

Ontario County SWCD
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Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter



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UPCOMING EVENTS:

•Next Board Meeting: Oct. 27

•4 Hour Course: Dec. 2

•Realtor Workshop: Dec. 9

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatment Project Funded

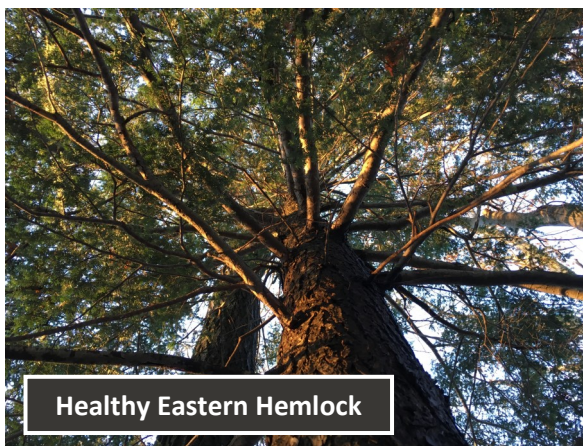
The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District was selected to receive \$50,000 in funding for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) treatment in Ontario County through the Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

Thank you to our partners for their support and hard work in getting this grant funding for Ontario County. The goal of this grant program is to work with a variety of partners to combat invasive

species impacts, reduce non-point source pollution, and restore habitat to protect the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin. Threatened by Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), the potential loss of hemlock trees in our riparian corridors will have a devastating impact on water quality and forest resiliency. This project addresses concerns as a result of the loss of hemlock stands such as erosion

leading to increased phosphorus deposition within lakes, increased water temperatures causing unfavorable conditions for aquatic species, and loss of native species and subsequent establishment of invasive species.

Locations were selected which represent important tributary systems within both the Honeoye Lake and Canandaigua Lake watersheds which drain north into Lake Ontario. The focus will be on areas of known HWA infestation such as Harriett



Healthy Eastern Hemlock

Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area (HHSSRA) and properties within Grimes Glen and Briggs Gully. This project will also focus on training volunteers and landowners to identify and report the HWA infestations to [iMapInvasives](https://www.mapinvasives.org/). Stay tuned to learn more about what our partnership undertakes in 2022!



Like us on Facebook @OntarioCountySWCD to stay up-to-date with the Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District!



HWA found on an Eastern Hemlock in Feb.

Fishers Park Stream Stabilization

Ontario County SWCD just completed a stream stabilization project in the Town of Victor at Fishers Park to control erosion and sediment through Best Management Practices. This project utilized toe-wood for natural stream channel design. The design supports habitat for aquatic species and recreational access for the community. Prior to project installation, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) performed an electroshocking survey to document fish species and population numbers. This survey will be repeated in the future to monitor changes in population levels. Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funds were used for materials and labor, and for technical assistance through project design and implementation. The Town of Victor provided match in the form of materials, equipment, and labor. US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) provided design and technical support for the project. The Town of Victor will be planting native trees and shrubs along the riparian corridor to further stabilize the area and provide additional wildlife habitat.



DEC Fish Survey, June 2021



Before: Fishers Creek pre-construction with eroding stream bank



Fishers Creek during construction with toe-wood and coir lifts installed, September 2021



After: Fishers Creek post construction just beginning to green up, October 2021



Pasture Improvement Project

The Ontario County SWCD recently completed a project using funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Genesee River Watershed Phosphorus and Sediment Reduction Program. This project consisted of 1,850 feet of fence and 600 feet of underground outlet installed on a farm in the Town of Richmond to control surface water runoff as well as set-up the pasture for rotational grazing. This project intends to convey clean water through the pasture system using the underground outlet system. The new fence system allows the livestock to better utilize the available pasture without denuding the soil surface. This project has an estimated soil savings of 12 tons of soil per year on the affected pasture land as well as additional nutrient savings through improved barnyard drainage.



Canandaigua Lake Erosion Control Projects



Before Grassed Waterway
(image from OnCor)

After

The Ontario County SWCD recently worked with a farm on an Erosion & Sediment Control Project aimed at managing erosive surface water flows on agricultural lands in the Canandaigua Lake watershed with funding from the FLX Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) program. A 1,700 ft. grassed waterway and 1/8th acre water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) with underground outlet were installed to control surface water and prevent soil loss. Before these projects, the fields had a loss of ~85 tons of soil per year through gully erosion. The grassed waterway now conveys the concentrated water flows across the field in a non-erosive manner



Before WASCOB

After

with an estimated soil savings of ~50 tons of soil per year. The WASCOB collects surface flow and diverts it underground before erosive concentrated flows form. The WASCOB reduces sediment loss by another ~14 tons of soil per year across the project site.

2021 Annual Agricultural District Renewal Open November 1st - November 30th

Ontario County farmland owners may request that their land be added to a NYS Agricultural District between November 1-30, 2021. State law requires that farmland owners be given a 30-day period every year during which they can request their land be added. In 2020 Ontario County Agricultural Districts 6,8, and 9 were consolidated into one district called Ontario County Consolidated Agricultural District 1.



The NYS Agricultural District Program is a voluntary program that provides farmland owners and farmers certain advantages and protections as long as the land stays in the District. For additional information on the NYS Agricultural District Program [click here](#). For information on Ontario County Agricultural District [click here](#).

How to apply: Landowners must submit an original signed enrollment form to Ms. Kristin Mueller, Clerk of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, 20 Ontario St., Canandaigua, NY 14424. [Click here to download the form](#). At the close of the review period, the requests will be reviewed by the Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Board. They will then make recommendations regarding suitability of the land for inclusion in the District to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors then reviews and approves the list of properties for submission to the Commissioner of New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for final approval. If you have questions, contact Maria Rudzinski, Senior Planner, Ontario County Planning Department at 585-396-4416 or maria.rudzinski@ontariocountyny.gov.

Please note: Inclusion in a NYS Agricultural District and obtaining an agricultural property tax exemption from the local assessor are easily confused. A landowner who meets the requirements of the state agricultural property tax exemption program is eligible to receive the exemption whether or not they are in a NYS Agricultural District. The terms and conditions are somewhat different. A landowner can file an application with the local assessor for an agricultural exemption by March 1 of every year. Ontario County SWCD prepares the soil group worksheets required for the ag property tax exemption program.

Upcoming NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training: December 2nd, 2021

Under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit GP-0-15-002, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one trained individual from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP and have at least one trained individual on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a qualified inspector conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-10-001.

Qualified inspectors and trained individuals must have 4 hours of training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control endorsed by NYS DEC, SWCD, or CPESC, Inc. Training is good for 3 years. Upon completion of the course, each participant will receive a NYS DEC Stormwater Training Number on a wallet card valid for 3 years.

[Click here for more information](#). Space is limited and PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by November 26, 2021.

Location: Ontario County SWCD, 480 N Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424

When: Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 from 8:00am-12:00pm

Cost: \$100 per person (make checks out to Ontario County SWCD)

[Click here to register](#).



Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership

We are excited to share with you the autumn 2021 issue of the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership (SKWP) [quarterly newsletter](#). This newsletter is to coincide with our work on the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan and will keep all watershed community members informed of the latest work being done to help protect our shared aquatic resources for generations to come. The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District helps the SKWP create the quarterly newsletters. Click on the image to the right to read the latest issue.

The Seneca-Keuka Watershed Nine Element Plan (9E) development team recently held their second public outreach session on October 7th, 2021. [Click here for the recording of this session](#). Based on feedback from the October 7th meeting, additional information on best management practices is also available, as well as a summary of the initial feedback provided during the interactive brainstorming session. The "Jamboard" used in that session remains active and we will be holding an "office hours" opportunity on October 26th, 2021 from Noon to 2:00PM for those who would like time to ask follow-up questions.

AUTUMN 2021

Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership

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Note from the lake specialists:

Autumn may signal the approaching end to the year, but that certainly doesn't mean things are slowing down around the watershed. Farmers are busy harvesting in the fields, road and construction crews are pushing to get work done before winter arrives (the damage caused by that mid-August storm event certainly did not help matters), and recreationalists are getting those last warm days in out on the water. The same is true for us here with field season wrapping up, this year's projects closing out, and next year's starting to come together. Read on to find more on many of these projects including an opportunity to participate in an upcoming public session. As always, thanks for reading!

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(315) 781-4559

Colby Petersen
Keuka Lake Manager
colby@ycsoilwater.com
417 Liberty St
Penn Yan, NY 14527
(315) 536-5188



Tire Recycling

Ontario County SWCD assisted the Ontario County Department of Sustainability and Solid Waste to coordinate 3 residential tire recycling events in 2021. These events were free for Ontario County residents and were limited to 10 tires per household. A total of **21.2 tons** of car and light truck tires were recycled through this program!! Thank you to the Town of Victor, the Town of South Bristol, and the Town of Geneva for hosting these events at your facilities and for providing employees and volunteers to help load tires into containers. Please stay tuned for 2022 tire recycling event dates! If you are interested in future recycling events or have questions about where to recycle different items, visit the [Ontario County Recycles website](#) for more information.



Left to Right: Jacob Fox, Vinny Aliperti, Mitch Wilber, and Mark Venuti at the Town of Geneva Tire Recycling Event on August 8 helping move tires



Rain Barrels



Ontario County SWCD and the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition held a rain barrel workshop at Victor Municipal Park on July 27, 2021. The workshop started with a presentation on water conservation tips and followed with a demonstration on how to build the rain barrel. Then, employees from Ontario County SWCD and the Town of Victor helped the attendees construct their rain barrels. A big thank you goes to the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition for sponsoring the event, the Town of Victor for the help transporting the barrels, assistance at the workshop, and for the Municipal Park lodge, and E&J Gallo for the 55 gallon plastic barrels.



If you are ever interested in purchasing a rain barrel, please email alaina.robarge@ontswcd.com. Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to protect our environment and save money. A rain barrel collects and stores rainwater from your roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted to storm drains or streams. The water from your barrel can be used for watering gardens and lawns, washing cars, cleaning outdoor furniture, and the list goes on.

If you already have a rain barrel at home, it is time to winterize it:

- ◆ Drain out all the water
- ◆ Look to see if there are any parts that need to be replaced
- ◆ Clean the barrel if necessary
- ◆ Store inside if possible.

If the barrel will need to stay outside over the winter, cover it and place it upside down. We want to avoid letting any water freeze inside the bulkhead and spigot. Stay tuned for 2022 rain barrel workshops!

Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition: Outreach Continues

In addition to the rain barrel workshop in late July, the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition (OWSC) has continued to provide outreach to the community. Over the summer you may have spotted the OWSC at the Ginegaw Park Farmer's Market in the Town of Walworth, at the Macedon Lumberjack Festival, or at Hang Around Victor Days. To learn more about the OWSC, go to www.owsc.org.



Keep an Eye Out for Spotted Lanternfly

By Matthew Gallo, Finger Lakes PRISM, Terrestrial Invasive Species Outreach Coordinator

Spotted Lanternfly is a new invasive insect species that is of growing concern to the Finger Lakes. This insect feeds on many of the key agricultural crops that define the Finger Lakes, namely grape vines and apple trees (and to a lesser extent, sugar maples, black walnuts, and other plants). The voracious feeding of Spotted Lanternfly threatens an estimated \$6 billion in economic activity in our region, as well as the loss of our extraordinary vineyards and apple orchards. What makes Spotted Lanternfly so concerning

Photo Credit: Erica Smyers, Penn State



is its ability to spread quickly. Spotted Lanternflies lay eggs in the fall, and frequently eggs are found laid on cars making the task of stopping Spotted Lanternfly particularly challenging as a new population can emerge virtually anywhere that people can drive. As of



Photo Credit: Emelie Swackhamer, Penn State

October 2021, populations of Spotted Lanternfly have spread northwards from Pennsylvania and have been detected in New York City, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and most notably for our region – Broome and Tompkins counties. **What can you do to help stop the spread of Spotted**

Lanternfly? For one, if you are travelling to an area with a known infestation, check your vehicle before you leave. Further, if you believe you've seen this insect, take a picture and send the picture and location to

SpottedLanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov, or you can report it using [the online reporting form](#).

Many of the Spotted Lanternfly populations found in NY so far were reported by everyday citizens who were on the lookout. **You can make an impact!**

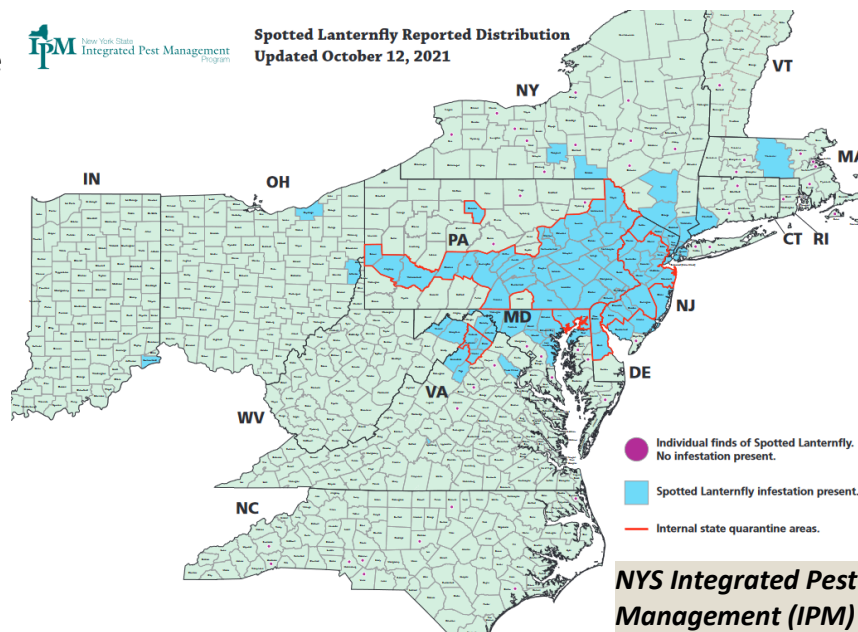
The Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM) is a collaborative

program designed to address the threat of invasive species. Housed within the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Finger Lakes Institute (FLI), the program is

one of eight across New York that focuses on managing invasive species, developing detection programs, employing response efforts, providing education programs and outreach, and working with communities.

IPM New York State Integrated Pest Management Program

Spotted Lanternfly Reported Distribution
Updated October 12, 2021



NYS Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Conservation Field Days 2021



The 2021 Conservation Field Days was a success! The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County partner together each year to hold the event at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills for the 6th graders in Ontario County. This year we held the event over a 4 day period (September 21-24) in order to spread the schools out throughout the week to safely hold the event for the students and teachers. The classes attended each station for 15-20 minutes. We had about 540 students attend this year's event. The stations included information on pond life, watershed health, tick prevention, forestry, invasive species, poisonous plants to avoid, birds, first-aid/CPR, Native American history, composting, recycling, dairy products/farming, geocaching, and hiking/camping essentials. A huge thank you goes out to our instructors for providing an amazing educational experience for our local 6th graders. We could not have done this without them. We look forward to planning the 2022 event!



A Different Point of View

The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District is in the sky! The recent purchase of a drone allows the District to view projects from a new perspective. Hard to reach sites such as stream channels or agricultural lands with crops will now be easier to monitor. Megan Webster and Katie Lafler went through an extensive training program to become FAA UAS certified pilots. Now, they are able to use drone technology in a variety of ways such as capturing footage of streams blocked by woody debris to plan clean-up projects or inspect newly planted grass waterways to see if seeding is established. By taking photos and videos from the sky, it helps to show the magnitude of these projects that can be challenging to capture from the ground with a typical camera. We look forward to sharing more aerial adventures with you in the future.



Katie Lafler flying the drone at a construction site



Using the drone to evaluate blockages in Canandaigua Outlet



Bird's eye view of a concrete pour on an ag nonpoint manure storage project

Capturing Rain is a Full-Time Job for Grazing Dairies

*Guest Article By Troy Bishopp,
Madison County SWCD*

After the 2020 historic drought in the Finger Lakes, area grazing dairy farmers are enjoying 2021's robust growing season with plentiful moisture, heat and a return to pasture walks with an emphasis on biology. However, this summer's deluges of frequent rain have tested a farmer's resolve to keep it sequestered on the land and away from impacting local waterbodies that welcome thousands of hungry visitors to the region. To facilitate the important work green plants provide, Ontario and Yates County Soil & Water Conservation Districts recently led a large grazing workshop partnering with 2 local organic grazing dairies, Fay Benson, Small Dairy Educator for Cornell's South Central NY Dairy Team



and USC Grazing Specialist, Troy Bishopp for a day of learning. The morning session held at Leon Brubacher's Dairy Farm in Himrod, NY featured a presentation on soil health and soil structure principles as it pertained to pastures by Fay Benson. Leon led the eager group out to his certified-organic, 40 cow, 14 paddock grazing system where he discussed his forage management style, "as taking proper care of the plants" for profitability and soil health. With the "overly" abundant rain, swards were growing an inch per day and were fully recovered in 22 days, a feat usually witnessed in the spring. It showed how intensive management and fertility played a large part in the farm's resiliency. In a group exercise, the farmers measured, bantered and predicted pasture production, much to the delight of everyone, because most practitioners have a different context and "grazier's eye". "It felt really good to laugh", said one farmer. Because farmers like tools, they squeezed grass plants and measured brix levels using a refractometer. Levels were between 7 and 10 which indicated the effect of the rain on lowering forage energy for the cows. Mr. Brubacher was using this premise and giving his cows a pasture ration where the cows only grazed the very tops of plants which also contributed to a high residual that armored his soil against the frequent rain events.

Folks also got to see a dung beetle trap for the first time as Mr. Benson, "delicately", pulled the simple device out of the manure to measure activity of the beneficial insects. With good grazing techniques, the insects were doing yeoman's work for the surrounding soil. As the tour ended, Yates County's Soil & Water Conservation District Senior Technician, Tom Eskildsen, described the benefits of sod for the Seneca Lake Watershed and gave advice on diverting water into grass catch basins and offering to help anyone design a more resilient farming operation.

The afternoon gathering held at Andrew Hoover's Farm in nearby Stanley, NY highlighted some different approaches to grazing for the larger herd of 100 cows. To lead off the fine day, Fay Benson taught a large contingent of farmers about soil management using the tools from the NY Grazing Coalition Soil Health Trailer. "Soil aggregate structure is really key," emphasized Benson. "Soil needs to have good aggregate structure and stability to keep improving biology. Structure is caused by the bacteria eating process. By stimulating organic matter to do its job, we get really healthy soil." "In pastures, we need to be careful of compaction, said Benson. It's slow to show up and slow to get rid of. The more organic matter, the more resilient soil is to compaction". [Click here to read more about this research.](#)

Andrew led the group out to see his "summer seasonal" certified-organic 100% grass-fed dairy herd. "Being seasonal in the summer allows us to efficiently harvest our forage crops, graze for maintenance not intense production, have time-off with our children and capture a higher milk price in the fall from Maple Hill Creamery. It works well for us," said Hoover. The Ontario County farm sits higher up in the landscape and has had half the rain of the Brubachers.



Fay Benson
shows a dung
beetle trap

The series of 5-acre rectangular paddocks are managed with rain capture in mind. "Managing mostly dry cows, allows us to trample more forage and improve soil biology with more mature plants and a diverse mix of root systems," said Mr. Hoover. The pasture system has an extensive above-ground municipal water system to each paddock which allows for improved fertility management and keeps animals out of the laneways. Most of the pastures had over 40 days of recovery to meet Andrew's goals. "Well managed pastures like these, help protect our local watersheds, said Megan Webster, Ontario County's Soil & Water Conservation District Manager. "The merging of environmental and economic benefits through healthy soils and productive, profitable farms are priorities for us. We're happy to promote and support such positive practices." The group ended their enlightened tour under a shade tree enjoying fellowship and Mrs. Hoover's homemade, molasses moon-pies and the farm's own delectable "full-fat", chocolate milk.

A WATER WORKSHOP FOR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

5.5 Continuing Education Unit Credits Approved by NYS Department of State Division of Licensing Services

When: Thursday, December 9, 2021 from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District

480 North Main Street

Canandaigua, NY 14424

Cost: \$50.00 due by December 7, 2021

Lunch will be provided (please inform us of dietary restrictions)

Return Registration and Payment To:

Ontario County SWCD

480 North Main Street

Canandaigua NY 14424

You will learn about:

- Groundwater/Surface Water Basics
- Recognizing Wet Lots
- Wells, Presented by Richard Moravec of Barney Moravec, Inc.
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Stormwater Management

Name: _____

Company: _____

Realtor License Number: _____

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Email: _____

If you have any questions, please call Alaina Robarge at (585)396-1450 or email her at alaina.robarge@ontswcd.com



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Ontario County SWCD Staff:

District Manager: **Megan Webster**

Treasurer/Secretary: **Diana Thorn**

Senior Conservation District Technician: **Tucker Kautz**

Water Resources Technician: **Katie Lafler**

Conservation District Technician: **Tad Gerace**

Conservation District Educator: **Alaina Robarge**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Inspector: **Tyler Ohle**

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Administrative Assistant: **Jamie Noga**

Ontario County SWCD Board of Directors:

Samuel Casella, Chairman, Practical Farmer

Kenneth Livermore, Vice-Chairman, Grange

Rich Russell, County Supervisor

Mark Venuti, County Supervisor

Jim Peck, Farm Bureau Representative

Edward Jackson, At Large

Amanda Button, Practical Farmer

Pumpkin Collection Event

NOVEMBER 6TH • 11:00AM to 1:00PM

NOVEMBER 13TH • 8:00AM to 10:00AM

**Town of Victor
Transfer Station**

60 Rawson Road, Victor

**Town of Geneva
Transfer Station**

32 White Springs Road,
Geneva

**Ontario County
Parking Lot**

Corner of Ontario Street
and Pleasant Street,
Canandaigua



Don't throw
your leftover
pumpkins in
the trash. We'll
compost them
for you!

For more information visit
OntarioCountyRecycles.org



Click here to read an article the
American Farmland Trust wrote on
our Senior Conservation District
Technician Tucker Kautz and his
family: *Embracing Soil Health
Personally and Professionally*

Photo Credit: Stephanie Castle



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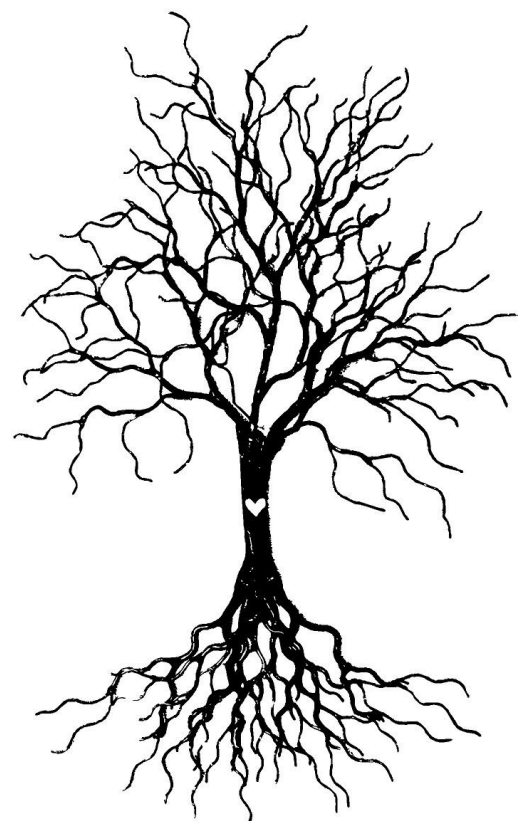
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