



# The Conservation Corner March 2009



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A publication developed to highlight conservation efforts, programs and events throughout Hamilton County  
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## Earth Hour 2009

In 2007, 2.2 million businesses and homes in Sydney, Australia shut their lights off for an hour in



order to advocate the importance of global sustainability. In 2008, the rest of the world joined in, with 50 million people in 35 countries spreading the word about the adverse impacts of climate change. Landmarks, including the Coliseum and the Golden Gate Bridge were enshrouded

in darkness for an hour, raising awareness of the importance of energy conservation. To date, 337 cities have signed up to turn their lights off for this year's event. The bar has been raised to involve 1 billion people in 1,000 cities, with businesses, individuals, and communities hitting the "off" switch.

Do you want to help the world realize how essential it is to live sustainably? Do you want to begin to decrease your footprint on

our environment? Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 28, 2009, and turn off the lights from 8:30-9:30PM. Take action by logging on to the Earth Hour's website at <http://www.earthhour.org/> and signing up. An act as small as turning off the lights is a bright idea that can increase world-wide awareness in a big way. The unsustainable use of our natural resources can be devastating for us, for our children, and for all organisms on earth. Make a difference and join us on March 28.

In addition, you may wish to take time out—perhaps an hour each week, or a couple times a month, to meditate on a peaceful world with healthy ecosystems and humankind living in harmony.



## Recycling in Indian Lake

The paper recycling program that was initiated in April 2008 at the Lake Pleasant County Offices has been expanded to include the Indian Lake County Offices. In addition to newspaper, corrugated cardboard and shredded paper that are already recycled, the Indian Lake offices are now able to recycle printer and copy paper. Enthusiastic recyclers have been provided bins, and volunteers collect and store paper in large leaf bags. HCSWCD staff collect and delivers bags to the Lake Pleasant Transfer Station. Magazines, junk mail, glossy print, cereal & pizza boxes, and milk and egg cartons cannot be recycled. A special thank you to our awesome maintenance staff, and to our volunteers. You are helping to green Hamilton County, and we appreciate your efforts!



**Tree & Shrub Sale**  
Order forms & photos available on our website!

## Invasive Insect Trapping Program Volunteers Needed!

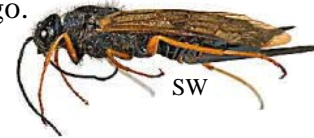
This Spring, the HCSWCD, Hamilton County Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are teaming up to combat invasive insects. We will set up traps for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the Sirex Woodwasp (SW) for early detection in Hamilton County.



The EAB has been confirmed in MI, OH, IN, IL, PA, MD, VA, WV, MO, WI, and Ontario, Canada. Adults feed on ash foliage, but the majority of damage is caused by larvae that consume phloem and outer sapwood. Galleries, or tunnels created by boring larvae, girdle and kill trees.

SW females inject a symbi-

otic fungus, mucus, and 25-450 eggs into stressed or injured pine trees. The fungus and mucus kill the tree, allowing larvae to develop. A female SW was trapped in Piseco 2 years ago.



Early detection/rapid response is the key to managing invaders. Traps will allow us to determine what invasive insects are established in our county, and where those locations are. The trapping season spans from May-October, traps are checked every 2 weeks for insects, and lures are replaced every 2 weeks to attract insects. Trap contents are mailed to CAPS for identification.

Do YOU want to help prevent the spread of invasive insects into Hamilton County? Volunteers are needed to set up traps on their property, change the lures, and collect and mail contents for ID every 2 weeks. Pre-addressed boxes are provided and training sessions will be offered. For more information, call Caitlin at 518-548-3991. Visit our website for invasive species photos and links.