

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 12, 2021

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Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District Awarded \$50,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Monitoring and Control in Otisco and Skaneateles Lake Watersheds

Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD) has been awarded a \$50,000 federal grant under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. These funds will aid in the monitoring and treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) on Eastern hemlock trees in the Otisco and Skaneateles Lake watersheds. HWA is an invasive sap-sucking insect that feeds on hemlock trees at the base of the needles. The trees can succumb to HWA in four to ten years. In 2015, in an effort to minimize the spread of HWA, the City of Syracuse Department of Water collaborated with OCSWCD, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, and volunteers to plant 100 six-foot Eastern hemlock trees in an effort to grow populations of biological controls that would feed on HWA.

Eastern hemlocks are a crucial species to the Otisco and Skaneateles Lake watersheds which provide drinking quality water to 485,000 residents of Onondaga County. Eastern hemlock trees grow on steep slopes providing soil stability (protection from soil erosion) and a unique ecosystem for flora and fauna. With these funds, approximately 1,500 eastern hemlock will be treated across the watersheds. OCSWCD is partnering with the Otisco Lake Preservation Association and the Skaneateles Lake Association to implement this grant.

“The late and great lake ecologist and SLA board member Robert G. Werner coined it most appropriately that if we lose the Hemlocks, we lose the lake.” said SLA Executive Director Frank Moses.

Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District

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“Promoting excellence in the wise use of our rural/urban natural resources”

Otisco Lake Preservation Association

PO Box 207, Marietta, New York 13110
e-mail: olpaweb@icloud.com
website: www.oticolakepreservation.org

“To preserve the health, beauty and welfare of our lake, not only today, but for future generations.”

Skaneateles Lake Association

PO Box 862, Skaneateles, New York 13152
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“To promote protection of the water quality of Skaneateles Lake and environmentally sound regional management of its watershed”

