

**New York State Conservation District Employees'
Association, INC.**



**2018 Annual Meeting
Wednesday March 14, 2018**

**“Providing Today,
Protecting Tommorrow”**

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New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

**ANNUAL MEETING
March 14, 2018
Double Tree /Carrier Circle
East Syracuse, NY**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions
2. Roll Call of Districts
3. Reading and approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Review Slate of Officers – Nichelle Billhardt – Past President
5. Treasurer's Report for 2017.
6. Review and approval of 2018 Budget
7. Partner Reports
 - a. New York Association of Conservation Districts
 - b. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
 - c. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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 divisions.
13. Committee Reports
14. Resolutions
15. Other Business from the Floor
16. Election of Officers – Nichelle Billhardt
17. Adjournment



New York State
Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

2017 Annual Meeting
 Wednesday March 15, 2017
 Double Tree East Syracuse, New York

Executive Committee Members

P.J. Emerick, President
 Jordan Clements, Vice President
 Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
 Kristin White, Treasurer
 Doug Kierst, Member at Large

Partners

Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC
 Amber Paice, NYACD

Division Representatives

Judy Bennett, Division I
 Kelly Emerick, Division II
 Steve Lorraine, Division III
 Velynda Parker, Division IV
 Laura Benedict, Division V
 Ben Luskin, Division VI
 Erin Somerville, Division VII
 Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Absent

Greg Kist, NRCS
 Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC



Minutes

I. Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions - President P.J. Emerick called the meeting to order at 6:56 p.m. P.J. thanked District staff, partners, and presenters for attending the 2017 Water Quality Symposium despite the snow storm.

II. Roll Call of Districts - Caitlin Stewart performed the roll call and the following 42 Districts were present:

Albany	Cattaraugus	Cayuga	Chautauqua
Chemung	Clinton	Colombia	Cortland
Deleware	Dutchess	Essex	Franklin
Fulton	Genessee	Hamilton	Herkimer
Jefferson	Lewis	Madison	Monroe
Montgomery	Nassau	Niagara	Onondaga
Ontario	Orleans	Oswego	Otsego
Rensselaer	St. Lawrence	Saratoga	Schuyler
Seneca	Steuben	Suffolk	Sullivan
Tioga	Warren	Washington	Wayne
Wyoming	Yates		

III. Reading and approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes.

- **A motion was made by Jordan Clements, seconded by Kristin White to dispense with the reading and to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes as written. Carried.**

IV. Review slate of officers - Nichelle Billhardt reviewed the slate of officers and asked for any further nominations. None were made.

President – P.J. Emerick

Vice President – Chastity Miller

Secretary – Caitlin Stewart

Treasurer – Kristin White

- **A motion was made by Lindsey Gerstenslager, seconded by Gerry Smithson to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one vote. Carried.**

V. Review and approval of the 2016 Treasurer’s Report - P.J. mentioned that the report was included in the packet as well as projected on the screen for the attendees to view and asked if there were any questions. Kristin mentioned that if anyone had any questions they may contact her. The report is appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Velynda Parker, seconded by Jordan Clements to approve the 2016 Treasurer’s Report as presented. Carried.**

VI. Review and approval of 2017 Budget - P.J. mentioned that the report was included in the packet as well as projected on the screen for the attendees to view and asked if there were any questions. The report is appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Velynda Parker, seconded by Brian Hall to approve the 2017 budget as presented. Carried.**

VII. Partner Reports

a. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee - Scott Fickbohm mentioned that Brian Steinmuller apologized for being absent. He thanked the CDEA, partners, instructors, and SWCDs for hosting and attending the Water Quality Symposium. This opportunity to network is important. This is a good time to share and get to know one another. Scott shared some highlights from the report. State aid and grants are at a historic high level. This is a testament to the work that is accomplished. Farmland Protection increased to \$20 million, ag non point source increased to \$17.5 million, climate resilient farming increased to \$1.4 million, the District line increased to \$3.7 million, invasive species increased to \$10 million, and the Water Quality Improvement Program increased to \$20 million. Part C received a large increase. The State wishes to be a partner and receive feedback to make the process as easy as possible. Agricultural Environmental Management year 11 showed 523 new farms in New York, 401 assessments, 185 farm plans, 250 practices conducted, and 575 evaluations. Round 22 showed \$15 million for farms, and 203 contracts for BMPs for farms are being managed. The proposed budget shows ag non point source at \$19 million, an increase of \$250,000 to FLOWPA, and other lines are level. Climate Smart Communities will develop a stormwater resiliency program for private landowners.

b. New York Association of Conservation Districts - Amber Paice shared her report, appended to the minutes.

VIII. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association Reports – P.J. mentioned that the report was included in the packet. The report is appended to the minutes.

IX. New Employee Recognition - Each Division Representative recognized new employees during the Division meetings. Laura Benedict recognized and announced the new employees while P.J. distributed the welcome gifts during the Annual Meeting. They are as follows, and appended to the minutes:

Division I

Tiffany McCumiskey, Megan Boberg, Gregory Kolenda, Tim Welch, Kevin Preischel

Division II

Jason Schenck, Josh LaFountain, Molly Swearingen, John Adams, Ian Priestley, Thomas Drew Starkey

Division IV

Nikole Watts, Katie Kemmeren, Erica Capuana, Sherry Mosher, Josh Meacham, Emily Dekar, Miranda Davey, Michael Hall, Paul Gier

Division V

Alice Halloran, Allycia Leach

Division VI

Mary "Polly" Festa, Karen Klemczak, Amber Luke, David Jaeger, Joe Rizzo

Division VII

Amy Meunier

Division VIII

Trish Manzi, David Ganim, Korin Tangtrakul, Ken Johnson, Susan Odell- Pepe

X. Years of Service Recognition - Each Division Representative recognized employees with 10 and 15 years of service during the Division meetings where pins were distributed. Laura and P.J. recognized employees with 20, 25, and 30 years of service with Districts during the Annual Meeting, and pins were distributed. They are as follows, and are appended to the minutes:

Division I

Donald Stribick– 20 years

Division II

Maggie Connelly – 20

Christopher Creelman – 20

Thomas Eskildsen – 20

James Balyszak – 30

Rick Ayers - 30

Division III

Deb Michael – 30
Christine Watkins - 30
Eileen Lavier - 25

Division IV

Lance Lockwood – 30
Chris Savage – 20
Karen Clifford – 20
Lawrence Underwood – 25
Elaine Dalrymple - 20

Division V

Janice Reynolds – 30

Division VI

John Persch – 20
Corey Nellis – 30
Paula Schaeffer – 20
Brenda Weaver - 25

Division VII

Brian Scoralick – 20
Brian Brustman - 20

Division VIII

Lauri Taylor – 25
R. Allan Beers– 20

Laura thanked these employees for sharing their experience and knowledge with staff members.

XI. Officer Reports

a. President’s Report - P.J. mentioned that the President’s Report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

b. Member at Large Report – Doug mentioned that the Member at Large Report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. He thanked the people who send in reimbursement requests. He mentioned that the Golf Tournament is July 27.

XII. Division Reports

Division I - Judy mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division II - Kelly mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She continued that the new CDEA website is now available, and thanked Kristin White for developing the new site. She mentioned that staff members may contact her with photos to include on the website.

Division III - Steve mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division IV - Velynda mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. Velynda continued that bucket raffle tickets may be purchased and that the raffle supports the Frank Bratt Scholarship. She mentioned that silent auction items may be paid for using credit cards, cash, or checks.

Division V - Laura mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division VI - Ben mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division VII - Erin mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division VIII - Anne Marie mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

The odd Division Representatives were up for reelection and are: Judy Bennett, Division I; Steve Lorraine, Division III; Laura Benedict, Division V; and Erin Somerville, Division VII.

XIII. Committee Reports

a. Conservation Skills Workshop - P.J. mentioned that the report is in the packet. The report is appended to the minutes.

b. Empire Farm Days - P.J. mentioned that the report is in the packet. Kristin mentioned that the event is on schedule and will let everyone know the location. The report is appended to the minutes.

c. New York State Fair - P.J. mentioned that the report is in the packet. Kristin mentioned that the opening day is a day sooner for this year. Kristin continued that the shift schedule is on the CDEA website and encouraged everyone to please volunteer for a shift. The report is appended to the minutes.

d. New York State Envirothon - P.J. mentioned that the report is in the packet. Velynda mentioned for everyone to please pick up packets. The report is appended to the minutes.

e. Environmental Education Foundation - Dave Reckahn mentioned that the report is in the packet. The report is appended to the minutes.

f. Administrative Conference - P.J. mentioned that the report is in the packet. The report is appended to the minutes.

g. Frank Bratt Scholarship - P.J. mentioned that the report is in the packet. The report is appended to the minutes.

XIV. Resolutions - P.J. mentioned that no resolutions were received prior to the deadline. P.J. continued that after the deadline, some activity did take place. Concerns exist for the Envirocert certification process. A group of people met to discuss the problems. Certification is difficult. Don Lake spoke with partners, and a New York State specific erosion and sediment control certification was discussed. Discussion is in the opening stage. DEC supports this initiative.

The NYS E&SC Certification Resolution came from the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District and the white paper was written by Don Lake, and both were passed out to each table and appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Steve Lorraine, seconded by Dean Moore, to support the New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certification Program. Carried.**

XV. Other Business from the Floor

Judy mentioned that there are two opportunities each year to apply for the Frank Bratt Scholarship, and employees and their immediate family members may apply. She continued that the purpose of the scholarship is to further education, and the deadlines are January 1 and June 1.

P.J. mentioned the CDEA logo is being retired, and encouraged everyone to submit a design for the new logo.

Jordan mentioned some Water Quality Symposium housekeeping items.

PJ thanked Jordan for serving on the CDEA Executive Board as Vice President.

XVI. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Dustin Lewis, seconded by Brian Davis to adjourn the 2017 Annual NYS CDEA Meeting at 8:02 p.m. Carried.**



Caitlin Stewart
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
Training Sessions:				
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 *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
Donations:				
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/Wcbsite	\$ -	\$ 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
Fundraiser Activities				
*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				
TOTALS	\$ 121,400.00	\$ 121,400.00	\$ 123,408.34	\$ 103,233.91

Self Sustaining Accounts				
Frank Bratt	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 11.78	\$ 2,379.37
NYS Fair/EFD	\$ 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
SSA Totals	\$ 62,815.00	\$ 69,565.00	\$ 53,146.77	\$ 53,800.64
Grand Total	\$ 184,215.00	\$ 190,965.00	\$ 176,555.11	\$ 157,034.55

DRAFT

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

	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>	<u>Dec 31, 15</u>
ASSETS		
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	<u>75,470.29</u>	<u>58,812.21</u>
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	<u>131,473.15</u>	<u>114,305.87</u>
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		
Training Sessions	0.00	150.00
Envirothon Reccivables	0.00	1,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,150.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,150.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>131,473.15</u>	<u>115,455.87</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>131,473.15</u></u>	<u><u>115,455.87</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
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	<u>0.00</u>	<u>3,503.28</u>

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
Training Sessions:				
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
Donations:				
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
Fundraiser Activities				
*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				
TOTALS	\$ 123,408.34	\$ 103,233.91	\$ 110,800.00	\$ 110,800.00

Self Sustaining Accounts				
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
SSA Totals	\$ 53,146.77	\$ 53,800.64	\$ 66,010.00	\$ 73,635.00
Grand Total	\$ 176,555.11	\$ 157,034.55	\$ 176,810.00	\$ 184,435.00

DRAFT

March 14, 2017

To: The New York State Conservation District Employee Association

From: The New York Association of Conservation Districts, Inc.

**NYACD Partnership Report for the NYS CDEA Annual Meeting
at the Water Quality Symposium in East Syracuse, New York**

Please accept the following Report on behalf of the New York Association of Conservation Districts:

The support received from the Employee's Association (NYS CDEA) is immensely appreciated!

Thank you for your support, and for inviting our presence at your meetings and events throughout the year. The strength of your leadership team, being your board of directors, is strong, providing vision and direction for your 300 employees statewide. You are doing great things, and we notice!

The New York Association of Conservation Districts acknowledges that with your support, our Association benefits, becoming stronger and having a greater potential to impact Soil and Water Conservation District efforts statewide. I would especially like to thank District Managers who have encouraged their Board Members to serve as officers on the NYACD Board, to be involved in Events such as Legislative Days and the NYACD Annual Meeting, to host and participate locally at Division Meetings, and for committing to support the Association financially by submitting Membership Dues.

In 2016, there was an increase in membership dues received by 5%, and now, in 2017, we continue to experience the support of Districts, and have already received payments from 53% of SWCDs this year! When Soil and Water Conservation Districts submit membership dues, they commit to supporting District Directors, in turn supporting the ability to employee professionals to carry out the work of Soil and Water Districts. In 2016, there was an increase to the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, and the line item for Soil and Water Districts increased to \$9 million. With informed, trained, and hands-on Directors committed to your Mission, through program provided by NYACD, your local District can increase its potential to impact conservation locally.

Having a strong identity is essential to strengthening the connectivity of Directors through NYACD.

Acknowledging this, our Association's Identity Statement was reviewed, and Members approved the following Mission: **The New York Association of Conservation Districts unifies the Directors of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts statewide, and serves as a platform for relationships, networking, advocacy, training, and education.**

As similarly expressed in a letter submitted to all Districts in January this year, here are some more of the Association's accomplishments in 2016, and this year's projected goals:

2016

- **Meet Performance Measures:** Allow Directors to achieve their goals by providing opportunities to attend NYACD Board Meetings, Legislative Days, Division Meetings, & NYACD Annual Meeting,
- Increase District Funding and Cut Costs: Educate Legislators at the State Level (Bills: Waterfront Revitalization, and Reimbursement for Utilities),
- **Express District Needs:** NYACD has a voting seat on the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee,
- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Signed Memorandum of Agreement with the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service,
- Committee Work: **NEW Mission Statement** passed by Membership, and Bylaws Review and Updates, and
- Member Support: **Increase connection with Districts**, including visits to over half of SWCD's statewide.

2017

- **Meet Performance Measures:** Board Meetings, Legislative Days, Division Meetings, & the NYACD Annual Meeting,
- **Legislative Education to Increase District Funding** while Cutting Expenses: (Waterfront Revitalization, and Reimbursement for Utilities),
- **Express District Needs:** NYACD has a voting seat on the NY State Soil and Water Conservation Committee,
- **Promote Districts through Partnerships:** Facilitate NACD resolution process after document was passed at the NYACD Annual Meeting; and representation on the NY State Soil and Water Conservation Committee,
- **Present Modernized Bylaws to Membership** for Approval at the NYACD Annual Meeting,
- **Increase Presence** between the Association and Districts, and
- Increase Sponsorships to support the work of the Association.

This year, Legislative Days Event boasted positive feedback from those who attended, and participation held steady as compared to numbers from 2016, with over 30 registrants, and over 40 Legislative Appointments scheduled. Visits were conducted with members of both Assembly and Senate Environmental Conservation and Agriculture Committees, and the Joint Commission on Rural Resources. The primary message was to express gratitude and thanks for support of the EPF, given that SWCD's were potentially given the same amount as last year which is very positive. Also, Bill numbers have not yet been assigned to the legislation that did not make it through committee last year, but the language of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Bill, granting access to SWCDs to apply, is on its way to being finalized and reintroduced. We are pushing for forward progress to be made this session.

The Planning Committee selected Cazenovia, New York, as the location for the 59th Annual Meeting, and anticipate excellence in programming, guest speakers and presentations, productive business meetings, workshops, a vendor fair, and spouse and family activities.

If NYS CDEA members individually, or others from your District, would like to hear from NYACD, please contact Amber Paice with your email address; ambermay@nyacd.org.

Thank you, employees, for your support, and your belief that the New York Association of Conservation Districts, the Association of your Directors, is valued.

Prepared by: Amber Paice, NYACD Executive Director

DRAFT

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

Division I					Years
Donald Stribick	Erie	District Technician	Sept	1997	20
Division II					
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
Division III					
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
Division IV					
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 Coordinator	Feb	1992	25
Elaine Dalrymple	Schuyler	District Field Manager	Feb	1997	20
Division V					
Lenny Croote	Hamilton	Conservation Technician	Aug	2002	15
Janice Reynolds	Hamilton	District Clerk	June	1987	30
Dean Moore	Warren	District Technician	Sept	2007	10
Division VI					
John Persch	Fulton	District Manager	May	1997	20
Corcy Nellis	Montgomery	District Manager	June	1987	30
Paula Schaeffer	Schenectady	Administrative Assistant	July	1997	20
Brenda Weaver	Schoharie	Office Manager	July	1992	25

Division VII					
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
Division VIII					
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

DRAFT



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 Wanakcena. 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.

Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

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 10th 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 24th and 25th, 2017. To volunteer please go to www.nysenvirothon.net
- The NYS CDEA Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Casolwood Golf Club on July 27th, 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.

Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow



**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

Providing Today. Protecting Tomorrow



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 26th 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 Tribes 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
NYSCEFA Division I Representative

DRAFT



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 9th 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 and 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

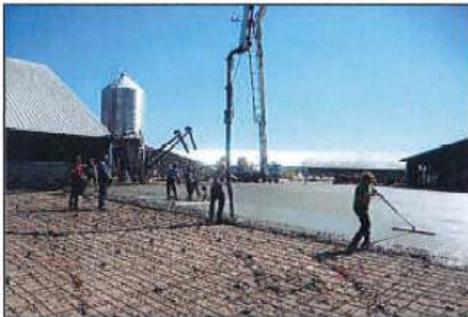
Year 12 of the AEM Program is keeping us busy with planning, Tier 4 construction, and now 5A evaluations this winter.



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



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



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.



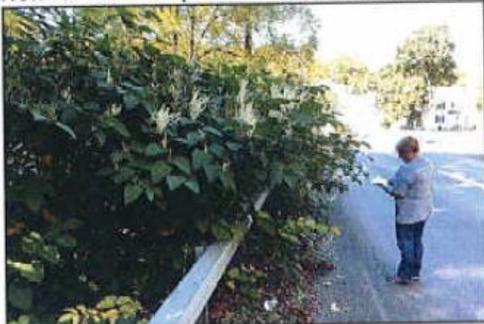
This stream crossing and cattle lane was installed in October 2016 to protect the water quality of a blue line stream

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

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 *Indian River *St. Lawrence River	* Silage Leachate Control & Treatment Systems *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.



Jefferson County – No report submitted

Lewis County – No report submitted

Oneida County – No report submitted

Oswego County – No report submitted

DRAFT



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 2nd 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 – 1st 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 15th 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 19th.



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**
 - 18th 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

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 NYS CDEA 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.
- ▶ 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 23rd through September 4th, 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 9th-11th, 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 8th – 10th, 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 2nd annual BBQ reception. Registration fee was raised from \$25 (2015) to \$30 (2016) and included the cost of the BBQ reception.

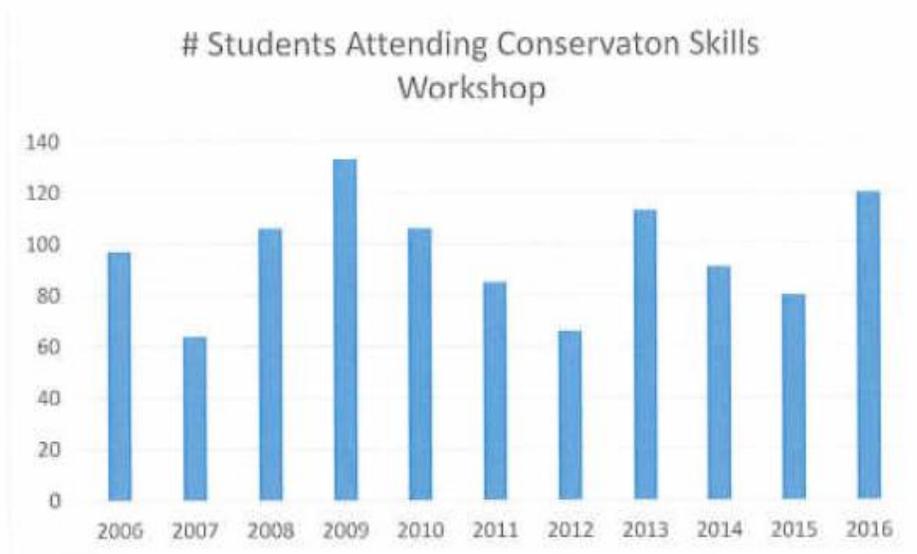
Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has tentatively scheduled the 2017 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting Wednesday, May 10 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Onondaga County SWCD offices. A working lunch is provided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

OK!

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.

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.

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACTION LISTED BELOW PURSUANT
TO THE NEW YORK STATE EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, The Soil and Water Conservation Districts across New York State have received increasing numbers of requests from local and state governments and stakeholders to provide technical assistance regarding stormwater management and erosion and sediment control technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Soil & Water Conservation Districts have been recognized by the local and state governments as the local agency to provide conservation, stormwater management and erosion and sediment control assistance in New York State; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Conservation District Employees Association (NYCDEA) feels that it is important to create and maintain a clear process to identify and recognize individuals, including Soil & Water Conservation District employees, who are capable of developing, designing inspecting and maintaining erosion and sediment control plans and projects in New York State for local and state municipalities and stakeholders in accordance with the New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications along with requirements and specifications of the New York State General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, The New York State Conservation District Employees Association will work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to begin the process of implementing an Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program process unique to New York State which is outlined in the white paper drafted by Donald Lake Jr. Professional Engineer dated February 6th, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, As this process moves forward it may be beneficial for the NYSCDEA Inc. to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with other conservation partners or entities to formalize the sponsorship, administration and governance of this unique certification program.

CERTIFICATION OF RECORDING OFFICER

That the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of the same, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the New York State Conservation District Employees Association Inc. duly held on the 15th, day of March, 2017; and further that such Resolution has been fully recorded in the Minutes Record Book. In witness thereof, I have set my hand this 7th day of March 2017.



Signature of Recording Officer

White Paper (Draft)

Donald W. Lake Jr. P.E.

February 6, 2017

**Proposed: New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate
Program**

Mission: The purpose of this program is to create and maintain a process to identify and recognize individuals who are capable of developing, designing, inspecting and maintaining erosion and sediment control plans in New York State. These plans will be prepared and maintained in accordance the New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Standards and Specifications and the New York State General Permit for Stormwater Runoff from Construction Activities.

Sponsorship: This program will be initiated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC and the New York State Conservation District Employees Association, Inc. (NYCDEA), and endorsed and supported by the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT), The New York State Office of General Services (OGS), the New York State Department of State (DOS), the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SSWCC), and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Administration: The overall administration of day to day operations of the program will be carried out by the NYCDEA in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with DEC outlining the responsibilities of each party. These duties include the creation and maintenance of the certificate program website and data base, accepting certificate application and renewal fees, dispersing application forms, coordinating exams with proctors, application acceptance and exam results notifications, dispersing certificates, coordinating the 4 hour fundamental erosion and sediment control course with our qualified instructors from the contractor training program, etc.

Governance: The program will be governed by the Certification Committee. This committee will be initially composed of 9 members; 2 from DEC, 2 from NYCDEA, 1 from DOT, 1 from SSWCC, 1 from DOS, 1 from OGS, and 1 from DEP. This committee will establish the certificate program policy and procedures. This includes establishing qualifications for certificate holders, creating and maintaining the certificate exam and procedures, determining the continuing

education requirements for the certificate holders, setting the program fees for application and renewal, and establishing ad hoc committees to advance the continual development of the program. These committees (usually of 2-3 committee members) could include an application review committee, a technical review committee, a financial committee, etc, as determined by the full committee. These committees generally create suggestions, improvements, changes and adjustments to the existing policy and procedures for discourse and adoption by the full committee.

Initial Thoughts:

1. The committee would be initially be chaired by DEC. Committee members would serve 2 years. The committee will establish their membership succession policy.
2. Application fee could be set at \$50 with annual renewal fees set at \$25.
3. Qualified applicants for the certification exam are individuals with a minimum of 2 years documented experience assisting in the preparation of E&S plans or field experience implementing the E&S component of a SWPPP and written letters of recommendation from two individuals. Individuals who hold a current CPESC certification would be “grandfathered” as NY certificate holders upon completing the renewal process. There are approximately 265 NY CPESC currently. Individuals that have successfully completed the SUNY-ESF stormwater management course would be deemed exempted from the certificate exam and could gain a certificate upon completing the application process.
4. A 4 hour fundamental E&S course would be prepared and offered to perspective applicants and the general public. It would be delivered at local venues, just as the 4 hour contractor training course is now, by our approved instructor cadre. This course would cover much, but not all, of the material that may appear on the certification exam.
5. The certification exam would be “open book” utilizing the NY Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications and the NY General Permit for Stormwater Runoff from Construction Activities. Major sections of the exam would include Rules & Regulations, Soil Loss Evaluation, Erosion Control Planning, Practice Design, Inspection, and Maintenance. The exam will be designed for a 3 hour time limit. The committee will approve the initial exam prior to its issue and establish all policy and procedures for the exam process and its security.

6. Continuing education is required of all certificate holders. An annual CEU requirement of 12 hours can be met through many activities and efforts, including attendance at DEC approved and supported training courses, ongoing work experience, and instructing on technical aspects of erosion and sediment control. The Committee will establish the policy and procedures for the CEU element.

Once this program is adopted and endorsed by the respective parties, I will work on behalf of and with the Committee to prepare draft documents for policy and procedural issues, the applicant examination, and the E&S fundamentals training course for the Committee's review, discussion, modification and adoption. Initially, I expect the Committee would meet twice a year with much of the logistical work to be done electronically.

I believe this economically affordable and self-governing program will provide the state of New York a cadre of highly competent individuals focused on meeting our state erosion and sediment control policy and objectives and thus further improving water quality in New York State.

DRAFT

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2017 Bank Report**

	<u>Dec 31, 17</u>	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	28,926.13	31,282.22
NYS Envirothon Checking	31,425.55	15,537.09
NYS Fair Account	4,233.17	2,077.39
Conservation Skills	17,978.14	15,352.13
Leadership Conference	2,863.13	2,863.13
Vacation Raffle Account	230.00	230.00
Golf Tournament	3,302.23	2,339.66
Sunshine Fund	788.67	788.67
Resource Training Checking	<u>5,000.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING	94,747.02	75,470.29
Envirothon Scholarship Savings	9,676.90	7,773.67
Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings	25,374.57	21,976.52
Resource Training Savings	<u>23,758.09</u>	<u>26,252.67</u>
Total Current Assets	153,556.58	131,473.15

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2017 Budget vs. Actual**

ACCOUNT	2017 Budget		2017 Actual	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,952.00	\$ 4,365.12
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		
CSW	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 1,773.99
Level 1 Tech Training	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00		
WQS	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 66,200.00	\$ 116,888.50	\$ 96,799.46
WQS Resource Fair	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,705.42	\$ 8,200.00
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 775.00
Donations:				
Envirothon Scholarship		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Donations-Other-EEF		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
Executive Board		\$ 7,000.00		\$ 6,319.77
Insurance		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 2,904.19
Promo/Website		\$ 500.00		\$ 664.90
NACD		\$ 2,400.00		
NCDEA Dues		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
NACDE NE		\$ 900.00		\$ 615.64
Newsletter		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Fundraiser Activities				
*Bucket/Silent Auction			\$ (3,245.00)	
Sunshine Fund		\$ 200.00		
Office Supplies		\$ 400.00		\$ 1,159.01
Division I		\$ 400.00		
Division II		\$ 400.00		
Division III		\$ 400.00		
Division IV		\$ 400.00		\$ 80.08
Division V		\$ 400.00		\$ 237.57
Division VI		\$ 400.00		\$ 330.85
Division VII		\$ 400.00		
Division VIII		\$ 400.00		
Carryover				
TOTALS	\$ 110,800.00	\$ 110,800.00	\$ 129,700.92	\$ 131,925.58

Self Sustaining Accounts				
Frank Bratt	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,790.05	\$ 3,392.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 4,921.00	\$ 2,765.22
NYS Envirothon	\$ 53,710.00	\$ 53,710.00	\$ 49,000.50	\$ 33,112.04
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 7,625.00	\$ 2,503.23	\$ 600.00
Golf Tournament	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,280.00	\$ 2,317.43
SSA Totals	\$ 66,010.00	\$ 73,635.00	\$ 66,494.78	\$ 42,186.69
Grand Total	\$ 176,810.00	\$ 184,435.00	\$ 196,195.70	\$ 174,112.27

*2016 Bucket Raffle funds were transferred in 2017.

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2018 Proposed Budget**

ACCOUNT	2017 Budget		2017 Actual		2018 Proposed Budget	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,952.00	\$ 4,365.12	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Training Sessions:						
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00			\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
CSW	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 1,773.99	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Level 1 Tech Training	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00			\$ -	\$ -
WQS	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 66,200.00	\$ 116,888.50	\$ 96,799.46	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
4-Hour Online Course					\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Cetrification Program (ESCCP)					\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
WQS Resource Fair	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,705.42	\$ 8,200.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 775.00		\$ 1,000.00
Donations:						
Envirothon Scholarship		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Donations-Other-EEF		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00		\$ 1,500.00
Executive Board		\$ 7,000.00		\$ 6,319.77		\$ 7,000.00
Insurance		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 2,904.19		\$ 3,000.00
Promo/Website		\$ 500.00		\$ 664.90		\$ 500.00
NACD		\$ 2,400.00				\$ 2,400.00
NCDEA Dues		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
NACDE NE		\$ 900.00		\$ 615.64		\$ 900.00
Newsletter		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Fundraiser Activities						
*Bucket/Silent Auction			\$ (3,245.00)			
Sunshine Fund		\$ 200.00				\$ 200.00
Office Supplies		\$ 400.00		\$ 1,159.01		\$ 1,000.00
Division I		\$ 400.00				\$ 400.00
Division II		\$ 400.00				\$ 400.00
Division III		\$ 400.00				\$ 400.00
Division IV		\$ 400.00		\$ 80.08		\$ 400.00
Division V		\$ 400.00		\$ 237.57		\$ 400.00
Division VI		\$ 400.00		\$ 330.85		\$ 400.00
Division VII		\$ 400.00				\$ 400.00
Division VIII		\$ 400.00				\$ 400.00
Carryover					\$ 6,900.00	
TOTALS	\$ 110,800.00	\$ 110,800.00	\$ 129,700.92	\$ 131,925.58	\$ 122,900.00	\$ 122,900.00

Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Frank Bratt	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,790.05	\$ 3,392.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 4,921.00	\$ 2,765.22	\$ 8,385.00	\$ 8,385.00
NYS Envirothon	\$ 53,710.00	\$ 53,710.00	\$ 49,000.50	\$ 33,112.04	\$ 58,975.00	\$ 58,975.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 7,625.00	\$ 2,503.23	\$ 600.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,275.00
Golf Tournament	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,280.00	\$ 2,317.43	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
SSA Totals	\$ 66,010.00	\$ 73,635.00	\$ 66,494.78	\$ 42,186.69	\$ 74,860.00	\$ 81,635.00
Grand Total	\$ 176,810.00	\$ 184,435.00	\$ 196,195.70	\$ 174,112.27	\$ 197,760.00	\$ 204,535.00

NCDEA

National Conservation District Employees Association



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

.....supporting the
professionalism of conservation district
employees across the United States.

NCDEA

National Conservation District Employees Association

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



NCDEA initiated 2017 with their Annual Meeting which was held in Denver, Colorado in conjunction with the NACD Annual Meeting and Conference. The board members were active participants coordinating tours, hosting a district employees reception, moderating break out sessions, managing a professional development workshop and organizing the NCDEA annual partnership luncheon. Many District Employees stepped in to assist with the activities and on behalf of the NCDEA Board I extend my thanks and appreciation.

Please take some time to read in this Annual Report that depicts the countless programs and amazing successes of the soil and water conservation districts across the nation. The skills and experiences of District Employees can be measured not only by their accomplishments but also by their passion to ensure the local conservation delivery.

As your NCDEA representative, I continue to meet with the National Conservation Partnership. NCDEA, in concert with NACD, NRCS, NASCA and NRC&D, continues to work and engage in communications and actions to improve the nation's conservation delivery system.



National Conservation Partnership Leaders (l-r) Tim Riley, NCDEA; Jeremy Peters, NACD; Rich Duesterhaus, NCDEA; Mike Brown, NASCA; and Tom Christenson, NRCS. Not pictured Robert Harbison, NRC&D

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) was created by the five national conservation partners with a vision to improve and enhance conservation delivery to our customers. You can read more information in this report about the NCP Initiative and the overarching objectives.

Also in this document is a list of the Committees, Task Forces and Resource Policy Groups that NCDEA participates. We welcome and invite district employees to serve on any of these teams. Please contact me if you wish for additional information.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as your NCDEA President. With your continuous input, your professional organization can build capacity and maintain effective operations.

Tim Riley, President, NCDEA

Kent Conservation District—Delaware

Timothy.Riley@state.de.us

NCDEA MISSION

To strengthen and promote the conservation district programs by providing assistance, information, and representation and by supporting the professionalism of conservation district employees



MAMIE CAISON (center) was presented with the OUTSTANDING NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL AWARD sponsored by NCDEA during their 2017 Annual Meeting in Denver. Pictured with Caison is NCDEA President Tim Riley (lt) and Rhonda Bryars, SEACDE President.

Mamie Caison, Director of the Brunswick SWCD, Bolivia, NC, has been a district employee for 29 years. Her dedication to the District has allowed for excellent partnerships, successful education programs and great customer assistance.

She is a charter member of North Carolina's employee association, has served on the original board of directors, and was elected to the offices of Vice President and President.

Mamie has contributed her leadership skills on the regional level by not only participating on various South East employee association committees (SEACDE) but has served as Vice President and President, as well.

In addition, Mamie served on the NCDEA board in the capacity of the Southeast Region's Representative where she actively participated on NCDEA committees and employee outreach.

NCDEA

National Conservation District Employees Association

Annual Meeting & Partnership Luncheon
 Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
 Denver, Colorado
 Tuesday, January 31, 2017
 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions Tim Riley, NCDEA President
 Invocation Rick Mickowski,

LUNCH SERVED

National Conservation Partnership Presentation
 "Interests in the Future of Re-invogation Conservation Planning"

Lee McDaniel/Jeremy Peters, NACD
 Marc Cribb/Mike Brown, NASCA
 Robert Harbison, NARCDC
 Leonard Jordan/Tom Christensen, NRCS
 Tim Riley/Rich Deusterhaus, NCDEA

District Board Member Award Melissa Higbee, NCDEA Secretary

District Professional Award Pam Hawkins,

Installation of Officers Irene Moore, NCDEA Past Pres.



THE OUTSTANDING NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER AWARD was presented to GARY BLAIR (above). He was nominated by the Mississippi Conservation Districts Employees Assoc.

Blair is a District Board member with the Lincoln County SWCD, Brookhaven, Mississippi where he has served in various positions/offices since 1986.

Mr. Blair contributed on the state level by being elected as the Mississippi state association's 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and ultimately, State President. He serves on the State Finance & Investment Committee, the Soil & Water Conservation Commission Board and has served in the regional capacity, as well.

He is a current NACD Board Member where he has been an active participant since 2010.

Gary Blair was nominated by the Mississippi Conservation District Employees Association for his support of conservation district employees and his efforts to secure funding to assist the employees in training and programming.



Above: NCDEA officers elected to serve the 2017 term were issued the oath of office by Irene Moore, NCDEA Past President. Pictured above from lt to right: Moore; Tim Riley, President; Rhonda Kelsch, Vice President; Melissa Higbee, Secretary; Coleta Bratten, Member-at-Large. Not pictured—Jeanette Hale, Treasurer.



Resource Conservation & Development for Healthy Communities, Ecosystems & Economies

NCDEA

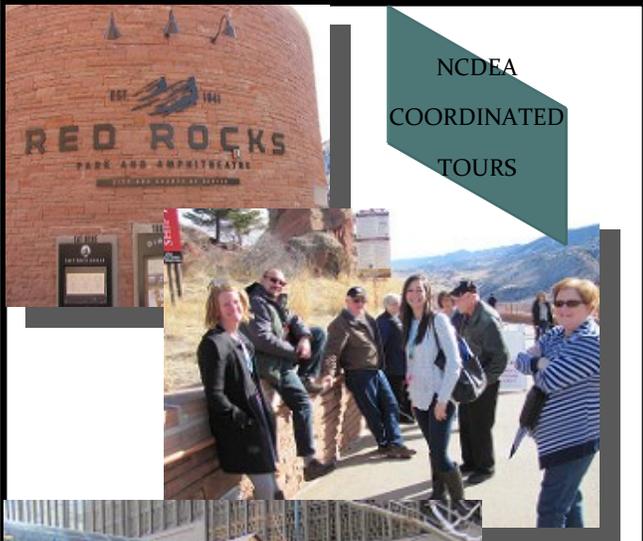
National Conservation District Employees Association



Natural Resources Conservation Service



NCDEA ANNUAL MEETING ACTIVITIES CONTINUED



NCDEA
COORDINATED
TOURS



NCDEA HOSTED A PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
SEMINAR



The panel presented information on financial sustainability strategies for districts. From left to right: Rhonda Kelsch, ND; Jeff Parker, NY; Irene Moore, OH and Wendee Zadanski, OH.



THE NCDEA EMPLOYEE & PARTNER RECEPTION
BROUGHT MANY TOGETHER TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS,
VISIT WITH OLD



2017 NCDEA BOARD ACTIVITIES & PARTNERSHIPS

DON ARON SCHOLARSHIP

NCDEA has sponsored the scholarship program since 1994 in memory of the first NCDEA President, Don Aron who served in that position from 1992-1993. Aron worked to organize the National Conservation District Employees Association and helped to establish the original by-laws.

The objective of the scholarship program is to provide 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.



2017 Don Aron Scholarship Recipient

Michelle Vedder-Drew,
*Education Coordinator;
Mud Creek Environmental
Learning Center,
Columbia County Soil and
Water Conservation
District; Ghent, NY*

Michelle is enrolled in the MS Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy Program at the University of Albany. While continuing to serve in her capacity as Education Coordinator, Michelle attends classes at SUNY with the intent on earning her degree in order to focus on protecting the natural world of New York State.

Michelle shares that "her research at SUNY Albany would aim to alleviate the watershed public information gap and in turn possibly help the Mohawk River watershed stakeholders become better stewards of their precious aquatic resources."

Congratulations to Michelle and Best Wishes as she moves toward receiving her degree.

NCDEA VISION

*"A professionally
accepted and
integrated work force dedicated
to the cause of
conservation"*



In 2015, the National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) was created by the five national conservation partners as a renewed recognition of the critical role that conservation

planning plays in advancing voluntary conservation efforts on private land.

The NCPP Leadership Team is comprised of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the National Association of State Agencies (NASCA), the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) and the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC).

The NCPP Team has four overarching objectives:

TO DATE, SOME OF THE KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE NCPP INCLUDE:

112 Partner employees completed Conservation Boot Camp.

Policy update with new conservation planner role designations and training requirement.

Workshops to assist states with updating their state supplement to the GM Conservation Planning Policy.

Agreements with Univ Of Wisconsin Extension & professional societies & organizations to develop training for planners.

Completed surveys of employees, partners, & landowners

"What Works in the Field" peer to peer web conference series/Fridays on the Farm stories.

- Reinvigorate conservation planning
- Improve the National Conservation Partnership's capacity to deliver conservation planning assistance
- Ensure the delivery of voluntary technically sound science-based assistance
- Build a workforce of strong conservation planners.

NCDEA BOARD REPORT CONTINUED



NCDEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONVENED FOR THEIR JUNE 2017 MID-YEAR MEETING IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

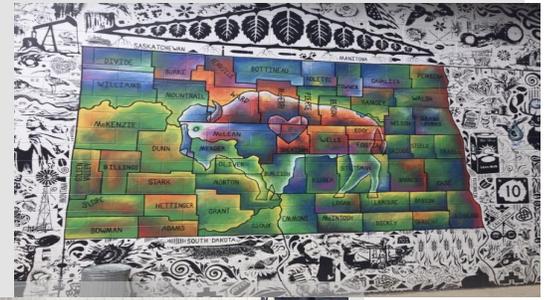
Front row, left to right: Coleta Bratten-South Central Representative & Member-t-Large; Jeanette Hale-NCDEA Treasurer; Tim Riley-President; Rhonda Kelsch-Board Vice President, and Melissa Higbee-NCDEA Secretary;

Back row, left to right: Irene Moore-NCDEA Past President; Velynda Parker-North East Alternate Representative; Jeff Parker-North East Region Representative; Tom Salzer-Pacific Regional Representative & Acting South West Region Representative; Mike Brown-NASCA Executive Director; Jeremy Peters- NACD CEO; Tom Christenson- NRCS Assoc. Chief of Operations and Mary Podoll-NRCS, North Dakota State Conservationist

Each June the NCDEA Board meets at locations around the regions to convene with local district employees and to become familiar with the programs and dynamics of the diversity of soil and water conservation districts across the nation.

Prior to their 2017 two-day business meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota, the Board and Conservation Partners visited the Lincoln Oakes Nursery and USDA plant materials center, the Burleigh County-Menoken Farm, and the Area IV Research Center.

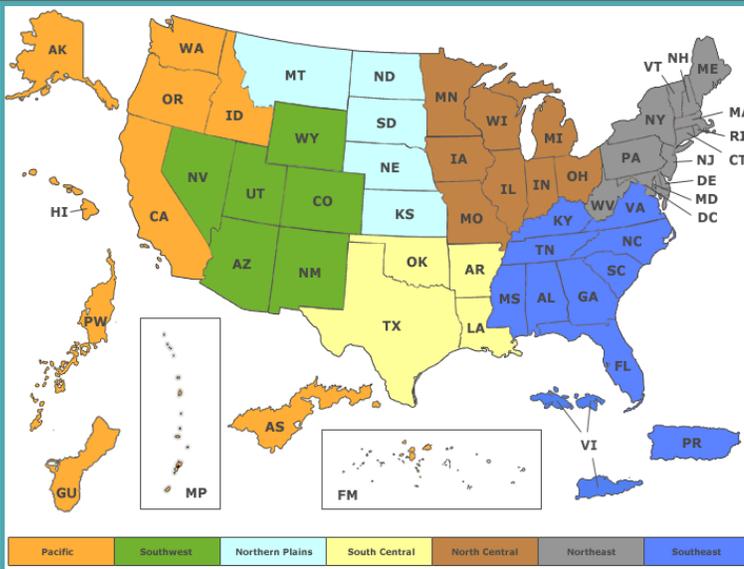
As special thank you to each of those facility managers and staff for allowing us tour their operations.



NCDEA REGIONAL MAP

Each of the 7 regions

has board representation and provides reports and updates to the full NCDEA Board of Directors



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Pacific Region, Tom Salzer-Oregon
- Southwest, Gretchen Rank-Colorado
- Northern Plains, Sara Tunge-North Dakota
- South Central, Coleta Bratten-Oklahoma
- North Central, Chessa Frahm-Minnesota
- North East, Jeff Parker -New York; Velynda Parker-New York, Alternate
- Southeast, Rhonda Bryars-Alabama; Hope Daley-Mississippi, Alternate

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ACROSS THE REGIONS

District Employees sharing their successes; celebrating their partnerships

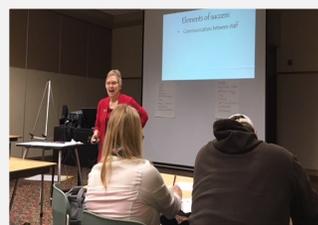
Customer Service with Heart



The Southwest Minnesota Chapter of the Minnesota Association of Conservation Districts (SWMACDE) sponsored

“Customer Service with Heart” in December. Employees from an eleven county area along with partner agencies were invited to attend this customer focused event. Attendees were left with a better understanding of who their customer is and how to make each experience memorable for everyone.

Martha Roth, Resource Training and Solutions, Sartell, MN, reminded employees that the customer isn't just the landowner who walks in the door.....



Customers can be anyone we as employees come in contact with each day including our coworkers. “We should make every effort to make our co-workers day easier and not harder just like you would do for landowner,” said Roth reminding attendees that a customer is anyone who requires something of you. Other examples of customers included state and federal agencies and occasionally, even our families.

Time during this training event was also spent talking about answering telephones, transferring calls, and office cleanliness. Thinking about each SWCD that was represented, attendees were asked what their first impression of the office was and how it made them feel. Some offices said they felt their office was cold and sterile while others said it was warm and inviting proving not everyone thinks the same.

“This training as great for everyone. It doesn't matter if you've been in the industry for thirty years or if you're new. Everyone can benefit from good customer service,” said Kay Clark, Cottonwood SWCD District Manager. The SWMACDE plans to host similar training events in coming years as the state association and partners work to improve conservation delivery across the state.

EMPLOYEE NEWS FROM OREGON

Oregon's employee-led organization, Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) is celebrating the 10th anniversary of their CONNECT conference. OCEAN has provided resources to Oregon district employees for 25 years, and in 2009 we were part of delivering the first conference designed specifically for their needs

The three day training opportunity has grown from 125 attendees to over 250 attendees in that time. We expect between 250-300 participants for CONNECT 2018, which will be presented April 17-19 in Seaside, Oregon.

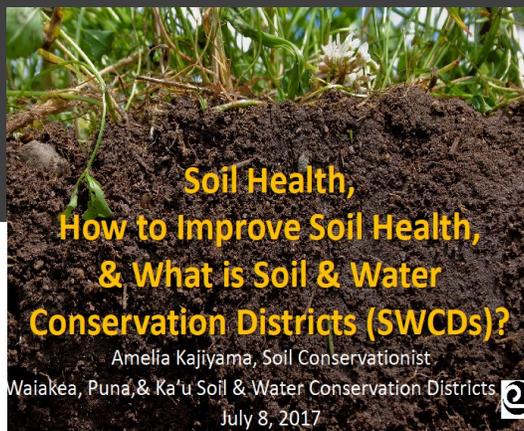
OCEAN, as a member of the Oregon Conservation Partnership, has expanded its audience for CONNECT 2018 to Watershed Councils and Land Trust attendees.



Additionally, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Division, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and several other federal and state agencies will send folks to train, network, and celebrate community driven conservation.

Visit our CONNECT 2018 page for a video and more information about this year's event: <https://oceanconnect.org/>

The Waiakea, Puna and Ka'u Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Hawaii collaborated on a Soil Health Presentation.



Included in the program is an introduction to the services and technical assistance available through the Districts.

KONA SWCD, HAWAII



The photos left and below show a restored forest in South Kona.



The Kona SWCD staff provides assistance to landowners to determine what native species would be appropriate for their land. The District has a booklet available on their website (www.kswcd.org) called *Kona's Native Hawaiian Plants to use as a tool for native species selections*.

The NRCS/KSWCD office can prepare lists of plants that should do well on your land. This list is based on elevation, rainfall and soil. You can obtain lists of native plants, introduced plants and pollinator plants. They can also provide the customer with the Ecological Site Description for their land and that document will also help to determine what should be planted to create a forest or woodland.

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES - CREATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE

Maui SWCD Conservation Specialist, Jason Hew reported that the HACD Annual Conference Field Trip was hosted by 5 co-operators. District and partner attendees visited:

- the Hoalaha Farm - a 350 acre diversified ag operation; half conventional & half regenerative farming.
- Hoku Nui Maui Project—a former 100 yr old sugar cane & pineapple plantation; 258 acres being incorporated into Hawaiian farming best practices without the use of chemical fertilizers.
- DeBolt Gardens Foundation site—a Maui based non-profit organization “protecting the Hawaii Aina that we all love.”
- Ali’I Kula Lavender Farm—Created by Ag. Artist & Horticultural Master, Ali’ I Chang-home to 55,000 lavender plants-45 different varieties.
- Kulahaven Farms, LLC—a startup operation specifically created to pioneer commercial aquaponic culture of Rainbow trout.



Ali’I Kula Lavender Farm



SOILS TUNNEL

Built by James Ino, Artwork by Sarah Dorsey, and Painting Assisted by Hannah Lutgen

Paint donated by Mae Nakahata and Warren Watanabe

Project shared by the Olinda-Kula SWCD; Hana SWCD; West Maui SWCD and Central Maui SWCD. (HAWAII)



DELAWARE CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION NEWS



- The Kent Conservation District Barn Dance raised \$9,000 in support of the Delaware Envirothon. KCD also received a \$1,000 grant from the Mid-Del Foundation. Thanks to all the KCD staff, Board Supervisors and other volunteers who make this such a successful fundraiser!
- A contingent from Delaware attended the NACD national conference in Denver, CO.
- Held the annual golf tournament fundraiser in June.
- Held the annual conservation tour (joint effort with SWCS) and annual meeting.
- Many volunteered to assist with the Delaware Envirothon in April.
- Many assisted with the Delaware State Fair Display in July.
- Awarded two college scholarships to college bound children of District employees.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARTNERSHIP



Dynamic Partnerships Celebrated at the 72nd Annual CARCD Conference

California is making great strides in Conservation and Agriculture. We are driving change on several fronts including building capacity for **Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs)**, soil health, carbon farming, helping landowners

cope with a devastating tree mortality crisis, adjusting to the new legal cannabis market, and advocating for a strong effective Farm Bill as well as State Legislation that supports RCD needs. At the center of this momentum is Sacramento, a diverse city nestled in an ecologically abundant region where innovative policy and dynamic partnerships can make the vision of natural resource enhancement on public and private lands a reality.

In recognition and celebration of “*Dynamic Partnerships, Relevant Results*,” the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) was proud to continue the tradition of bringing together the conservation community from around the state for the 72nd Annual CARCD Conference late last year. The conference was held from November 15-18, 2017 in Sacramento, California.

Over 250 professionals attended the Annual Conference in November, including RCD staff and directors, scientists, private landowners, legislators, non-profit partner organizations, and State and Federal agency representatives. Participants enjoyed an unparalleled opportunity to meet new allies, strengthen existing partnerships, become acquainted with locally-driven conservation programs throughout the state, and explore opportunities for innovation through the cross-pollination of ideas.

The Opening Session of the Annual Conference called RCDs to step into a stronger role in supporting their communities and embracing the significant changes we are seeing in our landscapes. Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, called for partnership on promoting agriculture and the image of the farmer; Joe Caves, Principal and Founder of Conservation Strategy Group, asked RCDs to work more closely with elected officials so they better understand and better fund the important work we all do; and Joseph McIntire, President of Ag Innovations, challenged the crowd to step up and be fearless in how we build ties between disparate viewpoints and to listen, build bridges, and be strong enough to get uncomfortable with the conversations and issues that arise. In between presentations, conference participants enjoyed moderated panel discussions on *Cannabis: the Era of a New California Specialty Crop* exploring the way the state will change and the critical role for RCDs within that change, and *Water: A Tale of Two Extremes* which explored the ramifications of the new boom and bust era of the water cycle.

The robust agenda also featured a Day of Training designed exclusively for RCDs and facilitated by Solid Ground Consulting. Two additional days of conference programming included panel discussions, dozens of breakout sessions, poolside chats, and more. Partners and RCDs from throughout California’s conservation and agricultural field presented on a variety of relevant topics, including: Forests and Fires, Water, Sustainable Groundwater Management Agencies, Agricultural Innovation, Carbon Farming, Land Trusts, Urban Restoration, and Successful Partnerships and Programs. The complete agenda and many presentations are available on CARCD’s website at www.carcd.org.

KANSAS



The OWLS (outdoor wildlife learning site) event is held at the Cimarron National Grasslands in Morton County, KS. The OWLS program was developed in 2010 and is sponsored by the Kansa Forest Service, Kansas Wildlife & parks, USDA-NRCS, Stevens County Conservation District, Morton County Museum, and Farm Bureau. Due to weather the event was held at the Morton County Museum in Elkhart, KS. In prior years, there have been as many as five schools attend the outdoor classroom. This year we included Boise City and Keyes, which brought the total to seven schools. There were 190 students, 13 teachers, and 22 presenters at the OWLS event on September 27, 2017. Our target has been on fifth graders and the learning stations cover fire ecology, soil conservation, Santa Fe Trail history, horse/pack stock education, and skin, skulls, and track of wildlife.



Riley County Conservation Dis-

trict has partnered with Tom Roth, NRCS State Agronomist, for 4 years now on a soil health field day. They plant their own cover crop test plots, sample them for quality and quantity measurements, and then present the findings at a field day in October. They invite in experts from KSU and NRCS as well as producers who have been using cover crops. It’s a great opportunity to do some very localized research on what works in Riley County and what doesn’t, and we are able to share that information directly with our landowners. The plot space is donated every year by the same landowner.

COLORADO CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

District employees in Colorado are actively involved in the Envirothon program—20 high school teams compete annually and they provide support for Camp Rocky—a stewardship education program geared toward 14-19 year old youth.

Employees assist with their respective Districts in partnering with agencies/entities to conduct conservation related workshops which include Sustainable Urban Living (Colorado State Extension), Livestock on Small Spaces, Soil Health, Beekeeping and Rain Water collection.

There are 76 Districts across Colorado; 100 District Employees; and the Colorado District Employee Association meetings are held conjunction and partnership with the Colorado State Association meetings.



West Greeley Conservation District staff help landowners with conservation efforts. Photo above



The Wyoming Conservation District Employees Association hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the WY state association meeting. They assist with the coordination of employee education training; scholarships, and support an employee awards program.

There are 34 Districts—90 District Employees. Priorities include the continuation of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program & the District are actively involved in the Governor's H2o Strategy.

Pictured above Wyoming County CD employees preparing young trees for sale.



NEVADA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS work with state and federal agencies to implement nonpoint source pollution grant projects. *Photo above shows Nevada Tahoe Conservation Districts' stormwater drainage and erosion control planning project.*

There are 28 Districts established in Nevada-10 District Employees. Riverbank stabilization projects, as well as endangered and invasive species projects continue to be conservation priorities in Nevada.

NACD, NRCS, and Conservation Districts partnered to create urban gardens in the city of Las Vegas as part of the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant.

Below: Taos SWCD employees -NEW MEXICO—during the state's Regional Envirothon. Competition.



There are 47 District in New Mexico.-81 District Employees. Districts employees are focused on legislative priorities.

The New Mexico Employees Association works closely with the State of NM to implement the Certified Procurement Officer certification program. State statute requires every conservation district to have a certified CPO.

Arizona 's Conservation District number 42 including 10 Tribal Districts-10 District Employees. Their enabling agency is the Arizona State land Department.

The State of Utah has 38 Conservation Districts—41 District Employees. Their enabling agency is the Utah Department of Agriculture.



The Southeast Conservation District Employees Association held their Annual Meeting in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee November 2017

Back row: Rhonda Bryars, SECDEA Past President, Charity Mitcham, Alabama President, Betty Jo Tompkins, Florida President, Amy Clifton, SECDEA Secretary, Janice Gilispie, Tennessee President, Lauren Burroughs, South Carolina President, Nancy Melancon, Mississippi President, Leslie Hacker, SECDEA Treasurer.

On the front row: Kayleigh Evans, SECDEA Vice President & Hope Daley, SECDEA President. Not Pictured is: Jenny Coleman, North Carolina President and Andrew Gilmer, Virginia President.

NCDEA President Tim Riley attended as well as Tennessee NRCS State Conservationist, Kevin Brown.

The Annual Conference theme was “Discovering our Southeast Treasures.” Farm Mom of the Year, Mary Courtney (Kentucky) was the keynote speaker .

Informative sessions included: Client Gateway; NACD Urban Grant; Urban High Tunnels; and the association coordinated a Share Fair.

The SECDEA Presidents Reception closed the conference.

SECDEA Mission: “Our Mission is to promote our natural resources through education and encourage professionalism of conservation district employees.”

Success in St. Mary Parish



RUSH CONSERVATION DISTRICT, KANSAS

Louisiana Highway 182, one of the state’s popular scenic byways, located in Iberia and St. Mary Parishes is lined with majestic moss-draped oak trees and follows closely along the banks of Bayou Teche which was the main channel of the Mississippi River thousands of years ago.

As part of the “New Deal”, during the 1930’s and 40’s President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a public work relief program called the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This program provided young men with the opportunity to work implementing natural resources conservation on rural lands owned by federal, state and local government agencies across the country. One of the projects was planting trees next to Louisiana’s highways. Louisiana Highway 182 is just one of the roadways that were included in the tree planting project. Over time and for various reasons some of the original oak trees died or were removed leaving large spaces where there were no longer trees.

Juanita Clemens, Prog. Technician with the St. Mary Parish FSA , contacted the St.Mary SWCD looking for a way to restore the area. The District applied and received a grant through the Apache Tree Grant Program and received 50 live oak trees.

The District partnered with NRCS, FSA, and the LSU AgCenter to plant and care for the trees. Recently, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has become a partner watering the trees with their tanker trucks in times of drought. Sterling Sugars, LLC donates the use of an auger and operator to help with the plantings as 100 additional live oak trees have been planted since the first grant application was awarded.

“The planting went so well this year that I applied for 200 trees for next year,” said Andrea Dumesnil, Administrative Coordinator for the St. Mary SWCD.



On April 4th, 2017 the 6th Grade Students from LaCrosse and Otis-Bison School districts were invited to the first annual 6th Grade Watershed Field Day at Stone Lake just 1.5 miles east of LaCrosse, KS. 30 students participated with presenters from the Wet Walnut Creek Watershed, KS Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, Kansas Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Rush County Conservation District.

The students took a tour of the dam in the morning. They learned all about the basic parts of the dam, water drainage and maintenance. After the tour the students moved to the LaCrosse Fire Station for lunch.

After lunch, the students learned about the wildlife habitats that Watershed Dams provide. The students then saw two environmental model presentations: a Watershed Enviro-Scape Model and a Floodplain Simulator/ Dam Model. Another presentation was about trees in Kansas and then they finished the afternoon with a history of the Wet Walnut Creek Watershed.

FARM TO FOOD BANK - OKLAHOMA

Two farmer/ranchers were bouncing ideas off of each other about cover crop rotations, no doubt trying to outdo each other, when they came up with the a new idea – using edible cover crops as part of a soil health system. The two producers just happened to be Trey Lam, Executive Director of the Conservation Commission and Jimmy Emmons, President of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts. The two came up with the idea of substituting non-edible cover crops with edible cover crops and allowing the local food banks to glean the produce. The two enlisted the help of USDA-NRCS State Conservationist and friend, Gary O'Neill, and the Farm to Food Bank idea was born.

The Farm to Food Bank pilot project is dedicated to fighting hunger while conserving natural resources. The project utilizes proven conservation practices, such as no-till and a diverse crop rotation system, to improve the health of the soil while growing much needed fresh vegetables for hungry Oklahomans. Legumes, such as peas, provide a natural source of nitrogen while the deep tap roots of okra and turnips help mitigate soil compaction, vining plants, such as gourds provide the soil with shade and help block weeds, and the entire system together creates greater pore space in the soil that allows for improved water infiltration while providing the soil with a cover reducing erosion.

“Oklahoma has long history of solving conservation issues through voluntary, locally led solutions by private land owners,” said Jimmy Emmons, OACD President. “We thought what if we took that spirit of voluntary, locally led solutions and applied it using the soil health movement to help reduce hunger in our communities.”

Four farmers signed on for the initial phase of the pilot project and more than 4,000 pounds of produce has been donated so far. The volunteer farmers are Shane O’Daniel from Weatherford, Ron Hall from Tulsa, Jimmy Emmons of Leedey, and Ian Fuller and Brad Wilson of Vision Farms in Coyle. The volunteer farmers are committed to planting up to 8 acres of cover crops for gleaning. Each farmer has received donated seed from Green Cover Seed.

Last year alone, the Regional Food Bank distributed more than 12.7 million pounds of produce to clients, representing 24 percent of the nonprofit’s total distribution. That number is expected to grow this year.

“Fresh produce is one of our most needed donations, and can also be one of the hardest donations for us to source,” said Katie Fitzgerald, CEO of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. “The Farm to Food Bank pilot project will help the Oklahoma Food Banks in continuing to provide healthy, fresh food options for our clients.”

The pilot project is a partnership was kicked off in June of 2017 when representatives from the Oklahoma State office of USDA-NRCS, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, Green Cover Seed, Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma came together and signed a memorandum of understanding, each committing to do their part to preserve the most precious natural resource we have as agriculturalists, our land and soil, and help our neighbors in need along the way.

To Date:

Over 6,000 pounds of vegetables harvested and provided 5,085 meals to Oklahomans in need.

Three farms established in Dewey, Custer and Garvin Counties

**Volunteer Opportunities:
Help Glean Veggies
Plant a Chaos Garden**



HARVEY COUNTY CONSERVATION
DISTRICT, KANSAS

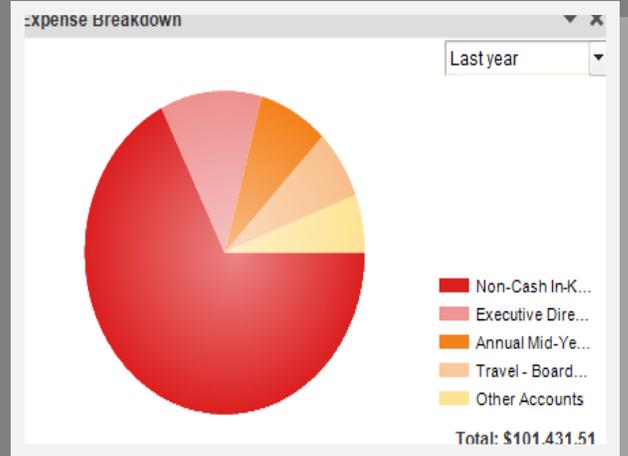
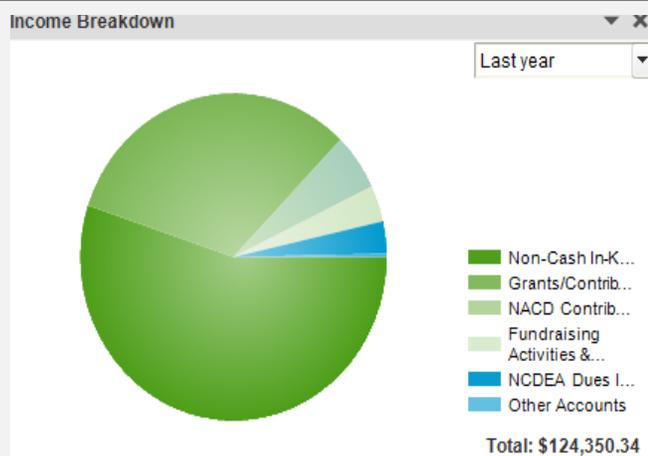
Harvey County Conservation District held their 2nd annual Ag and Conservation Festival May 10, 2017. 300 4th graders attended the event including seven schools. Students rotated through sessions including the soil tunnel trailer, snakes, pollinators, stream bank trailer, wildlife, crops and recycling. The first year was such a success teachers requested that this be an annual event for 4th graders. Each year for the highlight of the day, students get to watch and participate in the Recyclanator show with is a favorite! The Ag and Conservation Festival is being planned for May 3, 2018!

NCDEA

National Conservation District Employees Association

2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ASSETS	31-Dec-17	31-Dec-16
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Bank of America - Operating	88,158.63	45,422.83
Bank of America - Scholarship	17,290.19	18,286.61
Bank of America - Sunshine	706.39	756.39
Total Checking/Savings	106,155.21	64,465.83
Accounts Receivable	0.00	5,000.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00	30,000.00
Total Current Assets	106,155.21	99,465.83
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	0.00	16,229.45
Equity		
Opening Bal Equity	27,451.02	27,451.02
Retained Earnings	55,785.36	29,383.79
Net Income	22,918.83	26,401.57
Total Liabilities & Equity	106,155.21	99,465.83



2017 NCDEA COMMITTEES

AUDIT COMMITTEE: *Review the association's financial reports to ensure that all reports are current & accurate.* Rhonda Kelsch, Chair; Irene Moore, Tim Thomas

AWARDS: *Selects and recognizes noteworthy District Employees and Board Officials* Pam Hawkins & Rick Mickowski, Co Chair ; Tim Thomas, & Melissa Higbee

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE: *Sends appropriate gifts as needed to board/past board members of NCDEA in times of encouragement, illness, death of family member, etc.* Melissa Higbee, Chair; Jeanette Hale

BY-LAW COMMITTEE: *To review & recommend revisions/ amendments of the by-laws for approval by the board.* Irene Moore, Chair; Jeff Parker, Rick McSwain, Rich Deusterhaus

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: *Compiles information to be given to web editor to keep website current/active, compiles Annual Report, Maintains Archive.* Jeanette Hale, Chair; Rhonda Bryars, Rick Mickowski, Photographer

EVENTS COMMITTEE: *To organize tours & nightly entertainment as fundraisers for the association's annual meeting.* Jeanette Hale, Chair;, Rhonda Bryars, Irene Moore, Melissa Higbee & Rich Duesterhaus

GRANT COMMITTEE: *Seek grant opportunities to support activities of the association. To review conduit applications for program eligibility.* Tim Riley, Chair; Rhonda Kelsch, Melissa Higbee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: *Promote nominations for NCDEA officer positions & recommend nominees for each office.* Irene Moore, Chair; committee appointed by chair

PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE: *Consists of former NCDEA presidents/mentors to full board.* Irene Moore, Chair; Connie Richmeier, Cindy Mood, Robert Dobbs, Rich Baden & Mott Buff

POLICY & PROCEDURE COMMITTEE: *Review & revise policies & procedures as needs of association changes.* Rhonda Kelsch, Chair; Tim Thomas, Jeanette Hale, Velynda Parker

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: *Create, organize & conduct training opportunities for the assoc. annual meetings.* Velynda Parker, Chair; Irene Moore, Coleta Bratten

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: *Review applications & select deserving recipient.* Pam Hawkins & Rick Mickowski, Co-chair; Jeanette Hale, Robert Dobbs

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: *Plan short/long term goals & expectations of the association.* Rhonda Kelsch, Chair; Irene Moore, Coleta Bratten, Jeff Parker, Rich Duesterhaus

2017 NCDEA REPRESENTATIVES TO NACD COMMITTEES/ TASK FORCE/RPG ASSIGNMENTS &

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION

NACD COASTAL RESOURCE POLICY GROUP :
Kevin Donnelly, Delaware

NACD PUBLIC LANDS RESOURCE POLICY GROUP:
Peter Vigil, New Mexico

NACD FORESTRY RESOURCE POLICY GROUP:
Rick Reimer, Minnesota

NACD URBAN & COMMUNITY CONSERVATION RESOURCE POLICY GROUP: Cliff Lundin, New Jersey

NACD TRIBAL OUTREACH:
Duane Vanhook, North Carolina & Peter Vigil, New Mexico

NACD DISTRICT OPERATION & MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE: Tim Riley & Irene Moore (Alt)

NACD STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
Coleta Bratten & Velynda Parker (Alt)

NACD NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY COMMITTEE:
Jeff Parker-NY, Peter Vigil-NM & Rhonda Kelsch,ND(Alt)

NACD COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:
Rhonda Bryars, AL & Melissa Higbee , Michigan(Alt)

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP TEAM: Tim Riley, DE & Rich Duesterhaus, DC

NRCS NATIONAL EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT BOARD:
Rhonda Kelsch, ND; Tim Riley, DE (Alt)

NATIONAL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION COMMITTEE:
Irene Moore

NATIONAL CONSERVATION PLANNING PARTNERSHIP Leadership Team: Irene Moore-OH, Mendel Wade,-TN & Melissa Higbee-MI

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING ON ANY OF THESE COMMITTEES OR WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE EMAIL TIM RILEY, PRESIDENT, NCDEA

Timothy.Riley@state.de.us

Visit our website at www.ncdea.org

#CDEmployeesAtWork



Follow us on Facebook at National-
Conservation-District-Employees-Association



The Nor'Easter

Re-Visiting Vermont

Thanks to the host state of Vermont for helping NACDE with the logistics of the Sunday tour. We were able to visit Bread and Butter Farm, the Dakin Farm store, and Magic Hat brewery. It was a very enjoyable day!



KCD Board Receives President's Award



The Kent Conservation District Board of Supervisors in DE received the NACDE President's Award during the annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont. The KCD Board are strong supporters of employee involvement at the state, regional, and national level. KCD District Coordinator Tim Riley has served as NCDEA President for several years and as Treasurer.

Continued on page 2

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Special points of interest:

- *The National Conservation District Employees Association is planning to hold their mid-year meeting in June in the northeast region. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.*

Pennsylvania Employee Receives NACDE Award



Robert Sweitzer, District Manager for the Centre County Conservation District was the recipient of the 2017 NACDE Employee Award. Since Robert was unable to be in Vermont, Sandy Thompson, NACDE Vice President and Deb Wilson, District Manager for Jefferson County CD and members of the PACD District Employees Committee presented the award to Bob in October. Bob has been the District Manager for over 25 years. He has been an active participant in state association meetings at the regional and state level and a long-time member of several PACD committees.

In his capacity as District Manager, he has guided his staff and directors with skill and has excelled at promoting the District to elected officials and other stakeholders. His expertise in environmental stewardship has been put to good use through his service on many organizations and committees, and task force. He is a strong advocate for the local Envirothon program and active member of the Pennsylvania Envirothon Committee and Board of Directors for nearly 30 years.

KCD Board Receives President's Award



Tim Riley wrote in a letter to NACDE "President Parker and the NACDE Board, I apologize that I could not be there for the presentation of this award, but thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment. This is a great honor, and I cannot think of more deserving recipients than the Kent Conservation District Board. They have never wavered in their support of District employees at all levels throughout the nation, and have proven their support time and time again over the past 25+ years and continue to do so. To the KCD Supervisors I say "Thank you" on behalf of all

"This is a great honor, and I cannot think of more deserving recipients than the KCD Board of Supervisors"
Tim Riley, NCDEA President

conservation district employees nationwide, and especially from me personally; through your support for me and the other KCD employees work on state, regional, and national conservation district employee associations you have made a GREAT impact in the respect that conservation district employees receive nationwide, and as an active partner in the National Conservation Partnership of NACD, NASCA, NCDEA, NRCS, and NARC&DC. To my fellow KCD employees I say, be proud, your Supervisors are among the best in the nation in supporting District employees. Thank you President Parker, NACDE Board, and the entire North-east Association, this is truly a great honor for a truly deserving Conservation District Board of Supervisors."

NCDEA's Don Aron Scholarship Application Due on March 15th



If you are a District employee or family member of a District Employee studying some aspect of natural resource management you should consider applying for the NCDEA Don Aron Scholarship. A District employee from New York was the 2017 recipient. Michelle Vedder-Drew is the Education Coordinator for the Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center operated by the Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District in Ghent, New York. Michelle is enrolled in the MS Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy Program at the University of Albany. While serving in her capacity at Education Coordinator, Michelle attends classes at SUNY with the intent on earning her degree in order to focus on protecting the natural world of New York State. She shares that "her research at SUNY Albany aims to alleviate the watershed public information gap and in turn possibly help the Mohawk River Watershed stakeholders to become better stewards of their precious aquatic resources.

Since receiving the scholarship, Michelle has left her position at the District.

NACDE Stipend Supports Two New Hampshire Employees



The NACDE Board was pleased to provide stipends to two employees from the state of New Hampshire to attend the Northeast Region Meeting in Vermont. The recipients of the stipend were Kerry Rickrode, Manager of the Hillsborough Conservation District and Amanda Littleton, Manager of the Cheshire County Conservation District who were both thankful to have the extra financial support to enable them to attend. Kerry wrote “ Thank you to NACDE for awarding me a stipend to attend the Northeast Region meeting in Vermont. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the meeting. It was a great opportunity to come together with other representatives in the Northeast to hear about what everyone is working on. Sharing project ideas was one of the most valuable things I took away from the meeting. Additionally, I thoroughly enjoyed the local foods bus tour on the final day. I was in amazement at what the UVM hospital has accomplished in their local foods efforts. Visiting the chicken processing farm was an eye-opening and a huge learning experience as I had never visited this type of farm before. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to attend and give me professional development opportunities as well. It was a great meeting.”



Amanda shared this: “Thank you again for the opportunity! Attending the NACD annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont was a worthwhile experience and I am thankful for the opportunity that the NACDE scholarship provided. It was rewarding to learn firsthand from other Conservation District employees from around the region. I gained a deeper understanding of the diversity of programming and services being offered. I have a stronger appreciation for the unique natural resource challenges each state faces. I particularly enjoyed the field visits to farms in the region to learn more about the nutrient management work being done in Vermont..”

NACDE 2018 Meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Save the Date!

July 15-18, 2018

NACD Northeast Regional Meeting and

PACD/SCC Joint Annual Conference

Also NACDE Annual Meeting and Sunday Tour

Double Tree Resort by Hilton Hotel

Lancaster, PA

“ Make plans to visit Amish country in Lancaster. NACDE will have an interesting tour planned for Sunday, July, 15th.”



Conservation Partnership “Boot Camp” A Great Experience



The National Conservation Planning Partnership has been working hard to keep funding the Conservation Planning Boot Camps in Lincoln, Nebraska and offering monthly webinars. The next round of Boot Camps is coming up April through September. As an employee, check with your District Manager and your State Conservation District Association about attending one of the 3 week sessions.

Those who have attended from the northeast region have had a great learning experience and recommend attendance.

**NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION
DISTRICT EMPLOYEES**

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Special Advisor

NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinars are held the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact Deb Bogar from NACD at Deb-Bogar@nacdn.net to register or for more information.

National Conservation Planning Partnership webinars are held the last Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. eastern time. Each webinar features conservation planning efforts from the state hosting the webinar.

NASCA (National Association of State Conservation Agencies) has a lot of great information on their website.

They also host conservation webinars. The next webinar will be on March 7th and the topic is partnering with your local Resource Conservation and Development Council. Two Councils from the northeast region will be featured, First State RC&D Council in Delaware and Southern Maryland RC&D Council. Go to www.nascanet.org for more details.



Jeff and Velynda Parker attend the NCDEA Board of Directors meeting in Nashville, TN



2018 Stewardship Theme

Social Media Tips (via Montana Employees Association)

At the Statewide Administrator's Training this month, we had a great discussion about social media and how to use it to better reach people in your area. Social Media is great for keeping your organization in people's minds, which is important when they're, you know, thinking about digging up a stream or maybe implementing some cover crops. Your job is to help them, so make sure that you're the first place they think to go!

One of the most important things you can do to increase your visibility in people's feeds is to increase interaction on your posts. That means that the more likes, comments, and shares each post has, the more likely it is that Facebook's algorithm will put that post AND FUTURE POSTS in someone's feed. One way to work in this system is by recruiting your friends to engage with your posts. And what better friends does your district have than other districts?

So here is a list of the Conservation Districts that I could find with Facebook pages. If you know of others, please let me know! If you really want to drive engagement to a specific post, message these people and ask them to comment on it or share it. Sometimes just putting it up and hoping they see it isn't enough.

And here are some blog posts with useful tips on other ways to increase engagement:

Post Planner: [10 \(almost\) Effortless Ways to Boost Facebook Engagement](#)

Kissmetrics: [8 Surefire Ways to Increase Engagement](#)

Sprout Social: [10 Ways Marketers Can Increase Facebook Engagement](#)

The Balance: [Ways to Supercharge Your Nonprofit's Facebook Page](#)

Cause VOX: [6 Ways Nonprofits Must Adapt Their Facebook Strategy](#)

(Are you getting the hint from these experts that blog posts with a list are good content engagement generators?)

New Employees March 2017 - March 2018

Division I				
Laura Bestehorn	Genessee	Clerk/ Treasurer	May	2017
Division II				
Stephanie Castle	Monroe	Watershed Agricultural Coordinator	Aug	2017
Kim Clark	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	July	2017
Ron May	Onondaga	Soil & Water Resource Technician	May	2016
Katie Cappiello	Ontario	Water Resource Technician	Nov	2017
Taylor Hersh	Yates	District Technician	Feb	2018
Ethan Hall	Yates	District Technician	June	2017
Division III				
Kathrine Whitcomb	Herkimer	District Technician	July	2017
Division IV				
Charlotte Atti	Cortland	Conservation Assistant	Nov	2017
Kathleen McGrath	Cortland	Water Quality Specialist	Nov	2017
Judy Littrell	Cortland	Conservation Educator	July	2017
Ben Dates	Delaware	Stream Program Engineer	April	2017
Danielle Singer	Tioga	Water Quality Specialist	July	2017
Laura Grant	Tioga	Buffer Technician	July	2017
Stephanie Resienburg	Tioga	Wetland Technician	May	2017
Division V				
Amy Calkins	Essex	District Technician	Sept	2017
Marj Remias	Hamilton	District Secretary	June	2017
Division VI				
Tami Allen	Fulton	Secretary/ Treasurer	Mar	2017
Shannon McCarthy	Saratoga	Office Manager	June	2017
Division VII				
Pamela Price	Columbia	Education Program Coordinator	Jan	2018
Allison Holmes	Dutchess	District Technician	Aug	2017
Laurie Deyo	Greene	Administrative Assistant	Sept	2017
Michael Butler	Greene	Stream Stewardship Technician	June	2017
Michelle McDonough	Greene	District Technician	Nov	2017
Tami Allen	Fulton	Secretary/ Treasurer	Mar	2017
Travis Ferry	Orange	District Technician	Sept	2017
Shannon McCarthy	Saratoga	Office Manager	June	2017

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2018

Division I					Years
Dave Spann	Chautauqua	District Field Manager	Sep	1998	20
Deb Kelly	Chautauqua	Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer	Sep	1993	25
Dave Wilson	Chautauqua	District Technician	May	1983	35
Mark Gaston	Erie	Field Manager	Oct	1998	20
Robert Berkemeier	Genesee	District Technician	Apr	1968	50
Division II					
Allyn Noga	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	Feb	1993	25
Valerie Horning	Cayuga	Conservation District Technician	Mar	1993	25
Robert Stryker	Livingston	District Manager	Jan	1998	20
Mark Burger	Onondaga	Executive Director	Jan	2003	15
Elaine Borgeest	Ontario	Clerk/ Treasurer	Oct	2008	10
Jamie Noga	Ontario	Typist	Apr	2008	10
Chris Hotto	Wayne	District Technician: Soil Resource Specialist	May	2008	10
Scott DeRue	Wayne	District Technician: Water Resource Specialist	Oct	2008	10
Colby Peterson	Yates	District Technician	Jan	2003	15
Rick Ayers	Yates	District Technician	Oct	1988	30
James Balyszak	Yates	District Manager	Aug	1988	30
Division III					
Jerry Boyd	Madison	Conservation District Technician	Jul	2008	10
David Livermore	Madison	Nutrient Management Planner	Feb	1998	20
Kevin Lewis	Oneida	Executive Director	Jan	1988	30
Division IV					
Justin Puglisi	Broome	Grazing Specialist	Aug	2008	10
Jessica Verrigni	Chemung	Stormwater Technician	Aug	1998	20
Shawn Murphy	Cortland	Natural Resource Conservation Specialist	Oct	2008	10
Catherine Skalda	Delaware	CSBI Coordinator	Jan	2008	10
Judith Spencer	Delaware	Administrative Assistant	Mar	1998	20
Brian Danforth	Delaware	Civil Engineering Technician	Jul	1983	35
Jeff Parker	Steuben	District Manager	Jun	1988	30
Lee Rizon	Steuben	Equipment Operator	Jun	1988	30
Division V					
Dave Reckahn	Essex	District Manager	Oct	1993	25
Chastity Miller	Franklin	District Manager	Dec	2008	10
Caitlin Stewart	Hamilton	Conservation Educator	Jan	2008	10
Jim Lieberum	Warren	District Manager	Jul	1998	20
Division VI					
Peter Bayzon	Albany	Natural Resource Specialist	Mar	2008	10
Darryl Romano	Schenectady	Medium Equipment Operator	Jul	1998	20
Peter Nichols	Schoharie	District Manager	May	2008	10
Corrina Aldrich	Washington	District Manager	Jan	2008	10

Robert Kalbfliesh	Washington	District Technician	Jul	1998	20
Division VII					
Abbe Martin	Greene	Conservation Planner	Oct	2003	15
Joel DuBois	Greene	District Program Specialist	Aug	1998	20
Leslie Kirby	Sullivan	District Technician	Jun	1998	20
Lisa Schick	Sullivan	Program Assistant	Jan	1998	20
Gary Capella	Ulster	Executive Director	Jun	1993	25
Division VIII					
Rebecca Schultz	NY City	Education Program Coordinator	Sep	2008	10
Shino Tanikawa	NY City	District Manager	Aug	1998	20
Robert Doscher	Westchester	District Manager	Feb	1993	25



President's Report: 2017-2018

As I complete my term as President of the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association I want to first thank the CDEA board for putting me in this position. As many of you know PJ Emerick stepped down as our President last year to move on to a new position. The CDEA Board voted to have me replace PJ and finish out his Term. It has truly been an honor to serve you. I would like to think that the Executive Board members and I have moved the ball forward a little bit in our objective to strengthen local Soil and Water Conservation Districts of New York State.

The CDEA has been working with a select group from across the state to develop the Erosion and Sediment Control Certification that is now available to both district and private sector to assist us all in implementing practices across the landscape. A special thanks goes out to Don Lake PE, Kelly Emerick, Jim Lieberum, Tim Clark and all the others for their work on this project. Courses are being offered at this year's WQS and the first qualifying test is being offered on Friday at the WQS.

2017 saw a large increase in Part C funding for Performance Measures. Although there have been some glitch's in how the program is working, the NYSCDEA continues to work to ensure that the Performance Measures work to support our district activities. Staying involved with the State Committee and NYACD members will be important to make sure they understand how the Performance Measures are working and impacting Districts. It is also important that we share how we are using these funds to plan and implement conservation at the local level so that we can continue to see support from the state for this funding source.

As President of the NYSCDEA I have had the opportunity to represent you at State Committee meetings, NYACD meetings, NRCS technical and management team meetings, 4-Way Partnership, Technical Advisory Committee and others. I have tried to make sure that other organizations and agencies understand the type of work Districts are capable of and that when given resources, we make conservation happen. One thing that is clear is that Districts in New York State are very strong and measure up to other states. I believe that we are real leaders in conservation and we have developed Districts that are a model for other states to replicate.

The NYSCDEA has many people working in the organization on a variety of activities. I want to thank all of the committees who work throughout the year to put on successful programs year after year. The Association could not do it without the work of so many. I would also take a moment to tell other Soil and Water Conservation District employees to get involved in some way in the Association, especially newer employees. Remember, it is free to be a member and you can obtain benefits such as Conservation Skills Workshop, Water Quality Symposium and Envirothon by just showing up. However, I would suggest that you can get even more benefits by getting involved in a committee or helping with various Association business. Not only do you get

the satisfaction of putting together some good programs but you get to share your talents and ideas, meet employees across the state, forge friendships, get out of the office for a little bit and get some new perspectives. It is an Employees' Association and it starts and ends with dedicated employees working together to make us stronger.

I also need to thank the staff of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District. They have been patient and supportive over the past year as I served as President. I am so proud of the work that these folks are doing. Also, I appreciate my Board's support through all of this. Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Kim, and three children (Greg, Mady and Laura) for their patience and understanding as I have left them behind to attend various activities and meetings on behalf of the Association.

Thank you again for the honor to serve as your President.

Steve Lorraine, President, NYSCDEA, Inc.

Vice Presidents Report- Chastity Miller Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

It has been a busy first year as the Vice President of the NYSCDEA! We are very excited to be back at the Double Tree in Syracuse and are very thankful for all the assistance and support they have giving us to plan the 2018 Water Quality Symposium. We have a record number of attendees for the week, over 360 registered, 40 instructors/presenters, 42 classes, 28 vendors for the resource fair, a photo booth, the Old Main Band on Wednesday night, a DJ and a ton of awesome bucket raffle and silent auction items.

The NYSCDEA is very lucky to have members that are so dedicated and awesome! Thank you all on the board for your dedication and commitment! In the past year we have met around the state for our meetings and many Districts have graciously hosted us! Thank you! It has been amazing to be part of and to see what is going on around the state! It is nice to have a chance to add another north country connection to the board. A huge thank you to Kristin White for all your support and guidance on my first year! You are amazing!

In June we send out requests for the hotel each year, if you want us to look at an awesome location near you let us know before then and we can get them a bid package. We are going more digital this year too! We are going to revamp the request form and do it online!

Every year we have a committee of people that get together to plan for symposium classes. This takes place in September of the year if you have ideas or want to be involved let me know! We are always looking for new and innovative classes to share each year! 2019 will be a CNMP year so keep that in mind! A thank you to all who helped. A shout out to Caitlin Stewart for getting the first class request form in! Congrats to Allen Young for having the most people signed up for a class he help set up!

We have also decided to do away with the paper evaluation forms. We are doing a google doc form this year. So be on the lookout for that following the 2018 WQS.

Last but certainly not least I want to thank the staff and the board of directors at Franklin County Soil and Water! Kristin, Karen and Allycia have been absolutely amazing! They have done just as much if not more than I have to make this event come together! THANK YOU LADIES! You all are priceless!



2018 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.

In our current age of technology, this could not be made any easier. Dialogue and conversations between the Executive Board and the eight (8) Division Representatives takes place on a consistent and regular basis occurring through email and regularly scheduled meetings. Each of the Division Representatives has shown a strong interest in the CDEA and provided significant contributions as a result of their reliable attendance at CDEA Board meetings.

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 past year, I reviewed and processed 89 requests. I want to say thank you to everyone that submitted one, had it organized and ready to go. It really makes the entire process smoother. As a reminder, going through 2018, please use the most current form that has been updated with the new CDEA logo. A fillable version of form can be found on the CDEA Website – www.nyscdea.com under the useful resources tab. Please remember to sign the form in pen. Save postage, feel free to scan and email the completed form and copies of the receipts to my attention: dkierst@cayugaswcd.org.

On August 14, 2017, I was able to participate in the CDEA Audit process along with Kelly Emerick, Division 2 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.

The Member-At-Large position and odd-numbered Divisions (I, III, V, VII) are scheduled to have elections take place in 2019. 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

2017 Division I Annual Report

I would like to thank everyone in Division I for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the NYSCDEA Executive Board. I have found Division I responsibilities to be very rewarding and would encourage any employee within the division to participate if and when the opportunity presents itself. Participation could be on the board itself or on a variety of different committee's that require employee input. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss your participation.

As the Division I Representative it is my task to make sure that the Frank Bratt Scholarship Application announcement gets out to everyone and to oversee the applications. In the past year we received sixteen applications for a total of \$5,913.22 in funding of which we were able to fund \$2,985.22.

As a summary of Division I county activity, 26 applications were submitted for funding through Round 23 of the Ag Non-Point Source grant program, 12 of which were approved for funding, securing close to 7 million dollars in state funding for agricultural water quality improvements in Western New York (36% of awards). Congratulations to a job well done Division I. In addition, the counties have lots of other quality programs and services they provide such as: AEM planning, watershed planning and lake initiatives, stormwater technical assistance, streambank restoration, environmental education, Tree and Shrub, etc.

Niagara County has been working on a Japanese Knotweed eradication project on 30 sites, encompassing 10 acres for a couple of years and are going to expand the program in 2018 to over 60 sites and 20 acres.

Orleans and Genesee County have been working jointly on promoting a farmer led and run Soil Health Alliance for the Western New York area. This Alliance has grown to over 70 eager farmers willing to promote soil health practices. Several workshops have been held with over 100 in attendance at each one.

The Genesee County SWCD, representing the Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts, was awarded \$749,240 from the U.S. EPA to implement agricultural best management practices on at least 2,700 acres in the Genesee River Watershed. Grassed waterways, sediment control basins, cover crops, and stream exclusion fencing are some of the projects to be installed to significantly reduce phosphorus and sediment loading into the Genesee River and Lake Ontario. Other participating Districts in this grant project include Allegany, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Steuben, and Wyoming SWCDs.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Laura Bestehorn, Clerk/Treasurer from Genesee County to District employment in Division I. Also, congratulations to Molly Cassatt, Genesee County for her promotion to District Manager, Jared Elliott, Genesee County for his promotion to District Field Manager, and Allen Fagan, Wyoming County for his promotion to District Manager.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Bennett, Orleans County SWCD, Division I Representative



Division II Report
2017 Annual Report

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

Cayuga: No Report Provided

Livingston: No Report Provided

Monroe:

- In July we hired a Watershed Agricultural Coordinator, Stephanie Castle, for the Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts (9 counties in NYS and 1 county in PA);
- Purchased two interseeder machines for the Genesee River Watershed Coalition that will be leased to the farms in all counties that are participating in the program;
- Genesee River Watershed Coalition received an Regional Conservation Partnership Program with NRCS grant for \$1,875,000 and a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant for over \$700,000 to implement Ag BMPS throughout the watershed;
- Conducted 75 Erosion and Sediment Control Construction Inspections & completed 158 requests from municipalities for stormwater technical assistance; Held 13 stormwater related trainings and workshops & trained 476 people; Distributed 70 rainbarrels to 57 Monroe County Residents;
- Creating an online course for the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control training on behalf of NYS CDEA;
- Assisting in developing the NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program;
- Rolled out our North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative Culvert Assessment Program to County DOT and the municipalities located in our focus watershed, created an informational brochure, and purchased equipment to complete 17 culvert assessments so far;
- Awarded \$561,000 under WQIP Round 14 for two projects: Black Creek Streambank Stabilization and Nature Based Shoreline in Irondequoit Bay;
- Working on 3 projects under WQIP Round 12: 1) Completed design plans and preparing for construction of a regional stormwater pond facility in June of 2018, 2) 17,000 sq.ft. of a 34,000 square foot riparian buffer project was implemented in November, 3) and busy planning and designing for a stream restoration project scheduled for construction in the summer of 2019;
- Awarded \$100,000 from GLRI for an Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation project in Monroe County;
- Implemented 230 feet of stream stabilization, 13,500 sq. ft. of riparian buffer and a fishing access area in Salmon Creek Park within the Village of Hilton using FL-LOWPA funding from the County;
- Partnered to host a "Farm to Table" Dinner at the Duran Eastman Golf Club with 130 attendees made up of farmers, farm bureau members, extension and District employees, and several legislators. Recognized a Conservationist of the Year from 2016, David Lindsay, Commissioner of Public Works/Superintendent of Highways at Town of Chili for his support of the MCSWCD Stormwater Management Program and dedication to implementing several conservation related projects since 2008 to improve natural resources;
- Implemented one (1) Cropland to Pasture Conversion, and 1186 acres of Cover Cropping to reduce soil & nutrient loss on 10 farms with cost-share funds in the amount of \$47,365 under the grant programs Round 20 & 21 AgNPS;
- Through Part B funds, completed a Native Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Project that implemented 1 acre on 3 public accessible sites (2 Town Parks and 1 You-Pick Farm);
- Assisted 1 farm in planning, surveying, designing, lay out, and implementation of 2,400 feet of subsurface drainage; Implemented an Ag Plastics Recycling Program, collecting 3,900 pounds of plastic from 7 farms;
- Distributed 20,150 trees, shrubs, and other plants to 307 customers; & 1,264 fish fingerlings and 24 grass carp to 16 customers;
- Hosted Conservation Field Days with 1,355 students participating & a local Envirothon event with 26 teams and 130 students competing.

Onondaga:

- Four person team hand-pulled ~13,000 pounds of water chestnuts from a 19-mile stretch of the Seneca River in a six-week period (July – August);
- Planted 726 1.5” caliper “non-Ash” trees in Onondaga Lake Park to begin replacing high functions and values that trees provide in the park setting;
- 4,176 ash trees cut/removed on County ROW to reduce threat of EAB;
- 207 ash trees/5,101 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);
- District Forester’s sold 187 Ash trees in Oneida Shores County Park (32,250 bf);
- Hydroseeded 40 acres / 43 miles of disturbed soil (primarily road ditch clean outs);
- 5,527 seedlings, 77 conservation pacs, and 22 blue bird and bat houses sold through annual spring sale;
- 3,089 ac. of cover crops planted with farmer support and various funding sources;
- The SLWAP sold their 6-row JD no-till corn planter and their 10-ft Great Plains Drill after the spring planting season and purchased a new Esch 5512 no-till drill (12-ft wide). 251 ac. of agricultural land were planted w/ the new no-till drill;
- 2,700 LF of exclusion fence was installed to facilitate grazing systems on farms;
- 3,089 AC of nutrient management recommendations were provided to 4 farms;
- 4 Manure storage and transfer systems were implemented on 4 farms;
- Performed 98 construction site inspections for nine active County projects;
- 272 folks trained in DEC endorsed contractor erosion & sediment control (12 classes);
- 10 municipalities participated in the second annual Snow & Ice Control Workshop at the NYS Fairgrounds to calibrate municipal road salt spreading equipment;
- 1,630 LF of stream bed and bank stabilization was implemented on agricultural and residential lands.

Ontario:

- This past year has been a busy one for staff changes. In May, our Senior District Manager P.J. Emerick took a position as Associate Environmental Analyst with the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee. We were joined by Tom DeRue, former District Manager, serving as Interim Director for Ontario SWCD during the transition and in August, Megan Webster was made District Manager. Katie Cappiello joined the team in November as a Water Resource Technician;
- Things have been very active with grants; we submitted successful proposals under Climate Resilient Farming, AgNPS Round 23 and CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer, NYS Grown and Certified grants totaling almost \$3 million;
- The District hosted a variety of outreach events focusing on a wide range of topics from soil health to onsite treatment systems to Emergency Stream Intervention training. Many workshops on rain gardens, stormwater management and additional conservation topics were presented to the community;
- We are excited for the work ahead in 2018 which looks to be another eventful year!

Seneca: No Report Provided

Wayne:

- The Wayne District is made up of 14 employees including, full, part and seasonal time people and a dedicated five person Board of Directors
- 225 technical assistance requests/assisted to a solution for landowner management;
- Completed 45 site visits for stormwater and flood control management related to Lake Ontario Flood Response;
- 67 meetings attended; 100 hours partnership networking and development;
- 139 Watershed management activities completed;
- Two stream stabilization projects completed;
- Nine drainage & stormwater management projects completed totaling 10 miles of conduction and two culvert replacements;
- Five Critical Area Seeding projects completed;
- One Habitat Restoration project completed on south of Sodus Bay Bridge;
- 3,114 acres of invasive species management occurred between mechanical harvesting, and Nine hand harvesting events;
- 12 flood mitigation assistance related to stream corridor management;
- 76 permit assisted;
- One mine land reclamation and planning permit;

Wayne (continued):

- Six culvert assessments completed; two installed;
- One forestry landowner management plan requested;
- 2593 participants in 19 events for conservation/environmental education outreach;
- 173 Ag value assessment worksheets;
- 11 farms assisted with six different systems including but not limited to: Soil conservation system; Erosion control system- structural; Silage leachate control and treatment system; Composting system – animal; Livestock heavy use area runoff management; and Prescribed rotational grazing system.

Yates: No Report Provided

Submitted by,

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



Division III- *Covering Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties*

The responsibilities of Division III include assisting with State Fair and working with Division IV to organize and coordinate the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction at the Water Quality Symposium.

Division III Unique Projects Showcase:

Herkimer County – Ag Nonpoint Source Round 22 Project

Total Grant Amount: \$406,588 State Share: \$231,000

This project provides cost share for the installation of an earthen manure storage with a heavy duty polyethylene cover and a flare.



The system is near completion. The waste storage is constructed, cover installed, access road completed, secondary venting installed, clean water outlet, fencing, and seeding are all completed. The flare has been delivered with installation scheduled for early spring. Discussions continue at the state level between NYS DEC and Ag. and Markets about the need for permitting and/or registering the flare for emissions.

Lewis County – Interseeder

In 2017, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was able to purchase a machine called an Interseeder. This versatile piece of equipment offers many functions combined into a single unit. Its capabilities include that of a conventional no-till grain drill with the additional ability to remove row units so that cover crop species can be planted in between growing rows of corn. This particular unit is a 15 foot drill with the capability of planting between 6 rows of corn. This past season the district was able to demonstrate its use on 100 acres working with a private agricultural landowner. A Soil Health Workshop was held also to share the success of the Interseeder and promote its use on other farms.



Madison County – Flood Mitigation Project

The Village off Chittenango in the North West corner of Madison County approached the District after severe rain events resulted in repeated flooding of the Village. Runoff from a 90 acre crop field above the village was carrying significant amounts of sediment laden storm water into the village causing damage to both public and private property. The District determined that a storm water detention basin located between the field and the village could retain the water and slow release it to the existing drainage system while both eliminating the flooding issue and also settling out significant portions of the sediment at the same time. The structure was designed to empty over the course of 24 hours which allowed the existing infrastructure to handle the water without the Village enduring any flooding in this location. The structure is also designed so the Village DPW can clean the accumulated sediments out as needed to ensure the structure has the capacities required to continue working well into the future.



Oneida County – Earl Manor Stream Restoration Project

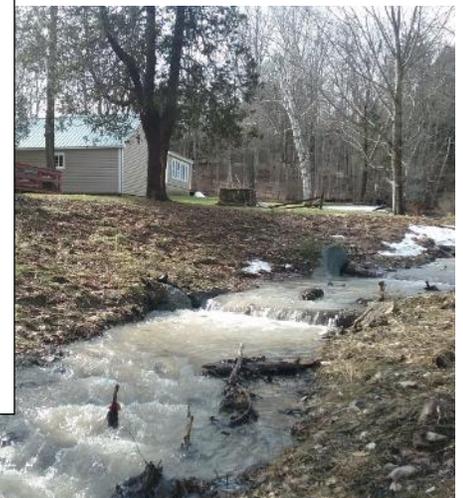
The Earl Manor Stream Restoration Project included over 70 in-stream rock and log grade control structures for approximately 1400 linear feet of an unclassified, stream in a residential area that had been degraded by intense storms. The Oneida County SWCD was able to collaborate with the USFWS’ Partners for Wildlife Biologist, Gian Dodici on the design and installation. JB Excavating performed the onsite work. The formerly incised channel was graded to stable bankfull dimensions. The newly stabilized channel protects property, mitigates downstream blockage in the culvert and will hopefully provide habitat for native salmonids. Work was completed in the Fall of 2017. The project was funded by the Oneida County Flood Mitigation Grant, the NYSDOS’ LWRP grant and the Town of Marshall.



Upstream View: June 2016, erosive bank, debris blocking channel, incised conditions.



December 2017, 2 months post-construction; upstream view; log and rock grade control structures stabilize the bed and provide habitat.



Upstream view of same location in February 2018, 4 months post-construction, during melt event.

Oswego County – Invasive Aquatic Species Treatment

In 2017, the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District conducted a control program for water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), a highly invasive aquatic species. The program involved hand-pulling populations of chestnuts that were no longer dense enough to be chemically treated. The District hired 5 seasonal employees for a 9-week period to physically remove the plants. The crew used canoes to access the populations in several waterbodies throughout Oswego County. This was a very successful program with approximately 13,750 lbs of water chestnuts removed.



Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep



Division IV- Covering Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Thompsons, Tioga

I would like to thank everyone in Division VI for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the NYSCDEA Executive Board and 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 in May 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. Joint Division IV meeting will held again this year in the late spring.

Unique Projects for Division IV:

This fall Cortland SWCD and the Town of Lapeer replaced an undersized dual culvert with a box culvert while creating grade control and fish passage structures for the Town of Lapeer. A series of head cuts had eroded the stream bed directly below the old culvert, making it impossible for brook trout and other species to pass upstream or downstream. The previous crossing was in jeopardy of being washed away and reduced to one lane. Fish now have a series of pools that were installed to allow fish passage through the riffles, reconnecting 8.25 miles of prime brook trout habitat on Owego Creek. Just one week after installation, brook trout were found in the pools between structures. The installation also served as a training tool for educating municipal officials on proper culvert installation and best management practices. This spring a riparian buffer will be planted as well.



Before



After

After jumping through many hoops the Kutik Honey House project partially funded through the STAIEP Program is nearing completion in Chenango County.



In Steuben County, one of our farmers installed a grain bin in conjunction with soy bean press as an economic enhancement for his farm which either reduce or eliminate his feed cost due to feeding the bi-product (castings) to the dairy herd and refine the oil to a fuel or feed enhancement.



Respectfully submitted,
Velynda Parker
NYSCDEA Division IV Rep

Division V
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren
March 14, 2018 NYCDEA Annual Meeting
DoubleTree, Syracuse

Division Wide

- Division Meeting held October 25, 2017 with 22 attendees, including employees, Board members, NYACD reps, SWCC, and Lake Champlain Basin Program
- 3 Division employees presented at NYACD Annual Meeting, 4 total attended
- NRCS AMA funds shared between Clinton, Essex, and Franklin County SWCDs for high tunnels and irrigation. \$148,000 total award for 24 projects

Clinton County

- Awarded \$72,996 for a trailer mounted vacuum excavator from Lake Champlain Basin Program for town highway usage
- Successful tire collection with 3 events and over 3,000 tires collected
- Assessed over 150 culverts using NAACC protocol
- Planted 150 trees and shrubs with 19 volunteers through Trees for Tribes

Essex County

- Seeded 1.5 acres of skid trails and landing after completed timber harvests
- Assessed 82 culverts using NAACC protocol and trained Alice to be Lead Observer
- Stabilized heavily eroding roadside bank utilizing new methods within Essex County
- AgNPS Round 22 project implemented a covered composting building, something new and exciting for the County

Franklin County

- Reaching out to the County Legislature to bring the farmers to them; great results and interactions between both legislature and farmers
- WQIP funds purchases several loads of hydroseed mulch for roadside erosion projects
- AgNPS Round 23 awarded a manure storage and barn yard implementation project
- Worked with several age groups for lots of fun environmental workshops

Hamilton County

- Implementing East Mountain Emergency Tower access roads with County
- Lots of invasive species field work from forest surveys, Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program, school craft workshops, and MORE!
- Continue to host essay and poster contests for schools
- Began work on 25 Year Trends Analysis Report for Hamilton County Lakes

Warren County

- Worked with several partners to implement stormwater practices at Up Yonda Farm
- Hazard Mitigation, from planning to execution, with the County is a great partnership
- Provide oversight for hand harvesting of aquatic invasives on Brant and Schroon Lakes
- Stormwater projects continue to be a priority, and always willing to try something new and different, often with GREAT results!

Employee Updates

- Jim Lieberum (Warren) welcomed Hank/ Henry last March!
- Laura Benedict, now Generous (Essex) got married this past fall!
- Two new employees: Amy Calkins (Essex) and Marj Remias (Hamilton)!

Division VI

Division VI is responsible for the Fertilizer tablet program. Proceeds go directly to the Conservation District Employees Association general fund. Over the 6 years from 2010-2015 orders from SWCDs for boxes of fertilizer tablets drastically decreased. In the last few years orders have seemed to stabilize. The overall decrease in orders can be attributed to the reduction of orders from the general public and possibly less plantings by District tree planting programs. Tree programs have become less profitable for most Districts to the extent that some have eliminated the program to focus on more profitable and/or less time consuming programs.

It seems to be the opinion of District employees across the state that the tree program holds tremendous value for tradition, outreach, and environmental benefit. Many districts believe that keeping their tree program alive is a must even if the program is in the red at the conclusion of distribution day.

There is a delicate balance between the number of boxes ordered and sold by the CDEA because of the timeline set. Often the CDEA has to have the tablet order placed with the supplying company long before orders have stopped coming in from the Districts. The CDEA tries to keep costs down by not raising the price per box or only raising it enough to absorb the cost from the tablet company. Such was the case of the \$1 per box increase this year. Because of this, only a slight amount of over ordering will cause the NYCDEA to have a minimal profit or even be in the red on the fertilizer tablet program.

I hope that public interest and participation in District tree programs will increase in the near future which will result in the revitalization of this program. If anyone has ideas about improving the fertilizer tablet program please let me know.

	Expense	Net Income	Cases Sold
2010	\$8,431	\$2419	175
2011	\$7,033	\$2019	146
2012	\$9,350	\$1004	167
2013	\$7,038	\$219	110
2014	\$5,600	\$1034	107
2015	\$0.00	\$5766	93
2016	\$5,107	\$ 411	89
2017	\$5,952	\$1,587	96
2018	\$3,971	\$1,573	88

*Benjamin V. Luskin, Natural Resource Technician
Washington County SWCD
Division VI Representative
Benjamin.Luskin@ny.nacdnet.net*

NYSCDEA Division VII Annual Report

This past year, the Districts in Division VII once again participated in the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon. This event was held at Sharpe Reservation on April 26th. There were 15 schools that participated with a total of 24 teams. Thanks to all who participated and assisted with planning another great event. The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts held their annual South East New York Stormwater Conference on October 18th. Districts each held multiple educational and training events focused on natural resource conservation. Multiple Erosion and Sediment Control Trainings were also held throughout the Division. Several districts participated in NAACC Culvert assessments and other flood mitigation projects.

Planning is underway for a spring 2018 Division meeting.

Division VII is responsible for working with Division VIII to coordinate the Annual Awards Banquet held at Water Quality Symposium. This includes soliciting for nominations and organizing the awards presentation. The nomination information goes out in the Fall. Please consider submitting a nomination for the 2019 awards.

Submitted by Erin Sommerville
Division VII Representative

Division VIII

Annual Report Highlights

Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro

- **District / County Programs**
 - Inventory and Evaluate Bluff Remediation, Stabilization, and Revegetation
 - Patchogue Lake Revitalization and Invasive Removal
 - Rain Garden Maintenance
 - Stormwater Evaluation and Recommendation
 - Agricultural Plastic Recycling

- **Funding 2017**
 - \$200k Deer Fence enacted in the 2017 NYS Budget
 - \$447k RCPP : Reclaim Our Water
 - \$200k EPF : Nutrient Management
 - Extension of DEC Grant for Agrichemical Handling Facilities
 - \$50k NYS DEC WQIP for Richmond Creek Stormwater Runoff Remediation

- **Staff Training and Conferences**
 - Pine Barrens Research Forum and Field Day
 - Water Quality Symposium : CNMP / General Sessions
 - Conservation Skills Workshop : NRCS/AEM Tier 3
 - Certified Crop Advisor Annual Training and Exam
 - CPR / First Aid
 - LIGIS GIS Conference
 - Long Island Native Plant Symposium
 - NRCS Local Training Events and JAA
 - County Grants Management System
 - NRCS Construction Inspection
 - Oak Wilt Symposium

- **Education/Outreach**
 - School Garden Program
 - 19th Annual Long Island Regional Envirothon
 - AEM Conservation Planning Outreach Short
 - Long Island RailRoad Green Infrastructure Bioretention
 - Long Island Agricultural Forum
 - Soil Health Workshop
 - Compost Workshop
 - 4 Hour DEC ESC Training
 - Long Island Greenhouse and Floriculture Conference
 - NYS Fair
 - Annual Newsletter
 - District Website and Facebook Page

Division VIII

Annual Report Highlights

NYC: Shino Tanikawa

- 2017 was a busy year for the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District. We developed a greening plan for an industrial area of Greenpoint in Brooklyn. The plan development included public education events (including a tour of a waste water treatment plant and a green roof), a community workshop and extensive outreach to business owners in the area. The project will be completed in early 2018.
- We had another successful Green Infrastructure bus tour in 2017. We went to Philadelphia to learn from its GI program and visited a variety of GI practices, including rain gardens, permeable pavement, green roofs and more. Each site had a representative familiar with the project so that participants were able to gain inside knowledge on each project.
- Our work with the Stormwater Infrastructure Matters coalition produced more Open Sewer Atlas maps showing how our sewer system works at the neighborhood levels and fact sheets on water rate, CSOs, LTCPs and other water quality topics. These visual tools were used to empower local community organizations for advocating for clean water. The success of our efforts was seen by the number of organizations that attended the NYC Council public hearing on CSO Long Term Control Plans in December. Many community organizations share their concerns and issues with water quality in their local waterways. They also illustrated how important these waterways are for recreational opportunities in their communities.
- We also had a phenomenal year with the NYC Urban Soils Institute, a partnership among the NRCS, Brooklyn College, the Gaia Institute and the District. We tested soils for numerous community gardens, offered workshops on urban soils (including soil health and interpretation as well as crop science), built partnerships (the most prominent one with Greenwood Cemetery), presented at an international conference in Moscow, and held a two-day symposium on urban soil science attended by more than 150 people from all over the country and world.

Nassau County: No Report

Westchester County: No Report

Putnam County: No Report

Rockland County: No Report

Division V
Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Warren
March 14, 2018 NYCDEA Annual Meeting
DoubleTree, Syracuse

Division Wide

- Division Meeting held October 25, 2017 with 22 attendees, including employees, Board members, NYACD reps, SWCC, and Lake Champlain Basin Program
- 3 Division employees presented at NYACD Annual Meeting, 4 total attended
- NRCS AMA funds shared between Clinton, Essex, and Franklin County SWCDs for high tunnels and irrigation. \$148,000 total award for 24 projects

Clinton County

- Awarded \$72,996 for a trailer mounted vacuum excavator from Lake Champlain Basin Program for town highway usage
- Successful tire collection with 3 events and over 3,000 tires collected
- Assessed over 150 culverts using NAACC protocol
- Planted 150 trees and shrubs with 19 volunteers through Trees for Tribes

Essex County

- Seeded 1.5 acres of skid trails and landing after completed timber harvests
- Assessed 82 culverts using NAACC protocol and trained Alice to be Lead Observer
- Stabilized heavily eroding roadside bank utilizing new methods within Essex County
- AgNPS Round 22 project implemented a covered composting building, something new and exciting for the County

Franklin County

- Reaching out to the County Legislature to bring the farmers to them; great results and interactions between both legislature and farmers
- WQIP funds purchases several loads of hydroseed mulch for roadside erosion projects
- AgNPS Round 23 awarded a manure storage and barn yard implementation project
- Worked with several age groups for lots of fun environmental workshops

Hamilton County

- Implementing East Mountain Emergency Tower access roads with County
- Lots of invasive species field work from forest surveys, Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program, school craft workshops, and MORE!
- Continue to host essay and poster contests for schools
- Began work on 25 Year Trends Analysis Report for Hamilton County Lakes

Warren County

- Worked with several partners to implement stormwater practices at Up Yonda Farm
- Hazard Mitigation, from planning to execution, with the County is a great partnership
- Provide oversight for hand harvesting of aquatic invasives on Brant and Schroon Lakes
- Stormwater projects continue to be a priority, and always willing to try something new and different, often with GREAT results!

Employee Updates

- Jim Lieberum (Warren) welcomed Hank/ Henry last March!
- Laura Benedict, now Generous (Essex) got married this past fall!
- Two new employees: Amy Calkins (Essex) and Marj Remias (Hamilton)!



New York State Envirothon Yearly Report

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The NYS Envirothon Committee is working very hard to make the 2018 event the best it can be. We have several new members, some great returning members, and some who no longer work for our partners or districts, that care enough to continue to serve.

Committee members;

JoAnn Kurtis, Tests/Resource
Robert Shenk, Tests
Al Fagan, Site Coordinator
Chelsea Bartlett, Ed/Rec Activities
Betsy Ukeritis, NYDEC, Awards
Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair, Registration
Ernie Swift, NYACD

Kristin White, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Lynne Malone, Volunteer Coordinator
Maxine Applebee, Publicity & Website
Fred vonMechow, Volunteer, OP Judges
Dean Moore, OP Judges Training
Cal Lewis, Vice Chair, Snacks
Chasity Miller, T-shirts

The event will be held at Hobart William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Wednesday, May 23 & Thursday, May 24, 2018.

As most of you know searching and receiving funding can be a great deal of time and work to accomplish. The NYS Envirothon Committee and the Environmental Education Foundation have been working closely to search out and request funding. 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 NYACD & NRCS both increased their amount of donations. This was a great surprise and appreciated.

This year we are rolling out the “fill the hay wagon” fund raising. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 to send the team, advisors, and two committee members to the NCF-Envirothon in Idaho. We have a good start with two individuals stepping up to kick it off with donating \$100.00 each, then the NYACD donated \$1,000.00 in memory of Robert VanLare. Robert “Bob” was a former NYACD office/member and a long-term NYS Envirothon member. His wife, Pat, was his driver, so where ever you found Bob, there was Pat helping out & pitching in. We are so grateful for their many years of service and thank NYACD for honor Bob’s memory by making this donation in a program that Bob believed in and held close to his heart.

Once again, the NYSCDEA’ elected to maintain the reduced donation amount to the NYS Envirothon scholarship funds. The Envirothon committee maintain the same amount distributed to the top three winning teams as last year in the reduced amount ofm\$2,500. Unless someone donates the difference in funding for the scholarship funds we received in the past from NYSCDEA’

WE NEED YOU!!!! This program could never get off the ground without **VOLUNTEERS**. So, please take the time to sign-up for one day or both days this year to help us pull off another successful event.

Overall, we are thankful for a great commitment of this committee and their continued support of this great educational program, as well as all of those that step-up, step-out, and volunteer.

THANK YOU!!! See you in Geneva, NY on **Wednesday, May 23rd & Thursday, May 24th, 2018!!!!**

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

Supporting Environmental Awareness
Through the Funding of Educational Programs



2017 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.

Environmental Education Foundation Fund Raising Efforts

**Congratulations - Mount Academy, Ulster Co. 2017
NYS Envirothon Winners**

In 2017 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 \$109,328.47 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

New York State Fair Report 2017

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 33 volunteers (a few worked more than one shift) from 19 Counties. We appreciate your help! If you are interested in working a shift for the 2018 Great NYS Fair Booth please contact Kristin White at 315-568-4366 or kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net.
- ▶ 2017's theme was "***Sediment and Erosion Control***". We had two dioramas on display depicting a construction site with and without a sediment and erosion control system in place.
- ▶ According to the NYS Fair website the total number of visitors to the 2017 Great NYS Fair was 1,161,912. 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. The schedule and sign up form can be found on the NYS CDEA's 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 Kristin White, Seneca County SWCD, Ann Marie Calabro, Suffolk County SWCD, Megan Webster, Ontario County SWCD, Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD, and Molly Swearingen, Monroe County SWCD.
- ▶ The winners of the coloring contest were: 0-5 years was Ana-Naomi Davidson from St. Lawrence County, 6-8 years was Aidan Peters from Wayne County, and 9-12 years was Anna Lago from Monroe County. Way to Go!!
- ▶ The guessing game for 2017 was a rain gauge filled with 538 Mike and Ikes. The person that guessed the closest number of Mike and Ikes won a rain gauge. We had 456 entries for the Guessing Game. The winner was Isaac from Onondaga County with a guess of 537. The entry form and rain gauge were delivered to Onondaga SWCD office to be given to the winner. Congratulations!
- ▶ **Products and Services Book** – Kristin put this book together back in 2009 to have available as a reference for visitors to our booth. It's time to update this book again! Look for an email from Kristin asking for updates; if you don't get one please contact her directly.

Kristin White, Chair

Empire Farm Days 2017

The Committee would like to say **THANK YOU** to all that volunteered at this year's Empire Farm Days which was held August 8th-10th, 2017. 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 7th – 9th, 2018 in Seneca Falls at the Rodman Lott & Son Farm.

Kristin White, Chair



2017 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

The 2017 Conservation Skills Workshop was held at Cortland County SWCD September 25-29. *It was a great success with a record high attendance for the past 12 years!* “Field visits were highly enjoyed and Basic Surveying students were impressed with the instructor!”

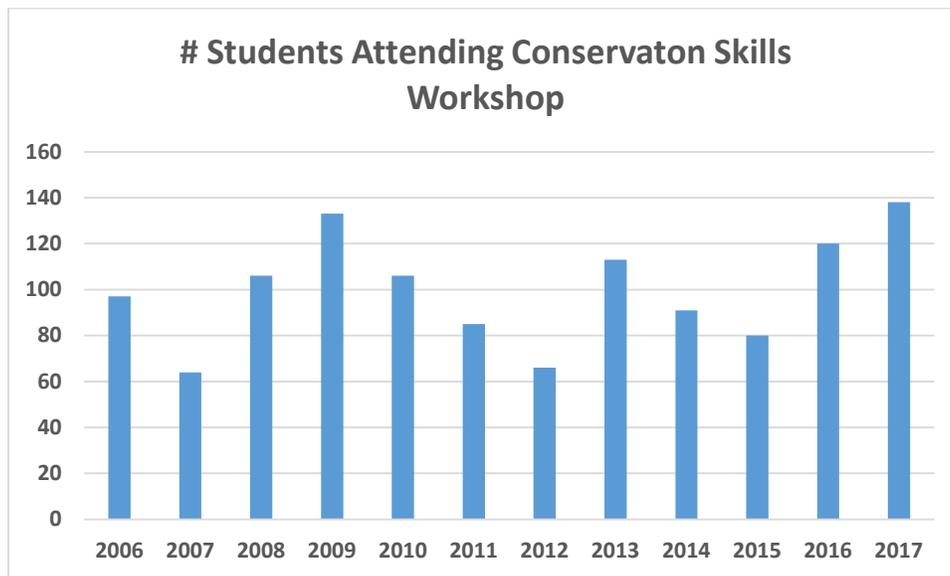
A total of 15 classes were held with 138 students participating (103 students were from SWCD, 19 from NRCS, 3 Watershed Ag Council, 4 private engineers, 3 crop consultants, 3 City of Syracuse, and 3 NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.) Attendance was up from 120 students in 2016. Thirty three folks attended the 2nd annual BBQ reception (down from 41 the previous year). Registration fee stayed at \$30 for 2017 (it was raised from \$25 in 2015) and again 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 2018 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting Wednesday, May 9 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Onondaga County SWCD offices. A delicious working lunch is provided and all are welcome!

A big “THANK YOU” goes out to the following committee members for making the 2017 training happen: NYCDEA VP Chastity Miller, Chris Watkins, Greg Albrecht, John Persch, PJ Emerick, Lauren Prezorski, Stacy Russell, Steve Lorraine, Tim Clark, Lydia Brinkley, 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 SINCE 2001!

Highest Daily Student Numbers	Class
34	NYS Erosion & Sediment Control
34	Current Issues in Agriculture
25	Streams 101
21	All About Buffers
20	Manure Cover & Flare
20	CNY Forest Enterprise
19	Farm Economics
19	Stormwater Advanced Hydrology
19	AEM / Phase III Planning
18	NYS Cultural Resources
14	Drainage Basics
12	New Employee Orientation
11	Green Infrastructure
11	Karst Topography
10	Basic Surveying



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

Frank Bratt Scholarship Program 2017 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 six applicants requesting \$2,754.00 for the June 1, 2017 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$1,500:

- Joshua LaFountain, Monroe County - STORMCON
- Stephen Dziak, Wyoming County - FE Environmental Exam Review Course
- Karen Ervay, Monroe County - QuickBooks comprehensive trainings

There were ten applicants requesting \$3,159.22 for the January 1, 2018 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$1,485.22:

- Megan McAnn, Orleans County - NE Region CCA Basic Training
- Katie Cappiello, Ontario County - NE Region CCA Basic Training
- Katie Sommerfeldt, Orleans County - NE Region CCA Basic Training
- Corrina Aldrich, Washington County - Capturing Money Using QuickBooks, Winter Greenup Conference, Managing Dairy Manure Systems
- Ian Priestly, Wayne County - Introduction to Tree Fruit Production

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.

Best of luck!

Judy Bennett
Orleans County SWCD, Division I Representative