

# CDEA News

The Monthly Newsletter of the NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association

## 2010 Water Quality Symposium

Hopefully by now you have seen the 2010 Water Quality Symposium registration packet. If you have not, go to [www.nyscdea.org](http://www.nyscdea.org) and navigate to the *Water Quality Symposium* page on Monday, you will be able to download it from there.

Anyway, if you have reviewed this year's info, hopefully you are pleased with the course selection. The committee worked very hard to develop courses based on the needs assessment that has led into the Technical Development Program, recommendations from last year's symposium and the announcement via email for suggestions. If this agenda does not meet your needs or expectations, please email me and I would be glad to have you on the committee next year. There is always room for more volunteers.

We have moved to Binghamton this year, this is not the same hotel that we were at several years ago. The WQS has been held here (before my time) and the hotel contact that is doing a great job with suggestions for food, breaks, entertainment and other necessary items. This year we will not have the run of the hotel, so please be on a decent behavior, otherwise Knuckles and Rocco will help you find your checkbook (*what movie is that from?*).

When the hotel RFP's were received from this past fall, we realized that the cost of this event would go up. We have worked hard to reduce costs that we have had, as this is the major fundraiser for the association and its activities. If anyone has ideas on how to reduce the package costs, I am open to suggestions. I will say it was an interesting process to go through and that the range of costs is incredible.

We have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Farmers Market and Resource Fair on Tuesday evening, and will feature a variety of vendors from engineers, conservation products, to wineries. Yes, we will once again have Root Beer Floats and Creamsicles served up by our very own soda jerks. So plan on attending from March 9-12. The registration deadline is February 12th.

Don't forget the Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle fundraiser and be prepared to dance!

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

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



S-n-o-w

**December's Question:** What 11-letter word is pronounced incorrectly by 100% of Cornell graduates?

**Answer:** *Incorrectly*

By one and one half hours.....congratulations to Lisa Kuehnle of Schoharie County.

## NYS CDEA Management Development Program

What the heck is the Management Development Certification Program? Well for many of you that have ridden dinosaurs to work, you will recall this was a self certification effort by the association for anyone who may *manage* a project or program. This is not a program just for managers, but rather those who are interested in improving their professional abilities.

The CDEA Member At Large, Brian Hall, is in charge of administering this program. Six competency areas are included in this program for professional development. They are:

- 1 - Communication and Interpersonal Skills
- 2 - Leading and Motivating Others
- 3 - Planning and Administering Systems and Processes
- 4 - Organizational Knowledge and Strategy
- 5 - Self-Management Skills
- 6 - Strategic Innovation Skills

Once you have achieved the qualification, then you need to complete 18 hours of continuing education credits every three years. Think you can handle that? If you have any questions, just call Brian and find out more about this development program.

PS: There is a list of individuals available that are currently certifiable...um, certified and others that have the track begun. If you would like to see if you are listed, contact Brian at Onondaga County SWCD.



## CDEA News needs you!

As I mentioned last month, I am stepping down from developing the newsletter in a couple of months. Many of you may be relieved, as I can be a handful at times! Well, the Association will be continuing with the CDEA News and will have an RFP out after the next Executive Board meeting in early February.

The newsletter is fluid and can change in many ways. The Board may decide to change it to a bi-monthly newsletter or it may stay as is. Article subjects can change along with the layout. Everything is up for suggestions. I believe that the RFP will require anyone interested to provide a writing sample. If that is the case, I will come up with an .....interesting subject.....

Several folks have contacted me about the newsletter and rest assured we will be contacting you. For everyone else that is interested, keep your eyes open for the announcement.



## CDEA Employee Profile

Who in the world is Corrina Aldrich? In case you don't know she is a District Technician at the Washington County SWCD. What is her deal? Her story? The nitty, gritty? Read on and find out about Corrina...

Corrina was born in Lebanon, NH in June of 1968. Her parents had a dairy farm in Woodsville, NH that Corrina's father ran which encompassed 500 acres, 60 Holsteins, corn and hay. While her father worked the farm, her mother went to treat other people's needs as an LPN. Corrina has one brother, David who farms back in Woodsville.

Growing up in NH, Corrina spent most of her free time heavily involved in FFA, 4-H and the Junior Holsteins. She attended Woodsville High School and was president of the FFA for 2 years and the equipment manager for the boy's basketball team during her senior year. She graduated with 65 other *Engineers* in 1986 and moved on to college. One topic that I have never mentioned in any of the newsletters that I have done, are oxen. It seems that Corrina raised a team and I learned that they can be any breed of cow, are started in training right away, get "fixed" at age 3-4 months. She marched them in a Fourth of July parade, and I personally think that backing up a team must be similar to backing up a bulldozer, but things went well. When they were 5 years old, they went to work with a logger, unfortunately for him, since they were trained by Corrina, they would only respond to commands from his wife!

Corrina left New Hampshire to attend SUNY Cobleskill to major in Ag. Science. She really enjoyed her time, since there were not many aggies at her high school, but obviously there were a few at Cobleskill. While in college she lived on campus, was on the Dairy Judging Team and went to Wisconsin to represent the college at the National Quiz Bowl while a member of the Holstein Junior Club.

One evening she and a number of other ladies, went out and stole a cow crossing sign. They dug 'er right up and threw it in the car. Too bad that the signpost was sticking out and campus police spotted it. The car was directed to turn around and replant the sign that night. It was a sleepy morning the next day.

Upon graduation in 1988, Corrina moved to Washington County, NY to work as a herds-person. She was in charge of the health and care of the herd for several years. Corrina said that over the next 20 years or so she moved around and did different jobs in NY, Vermont and New Hampshire. She began with Washington County SWCD as the AEM Coordinator. As with most District positions, her days and weeks vary with projects. One thing that she mentioned was that she really likes the fact that Districts help folks out in many facets.

*Continued on next page.....*



At the Washington County Fair



Fourth of July parade

## What I did on my Christmas Break

Last month I had an opportunity to go to Manchester, Vermont as part of the Warren County 4-H Fishing Club. I have been to Manchester a number of times, but I have never done a factory tour of Orvis or the American Museum of Fly fishing.

Manchester is the home of Orvis, the Mecca of eastern fly-fishing needs. The store is very interesting, and contains a variety of outdoor goods, including a double barrel shotgun for \$25,000. One of the largest draws is



the trout pond that allows fish to pass in and out of the store. Much like certain hotel pools, this one is located partially in the store and partially outside. During spring, you are allowed to take practice casts at this pond, and it is not unusual to see several fly rods whipping back and

forth (first timers) into the pond. The day that I went over, the high for the day peaked around 9 degrees, so the outside pond was closed. The factory tour was very interesting from a production and historical standpoint. Cameras were not allowed in the shop, so I can't provide you with any pictures; however this factory produces all of the rods that you see with the Orvis brand. They still produce bamboo rods, and it is more of an art form rather than a production. I tried to convince them that the CDEA would gratefully accept a donation for the WQS, however they saw right through that. A letter I do recall seeing on the wall was from Gen Norman Schwarzkopf, thanking the Orvis Company for their gift of a hand crafted fly rod. Kind of neat to see something like that!



The last stop that we went to was the American Museum of Fly Fishing. Since it was such a cold day, the museum was locked up, however out of a small building came the Executive Director of the museum, Catherine Comar, who let us in and was exceptional in answering our many questions.

The museum was established in 1968 by a group of interested anglers, and was "created to preserve and exhibit the treasures of American angling". Currently, the museum serves as a repository for the world's largest collection of angling and angling-related items, numbering in the thousands. *Our collections and exhibits thoroughly document the evolution of fly fishing as a sport, art form, craft, and industry in the U.S. and abroad, dating as far back as the 16th century. Rods, reels, flies, tackle, art, photographs, manuscripts, and books form the major portions of the Museum's collections.* (adapted from the AMFF website)

I would encourage anyone who enjoys fishing or natural history art, to stop by if you are in the area. For more info visit <http://www.amff.com/>

*"In my family, there was no clear division between religion and fly fishing."*  
~by Norman Maclean



### *Corrina continued.....*

In her personal life, Corrina is married to Paul Campbell. They had been friends for many years and finally decided to settle down five years ago. They reside in a small house on a 50 acre sugarbush. She is very into photography, check out the last picture!

Another hobby she has (they have) is going to Megalithic (think Stonehenge) events. These events deal with moving big stone without the use of hydraulics. They spend time up in Clinton County for this, and that...wait for it....Druids are involved and are counted among her many friends. This has to be one of the most fascinating paragraphs that I have written.

She has a Rottweiler named Buzz. Buzz is a rescue dog from Hurricane Katrina. He is a sweet dog, but still limps around from an injury from the hurricane. She also has a cat named Riddle, who Corrina describes as a pain in the .....(must be Paul's cat). Corrina also has four Jersey cows that she shows at the Washington County fair. We had a nice discussion about them, I think even with my limited dairy knowledge.

All in all, it sounds like Corrina enjoys her job and life in general. Agriculture is extremely important to her and I see that at various meetings that we attend. Ag folks, feel good, she is a great ambassador here in the east.

Ed Note: As occurs fairly regularly, I said email me with any other info that you may have. Corrina did and here it is: " I did work for the State of Vermont in the Agency of Transportation for 7 years and learned to plow snow and got a class B Commercial Drivers License. I started out in a trainee position and when I left I was a supervisor of a highway maintenance garage with 7 guys working for me. Agriculture changed a lot in those seven years so the landscape has changed."



Corrina's photos at the *Landscapes for Landsake* show in October of 2009. This is a juried show that is a fundraiser for the Agricultural Stewardship Association in Washington County

## *Odds and Ends*

- Has anyone ever been subpoenaed to provide testimony at a hearing from an issue that the District was part of? I received the command letter, but the case is going to an arbitrator instead. Let me know.
- One of those odd requests that keep life interesting at the District- I was contacted by an individual who is developing the website, <http://www.newyorkdriveins.com>, and asked for historic imagery. Check it out.

## *Parting Shots*



Lori Kerrigan, Josh Davis (our intern at college), Dean Moore and Jim Lieberum of Warren County SWCD, home brewing. FYI: Dean's 4 year old son, *Andy*, took the picture.



Charolais in Cambridge NY, some of our great Washington County scenery. - Corrina Aldrich

## **Silent Auction and Bucket Raffle Reminder**

Beginning on March 9th, the annual NYSCDEA Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction will begin at the 2010 Water Quality Symposium in Binghamton.

Over the past several years, this fundraiser has been extremely successful in funding the Frank Bratt Scholarship Fund & Sunshine Fund.

Please show your support of this program again as you have in the past, and spare no expense.

**Each District: please bring in one Raffle item and if possible, a Silent Auction item.**

**Each Division: needs to provide a Silent Auction item (contact your Division rep. with ideas).**

For questions or any information please contact:  
**Christine Watkins – Jefferson County SWCD (315) 782-2479**  
**Jerry Verrigni – Schuyler County SWCD (607) 535-9650**