

New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, INC.



**2019 Annual Meeting
Wednesday March 13, 2019**

**“Providing Today,
Protecting Tommorrow”**

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New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

**ANNUAL MEETING
March 13, 2019
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 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Review Slate of Officers – Nichelle Billhardt – Past President
5. Treasurer's Report for 2018.
6. Review and approval of 2019 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



Annual Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2018
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse
6301 NY-298, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Executive Committee Members

Steve Lorraine, President
Chastity Miller, Vice President
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
Kristin White, Treasurer
Doug Kierst, Member at Large

Partners

Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC
Judy Littrell, NYS SWCC
P.J. Emerick, NYS SWCC
Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC
Jennifer Clifford, NYS SWCC
Greg Kist, NRCS
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

Division Representatives

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

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions – President Steve Lorraine called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Districts – Secretary Caitlin Stewart performed the roll call and the following 49 Districts were present:

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

III. Reading and approval of the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes.

- **A motion was made by Velynda Parker, seconded by Polly Biesta to dispense with the reading and approve the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes as written. Carried.**

IV. Review Slate of Officers – Past CDEA President Nichelle Billhardt reviewed the slate of officers and asked for any further nominations. None were made.

President – Steve Lorraine

Vice President – Chastity Miller

Secretary – Caitlin Stewart

Treasurer – Kristin White

V. Review and approval of the 2017 Treasurer's Report.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded by Velynda to approve the 2017 Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.**

VI. Review and approval of 2018 Budget.

- **A motion was made by Jordan Clements, seconded by John Persch to approve the 2018 budget as presented. Carried.**

VII. Partner Reports

a. New York Association of Conservation Districts – Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt mentioned that Legislative Days was a great event, and no negative comments were received. She continued that between 23 to 25 Districts were represented, meetings with 74 legislators were held. Complete support to move Part C forward was supported by both parties. The Assembly requested rewording of the Waterfront Revitalization bill sponsored by Senator Helming. Legislators understood the intention of both bills. Work has begun on the Annual Meeting. This year, training sessions will be shortened to allow for more training opportunities. Madison County offered to host a tour. There will be a fly in to Washington DC with NRCS. NYACD President Dan Farrand will meet with 4 out of 5 senators and congressmen to educate them on SWCDs, and thank them for their support. A face to face meeting will be held Wednesday, April 18 in Cortland, and a Directors Training will be held on June 2 in Cortland. Mike Brown from Pennsylvania will provide a training session for Directors focusing on their financial responsibilities, roles, and duties.

b. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee – A four way report was given. Associate Environmental Analyst Scott Fickbohm mentioned that copies of the report are available at each table. Scott continued that on behalf of Dale Stein, voting members, the advisory committee, and all others, thank you to everyone who made the Water Quality Symposium possible this and every year. The State Committee is there to support Districts, and help them do their jobs. 2017 was a wild ride with new initiatives and funding. Conservation Districts are near or at the apex of state funding, and respond with production, implementation, planning. Many SWCC staff members retired or took other positions this year, including Bob Brower, Judy Snyder, Lauren Lions-Swift, and Michelle McDonald. SWCC has gained great employees including Region 2 Associate Environmental Analyst PJ Emerick, Julia Brulinsky, A.J. Bertaglia, Maureen Irish, and Judy Littrell. New AEM planning tools are being developed that will be rolled out in the near future focusing on stream corridors and buffers. Worksheets on

greenhouse gas mitigation will also be rolled out. Judy Littrell is the point person for NY Certified, a program focused on consumer products and NY farmers who produce high quality foods. The program has been expanded to include Christmas trees, shell fish, eggs, beef, pork, and craft beverage producers. Regarding the Climate Resilient Farming Program, \$1.5 million in projects was awarded to 26 farms. These programs send a strong message to policy makers in Albany that Districts are focused on and supportive of the challenges farmers are facing. A ranked list will be out by April.

Associate Environmental Analyst P.J. Emerick mentioned that the State Report addresses the NYS HABs 12 point initiative. P.J. continued that Governor Cuomo announced the importance of HABs, and launched a new water quality initiative due to harmful impacts to human health and animals. A 12 point initiative was launched to address the threat of HABs. Regional summits have been organized for local, state, and national experts. Steering committees work with consultants on HAB plans for the 12 priority waterbodies. An advanced monitoring process is being developed to determine the conditions that cause HABs. Summits in western New York will take place, and a summit in central New York was recently held. In addition, the North Country and Hudson Valley areas are also involved with the HAB initiative, and are establishing priority lakes. An educational component is essential. Summits included a closed working group that excluded the press, and public components question and answer sessions. Additional summits will occur. HAB plans may be implemented for May. The 12 priority lakes represent good characteristic of other New York lakes, and this model will be passed on to other waterbodies.

Associate Environmental Analyst Jennifer Clifford mentioned that 2017 was an outstanding year for State Aid to Districts with a \$9 million budget. She continued that Districts will receive \$153,882 dollars if they maxed out on A, B, and C. This amount is slightly down from last year. The positive outcome is that more Districts have maximized Part A, leaving a little less to trickle down to Part C. 2017 saw the most number of Districts meeting Part C performance measures, including 1 board and employee training. Next year the proposed budget is \$10 million, the highest it has ever been. NYACD is working to strike the word “competitive” from the law. Part B and C are still being reviewed. In year 12, 60,000 hours of work was completed on farms for the AEM program, and \$2.4 million was reimbursed to Districts. We are now in the middle of program year 13. Year 14 will see new planning materials. Over the past few months, discussions have taken place about the needs of the Districts for getting planning on the ground. Money is funneled through AEM program. The State Committee approved a 30% increase to the AEM funding program. During Year 14 more income will be available. Round 23 was a banner year for the Ag Non-point Source Program, and \$15.5 million supported 106 projects. 100 contracts in 1 year were generated. Round 24 will be released soon. Round 1 of the CAFO Waste Storage Program was successful and provided \$20 million to 56 farms. The CAFO program has \$50 million available, and 2 more round will probably be released. Round 3 begins in January. Regional AEAs can assist with program ideas. The SWCC is here for Districts.

c. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – NRCS State Conservationist
Greg Kiest mentioned that he was thankful for the opportunity to address the attendees of the banquet, and thanked the CDEA for coordinating the Water Quality Symposium training, which is a great opportunity for NRCS staff. He continued that NRCS appreciates the partnership with

CDEA. Tomorrow at 11 a.m., a 4-way partnership meeting will be held to realign the AEM planning process with the conservation planning process. Historically, the partnership was closely aligned but recently has grown apart a bit. The partnership will be pulled back together. USDA has seen many changes that affect NRCS. The United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue set priorities focused on customer service, and an effective and efficient department. Perdue is focused on collaboration within USDA and all 128 agencies, and is working to focus all agencies in the same direction to work together. FPAC has been reorganized. A merge took place and 3 agencies are now under the Farm Production and Conservation Missionary business center. The 3 agencies are separate, but business functions will merge including HR, IT, grants, agreements, purchasing. The merger will be accomplished by September 30. NRCS staff, FSA, and Risk Management Agency staff will become part of the business center. Farmers are not forced to complete the conservation work they do; they do it because they want to, and they trust NRCS to provide the information and assistance that is needed to put projects on the ground. Regarding staffing, there are 40 vacancies in New York, and these positions have been challenging to fill. The authority to fill vacancies has been taken away from New York and the only person who can approve vacancies is the Secretary of Agriculture. Perdue approved 150 positions nationwide. 7 interns will be hired, and the interns will assist with the work load. Engineering staff has 40% vacancy in New York, and those vacancies result in a struggle.

VIII. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association reports –

Northeast Employees Association representative Jeff Parker mentioned that he represents New York on the NCDEA. Jeff continued that he hopes everyone saw the Northeastern and NCDEA newsletters. A meeting in Pennsylvania will take place July 15 – 18 at the Double Tree Inn. A travel stipend will be offered to any individual who has not been to the meeting in their career to pay for the registration fee. Last year 2 people from New Hampshire were funded. Last year's meeting in Vermont was an eye opening experience, Districts function differently throughout the northeast. Many states don't have an Employees Association. Jeff thanked the CDEA, and mentioned the organization is one of the largest associations in the country. He mentioned that people can contact Velynda for the newsletters. He appreciates the board and this CDEA, and mentioned that we are doing tremendous work. Reports are appended to the minutes.

IX. New Employee Recognition - Each Division Representative recognized new employees during the Division meetings. Division V Representative Laura Generous recognized and announced the new employees while Steve distributed the welcome gifts during the Annual Meeting. She congratulated all of the new employees. They are as follows, and are appended to the minutes:

Division I

Laura Bestehorn, Genesee

Division II

Stephanie Castle, Monroe

Kim Clark, Onondaga

Ron May, Onondaga

Katie Cappiello, Ontario

Tayler Hersh, Yates

Ethan Hall, Yates

Division III

Kathrine Whitcomb, Herkimer

Division IV

Charlotte Atti, Cortland

Kathleen McGrath, Cortland

Ben Dates, Delaware

Danielle Singer, Tioga

Laura Grant, Tioga

Stephanie Resienburg, Tioga

Division V

Amy Calkins, Essex

Marj Remias, Hamilton

Division VI

Tami Allen, Fulton

Shannon McCarthy, Saratoga

Division VII

Pamela Price, Columbia

Allison Holmes, Dutchess

Laurie Deyo, Greene

Michael Butler, Greene

Michelle McDonough, Greene

Tami Allen, Fulton

Travis Ferry, Orange

Shannon McCarthy, Saratoga

Division VIII

Sergiy Grim, Nassau

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 Steve recognized employees with 20, 25, 30, 35, and 50 years of service with Districts during the Annual Meeting, and pins were distributed. She thanked these people for their years for service. They are as follows, and are appended to the minutes:

Division I

Dave Spann, Chautauqua, 20 years

Deb Kelly, Chautauqua, 25 years

Dave Wilson, Chautauqua, 35 years

Mark Gaston, Erie, 20 years

Robert Berkemeier, Genesee, 50 years

Division II

Allyn Noga, Cayuga, 25 years

Valerie Horning, Cayuga, 25 years

Robert Stryker, Livingston, 20 years
Mark Burger, Onondaga, 15 years
Elaine Borgeest, Ontario, 10 years
Jamie Noga, Ontario, 10 years
Chris Hotto, Wayne, 10 years
Scott DeRue, Wayne, 10 years
Colby Peterson, Yates, 15 years
Rick Ayers, Yates, 30 years
James Balyszak, Yates, 30 years

Division III

Jerry Boyd, Madison, 10 years
David Livermore, Madison, 20 years
Kevin Lewis, Oneida, 30 years

Division IV

Justin Puglisi, Broome, 10 years
Jessica Verrigni, Chemung, 20 years
Shawn Murphy, Cortland, 10 years
Catherine Skalda, Delaware, 10 years
Judith Spencer, Delaware, 20 years
Jeff Parker, Steuben, 30 years
Lee Rizon, Steuben, 30 years

Division V

Dave Reckahn, Essex, 25 years
Chastity Miller, Franklin, 10 years
Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton, 10 years
Jim Lieberum, Warren, 20 years

Division VI

Peter Bayzon, Albany, 10 years
Darryl Romano, Schenectady, 20 years
Peter Nichols, Schoharie, 10 years
Corrina Aldrich, Washington, 10 years
Robert Kalbfliesh, Washington, 20 years

Division VII

Abbe Martin, Greene, 15 years
Joel DuBois, Greene, 20 years
Leslie Kirby, Sullivan, 20 years
Lisa Schick, Sullivan, 20 years
Gary Capella, Ulster, 25 years

Division VIII

Rebecca Schultz, New York City, 10 years
Shino Tanikawa, New York City, 20 years

Robert Doscher, Westchester, 25 years

Laura mentioned that Robert Berkemeier from Genesee County SWCD has served for 50 years. A special gift will be presented to him.

XI. Officer Reports

a. President's Report – Steve mentioned that the President's Report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. He continued that he looks forward to serving as CDEA president for another year and is thankful to represent Districts. Money is coming through, and issues are being worked on with our partners. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes. He mentioned for everyone to please acknowledge the work CDEA representatives do on the behalf of District staff. His full report is appended to the minutes.

b. Water Quality Symposium - Vice President Chastity Miller thanked everyone who helped with the Symposium. Her full report is appended to the minutes.

c. Member at Large – Member at Large Doug Kierst mentioned that his full report is appended to the minutes.

XII. Division Reports

Division I - Judy mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She continued that Frank Bratt scholarship applications are due in January and June. Judy encouraged employees to apply. She mentioned that reimbursement claims should be filled out, and to make note of the person who attended a class if the District paid for the course.

Division II - Kelly mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division III - Raeanne mentioned that her 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. She continued that she was reelected as Division Rep for another 2 years, and to pick up the Envirothon packets.

Division V - Laura mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She continued that she is stepping down from serving as Division V Rep, and that Kristin Ballou was elected the new representative. She thanked everyone for a great couple of years.

Division VI - Ben mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. He continued that fertilizer tablets must be picked up tonight, and that the room will be open after the meeting.

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

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

XIII. Committee Reports

a. Envirothon – Chairperson Blanche Hurlbutt shared her report, appended to the minutes. She mentioned that the oral presentation packets should be picked up at the registration table. She continued that volunteers are needed, and numbers are down for this year's event. Volunteers can register on the website, and the committee greatly appreciates their support. Without volunteers, the program would not take place. The national event will be held in Idaho, and the cost for sending our New York State team is expensive. A fundraiser has been organized to help with the expense, and \$1,450 dollars has already been raised. She thanked everyone for their contributions. The full report is appended to the minutes.

b. Environmental Education Foundation - Chairperson Dave Reckahn mentioned that the report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. He continued that the banner is in the hallway with information and brochures on how to utilize the foundation. He mentioned that he is available to answer questions. He thanked the Water Quality Symposium committee for organizing How to Run and Fund Your Envirothon, where he spoke about how to use the EEF for funding for regional and local events. The full report is appended to the minutes.

c. New York State Fair – Chairperson Kristin White mentioned that the schedule is on the website, and volunteers can sign up anytime. She continued that the State Fair opens on a Wednesday, instead of a Thursday. People may contact her with questions. The full report is appended to the minutes.

d. Empire Farm Days - Steve mentioned that the report is in the packet and appended to the minutes.

e. Conservation Skills Workshop – Mark Burger mentioned that the report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. He continued that ideas for training topics are needed, and volunteers are needed to join the committee. He thanked Cortland County SWCD for hosting the event since 2001, instructors for offering classes, and the committee members.

f. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Steve mentioned that the report is in the packet and appended to the minutes.

XIV. Resolutions - Steve mentioned that no resolutions were received.

XV. Other Business from the Floor - Chastity mentioned to please purchase gun raffle, bucket raffle tickets, and bid on items in the silent auction. She continued that fertilizer tablets must be picked up. The envelopes on the tables are available for everyone to take, and were donated by a SWCD. The Golf Tournament will take place on Thursday, July 4th. The new Envirothon signs are outside the Great Lakes rooms to view. The Old Maine bluegrass band will play in the ball room this evening. Tomorrow night is the banquet, and attendees must dress in formal attire and

be courteous during the award ceremony. Dave Reckahn won the Farmers Market and Resource Fair passport game and received 20 bucket raffle tickets.

XVI. Election of Officers – No other nominations from the floor were made for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

- **A motion was made by Velynda, seconded by Judy to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one vote. Carried.**

XVII. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded by Jordan to adjourn the 2018 Annual NYS CDEA Meeting at 8:02 p.m. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

**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 I 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 Certification 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/EPD	\$ 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

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

Northeast Region Report
Jeffrey Parker, President/CDEA Representative

In case you're not aware, the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE) will offer a travel stipend to attend the Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference. The stipend will be offered to employee applicants that are active in the affairs of NCDEA, or who may enrich their district, state or regional program by their attendance. If you have never attended a Northeast Region meeting before, I encourage you to do so this year and apply for the stipend. Remember this year's meeting will be held during July 15-18 in Lancaster, PA at the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Hotel.

The 2017 Northeast Annual Meeting was held during at the Sheraton Hotel, Burlington, VT from August 13-15. Their theme was *Feeding the World - Nurturing Our Communities*. The keynote address was on Wildlands, Woodlands Farmlands, and Communities: A Conservation Vision for New England by Brian Donahue, PhD; Brandis University. The breakout sessions include: **Policy:** The Stick & Carrot: The Vermont Clean Water Act; Farm Bill & US Agricultural Budget 101; **Program Innovations:** Agricultural Soil & Water Quality; Green Stormwater Infrastructure.

In addition to the annual meeting, the NACDE Board of Directors typically holds teleconference calls during the year. A strategic plan meeting is slated this year. It's anticipated to hold a face to face meeting to begin forming the outline/objectives of the strategic plan. Two awards were handed out at the annual meeting that recognized a Conservation District Employee and President Award. Bob Sweitzer from Centre County Conservation District received the Conservation District Employee and the Kent County Conservation District Board of Supervisor was the recipient of the President Award. Election was held and the new officers are: Jeff Parker (NY), President; Sandy Thompson (PA), Vice President; Alisa Bentley (DE), Secretary; and Ines Zimmerman (NJ), Treasurer for a two term.

The Northeast Region is a recipient of grant from NRCS for a pilot project for capacity building. This will be a partnership wide project. A Steering Committee is in place with a representative from each state. A meeting is scheduled for April 23-25 in the Hudson Valley area to bring together the partners to discuss the best practices from each state.

Being the Northeast President, you also sit on the National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) and one may ask why this is important. 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.





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 Northeast 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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Sandy Thompson, Pennsylvania	Vice-President
Ines Zimmerman, New Jersey	Treasurer
Alisa Bentley, Delaware	Secretary
Tim Thomas, New Jersey	Past President
Rick Mickowski, Delaware	Special Advisor



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



2018 Stewardship Theme

NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinars are held the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact Deb Bogar from NACD at Deb-Bogar@nacdnet.org 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.

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?)

NCDEA

National Conservation District Employees Association



.....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 (NCPP) 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 NCPP 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 (left) 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-immigration 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.



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



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.

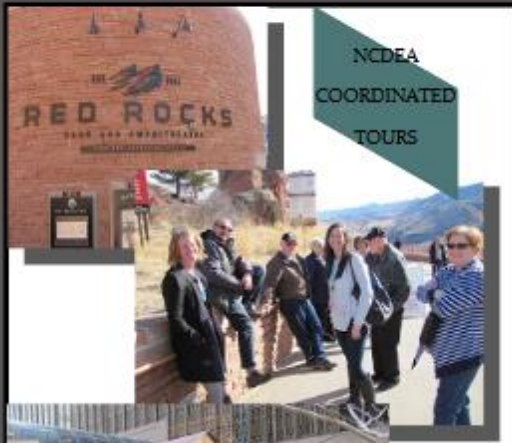
Mr. Blair contributed on the state level by being elected as the Mississippi state association's 2nd Vice President, 1st Vice President and ultimately, State President. He serves on the State Finance & Investment Committee, the Soil & Water Conservation Commission Board and has served in the regional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



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

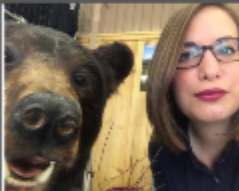


2017 NCDEA BOARD ACTIVITIES & PARTNERSHIPS

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 BISMARK, NORTH DAKOTA

Front row, left to right: Coleta Bratten-South Central Representative & Member-at-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.

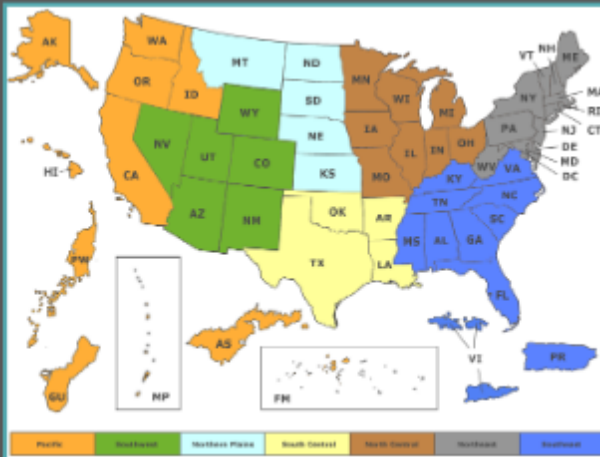
Prior to their 2017 two-day business meeting in Bismark, North Dakota, the Board and Conservation Partners visited the Lincoln Oakes Nursery and USDA plant materials center, the Burleigh County-Menoken Farm, and the Area IV Research Center.

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.

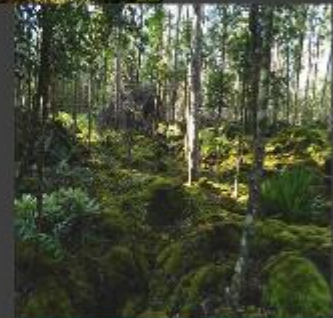


Included in the program is an introduction to the services and technical assistance available through the Districts.

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 District

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.



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.



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

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."



RUSH CONSERVATION DISTRICT, KANSAS

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.

Success in St. Mary Parish

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.



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

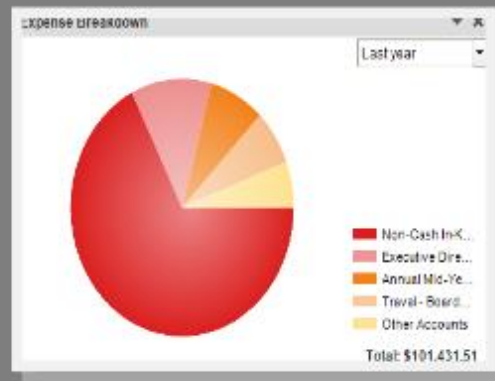
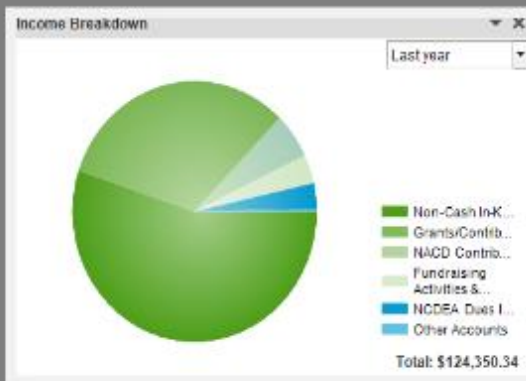
Harvey County Conservation District held their 2nd annual Ag and Conservation Festival May 10, 2017. 300 4th graders attended the event including seven schools. Students rotated through sessions including the soil tunnel trailer, snakes, pollinators, stream bank trailer, wildlife, crops and recycling. 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!



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



NCDEA

National Conservation District Employees Association

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 Duesterhaus

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

<i>New Employees March 2017 - March 2018</i>				
Division I				
Laura Bestehorn	Genesee	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

DRAFT



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

Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

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 Besthorn, 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 Cappeljo 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

DRAFT



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 of 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

DRAFT



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.nacdn.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

DRAFT

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, LTCs 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





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 of \$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!!!!**

DRAFT

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 NYCDEA 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.

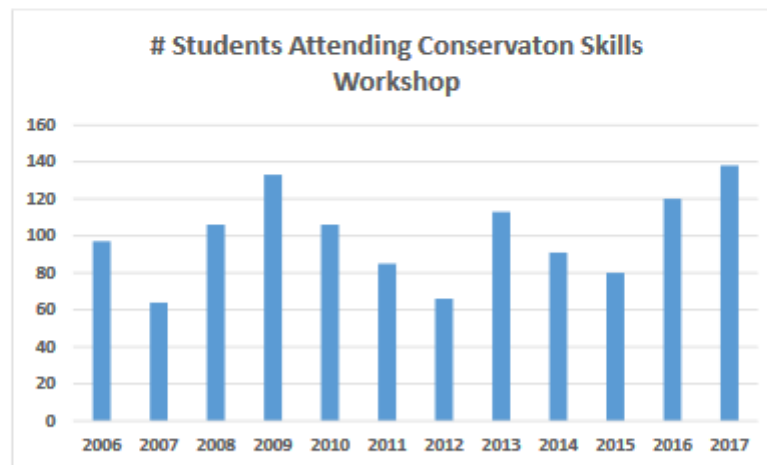
Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has tentatively scheduled the 2018 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting Wednesday, May 9 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Onondaga County SWCD offices. A delicious working lunch is 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

**NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2018 TREASURER'S REPORT
BANK REPORT**

	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>	<u>Dec 31, 17</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	41,491.00	28,926.13
NYS Envirothon Checking	32,956.51	31,425.55
NYS Fair Account	3,274.16	4,233.17
Conservation Skills	16,995.44	17,978.14
Leadership Conference	2,863.13	2,863.13
Vacation Raffle Account	230.00	230.00
Golf Tournament	3,946.84	3,302.23
Sunshine Fund	788.67	788.67
Resource Training Checking	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING	<u>107,545.75</u>	<u>94,747.02</u>
Envirothon Scholarship Savings	9,682.88	9,678.12
Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings	27,056.74	25,376.77
Resource Training Savings	<u>26,274.33</u>	<u>23,763.38</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>170,559.70</u>	<u>153,565.29</u>
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		
Envirothon Receivables	1,232.25	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>1,232.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>1,232.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>171,791.95</u>	<u>153,565.29</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>171,791.95</u></u>	<u><u>153,565.29</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
CDEA Credit Card-Treasurer		
Envirothon Expenses	66.98	0.00
Total CDEA Credit Card-Treasurer	<u>66.98</u>	<u>0.00</u>
CDEA Credit Card-Vice President	84.88	0.00
Total Credit Cards	<u>151.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>151.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>151.86</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>151.86</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

**NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2018 TREASURER'S REPORT
BUDGET VS. ACTUAL**

ACCOUNT	2018 Budget		2018 Actual	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,607.00	\$ 3,971.10
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		
CSW	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,280.00	\$ 6,262.70
WQS	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 129,016.00	\$ 99,262.07
4-Hour Online Course	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00		
NYS ESCCP	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00		
WQS Resource Fair	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,614.31	\$ 3,103.36
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		\$ 4,509.59
Insurance		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,082.19
Promo/Website		\$ 500.00		\$ 67.49
NACD		\$ 2,400.00		
NCDEA Dues		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
NACDE NE		\$ 900.00		
Newsletter		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Fundraiser Activities				
*Bucket/Silent Auction				
Sunshine Fund		\$ 200.00		
Office Supplies		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 263.54
Ronny Raindrop™				\$ 1,650.00
Division I		\$ 400.00		
Division II		\$ 400.00		
Division III		\$ 400.00		\$ 208.21
Division IV		\$ 400.00		\$ 100.78
Division V		\$ 400.00		\$ 208.24
Division VI		\$ 400.00		\$ 344.80
Division VII		\$ 400.00		
Division VIII		\$ 400.00		
Carryover	\$ 6,900.00			
TOTALS	\$ 122,900.00	\$ 122,900.00	\$ 145,517.31	\$ 131,509.07
Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Frank Bratt	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,615.19	\$ 1,935.22
NYS Fair/EFD	\$ 8,385.00	\$ 8,385.00	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 6,159.01
NYS Envirothon	\$ 58,975.00	\$ 58,975.00	\$ 48,633.81	\$ 45,937.58
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,275.00	\$ 2,504.76	\$ 2,500.00
Golf Tournament	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,117.00	\$ 2,472.39
SSA Totals	\$ 74,860.00	\$ 81,635.00	\$ 63,070.76	\$ 59,004.20
Grand Total	\$ 197,760.00	\$ 204,535.00	\$ 208,588.07	\$ 190,513.27

*Proceeds go to the Frank Bratt Scholarship

**NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

2019 PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNT	2018 Actual		2019 Proposed Budget	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$ 5,607.00	\$ 3,971.10	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf			\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
CSW	\$ 5,280.00	\$ 6,262.70	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
WQS	\$ 129,016.00	\$ 99,262.07	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 105,000.00
4-Hour Online Course			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
NYS ESCCP			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Trainings				\$ 8,000.00
WQS Resource Fair	\$ 5,614.31	\$ 3,103.36	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,000.00
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
Executive Board		\$ 4,509.59		\$ 7,000.00
Insurance		\$ 3,082.19		\$ 3,000.00
Promo/Website		\$ 67.49		\$ 500.00
NACD				\$ 2,400.00
NCDEA Dues		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
NACDE NE				\$ 900.00
Newsletter		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Fundraiser Activities				
*Bucket/Silent Auction				
Sunshine Fund				\$ 200.00
Office Supplies		\$ 263.54		\$ 1,000.00
Ronny Raindrop™		\$ 1,650.00		\$ 4,000.00
Division I				\$ 400.00
Division II				\$ 400.00
Division III		\$ 208.21		\$ 400.00
Division IV		\$ 100.78		\$ 400.00
Division V		\$ 208.24		\$ 400.00
Division VI		\$ 344.80		\$ 400.00
Division VII				\$ 400.00
Division VIII				\$ 400.00
Carryover			\$ 5,250.00	
TOTALS	\$ 145,517.31	\$ 131,509.07	\$ 167,400.00	\$ 167,400.00
Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Frank Bratt	\$ 3,615.19	\$ 1,935.22	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 6,159.01	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
NYS Envirothon	\$ 48,633.81	\$ 45,937.58	\$ 56,885.00	\$ 56,885.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 2,504.76	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,775.00
Golf Tournament	\$ 3,117.00	\$ 2,472.39	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
SSA Totals	\$ 63,070.76	\$ 59,004.20	\$ 69,885.00	\$ 77,160.00
Grand Total	\$ 208,588.07	\$ 190,513.27	\$ 237,285.00	\$ 244,560.00

*Proceeds go to the Frank Bratt Scholarship

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

Northeast Region Report
Jeffrey Parker, President/CDEA Representative

In case you're not aware, the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE) will offer a travel stipend to attend the Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference. The stipend will be offered to employee applicants that are active in the affairs of NCDEA, or who may enrich their district, state or regional program by their attendance. If you have never attended a Northeast Region meeting before, I encourage you to do so this year and apply for the stipend. This year's meeting will be held in Connecticut; however, the venue and date has not been confirmed.

The 2018 NACDE Regional meeting was held on July 15-18 at the Double Tree Resort by Hilton Hotel in Lancaster, PA. To the start the regional conference off, NACDE hosted a tour at the Longwood Gardens which is one of the world's premier horticultural display gardens – offering over 11,000 variety of plants from indoor to outdoor on more than 1,000 acres. Monday sessions included NRCS RCPP; Leadership Development in PA & Beyond; Invasive Species to breakout session of Stormwater Management, PA Gravel & Dirt & Low Volume Road Maintenance Program; Stroud Water Research Center and Conservation and Soil Health in Agricultural.

The Northeast Region was recipient of grant from NRCS for a pilot project for capacity building. A Steering Committee was developed comprised of representative from each of the states. A two day meeting was held on April 23-25 in the Tarrytown, NY. Ron Montesi, NYACD 1st President and Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director attended the NE Capacity Building Pilot program. Neither one of them had any idea what this was going to be about or what would be expected of them. They found this meeting to be educational, interesting, and a great way for the partners to come together and build off of each other. It is another great way to gather resources and share those resources with all states. Why reinvent the wheel, if someone has already built it. Through the training exercises, they learned to work together on different types of projects. They learned what was important to others and how this information could be shared. In the end, there were seven projects for them to decide which one was important for them to work on with others of the same interest. Ron ended up on creating a central website committee and Blanche ended up on the branding committee. They worked within their committees, did a presentation on where they are, where they can go with each project, as well as the how, who, and what it would benefit. At the present time, they are working with others to improve on how this can come about and hope to present at the NE Annual meeting in July. Overall, they both felt this was a great learning experience and much come out of this session.

The NACDE Conservation offers an Awards Program which includes an Employee and District Official award. The District Official award is for regional impacts and the employee award is for impacts at the local level. If there is a worthy candidate for either awards, please submit their name for consideration. Be on the lookout for the nomination form within the next couple of months.

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 and have demonstrated integrity, ability, and competence in their work and possess skills gained through training or experience along with providing information of enrollment at an accredited college or university. The individual applying could receive up to \$1,000.



415 West Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810

2019 NYACD Annual Report for CDEA

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director

Projects Ongoing & New:

- **Resolution Bills** - We have bill numbers!! Waterfront Revitalization - #S7799 & #A11194!! This bill is back on the agenda for 2019. Senator Pamela Helming pushed this bill at the Senate, and it pass. Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner is now supporting this bill for the Assembly. At the present time we are moving forward in hopes that the Assembly passes this bill. We will continue to work with both the Senate & Assembly to see that this happens.

I have been researching passed resolutions to find out what is on the books, been completed, and what/where things are at. I will compile this information, so that the NYACD Board is able to see passed and present resolutions on the books.

- **Legislators Days & Appointments** – As always this is an interesting & educational event. This year will have fifteen Districts attending with over forty folks present to promote, educate and meet with the sixty-five (65) Legislators &/or staff.

NYACD will set-up for “Taste of New York” event and overall, I think it this is another great way NYACD can be promoted well. This year we have a PowerPoint presentation that will be continually running for folks attending to see projects completed through-out NY by Districts. We have a NYACD display banner with projects on it along with a nice new table cloth promoting NYACD.

The Monday evening information meeting is set, and we will be serving snacks for everyone of pizza and wings. We will be discussing & enlighten those scheduled to meet with Legislators with the proper information to get our message out. The Waterfront Revitalization bill will be highlighted for those speaking with the Legislators, appointment times, where to meet in morning, and where the room to meet first at the LOB building was before heading out for the day’s appointments.

- **Thank You** - “thank you” letters went out to Legislators, Directors and District staff will be sent for all their time and effort into promoting NYACD & NY SWCD’s.
- **Fly-In Washington** – Appointments for Sam Casella, NYACD President with US Legislators in Washington for he Fly-In meetings are scheduled and set for Wednesday, March 13th.

- **Chinese Meeting** – The China meeting has been scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to noon will be held at the Cortland SWCD on Thursday, February 21st. Cortland, Onondaga, & Ontario will be presenting information on how their Districts provide Best Management Practices within each of their counties. There will be 18 delegates from the Chinese Academy Agricultural Science present for these well-prepared presentations.
- **Monthly Director Letters** - Monthly NYACD update letters are sent to District Director Chairs & Districts to keep folks aware of the progress & what NYACD is doing on behalf of the Director's & Districts. These letters are to help inform folks of upcoming events and meetings.
- **2019 Annual Meeting** – **This is a work in progress.** The meeting will be held at The Hampton Inn, Cazenovia. Once again Steve Lorraine, Madison Co. SWCD will do a project tour. These are always great tours enjoyed by Director's & District staff. I'm working on guest speakers possible training sessions. Looking at PESH, Sexual Harassment, Workers Comp/Contractors, & Prevailing wages.
- **Board meeting** – Next Board meeting will be Thursday, March 27th at 7 pm. teleconference. The NYACD Board changed their monthly meetings to the fourth Wednesday of the month unless otherwise notified.
- **4-Way Partner Meeting-** We should be meeting soon to discuss what partners are working on & where everyone is at once a meeting can be scheduled.

New Employees January 1 2018 - December 31, 2018

Division I

Kyle Redman	Allegany	District Technician	Dec	2018
Julie Gibson	Chautauqua	District Technician	April	2018
Jacob Kelly	Wyoming	District Technician	May	2018

Division II

Kim Jakaub	Cayuga	Watershed Conservation Specialist	Dec	2018
Teresa VanEpps	Monroe	Principal Office Account Clerk	Oct	2018
Amber Paice	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	Apr	2018
Alex Fisher	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	Apr	2018
Alaina Robarge	Ontario	Conservation District Educator	July	2018

Division III

Julie Panko	Herkimer	Secretary/Treasurer	Nov	2018
Tyler Kelley	Herkimer	Soil and Water Resource Conservationist	Oct	2018
Robert Tilbe	Herkimer	Conservation Aide	July	2018
Jessica McLaughlin	Oneida	Water Quality Specialist	Aug	2018
Jeremy Langner	Oneida	AEM Program Coordinator	Dec	2018
Aaron Barrigar	St. Lawrence	District Forester	July	2018
Jevonnah Foster	St. Lawrence	Conservation District Technician	July	2018

Division IV

Jay Dinga	Delaware	Techician	Aug	2018
Ben Green	Delaware	Techician	Jan	2018
Joe LaCourt	Delaware	Techician	May	2018
Nora Mosher	Delaware	Techician	Oct	2018
Joe Sweeney	Otsego	District Forester	Jan	2018
Jessica Miller	Otsego	Distict Technician	Jan	2018
Ashley Young	Otsego	District Program Aide	May	2018
Chelsea Bartlett	Steuben	Conservation Technician	Jan	2018

Division V

Olivia Dickenson	Essex	District Technician	Oct	2018
Maren Alexander	Warren	District Technician	Oct	2018

Division VI

Danielle Parker	Schoharie	District Technician	Feb	2018
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Division VII

Pamela Price	Columbia	Education Program Coordinator	Jan	2018
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Division VIII

Olivia Calandra	Nassau	District Technician	Dec	2018
Yoan Carrillo	Nassau	Finance/ HR Admin	Dec	2018
Brianna Rosamilia	Rockland	Conservation Technician	April	2018
Kaitlin Shahinian	Suffolk	Soil District Technician	Sept	2018

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2019

Division I

Allen Young	Erie	Water Quality Technician	Sept	2009	10
Judy Bennett	Orleans	Secretary/Treasurer	Nov	1994	25

Division II

Denise Dixon	Cayuga	Cleaner	Sep	2009	10
Sean McCarthy	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	Jan	2004	15
Lisa Miller	Cayuga	Sr. Typist	Oct	1994	25
Gwyn Olenych	Onondaga	Account Clerk III	March	2009	10
Tucker Kautz	Ontario	Water Resource Technician	Oct	2009	10
Erin Peruzzini	Seneca	District Manager	May	1999	20

Division III

Gerry Smithson	Herkimer	District Manager	Oct	1999	20
Nichelle Swisher	Lewis	District Manager	Aug	1999	20
Jessica Heim	Madison	Nutrient Management Specialist	May	2004	15
Joann Burke	Madison	Program Specialist	Aug	2004	15
Erica Schreiner	Oswego	Senior District Technician	May	1994	25

Division IV

Holly Lurenz	Broome	Secretary/Asst. Treasurer	Sept	1994	25
Karen Tillotson	Chemung	Secretary/Asst. Treasurer	Feb	1999	20
Mark Watts	Chemung	District Manager	Oct	1984	35
Jennifer Kelly	Chenango	District Technician	Oct	2004	15
Robert Declue	Chenango	District Planner	Oct	1979	40
Jared Popoli	Cortland	Conservation Assistant	Oct	2009	10
Amanda Barber	Cortland	District Manager	June	1989	30
Jeff Russell	Delaware	Stream Technician	July	2009	10
Graydon Dutcher	Delaware	Stream Coordinator	Aug	1999	20
Paula O'Brien	Delaware	Technician	Nov	1994	25
Larry Day	Delaware	Soil & Groundwater Specialist	Mar	1989	30
Peggy Pilch	Delaware	Secretary/Treasurer	May	1984	35
Jordan Clements	Otsego	District Manager	March	2009	10
Velynda Parker	Steuben	District Secretary	Jan	1994	25

Division V

None					
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Division VI

Tom Sanford	Rensselaer	District Manager	April	1969	50
Dustin Lewis	Saratoga	District Manager	Nov	2004	15

Division VII

Laura Sager	Columbia	Executive Director	Feb	1994	25
Laura Weyeneth	Greene	CSBI Coordinator	Jan	2009	10
Jeff Flack	Greene	Executive Director	Feb	2005	21
James Buchanan	Greene	District Program Specialist	May	1999	20
Karen Rauter	Sullivan	Stream Program Coordinator	Dec	2009	10

Division VIII

None					
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President's Report: 2018-2019

As I complete my term as President of the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association I want to thank the CDEA members for putting me in this position. 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, John Dunkle 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 a qualifying test is being offered on Friday at the WQS.

2018 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.

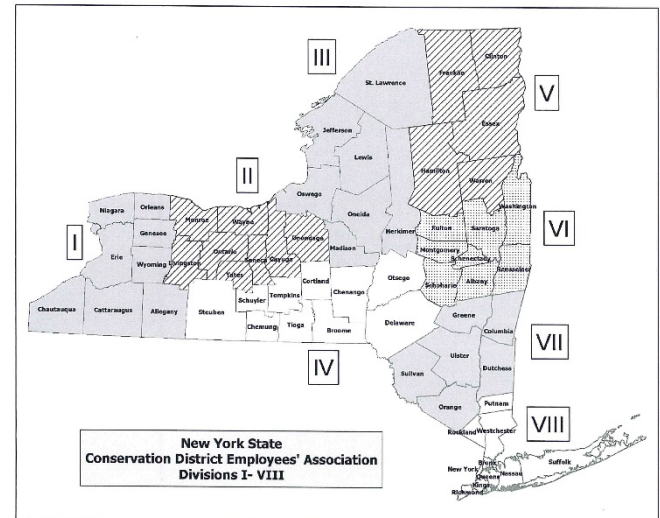
Thank you again for the honor to serve as your President.

Steve Lorraine, President, NYSCDEA, Inc.

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

Year two! 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 2019 Water Quality Symposium. We will be her again next year, since we have a 2-year contract! We have another fun and educational event planned for you! A great resource fair, trivia, the Old Main band is back for another year, and we have a DJ planned for Thursday night!

The NYSCDEA was formed in March of 1975, was incorporated in 1983, and received it's 501(c)6 tax exempt status in 1989. The Association has focused resources on creating and fostering opportunities for employee networking, professional development, and district outreach and promotion. It is made up of 58 Soil and Water Districts in NYS, and has 13 members of the board that you elect! There are 8 Divisions across the state:



- 1- Frank Bratt Scholarship (Judy Bennett)
- 2- Historical Archives (Kelly Emmerick)
- 3- Silent Auction/Bucket Raffle- Assist with State Fair (Raeanne Dulanski)
- 4- Silent Auction/Bucket Raffle- Assist State Fair (Velynda Parker)
- 5- New Employees (Kristin Ballou)
- 6- Fertilizer Tablets (Ben Luskin)
- 7- Awards (Erin Sommerville)
- 8- Awards (Ann Marie Calabro)

There are many committees/programs:

- Frank Bratt- Scholarships for educational opportunities
- State Fair- Outreach and education
- Environmental Education Foundation- Assistance to the State Envirothon
- Municipal Assistance Subcommittee- committee for all other than agriculture
- TAC- technical agricultural committee
- Operations Manual- how districts work
- Conservation Skills- another awesome educational opportunity
- State Envirothon- teaching the future in a competition setting.
- Invasive Species- outreach and education
- Ronny the Raindrop- Our mascot

Many of these committees and programs need assistance. Many of these programs need people to assist with fundraising, communications, outreach, time, organization, donations, and general support. There is always a need for volunteers at the State Fair and at the State Envirothon. We need donations for prizes for the State Envirothon even if it is not money water bottles, t-shirts left over from your even, key chains, invasive species guides and even snacks left over from the local event. The students love it! They need you to help! If you can volunteer please do! Time is

hard we all have allot to do, but one event makes a difference. We are always looking for your ideas and thoughts on new trainings and plans. If you have an idea let someone know. We were so lucky to have allot of people to participate in this year's surveys after symposium. Which was one of the main ways we have improved for this year and choose many of the classes at this year's symposium.

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 NYSCDEA meetings! It has been amazing to be part of and to see what is going on around the state! We meet every other month to talk about what is going on across the state and to keep everyone updated. It is important to let all us know what is going well and maybe not so well. When your Division Reps ask for updates please take a few moments to respond it does matter and it does get reported. It also does make a difference and it helps to know what the issues are that we are all facing. It lets us know what is going on and what we can do for you and how we can help.

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. Thank you to Caitlin Stewart, Allan Young, Jessica Verrigni, and Karen Armstrong for leading up the track planning. Also, a thank you to Kirstin Ballou for setting up all the forestry classes, which I hope will become it's own track next year. A thank you to all who helped with all the classes and all the instructors. We are always looking for people and ideas for symposium. Please if you wanna help ask! A huge thank you to Karen Armstrong and Kristin White for all the registrations and billing! It is amazing how much work it can be but a great team can make it all easy.

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!





2019 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 114 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. 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. Save postage, feel free to scan and email the completed form and copies of the receipts to the current Member At Large.

On November 07, 2018, 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.

All good things must come to an end. My tenure as the Member-At-Large will end after the elections take place at the CDEA Annual Meeting in March. It was my pleasure to have served on this committee since 2013. I have currently served the maximum three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms and am looking forward to working with the newly elected Member-At-Large to get up to speed with their new responsibilities and to insure a smooth and informed transition.

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

2018 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 for the past several years. 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 twelve applications for a total of \$5,495.00 in funding of which we were able to fund \$3,000.00. The classes applied for were: QuickBooks Training, Level 1 Applied Fluvial Geomorphology, Ecology and Fundamentals of Organic Agriculture, Policy Practicum, Intro to Environmental Science & GIS, Adult First Aid/CPR/AED, Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional, StormCon 2019, Tools of Analysis: Geographic Information Systems, and Master in Environmental Law and Policy.

As a summary of Division I county activity, 23 applications were submitted for funding through Round 24 of the Ag Non-Point Source grant program requesting \$7.8 million. Fifteen of those applications were approved for funding, securing close to 4.8 million dollars in state funding for agricultural water quality improvements in Western New York (roughly 28% 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 purchased a 5 row hiniker inter-seeder that is used to plant 2 rows of cover crops in between the rows of growing corn. The inter-seeder was utilized to plant 186 acres of cover crops on 4 farms this year. They also were awarded a GLRI Cooperative Weed Management Area grant, through the USDA Forest Service to eradicate Japanese knotweed on 21 acres of land in the county. The grant allowed them to expand their existing Japanese knotweed eradication program in the county.

Orleans and Genesee County have continued 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.

Genesee County Soil and Water Conservation District secured a \$153,150 NYSDAM Climate Resilient Farming grant to expand the irrigation water storage capacity of a farm near a popular trout stream in the county. This project will expand an existing irrigation pond by 3.6 million gallons and will increase the farm's ability to capture increasingly unpredictable precipitation runoff from the farm's 12 acre farmstead. Capturing this water reduces nutrient-laden runoff from reaching the trout stream and also helps to limit the farm's impact on groundwater quantity by eliminating the need for an irrigation well. In addition to these environmental benefits, the farm will be more resilient in the face of climate change by having greater water storage for irrigation and will limit drought impacts to crop production.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Brad Mudrzynski - District Manager from Genesee County, Kyle Redman - Technician from Allegany County, Julie Gibson - Technician, Chautauqua County, and Jacob Kelly - Technician from Wyoming County to District employment in Division I. Also, congratulations to Katie Sommerfeldt from Orleans County on her promotion to District Manager.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Bennett, Orleans County SWCD, Division I Representative



Division II Report **2018 Annual Report**

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

Cayuga: No Report Provided

Livingston: No Report Provided

Monroe:

- The Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts (GRWCCD) signed a contract with Bergmann Associates to create the Agricultural Best Management Practices (Ag BMP) Database. The coalition voted to use the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) STEP-L model to estimate sediment and nutrient reductions from farm-based conservation practices.
- Informational brochures were distributed throughout the early spring for the GRWCCD Interseeder Rental Program and the program was advertised in participating districts' newsletters. Additional advertisements went out through the Cornell Extension Vegetable Team and the Western New York Soil Health Alliance;
- Implemented one (1) Prescribed Grazing System, and 218 acres of Cover Cropping to reduce soil & nutrient loss on 2 farms with cost-share funds in the amount of \$39,971 under the grant program Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for the Genesee River watershed through the GRWCCD;
- Conducted 142 Erosion and Sediment Control Construction Inspections & completed 156 requests from municipalities for stormwater technical assistance; Held 14 stormwater related trainings and workshops & trained 611 people;
- Finalizing an online course for the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control training on behalf of NYS CDEA;
- Assisting in finalizing the development of the NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program;
- Completed our North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative Culvert Assessment Program with 99 culvert assessments within the Oatka Creek and Mill Creek-Black Creek watersheds;
- Awarded \$149,085 under CRF Round 3 for a Farm Water Conservation & Drought Resilience Project;
- Planning and designing a Nature Based Shoreline Project in Irondequoit Bay under WQIP Round 14;
- Planning and designing a Streambank Stabilization Project in Black Creek under WQIP Round 14 where a Streambank Stabilization Workshop was held with Dave Derrick in July with 22 attendees;
- Working on 3 projects under WQIP Round 12: 1) Started construction of a regional stormwater pond facility in August of 2018, 2) an 18,540 sq.ft. riparian buffer project was implemented in November, 3) and busy planning and designing for a stream restoration project at a local high school;
- A Supplemental Tree Planting for Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Mitigation was implemented with a total of 170 larger caliper trees planted at 2 state parks, 2 county parks, 1 wastewater treatment plant. These plants covered a total area of about 6 acres. Funds are through the U.S. Forest Service under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Program. Estimated costs for plantings through the end of 2018 is \$42,172.00;
- MCSWCD partnered with Monroe County Department of Environmental Services (DES) for funding to provide a Watercraft Steward Program within Monroe County at high priority boat launches that provides public outreach and education on slowing and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. The MCSWCD provided planning and oversight for the program including establishment of a partnership with the Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) at Hobart and William Smith Colleges to hire, train and supervise Watercraft Steward Staff. The steward inspected 1,814 Boats at the Port of Charlotte in the City of Rochester on the Genesee River and encountered 4,311 people during the course of the season (5/22/18-8/6/18). Invasive organisms found were spiny waterflea, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussel, curly leaf pondweed, and variable milfoil. Cost for the 2018 Launch of the program was \$7,500;
- Partnered to host a "Farm to Table" Dinner at the Duran Eastman Golf Club with 150 attendees made up of farmers, farm bureau members, extension and District employees, and several legislators. Recognized a Conservationist of the Year from 2017, Lawrence Staub, Director of Monroe County Parks Department and Seneca Park Zoo, for his support of the MCSWCD's Envirothon & Conservation Field Days programs over the last decade by providing his staff and the County's Ellison Park to host these events each year; as well as showing his great commitment toward the conservation and preservation of soil and water resources by partnering with the District to implement conservation projects for water quality improvement and invasive species management and mitigation;
- Implemented 206 acres of Cover Cropping to reduce soil & nutrient loss on 2 farms with cost-share funds in the amount of \$9,836 under the grant programs Round 20 & 21 AgNPS;
- Under NYS Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance, aerial footage of the Lake Ontario Coastline in the Rochester Embayment area was collected using an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS-drone) to assess the damage and erosion caused by the high water events on Lake Ontario in 2017. In total, 9.5 miles of coastline were assessed and erosion was visually assessed based on extent and apparent severity and separated into three categories: Light, Moderate, or Severe. The footage was used to create a GIS layer file of damaged or eroded areas along the shoreline. This layer file, along with the raw footage was shared with Monroe County Department of Environmental Services as well as the Municipalities located within the Rochester Embayment Area to review and if needed, prioritize areas for remediation and/or to focus resiliency efforts;
- Implemented an Ag Plastics Recycling Program, collecting 2,250 pounds of plastic from 8 farms;
- Distributed 16,205 trees, shrubs, and other plants to 274 customers; & 1,582 fish fingerlings and 60 grass carp to 13 customers;
- Hosted Conservation Field Days with 910 students participating & a local Envirothon event with 16 teams and 76 students competing.

Onondaga:

- Four person team hand-pulled ~14,600 lbs. of water chestnuts from a 19-mile stretch of the Seneca River;
- Planted 530 1.5" caliper "non-Ash" trees in Onondaga Lake and Oneida Shores County Park to begin replacing high functions and values of trees lost to EAB;
- 4,245 ash trees cut/removed on County ROW to reduce threat of EAB;
- 408 ash trees/6,098 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);
- Hydroseeded 54.6 acres / 65.5 miles of disturbed soil (primarily road ditch clean outs);
- 5,427 seedlings, 76 conservation packs, and 22 blue bird and bat houses sold through annual spring sale;
- 3,643 ac. of cover crops planted with farmer support and various funding sources;
- 746 ac. of agricultural land were planted w/ SLWAP's new Esch 5512 no-till drill (12-ft wide) on 11 farms;
- 10.8 miles of exclusion fence was installed to facilitate grazing systems on farms;
- 4,720 AC of nutrient management recommendations were provided to 5 farms;
- Manure storage and transfer system began implementation on 1 farm;
- Performed 77 construction site inspections for 7 active County projects;
- 189 folks trained in DEC endorsed contractor erosion & sediment control (10 classes);
- The District, SLWAP, and CNY RPDB developed a "Best Practices" brochure for public and private winter salt applicators;
- 395 LF of stream bed and bank stabilization was implemented on agricultural and residential lands;
- 1,900 Stream-Co Willow live stakes were planted along 12 locations of eroding river bank at the outlet of Onondaga Lake on County Park land.

Ontario:

- Alaina Robarge joined the staff as Conservation District Educator;
- Grants Awarded: Climate Resilient Farming Round 3: Finger Lakes Cover Crop Phase II-\$119,907, AgNPS Round 24: Mud Creek Erosion and Sediment Control Project-\$152,555,WQIP Round 14: Sandy Bottom Shoreline Stabilization Project-\$30,000, NYS Sea Grant Mini Grant: Honeoye Lake Shoreline Stabilization Engineering and Design Study-\$5,320, County Agricultural Enhancement Board Mini Grants, Tire Recycling Program-\$3,000, Cover Crop Program-\$1,250;
- Partnership Funded Project Awards: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Mill Creek Stream Stabilization Project, ~\$148,000, Trees 4 Tribes: Town of Richmond, \$18,598;
- Ag Projects completed: DeFelice Retention Basin: Total Project Cost \$14,128.26, FLOWPA Awarded \$8,168.26; Genesee River EBM Projects: Rogers Farm Grassed Waterway: Total Project Cost \$13,868.72; State Grant Awarded \$7707.59, Neil Swanson Water and Sediment Control Basin: Total Project Cost \$7280.29; State Grant Awarded \$5350.00, Hayton Cropland to Forage Biomass Conversion: Total Project Cost \$1103.88; State Grant Awarded \$827.91; Round 20 Can IX: Tate Reifsteck Grassed Waterway, Diversion, and Strip Cropping: Total Project Cost \$24,044.97; State Grant Awarded \$18,033.73; CRF Round 2 & Round 3: Cover Crop (per acre) on-going annual payments for 7 farms for 2018-2019 cover crop season;
- WQIP Projects:WQIP Round 11 Honeoye Lake Watershed Sediment and Nutrient Mitigation Project Phase II: Installed 1 ford crossing, 1 rubber belt waterbar, 2 earthen waterbars, Forestry Workshop was hosted 4/17/18 with ~30 people in attendance, 6 sediment traps installed along County Road 36, Debris Guard installed at Cratsley Gully, Erosion control practices installed at outlets of ditch plugs in Honeoye Inlet area;WQIP Round 11 Ontario County Roadbank Stabilization Project: Multiple locations throughout the county hydroseeded throughout 2018; WQIP Round 12 Honeoye Inlet Restoration Project: Tree planting with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and Volunteers, Coir log installation to back up and slow water down in floodplain; WQIP Round 12 CMAC Performing Arts Stormwater Project: Installation of additional porous pavement, Construction and planting of rain garden, Design and installation of signage on site;
- 132 inspections for the Uniform Procedures Program;
- Two (2) NYS DEC 4 Hour Course Training Sessions held: 5/17/18: 56 Attendees, 12/7/18: 22 Attendees;
- County Assistance: Septic System Replacement Fund; review of 60+ applications and coordination of program with County for approval of 23 systems for 2018, Tire recycling events held in Town of Farmington (5/12/18) and Town of Seneca (10/13/18), Large Truck/Tractor Tire Recycling Coordination for Town of Seneca Event, Ag Plastics Recycling Event for ~5 farms;
- Outreach Events: Soil Health Workshop with SWIO and Yates and Seneca SWCDs, Grazing Clinic with CLWA, Table at the Ontario County Fair, August 2018 District Newsletter, OWSC MS4 Outreach event at Macedon Lumberjack Festival Sept. 9th, Conservation Field Days, Sept.11th and 12th, ~650 people attended, FLCC Web Soil Survey presentation on Oct. 1st, Seneca SWCD Outreach Event Oct. 18th at Frank Knight Elementary School, Marcus Whitman Comstock Ponds on Oct. 19th for Macroinvertebrate Lesson, Finger Lakes Youth Climate Summit at Hobart William Smith on Oct. 24th for "Soil Health in the Agricultural World" presentation, Landowner Workshop: Conserving for the Future, Partnered with FLLT on Nov. 13th, OWSC MS4 presentation for Ontario County Highway Department on Dec. 5th, Groundwater Demonstration/Lesson at Marcus Whitman Dec. 14th (4 Classes), Held Annual Tree & Shrub Sale and Annual Fish Sale.

Seneca: New Technician hired, Matt Everdyke

Wayne: No Report Provided

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 – Floodplain Tree Planting/Hydroseeding

As part of a large floodplain restoration grant, the District assisted a Township in the restoration of a floodplain bench. The District helped coordinate a tree planting with Herkimer BOCES Conservation students. Over 50 trees planted were sourced from NYSDEC's Trees for Tribes program. The District also hydroseeded a streambank in need of stabilization. This project turned a once flooded mobile-home park into a dual-purpose floodplain and community park.



Oswego County – Camp Hollis Drainage Project

A highlight project from 2018 took place in the fall at Camp Hollis in the Town of Oswego. Camp Hollis is a summer residential youth camp that is also used by other groups throughout the year. The District worked with Seneca County SWCD to design, and the Oswego County Highway Department to install, a drainage project. The purpose of the project is to keep the athletic fields dry and convey water safely away from the eroding shoreline. Over 3500' of drain tile was installed. Onondaga County SWCD was hired to complete 2 acres of hydro seeding once the earthwork was completed.



Lewis County – 10 Free Ac Interseeding Program

The Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District began a 10 Free Acre Interseeding program in 2018 to encourage farms to plant cover crops in between corn rows. Due to the limited time period that farms have to establish cover crops, the District began utilizing the Interseeder. Cover crops are established in early July and have most of the summer to establish. When corn silage is harvested, the cover crop is well established and remains over the winter. There were 15 rentals in 2018 with 81.4 acres being Interseeded and 560.6 acres of additional cover crop.



Streambank Stabilization

The District installed their first natural stream design project to stabilize the streambank adjacent to the Village of Constableville's wastewater treatment plant in the Sugar River. The Village utilized FEMA funds to install four rock vanes and provide rock outlet protection for the wastewater treatment plant discharge. Approximately 300 feet of bank of the Sugar River were protected with this FEMA project



St. Lawrence County – Ash Tree Replacement Project

The District worked with a number of partners to carry out the Ash Tree Replacement project at the Bend in the River Park in Canton, NY. A public workshop was held to educate the public as to why we were replacing the Ash trees, proper replacement tree selection, planting techniques, and how to maintain and care for trees. 18 new trees were planted to replace the ash trees that were removed. These new trees will help with the parks climate resiliency, stormwater runoff capacity, wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and aesthetics. In addition to the public workshop, SWCD staff established 200 live stakes along 800' the riverbank at the park to help protect against erosion and stabilize the soil.



Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep



Division IV

Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Thompson, 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 reach out to the State Fair Committee. **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, these 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. Four (4) counties were represented by directors and employee with updates from the NYSCDEA, NYACD, and NYSSWCC were provided. Another joint meeting between CDEA and NYACD has been set for April 4 from 10-2 pm with our partner agencies and venue is to be determine at this time.

Unique Projects for Division IV:

Cortland - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) spread prevention is primarily achieved through boat cleaning and public education and outreach. SWCD hired boat stewards who staffed local boat launches and access points to educate recreationalists about the risks and damage from aquatic invasive species. Information about how to identify and prevent the spread of these species is provided through brochures and signs. Vegetation and other organic materials cleaned from boats can be placed in disposal stations.





Tioga SWCD and USC staff planting buffer that was funded through Trees for Tribs along a tributary for Catatunk Creek

Delaware - The floodplain reclamation project includes the construction of a lowered floodplain bench to the approximate elevation of the bankfull water surface elevation level. The floodplain is graded to provide a minimum 0.75 percent slope from Water Street to the West Branch Delaware River and removed approximately 52,000 cubic yards of material to an off-site location. The \$1.2 million project on the nearly 13-acres of Walton Village and Town properties began in October 2018 after years of planning and design. A culvert beneath Water Street will allow the water from Veterans' Plaza to drain into a swale channel that will convey the park's 2.8 acres of stormwater runoff from building roof tops and parking lots through a vegetated filter area before it enters the West Branch Delaware River. The Delaware County Board of Supervisors received \$484,320 grant through the U.S. Department of Army's Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to construct the project and the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with New York City Department of Environmental Protection, provided the cost share match through its local flood hazard mitigation funds. Following the completion of the project, conceptual plans were developed for walking trails and a boat launch. The ultimate goal of the project is to protect the community while maintaining economic sustainability.



Drone flight looking North at the project site before construction.



Photo shows the depth of material excavated from the project. The material was sorted prior to off-site trucking to remove debris and solid waste.



Drone flight of the project looking South during construction of material excavation and culvert installed at the right of the photo.

Respectfully submitted,
Velynda Parker
NYSCDEA Division IV Rep

Division V – Covering Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren Counties

The responsibilities of Division V include regularly polling Districts to update the employee database, keep track of promotions for recognition at the annual meeting/training session. The Division is also responsible for coordinating the marketing for Ronny Raindrop.

Division V Unique Project Showcase:

Clinton County – WQIP Grant – Municipal Assistance Program

For the 4th year in a row, the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District has continued to expand our Municipal Assistance Program. What started out as just hydroseeding has grown in to a variety of different forms of assistance. From hydroseeding roadsides to installing culverts and vacuuming out storm drains, towns in Clinton County are recognizing CCSWCD as a valuable partner.

District Technician Dave Wilfore worked with towns across the County to address roadside erosion. We addressed many sites identified in the Lake Champlain Watershed Roadside Erosion Assessment and Inventory as well as identifying new sites to be remediated with a variety of structural and vegetative practices. Over the course of the summer, the District hydroseeded more than 21 linear miles of roadsides using funds from a regional WQIP grant.



The District also participated in the Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP). Funding was available for towns in the Lake Champlain Basin to implement roadside erosion improvements. The District assisted 3 towns with application and subsequently implement projects. Projects included a culvert replacement, infiltration basins and a rock lined ditch.

Essex County – Part C 2018 – Tire Recycling Program

In 2018, Essex County SWCD held three tire collections in the county in the towns of Westport, North Elba (Lake Placid), and North Hudson. Two of the collection events were held at town transfer stations and the remaining trailer loads were collected at the Essex County Fairgrounds. The district ended up filling four 53' tractor trailers, resulting in approximately 39.72 tons of tires being removed from Essex County. The towns of North Elba and North Hudson sent personnel to assist with the manual handling of the tires and also provided machinery and an operator to aid in moving tires into the bed of the trailer. The tires collected have been recycled and the project had a huge positive response from county residents.



Franklin County – Part C 2018 – School Assistance Program

Since 2017, Franklin County Soil and Water has implemented a program to assist all public schools in the county with small projects, that would help students grow in understanding of student health, along with the hands-on element of learning that will come from having the students involved in growing food, monitoring the health of our waters and soils, evaluating forest health, recycling, and reducing wastes. A few favorites from 2018 include:

Adirondack Education Center (Natural Resource Science Program) purchased tree calipers and an increment corer. This Program is working with the Environmental Division at the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to monitor the growth and health of the black ash population at the school. The Emerald Ash Borer was discovered on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe in 2017. This discovery is a huge detriment to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. This funding allowed the Natural Resource Science Program to purchase tree calipers and an increment corer, and utilizing this equipment to monitor the growth rates of the black ash over the next few years. This information will be used to determine if the black ash growing at Adirondack Education Center meets the requirements to be utilized by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for the needs and their cultural heritage. This program also is actively involved with the Village of Saranac Lake conducting forest inventories, forest measurements and health assessments which these tools will be utilized for as well.

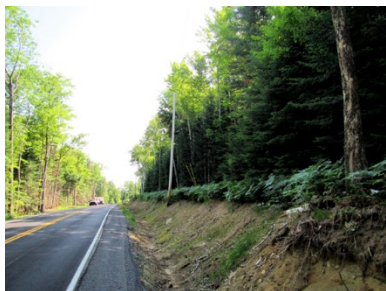


Saranac Lake Central School District purchased all the necessary supplies and materials for the school to add Trout in the Classroom to the curriculum. Students raise trout from eggs to fingerlings, monitor tank water quality, engage in a stream habitat study, appreciate water resources, foster a conservation ethic and understand ecosystem connectivity. Teaching students about water quality, cleaning up our waters by not polluting and properly disposing of our trash is a very important lesson in protecting our natural resources and the importance of our waters. The total cost of this project was \$15,000.



Hamilton County – Part B 2018 – Green Armor Pilot Projects

Green Armor pilot projects were implemented at 4 Hamilton County sites in 2018. First, the site was prepped, and rocks and debris were removed. Then, an anchor trench was dug. Second, ProGanics, a biotic soil mulch that promotes greater seed germination, was mixed with grass seed and fertilizer, then hydroseeded onto the bank. Third, Enkamat® TRMs (Turf Reinforcement Mats) were installed to increase the capabilities of grass to hold soil in place against water flow. The TRM perimeter was buried in the trench and staples held mats in place. Finally, Flexterra Growth Medium mulch was applied on top of the ProGanics and TRM to hold material in place during grass establishment. These projects successfully stabilized 4 miles of road banks and ditches, preventing approximately 60 tons of soil loss that would have adversely impacted local water quality.



Green Armor System
project before, during
and after photos
Chamberlain Road,
Indian Lake, Hamilton
County

Warren County – WQIP Grant – Stormwater Reductions through Green Infrastructure

The Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and the City of Glens Falls teamed up to reduce stormwater runoff in the Halfway Brook Watershed with Webster Avenue Green Street projects and a Bowman Avenue Green Infrastructure Improvement Project.

Together the District and the Glens Falls Water & Sewer Department installed 460 linear feet of precast POROUS concrete sidewalks. This area of the City that flows to a tributary of Halfway Brook not only has brand new sidewalks requiring fewer de-icing materials and maintenance, but also a stormwater abatement project reducing runoff and pollutants to a brook trout stream in the Lake Champlain Basin. In addition to the porous sidewalks, a 180 square foot rain garden with 62 native plants, four rock forebays and a 120-foot grassed infiltration swale to further reduce stormwater pollutants from reaching the tributary were included in this project. To finalize the Webster Avenue project, we also installed gray infrastructure with a catch basin and drywell to capture and infiltrate stormwater where green infrastructure was not feasible. The total project cost was \$35,000.



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 stabilized, until this year when once again they dropped off. The overall decrease in orders can be attributed to the reduction of orders from the public. 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. 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	90
2019	\$3,518	\$1,207	75

*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 25th. There were 14 schools that participated with a total of 22 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 19th. 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.

Columbia County Report: During 2018, Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District held 138 programs at Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center and throughout Columbia County with 771 adults and 2085 children attending. We hosted several in-house public education events, and we invited several guest speakers to visit. These programs included Owls! with live animals from Whispering Willow Wild Care. So many people called to register for this program we had to add on a second session – the final count was 109 participants! Whispering Willow brought along a barred owl, barn owl, red-tailed hawk, American crow and a common raven and the participants saw each one UP CLOSE!

In addition to the public events held on-site, we went out into the schools and community to provide educational opportunities. The Drop in Hudson program continued during 2018 with fishing at Hudson Riverfront Park, Ernest L. Lasher Memorial Park (Germantown) and Nutten Hook (Stuyvesant). Envirothon was also a big part of 2018 - we worked with both the Ichabod Crane and Hudson High School student teams. Hudson High School went to the New York State competition where they placed 5th overall - their best finish ever! We also held a photography contest - **Mud Creek Birds!** - where submitted photographs reflected the photographer's experience with the birds of the Mud Creek trail. And, of course, we had a booth at the Columbia County Fair at Chatham Fairgrounds from August 29 through Labor Day.

Dutchess County Report: DCSWCD held a Highway Department Training in October 2018 which included the ESI presentation, hydroseeding demonstration, and an Emriver Model demonstration. DCSWCD also organized a waste tire removal program for several farms in the county. Multiple dry hydrants were designed and installed. DCSWCD assisted County and Town Highway Departments with stabilization projects.

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. We hope you consider submitting a nomination for next year's awards program!

*Submitted by Erin Sommerville
Division VII Representative*

Division VIII: Annual Report

Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro, Agronomist

- **District / County Programs**

- Ag in the Classroom
- Soil HELP (Soil Health Equipment Loan Program)
- Comprehensive Soil Health Testing
- Inventory and Evaluate Bluff Remediation, Stabilization, and Revegetation
- Southold Bioswale
- Rain Garden Maintenance
- Stormwater Evaluation and Recommendation
- Farm Tire Recycling

- **Funding 2018**

- Deer Fence: 2018 NYS Budget
- RCPP : Reclaim Our Water
- EPF : Nutrient Management
- NPS: Ebb & Flow Recycling Benches
- WQIP: South Harbor Road Bioswale
- DEC Grant for Agrichemical Handling Facilities
- Closed NPS Round 18 and 19

- **Education/Outreach**

- GI Mapping and Website Update
- 20th Annual Long Island Envirothon
- Long Island Agricultural Forum
- Soil Health Workshop
- 4 Hour DEC ESC Training
- NYS Fair
- Annual Newsletter
- District Website and Facebook Page

- **Staff Training and Conferences**

- Pine Barrens Research Forum & Field Day
- Water Quality Symposium
- AFT Practical Soil Health Specialist
- Farm Net
- NRCS Soil Health and Sustainability
- NRCS Tool Kit
- NRCS WEPP
- NRCS WEPs
- Conservation Skills Workshop
- LISGIS GIS Conference
- NRCS Local Training Events and JAA
- Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Retaliation Training
- Defensive Driving

- **Employee Update**

- **Welcome!! Kaitlin Shahinian** is the new Soil District Technician for Suffolk County SWCD. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Adelphi University. Prior to SWCD, Kaitlin worked as a GIS Analyst for Town of Babylon Department of Environmental Control. She is eager to be working closer with resource conservation and to be learning more about agricultural practices from farms in Suffolk County.

New York City: Shino Tanikawa, Executive Director

- The Urban Soils Institute had a phenomenal year. We offered soil testing services and a dozen workshops to community gardeners and urban farmers. We continue to build our partnerships locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Our Annual Urban Soils symposium was a huge success with people who are passionate about urban soils - scientists, policy makers, gardeners, farmers, natural resource managers, and even artists! One of the more exciting initiatives of the USI is the urban soils Art Extension Service which pairs artists with scientists to turn abstract technical concepts visible and accessible to the lay people.
- Our stormwater and GI program has also been fruitful in 2018. We updated or created new the Open Sewer Atlas maps that visualizes the City's sewersheds. Our GI Bus and Bike Tour provided an opportunity to learn best practices and new ideas in GI from across the river in NJ. Working with CBOs, we continued to promote GI through incentives and regulations (the City Council introduced a package of bills on GI).
- Last but not least, we managed to educate hundreds of students K - 12 on water quality, stormwater, CSOs and urban soils.
- Looking forward to continuing and expanding our programs in 2019!

Division VIII: Annual Report

Westchester County: Robert Droscher, Principal Environmental planner and District Manager

- Two hundred eighty people attended a half-day District-sponsored workshop, “Confronting Climate Change: What To Expect In Our Region,” at the Westchester County Center in White Plains on December 12, 2018. Three nationally recognized climatologists discussed the hydrological impacts climate change has had and will continue to have on southeastern New York.
- The design of a project to restore 100 acres of grassland atop the former Croton Landfill at Croton Point Park was completed in 2018. Construction will begin in 2019. The park occupies the largest peninsula in the Hudson River corridor. The peninsula is a critically important habitat for migrating and nesting birds in the Atlantic Flyway, and the restoration of vital grassland will improve this habitat for several bird species, including some that are of special concern or threatened. The restoration will be completed in 2020.
- A 2.5-acre freshwater wetland next to the Bronx River was restored in 2018 by eradicating thousands of European alder saplings and mature trees. The wetland is in the Bronx River Parkway Reservation and is a valuable, natural stormwater management area due to its location in the river’s floodplain. It also is potentially valuable habitat for amphibians, reptiles and birds, which this restoration will enhance.

Putnam County: Lauri Taylor, Sr. Environmental Planner and District Manager

- The District had a very successful Seedling Sale
- Co-hosted the Annual Southeast NY Stormwater Conference through the Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts
- Partnered with Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS) to install Great Swamp Watershed Awareness signs on County and State roads
- Using Performance Measures funding began construction of the stormwater plan for the county owned Tilly Foster Farm that the District developed in 2017. Also partnered with EOH Watershed Corporation for additional funding
- Also funded the installation of a new inlet and outlet of the pond at Tilly Foster Farm to re-establish the pond and once established, stocked with fish
- Continued with our Keep Putnam Farming Initiative and had a successful farm tour and potluck dinner for farmers to network with each other.
- Provided damage assessments on farm throughout the county for FSA after the county was hit with 2 tornados
- Assisted with the development of a 5 year planting plan and purchased a greenhouse for Tilly Foster Farm
- Worked with the Town of Patterson on field verifying all agricultural lands, updating information and maps as needed
- Worked with the County Legislature on the Annual Agricultural District Enrollment
- Worked with NRCS/landowner to obtain a high tunnel for Petersen’s Greenhouses
- Continued with the usual landowner/municipal/other partner assistance, Soil Group Worksheets, Agricultural complaints, GIS mapping

Division VIII: Annual Report

Rockland County: Nicole Laible, District Manager

- The American eel project at Minisceongo Creek was coordinated by RC SWCD this past year. 115 volunteers were trained and/or participated. MC broke the estuary record since the program began, with over 40,000+ glass eels counted, weighed and relocated above the nearest barrier.
- For the Sparkill Creek project, staff trained 13 volunteers to maintain the eel ladder, identify and measure glass eels and elvers caught in the device. A total of 8 eels were relocated about the Ferdon Dam; they averaged between 1 inches to 6 inches length. The project was highlighted as a local environmental victory on News 12 Hudson Valley and the County Media Office.
- The Volunteer Stream Biomonitoring Project is sponsored by the NYS DEC Stream Biomonitoring Unit. The project is known as WAVE (water assessment by volunteer evaluators). Volunteers collect benthic macroinvertebrates in streams throughout Rockland County. In 2018, 37 volunteers participated collecting 13 stream samples.
- For the Storm Drain Marking Program, staff trained one volunteer thus far and provided 30 markers for installation throughout the Village of Nyack. Rain Works, rain activated paint was applied on a sample stencil. 3-4 stencils were created by District staff and installed along the walkway at Haverstraw Bay County Park where thousands of park patrons visit annually.
- The Wild Oyster Project at Piermont Pier was the 2018 pilot project for the District. The project was sponsored by The Billion Oyster Project and the NY Harbor Foundation. Piermont was the furthest north site along the Hudson River Estuary. The Village of Piermont provided approval for access to the Pier. 8 adults participated in the pilot project. 1 dead oyster was documented over the course of the survey. Over ½ of the perimeter of the pier was surveyed.
- PEERS- The Professional Stream Biomonitoring Project continued for its 12th year. District staff completed the field assessments and contracted the lab analysis and final report out to Watershed Assessment Associates. The 2017 final report was provided in 2018 which marked the first culvert water quality assessment report in NYS, completed for the Cedar Pond Brook subwatershed. Field work was completed in 2018 for the Minisceongo Creek subwatershed highest priority crossing.
- NAACC Culvert Assessments project was completed for its 5th year. 65 total crossings were assessed in the town of Orangetown and Town of Clarkstown. Since 2014, RC SWCD has assessed 361 road-stream crossings, and completed Town Inventories for Stony Point and Haverstraw.
- Town Level Inventory Document Project was completed for its 2nd year. The Haverstraw Town Inventory Document ranked the top 10 crossings in need of repair based on flood risk, aquatic passability and local knowledge.
- The Minisceongo Creek Watershed Alliance officially formed in 2018 with local stakeholders including RC SWCD, Keep Rockland Beautiful, Rockland County Conservation and Service Corps, Garner Historic District, Village of West Haverstraw, NYS DEC HREP, Hudson River Watershed Alliance and The Nature Conservancy. The Alliance is still working towards identifying a mission statement. They continue to gather input from local residents and business owners to identify issues to address and areas to conserve in the subwatershed.
- Stevens Institute of Technology Engineer Capstone Project was funded by RC SWCD in partnership with the Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management. Undergraduate engineering students will research historical and future trends in flooding across the County. The group will present preliminary results to the Task Force and public and then create a formal report with conceptual designs in key areas in need of flood repair. The study will run from 2018-2019.
- NYS DEC endorsed 4-hour training in erosion and sediment control was completed in October 2018, with 62 individuals trained.

Division VIII: Annual Report

Rockland County Continued...

- Environmental education continued to expand in 2018 as 1,276 youths and adults were educated over the course of 30 lessons, field trips and tabling events. This equates to over 60% increase in number educated from 2017.
- Water Quality Coordinating Committee hosted four public meetings (January, March, September and November). An average of 8 individuals attended each meeting this year. Guest speakers covered topics including golf course bmps, water quality mapping across the county, and irrigation technologies.
- Trout Stocking continued through RC SWCD funding in May 2018. Parks staff, local Sportsman's group and 12 volunteers assisted a hired contractor to distribute 1,100 8-10 inch Brook Trout throughout 6 County Regulated Streams.

Nassau County: David Ganim, District Manager

- **Grants/Funding:**
 - NYSDEC Grant for Southern Pine Beetle Suppression and management project in the Massapequa Preserve - Our new technician is surveying the preserve daily and utilizing GPS to record the locations of at-risk pine trees.
- **Some projects from 2018:**
 - Shellfish Seed Sorter - A shellfish seed sorter was purchased and is currently being used by the Town of Oyster Bay's Shellfish program. This sorter allows two people to do the work of ten people, greatly increasing efficiency.
 - Outreach Program – Our outreach program was very successful, introducing many Nassau County residents the District and spawning many technical assistance requests.
 - Black Skimmer Foraging Monitoring with Stable Isotope Analysis – Migration and feeding patterns of the Black Skimmers were reviewed using GPS trackers, and blood was taken to analyze the differing amounts of stable isotopes (this will allow us to reconstruct the diets of the Skimmers).
- **E&SC Trainings:**
 - We hosted 3 ESC Trainings throughout 2018
- **Education/Outreach:**
 - Below are some of the events that Nassau County SWCD hosted or attended throughout 2018:
 - Raingarden Presentations
 - CCE-NC Science Day
 - Seatuck Eco Carnival
 - Glen Cove Earth Day
 - Cold Spring harbor Fish Hatchery Event
 - BMP Workshop
 - NYSCDEA Water Quality Symposium
 - Port Washington Harborfest
 - Long Island Fair
- **Staffing:**
 - We hired two new staff members in 2018, a Conservation Technician, Olivia Calandra, and a Bookkeeper, Yoan Carrillo; both doing an excellent job.



2019 NYS Envirothon CDEA Annual Report

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The 2019 NYS Envirothon committee has been very busy preparing for the 2019 event. The present committee is as follows;

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair	Volunteer
Cal Lewis, Vice Chair	Volunteer
Kristin White, Secretary/Treasurer & Webmaster	CDEA Representative
Fred vonMechow, Oral Presentation	Educator Volunteer
JoAnn Kurtis, Test/Resources	NRCS Earth Team Volunteer
MaryLynne Malone, Volunteer	Educator Volunteer
Betsy Ukerit, Awards	NYS DEC Representative
Ernie Swift,	NYACD Representative
Al Fagan, Site Coordinator	Wyoming – Division I District Representative
Bob Shenk, Test/Scoring	Cattaraugus – Division I District Representative
Dean Moore, Oral Presentation	Warren District – Division V Representative
Miranda Palmer, Snacks	Tioga – Division IV District Representative
Chelsea Bartlett, Activities	Steuben – Division IV District Representative
Chas Miller, Publicity	Franklin – Division V District Representative

The following Divisions do not have members on the committee presently; Division II, III, VI, VII, VIII. We are always looking for additional members. We hope that you will consider coming on board with us.

The 2019 event will once again be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Wednesday, May 22nd & Thursday, May 23rd, 2019.

The 2019 NYS Envirothon oral presentation problem has been created on the NCF-Envirothon current issue topic *"Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge & Technology to Feed the World"*.

We have been busy working on guest speakers, evening judges, sponsors, and promoting the event through-out the year. We have been working with the Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) by providing them with two lists of potential sponsors.

We have written grant requests to Dominion Energy & the Rocky Mt. Elks Foundation plus sent out over thirty-six (36) potential donor packets. We are always searching for sponsors and leads to additional ones.

Last year we took a survey as to see what sale items we could create and sell to raise funds for the NYS Envirothon. This year we elected to purchase crew socks with the NYS Envirothon logo on them and sell them for \$15.00. They are now available for purchase. We hope that folks & Districts will support the NYS Envirothon & purchase a pair of socks. One idea for local Envirothon's is to purchase a pair for their local team member(s). The great thing about purchasing these socks from John's Socks we not only raise funds for the NYS Envirothon, but for every pair sold John's Socks donates a portion to the Special Olympics. The young man, John Croin who created this company is a fine young man with Down Syndrome.

Some of you may be aware that a couple of years ago the NYS Envirothon committee purchased a trailer to store & transport necessary items to the yearly event. Steuben Co. SWCD has been gracious enough to allow us to store the trailer at their office equipment barn. They have also allowed us space to store items in the upper portion of their equipment barn for additional Envirothon items. This allows to have an inside work area when sorting & preparing necessary event items. The committee greatly appreciates the Steuben Co. SWCD Staff & Directors for them and continued support of the NYS Envirothon.

This year the committee purchased more tent bags for the additional canopies & tents purchased last year. This provides protection for the canopies & tents as well as makes it much easier for the setup/cleanup crew when preparing or tearing down to place them in the trailer.

VOLUNTEERS!!!! We are always looking for volunteers for the event. Please register online as soon as possible for one or both days. We will provide you with meals while you are helping us out. If you need to stay overnight, we will provide you with a dorm room as well as meals. Sign-up at www.nysenvirothon.org, www.nysenvirothon.net, or www.nysenvirothon.com You can always reach out to a committee member & they will put you in contact directly with our volunteer coordinator.

THANKING YOU in advance for stepping up & volunteering!!!!

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

Supporting Environmental Awareness
Through the Funding of Educational Programs



2018 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.
2018 NYS Envirothon Winners and North
American Champs!**

Environmental Education Foundation Fund Raising Efforts

In 2018 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 as well as natural resource and environmental education, the Foundation accepted \$109,776.78 in 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 Booth Report 2018

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 2018 Great New York State Fair Booth. We appreciate your help! If you are interested in working a shift for the 2019 Great NYS Fair Booth, please contact Kristin White at 315-835-6030 or kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net.
- ▶ 2018'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 201 Great NYS Fair was 1,279,010. 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, Brian Hall, Cayuga County SWCD, Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD, Tim Schneider, Cayuga County SWCD, and Jody Applebee, Steuben County SWCD.
- ▶ The winners of the coloring contest were: 0-5 years was Karina Peters from Wayne County, 6-8 years was Aiyana Peters from Wayne County, and 9-12 years was Ella Kelly from Oneida County.
- ▶ The guessing game for 2018 was a rain gauge filled with 436 Gob Stoppers. Tom McNaney from Onondaga County guessed the exact number. The prize was a fish poster.
- ▶ **Products and Services Book** – Kristin put this book together back in 2009 to have available as a reference for visitors to our booth. This book is to have as a reference at the both the New York State Fair Booth and Empire Farm Days.
- ▶ **2019 Dates – August 21, 2019 to September 2, 2019**

Kristin White, Chair



Empire Farm Days 2018

Provided by the Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.

Located at Rodman Lott and Son Farms

2973 State Route 414, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

The Committee would like to say **THANK YOU** to all that volunteered at this year's Empire Farm Days which was held August 7th-9th, 2018. There were between 60,000-70,000 in attendance.

The 2019 dates are August 6, 2019 to August 8, 2019. Look for the schedule on the NYSCDEA's website for open shifts. Our location is lot #500.

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.

Kristin White, Chair



The 2018 Conservation Skills Workshop was held at the Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District offices between September 24-28, 2018. It was another success! 137 folks registered (93 from SWCD's, 19 NRCS, 8 Watershed Ag Council, and 17 from ag related businesses). The two classes with the highest attendance were Soil Health (40) and Geologic Reports (35). The 3rd annual BBQ was cancelled due to low attendance the prior year. The registration fee stayed at \$30 a student for the entire week; the same as it has been since 2015.

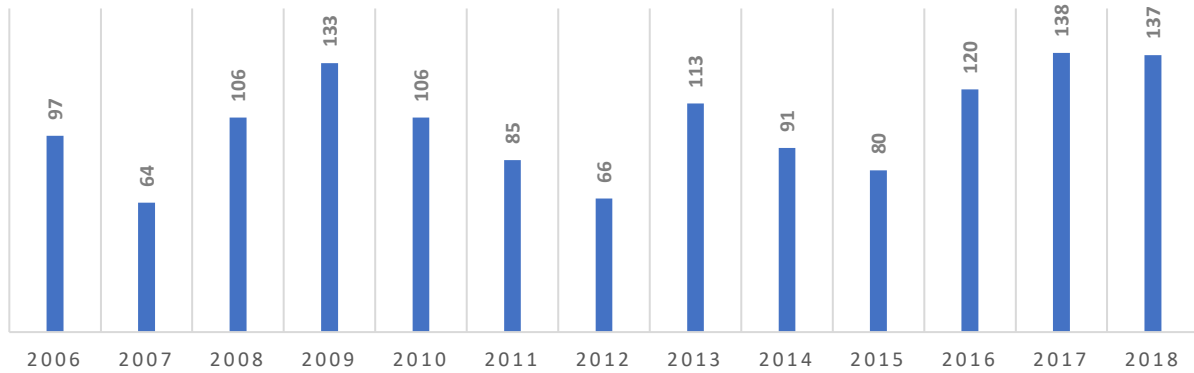
To help offset expenses by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, a \$500 mini-grant was obtained from the Empire Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service also provided \$1,000 towards expenses to put on the week-long training. *THANK YOU to both organizations for the generous support!*

Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has tentatively scheduled the 2019 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting Tuesday, May 7 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 2018 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. AS ALWAYS, A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO CORTLAND COUNTY SWCD FOR HOSTING THIS EVENT SINCE **2001!**

STUDENTS ATTENDING CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP



Highest Daily Number of Students	Class
39	Basic soil health
35	Geologic reports & Reports
25	AEM Tier 3A Streams Planning
21	Green infrastructure
18	Bats and new regulations
18	Advanced hydrology
16	Urban forestry
16	Stream design
15	NAACC
10	Ag safety
8	New employee orientation
3	NYS ESC Exam



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WHEREAS, In the 2018-2019 New York State Budget, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD's) received a proposed funding increase of one million dollars,

WHEREAS, Performance Measures have been a metric and requirement for determining eligibility and the reimbursement amounts based on said eligibility,

WHEREAS, the funding item know as Part C may be utilized by all SWCD's and split equally amongst the SWCD's based on Performance Measures Standards,

WHEREAS, from the 2018-2019 New York State Budget, three hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars were removed from Part C with no prior notice, as a carve out and provided to specific SWCD's, for specific projects,

WHEREAS, both the Onondaga County and Warren County Soil and Water Conservation Districts believe this sets an extremely dangerous precedent, eliminates the intent and fairness of this funding item for all SWCD's, and opens the door for Part C to be used as a "Member Item",

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the District hereby requests the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association engage in discussions with the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the New York Association of Conservation Districts on current and future impacts posed by these legislative actions and the NYS Legislature to eliminate the future likelihood of this occurring again

AND ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that the NYSCDEA will not support this type of action utilizing Part C in this manner.