

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INC.



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FYI...

NYACD NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Hello all, hope your summer has been as full as mine, that you have been able to accomplish all those things on your to do list. I know I have not, but that is another story. First the New York State Soil and Water Committee will be working on the criteria for the additional reimbursement for districts that the new soil and water law section change provides. The NYACD and NYSCDEA, as part of the 4-way partnership, will be providing some recommendations as this process moves ahead.

More news - I have been told that a new recruiter is in town, trying to "Build a Team for New York". My understanding is that it will have players on it from the past year's team and that this recruiter will be looking for additional home run hitters and great outfielders as well as others that can play the additional needed positions. Our team needs to be sure to cover all the bases; be ready to play hardball and have players prepared to step up to the base at the right time. Of course we need the fans, to cheer the team on and give support. If our team is not well trained, has shouted at the opposing teams and playing conditions, then our statistics at the end of the season will be less than impressive. We will see our efforts and funding going, going, gone, and not necessarily as a homerun.

Of course I am talking about the NYACD annual meeting in Cooperstown October 29-31, 2006, at The Otesaga. It is so so important that we have representation from every district. 2007 and beyond will not be like 2006 nor are the playing conditions on the national level like they were in 2002 when the last large federal program called the Farm Bill was negotiated and took the shape it did. Our economy, focus, and outlook have changed in the eyes of the public and the legislators who will be making the decisions. I guess the questions are: Do you want change? Do we want programs to remain the same? Do we want different programs? That is not just on the federal level but on the state level as well. Our traditional core partners realize the importance of this annual meeting and how it is important that a well-practiced team be formed. In fact Ron Alvarado, NYS NRCS State Conservationist, will be requesting that the NRCS district conservationist attend the NRCS Annual Meeting in each district that has a SWCD district director attending the Annual Meeting. I hope that we can have 100 %.

On the state level, playing field groups are discussing what they want from the EPF budget over the next two years. A new strategy is forming to be used with the new state administration. What do you want? What do we need? What do we as coaches need to be providing?

What about the federal funding programs, nothing to worry about, right.... Well there is a great deal being said – there will be no Farm Bill.... There will other legislation providing for portions of the components of the Farm Bill 2002. Should agricultural air quality projects be a larger part of the programs? In fact a USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force met on August 30-31 in Harrisburg, Pa., to discuss current issues facing agriculture and potential impacts to air quality from Ag operations.

NYACD MISSION:

The NYACD provides leadership in the wise use of soil, water and related natural resources. This direction is provided through programs that support member Soil and Water Conservation District's scientific, marketing/ outreach and financial work and that encourage networking and building alliances with outside groups that have related interests.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

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To check out further information go to <http://www.airquality.nrcs.usda.gov/AAQTF> or by contacting Diane Gelburd at 202-720-2587. What impact will the World Trade Organization's Doha Round Talks' collapse have in shaping the 2007 farm bill and federal appropriations? American Farmland Trust continues to put forth plausible alternatives to current policy in an effort to achieve AFT's vision for well-managed, protected farm and ranch land that provides public benefits and a renewed connectedness between the farm community and the rest of America. That group reports that former congressional members, very active with the Farm Bill 2002, are now working with major commodity groups as coaches to help their teams be the best that they can. What about energy and what will be and should be considered in the upcoming negotiations.? In fact ,the USDA recently released an analysis prepared by USDA economists of the department's renewable and energy efficiency programs. The paper looks at all the potential sources of energy under the Ag umbrella from farm to fields to pastures to forestlands. It tracks the results of USDA's programs. The paper proposed two general alternatives: 1. Expand Federal Direct Market Intervention to Support Renewable Energy, including such items as using more land enrolled in CRP, for biomass harvesting and wind energy; 2. Expand Federal indirect Support for Renewable Energy, including research in cellulosic ethanol and meeting rural electric demands. Additionally identified items: risk management, conservation and environment and rural development. (more available at www.usda.gov/farmbill.)

There are more groups with their positions and wants on this "Farm Bill". Try putting Farm Bill 2007 in the search engine of your choice to see what is returned. Like the World Resources Institute that raises the question "Should nutrient and sediment reductions that are partially paid for by government dollars be eligible for sale in a water quality trading program? " Their recommendation: water quality trading markets should encourage the participation of farmers who have received cost-sharing funding to implement BMPs. However the allowable nutrient and/or sediment reductions sold should be proportional to the farmer's contribution to the cost of implementing the BMP. The cost-share portion should be used to meet common watershed goals such as TMDLs. If interested in what more they say, check out <http://www.wri.org/policynotes> .

I will not go on with others and what they are saying should or should not happen. BUT I am asking that you attend our Annual meeting in Cooperstown on October 29-31 where we will have representatives from various groups who will present in a forum their ideas on forestry, urban-community-coastal, agricultural (commodity and BMPs), risk management, alternative energy, and land use in general. You will hear from our traditional core partners and hear from others groups. YOU are the most important part of the meeting. A forum is a two-way dialogue meeting. While those invited will be presenting, you will have the opportunity to voice your wants, needs and solutions as well. BUT, only if you are there.

Please, we need you to be a part of this team. It is important that we have a unified voice. That we have a clearly defined goal and game plan for arriving at where we want to be. We need to know the process, the playing field and where we are weak and where we need to strengthen our game.

We have also identified the need for directors, especially, to understand the process of what happens in the case of a natural and non-natural disaster. Representatives from FEMA, NRCS on EWP (Emergency Watershed Protection) and several districts recently faced with disaster recovery issues will share the impacts, the preparations and what district employees and directors should know if they find themselves in a major disaster recovery situation.

There will be other training opportunities dealing with forestry, 319 funding, and more.
WE NEED YOU.

Please come play ball with us in Cooperstown this fall. The issues will be decided.
YOU NEED TO BE A PART OF THAT DECISION.

I know that I got out my baseball glove, cleaned off my bat and am preparing to play hardball.
WILL YOU?



By Linda Coffin, President, NYACD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

In early August, I had the privilege of attending the annual conference of Executive Directors of State Associations of Conservation Districts. It was organized by the National Association of Conservation Districts and held near Estes Park, Colorado. As a confirmed New Yorker, I found the Rocky Mountains hard to comprehend, they are so spectacular. We met at a YMCA conference center at 8200 feet above sea level.

This event provided me and the other ED's the opportunity to learn from each other, to trade experiences, and to learn from others. An outside speaker was brought in from the Chicago Climate Exchange to discuss their work setting up a voluntary carbon emissions trading system. While it was interesting to learn more about, I find it to be a quaint side show with little impact on actually slowing global climate change, unless there are mandatory controls to go along with it.

We also took a field trip to an amazing ranch. It has been in continuous operation for over 120 years, although it is now operated by a non-profit organization. With considerable advice from the local NRCS staff, they implement a wide array of conservation practices from low-impact cattle grazing to continuing the historic tradition of driving cattle by horseback to summer lands along now-upscale residential roads. Due to their consummate conservation practices, they are able to sell their organic beef under their own brand name at prices far higher than normal beef.

Upon returning, I began helping plan the NYACD Annual Meeting. The Planning Committee met in Cooperstown at the hotel where the meeting itself will be held. This year, the meeting is being structured in a new way, with the main sessions building from one to the next. Two main topics will be featured.

First, the Farm Bill provides funding for everything from the implementation of barnyard conservation systems to Food Stamps. Since the Bill will come up for renewal in 2007, our Annual Meeting will provide background on it and will facilitate our being a force to make sure that the Bill includes a strong conservation title and that it includes conservation needs as found in New York. The other topic to be included in the Annual Meeting will be disasters. Both preparation for disasters and for the recovery from them need strong team efforts and connections with other agencies. We are planning this meeting to help Districts become more a part of the disaster preparation and recovery teams. We hope to see Board members and Staff members from every District at your Annual Meeting in Cooperstown in October.

Finally, I want to let you all know the status of the bill which we got passed in the New York State Legislature. While we did not want to present confusing information last month, in fact, our bill got passed twice. Once it was passed as the stand-alone bill we lobbied for. Then, it also got passed as part of the huge budget clean-up bill. The Governor has now signed the clean-up bill, with our portion included. We are awaiting word on whether the other version will also be signed. Whether or not the second one is signed, we have achieved what we set out to achieve, an improved system for State funding of New York's SWCDs!

By Gregory Bell, Executive Director, NYACD

NACD ANNUAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

Take a moment to consider those around you who have dedicated themselves to conservation and nominate them TODAY for an NACD award in their area of excellence. Give them the opportunity to be recognized on a national level for their contributions! The deadline for all award nominations is September 29, 2006. For more information on the awards and to nominate a group or individual, go to <http://www.nacdnet.org/outreach/awards/>.

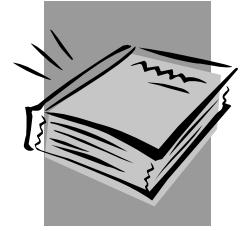


Award categories are summarized below:

- The Friend of Conservation Award recognizes an individual, business, organization, agency, etc. outside the association for outstanding contributions to the conservation of our nation's natural resources.
- The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual within the association who has made significant contributions to the conservation and proper management of our nation's natural resources.
- Three Diversity Awards recognize a conservation district, an RC&D Council and a state conservation agency that are addressing diversity needs to improve delivery of conservation programs.
- Two Excellence in Communications Awards recognize conservation districts for their outstanding overall communications efforts.

LESTER R. BROWN'S BOOK:
*PLAN B 2.0: RESCUING A PLANET UNDER STRESS
 AND A CIVILIZATION IN TROUBLE*

A Review By Peter E. Black



Between opening and closing chapter paragraphs, Brown documents virtually every paragraph with end-noted references to data, research, and to what we have done wrong, what we have done right, and what we need yet to accomplish that leads him to write this important book.

Brown arranges his thirteen chapters logically in sections: the introductory chapter, *Entering a New World* is followed by *Section I A Civilization in Trouble* including chapters on oil, water, global warming, *Natural Systems Under Stress*, and *Early Signs of Decline*. The second section, *The Response – Plan B*, includes chapters on poverty and population, ecological restoration, agriculture and food production, climate, and sustainable cities. The third section, *An Exciting New Option*, is inspiring and contains detailed suggestions for individuals, firms, communities, and nations as its title implies.

With most of our – and the world's – population living in cities, Brown writes "Cities will be hard hit by the coming decline in oil production, but suburbs will be hit even harder. People living in poorly designed suburbs not only depend on importing everything, they are also often isolated geographically from their jobs and shops. They must drive for virtually everything.... Suburbs have created a commuter culture.... Americans have few qualms about this [converting productive farmland into housing developments] because of a frontier mentality and because cropland was long seen as a surplus commodity. ... Shopping malls and huge discount stores, symbolized by Wal-Mart, were all subsidized by artificially cheap oil." Brown describes and backs up with examples and data that our dependence on petroleum to produce and maintain our agriculture, transportation, and personal comfort cannot persist. The opportunity to replace ancient stored energy sources with biofuels will strain civilization's ability to feed the unchecked growing human population, introducing conflict between fuel and food, and requiring dramatic changes in our priorities, markets, and economic and resource management policies. He summarizes: "We know that sustaining progress depends on restructuring the global economy, shifting from a fossil-fuel-based, automobile-centered, throwaway economy to one based on renewable energy sources, a diverse transportation system, and a comprehensive reuse/recycle materials system. This can be done largely by restructuring taxes and subsidies. Sustaining progress also means eradicating poverty, stabilizing population, and restoring the earth's natural systems."

Drawing on the parallel with Pearl Harbor, Brown confronts the current threats with a variety of innovative, inspiring, and exciting ideas. They provide challenges and opportunities for all.

This highly valuable but inexpensive book is available on line. Its readable content and organization, attention to detail and conclusions are important to all. **I recommend this up-to-date, well-referenced book to all professionals involved in all fields of natural resources management as well as to all members of the general public interested in the future of our descendants.** In fact, unless responsible and concerned citizens, professionals, and elected and appointed officials do read this book – *and follow through on its suggestions* – its worst predictions will come true, and we will be responsible to future generations – our children and grandchildren – for failure to act. I would add, on the remote chance that Brown and I are both wrong, we would at least have the satisfaction of knowing that we conscientiously tried to avoid the catastrophes he so ably predicts and documents.

Reviewed by Peter E. Black, Professor of Water and Related Land Resources, Emeritus, at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. peblack@esf.edu. Dr. Black is an advisory member of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

***Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble* by Lester R. Brown (2006), Earth Policy Institute, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10110.**

Note: This inexpensive book (\$17 or less) is available from any of a choice of sources identified by entering "Lester R. Brown" in www.Google.com and from several virtual or tangible book stores.

" I recommend this up-to-date, well-referenced book to all professionals involved in all fields of natural resources management as well as to all members of the general public interested in the future of our descendants. "



NEW CONSERVATION EFFORT TAKES ROOT ON NY FARMS

\$62 MILLION AVAILABLE TO NEW YORK FARMERS

For many New York farmers, environmental stewardship is viewed not just as the 'right thing to do,' but increasingly as an important strategic asset for their businesses. Nearly 10,000 farm families have recognized the value of incorporating Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) into their operations and have made great strides in conservation. Now farmers are taking their commitment to water quality protection one step further by establishing vegetative buffers through the State's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The CREP partnership between New York and the US Department of Agriculture helps farmers to plant specifically designed strips of native grasses, shrubs and trees on environmentally sensitive farmland in priority watersheds statewide. CREP is truly a win-win program, protecting natural resources for all New Yorkers, while providing cost-sharing, land rental payments and other incentives to participating farmers. In its first two years of operation, 4,837 acres were enrolled in 338 contracts (sites?) statewide. This valuable program has the capacity to enroll a total of 40,000 acres of sensitive land and provide \$62 million to New York farmers.

"I see buffer installation as the next level of environmental stewardship for our farm," said Bob Aman of AA Dairy, a 2200 acre 600 cow operation in the town of Candor. "We've upgraded our nutrient and pasture management systems through AEM already. Buffers add an additional barrier to protect the water quality of the Upper Susquehanna Watershed for our family and our neighbors."

When incorporated as a part of an AEM plan, well designed and managed vegetative buffers along streamsides and wetlands filter potential runoff from crop fields and pastureland. Buffered stream corridors also enhance fish habitat and are wildlife magnets used by a wide range of animals from small game to waterfowl and songbirds. In addition to protecting water supplies, fencing livestock out of streams and providing them with an alternate water supply improves herd health, while reducing streambank erosion. "Combining CREP with other conservation programs to fence cows out of streams and establish vegetative buffers has helped our farmers establish more productive and environmentally friendly pasture management systems," said Jerry Verrigni, Tompkins County SWCD Grazing Technician.

Many farmers find that CREP buffers are a great way to improve neighbor relations since they are a highly visible demonstration of the farm's efforts to protect the environment. "We decided to participate in CREP out of concern for our downstream neighbors," said Dale Laue, a beef farmer in Enfield, NY. "As more people move into the area, we need to be vigilant about protecting water quality. The future of our farm depends on it!"

The rental payments provided through CREP for the lands committed to buffers can be used to help pay for other conservation practices needed on the farm. In addition, properly established buffers provide an additional barrier of runoff control that can help farmers avoid regulatory hassles.

County Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state are stepping up to take an active role in implementing CREP. AEM teamwork brings state and federal program resources together to target local priorities and get conservation on the land, while meeting farm business objectives. Nine Districts now have contribution agreements with NRCS to provide technical assistance for CREP. "The enhanced buffer program sells itself," said Margaret Fusco, NRCS Soil Conservationist who has been working on this initiative since its inception. "Our success in Oneida County is largely due to the AEM team effort between FSA, NRCS and the District who make farmers aware of how CREP can benefit their operations and take their conservation efforts to the next level."

The state's AEM Base Funding Program also provides funding to Districts who prepare CREP plans and provide technical assistance in installing CREP practices for farmers. Technical support materials are now available on the redesigned CREP webpage, including a sample conservation plan and checklist that clarifies what is expected for thorough planning, as well as a wide array of conservation buffer fact sheets. "The benefits of CREP will reach into the future through both the vegetation that has been established, and more importantly, the values of environmental stewardship we are passing on to our increasingly environmentally conscious children," said Marty Young of Whey Street Dairy, a 550 cow operation in Cuyler. "Success of future generations in farming will be correlated with their ability to work with nature in a manner that allows production of abundant, tasty and healthful food, with a low impact on the environment."

For more details on CREP visit www.nys-soilandwater.org or contact the NYS CREP Coordinator, Rich Lewis, by phone at 518-485-1470 or email: rich.lewis@agmkt.state.ny.us.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

NY Zone-Till Field Day—October 5th

Where: Mulligan Farms, Barber Road (off Route 390), Avon, NY

Featured Speaker: Mike Hubbs, NRCS National Agronomist

Topics: Conservation Tillage, Manure, Equipment, Soil Health and Quality, Technology, and Agronomy

Presented by Agricultural Consulting Services, Cornell, and NRCS

For more info, call: 1-877-310-1100 or Tibor Horvath at 315-477-6530



Warren County SWCD 50th Anniversary Celebration

Warren County SWCD 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Friday, September 22, 2006, at Echo Lake Lodge in Warrensburg. Cocktails at 6:00pm, dinner at 7:00 pm. \$30 per person. Please call (518)623-3119.

50 Years

NACD's Buffer Notes and Forestry Notes are Available Online

Forestry Notes provides updates on appropriations, discusses the pressures of Wall Street on our nation's forests and describes the history and changes in urban and community forestry. It is available online at <http://forestry.nacdnet.org/forestrynotes/>.

BufferNotes celebrates the 8th Anniversary of the publication, highlighting critical points in the eight-year history. This month's issue also features several stories on CREP and the expansion of emergency haying/grazing of CRP land. Check it out at <http://www.nacdnet.org/buffers/>.



NRCS Holds the 5th Eastern Native Grass Symposium October 10-13, Harrisburg, Pa.

The Symposium is two days of guest speakers and information sessions and one day of field trips. Information session topics include forages and grazing, wildlife management, biofuels, invasive species, and many more. Symposium participants can choose from one of six field trips which will take them to locations throughout Pennsylvania to further explore topics in grasslands conservation and restoration.



New NRCS Chief: Arlen Lancaster

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns recently announced the selection of Arlen Lancaster as Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "Arlen Lancaster's dedication, leadership and experience has well prepared him to serve in this new leadership role on our USDA team," said Johanns. "He has a passion for conservation and I look forward to working with Arlen in this new capacity. I'm very confident that our nation's farmers and ranchers will have a strong advocate in him for improving the quality of our natural resources and conserving our land."

Lancaster succeeds Bruce Knight at NRCS, who was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate as under secretary of agriculture for marketing and regulatory programs. Lancaster has served as deputy assistant secretary of Congressional Relations at USDA since April 2005. Prior to his service at USDA, Lancaster served in various senior staff positions in Congress, having worked since 1999 for Senator Mike Crapo, as a senior policy advisor and as the staff director for the Senate Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation, and Rural Revitalization since 2001, he played a key role in crafting the conservation title of the 2002 Farm Bill. He also worked for Senator Robert Bennett from 1998 to 1999.

As Chief of NRCS, Lancaster will lead the primary federal agency that works directly with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources. NRCS emphasizes voluntary, science-based conservation; technical assistance; partnerships; incentive-based programs and cooperative problem solving at the community level.

Lancaster is a graduate of the University of Utah with a Bachelor of Science and an avid fly fisherman and outdoor recreationist. He and his wife Staci live in Alexandria, Virginia.

GOOD PASTURES, HAPPY COWS, FAMILY FARMS AND HOMEMADE ICE CREAM - OH MY!!

These were the highlights of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District's and the GRAZE-NY Program's Twilight Grazing Management August pasture walks. The view of Oneida Lake was a fitting backdrop for why rotational grazing is an important component in the operations of the two host dairy farm families and the entire watershed. The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program recognizes that sedimentation is the number one concern of the Oneida Lake Watershed and that well managed pastures significantly reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. This was the basis for learning more about the challenges and opportunities of pasturing animals, improving the economics of a grazing farm and having dialogue between fellow farmers.

On August 2nd, folks came by car, bicycle and buggy to Sunrise Dairy Farm in Canastota, N.Y. Chad Ronk and his family operate a 40-cow dairy farm that established a rotational grazing system this spring to aid in herd health, cut utility and feed costs and improve labor savings. Using a series of 5 big pastures predominately made up of orchardgrass and clovers and further subdividing into smaller daily pasture moves every 12 hours, Mr. Ronk has seen a savings of \$ 1300.00 a month on grain and has only used 11 bales of baleage, down from 150 used last year at this time. The group of 30 farmers were joined by Dr. Ann Clark, Associate Professor from the University of Guelph, Ontario who made everyone a consultant for the night. "Plant diversity mirrors grazing height and stocking rate" she said. Clipping height of pastures was also discussed and should be clipped down to the height you want them to graze. Watering issues were brought to the "consultants" attention and was reiterated that the closer the water the better the performance of the animal along with keeping the manure in the growing forage and feeding the soil life. The wildlife around the farm looked appreciative of the latter, as the cowbirds and turkeys were happily enjoying a smorgasbord of insects. Mr. Ronk is also reclaiming fallow land that, "Was all pastured some 60 years ago according to an old picture from the previous owner" with his dry cows and heifers. The stark contrast between species of plants, then and now, with 3 months of grazing "the weeds" was an eye opener for what Mother Nature can do, given the chance to express her natural seed bank.

On August 23rd, ladies, gentleman and children alike gathered at Sto-Ridge Farm in Cazenovia to learn more about grazing sorghum, parasitic wasps for fly control and organic dairy and crop production from veteran graziers Hank and John Stoker. The Stoker Farm operates a 100 cow certified organic dairy that has seen the benefits of grazing since 1991. The evening began with Glenda Neff from Environmental Defense speaking on the virtues of the Healthy Farms, Food and Fuels Act of 2006. The initiative calls for an expansion of conservation incentives, improvement of regional and producer payment equity, an increase in funding for farmland protection and the promotion of energy production on farms. She inspired all to stay active in the planning process of the 2007 farm bill on behalf of New York. Mr. Stoker then led the group of 50 graziers out in the pasture for a no-nonsense practical look at his grazing system. The first stop was looking at the milk cows grazing brown-rib sorghum about three feet tall. He indicated it was his drought insurance and a good transition crop for renovating pastures. They only grazed it once a day in combination with his good grass & legume pastures. He also shared that he should have mowed strips in it and used a polytape, as the cows didn't see the subdivision and went ahead and made their own! His grazing paddocks were sized at about 6 acres and were further subdivided to allow for maximum milk production, but having the animals off of the paddock in three days. There was an above ground plastic water pipe that supplied water to all the paddocks in the system keeping the nutrients in place were they would do the most good, growing more grass. Back at the farmstead, Hank showed everyone the tiny parasitic wasps that he scatters around weekly during the season as organic fly control. They control the flies by laying their eggs on the new larvae, thereby feeding on them. "My mom swears by them," said Hank. Mr. Stoker also described his organic crop rotation strategies and shared his thoughts on feeding the soil with calcium and other micronutrients.

The two twilight gatherings would not have been successful without the hard work from Katie Zook, who wowed the participants with her cookies and homemade grape nut, peach and vanilla ice cream. No one went away hungry that's for sure! The pasture tours both lasted well into the darkness with many conversations and comradery among the many farmers that came from near and far to have a chance to see more happy cows, good pastures, family farms and taste the fruits of their labor.

The events were both supported by The New York State Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, the Central New York RC&D Program, The GRAZE-NY Program, The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Madison County Grazer's Steering Committee.



Hank Stoker showing the Group
the parasitic wasps

by Troy Bishopp, Madison Co. SWCD Grazing specialist

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UPCOMING EVENTS



- **State Committee Meeting**, September 18-19, 2006, Utica, NY
- **NYSCDEA Executive Board Meeting**, September 25 & 26, 2006, Long Island
- **Saratoga County Fiber Tour**, October 7, 2006, Saratoga, NY
- **North Country Regional Stormwater Tradeshow & Conference**, October 19, 2006, Lake George, NY
- **Conservation Skills Workshop**, October 23-27, 2006, Cortland, NY
- **NYACD's Annual Meeting**, October 29-31, 2006, Otesaga Hotel, Cooperstown, NY
- **American Farmland Trust's National Conference : *Farming on the Edge***, November 13-15, 2006, Newark, Delaware
- **2007 Canon Envirothon**, July 29– August 4, 2007, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

October FYI—Deadline for Articles —September 22, 2006.

Please send articles to Maggie Atkins at matkins@frontiernet.net; Phone: 585-396-9973; Fax: 585-554-4077. **Thanks.**