



Niagara Nature News

An Environmental Publication by Niagara County
Soil & Water Conservation District
WINTER 2018- ENEWS

Niagara County Soil & Water
Conservation District
4487 Lake Avenue
Lockport, New York 14094
Phone: (716) 434-4949 Ext. 4
Fax: (855) 347-7122
www.niagaraswcd.com

Japanese Knotweed– A local invader

First introduced to America as an ornamental plant in the late 1800s, Japanese knotweed is an invasive plant that causes many homeowners difficulty when trying to eradicate it. Knotweed can be easily identified by the large heart shaped leaves, alternate branch arrangement, and dark colored rings (or nodes) around the stem. The stems are also unique because they are hollow, often giving the plant another common name of Japanese bamboo. Once the plant is fully grown it can be as tall as 15 feet and create a thick monoculture forcing other ornamental or native species out of the area.



Above: Japanese knotweed leaf and flower courtesy of Elaine Haug, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Once a Japanese knotweed plant is established the first method of spreading is through of rhizomes, a network of roots that allow multiple stalks to grow and dominate an area. These rhizomes allow knotweed to grow and create many shoots in a small area that grow larger each year. Knotweed usually starts inhabiting open areas or edge habitats and out compete smaller native plants.

Knotweed may also be spread by plant fragments, seed or root that can be carried by wind, water, animals, or humans. This includes plants that may grow along creeks that become dislodged, plants that are mowed or trimmed, or moving soil that contains any part of the plant. Movement of plant fragments is the most common method for plants to be introduced in a new area. Knotweed is usually found in open or disturbed areas such as road right of ways or along streams.

Herbicide is usually an effective method of killing the plant by using a foliar spray or stem injection. Due to the plants resiliency removal can easily become a multi-year effort in large patches. This past summer, the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) assisted the district with a stem injection project to eradicate a Japanese Knotweed infestation in the Town of Hartland. It typically takes a couple of years to completely eliminate the plants so the site will be treated again and monitored for the next few years. We would like to thank the WNY PRISM crew (Nick Ransbury, Heather Zimba and Kevin Sanders, pictured below) for their assistance with the project. You can find out more about the WNY PRISM organization on their website www.wnyprism.org.

Story and additional pictures continued on Page 12.



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Legislator

District Staff

Mark J. Seider, P.E.

District Engineer
mark.seider@ny.nacdnet.net

Darcy Rae Tone

District Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
darcy.tone@ny.nacdnet.net

Michael J. Clifford

Natural Resource Technician
michael.clifford@ny.usda.gov

Scott M. Collins

Remedial Action Plan Coordinator
scott.collins@ny.nacdnet.net

USDA NRCS

Charles Kesterson

Resource Conservationist
charles.kesterson@ny.usda.gov

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Check out our spring fish program on page 7!
We are offering larger fish & grass carp to help ensure their survival in your pond! Choose from Perch, Bass, Catfish, Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout and Bluegill.



FYI...

The District has a No-Till drill available for your next conservation seeding project.

\$50 delivery charge and \$15/acre rental fee

We provide drill delivery and cleaning. Customer provides own seed.

(716) 434-4949
Ext. 4



Don't forget to pre-order your trees and shrubs early before they sell out! Our order form is located on pages 5 and 6, along with tree and shrub descriptions. Extra order forms are available in our office or on our website www.niagaraswcd.com



Eighteenmile Creek AOC/Superfund Update

The USEPA has been making a lot of progress toward cleaning up Eighteenmile Creek. Recent progress is focused on completing a remedial design in the Creek Corridor (Operable Unit 2) and collecting data needed to further characterize 15 miles of creek from Harwood Street in Lockport to where Eighteenmile Creek discharges into Lake Ontario. Data that will be collected will include stream flow in individual reaches of the creek, ambient water quality and floodplain samples. All of this data is going to be used in creating a feasibility study that identifies potential remedial actions that can remove the hazardous risks from the creek.

Other AOC work includes completing a mink study to clarify the impairment of mammals for beneficial use impairment (BUI) 3 Degradation to fish and wildlife populations and BUI 5 Bird or animal deformities/reproductive problems. This study is planned to start in Fall 2018 when trappers will capture mink along the Eighteenmile Creek watershed and have liver tissue tested for the presence of PCBs. If PCBs are bioaccumulating in high enough concentrations, a mink can develop jaw lesions and an inability to reproduce. Mink have been used as an indicator species for other NYS AOCs, so the Eighteenmile Creek sampling plan will be designed so that our mink capture data can be compared across other New York State AOCs.

Public involvement and education is always important when dealing with both Areas of Concern and Superfund sites. We are happy to say that our 2017 AOC Clean Sweep had nearly 30 volunteers from across Niagara County. From those volunteers, 15 garbage bags of litter were picked up totaling almost 450 pounds of debris. Some of the notable items included a bike, old television sets and a lot of food wrapper waste. We would like to thank many organizations that had volunteers such as Cub Scout Pack 4, Newfane Honor Society, General Motors Lockport Components and Niagara Orleans BOCES.

NRCS-NY Announces Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funds Available

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in New York State, has announced two additional signup periods for funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), in Fiscal Year 2018. New York farmers and agricultural landowners, located in the GLRI watersheds, have until January 19, 2018 to apply for consideration in signup 2 and until February 16, 2018 to be considered in signup 3. Applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and overall benefit to the environment.

Through the GLRI partnership, NRCS in New York receives funding to provide financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to eligible landowners and farmers for conservation work. GLRI focuses on practices that have the highest potential for reducing water quality degradation due to agricultural runoff, including waste storage facilities, residue management, cover crops, and nutrient management.

Applicants applying to implement practices to address farmstead resource concerns associated with livestock operations must provide a copy of their Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan to NRCS when submitting the application, no later than the application cutoff date.

Applications accepted after February 16, 2018 will be eligible to be deferred for consideration in fiscal year 2019. To apply for funding through the GLRI program interested farmers and landowners should contact their local USDA office by the above listed signup date.

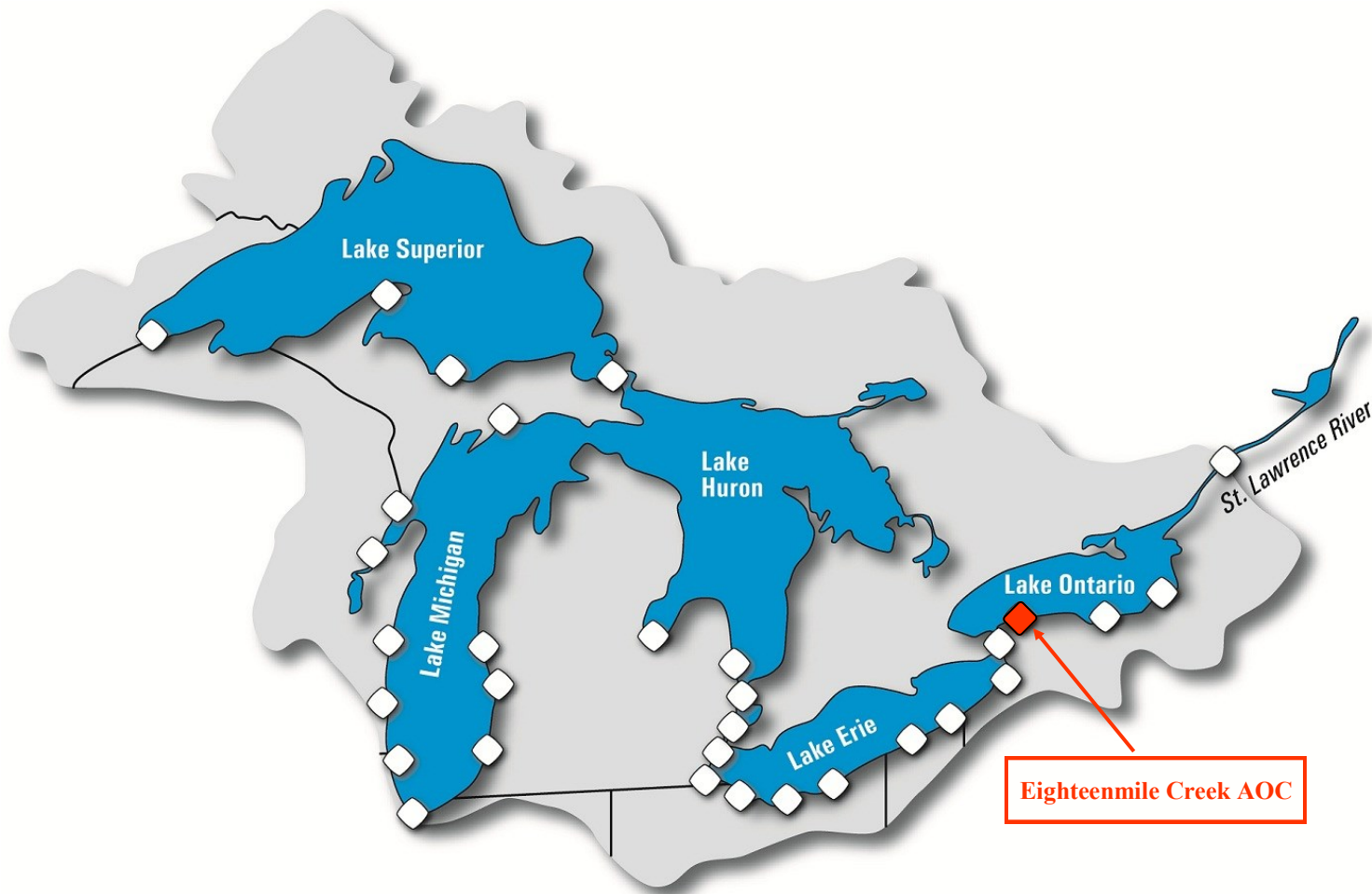
For more information on GLRI visit the website www.epa.gov/greatlakes/glri/index.html. If you are interested in applying for a conservation program please visit our web site for information on applying at: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ny/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs144p2_027058. You may apply by visiting your local NRCS field office.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider, Employer, and Lender

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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 programs aid 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.

EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN



2017 REPORT CARD



A COMPILATION OF SUCCESSSES, IMPROVEMENTS & CURRENT CONDITIONS



REPORT CARD

The Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern (AOC) Report Card was created by the Eighteenmile Creek Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC). **The purpose of this Report Card is to give a brief overview of the health, improvements and current conditions of Eighteenmile Creek during 2017.** The Eighteenmile Creek Watershed includes – the main branch of Eighteenmile Creek, Gulf Creek Tributary, East Branch of Eighteenmile Creek (Red Creek), and augmented flow from the NYS Erie Barge Canal.

Scientific data and research that was referenced during the development of this Report Card can be found at the Area of Concern website:

WWW.EIGHTEENMILERAP.COM

This Report Card offers six “indicators” related to the management of the creek’s overall health. They are: 1) Water Quality; 2) Contamination; 3) Fish & Wildlife; 4) Public Access & Recreation; 5) Remedial Action Plan; and 6) Environmental Education & Public Involvement.

Each indicator has been further divided into several “sub-categories” to assess how specific concerns are being addressed. Each sub-category has been assigned a **letter grade** based upon past successes, current health conditions, and trends over the past few years. The last column identifies action steps or immediate concerns to be addressed in order to meet restoration targets for the Area of Concern. This Report Card will be updated annually.

BENEFICIAL USE IMPAIRMENTS

- 1) Fish & Wildlife Consumption - **Impaired**
Delisting Targets → *Identified*
- 2) Degradation of Benthos- **Impaired**
Delisting Targets → *Identified*
- 3) Dredging Restrictions -**Impaired**
Delisting Targets → *Identified*
- 4) Animal Reproductive Issues - **Impaired**
Delisting Targets → *Identified*
- 5) Fish & Wildlife Populations - **Impaired**
Delisting targets → *Identified*

TRENDS	GRADING
Conditions Improving ↑	A Excellent B Good
Conditions Unchanged ↔	C Fair D Poor
Conditions Worsening ↓	F Failure

	CATEGORIES	GRADE	SUCCESSSES & IMPROVEMENTS
WATER QUALITY	Overall Water Quality	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural Environmental Management Program has been deployed to document and prioritize water quality impairments. The City of Lockport has completed combined sewer overflow (CSO) inspection checks and reports them to the DEC. Actions are also taken to address issues with CSOs in the city.
	Quality of Storm Water	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2017 Global Rivers Environmental Education Network completed several riparian plantings along a creek in the Eighteenmile Creek watershed.
CONTAMINATION	Spills, Discharges & Leaching of Contaminants	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory programs and monitoring by NYSDEC help reduce inputs to the creek. 14 of 19 inactive hazardous waste sites have been sealed or remediated.
	Contaminated Sediment	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA has approved a Record of Decision for OU2, a contractor is working on a remedial design and construction is expected to begin in 1-3 years. EPA has started their investigation of OU3 and is looking to address several data gaps during the summer of 2018 and 2019.
FISH & WILDLIFE	Contaminant Levels in Fish & Wildlife	D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish tissue results obtained through a study in 2012 are the first data set collected for a portion of Eighteenmile Creek upstream of Newfane Dam, the results indicate impacts to fish. Funding for a 2018 mink contaminant study has been secured from the EPA.
	Fish & Wildlife Diversity & Populations	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A second benthic macroinvertebrate study has proven that Eighteenmile Creek is comparable to Oak Orchard Creek. Both creeks indicated their communities were slightly or moderately impacted.
PUBLIC ACCESS & RECREATION	Public Access to the Creek & Adjacent Areas	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Eighteenmile Creek via Fisherman’s Park and Olcott Harbor continues to be maintained by the Town of Newfane.
	Aesthetics of the Creek & Adjacent Riparian Areas	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town of Newfane Marina Director has been active in keeping the AOC clean of trash and a new fishing line recycling program has been implemented.
REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN	RAP Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2017 NCSWCD began a new 5 year grant which includes: continued coordination of all RAP initiatives, development of new projects, and education & outreach activities.
	RAC Management	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC continues to address various aspects of the Remedial Action Plan and has provided input on Federal and State Superfund designation for the creek.
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION	Public Awareness	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superfund remediation projects have brought the creek to the forefront of public media. A number of student classes and trips visit the AOC to learn about critical AOC issues.
	Watershed Stewardship	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 154 students from Newfane High School, Niagara Orleans BOCES, and Lockport High School participated in the “GREEN” Program.

CURRENT CONDITIONS	TREND	STEPS NEEDED FOR PROBLEM RESOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Below Burt Dam is a Class B/C stream indicating that the primary use is contact recreation and fishing. NYSDEC monitors water quality through the Rotating Intensive Basin Study (RIBS) program and State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) program. PCBs and heavy metals are suspended in the creek water column and exceeds standards and discharge into Lake Ontario. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A citizen water quality campaign should be deployed within the watershed. Contaminated sediments within the watershed must be remediated. Failures to waste water systems in Lockport and Newfane must be identified and addressed. Unknown sources of agricultural runoff must be identified.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined Sewer Overflows still have the potential to discharge into Eighteenmile Creek and the Barge Canal. During storm events, degraded water quality negatively impacts Olcott Beach along Lake Ontario, causing beach closures. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Combined Sewer Overflows must be eliminated. Continue to work with various partners to determine the sources which negatively impact Olcott Beach and Lake Ontario.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites in the watershed still have the potential to negatively impact the AOC. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to assist farms in the watershed via the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program. Continue to remediate Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites and other sources of contamination.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediments in the AOC exceed NYS standards for a variety of contaminants, including PCBs, pesticides, lead, etc. Contaminated sediments within the watershed continue to influence the overall health of the AOC. A number of historic power generation structures and oxbow lakes present in the creek act as “sinks” for contaminated sediment to accumulate. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize Federal Superfund program to address the current sediment contamination source in Lockport. Remediate all upstream sources of contamination, including the Eighteenmile Creek Corridor Site and Old Upper Mountain Road Site. Continue to identify new funding sources for post remediation monitoring within the AOC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish consumption advisories of “Eat no fish” exist for the entire creek, including below Burt Dam. Beneficial uses affected by elevated levels of PCBs in fish continue to be impaired at Eighteenmile Creek. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remediate upstream sources and contaminated sediments. Continued fish monitoring throughout the remediation process to verify effectiveness and trends. Determine if bioaccumulation of contaminants is possible for any other fish or wildlife in the watershed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large concentrations of Coho and Chinook salmon and brown trout migrate from Lake Ontario each fall. The area also supports the natural reproduction of bass, northern pike and black crappie. Resident mammal populations are likely impaired due to contamination from their diet of fish. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Olcott Pen Rearing Project. NYSDEC should continue its fish stocking program. Contaminated sediments affecting fish & wildlife require special attention. A mink population/contaminant study planned for 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AOC is accessible for anglers and general recreation activities from Fisherman’s Park and Olcott Harbor. A majority of the creek is secluded by a steep ravine. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate options for public access improvements to the creek in the City and Town of Lockport, NY.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Eighteenmile Creek AOC Corridor is pristine to the naked eye, displaying no visual Beneficial Use Impairments. Some abandoned industrial sites are adjacent to the creek area. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep” events. Educate recreational users and encourage them to “Pitch-In” and promote a healthy creek ecosystem.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York AOCs have begun to collaborate as a group to identify common challenges and goals to AOC recovery and continue RAP Coordination through 2020. Eighteenmile Creek is a long term Area of Concern due to its complexity. Timeline is dependent on the Superfund Program. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular Status Reports and updates should continue to be completed. Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Continue oversight of all AOC activities and projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RAC is comprised of a diverse group of members and representatives from different interest areas. The RAC meets to discuss various aspects of the RAP and to explore new opportunities to de-list the AOC. 	↔	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on monitoring needs and protocols to effectively assess progress post remediation. Assess the language of the BUI’s– Are they achievable? Utilize the updated Stage 2 RAP as a plan for the future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a fish consumption advisory, the AOC is visited by 10,000+ anglers annually. Every year the AOC is utilized as an “outside classroom” for elementary, secondary and college level classes. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage the public utilizing educational tools like the annual report card, various education events, internet mapping database, AOC website, newsletters , Facebook, and press releases.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increasing but still limited amount of participation from the public related to the AOC. Superfund activity has increased public participation/awareness. 	↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with sportsmen to promote AOC stewardship. Continue with annual AOC “Clean-Sweep”, GREEN Program, and education events to keep youth active.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) ?

Local, state and federal officials identified a section of Eighteenmile Creek as one of 42 “Areas of Concern” (AOC) in the Great Lakes Basin. Eighteenmile Creek received this designation because of poor water quality and contaminated sediments present throughout the watershed. Eighteenmile Creek’s long history of use by major industries in the area, especially near the City of Lockport and Town of Newfane, has played a large role in the present condition of the creek.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) ?

A RAP is an integrated, whole ecosystem approach to remediating impaired water bodies. The RAP first identifies use impairments, their causes, and contaminant sources, using existing studies and data. Next, existing cleanup and regulatory programs which apply to the water body are identified. A coordinated cleanup strategy is then developed to eliminate the use impairments. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation produced the Stage 1/2 RAP in 1997 in an effort to restore the integrity of the creek’s ecosystem.

WHAT IS THE EIGHTEENMILE CREEK REMEDIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) ?

The Eighteenmile Creek RAC is comprised of a group of local, state and federal stakeholders, representing industries, organizations and local communities with a vested interest in the health of Eighteenmile Creek. The RAC is responsible for implementing the RAP, monitoring restoration efforts, and assessing ongoing needs and conditions. After a brief hiatus, the RAC reconvened in 2005 and is currently making progress in moving the RAP forward.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact:
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U.S.D.A. Service Center
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Lockport, NY 14094
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Fax: (855) 347-7122
Website: www.eighteenmilerap.com



NIAGARA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2018 SEEDLING ORDER FORM

EVERGREENS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	25 For	50 For	100 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, Red (1)	5-10"	\$19.00	\$36.00	\$68.00		
Fir, Concolor (2)	5-10"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Fir, Douglas(2)	10-18"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		
Fir, Frasier (3)	8-12"	\$18.00	\$34.00	\$64.00		
Pine, Austrian (2)	7-12"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		
Pine, White (3)	10-16"	\$17.00	\$32.00	\$60.00		
Spruce, Blue (2)	9-15"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		
Spruce, Norway (2)	10-18"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		
Spruce, White (2)	10-18"	\$16.00	\$30.00	\$56.00		

EVERGREEN TRANSPLANTS Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Cedar, White (2+2=4yrs)	12-18"	\$19.00	These items are transplants- order in tens only	
Fir, Balsam (2+2=4yrs)	12-18"	\$19.00		
Fir, Fraser (3+2=5yrs)	10-16"	\$19.00		
Pine, White (2+2=4yrs)	12-18"	\$18.00		
Spruce, Blue (2+2=4yrs)	12-18"	\$18.00		
Spruce, Norway (2+1=3yrs)	14-20"	\$16.00		

DECIDUOUS TREES Species & Age (years)	Avg Height in Bundle	10 For	25 For	50 For	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Birch, Native (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$23.00	\$42.00		
Cherry, Black (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Filbert, American (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Hickory Shagbark (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Maple, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Maple, Sugar (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Oak, Burr (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Oak, Red (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Pecan, Northern (2)	12-18"	\$13.00	\$31.00	\$55.00		
Persimmon (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Tuliptree (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Walnut, Black (1)	12-18"	\$10.00	\$23.00	\$42.00		

SPECIAL OFFERS

Chestnut, American (1)	6-10"	5 seedlings for \$15.00		
Apple, Starter Package	4-6'	5 trees for \$78.00		
Apple, Wildlife Package	4-6'	4 trees for \$45.00		

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THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY REMINDER UNLESS AN E-MAIL IS PROVIDED WITH YOUR ORDER!!

PICK-UP INFORMATION

Tree Seedling Distribution : Friday, April 20, 2018 9:00am to 4:00pm

Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:00am to 12:00pm

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

For Information Call #434-4949 Ext. 4

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
Bayberry, Northern (1)	12-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Butterfly Bush (1)	8-15"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Cranberry, American (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Elderberry (1)	10-18"	\$12.00	\$28.00	\$52.00		
Lilac (1)	10-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Ninebark (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Rose of Sharon (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		
Serviceberry (1)	12-18"	\$11.00	\$25.00	\$47.00		

CONSERVATION PACS		**Price**	Total # Pacs Ordered	Total Cost
Edible Fruit	All pacs include 10 plants -2 of each variety (see description)	\$33.00		
Perennial		\$18.00		
Pond Habitat		\$19.00		

OTHER ITEMS	**Price**	Total # Ordered	Total Cost
Pachysandra - Groundcover - 50 rooted cuttings	\$24.00		
Milkweed Seed - 150mg packet	\$4.00		
Countryside Wildflower Seed - 4oz bag (covers 2500 sq ft)	\$14.00		
Conservation Grasses - Deer Plot Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 3/4 ac)	\$104.00		
- Deer Plot Mix Small 10lbs bag (covers 1/3 ac)	\$70.00		
- Tall Mix Large 25lbs bag (covers 1 ac)	\$55.00		
Fertilizer Tablets - 25 Count (20-10-5 pellets)	\$3.50		
Marking Flags - 100 Count (30" wire staff)	\$11.00		
Bat Roost - Bachelor	\$15.50		
Bat Roost - Maternity	\$27.00		
Bluebird House	\$15.50		
Wood Duck Box	\$35.00		

****NYS Sales Tax of 8% already included****

Total Order \$

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (to receive electronic notice)

All orders must be prepaid by cash or check payable to
Niagara County SWCD. We do not accept debit/credit cards.
Mail to: Niagara Co SWCD, 4487 Lake Ave, Lockport NY 14094
For additional information call #434-4949 Ext. 4

<u>Order# (Office Use Only)</u>

*****LAST DAY TO ORDER IS FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2018*****

If ordering after March 1, please call for availability first as stock may be sold out.

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

Clip & Save

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT UNLESS AN EMAIL IS PROVIDED WITH YOUR ORDER!

IF E-MAIL IS PROVIDED, AN E-MAIL REMINDER WILL BE SENT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PICK UP DATES.

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, Red (*Juniperus virginiana*)

This medium, slow growing native can reach 50' under adverse conditions in any soil type. Green needles turn rusty brown in winter. Its blue, waxy seed cones are beneficial food for birds, small mammals, and deer. Wood used for posts and archery bows. Aromatic heartwood used for closets and chests.

Cedar, White (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Pyramidal shape. 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. This native is 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. Native tree with 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 native that makes a great ornamental specimen.

Fir, Douglas (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Very popular native 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 growing native with a wonderful 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, 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 x-mas trees. Sensitive to salt and windburn.

Spruce, Colorado 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 starting native, 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 glauca*)

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****

Birch, Native (*Betula papyrifera*)

Does well in cool, moist locations and can reach 80'. Oval green leaves turn bright yellow in fall and are a food source for butterflies. This native tree is also known as *Paper Birch* because its stunning 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. Native tree used for furniture, firewood, jam, wine, wildlife food source. Easily identified by its thick burnt "cornflake" bark and when a young twig is scratched it has an almond-like scent.

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.

Hickory, Shagbark (*Carya ovata*)

This native needs room to grow to 90' with a 70' spread. It prefers rich, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. The trunk, known for its highly attractive and distinctive loose-plated bark, is also extremely hard, making it suitable for fuelwood, furniture, flooring and other tools and equipment. Hickory is very popular for its sweet nuts edible for humans and a preferred food for squirrels, chipmunks, bears, foxes, rabbit, and birds, such as: ducks, bobwhites and wild turkey. Slow growing, but long-lived. Fall color is golden brown.

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 and swampy to rocky soils. Native widely used for wetland plantings. Great for wildlife habitat.

Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)

The State Tree of New York, this 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, Burr (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

One of the most majestic of the oaks, and member of the white oak family, this native can grow to 80' tall with a broad-spreading crown. It prefers full sun and well drained soils, but is adaptable to a wide soil range. Yellowish-green flowers appear in April, along with leathery, dark green 6-12" leaves. Fruits are 1" oval acorn with fringed, burry cups. It's nicknamed *mossycup oak* because the shell of the acorn cup resembles moss. The acorns are an important food source for wildlife, but may take years to bear a first crop. Burr Oaks make superb low maintenance, long-lived shade trees.

Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)

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

Pecan, Northern (*Carya illinoensis*)

Also known as Hardy Pecan, this native starts bearing nuts in 8-10 years. Best in rich, moist, well-drained soils in full sun, it typically grows 75-100'. Mature trunks can be 4-6' in diameter. Medium green leaves in spring turn yellow in summer and brown in fall. Non-showy, greenish-yellow flowers in May give way to sweet, edible nuts in the fall. Each nut is encased in a thin husk which splits open in four sections when ripe, making a very decorative look. Like its cousin, the hickory, its hard wood is used for flooring, furniture and cabinets. Great as an urban shade tree. Acorns attract wildlife.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

An Eastern US native that grows 30-60' tall and 35' wide, in moist, sandy soils and full sun to partial shade. Distinctive dark gray bark and rounded oval crown. White to greenish-yellow flowers in late spring. Ripe, soft orange fruits in fall, so sweet you can eat them straight off the tree, are used for syrups, jellies and pies. Leaves can be used for teas. Great for rain gardens. Tolerant of drought, clay soil and air pollution.

Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

This native likes full sun, moist slightly acidic soil and grows to over 70' tall. Its massive trunk boasts attractive gray bark and unique tulip-shaped leaves that turn golden in autumn. Beautiful flowers that bloom May to June resemble yellow - green tulips with reddish - orange centers.

Walnut, Black (*Juglans nigra*)

Grows well in deep, moist soils to 100'. Has a broad oval crown and compound leaves of 15-25 dark green leaflets. At 4 to 6 years old, it will produce flavorful, oil-rich sweet nuts in September to October. A native whose lumber is valued for furniture, cabinets, flooring and gun stocks.

****DECIDUOUS SHRUBS****

Bayberry, Northern (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

Versatile, dense, round shrub that grows 5-10' tall in full sun to shade. Used for gardens, hedges or on a bank for soil erosion control. Very tolerant to wet soils, high winds and salt spray. Yellow-green flowers in spring and showy clusters of gray fruit. Leaves aromatic when crushed. Birds love the fruits.

Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)

Multi-stemmed, with fragrant 4-10" flowers summer thru fall. Grows very quickly in all types of soil to 8'. A little heavy pruning each spring will keep it under control. Plant near a garden to attract hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

Cranberry, American (*Viburnum trilobum*)

Fast growing to 8-12' this native prefers well-drained to moist soils. White flower clusters in May. Yellow to red fall color. Sour edible red fruits present summer thru winter are rich in vitamin C and enjoyed by humans and wildlife.

Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Vigorous grower to 12' in any type soil. Multi-stemmed, with clusters of purple-black fruits in late summer, used for jams and wine. A great native wetland plant. Good food source for wildlife.

Lilac, Common (*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'.

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

Easily grown deciduous shrub, in full sun to part shade, and a wide range of soils. Noted for its reddish exfoliating bark and showy pinkish-white, five-petal flower clusters. Has drooping reddish seed capsules and yellowish leaves in fall. Grows upright 5-8' and can be cut close to the ground in winter to rejuvenate. Used for hedges and erosion control on streams and rocky banks. Able to withstand harsh conditions. An attractive addition to a pollinator garden!

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

A member of the mallow family, this multi-stemmed, vase-shaped shrub grows 8-12' in various soil types and full to part sun. Has small green leaves and hibiscus type, bell-shaped flowers favored by hummingbirds and butterflies.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier lamarckii*)

This member of the Rosaceae family looks more like a small flowering tree than a shrub, growing 15-25', with a spread to 15'. Slightly fragrant, showy, white five-petal flowers in April (before leaves) give way to small dark-purplish berries in June (hence its nickname "Juneberry"). If you can keep the birds away, the berries make delicious jams, jellies and pies. Leaves are of interest year-round: bronzy purple in spring, dark green in summer and red-orange in fall. Plant in full sun to part shade in moist, well-drained soil.

****SPECIAL OFFERS****

American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)

The American Chestnuts were once one of the most plentiful, versatile and valuable forest trees in the eastern United States, until a blight in the early 1900s virtually eliminated most natural stands. This 100' tall hardwood was an important component of forestland that covered millions of acres. Its' straight, 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, black bears, and others. American Chestnuts do best in full sun on porous soils of moderate depth and fertility, such as rocky hillsides and gravelly or sandy soils. For pollination, plant all seedlings less than 100 yards from each other where their roots will not be disturbed. Rapid growers, they will produce nuts within 7-10 years.

Apple Trees

All trees are 4-6' tall, 1/2" to 5/8" caliper, bare-root. The Nursery supplier will select and pack an assortment of various types for quality pollination.

Starter Package:

Hardy, easy to grow varieties preferred for blight resistance and persistence.

Wildlife Package:

Excess or misshapen trees not adequate for orchards, these are still suitable to enhance a backyard wildlife area and provide food for people, birds, deer, and other wildlife.

****CONSERVATION PACS ****

Each pac contains 10 seedlings total - 2 of each variety

Edible Pac: Blackberry, Raspberry, Strawberry,
Blueberry- Blue Crop & Jersey

Plant in sandy, well drained soil. Full sun. Use trellises for blackberry and raspberry. Water strawberry more frequently while fruit is forming (1-2"/wk). Space blueberry 4-6' apart, but both types in close proximity for pollination.

Perennial Pac: Daylily- Dream Baby & Frances Fay, Sedum- Autumn Joy,
Iris- Blue King & Snow Queen

Plant in full sun to partial shade. Will flower year after year.

Pond Habitat Pac: River Birch, Hybrid Willow, Ninebark,
Buttonbush, Redosier Dogwood

These attractive trees and shrubs like the moisture and will provide the habitat for birds and other wildlife that prefer pond dwellings.

****OTHER ITEMS****

Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)

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

Milkweed Seed

Monarch butterflies cannot survive without this host plant. Females only lay their eggs on native milkweed because their young caterpillars need it to grow and develop. Milkweed is disappearing from our landscapes. Planting it will not only help the Monarch, but the nectar is enjoyed by many other pollinators and hummingbirds as well. Plant in full sun to part shade, 1/2" deep in well-drained soils. Blooms sweet-scented light purplish 2-6' tall flowers in summer. Named for its milky white sap, it produces pod-like fruits that split to release new seed attached to fluffy, silky hairs that aid in wind dispersal.

NOTE: Seeds need cold stratification. Place them in refrigeration for 30 days prior to planting. ALSO: DO NOT SPRAY THIS PLANT! Pesticide use is toxic to monarchs and their offspring.

Countryside Wildflower Seed

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.

PICKUP INFORMATION
Mark your calendars now!!

If you cannot pick up your order on the scheduled dates, please make arrangements with someone to pick it up for you. We do not have the space to keep the order past the pickup dates.

Pickup Days: Friday, April 20, 2018 9:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday, April 21, 2018 9:00am to 12:00pm
Location: Merchant Building – Niagara County Fairgrounds
4487 Lake Ave (RT 31), Lockport

Extra Trees:

Unsold seedlings will be available on a cash and carry basis on the above pickup dates. We will not know until our prepaid orders are packed what the selection will be, so please come and browse!

Spring 2018 Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: May 4, 2018

TENTATIVE Pickup Time: fourth week of May
(We will call you the week before with time and date)

Spring 2018 Grass Carp Stocking

Order Deadline: May 4, 2018

TENTATIVE Pickup Date: third/fourth week of May
(We will call you the week before with time and date)

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and a minimum of 1000 minnows/shiners per acre. NOTE* Do not skimp on stocking minnows, as game fish cannot grow without an adequate supply of natural food. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond with minnows before stocking other game fish is one year. You MUST obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. Applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 25 fish) filled 1/2 full with pond water. These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so **PLEASE BE PROMPT!**

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 12-14". Stock triploid grass carp in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order because the issued permit tells you how many carp you are allowed to order. Permit applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, your carp will come in an aerated plastic bag. You will need to bring a container (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp) to stabilize the bag for transportation home. Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. Call us for more information on how Grass Carp can benefit pond weed control.

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of these forms, payable to **Niagara County SWCD**.

Keep the top portions as your delivery reminders and container/water needs for pickup.

Spring 2018 Pond Stocking				Spring 2018 Grass Carp Stocking	
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount		
Perch 3" - 5"	10/\$35			Name: _____	
Bass 4" - 6"	10/\$50			Address: _____	
Catfish 4" - 6"	10/\$30			City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	
Rainbow Trout 3" - 5"	10/\$25			Daytime Phone: _____	
Brook Trout 4" - 6"	10/\$30			Number of Carp: _____	
Bluegill 3" - 5"	10/\$30			X \$22.00/fish _____	
Golden Shiners 2"	50/\$24			+ Delivery \$4.00	
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20 1000/\$150			Total Due _____	
Subtotal					
+ Delivery			\$4.00		
Total Due					
<i>(NYS sales tax included as required)</i>					
Name: _____					
Address: _____					
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____					
Daytime Phone: _____					
Mail with payment to: Niagara County SWCD				<i>(NYS sales tax is not required)</i>	
4487 Lake Avenue, Lockport, New York 14094				Mail payment WITH ALL 3 ORIGINAL	
				COPIES of your DEC Permit to:	
				Niagara County SWCD	
				4487 Lake Avenue	
				Lockport, NY 14094	

FISH FACTS

Perch - The true perch of New York State include some of the best tasting and most popular freshwater fishes. As a family, they are widely distributed, adaptable to a wide range of habitats, and fun to catch on rod and reel. In addition, the less known members of the perch family, the darters, are probably the most colorful freshwater fish in North America. True perch are spiny-rayed fish which have one or more sharp spines on their fins. While they are quite variable in appearance, they all are slender in body shape, have two dorsal (back) fins, and one anal fin. True perch can be separated into two groups: larger perches and smaller perches.

Largemouth Bass - Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state's most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they'll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfish are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Rainbow Trout - Rainbow trout are often very colorful fish. They have gray-blue to greenish backs and light colored sides with dark spots. Rainbows get their name from the pink or red band often present on their sides. During spawning, this band turns a deep red. Like other trout, adult rainbows tend to be more silvery when living in large lakes like the Great Lakes. Quite variable in size, mature rainbow trout may weigh one or two pounds in streams and more than 15 pounds in the Great Lakes.

Brook Trout - The brook or speckled trout is New York's official State fish. A native of the State, it is the smallest, and to many people, the most attractive trout occurring in the State. It has a dark olive green background with light wavy markings on the back, and tan or red spots on the sides. Its lower fins are striking, with bright white edging separated from the mostly red fin by a black line. Brook trout generally live in small to moderate-sized streams, lakes, and ponds, wherever cool clean water is available. Some brook trout typically weigh one to two pounds.

Bluegill—Bluegills are green to brown on their backs and upper sides shading into brown, orange, or pink with traces of vertical bars along their bottom sides. The breast is yellow to copper-orange, and the sides of their heads have metallic blue and green overtones. The large, square-shaped, blue-black gill flap and conspicuous dark blotch on the back of the soft-rayed portion of their dorsal fins distinguishes bluegills from their close relatives, the pumpkinseed. Bluegills average four to ten inches in length.

Fathead Minnows - Fathead minnows are small and seldom exceed 3 inches in length. They are sturdy, heavy-bodied fish with small mouths and a lateral line that stops under the dorsal fin. They are generally dull in color, with dark bodies and a slight brass tint on the sides. They prefer ponds and slow moving water in streams. Fatheads spawn every 21 days, attaching their eggs to the underside of hard surfaces in the water, such as rocks, boards and PVC pipe, in warm waters of 65-85 degrees from April to September.

Golden Shiners - The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the US. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they primarily feed on zooplankton. The golden shiner spawns several times throughout summer while the water temps are 68-81 degrees. Spawning can be aided with the use of structures such as sunken evergreens or stacked pallets. The abundant reproduction of this fish makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory species are present. These fish are larger than fathead minnows (up to 6 inches in length) and are preferred by large predators.

Triploid Grass Carp - The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called "triploid" since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries.

Knotweed continued from Page 1...

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District also has a Japanese knotweed removal program where we visit an infested property once or twice per year to remove the plant. Priority areas usually include plants located on or near areas that would allow the plant to be easily transported such as a creek bank or road. If you know of any locations of Japanese knotweed, and would like assistance, please contact the District at (716) 434-4949 extension 4.

In 2015, a bank near the Olcott Harbor was completely infested with Japanese Knotweed

In 2017, the same bank has been hydroseeded to re-establish native grasses and wildflowers



Good Luck, Mike!

Intern Mike Filarowski, who had assisted us this Fall with water quality monitoring, storm drain marking, Clean Sweep and other various tasks, recently graduated in December from University at Buffalo with his BA in Environmental Studies. Mike lives in North Tonawanda with his wife and two children. He loves spending time with his family, especially on trips to Disney World! He also enjoys fishing and reading. We know he is very eager to start his new career and wish him much success in the future.





Celebrating Bats: Unexpected Pollinators

By Sara Kangas, NACD Communications and Operations Coordinator

Bats are some of America's best pollinators, but they're often shrouded in mystery! Here are some facts about pollinating bats in the United States:

1. Chiropterophily is the official term for pollination of plant by bats. The term comes from the scientific order for bats *Chiroptera*, from the Greek roots - "chiro-" meaning hand, "ptera-" meaning wing because bats have membranous wings and "-phila" meaning loving.
2. Plants pollinated by bats often have pale, nocturnal flowers, because bats work the night shift! Whereas most flowers during the day have bright blooms to attract bees and other pollinating insects, bats are nocturnal, meaning they're active at night. These pale flowers open at night to attract the bats to the nectar of their large, bell shaped blooms, and close during the day.
3. Plants evolve to attract bats. Because they are larger than insects, bats carry a lot more pollen in their fur. Bats are also capable of flying much farther distances, so they can carry pollen to new areas, increasing the biodiversity of that ecosystem.
4. Bats can sniff out plants—often the plants that bats seek out have a strong, musty odor. Plants secrete a melon-scented, rotten smell that helps bats who may not use echolocation to locate their meal.
5. Bats pollinate some of your favorite foods almost exclusively! Agave, cocoa, bananas, mangoes, guavas and eucalyptus all rely on pollination from bats. Don't worry about them getting intoxicated though—bats feed on the nectar of the agave plant, not the fermented agave that becomes tequila.
6. Both of the American species of bats—the lesser long-nosed bat and the Mexican long-tongued bat (also known as the hog-tailed bat) are federally listed as endangered species.
7. Bats can use echolocation to find flowers! Because the flowers they feed on are bell-shaped, the frequency emitted by the bats is reflected back to them, helping them locate the nectar they seek.
8. Even bats who don't eat fruit or nectar help plants! Bats that don't eat fruit or

nectar are insectivores who help to reduce the pest populations around crops.

9. Disappearing nectar from your hummingbird feeders? Bats could be the culprit! Bats enjoy nectar just like hummingbirds, so they might be frequenting your feeders while you're sleeping!

10. Bats can promote healthy ecosystems with their poop! When bats eat fruit, they're unable to digest the seeds inside, passing through their poop, or *guano*, while they fly. Because the seeds are dropped with ready-made fertilizer, they're able to grow in a healthy environment. In this way, bats are responsible for helping preserve forests and increasing their biodiversity.

You can be a friend to bats in your own backyard. Request a free Bat Garden Guide at info@batconservation.org. Learn more about white nose syndrome, one of the biggest threats to American bat populations, and how you can volunteer to help bats in your hometown. You can also visit www.batweek.org "Go to Bat for Bats" to find other activities and suggestions to raise awareness in your community. Reach out to your conservation district to see how you can help pollinators, including bats, to thrive in your local ecosystem.

Right: Bat boxes or roosts can be ordered through the Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District Seedling Program on page 6. If you have any questions about the size or cost of the boxes call our office at (716) 434-4949 x4.



Niagara County Soil & Water Conservation District and Eighteenmile Creek Great Lakes Area of Concern are now on Facebook! Give us a "Like"



Mike Barnett
Owner

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