

# CDEA News

The Monthly Newsletter of the NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association



February 2009

## 2009 WQS Reminders

Since this is the last newsletter to hit the presses before the 2009 Water Quality Symposium, Steve Lorraine asked me to include some information and reminders. First, don't forget the annual bucket raffle and silent auction. Each Division is responsible for a silent auction item and each District is encouraged to bring an item for either the auction or raffle. If you have any ideas or questions, contact your Division rep.

The second reminder is that elections will be held. There will be elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Member at Large and all odd numbered Division Reps. If you are interested in any of the officer positions, contact Amanda Barber. This is a great way of finding out more about the CDEA and help to guide policy. Also, if you are a committee chair, please finalize any committee reports that you are responsible for. If you are not on a committee, I ask you why not?

There will be a second annual Farmers Market on Tuesday night 4:00-8:00 in the dining area. I spoke to John Persch and the Farmers Market is larger and more varied than last year. Please stop by and see what products and services are being offered. The funds raised are utilized for entertainment and other expenses.

There has been discussion of whether or not Texas Hold' Em will be held. The answer is no. Last year's turnout was lower than was hoped for, so the committee (Tom Eskildson and Jessica Verigni) decided to hold it every other year. If you have questions about this, feel free to contact Tom or Jess.

Wednesday evening's entertainment is a live band, the Horn Dogs. There will not be any contact sport recreation this year, for that you are on your own (or see Jeff Carmichael). Remember that although we have fun at this four day event, we are there to learn to how to better assist our constituents with conservation issues. If you have any questions or concerns, call Steve Lorraine. If he is not curled up in a fetal position, hiding under his desk yet, I am sure that he would be glad to answer any questions for you. I look forward to seeing you all there.

## Brain Basher (faxed answers please—518.623.3519)

**This Month's "q":** What is an apt anagram for Ivanhoe by Sir Walter Scott?

**Last Month's:** What do the following have in common?

- 1.) Perfect opinions use no deadlines.
- 2.) Doctors originally lose love around royalty
- 3) Yellow engines nominate
- 4) Friends realize any nonsense comes

**Answer:** All four are money—Pound, Dollar, Yen and Franc  
*Congratulations to Blanche Hurlbutt of Otsego for correctly answering first*

## NYS Envirothon Update

The 2009 NYS Envirothon is rapidly approaching, and a quick call to chair Sandy Huey, provided me with quite a bit of information on this year's event. It will be held at Keuka College on May 27 and 28. The cost this year is \$475 per county and the Intent form has been sent out. It is past the deadline, however if you forgot, call Sandy.

A brand new website is up right now at the same address, <http://www.nysenvirothon.net/>. Registration forms will be available there and volunteer forms will be a fillable form. I asked Sandy how many volunteers that the event needs, and between evening judges, daytime judges, runners, copiers, team leaders, etc the total is near 100.

Scholarships are sponsored by NYSCDEA. First place finishers will each receive \$500, second place will receive \$250 and third place will receive \$125. One of the fundraisers this year is selling Chestnut trees. Meadowview Nursery is donating \$1.00 for every chestnut seedling that they sell to the Districts, to the NYS Envirothon, as Sandy puts it "sell, sell, sell".

Participating Districts can pick up their oral presentation materials at the Water Quality Symposium. If you are unable to do so, please make an arrangement with a neighboring county.

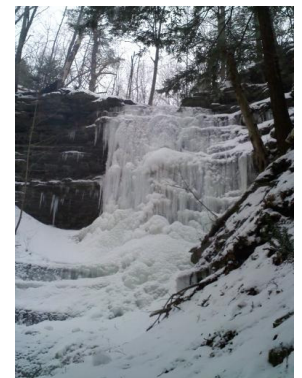
If you have any questions, please contact Sandy, or her posse: Blanche Hurlbutt, Velynda Risley, Vicki Hendrix, Amy Kochem, Bob VanLare, Joanne Kurtis, Barb Sylvestri, Ryan Nance, Josh Hornesky, Jennifer Burcroff, Dennis Buisch or John Naples. Thanks to all of those folks who put the time in to make this event a success.

Visit: [WWW.NYSCDEA.COM](http://WWW.NYSCDEA.COM)

**CDEA Views** Submit your photos via email -  
[jim99@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jim99@nycap.rr.com)



Nancy,.... I mean Lori Kerrigan with a knee brace on at the Lake Placid Olympic Stadium



Seen in the newest Ontario County Park. Thanks to Tad Gerace

## Project Presentations—Chemung

Chemung County has come a long way in the past six years in dealing with stormwater management. It was the transition from Phase I to II that the county realized something had to be done for the newly minted MS4's, which included the City of Elmira and eleven of the 14 Towns and Villages. The District worked with those municipalities and the county to develop a system that would assist each of the municipalities and to reduce duplicate efforts, thus the Stormwater Coalition was created.

Eventually the coalition took on other partners and worked to develop a funding mechanism to assist with the implementation of stormwater programs. It was at this time that the District, County and all of the counties municipalities (not just the MS4's) developed an intermunicipal agreement for funding mechanism in support of the effort. The formula for funding is based on a sliding scale that includes the number of road miles that each municipality owns and if the municipality is an MS4 community. A rate equal to the sales tax was then applied to the municipalities.

This funding helps pay for the stormwater team that includes an engineer, technician, education and outreach coordinator. This is the first year that the funding has been collected, essentially going to the team salaries and supplies. The team is located at the Chemung County SWCD and knowing Mr. Watts, they probably also are running the tub grinder or sawmill that the District operates as well (hey I am sure that they receive a couple of 5 minute water breaks). I guess that that would need approval though as the team is run by its own board.

The board consists of two representatives from the MS4 communities, one individual from the rural communities, one from the municipalities, and one from the County DPW. The education and outreach coordinator is Diane Fiorentino, who was gracious enough to talk to me about this program. She and the technician report directly to the board.

It has been a process to get to this point. It took a year of Mr. Watts going around to each municipality and meeting the attorney to help form the agreements. Obviously, it had paid off, since the coalition which meets monthly now includes a representative from each of the county's municipalities. In addition, other partners include county planning, regional planning, Farm Bureau, the WQCC, Env. Management Council and legislative representatives.

Several projects that they are currently working on, or soon will be once spring arrives, is placing the stormwater medallions on storm drains and a rain barrel program. For the stormdrain project they have been working with the various DPW's to locate the drains and select the markers. They are also working with schools and the Rotary Club to help in placing these markers and raise awareness of stormwater, especially in April (remember Earth Day?). For the rain barrel program, they have partnered with the local Coca-Cola bottling company who is providing them food grade barrels, that I think is pretty innovative.

I could go on with more info, but we are out of space. If you would like to get more learn more about this highly successful program, contact Diane at the District or check out their website at [www.chemungstormwater.org](http://www.chemungstormwater.org). As Bill Cosby used to say "if you aren't careful, you might learn a thing or two".

## CDEA Employee Profile

Jennifer Burcroff  
District Technician  
Chenango County SWCD

Looking towards a county that I used to hunt and fish in as a wayward youth, we turn to Chenango County and meet Jennifer Burcroff.

Jennifer was born in Auburn, NY in September of 1982. In 1986, her family relocated to Hillcrest, NY and even after four year of being with Jennifer they brought her along anyway. Her father worked at a feed dealership in Chenango Bridge and her mother was an English teacher. When Jennifer and her older brother were at home, her mom was there also to "make sure that the house didn't burn down".

She was a bit different as a child of the 80's and 90's as she and her brother were not allowed to watch TV, something about it melting your mind. However, she made her own entertainment playing with her brother and friends. A favorite game was to play "cops and robbers" and Jennifer was always the warden. She seemed disappointed with that, so have sympathy for her at the symposium. Upon graduating from the warden job, she became a mall rat in her teenage years with self described "big hair" (we're still waiting for pictures on that....). In school she played softball, basketball and soccer. In addition she played the clarinet and tenor sax. All of this was done at Chenango Valley HS, the archival to my Alma matter and far superior school, Chenango Forks.

In 2000 she graduated and headed off to Buffalo State Collage to be, not just to be, Dana Scully from the X-Files. However, lacking the red hair, odd partner and disliking forensic chemistry proved to present problems with that career path. After contemplating the future, Jennifer changed gears and headed to SUNY Binghamton for Environmental Studies.

During this time, she was in the AmeriCorps program working at the YMCA in Smyrna, NY with educational sites and interpretation. She said that she had a great time and also got paid to fish in Oneonta for bluegills, which were transported back to Smyrna for the camp pond. I will assume that Ms. Burcroff had arranged for all of the proper permits, hmm????

She graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Environmental Studies in Public Policy and Administration. I asked her about any tales that she could share of college days and her only comment was "I'll never forget the times I don't remember". How profound (Lance, did she really pass the civil service exam?).

Jennifer worked for SUNY Binghamton in the environmental lab dealing with industrial hygiene, asbestos and molds. She was laid off and began a search for a wonderful new and exciting career, somehow she found the Districts. In actuality, she saw an advertisement in the local paper that appealed to her - working outside, various projects, no asbestos. She has been there since 2004 and enjoys it quite a bit. As Jennifer said her job is rewarding and she meets lots of interesting people. She especially enjoys the occasional phone calls that they receive, such as when an individual asks if their well is contaminated or how do you make a spreadsheet in Excel.

Outside of work she visits friends in Ithaca, Binghamton, and Philadelphia. She plays basketball every Sunday and hosts a trivia night at a local pub in Norwich. She has one dog, Clyde, who is a Bulgarian Weaselhound. She enjoys hiking and skiing, keeps an eye on the folks occasionally, belongs to a book club and is trying to win the District office cash money for "ugliest office contest" from Hummels. I was told it was a local paper and supply store, not a ceramic figurine distributor.

To wrap the interview up, Jennifer wanted me to let Lance know that he dodged a bullet, by her taking this interview. Keep safe and strong brother, if we don't see you at the symposium, we'll call on Agent Dana Scully for you.