

Spotlight on Sustainability

February 2019

From your Ontario County Eco-Heroes

Hot Tips and Ideas for a more Sustainable Valentine's Day

- ♥ Skip the cut flowers and gift a fabulous air purifying houseplant
- ♥ Scrap the card and write a love note or purchase cards printed on recycled paper
- ♥ Share an experience instead of buying more stuff
- ♥ Secure some fair trade and organic chocolate or make your own fudge!

“Wetlands are often called the kidneys of the landscape.”



Honeoye Creek Wildlife Management Area, Town of Richmond
Photo by Brooke Morse

World Wetlands Day 2 February 2019



Wetlands and climate change



Featured Eco-Holiday

February 2nd each year is **World Wetlands Day**. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar to help raise public awareness about the importance and value of wetlands. It promotes global wetlands and its value and benefits.

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing humanity and our planet. Wetlands and Climate Change, the theme to celebrate World Wetlands Day in 2019, draws attention to the vital role of wetlands as a natural solution to cope with climate change.

Additionally, **American Wetlands Month** is celebrated in May which was created in 1991 by EPA and its federal, state, tribal, local, non-profit, and private sector partners to celebrate the vital importance of wetlands to the Nation's ecological, economic, and social health.

Wetlands carry out many functions, which in turn make them valuable to society.

- They provide habitat and cover to wildlife and fish species for breeding, feeding, and nesting.
- Wetlands are vital to flood and storm water control and they act to slow runoff.
- Sediments carried by flood waters are trapped by the vegetation in wetlands.
- Nutrients in water that come from fertilizers, manure, sewage systems and other sources (that contribute to algal blooms) are processed by plants and microorganisms in the soil
- Wetlands also act to protect water resources, holding water like a big sponge and releasing it slowly over time.
- Wetlands treat polluted water and release cleaner water.
- Wetlands serve to recharge groundwater supplies.
- Tidal wetlands tend to mitigate the effects of tides and waves that erode the coastline.
- Wetlands also provide areas for recreation, education, and scientific research.

Text adapted from the following websites:

<https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>
<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/may-american-wetlands-month>
www.riverkeeper.org

REMINDER:



ONTARIO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.ontswcd.com

480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424
Telephone (585) 396-1450 Fax (585) 396-1305

Tree & Shrub Order Form deadline is March 8th

PICK-UP DATES:
FRIDAY, APRIL 26 (Arbor Day)
SATURDAY, APRIL 27

And the Nominees are....

We are coming up on a year since the County installed the permanent St. Pauly textile collection box out at the Hopewell campus.

*Since its installation, we have collected approximately **2,800 pounds** of material to be reused! Because of your participation, Ontario Pathways received approximately **\$150** in monetary donations during 2018.*

We are asking all employees to vote on who receives the money generated by your donations during 2019. Please click [here](#) to vote for the local organization or nonprofit of your choice.

*Voting will close on **February 8th***

