

New York State Conservation District  
Employees' Association, Inc.



2017 Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

“Providing Today,  
Protecting Tomorrow”

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## **ANNUAL MEETING**

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Double Tree  
East Syracuse, NY

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions
2. Roll Call of Districts
3. Reading and approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Review Slate of Officers –Nichelle Billhardt – Past President
5. Review and approval of 2016 Treasurer's Report
6. Review and approval of 2017 Budget
7. Partner Reports
  - a. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
  - b. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - c. New York Association of Conservation Districts
8. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association Reports
9. New Employee Recognition
10. Service Recognition
11. Officer Reports
12. Division Reports; will also report on new Div. reps for the odd divisions
13. Committee Reports
14. Resolutions
15. Other Business from the Floor
17. Election of Officers – Nichelle Billhardt
18. Adjournment



New York State Conservation Districts Employees' Association  
Annual Meeting  
Crowne Plaza, Syracuse, New York  
March 16, 2016

**Members Attending:**

PJ Emerick, President  
Jordan Clements, Vice President  
Velynda Parker, Secretary  
Kristin White, Treasurer  
Doug Kierst, Member at Large

**Division Representatives:**

Judy Bennett, Division I  
Kelly Emerick, Division II  
Steve Lorraine, Division III  
Laura Benedict, Division V  
Erin Sommerville, Division VII

**Absent:**

Calum Lewis, Division IV  
Ann Marie Calabroa, Division VIII  
Ben Luskin, Division VII

**Partners**

Bob Brower, NYSSWCC  
Amber Paice, NYACD

- I. **Called to Order:** President PJ Emerick called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm. PJ welcomed all those in attendance and introduced the NYSCDEA Executive Board and Division Representatives. He mentioned that the Annual Meeting packet was sent out via email prior to the meeting. He further stated the annual meeting packet items will be projected on the screen throughout the meeting.
- II. **Roll Call of Districts:** Velynda Parker performed the roll call and the following forty-two Districts were present:

|               |             |              |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Albany        | Cattaraugus | Cayuga       |
| Chautauqua    | Chemung     | Chenango     |
| Clinton       | Columbia    | Cortland     |
| Delaware      | Dutchess    | Erie         |
| Essex         | Franklin    | Fulton       |
| Genesee       | Greene      | Hamilton     |
| Herkimer      | Jefferson   | Lewis        |
| Madison       | Monroe      | Montgomery   |
| New York City | Niagara     | Onondaga     |
| Ontario       | Orange      | Orleans      |
| Oswego        | Otsego      | St. Lawrence |
| Saratoga      | Schoharie   | Schuyler     |
| Seneca        | Steuben     | Suffolk      |
| Tioga         | Tompkins    | Warren       |
| Wayne         | Yates       |              |

III. **Reading and Approval of 4/13/15 Annual Meeting Minutes:**

- Motion was made by Gerry Smithson, seconded by Mark Burger to dispense with the reading and to approve the minutes as written. Carried.

- IV. **Review Slate of Officers:** Nichelle Billhardt reviewed the slate of officers and asked if there are any further nominations for the slate of officers. There were no further nominations from the floor. She further stated that since there are two individuals running for the Vice President and ballot voting will be administered for this position.

President - PJ Emerick

Vice President – Jordan Clements, Chastity Miller

Secretary – Caitlin Stewart

Treasurer - Kristin White

- **A motion was made by Mark Gaston, seconded by Dustin Lewis to close the nominations and for the secretary to cast one vote pending the outcome of the Vice President seat. Carried.**

- V. **Treasurer's Report:** President Emerick stated the report was included in the packet as well as projected on the screens for the attendees to view and asked if there were any questions.

- **Motion was made by Blanche Hurlbutt, second by Mark Burger to approve the 2015 Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.**

- VI. **Review and Approval 2016 Budget:** President Emerick stated the report was included in the packet as well as projected on the screens for the attendees to view and asked if there were any questions.

- **Motion was made by Velynda Parker, seconded by Gerry Smithson to approve the 2016 budget as written. Carried.**

VII. **Agency Reports**

A. **NY Association of Conservation Districts:** Amber Paice read her report to the attendee's and it's appended to the minutes.

B. **New York State Soil & Water Conservation District:** Bob Brower stated copies of the report for NYSSWCC are available at the registration table and a copy is appended to the minutes.

C. **USDA Natural Resources Conservation:** No one present, no report provided.

- VIII. **Northeast Regional Report** – Jeff Parker stated the report was included in the packet. He further stated he is the President of the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees' and he sits on the National Conservation District Employees' Association. He also mentioned that New York is light years ahead of other states. He further commented that the Northeast meeting will be held in New Jersey on August 14-16, 2016 and flyers are available at the registration table. He will be available if anyone would like to further discuss either one of these organizations.

- IX. **New Employee Recognition:** Each Division Representative recognized and announced the new District employee's. They are as follows:

**Division I**

Greg Tessman, Genesee SWCD  
Scott Collins, Niagara SWCD

**Division III**

Cheyann Youngs, St. Lawrence SWCD  
Rachel Radicello, Herkimer SWCD

**Division V**

David Wilfore, Clinton SWCD  
Susan Passino, Clinton SWCD

**Division VI**

Dan Palemire, Saratoga SWCD

**Division II**

Steve Popp, Monroe SWCD  
Megan Webster, Ontario SWCD  
Rebecca Bray, Onondaga SWCD  
Jeremy Paris, Monroe SWCD

**Division IV**

Calum Lewis, Steuben SWCD  
Brian Kidder, Steuben SWCD  
Kym Jackson, Tompkins SWCD

**Division VII**

Michelle Vedder-Drew, Columbia SWCD  
Rachel Terrill, Greene SWCD

- X. **Years of Service Recognition:** Each Division Rep recognized employees with 10 and 15 years of service during Division meetings. Laura Benedict and President Emerick recognized employees with 20, 25, and 30 years of service with the Districts. She and President Emerick handed out the Year of Service pins as follows:

**Division I**

Melanie Saunders, Erie SWCD 10 years  
James Sroka, Erie SWCD 15 years

**Division II**

Eric Jensen, Onondaga SWCD 10 years  
Eric Renfer, Onondaga SWCD 10 years  
Kristin White, Seneca SWCD 10 years  
Patrick DeVoe, Cayuga SWCD 15 years  
Alan Masters, Onondaga SWCD 15 years  
Doug Kierst, Cayuga SWCD 20 years  
Sandy Huey, Cayuga SWCD 25 years

**Division III**

Levi Rudd, Jefferson SWCD 10 years  
Rhonda Redder, Jefferson SWCD 10 years  
Mike Durant, Lewis SWCD 10 years  
Carl Bartlett, Madison SWCD 10 years  
Patty Casler, Madison SWCD 10 years  
Tim Wimmer, Oneida SWCD 10 years  
Joe Chairvolotti, Oswego SWCD 10 years  
Cindy Williams, Oswego SWCD 30 years

**Division IV**

Gideon Frisbee, Delaware SWCD 10 years  
Jody Applebee, Steuben SWCD 10 years  
Jonathan Barter, Steuben SWCD 10 years  
Gale Neale, Delaware SWCD 15 years

**Division IV (con't)**

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Mike Jura, Tioga SWCD        | 15 years |
| Charles McElwee, Broome SWCD | 20 years |
| Stacy Russell, Cortland SWCD | 20 years |

**Division VI**

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Jason Case, Schenectady SWCD     | 10 years |
| Dustin Lewis, Saratoga SWCD      | 10 years |
| Scott Monica, Saratoga SWCD      | 10 years |
| Benjamin Luskin, Washington SWCD | 10 years |
| Susan Lewis, Albany SWCD         | 15 years |
| Nick Halford, Rensselaer SWCD    | 15 years |
| Lisa Kuehnel, Schoharie SWCD     | 15 years |
| Dave Pidgeon, Schenectady SWCD   | 20 years |
| John Kehoe, Schenectady SWCD     | 25 years |
| Stephen Hoerz, Schoharie SWCD    | 30 years |

**Division VII**

|                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Michelle Yost, Greene SWCD | 10 years |
| John Kline, Sullivan SWCD  | 10 years |

**Division VIII**

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Elizabeth Condon, Suffolk SWCD | 20 years |
|--------------------------------|----------|

XI. **Officers Report**

**President Report:** PJ stated the Presidents report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

**Member At Large:** Doug highlighted his report and it's appended to the minutes.

XII. **Division Reports**

**Division I:** Judy stated her report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division II:** Kelly stated her report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division III:** Steve stated his report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division IV:** Velynda stated the report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division V:** Laura stated her report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division VI:** His report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division VII:** Erin stated her report is in the packet and it's appended to the minutes.

**Division VIII:** Ann Marie was unable to attend the meeting and no report was provided.

President Emerick congratulated even Division Reps – Kelly Emerick, Div. II; Velynda Parker, Div. IV; Ben Luskin, Div. VI. He further stated that if no one has come forward to be Division VIII Rep within 14 days after the annual meeting, he will be appointing Ann-Marie Calabro as Division VIII Rep.

### XIII. **Committee Reports**

**Conservation Skill Workshop:** President Emerick stated the report is in the packet. He further asked Tom Eskildsen if there are any additional comments. He commented that if anyone has any ideas to let the committee know. He further commented that each class had an average of 6 students. This is a pretty low number for CSW to be sustainable into the future. We would like to hear from each of you as to what we can do to increase these numbers so that folks are receiving the best training that they can for the time and money that is invested.

**Empire Farm Days:** President Emerick stated the report is in the packet. He asked Kristin if there are any additional comments. She commented that if any Districts would like to showcase projects at Empire Farm Days, to email before and after pictures to her.

**NYS Fair:** President Emerick stated the report is in the packet. He asked Kristin if there are any additional comments. She encouraged individuals to volunteer at the booth.

**NYS Envirothon:** President Emerick stated the report is in the packet. He asked Blanche if there are any additional comments. Blanche reminded the District to pick up/sign for their oral presentations packets which are available at the registration area. Encouraged individuals to step forward to volunteer at the event which will be held on May25 & 26 at Hobart William Smith College in Geneva.

**Environmental Education Foundation:** Dave Reckahn stated the report is in the packet. He further explained the Foundation committee has been actively seeking grants. He continued to mention that the banner and brochures are available at the registration table.

**Administrative Conference:** President Emerick stated the report is in the packet. He asked Carla if there are any additional comments. She thanked the committee for putting the classes together for the WQS and new ideas are welcome.

**Frank Scholarship:** President Emerick stated the report is in the packet. He asked Judy B. if there are any additional comments. Judy replied she had none.

### XIV. **Resolutions:**

One resolution was sponsored by Ontario SWCD and NYSCDEA to create a Civil Service Ad Hoc Committee to work on updating conservation district exams titles and



exam content to be consistent with current soil and water conservation & water quality improvement techniques, programs & policies.

- **Motion was made by Nichelle Billhardt, second by Blanche Hurlbutt to create the Civil Service Ad Hoc Committee for updating conservation district exams titles & exam content consistent with current soil & water conservation & water quality improvement techniques, programs & policies. Carried.**

XV. **Approval of By-Law Changes:** President Emerick stated the following changes are needed for the By-Laws:

- On page 8 – Association By-Laws, Article IX: Finances Section 3 – change this to read that 3 individuals will be present for an audit and added the Member-At-Large as being one of them. We need it to be 3 people because the Treasurer is only there to provide information to the ones doing the audit.
- On page 22 – Envirothon Committee – Finance #3 reworded this because the NYSCDEA Treasurer is the one providing the financial report/information to the Executive Board not the committee.
- On page 23 – Envirothon Committee – changed North American Envirothon to National Conservation Foundation Envirothon (NCF-Envirothon)
- On page 24 – Envirothon Committee – Scholarships, Instructions #3 – changed it to read how the committee agreed to change it to.

XVI. **Other Business:**

**Leadership Conference:** Mark Burger stated it's been 13 years since the last leadership conference. This leadership conference will aid in growth and development for attendees with the hopes to mentor other conservation district employees' in the future. This four day conference will be held July 12-15 with 32 openings which will include members of the Executive Board, NYACD, NRCS, State Committee and Conservation Districts. The cost at this time is \$550/per person; however this amount could change due to the amount of support received from outside funding. He further commented that NYACD has committed \$1,000 towards the conference.

XVII. **Adjournment:**

- **A motion was made by Blanche Hurlbutt, second by Mark Gaston to adjourn the 2016 Annual NYSCDEA meeting. Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.



Velynda Parker  
Secretary

New York State Conservation District  
 Employees' Association, Inc.  
 Treasurer's Report: 2016 Final Budget

| ACCOUNT   | 2016 Budget          |                      | 2016 Actual          |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | Income               | Expense              | Income               | Expense              |
| Timeshare Raffle  |                      |                      | \$ 230.00            |                      |
| Fertilizer Tablets  | \$ 6,000.00          | \$ 6,000.00          | \$ 4,774.00          | \$ 5,107.00          |
| <b>Training Sessions:</b>                                     |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Admin/Mgt Conf  | \$ 2,000.00          | \$ 2,000.00          |                      |                      |
| CSW   | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 2,500.00          | \$ 4,240.00          | \$ 2,447.61          |
| Level I Tech Training   | \$ 400.00            | \$ 1,300.00          |                      |                      |
| WQS   | \$ 90,000.00         | \$ 64,000.00         | \$ 86,251.00         | \$ 58,682.16         |
| Leadership Conference<br>*Includes \$3,000 donation from CDEA | \$ 15,000.00         | \$ 18,000.00         | \$ 17,500.00         | \$ 14,636.87         |
| 4 Hour Training-PJ & Doug                                     |                      |                      |                      | \$ 341.50            |
| WQS Resource Fair   | \$ 5,000.00          | \$ 2,500.00          | \$ 7,168.34          | \$ 849.42            |
| Committee Expense   | \$ -                 | \$ -                 |                      |                      |
| Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees                                     | \$ -                 | \$ 1,000.00          |                      | \$ 775.00            |
| <b>Donations:</b>   |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Envirothon Scholarship  | \$ -                 | \$ 2,500.00          |                      | \$ 2,500.00          |
| Donations-Other-EEF   | \$ -                 | \$ 1,500.00          |                      | \$ 1,500.00          |
| Leadership Conference   | \$ -                 | \$ -                 | \$ -                 | \$ 3,000.00          |
| Executive Board   | \$ -                 | \$ 7,000.00          |                      | \$ 4,689.05          |
| Insurance   | \$ -                 | \$ 2,700.00          |                      | \$ 2,644.16          |
| Promo/Website   | \$ -                 | \$ 500.00            |                      | \$ 225.80            |
| NACD  | \$ -                 | \$ 2,400.00          |                      | \$ 513.37            |
| NCDEA Dues  | \$ -                 | \$ 200.00            |                      | \$ 200.00            |
| NACDE NE  | \$ -                 | \$ 900.00            |                      | \$ 582.54            |
| Newsletter  | \$ -                 | \$ 3,500.00          |                      | \$ 3,500.00          |
| <b>Fundraiser Activities</b>                                  |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| *Bucket/Silent Auction  |                      | \$ -                 | \$ 3,245.00          |                      |
| Sunshine Fund   | \$ -                 | \$ 200.00            |                      | \$ 21.65             |
| Office Supplies   | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      | \$ 302.30            |
| Division I  | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      | \$ 45.11             |
| Division II   | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      | \$ 35.58             |
| Division III  | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      |                      |
| Division IV   | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      | \$ 110.32            |
| Division V  | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      | \$ 224.47            |
| Division VI   | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      | \$ 300.00            |
| Division VII  | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      |                      |
| Division VIII   | \$ -                 | \$ 300.00            |                      |                      |
| Carryover   |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b>   | <b>\$ 121,400.00</b> | <b>\$ 121,400.00</b> | <b>\$ 123,408.34</b> | <b>\$ 103,233.91</b> |

| Self Sustaining Accounts |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Frank Bratt              | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 11.78             | \$ 2,379.37          |
| NYS Fair/EPD             | \$ 4,500.00          | \$ 4,500.00          | \$ 4,936.00          | \$ 5,796.00          |
| NYS Envirothon           | \$ 48,940.00         | \$ 48,940.00         | \$ 41,701.84         | \$ 37,406.43         |
| Envirothon Scholarships  | \$ 4,375.00          | \$ 11,125.00         | \$ 2,504.65          | \$ 5,750.00          |
| Golf Tournament          | \$ 2,000.00          | \$ 2,000.00          | \$ 3,992.50          | \$ 2,468.84          |
| <b>SSA Totals</b>        | <b>\$ 62,815.00</b>  | <b>\$ 69,565.00</b>  | <b>\$ 53,146.77</b>  | <b>\$ 53,800.64</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>       | <b>\$ 184,215.00</b> | <b>\$ 190,965.00</b> | <b>\$ 176,555.11</b> | <b>\$ 157,034.55</b> |

**New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.**  
**Treasurers 2016 Bank Report**

|                                     | <u>Dec 31, 16</u> | <u>Dec 31, 15</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                       |                   |                   |
| Current Assets                      |                   |                   |
| Checking/Savings                    |                   |                   |
| NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING                |                   |                   |
| General NYSCDEA Funds               | 31,282.22         | 25,665.51         |
| NYS Envirothon Checking             | 15,537.09         | 10,241.68         |
| NYS Fair Account                    | 2,077.39          | 2,937.39          |
| Conservation Skills                 | 15,352.13         | 13,559.74         |
| Leadership Conference               | 2,863.13          | 0.00              |
| Vacation Raffle Account             | 230.00            | 0.00              |
| Golf Tournament                     | 2,339.66          | 816.00            |
| Sunshine Fund                       | 788.67            | 788.67            |
| Resource Training Checking          | 5,000.00          | 4,803.22          |
| Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING          | 75,470.29         | 58,812.21         |
| Envirothon Scholarship Savings      | 7,773.67          | 11,019.02         |
| Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings     | 21,976.52         | 24,344.11         |
| Resource Training Savings           | 26,252.67         | 20,130.53         |
| Total Checking/Savings              | 131,473.15        | 114,305.87        |
| Accounts Receivable                 |                   |                   |
| Accounts Receivable                 |                   |                   |
| Training Sessions                   | 0.00              | 150.00            |
| Envirothon Receivables              | 0.00              | 1,000.00          |
| Total Accounts Receivable           | 0.00              | 1,150.00          |
| Total Accounts Receivable           | 0.00              | 1,150.00          |
| Total Current Assets                | 131,473.15        | 115,455.87        |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                 | <u>131,473.15</u> | <u>115,455.87</u> |
| <br><b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> |                   |                   |
| Liabilities                         |                   |                   |
| Current Liabilities                 |                   |                   |
| Credit Cards                        |                   |                   |
| CDEA Credit Card-Treasurer          | 0.00              | 2,485.08          |
| CDEA Credit Card-President          | 0.00              | 1,018.20          |
| Total Credit Cards                  | 0.00              | 3,503.28          |

New York State Conservation District  
Employees' Association, Inc.  
2017 Proposed Budget

| ACCOUNT                      | 2016 Actual          |                      | 2017 Proposed Budget |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                              | Income               | Expense              | Income               | Expense              |
| Timeshare Raffle             | \$ 230.00            |                      |                      |                      |
| Fertilizer Tablets           | \$ 4,774.00          | \$ 5,107.00          | \$ 6,000.00          | \$ 6,000.00          |
| <b>Training Sessions:</b>    |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Admin/Mgt Conf               |                      |                      | \$ 6,000.00          | \$ 6,000.00          |
| CSW                          | \$ 4,240.00          | \$ 2,447.61          | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 3,000.00          |
| Level 1 Tech Training        |                      |                      | \$ 800.00            | \$ 800.00            |
| WQS                          | \$ 86,251.00         | \$ 58,682.16         | \$ 90,000.00         | \$ 66,200.00         |
| Leadership Conference        | \$ 17,500.00         | \$ 14,636.87         | \$ -                 | \$ -                 |
| 4 Hour Training-PJ & Doug    |                      | \$ 341.50            |                      |                      |
| WQS Resource Fair            | \$ 7,168.34          | \$ 849.42            | \$ 5,000.00          | \$ 2,500.00          |
| Committee Expense            |                      |                      | \$ -                 | \$ -                 |
| Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees    |                      | \$ 775.00            | \$ -                 | \$ 1,000.00          |
| <b>Donations:</b>            |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| Envirothon Scholarship       |                      | \$ 2,500.00          | \$ -                 | \$ 2,500.00          |
| Donations-Other-EEF          |                      | \$ 1,500.00          | \$ -                 | \$ 1,500.00          |
| Leadership Conference        |                      | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ -                 | \$ -                 |
| Executive Board              |                      | \$ 4,689.05          | \$ -                 | \$ 7,000.00          |
| Insurance                    |                      | \$ 2,644.16          | \$ -                 | \$ 3,000.00          |
| Promo/Website                |                      | \$ 225.80            | \$ -                 | \$ 500.00            |
| NACD                         |                      | \$ 513.37            | \$ -                 | \$ 2,400.00          |
| NCDEA Dues                   |                      | \$ 200.00            | \$ -                 | \$ 200.00            |
| NACDE NE                     |                      | \$ 582.54            | \$ -                 | \$ 900.00            |
| Newsletter                   |                      | \$ 3,500.00          | \$ -                 | \$ 3,500.00          |
| <b>Fundraiser Activities</b> |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| *Bucket/Silent Auction       | \$ 3,245.00          |                      | \$ -                 | \$ -                 |
| Sunshine Fund                |                      | \$ 21.65             | \$ -                 | \$ 200.00            |
| Office Supplies              |                      | \$ 302.30            | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division I                   |                      | \$ 45.11             | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division II                  |                      | \$ 35.58             | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division III                 |                      |                      | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division IV                  |                      | \$ 110.32            | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division V                   |                      | \$ 224.47            | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division VI                  |                      | \$ 300.00            | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division VII                 |                      |                      | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Division VIII                |                      |                      | \$ -                 | \$ 400.00            |
| Carryover                    |                      |                      |                      |                      |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                | <b>\$ 123,408.34</b> | <b>\$ 103,233.91</b> | <b>\$ 110,800.00</b> | <b>\$ 110,800.00</b> |

| <b>Self Sustaining Accounts</b> |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Frank Bratt                     | \$ 11.78             | \$ 2,379.37          | \$ 3,000.00          | \$ 3,000.00          |
| NYS Fair/EFD                    | \$ 4,936.00          | \$ 5,796.00          | \$ 4,800.00          | \$ 7,300.00          |
| NYS Envirothon                  | \$ 41,701.84         | \$ 37,406.43         | \$ 53,710.00         | \$ 53,710.00         |
| Envirothon Scholarships         | \$ 2,504.65          | \$ 5,750.00          | \$ 2,500.00          | \$ 7,625.00          |
| Golf Tournament                 | \$ 3,992.50          | \$ 2,468.84          | \$ 2,000.00          | \$ 2,000.00          |
| <b>SSA Totals</b>               | <b>\$ 53,146.77</b>  | <b>\$ 53,800.64</b>  | <b>\$ 66,010.00</b>  | <b>\$ 73,635.00</b>  |
| <b>Grand Total</b>              | <b>\$ 176,555.11</b> | <b>\$ 157,034.55</b> | <b>\$ 176,810.00</b> | <b>\$ 184,435.00</b> |

Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees  
*"Together We Achieve the Extraordinary"*

Northeast Region Report  
Jeffrey Parker, President/CDEA Representation

The 2017 Northeast Regional Meeting will be held during August 13-15 in Burlington, VT at the Shearnton. There will be three track programs – Ag Conservation & Water Quality, Stormwater and Local Food Production. A dinner boat cruise is being investigated. VACD desire outcomes for participants - *learn about program innovations to promote conservation, support agricultural, and protect water quality; discuss key policies and programs that impact our conservation mission; share experiences with colleagues from throughout the Northeast; and tour Vermont farms and stormwater projects & enjoy the beautiful Vermont landscape.*

The 2016 Annual Meeting was held during the 2016 NACD Northeast Regional Meeting at the Stockton Seaview Resort, Galloway, New Jersey from August 14-16, 2016. The keynote speaker was Dr. Doug Tallamy noted author of *Bringing Nature Home*. He's also a professor at the University of Delaware. He shared a recipe for successful habitat conservation and a sustainable future.

As most of you know, Alan Masters has resigned as being Vice President and an interim Vice President was needed. Kerin Hume, Kent County Conservation District (DE) was elected to fulfill the remaining term of the Vice President. In addition to the annual meeting, the NACDE Board of Directors typically holds teleconference calls during the year.

Being the Northeast President, you also sit on the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) and one may ask why this is important. First and foremost we're asked to be representative on committees which shape the national conservation agenda. NCDEA committee's I serve are By-Law, Strategic Planning, and NACD Natural Resource Policy and Velynda serves on Policy & Procedure, Professional Development; and NACD Stewardship & Education. This is big -farm bill policies, implementation policies which affect every District employee statewide and nationally. We now as employees are asked to sit at the table with NACD. You may not think this is important to your District, but I'm telling you it is. I'm here to tell you that we have a voice thru your State Employees Association with both of us (myself and Velynda) sitting on the Northeast Employees Association.

Lastly, don't forget about the Don Aaron Scholarship Award which is offered to conservation employee and their immediate family who is participating in a resource conservation curriculum while enrolled in an accredited college or university. The eligibility consists of employed for one year by Conservation District, demonstrated integrity, ability a competence of work through training & experience and providing information substantiating enrollment at an accredited college or university. The individual applying could receive up to \$1,000 and applications are due March 15, 2017.

**New Employees March 2016 - March 2017**

**Division I**

|                    |            |                          |       |      |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------|------|
| Tiffany McCumiskey | Allegany   | Secretary                | May   | 2016 |
| Megan Boberg       | Cattaragus | District Technician      | April | 2016 |
| Gregory Kolenda    | Chautauqua | Technician               | May   | 2016 |
| Kevin Preischel    | Erie       | Water Quality Technician | Jan   | 2017 |

**Division II**

|                     |          |   |      |      |
|---------------------|----------|---|------|------|
| Jason Schenck       | Cayuga   | Watershed Conservatoin Specialist       | Aug  | 2016 |
| Josh LaFountain     | Monroe   | Soil & Water Resource Technician        | May  | 2016 |
| Molly Swearingen    | Monroe   | Soil & Water Resource Technician        | May  | 2016 |
| John Adams          | Onondaga | Implementer                             | May  | 2016 |
| Ian Priestley       | Wayne    | District Technician, AEM Specialist     | Sept | 2016 |
| Thomas Drew Starkey | Wayne    | District Technician, Program Specialist | Aug  | 2016 |

**Division IV**

|               |          |                                     |      |      |
|---------------|----------|-------------------------------------|------|------|
| Nikole Watts  | Chemung  | Stormwater Educator                 | Aug  | 2016 |
| Erica Capuana | Otsego   | Buffer Coordinator                  | Sept | 2016 |
| Sherry Mosher | Otsego   | Secretary/ Asst. Treasurer          | Sept | 2016 |
| Josh Meacham  | Steuben  | Conservation Planner                | July | 2016 |
| Emily Dekar   | Tioga    | Ag Coordinator                      | June | 2016 |
| Miranda Davey | Tioga    | Administrative Assistant            | Feb  | 2016 |
| Michael Hall  | Tompkins | Conservation Technician             | Jan  | 2017 |
| Paul Gier     | Tompkins | Natural Resource Program Specialist | Nov  | 2015 |

**Division V**

|                |          |                     |     |      |
|----------------|----------|---------------------|-----|------|
| Alice Halloran | Essex    | District Technician | Jan | 2016 |
| Allycia Leach  | Franklin | District Technician | Feb | 2016 |

**Division VI**

|                    |             |                     |      |      |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|------|------|
| Mary "Polly" Festa | Albany      | District Technician | Aug  | 2016 |
| Karen Klemczak     | Montgomery  | District Clerk      | Aug  | 2016 |
| Amber Luke         | Rensselaer  | District Technician | Jan  | 2016 |
| David Jaeger       | Rensselaer  | District Technician | Dec  | 2016 |
| Joe Rizzo          | Schenectady | Gate Keeper         | June | 2016 |

**Division VII**

|             |          |           |     |      |
|-------------|----------|-----------|-----|------|
| Amy Meunier | Dutchess | Secretary | Mar | 2017 |
|-------------|----------|-----------|-----|------|

**Division VIII**

|                   |         |                          |       |      |
|-------------------|---------|--------------------------|-------|------|
| Trish Manzi       | Nassau  | District Manager         | April | 2016 |
| David Ganim       | Nassau  | District Technician      | April | 2016 |
| Korin             | NY City | Stormwater Technician    |       |      |
| Ken Johnson       | Suffolk | Soil District Technician | Jan   | 2017 |
| Susan Odell- Pepe | Suffolk | Principal Account Clerk  | Nov   | 2016 |

*Years of Service Pin Recipients 2017*

| <b>Division I</b>    |              |                                    |       |      | <b>Years</b> |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|------|--------------|
| Donald Stribick      | Erie         | District Technician                | Sept  | 1997 | 20           |
| <b>Division II</b>   |              |                                    |       |      |              |
| Wanda Jakaub         | Cayuga       | Principal Account Clerk            | Sept  | 2007 | 10           |
| Mike Reily           | Cayuga       | Working Foreperson                 | Sept  | 2002 | 15           |
| Maggie Connelly      | Onondaga     | Secretary                          | Aug   | 1997 | 20           |
| P.J. Emerick         | Ontario      | District Manager                   | June  | 2002 | 15           |
| Tad Geracae          | Ontario      | Conservation District Technician   | Oct   | 2002 | 15           |
| Christopher Creelman | Seneca       | District Technician                | May   | 1997 | 20           |
| Ronald Thorn         | Wayne        | Conservation Field Program Manager | May   | 2002 | 15           |
| Wendy Bailey         | Yates        | Senior Account Clerk               | April | 2007 | 10           |
| Thomas Eskildsen     | Yates        | District Technician                | June  | 1997 | 20           |
| <b>Division III</b>  |              |                                    |       |      |              |
| Deb Michael          | Herkimer     | District Office Manager            | Dec   | 1987 | 30           |
| Christine Watkins    | Jefferson    | Executive Director                 | June  | 1987 | 30           |
| Carla Luther         | Lewis        | District Treasurer                 | June  | 2007 | 10           |
| Donald Lynch         | Oneida       | Engineer                           | Oct   | 2007 | 10           |
| Eileen Lavier        | Oneida       | Secretary                          | Jan   | 1992 | 25           |
| Raeanne Dulanski     | St. Lawrence | Conservation District Manager      | Feb   | 2007 | 10           |
| <b>Division IV</b>   |              |                                    |       |      |              |
| Lance Lockwood       | Chenango     | District Manager                   | May   | 1987 | 30           |
| Barbara Miner        | Cortland     | Fiscal Officer                     | Nov   | 2007 | 10           |
| Russell Smith        | Cortland     | Natural Resource Conservationist   | Feb   | 2007 | 10           |
| Jessica Patterson    | Delaware     | Stream Technician                  | May   | 2002 | 15           |
| Chris Savage         | Delaware     | Civil Engineering Technician       | April | 1997 | 20           |
| Karen Clifford       | Delaware     | Special Programs Technician        | Jan   | 1997 | 20           |
| Lawrence Underwood   | Delaware     | Technical Coordinater              | Feb   | 1992 | 25           |
| Elaine Dalrymple     | Schuylar     | District Field Manager             | Feb   | 1997 | 20           |
| <b>Division V</b>    |              |                                    |       |      |              |
| Lenny Croote         | Hamilton     | Conservation Technician            | Aug   | 2002 | 15           |
| Janice Reynolds      | Hamilton     | District Clerk                     | June  | 1987 | 30           |
| Dean Moore           | Warren       | District Technician                | Sept  | 2007 | 10           |
| <b>Division VI</b>   |              |                                    |       |      |              |
| John Persch          | Fulton       | District Manager                   | May   | 1997 | 20           |
| Corey Nellis         | Montgomery   | District Manager                   | June  | 1987 | 30           |
| Paula Schaeffer      | Schenectady  | Administrative Assistant           | July  | 1997 | 20           |
| Brenda Weaver        | Schoharie    | Office Manager                     | July  | 1992 | 25           |
| <b>Division VII</b>  |              |                                    |       |      |              |
| Brian Scoralick      | Dutchess     | Executive Director                 | March | 1997 | 20           |
| Deb Treacy           | Greene       | Administrative Aide                | June  | 2007 | 10           |
| Brian Brustman       | Sullivan     | District Manager                   | Dec   | 1997 | 20           |
| Margarete Wagner     | Ulster       | Program Assistant                  | Dec   | 2007 | 10           |
| Jake Wedemeyer       | Ulster       | Technician/ Ed. Specialist         | Aug   | 2002 | 15           |
| <b>Division VIII</b> |              |                                    |       |      |              |

|                |          |                                |      |      |    |
|----------------|----------|--------------------------------|------|------|----|
| Tatiana Morin  | NY City  | Director, Urban Soils Insitute | May  | 2007 | 10 |
| Lauri Taylor   | Putnam   | District Manager               | Sept | 1992 | 25 |
| R. Allan Beers | Rockland | Executive Manager              | Jan  | 1997 | 20 |





### *Presidents Report 2016-2017*

In March of 2016 I was honored to be chosen by you to continue serving as President of your New York State Conservation District Employees Association. It truly is an honor and a duty I take great pride in. Since being re-elected in March I have been very busy working with our conservation partners on several topics that effect Conservation in New York State. Some are ongoing matters while others are new opportunities.

I am so proud of the NYS CDEA and the volunteers that serve on the Association. The Association is very strong and it's all attributed to their dedication.

In an effort to keep my report brief, I will only touch briefly on some of the larger activities the CDEA has been involved in since last year.

In 2015, the CDEA partnered with the SWCC to update the District Operation Manual. Several volunteers from the CDEA, Districts and the SWCC worked tirelessly to review each section of the manual and update it with current information and examples of numerous documents. As a result of their efforts, Districts now have an updated Manual to refer to when Administrative questions arise. This is the "how to" manual for your District. Please take a moment to review this manual with your staff and Board of Directors.

In 2016, the CDEA partnered with the NRCS and the SWCC to offer another Leadership Conference. This event was held in July at the SUNY ESF Ranger School at Wanakeena. Those who attended were challenged to look inside themselves to find their strengths and weaknesses as leaders. Throughout the event, several leadership principals and exercises were used to develop techniques students could use to become more effective leaders. The event was so successful that several people in attendance have agreed to serve on the Leadership Conference working group to organize another event in 2021.

At the March 2016 Annual meeting the CDEA passed a resolution allowing the CDEA to work with the SWCC and Civil Service Division in Albany to update the exams for District positions. I have talked with Brian Steinmuller and a few District employees who have agreed to serve on the Civil Service Exam Update Committee. We will be working with Civil Service later this year to begin the process of updating the exams. This is a very lengthy process, but we are confident that once it's complete, the exams will be more current and reflective of the work Districts are doing now.

Also in 2016, the CDEA worked with the leadership at NRCS to sign the first ever training agreement for New York State. This agreement allows NRCS to provide direct financial support for several NYS CDEA programs such as the Envirothon, Conservation Skills Workshop and the Water Quality Symposium.

The NYSDEC has recently been working with the CDEA to provide new training modules regarding stormwater management. The DEC recognized the success of the 4 hour erosion and sediment control course the Districts provide and wanted to build on that success. In 2017 the DEC will finalize their new stormwater training courses and will look to the Districts to deliver them. This will be a service the Districts can provide to their municipalities- both MS4 regulated and non-regulated municipalities.

In 2016, the CDEA began the process of updating our website. Our new webpage will be up soon, and should be much more user friendly, and engaging. We anticipate the site will be finished in the next few months and I would encourage everyone to check it out at <http://www.nyscdea.com>

Also in 2016, the Association received approval to offer an online version of the NYS DEC 4 hour erosion and sediment control course on the CDEA website. We anticipate this on-line version will provide income to the Association which could be used to offset the cost of future CDEA activities and training events.

In January of 2017 the NYS CDEA began working with the SWCC, NYS DEC and Don Lake to create an erosion and sediment control certification unique to New York State. This certification will be similar to the existing CPESC certification offered through Enviro-Cert, but will allow District employees and partners to become certified more efficiently while still requiring strict training requirements and continuing education credits to maintain certification. This process is currently being reviewed by the NYS DEC and we hope to have the certification program available in 2017 or the early part of 2018.

In 2017, the CDEA Board voted to create a new logo for the Association. We asked Districts across the State to submit creative ideas for the new logo. Once all of the submissions are reviewed, we will choose a winner later this summer.

Please remember to save the dates for some important CDEA events-

- Conservation Skills Workshop- Planning meeting will be May 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00 at Onondaga SWCD. Please call Mark Burger if you would like to help 315-457-0325.
- NYS Enviro-Thon will be held at Hobart-William Smith College in Geneva on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. To volunteer please go to [www.nysenvirothon.net](http://www.nysenvirothon.net)
- The NYSCDEA Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Casolwood Golf Club on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Registration information will be out soon. Be sure to sign up!

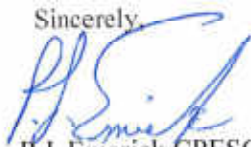
I would like to thank everyone on the NYS CDEA Board for all of their hard work and dedication. It's a great honor to serve with all of you. I truly believe that my time spent serving as Division II Representative, Vice President and President has helped me grow professionally and allowed me to expand my knowledge of Districts and our conservation partners, and I'm very grateful for that experience.

I would also like to thank each of our conservation partners- NYS SWCC, NYS DEC, NRCS and NYACD for their efforts. Without their help, this Symposium would not be possible.

Conservation in New York State is driven and lead by the professionals who are reading this report. Your hard work and dedication to our natural resources is something to be very proud of. The work we do each day will be our legacy left on the land that future generations will benefit from.

Thank you for attending the 2017 Water Quality Symposium.

Sincerely,



P.J. Emerick CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4S

President- New York State Conservation District Employee Association Inc.



## **2017 CDEA Annual Meeting Water Quality Symposium, Syracuse, NY**

### **Member-At-Large Report**

The primary responsibility of the Member-At-Large is to ensure that Division Representatives are kept informed of the Association's regular and special business. It is also to insure that the Executive Committee is kept informed of Division concerns, ideas and business.

The Member-At-Large is responsible for reviewing and approving the Reimbursement Requests that are submitted. Built in as a system check and balance, I had the opportunity to review each of the expenditures, prior to reimbursement. This year I reviewed and processed 114 requests.

On August 09, 2016, I was able to participate in the CDEA Audit process along with Velynda Parker, Division 4 Representative. CDEA Treasurer, Kristin White was very cooperative and helpful throughout the process. She had done another great job keeping track of the books as Treasurer of the CDEA.

I represented the CDEA Board on the planning committee that organized the 2016 Conservation Partners Leadership Institute, held at the Ranger School in Wanakena. Training opportunities consisting of presentations, group discussion and group activities allowed the participants to learn the habits of successful people, leadership principles, goal development, conflict management and enhancing colleague relationships. Kudos to the rest of the committee including Bob Brower (NYSSWCC), Amanda Barber (Cortland SWCD), Mark Burger (Onondaga SWCD), Greg Kist (USDA-NRCS), Amber Paice (NYACD) and Sally Crosair (Leadership Instructor) for a job well done!

The Member-At-Large position and odd-numbered Divisions (I, III, V, VII) are scheduled to have elections take place in 2017. I strongly support all SWCD employees to pursue an interest in participating in the CDEA. Competitive elections are good for the CDEA and should be encouraged. After all, this is an organization consisting of District Employees, overseen by District Employees. The decisions that are made by the committee affect each one of us.

*Respectfully submitted by Doug Kierst (Cayuga County SWCD), Member-At-Large*



# NYS Conservation District Employees Association

## Division I

### 2016 Annual Report

#### Allegany:

- In 2016 we were a recipient of \$1,500,000 in Southern Tier Ag Industry Enhancement Program funds. Five of these projects were completed with several others started.
- We continued to work on implementing AGNPS Projects for Rounds 18, 20 and 21.
- We also implemented several FL-LOWPA projects.
- We worked with several municipalities with stream permitting and project installation.
- We oversaw the harvest and cleanup of timber harvest on 270 acres of County owned forest.
- Approximately 1,400' of stream bank stabilization work was completed.

#### Cattaraugus:

- Due to our ever increasing ag workload, our board established another technician position to enhance our assistance to our farms. Megan Boberg was hired for this position, bringing with her experience from Wyoming. & Chautauqua SWCD's as well as NRCS.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 17 Conewango Creek (with Chautauqua SWCD) – closed out early 2016.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 17 Cattaraugus Creek/Clear Lake (with Erie SWCD) – closed out late 2016.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 18 South Branch Cattaraugus Creek – All projects completed on 3 participating farms, including ag waste storage & transfer systems, streambank stabilization, riparian buffers, cover crops. Will close out early 2017.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 20 Conewango Creek (with Chautauqua SWCD) – Ag waste storage & transfer systems completed on 3 farms, projects on 1 remaining farm will be constructed in 2017.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 21 Cattaraugus Creek (with Wyoming SWCD) – The one farm on this round in Cattaraugus County has completed their ag waste storage and transfer system in 2016.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 22 Upper Cattaraugus Creek – 5 farms participating in this round, implementing a wide range of BMP's including ag waste storage & transfer, silage leachate control, ag runoff management, etc. Designs are in progress, several farms anticipated to begin construction in 2017.
- NYS Ag. Nonpoint Source Program Round 23 – We are currently considering submitting another application for Conewango Creek. Not sure how many farms will participate, it will depend on where they are with AEM planning.
- We received 21 applications for the first round of applications in early 2016 for the Southern Tier Agricultural Enhancement Program (STAIEP), all but one were approved. Another 11 applications were submitted in late summer, we are awaiting approvals on these. So far, 8 farms from the first round have completed their projects and have received payments. The eligibility requirement to be engaged in AEM for this program generated a lot of extra AEM workload.
- County Stream Projects: We completed 4 streambank projects for the Catt. Co. DPW last year, totaling 725 ft.
- Stormwater Trainings: I did 2 - 4 hr. E&S trainings in 2016, one in Chautauqua Co., and one in Ellicottville.
- Flood Control Maintenance: We continue to complete maintenance work on 16 flood control dams & structures under our annual contract with Cattaraugus County.

#### Chautauqua:

- Through the Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program continued work on 2 Leachate Collection Systems, a Separated Solids Storage Facility, Cover Crop Implementation, and a Waste Storage Facility.
- Will be working to install a Manure Handling Facility and an Agrichemical Handline Facility in 2017 through the Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program.
- Secured a Round 22 grant for \$405,858 (state funding) to install a Waste and Leachate Storage System
- Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program: 53 producers awarded \$4.42 million in state funds (6 completed in 2016, 47 left for 2017 construction)
- Completed 29 Tier 1's, 25 Tier 2's, 11 Tier 3A's, 3 Tier 3B, 7 Tier 4's, 7 Tier 5A's, and 21 Tier 5B's through the AEM program.
- Installed \$405,000 of federal grant funds, \$194,039 of state grant funds and \$139,125 of local grant funds (total of \$738,164 not including local match and in-kind) to stabilize 3,575' of eroded streambank/degrading streambeds and implemented erosion control projects
- Secured \$107,050 in federal grant funds, \$735,564 in state grant funds and \$200,920 in local grant funds (total of \$1,043,534 not including local match and in-kind) for erosion control projects in the 2017 construction season.
- Executed \$200,000 initiative from NYS Senator Young's office to address invasive species and dredging in Bear and Cassadaga Lakes (continuing through 2017).
- Hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Chautauqua County Envirothon Competition – 17 local schools, 250 students.

- Exhibited at Chautauqua County Fair, Chautauqua County Water Week, Conservation Field Days, Cornell Extension events, Chautauqua Lake Rally, Earth Day events.
- Hosted First Annual Chautauqua County Farmer-Neighbor Dinner, with 150 in attendance.
- Tree and Shrubs Sale (\$51,977); Fish Stocking Sales (\$5,283); Ag-Value Assessments (\$3,875); Equipment Rentals (\$1,917); Other District Sales and Services (\$8,125)

### **Erie:**

- This past year proved to be another busy year in the county as we are currently administering four open AGNPS grants and were able to close out two other grants in various watersheds throughout the county. This allowed for the completion of a number of different bmp's to improve water quality throughout the county including the usual suspects of manure storage, silage leachate collection, milking center waste collection, petroleum storage, grazing systems and riparian buffers. We were also able to make substantial progress on the installation of a CRF manure cover and flare system for one of the county's largest farms.
- The District was also able to complete a number of Non Agricultural NPS pollution control projects through a number of different funding sources and project partners. Projects completed include streambank stabilization and restoration, wetland mitigation, erosion and sediment control and highway drainage improvement. Erie has been partnering with Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties to address Lake Erie Watershed issues and concerns through EPF funding for the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA).
- The ag and non-ag projects were in addition to the usual technical assistance requests, annual tree and shrub seedling sale, pond design/stocking, DEC erosion and sediment control 4 hour, local Envirothon and various educational workshops and presentations through the year.

### **Genesee:**

- During 2016, the Genesee County Soil & Water Conservation District staff continued to work to successfully fulfill our mission through the implementation of District programs while experiencing staff changes.
- This year Molly Cassatt was promoted to District Manager, Jared Elliott was promoted to Senior Field Manager, and Tim Welch was hired as a District Technician.
- Conservation planning and technical assistance through the AEM program to the agricultural community remained a priority.
- In 2016, the District staff was able to secure two NYS Department of Ag & Markets Climate Resilient Farming Round 1 grants, an Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution grant, and two Genesee River Erosion & Sediment Implementation grants.
- Work also continued on three Round 21 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution grants and over 90 Cornell soil health tests were completed throughout the county, closing our Soil Health Mini Grant Round 2 project.
- GCSWCD assisted Orleans County SWCD and the Western New York Soil Health Alliance in the planning and hosting of two soil health workshops, which reached over 250 participants.
- Finally, the District was able to implement and plan seven smaller agricultural conservation projects through the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance FY 14/15 and 15/16, and promote cover crops using Part C State Aid funds.
- District resource interpretation and monitoring continued through the County-Wide Water Quality Monitoring Program and Bigelow Creek Segment Analysis.
- Conservation education was continued through the District's 26th annual Envirothon and hosting of a tree planting seminar to promote the District's annual Tree & Shrub Sale.
- Other District work that continued in 2016 included the Agricultural Plastic Recycling Program, Fish Stocking Program, tile layout, and assistance with regulatory permitting.
- The District's Part B project this year included a flood mitigation project with the Town of Alexander to protect infrastructure and adjacent farm land.

### **Niagara:**

- Completed sampling and water quality analysis in June for the 17 largest watersheds in the County. We are continuing to collect stream flow data.
- Assisted the WNY Land Conservancy with storm water construction inspections for the Stella Niagara Preserve in Lewiston.
- Cost shared the planting of cover crops on 2 farms for a total of 90 acres through a Soil Health mini-grant.
- Cost shared the planting of cover crops on 4 farms for a total of 210 acres through an Ag non-point source pollution grant.
- Hydro-seeded 485 lf of Lake Ontario shoreline (0.7 acres) in Krull Park to prevent erosion and to install wildlife habitat for birds and pollinators.
- Used no-till drill to plant 2.6 acres of warm season grasses, 1.4 acres of seeding for a diversion, and 31.6 acres of pasture.
- Maintained the aeration system at Bonds Lake Park to sustain the grass carp fish population through the winter months to allow the fish to help control the Eurasian Milfoil in the lake.
- Sprayed and injected herbicide to eradicate Japanese Knotweed at 29 sites on a total of approximately 10.9 acres.
- Sold 31,000 trees and seedlings.
- Sold 5,500 fish fingerlings and 58 grass carp.
- Performed 17 pond site evaluations.
- Completed 124 soil group worksheets on 5,549 acres of farmland.
- Held Educational events including the Envirothon for 77 students, Conservation field days for 558 students, and the Newfane Environ-

mental Fair for 262 students.

- Provided outreach through staffed education booths at 4 events and through the Niagara Nature Newsletter with a mailing list of 5,150.
- Assisted two towns with culvert sizing for drainage projects.
- Assisted one farm with a stream crossing permit.
- Assisted one town with a wetlands permit application.
- Designed and installed one covered barnyard.
- Designed and installed one heavy use area with a VTA for manure handling.
- Designed and installed two bunk silo expansions and VTA's.
- Designed and installed one stream crossing.
- Designed one leachate collection system and VTA for an existing bunk silo.
- Designed one new bunk silo and VTA.
- Surveyed and designed 175,000 lf of drain tile and one pump station on 11 farms.
- Continued the AEM program by completing 10 Tier I's, 9 Tier II's, 10 Tier III's and 8 Tier V's.
- Completed and closed out a Round 17 grant in the Tonawanda Creek watershed that included the construction of 5 barnyard runoff management systems.
- Were awarded a Round 22 grant for the planting of cover crops on 292 acres per year for 3 years
- Completed a 5 year grant for the management of the Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern. We were awarded a 5 year extension by the EPA to continue the project.

### Orleans:

- Assisted farmers with becoming NYS Grown & Certified.
- Provided cost share on 1,900 acres of farmland for cover crops through Round 19 and 20 of the Ag Non Point Source Grant Program and FLOWPA.
- Designed and Installed a Silage Leachate Control & Treatment System utilizing FLOWPA funding.
- Designed and installed a covered feedlot through Round 18 of the Ag Non Point Source Grant Program.
- Surveyed and designed 7,540' of new & reworked ditches.
- Surveyed & Designed 13 Culverts for County & Town Hwy Departments.
- Assisted with USACE & DEC Permit applications for 1 Wetland, 2 Shoreline Revetments, and 2 Stream Crossings.
- Have been working closely with DEC on trying to get a General Permit
- Designed over 235,000 feet of subsurface tile drainage.
- Provided 46 customers with Maps, Aerial Photographs and Soils Information.
- Completed 117 Agricultural Value Assessments for 62 farms (over 5,900 Acres).
- Assisted the County Highway Department with the maintenance of 4,150' of impaired waterways using the District owned Slash-buster.
- Shared District owned equipment with the 10 Towns and the County Highway Department.
- Were awarded a Round 22 grant for the planting of cover crops on 1,250 acres per year for 3 years.
- Were awarded another Round 22 grant for the implementation of a Vegetated Treatment Area.
- Completed 25 Tier I's, 15 Tier II's, 3 Tier 3A's, 10 Tier IV's, and 20 tier 5B's through the AEM program.
- Hosted an AmeriCorps Volunteer.
- Assisted the WNY Soil Health Alliance with promoting soil health practices through a farmer lead organization.
- Held the annual Tree & Shrub program.
- Provided 4,440 fish and grass carp to 23 pond owners.
- Hosted the Annual Shoreline Cleanup and Tire Cleanup.
- Participated in several education events including the Regional Envirothon, NYS Envirothon, Conservation Field Days, Orleans County 4-H Fair, NYS Fair, and classroom presentations.

### Wyoming:

- Wyoming County SWCD provided technical and administrative assistance in the implementation of the Genesee River Basin Trees for Tribs Program. The purpose of this project was to plant nearly 14,000 tree and shrub seedlings along priority stream channels of the Lower Genesee River Basin in Genesee, Livingston, Monroe and Wyoming Counties as identified by NYSDEC. Tree and shrub stock along with the appropriate planting materials were obtained and distributed by the District and then planted on private and public lands with the assistance of the other conservation districts.
- The Wyoming County SWCD worked closely with the Western New York Crop Management Association (WNYCMA), USDA NRCS, American Farmland Trust and the NYS Corn and Soybean Growers Association to develop, plan and present the 2016 WNY Soil Health Field day that was held at the Thornapple Dairy Farm in Livingston County on October 26, 2016. This workshop was part of a NYS Farm Viability grant and featured three guest speakers on the subjects of Soil Health, No-Till and Inter-seeded Cover Crops. This program was attended by over 170 farm producers, agency personnel, vendors and staff members from throughout Western and Central New York.
- The Wyoming County SWCD completed 2 stream and road bank stabilization projects in the Tonawanda Creek Watershed for the

Towns of Attica and Sheldon through the 2011 FEMA Unified Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The assistance provided to these municipalities included individual site reviews, preparation of cost estimates, the preparation and submittal of stream permit applications to NYSDEC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, quarterly progress reports to FEMA, project design information, project bid packages/project bidding, assistance to professional engineering firms, construction layout, construction inspection, securing and planting of live willow stakes, hydroseeding and follow-up information regarding each individual project location as requested by FEMA. A total of 230 linear feet of rock rip-rap streambank stabilization, the construction of 4 grade control structures, 250 feet of rock lined waterway, 0.5 acres of steep road bank stabilization and culvert outlet stabilization was completed.

- The Wyoming County SWCD completed the formal review of Agricultural District #3 for NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets as part of our cooperative agreement with the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors for the review of all Wyoming County Agricultural Districts.
- Our 2016 Part "B" Conservation Assistance Project was completed to alleviate localized flooding at the Main Street entrance to the Wyoming County Fairgrounds in the Town of Pike. The project involved the implementation of an improved drainage system that included the installation of a 30" square x 36" deep pre-cast concrete catch basin (drop inlet box), approximately 110 feet of 8" PVC underground outlet to the Wiscoy Creek and an additional 100 feet of 4" drainage tile line with #2 stone backfill along the edge of the roadway to reduce the potential for flooding that occurs during heavy rain events. Approximately 250 feet of the entrance road was re-graded and re-paved for the purpose of raising the elevation of the road to direct storm-water to the newly installed catch basin. The project was completed in time for the annual Wyoming County Fair and proved to be very effective in handling the runoff from the heavy rain events that commonly occur in this area during the week of the Fair.
- We also continued technical and administrative assistance to Table Rock Farms in the Town of Castile with the implementation of a manure storage cover and flares as part of the Climate Resilient Farming Pilot Project.

Submitted by:

Judy Bennett  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Orleans County SWCD  
NYSCDEA Division I Representative



**Division II Report**  
**2016 Annual Report**

***Highlights from Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates***

Division II held an annual meeting jointly with Division I on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park, Monroe County with 12 counties representing the CDEA and representation by our NYS SWCC AEA. Discussions took place regarding Frank Bratt, the CDEA Website, Water Quality Symposium and Employee Training. Thank you to everyone that came to this event and we look forward to our meeting in 2017!

Cayuga: No Report Provided

Livingston: No Report Provided

Monroe:

- Hired 3 new technicians including Jeremy Paris for AEM, Josh LaFountain and Molly Swearingen for stormwater and other related duties.
- Conducted 48 Erosion and Sediment Control Construction Inspections & completed 163 requests from municipalities for stormwater technical assistance; Held 19 stormwater related trainings and workshops & trained 652 people; Distributed 33 rainbarrels to 26 Monroe County Residents
- Through Part B funds, worked with 4 of our MS4 communities to Distributed nine (9) spill kits & two (2) catch basin inserts to 4 MS4 communities for their P2 program.
- Three staff members were trained as observers for the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative to assess culverts across the County. One staff person went on to become an L-1 Coordinator as well.
- MCSWCD took on the responsibility of being the Treasurer/Administrator for the newly formed Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts that encompasses 9 counties in NYS and one in PA. We have applied for and received funding to purchase 2 Interseeder Applicator machines to rent to farmers in all counties within the Coalition. Additionally, the Coalition received funding from NYS DEC to hire an Agricultural Program Leader to coordinate, represent and compile data for the group.
- Partnered to host a "Farm to Table" Dinner at the Mayers Lake Ontario Winery with 110 attendees made up of farmers, extension and District employees, and several legislators. Recognized a Conservationist of the Year from 2015, Don Borland, Environmental Science & Biology teacher at Eastridge High School for his dedication to teaching students and as an Envirothon advisor for over 25 years.
- Implemented one (1) Waste Storage & Transfer System, 2,150 feet of Exclusion Fencing, two (2) Barnyard Runoff Management Systems, 1500 acres of Cover Cropping, one 3 acres of Herbaceous Riparian Buffer and one (1) Water & Sediment Control Basin to reduce soil & nutrient loss on 15 farms with cost-share funds in the amount of \$435,181 under the grant programs Round 18 & 20 AgNPS, and Ecosystem Based Management.
- Assisted 1 farm in planning, surveying, designing, lay out, and implementation of 2,000 feet of subsurface drainage; Implemented an Ag Plastics Recycling Program, collecting 2,000 pounds of plastic from 5 farms.
- Distributed 21,557 trees, shrubs, and other plants to 332 customers; & 4,881 fish fingerlings and 71 grass carp to 32 customers
- Hosted Conservation Field Days with 1,191 students participating & a local Envirothon event with 22 teams and 110 students competing.

Onondaga:

- Four person team hand-pulled ~32,000 pounds of water chestnuts from a 19-mile stretch of the Seneca River in a six-week period (July – August)
- Planted 131 1.5" caliper trees in Onondaga Lake Park to begin replacing high functions and values that trees provide in the park setting
- 2,200 ash trees cut/removed on County ROW to reduce threat of EAB
- 425 ash trees/6,371 diameter inches of ash trees injected w/ pesticide to protect high functions and values that these trees provide in park setting (and for shoreline stabilization along Onondaga Lake)



Onondaga (Continued):

- Farmers voluntarily recycled ~2,600 passenger vehicle tires in the Otisco Lake Watershed (drinking water supply for County. Project funded by OCWA). Tires went to Seneca Meadows Landfill, chipped into aggregate for leachate and gas collection in landfill.
- Hydroseeded 47 acres disturbed soil (primarily road ditch clean outs)
- 4,830 seedlings and 75 conservation pacs sold through annual spring sale
- 3,975 ac. of cover crops planted with farmer support and various funding sources
- 24 farmers seeded 638 ac. of agricultural land w/ no-till drill and corn planted
- 10,100 LF of exclusion fence was installed to facilitate grazing systems on farms
- 26,600 SF of brush clearing was completed to facilitate grazing systems on farms
- 650 LF of diversions were implemented on farms
- 370 LF of waterways were implemented on farms
- Performed site inspections for nine County construction projects
- 276 folks trained in DEC endorsed contractor erosion & sediment control (12 classes)
- Staff member trained/certified in assess road-stream crossings (NAACC)
- 200 LF of bed/bank stabilization at two sites in Onondaga Creek

Ontario:

- Began a new aspect of our Uniform Procedures Program for Waste Water Treatment System Inspections & worked with a Town in the Seneca Lake watershed to revise their Town code, to reference the District by name, in order to allow the District to conduct onsite wastewater treatment system inspections anytime a residential lakefront property is rented
- Closed 2 large Ag NPS grants
- Used County support to apply for and receive funding for the Ecosystem Based Management Genesee River Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grant Program. These funds will be used to assist four farms to implement projects that limit sediment and nutrient loss to County natural resources through agricultural best management practices
- WQIP Round 11 and Round 12 grants moved forward and several projects were installed in partnership with NYS DEC, Ontario County DPW, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife and several municipalities
- The District welcomed Tucker Kautz as our new Water Resources Technician
- Received funding from Ontario County Water Resources Council to complete first Soil Health workshop
- Submitted a New York State Grown and Certified Implementation of Agricultural Environmental Management Plans on Specialty Crop Farms application for a farm in the Seneca Lake watershed.
- Submitted a Climate Resilient Farming application that will mitigate the impact of agriculture on climate change and enhance the on-farm adaptation and resiliency to projected climate conditions through the use of cover crops on three Ontario County farms.

Seneca: No Report Provided

Wayne:

- With a complete change over with our Board of Director's over the last three years, the Wayne SWCD District continues to adapt and manage in accordance with NYS resiliency expectations. We have added two more technical staff to the workforce and continue to strive on engaging the public in core issues that address conservation with components environmental equality, public safety, and financial sustainability. The partnerships with other Division II Districts have aided us in growth and development of services. For this we give thanks.

Yates: No Report Provided

Submitted by,

Kelly Emerick  
Executive Director  
Monroe County SWCD  
NYS CDEA Division II Representative

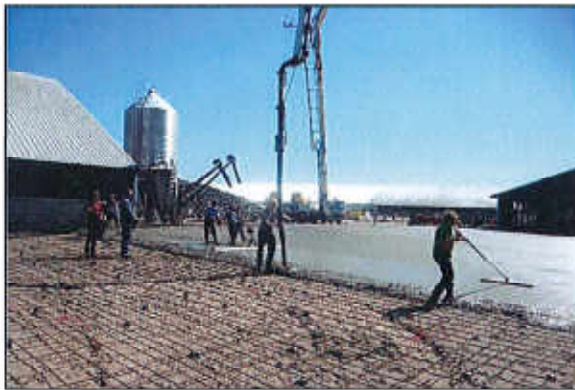
# 2016 Division III Highlights

## Herkimer County SWCD

Year 12 of the AEM Program is keeping us busy with planning, Tier 4 construction, and now 5A evaluations this winter.



AEM Tier 4 Access Road and Culvert Crossing Project completed October 2015 – with willow plantings for channel stabilization in April of 2016



In June of 2016 a concrete pad was installed as part of a manure transfer system to facilitate management of sand laden manure for a CAFO farm.



This stream crossing and cattle lane was installed in October 2016 to protect the water quality of a blue line stream



WASCOB outlet repair in November 2016 which included resizing the pipe and re-grading the spillway.

The Herkimer County BOCES Conservation Class and District Staff harvested over 800 willow stakes in our ongoing effort to address stream bank erosion issues.

Planning for both the 2017 Herkimer County Farm/Home Safety Day and Envirothon have started. A grant from National Grid was recently submitted for these valuable community educational programs.

We remain active in the Mohawk River Coalition, Upper Susquehanna Coalition, FLOWPA, and planning for the Black River Conference.

#### **New for 2016 – Japanese Knotweed Program**



9 Towns in southern Herkimer County were inventoried and 527 sites of Knotweed infestation were documented. Among these sites, an estimated 53 acres of Knotweed were recorded. The inventory will continue northward in 2017 with sites prioritized for treatment in the future.

We were approved for funding under **Round 22** of the state grant program for the construction of an earthen manure storage with a high density polyethylene cover and flare system.



St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District  
1942 Old DeKalb Road - Canton, NY 13617  
315-386-3582 (phone) • 855-401-1956 (fax) • [conservation@slcswcd.org](mailto:conservation@slcswcd.org)

## **St. Lawrence County's Division 3 Report**

This year the St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District worked on a number of projects enlisting the help of some new partners increasing the impact of the District's efforts. With the help of a local Boy Scout Troop, 625 seedlings were planted on a county parcel that was not having success with natural regeneration. Working with the St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES: Community Connections group, 18 aquatic invasive disposal stations were constructed. In a continuing effort with Cornell Cooperative Extension of St. Lawrence County, cover crops were implemented utilizing funds secured through two Ecosystem Based Management Soil Health Mini-Grants. The District Forester continues to manage the 4,270 acres of County Forestland and contributes to the newly formed St. Lawrence County Emerald Ash Borer Task Force. SLC SWCD continues to utilize a contribution agreement with NRCS to assist with the environmental quality incentive program and monitoring of 15,215 acres enrolled in the wetland reserve program and the agricultural conservation easement program – wetland reserve easements within the County.

In 2016, the St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District was able to close-out two Ag NPS Grants:

| Funding Round | Number of farms participating | NYS Cost-Share Total | Total Project Cost | Watersheds projects are located in                   | Project types  |
|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| 19            | 3                             | \$413,874.54         | \$562,384.25       | *Grass River<br>*Indian River<br>*St. Lawrence River | * Silage Leachate Control & Treatment Systems<br>*Process Wash Water Management System |
| 21            | 1                             | \$479,871.50         | \$650,156.75       | *Raquette River                                      | *Waste Storage & Transfer System   |

SLC SWCD strives to continue providing services to our rural communities that assist landowners with their environmental stewardship efforts. We are always looking for opportunities to better our current programs as well as develop new programs and projects to meet public needs with our small staff.

### Madison County

Madison County is located in the geographic center of New York State. Our northern border is Oneida Lake and Oneida County, and we are neighbors to Onondaga County on the west, Cortland County to the South and Chenango and Otsego counties to the south and east. The county is split into three major watersheds; the Susquehanna, the Oneida Lake and the Mohawk. Multiple man-made reservoirs were built in the late eighteen hundreds to supply the Erie Canal system with water. They no longer supply the canal but do make wonderful summer camping areas for county and non-county residents. The county is comprised of 423,040 acres.

Agriculture is the number one industry in the county and generates approximately 62 million dollars in sales per year. Our agricultural community is a diverse and dynamic group of individuals that are changing all the time. The dairy industry is still our largest sector at this time comprised of over 200 operating dairies. There are also beef, horse, Christmas tree farms, vegetable and crop farms that comprise the remainder of the 734 total farms in the county. The district is working hard to correct non-point source pollution in the county through the implementation of BMP's on many farms. Through the use of multiple funding sources such as the state EPF, federal programs and special watershed projects such as the Tioughnioga River Watershed project, we have been able to assist many farmers in the county to meet their non-point source pollution reduction goals. We continue to work with our partners at NRCS and FSA with programs like EQIP and CREP to meet landowner objectives.

Outside of the tremendous workload with our farming community, the district is actively involved with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and NYS DEC in the implementation of the tributary strategy to try and meet the regulatory actions being implemented in the Susquehanna River watershed. We work with many landowners and municipalities with drainage problems as they arise. Currently we work with our fellow districts in the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition to implement the watershed management plan for this area of the county. We continue to implement the recommendations from Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan in the county.

*Jefferson County* – No report submitted

Lewis County – No report submitted

Oneida County – No report submitted

Oswego County – No report submitted



## **Division IV**

*Covering Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga*

I would like to thank everyone in Division VI for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the NYSCDEA Executive Board. Serving on the CDEA Board is very rewarding. I would encourage any all employees to participate which could be on the board or on a variety of different committee's that require employee input.

Division IV is responsible for State Fair; however, the State Fair Committee handles the entire public outreach annual event. If you haven't signed up for the State Fair booth, I highly encourage you to and contact Kristin White, Seneca SWCD. **THANK YOU** State Fair Committee for handling the public outreach annual event.

Division IV assists Division III with the Bucket Raffle/Silent Auction for the Water Quality Symposium. As everyone knows, the proceeds raised by Bucket Raffle/Silent Auction go towards the Frank Bratt scholarship which is administered by Division I.

A joint meeting between Division VI & NYACD was held on August 26 at Cortland County SWCD office building. Eight (8) counties were represented by directors and employees. Updates from the NYSCDEA, NYACD, NYSSWCC, and USDA NRCS were provided. Moving forward into fiscal year 2017, Division IV will be hosting two division meetings jointly with NYACD time and location to be determine.

In 2016, Governor Cuomo awarded \$25 Million to eligible farmers within Southern Tier covering eleven counties for increase farm production, advance on farm conservation/environmental goals and enhance profitability thru a program entitled *Southern Tier Agricultural Enhancement Program*. Eight of the ten districts within Division IV were successful in securing \$16 Million to assist eligible farms with conservation projects. In addition, the counties have lots of other quality programs and services they provide such as: AEM planning, AgNPS, stormwater technical assistance, streambank restoration, environmental education, tree and shrub, fish program, and etc.

I would like to acknowledge in Division IV that there eighty-one (81) employees of this seven (7) are new employees covering administrative, technician, planner, coordinators and natural resource specialist. Twelve (12) individuals have either retired or gain employment elsewhere throughout last year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Velynda Parker  
NYSCDEA Division IV Rep

**Division V**  
**Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren**  
**March 15, 2017 NYCDEA Annual Meeting**  
**DoubleTree, Syracuse**

*Grants*

- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition
  - Participating Division Counties: Essex, Hamilton, Warren
  - WQIP
    - Several water quality improvement projects completed and closed out throughout the watershed
  - DOS
    - Participated in North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaboration (NAACC) training
      - Over 200 culverts assessed in the watershed by SWCD staff
    - Working on getting all information needed for the plan in six categories
      - Stormwater, agriculture, erosion, invasive species, water supply/waste water, and aquatic organism passage
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
  - Participating Division Counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin
  - High tunnel implementation on several farms
- CWICNY (Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York)
  - Participating Division Counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren
  - DOS Grant
    - Held meeting to finalize priority project areas for each priority watershed
  - WQIP Grant
    - Implemented projects identified in the ARRA report

*Employee Updates*

- Nick Rowell (Warren) got married this past summer!
- Kristin Ballou (Franklin) welcomed Landon Andrew this winter!
- Two new employees: Alice Halloran (Essex) and Allycia Leach (Franklin)!
- Farewell to Tiffany Pinheiro, she is playing with fish at the Essex County Fish Hatchery!

# Division VI Annual Report

## 2016 Highlights

### Albany County SWCD

- Held our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Conservation Field Day with 60 fifth grade students in attendance
- Had an increase of 44 customers for our Annual Tree and Shrub program
- Hydroseeded 19,000 square foot of exposed soil at Lawson Lake County Park – 1<sup>st</sup> year with hydroseeder
- Staff members continued to serve in an executive position on the Hudson Mohawk RC&D Council, Albany County WQCC and the CCE Agriculture, Horticulture, Natural Resources and Environment Committee

### Rensselaer SWCD

This past year the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District received a hydro seeder through a DEC grant that was obtained by the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition. For that DEC grant the staff Hydro seeded a total of 14 acres of road banks with the main goal to reduce roadside erosion. The District also worked with the Rensselaer County Highway Department to complete 7 acres of hydro seeding of newly dug out ditches to help minimize the effects of roadside erosion on county roads.

Rensselaer County SWCD rented out their No-Till Drill to 28 farmers equaling approximately 523 Acres of farm land No-Till seeded in 2016. The staff also worked with NRCS in the design and construction of a CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) project on a small beef farm in the southern portion of the county. Through the program the farmer got fence to keep his livestock out of a stream and ponds on his farm. The staff also helped to design and install a water system and a stream crossing on the farm in the fall of 2016. Rensselaer County SWCD has hired two new district technicians this past year. Amber Luke was hired in January 2016. She graduated from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) with a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Studies. David Jaeger was hired in December 2016. He graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor's in Agricultural Mechanization.

Rensselaer County SWCD was recently awarded a WQIP Grant to address fish passage in the town of Stephentown. The plan is to replace two culverts in the town that are inhibiting fish passage on trout streams. Construction was completed and Rensselaer County SWCD is working on closing out a Round 17 Ag and Non-Point Source grant.

### Schenectady County SWCD

The District continued management of the Schenectady County Compost Facility & Resident Recycling Center. We secured funding for and began work on a large scale capital improvements project for the Facility, with design and construction conducted primarily by District staff. The District is continuing its relationship with the Center for Community Justice, by providing the supervision and work opportunities for alternative to incarceration clients. The District maintains and improves conditions at 3 natural preserves and nine miles of the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike trail. We also completed road bank, municipal, and new road construction erosion control hydro seeding projects. The District assisted several new & existing farm operators, provided soil group worksheets, and served on the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board and RC&D.



## Schoharie County SWCD

The Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District had a busy year. We closed out 2 Ag Nonpoint grants by completing 2 large barnyard projects in the Towns of Seward and Jefferson which included alternative water sources, milkhouse pump stations and CREP. We continue to work with the 5 NY Rising Projects for the Town and Village of Schoharie and the Village of Middleburgh. The District is administering and implementing the projects. They include a large drainage project, a sediment basin and a large culvert replacement, a drainage study, and a stream restoration project all totaling over \$8 million dollars. Continue to plan the 5 CAFO farms in the County. Assisted in the monitoring of the completion of one of the EWP projects on the Platterkill Creek in the Town of Gilboa and one on Dave Brown Mountain Road in the Town of Blenheim. Completed 2 mined land reclamation plans for the Towns of Gilboa and Conesville. Constructed a rain garden in conjunction with Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School and their environmental studies class. The district continues our hydro-seeder and our stream monitoring programs.

## Washington County SWCD

- Applied for and were awarded 3 Ag NP grants;
- Completed 1 Ag NP partial closeout for Rnd 20 and nearing completion of Rnd 17 & 18 closeouts
- Completed Ag NPS BMPs including; 6.1 million gallon earthen manure storage, 2 silage leachate collection and treatment systems, a waste storage facility closure, soil conservation cultural systems to remediate 8 acres of abuse areas on 2 heifer facilities, and 198 acres of cover crop
- Greater Adirondack RCPP: 5 farms installed 440 acres of cover crop
- Worked with the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition and the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York on several DOS and DEC grants.
- Hosted a CWICNY project tour
- Helped to update the County Agriculture Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Earned Income: no-till drills seeded 588 acres; 18 ponds were stocked, over 4,100 trees & shrubs distributed, and 153 agricultural assessments were completed.
- Installed a streambank stabilization projects on the Mettawee River
- Education/Workshops: Soil Health Management, Girls Go STEM Soil Workshop, Erosion and Sediment Control, Blueberry Pruning, and Game of Logging

## No Report

- Fulton County SWCD
- Montgomery SWCD
- Saratoga SWCD

## Division VII Annual Report

- Dutchess County Soil and Water continued working on culvert assessments using the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) protocol. In 2016, 308 road stream crossings were inventoried in 6 watersheds.
- Dutchess County Soil and Water completed their project to remove the Shapp Pond Dam in the Town of Clinton. This project was completed with funding through a Hudson River Estuary Program Grant for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency.
- Dutchess County partnered with CCE Dutchess County and the NYS Regional IPM for a Pasture Walk in May 2016.
- This summer, Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District began a new public outreach program called “Drop in Hudson”. This program was designed for the residents of Columbia County to come to the Riverfront in the city of Hudson and learn to fish while connecting to one of their most significant local natural resources. “Drop in Hudson” provides a laid back atmosphere where participants need not worry about tackle or bait. They can also look forward to learning informally about the biological and cultural impact the Hudson River has provided to New York State since the arrival of the Native Americans.
- The Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon was held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at Sharpe Reservation. Twelve schools participated with 19 teams.
- The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts held the Southeast New York Stormwater Conference on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Division VIII Annual Report Highlights

### NYC: Shino Tanikawa

- Urban Soils Institution: We offered dozens of workshops for community and home gardeners, professionals, and stewardship organizations on basics of urban soils. We had our First Annual Urban Soils Symposium that was attended by more than 150 people. We received a grant from the NACD to provide technical assistance to urban farmers and community gardeners raising edibles in food deserts.
- Active in ensuring community engagement in the City's CSO Long Term Control Plan processes. As a member of the SWIM Coalition, we assisted in the production of a series of fact sheets on CSOs, MS4, water quality, and other topics to inform community activists and stewards.
- The Envirothon in Manhattan and our NYC Outdoors Environmental Education Expo were a success. We received requests to visit classes to test the estuarine water or talk about CSOs.

### Putnam County: Lauri Taylor

- Released the final report for the Keep Putnam Farming Program
- Developed and ran 3 movie ads for the Seedling Sale, Demo Rain Garden, Farmers Markets
- Join the Lower Hudson PRISM
- Hosted workshops on Hudson Valley Farm Link and Invasive Species
- Coordinated with farmers to provide surplus vegetables to local food banks
- Replacing invasives with natives along a 2000' riparian buffer of Lake Gleneida
- Co-sponsored the LHCCD Regional Stormwater Conference
- Developing a stormwater plan for the County Farm & Education Institute

### Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro

- **Funding 2016**
  - \$200k for Deer Fence enacted in the 2016-2017 budget.
  - Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Restoration Program Ag Waste Storage Facility
  - DEC Grant for Agrichemical Handling Facilities
  - Ag NPS Grant for Fuel tank replacement
  - Ag NPS Grant for Pesticide Sprayer Retrofit and IPM
  - Ag NPS Grant for Nutrient Management Plans
  - NYS DEC WQIP for soil health initiative
- **Staff Training and Conferences**
  - Pine Barrens Research Forum
  - NRCS Irrigation workshop
  - NRCS Construction Inspection Training
  - Continuous Improvement training
  - Climate Impact on Farms and Landscape
  - Farm Net
- **Education/Outreach**
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Long Island Regional Envirothon
  - Bluff Erosion Video is complete
  - Native Grassland Restoration for the Town of Brookhaven
  - The Annual Long Island Agricultural Forum
  - Soil Health Workshop
  - 4 Hour DEC ESC Training
  - Empire Farm Days

**Nassau County, Westchester County, Rockland County:** No Report

# Environmental Education Foundation of Soil & Water Conservation In New York State

Supporting Environmental Awareness  
Through the Funding of Educational Programs



## 2016 Annual Report

The Environmental Education Foundation provided funds to programs designed to increase environmental awareness in today's youth. Funds are focused at the local level where there is the most impact. One such effort is the NYS Envirothon which is designed to test students' knowledge and understanding of natural resource issues within New York State and cultivate



their desire to learn more about our natural resources and environmental issues. The spirit of competition stimulates students' interests in environmental concerns and motivates them to further develop their skills and grow into environmentally-aware, action-oriented adults.

**Congratulations - Mount Academy, Ulster Co.  
2016 NYS Envirothon Winners**

### Environmental Education Foundation Fund Raising Efforts

In 2016 the Foundation continued its efforts to raise funds by researching, writing and submitting grants to support environmental education programs.

The Foundation also received funds from various sources including individual donations. We appreciate the continuing support!

In an effort to assist regional/local county Envirothon's, the Foundation accepted \$76,820 on grants and/or donations from companies/organizations that require that their funds go into a 501c3 organization. The funds are then passed on to those awarded. Contact a Foundation Board member for more information on how you might be able to benefit from this opportunity.

To reach out and bring awareness to the Foundation, a banner and brochures have been displayed at numerous state and regional events throughout New York.

**Get involved with the Environmental Education Foundation and  
send your financial support today - it's tax deductible!  
Help make a better future by supporting environmental awareness today!**

**[www.nyenviroed.org](http://www.nyenviroed.org)**

# New York State Fair Report 2016

## NYS Fair Committee Members

Kristin White, Seneca County SWCD

Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD

Erica Schreiner, Oswego County SWCD

Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD

- ▶ The NYSCDEA State Fair Committee would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who once again helped volunteer their time to work shifts at the 2016 Great New York State Fair. We had 42 volunteers from 22 Counties. We appreciate your help! If you are interested in working a shift for the 2017 Great NYS Fair Booth please contact Kristin White at 315-568-4366 or [kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net).
- ▶ For the second year in a row the theme for 2016 was "Invasive Species". We had handmade Giant Hogweed, Emerald Ash Borer, Purple Loosestrife, Water Chestnut, Campfire (to promote the "Don't Move Firewood" campaign), Hydrilla, Japanese Knotweed, Blue Green Algae, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, and Asian (bighead) Carp. We also had on display examples of water invasive species and Emerald Ash Borer. The State Fair Committee would like to send out a special Thank You to the following for their help with the displays: Cindy Williams-Oswego County, Megan Webster-Ontario County, and Hilary Mosher with the Finger Lakes PRISM Group.  
  
2017's theme will be "*Sediment and Erosion Control*". If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact one of the committee members.
- ▶ According to the NYS Fair website the total number of visitors to the 2016 Great NYS Fair was 1,117,630. This is a lot of potential people we provided outreach and educational information to.
- ▶ **Shift Schedule** – There are two shifts that you can choose from: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Kristin will work on getting the schedule on the new NYS CDEA website.
- ▶ **Handout Items:** ♦ District Sales Programs Binder ♦ Rain Garden Brochure ♦ District Programs & Contact Information Sheet ♦ NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts Brochure ♦ Careers in NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts Brochure ♦ Make Your Home the Solution to Stormwater Pollution Brochure ♦ and many more!
- ▶ Winners of the \$50.00 Employee Incentive Award were: Joe Chairvolotti, Oswego County, Lance Lockwood, Chenango County, Velynda Parker, Steuben County, Michael Hall, Tompkins County, and Kristin White, Seneca County.
- ▶ The winners of the coloring contest were: 0-5 years was Aidan Peters from Wayne County, 6-8 years was Aiyana Peters from Wayne County, and 9-12 years was William Leto from Oswego County. Way to Go!!
- ▶ The guessing game for 2016 was a rain gauge filled with 276 Swedish Fish. The person that guessed the closest number of Swedish Fish won a laminated poster of Northeastern Fish and a bag of Swedish Fish. We had 520 entries for the Guessing Game. The winner was Carter Smith from Oswego County with a guess of 275. Congratulations!
- ▶ Governor Cuomo has announced an extra day has been added to the 2017 New York State Fair schedule. The first day of the fair will be Wednesday instead of Thursday. The dates for the 2017 Great New York State Fair are August 23<sup>rd</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We look forward to seeing you there.



Kristin White, Chair

## Empire Farm Days 2016

The Committee would like to say **THANK YOU** to all that volunteered at this year's Empire Farm Days held August 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. There were between 60,000-70,000 in attendance.

We have on display before and after pictures of Ag and Non-Ag projects throughout the Districts. If you have a project you would like to have on display at Empire Farms Days, please email your pictures to Kristin White.

Our location for the 2017 Empire Farm Days will be determined by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Kristin will let volunteers know as soon as possible. Empire Farm Days will run August 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Seneca Falls at the Rodman Lott & Son Farm.

Kristin White, Chair



## 2016 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

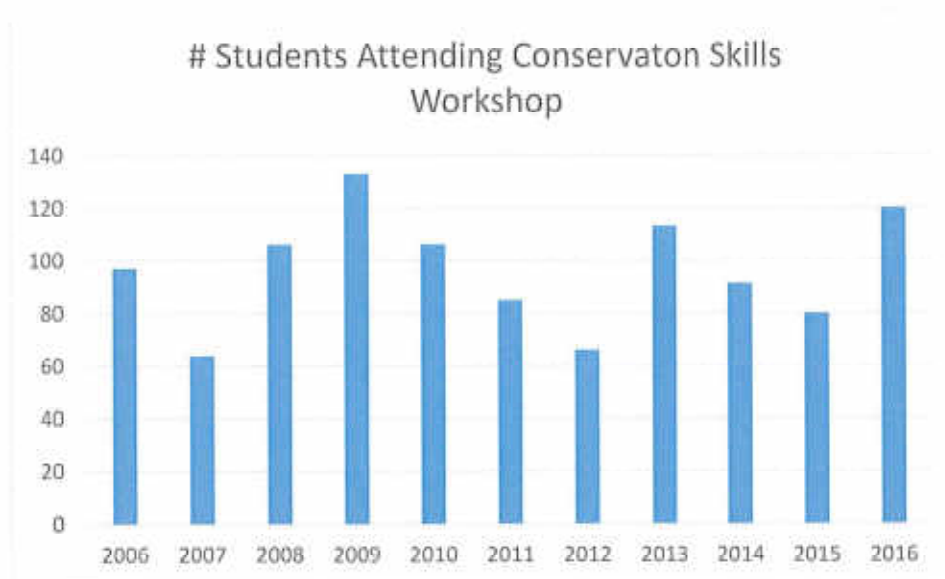
The 2016 Conservation Skills Workshop was held at Cortland County SWCD September 26-29. A total of 12 classes were held with 120 students participating. (84 students were from SWCD, 11 from NRCS, 1 Owasco Lake, 1 SLWAP, 4 E.J. Prescott, 1 Ducks Unlimited, 2 Chemung County Stormwater Coalition, 3 City of Syracuse, 4 NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee, 6 NYS DEC, 2 NYS Parks, and 1 from WNY Crop Management Association.) Attendance was up from 80 students in 2015. Forty-one folks attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual BBQ reception. Registration fee was raised from \$25 (2015) to \$30 (2016) and included the cost of the BBQ reception.

Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has tentatively scheduled the 2017 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting Wednesday, May 10 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Onondaga County SWCD offices. A working lunch is provided and all are welcome!

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the following committee members for making the 2016 training happen: Chris Watkins, Greg Albrecht, John Persch, Jordan Clements, Lauren Prezorski, Stacy Russell, Steve Lorraine, Tim Clark, Mike Fournier, and Tom Eskildsen. There are many other "behind the scenes" people that help too. A special thanks to those folks as well as the course instructors that donate their time and efforts.

No major issues or problems were encountered. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CORTLAND COUNTY SWCD FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT!

| Highest Daily Student Numbers | Class   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 30                            | Erosion & Sediment Control Manual Review          |
| 27                            | Total Collection & Irrigation of Silage Leachate  |
| 24                            | Cropland Conservation                             |
| 20                            | Hydroseeding Do's & Don'ts                        |
| 19                            | Slope Failure                                     |
| 14                            | Stream Corridor Assessment                        |
| 12                            | Basic Soils                                       |
| 12                            | North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaboration |
| 10                            | Basic Surveying                                   |
| 10                            | New Employee Orientation                          |
| 8                             | Forest Inventory                                  |
| 7                             | Aquatic Invasives & Boat Washing Stations         |



Respectfully Submitted by Mark Burger, Stacy Russell, Tom Eskildsen, Chris Watkins, & John Persch.



## Administrative/Management Planning Committee Report

| 2016/2017 Administrative/Management Committee: |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Cathy Comfort, Wayne County SWCD               | Brenda Weaver, Schoharie County SWCD |
| Jodi Chamberlain, Genesee County SWCD          | Wanda Jakub, Cayuga County SWCD      |
| Karen Ervay, Monroe County SWCD                | Carla Yaw, Lewis County SWCD         |
| P.J. Emerick, Ontario County SWCD              | Brian Davis, Cattaraugus County SWCD |

The 2016/2017 Administrative/Management Planning Committee consisted of two managers and six administrative staff and was also assisted by members of the NYS SWCC. This committee was responsible for the selection and planning of course topics offered at both the 2016 Administrative/Management Conference (held jointly with NYACD) and the 2017 CDEA Water Quality Symposium. Three courses were organized for the Administrative Management Conference and ten courses were coordinated by the committee for the Water Quality Symposium.

Developing a lineup of desired and effective courses and finding instructors can sometimes be an arduous task. I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to the 2016/2017 committee members and to the NYS SWCC for all of their hard work and efforts that went into offering these courses. I would also like to thank Kelly Friel (Cattaraugus County SWCD) for stepping up to assist me with planning efforts when I had to be away.

After nearly ten years of serving on this committee, I will be stepping down. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to have been able to work with so many of you through the years. Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity.

Carla Yaw, Committee Chair

**Frank Bratt Scholarship Program  
2015 Annual Report**

The Division I representative traditionally has been assigned the responsibility of administering the Frank Bratt Scholarship Program with oversight by the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association Board of Directors. The scholarship program was initiated in 1990 to assist District employees with furthering their professional development and education. Successful applicants are reimbursed for all or a portion of the cost of credit or non-credit college courses, workshops or other professional development programs. The following report summarizes the administration of two funding cycles for the scholarship program this past year.

There were eleven applicants requesting \$3,195.00 for the June 1, 2016 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$1,500:

- Cheynne Youngs, St. Lawrence County – Northeast Region Certified Crop Advisor Training - \$500
- Molly Swearingen, Monroe County – CPESC Review Course - \$350
- Joshua LaFountain, Monroe County – CPESC Review Course - \$425
- Donald Stribick, Erie County – The New Blue: The Updated NYSDEC E&SC Manual - \$100
- Megan Webster, Ontario County – CPESC Review Course - \$125

There were three applicants requesting \$1,500.00 for the January 1, 2017 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$1,500:

- Nicole Laible, Rockland County - Legal Issues in Public Administration - \$500
- Michelle Veeder-Drew, Columbia County - Biodiversity & Conservation Policy: Policy Issues - \$500
- Calum Lewis, Steuben County – Calculus II - \$500

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Frank Bratt Scholarship! I would also like to encourage all employees seeking to further develop their skills or broaden their knowledge to apply for the scholarship.

In addition to the Frank Bratt Scholarship Program in New York, the National Association of Conservation District Employees offers a scholarship program. The Don Aron Scholarship allows for financial support to a District employee or member of their immediate family who is participating in a resource conservation curriculum while enrolled in an accredited college or university. For more information about the Don Aron Scholarship please visit the NACDE website at [www.ncdea.org](http://www.ncdea.org).

Best of luck!

Judy Bennett  
Orleans County SWCD  
Secretary/Treasurer  
NYSCDEA Division I Representative

# **New York State Envirothon Yearly Report**

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The NYS Envirothon Committee is working very hard to make the 2016 event the best it can be.

## **Committee members;**

JoAnn Kurtis, Tests/Resource

Robert Shenk, Tests

Al Fagan, Site Coordinator

Chris Andreassen Ed/Rec Activities

Betsy Ukeritis, NYDEC, Awards

Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair, Registration

Maxine Appleby, Website

Kristin White, Treasurer

Mary Lynne Malone, Volunteer Coordinator

Cal Lewis, Snacks

Pat VanLare, Volunteer

Ernie Swift, NYACD

Chastity Miller, t-shirts

Dean Moore & Fred VonMechow, OP

## **2017 Event Dates:**

The event will be held at Hobart William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on **Wednesday, May 24 & Thursday, May 25, 2017.**

## **Funding:**

The NYS Envirothon Committee secured a \$5,000 donation from Dominion Gas Transmission for the second year in a row. Along with the donation they will be sending at least three staff folks to help out during the event in May. The Environmental Education Foundation have been working closely to search out and request funding. They have put out a request for funding from National Gas and a few other grant requests. The EEF has been fully involved in moving forward to process possible grant funding and reaching out to big business. We are very thankful for their help and assistants in searching for funding.

This year the NYSCDEA has continued their support of \$2,500 to the NYS Envirothon scholarship funds for 2017. NYSCDEA has determined after the 2017 event they will no longer sponsor the scholarship funding. They have determined they will continue to support the NYS Envirothon with dollars towards operations of the event. The NYS Envirothon committee will continue the scholarship funds for the team(s), as funds are raised.

## **Additional Information:**

We are all grateful for the continued support of the local Districts and at this point a time we have heard back from all 62 Districts including the five Burroughs with seven counties not attending, one that will send funds even if no team attends, and two counties uncertain if a team will be sent. We're hoping that there will be at least 50 or better of teams present at this year's event.

Overall we are thankful for a great commitment of this committee and their continued support of this great educational program.

**VOLUNTEER!!!:**

Please remember to sign-up to volunteer during the event, which can now be completed online [www.nysenvirothon.net](http://www.nysenvirothon.net).