

## Good News for Forest Owners

Just recently the NYSDEC has released information pertaining to preliminary successes against the Emerald Ash Borer. The EAB is a destructive insect that since its discovery in Michigan in 2002, has destroyed over 20 million ash trees in MI, OH and IN. The EAB has now expanded its range to include, IL, OH, MD and PA. New York is keeping a watchful eye out this year.

Good news however, in a Univ. of Michigan study last year, a new chemical pesticide has been found to kill 100% of the adult EAB's and a tiny wasp has been found that destroys up to 80% of the larvae. Researchers are concentrating on the success of the wasps for a wider solution as it would be impractical for a large scale chemical treatment. The beetle is being studied to see what potential "environmental side effects" are, but at least things are moving forward. For now, don't move any ash firewood and keep in touch with the NYS Forest Owners Association. ([www.nyfoa.org](http://www.nyfoa.org)) or your local extension office for more details.

## FYI

- I have been told by several people that they are tired of the Karaoke at the WQS. If you want to continue singing up on stage, better let Steve know!
- Good job to Erica Schreiner (Oswego County) for rescuing two pugs that were running around on a busy street in the City of Oswego. Using her charm and wit, she coaxed the little ankle biters into the vehicle and then called to find their grateful and relieved owner. Nice effort Erica.
- **Thank You's** should be offered up to a number of folks that have stepped down from the CDEA Executive Board. Blanche Hurlbutt, Rob Williams, Tom McMahon and Jeff Parker all committed themselves to many extra meetings and events for the past (6?) years. Without their dedication and belief in the Districts then many programs that we have now would not be as successful as they are. It is easy to not put any effort forth in expressing your views or beliefs, but that is not true of these folks. Drop them a line and say thanks (I am sure that gas money would be accepted to!)
- A **huge Thanks** to Dennis DeWeese for his part in getting Dave Wick out to the banquet to receive the Croney Award. Without Dennis's demeanor or sense of humor, I am not sure how it could have been pulled off. Thank you, especially from Warren County SWCD.

## Brain Basher (faxed answers, 518.623-3519)

**This Month's Question:** Kevin Lewis asks JoAnne Faulkner "What one three-letter word can be inserted in all three blanks below to make two words in each row?"

With a knowing smile she easily answers Kevin and makes him but pizza for the office. See if you can match her answers and be as perfect as she was.

LIS\_\_TACLE  
HAS\_\_DON  
OF\_\_DER



## 2008 WQS Wrap Up

The 2008 WQS has come and gone and it was great to see so many of you this year. Thanks and congratulations go to Steve Lorraine and his committee who organized this years event. There were over 300 attendees and 27 courses during the week. The courses that were held were very educational and informative. Hopefully everyone has handed in their evaluations and signed up to volunteer for committees for next year.

Here is the new CDEA Board:

President: Jeff Carmichael (Onondaga)  
Vice President: Steve Lorraine (Madison)  
Secretary: Velynda Risley (Steuben)  
Treasurer: Vicki Hendrix (Tompkins)  
Member at Large: Brian Wohnsiedler (Jefferson)  
Division I: Mark Gaston (Erie)  
Division II: P.J. Emerick (Ontario)  
Division II: Nichelle Billhardt (Lewis)  
Division IV: Jerry Verigni (Schuyler)  
Division V: Lori Kerrigan (Warren)  
Division VI: John Persch (Montgomery)  
Division VII: Brian Scoralick (Dutchess)  
Division VIII: Polly Weigand (Suffolk)

The 2008 CDEA Award Winners:

Division Director Award: Anthony Specchio (Schuyler County)  
Special Project Award: Orleans County SWCD  
Division Merit Awards:  
I: Jim Sroka (Erie)  
II: Jim Malyj (Seneca)  
III: Wayne Sech (Jefferson)  
IV: Seth Dennis (Tompkins)  
V: Lori Kerrigan (Warren)  
VI: Andrea James (Saratoga)  
VII: Pam Palmer (Dutchess)  
VIII: Polly Weigand (Suffolk)  
Willard F. Croney Award: Dave Wick (Warren)

Congratulations to all, you have certainly earned the recognition. In addition, Jeff Carmichael says that all of your bonus checks are in the mail. Thanks to the committee for allowing me to emcee the banquet, I had a great time.

Over \$2,200 was raised for the Frank Bratt Scholarship fund from the silent auction and bucket raffle. This year a farmers market was organized by John Persch and Rhonda Jarvis. This event was held just before diner and ran through, to allow folks to sample food and wines and meet with stormwater folks and engineers. There were 25 vendors for this event, quite a turnout for the first time. Great job to John and Rhonda. I did participate in the Sumo suit wrestling, and while I got my behind handed to me by my good friend and small mountain, Brian Wohnsiedler, it was a lot of fun.

What will next year bring for the WQS? Please forward and questions, comments or suggestions to Steve at Madison County. If there is something that you really liked and would encourage it again, let him know. If there was something that you didn't like, tell him, nothing can get addressed if you don't speak up. Great job to everyone.

# The Champlain Watershed Coalition of New York

Many of you have seen the name CWICNY lately, but do you know what CWICNY is? CWICNY stands for the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York and is a 501-C-(3) Not-for-Profit group originally formed in 2001 whose goal is: "Providing a Coordinated Effort to Improve Water Quality and Other Natural Resources Within the Lake Champlain Counties Through Project Implementation." This coalition is a grass-roots approach which recognizes the importance of local participation and cooperation to control the many sources of pollutants into Lake Champlain. CWICNY Inc. is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that includes representatives from each of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and each of the Water Quality Coordinating Committees from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and Washington Counties and a representative from the Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board. Advisors to the group include the NYSSWCC the NYSDEC, the USDA NRCS, The Greater Adirondack RC&D and the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Why did we need to have another organization up in the North Country? Well, Lake Champlain is one of the largest lakes in the United State at 120 miles long and New York contains 37% of its watershed (1.95 million acres). There are 57 municipalities and it has a census population of around 199,000.

Many major water resources are in this basin which include: Saranac Lake, Lake George, Chazy Lake, Ausable River, Boquet River, and the Poultney and Mettawee Rivers. Phosphorus loading to Lake Champlain is extremely important. The sources vary throughout the basin depending on how land is being used in a particular sub-watershed. Agricultural land covers 15% of the land area, and contributes 55% of the non-point source phosphorus loading through sources such as barnyard runoff, nutrient mismanagement, lack of livestock exclusion from streams, and eroding streambanks with inadequate riparian buffers.

Forested land covers 75% of the land area, but contributes only 8% of the nonpoint phosphorus load. Developed land covers only 6% of the area, but contributes 37% of the average nonpoint source phosphorus load to Lake Champlain. Runoff from impervious surfaces such as streets, parking lots, and driveways often run directly into Lake Champlain and/or its tributaries with no vegetative buffering or infiltration filtering. These nonpoint sources contribute about 80% of the total phosphorus load to Lake Champlain; the additional 20% comes from point sources such as industry and municipal wastewater treatment. Whew.... now just who is dealing with these issues?

As with many small and new organizations, funding has been a major issue. CWICNY has been fortunate to receive various grants from the Lake Champlain Basin program and the EPA to fund smaller scale projects that have included stormwater tradeshows, septic system trainings and county project tours. Agency officials have been supportive, as have our local senators and assemblypersons. They have been on these tours and understand the value of this organization.

Within the past two years, things have gotten pretty bright and busy for CWICNY. Senator Betty Little procured \$250,000 in an *Aid to Localities* grant for CWICNY that included hydroseeding, agricultural and streambank improvement projects. Last year CWICNY learned that it was selected as one of 16 projects awarded in the EPA's Targeted Watersheds Grants Program. This \$900,000 dollar grant will help to address major nonpoint source issues all over the basin. In order to manage these funds and the overall program, CWICNY recently hired a coordinator who will fill various roles including grant administration, project oversight and organizational development. We look forward to continuing with our growth and are happy to have the local support that we do. Please contact Dave Wick, President (district@nycap.rr.com) if you have any questions.

## CDEA Employee Profile

Mark Burger  
Program Manager  
Skaneateles Watershed  
Agricultural Program

I have had the good fortune to know and work with Mark for the past few years and have learned that he is a hell of a guy.

Born in January of 1968, in Olean, Mark grew up on the family home-stead in Little Valley where there are more cows than people in the and that you need a passport to leave! Mark's mother worked in the sheriff's department and his dad was a construction worker. Needless to say that everyone kept tabs on Mark and his sister Michele, so things were pretty mellow at the Burger household. They had 94 acres to run around on, ride Honda motorcycles and ATV's and Polaris sleds. Mark's folks boarded horses and sold hay. Soon they started to raise pigs, chickens and beef cows at Mark's instance, thereby creating "Mark's Menagerie". He said that he had lots of fun as a kid, and isn't that what it is all about?

When Mark started High School at Little Valley Central, he kept right on having fun. He spent time in the Outdoor Club where they explored Alleghany National Park, he was the Chief of the Junior Volunteer Fire Company, played drums in the band, played football and rode motocross with three wheelers. In addition, Mark built and ran demolition derby cars, that is until his little sister proved that she could drive better and Mark's sponsors went by-by. What about Mr. Burger's studies you ask, Eeeehhhh..., was the response that I got. That was a first for me. I guess "D" really does stand for diploma, just kidding Mark. The only thing that he got into trouble for was eating in the hallway between classes. A minor infraction you may think, but one particular teacher had it in for Mark and hauled him to the principal's office several times a week for that offense. Managing to survive under such harsh treatment, Mark graduated in 1986 and took off to the wilds of Paul Smith's College. He majored in forestry and had one of the best experiences there. Mark relayed to me that he loved to college and area, and that he spent lots of time getting into mischief with his friends. While up there he was with the Lands Department so he worked on trail maintenance which kept him focused on work and his studies. In 1988 Mark graduated and went to ESF to major in forestry and soils. While there he conducted a research project dealing with recycling drywall as a soils amendment. It was a huge success (article next month) which lead him to grad school from 1990-1993 at ESF.

Upon graduation in 1993, Mark entered the workforce as a wetland delineator and mitigator for a private company. As a single guy, he worked all over the northeast and became familiar with SWCD's as a valuable and helpful resource. In 2000 Mark left the company and came to work for SLWAP and without hesitation Mark calls Jeff Carmichael the best boss he has ever had. In 2001, Mark left SLWAP to become the manager of the county's composting program. It was a lot of fun managing a small staff but in 2003 the SLWAP manager position opened up and he was offered the position. Mark really enjoys his job, the people that he works with, and the folks that they serve. Everyday there is something new and provides challenges.

Outside of work, Mark is a new father. His daughter Noelle, was born in August of 2007 and his girlfriend Sue Ann has a son Jared, so they have a busy family. Mark and Sue Ann met through some neighbors and then became good friends. Unlike many other new fathers that I have known, Mark loves, not likes, loves to get up at night to take care of Noelle. You can hear the enthusiasm in his voice, so I have to believe him. The family likes to fish and camp. Mark makes maple syrup and has produced about 10 ½ gallons so far this year. He enjoys the local stock car races, restoring old antique farm equipment, waterfowl and big game hunting. When he does have spare time, he is a volunteer fireman and participates in the annual walleye tournament on Oneida Lake. He is a stumpy through and through and quite proud of it. Let me leave you with a quote: "I have a great life and can't wait to see where the next 40 years leads." Nicely put Mark.