Please Welcome Our New District Clerk

In February, Kathy Ferrer began work as a part-time clerk for the District. She brings with her twelve years’ experience as associate editor and lead writer and photographer for New York Chiropractic College’s alumni magazine, *Transitions*. She also served as administrative assistant to the Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Media Coordinator, and her other duties at the College included office management, community outreach, and supervision of the department’s student work force.

Born in Schenectady, Kathy grew up in Warwick, NY and graduated from Greenville Central School. She studied at both Russell Sage College in Troy, NY, and SUNY New Paltz, majoring in the performing arts. She lived in Greene County for a number of years and then moved her family to Seneca Falls, NY where she raised her four children and became very active in the community and with the local theater organizations. She recently returned to Greene County to marry her high-school sweetheart.

Her passions include her four children, two grandchildren, art in all its forms, and working with the drama students on their productions. She is also an avid fisherwoman.

Her father, Walter Raskopf, Jr., a farmer and former USDA Farmers’ Home Administration County Supervisor in Orange County, NY, and District Director in Albany, instilled in her a love of gardening, and respect for the earth and what it provides for us.

Welcome to Team Albany SWCD, Kathy! We are happy to have you join us.

Annual Spring Fish Program

The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is pleased to coordinate a fish stocking program for private pond owners. Species available include Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Minnow, and Triploid Grass Carp. Adding a diversity of fish life is a great way to improve the overall health of a homeowner’s pond. Orders are being accepted through May 10th and will be available for pickup on May 17th at the District parking lot. Prior to stocking a pond, landowners should obtain a Farm Fish Pond License from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This license is free and is good for five years. Landowners wishing to stock Triploid Grass Carp for aquatic vegetation control are required to obtain a Triploid Grass Carp Permit. Contact the District office for more information.
Farmers and landowners participating in USDA programs must maintain conservation compliance in order to receive USDA benefits. Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions (known as “conservation compliance”) aim to reduce soil loss on erosion-prone lands and to protect wetlands for the multiple benefits they provide. HELC and WC provisions apply to all land that is considered highly erodible or a wetland, and that is owned or farmed by persons voluntarily participating in USDA programs, unless USDA determines an exemption applies. Conservation compliance requires producers to have a conservation plan approved by and on file with USDA if they plant annually tilled crops on highly erodible land, and prohibits producers from planting on converted wetlands or converting wetlands for crop production.

Don’t lose your USDA Benefits! Have you, will you, or are you thinking about doing any of the following activities that have not been evaluated by USDA on land you farm?

- Land clearing?
- Working new land?
- Excavation?
- Stump removal?
- Create a new drainage system?
- Improving an existing drainage system?
- Modifying an existing drainage system?
- Maintaining an existing drainage system?
- Land leveling?
- Dredging an area?
- Filling an area?
- Plant an agricultural commodity on land where an NRCS determination of Highly Erodible Land (HEL) has not been made?

If you answered yes and want to remain eligible for USDA program payments, you MUST file form AD-1026 with the Farm Service Agency. If you farm in Albany, Schenectady, or Schoharie County and have any questions or concerns, please contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Schoharie (518-295-8600 extension 2).

The Board of Directors of the Albany County SWCD held their organizational meeting at the January 2019 meeting. John Santacrose was reelected as the Chair, with Edward Kleinke being reelected as the Vice Chair. Susan Lewis was re-appointed as the Secretary/Treasurer to the Board. The 2019 schedule for the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) regular monthly board meetings: April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, December 17. Regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm at 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY.
**Spring Fish Sale 2019**
Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District
(518) 765-7923

**ORDER DEADLINE**: Friday, May 10, 2019

**PICK-UP**: Friday Morning, May 17, 2019: you will receive notification of your time slot

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### Price List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity Ordered</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-6” Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>$2.85 each</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-8” Channel Catfish</td>
<td>$1.95 each</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6” Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>$2.35 each</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fathead Minnow (forage fish)</td>
<td>$18.00/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triploid Grass Carp***</td>
<td>$20.00 each non-taxable</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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A Farm Fish Pond License is needed to stock your pond.

Contact DEC or the District for an application.

Subtotal: $18.00/100

8% sales tax: $2.35 each

Total Due: $18.00/100

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**PLEASE NOTE**: The District is not responsible for any mortality of stock which may occur during transport. Refunds will not be given for failure to pick up your fish on the designated pick-up day/time. If you cannot pick up your fish, you must make arrangements to have them picked up. We have no way to hold your fish. Size of fish subject to change dependent on growing season.

**SEND PAYMENT AND ORDER FORM TO:**
Albany County SWCD
24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

**NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT**

There will be a $30 charge for any returned checks.

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**BASS:**
- Max. pond temp. during July and August is 75-85 °F
- Pond depth should be 6-8 feet
- Stocking ratio: 75-100 per acre with forage fish at a rate of 750-1000 per acre

**MINNOW:**
- In newly built ponds it is best to stock with minnow prior to stocking fish
- Recommended stocking ratio 750-1000 per acre

**TRIPOID GRASS CARP:**
- A non-chemical method of aquatic weed control
- Some aquatic vegetation commonly eaten by Grass Carp:
  - Coontail
  - Pondweed
  - Milfoil
- Contact the District for permit application

**CATFISH:**
- Warm or cold water
- Temperature must exceed 70°F for 2-3 weeks in order to reproduce
- Will cohabitate with most other fish
- Depending on food availability will grow 5-10 pounds

**RAINFOUGH TROUT:**
- Max. pond temp. during July and August is 65-70 °F
- Pond depth should be at least 8-10 feet
- Stocking ratio: approximately 600 fish for a one acre pond
- Trout should not be stocked with bass

**Container Suggestion**: Please bring a clean container with your own pond water, not tap or well water. Line each container with an unscented, heavy duty garbage bag and fill 3/4 full with water.

*For increased survival, fish can be bagged and oxygenated for an additional fee of $1.00 per bag (to be collected at pick-up site)*

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**NAME**

**ADDRESS (for pickup information)**

**CITY**  **STATE**  **ZIP CODE**  **EMAIL**

**DAY PHONE #**  **HOME PHONE #**

**Delivery**: Orders will be available for pick-up at the District Office parking lot on Martin Road in Voorheesville, Friday Morning, May 17th. During the week of May 6th, you will receive confirmation of your order and your exact pick-up time.

**If you do not receive confirmation by May 13th, please call the District ASAP.**

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**For increased survival, fish can be bagged and oxygenated for an additional fee of $1.00 per bag (to be collected at pick-up site)**
This newsletter is published by the Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to interested landowners, agencies, and to the general public. If you would like to receive our newsletter, call us or email us at acswcd@gmail.com with your email address and contact information or view it online at www.albanycounty.com/swcd

Programs and services offered through the Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the County of Albany, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, USDA NRCS, and District programs. All SWCD & NRCS programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability.