

# The Conservation Corner

Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District  
PO Box 166, Route 8 Lake Pleasant NY 12108  
Phone: 518-548-3991 Fax: 518-548-5602  
Email: hcsxcd@frontiernet.net  
Website: www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com

A publication developed to highlight  
HCSWCD conservation efforts,  
programs and events.  
Authored by Conservation Educator  
Caitlin Stewart  
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## Spotlight on Water Quality

### Why is water quality important?

We use groundwater and surface waters (reservoirs, lakes and rivers) for drinking, angling, cooking, recreation, washing, and cleaning. We share freshwater with aquatic critters including fish and invertebrates who depend on clean water for habitat, reproduction and food. The Hamilton County economy depends on healthy water resources to attract visitors to this area. Water monitoring is important for long term trend analysis and early detection of invasive species.



Lake monitoring equipment. The water sampler collects water to be tested for nitrates, phosphorus, calcium, aluminum, and chlorophyll a.

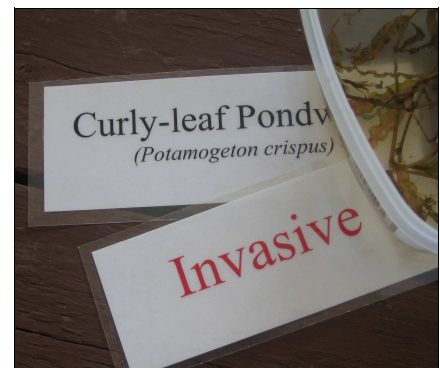
### Water Monitoring Programs

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District monitors lakes and streams during the summer for pollutants. 21 lakes are monitored for nitrates, total phosphorus, algae and pH, among other parameters. Benthic macroinvertebrates are aquatic creatures that live on the bottom of streams. They are sensitive to pollution, and the types of benthic macroinvertebrates found in a stream help to determine water quality. Visit our website for our 10 year lake monitoring report and stream reports.

Get Involved! The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program is offering FREE Aquatic Invasive Plant Volunteer Monitoring Programs. Learn identification techniques and how to monitor your lake for invasives.  
10 AM - 2 PM  
June 22 - Bolton Landing  
June 24 - Blue Mountain  
More info: Tyler Smith:  
tyler\_smith@tnc.org,  
518-576-2082 x119

### YOU can help improve the water quality of a lake or stream. Here's how:

1. Use low phosphorus, slow release, or organic fertilizers on your lawn.
2. Eliminate the use of fertilizers and herbicides.
3. Plant native plant species, avoid invasives.
4. Plant a buffer of native plants between your lawn and a lake or stream to absorb pollutants.
5. Use a non-toxic dock preservative.
6. Do not remove fallen trees from the lake or shoreline as they provide healthy habitat for aquatic life.
7. Maintain your septic system.
8. Clean up after your pets.
9. Don't feed the ducks.
10. Keep hazardous waste out of lakes and streams.
11. Monitor for aquatic invasive species.



Natives vs. invasives. Learning who's who at an Aquatic Invasive Plant Volunteer Monitoring Program.

Thank you for supporting HCSWCD's Tree and Shrub Sale! Your purchase of native Adirondack plants is greatly appreciated.

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Website: [hcsxcd@frontiernet.net](http://hcsxcd@frontiernet.net)  
Hamilton County Online Mapping System:  
[www.hamcomaps.net](http://www.hamcomaps.net)

## Competition Heats Up

Hamilton County's best and brightest 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders attended the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's (HCSWCD) Envirothon. Competition was fierce for first place and the chance to represent Hamilton County at the New York State Envirothon at Keuka College in June.

Environmentally minded teams from Long Lake, Wells, and Indian Lake Central School Districts completed tough exams in Soils, Aquatics,

Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's Current Issue Protection of Groundwater Through Urban, Agricultural, and Environmental Planning. Competition heated up when the Long Lake Hyenas tied the Wells Dayota for first place in Forestry, and both teams were asked the tiebreaker question to determine the winner. The Wells Dayota and the Indian Lake Wolf Pack battled for first place in Aquatics when a tie occurred. First place standings: Forestry – Long Lake Hyenas; Wildlife – Long Lake Alpha Squad; Soils,

Aquatics, and Current Issue – Indian Lake Wolf Pack. Overall standings: Third Place - Long Lake Hyenas; Second Place - Wells Dayota; First Place - Indian Lake Wolf Pack.

Thank you to Tom Kapelewski - Forestry; Melissa Knealley and Joe San Antonio - Wildlife; Ted Trevail - Soils; Beth Gilles - Current Issue; and Caitlin Stewart - Aquatics. Thank you to Charlie Johns for sponsoring the Presenter Luncheon, and volunteers Ed Winchell and Kathy Stewart.



*Indian Lake Poison Ivy's identifies a benthic macroinvertebrate at the Aquatics Station.*



*Overall First Place: Indian Lake Wolf Pack: Zakari LeBlanc, Zack Mitchell, Matt Rusch, Merrill Pine Hank Evatt and Chairman of the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors Bill Farber.*

Schedule a FREE conservation presentation for your organization today!  
Water Quality, Invasives, Lake Stewardship and more!  
Call Caitlin for more info.

Need Grass?  
Get Hydroseeded!  
Call Lenny for more info.



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