



### District Staff

**Elizabeth Mangle**  
*District Manager*

**Janice Reynolds**  
*Clerk/Treasurer*

**Lenny Croote**  
*Conservation Technician*

**Caitlin Stewart**  
*Conservation Educator*

**Tom Bielli**  
*NRCS District Conservationist*



*Working to manage and promote the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County since 1965*

# Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District's Conservation Corner

Highlighting the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's projects, programs, and events.

November 2011

## Conservation Field Day Winners Announced

After a morning of deliberation, judges Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager and volunteer Kathy Stewart chose the winners for the 2011 Conservation Field Day 5<sup>th</sup> grade essay and 6<sup>th</sup> grade poster contests.

Students from six area schools participated in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lynn Galusha Memorial Conservation Field Day held at the District's Nature Trail in Lake Pleasant on September 22. They listened carefully to the presenters as they jotted down notes at stations including What Bear Goes Where, Fish Morphology, Light Bulb Comparison, Tree Identification,

Conservation Construction, and Follow That Drop.

Eighty-eight students participated in this year's essay and poster contests, illustrating what they learned at their favorite

*"These students are the future generation of conservation stewards," said Mangle.*

station. Judging was no easy task as all entries were exceptional. "These students are the future generation of conservation stewards," said Mangle. "When I review their posters and essays, it amazes me to see what they now view differently because of what was learned during the event."

Students were awarded certificates and ribbons for school and county wide first, second, and third place standings, as well as certificates of merit.

This year's county wide first place essay contest winner is Joyellen

Trezise of Lake Pleasant Central School, and the county wide first place poster contest winner is Maria Black of Long Lake Central School. Their names were engraved on plaques to be displayed at their schools. Congratulations to all students who participated in this year's contests!

Visit our website for event photos, a slide show, student winners, and the winning essay at [www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com).



*County wide first place poster contest winner Maria Black of Long Lake Central School*



*County wide first place essay contest winner Joyellen Trezise of Lake Pleasant Central School*

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Since January, Hamilton County and SWCD offices recycled 4,856 lbs of paper!



## Green Gift Exchange is a Hit!

Our District Clerk Janice Reynolds is extremely conscientious when it comes to reducing, reusing, and recycling. Instead of throwing out unwanted household items, she brought them to our office in a lovely basket, telling staff that we may take what we wish, or add items to the basket. The idea of a Green Gift Exchange has taken off. Co-workers have added a variety of wonderful items including candles, books, CDs, jewelry, tableware, and potpourri. The basket is now overflowing, and we have set up a table in our kitchen to accommodate all the goodies. After 1 week, Janice donates the remaining items to the Good

Will to make room for new ones.

**Start a Green Gift Exchange at YOUR workplace!** With the gift giving season right around the corner, “shopping” couldn’t be easier...or greener! Items that are reused do not take up space

in a landfill. Money and natural resources that would normally be used to produce new products are saved. Stop by the District’s office in Lake Pleasant and see what we have to offer at our Green Gift Exchange. You could find that perfect gift!



*Take or leave a gift at our Green Gift Exchange!*

## Town of Hope Resident Receives Green Action Service Award

Barbara Reffitt of the Town of Hope is the recipient of the District’s Green Action Service Award for her commitment and dedication to protecting and promoting Hamilton County’s natural resources. She understands that invasive species

can destroy our forest and lake ecosystems, and is proactive in preventing their spread. Reffitt has helped to organize numerous invasive species presentations at the Northville Public Library. She participated in “Paddle Against Invasives” where she learned the signs, symptoms, and identification tips for aquatic and terrestrial invasives. During the summer, she has volunteered many hours to manage the deadly invasive wetland plant Purple Loosestrife by cutting and bagging flowers and stems. In addition, she monitored her property for Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect, by surveying traps. As an avid recreationist, she talks to her kayaking and boating friends about transferring invaders via contaminated gear, boats, and

firewood.

“Much is gained by preventing the establishment and slowing the spread of invasive species in Hamilton County,” said Reffitt. “The beauty of Adirondack forests and waterways is retained; a healthy environment for wildlife and humans is maintained; employment for park residents is provided with flourishing trees for commercial use; and countless recreational opportunities are offered to tourists and residents.” Her dedication to stopping the spread of invasive species is commended. She is making a tremendous difference in her community, and Hamilton County is “greener” because of her service.



*Barbara Reffitt receives the Green Action Service Award from the District’s Board of Directors Chairman Robert Morrison*