our maritime ecosystem and estuaries from runoff and leaching.
- To create and maintain viticulture that is economically viable over time.
- To maintain the highest level of quality in our fruit production.
- To qualify for certification, participants must undergo an independent, third-party inspection. This involves an on-site visit and a review of all records—earning passing scores on all criteria, and creating an action plan for future improvements. The following year they must show progress on that plan. A vineyard has to be certified the first two consecutive years, and then the inspections take place every third year.

Participants must complete the VineBalance Workbook which is a self-assessment workbook similar to the Agricultural Environmental Management worksheets and earn a qualifying score, with special emphasis on 18 core requirements, such as having a plan to mitigate runoff, use and storage of pesticides and a plan to create ecological areas on the farm for insects, native wildlife and plants.

Accompanying that are detailed score sheets for weed management, disease management and insect control. Some herbicides, fungicides and insecticides are prohibited altogether because of their tendency to leach into and persist in ground water. Others are limited to use once or twice per season. Reduced-risk, bio-pesticides or organic materials are allowed, and in the case of fungicides, must make up more than half of applications each season. Since excessive nitrogen is a critical concern in ground water and the estuarine environment, growers are not allowed to exceed a total application of 20 lbs. per acre of nitrogen fertilizer and the program encourages the use of organic forms of nitrogen.

The NRCS and SWCD play a critical role in this process because the participants rely on them for conservation planning assistance to help them address these critical resource concerns. Participants must develop a write up addressing how they are addressing soil erosion, runoff management and how they are providing habitat diversity in the form of ecological compensation areas on the farm. A current conservation plan satisfies these requirements.

District services provided...

Agricultural Community

- Agricultural Environmental Management Planning (AEM)
- Agricultural Value Assessments (APD-1)
- Agronomic Practices
- Engineering Practices
- Erosion Control
- Irrigation System Design
- Transition to Organic Farming
- Technical Assistance
- Best Management Practice, Design & Installation
- Drainage
- Agricultural Waste Systems

Landowners

- Bluff & Shoreline Erosion Control Recommendations
- Conservation Information
- Educational Materials
- Invasive Species Management
- Pond Management
- Erosion & Sediment Control
- Soils Information
- Habitat and Restoration
- Wildlife Management

Education

- Conservation Materials
- Program Guides

Municipalities

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

Environmental Consultants

- Soils Maps
- Topographic Maps
- Historical Aerial Photos



A bluff erosion site in Kings Park, N.Y.