

2021 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP

The 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop will be held September 27th – September 30th in Cortland, NY. Included in this packet you will find the 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop registration information, class descriptions and class schedule.

This year we have a number of classes that cover multiple days. Please read each class description carefully and be aware that classes will overlap. All classes run from Monday to Thursday. The NYS E&SCCP Exam will be held on Wednesday afternoon. In addition, **classes will start at 10:00 am on Monday morning. Classes start at 8:30 on Tuesday – Thursday. The E&SCCP exam will start at 1 pm on Wednesday.**

This workshop is sponsored by the NYS Conservation District Employee's Association, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

This year's registration rate is \$30 per person.

*****Please be aware that there is an additional fee for the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Course. Please read the class description closely.**

*******Please be aware that you must submit an application to sit for the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program Exam – this application must be submitted 30 days prior to the exam date. There is a \$150 application fee. If you are approved to sit for the exam, there is an exam fee of \$100. Please read the class description closely.**

Registration forms will be accepted electronically for 2021, however, payments must still be mailed to the address below. Registrations are due no later than September 13, 2021.

[Click here to fill out registration form](#)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NYSCDEA

PLEASE MAIL CHECKS TO: FRANKLIN COUNTY SWCD

151 FINNEY BLVD

MALONE, NY 12953

C/O CHASTITY MILLER

QUESTIONS??? PLEASE CONTACT CAITLIN STEWART AT HAMILTON SWCD

(518)548-3991 OR caitlinstewart@frontier.com

ISSUES WITH REGISTRATION OR PAYMENT CONTACT CHASTITY MILLER

DIRECTIONS: Classes will be held in Cortland, unless otherwise noted in the class description. Please read the class description for location information.

LODGING: Available at the Hampton Inn 607-662-0007; Holiday Inn Express 607-299-0099; Clarion Inn & Suites 607-218-1968. Other hotels exist in the Cortland area. A block of rooms has been reserved in Watkins Glen for any students in the forestry class track. **You are responsible for making your own lodging arrangements.**

DINING: All meals for the workshop are on your own. Participants should be prepared for lunch in the field if site visits are necessary.

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Please remember, 1) you are visiting these field sites as part of the 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop for educational purposes, 2) these sites are open to you as a courtesy to help accommodate your training needs, and 3) by participating in this training you agree to utilize information for training purposes only and to keep all information confidential.

Course List

1. Basic Surveying

Sept 27th 10:00 – 4:30

Sept 28th 8:30 - 4:30

Sept 29th 8:30 – 12:00

LIMIT: Min – 5 Max - 25

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Phil Griswold – retired Seneca County SWCD, Tom Eskildsen – Yates SWCD

This course provides basic skills for surveying, such as note taking, instrument care, instrument use, reducing notes, plotting, and staking. This is a great course to learn surveying or brush up on your skills. Students should dress appropriately for the weather and bring an engineering scale, #2 pencil, and survey equipment including instrument, tripod, and rod.

2. AEM Tier 3A Farmstead Planning

Sept. 27th 10:00 – 4:30

Sept 28th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5 Max - 30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, Greg Albrecht – NYS SWCC; other SWCD planners

During this two-day course, participants will work through the NRCS / AEM planning process starting with an introduction to the core planning component, on-farm assessment, making maps for AEM plans, and fundamentals of planning. Planning exercises will focus on the farmstead, encompassing livestock heavy use areas, feed storage, process waters, manure management, clean water management, petroleum and pesticide storage, and connections to other farm management areas. Participants will form small groups to develop mock farmstead conservation plans for a nearby farm and discuss their resource concern determinations and BMP system recommendations with the full class. This is a critical course for those who are starting to work with farms on NRCS / AEM conservation planning and are interested in building their planning skills. Time will be shared between the classroom (following COVID-19 protocols in place at the time) and the farm, so be prepared for seasonal weather (boots, raingear, water, etc.) each day.

- CCA CEU's: 8 soil & water

3. Climate Resilient Farming – Track 3 Water Management BMP's

Sept 27th 10:00 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min–5, Max–30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Jennifer Clifford, Scott Fickbohm – NYS SWCC; Elizabeth Marks, Paula Bagley – NRCS

This class will feature instruction on the various toolboxes of conservation practices that can be employed to address the client's resource concerns with respect to water management in the Climate Resilient Farming Program (CRF). The objective is to help students identify the opportunities and utilize the standards and tools efficiently to meet the objectives of the program, community and/or landowner. The class will be held in Cortland with site visits in Onondaga County. The classroom portion will include a speaker from USDA's Northeast Regional Climate Hub to discuss Climate Smart Farming Practices, a synopsis of Track 2 within CRF and a review of the applicability of practices by State Committee staff. The day will end with two site visits hosted by Onondaga SWCD to observe and discuss water management projects implemented through the program in the field (dress accordingly).

- CCA CEU's: 2.5 soil & water

4. The New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Implementation Course

Sept 28th 8:30 – 4:30

Sept 29th 8:30 – 12:00

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 20

CLASS

Instructors: Jessica Verrigni – Chemung SWCD; Dustin Lewis – Saratoga SWCD; Kelly Emerick – Monroe SWCD; Jim Lieberum – Warren SWCD

This course presents details of the New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program to establish and maintain a process to identify and recognize individuals who are capable of developing, designing, inspecting and maintaining erosion and sediment control plans on projects that disturb soils in New York State. Presentations include regulatory history, permit requirements, site planning and management, NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Standards, as well as site plan review and construction inspections. Participants will calculate soil loss impacts, stormwater runoff volumes, fertilizer and seeding quantities, and key design elements of runoff and sediment control practices. Participants should bring a scale, calculator, the most current copy of the NYS General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, and the NYS Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control. This class can be counted for Professional Development Units (PDU's) for those that retain stormwater certifications in Certified Profession in Stormwater Quality (CPSWQ), Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), and the New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate (NYS ESCC).

The cost of attending this course is \$125/ per person. Pre-Registration is required. In order for this course to be offered, 10 attendees need to be registered otherwise the course will be cancelled. Go to <https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>, fill out the review course registration form and mail it, along with the registration fee, to Saratoga SWCD CO/ Dustin Lewis 50 West High Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020 by September 24th 2021. No refunds. You must also sign up for the class utilizing the link on the registration form above.

This class can be counted for Professional Development Units (PDU's) for those that retain stormwater certifications in Certified Profession in Stormwater Quality (CPSWQ), Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC), and the New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate (NYS ESCC). In addition, this class has been certified for 10 credit hours for New York State registered professional engineers by the Practicing Institute for Engineering.

5. Stream permitting 101 – Assessment and information

Sept 28th 8:30 – 4:30

Sept 29th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Mike Lovegreen – Upper Susquehanna Coalition stream team leader; Mike Jura – Tioga SWCD; Jean Foley, Jonathan Stercho – NYS DEC; Maggie Crawford – Army Corps; Others

This two-day course will focus on the elements that go into the preparation, development and successful application for permitting stream projects. Main topic: preparation of a successful permit application. This includes: an overview of site assessment; identification of project goals; appropriate BMPs for consideration; recognizing project implementation needs; pre-permitting checklists; permit application to Federal, State and Local authorities where applicable; and any project modifications and oversight. Course will include presentations by permit authority representatives. The course is targeted to individuals on an entry level but will include discussions between attendees and permit agents on common challenges to permit application completeness and consistencies. Discussions will also include the question of appropriate District assistance to public in preparing permit application and stream rehabilitation advice. Day 1 is in class and day 2 includes field sessions so participants should be prepared for all weather conditions.

6. Green Infrastructure

Sept 29th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 40

CLASS

Instructors: John Dunkle – Dunn & Sgromo Engineers

Green Infrastructure practices are an essential part of a stormwater management plans for reducing and treating runoff. This class will cover the critical components, sizing, construction, and maintenance of Green Infrastructure stormwater management practices. Design examples and class room exercises will be provided. The NYSDEC GI spread sheets will also be reviewed. Attendees will have the opportunity to apply for professional development credits for CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4S

7. Today's Agro-Forestry Opportunities in NY

Sept 29th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 50

FIELD

Instructors: Aaron Wightman, Ailis Clyne – Cornell Maple Program; Brett Chedzoy – CCE Schuyler County

This field training will build on agroforestry concepts introduced at the 2020 WQS. No prior knowledge of the topics is required to participate in this training.

Morning session (8:30-12:00) at the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest; 611 County Rd 13; Van Etten: *“How the Cornell Maple Program can help you help your farmers”*

- “It’s not just about pancakes anymore” – tour the new Cornell Maple Program Teaching and Research Center, with emphasis on the R&D work and demonstration of novel products.
- “Today’s maple technology” – the latest expert recommendations on tubing designs, vacuum, when to tap, and other key considerations for profitable production.
- “The benefits of sugarbush management” – thinning response and yield impacts, pest issues, strategies to perpetuate tap trees.
- “Multiple crop and stacked enterprise sugarbushes” – integrated agroforestry opportunities to produce more than just syrup from sugarbush areas.

Lunch (byo, or local options to grab lunch on way to afternoon session will be provided in the morning). Travel ~ 30 minutes to afternoon location.

Afternoon session (1:30 – 5:00) at Angus Glen Farms, LLC; 3050 Station Road; Watkins Glen: *“Silvopasturing as a solution for today’s rural land management challenges”*

- Tour and discuss plantation and woodlot silvopastures at Angus Glen Farms, a 500-acre grazing operation that extensively utilizes silvopastures. Extended-season grazing, “living barns”, outwintering and bale grazing will also be part of the discussions.

Note – This class will be held off-site 100% off-site from Cortland

- CCA CEU’s: 2 soil & water, 1 pest management, 1 crop management
- SAF CF credits are pending
- For those staying overnight in the area, a block of room has been reserved under “Arnot Forest” for \$90-\$100/night at Seneca Lodge in Watkins Glen. Additional information will be sent to registrants.

8. **NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program Exam**

Sept 29th 1:00 - 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5, Max - 25

CLASS

Instructors: Jessica Verrigni – Chemung County SWCD

The New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program Exam will test the applicant’s knowledge of the fundamentals of erosion and sediment control, as well as the planning, design, construction, inspection and maintenance of erosion and sediment control practices. The exam is an open book exam and the students have 3.5 hours to complete the exam and must achieve a score of 75 to pass. Individuals must submit an application and be approved to sit for the exam. This application must be received at a minimum 30 days prior to the exam date. APPLICATIONS FOR THIS EXAM DATE ARE DUE BY August 27th. There is an application fee of \$150. If approved to sit for the exam, there is a \$100 exam fee. More information on the program including the application form can be found at <https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>.

9. Restoring Ecological and Productive Function to Woodlands – a Field Practicum

Sept 30th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5, Max - None
FIELD

Instructors: Peter Smallidge, Paul Curtis, Brett Chedzoy – Cornell Cooperative Extension

Hosted by the Cornell University Arnot Teaching and Research Forest; 611 County Road 3; Van Etten, NY. This field practicum will build on and demonstrate the classroom concepts introduced on 3/1/21 at the virtual WQS. No prior knowledge of the topics is required to participate in the practicum.

Students will need to bring their own lunch.

Morning session (8:30 – 12:00).

- Defining the issues and why just “doing good forestry” no longer cuts it.
- As land managers, what can we do? An introduction to viable solutions.
- New technologies to help managers restore productive and ecological function in forest landscapes.

Afternoon session (1:00 – 4:30)

- The human dimension of making things happen on the ground. Tour live logging and slash wall operations.
- Are the innovative approaches to solving old problems working? Results to date.
- Putting it to work in new locations.

Note – This class will be held off-site 100% at the Cornell Arnot Forest in Van Etten

- All registrants will need to bring a lunch with them
- SAF CF credits are pending

10. Ponds – Ecology

Sept 30th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max – 20

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Robert Johnson – Racine Johnson Aquatic Ecologists; Meredith Holgerson – Cornell University; Benjamin Sterrett – Manager Cornell Ponds

Do you field questions from the public about Pond Ecology? Do they sound like this: What is this weed in my pond? Why is my pond full of algae? Why did my fish die? What type of fish should I stock in my pond? If so, this class might be for you! You will learn about common aquatic plant identification, aquatic bug identification, fish id and stocking recommendations, basic ecology of a pond and so much more! This will be a combination of in-class(barn) lecture and field work at the Cornell Research Ponds in Dryden. You will take away skills to be confident in your plant, fish and microscopic bug identification and better equipped to provide guidance to residents about their backyard pond ecology. Rain gear and boots will be needed for the field as we walk around the ponds, please dress appropriately for the weather!

Note – This class will be held off-site 100% at the Cornell Research Ponds in Dryden

11. Rock Products and Usage

Sept 30th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 5, Max –30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Tim Clark – NYS SWCC

Following the Earth and Aggregate Surfacing Design Guide released in 2017 this course covers the physical properties of crushed stone and gravel, how it differs from natural materials, and where to use different sizes and gradations. We'll look at use cases for Access Roads, HUAPs, Laneways, and Stream Crossings. We'll offer a primer on drain fill stone and riprap, and finish the day with a field trip to sites where crushed materials were used to evaluate their performance and longevity.

12. AEM Tier 3a Cropland Risk Assessment and Planning

Sept 30th 8:30 – 4:30

LIMIT: Min – 10, Max –30

CLASS & FIELD

Instructors: Greg Albrecht, Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan – NYS SWCC; Dale Gates – USDA NRCS; Other SWCD and NRCS planners TBD

This one-day course will focus on field walks to collect risk assessment information for AEM / NRCS cropland planning with special focus on assessment and planning for sheet, rill, and gully erosion as well as other risk considerations per the 590 standard. This session will be primarily outside (rain or shine and following COVID-19 protocols in place at the time), so be prepared for seasonal weather and walking fields (boots, raingear, water, etc.). Please also bring a clinometer for measuring field slopes if you have one.

- CCA CEU's: 2.5 soil & water, 2 nutrient management

2021 Conservation Skills Workshop

	Monday, Sept 27th Class Time 10:00 – 4:30	Tuesday, Sept 28th Class Time 8:30 – 4:30	Wednesday, Sept 29th Class Time 8:30 – 4:30	Thursday, Sept 30th Class Time 8:30 – 4:30
10:00 – 12:00 (Monday only) 8:30 – 12:00 Tues - Thurs	(1) Basic Surveying (2) AEM Tier 3A – Farmsteads (3) CRF – Water Management BMP’s	(1) Basic Surveying (2) AEM 3a – Farmstead (4) NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Program Course (5) Stream permitting 101	(1) Basic Surveying (4) NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Program Course (5) Stream permitting 101 (6) Green infrastructure (7) Today's Agro-forestry options in NY	(9) Restoring Ecological and Productive Function to Woodlands (10) Ponds – Ecology (11) Rock Products and Usage (12) AEM 3A – Copland risk assessment and planning
1:00 - 4:30 PM	(1) Basic Surveying (2) AEM Tier 3A – Farmsteads (3) CRF – Water Management BMP’s	(1) Basic Surveying (2) AEM 3a – Farmstead (4) NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Program Course (5) Stream permitting 101	(5) Stream permitting 101 (6) Green infrastructure (7) Today's Agro-forestry options in NY (8) NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program Exam	(9) Restoring Ecological and Productive Function to Woodlands (10) Ponds – Ecology (11) Rock Products and Usage (12) AEM 3A – Copland risk assessment and planning

Note: Some of these courses have time frames that overlap. If you wish to take more than one course during the week, please check to make sure that your choices do **not** overlap.

Field trips and off-site classroom locations will require transportation – be prepared to drive or carpool.

Be prepared for unpredictable fall weather.

Off-site locations will be provided prior to the beginning of the session.

***CCA CEU credit approval is pending for certain classes. ***