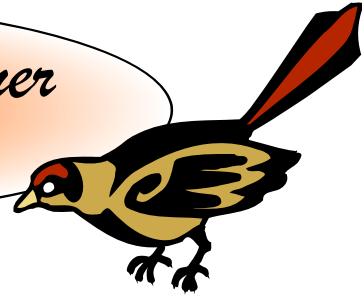


# The Conservation Corner

## May 2009



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A publication developed to highlight conservation efforts, programs and events throughout Hamilton County  
 Authored by Conservation Educator  
 Caitlin Stewart  
 May 2009

### *1st Annual Arbor Day Poetry Contest*

The HCSWCD held its first annual county wide Arbor Day Poetry Contest, and this year's theme was "How are Trees Important to Me?" Mr. Marshall's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lake Pleasant Central School submitted 20 poems

that were exceptionally well written, making it difficult for the judges to determine winners. Emilie Maria Belyea received first place, Cassie Partee received second place, and Breanna Mayer received third place. All entrees were awarded

certificates of merit, and the winners were awarded Chestnut trees. Congratulations to all students who participated, and a special thank you to

Shirley Smith and Kathy Stewart, our judges.

#### *The Visit of the Trees*

by Emilie Maria Belyea

The autumn sunlight  
 dancing  
 On the dappled leaves of trees,  
 Drew me to a place inside  
 The deepest side of me.  
 The ancient ones came to me,  
 In their mantles red.  
 They explained the mysteries  
 Of life, and drew me from bed.  
 They told me how they give me shade  
 And clean the air I breathe.  
 So when we parted I gave them  
 The only gift I could.  
 I gave to them a simple gift  
 Because I was still young.  
 My gift could never compare to what  
 They give to me daily.  
 But my gift was the gift of love  
 And the promise of remembrance.



Emilie Maria Belyea and Breanna Mayer with chestnut trees and protector tubes



***Just in Time for Spring***  
 Mulch Straw: 5\$/bale  
 Conservation Grass Seed:  
 \$13/5 lbs

## Hamilton County Envirothon

A bright, cool Spring day greeted 24 students at Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual Envirothon on April 30 in Lake Pleasant. The Envirothon is an outdoor competition that gives high school students the opportunity to utilize problem solving techniques, teamwork skills, and knowledge gained during training sessions to complete tests in 5 categories. The Indian Lake Hip Waders took first place all around and placed first in For-



estry and the Current Issue Biodiversity in a Changing World. The Long Lake Wart-hogs received second place all around and first place in Aquatics. The Indian Lake Wood Frogs placed third all around, and received first place in Wildlife. The Wells Snake Eyes took first place in Soils. The Hip Waders will have their names engraved on a plaque, and will represent Hamilton County at the New York State Envirothon at Keuka College May 27-28. Thank you to Charlie John's Store who donated food for the Presenter Luncheon as well as to the presenters and volunteers.

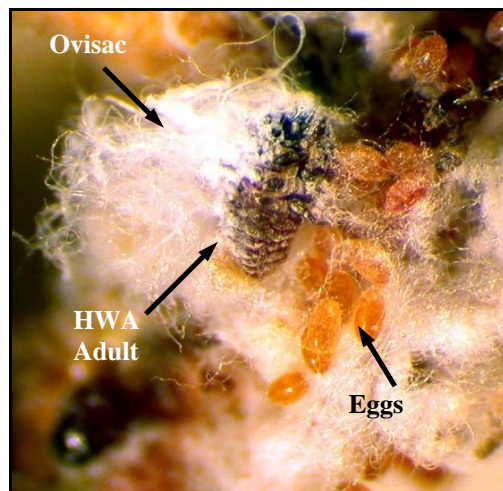


## Get Hydroseeded!

Hydroseeding is a planting process that utilizes the mixing of a variety of materials to form a slurry which is then sprayed directly onto bare soil. Wood or paper mulch, grass seed, fertilizer, lime, tackifying agent, green dye and water are mixed in the tank and sprayed over prepared ground in a uniform layer. Hydroseeding covers a large surface area in a short period of time and the

ingredients in the slurry help promote quick germination and inhibit erosion. County highway departments, businesses, and residents may wish to utilize this service to seed or re-seed a lawn or disturbed area or to stabilize a bank. For more information and pricing, please contact our office.

In April, we recycled 370 lbs of paper!



## Invasive of the Month Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an invasive insect introduced from Asia, has made its way into the Finger Lakes region of New York, most recently the Cornell Plantations area of Cascadilla Gorge and in the Beebe Lake area. This aphid-like insect consumes hemlock sap, prevent-



ing tree growth and killing trees in 4-10 years. The HWA's saliva is toxic to trees, and adults lay 300 eggs. Wind, birds, animals, and humans spread this invader. Symptoms of hemlock infestation include wool-like ovisacs on branches, foliage, and bark; trees with gray green needles; defoliation and twig dieback. What can you do? Move bird feeders away from hemlocks; remove isolated, infested trees from a woodlot; make sure nursery stock is not infested and report sightings to New York Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey at 1-800-554-4501, ext. 72087. For more information about invasive species, check out our website: [www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com)