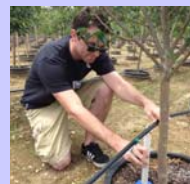


## COMMITTEES

- 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
- Long Island Agricultural Stewardship Working Group
- Long Island Ag. Forum Planning Committee
- Long Island Green Infrastructure 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
- New York State Envirothon
- 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
- Suffolk County Water Quality Coordinating Committee



## 2012 INTERN

Intern Evan Breining spent two months with us during the summer. As a political science and urban planning major at SUNY Oneonta his computer skills were highly sophisticated and useful. He helped to advance the District with grant writing, map development, and field work. For his short stay with us he gave a renewed sense of energy and ideas. Thank you Evan!

## DISTRICT RECEIVES OVER \$680,000 FOR FUEL TANK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

By Sharon Frost

Since 2007 the District has been assisting the agriculture community in Suffolk County in replacing their old single-walled fuel tanks with new double-walled tanks. To date the District has secured over \$680,000 in federal and state funding. These funds helped farmers offset the cost of replacing 185 tanks on 118 farms, which has secured 110,820 gallons of diesel and heating fuel.

"I am proud of the farmers who have participated in this program. It shows their commitment to protecting groundwater. We thank the District for organizing and promoting this program," said Joe Gergela Executive Director Long Island Farm Bureau.



An old fuel tank that was eligible for funding.



A new fuel tank that has replaced the one to the left.

## DISTRICT RECOGNIZES ROMAINE

Supervisor Edward Romaine was recognized for his service on the District's Board. From left to right: S.C. Legislator Sarah Anker, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Edward Romaine, Joe Gergela Executive Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau, S.C. Legislator Al Krupski, George Proios Chairman of the District Board, and Paul TeNyenhuis District Manager.



## LOOKING BACK ON 2012



Once again it's hard to believe a year has passed so quickly! First, we are all very sorry to see Nicole Spinelli move on but wish her the best of luck. And at the same time we welcome our new Soil District Technician Ann Marie Calabro. We are sure that with her background and enthusiasm she will bring good things to the District.

2012 was a busy year. The entire office was trained to use the baler in April. We assisted a nursery owner in removing plastic on over 300 hoop houses and a boat yard in baling winter cover plastic on several hundred boats in May. We also did some baling at the Town of Southold transfer station. We look forward to assisting producers next year.

Our Rain Garden continues to flourish. A coverage team from News Channel CBS interviewed former Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine and Soil District Technician Sharon Frost in August for a short segment on the nightly news. It highlighted that the garden was made possible by the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee performance measure funding.

The 1st Annual Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo was a success. The joint effort and great working relationship between Nassau and Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation Districts is behind this achievement. The 2nd Annual Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo will be held on June 12th at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. The success of this event is accredited to Nassau and Suffolk County SWCD's continued collaborative efforts on public education.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful and prosperous new year.



# SUFFOLK COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District

## 2012 YEAR IN REVIEW

### Board of Directors

George Proios  
Chairperson

Joe Gergela  
Director  
L.I. Farm Bureau

Phil Schmitt  
Director  
Farmer

Ed Romaine  
Director  
S.C. Legislator - District #1

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



The District welcomes new Board Member, Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker.

### District Staff

Paul TeNyenhuis  
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  
Acting District Conservationist

Allan Connell  
Conservation Specialist

### 1st ANNUAL LONG ISLAND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE

By Elizabeth Condon



George Proios, Suffolk Co. SWCD Chairman of the Board speaks at the L.I. Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo.

Coordinated by both Suffolk and Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the 1st Annual Green Infrastructure Conference and Expo held at Brookhaven National Lab on June 20th, was a big achievement for water quality and sustainability! Its main focus was managing stormwater and energy economically and environmentally, by improving management practices and decreasing runoff and pollution on Long Island through the use of green infrastructure, such as green roofs and rain gardens.

The 2nd Annual Long Island Green Infrastructure Conference, focusing on Water and Energy, "the Benefits of Going Green in Tough Times," is scheduled for June 12, 2013 at BNL.

### USDA NRCS GETS \$1M FOR AIR QUALITY PROGRAM IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

By Nicole Spinelli

The EQIP Air Quality Initiative has been a resounding success here in Suffolk County. Its purpose is to plan and install conservation practices that will improve air quality on farmland in eligible counties in New York State. Suffolk County is among the eligible counties due to the fact that we are one of ten counties in a non-attainment zone for ozone and particulates. With the increasing occurrences of air quality alert days, this program is welcomed here in Suffolk.

Since its inception in 2011, the EQIP Air Quality Initiative has been widely popular with local farmers. It has served as an introduction for many new farmers to NRCS and District services, opening up new avenues of conservation. When the Initiative began last year, only one practice was offered - Combustion System Improvement. Under this practice, stationary diesel engines used to power irrigation pumps are replaced with new clean burning engines that meet the current EPA Tier 3 and 4 requirements. Participation in the program requires that the old engine (which is being replaced) is rendered inoperable and recycled; much like the "cash for clunkers" program.

In 2011, 19 contracts were awarded for a total of 37 engine replacements (each farm is allowed up to three new engines). To date, 36 of these engines have been installed. In 2012, 40 contracts were successfully approved, totaling almost \$1M. Depending on their pump requirements, farmers are reimbursed in three different size engine categories: <0-75 hp, 75-99 hp and > 100 hp. Due to the countless hours of irrigation that occur locally, the replacement of these engines will make a measurable improvement in air quality.

### So what exactly do the EPA Tier Standards mean for off-road diesel engines?

A Tier 0 engine is an unimproved, unregulated mechanical engine lacking emission controls. Tiers 1 through 4 engines have progressively advanced technology and emission controls with Tier 4 being the most advanced with near zero emissions. Emission reduction is achieved through electronic engine controls, higher pressure fuel injection system, advanced turbo charging and exhaust gas after treatment; similar to what is required for new on-road engines.

In 2013, federal mandate requires manufacturers to produce Tier 4 engines but they will be permitted to sell off remaining inventory of Tier 3 engines. While there is no mandatory requirement that old existing diesel engines be upgraded to Tier 4 standards, many local farmers are taking their own initiative to be environmentally conscious and pro-active with the monetary assistance from the USDA NRCS!



New diesel irrigation engine

**GOOD BYE TO NICOLE SPINELLI**

Nicole has moved on to greener pastures taking a position as Farm Sustainability Coordinator with Organic Valley in Wisconsin, after working for the District for almost 10 years.

Her dedication to the District was exceptional. She assisted anyone and everyone from the smallest endeavors to taking on challenging engineering projects or heading-up committees. Her expertise was in alternative energy, drip irrigation and organic farming.

**THE DISTRICT WELCOMES ANN MARIE CALABRO**



Ann Marie Calabro is our new Soil District Technician at the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District. She holds a BA in Biology from SUNY Old Westbury, NY. Her professional career started as a science teacher and after seven years in education she decided to change her focus towards the agricultural field and seek a career as a Soil District Technician. She is a great asset to our staff and her enthusiasm and dedication makes our team stronger than ever.

**GUILLERMO MELENDEZ**



Guillermo 'Henry' Melendez has taken a position in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service State office in Syracuse, NY. We wish him the best of luck in his new position.

**THE DISTRICT HELPS DEVELOP A CNMP FOR SUFFOLK COUNTY FARM**

By Sharon Frost

The District assisted the Suffolk County Farm in developing a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) with funds from AEM Performance Measure Part B.

After reviewing the AEM worksheets with the farm staff, they were turned over to certified planner Dan Briggs. The plan includes: upgrading the pig house, integrated crop rotation, and a roof runoff system.

The County Farm staff was a delight to work with and Dan Briggs was very insightful as always. We are hoping that the Plan will help bring needed funding for the installation of the recommended practices.



One of the happy goats at the Suffolk County Farm.

**THE LONG ISLAND NATIVE PLANT INITIATIVE**

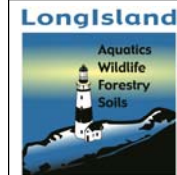
By Polly Weigand



In 2005, Long Island Native Grass Initiative was founded by the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District to support the commercial propagation of regionally native plant materials (ecotypes) for use in restoration and landscaping. The vision of this grassroots effort was advanced in two critical directions: ensuring a ready supply of native grass seed for commercial plant production and restorations, and stimulating a demand for these plant materials. In these past 12 years, the District provided leadership to a dedicated group of over 30 non-profit organizations, agencies, local nursery businesses, academic institutions and citizens, all of which volunteered their time, expertise, and equipment to recognize these ecologically and economically progressive goals.

Since the inception, the success of this progressive effort has been resounding. The certification and commercial availability of Source Identified certified seed through Ernst Conservation Seed for Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), and Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) was achieved in 2011. A name change to the Long Island Native Plant Initiative (LINPI) formally recognized the expansion of seed collection and plant production activities from solely grasses to over 60 herbaceous and woody plant species. Numerous education presentations have been hosted, with the Native Plant Symposium being a particularly noteworthy event, having a sold out audience of nursery professionals, citizens, consultants, landscape architects, land managers and academia. The annual plant sales have and continue to provide the nursery industry with the necessary plant materials to facilitate local ecotypic propagation activities and to support the continued efforts of the organization.

This year the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District transferred the leadership in this effort, by helping LINPI to secure independent status as a non-profit organization. This necessary and noteworthy achievement enhances the organization's ability to secure funding and conduct educational events and plant production activities with an ever expanding progressive vision. The District is proud of the achievements that have been advanced from a "spark of inspiration" and is thankful for the overwhelming partner and funder support. It is this shared effort and commitment that has and will continue to propel LINPI forward. The District remains supportive to LINPI during this transitory advance, as it continues to strive to "bridge the gap and go to seed".



**THE LONG ISLAND ENVIROTHON**

By Sharon Frost

The 2012 Long Island Envirothon was a successful event. We had 40 teams, of five students each, compete at the Usdan Center for the Creative and Performing Arts in Wheatley Heights in Suffolk County. We were fortunate to have Suffolk County Legislator Edward Romaine 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.



Suffolk County Legislator Edward Romaine addresses students at the 2012 Long Island Envirothon.

Wantagh 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 the Hobart Williams and Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York in May.

This local component of the state and national competitions is held annually in late spring and is based on five subject areas; aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current issue. Each station is managed by an expert in the field who develops and administers the exams. The five member teams rotate between the stations, working together to complete the exams. Each member of the winning teams, from Nassau and Suffolk, receives a \$500 scholarship, a Canon camera and a Canon printer for their schools. In addition, each team receives paid registration and transportation to the New York State Envirothon competition.

The Sachem North Envirothon team and advisor were recognized by Suffolk County Legislators Muratore and Kennedy with Proclamations for their efforts at the local and state level.



From left to right: S.C. Legislator Muratore, Sachem North High School students - Charlie Horn, Tyler Breitteller, and Ruchi Shah, Advisor Monica Marlowe, and S.C. Legislator Kennedy.

"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 L.I. Envirothon Coordinator.

The 2013 Long Island Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, April 30th at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration in Old Bethpage.

**PRESS CONFERENCE TO THANK SENATOR LAVALLE**

By Sharon Frost



From left to right: Farmers Kate Sepenoski, Ann Sepenoski and Patricia Sepenoski, NYS Senator Ken LaValle, Farmer Peter Sepenoski and Chairman of the SC SWCD District Board, George Proios.

The District received a one million dollar grant with the assistance of NYS Senator LaValle and Long Island Farm Bureau Executive Director Joseph Gergela to help off set the cost of deer fence installation. With the developmental sprawl on the east end of Suffolk County growers have been ravished by white-tailed deer.

"The deer were so bad on my property that I was about to give-up farming", said farmer Peter Sepenoski one of the grant recipients.

This cost-share program helps protect crops and limit losses due to deer browse across Suffolk County helping to ensure farm profitability.

**District services provided...**

**Agriculture**

- Engineering Practices
- Irrigation Design
- AEM
- Ag. Value Assessment
- Agronomic Practices
- Erosion Control
- Conservation Planning
- Cost-Share Programs
- Transition to Organic Farming
- Technical Assistance
- Practice, Design & Installation Supervision
- Drainage Systems
- Agricultural Waste Systems

**Landowners**

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



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