

"DIG" OUR NEWS

WINTER 2010

EDUCATING TODAY'S STUDENTS,
PROTECTING TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENT



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

KRIS'S "KORNER"	1
FIELD DAYS	1
"SKATING..."	3
GTO 2011	3

KRIS'S "KORNER" - Busy! Busy! Busy! Things are so hectic at this time of year— projects to be done by year's end, holiday shopping, wondering when that first big snowstorm will "hit!" Bet there have already been lots of snow dances, pajamas on inside out and other "bring on the snow" superstitions. Our 19th Conservation Field Days program was held this past September (see article below). When we first started, the concern was always getting enough presenters and having all of them show up on their day. Now both some presenters and schools are having a hard time attending. But we were still able to have two days of fun and nice weather. Would like to think that financial times would improve but highly doubt it! Hopefully there will be a number #20 this fall.



This newsletter will probably be shorter than usual as time needs to be spent elsewhere— sorry to all of you who just wait "on the edge of your seat" for each newsletter. Please keep our service personnel in your thoughts during this holiday season and throughout the new year. Thank you.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy, Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings



CONSERVATION FIELD DAYS

#19 - A GREAT NUMBER!!

What better place to learn about conservation and the environment than right where it's happening- outdoors! For the past eighteen Septembers the Soil and Water Conservation District has presented their two-day Conservation Field Days program at Thomas Bull Memorial Park. This year marked our 19th one and approximately 825 sixth graders and teachers were on hand, listening to eight presentations on a variety of local environmental topics and meeting people who work in many different environmental fields. They also enjoyed the beautiful scenery at Thomas Bull Memorial Park- some of those who attended Field Days had never been to the Park or even knew it existed.



Conservation Field Days is definitely a "team" effort- the commitment to youth conservation education by the presenters, the willingness of the schools to attend such a program especially in these hard budget times, and the cooperation of the Parks Department staff who are invaluable in getting the Park ready for the event. This year the schools that attended were from the Pine Bush School District- Circleville Middle School and Crispell Middle School; the Newburgh School District- Fostertown School, New Windsor, and Temple Hill Academy; and the Greenwood Lake School District- Greenwood Lake Middle School.

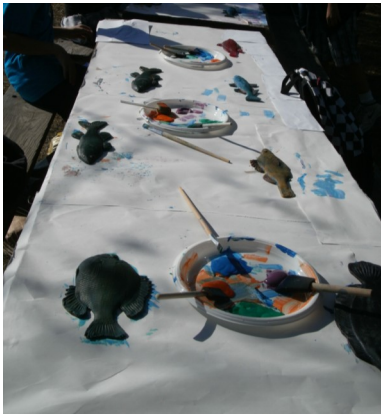
Field Days presenters and their affiliations were: Gary Keeton, Orange County Land Trust; Bill Johnson, Orange County Dairy Farmers; Carol Ringanese, Minisink Valley Middle School; Edith Bush and Russell Smiley, Smiley Family Farm; Bob Mackenzie, Natural Resources Branch-USMA; Amy Mackenzie, Certified Arborist; Alicia Ocana and Carl Heitmuller, Hudson Highlands Nature Museum; Doris Bialas, Bialas Farms; Stacey Stap, Mist-E-Hill Dairy Farm; Cassandra Stap, Orange County Dairy Princess; Olivia Bernard and James Preisendanz, Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge; Larry Larson and Robert Merrill, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Master Gardeners, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Sarah Archbald and Mary Lynne Malone, Orange County Water Authority; Michael Callan, NYS DEC Forester; Stiles Najac and Ingrid Hill, Cornell Cooperative Extension ; Bob Rueter, Bob Ewald, and John Bruder, Southern Catskill Anglers Club of Pine Bush; Ryan Coulter, NYSDEC; Ryan Gerbeby and Mike Wilson, NYSDEC-Stony Kill Farm EEC; Audrey Reith, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Danielle Moser and Kathy Barnett, Orange County Department of Health; Sarah Mount and Rebecca Houser, NYSDEC- Hudson River Estuary Program; and Lauren Martindale and Allison Owczarczak, Pocono Environmental Education Center

We are also grateful to the Orange County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation for allowing us to use Thomas Bull Memorial Park and a very “special” thank you to the staff at the Park for all their great assistance again this year. Also a big thanks to the Orange County Sheriff’s Department for assisting with student safety during the event. If anyone would like more information on this program or other District programs, check out our website at www.ocsoil.org

Seeing Field Days is much better than reading about it-



Danielle Moser and Kathy Barnett, Orange County Department of Health, discussed Lyme Disease.



Regina Willis and Sarah Mount of the NYS DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program did an interesting presentation on "Hudson River Fish- A Work of Art!" Messy but fun!



Bob Mackenzie, Natural Resources Branch-US Military Academy, brought some of the different equipment he uses in his job to his Forestry presentation. The students got some hands-on experience too- this student was taking the diameter of an Oak tree using a diameter tape. Foresters use the diameter, along with the tree's height, to calculate the Board Foot Volume.



Cassandra Stap, Orange County Dairy Princess, talked to the students about Dairy Products and the importance of dairy farms. Cassie has first hand knowledge of life on a dairy farm as her family operates one of our County's remaining dairy farms.



The Southern Catskill Anglers were back instructing the students on spin and fly casting techniques.



Olivia Bernard, Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, explained to the students the importance of bats and the effect the White Nose Fungus is having on our bat population.



Gary Keeton, Orange County Land Trust, gives the students so much valuable knowledge at his station on Aquatic Life. Gary has been imparting his vast knowledge for 18 out of 19 Field Days.



LOOK OUT!!!!

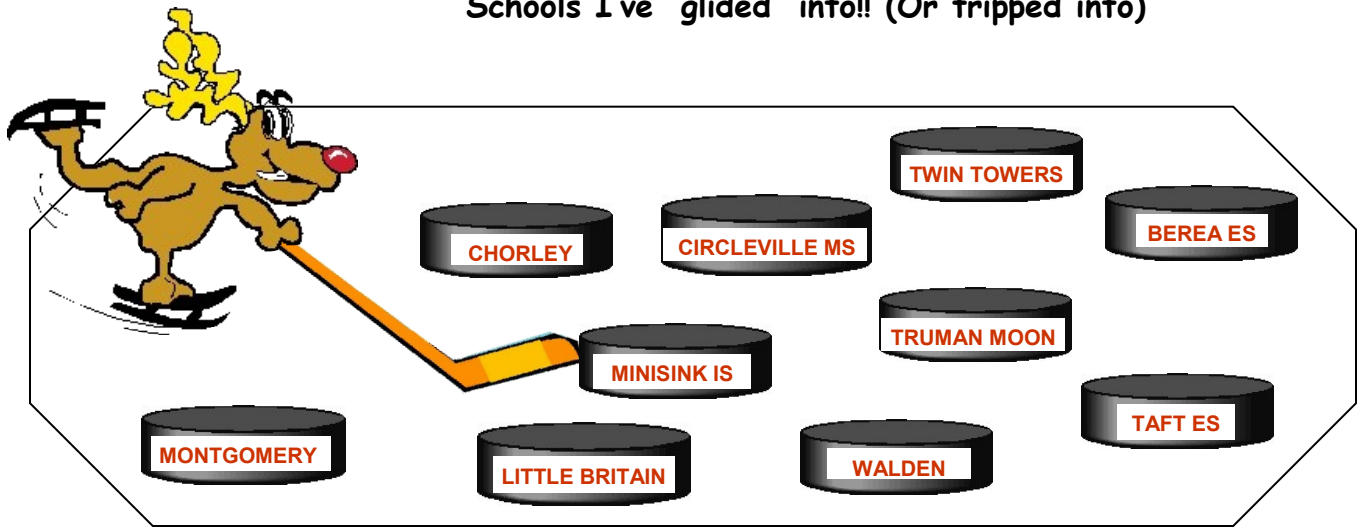


Ryan Gerbehy (shown here) and Mike Wilson, Student Conservation Association, NYS DEC-Stony Kill Farm, showed students not all rocks are the same - remember rocks (minerals) are an important "ingredient" of most soils.



Ingrid Hill (shown here) and Stiles Najac, Cornell Cooperative Extension, discussed with the classes how food goes from the field to the table and all the people involved in that process.

"SKATING" YOUR WAY
Schools I've "glided" into!! (Or tripped into)



I'M BACK!! To remind you to check your email or mailbox around the end of January/first part of February for information on our annual "Greening the Orange" program.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



May your holidays be filled with peace and joy!

***BEST WISHES FOR A
HEALTHY, HAPPY 2011!***