

COMMITTEES

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

Farmers Protecting Our Groundwater

By Paul TeNyenhuis

We have a continuous program for cost sharing for the installation of a specific Best Management Practice (BMP) called an Agrichemical Handling Facility (AHF). The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) along with our office (SWCD), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) have collaborated to bring



*Agrichemical Handling Facility
Riverhead, New York.*

this program to farmers who wish to protect our groundwater resources. The funding for this program is derived from fines levied by the DEC, against companies receiving violations from spills or not following State Regulations for pesticides. The monies are transferred to the SWCD and held in a Trust & Agency account until each applicant has completed their AHF. Once verified that they have installed the practice according to the engineering design, the monies are paid to the farmers. We are cost sharing these AHFs at a rate of seventy-five percent (75%) up to a maximum cost share of \$30,000. Last year three farms benefited from installing AHFs. AHFs are concrete pads designed to contain any spillage resulting from mixing as well as handling chemicals while loading and wash down spray from equipment. These pads are actually custom designed according to the size of the sprayer equipment used on the farm, based on the equipment's dimensions and the tank size of the sprayer. The NRCS has Standards and Specifications specifically for this BMP, Code 309. Our office works in conjunction with the NRCS to implement these practices ensuring AHFs will conform to a high standard of quality. If anyone is interested in installing an AHF for their farm, please contact our office so we can assist you.



*Agrichemical Handling Facility
Southampton, New York.*

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Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

On-Farm Wind Workshop

By Nicole Spinelli

In December Suffolk County SWCD hosted an on-farm small wind workshop at Stephen Mahoney Farm in East Hampton. Mahoney Farm is an 18 acre in-ground nursery stock operation. The farm is a role model for others in the County; the nursery maintains permanent cover between the crop rows, practices IPM and nutrient management and has installed an Agrichemical Handling Facility. Most recently Mahoney Farm converted their over-head irrigation system to a more efficient drip-irrigation system driven by a variable speed electric submersible pump. To top it all off, the farm is now powering its irrigation system with renewable energy. In early October,



Mahoney Farm in East Hampton, New York.

a 10 kW Bergey wind turbine on a 120-foot SSV tower was commissioned. The turbine is the first in the Township, approved through a special use permit by the Town Board.



*Photograph of the wind turbine at
Mahoney Farm.*

On December 1, the SCSWCD hosted a workshop at the farm in order to showcase the project to the agricultural community and increase awareness of the technology. The event was a success with over 30 farmers in attendance. Farmers braved the rain and wind to see and hear the turbine in operation.



*A close-up of the turbine
at Mahoney Farm.*

Even William Wilkinson, East Hampton's Town Supervisor showed up to support the project. To begin the workshop, Roy Rakobitsch, the system installer, led a walking tour explaining all the components of the system. Then it was into the shelter of the barn to discuss the technicalities of the installation more in depth. Farmers are an inquisitive bunch; they came with countless questions and left with a wealth of new information. To complete the workshop, funding incentives were summarized and farmers received numerous resources to help them continue their research into wind energy at their own farms.

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L.I. Farm Bureau

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S.C. Legislator - District #6

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Soil District Technician

Nicole Spinelli
Soil District Technician

Polly Weigand
Soil District Technician

USDA-NRCS

Allan Connell
District Conservationist

Liz Camps
Soil Conservationist

This year we welcomed our new Earth Team volunteer.



Cathy Caldwell

Soil & Water Receives \$960,000 for Deer Fencing Program

Thanks to New York State Senator LaValle and LI Farm Bureau Executive Director Joe Gergela, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District received over \$960,000 from 2008 through 2010 to be distributed to farmers experiencing crop damage from the over population of white-tail deer. A total of sixty-nine (69) farmers were partially reimbursed for the installation of Deer Fence on agricultural land. All participants were required to follow USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Standards and Specifications. Farmers were reimbursed at a rate of \$5.25 per foot for a maximum reimbursement of \$14,642 per farm. The total footage of Deer Fencing that was cost shared was 178,746 ft., whereas the footage actually installed by the farmers was 266,702 ft.

"The agricultural community is grateful to Senator LaValle for his insight and persuasiveness in securing this money for Long Island farmers whose crops were being eaten by deer," said George Proios, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Chairman.



Typical deer fence installation.

So Long Allan

Originally from Massachusetts, Allan Connell graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1975. He began his career with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Florida serving as District Conservationist for both Indian River County and Martin County successively. In September 1982 Allan was transferred to the Riverhead Field Office where he was a solid fixture until December 31, 2010 when he retired. Over the years he has provided substantial assistance to farmers and other landowners to conserve Long Island's natural resources. He was instrumental in securing hundreds of thousands of cost-share dollars, if not more, to implement conservation practices on farmland throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties. His tenure with the USDA helped shape the agricultural community on Long Island as we know it.

Additionally, Allan served on many committees, boards and task forces where his technical recommendations proved invaluable. Allan was a joy to work with; he was and still is highly respected in the agricultural community and by his peers. His outstanding commitment to preserve, protect and restore our natural resources was remarkable. He will be sorely missed.

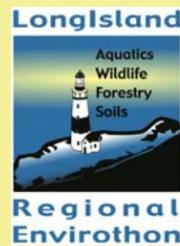


Allan in 1985.

Envirothon Reduces Waste

By Sharon Frost

Long Island Envirothon has awarded over \$36,000 in scholarship



The 2010 Long Island Envirothon was held on April 28th at the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts in Wheatley Heights. The L.I. Envirothon is an environmental studies competition for high school students in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Winning teams, one from Nassau and one from Suffolk, move on to the state competition and each member receives a \$500 scholarship, paid registration and transportation to the state competition, and sponsor gifts. To date the L.I. Envirothon has contributed over \$36,000 to the education of

54 participating students. This year Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, 5th District, delivered the Welcoming Ceremony speech reminding the students of the importance of being environmental stewards here on Long Island and how proud she was of their willingness to go beyond the normal course of study for the competition.

Additionally, the L.I. Envirothon has pledged to "green-up" the event by reducing the amount of waste generated during the competition. Each of the 550+ attendees received a stainless steel water bottle. Lunch was served with compostable plates and utensils were made from corn. All leftover food scraps were composted and paper, glass, and plastic were recycled. The result was a mere bag of garbage for the landfill. We are committed to continuing our efforts towards coordinating a green event and looking for new ways to reduce our garbage.

The competition location rotates between Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The 2011 Long Island Envirothon will be held on April 26th in Nassau County at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration.



Sachem High School, North Team at the NYS Envirothon.

Long Island Native Grass Initiative

By Polly Weigand



Founder plot's native grasses to be harvested.

A majestic sea of native grasses stands tall on the bluffs of Long Island Sound. The bunches, tinged in hues of green, blue, purple and orange are set ablaze by sprays of brilliant green flowers, bronze feathers and delicate white lace. Swayed in the gentle breezes, the golden sun ripens the seeds and the future of the Long Island Native Grass Initiative (LINGI). This is the LINGI founder plot; a field used for the commercial production of ecotypic (genetically native) seed of Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), Long Island's dominant native grassland species.

Throughout 2010, LINGI remained dedicated to the progressive vision of producing and ensuring the commercial availability of ecotypic plant materials (seed and plugs) for utilization by the nursery and landscape industry, government agencies, non-profits and the general public.

In addition to maintaining and harvesting the founder plot, LINGI continued to conduct wildland seed collections and seed cleaning in an effort to diversify the targeted species to include flowering plants, shrubs and trees. To date, over 25 wildland species are banked at the Greenbelt Native Plant Center allowing for the propagation and sale of seven grass species, two shrubs, and over 15 forbs as part of the Native Plant Sale, LINGI's annual fundraiser. A particular highlight was the propagation of Scrub Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) for EEA, Inc. and National Grid. The oaks are a host species of the Buck Moth and were used in a Pine Barren restoration project providing critical habitat for this "Species of Concern".

A total of over 30 cubic yards of seed (on stem) were hand-harvested from the founder plot, bagged and shipped to Ernst Conservation Seed for cleaning. Ultimately this seed will be planted and help to increase the size of the commercial production fields. In the spring of 2011, the founding goal of LINGI will be recognized with the commercial availability of Long Island Source Identified certified Little Bluestem and Big Bluestem seed, followed by Switchgrass and Indian grass in the Spring of 2012. Thanks to the support of volunteers and partners and funding from Suffolk County, LINGI continues to demonstrate a demand for native plants and provide an integral resource to the protection of plants, wildlife and waters that make Long Island a treasured landscape.

Farewell Dan

Dan Losquadro won election to the County Legislature in November of 2003 and served full time as the representative for the 6th Legislative District until he won the 2010 election for the 1st Assembly District in Suffolk County. Additionally, Legislator Daniel Losquadro served on the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District Board for the past six years. Dan was an active member of the Board offering his insights and experience from the many other Boards he served on. Legislator Losquadro has served as Chairman of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture Committee and the Veterans & Seniors Committee. Dan also served on the Budget and Finance, and the Environmental Trust Review Board.



George Proios and the District recognizes Dan Losquadro for his service on the District Board.

District services provided...

Agriculture

- Engineering Practices
- Irrigation Design
- AEM
- Ag. Value Assessment
- Agronomic Practices
- Erosion Control
- Conservation Planning
- Pest Management Techniques
- Cost-share Programs
- Transition to Organic Farming Assistance
- Technical Assistance
- Practice, design & installation supervision
- Drainage Systems
- Agricultural Waste Systems

Landowners

- Bluff Shoreline Erosion Recommendations
- Conservation Information
- Educational Materials
- Invasive Species
- Pond Assistance
- Soil Erosion & Drainage
- Soils Information
- Wetland Restoration Program
- Wildlife Management

Education

- Conservation Materials
- Program Guides

Municipalities

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

Environmental Consultants

- Natural Resource Maps
- Aerial Photos



Sediment and erosion control.