

# CDEA News



Oct. 2009

The Monthly Newsletter of the NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association

## 2009 Conservation Skills Wrap Up... Mark Burger

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Conservation Skills Workshop has come to a close. Unfortunately, by moving the training up one week, the weather was not much better than in past years. But, the training was good! This year we were able to offer classes for all technical levels. Many basic level classes were offered, such as basic surveying, mortality composting, invasives, and soils. In addition, many advance level classes were offered, such as applied surveying, streams, and 3a planning.

This year, 134 students registered for a total of 16 classes. Participation this year was up from the 106 who registered in 2008! From a review of the evaluation forms that were submitted, the overall feel was that the training was a success. The down side was that only 50% of the evaluation forms were returned. So, if you have any additional comments and/or suggestions that you would like to make, to help make next year's training even better, please submit them to Mark Burger at the Onondaga County SWCD, 2571 US Route 11, Suite 1, LaFayette, NY 13084.

Good training cannot happen without the assistance and support of good people (and partners)! Accordingly a HUGE "Thank You" goes out to:

- The staff of the Cortland County SWCD for hosting this event and the many hours that they put in behind the scenes to make it a success,
- The steering committee members of Tom Eskildsen (Yates SWCD), Christine Watkins (Jefferson SWCD), John Persch (Fulton SWCD), and Mark Burger (Onondaga SWCD) for their months of preparation and coordination for the event,
- The Committee Contacts and Instructors who made each class happen throughout the week,
- Lastly, but very importantly, the financial support from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the NY Conservation District Employees Association and the Empire Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

If you haven't attended Conservation Skills in a few years, please take a look at the offered courses and consider attending next year. Remember, Conservation Skills is for all employees, not just new employees. This is your opportunity for in the field, hands on training.

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

#### This Month's Question:

You are on your way to visit your Grandma, who lives at the end of the valley. It's her birthday, and you want to give her the cakes you've made.

Between your house and her house, you have to cross 7 bridges, and as it goes in the land of make believe, there is a troll under every bridge! Each troll, quite rightly, insists that you pay a troll toll. Before you can cross their bridge, you have to give them half of the cakes you are carrying, but as they are kind trolls, they each give you back a single cake.

How many cakes do you have to leave home with to make sure that you arrive at Grandma's with exactly 2 cakes?

**Last month's Question:** Can you decipher this common phrase?

Salt: Good morning  
Pepper: Hello

**Answer:** "Season's Greetings!"  
Congratulations to Doris Cady of Columbia County.



## N YSCDEA 2010 WQS

This coming year in March of 2009, our annual Water Quality Symposium will be held at the..... Holiday Inn.... in Binghamton. The Association has held it there, before my time, when John DeHollander was vice president and people had phrases such as "golly gee" and "that's the best thing since sliced bread".

As I write, I am finalizing details with the hotel. They have recently renovated sleeping rooms, and all of us at the last CDEA Ex. Board meeting liked the hotel. I have had some suggestions for entertainment already, but keep'em coming.

The courses are varied, and hopefully you will see a lot of value in them. If you have any questions, about the WQS, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the NYSCDEA Board.

**Don't forget to visit  
[WWW.NYSCDEA.COM](http://WWW.NYSCDEA.COM).**

## CDEA Employee Profile

"I'm really shy"...that was about the first thing that I heard from Jody Laney of Genesee County. How many of you have heard that too? After I stopped laughing, I learned a little bit about Jody and what makes her tick.



Joanne Schmieder was born in February in 1960 in Attica, NY (the hospital, not the prison she emphasized). She is the sixth out of seven children and goes by Jody because one of her brothers could not pronounce "Joanne", hence Jody. She grew up in Alexander, in Genesee County on her family's dairy farm. Her father milked 60 cows and had 450 acres, and since she had older brothers, Jody did not really see the need in getting into the farm work. The "quiet little girl" attended parochial school until 8th grade (where she was influenced by the nuns) and then headed to Alexander High School. While there, she was a cheerleader for all four years for football and basketball.

Upon graduation in 1978 she attended Bryant and Stratton and received an associates degree in business, Jody married her high school sweetheart, Joe in October 1979 in Attica (again...St. Vincent's Church, not the prison). Joe spent 30 years working for Pepsi in western NY, but changes occurred and he decided to leave that behind and play on an excavator!

Jody's first job lasted 7 years, working in a law office, mainly doing real estate work. Her second job lasted 7 years, working in an ER doing records and secretarial work. Her third position lasted 7 years (see a pattern?), doing medical transcripts for a local doctors office. She enjoyed that as she worked from the comfort of her home, probably with fuzzy pink slippers on all day, next to the pool. Changing jobs out of necessity, a position at the Genesee County SWCD became available. Jody is one of only a handful of folks that I have interviewed that actually knew what a SWCD was. Her father had won the Conservation Farm Award from the District in 1967, which I think is pretty cool.

Jody is the Clerk/Treasurer at the District and enjoys her job and the people. During work time she works on the administrative/office type stuff, deals with the tree and shrub program and writes a bimonthly newsletter, <http://co.genesee.ny.us/dpt/soilandwater/newsletters.html>. Just this past September the site had 1,500 hits,

something that she is happy about and hopes to build on.



Mom and the "kids".

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## District Program Highlight - Delaware County

Maintaining healthy and intact riparian areas and improving the condition of degraded riparian buffers are high priorities of the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) Streamside Assistance Program (SAP),



Eroded streambank with inadequate buffer.

SAP works as a partnership between the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and County Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). SAP strives to provide a mechanism whereby watershed landowners, with property within the riparian buffer area, can receive technical as well as financial, assistance to improve, and maintain riparian areas.

The Streamside Assistance Program was first envisioned by the regional Riparian Buffer Working Group. This group identified a gap in technical and financial assistance for landowners that are not eligible for existing partnership programs, such as Watershed Agricultural Council's (WAC) Watershed Forestry Planning Program or Whole Farm Planning, and USDA NRCS Conservation Reserve Enhancement Programs.

SAP will provide a number of resources to streamside landowners including Riparian Corridor Management Plans to create awareness about riparian management issues specific to individual properties, Best Management Practice (BMP) design and installation to encourage positive riparian stewardship, and educational materials to increase the understand the critical role of buffers. In addition, SAP stresses the importance of maintaining ecological integrity and facilitating the use of plant materials that are native to the Catskill region.

The Streamside Assistance Program will be implemented within five WOH Watersheds by a core team of Coordinators working from Ulster, Greene, Delaware, Sullivan and Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District offices.

In January of this year, Catherine Skalda in Delaware and Laura Weyeneth in Green County, were hired, and have been developing the program, along with the DEP.

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Example of Riparian Buffer Installation

Laney, continued....

She has three kids, Marissa, the youngest, is a nursing student at Genesee County CC. Ryan is the middle kid, in the Navy, serving as a Seabee. He has been detailed in western Iraq for 6 months and in Kuwait for 6 months. Her oldest, Greg is a Seabee as well and just got back from a 6 month tour in Afghanistan. Before that he was in Iraq at the beginning of the war. She is obviously and rightly proud of all of her kids



Jupiter's Beard

Jody enjoys both flower and vegetable gardening, and her favorite flower is *Jupiter's Beard* and her favorite vegetable...the green bean.

They have three pets, "Buddy" a loyal, slobbery Black lab, "Dallas" a silly Boxer who can jump 5 feet vertically from a standstill, and "Aussie", a sweet, neurotic Jack Russell/Bulldog mix, who cries until Jody covers her up with her fleece at night. Her cat is "Scheister"....thank son #2 for the lovely name. She and Joe live on 5 acres surrounded by family and overlooking a pond. The family campground is 50 acres, but somehow they survive. She is still in touch and gets together with many high school friends. Jody does travel down to Mississippi several times a year to see the boys, as they are stationed down. While there they enjoy boating around the Gulf Coast. What else did I hear about from Jody, hmm....oh, I remember, after hitting Bourbon Street she danced on the bar at Coyote



Greg in Afghanistan

Ugly's in New Orleans. I don't think any other interviews I have done, include that subject. Maybe we could ask for pictures, however they may not be forthcoming. What do you think Elizabeth, is it plausible? Hopefully that was presented in a tasteful way, as Jody was concerned how she would be portrayed!

Well, Jody, as well as many of you, was worried that they are boring or have nothing to talk about., but I think we can safely put her fears to rest. Thank you for the entertaining interview and thank your sons for their service. It means

Delaware, continued....

Several pilot plantings projects have already been implemented. The new Coordinators have been working directly with streamside landowners to assess their riparian buffer conditions, develop site specific buffer designs, and establish new buffer plantings. The assistance and plantings have been well received. Ed. Note: *Keep an eye out for some excellent courses that Delaware County offers for their stream program. Contact the District if you have any questions and they would be more than happy to help you out.*

MMM, Yummy....The reason honey is so easy to digest is that it's already been digested by a bee.

### Signs You're "All Grown-Up Now"

- You keep more food than beer in the fridge.
- You hear your favorite song on an elevator.
- You watch the Weather Channel.
- Your friends marry and divorce instead of hook up and break up.
- You're the one calling the police because those %&@# kids next door won't turn down the stereo.
- Your car insurance goes down and your payments go up.
- Sleeping on the couch makes your back hurt.
- A \$4.00 bottle of wine is no longer "pretty good stuff."
- 90% of the time you spend in front of a computer is for real work.
- You drink at home to save money before going to a bar.



### NYSCDEA Executive Board

At our NYSCDEA Executive Board Meetings, I have made several changes. The first, is that I am contacting the District Manager at the county where we are holding the meeting to schedule a project site tour. I believe this is an interesting way of seeing projects that you may normally not see. The above picture is a wallaby at the Ross Park Zoo in Binghamton. Chip McElwee showed us a proposed wetlands project within the park that will help to reduce water volume and sediment to downstream landowners.

Secondly, I am sending out the agenda statewide to all the Districts, 1 week in advance. If you have any agenda items, please feel free to send them to me. I would encourage anyone interested to stop by and check out the meetings, they are interesting and informative.

Our next CDEA meeting will be in Ellicottville at Holiday Valley on November 12 and 13. Let me know if you are interested in attending.