



The Conservation Corner September 2009



Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
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A publication developed to highlight conservation efforts, programs and events throughout Hamilton County
Authored by Conservation Educator
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September 2009

2009 Water Quality Workshop

Hamilton County residents learned about invasive plants, individual water supplies, septic system maintenance, and water quality at the 2009 Water Quality Workshop held on September 16 at Byron Park, Indian Lake. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) sponsored this event.

Tyler Smith of the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) discussed terrestrial and aquatic invasive species, highlighting APIPP's diligent efforts to manage invasive plant stands throughout the Adirondack Park and New York State. He stated that out of 53 Adirondack lakes infested with aquatic invasive plants, 48 of those lakes possess a Eurasian Watermilfoil infestation. Tyler went on to say that in the Adirondacks, for every 1 infected lake, 4 remain uninfected. Volunteers are a key component of APIPP, and monitor lakes during the summer for aquatic invasive plants.

Susan Kennedy of the New York State Department of Health discussed individual household water supplies. She explained that drilled wells are the preferred type of individual water supplies (IWS), and are often the only option allowed. Drilled wells are less likely to be contaminated, are less subject to drought, and do not need to be treated as often as

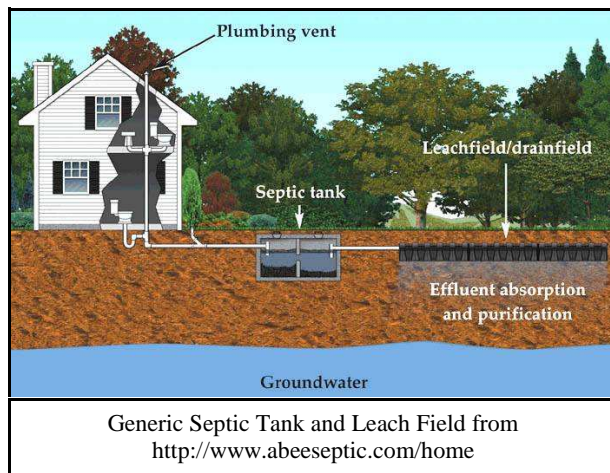
other IWS such as dug or driven wells, springs, cisterns, or surface waters. Rob Streeter of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation discussed septic system maintenance. Rob stated that it is beneficial for the health of the septic system to pump the tank regularly every 2-3 years. If the septic system is not maintained, leaching of solid waste, grease, or scum may occur, polluting the water table and adversely impacting nearby wells or water

State of Hamilton County Lakes is a publication that discusses water quality trends of lakes from 1993-2003, and is available on our website at www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com. Stream monitoring reports are also available on our website.

An open forum gave participants an opportunity to voice their concerns as property and lake shore owners in Hamilton County, and how these concerns could be addressed or resolved. Lake viability (invasive species and contaminants), boat checks at public access points, fertilizers, and septic system failure were voiced as major concerns. It was brainstormed that lake stewards are helpful in disseminating invasive species information and preventing their spread. Lake Associations may wish to encourage septic system maintenance, and signage could be distributed to local businesses about septic systems. A home

owner mailing could be developed to distribute information concerning water quality.

Thank you to all who attended, and a special thank you to our presenters. The 2009 Water Quality Workshop was a great success.



bodies. If possible, keep surface water off the leach field. Caitlin Stewart of the HCSWCD discussed the water quality of Hamilton County lakes and streams, as well as other programs and technical assistance offered by the SWCD. The

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Invader of the Month Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife is an erect, herbaceous perennial that reaches 3-7 feet in height. Magenta flowers bloom from May through September. This wetland invasive plant has square stems and opposite, linear shaped leaves. Reproduction occurs vegetatively and by seed dispersal.

Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District staff and the Nature Conservancy staff managed Purple Loosestrife stands in Hamilton County in August. A total of 2,500 pounds of plant material was removed from wetlands, ditches, river corridors, and lake shores.

Thank you to all our volunteers for their diligent work this year in helping to manage invasive plants.

Thank you to the landowners who gave us permission to remove this harmful invasive plant from their property. Many Hamilton County residents have notified our office about invasive plant stands in their

area. As we are a small organization, you act as a second set of eyes to watch over Hamilton County. Your efforts have greatly benefited the integrity of our Adirondack ecosystem.

Thank you, Collin Weaver!

Collin Weaver was hired as a summer intern for the HCSWCD. He assisted with invasive insect trapping, water monitoring, hydroseeding, culvert assessments, and invasive plant management. Without Collin's diligent efforts, many of these programs would not have been completed. Thank you, Collin!

HYDROSEEDING

HCSWCD staff hydroseeded approximately 6 acres of land during the summer and fall seasons. Projects included private land owner lawns and town and county ditches and road sides. Hydroseeding is a planting process that utilizes the mixing of a variety of materials (paper mulch, grass seed, fertilizer, lime, tackifying agent, green dye, and water) to form a slurry that is then sprayed directly onto bare soil. The slurry is transported in a tank and sprayed over the prepared ground in a uniform layer. Hydroseeding is much faster than traditional methods of seeding and covers a large surface area in a short period of time. The ingredients in the slurry promote quick germination and decrease erosion. Call for pricing: 518-548-3991.



Healthy Purple Loosestrife stand on
Sacandaga Lake

In August, we
recycled approx.
160 lbs of paper!