

# CDEA News

The Monthly Newsletter of the NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association

## 2010 Water Quality Symposium

It is over, at least for the majority of folks. The banner is put away, bills are being paid and the people who still owe money for the silent auction are slowly being hunted down by Vicki and her minions.....

Overall this was a successful session. Yes, there were issues, with parking being the biggest, but from where I had to sit, the earth didn't collapse and everyone survived the week. Thank you to all who have provided feedback, it is extremely valuable to be able to see what can be improved on. One comment on that however, if you do not like the course instructors and would like someone else to instruct, please provide a name or company.

We had approximately 315 folks at the event throughout the week and almost 200 at the CDEA Awards Banquet. Considering the economy, I believe that was terrific. Thanks to Eric Haas who did an outstanding job with the awards and hopefully still has a girlfriend after his jokes. The award winners this year were:

### Merit Awards

Division II—Erin Peruzzini, Seneca County  
Division III—Raeanne Dulanski, St. Lawrence County  
Division IV—John Wickham, Schuyler County  
Division V—Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County  
Division VIII—Nicolle Spinelli, Suffolk County

**Willard F. Croney Award for Distinguished Service** —Sandy Huey, Cayuga County

**Special Project Award**— Steve Mahoney, Clinton County

**Special Award**—Polly Weigand, Suffolk County

**Partner of the Year Award**—Diane Fiorentino, Chemung County Stormwater Coalition

**District Director Award**— Daryl Heiby, Wyoming County

**Heroism Award**—Ron Bush, Onondaga County SWCD

After the usual tough and highly contested elections, the CDEA Board will remain unchanged for this upcoming year. If you ever have questions about the CDEA, its programs or policies contact one of the members of the Board. This is your association.

Believe it or not, I am putting together the RFP for next year's event already. This will be going out in late May. If anyone out there has any facility that they know may like the opportunity, call or email me and we can go over the needs. The RFP goes out to 20 or so facilities. The more places we get involved the better the selection process.

Finally a big thank you to all of my chairs—JoAnne Faulkner, Mark Schaub, Deb Kelley and Kristin White for pulling the courses together and keeping them on track. Thanks also to all of the committee members for their hard work on developing the courses and to all of you who gave a hand at the session.

### Brain Basher ..faxed answers only (518-623-3519)

**This month's Question:** In order to keep her job at Orange County SWCD, Kevin Sumner told Kristen O'Dell to solve the following:



How is failure represented in the rebus below?

- Options:  
A) Success  
B) Victory  
C) Triumph  
D) Accomplishment

**January's Question:** What phrase is shown in the figure below?

S-n-o-w

**Answer:** "Dashing through the snow"  
Congrats to Victor DiGiacomo of Niagara County SWCD

### A little humor to start off April...

**A farmer finally decided to buy a TV.** The store assured him that they would install the antenna and TV the next day. The next evening the farmer turned on his new TV and found only political ads on every channel. The next morning he turned the TV on and found only political ads again.

When he came in to eat lunch he tried the TV again but still only found political ads. The next day when he still found only political ads he called the store to complain. The owner said that it was impossible for every channel to only have political ads, but agreed to send their repairman to check the TV. When the TV repairman turned on the TV he found that the farmer was right.

After looking at the TV for a while he went outside to check the antenna. In a few minutes he returned and told the farmer he had found the problem. The antenna had been installed on top of the windmill and grounded to the manure spreader.

## CDEA Employee Profile



Welcome to Wyoming County where I heard that cows outnumber the people. Well, I did manage to get a hold of one person out there for an interview, Bethany Klein. Bethany was born in August of 1986 in Rochester, NY. She grew up in Perry on her family's dairy farm by Silver Lake. Her folks had a 300 head Holstein operation 24/7 and also had some horses, sheep and the occasional pig.

When she was a youngster, chores were introduced and Bethany helped out with the calves, primarily at feeding time. She also had the joy of helping her grandparents with their Pomeranians and "cleaning up" after them. Oh what a joyous childhood experience that was.

Bethany has two sisters and one brother and is the youngest of the Klein clan. However, she was soon indoctrinated into the evil ways of women and the three sisters would gang up on their poor, unsuspecting brother when it was convenient and the convenience store was always open. Outside of that torture, they played around the farm, built hay forts and caused general mayhem when possible.

Bethany attended Perry High School and became a "Yellow Jacket". She played soccer and was a cheerleader for the basketball team. Besides athletics, she was the student government president (that makes me think of *Lord of the Flies* for some creepy reason) and was involved in the Drama Club. I asked her what her favorite play was and she said it was *Into the Woods*, where she portrayed the witch. She was a good, diligent student, well respected, admired and appreciated by all...or something along those lines.....

In 2004 upon graduation, Bethany headed to Charlotte, NC for baking and pastry arts. She stayed for two months and decided that was not to be her career of choice (if you really enjoy doing something willing, do you want to have to do it all of the time?). She moved back home and went to R.I.T. for Environmental Science. She lived off campus and really focused on the academics, especially trying to pass chemistry. She did mention while she was there that she was a member of the Student Environmental Action League, however due to the title, I am not sure if they were environmental activists or superheroes.

In 2008 Bethany received her B.S. and headed off into the real world. If you recall she had been working since she was a youngster, on the farm. She had also bussed tables, worked in a drive in restaurant/ice cream parlor (and became manager), worked at RIT in the IT department and did stints at Old Navy, Dick's Sporting Goods and Victoria's Secrets.

*Continued on page 4.....*

## Identifying the Invaders:

### 'Do Not Sell' list of nonnative plants

Marilyn J. Jordan, Ph.D. The Nature Conservancy  
(By way of Polly Weigand, Suffolk Co. SWCD)

Two years and 42 meetings – that's how long a dedicated group of 15 botanists, horticulture professionals and land managers from 14 different agencies and organizations have volunteered their time to assess the invasiveness of 180 plant species non-native to NYS. They used a ranking system developed by The Nature Conservancy and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG), which focuses on consequences to the native species and natural ecosystems of New York. The system is designed to be repeatable, based on the best available science, clearly explained and fully documented.



First, BBG completed assessment forms for species.

Then, working under the auspices of the LI Invasive Species Management Area (LIISMA), the 15 members of the "Scientific Review Committee" (SRC) reviewed, revised, and approved the invasiveness ranks determined by BBG. To date, 69 species have ranked High or Very High. All decisions were unanimous.

The New York State Invasive Species Council (NYS ISC) in consultation with the Invasive Species Advisory Committee, adopted the plant ranking system for use statewide in 2009. NYS ISC also accepted species' invasiveness ranks determined by BBG and the LIISMA SRC, and will use the ranks to inform future commerce regulations in New York State. In addition, the SRC's work has informed invasive species legislation and "Do Not Sell" lists in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

You'd think SRC members would be ready to quit after debating the fine points of plant species' ecological impacts, reproductive capacities, modes of spread, difficulty of control, etc. for two years. But no; BBG and the SRC will meet two or three times a year to consider new potentially invasive species and to revisit previously assessed species in light of new information. A subgroup of the SRC may also contribute to efforts to develop a protocol for identifying sterile cultivars of invasive species that might be safe to sell.

A list of SRC members, the ranking system, and results of the SRC's work are available at [http://nyis.info/Resources/IS\\_Risk\\_Assessment.aspx](http://nyis.info/Resources/IS_Risk_Assessment.aspx)

# NACD National Meeting.....Steve Lorraine

Our great state of New York was well represented this year at the NACD Annual meeting held in Orlando Florida January 31<sup>st</sup> through February 3<sup>rd</sup>. While I was there I was joined by Ron Podolak and Sandy Huey from Cayuga, Mark Burger from Onondaga, Blanche Hurlbutt from Otsego, Ed Hoxsie from Dutchess, several directors from different districts, members from NYACD and NY NRCS. All in all it was a very good turnout from the New York contingent. I want to congratulate Cayuga County for winning a national award for their innovative use of construction equipment to get the job done.

While there I was able to speak with my counter parts from different states around the country to get their perspective on issues that we are all dealing with these days. I find it interesting to talk with soil and water folks from around the country and see how the problems we are working on in New York are being handled in comparison to other states. It does give a new perspective on some things.

The new Executive Director for NACD, Jeff Eisenburg and I were able to sit down and have a very interesting conversation about the districts and how we interact with NRCS differently across the country. Jeff is very enthusiastic about his new job and I believe he will work hard to promote the districts across the country. I wish him well in his new position and offered him New York CDEA's help with anything he needs.

There were many interesting break out sessions this year on a variety of topics. Whether it was on the very hot topic of the looming Chesapeake Bay issues or showcasing the outstanding work being done by our fellow districts around the country, we all walked away having learned more about what we do every day.



Part of the NY gang



Well hello there...



The Madison CO. SWCD office at their 50 Anniversary Party



Tastes like chicken....

## Odds and Ends

- The RFP for developing the CDEA News is slated to come out in two or three weeks. It is open to any individual or District who may be interested.
- A May CDEA Board meeting has been set for May 12th and 13th in Madison NY. An agenda will be out prior to the meeting. Anyone wishing to attend, please contact me at [jim99@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jim99@nycap.rr.com).
- One person has been interviewed for the CDEA Employee profile twice. Once by Dave Wick and once by myself. Can anyone name this current District employee?
- The Central NY Resource Conservation and Development Project, Inc. in partnership with the Madison County SWCD, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team, the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture, USDA NRCS/Endless Mountains RC&D Council (PA) and the NYS CDEA was awarded a professional development grazing education grant. The project title: *Utilizing Holistic Planned Grazing as a Regenerative Engine for Sustainable Agriculture*, seeks to train 30 extension educators, conservation district and NRCS professionals, NGO staff and Farmer-educators to deliver and implement holistic and practical grazing knowledge and strategies on 120 beginning and novice grazing farms throughout the Northeast states. If you are interested in participating, contact Troy Bishopp at Madison County SWCD or [troy-bishop@verizon-net](mailto:troy-bishop@verizon-net).

# AEM/NACD Awards

NACD 2010 Annual Meeting • January 31 - February 3, 2010 • Orlando, FL

**Excellence in Conservation Equipment and Technology Use**

*Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District— Auburn, NY*

The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District uses various pieces of equipment on a regular basis to achieve its conservation goals. By utilizing equipment, the District's programs have expanded, and the District has been able to install best management practices that maintain and protect the water quality in the Finger Lakes Region. In today's environment, Cayuga County SWCD recognizes the need to diversify its programs and be able to provide important, valuable services that no other agency can, and the District achieves it through the use of conservation equipment.

*Ed. Note—Sincere congratulations to Cayuga County SWCD for this award. It is nice to have one our own recognized for their dedication to conservation!*



## Parting Shots



*Simple minds, um .....I mean simple pleasures!*



*MMMM... Levi Hungry....*



*Naptime needed Mr. Savage?*

*Not sure what is happening here with Dean and Evan.*



*Congratulations to the 2010 Croney Award winner—Sandy Huey*



*Ag and Markets Commissioner Pat Hooker and his support staff (behind him on wall)*



*John Wickham receiving his Division IV Merit Award*



## Klein, continued...

While living in Albany her father heard that Wyoming County SWCD was placing an announcement for a Water Quality Tech. She was soon moving back to Wyoming County and loves her job. She conducts water quality sampling, education, surveys and anything else she needs to help out with. Her boss is described as "excellent" and she says that she is very lucky to be working for him (*Greg – performance reviews are this month correct?*).



Outside of the office, Bethany volunteers at the Buffalo Zoo as an Education docent (educator). She leads tours of the zoo and shows off her favorite critter, the river otter. She enjoys hanging out with friends, cross country skiing, road biking and many outdoor activities. As of now she no pets, but she does have several house plants she can talk to, however I am not sure that they ever talk back.

Bethany is engaged to a gentleman named Chris who is an investigator for the Division of Tax and Finance of NY, so be nice to her. They were high school sweethearts and he was very persistent about dating her. Their wedding is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> of this year and right now they are leading towards going to Jamaica for the honeymoon. I am sure any and all gifts would be more than appreciated, especially some more plants, to liven up the conversations.

