

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



**2020 Annual Meeting
Wednesday March 11, 2020**

**“Providing Today,
Protection Tomorrow”**



NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

March 11, 2020

Double Tree Hilton, Syracuse, NY

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NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

March 11, 2020

Double Tree Hilton, Syracuse, NY

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order- Welcome and Introductions
2. Roll Call of Districts
3. Reading and approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Review Slate of Officers- Steve Lorraine- Past President
5. Treasurer's report for 2019
6. Review and Approval of 2020 Budget
7. Partner Reports
 - New York Association of Conservation Districts
 - New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
 - 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 Division Reps for the Divisions
13. Committee Reports
14. By-Law Changes
15. Resolutions
16. Other Business from the Floor
17. Election of Officers- Steve L.
18. Adjournment

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
Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC
Ed Henry, NRCS
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

Division Representatives

Judy Bennett, Division I
Kelly Emerick, Division II
Raeanne Dulanski, Division III
Velynda Parker, Division IV
Kristin Ballou, 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 6:34 p.m. He mentioned that this year is the 40th annual Water Quality Symposium, and cake will be served to honor the event. He welcomed everyone to Syracuse, and asked the attendees to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call of Districts – Secretary Caitlin Stewart performed the roll call and the following 44 Districts were present:

Albany	Franklin	Nassau	Schenectady
Cayuga	Fulton	Niagara	Schoharie
Chautauqua	Genesee	Onondaga	Seneca
Chemung	Greene	Ontario	Steuben
Chenango	Hamilton	Orange	Suffolk
Clinton	Herkimer	Orleans	Tioga
Cortland	Jefferson	Oswego	Warren
Delaware	Lewis	Otsego	Washington
Dutchess	Livingston	Rensselaer	Wayne
Erie	Madison	St. Lawrence	Westchester
Essex	Monroe	Saratoga	Wyoming

III. Reading and approval of the 2018 Annual Meeting minutes.

- A motion was made by Velynda Parker, seconded by Chastity Miller to dispense with the reading and approve the 2018 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. Open until the end of the meeting.

President – Chasity Miller

Vice President – Dustin Lewis
Secretary – Caitlin Stewart
Treasurer – Kristin White
Member at Large - Dean Moore

V. Review and approval of the 2018 Treasurer's Report.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin Stewart, seconded by Velynda Parker to approve the 2018 Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.**

VI. Review and approval of 2019 Budget.

- **A motion was made by Judy Bennett, seconded by Brian Scoralick to approve the 2019 budget as presented. Carried.**

VII. Partner Reports

a. New York Association of Conservation Districts – Blanche Hurlbutt mentioned that her report is in the packet. She shared her report, appended to the minutes.

b. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee – Scott Fickbohm mentioned that a copy of the report is on each table. He continued that the State Committee thanks those who worked to make the Water Quality Symposium a great success. The SWCC hopes to contribute greatly, learn, and strengthen the bonds between Districts and partners. He shared his report, appended to the minutes.

c. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Ed Henry mentioned that NRCS is grateful for the invitation to the Water Quality Symposium. He continued that New State Conservationist Blake Glover is experienced, will bring fresh perspectives to New York, and is currently in Washington for trainings and congressional visits. NRCS has limited staff and resources. Changes are taking place in Headquarters. Secretary Purdue is shifting departments and divisions, and the Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and NRCS are now under Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). NRCS staffing is currently 25 positions short in New York State, with 9 to 12 positions being refilled a year. Partnerships, including the 4-way partnership, RCPP, State Technical Advisory Committee, and academic partners are important. EQIP totals \$14.5 million of work on the ground through contracts. Some active contracts are 10 years old, but most are between 1 to 4 years. The Conservation Stewardship Program totals half a million dollars and will receive a facelift with new Farm Bill as well as new opportunities. Easements from farmlands and wetlands totaled \$4 million. The new Farm Bill is coming out, and information dissemination is slow. The federal government has recognized hemp as a crop, and is developing new guidance. Conservation plans have been written, and customer service is at the forefront of NRCS. Soil health is included in the Farm Bill as a resource concern. Soil health is an important part of the planner program, and a training session will be held in June at SUNY Morrisville that is required for NRCS certified conservation planners.

VIII. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association reports – Jeff Parker mentioned that during a recent meeting, Velynda Parker was nominated as secretary for the National Board of Directors. Jeff thanked present and past employees who

served on the CDEA board, and noted the importance of taking New York's mission nationally. Jeff continued that the New York CDEA has put Districts light years ahead of other Districts across the nation, and the board is important because of the continued efforts with AEM, CNMP, and RCPP. Jeff mentioned that his report is in the packet. He shared his report, appended to the minutes.

IX. New Employee Recognition - Each Division Representative recognized new employees during the Division meetings. Division V Representative Kristin Ballou recognized and announced the new employees while Steve Lorraine distributed the welcome gifts during the Annual Meeting. She congratulated all of the new employees. The list of new employees is appended to the minutes.

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. Kristin Ballou and Steve Lorraine recognized employees with 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, and 50 years of service with Districts during the Annual Meeting, and pins were distributed. Tom Sanford, District Manager of Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District, received a plaque for his 50 years of service. Robert Declue, District Planner of Chenango County SWCD received a plaque for his 40 years of service. Kristin mentioned that the growth and success of Districts depends on devoted and dedicated employees. She thanked these employees for their years for service. The years of service list is appended to the minutes.

XI. Officer Reports

a. President – Steve Lorraine mentioned that the President's Report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

b. Vice President - Chastity Miller thanked those who helped with the Water Quality Symposium. She continued that the first Symposium was held 40 years ago, and it is important for District staff to volunteer for and participate in the New York State Envirothon, Environmental Education Foundation, and Golf Tournament. She mentioned that Dustin is still selling gun raffle tickets, and the Environmental Education Foundation has a vacancy that must be filled. She mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

c. Member at Large – Doug Kierst mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. Doug continued that the Managers' Program through CDEA offers continuing education credits that must be submitted. Ron Thron of Wayne County SWCD meets the requirements of the Manager's Program. Doug congratulated Ron. Doug mentioned that this is his last year serving on the CDEA Board, he was thankful for the opportunity over the last 6 years, and encouraged District staff to get involved.

XII. Division Reports

Division I – Judy Bennett mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She continued that elections were held today, and Scott Collins will be new Division 1 Representative.

Division II – Kelly Emerick mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. Kelly was thankful for her service as Division Representative. She mentioned that Aaron Buchta will be stepping in as the new Division Representative until elections are held next year. She encouraged everyone to participate in CDEA because the work is important and it is a great experience.

Division III – Raeanne Dulanski mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division IV – Velynda Parker mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She mentioned that the Bucket Raffle drawings will take place during the reception on Thursday.

Division V – Kristin Ballou mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She mentioned that registration is open for the Fishing Contest.

Division VI – Ben Luskin mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. He mentioned that fertilizer tablets must be picked up by noon tomorrow.

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

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

XIII. Committee Reports

a. Envirothon – Blanche Hurlbutt shared her report, available in the packet and appended to the minutes. Blanche mentioned that New York State Envirothon portfolios must be picked up at the registration table. She continued that, while the National Envirothon is going technical for the Oral Presentation, New York is not. She mentioned that volunteers are needed for the New York State Envirothon, and online registration is available.

b. Environmental Education Foundation - Chasity Miller mentioned that report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She mentioned that one new member is needed.

c. New York State Fair – Kristin White mentioned that report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She mentioned that a recruitment email will be sent. She continued that she will accept credit cards, cash, and checks for the silent auction, and to have payment ready when the winners are announced.

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

e. Conservation Skills Workshop – Steve Lorraine mentioned that the report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

f. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Judy mentioned that the report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes in her Division I report. She mentioned that the scholarship grows each year, and more people are submitting applications. The scholarship supports continuing education classes. Two rounds are available every year, and applications are due January 1 and June 1. Division Representatives rank the applications.

XIV. Resolutions – Steve Lorraine mentioned that one resolution was received and is included in the packet.

RESOLUTION #

RESOLUTION REQUESTING 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 THE 2018-2019 NEW YORK STATE BUDGET PART C CARVE OUT TO ELIMINATE THE LIKELIHOOD OF FUTURE OCCURRENCES.

BY: DUSTIN LEWIS

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 SWCDS'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 NYS CDEA will not support this type of action utilizing Part C in this manner.

SECONDED BY: David Jaeger and adopted.

XV. Other Business from the Floor - Steve inquired if there was other business from the floor. None was brought forward.

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 Caitlin to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one vote. Carried.**

Steve Lorraine thanked the Districts for letting him serve as CDEA President. He continued that CDEA does a lot of work on behalf of Districts, more than is understood or realized. He continued that the time commitment of the CDEA Executive Board and Division Representatives is great for both Districts, families and coworkers, and all should be applauded for supporting CDEA.

XVII. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Steve Lorraine, seconded by Caitlin Stewart to adjourn the 2019 Annual NYS CDEA Meeting at 7:54 p.m. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

**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	<u>1,232.25</u>	<u>0.00</u>
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>171,791.95</u>	<u>153,565.29</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
CDEA Credit Card-Treasurer		
Envirothon Expenses	<u>66.98</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total CDEA Credit Card-Treasurer	<u>66.98</u>	<u>0.00</u>
CDEA Credit Card-Vice President	<u>84.88</u>	<u>0.00</u>
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>151.86</u>	<u>0.00</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/EPD	\$ 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/EDF	\$ 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



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.

OK



**Soil and Water
Conservation
Committee**

NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Report to the 2019 CDEA Annual Meeting

www.nys-soilandwater.org

From the Office of the State Committee

The State Committee wishes to thank all of those who make the Water Quality Symposium a great success. The topics on this year's program are salient and sure to be tremendously informative. It is not just the training topics that make this Symposium such a great success, it is each participant. For decades now, this annual training session has been a staple for Conservation District personnel to gather, network, and share stories of the incredible work that each District accomplishes throughout the year.

The State Committee hopes each of you contribute greatly and take away all that you can from this event. Most importantly learn all you can from each other and strengthen the bonds between all the partners whose mission is to protect and enhance natural resources for today's generation and those to come.

Thank you.

2018 Highlights

The State Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget continued historic support for environmental conservation. The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) budget was maintained for the third year at the historically high level of \$300 million.

Appropriations of importance to Soil and Water Conservation Districts include:

- \$18 million for Farmland Protection
- \$17 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects/AEM Base Funding
- \$2.5 million for the new Climate Resilient Farms Program
- \$17.25 million for Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative
- \$10 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Increase of \$645,000
- \$2.3 million for Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Protection Alliance
- \$1.5 million for Agricultural Waste Management, which funds programs like the Dairy Acceleration Program and other DEC/DAM/SWCC MOU Projects
- \$20.25 million for Water Quality Improvement Program, an increase of \$12 million
- \$50 million for Manure Storage and Transfer Systems on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*

*Funding for this program is from the State Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget: \$2.5 Billion Clean Water Infrastructure



**Soil and Water
Conservation
Committee**

www.nys-soilandwater.org

NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Report to the 2019 CDEA Annual Meeting

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- \$2.3 million for Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Protection Alliance
- \$1.5 million for Agricultural Waste Management, which funds programs like the Dairy Acceleration Program and other DEC/DAM/SWCC MOU Projects
- \$20.25 million for Water Quality Improvement Program, an increase of \$12 million
- \$50 million for Manure Storage and Transfer Systems on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations*

*Funding for this program is from the State Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget; \$2.5 Billion Clean Water Infrastructure

EPF Outlook for SFY 2019-2020:

The Governor submitted his SFY 2019-2020 Executive Budget to the Legislature on Tuesday, January 15th, 2019. The proposed Budget is available in its entirety at www.budget.ny.gov. This Executive proposed budget again shows a profound commitment to Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the vital work you all do. This proposed Executive Budget is subject to review and potential changes by the NYS Senate and Assembly. The SFY 2019-2020 budget should be fully enacted by April 1, 2019.

Overall appropriations for the SFY 2019-2020 EPF are proposed to be \$300 million. Appropriations of interest to SWCC/SWCDs include:

- \$18 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$1 million for Cornell IPM, \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell PMEP (represents a proposed \$1 million increase over last year's level for grant projects and AEM Base Funding)
- **\$10.5 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (represents a proposed \$500,000 increase over last year's level)**
- \$18.25 million for Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$13.3 million for Invasive Species, including \$120,000 for the Cornell University Plant Certification program
- \$17.25 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative
- \$2.3 million for Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Protection Alliance
- \$250,000 for Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
- **\$5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, with \$200,000 directed to Cornell Soil Health Program, and \$200,000 for a Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot (represents a proposed \$2.5 million increase over last year's level). Round 5 of the CRF Program will include an emphasis on a Healthy Soils NY Program.**
- \$17 million for Farmland Protection, including \$95,000 for the Cornell Land Classification and Master List of Soils

*an additional \$2.5 billion is being proposed for a second Water Infrastructure Act.

State Aid to Districts Behind the Numbers (Hot off the Press!):

The 2018 State Aid to Districts Program is being reviewed and will be processed in March 2019. A Conservation District that earned full Part A reimbursement, received a \$6,000 conservation project, and meet all Performance Measures will receive a total **\$165,595.23**. **Part C awards have never been so high with a total maximum earned at \$99,595.23. This indicates a positive trend in that more Districts are meeting and exceeding Performance Measures.**

State financial support of County Conservation Districts, by the numbers, has never been this high. This support is a direct reflection of the outstanding work that Conservation Districts accomplish every year. It is also a reflection of the level of performance and capacity that a Conservation District strives for each year.

During the review of the 2018 reports very notable and exciting items were discovered. **97% met the maximum \$60,000 of Part A reimbursement.** More and more Districts are meeting and exceeding Performance Measures. With \$9.645 million available, **Part C Performance Measure funding is weighted historically high with \$5.5 million distributed across all participating Districts.**

With Part C, weighted so high it has never been more important to ensure the District is at a minimum meeting and even better exceeding the measures established by the State Committee with feedback from all Districts, the CDEA and NYACD.

Policies and procedures have evolved in the 13 years that the State Aid Program has included a multi-tiered approach. The State Committee endeavors each year to improve its procedures, solicit feedback, and execute the program in both an effective and efficient manner. Regional Field Staff continue to make themselves available to assist Districts in meeting PMs throughout the reporting year and to review program reports to help ensure accuracy and completeness. All staff are available at any time throughout the year to answer questions, provide clarity and background on each question and to help Districts understand eligible expenses.

Major Changes to State Aid, Part C in 2018: As a part of the budget making process, effective 4/1/18, Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 1 of section 11-a of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law, was amended to read as follows:

Within amounts available, financial assistance to each soil and water conservation district, in addition to the amounts provided under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision **shall be distributed equally** to districts that qualify pursuant to performance standards to be established by the soil and water conservation committee and the commissioner of the department of agriculture and markets in rules and regulations. Such standards shall include, but not be limited to, (i) demonstrating the extent and sufficiency of district board activity including board operations, oversight and training; (ii) district reporting requirements, including annual reports and responding to the state committee, and public outreach and education activities; (iii) the quality of the delivery of state natural resource conservation programs including appropriate certifications, training, timely completion of projects, and compliance with reporting; (iv) the ability of the district to use such funding to leverage additional funds from local, federal and private sources; and **(v) the ability to promote partnerships and assist local governments and non-governmental organizations.**

These amendments made three key changes: removed the term competitive basis, removed the provisions governing how the funding must be spent, and added a fifth PM evaluating how well the District promoted partnerships and assisted local governments and NGOs.

To determine how to adopt these changes into the next year's program solicitation, The State Committee convened a State Aid to Districts Performance Measure Summit on June 15th, 2018 with an open invitation to all Conservation Districts. Many recommendations were made to the State Committee on how to incorporate these changes and how the sub-allocation percentages should be set. The participants recommended percentages for two funding years to allow for ample time to consider how PM funding is split. The State Committee approved the Performance Measures percentages for 2018 and 2019:

2018

- PM1 (Extent and Sufficiency of District Board Activity): 10%
- PM2 (District Reporting and Outreach Activities): 10%
- PM3 (Leveraging Additional Funds and Fostering Partnerships): 40%
- PM4 (Delivery of State Natural Resource Conservation Programs): 40%
- PM5 (Promoting partnerships and assist local governments and NGOs): 0% (zero weighting for PM5 allows Districts time to become familiar with the new performance standard before it is tied to funding.)

2019

- PM1 (Extent and Sufficiency of District Board Activity): 10%
- PM2 (District Reporting and Outreach Activities): 10%
- PM3 (Leveraging Additional Funds and Fostering Partnerships): 30%
- PM4 (Delivery of State Natural Resource Conservation Programs): 40%
- PM5 (Promoting partnerships and assist local governments and NGOs): 10%

In September 2018, the State Committee motioned to move forward with consensus rulemaking to issue a revised rule and regulation to reflect the changes in the law. This process commenced in December 2018 and a draft rule will be released by the end of the first quarter 2019.

Notable Activities and Program Overview

State Committee staff provides support of District Operations:

State Committee staff assisted Districts in a wide array of operations, programs, and project areas in 2018. Regional Coordinators continued to assist District staff and Directors at monthly Board Meetings to prioritize decisions for the advancement of Districts. Staff in the Albany Office have focused on providing operational and technical support through the development of training modules, facilitation of training events, and thorough responses to increasingly complex operational issues. Monthly reports are provided to each State Committee region that includes program deadlines, funding opportunities, information related to State Committee meetings and important agenda items, and regionally significant achievements/opportunities.

Ryan Cunningham became the newest Regional Associate Environmental Analyst (AEA) for the State Committee in August 2018. Ryan is serving as the Regional AEA coordinating Conservation Districts in Northern NY. From 2005 to 2015, Ryan worked as Resource Conservation Specialist for the Onondaga County SWCD. From 2015 - 2018, Ryan worked for the State Committee, serving as a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Specialist.

Conservation Approval Authority (CAA) Program:

CAA is moving forward with 3 basic level certificates awarded in 2018 for stream crossings, roof runoff structure and fencing, 1 advanced level certificate awarded for roof runoff structures and 1,993 students online globally viewing 889 hours of training content. To date, 24 certificates for CAA have been granted since program inception. If interested in this program, contact Tim Clark, tim.clark@agriculture.ny.gov.

State Committee is working to expand its outreach efforts:

A new AEM Display was designed and made available to SWCDs and the SWCC for public events. There are four displays available. To reserve a display for an upcoming event, please contact Judy Littrell: judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov. SWCD Rack Cards, providing a brief introduction of Districts and services were developed and made available at each Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Summit.



The GIS Storyboard Project began data collection and development in 2018 and will be launched in the Spring of 2019.

The Storyboard will electronically feature up to 3 exemplary projects implemented by all 58 Districts with the goal to educate the public about the scope of work Districts perform on private and public lands.

State Committee staff continue to be engaged in the redesign of the SWCC website which will feature new technology, and greater usability. The Ag and Markets site is undergoing redesign as well with the goal for both sites to be launched in late 2019.

Districts continue to promote **the New York State Grown and Certified** by supporting producers in their efforts to enroll in the program. This has provided opportunity for Districts to introduce AEM to a diverse group of farms across the State. To date, there are 2410 producers in the program which includes 525,000 acres of farmland. In early 2019, seafood, firewood and processed products were made eligible for the program.

Cover Crop Signs were developed as a part of the Eastern Fingerlakes Cover Crop initiative, a partnership of SWCDs, the State Committee, and the NYS DEC, Finger Lakes Hub. The design was then used to create cover crop signs for all interested SWCDs statewide.



Outreach activities have included working with the Department's Public Information Officers (PIOs) on various projects such as how to handle media inquiries, and to be sure there is District involvement at appropriate Department media events. State Committee Staff have increased social media exposure through Ag and Markets and identifies and develops information for social media posts that feature District events, services for communities and landowners, and project implementation.

NYS HABs Initiative and Summits:

New York launched an aggressive campaign in 2018 to address the threat of harmful algal blooms (HABs). In recent years, the extent, duration, impacts, and awareness of HABs have increased, threatening the recreational use of lakes that are essential to tourism, as well as sources of drinking water. In 2018, the state began to implement a \$65 million 4-point initiative to aggressively combat HABs in Upstate New York. Twelve priority lakes that are vulnerable to HABs and are critical sources of drinking water and vital tourism drivers were chosen as priority waterbodies because they represent a wide range of conditions and vulnerabilities and the lessons learned will be applied to other impacted waterbodies moving forward.



SWCD Managers and local farmers discuss watershed management efforts at Syracuse HABs Summit.

4 – Points

- Convened regional summits with local, state and national experts
- Convened steering committees to work with a consultant to develop action plans for each lake
- Implementing new advanced monitoring techniques including real time monitoring buoys
- Undertaking HABs treatment pilots using mitigation strategies such as nutrient inactivants

Priority Lakes

- **Western Group:** Conesus Lake; Honeoye Lake; Chautauqua Lake
- **Central Group:** Owasco Lake; Skaneateles Lake; Cayuga Lake
- **North Country Group:** Lake Champlain at Port Henry; New York portion of Lake Champlain at Isle La Motte watershed; Lake George
- **Greater Hudson Valley Group:** Lake Carmel; Palmer Lake; Putnam Lake; Monhagen Brook watershed, including the reservoirs serving Middletown

Regional Summits

- A combination of national, state level and local experts convened to address HABs issues on a statewide and local level. The State Committee presented at each Summit.
- All summits included a closed working group that spent a day in discussions together.
- Agendas will include an overview of HABs and local waterbodies, progress that has been made by NY and identification and discussion of gaps in current knowledge.
- At each there was a public two-hour evening program with a summary of the day's summit, talks and discussion with a panel featured by visiting experts and local stakeholders.

NASCA Annual Meeting and Conservation Tour,

Onondaga County SWCD: Many thanks go out to Mark Burger and the team at the Onondaga County SWCD for their hard work in planning and executing a conservation project tour of the Otisco and Skaneateles Lake Watersheds for the National Association of Conservation Agencies (NASCA) Annual Meeting held in Syracuse on October 1st-3rd, 2018. The tour included a stop at a prominent crop farm to demonstrate a denitrifying bio-reactor project designed to treat tile drainage water before entering a tributary of Otisco Lake (pictured right).



SWCC Meeting and Conservation Project Tour,

Jefferson County SWCD: Many thanks go out to Christine Watkins and the team at the Jefferson County SWCD for their work in planning and implementing a conservation project tour for the State Committee on October 16th, 2018. The Jefferson County SWCD showcased three diverse projects throughout the county: A Riparian Forest Buffer Project along Sandy Creek (pictured right), Nutrient Management System – Manure Storage w/cover crop, and a portion of the Jefferson County Forestland for a demonstration of active forest management practices.



Riparian Buffer Evaluation Project:

In 2018, The State Committee conducted a review of riparian buffer practices including: riparian forest buffers, riparian herbaceous cover and constructed wetlands. The purpose of this review was to assess the effectiveness and success of these practices in protecting and improving water quality. All information received is being used to determine the impact the AgNPS Program is having on water quality in waterbodies across New York State. The review process consisted of two phases. For the first phase, we requested site plans on specific contracts which have implemented riparian buffer systems. The site plans were used to supplement existing SWCC information. The second phase of the process included site visits and evaluations of the riparian buffer systems. Overall, 18 BMP systems were evaluated across seven different Districts across the state. 14 Forest Buffers and 4 Herbaceous Buffer System evaluations were conducted.

What the State Committee Learned:

- Tree survivability of forested buffers was highly varied
- All had natural (herbaceous) revegetation/secondary succession, but planted trees without regular maintenance or some monitoring were typically less successful
- Buffers associated with other funding sources/incentives often fared better than just AgNPS alone
- Those associated with maintenance had greater survivability than those with little to no maintenance or monitoring
- Many of the buffers were no longer in place or no records existed
- Can be co-benefits of other projects
- Maintenance enhances survivability
- Giving time for proper establishment is going to yield enhanced buffers, quicker
- Must tie in funding for establishment period discussed to enhance tree survivability and overall buffer function



Riparian Buffer Establishment Policy:

In December 2018, the State Committee approved a policy to commit funding for the establishment of Riparian Forest Buffer Systems. The State Committee recognizes Riparian Forest Buffers as one of the most effective practices when it comes to improving and protecting water quality and in mitigating statewide water quality issues such as Harmful Algal Blooms and nutrient pollution. The biggest challenge when implementing this best management practice is achieving successful establishment. Young trees used to plant the riparian forest buffers are vulnerable and are constantly threatened by deer, voles, competing vegetation, and invasive species. Studies show that maintenance of the buffer area should be performed for a period of 3 to 4 years after planting to foster establishment and successfully implement the practice.

Through the AEM Base Program, Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be able to request financial assistance for the establishment of Riparian Forest Buffers. These costs shall be requested on an annual basis, for a minimum term of three years to allow sufficient time for establishment. If requesting establishment funds, the District and/or farmer must be committed to implementing a Riparian Forest Buffer Establishment Plan for the three-year duration. After the three years, the farmer must adhere to the standard operation and maintenance requirements. Establishment funds may be requested for Riparian Forest Buffers planted at least one year prior to the submittal of the Annual Action Plan. These funds are not available for the establishment of Riparian Herbaceous Buffers. For more information, please contact Bethany Bzduch, Associate Environmental Analyst – AgNPS Program Manager, bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov.

Source Water Buffer Program:

The Source Water Buffer Program was established in 2018 and launched in January 2019. Led by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the goal of the Source Water Buffer Program is to protect active sources of public drinking water and support, expand or enhance water quality protection through the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands. Such projects shall preserve or establish buffers for surface or ground waters which serve as or are tributaries to public drinking water supplies. \$5 million in program funds are available for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands that support, expand or enhance water quality protection of active public drinking water sources. Program funds will also be available for the implementation of Riparian Buffer Systems within the conservation easement area that will provide further protection to water quality. For more information, please contact Bethany Bzduch, Associate Environmental Analyst, bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov.

Survey of SWCDs:

In October 2018, the State Committee released a survey to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to solicit feedback on how effective the State Committee has been in supporting District programs and projects. The survey responses also were designed to evaluate the effectiveness in implementing the previous 2014-2018 SWCC Strategic Plan. The feedback is assisting the State Committee in developing its next 5 year strategy. In total, 36 individual District Officials responded: 25 District Managers, three District Administrative Assistants, seven District Technicians and 1 District Board Member. A couple of response highlights included; 97% of the respondents felt that their respective Districts are viewed as the local leader in conservation and environmental management, 60% said their Districts have increased staff resources over the last five years, 94% said their respective Districts have diversified programs over the last five years. Thank you to all SWCD personnel who completed the survey.

Statewide District Managers' Meeting:

Held in Cooperstown on December 4th and 5th, 2018. Over 100 District officials attended to hear about new program opportunities from DEC, receive program updates from SWCC staff, participate in District/SWCC Advisory Member panels related to grant writing and scoring, and risk management/annual planning. Surveys showed that most Districts prefer statewide District Managers' Meetings especially if coupled with less formal more regular regional gatherings. The State Committee will build on this format and strive to convene regular statewide meetings for future networking, information, and program sharing.



Program Overview

AEM Base Funding Program:

The 2017-18 (Year 13) AEM Base Funding Program provided \$2.33 million in reimbursement of Conservation District technical assistance to farmers in its 13th year. Cumulatively across the state, Districts spent 55,400 hours from May 2017 – May 2018 providing technical assistance to put conservation on the land. Districts are currently implementing Year 14 of the Base Program.

AEM Base Program Years 1 – 13 (2005 – 2018) - Comparison of Accomplishments

Deliverable	Yr13	Yr12	Yr11	Yr10	Yr9	Yr8	Yr7	Yr6	Yr5	Yr4	Yr3	Yr2	Yr1
Inventories (Tier 1)	427	563	523	442	456	556	605	605	537	873	1041	1263	2119
Assessments (Tier 2)	280	329	401	312	230	341	382	433	393	593	651	961	810
Conservation Plans (Tier 3)	227	244	185	202	241	220	266	280	240	406	333	387	197
BMP Implementation (Tier 4)	236	258	250	231	267	242	259	241	278	283	210	97	-
Evaluation – Update of Assessment (Tier 5A)	203	223	224	131	81	104	101	131	113	87	91	99	188
Evaluation – update of cons. plan or evaluation of BMP (Tier 5B)	381	447	351	372	392	327	301	314	287	257	129	112	82

Lower overall completed Tier work is likely attributed to the increase in time necessary as District AEM staff work with more and more farms in a community, especially during a historically poor period in the farm economy. Demand for non-Tier outreach/education/partnership work under the AEM Base Program also seems to be increasing. Such work is in support of AEM planning and implementation but can compete with limited time for technical AEM Tier work.

Recent trends toward higher level AEM Tier work (i.e., Tier 3 planning, Tier 4 implementation support, and Tier 5B BMP eval and plan updating) continue, which is aligned with District AEM Strategies and the needs of farmers, communities, and the environment.

Types of Planning (Tier 3) and Plan Updating (Tier 5B)

AEM Plan Type	Tier 3 New Plans	Tier 5B Plan Updates
Cropland 3A	31%	27%
Farmstead 3A	33%	24%
Nutrient 3A	5%	11%
Pasture 3A	31%	15%
Pest 3A	1%	0%
CNMP 3B	14 new CNMPs	23%

Year 13 had 13 Districts participating in Option B of “Enhanced” AEM Base (involves a cap up to \$85K and requires a full-time AEM Certified Planner on District staff). Fifteen Districts were eligible to participate in Enhanced AEM Base (Option B) in Year 13. Year 13 had the second highest total for funds reimbursed (\$2.33M) and matched the best ratio of amount reimbursed to amount requested (88%).

AEM for Watershed Plans and Implementation - District AEM Strategies, Annual Action Plans, and the work accomplished from them continues to directly serve local and watershed needs. This AEM approach employed by Districts has been directly used to document historical conservation progress with farms as well as set watershed-wide goals with local, State, and federal partners in every major basin the State. During Year 13, Districts were asked to provide AEM input to 9 of the 12 Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) plans across the State (i.e., those with agricultural components). Their AEM Strategies and associated accomplishments and goals provided a ready, resource-based foundation for the agricultural sector portions of the HAB plans.

AEM for [Further] Resiliency and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation - Continued use of the 5-Tiered AEM process to plan, implement, and evaluate projects that improve soil health, reduce GHG contributions, enhance stream corridors, and manage soil and water in upland areas of farms.

In August 2018, the State Committee made a series of AEM Greenhouse Gas Mitigation tools available. The available tools include a new AEM Tier 2 Worksheet accompanied by a series of detailed information sheets designed to provide AEM resource professionals with background and references:

- **AEM Tier 2 Worksheet** – Greenhouse Gas Mitigation (GHG) Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #1** – Introduction to Farm and GHG Mitigation Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #2** – Dairy Manure Storage GHG Mitigation Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #3** – Planning for Quantitative Methane Capture and Destruction from Liquid Dairy Manure Storage
- **AEM Information Sheet #4** – Energy Efficiency and GHG Mitigation Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #5** – Nitrogen Fertilizer Management and GHG Mitigation Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #6** – Soil Carbon Management and GHG Mitigation Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #7** – Forest Management and GHG Mitigation Opportunities
- **AEM Information Sheet #8** – Glossary of GHG Mitigation Opportunity Terms

Also, in 2018, the State Committee developed and released the AEM Tier 3A Stream Corridor Planning Component. This component plan addresses the stream corridor as a standalone planning unit for the proper function of the stream corridor.

During the State Committee meeting on Feb. 6, 2018, a 30% increase in AEM Base Program funding for the upcoming AEM Base Year 14 was proposed and considered both a high priority and compatible with AgNPS funding (based on budget allocations and returns). As a result, the following statewide funding caps for AEM Base Year 14 (2018-19) were approved by the State Committee:

Option A: up to \$65K (\$50K in AEM Year 13)

Option B: up to \$110K (AEM Certified Planner on staff required; \$85K in AEM Year 13)

Option C: up to \$85K (NRCS Certified Planner on staff required; \$65K in AEM Year 13)

AEM Planner Certification Update and Training Update - A total of 48 planners have been certified through the program since its inception. Eighteen of those planners are District employees across 16 Districts. Six planners are currently in the 3-Plan Review Phase. Eleven Planners were active in 2018. Several AEM Planning trainings were held in 2018. Several were small group AEM Tier 3A trainings. A Tier 3A Stream Corridor training was held at the Conservation Skills Workshop. Through the AEM Planning team, the State Committee collaborated with partners on many projects: CAFO Clean Water Act Permit technical tool development, 4R Nutrient Stewardship Program development, Cornell Nutrient Guidelines Committee, updated and developed the NYS CNMP Quality Assurance Review process, and worked to develop new AEM Tier 3A Plan components: Stream, Forestry, and Nutrient Management – Core to be released in 2019.

The 2018 AEM State Award - featured nine outstanding applicants, which is the greatest number applicants received. Thank you and congratulations to all who applied, the farms and applying Districts continue to be leaders of conservation implementation. Congratulations to Schuyler County SWCD, and to Lakewood Vineyard for being chosen as the first vineyard ever to receive the AEM Award.

On the Horizon – AEM Base Enhanced Program to include a non-competitive cost-share component – In December 2018, the State Committee agreed to the concept of developing a Tier 4 BMP implementation cost-share component into the AEM Base Program. Since that meeting, the State Committee staff has been working on building this component into the AEM Base Program. Details will be made available after the March 2019 State Committee meeting with an anticipated launch date in January 2020.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program:

In November 2018 grants were awarded to 27 different Districts under Round 24 of the AgNPS Program, providing \$17.4 million in state funds to 132 farms. State Committee staff are managing roughly 175 active contracts, representing roughly \$57 million currently being invested in agricultural conservation efforts. In 2018, Districts and SWCC Staff worked together to close-out 51 grants. The Round 25 RFP is under development and should be released in April 2019 and is expected to add another \$15 million to our efforts to address agricultural NPS pollution.

Climate Resilient Farming Program:

In April – June 2019 \$2.7 million (additional funds were re-allocated from previous budget year) was awarded to 15 different Districts for Round 3 of the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program. Projects were funded on 34 farms with the aim of reducing farms impact on climate change (mitigation) and helping farms to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change (adaptation). Funding was awarded in three tracks: Manure Storage Cover and Flare; Water Management; and Soil Health. Round 4 of the CRF Program was made offered on March 6th, with \$2.3 million available for awards.

In May 2018, the CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program:

Round 2 Request for Proposals was released by the Division of Land and Water Resources of the Department of Agriculture and Markets. This program will make available \$50 million for manure storage and transfer systems on regulated Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations. Round 1 of the program made available \$20 million. The second proposal period made available \$15 million.

NYSDEC / SWCC / NYSDAM Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

The new MOU was approved for a new 10 year, up to \$10 million term for project funding that meets the joint mission of all three agencies. This MOU is currently being utilized to fund:

The Eastern Finger Lakes Cover Crop Project - was agreed to in May 2018, to further unify the efforts to reduce erosion and protect water quality in the Finger Lakes. The DEC is providing funding to support Soil & Water Conservation Districts to implement cover crops focusing first on non-animal agricultural operations within the Eastern Finger Lakes watershed region. The Eastern Finger Lakes watershed region is defined as the watershed areas of Cayuga, Owasco, Skaneateles, and Otisco Lakes. The Cortland County SWCD is the lead project sponsor coordinating the completion of the project with the Tompkins, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca County SWCDs. To date, 541 acres of cover crops have been planted through this project.

The Mohawk River Watershed Sediment and Debris Project was agreed to in September 2018 - During storm events, vegetation, brush, debris and sediment can be washed from upstream areas, restricting the flow of water and causing backup and increasing the risk of flooding. To mitigate these dynamics, this agreement provides funding to support technical training and the development and implementation of Stream Sediment and Debris Management Plans

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.

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	District 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
Division VII				
Pamela Price	Columbia	Education Program Coordinator	Jan	2018
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					
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					



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 here 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 its 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!





NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nysceden.com

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

Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

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 Mudzynski - 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



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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.

MINUTES from the 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

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 Onondaga 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 Tribs: Town of Richmond, \$18,598;
- Ag Projects completed: DePelice 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 EX: 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 SWTO 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 Acre 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



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
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Division IV

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 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 Tribes along a tributary for Catatonk 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.





NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

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



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

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. Lusk, Natural Resource Technician
Washington County SWCD
Division VI Representative
Benjamin.Lusk@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
 - LIGIS 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 ¼ 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 are hoping 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



**Congratulations - Mount Academy, Ulster Co.
2018 NYS Envirothon Winners and North
American Champs!**

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.

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

In 2018 the Foundation continued its efforts to raise funds by researching, writing and submitting grants to

**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 NYS CDEA State Fair Committee would like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who once again helped volunteer their time to work shifts at the 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.

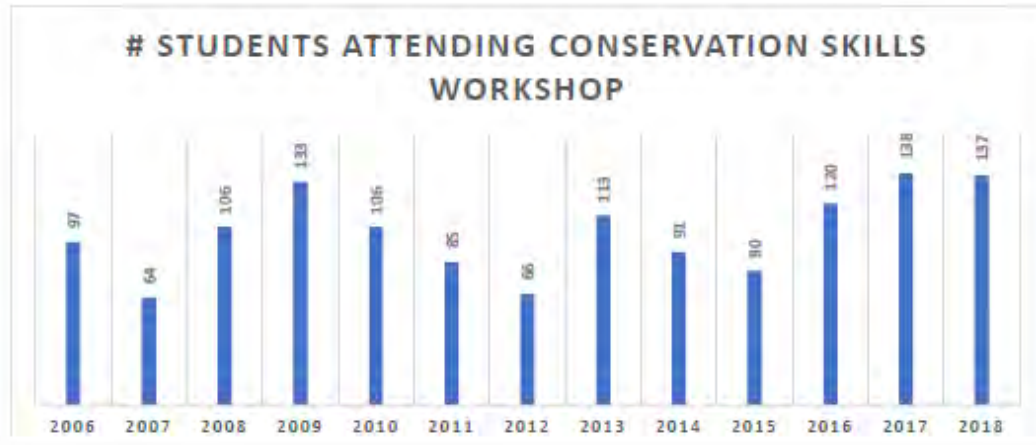
To help offset expenses by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, a \$500 mini-grant was obtained from the Empire Chapter of the Soil & Water Conservation Society. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service also provided \$1,000 towards expenses to put on the week-long training. *THANK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





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



**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2019 Bank Report**

	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>	<u>Dec 31, 18</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	51,642.87	41,491.00
4-Hour Online Course	103,113.20	0.00
Conservation Skills	18,638.56	16,995.44
Golf Tournament	4,228.85	3,946.84
Leadership Conference	2,863.13	2,863.13
NYS ESCC Program Admin Mgmt	4,050.00	0.00
NYS Envirothon	42,305.57	32,956.51
NYS Fair	6,350.50	3,274.16
Resource Training Checking	5,000.00	5,000.00
Sunshine Fund	907.93	788.67
Vacation Raffle Account	0.00	230.00
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING	<u>239,100.61</u>	<u>107,545.75</u>
Envirothon Scholarship Savings	10,588.15	9,682.88
Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings	28,356.33	27,056.74
Resource Training Savings	<u>27,050.69</u>	<u>26,274.33</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>305,095.78</u>	<u>170,559.70</u>
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		
Envirothon Receivables	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,232.25</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,232.25</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,232.25</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>305,095.78</u>	<u>171,791.95</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>305,095.78</u></u>	<u><u>171,791.95</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
Credit Card - Kristin		
Envirothon Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>66.98</u>
Total Credit Card - Kristin	<u>0.00</u>	<u>66.98</u>
Credit Card - Chastity	<u>0.00</u>	<u>84.88</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>0.00</u>	<u>151.86</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>0.00</u>	<u>151.86</u>

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2019 Budget vs. Actual**

ACCOUNT	2019 Budget		2019 Acutal	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,977.00	\$ 3,523.10
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00		
CSW	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,313.50	\$ 2,670.38
WQS	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 127,788.00	\$ 100,201.64
4-Hour Online Course	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 103,998.87	\$ 885.00
NYS ESCCP	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 9,050.00	\$ 5,000.00
Trainings		\$ 8,000.00		
WQS Resource Fair	\$ 3,650.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,658.14	\$ 3,882.33
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		\$ 3,639.05
Insurance		\$ 3,000.00		\$ 2,990.16
Promo/Website		\$ 500.00		\$ 79.99
NACD		\$ 2,400.00		
NACD NE		\$ 900.00		\$ 1,661.63
NCDEA Dues		\$ 200.00		\$ 200.00
Newsletter		\$ 3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Fundraiser Activities				
*Bucket/Silent Auction			\$ 3,380.00	\$ 3,380.00
Sunshine Fund		\$ 200.00		\$ 110.74
Office Supplies		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 739.96
Ronny Raindrop™		\$ 4,000.00		
Division I		\$ 400.00		\$ 106.27
Division II		\$ 400.00		\$ 275.00
Division III		\$ 400.00		
Division IV		\$ 400.00		\$ 135.12
Division V		\$ 400.00		\$ 317.25
Division VI		\$ 400.00		\$ 317.22
Division VII		\$ 400.00		
Division VIII		\$ 400.00		
Carryover	\$ 5,250.00			
TOTALS	\$ 167,400.00	\$ 167,400.00	\$ 258,165.51	\$ 138,389.84
Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Frank Bratt	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,394.10	\$ 2,094.51
NYS Envirothon	\$ 56,885.00	\$ 56,885.00	\$ 50,032.40	\$ 41,915.59
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,775.00	\$ 2,505.27	\$ 1,600.00
NYS Fair/EFDF	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,466.00	\$ 2,389.66
Golf Tournament	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,378.00	\$ 2,095.99
SSA Totals	\$ 69,885.00	\$ 77,160.00	\$ 63,775.77	\$ 50,095.75
Grand Total	\$ 237,285.00	\$ 244,560.00	\$ 321,941.28	\$ 188,485.59

*Proceeds go to the Frank Bratt Scholarship

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2020 Proposed Budget**

ACCOUNT	2019 Budget		2019 Actual		2020 Proposed	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,977.00	\$3,523.10	\$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	\$4,313.50	\$2,670.38	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
WQS	\$130,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$127,788.00	\$100,201.64	\$130,000.00	\$105,000.00
4-Hour Online Course	\$10,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$103,998.87	\$885.00	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00
NYS ESCCP	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$9,050.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Trainings		\$8,000.00				\$8,000.00
WQS Resource Fair	\$3,650.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,658.14	\$3,882.33	\$0.00	\$0.00
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$1,000.00		\$775.00		\$5,000.00
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		\$3,639.05		\$7,000.00
Insurance		\$3,000.00		\$2,990.16		\$3,500.00
Promo/Website		\$500.00		\$79.99		\$4.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting (NACD)		\$2,400.00				\$2,400.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Meeting (NACDNE)		\$900.00		\$1,661.63		\$3,000.00
National Conservation District Employees Association Dues (NCDEA)		\$200.00		\$200.00		\$200.00
Newsletter		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Fundraiser Activities						
*Bucket/Silent Auction			\$3,380.00	\$3,380.00		
Sunshine Fund		\$200.00		\$110.74		\$200.00
Office Supplies		\$1,000.00		\$739.96		\$5,000.00
Ronny Raindrop™		\$4,000.00				\$8,000.00
Division I		\$400.00		\$106.27		\$500.00
Division II		\$400.00		\$275.00		\$500.00
Division III		\$400.00				\$500.00
Division IV		\$400.00		\$135.12		\$500.00
Division V		\$400.00		\$317.25		\$500.00
Division VI		\$400.00		\$317.22		\$500.00
Division VII		\$400.00				\$500.00
Division VIII		\$400.00				\$500.00
Carryover	\$5,250.00					
TOTALS	\$167,400.00	\$167,400.00	\$258,165.51	\$138,389.84	\$248,500.00	\$237,304.00
Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Frank Bratt	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,394.10	\$2,094.51	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
NYS Envirothon	\$56,885.00	\$56,885.00	\$50,032.40	\$41,915.59	\$58,715.00	\$58,715.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$9,775.00	\$2,505.27	\$1,600.00	\$2,500.00	\$9,050.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,466.00	\$2,389.66	\$5,400.00	\$6,982.25
Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,378.00	\$2,095.99	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
SSA Totals	\$69,885.00	\$77,160.00	\$63,775.77	\$50,095.75	\$73,115.00	\$81,247.25
Grand Total	\$237,285.00	\$244,560.00	\$321,941.28	\$188,485.59	\$321,615.00	\$318,551.25

*Proceeds go to the Frank Bratt Scholarship



415 West Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810

2020 NYACD Annual Report for CDEA

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director

This year has been a busy year promoting and educating Legislators and representatives on what Districts do through-out NY.

Projects Ongoing & New:

- **NYACD Hearing** - On behalf of Senator Rachel May, NYACD received a formal invitation requesting NYACD to present an oral testimony at the New York State Senate public hearing on February 25 on flooding. Due to our organization's influence in this area, we were very interested in having a member of NYACD present to testify on behalf of Districts.
- **Resolution Bills - 2017-2018 Waterfront Revitalization - #S7799 & #A11194!!** This bill was passed in both the Senate & Assembly and is presently waiting for the Governor to sign. Senator Pamela Helming pushed this bill at the Senate and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner pushed this bill for the Assembly. At the present time we are waiting for the Governor to sign this bill and move it to completion.

The three bills that were forwarded in 2018 to NACD only two passed.

The **EQIP** Requirement for AFOs to Fully Implement Practices Listed in CNMP's and **CRP & CREP** as Water Quality BMPs passed with amendment. The Farm Economy failed in the hearing.

2019 Resolutions; Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation w/amendments, SWCD District Law Investment Options, Waster Tire Disposal Program, and the NYS Sexual Harassment Training are all being worked on at the present time. The following information is where we are at;

- **Suffolk County SWCD** review & develop more equitable local cost list for Farm Bill Programs. I'm presently working with NRCS with the support of Ag & Mkts to see how we can move forward to have the same field base practice cost to be based regionally.
- **SWCD District Law Investment Options** I have discussed this with Brian Stienmuller at great length. District law limits Districts on how & what they invest in. We have concerns about how we should proceed with this & if we want the Legislators to open the door to changing District Law. We discussed the importance of Districts making sure that they dedicate their funds to certain

accounts each year. Example: Equipment, Repairs, etc. Section 9 of District Law does state you can place funds in time deposits and certificate of deposits. The importance is that you can access the funds in a timely matter.

At the present time we are working on how to proceed & if we want to take it to Legislators for a change in District Law. Brain & I will continue to work on this resolution and NYACD will determine what the best plan of action should be.

- **Waste Tire Disposal Program** w/amendment I've discussed this with Ag & Mkts, and they are working on this issue. Brian Steinmuller will be forwarding me additional information and a point of contact. At the present time Jennifer Clifford, Ag & Mkts. is monitoring this issue.
- **NYS Sexual Harassment Training** I have discussed with NYS Labor Department & this as everyone knows must be completed by all employees & employers. The concern was District Directors not being present to complete this necessary training & the fact that there needed to be a discussion period during the training. If District Directors were not present or did the training at home, they would not be meeting the requirements for the discussion session. NYSLD feels that they have provided proper training online & can be easily completed by the rules recommended. If the issue is how to go about providing the training/discussing the training, then it is up to District to decide how they will provide this training to their staff/board and discuss each issue/concern. Ag & Mkts is willing to have their AEA's & NYACD is willing help each District with their concerns & providing this training to District Directors unable to attend regular District provided training. This has been a yearly training session provided by NYACD at their annual meeting.
- **Legislators Days & Appointments** – This year we had fifty-nine (59) meetings with our NYS Legislators. This is a great time to meet with the Legislators and educate them on what SWCD's does with conservation on the ground. This year we had fourteen (14) Districts attending with over forty-two (42) folks present promoting, educating and meeting Legislators & their staff. The importance of attending this event is to provide information to the Legislators so that they have a better understanding of what SWCD's do to keep NY's soil & water at state requirements. To help them understand & know what SWCD's do for conservation.

The Monday evening Legislative information meeting went well with discussions & enlightening those scheduled to meet with Legislators with the proper information to get our message out. We had no resolutions to put forth to the Legislators this year, but we did discuss the importance of promoting & educating the Legislators on SWCD.

NYACD set-up the evening before in Albany for the "Taste of New York" event and overall, I think this is another great way NYACD can promote Districts well. This is a nice informal way to reach out to Legislators & other folks to promote and educate folks on SWCD's.

It is amazing how many folks right here in NY have never heard of SWCD's. Once again, I had a PowerPoint presentation that was continually running for folks attending to see projects completed through-out NY by Districts. We had a NYACD display banner with projects on it along with our NYACD information & material as hand-outs.

- **Thank You** - "thank you" letters went out to Legislators, Directors and District staff for all their time and effort in promoting NYACD & NY SWCD's.
- **Fly-In Washington** – Appointments for Sam Casella, NYACD President with US Legislators in Washington for the Fly-In meetings are scheduled and set for Wednesday, March 25th.
- **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 District Directors and Districts of upcoming events and meetings.
- **2020 Annual Meeting** – The meeting will be held at The Hampton Inn, Cazenovia on Tuesday, October 20th – Thursday, October 22nd, 2020. Once again, we hope to have Steve Lorraine, District Manager, Madison Co. SWCD to do a project tour. These are always great tours enjoyed by Director's & District staff. I'm working on guest speakers and possible training sessions for Directors & District Staff. This is how District Directors can meet part of their Performance Measurers.
- **Board meeting** – The NYACD Board monthly meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month unless otherwise notified. The March meeting day will be changed due to a conflict.
- **4-Way Partner Meeting**- We met on February 19th at the Oneida County SWCD office to discuss what partners are working on & what we can do as partners for Districts. We usually meet quarterly.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



FY 2019 Partner Report



BLAKE GLOVER: STATE CONSERVATIONIST NY

My name is Blake Glover, and I am the NRCS New York State Conservationist. Originally from Missouri, I started my career with the agency as a CO-OP Student in 1999. I came on board full-time as a Soil Conservationist in 2001 in Bowling Green, Missouri. In 2008, I became the Area Program Manager in Flagstaff, Arizona. Over the years I have completed many details which allowed me to broaden my experiences, develop new skills, and increase my knowledge of conservation concerns in different parts of the country. Locations include Arizona, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Montana. I was the Acting Arizona State Conservationist in 2017, and most recently the Acting New Mexico State Conservationist in 2018. In 2011, I became the Area Conservationist for Southern New Mexico, where I resided with my wife, Olga, and my three wonderful children,

Kristian, Julia, and Kole. In January, we relocated to Syracuse from Southern New Mexico to join the NY NRCS Family.

I look forward to working with you for the common good of the people that need us most, the agricultural producers of this great state. Please reach out to me. Let me know where NRCS can improve, help you, and be a part of the positive movement of customer service in New York.

FUNDS OBLIGATED IN FY2019 IN NEW YORK

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).....	\$12,551,816.00
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).....	\$1,431,718.00
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).....	\$1,518,523.00
Easements.....	\$2,792,906.72

Total Obligated Funds are more than 21,000,000
(not all programs with funds obligated are listed)

With a variety of programs offered in the 2018 Farm Bill NRCS is looking to have record number funding distributed through New York, putting good conservation on the ground and building a bright agricultural future, but we will never reach our full potential without strong partners walking beside us. Through strong relationships with agricultural groups and conservation districts our common goals become more than a mission statement; they become the foundation of our future.



Conservation Agriculture Mentoring Program (CAMP)

NRCS Camp is a state-driven, partnership and field-based program to build strong employee-producer relationships and increase employees' knowledge of production agriculture in their local areas. We will match producer volunteers who are passionate about conservation and teaching with field employees who have fewer than three years of experience or who are new to an area. The producers will have an opportunity to mentor the employees through "on-the-land," hands-on learning to help them develop their

knowledge. To get involved or learn more, please reach out to your local District Conservationist.

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

Jeffrey Parker, NYSCDEA Representative/President

As a reminder, 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.

The 2019 annual meeting was held during the Northeast Regional Conference during August 25-28 in Mashantucket, CT at the Foxwoods Casino. The breakout sessions included Health Forest Reserve Program; Permaculture and Pollinators; Education Lightning Round; Living Shorelines; Social Marketing for Behavior Change; and the Litter River Water Quality Consortium along with tours on the following day.

The 2020 Northeast Regional Conference will be hosted by New Hampshire and planning the event has begun. The date for conference will be **August 29 – September 1** at Sheraton on the Water in Portsmouth, NH.

In addition to the annual meeting, there are monthly teleconference calls during the year. For the first time in several years, the NACDE Board decided to have an in-person meeting which was held in Morristown, NJ. Morris County Soil Conservation provided us with a conference room. Some of the agenda items included were: updating strategic plan, the By-Laws, Board Travel and Travel Stipend policies. Partnership reports was provided on NCDEA activities, Mid-Atlantic RC&D, and from Frank Minch on NJ State Soil Conservation Committee/NASCA NJ Rep. A 2020 Leadership Conference was discussed and a teleconference has been setup to specifically discuss logistics of the conference. NACDE Board has decided to remove the website due to the platform was outdated and updates were hard to perform. The Board discussed the different platforms and is looking for a Conservation District to volunteer on being the webmaster. A solicitation will be assembled for finding a volunteer to manage the website.

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 Aron 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 employment of 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. You can find the form at www.ncdea.us. There were two recipients of the Don Aron Scholarship last year who were from New York. Congratulations to Miranda Palmer and Pamela Price for being recipients of the scholarship.

Northeast Facts:

States in the Region

Connecticut	Maine	New Hampshire	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Delaware	Maryland	New Jersey	Rhode Island	
District of Columbia	Massachusetts	New York	Vermont	

1,420 District Employees in Region

5 States with organized Employee Associations

4 District Employee Reps on state TLCs

5 States with organized Employee Committees

New Employees January 1 2019 - December 31, 2019

Division I

Melissa Mee	Chautauqua	Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer	Oct	2019
Joe Bodnarchuk	Erie	Water Quality Technician	Nov	2019
Bradley Mudrzynski	Genesee	District Manager	Jan	2019
Melissa Rivelis	Orleans	District Technician	June	2019
Rebecca Mann	Wyoming	District Technician	May	2019

Division II

Tyler Knapp	Cayuga	Watershed Conservation Specialist	Sept	2019
Matthew Gallo	Monroe	Conservation Program Specialist	Sept	2019
Amanda Little	Monroe	Soil & Water Resource Technican	May	2019
Teresa Link	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	June	2019
Tyler Ohle	Ontario	Watershed Inspector	June	2019
Diana Thorn	Ontario	Clerk/Treasurer	April	2019
Matt Everdyke	Seneca	District Technician	Jan	2019
Bethany Comella	Wayne	Conservation Secretary/Treasurer	June	2019
Cole Hartman	Yates	District Technician	Nov	2019

Division III - No New Employees

Division IV

Jessica Moore	Delaware	Technician	May	2019
Karl Giroux	Otsego	District Technician	March	2019
Mark Kugler	Otsego	Stream Technician	March	2019
Dan Zimmerman	Otsego	Forest Technician	Nov	2019
Taylor Held	Tioga	Buffer Technician	Oct	2019
Abigail Hogen	Tompkins	Conservation Aide	June	2019

Division V

Tyler Fisk	Clinton	Conservation District Technician	Sept	2019
Jillian Zajac	Clinton	Conservation District Technician	Sept	2019
Daniel Berheide	Essex	Conservation Technician	Feb	2019
Donna Wright	Franklin	District Secretary	May	2019

Division VI

Kathryn RH Ferrer	Albany	District Clerk	Feb	2019
Mikaela Perham	Fulton	Secretary/Treasurer	April	2019
John Vanderwerken	Montgomery	AEM Coordinator/Asst Resource Con	May	2019
Howie Miller	Rensselaer	District Technician	Sept	2019
Megan Myers	Rensselaer	District Technician	Oct	2019
Nick Klemczak	Schenectady	Conservation Technician	Oct	2019
Fred Romano	Schenectady	Crew	July	2017
Hunter Rowinsli	Schenectady	Gatekeeper	March	2019

Division VII

Shannon Jenkins	Dutchess	Conservation Technician	Sept	2019
Haley Springston	Sullivan	Stream Restoration Coordinator	June	2019

Division VIII

Ed Compagnone	Suffolk	Soil District Technician	July	2019
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Years of Service Pin Recipients 2020

Division I

Scott Torrey	Allegany	Executive Director	May	2010	10
Sharon Boyd	Wyoming	Secretary/Treasurer	Jan	2005	15
Robert Shenk	Cattaraugus	District Technician	July	2000	20
Mark Seider	Niagara	District Engineer	June	2000	20
Brian Davis	Cattaraugus	District Manager	Jan	1990	30
Darcy Tone	Niagara	Secretary/Assistant Treasurer	May	1990	30
Greg McKurth	Wyoming	District Technician	Oct	1980	40

Division II

Lindsey Gerstenslager	Wayne	District Manger	Nov	2010	10
Terry Reynolds	Wayne	District Technician: Agriculture Implementation (p/t)	Oct	2010	10
Jason Cuddeback	Cayuga	Conservation Grazing Specialist	June	2005	15
Kelly Emerick	Monroe	Executive Director	May	2005	15
Tim Lozier	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	June	1995	25

Division III

Patrick Crast	Jefferson	Trail Coordinator	Feb	2010	10
Troy Bishopp	Madison	Grazing Specialist	Oct.	2005	15

Division IV

Jimmie Joe Carl	Chemung	Engineer	Feb	2010	10
Brian Reaser	Tioga	AEM Specialist	Nov	2010	10
Jon Negley	Tompkins	District Manager	May	2005	15
Jerry Verrigni	Schuyler	District Manager	March	2000	20
Wendy Walsh	Tioga	District Manager	Aug	2000	20
Brian Caruso	Delaware	Network Manager	Mar	1995	25
Sandra Whittaker	Delaware	Data and Budget Specialist	Mar	1995	25
Mark Richer	Chemung	District Technician	July	1990	30
Richard Weidenbach	Delaware	Assistant to the Executive Director	July	1980	40

Division V

Rhonda Jarvis	Warren	Office Manager	April	2000	20
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Division VI

Joe Slezak	Montgomery	Resource Conservationist	Dec	2005	15
Lisa Kuehnle	Schoharie	Nutrient Management Specialist	Aug	2000	20

Division VII

Steve Nack	Columbia	Natural Resource Specialist	Aug	2000	20
Christine DeGroodt	Orange	Office Manager	Sept	1995	25
Kevin Sumner	Orange	District Manager	June	1980	40

Division VIII

Sharon Frost	Suffolk	Soil District Technician	Dec	2000	20
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Presidents Report- Chastity Miller Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

Welcome to the 2020 Water Quality Symposium!

We are back at the Double Tree in Syracuse and are very thankful for all the assistance and support they have giving us to plan the 2020 Water Quality Symposium. We have another fun and educational event planned for you!

It has been a very successful and busy year for NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Having the opportunity to be a part of the Technical Advisory Committee for the state, the Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the Municipal Committee, Operations Committee, and the 4 Way Partnership has been great and very eye opening. I have had the opportunity to help Districts be heard and to bring many of the messages out to them.

Another large effort is reviewing and working on the USDA NRCS Memorandum of Agreement. There have been some concerns and questions. Getting together to discuss has been priority. So we had a managers meeting back in January, the first this year of many we hope. We have decided to hold them quarterly and move them around the state. We are also going to invest in Zoom and a speaker for these meeting so those who cannot travel can participate!

This year we have taken on reviewing the by-laws. That is an undertaking for sure. Actually, they were not too bad. The biggest changes are the Frank Bratt Scholarship, updated logos, updated Division responsibilities, and large amounts of formatting! Much of the adjustments of the for the Frank Bratt Scholarship are questions that have been asked over the years, clarifications and concerns. We have also added the application form and the ranking sheet to the bylaws!

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, Kristin Ballou and most importantly Dustin Lewis for leading up the track planning. Also, a thank you to all of the others at many different Districts, organizations, colleges/universities and groups for setting up classes and/or teaching. We are always looking for people and ideas for symposium. Please if you want to help ask! A huge

thank you to 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.

I want to thank everyone who serves as a representative and/or as a committee member for the NYCDEA. You all are absolutely amazing! It takes allot of time and energy to work on many of the projects that the employee association is involved in.

What can you do to help? Get involved, let us know what you want, offer to help out a bit even if it is just sending some items for donations to the State Envirothon, offering up coordinating a class for WQS, working a shift or 2 at the state fair, attending Legislative Days, sending a press release, photo or article to the NYCDEA newsletter, and serving on a committee! All this helps! Allot, so please consider it. You will make connections with others and network.

Most importantly, a huge thank you goes to the staff at Franklin County Soil and Water! They have done just as much if not more than I have to make this event come together! THANK YOU Kristin, Allycia, Chris and Donna! You all are priceless!

While I have served for only a few years, I have had the opportunity to hold some of these oldies but goodies!



Vice Presidents Report- Dustin Lewis Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District

I want to start with a hearty thank you to Chastity Miller, former Vice President and current President of the New York State Conservation District Employee Association. Her devotion to the NYSCDEA and her hard work on past Symposiums has made my transition into the Vice President's position much easier than expected.

This is our third year returning to the Double Tree in Syracuse and we are very thankful for all the assistance and support they have given us to plan the 2020 Water Quality Symposium. This years Symposium marks our first cornhole tournament and game night along with the return of the Old Main Band and 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 (Scott Collins)
- 2- Historical Archives (Aaron Buchta)
- 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 (Amber Luke)
- 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



Similar to any volunteer organization we are always looking for help with these committees along with many other opportunities to get involved.

It has been a whirlwind of a year, it feels like just last month I was tricked into accepting the nomination for Vice President. Since then I have had a chance to see even more of the state and meet with many Districts. I have also had the honor of representing the CDEA at meetings with many partners and other organizations across the state.

2020 Symposium

I want to thank everyone that helped with this tremendous undertaking that is the Water Quality Symposium. Thank you to everyone that helped with setting up the great classes that we offered this year. This event doesn't happen without a great deal of support from many different sources. 15 different Districts were involved in the planning and teaching of classes in this year's schedule. Of those Districts many have taught or set up multiple classes. Thank you to the no less than 11 State Committee staff that helped with setting up classes and in some cases teaching classes.

A special thank you to our other partner agencies that have helped this year, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service who you will find on the list of instructors. I would also like to thank the organizations listed below for their hard work making another successful and highly educational Symposium:

- Cornell University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County
- Finger Lakes PRISM
- NYACD
- American Farmland Trust
- Ag and Markets
- Office of the State Comptroller
- NYSDOS
- Mike Contessa- Champlain Valley Agronomic
- Audubon NY
- EJ Prescott
- APHIS
- Chemung County Stormwater Coalition
- NYS OPRHP
- NYS Archives
- MRB Group of Rochester

And last but not least our farthest traveling presenter, Tyler Groh of Iowa State University.

Without the help of all of those mentioned above we would not be able to offer these quality classes year after year at what amounts to a very reasonable fee. Please fill out your evaluation sheet so that we can make sure to hold classes that are beneficial and interesting at next years Symposium. Have a great field season and see you next year.

2020 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 committees 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.

A Division I meeting was held on December 19, 2019 in Batavia, NY. Seven counties were represented and attended by managers and staff. Employees were given updates from the NYSCDEA and NYSSWCC. Division training opportunities were discussed. Division meetings are important and a good opportunity to meet other District employees to share opinions and concerns on the topics of the day and network collectively among partners.

As a summary of Division I county activity I reviewed the NYS Ag Nonpoint Source program applications for round 25 funding. Division I counties were awarded nearly 3.5 million dollars in state funding for agricultural water quality improvements in Western New York. Great job Division I, in addition to all the other quality programs and services you provide such as: AEM planning, watershed planning and lake initiatives, stormwater technical assistance, streambank restoration, environmental education/outreach, tree and shrub programs, invasive species removal, municipal assistance etc. etc. etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a few new members to District employment in Division I for 2020. They include:

Melissa Mee, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer, Chautauqua

Joe Bodnarchuk, Water Quality Technician, Erie

Bradley Mudzynski, District Manager, Genesee

Melissa Rivelis, District Technician, Orleans

Rebecca Mann, District Technician, Wyoming

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Collins, Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative



Division II Report **2019 Annual Report**

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

Cayuga: No Report Provided

Livingston:

Completed agricultural projects funded through the Genesee Coalition of Districts. Routine site visits, drainage and stream erosion concerns county-wide. Base AEM requests. Attending monthly county wide meetings.

Monroe:

- Reviewed and updated Personnel Policy for 2019; looking at Board member written policy for stipends and reimbursement for mileage, meals, etc.; updating training requirements for Board of Directors to be more stringent than state and more in-line with planning board training requirements.
- Continue to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition to implement Agricultural BMPs for sediment reduction within the watershed under EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program.
- Continue to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition and a contract with Bergmann Associates to create a database of Agricultural BMPs to track implementation efforts and benefits throughout the watershed.
- Contracted with consultant and implemented Algal Turf Scrubbers project in the nearshore area of Lake Ontario.
- Continue to provide erosion and Sediment control construction inspections on development sites, including weekly inspections on County owned projects.
- Continue to host NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour E&SC Training sessions where one is being held on January 17th and another coming up on February 21st.
- Continue to work with the Steering Committee for the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program to update the training course and exam to release at the 2019 Water Quality Symposium.
- 2019 WNY Stormwater Training Series Classes at Monroe Community College were released
- Working on three projects under WQIP Round 12 including a regional stormwater pond facility, a riparian buffer project, and a stream restoration project.
- Working on two projects under WQIP Round 14 for Stream Restoration on Black Creek with engineering from Dave Derrick and a Nature- Based Shoreline (NBS) project with Monroe County Parks on Irondequoit Bay. Consultant was selected for the NBS project for design services.
- Working on projects within 3 Monroe County Parks and one NYS Park under the US Forest Service grant for forest canopy restoration due to Emerald Ash Borer Impacts.
- Completed our Culvert Assessment program within the watersheds from our grant award and currently writing final report.
- Hired new Soil & Water Resource Technician (SWRT), Amanda Little;
- Continuing to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition to implement Agricultural BMPs for sediment reduction within the watershed under EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program;
- Continuing to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition and a contract with Bergmann Associates to create a database of Agricultural BMPs to track implementation efforts and benefits throughout the watershed including the hiring of three seasonal interns throughout the watershed to input data on behalf of the members;
- Continuing to provide erosion and Sediment control construction inspections on development sites;
- Continuing to host NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour E&SC Training sessions
- The online 4 Hour E&SC Training is up and running on the NYS CDEA website (see separate report);
- Continue to work with the Steering Committee for the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program to finalize training course and exam based on comments received from the 2019 Water Quality

Symposium (see separate report from J. Verrigni, Program Administrator). Information for the program is planned to be up and running on the NYS CDEA website by mid-June 2019

- Worked on three projects under WQIP Round 12 including a regional stormwater pond facility, and a stream restoration project.
- Worked on two projects under WQIP Round 14 for Stream Restoration on Black Creek with engineering from Dave Derrick and a Nature- Based Shoreline (NBS) project with Monroe County Parks on Irondequoit Bay. Design is completed for the NBS project and scheduled to go to bid mid-June
- Worked on projects within 3 Monroe County Parks and one NYS Park under the US Forest Service grant for forest canopy restoration due to Emerald Ash Borer Impacts. A large planting was completed this spring 2019
- Closed our Culvert Assessment program grant.
- Hired new Conservation Program Specialist, Matt Gallo; This is a new position for our office that was created to increase SWCD capacity;
- Held Envirothon in May with 16 teams from 5 different schools;
- Conservation Field Days being held September 17, 18, and 19th;
- Implementation of BMPs through AgNPS Round 21; Soliciting new engineers to try and increase our engineering community for these practices;
- Attended meeting related to Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative Multi-Agency Task Force for projects and plans to fund Lake Ontario waterfront infrastructure and enhance regional economies in flood prone regions;
- Josh LaFountain, Soil & Water Resource Technician, will be returning to the District in December;
- Continue to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition to implement Agricultural BMPs for sediment reduction within the watershed under EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program;
- Continue to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition and a contract with Bergmann Associates to create a database of Agricultural BMPs to track implementation efforts and benefits throughout the watershed including the hiring of three seasonal interns throughout the watershed to input data on behalf of the members; Ag BMP data is collected and all of the interns are finished with their seasonal employment;
- Working on implementation of BMPs through AgNPS Round 21; Soliciting new engineers to try and increase our engineering community for these practices;
- Working on design for Irrigation System under CRF Round 3 on one farm;
- Preparing for implementation of the Algal Turf Scrubbers in the nearshore area of Lake Ontario;
- Continue to provide erosion and Sediment control construction inspections on development sites;
- Continue to host NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour E&SC Training sessions where 1 session remains in November of this year;
- Reminder the Online 4 Hour E&SC Course is FREE to SWCD Employees: CDEA website <https://www.nyscdea.com/nys-dec-endorsed-4-hour-erosion-sediment-control-online-training/>;
- Reminder current 4 Hour E&SC Course instructors and process for becoming a certified instructor is on the CDEA website <https://www.nyscdea.com/useful-resources/>;
- The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program, including scheduled classes and exams, is posted on the NYS CDEA website <https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>; NYS DEC also has this on their Stormwater Training webpage and is recognized in the DRAFT SPDES GP for Construction Activities;
- Implemented Watercraft Steward Program with Finger Lakes Institute
- Held Fall Fish Program in October distributing 24 grass carp to 6 pond owners;

Onondaga:

- Celebrated the 75th anniversary of the District, and the 25th anniversary of SLWAP
- Onondaga SWCD staff is busy with EPF Grant Close Out reports for: Onondaga EPF Round 19, Onondaga EPF Round 20, Seneca River EPF Round 20, Upper Tioughnioga EPF Round 20.
- Revegetation crew continued hydroseeding into November before putting the equipment into storage for the winter.
- Staff is continuing to do outfall inspections when there has not been rainfall for at least 36 hours, or when the conditions are below freezing so water is not normally flowing.

- Construction site inspections on County owned projects are ongoing at Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment Plant, Meadowbrook-Limestone Wastewater Treatment Plant, and St. Joseph's Lakeview Amphitheater.
- Our Emerald Ash Borer program has marked and organized the cutting/removal of ~4,000 ash trees from County owned properties and right of ways during this winter.
- Onondaga SWCD has secured a grant from the US Forest Service to plant 300 trees in one or more County parks within the Great Lakes Watershed.
- Implementation Team is completing a Bioreactor installation plus working on designs for spring construction of 2 HUAP barnyards, 3 Pasture Systems, 1 WASCoB with Underground Outlet, and there are a few Manure Storage projects waiting on workable weather conditions.
- The SLWAP Team has completed 644 acres of cover crop documentations, No-till drill rental with 12 farms and 746 acres, plus completed 3 watershed tours with distinguished stockholders.
- At the request of the County, and to address what folks are thinking the new DEC Stormwater Permit will require, our County has asked us to submit revised cost estimate to provide enhanced stormwater management services to County. This will require SWCD to make a full-time position to help keep County and participating municipalities in compliance with stormwater regulations. A lot of training will be required to make sure that folks can accurately identify outfalls and how to record the necessary data (cross-connections, municipality ownership, etc.).
- We are very grateful for all the funding that NYS Department of Agricultural and Markets, Onondaga County Agriculture Council, OCWA, and the City of Syracuse has provided to help our organization address non-point sources of pollution in Onondaga County and the Skaneateles Lake Watershed.
- Received additional \$12,500 for water chestnut removal in Cross Lake
- Doug Fisher recognized at NYACD annual meeting w/ Commendation Award
- Onondaga County Water Authority recognized at NYACD annual meeting w/ Partner Appreciation Award
- Our 2019 water chestnut crew pulled ~28,000 wet pounds of chestnuts on 19 mile stretch of Seneca River and Cross Lake
- SLWAP building large manure storage at CAFO farm
- SLWAP just hosted ag tour for Skaneateles Lake Association (Sept. 21)
- District worked with 5 other SWCDs around Oneida Lake to put together "2018 Annual Report of Conservation Activity". Report distributed to Oneida Lake Association and elected officials of the watershed.

Ontario:

- Elaine Borgeest has retired as Secretary/Treasurer and Diana Thorn has taken her place. We are currently in the hiring process for a new Watershed Inspector with George Barden's impending retirement. We are involved in several construction projects related to AgNPS, CAFO, FLOWPA and WQIP grants as well CRF grant implementation.
- Ontario SWCD is moving along with active projects, working to complete construction before the winter season sets in. Save the Date: February 12th 2020 for our upcoming Soil Health Workshop jointly held with Yates SWCD and local Seneca Lake and Canandaigua Lake Watershed groups!

Seneca:

- New District Technician Matt Everdyke started on January 2, 2019.
- Past District Manager Bill Cool passed away; he was with Seneca County SWCD from 1964-1994.
- Seneca SWCD was just awarded a CFA/WQIP grant for erosion control work in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. Implementation planned for 2019 / 2020.
- The SWCD is partnering with CCE & Farm Bureau for a Twilight Farm Tour series this summer for County Leg. and the public. The first tour planned for June 26th to a local dairy, the second on July 30th at Wagner Winery and the final tour on August 29th that includes visits to a specialty beef, pork & poultry farm, a large cash crop farm and Muranda Cheese dairy. The tours will conclude with a locally sourced Farm to Table Dinner. The hope is to educate the public about common ag practices and inform them of BMP's the farms are implementing to aid in water quality improvement efforts.
- Yates & Seneca hosted a conservation tour for the SWCC on 10/29 with Commissioner (Richard Ball) of Ag & Markets in attendance.

Wayne:

Wayne County SWCD is continuing to work on many projects throughout the field season. We have successfully hired a new Conservation Secretary/Treasurer name Bethany Comella. Bethany will began her career at the Wayne District on June 10th.

Yates: No Report Submitted

Submitted by,

Aaron Buchta
Resource Conservation Specialist
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 – Streambank Stabilization project

In early October of 2019, a large streambank stabilization project was completed in the Town of Russia. This was designed by the Mohawk Valley Water Authority and installed by a private contractor. West Canada Creek was eroding the bank causing a severe undercut and sedimentation. Immediately downstream is a well-known unofficial fishing access site. Downstream a bit further is a heavily used NYS DEC fishing access. This project now serves to protect the water quality and valuable trout habitat. Approximately 200 linear feet of large stacked rock was used to armor the bank as permitted by DEC. SWCD staff helped secure FLOWPA funding to cost share the project and were on site during construction.



Madison County – Manure Storage Project

Blue Hill Farm received funding from both the State EPF program and the NRCS EQIP program through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) RCPP project. The joint project brought together the resources of the District, the USC and NRCS to design and oversee construction of this manure storage project. As a result of the location of the project it was determined that in order to get the required 6 months of storage needed a concrete tank was required. The District completed daily site visits during construction to ensure project success.



Oswego County – Tree Planting Project

The District worked with 6 villages in Oswego County to arrange the planting of approximately 70 trees in the fall of 2019. Street trees and community forests are an integral part of stormwater management for municipalities, in addition to providing many other benefits such as clean air and wildlife habitat. Many of the community tree populations in Oswego County are aging and declining, which has resulted in the loss of tree canopy cover and potentially increased stormwater runoff. District staff conducted assessments of vacant tree planting locations in each municipality. Sites were evaluated for tree species, safety concerns or any conflicts, such as hydrants or signage. Once final tree selections were made, the District arranged, through a bid process, for a landscaping contractor to supply and plant the trees. Two-inch caliper trees were required in several different species, depending upon individual site characteristics. Planting locations were primarily along streets, but trees were also planted in village parks and cemeteries. The trees planted have enhanced aging and declining community forests, which will assist in stormwater management and lead to improved water quality.

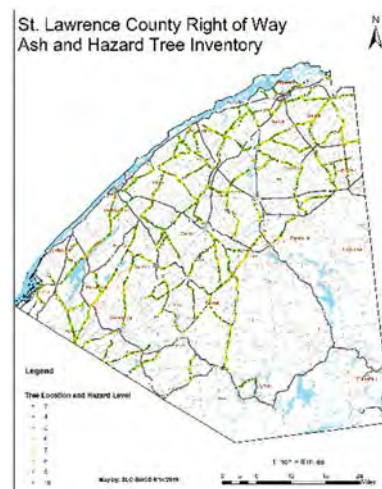


St. Lawrence County – Ash and Hazard Tree Inventory Project

The District completed an ash and hazard tree inventory along St. Lawrence County road right-of-way's (ROW's) to create a database of ash trees that will become a hazard to public safety and a liability to municipalities after the inevitable infestation of the emerald ash borer. The roadside inventory took place in the summer months of June-August 2019, to allow for proper tree health assessment and hazard level allocation. The inventory was completed by personnel with dendrology or equivalent tree identification training and hazard tree assessment experience.

Results: A total of 14,630 trees were found to be ash and/or hazard trees on 571 miles of county roads within St. Lawrence County. These are trees that will become a hazard after becoming infested or are currently a hazard due to dead or dying status.

Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep





Division IV

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

I would like to thank everyone in Division VI for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the NYSCDEA Executive Board 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 at Cortland County SWCD office building. Attendees included SWCD directors and employee with updates from the NYSCDEA, NYACD, and NYSSWCC were provided.

Unique Projects for Division IV:

Steuben SWD and NRCS had a landowner who wished to protect his woodlot from excessive streambank erosion. The landowner applied for NRCS EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) for financial assistance for habitat and streambank restoration and was approved. A TSP engineer was engaged on engineering the project for the most optimum conservation of natural resources of premier northeast woodlot. The landowner sought the District's assistance on implementation due to their expertise in this type of project. The project consisted of two sections of the stream being treated. The downstream reach consisted of a toe stone 3-foot thick with DOT heavy stone placed above the toe stone for 5 feet in height. Toe stone was embedded 1 foot below the stream bottom per the engineered design. Three j-hooks with two being 12' long and one being 13' long. The j-hooks and cross vane aid in the keeping the velocity of the water in the center of the stream and away from the stream banks. All disturbed areas were seeded with via hydroseeding or hand seeding. The landowner also incorporated a native seeded mixture. Overall the project was a huge success for all parties – the landowner, the SWCD and NRCS.



Schuyler SWCD



Utilizing Part C funding from New York State Agriculture and Markets through the Environmental Protection Fund, the Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District was able to partner with the Town of Dix to complete a salt storage building for the Town of Dix Highway Department. Prior to the newly constructed salt storage, salt used for winter safety on roads in the Town of Dix was stored adjacent to a nearby tributary of Seneca Lake. This roofed salt storage building will help to keep salt from entering our surface water bodies while being stored. Additionally, it will aid the Town in the reduction of salt lost from being exposed to the elements.

Otsego SWCD

The Beecher Farm is owned and operated by father & son David & Jim Beecher. They operate 850 acres of corn and hay land to feed there 200 head of Holsteins. The Beecher's have worked with the District on a few different programs. They are avid participants in our ag plastic bailing program. The have been involved in our AEM program and are now participating in Ag Non-point source program. Along with the manure pit & transfer they are also having a secondary fuel containment structure being built. David & Jim are ideal representatives of Dairy farmers that are not just farmers but stewards of the land.



Respectfully submitted,

Velynda Parker

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 – Part C 2019 – Spill Risk Reduction Program

As we have worked with local highway departments on roadside erosion projects, we have gotten to know more about some of the challenges they face. After hearing of several instances where small oil spills have occurred and local departments had to deal with enforcement inquiries, the District decided to see what resources our county might need. A survey of local highway departments found that many of them did not have formal spill response capabilities. Since they operate a wide variety of equipment to construct and maintain public roads and right of ways, and as with any equipment, breakdowns occur, there is often the possibility of fluid spills. The size of the release is usually small and limited to the amount used in equipment operations. The most common fluid materials used in vehicles and equipment include oil, fuel (diesel or gasoline), radiator coolant (ethylene glycol), transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, brake fluid, windshield washer fluid, and battery acid. It is also common for local highway departments to assist during emergency situations and traffic accidents.



In order to expedite cleanup of minor spills and prevent contamination of the soil and water resources of Clinton County, the District utilized Part C funds to provide every local highway department and municipal public works departments with 5 portable spill kits for roadside emergencies as well as one stationary spill kit for the shop, fueling or oil-filling area.



Essex County – CRF 2019 – Climate Resilient Farming in Essex

Essex County SWCD wrapped up its first Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) grant in 2019. Three ponds and supporting infrastructure were installed on a farm in the Town of Essex with funding provided through the Track 2: Water management portion of Round 2 of the CRF program. These ponds are designed to collect water from the landscape in order to provide irrigation for a nursery and tree

farm. Pond sites were chosen according to the lay of the land, and surface water is guided to them for storage. A pump and irrigation pipeline carry the water to the fields. The ponds filled quickly and the landscape has been transformed to hold water for use during drought periods. The trees sequester carbon to act as a carbon sink, and the farmer plans to graze animals throughout the property. The ponds have attracted lots of local wildlife.



Franklin County – AEM, Part B and C 2019 – Forestry Program

In 2015, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District, launched a forestry program. Since the program's inception it has assisted 240 landowners and forest management plans have been written for 25 of these landowners encompassing 3,000 acres. Initially this program was solely funded through Part B. As the program has grown and developed other funding sources have been tapped. Funds now are provided through Part B, Part C and new in 2019 AEM.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first identified in Franklin County in 2017. In 2019 the District has partnered with the USFS, APHIS, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, National Grid, St. Lawrence County Soil & Water, municipalities and county officials to form the Franklin County EAB Task Force. The Task Force helps organizations to stay updated on monitoring efforts as well as to collaborate on future efforts to slow the spread of



EAB. This group formed in April 2019 to work collectively on educating the public, monitoring the spread and planning management and treatments. Through a coordinated effort in 2019 Franklin County Soil & Water began an EAB monitoring program. Monitoring efforts included hanging green funnel traps throughout the county and creating sentinel trees. Sentinel trees are ash trees that are girdled in the spring and cut down in the fall. The trees give off a pheromone when stressed that attracts EAB. The bark is peeled in the fall to see if any galleries are present from the insects. 29 traps were hung and 8 sentinel trees were created this past summer. The 29 traps were checked biweekly from mid-June to Late-August. Traps were mostly hung along roadsides but also on properties with high ash populations that were susceptible to EAB infestations. EAB was positively identified in two of the traps, one of the traps was in the Bombay State Forest in St. Lawrence County, 1.7 miles from the county line and the second was in the Town of Bombay approximately 6 miles south and east of the last known location. 3-7 emerald ash borers were found in each trap and the ash trees in the surrounding areas were stressed and in poor health. The goal for this summer was to assess the extent of EAB in the county and to find the boundary of the EAB spread. This project will continue into the future years to continue monitoring the spread and working with USFS and APHIS to conduct biocontrol releases and other management techniques.

It is very exciting to see how much this program has grown over the past 4 years! With increased funding and new challenges and opportunities we anticipate this program quickly becoming a staple of the district.

Hamilton County – Part B 2019 – Natural Channel Design Project

Over the years, storm events have caused sections of Gilmantown Road, Town of Wells to wash out, in addition to severe bank erosion. In 2008, Natural Channel Design was utilized on a section of Elbow Creek, and the restoration project decreased some erosion and sediment transport during bank full events. With limited funds, the entire eroded streambank was not completely stabilized. This September, Phase II was implemented, stabilizing an additional 500 foot section. 7 J-hooks and cross veins were repaired, and 4 new structures were installed. These rock structures diffuse and redirect the energy of the stream to the middle of the channel, reduce bank erosion, and create aquatic habitat pools. In the wake of the 2019 Halloween Storm, 50% of the structures are still in place, and Natural Channel Design successfully protected the streambanks and landowner property. This project was made possible thanks to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (operator of structure installation and project design), Hamilton County SWCD (project coordinator, provided grant funds for restoration material and equipment), Fulton County SWCD (provided equipment and operator), Hamilton County Department of Public Works (excavator transport), Town of Wells Highway Department (provided equipment and operator), and funding from Part B and the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.



Warren County – WQIP Grant – Nutrient Reduction by Floating Wetlands



In an attempt to root out new ideas for old problems, while reading a water quality journal district staff saw an ad for, “floating wetlands to treat stormwater.” After further research, these interlocking foam mats are used to help remove excess nutrients in waterbodies. The District installed this product at West Brook Conservation Initiative in Lake George and at the

Gurney Lane pond in Queensbury. Each floating wetland mat grew over 70 native wetland plants from early summer to fall. As the wetland plants grew, they absorbed excess nutrients and pollutants which helped improve the water quality at these ponds. This year the District was able to evaluate the effectiveness of the planting locations and the productivity of the species selected for the mats. The District plans to continue to utilize the mats in numerous waterbodies throughout Warren County.



Division VI Report:

Division Wide:

Division 6 held their division meeting in conjunction with Division 5 on November 5, 2019. There were 4 counties from division 6 in attendance including Washington county, Fulton County, Montgomery County, and Schenectady County.

District Reports:

Montgomery County:

In 2019 Montgomery County SWCD completed multiple conservation projects including the installation of a new 3-mile hiking trail that connects the Schoharie Crossing State Historic Yankee Hill Lock MVGO pedestrian bridge and the Schoharie Crossing historic site. The SWCD also completed construction of a 300 ft raised platform/bridge in Burbine Forest and installation of a mobile billboard to raise invasive species awareness around the county thanks to a Capital Mohawk PRISM grant. The district was also able to provide many services to the community through Part B & C funding including Hydroseeding, Ag plastic Recycling program and a Tire Recycling Program. Montgomery County SWCD held their 4th annual Farm and Home Safety Day where they were able to educate 5th grade students from 3 schools on a variety of safety topics ranging from Railroad safety to ATV safety. The district was able to offer the second round of the Montgomery County Agricultural microenterprise Program (MCAMP) which was able to fund 9 out of 18 applications received. This funding was used to implement a variety of projects ranging from a poultry hatchery to improving efficiency of existing barns.



Photo to the left is showing the completed raised platform/bridge through Burbine Forest. The Middle photo is showing the mobile billboard to promote invasive species awareness. The photo to the right is showing the Ag plastic recycling program.

Rensselaer County:

In 2019 Rensselaer County was able to oversee the completion of construction on the Round 1 CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Grant which included the installation of a 1.58-Million-gallon round concrete manure storage. The district was held one 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control class for contractors and municipalities that needed to be certified. Rensselaer County was able to assist various municipalities and private landowners with streambank stabilization projects. 300 acres of No till Plantings were completed by farmers thanks to the Districts No-Till Drill program. The SWCD also was able to help stock ponds with 1,200 fish through the annual fish stocking program. The SWCD worked with partners (CCE, NRCS, SWCD's) to put on various educational events in Rensselaer County including Farm Day Out, Capital Region Envirothon, and CCE Ag days. Rensselaer County also hired 2 new technicians in the fall of 2019 in hopes to expand the capabilities of the district.



Photos above show the Waste Storage as part of the Round 1 CAFO grant in construction (Left) and a completed stream stabilization project (right).

Schoharie County:

In 2019 Schoharie County completed a part B project that allowed them to assist the Landis Arboretum revitalize its rare and unique Buckleya (piratebush) Collection and remove the invasive plant species that were negatively impacting the wildlife and pollinator meadows. Buckleya Distichophylla is a threatened and endangered species in its native range. This plant is unusual in that it is hemi-parasitic, meaning that it attaches to the root systems of other (host) plants. Part B money was used by the district to aid in removing invasive species one by one that were encroaching on the Buckleya Collection as well as to install protective fence and interpretive signs for the public. Money was also used to help remove various invasive species that were negatively affecting the wildlife and pollinator meadows at Landis Arboretum.

Before



After



Washington County:

In 2019 Washington County had the opportunity to hire two new technicians with SWCD experience which helped the district to provide services to farms, municipalities, and private landowners. In the summer of 2019, the district was able to help a farm stabilize an actively eroding and undercut stream bank on the Hoosic River. The main goals for this project were to restore fish habitat and protecting the integrity of the streambank. BMPs used consisted of installing root wads to slow water down and increase habitat for fish and installing a log and rock vane to deflect water away from the bank. The district was also able to oversee the completion of a round 1 CAFO waste storage and transfer grant and an Ag non-point source grant for Silage Leachate Control and Treatment system. In 2019 The district was able to complete North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) assessments on all the stream crossings in the county. The SWCD assisted various municipalities with streambank stabilization and culvert replacements throughout the county. Washington County also held various education events and earned income programs throughout the year.

Earned income conservation programs in 2019:

- 307 Acres of No-Till plantings
- 5,790 Fish were sold to stock various ponds around the county
- 2,782 Tree & Shrub seedlings sold



The photos above show the streambank stabilization project before (left) and after (right).

No Report:

Fulton
Albany
Schenectady
Saratoga

Division VI: Fertilizer tablets

Division VI is responsible for the Fertilizer tablet program. Proceeds go directly to the Conservation District Employees Association general fund. The amount of fertilizer tablets ordered by districts has decreased sustainably since 2010 but has seemed to level off in the last 3 years. The Tree and Shrub Sale programs are viewed by most districts as being a good service to provide to the community and a great way to reach a lot of people and promote conservation even though profits have been decreasing. Many districts want to keep this program alive even if the public interest seems to be decreasing over the years.

The CDEA must have the order for Fertilizer tablets in long before the orders have come in. This makes for a delicate balance between the number of cases sold and the number ordered each year. The CDEA tries to keep the price per case of fertilizer tablets down by just trying to off set the cost from the supply company. Due to this even slight overordering will cause the CDEA to go into the red for this program.

The amount of cases sold are up from last year, but they are close to the amount sold in 2018. This seems fall into a pattern over the past several years with one year being higher and the next being lower. I hope that interest in the Tree and Shrub programs improve in the future because this is a great service that the districts provide. If anyone has any ideas on how to improve program going forward, 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	\$1,333	77
2020	\$4,083	\$1,461	88

Amber Luke
Natural Resource Technician
Washington County SWCD
Division VI Representative
Amber.luke@ny.nacdnet.net

NYSCDEA Division VII Annual Report

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!

Dutchess County Report: DCSWCD held a Highway Department Training in October 2019 which included the ESI presentation, hydroseeding demonstration, and an Emriver Model demonstration. DCSWCD also implemented a new cost share program for farms with completed conservation plans through the AEM program. The program funded Pasture Improvements, Soils Health and Nutrient Management, and Waterway Exclusion projects.

DCSWCD also partnered with municipalities to purchase spill kits for municipal fueling stations and trucks. New recycling bins were obtained for County Office Buildings through a partnership with Dutchess County Department of Solid Waste.

DCSWCD also started a new newsletter geared towards kids. Several issues were released with topics including recycling, trees, and animals in the winter.

*Submitted by Erin Sommerville
Division VII Representative*

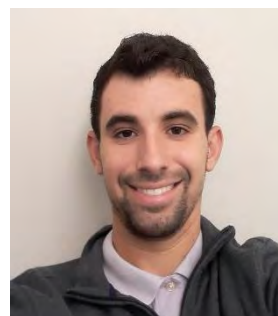
Division VIII: Annual Report
Suffolk, Nassau, New York City, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester
Respectfully Submitted by Ann Marie Calabro Division VIII Representative

Division VIII: (partnered with Division VII) is responsible for Annual Awards Ceremony at the Water Quality Symposium.



Suffolk County SWCD

New Hire: Welcome Edward Compagnone to our team!! He is our new District Technician. He holds a BS in Environmental Science. Ed's experiences on the Appalachian Trail and touring with a band has landed him here in Suffolk to mitigating non-point source pollution in the Long Island watersheds. Edward has hit the ground running successfully organizing an Aquatic Coastal Connectivity workshop to take place on Long Island June 3rd and June 4th. He has also been writing the NPS Grants for Producers to replace their fuel tanks while helping them become compliant with health department standards under the Fuel Tank Amnesty Program.



Agriculture in the Classroom: The District has been administering the Agriculture in the Classroom Grant Program since 2017. This past year, the District selected five schools through NYSSWCC and Suffolk County SWCD funds for the implementation of their agriculture-education projects. The goal of this program is to promote agricultural education and provide funding for the development, sustainability and expansion of agricultural education programs in Suffolk County schools. Since 2017, 12 schools have been awarded funds and roughly \$28,500.00 of NYSSWCC and District funds has been utilized. Projects include (but are not limited to): raise garden beds, greenhouses, hoop-houses, hydroponic systems, growing towers and grow lights.

Comprehensive Soil Health Testing Program: The District partnered with Dr. Deb Aller from Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agricultural Stewardship Program to provide Soil Health Testing Services to local farmers interested in monitoring and managing the soil health on their farm. Soil samples are shipped to Cornell University's Soils Lab to undergo the Cornell University Assessment of Soil Health (C.A.S.H.) Lab Test. We provide the service at no cost to producers, as to not discourage interest in soil health testing. In 2018, 12 farms were sampled. In 2019, 28 farms were sampled. Between 2018 and 2019, 100 samples have been taken from farms all over Suffolk County.



Soil HELP: 2019 was the pilot year for the Soil Health Equipment Loan Program. The District purchased 6 pieces of equipment in December of 2018.

This includes:

Truax No Till Drill

New Holland 145 Spreader

Unverferth Zonebuilder (4-Shank)

Unverferth Zonebuilder (2-Shank)

ABI Spreader (2x)



Throughout the early summer and fall, five producers utilized the program to their advantage and experimented with this new equipment. The No-Till Drill and New Holland 145 Spreader were the most popular pieces to borrow. The overall feedback of the program and equipment has been positive. Producers are appreciative

NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project Grant (W.Q.I.P.) 2017: The District finished working on a contract with the Town of Southold to complete a road-end remediation project that will reduce the amount of stormwater runoff that otherwise would directly discharge into Richmond Creek, in the Peconic Bay. Evidence of sedimentation and erosion of the beach is present and raises concern for the stability of the beach and pollution of the Bay. The project will be completed in-house by Town of Southold employees in Spring 2020. The drainage structure was recently redesigned in an effort to become more efficient, as well as cost effective.



2019 Farm Tire Recycling Project: In September 2017 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released the final regulations for Part 360 – Solid Waste Management. It includes limits on storage of waste tires on farms. They site increased health concerns about the Zika Virus, West Nile, and other diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. The new law took effect on May 2, 2018.

On May 9th, at the District Board meeting, \$14,4000 was approved for the Farm Tire Recycling Program for the initial cost. Additionally, at the July 18, 2019 Board Meeting, the

Program received an extra \$11,568.00 for three more trailers. Totaling: 25,968.00.

Forty-eight farmers registered and gave a tire count. Approximately 800 small tires car size tires were picked up on various farms. An additional 60.5 tons of truck and tractor tires were either dropped off at the Southold Transfer Station or picked up on farms.

EPF Grant: We have completed two Nutrient Management Plans. An Additional 8 are in various stages of completion. The farms include vegetable, orchard, nursery, horse, and greenhouse operations. The grant is intended to identify BMPs on farms that may help producers reduce their fertilizer use.

The Long Island Envirothon: The 2019 LI Envirothon was another successful event. We had 47 teams compete at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration in Nassau County. Great Neck South and Sachem North High Schools took top honors for Nassau and Suffolk Counties, respectively. They went on to compete at the New York State Envirothon, which was held at Hobart William Smith Colleges, Geneva, New York. Each member of the winning teams, from Nassau and Suffolk, received a \$500 scholarship. The LI Envirothon has awarded over \$92,000 in scholarship money in its tenure. The 2020 LI Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, April 29th at the Suffolk County Farm in Yaphank, New York. If you want more information visit our website at www.LIEnvirothon.org



Fuel Tank Replacement Program: To date the SCSWCD has received \$1,949,403.00 in NPS Grant funding. We have replaced 265 tanks, on 145 farms securing 219,750 gallons of fuel in double-walled. These farmers are now in compliance with the SCDHS regulations the strictest in the country.

Soil Health in Pasture & Pasture Management September 23, 2019



September 2019, SC Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension and American Farmland Trust lead a field day on 'Soil Health in Pastures and Pasture Management'. The field day hosted by Acabonac Farms in Middle Island, was designed to increase farmers knowledge of different management strategies, nutrient cycling, soil fertility, soil health practices, forage needs and quality, and get an up-close look at Acabonac Farms unique grazing operation. American Farmland Trust presented on local farmer case studies focused on the economic feasibility of increasing adoption of soil health building practices. Additionally, with support from Peconic Land Trust, we provided a demo of the no-till drill that is available for farmers to use through the Soil HELP program. Information was provided on conservation planning, funding availability, on-going programs, farm equipment for soil conservation, and current and future soil health efforts in Suffolk County.

Partners: Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, American Farmland Trust, USDA NRCS, Peconic Land Trust*



NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Highlights 2019

In 2019, we continued to strengthen our partnerships for all our programs, particularly under the Urban Soils Institute. We also maintained our long standing partnerships with the SWIM Coalition, NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, and Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation District

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Newtown Creek CSO Webcam The District assisted the SWIM Coalition on a grant funded project to install a webcam on a CSO outfall in the Newtown Creek. The District staff worked with the Newtown Creek Alliance to identify the best CSO outfall, conducted site visits, contacted the business owners, and hired a consultant to configure the system.

Availability of electricity and internet connection, optimal camera angle, and distance to the outfall are some of the conditions that proved to be very difficult to realize. The team has identified a rooftop site that is about 200 feet from the outfall and will be installing the camera in early 2020.

GI Bus Tour We incorporated the Annual GI Bust Tour as part of the Urban Soil Fest Weekend. The tour started with a soil pit and an interpreted nature walk in Floyd Bennett Field. We then visited the Bush Terminal Park, a restored former industrial site with a lagoon; Gowanus Bay Terminal, a working waterfront with composting facilities; and Lincoln Berkeley Community Garden, where we tested the soil with tour participants. The 2019 tour was particularly



NRCS Soil Scientist Olga Vargas in the soil pit

in outreach, public education and information dissemination. SWIM participated in an ad hoc group of environmental organizations working to improve the Green Roof Tax Abatement. We were successful in renewing the law and continued to work together to develop consensus around further improving the abatement law.

Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

The District continued to serve as the fiscal administrator of the Coalition as well as provide programmatic leadership. Shino served on the Steering Committee and worked closely with the coordinator. Shino attended the Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee meetings, representing both the LHCCD and the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District.

New York New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Shino continued to provide support for the Citizens Advisory Committee, although she is no longer the alternate to the NY Co-Chair. She participated in various planning calls with the Co-Chairs and the program office as well as helped facilitate a breakout session at the conference. She served on the Funding Subcommittee of the CAC and worked with the program office to develop strategies for securing additional funding for the program.

Participation in various coalitions and committees has been highly productive: it has allowed the District to leverage limited resources to accomplish tasks and to reach out to a wider audience – both in number and types of people.

DEC Endorsed 4-Hr Construction Site Inspection Training The District continued to receive requests for the NYSDEC endorsed 4-hr Erosion and Sediment Control Training. The District hosted one workshop in 2019 and trained approximately 35 professionals.

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters Coalition Shino continued her role on the steering committee and provided administrative support. The Program Manager coordinated efforts by Coalition member organizations

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

NYC Envirothon

The 2019 Envirothon was held in the Bronx Park in the Bronx. Twenty one teams from all five boroughs participated. The current event topic was “Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World.” Our event partners were NYC Parks with Urban Park Rangers, Bronx River Alliance, NYC Law Department, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 2, and USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service. Con Edison provided generous funding to support the event. Two of the borough winning teams attended the NYS Envirothon. The Manhattan team placed 20th in overall scores and 19th for the oral presentation scores.

NYC Outdoors: Environmental Education Expo

Rebecca coordinated the 18th Annual NYC Outdoors! Expo with The River Project, NYU Wallerstein Collaborative, NYU Sustainability and Environmental Education Advisory Council.

Despite the challenge of liability insurance requirements imposed by the venue host, we were able to feature more than 3 dozens organizations. As usual, in-service and pre-service teachers as well as non-formal educators attended the event.

School Requests The District received several requests from educators for water quality related lessons or field trips. Shino conducted stormwater and green infrastructure activities with 4th graders from PS121 in Brooklyn, tested the Hudson River water with 7th graders from the Clinton School and 6th graders from 75 Morton School (more than 350 students for both schools combined!), and gave lectures on green infrastructure to undergraduate students at the New School and graduate students at the CUNY Graduate School. Shino participated in a few career days as well.

In addition to working with classroom teachers, Shino participated in the Citizen Science Teacher Experimentation Program, led by the NYC Dept of Education, as a resource specialist providing assistance to science teachers.

URBAN SOILS INSTITUTE

Soil Testing The USI continued to serve a variety of customers with soil testing and interpretation services. Customers included home owners, community based organizations, community gardeners, urban farmers and natural resource managers. With the XRF, we were able to offer lead testing, which is of great interest to those who work with soils in NYC.

Our customer base has grown to nearly 80 customers in 2019, with more than 300 samples analyzed. We re-designed our website to make sample submission process easier and more streamlined. We have also added resources for interpretation for anyone who visits our website.

Soils Technical Assistance We have conducted two site visits for on-site soils investigation and 10 workshops on soil health basics and interpretation. In addition, we participated at more than 10 public events by tabling. With workshops and public events, the USI has reached over 1,000 people.

Urban Soils Fest Weekend In 2019 the Annual Symposium was the kick-off event for the weekend long fest that included a bus tour, soils festival, and workshops.

The symposium featured nearly 30 speakers and drew 120 attendees despite the location which was hard to reach. The format allowed for discussions between the presenters and audience, stimulating creative thinking. Presenters were selected from diverse backgrounds, including academic researchers, natural resources managers, farmers, community gardeners, composters, artists and more.

Soils festival was held outdoors and featured organizations a nature walk with the National Park Service, bird walks with the National Audubon Society, and workshops on gardening, invasive management, soil pit examination, Ground Penetrating Radar, and soil judging. Most of the workshops were suitable for children and adults. We also offered an interactive art workshop.



Putnam County SWCD

- **Tilly Foster Farm**

We continued to work on the large stormwater project and have almost completed the work. We were delayed until close to the end of July before we could re-start construction due to the wet weather.

- **Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon**

We held our Regional Envirothon at the end of April and had 34 teams participate. Putnam County had 2 teams in this event.

- **Mother's Day Hike**

I partnered with Clearpool which is a private educational facility and a Model Forest and we held a family hike where we had approximately 25 registered people for a hike through the Model Forest and included discussion on stormwater, forestry practices, plants and animals.

- **Ag Assessment**

Even though Putnam County is a very small county and agriculture is even smaller we still continue to see an increase in agriculture and completed 12 Soil Group Worksheets.

- **Seedling Sale**

We had a very successful program with approximately 10,750 plants and 52 habitat houses sold.

- **Stormwater Conference**

Working with the Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts we held our 19th Annual Stormwater Conference with approximately 150 attendees.

- **Keep Putnam Farming**

We continue to keep a networking database of the county farmers and hold an Annual Farmers potluck Dinner and Tour. This year we had approximately 25 attendees.

- **Internship**

The District was a participant in the Mahopac High School Internship program and was successful in having a senior intern for 4 months that worked out well and was free.

- **LHPRISM**

The District continues to be a partner with the Lower Hudson Partnership for Invasive Species Management and has worked on several projects.

- **Highlands Conservation Act – Highlands Trail**

This is a four-state Northeastern corridor that will provide a public trail with breathtaking views and safeguard significant ecological and biodiversity within its buffer. The District is a partner in this project to help identify connecting parcels as it goes along the northern part of the County.

- **Great Swamp Boardwalk**

The District used part B funding to develop and construct 200 feet of a handicap accessible boardwalk with the Patterson Environmental Park to provide additional access and connect a wet area to existing dry hiking trails. An educational kiosk is part of this project.

- **Climate Smart Coordinator**

The District Manager was appointed by the County Executive as the Climate Smart Coordinator in October 2019.

- **Ag Tourism Store**

Using Part C funding, the District began the design and construction of the "Taste of Putnam" store that will house a permanent District display and also stormwater demonstration projects with educational signage. This store will be showcasing all of our agriculture and selling local agricultural products.



Rockland County SWCD



Photo by Tim Sanders

Young volunteers from the Haverstraw Community Center complete a data sheet during their net check for the American Eel Project at Minisceongo Creek.



Photo by RC SWCD Staff

Volunteers attend a training to learn how to collect and identify benthic macroinvertebrates for the WAVE program.



Photo by RC SWCD Staff

District staff lead a training on how to operate the Eel Ladder, also called an "Eel-a-vator" at the Ferdon Dam in Sparkill.

The American Eel Project and Eel Ladder are in partnership with the NYSDEC, Hudson River Estuary Program, and Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve. The WAVE program is in partnership with NYS DEC.

Over 90 volunteers helped count and relocate **8,328** glass eels and **174** elvers between 3/7/19 and 5/13/19. Glass eels are counted, weighed, and relocated every day for a 10-week season. A total of 22 individuals collected **15** benthic macroinvertebrate samples at stream sites in Rockland County. These samples are submitted to the NYS DEC and used as an indicator of water quality. Fish ladders help fish move past barriers in a stream. This year, 19 volunteers counted and relocated **27** American eels in their elver life stage.

MCWA First Annual Clean Up

The first annual **Minisceongo Creek Watershed Alliance (MCWA)** Cleanup and Waterway Explorations event took place on October 6th, 2019 at GARNER Historic District where **75** adults and youth were educated on the history, health and wildlife of the Creek. Volunteers removed **640** pounds of trash and **195** pounds of recyclables at sites across the Minisceongo Creek watershed.



Photo by Kathy Gallione

A MCWA Clean Up volunteer sprays water to activate a Rainworks stencil.

Road Stream Crossing Assessments

Our seasonal Corps members assessed over **70** road stream crossings in the Town of Clarkstown. Crossings are assessed to determine aquatic passability and are modeled for flood risk. All data are uploaded to the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative and can be viewed at https://naacc.org/naacc_search_crossing.cfm. We will create a Clarkstown Town Level Inventory Document once all crossings are assessed and analyzed for flood risk. The Towns of Stony Point, Haverstraw, and Orangetown have completed Town Level Inventory Documents, available at the participating Town's Highway Department.



Environmental Education

EDUCATION FIELD DAYS & CLASSROOM VISITS

This year, District staff coordinated and partnered to lead over **33** education programs and educated over **1,800** youth and adults. We taught students about water quality, hiking, watersheds, and fish in the Hudson River! DER Park Ranger, Rich, leads students on a nature walk during their environmental field day.



Photo by RC SWCD Staff

Professional Stream Monitoring Program

PEERS



District staff collected **18** samples from the Muddy Creek in Rockland County as part of a study to determine if a culvert is impacting biological stream health.

Previous reports of stream quality are available for review on our website.

<http://rocklandgov.com/departments/environmental-resources/protecting-our-streams-and-waterways/>

District Manager, Nicole Laible, collects a kick sample of benthic macroinvertebrates.



Westchester SWCD

Westchester County SWCD's soil and water conservation and management objectives are generally focused on the natural environment within suburban and urban settings. As described in the district's Work Plan, these objectives are tailored to the unique ecological diversity of Westchester County, where the Hudson River, Long Island Sound and Croton River and their tributaries define much of the county's character as well as its boundaries. The district considers a wide range of concerns, such as:

- restoring streams, floodplains, freshwater and tidal wetlands, and other natural resources to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat
- retrofitting and installing stormwater management practices to improve water quality and control excessive stormwater runoff
- protecting and managing streams, wetlands, ponds, lakes, reservoirs and floodplains
- controlling erosion and sedimentation, and polluted stormwater runoff by advocating the use of best management practices through public education and outreach
- encouraging and facilitating the development and implementation of soil and water resource conservation practices and strategies based on watershed-wide perspectives and analyses
- promoting sound soil and water resource conservation techniques and natural resource stewardship through public outreach and education

Technical services:

- Preparing Soil Group Worksheets
- Interpreting the USDA-NRCS Soil Survey of Putnam and Westchester Counties
- Stormwater management and water quality protection, including the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual and New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control
- Natural resources and ecosystem protection and management
- Environmental mapping, such as national wetlands inventory, tidal wetlands, coastal erosion hazard areas, flood zone, and historic aerial photographs
- Analyses of soil content and characteristics may be made through Cornell University's [Soil Health webpage](#)

Work Begins, Grassland Restoration Project at Croton Point Park

The County of Westchester has begun restoring the largest grassland habitat in the Hudson River corridor. The grassland sits atop the former landfill at Croton Point Park. The project is paid for with state funding to the Soil and Water Conservation District. More than 85 acres of grassland will be restored under the two-year-long project. The grassland provides a critically important place for ground-nesting and migratory birds, including raptors, to find shelter, build a home, feed and rest throughout the year. Restoration will halt the grassland's steady decline in habitat value and raise it to its full ecological capabilities by removing less desirable, invasive plants in favor of more ecologically friendly native plants. Please see the District's [Work Plan](#) for more information. "[Grassland Design & Management Specifications](#), Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson" (2015), laid the groundwork for the current restoration project.

Confronting Climate Change: What To Expect In Our Region Workshop

Two hundred seventy-five people attended the Soil and Water Conservation District's workshop, "Confronting Climate Change: What To Expect In Our Region," at the Westchester County Center in White Plains on December 12, 2018. It was the largest workshop ever sponsored by the District. Co-sponsors were Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County, Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, Watershed Agricultural Council and Westchester County Planning Department. Arthur DeGaetano, director of the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Cornell University; David Vallee, hydrologist-in-charge, Northeast River Forecast Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and Mark Wysocki, New York State Climatologist, Cornell University, were the speakers.

Aquatic Restoration

Over the past two centuries, Westchester County's natural resources, like streams, wetlands and forests, have been degraded or destroyed by human activities, especially from development and pollution. The County of Westchester has been reversing some of this damage by constructing practical and actual solutions to improving water quality and wildlife habitat around the county. These many "demonstration" projects show the way for others to also make the streams and rivers, ponds and lakes, wetlands and forests of Westchester more clean, functional and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

The Westchester County Department of Planning and Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District initiated the County's water resources improvement and management program in 1998, when the first of more than three dozen water resources projects was turned from blueprints to "construction." A lot was learned from the first stream and wetland restoration projects, and now the program addresses other vitally important considerations, such as general storm water management and flood control, to address both the quality and quantity of storm water runoff. Some 36 natural resources restoration and storm water management projects have been completed or are being planned, designed or constructed. As more resources are restored, water quality will continue to improve and a more diverse community of plants and animals will be established.

American Kestrel at Croton Point Park



(Photo by Jeff Seneca/Saw Mill River Audubon)

No Report Received: Nassau County

Frank Bratt Scholarship Program 2020 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 three applicants requesting \$860.00 for the June 1, 2019 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$860.00:

- Olivia Dickenson, Essex County – Grasstravaganza
- Alice Halloran, Essex County – Environmental Sensitive Road Maintenance Boot Camp
- Kevin Preischel, Erie County – HeartSaver First Aid/CPR/AED

There were seven applicants requesting \$2,874.00 for the January 1, 2020 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$2,000.00:

- Matthew Everdyke, Seneca County – Soil Science college course
- Kevin Preischel, Erie County – Cornell Local Roads Program, Roadway & Roadside Drainage
- Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County – QuickBooks: A 60 Minute Crash Course
- Eva Brown, Onondaga County – Financial Accounting
- Maxine Appleby, Wayne County – Creating Story Maps with ArcGIS
- Pamela Price, Columbia County – Further Research in Environmental Education – Leadership and Careers

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.

Starting in 2020, there will be several changes/clarifications made to the Frank Bratt Scholarship program. Some of these changes include:

- Increased spending to \$2,000 per round.
- Allowing districts to cover the cost of the training, in which case the district will be reimbursed
- Clarification on eligible costs (course registration and mileage).
- Page limit for applications to 2 pages (the application coversheet and **one** additional page for course/employee description).

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!

Scott Collins
Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative



2020 NYS Envirothon CDEA Annual Report

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The 2020 NYS Envirothon committee are doing a great job & are ahead on many projects for the 2020 event. The committee has grown to seventeen (17) this year, which is great!! The present committee is as follows;

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair	Advisory Member
JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair, Test/Resources	NRCS Earth Team Volunteer
Kristin White, Secretary/Treasurer & Webmaster	Seneca - CDEA Representative
Fred vonMechow, Oral Presentation	Educator Volunteer
Tony Lufan Ye	Volunteer – Former Envirothon Team Member
MaryLynne Malone, Volunteers	Educator Volunteer – Orange Co. Water Authority
Vacant	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/Awards	Tioga – Division IV District Representative
Chelsea Bartlett, Activities	Steuben – Division IV District Representative
Chas Miller, Publicity	Franklin – Division V District Representative
Jody Applebee, Snacks	Steuben County SWCD
Allycia Leach, Volunteers	Franklin County SWCD
Susan Odell-Peppe	Suffolk – Division VIII District Representative
Pete Gier	Empire State Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society

The following Divisions do not have members on the committee presently; Division II, III, VI, VII. If you would like to join the NYS Envirothon committee, please let one of the committee members know and we will provide you with the necessary papers.

The 2020 event will be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Wednesday, May 27th & Thursday, May 28th, 2020.

The 2020 NYS Envirothon oral presentation problem has been created on the NCF-Envirothon current issue topic ***“Water Resource Management: Local Control & Local Solutions”***.

We have guest speakers, evening judges, sponsors, and continue promoting the event throughout the year.

A request has been written grant to Dominion Energy & the Rocky Mt. Elks Foundation plus sent out over thirty-six (36) potential donor packets. If you know of any company or potential sponsor please let us know, so we can reach out to them.

The college is now requesting that each person volunteering for the NYS Envirothon provide a certificate of proof of “Minor on Campus” training. You can complete the process when registering online on the NYS Envirothon website www.nysenvirothon.org. It takes about an hour to complete the process and it is good for two (2) years. This is must be completed and in our files by the time of the event.

We hope this won't deter you from signing up and being a volunteer.

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



2019 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



Congratulations to all teams and specifically Mount Academy, Ulster Co, 2019 NYS Envirothon Winners!

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

In 2019 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! For 2019 a special message of appreciation is offered to the Finger Lakes RC&D Council for their most generous donation.

In an effort to assist regional/local county Envirothon's as well as natural resource and environmental education, the Foundation accepted \$154,322.27 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 2019

NYS Fair Committee Members

Kristin White, Seneca County SWCD
Erica Schreiner, Oswego County SWCD
Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD
Eva Brown, Onondaga County SWCD

Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD
Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD
Lindsey Gerstenslager, Wayne 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 2019 Great New York State Fair Booth. We appreciate your help! If you are interested in working a shift for the 2020 Great NYS Fair Booth, please contact Kristin White at 315-835-6030 or kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net.
- ▶ 2019's theme was ***"Soil Health"***. We had on display "Soil My Undies" which showed the different stages of decomposition of underwear that were buried in different soil types. The committee would like to thank Jason Cuddeback from Cayuga County SWCD for all of his hard work to pull together the underwear display, as well as providing Soil Health posters to hang on the walls. The committee also brought The Worm out of retirement to hang out at the fair with us! Erica Schreiner put together a great wall display on soil sampling steps for landowners as well as the many tools used in conservation for soil sampling. We will be using the same theme for the 2020 display.
- ▶ According to the NYS Fair website the total number of visitors to the 2019 Great NYS Fair was 1,329,275. This is a lot of potential people we provided outreach and educational information to regarding soil health and Soil and Water Conservation Districts in New York State.
- ▶ **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. I am using a new program for shift sign-ups, Signup Genius. There are many more shifts to cover in 2020 due to the Governor expanding the State Fair from 12 days to 18 days! The CDEA needs your help in filling these shifts, so if you have never worked the fair, you should give it a try! It is a very rewarding experience. Districts can also count their time volunteering for the State Fair towards meeting their performance measures!
- ▶ **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!
- ▶ **Give-Aways:** The committee provided a mini tape measure key chain to fairgoers with the NYSCDEA website imprinted on it, as well as Ronny Raindrop Pencils, and camouflage koozies with the new NYSCDEA logo on one side and Ronny on the other...I am sure some will be floating around at the Water Quality Symposium!

- ▶ Winners of the \$50.00 Employee Incentive Award were Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD, Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD, Jody Applebee, Steuben County SWCD, Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD, and Amanda Little, Monroe County SWCD.
- ▶ The 2019 Coloring Contest was Ronny Raindrop tending to his backyard compost pile. The winners of the coloring contest were: 0-5 years was Kinsley Albright from Cayuga County, 6-8 years was Aidan Peters from Wayne County, and 9-12 years was Aiyana Peters from Wayne County.
- ▶ The guessing game for 2019 was a rain gauge filled with 83 gummy worms. Ted Kidd from Monroe County guessed the exact number. The prize was a rain gauge.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ **2020 Dates – August 21, 2020 to September 7, 2020**
That's right, the fair will be running 18 days in 2020!!

The State Fair/Empire Farm Days Committee



Empire Farm Days 2019

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 6th – 8th, 2019. There were between 60,000-70,000 in attendance.

The 2020 dates are July 29, 2020 to July 31, 2020. Look for the schedule on the NYSCDEA's website for open shifts.

We are working on putting together a new display for this event. If you have any before and after pictures of projects that we can use, please forward them to Alaina Robarge at Ontario County SWCD.

The State Fair/Empire Farm Days Committee



The 2019 Conservation Skills Workshop was held at the Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District offices between September 23-27, 2019. It was another success! 127 folks registered (94 from SWCD's, 9 NRCS, 8 DEC, 2 Watershed Ag Council, and 14 from ag related businesses). New Employee Orientation was not offered this year. The two classes with the highest attendance were Cropland Conservation (28) and Basic Surveying (25). The registration fee stayed at \$30 a student for the entire week; the same as it has been since 2015.

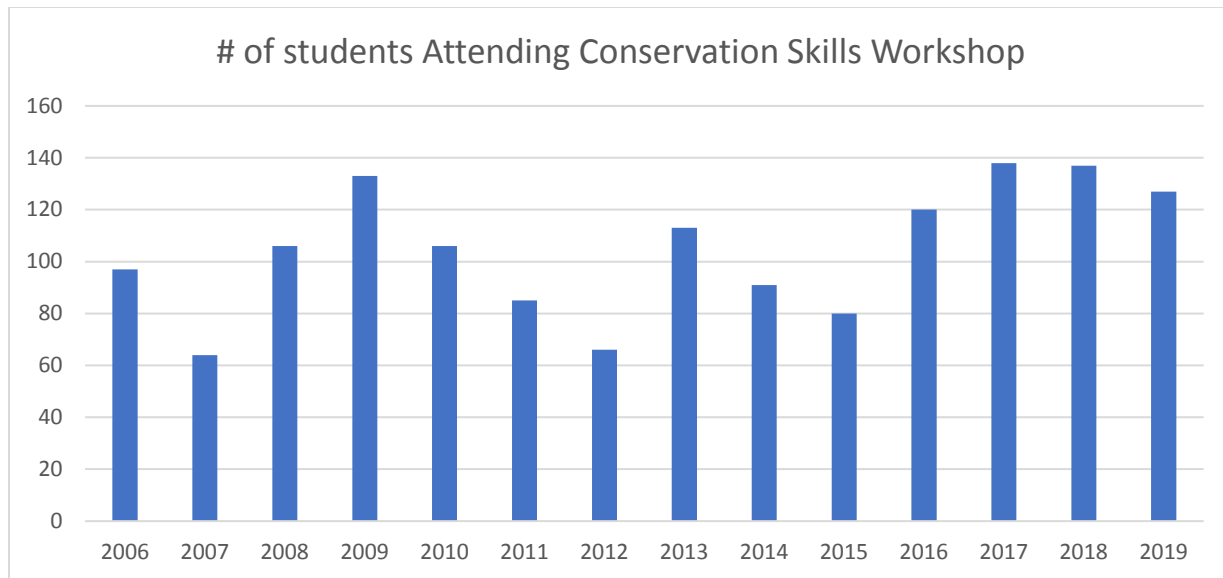
To help offset expenses by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service also provided \$1,000 towards expenses to put on the week-long training. *THANK YOU for the generous support!*

Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has tentatively scheduled the 2020 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting Tuesday, May 5 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Onondaga County SWCD offices. A delicious working lunch is provided, and all are welcome! **Please remember, this is YOUR training session for field-oriented topics. This event is as interesting as the topics that you suggest to us. We need your help to continue to make this a successful event.**

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the following committee members for making the 2019 training happen: NYCDEA President Steve Loraine, NYCDEA VP Chastity Miller, Lindsey Gerstenslager, Chris Watkins, Greg Albrecht, John Persch, PJ Emerick, Stacy Russell, Tim Clark, Ryan Cunningham, Ron Bush, 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!**

Most importantly, the committee would like to express their sincerest gratitude to Chris Watkins and John Persch for their 13+ years of dedicated service to the Conservation Skills Workshop committee!



Highest Daily Number of Students	Class
28	Cropland Conservation
25	Basic Surveying
20	Forestry 3A
20	Fundamentals Prescribed Grazing Plans
18	AEM Tier 3A Planning/NRCS Phase III (Modules 6-8)
18	Wetland Delineation Training
17	Utilizing GPS for Conservation
15	Post-Const Stormwater Management Practices Maintenance
12	Stormwater Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping for Municipalities
10	Rural Roads Active Management Program Information & Discussion
2	NYS ESC Exam

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

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

Annual Report to the CDEA

The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program is in its third full year. The program was originally developed as a NYS version of the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) program. This certification will allow someone to be a "Qualified Inspector" on SPDES permitted sites and is endorsed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Originally, the committee was limiting the certification to Soil and Water Conservation Districts so there was time to work the kinks out of the program. After 2 years, we have opened the program to anyone seeking professional certification that is knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control, meets the minimum qualifications, and passes the exam. The timing of opening this program up to the public lines up with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity recent renewal. This certification is listed under the "Qualified Inspector" definition of the new permit so we anticipate an upswing in private industry interest.

To date there are 27 active certificate holders, 3 suspended certificates, and 7 individuals approved to sit for the Exam at the Water Quality Symposium. To date the program has generated \$14,950 in funds.

Over this past year we have completed the following items:

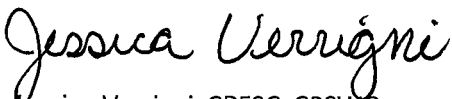
- ◊ All NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program (NYSESCCP) Policies and Program documents have been reviewed and made consistent with each other
- ◊ All NYSESCCP Policies and Program Documents have been added to the NYS Conservation District Employee's Association website
- ◊ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has added a link to the Certification program to their Stormwater information webpage
- ◊ Implemented the Professional Development Hours random audit of certificate holders

Items to work on through 2020:

- ◊ Developing criteria for hosting the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Course throughout NYS so that private industry has more opportunity to attend
- ◊ Develop criteria for proctoring the exam
- ◊ Working with the CDEA Board and County Soil & Water Conservation Districts to promote and grow the program

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions regarding this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Jessica Verrigni, CPESC, CPSWQ

NYSESCCP Administrator

BY-LAW CHANGES



This year we have taken on reviewing the by-laws. The biggest changes are the Frank Bratt Scholarship, updated logos, updated Division responsibilities, and large amounts of formatting! Much of the adjustments of the for the Frank Bratt Scholarship are questions that have been asked over the years, clarifications and concerns. We have also added the application form and the ranking sheet to the bylaws!

Page 10: Updates to Division Responsibilities

Page 11: Added NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

Page 15: Updated the Annual Event Payment and Refund Policy for Water Quality Symposium

This was added from the adoption 2 years ago.

Page 19: Updated the Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship

Page 38: Updated the 4-Way Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Addendum: Added the NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program Policy and Procedures