

CDEA News

November 2011

The Newsletter of the New York State Conservation District Employees Association



Conservation Skills Workshop a Success

Christine Watkins

Another successful Conservation Skills Workshop was held in late September. Fourteen classes covered a wide range of technical abilities.

This year, our numbers were down compared to past years. Approximately 85 District and NRCS employees, private consultants and private engineers attended. Unfortunately Mother Nature unleashed her wrath in the form of storms Irene and Lee. As a result, a number of Districts and State Committee staff were occupied with emergency work. We had to cancel the Tier 3a training – something about Jeff Ten

Eyck not wanting to work 24 hour days – go figure! Good training can't happen without the assistance and support of good people and partners. Special thanks to:
- Cortland County SWCD hosted the event and worked many hours to set up classrooms, take care of registrations, provide the New Employee luncheon, offer snacks, find vans for field trips.
- Committee co-chairs Mark Burger, Tom Eskildsen, John Persch and Christine Watkins.
- The full committee that determines the line up of classes for the year and to the instructors that give their time to educate our participants: Jeff Ten Eyck, Cliff Fraiser, and

Lauren Prezorski (NYS SWCC), Ron Young (USDA NRCS), Steve Lorraine (Madison SWCD), and Nichelle Billhardt (Lewis SWCD).
- The NYCDEA, the USDA NRCS and the Empire Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for their financial support.

The planning committee will meet in May 2012 to set up next year's workshop. If you are interested in serving on the committee or have training ideas, please contact one of the committee cho-chairs. Conservation Skills is for all employees and partners, not just new employees.



The Basic Surveying class of 2011.

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Division VIII

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Suffolk County

Having a blast at the Soil and Water State Fair Booth

Kristin E. White

Visitors had a blast exploring the 2011 Soil and Water State Fair Booth. A pond displayed live large mouth bass, koi, catfish, bluegills, and fathead minnows. The fish poster was quite an eye catcher. Rain barrels were also on display, showing the importance of water conservation.

District staff who volunteer to man the booth reach out to a large demographic. Teachers are offered hand outs that they incorporate into their lesson plans. Earth Day, Arbor Day, and Environmental Science information is very popular with teachers of all grade levels. Property owners pick up information about invasive species, erosion control, agriculture, and water quality. Individuals have their conservation inquiries answered by professional District staff. We are here to educate the public!

This year, 52 staff members from 18 counties volunteered at the booth. All volunteers were



Kelly Emerick (Monroe County SWCD) answers questions from visitors.

entered into the \$50 raffle. The more shifts a volunteer worked, the higher their chances were of winning. Congratulations to James Balyszak (Monroe Co.), Corrina Aldrich (Washington Co.), Ron Podolak (Cauyga Co.), Elizabeth Mangle (Hamilton Co.), and Kristin White (Seneca Co.)

Fifty-six children entered the coloring contest for a chance to win \$25 and have their picture on display at next year's state fair. Winners included age 0-5 Lily Wang (Tompkins Co.), age 6-8 Nick DeSacia (Oswego Co.) and age 9-12 Wiley Gifford (Dutchess Co.). Give away items included a super cute raindrop stress reliever, pencils, and mammoth sunflower seed packets.

Plans are in the works for 2012 to eliminate the Coordinating County. Volunteers will contact the Committee to sign up for shifts at the State Fair booth. Each year, an Employee Incentive of \$50 has been



Alan Masters (Onondaga County SWCD) explains fish morphology to a young boy.

awarded to 5 volunteers. The committee pulls names for the winners, and the more shifts a person works the higher their chances are of winning. If you have a display idea for the 2012 State Fair Booth, please contact the Committee. Ideas for give-away items are welcome, too. The Committee is always open to new ideas. The question that is out there is "Is this worth the effort?" Contact Kristen White at kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net with your thoughts. She will share your comments with the NYSCDEA Board as well as the State Fair Committee. If you would prefer to remain anonymous please let her know. The cost will be discussed for this request!

Many Soil and Water Conservation Districts feel it is worth the effort and we need to have a presence at our NYS Fair along with other agencies such as DEC and USDA/NRCS. It's important for Soil and Water Conservation Districts to get the word out about what we have to offer people. With budget cuts happening all around the state, every little bit helps and making our presence known at events such as Empire Farm Days, the State Fair, County Fairs and events, is so important. Education is key. That's why being involved with volunteering at the state fair is so crucial and interacting with the public while volunteering is so important.

Town of Cato Farmland Protection Plan Wins Statewide Award for Excellence

Geoffrey Milz and Lael Locke

On Monday, October 10, 2011, at its annual conference, the New York Planning Federation gave its coveted Heissenbuttel Award for Planning Excellence to the Town of Cato for their Plan for Agriculture and Farmland Protection. The award is given each year to an individual, municipality, or agency for outstanding and innovative accomplishment in the field of planning.

“The Town of Cato was chosen for three particularly innovative aspects of their plan,” said New York Planning Federation President Wendy Weber Salvati. “The Town focused on the role of local agriculture in the area’s larger food system, they used the Cayuga County GIS to develop a parcel-based Farmland Suitability Index which allows the Town to identify the farmland most suitable for protection, and, lastly, the plan’s resulting strategies are quantitative, implementable and directly tied to the agricultural objectives in Cato’s comprehensive plan.”

The plan was approved by the Cayuga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board at its March 2, 2011 meeting. Board member and consultant to the America Farmland Trust, Judy Wright said, “By developing an Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, and putting it to work, the Town of Cato is taking a huge step in support of its farm community. Cato values its farms and businesses. This gives farmers confidence to invest in

their businesses and continue to work the land.”

The Plan identifies 13 strategies for enhancing agriculture and protecting farmland. “In Cato, agriculture is our economic backbone,” said Charles Ray, Town of Cato Supervisor. “It defines our rural character, provides jobs and as a Town we are committed to seeing our farms thrive. This award tells me that we are on the right track toward protecting the land that sustains our farms, our farm families and our biggest industry.”

“The Heissenbuttel Award is a real feather in the cap of the Town’s farmland protection efforts,” said Geoff Milz, Planner with the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development. “After 18 months of work the Town truly earned this award and I am proud of the Planning Department’s involvement as the consultant to the project. They did a great job in developing the plan and I look forward to seeing it implemented.”

Based in Albany, the New York Planning Federation is a statewide, member-supported non-profit. Founded in 1937, its mission is to promote sound planning, land use and zoning practice in New York State which fosters orderly growth and development, balanced with the protection of natural resources. It is the only State organization that focuses its attention on planning boards and zoning

boards of appeal.

In addition to its annual conference, the Planning Federation offers on-line training, municipal and regional workshops, publications, a newsletter, and an informational website, www.nypf.org





Districts in Pictures

Round 15 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Waterpoint Wastewater Project

Scott Fickbohm

This Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District project consisted of the construction of a NRCS designed leachate collection system/wastewater treatment strip. The system was built to collect concentrated silage leachate at low flow and treat effluent during periods of high flow.

This project originated in the farms Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and allowed it to abandon an old bunk silo without any collection. The system will now allow the farmer to collect and store silage leachate which will then be mixed with the operations manure and spread on active fields in accordance with the CNMP. Highflow effluent is directed to the treatment area where nutrients are taken up by the vegetation.



Drainage area post-construction.



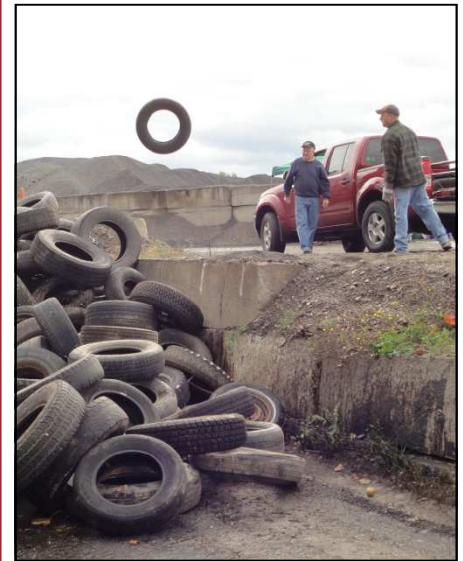
Drainage, collection and treatment areas.



Collection and distribution box.



Tompkins County SWCD staff during the Tire Collection Day from left to right Seth Dennis, Jon Negley, Aaron Ristow, Craig Schutt, and Gene Aarnio.



Seth Dennis helps a customer unload a tire at the Tire Collection Day.



Essex County SWCD held a Pasture Walk on October 16 at the Ben Wever farm. Dave Roberts from the New York State Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative spoke at the well attended event.

Partnership Installs Conservation District Road Sign at NY/PA Border

Brian Davis

The Cattaraugus County Soil and Water Conservation District and McKean County Conservation District in Pennsylvania recently partnered to install a joint Conservation District road sign at the NY/PA border on NY Route 305/PA Route 446. Sandy Thompson, McKean County's District Manager, arranged for the sign to be constructed and for the installation location. Cattaraugus County Soil and Water shared the cost of the sign and assisted with the installation, which was completed on October 18, 2011. The installation crew included Sandy, McKean County CD Chairman Kerry Fetter, Cattaraugus District employees Brian Davis and Bob Shenk, and two employees from the McKean

County Highway Department. While this was a very quick and simple project, it more importantly highlights the cooperative efforts between Districts and local governments not only within each state, but across state lines as well. Cattaraugus County has partnered with neighboring Conservation Districts in McKean and Warren Co. PA in the past through BMP training programs and bi-state watershed planning activities. It is a well known fact that many other Districts on the state border have partnered together to implement many programs and projects. Just as Districts in New York love to network, It is always a

great experience to work with Districts from other states and learn about their programs and activities.

The Cattaraugus County SWCD would like to thank the McKean Co. Conservation District for their efforts to implement this effective project, and for the opportunity to participate.



L to R: Kerry Fetter, McKean CD Chair; Sandy Thompson, McKean CD Manager; Brian Davis, Cattaraugus SWCD Field Manager; Bob Shenk, Cattaraugus SWCD Technician.

Celebrate Good Times (come on!)



Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD's Conservation Educator is engaged to Matt Seifts. He proposed on top of Pillsbury Mountain's fire tower on a glorious autumn afternoon.



Anna, daughter of Chastity Miller, Franklin County SWCD's Manager, celebrated her first Halloween.

Visit the SWCD **Training Calendar** at:
https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=lauren.prezorski%40agriculture.ny.gov&ctz=America/New_York

The CDEA Newsletter needs
 YOUR news! Send your article,
 save the date, special recognition,
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hcswcd@frontiernet.net



Hay Drive Aids Farmers

Brenda Weaver and Chastity Miller

The Schoharie and Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Schoharie and Franklin County Farm Bureaus, and Franklin County Cornell Cooperative Extension have teamed up to obtain donations of hay for local farmers who have been affected by the flooding from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

Many of the farms in the Schoharie Valley Many farmers lost all their feed, bedding, homes, barns, livestock, and crops to the storms. What remained to be harvested was also ruined. Hay supplies that were stored in barns or outside were either swept away in the rushing water or saturated, ruining the hay.

On October 26th, the first delivery of a tractor trailer load of hay made its way down to the VanAller farm in Middleburgh. This donation was made possible not only by the generosity of the farms in the northern part of New York, but also with the coordination and labor from the

Franklin and Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Farm Bureau members. Area residents have already donated over 200 square bails and at least 400 more are needed to fill the Schoharie bound delivery truck. 30 round bales have also been donated, with the goal of reaching 200. The expectation is to ship these bales the first week of November.

Jane Robinson, the office Manager at Franklin County District said, "Many farmers who are facing feed hardships themselves have donated hay and are willingly to toss in a couple of extras because they know how hard it can be."

The VanAller family saved the life of Brenda Weaver's father. During Tropical Storm Lee, Mr. Weaver was on his way to his favorite lunch place, the Middleburgh Diner, when his car died just outside the VanAller Farm with rapidly rising floodwaters. Larry and Todd came to Mr. Weaver's aid with a

tractor, instructing him to get into the bucket. They took him safely to higher ground. Later the next day, after the water receded, Larry and Todd towed his car off to the side out of the way. "You can't ask for better people to have as neighbors," said Mr. Weaver.

This first delivery of hay is only the beginning. Some beef farmers who lost hay will be receiving large round bales during the next delivery. Financial donations are being collected to offset the cost of fuel for delivery. Trucking companies have been working together to make this cost as low as possible.

On Saturday, October 29th the Minekill State Park and New York Power Authority hosted a Halloween Hayride at the Visitor's center in North Blenheim. To see one farm family's heartbreaking story please go to <http://vimeo.com/29649369>



6th Annual Conservation Districts in the News Awards

Barb Silvestri

This year, over 400 news articles, television news stories and radio interviews were generated by just 1/3 of New York's 58 County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Just imagine how that number must add up statewide! The volume & quality of the press generated this year unprecedented. In addition doubling the number of news stories each year, the messaging is growing stronger & more consistent statewide. BUT, as the press gets better, the competition gets tougher!

Bronze Category (3 Awards)

“Creative Messaging” Award – DUTCHESS

For their article that hooks you with their “tree sale,” and then:

- draws you into a complete overview of their mission, programs, benefits and cost saving value;
- leading to the high return on their county's investment and what budget cuts could mean to their programs and technical services;
- and closing with a “call to action” for residents to purchase trees at their tree sale to enhance biodiversity on their property and help support their Conservation District.

“Recipe for Success” Award – WARREN

For articles that consistently incorporate key themes and messages such as:

- problems and how they solved them,
- environmental benefits, cost savings to the community and value to tourism industry,
- funding brought in and how it supports the local economy,
- credit to their local legislators, highway departments and other partners,
- and quotes from county officials and partners praising the District's work.

“Community Connection” Award – WAYNE

For eloquent articles and quotes:

- raising awareness about each person's individual role in watershed stewardship, community building and the partnerships necessary to improve and protect natural resources,
- informing residents through a “Water Quality Connection” series and involving the forces of local Boy Scout Troops in battling aquatic weeds.

“Special Recognition” went to:

- **Wyoming:** A pioneer on Facebook.
- **Lewis:** Full page article on the District's Mission.
- **Genesee:** Farmers quoted supporting the District's vital role in future of the agricultural industry.
- **Cavuga:** Homeowner's quoted complimenting their

“Trade-a-Tree” Christmas tree recycling program.

- **Albany:** You Tube clip on the stages of construction for rain-gardens.
- **Saratoga:** Press on their agricultural plastic recycling program.
- **Ontario:** Press on a staff member bringing his expertise to Russia along with a National Ground Water Association to help with water quality issues that are very similar to our own.

Silver Category (3 Awards)

“District PARTNERS in the News” Award – SCHUYLER

For press featuring:

- shared services with Chemung Soil & Water,
- their Stormwater Coalition the Upper Susquehanna Coalition,
- AEM “Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment” Sign Awards
- the conservation tour for the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee partners also including Chemung and Seneca County Districts.

“District SUPPORTERS in the News” Award – TOMPKINS

Giving credit in the press is one of the best ways to garner continued support and also provides an opportunity to feature the value of the District. For press recognizing District supporters with “Conservation Partner Awards” including

Awards from page 8

“Farmer of the Year”, along with a Contractor Award, Municipal Partner Award, Conservation Citizen Award, Education Sponsorship Award, and Conservation Leadership Award – presented to a State Senator. Also, in recognition of the radio spot submitted on behalf of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

“District EDUCATOR in the News” Award – HAMILTON

For extensive outreach to residents of all ages through the press and electronic media including:

- Creatively written articles that appeal to readers of all ages
- Memorable titles, taglines & quotes
- Effective use of electronic media including Facebook, YouTube, & postings on the websites of news outlets including the Albany Times Union, which also generated a substantial number of comments.

Photo Category (1 Award)

“BEST PHOTO in the News” Award – MADISON

For their wide array of photos featured in newspapers and magazines, nearly any of which could be the top winner. Also for the most photos published, totaling over 30. Also, in recognition of the quality of articles and expert-source quotes with especially well articulated sound-bites on tough issues like the Federal TMDL requirements.

Gold Category (3 Awards)

“AEM in the News” Award –

ONONDAGA

For the best series of articles on Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM):

- describing the environmental and cost saving benefits of various AEM practices,
- connecting to the funding sources that helped farmers implement practices,
- explaining how they leveraged their county appropriation to bring in state dollars that multiplied the county’s investment 26 times, benefitting over 50 local businesses.
- In addition, they also submitted a terrific “Conservation Education Photo.”

“DAIRY FARMS in the News” Award – JEFFERSON

Sponsored by our partners from the American Dairy Association & Dairy Council

For their exceptional press on the environmental stewardship of Dairy farmers and their contribution to the community. They certainly followed the ‘recipe for success’ in all their articles, linking the importance of the Conservation District and local agriculture to the environment, their community and the local economy. This year alone they:

- generated 40 news articles on a wide array of issues,
- produced 2 YouTube videos highlighting a variety of District programs,
- were featured on a radio talk show discussing their AEM

program and local agriculture,

- submitted a great photo of their entire staff with their Assemblyman in front of an “October is Soil and Water Month” sign at the local fire house.

“DISTRICTS in the News” Award – DELAWARE

For having the most consecutive column inches of solid on point quotes in various news outlets from an array of District staff members. The articles and quotes:

- emphasize partnerships and give credit to partners,
- acknowledge funding sources,
- feature other Districts and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition,
- establish the District as a leader in partnership efforts and as an expert source of information.

Final Category:

“PLATINUM Award” - CORTLAND

Recognizing that media outreach is an ongoing effort, the “Platinum Award” honors a Soil and Water District achieving “Districts in the News Award” recognition for three or more years. This year, the CORTLAND County Soil and Water District was honored for their top-notch, ongoing press achievements. Just this year they:

- generated 46 articles
- were quoted as an expert

source on a wide range of issues, far too many to name,

- published an article series featuring each staff member to commemorate their 65th anniversary
- and much, much more.

While this award was presented to one District, all Soil and Water Districts involved in media outreach over the years were commended for their exceptional work informing and

educating decision-makers and the public, which benefits all Districts statewide.

Congratulations to all “District in the News” Award winners! Doing good work is important. Making sure others understand what you’re doing is critical.

Special thanks to State Agricultural Commissioner Aubertine for presenting the awards at the NY Association of

Conservation Districts Annual Conference on October 17. Watch for a display showcasing this year’s Soil and Water District press at the Water Quality Symposium this March, which may help you generate some new ideas. Contact Barbara Silvestri with media assistance at 518-457-3186 or barb.silvestri@agriculture.ny.gov



Delaware County SWCD



Dutchess County SWCD



Tompkins County SWCD



Jefferson County SWCD



Hamilton County SWCD



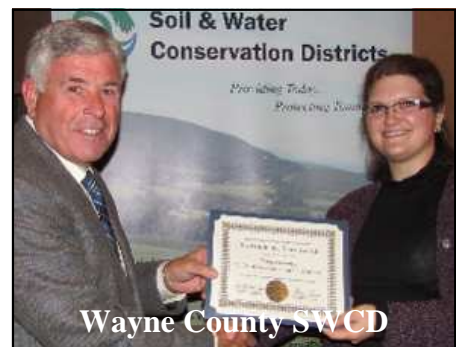
Warren County SWCD



Onondaga County SWCD



Schuyler County SWCD



Wayne County SWCD

NYACD Annual Meeting/Administrative Manager's Fall Conference

Judy Littrell

Once again, NYACD held their annual meeting in conjunction with the Administrative Manager's Conference at the Radisson Hotel in Utica. 40 Districts were represented this year, showing an increase of 7 from 2010. 55 District Directors, 27 Administrative Staff Members, 31 District Managers and 23 NRCS staffers participated. NYACD was also pleased to have newly appointed CEO of NACD, John Larson, in attendance. It was a great opportunity for John to learn about the structure and programs of New York's Districts. John gave an overview of the Farm Bill and reported on his tenure thus far with NACD.

Several workshops were held including which included ethics and public employees; benefits of the CDEA; conflict mediation;

Quickbooks and grant tracking; minute taking, SWCD budgeting; and conservation easements. The annual business meeting of NYACD was also conducted where partner reports were delivered, and resolutions were adopted in regards to Chesapeake Bay, State Committee staffing, and gas drilling. DEC's Jim Tierney presented overview and insight to hydrofracking, and praised Districts for their outstanding efforts in the flood recovery programs.

NYACD was pleased to recognize outstanding individuals during the Annual Awards Banquet where Commissioner Aubertine was the guest speaker. Sharon Frost of Suffolk SWCD received the Commendation Award; Seldon

Chase of Monroe County was awarded the Merit Award; Cayuga SWCD received the Diversity Award; Ontario County Board of Supervisors received the Appreciation Award; and Brad Rogers was recognized for Distinguished Service. Being honored with a Special Service Award was NRCS State Conservationist Astor Boozer, who was ending his detail in NY in October to move on to become the Western Region Conservationist within NRCS. Astor was recognized for strengthening Districts and NRCS operations, and collectively implementing conservation projects. While he will be missed in NY, the conservation family wishes him well in his new position.



Astor Boozer received the Special Service Award. L to R: Commissioner Aubertine, NYACD President Tom Nichols, Mr. Boozer, NYACD Director George Priois, and NYACD Director Dan Farrand.



Sharon Frost received the Commendation Award.



Farmland Saved Through Soil and Water Conservation District Project

Susan Lewis

The Fox Creek is a dynamic stream that snakes its way through the town of Berne. For the past few years on a 100 foot stretch the Fox Creek has eroded 15 feet of very productive farm land on one of Alan Lendrum's fields (prior to Tropical Storm Irene). Mr. Lendrum came to the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District for help on potential solutions to this issue. Along with erosion and loss of land there was an increased amount of sediment into the stream that was compromising the aquatic ecosystem.

The Conservation District determined that the eroding stream bank would be corrected using Natural Channel Design (NCD), which is a stream restoration method that mimics natural healthy stream characteristics. The goal is to restore pools and riffles thus reducing stream bank erosion and creating fish habitat, reconstructing floodplains and returning natural stream bank vegetation. NCD utilizes the streams inherent ability and

power by coaxing the stream to redirect its energy into the center of the channel and away from the banks. Not only do NCD's have longer lasting benefits than conventional methods they also cost much less to implement in larger projects.

This project consisted of two rock J-Hooks angled upstream that push the stream energy into the center of the stream. Two gravel benches were constructed to allow deposition of sediment during flood events and allow the continued build up of sediment along the stream bank. The benches form an area excellent for riparian vegetation to quickly become established. The work also consisted of a Toe Log structure upstream in a sharp bend that was experiencing erosion and adding more sediment into the stream. A Toe Log is several large trees inserted into the bank with its roots angled upstream into the channel, the roots slow the oncoming water and protect the stream bank. The tree roots also provide a great area for fish and

other aquatic species. Conservation District staff members have installed riparian vegetation in order to help protect the banks as well as help reduce water temperature to improve the overall health of the stream.

Installation of the project was provided by Carl Schwartz, Martha Naley and Mark Rienhart from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. "Fish and Wildlife staff really knew what they were doing, their operator was one of the best I've ever seen" said Alan Lendrum, Lendrum Farms. Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District worked with Roy Lamberton of the Clear Water Chapter of Trout Unlimited on design and implementation of the stream project. "The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District made it easy, they knew what avenues to take and found funding...this project has saved a very productive field, I couldn't be happier" said Lendrum.



Erosion along the stream banks resulting in the loss of land.



Rock across the stream creating a riffle and protecting the farm field.

Hydrilla Invades the Cayuga Inlet in Tompkins County

Jonathan Negley

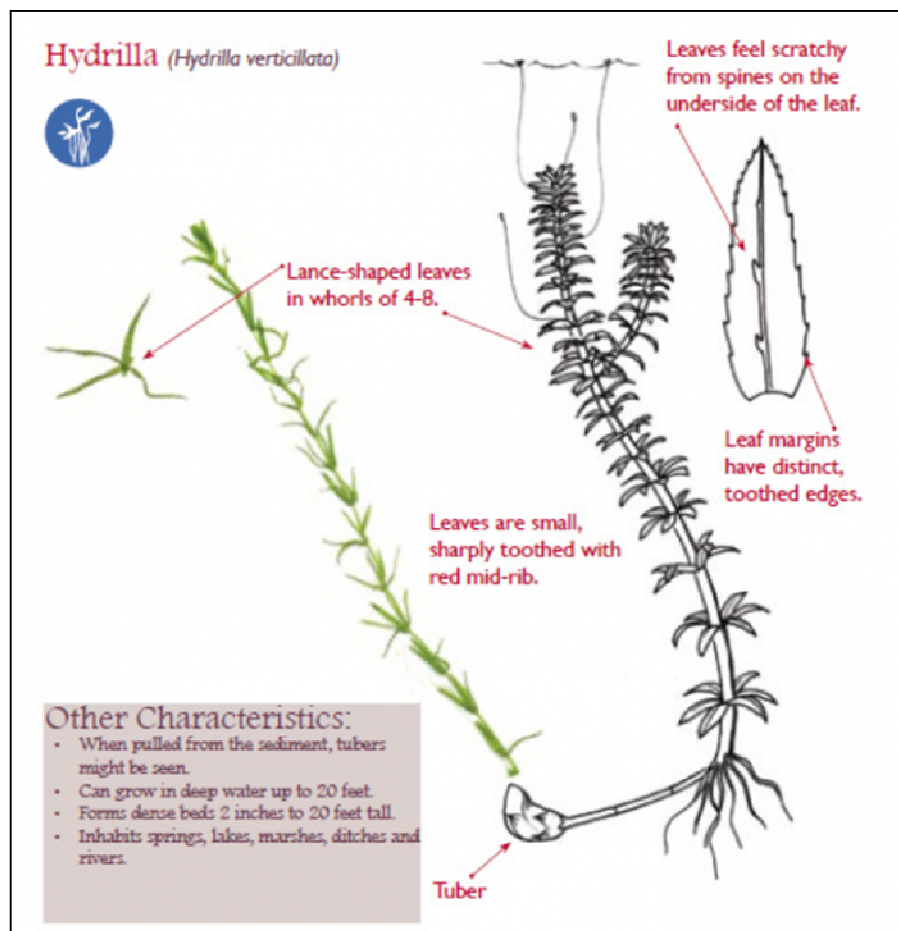
Rooted in the bottom sediment and growing up to an inch a day, *Hydrilla verticillata*, quickly outcompetes native vegetation and creates a dense mat of vegetation at the surface of the water. This dense mat inhibits boat traffic, displaces natural habitat, and discourages recreational uses of the water. Spread by seed, buds (turions), tubers and vegetative fragments; this plant is often referred to as one of the worst invasive aquatic plants in the world. Due to these facts it was disheartening to hear that it had invaded the Cayuga Inlet, which feeds water into Cayuga Lake.

Hydrilla was discovered in Mid-August of 2011, and a task force was formed to respond to the threat. This team included members from Tompkins County SWCD, Cornell University, NYSDEC, City of Ithaca, NYS Parks, and other various organizations. The Tompkins County SWCD was responsible for applying for permits to apply the herbicide (Aquathol K - Endothall), coordinating the budget to hire a certified herbicide applicator, and post application monitoring of the chemical to document the spread (or lack thereof) of the chemical outside the treatment area. In mid-October, 95 acres of the Cayuga Inlet was permitted through the NYSDEC to be treated with Aquathol K. The time span between discovery of the plant and herbicide application was due to the

NYSDEC permit requirements to allow a 21 day notice to affected riparian users and landowners. The success of the treatment will be documented in the coming weeks and future eradication measures will be discussed over the winter. This is a long term commitment from all of the members of the task force and efforts will continue for several years to eradicate this plant. This is the first known report of Hydrilla being found in Upstate New York waters. Since Cayuga Lake is a connection to the Great Lakes Ecosystem, this discovery is especially concerning. Boat traffic has been discouraged in the Cayuga Inlet and inspections,

notices, and informational posters at boat launches have all been used to aid the community in helping to stop the spread of this plant. Efforts are already underway to keep a vigilant watch on other lakes and waterbodies in the region so that the spread of the plant will be thwarted.

For more information on the plant and efforts to eradicate its existence in the Cayuga Inlet Channel please visit the Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension Site at: <http://ccetompkins.org/environment/invasive-species/hydrilla>



Tompkins County Soil and Water Announces Award Winners

Seth Dennis

The Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted an Appreciation and Recognition Luncheon on Friday, September 16th at the Carey Farm in Groton. The major award winners were:

“Conservation Farm of the Year”
– Snow Top Farm, Ray & Alan Van De Bogart

“Conservation Leadership Award” – Senator James L. Seward

“Contractor Award” – Jeff Benthin of JB’s Excavating

“Conservation Citizen Award” – Barry Goodrich

“Education Sponsorship Award”

– Cargill Deicing Technologies

“Municipal Partner Award” – Cindy Schulte of the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County

The District presented Agricultural Environmental Management Farm Signs to: Ray & Alan Van De Bogart – Snow Top Farm; Ed & Eileen Scheffler – Scheffler Farm; Jason, Joe & Chris Fuller – Fuller Family Dairy; Larry & Denise Moore; Tom & Sally Brown; and Paul & Laura Fouts – Fouts Farm.

The Luncheon was attended by over 60 people with guest speakers Senator James L. Seward; Senator Thomas F. O’Mara; Representative Terre Dennis, the Cortland Regional

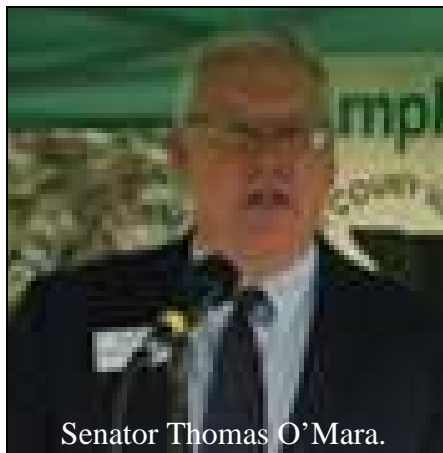
Director for Congressman Richard Hanna; and the Tompkins County Dairy Princess Abbie Teeter. It was also attended by members of the Tompkins County Administration, Tompkins County Legislature, Farm Bureau, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors, local teachers, Town Supervisors & Highway Superintendents, and county farmers. The event was sponsored by the Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Tompkins County Farm Bureau, and hosted at the Carey Farm in Groton owned by Dan and Ann Carey.



Appreciation & Recognition Luncheon at the Carey Farm in Groton.



Craig Schutt, Tompkins County District Manager presents an award to Senator James L. Seward.



Senator Thomas O’Mara.



Craig Schutt presents an AEM sign to Chris and Jason Fuller of Fuller Family Dairy.