



NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

March 9, 2021

2PM

Zoom

MEETING AGENDA

PLEASE REVIEW THE PACKET PRIOR TO THE MEETING!

1. Call to Order- Welcome and Introductions (1)
2. Roll Call of Districts (5)
3. Reading and approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes (2) Page 2-58
4. Review Slate of Officers- Steve Lorraine- Past President (2)
5. Treasurer's report for 2020 (5) Page 59-61
6. Review and Approval of 2021 Budget (3) Page 62-63
7. Partner Reports
 - New York Association of Conservation Districts (5) Page 64
 - New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (5) Page 65-69
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (5) Page 70
8. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association Reports (5) Page 71
9. New Employee Recognition- (Mailed Out) Page 72
10. Service Recognition (Mailed Out) Page 73
11. Officer Reports (5) Page 74-79
12. Division Reports: will also report on new Division Reps for the Divisions (5) Page 80-110
13. Committee Reports (5) Page 111-120
14. By-Law Changes (5)- Page 121-124
15. Resolutions (3)- None submitted, any from the floor
16. Other Business from the Floor (5)
17. Election of Officers- Steve L. (3)
18. Awards (30)



Annual Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse
6301 NY-298, East Syracuse, NY 13057

Executive Committee Members

Chastity Miller, President
Dustin Lewis, Vice President
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
Kristin White, Treasurer
Dean Moore, Member at Large

Division Representatives

Scott Collins, Division I
Aaron Buchta, Division II
Velynda Parker, Division IV
Kristin Ballou, Division V
Amber Luke, Division VI
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Partners

Blake Glover, NRCS
Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC
Judy Littrell, NYS SWCC
Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC
Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

Absent

Raeanne Dulanski, Division III
Erin Sommerville, Division VII

Minutes

I. Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions – President Chastity Miller called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. She welcomed everyone to Syracuse for the 41st annual Water Quality Symposium. She introduced the the Executive Committee and Division Representatives, and mentioned that a copy of annual report was available on each table.

II. Roll Call of Districts – Secretary Caitlin Stewart performed the roll call and the following 41 Conservation Districts were present:

Albany	Franklin	Nassau	Schoharie
Cayuga	Fulton	Niagara	Schuyler
Chautauqua	Genesee	Onondaga	Seneca
Chemung	Hamilton	Ontario	Steuben
Chenango	Herkimer	Orange	Suffolk
Clinton	Jefferson	Orleans	Tioga
Cortland	Lewis	Oswego	Warren
Delaware	Madison	Otsego	Washington
Dutchess	Monroe	Rensselaer	Wayne
Essex	Montgomery	Saratoga	Wyoming
			Yates

IV. Review Slate of Officers – Past Conservation District Employees Association President Nichelle Swisher reviewed the slate of officers and asked for any further nominations. None were made. She mentioned that the nominations will be open until the end of the meeting.

President – Chasity Miller

Vice President – Dustin Lewis

Secretary – Caitlin Stewart

Treasurer – Kristin White

Nichelle mentioned that no other nominations from the floor were made for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

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

III. Reading and approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin Stewart, seconded by Jennifer Kelly to dispense with the reading and approve the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as written. Carried.**

V. Review and approval of the 2019 Treasurer's Report.

- **A motion was made by Jordan Clements, seconded by Paula O'Brien to approve the 2019 Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried.**

VI. Review and approval of 2020 Budget. Chastity Miller mentioned there is a line item for \$60,000 for the Erosion and Sediment Control 4-hour class that includes updating the course, moving the course to our own server, and obtaining an automated process for registration and payments. Chastity continued that Division Representatives can make a request to the CDEA board for additional training funds that could include a special meeting or more in-depth Division meeting.

- **A motion was made by Jessica Verrigni, seconded by Dean Moore to approve the 2020 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 – Brian Steinmuller mentioned that a copy of the report is on each table, shared highlights from the report, and the report is appended to the minutes.

c. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – Blake Glover shared highlights from his report, appended to the minutes.

VIII. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association reports – Jeff Parker shared highlights from his report, appended to the minutes. Jeff thanked Chastity Miller and Velynda Parker for their service.

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 Chastity Miller and 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 Chastity Miller recognized employees with 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40, and years of service with Districts during the Annual Meeting, and pins were distributed.

XI. Officer Reports

a. President – Chastity Miller mentioned that the President's Report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She thanked everyone for attending the symposium, and mentioned a survey is available that allow the planning committee to improve the symposium and offer needed courses. She continued that a new Treasurer is needed, and current Treasurer Kristin White will help the new officer with learning the position. Serving on the CDEA board is a great opportunity.

b. Vice President – Dustin Lewis mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. He thanked Chastity Miller for her hard work and assistance with organizing this year's Water Quality Symposium, and volunteers are needed to assist with organizing next year's event. He continued that this position has been great, a bit of work, and he is happy to help and be involved and represent employees.

c. Member at Large – Dean Moore mentioned that his report is on the screen and is appended to the minutes.

XII. Division Reports

Division I – Scott Collins mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division II – Aaron Buchta mentioned that his report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division III – Chastity Miller mentioned that Division Representative Raeanne Dulanski was unable to attend, and she submitted her report, appended to the minutes.

Division IV – Velynda Parker mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. She thanked the New York State Fair Committee. She continued that this time is bittersweet and challenging for her because she is stepping down as Division Representative to allow adequate time to serve at the national level to ensure that New York State is not forgotten.

She has served on the board for 14 years, and Shawn Murphy, of Cortland County SWCD will be the new rep. Velynda will assist Shawn with his new position. She thanked her Conservation District for giving her the opportunity to serve on several boards, and it means a lot that she can serve at the national level. She thanked Steuben County SWCD's manager and her husband Jeff Parker for his continued support when she served on the CDEA board. Velynda encouraged any new employee to step up to the plate and become involved in the CDEA board as the older generation moves on.

Division V – Kristin Ballou mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

Division VI – Amber Luke mentioned that her report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. Amber mentioned that fertilizer tablets must be picked up by tomorrow morning from the Shelby room.

Division VII – Chastity Miller mentioned that Division Representative Erin Sommerville was unable to attend, and she submitted her report, 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.

b. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Scott Collins mentioned that in 2019 several apps were awarded totaling \$3,700. Changes to the bylaws are being considered including increasing the scholarship amount, clarifying eligible costs, and the possibility of reimbursement for trainings that have already occurred. His full report is appended available in the packet and appended to the minutes.

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

d. New York State Fair – Kristin White mentioned that the report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She mentioned that volunteers are always needed for booth shifts, and the State Fair is an excellent experience because visitors come with questions from in and out of state. She thanked the committee for developing another fantastic booth theme. The Employee Incentive Committee program offers 5 chances for shift volunteers to win \$50.

e. Empire Farm Days - Kristin White mentioned that the report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes. The sign-up form is available on the CDEA website.

f. Conservation Skills Workshop – Chastity Miller mentioned that the report is in the packet and is appended to the minutes.

g. NYS ESC certificate program Jessica Verrigni shared her report, appended to the minutes.

XIV. By-Law Changes – Chastity Miller mentioned that hard copies of the By-Laws are available on each table. She mentioned that most changes involved spelling, punctuation, grammar, then summarized the changes, appended to the minutes. Chastity inquired if there were comments, questions, or concerns. None were brought forward.

- **A motion was made by Velynda Parker seconded by Lindsey Gerstenslager to accept the NYS CDEA By-Law revisions. Carried.**

XV. Resolutions – Chastity Miller mentioned that she emailed a state-wide request and did not receive any resolutions, and none were received from the floor. Chastity mentioned that a resolution was sent to the senate last addressing Class C streams and permits. Mark Watts is seeking clarification and making inquiries with the senators.

XVI. Other Business from the Floor – Chastity Miller inquired if there was other business from the floor. None was brought forward.

Dustin Lewis made the following announcements: Tomorrow social hour begins at 5:30 PM followed by the banquet, the bucket raffle and silent auction will close at 6 PM, winners as well as the gun raffle winners will be announced, the banquet will include the awards ceremony, the D.J. will begin at 9 PM, credit cards are accepted for the silent auction and must be made that evening, Envirothon packets available at the registration table, fertilizer tablets must be picked up in the Shelby room, sign up for the Fishing Competition for \$10 and receive a CDEA measuring tape, the cornhole tournament went very well and \$150 was raised for the Frank Bratt Scholarship, the Old Maine begins at 8:30 PM this evening, and the hospitality room is 241 and opens at 11 PM.

Scott Fickbohm mentioned to post photos with #I'mWithHugh for the Soil and Water Conservation Society

Chastity Miller thanked Dustin Lewis for hosting another great Symposium.

XVIII. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Jordan Clements, seconded by Larry Underwood to adjourn the 2020 Annual New York State Conservation District Employees' Association Meeting at 7:49 p.m. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

**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 Actual	
	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	\$ 50,032.10	\$ 41,915.59
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 9,775.00	\$ 2,505.27	\$ 1,600.00
NYS Fair/EEF	\$ 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/EDF	\$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.

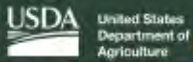
- **Waste Tire Disposal Program** w/amendment I've discussed this with Ag & Mkts, and they are working on this issue. Brian Steinmuller will be forwarding me additional information and a point of contact. At the present time Jennifer Clifford, Ag & Mkts. is monitoring this issue.
- **NYS Sexual Harassment 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. NYSID 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.



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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. NY-2020 • FEB 2020

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 Mudzynski	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

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 Manager	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

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



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 NYSCDEA. 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 NYSCDEA 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!





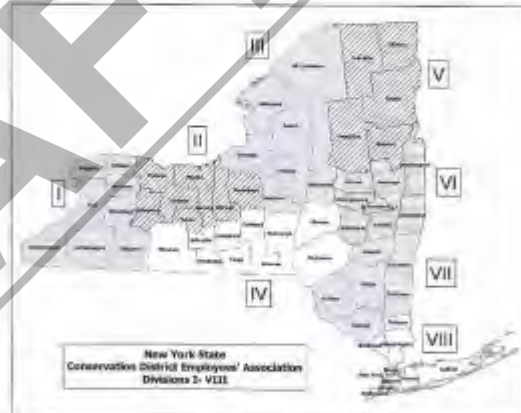
Vice Presidents Report- Dustin Lewis Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District

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 Mudrzynski, District Manager, Genesee
Melissa Rivelis, District Technician, Orleans
Rebecca Mann, District Technician, Wyoming

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Collins, Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

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 WOIP Round 12 including a regional stormwater pond facility, a riparian buffer project, and a stream restoration project.
- Working on two projects under WOIP 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 I. 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/nysescpp/>; 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 Thom 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

DRAFT



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

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



NYS Conservation District Employees Association www.nyscdea.com

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. They 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



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

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.



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

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.



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

NYS CDEA 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*

DRAFT

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

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

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.



NRCS Soil Scientist Olga Vargas in the soil pit

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.

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 Fardon Dam in Sparkill.

The American Eel Project and Eel Ladder are in partnership with the NYS DEC, 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.



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!
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.

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

**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	Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD
Erica Schreiner, Oswego County SWCD	Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD
Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD	Lindsey Gerstenslager, Wayne County SWCD
Eva Brown, Onondaga 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 Maina 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.

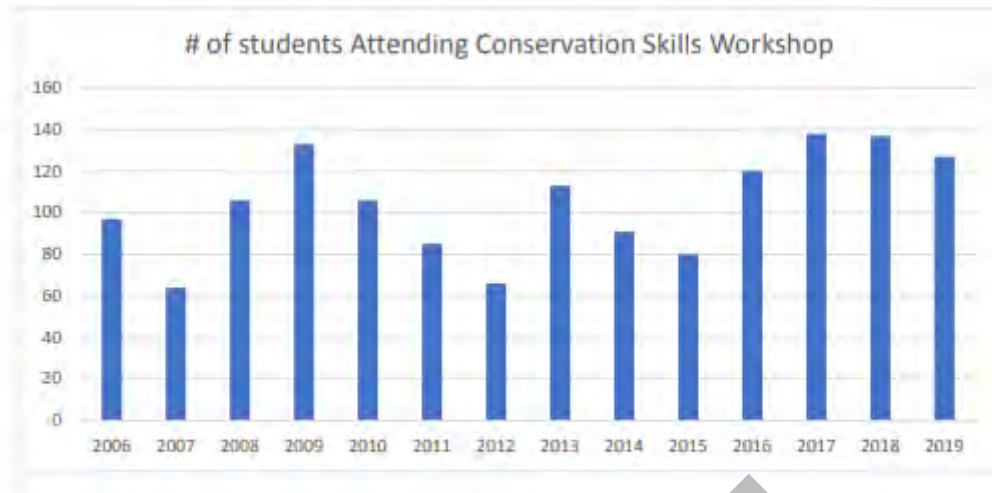
To help offset expenses by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service also provided \$1,000 towards expenses to put on the week-long training. *THANK YOU for the generous support!*

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

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

	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	59,424.64	51,642.87
4-Hour Online Course	284,226.11	103,113.20
Conservation Skills	19,528.37	18,638.56
Golf Tournament	4,332.48	4,228.85
Leadership Conference	2,863.13	2,863.13
NYSESCC Program	3,453.60	4,050.00
NYS Envirothon	71,597.69	42,305.57
NYS Fair	5,989.45	6,350.50
Resource Training Checking	5,331.80	5,000.00
Sunshine Fund	907.93	907.93
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING	<u>457,655.20</u>	<u>239,100.61</u>
Envirothon Scholarship Savings	9,090.87	10,588.15
Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings	31,222.61	28,356.33
Resource Training Savings	<u>27,058.23</u>	<u>27,050.69</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>525,026.91</u>	<u>305,095.78</u>
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		
Envirothon Receivables	<u>-8,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-8,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-8,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>516,526.91</u>	<u>305,095.78</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>516,526.91</u></u>	<u><u>305,095.78</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
Credit Card - Kristin-2353	<u>493.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>493.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>493.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>

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

ACCOUNT	2020 Budget		2020 Actual	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,670.00	\$4,247.90
Field Resources for Districts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.08
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00		
CSW	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$889.81	
WQS	\$130,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$115,690.00	\$94,696.95
4-Hour Online Course	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$183,836.90	\$2,723.99
NYS ESCCP	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$11,438.15	\$12,034.55
Trainings		\$8,000.00		\$132.62
WQS Resource Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.54	\$2,308.20
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$5,000.00		\$4,875.00
Donations:				
Envirothon Scholarship		\$2,500.00		
Donations-Other-EEF		\$1,500.00		
Executive Board		\$7,000.00		\$1,969.93
Insurance		\$3,500.00		\$3,025.61
Promo/Website		\$500.00		\$637.80
National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting (NACD)		\$2,400.00		
National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Meeting (NACDNE)		\$3,000.00		
National Conservation District Employees Association Dues (NCDEA)		\$200.00		\$200.00
Newsletter		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Sunshine Fund		\$200.00		
Office Supplies		\$5,000.00		\$3,459.19
Ronny Raindrop™		\$8,000.00		
Division I		\$500.00		
Division II		\$500.00		
Division III		\$500.00		
Division IV		\$500.00		
Division V		\$500.00		
Division VI		\$500.00		
Division VII		\$500.00		
Division VIII		\$500.00		
Carryover				
TOTALS	\$248,500.00	\$237,800.00	\$320,172.40	\$136,458.82

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

Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fish Challenge			\$500.00	\$200.00
Frank Bratt	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,842.28	\$1,976.00
NYS Envirothon	\$58,715.00	\$58,715.00	\$25,057.00	\$4,264.88
2024 NCF Envirothon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,020.00	\$0.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$9,050.00	\$2.72	\$1,500.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$5,400.00	\$6,982.25	\$5,200.00	\$5,561.05
Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,730.00	\$1,626.37
SSA Totals	\$73,115.00	\$81,247.25	\$42,352.00	\$15,128.30
Grand Total	\$321,615.00	\$319,047.25	\$362,524.40	\$151,587.12

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2021 Proposed Budget**

ACCOUNT	2020 Budget		Actual 12/31/2020		2021 Budget	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,670.00	\$4,247.90	\$ -	\$ -
Field Resources for Districts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.08	\$ -	\$ -
Training Sessions:						
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00			\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
CSW	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$889.81		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
WQS	\$130,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$115,690.00	\$94,696.95	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
4-Hour Online Course	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$183,836.90	\$2,723.99	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
NYS ESCCP	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$11,438.15	\$12,034.55	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 14,500.00
Trainings		\$8,000.00		\$132.62		\$ 8,000.00
Leadership Conference						\$ 3,000.00
WQS Resource Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.54	\$2,308.20	\$ -	\$ -
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$5,000.00		\$4,875.00		\$ 5,000.00
Donations:						
Envirothon Scholarship		\$2,500.00				\$ 2,500.00
Donations-Other-EEF		\$1,500.00				\$ -
Executive Board		\$7,000.00		\$1,969.93		\$ 7,000.00
Insurance		\$3,500.00		\$3,025.61		\$ 3,500.00
Promo/Website		\$500.00		\$637.80		\$ 100.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting (NACD)		\$2,400.00				\$ 2,400.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Meeting (NACDNE)		\$3,000.00				\$ 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
Sunshine Fund		\$200.00				\$ 200.00
Office Supplies		\$5,000.00		\$3,459.19		\$ 5,000.00
Ronny Raindrop™		\$8,000.00				\$ 16,000.00
Division I		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division II		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division III		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division IV		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division V		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division VI		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division VII		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division VIII		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Carryover						
TOTALS	\$248,500.00	\$237,800.00	\$320,172.40	\$136,458.82	\$ 159,500.00	\$ 146,900.00

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2021 Proposed Budget**

Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fish Challenge			\$500.00	\$200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00
Frank Bratt	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,842.28	\$1,976.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
NYS Envirothon	\$58,715.00	\$58,715.00	\$25,057.00	\$4,264.88	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
2024 NCF Envirothon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,020.00	\$0.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Envirothon Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$9,050.00	\$2.72	\$1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$5,400.00	\$6,982.25	\$5,200.00	\$5,561.05	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00
Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,730.00	\$1,626.37	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
SSA Totals	\$73,115.00	\$81,247.25	\$42,352.00	\$15,128.30	\$ 80,700.00	\$ 74,400.00
Grand Total	\$321,615.00	\$319,047.25	\$362,524.40	\$151,587.12	\$ 240,200.00	\$ 221,300.00



New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
415 W. Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
www.nyacd.org

Legislative Days – I am still making appointments for Legislative Days as request have been made and waiting for Legislators to respond. I am starting to schedule Legislators for Monday instead of our usual Tuesday meetings since all of Tuesdays time slots are filled. Chastity Miller, CDEA President has volunteered to cover a few of the meetings along with myself with Legislators that their Districts have not signed up to meet with.

There will be no Monday evening discussion this year. I have completed letters and information for those attending in will mail &/or email to those attendees the points of discussion to share with the Legislators.

The proposed 2021 state budget includes the EFP funds with an increased for Soil & Water Districts by \$1 million. It is our hope to share this with the Legislators and encourage them to support that increase after they see and hear what SWCD's do for NY's soil & water.

I have received good reports regarding this year's Legislative booklet. Which is always nice to hear from folks enjoying the booklet.

Upcoming CDEA Meeting – I have written a report to provide at the upcoming CDEA meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday morning January 28th at 10:00 a.m. I will not be able to stay for the whole meeting due to Envirothon meeting at 11:00 a.m. If anyone would like to attend as well let me know & I will provide you with the Zoom link.

CDEA Annual Meeting – Reports for the CDEA WQS annual booklet has been completed and forwarded to Chastity Miller, CDEA President.

Upcoming Meetings - Thursday, January 28th meeting with NYS Envirothon & 2024 NCF-Envirothon NY. There will be a discussion on the state committee hosting a statewide regional event to help Districts that would like to host one but are unable to.

2021 NYACD Annual Meeting - I'm hoping this can be a face-to-face meeting but waiting on the Governor to determine if this is possible. Once I know more, I will keep everyone updated and move forward accordingly.

NYACD Meeting – Next NYACD meeting is Wednesday evening, February 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt
NYACD Executive Director
January 28, 2021

NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Report to the 2021 CDEA Annual Meeting

From the Office of the State Committee

The State Committee wishes to thank the CDEA for continued service and support. 2020 has been a very different and challenging year, testing our resolve and ability to improvise, adapt and overcome. It has been my observation and experience that County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have risen to meet these challenges and with the leadership demonstrated by each of you and your respective Boards, Districts continue to perform at the highest levels to get conservation on the ground. You should all be commended for developing and implementing plans to continue to safely provide incredibly important services to your farms and communities.

Thank you for your continued service!

Brian Steinmuller
Assistant Director

Notable Activities and Program Overview

State Aid to Districts Behind the Numbers:

The 2020 State Aid to Districts Program was reviewed in late February 2021 and will be processed in mid-March 2021. With over \$10.5 million available, a Conservation District that earns full Part A reimbursement, receives \$6,000 in conservation project funding, and meets all Performance Measures will receive an estimated total of **\$178,000**. Part C awards are estimated at a total maximum earned of **\$112,000**. This is the second time Part C funding eclipsed \$100,000. This continues a positive trend with more Districts meeting and exceeding Performance Measures each year. Performance Measure funding is weighted high with **\$6.4 million** distributed across all participating Districts.

Policies and procedures continue to evolve over the 14 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.

The State Committee worked with the Department of Agriculture and Markets in 2019 to ratify recent changes to the law through the Rules and Regulations process. In February 2020, the regs were adopted providing a consistent path forward in delivering the State Aid to Districts Program.

Due to COVID-19, the State Committee made extensive changes to the 2020 State Aid to Districts Part C Performance Measures in April 2020.

- PM1: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions or not meeting the intent of this PM will not result in any penalty.

- PM2: the award has been increased to 15%. Questions 2a & 2b have been combined into one question that includes all the items for presentations, reports, publication, education, and outreach. Only 3 of these items are required. 2c: Annual Plan of Work is required and due to SWCC Regional AEAs by November 1st.
- PM3: the award has been increased to 35%. Only 2 of the 7 questions need to be completed to meet the requirement. Question PM3.2 (partnerships between the District and different local, state, federal, or private entities) only 2 partnerships are required.
- PM4: the award has been increased to 50%. Only 3 Natural Resource Conservation Programs are required.
- PM5: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions under this PM would not result in any penalty.

Source Water Buffer Program:

The Source Water Buffer Program was launched in January 2019 and was revamped July 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.



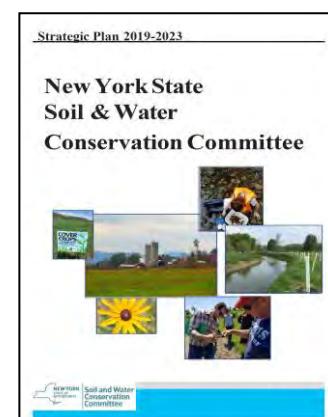
\$4.9 million in program funds are available for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands that support, expand or enhance water quality protection of active public drinking water sources. Program funds will also be available for the implementation of Riparian Buffer Systems within 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.

State Committee staff provides support of District Operations:

Regional Coordinators assist District staff and Directors at monthly Board Meetings to aid in discussions and decisions for the advancement of Districts. Staff in the Albany Office have focused on providing programmatic, operational and technical support through the development of policies, training modules, and facilitation of training events. 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. Since COVID-19 forced many SWCD Boards to meet remotely, Regional AEAs have been able to attend many more meetings, in some cases, multiple meetings in a single day.

2019-2023 State Committee Strategic Plan Approved:

The 2019-2023 State Committee Strategic Plan was approved in July 2019. The Strategic Plan begins with recognition of the Committee members and stating the Committee's mission, vision, and values. It then moves into the goals the Committee expects to achieve/advance over the five-year planning horizon. Each of the three major areas (Conservation District Operations/Technical Services/Program Delivery, Comprehensive Natural Resource Management, and Cooperative Conservation) begins with a goal, and continues with objectives to meet those goals. The goals reflect an overarching, long-term



vision for how the Committee and Districts can grow in that area. The goal is refined into an achievable framework through measurable objectives for the 2019 – 2023 planning horizon. The Strategic Plan can be found on the recently updated SWCC website at: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/about-soil-water-conservation-committee#reports-and-publications>.

AEM Program – AEM Planner Certification and AEM Base:

A total of 51 certified planners are now doing CNMP work across the state, with 18 of those SWCD employees across 16 Districts.

Developed in 2019 and launched January 1, 2020, the State Committee made a new non-competitive cost-share component available for the AEM Base Program. In order to make this possible, the State Committee set aside over \$11 million from the AgNPS EPF Budget line. Round 16 includes up to \$100,000 over a two-year period for the implementation of AEM Tier 3 plans. This program places more authority in the hands of District Boards to prioritize projects for funding without having to compete for limited resources. In addition to the cost-share component, technical assistance reimbursement is available: \$220,000 will be available for a two year period for a District who has a certified AEM Planner on staff; \$170,000 will be available for a two year period for a District who has a Certified Crop Advisor or NRCS Certified Planner on staff; and \$130,000 will be available for all other Districts.

AEM Base Program R16 – Action Plan Numbers

52 Districts (up from 51) submitted AEM R16 Action Plans

45 for Technical Assistance (TA) + Tier 4 Cost-Share (CS) Tracks

7 for TA Track

\$11.2M awarded

\$7.1M for TA Track (work through the 5 AEM Tiers)

\$4.1M for new AEM Tier 4 CS Track implementation projects

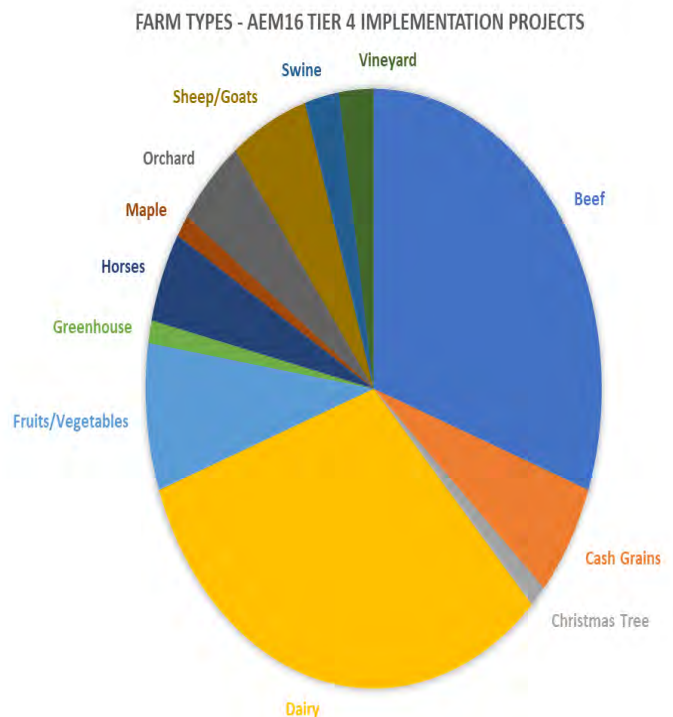
163 Tier 4 CS projects on as many farms!

Avg. Tier 4 CS projects per District = 3.6 (Range: 1-11 projects)

Avg. State share per farm project: ~\$25K

Avg. Landowner share per project: ~\$13K

Broad range of farm types and BMP



AEM Base Program Years 1 – 15 (2005 – 2019) - Comparison of Accomplishments

Deliverable	Yr15*	Yr14	Yr13	Yr12	Yr11	Yr10	Yr9	Yr8	Yr7	Yr6	Yr5	Yr4	Yr3	Yr2	Yr1
Inventories (Tier 1)	380	531	427	563	523	442	456	556	605	605	537	873	1041	1263	2119
Assessments (Tier 2)	248	398	280	329	401	312	230	341	382	433	393	593	651	961	810
Conservation Plans (Tier 3)	275	319	227	244	185	202	241	220	266	280	240	406	333	387	197
BMP Implementation (Tier 4)	254	211	236	258	250	231	267	242	259	241	278	283	210	97	-
BMP Implementation (ACRF)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	268	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evaluation – Update of Assessment (Tier 5A)	123	174	203	223	224	131	81	104	101	131	113	87	91	99	188
Evaluation – update of cons. plan or evaluation of BMP (Tier 5B)	378	449	381	447	351	372	392	327	301	314	287	257	129	112	82

*AEM 15 spanned eight months rather than the 12-month period historically used for AEM Base Program years.

Statewide AEM/Leopold Conservation Award:

Sang Lee Farms of Peconic has been selected for New York’s inaugural AEM-Leopold Conservation Award (LCA). Awarded by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the AEM-LCA award honors Sang Lee Farms, along with the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, for their efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.

Sang Lee, one of Suffolk County’s largest vegetable farms, is owned and operated by father and son, Fred and William Lee. The family grows more than 100 varieties of specialty fruit and vegetables on their 97-acre certified organic farm. An early adopter of the AEM program, Sang Lee Farms uses modern technology and environmental best practices, including annual crop rotation to aid pest management, and inter-seeding of cover crops to suppress weeds, increase soil fertility, and to protect and conserve water resources.

For the first time, New York’s longstanding Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award has joined forces with the nationally recognized Leopold Conservation Award® program. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo



Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) recognizes farmers, foresters and other landowners across the U.S. who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. The award is presented to landowners in 21 states.

AEM/Leopold Award Applications for 2021 are due to AGM by April 1st, 2021. For more information, please contact Judy Littrell at judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program:

In October 2019, grants were awarded to Districts under Round 25 of the AgNPS Program totaling \$16.3 million. Grant awards were made to 47 project proposals. State Committee staff are managing 166 active contracts, representing roughly \$60 million invested in agricultural conservation efforts across the state.

The Round 26 RFP was released in December 2019 and currently program awards are pending. When Round 26 is released, it expected to add another \$15 million in awards.

Climate Resilient Farming Program:

On July 26th, 2019, \$2.3 million was awarded to 20 different Districts for Round 4 of the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program. Projects were funded on 24 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 5 of the CRF Program was also released in December 2019 and project proposals were due on March 2nd, 2020. Round 5 was awarded on February 17th, 2021 with \$4 million across three tracks of funding: \$2 million for Manure Storage Cover and Flare; \$1 million for Water Management, and \$1 million for the Healthy Soils NY Program. This is the largest funding round thus far, with continued program growth expected into the future.

State Committee staff are managing 56 active CRF contracts, representing roughly \$5.8 million invested in climate change mitigation and agricultural and community resiliency efforts across the state.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA):

The CLCPA was signed into law in July 2019 and took effect early in 2020. The CLCPA sets very ambitious goals including a 40% reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, and 85% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, which taken together with a carbon sequestration goal, carbon neutrality achieved by that same year. The CLCPA also sets goals for the State's electricity grid to be carbon neutral by 2040. In order to accomplish these goals, the state will be drafting a scoping plan by 2022 that will cover major economic sectors as well as considerations of equity and just transitions to a clean, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The CLCPA sets up a Climate Action Council and a number of advisory panels of experts in various sectors to build out recommendations for the scoping plan. The Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel is chaired by AGM Commissioner Richard Ball and includes 18 professionals representing academia, public policy, farming and forestry interests, and Soil and Water Conservation District activities. The panel has met eight times since September and is nearing completion of a set of recommendations in the following subtopics for Climate Action Council consideration and approval:

- Forests and Forestry Management
- Avoided Forestland and Agricultural land Conversions
- Bioeconomy
- Soil Health/Nutrient Management
- Livestock/Dairy Management
- Agroforestry



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



FY 2020 Partner Report



BLAKE GLOVER

STATE CONSERVATIONIST NY

The 2020 Annual Meeting was the last gathering I attended before our lives were abruptly changed by the pandemic. So much has changed in the past year, challenging us all both personally and professionally. Who would have thought that ZOOM would become our lifeline and such an integral part of how we communicate? Now, we can't live without it!

As an organization, NRCS seemed to pivot overnight. While we experienced many hiccups along the way, our 2020 conservation story is a success due to the hard work and adaptability of employees and partners alike. The word "gratitude" comes to mind when I think back on 2020, gratitude for our employees and partners rolling up their sleeves in cooperation to get conservation on the ground despite seemingly untenable circumstances. The past year proves we can accomplish great things when we work together and set our minds to it.

I sincerely look forward to the future as we strive to address the conservation needs of both rural and urban communities across this great state.

FUNDS OBLIGATED IN FY2020

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

\$12,010,545.33

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

\$2,708,767.20

Easements

\$1,230,762.48

Total Obligated Funds
are more than
\$15,000,000

(not all programs with funds
obligated are listed)

2021 brings Exciting Opportunities in Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture pioneers are taking action in their communities, growing not only fresh, healthy produce, but also providing jobs, beautifying their neighborhoods, and offering access to fresh, healthy food in areas where grocery stores are sparse.

As American agriculture continues to grow in new directions, NRCS conservation assistance is growing along with it. NRCS NY is providing **TECHNICAL** assistance and **\$600,000** in **FINANCIAL** assistance through our **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)** program in FY2021 for urban growers in areas such as **Soil Health, Irrigation and Water Conservation, Weeds and Pests, and High Tunnels**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



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

Jeffrey Parker
NYSCDEA Representative/President

Due to the COVID pandemic last year, the annual meeting of the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees was cancelled to allow Conservation Districts to focus on how to maneuver and function through this time. The NACDE Executive Board felt this best to allow Conservation Districts to adjust to new ways of doing business and servicing customers.

A meeting was held couple of weeks ago to move forward where we, Northeast Association Conservation District Employees board, left off in 2019 on developing a strategic plan, complete an updated delegate & employee contact listing, planning for future Regional meetings with delivery of a leadership education program and producing 2021 newsletter (the Nor'Easter).

The 2020 Northeast Regional Conference hosted by New Hampshire was cancelled as well to COVID pandemic. The planning committee has been actively discussing logistics of holding the meeting; however, nothing has been decided upon at this time. A zoom meeting is being plan for March on the possibility of delaying the meeting for a couple of months or to hold it virtual on some type of platform.

As a reminder, the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE) has 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 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.

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 2020 - December 31, 2020				
Division I				
Emelyn Bell	Wyoming	District Technician	Nov	2020
Division II				
Dan Bowen	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	July	2019
Conor Larkin	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	January	2020
Christopher Travis	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	January	2020
Crystal Bailey	Yates	Senior Account Clerk	Jan	2020
Division III				
Andrew Haslauer	Madison	District Technician	Sept	2019
Laura Romanowicz	Oswego	Secretary/Treasurer	May	2020
Division IV				
Bailey Park	Broome	Natural Resource Assistant	Mar	2020
Andrew Glaspell	Cortland	Conservation Aide	Sept	2020
Justine McNeilly	Delaware	Technician	January	2020
Connor Hubbard	Tioga	Environmental Engineering Technician	Aug	2020
Division V				
Christopher Ballou	Franklin	District Technician	Jan	2020
Jaime Parslow	Hamilton	District Technician	Feb	2020
Division VI				
Doris Munro	Schenectady	Book Keeper	March	2020
Division VII - no new employees				
Division VIII - no new employees				

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2021

Division I

Scott Alsworth	Allegany	Agricultural Environmental Planner	Feb	2011	10
Christopher Fry	Erie	Conservation District Engineer	May	2011	10
Katie Sommerfeldt	Orleans	District Manager	May	2011	10
Melanie Saunders	Erie	Secretary/Treasurer	April	2006	15

Division II

Kristin White	Monroe	Principal Office Account Clerk	March	2006	15
Eric Jensen	Onondaga	Resource Conservation Specialist	Sept	2006	15
James Sroka	Monroe	Soil & Water Resource Technician	June	2001	20
Doug Kierst	Cayuga	Executive Director	Dec	1996	25

Division III

Alexis Lyndaker	Lewis	Watershed Ag Conservation Specialist	May	2011	10
Rhonda Redder	Jefferson	Administrative Assistance	March	2006	15
Mike Durant	Lewis	District Technician	Nov	2006	15
Carl Bartlett	Madison	District Technician	April	2006	15
Patty Casler	Madison	District Clerk/Treasurer	August	2006	15
Tim Wimmer	Oneida	Resource Conservation Specialist	Feb	2006	15
Joe Chairvolotti	Oswego	District Manager	Jan	2006	15

Division IV

Kyle Buel	Delaware	Technician	March	2011	10
Angel Hinckle	Tompkins	Resource Conservation Specialist.	Aug	2011	10
Gideon Frisbee	Delaware	Technical Coordinator	Oct.	2006	15
Gale Neale	Delaware	Stream Technician	Sept	2001	20
Mike Jura	Tioga	Conservation District Technician	May	2001	20
Charles McElwee	Broome	Executive Director	Jan	1996	25
Stacy Russell	Cortland	Natural Resource Program Specialist	Jan	1996	25

Division V

Lois Sayward	Essex	Secretary to the Board	March	2011	10
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Division VI

Scott Monica	Saratoga	District Technician	Feb	2006	15
Susan Lewis	Albany	Executive Director	June	2001	20
Nick Halford	Rensselaer	District Agronomy Technician	Oct	2001	20
Dave Pidgeon	Schenectady	Working Crew Leader	Aug	1996	25
John Kehoe	Schenectady	Heavy Equip. Operator	Jan	1991	30

Division VII

Michele Lindsay	Columbia	Administrative Assistant	June	2011	10
Brenden Wagner	Sullivan	Stream Restoration Coordinator	Oct	2011	10
Bobby Taylor	Ulster	CSBI Coordinator	May	2011	10
Michelle Yost	Greene	WAP Coordinator	June	2006	15
John Kline	Sullivan	Engineering Tech	Jan	2006	15

Division VIII - no years of service recipients



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

Well 2020 was a very different year for everyone! We made it! It was a doozie! Shortly after WQS, I mean the following Monday we all went into lock down. Many not going back to the office for a few months after WQS. Many worked from home in makeshift offices with their now remote kiddos running around. Zoom meetings are now the norm, and it is acceptable to have the cat run across the screen while you are giving an update on a program.

The most important part: Districts have shined more than ever in 2020 by continuing to do amazing projects and helping many of our community members. Tree sales went to deliveries and drive throughs, new partnerships with other districts to provide services and plans, more hydroseeding, more cover cropping, alternative field visits, many zoom calls, a virtual Conservation Skills Workshop, and let's not forget the quote of 2020 "Your on mute!" More people are soil sampling, water testing, planting trees and looking for at home projects than ever before. And through this all, Districts have continued to keep construction projects going, tree sales planned and online activities for the home-schooled remote learning kiddos!

Water Quality Symposium is officially all virtual. This will be interesting. We have over 280 people signed up and less classes, so there are many participants in each class, some are even at over 100 attendees. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has worked hard on planning WQS. While virtual maybe seem easier, it is not. Thank you Dustin, Kristin White, Kristin Ballou, Caitlin, Dean Moore, Al Fagan, Jessica V, Bethany and Diana for all your hard work on putting these classes together.

While I hope you are reading this ahead of time and not while in the meeting... consider running for a position on the executive team of the NYSCDEA. We all encourage competition so if you are interested throw your hat in, contact me or Past President Steve Lorriane. We defiantly need candidates for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Please consider running. It is a meeting every other month that can last from 2 to 4 hours and a few emails in the middle. Depending on the position there is a bit more or less to it. We are also shifting our 4-hour online course to new software and automating the payments and certificates a bit so it is less work on our Treasurer. As we kick start 2021 let's remember what we are thankful for, lets reach out a hand and help each other out, lets take a moment and connect to a District staff member you do not know and lets continue to be great just like we know Soil and Water Districts are! 2021 is going to be great! We have this! We are going to rock it!

I want to thank everyone who serves as a representative and/or as a committee member for the NYSCDEA. 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. There are so many that I cannot list everyone, since I am sure I would miss some! THANK YOU!

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 NYSCDEA newsletter, and serving on a committee! All this helps! Allot, so please consider it. You will make connections with others and network.

So this is the end of my 2 years as president and 2 as Vice President on NYSCDEA. It has been awesome, crazy, busy, challenging, a huge education, and inspirational! I have had the opportunity to forge relationships with people that I am not sure I would have had a chance to otherwise. I have learned how things are determined and policy's have been made. I would like to think that I have had the opportunity to have an influence on some positive growth and support for our Districts. I hope I can continue this also. I am truly grateful for my time on the NYSCDEA board so far and I hope I have represented Districts fairly and honestly.

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!

Thank you everyone for your support, I am always here to help and to serve. We all have soil and water districts in our blood. We are a family and are amazing! I urge you to do your part. Find out what CDEA is and how you may be able to help. Sometimes it seems like the same people always step up. Please take a moment and do a little something, it has a huge impact on everyone. Soon we may be asking more people to review documents and plans, to serve on a committee or to volunteer a few hours. Please consider it. It is important and it does make a difference. My door is always open, you can call or stop in if you are up north! I am always willing to chat! Thank you everyone!



Coming up on the end of my second year as CDEA Vice-President it seems like only yesterday that I was elected. It also seems like only yesterday that we were all gathered in Syracuse talking about a new illness that was popping up across the country. Unfortunately, it will be another year before we are back in Syracuse participating in the high-level training that we are used to receiving at the Annual Water Quality Symposium. I also look forward to the afterhours get togethers where we would solve the world's problems over a pint or two.

This year's Symposium is one for the books where all of our classes and our annual meeting/awards banquet will be virtual. Fortunately, District staff along with our partners are known for their ability to adapt to new situations and overcome when needed. As a result, our Symposium carries on despite restrictions put in place. This year's Symposium boasts 24 classes over five days with more than 300 attendees. We have attendees from Districts spanning three states and welcome 27 students from the Ranger School. I am happy to see the NYSCDEA leading the way and helping to educate the District Employees of the future.

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:

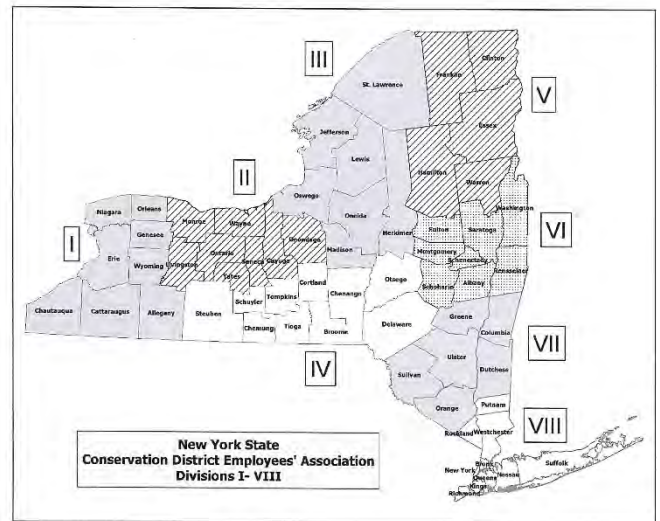
- Cornell University
- American Farmland Trust
- Ag and Markets
- Office of the State Comptroller
- NYSDEC
- EJ Prescott
- Xerces Society
- Town of Potsdam Town Clerk
- NYS Town Clerk's Association
- Alfred Piombino
- NIACS
- American Dairy Association North East
- Northeast Bowie Sales llc
- NYSDOL – PESH
- Empire State Forest Products Association
- CCE Dutchess County
- SUNY-ESF

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 (Shawn Murphy)
- 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



As I hand over the reigns of the Water Quality Symposium to a new brave soul, I would like to put in a plug for working on the WQS. Every year a dedicated group of individuals from across New York State comes together to plan one of the largest and may I say best training opportunities for District staff and Partners alike. There is a great deal of work that goes in to this undertaking, even when it is held virtually, like it is this year. I would recommend that everyone seriously consider being part of planning this event. It is a great opportunity to have a say in what is presented as well as work with partners from around the state.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all back at the Doubletree Hilton in Syracuse the week of March 14th in 2021.

CDEA Secretary and ISAC Report

The 2020 Water Quality Symposium was, for me, the last mass gathering before the Covid-19 pandemic shut down New York State. As we make the final preparations for the first ever virtual Symposium, I find myself feeling downhearted about the inability to hold valuable in-person trainings, build relationships beyond the District office, and cut loose in the hospitality suite. Being an optimist, I must find a glow of light in this dark situation. Record numbers of people have signed up for Education Track courses. I have gotten to know our presenters well before their classes during practice Zoom meetings. When we can meet again in person, I think we all will value those times even more.

Our CDEA Executive Committee, Division Representatives, and partners have been indefatigable throughout the pandemic. 2020 was an epic year for conservation. CDEA minutes are posted on the website at www.nyscdea.com

I publish the CDEA Newsletter bimonthly, and encourage you to submit your stories, photos, special recognitions, and save the dates to caitlinstewart@frontier.com. Special columns include the cover photo, CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour, and Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop? Please keep your news rolling in!

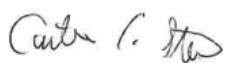
As the Conservation District member to the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), I attend quarterly meetings. Invasive Species Council (ISC) agencies, partners, or specialists, including other states, regions, and programs with successful invasive species initiatives, presented status reports and project findings during the meetings. Some of the 2020 ISAC initiatives include:

- Collaboration with NYIS.INFO, CCE IS Program, ISCU, ISC, and PRISMs, support the implementation of the 2016 -2021 Education and Outreach Strategic Plan including hosting events for Invasive Species Awareness Week and supporting the implementation of Invasive Species Prevention Act regulations, as needed/requested
- Foster learning and information sharing through regional/state/northeast cooperation
- Review Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan (ISCMP) and develop ISAC strategies for implementing the ISCMP
- Provide guidance on draft legislation and regulations, as needed/requested

Since 2017, it has been an absolute privilege to serve as CDEA Secretary. Now that I have finally memorized all the acronyms, I am stepping down from Secretary and am thrilled to run for Vice President. If elected, this position will give me the opportunity to be involved with CDEA on a deeper level.

I sincerely thank our CDEA Executive Committee, Division Representatives, and partners for their diligent work that often goes unnoticed. District staff members are New York State's boots on the ground for conservation. I wish you all a healthy, safe, and productive 2021!

With gratitude and good health,



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
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www.nyscdea.com

*Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide
ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect
soil and water resources in communities.*

Dean L. Moore

Member at Large – NYSCDEA

Sr. District Technician

Warren County SWCD

Member at Large – Report for 2020

Request for Reimbursement's (RFR's) have been down a little this year. But for those that are sent in, they are typically responded to in a day, after signing and forwarding to Kristin and usually cc'd to original sender. All 2020 requests were accurate and appropriate. This job is made easy as Kristin White is good at what she does.

I have been relaying information on the municipal assistance subcommittee back to the CDEA board with the help of Ryan Cunningham and PJ Emerick. Covid-19 has set back the time line for progress in this area as the lack of partners meetings added to the delay in communication. During this frustrating hiatus, Chastity created a base template for Districts to use for data collection that can assist with grant applications. We continue to press forward to develop this program and resource for Districts.

I have been assisting Dustin Lewis NYS ESC Certification committee as needed. There has been no activity in the Management Training Program. I am happy to assist any on this path or wish to know more about the program.

I have been in communication with several division representatives throughout the year that have reached out to me to discuss topics including Envirothon, Hydroseeding and Forestry Site visits.

Respectfully,

2021 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. Additional changes have been made to the Frank Bratt bylaws to make funding available quicker and clarify allowable costs within the scholarship. I hope everyone takes advantage of any training/workshop opportunities that can benefit their roles in the district.

A Division I meeting will be held on February 24, 2021 to discuss program updates and other training opportunities. Division meetings are an important and 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 Climate Resilient Farming Round 5 awards. Division I counties were awarded funding 9 projects costing nearly \$700,000 dollars (17.5% of total budget) in state funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for extreme weather events caused by climate change. In addition, Division I counties submitted multiple joint and independent applications under other rounds/programs hopefully securing additional grant funding for water quality in the region. Great job Division I, in addition to all the other quality grants, 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 new members to District employment in Division I for 2021. They include district technicians Olivia Dickenson (Cattaraugus Co.) and Emelyn Bell (Wyoming Co.).

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Collins, Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative



Division II Report
2020 Annual Report

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

Cayuga: No Report Submitted

Livingston: No Report Submitted

Monroe:

- 2020 Tree & Shrub Program was successful; implemented a drive through pick-up for distribution of pre-orders as well as for overstock sale.
- County Budget for 2021 submitted along with 2021 Annual Plan of Work and 2020 Annual Plan of Work with YTD Accomplishments. Told to expect at 10% cut in our appropriation for 2021;
- Conservation Field Days in-person event has been cancelled by our BOD. Working with other SWCDs to compile videos and activities/resources to distribute to schools for an alternate program. Any District interested in participating in sharing these resources can access them on Sharepoint under the CDEA;
- 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;
- Partnered with Allegany County SWCD and awarded funding through Great Lakes Commission (GLC) to restore a section of Oatka Creek, a highly regarded Trout Stream in Monroe County;
- Working on implementation of BMPs through AgNPS Round 21, AEM Rnd 16 & CRF Round 3;
- Continue to provide erosion and Sediment control construction inspections on development sites; and post-construction stormwater management inspections through our new Coalition mapping and inspection program developed by Bergmann Associates;
- Cancelled March, May and June NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour E&SC Training sessions, but plan to restore in-person sessions in October;
- Cancelled one class for the 2020 WNY Stormwater Management Training Series, but rescheduling Construction Permit Class for late September/early October. Cost for SWCD employees continues to be at the \$100 rate;
- Continue to work on 3 projects under WQIP Round 12 including a regional stormwater pond facility, and a stream restoration project;
- Continue to work on 2 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. NBS project is near completion with wetland plantings remaining to be completed;
- Working on closing out our US Forest Service grant for forest canopy restoration due to Emerald Ash Borer Impacts;
- Coordinating our Watercraft Steward Program with Finger Lakes Institute for this year;
- Spring Fish Program was cancelled due to lack of orders and Covid-19;
- Received a grant award from FL-PRISM for survey and removal of the invasive Japanese Angelica Tree (JAT). Hired two graduate students from SUNY Brockport to complete the field surveys for 17 county parks and one state park. Currently working with County Parks on removal of infestation in Mendon Ponds Park.

Onondaga:

- Completing many projects in the Otisco Lake Watershed funded in part with OCWA assistance: two grazing projects, one roof runoff structure under a manure dry stack, and multiple cover crop and nutrient management reimbursements.
- 1,978 acres of cover crop planted throughout the county (excluding the Skaneateles Lake watershed).
- Completing revisions to CNMP submitted by former employee for beef operation in Ninemile Creek watershed.
- Pasture System completed for beef farm in Upper Tioughnioga. watershed.
- Working with the Tully-Cortland Kettle Lakes Association on an Environmental Shorescaping (Buffer) program.
- Completed a Pasture Management System on sheep operation in the Oneida Lake watershed.
- Preparing four grant close outs.
- Hired a new technician to complete outfall inspections and data management.
- May be searching for new hire for design and implementation.
- Will be searching for new hire for seasonal aide to the hydroseeding program.
- Waste tire collection in SLWAP/SWCD watersheds – 32 loads sent (~12,000 tires removed from farms and recycled into landfill drainage/gas aggregate)
- 1 acre stormwater wetland project -working on permitting and getting ready to get out to bid. Construction anticipated summer 2020
- Completed implementation of a 4.2 mil galon manure storage
- 1,118 acres of cover crops planted on corn silage ground
- Met w/ Jim Keib of Congressman Katko's office 1/13
- Attended Mayor Walsh's State of City address 1/14
- Participated in County Emergency Management Preparedness Committee meeting 1/15
- Attended SLA Nutrient Management Committee meeting 1/8
- Held City of Syracuse's Watershed Agricultural Program Review Committee meeting 1/22
- Attend CCE Municipal Officials meeting for Skaneateles Lake – Borodino 1/29
- The City of Syracuse budget renewed July 1, and SLWAP is fully funded until June 30, 2021
- The 3- person Water Chestnut Hand Pulling Crew is working on a twenty five mile stretch of the Seneca River in Onondaga County. They have a John Boat w/ 15 hp motor to use. They will exceed the record breaking year of 32,000 pounds as they have added in two more locations. Legislator Ken Bush, Jr also secured funding for weed harvesting at Cross Lake for 2020
- The County EAB program has undergone a significant budget cut due to COVID-19, and the tremendous progress cutting / removing Ash trees, which has been accomplished over the past 8 years on County ROW. A layoff has occurred and staff have been reassigned to new duties based upon their Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
- 3.5 manure storages will be constructed in the County this construction season
- The SWCD hydroseeding crew is also ahead of past years in terms of acres seeded on municipally cleaned road ditches and other public benefit projects
- Hydroseeding season is in full swing w/ goal of 50+ miles of municipal road ditch seeded
- Injection of ash trees to commence in June to protect ash trees in county parks that provide high function and values for stormwater management and urban heat island issues
- Non-ash tree replanting occurring on small scale due to virus
- Starting site showings for multiple projects commencing

- Preparing for budget cuts at local level; first cut already handed down
- Provided updates to our Congressman on status of lakes in our County
- SWCD looking at new opportunities to diversify our services/support
- Staff authoring multiple grants to leverage additional funding for conservation projects
- SWCD is awaiting the start of the County budget process, which has normally been completed by now
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- 3 manure storages will be constructed in the County this season
- The SWCD hydroseeding crew is also ahead of past years in terms of acres seeded on municipally cleaned road ditches and other public benefit projects
- Working to complete projects for this construction season
- Following up with farms regarding cover crop installation, and utilizing both State and local funding sources to support cover crop implementation.
- .59.16 acres of hydroseeding completed this year (a new record!)
- We are continuing County DOH sampling, but with more autonomy/self-governance in the wake of Dr. Russ Nemecek's retirement from County Health Department
- We are on track to potentially close out 6 grants at the end of the year
- Authored 2019 annual report for six SWCD/county region of Oneida Lake Watershed
- Combined efforts for Water Chestnut Management in the County generated 679 tons harvested & composted and 90 acres treated by herbicide spray treatment
- County EAB program still on "Pause" due to COVID-19.
- SLWAP's Eric Jensen initiated a County-wide pilot program to recycle seven tractor trailer loads of waste ag tires. These trailers required extra high lifts to load the tires over the 13.5 feet sidewalls of the semi-trailers. Smaller ag tires were added to fill in the void spaces to complete the trailer loads. The tires will be shredded into chips of various sizes and used for energy or other uses.

Ontario: No Report Submitted

Seneca: No Report Submitted

Wayne:

Our District in Wayne County is looking at our program with Part C and increasing opportunities with the diversity of funds. We are planning a Watershed Technical Assistance application, for when people call into the office for site help. This would be two-fold, both Landowner

Assistance Program (LAP) and Municipal Assistance Program (MAP). Does anyone else have programs similar to this? If so, is there a rubric that is used for ranking besides Board review?

We will be requiring these applications before it will trigger an onsite review to allow the staff to pre-review the site and properly document needs before meeting with the landowner in a more regimented and consistent protocol. (More of a customer assistance and management tracking opportunity). Also, by filling out the application, it can potentially trigger cost share assistance. Any feedback would be appreciated!

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 – Hydroseeding in the Adirondacks project

In September of 2020, a large hydroseeding project took place in the Town of Webb. YMCA Camp Gorham contacted the District to hydroseed more than 48,000 square feet of bare soil as a result of recent improvements to their wastewater management system. This critical area seeding was crucial in preventing soil erosion that would impact the water quality of Dart's Lake. Dart's Lake is one of many lakes in the Adirondack Park that is rich in history from the late 1800s to present-day. The property was originally settled in the 1870s by William Henry Dart as a trapper's camp. Since 1960, the property, now known as Camp Gorham, has been owned and operated by the non-profit YMCA of Greater Rochester.



Lewis County – 2020 Highlights

The Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District had a busy year in 2020 despite the chaos of Covid-19. Here are just a few of the highlights in 2020. Installation of the Lewis County Fairgrounds green infrastructure project began in September which comprised the construction of bioswales, pervious pavers and roof runoff collection and reuse. The District painted the world green again by hydroseeding over 17 municipal projects amounting to 22,660 feet of ditches and road/stream banks. The District assisted 25 local farmers planting over 1,151 acres of cover crops with the Interseeder and no-till seeder. Finally, the staff assisted residents of Beaver Lake who are concerned about drastic water level changes in the lake causing erosion and property damage. This District installed 5 pressure transducers around the lake to track water input from different subwatersheds and determine what tributaries contribute most to the drastic fluctuations. The landowners of the lake are in the process of forming a lake association and will examine the results from the sensor level readings.



Madison County – Erosion Control Project utilizing AEM Tier 4 Funding

The District was contacted by the farm to assist them in solving a severe erosion problem at the farmstead. As a result of severe storm event over the past few years water conveyance structures at the farm have been overwhelmed and significantly damaged. Working with the farm the District designed a series of grassed waterways, drop inlet structures with underground outlets, rock lined waterways and a large diversion to safely carry the water of the farmstead and away from the cropland that was being flooded during these events. Photos below: (L) The newly established diversion that is used as the safe outlet for the work completed above and protects the cropland below. (Center) The newly constructed rock lined waterway that carries runoff water from the road above the farm safely to the diversion below. (R) Drop inlet structure with underground outlet carries runoff water to a safe outlet below.



Oswego County – Tree Planting Project

The annual Oswego County Conservation Field Day (CFD) was held in a virtual format for 2020, and despite wondering initially if there would be interest in such a format, it turned out to be a highlight of educational programming for the year! Six schools participated with a total of 325 students. Two schools took part in the program for the first time in many, many years. To set up the program, all previous presenters were contacted and asked if they would like to submit a video or have the CFD program coordinator go to their location and record the presentation. Presenters were also asked to supply an activity if possible. In the end, 15 videos and 8 activities were made available to participating teachers via a Google Drive folder. Twelve videos were submitted and 3 were recorded by the CFD Coordinator. As a follow-up activity, teachers were asked to have their students write thank-you letters to the presenters. The letters were then forwarded to the presenters who enjoyed reading the feedback and comments from the fifth graders. The letters are part of the in-person CFD and it was important to carry on the tradition as it is not only beneficial for the students to have an activity to re-cap their experience, but the presenters really look forward to the letters. Two photos clipped from the videos are shown below. (L) Bird Watching and Nature Exploration and (R) Trapping as a Wildlife Management Tool (the presenter is using 2 containers of water to demonstrate the population fluctuation in a beaver pond). To any District considering a virtual CFD, our experience was completely positive and the teachers (particularly the ones who were 100% teaching remotely) were thrilled to have access to the videos and activities. Virtual CFD turned out to be the next best thing to the in-person event.



St. Lawrence County – Slow Ash Mortality Project

The District providing assistance with a USDA APHIS and Forest Service Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) integrated pest management study that is currently underway. This study will look at the survivorship between parasitoids and EAB populations over the next 10 years and the efficacy of biocontrol's in protecting regeneration of aftermath ash forests.

The District Forester found suitable release sites, the presence of EAB larvae, did the parasitoid releases, and helped with laying out a sampling grid, tree tagging and tree data collection. These trees have been/will be treated (200 trees) over the next 10 years to keep the parasitoids alive and then they will stop treating them to see if the biocontrol can keep up and protect the trees after EAB populations collapse in the aftermath forest.



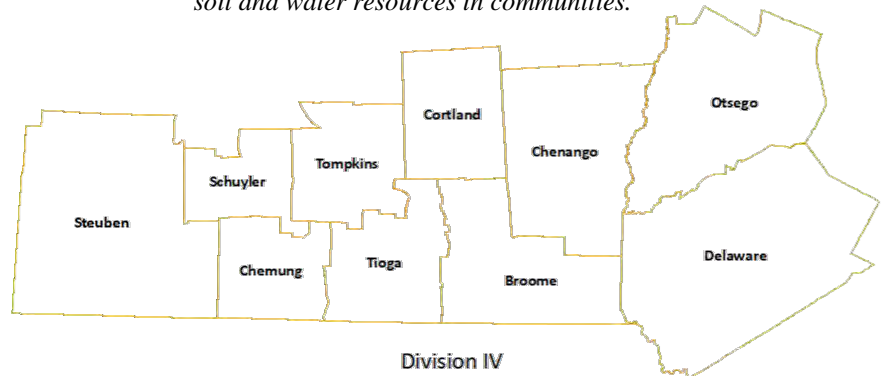
Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.



DIVISION IV REPORT – 2020/21

Division Updates:

Adaptation and resiliency -

Since last year's Water Quality Symposium (WQS), our County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have proven how well they can adapt, facing the shared challenge of Covid-19. Interrupting the status quo and providing some of us a crash course in current technologies, the past year has challenged us to flexibly implement conservation and provide service to our respective communities. We utilized more social media including website and blog posts, videos and virtual tours and workshops to educate about conservation in a contact-less way of doing business.

While we didn't have a true Division meeting since the last WQS, we all managed to keep tabs on each other via bi-monthly CDEA meeting inquiries and updates, managers meetings and participating in our shared watershed related activities and programs. A virtual Conservation Skills Workshop, normally based out of Cortland, was obviously different this past year, however many employees from across our Division and beyond pitched in to plan and facilitate the successful event. From our Division (Tioga County) came the virtual regional Envirothon and a recent training session to make us all feel a little more comfortable about holding our own virtual classroom type events.

We raised a few items of concern over the course of this past year at the state employee association level including discussions leading to the proposed Frank Bratt Scholarship bylaw changes and inquiries regarding employee safety trainings and PESH (Public Employee Safety & Health) that have resulted in a class being offered on the topic at the 2021 WQS.

District Spotlight:

Tioga:

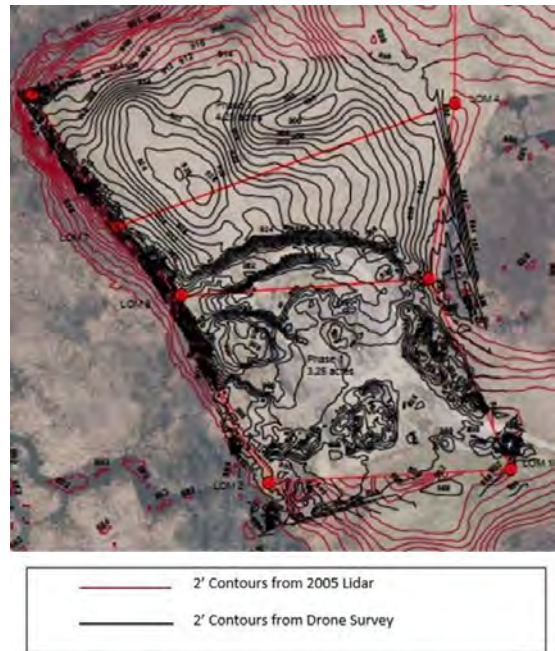
In addition to moving regular implementation efforts along, Tioga County embraced reaching out both virtually and through other mechanisms to engage and assist the community. "Despite the hurdles 2020 brought to continuing education and outreach, the District persevered and made a push to reach our audience on a virtual scale more than ever. As in past years, this year the District was still able to play a key role in both community and academic events." Reaching the residents of Tioga County is key, as it helps us teach community members about the value of agriculture and natural resource conservation. Though education and outreach looked a little different this year, we were able to reach more people this year than in any year past!"



To see a sampling of Tioga County's year in review, check out the 2020 Annual Report of Activities at: <https://www.tiogacountyny.com/media/9092/tcsxcd-2020-annual-report-compressed.pdf>

Chemung:

Chemung had multiple projects and accolades from 2020 captured in their annual report and one interesting tidbit was provided by Jessica Verrigni, Stormwater Technician: In 2020, the District upgraded their drones. The new drone can be used for topographic surveys when used in conjunction with ground control points set by survey equipment which the District purchased through a Water Quality Improvement Project grant. We tested this new technology with a gravel mine permit renewal. Utilizing free flight survey software and data processing software we were able to create a real-time current topographic map of the gravel pit. This topographic data lines up perfectly with the 2005 Chemung County LIDAR data which verifies the quality of this technology to us. The map below shows the gravel pit topo map with the new data and the old LIDAR.



To see a sampling of Chemung County's year in review, check out the 2020 Annual Report of Activities at: https://www.chemungcountyswcd.net/uploads/6/8/8/0/68802399/chemung_county_2020_newsletter.pdf

Cortland:

Cortland SWCD, in a time of reduced in-person Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) boat stewarding, finished the installation of a CD3 unit at one of the local launch sites. The unit is an easy to use, self-serve, waterless cleaning system that reduces the spread of invasive species.

The unit installed is solar powered and includes a wet/dry vacuum, air blower system, tethered hand tools and lights. A "smart" piece of equipment, the system provides usage reports and automated maintenance alerts.



To see more of the conservation activities of the Cortland SWCD visit their webpage at www.cortlandswcd.org or visit them on Facebook at @cortlandswcd

Schuyler:

Vineyard Management Innovation - Schuyler County SWCD was able to secure funding to purchase an under the vine mower in a demonstration effort with multiple vineyards in the County. Row middle management is a key to limiting erosion on our steep vineyard soils. Our vineyards utilize cover crops, as well as mulch to help maintain permanent cover in the vineyard row. However, it has always been difficult to limit competition with the grape vine itself. This has traditionally been achieved with the use of herbicides. The under the vine mower has provided a mechanical means to help reduce and in some cases eliminate the need for herbicides to manage competition within the vine row. Over 250 acres were managed with this mower this year and the project has already seen expansion from an additional vineyard purchasing its own mower. We feel this is a project that could be expanded and have a significant reduction in herbicide usage.



To see a snapshot of 2020 activities, check out the Schuyler County SWCD 2020 Annual Report: http://www.schuylerswcd.com/uploads/1/1/5/2/11520284/2020_annual_newsletter.pdf

Steuben:

Steuben SWCD has placed its project spotlight on "Improving In-Stream Habitat Through Fish Passage". After conducting 79 NAACC assessments in the Cohocton River Watershed, two sites were selected to enhance fish passage in the Town of Cohocton.

Culverts were embedded and their size increased eliminating plunges on the outlet side and allowing for easy fish passage. A stone step stair set was installed on one project allowing fish to easily navigate 4 feet in elevation change over a relatively short length of 14 feet.

To see more of the projects and happenings at Steuben SWCD visit them on Facebook at @SteubenSWCD



Respectfully submitted by Shawn Murphy, Division IV Representative

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 – AEM 16 Implementation – Rubber Belt Diverter Installations



Clinton County worked alongside Franklin County and Essex County Soil & Water to install 7 rubber belt deflectors, 6 culverts, and 1 rock lined ditch with rock check dams in a 3,000 tap sugarbush. Selective cutting was done in 2014 to improve the health of the forest stand. No Forestry BMP's were installed by the logging contractor during the harvest. The main skid trail leaving the landing is on a 17% slope. After the harvest trails were severely rutted and were not graded or stabilized causing areas of erosion to grow.

As part of the 3A Forestry Plan, 7 rubber belt deflectors were installed along the main forest trail to reduce the amount of water and speed of flow and to divert water into stable vegetated areas. They were constructed onsite using recycled conveyor belting and pressure treated 2x6's. These diverters will allow machinery to easily maneuver the trails while ensuring all flow is captured and directed off the trails. These rubber belt deflectors will allow vegetation to reestablish; protecting trails from erosion and allowing access to the sugarbush during sugaring season.



Essex County – Part B and C 2020 – Riparian Buffer Planting



Essex County SWCD partnered with Trout Unlimited and the Boquet River Association in October 2020 to plant willows along the Boquet River in the Town of Lewis. The two farms where the plantings occurred helped by pre-drilling holes for the plantings. More than fifteen hardy volunteers planted over 700 willow cuttings along the North and South side of the river, covering 3400 feet on each side.



Franklin County – CAFO Round 1 – Satellite Manure Storage

This year we also completed a CAFO Round 1 Grant for the installation of Waste Storage and Transfer System in Chateaugay, Franklin County, New York. Bilow Farms, LLC “Where Cows Come First” is a 38-year-old family owned and operated dairy farm in the North Country. This dairy farm operates at over 3,000 dairy cows. Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District applied for a CAFO grant in 2017. This project installed a satellite 4.92-million-gallon concrete manure storage. The District was able to assist with funding for planning, engineering and the installation of the storage. This project has just been completed in the Fall of 2020. The District was able to provide \$270,563 worth of State reimbursement for this \$677,762 project.



Hamilton County – Part B 2020 – Protecting Water Quality with Stormwater Control

This project maintains the integrity of water quality in Hamilton County by addressing stormwater issues at Arrowhead Park, Town of Inlet. After a heavy rain event or snowmelt, runoff flows over the landscape into the parking area, puddles on imperious surfaces, and flows directly into the channel, carrying with it pollutants like

automotive oil, fertilizer, pet waste, and road salt. After consulting with the Warren County SWCD, the District chose to install TRUEGRID® PRO PLUS® permeable pavers at the project site to protect water quality by decreasing stormwater runoff. These pavers provide 100% pervious cover, detention, and stormwater management. They collect 3,200 gallons of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces at Arrowhead Park, prevent flooding, and decrease the



amount of pollutants entering the Fourth and Fifth Lake Channel. Having the green infrastructure installed in such a public, high traffic location affords an important learning and educational opportunity. This project will serve as a demonstration of how green infrastructure technology reduces stormwater runoff. Funding for this project was provided by Part B, the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, and Town of Inlet Highway Department. This project's success, vocalized by the superintendent and highway crew, has allowed green infrastructure to gain traction in our county.



Warren County – NACD Urban Agriculture Grant – Implementation of Soil Health Conservation Practices at the Warrensburg Community Garden

In February 2020, the District received a grant through the National Association of Conservation Districts Urban Agriculture Initiative to demonstrate soil health conservation practices at the Warrensburg Community Garden. Despite the setbacks from COVID-19, the District was able to work with community gardeners to create demonstration plots that would display the implementation of soil health practices such as establishing long and short-term crops with no-till methods, cover crops, row covers for pests, and the benefits of mulching and composting for water conservation. The District also teamed up with NRCS Soil Scientist, Olga Vargas, to complete an in-depth soil health analysis of the garden beds and trace metal testing for the site.

Workshops related to conservation practices including cover cropping, no-till methods, and composting were offered for the Warren County agricultural community. The District implemented cover crops at the community garden by offering 25lbs of a pea and oats cover crop mixture for gardeners to try at their plots. The District even worked with the gardeners to install a 250sqft native plant



hedgerow that promotes beneficial insects while reducing stormwater runoff to Schroon River. Grant funds were also used for building a new three composting unit for the community gardeners to learn about the benefits of creating onsite compost. After the growing season came to a close in the fall, the District staff visited the garden and found a sea of the pea and oat cover crop mixture growing on the majority of the raised beds. This NACD grant allowed the District to work closely with the side of our agricultural community that has little to no access to growing space on their property and relies heavily on community-oriented agriculture for producing vegetables. Seeing the cover crops and lack of bare soil at the end of the growing season is a testament to the success of this program.

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 2011 but has seemed to level off in the past 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.

COVID-19:

This year due to COVID-19 and all the uncertainty surrounding COVID- 19 it was the CDEA executive boards decision to hold off on ordering Fertilizer tablets this year. With WQS being held virtually this year there was no clear way to handle the delivery, the breakeven cost and with the need to order early (October) the board could not see an easy way of doing the fertilizer tablet program. *We fully anticipate having the Fertilizer Tablet program back next year for Water Quality Symposium 2022!*

	Expense	Net Income	Cases Sold
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
2021	COVID-19		0

Amber Luke

Natural Resource Technician

Washington County SWCD

Division VI Representative

Amber.luke@ny.nacdnet.net

Division VI Annual Report:

Division Wide:

2020 was a tough year for districts across the state but overall districts in Division 6 were able to get many good projects completed and they were able to hold successful tree and shrub sales, No till drill rentals and many other great programs. We did not hold a Division wide meeting this year due to already having so much on everyone's plate but we have all been keeping in contact through emails as much as possible.

District Reports:

Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District

The district had many successful programs in 2020 despite COVID restrictions including a successful Tree Sale, Fish Sale- Spring and Fall, Part B- Community Garden/Green Space, No-till seeding program, a Tire Recycling and Ag-plastic recycling events. We successfully implemented Federal and State Grant work on 12 different farms completed many other projects including the implementation of the Chuctanunda Trail- City of Amsterdam, Eagle Trail- Town of Amsterdam and Burbine Forest, trail and disc golf course- Town of Charleston. The county had Envirothon teams at both regional and the state level.

Community Garden- Esperanza Verde Park

- City of Amsterdam
- Provide permanent green space
- Partnership w/ several community groups
- Allows community to learn about growing vegetables & composting organic materials



Tier 4 Grazing Plan

- The farm has begun work to implement a rotational grazing system designed by the District
- It will increase from 21.6 acres of overgrazed and denuded pasture to an intensively rotated 124.3 acres of pasture
- The plan will also convert over 10 acres of currently managed row crops into permanent sod.
- This new management will increase soil health and organic matter, sequester more carbon and reduce erosion



Climate Resilient Farming Project

- 71 acres of a grain corn and soybean rotation was converted to permanent grass and legume pastures, leading to reduced erosion, increased organic matter in the soil and sequestering carbon
- The project included a riparian buffer from the stream corridor, intensive rotational management, a spring development with a waterline system



Manure Containment System on a Fonda Dairy Farm

In 2019, 2 covered barnyards and a manure storage were installed, along with fencing and stream crossings as part of CRP. In 2020, the final project to eliminate contaminated runoff from the Manure Spreader fill-room was implemented by installing a covered Heavy Use Area with clean water collection. The project was Hydroseeded to ensure proper growth prior to winter.





Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District

24 Hetcheltown Road, Glenville, NY 12302

Telephone: (518) 399-6980 Fax: (518) 399-5040

Nicholas Klemczak: Executive Director;

E-mail: nickklemczaksswcd@yahoo.com

2020 District Highlights

Rustic Benches at Plotter Kill Nature Preserve:



Small foot bridge at Plotter Kill Nature Preserve:

This foot bridge was constructed over a small gully that formed on steep hillside within the Plotter Kill Nature Preserve. In order to keep the trail safe and to minimize erosion this bridge was built by Conservation District Staff and volunteers from Schenectady County's Trail Committee and members of the Environmental Clearinghouse.

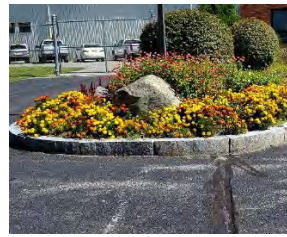


Summer Youth Program:

The Schenectady County Conservation District participated in the Schenectady Job Training Agency's, Summer Youth Program. The Conservation District hired a Crew Leader for an 8-week period during the 2020 summer. The Crew Leader was tasked with supervising a group of 4 youth. During the 8-week period they group helped with maintenance within the County Owned Nature Preserves and mowing/trimming along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. The youth learned many new trail building and maintenance skills that they would not have otherwise had the chance to learn without their enrollment in this great program. We also enjoyed having them along with us to share our love of nature and the outdoors.

Adopt a Space Flower Program:

Our annual Adopt a Space Flower Program was another success despite COVID19. Flowers provided by the Conservation District were distributed to municipalities and residents with the help of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Municipalities planted the flowers around municipal buildings and in public areas. The residents who received the flowers have adopted a street island that they have volunteered to take care of. Many of these islands have flower beds where flowers are planted each year to provide native pollinators with the habitat necessary for their survival



Beaver Deceiver Project:

The Schenectady County Department of Public Works asked for our assistance with a beaver problem they have dealt with for many years. They finally had enough and with new pavement in jeopardy they wanted to take care of the problem. The Conservation District has some experience with beavers, but this situation was a little different than what we have worked with in the past. With a little research we devised a plan and constructed the “beaver deceiver”. The device is designed to protect the end of the culvert and eventually discourage the beavers damming habits. Due to the shape of the device, as the beaver dams the sides closest to the culvert entrance it is forced further from the culverts mouth. As the beaver gets further from the mouth of the culvert their sense of water flowing into the culvert is diminished and they eventually give up. We were excited to see that the device did function just as the research said it would. This is a great way to live with these amazing creatures instead of trapping and killing them.

Culvert before the any action was taken.



Community Garden Expansion, Fencing and Pollinator Habitat:

The Conservation District completed a community garden project at the Schenectady County Compost Facility. The project involved expanding the current garden, constructing a fence that would keep rabbits, woodchucks, deer and racoons out and creating a buffer of native pollinator plants/flowers to keep encroaching weeds and invasive species out of the garden.



Compost Facility Highlights:

The Conservation District administers the Schenectady County Compost and Recycling Facility. At the facility we accept yard waste that would normally go to the landfill and turn it into compost and wood mulch. The compost is then sold to the public to be used as a soil amendment. The wood mulch is sold as well to provide a quality mulch that is used to keep moisture in the ground around trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables and help to minimize weed pressure. In conclusion the facility is a “win/win” for the public and the environment. This year the Compost Facility diverted approximately 28,000 cubic yards of yard waste from a landfill.

Schoharie County 2020 Highlights

Jefferson Town (Part B)

The “Schoolhouse Trail” was established to connect a historic one-room schoolhouse to an old mill site which both sit on the outskirts of Jefferson near the Town Hall. The Fuller District #4 schoolhouse was moved from its original site and donated to the Town of Jefferson in 2005. The Mann Mill was erected in 1890 and operated for many years using the stream that runs nearby for some of its power. The trail created a walking path and picnic area for residents and visitors to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Construction started in mid-June for the 350' of trail. The trail was made using filter fabric and stone to reduce erosion and keep weeds down. In addition, the area was cleared of scrub brush which will reduce the chances of invasive species coming in. Landscaping of the Mill site and areas all around the site were also done, including the picnic area. This new trail connects to an already established 1/2-mile trail through land that is also owned by the town and is for public use. Informational signs were installed for both the schoolhouse and the mill site history, another at the trail head and markers for common plants and trees along the path. The historical society will do outreach, promoting the use of this area to the local school which can incorporate it into their curriculum. The school and the public have unlimited access to this area to teach them about the importance of preserving natural habitats and the resources within them. The town has seen an increase of tourists and locals wanting an area to hike and learn more about nature. By using this trail, people will be able to learn about how important these areas are to keep animals, plants, wetlands and streams healthy.



Waste Storage Implementation (AGNPT)

Town of Schoharie Round 23 grant to install a 3.2-million-gallon waste storage system on a farm. The storage will also include the milk house waste.



Town of Schoharie (NY Rising)

Schoharie SWCD provided technical assistance and funding through the NYS Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery to restore over 1,200 linear feet of Stony Brook. Project included replacement of two undersized culverts, realigning the stream at two locations, providing grade control, in-stream diversion structures, and riparian buffer plantings. Project construction was completed in December of 2020.

Before



After



Riparian Buffer Planting Manor Kill Conesville, NY (CSBI)

The Schoharie Co SWCD in partnership with Greene Co. SWCD and NYCDEPs Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) conducted a fall planting. The riparian buffer planting involved 80 trees and shrubs, and approximately 400 live Willow stakes harvested from SUNY Cobleskill's Plant materials Center. The planting team involved staff from both districts as well as several students and staff members from SUNY Cobleskill. The team was able to plant a 30 foot wide buffer along 1100 linear feet of stream which will aid in flood and nutrient control, erosion protection, and habitat improvement for a C(TS) Trout stream which also happens to provide drinking water for NYC. The project cost to the landowner was \$0.



SUNY Cobleskill students and staff and Greene and Schoharie

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District - 2020 Highlights

Despite COVID restriction the District was still able to hold a successful tree and shrub sale Selling 2,215 trees and a fish sale selling 2,350 fish. The No-Till drill program was still able to help many farmers with no-till plantings. The district was able to assist farms in completing many construction projects funded by Ag NPS and conduct multiple landowner assistance request for various smaller issues. In addition, the district was able to partner with multiple agencies (NRCS, Trout Unlimited, Ag Stewardship Association, ETC.) to get many great projects completed in 2020.

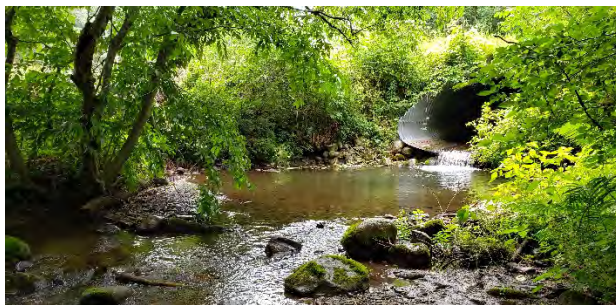
Ag Non-Point Source Grant- Round 23

The district helped to implement a 895,000 gallon concrete manure storage on a farm. This project included repairing the existing bunk silo and installing a VTA to treat silage leachate. The project also included concrete additions to the barnyard as well as gutters to help control barnyard runoff.



Part B-

The District worked with Trout Unlimited with cooperation from the landowner to restore habitat connectivity to protect and restore wildlife and aquatic habitat on Coulter Brook a valuable trout stream in the county. This project involved installing 7 grade structures in order to raise the stream bed to eliminate a 12" to 16" outfall at the end of a 6-foot culvert therefore connecting 2 miles of cold-water habitat for aquatic species.



Before



After

No Report:

Albany County SWCD

Fulton County SWCD

Rensselaer County SWCD

Saratoga county SWCD

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!

The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project

The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project was kicked off in 2020 with the goal of implementing regenerative farming and soil health practices in the Hudson Valley

Dutchess, Columbia, Orange, Ulster, and Sullivan SWCDs will implement regenerative farming practices including soil health practices on no less than 8 commercial farms. Districts will establish a baseline through soil analysis using the Cornell Comprehensive Soil Health Test and an initial field assessment indicating past and present management practices. Soil samples will be collected before and after implementation to measure the changes in soil health. Soil core samples will be taken in a way that allows researchers to monitor change in topsoil organic matter and change in carbon content of subsoil layers. Additionally, the COMET-Planner will be used to estimate GHG emissions reductions per practice system.

Farms Involved – 20 farms

- 2 Sweet corn & vegetable
- Orchard - apple and stone fruit
- Organic Field crops
- 7 Dairy
- Organic Dairy
- Small Organic Vegetable
- Large Organic Vegetable
- 2 Black Dirt Operations
- 2 Mixed small livestock
- Grains
- Fruits & Vegetables

BMP Systems

- Soil conservation system – cultural
 - Basic & Multi-species cover crop - 560 acres/yr
 - Residue Management – 25 acres/yr
 - Mulching Natural Material – 5 acres/yr
 - Conservation Crop Rotation – 28 acres/yr
- Soil Carbon Amendment – compost application

- Manure and Agricultural Waste Treatment System
 - Composting Facility
- Water Table Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Forage Harvest Management / Forage Biomass Native Perennials
- Riparian Forest Buffer

Outreach and education activities and materials will be developed to inform landowners and elected officials of the benefits of regenerative farming and soil health practices

- **Promoting Regenerative Farming** - Promoting regenerative farming and soil health practices in the Hudson Valley
- **Soil Health Training** - Conduct Soil Health training to educate regional farm community on the benefits of increasing organic matter in the soil, and the overall benefits of regenerative farming and soil health practices
- **Awareness Efforts** - Build awareness of project efforts and outcomes, and the partners involved in its delivery

*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



Sharon Frost – Retirement Announcement: At the end of September, Suffolk County SWCD said goodbye to long-time Soil District Technician, Sharon Frost, who has been working for the District for 20 years. Sharon has worked with dozens of growers, and facilitated numerous successful programs from an array of funding sources and organized many public events. The District wishes Sharon a Happy Retirement, spending more time with her family and friends.

USDA-NRCS Conservation Planner Certification: We are excited to announce that our very own Agronomist, Ann Marie Calabro, completed her NRCS Conservation Planner Certification! She is the only current Suffolk County SWCD staff member to hold this title. Ann Marie has worked hard to complete her certification and gain Job Approval Authority for many common LI practices and BMPs.

NYS AEM-Leopold Conservation Award: District Agronomist, Ann Marie Calabro, nominated Sang Lee Farms for the 2020 NY AEM-Leopold Conservation Award/Sand County Foundation. The award honors Sang Lee Farms and Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District for “efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.” Sang Lee Farms, one of the longest standing participants in our AEM program, is a certified organic farm in Peconic, NY that grows more than 100 different varieties of fruits and vegetables that they grow on 97 acres. Father and son, Fred and Will Lee, have been recognized for their commitment to their farm, community, and environment, as well as their unique combination of mixing old and new farming techniques for long-term sustainable farming.



Suffolk County COVID-19 Response – Temporary Reassignment: Since the start of the COVID outbreak in March of 2020, the Suffolk County SWCD had to work under restrictive conditions including working from home and very limited fieldwork. The summer and early fall gave us the liberty of returning to more a normal working schedule, however, the influx of COVID-19 cases this fall resulted in the District’s temporary reassignment dedicating all work hours towards aiding the Suffolk County Department of Health Services with the COVID-19 Response. From mid-November to the beginning of February, District staff worked full-time with the DOHS. Recently, case numbers began to decrease and District staff has been granted limited time to return to our regular job-duties.

2016 EPF Program

Suffolk County Soil and Water as a subcontractor of Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension executed and closed the 2016 Environmental Protective Fund grant. Suffolk Soil and Water contracted Dairy Nutrition Inc. to write 14 Nutrient Management Plans for local farms and greenhouses.

The implementation portion of the funds were used to optimize the pH in each field by creating a prescribed ag lime program for LI growers based on NMP recommendations and local guidelines for crops.



Ag NPS Round 24 Fuel Tank Program



With the retirement of Sharon Frost, Ed Compagnone began to manage the Round 24 Ag NPS grant for the Fuel Tank Replacement Program. So far 14 of the 44 farms become compliant with fuel storage and dispensing regulations (24 out of 80 total tanks). Other farms are in the process of coordinating with Suffolk County Department of Health Services to obtain inspections and permitting.

2020 Agriculture in the Classroom Program: The Agriculture in the Classroom Program is a grant program opportunity for Suffolk County K-12 schools to apply for funds for their agriculture-educational projects. Projects can be a range of different indoor and outdoor hands-on learning experiences, such as: hydroponic systems, aquaponic systems, grow lights/grow towers, raised garden beds, greenhouses, high/low tunnels etc.. This year, the District was able to help fund eight school projects, totaling the amount of school projects we've supported the past four years to 20! The District is looking forward to seeing what this year's winners will do with their projects in the coming months!



Soil Health Testing Program: The District has been administering the Soil Health Testing Program in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agricultural Stewardship Program since 2018. Unlike a basic soil test which just focuses on nutrients, the Soil Health Testing Program follows the Cornell University's Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) Test. This year, we serviced 14 farms, despite obstacles created by COVID-19. The shutdown in the early spring limited our involvement with the program; and then the CASH Lab had also unexpectedly temporarily closed during that time. As a result, this stopped the Soil Health Testing Program for several months. Despite these issues, we were able to service 11 farms in the

spring and 3 farms this fall and hope to work with those growers to discuss implementing soil health BMPs in their operations.

Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP): Soil HELP is a farm equipment loan program that the District has been administering for the past few years. Soil HELP was looking very promising at the start of the New Year, and the District was excited to see how the program was going to take off in March. Throughout the duration of the NYS Stay-At-Home Orders, District staff had to modify their programs. Thankfully, through innovation and cooperation, Kaitlin was able to continue to administer this program by creating a space to openly communicate with growers, and heavily rely on them to work together and pass the equipment off from one grower to another. Despite the setbacks, challenges, and delays from the COVID-19 pandemic, 12 growers were able to continuously utilize the program this year, and the District was even able to purchase a 1999 Milcreek 406 Row Mulcher from Cornell University's LIHREC. We hope to continue to expand this program by reaching more growers and introducing them to equipment that promotes soil health. We currently own seven pieces of equipment:



- New Holland 145 Spreader
- Milcreek 406 Row Mulcher
- (2x) ABI Manual Spreaders
- Unverferth (2-Shank) Zonebuilder Subsoiler*
- Unverferth (4-Shank) Zonebuilder Subsoiler*
- Truax FLEXII 88-SS No Till Drill (3 seed boxes)



*Both Zonebuilders are equipped with Strip Builder Attachments





NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Highlights 2020

Despite the pandemic and the disruption resulting from it we were able to continue our partnerships with the SWIM Coalition, NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts and others to focus our efforts on education, outreach and policy initiatives. Urban Soils Institute successfully hosted a series of virtual events for the Annual Symposium and expanded its partnership to more organizations around the country. We made lemonade out of lemons in 2020!

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

CSO Monitoring

For a variety of reasons, the District revised this project to partner with the Guardians of Flushing Bay and Temboo (an organization that provides technical assistance on data collection and analysis) to monitor a CSO outfall in Flushing Creek. Instead of a webcam to record CSO discharges, we will install sensors to continuously monitor turbidity and conductivity. Correlated with the precipitation data from the nearby LaGuardia Airport, we hope to identify CSO signatures. We will be installing the sensors in March 2021.



GI Virtual Tour

The District had to abandon the bus tour in 2020 but was able to create virtual tours with four sites featuring green infrastructure. The sites are: NYC Parks Citywide Services Complex, Bronx River Foodway, Randall's Island Park Living Shoreline and Randall's Island Park Freshwater Wetland. At each site the video features a site interpreter with deep knowledge of the project.

DEC Endorsed 4-Hr Construction Site Inspection Training

The in-person workshop scheduled for mid-March was cancelled. However a handful of participants took advantage of the online workshop offered by the Conservation Districts Employees Association.

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters Coalition

The District continued to serve on the Steering Committee, providing feedback and direction for the Coalition Program Manager. SWIM focused much of its work on a few policy issues in 2020. SWIM participated in the Rise to Resilience Coalition with a focus on green infrastructure at the land-water interface (i.e., wetlands). SWIM also served as a member of the Green Roof Tax Abatement Working Group, which continued its work assisting the City in the development of priority abatement districts. SWIM also tracked progress on the water rate restructuring study undertaken by the DEP and its consultant.

Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

The District continued its leadership role on the Steering Committee. The stormwater conference transitioned to a virtual conference over four days. We were able to provide professional development credits to engineers and landscape architects and the sessions were well attended.

New York New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Shino continued to work closely with the Citizens Advisory Committee leadership team. In 2020 HEP CAC officially began a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) initiative, starting with a survey of its members and an annual conference with the theme of DEIJ. HEP CAC now has a DEIJ subcommittee on which Shino serves. Shino also served on the Water Quality Working Group and attended the Management Committee meetings.

NYC Envirothon

NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association successfully held a virtual Envirothon as Regional Envirothons. Seven teams from five schools in New York City participated. Three of the five boroughs were represented.

The winning teams participated in the State Envirothon (also virtual) and Stuyvesant High School and Staten Island Technical High School won second and third place for the first time in the history of NYS Envirothon! It was certainly a bright spot in an otherwise challenging year!

NYC Outdoors: Environmental Education Expo

Unfortunately we were not able to pull together the Expo as a virtual event. Hopefully in 2021 we will have a virtual Expo featuring a multitude of virtual resources that became available since the pandemic started.

School requests

Before the pandemic shut down schools, Shino had a chance to participate in the Wave of Action Partner Fair (a professional development event for teachers) to

make a presentation on water quality at the Genovese Environmental Center.

Shino also continued her participation in the Citizen Science Teacher Experimentation Program (CSTEP), led by the NYC Dept of Education, as a resource specialist providing assistance to science teachers. As part of this partnership project, Shino attended the Culturally Relevant Education Symposium for STEM educators in January. After a brief hiatus to allow teachers to transition to remote teaching, the CSTEP resumed in fall 2020 via virtual meetings.

In May, Shino successfully led a virtual water testing session with 6th graders from 75 Morton Middle School in Manhattan. She demonstrated how to measure the salinity and dissolved oxygen of the Hudson River water using a pre-recorded video and real time sampling in the office.

In October, Shino participated in the Day in the Life of the Hudson River by videorecording water testing on Pier 45. The video has been edited for use in virtual field trips, to be developed for 2021.

URBAN SOILS INSTITUTE

Soil Testing

There were a couple of dozen samples or so that were processed as usual for XRF heavy metal screenings, pH analysis, Total Dissolved Solids and NPK analyses before the pandemic shut down the operation. We managed to conduct a couple of site visits in February. A visit to the Gowanus Bay Terminal had the USI Team involved in multiple meetings, research and testing of the compost for cadmium

Workshops

We had several of our established annual workshops scheduled through May. Alas the workshops had to be canceled. Luckily we were able to develop virtual workshops to be included as part of the month-long Annual Urban Soils Symposium.

Four symposium workshops were offered over four Saturdays in October, covering a wide range of topics from exploring the intersection of art and science in “Dirtball & Multi-Species Spa,” a virtual tour of a garden with horticulturalists, to “Soils Alive” on soil organisms and “Soils & Energy: A Discussion About The Energy Flows of Soil and Everything It Touches.” Each workshop was attended by approximately 20 participants via Zoom. We were able to host one in-person, socially distanced workshop on soil testing on Governor’s Island

Partnership Building

At the same Culturally Responsive Education symposium for STEM educators event, George connected with a NYC Department of Education representative who is very interested in our Every Kid Outdoors project in partnership with the National Park Service. Before the pandemic, we were in full-swing planning to provide workshops for teachers in soil science and field trips to fourth graders in NYC public schools.

We also developed a new partnership with Tree People in Los Angeles, which opens doors for exciting new education and outreach opportunities.

Urban Soils Education

George was able to utilize his teaching position with the New York Botanical Garden to create wonderful opportunities for partnerships and requests for our services. The staff at the Everett Children's Adventure Garden at NYBG asked George to give a workshop for their teachers and provide them with tips for teaching children soil science. It would have developed into a more robust partnership program but the pandemic has put a pause on it for the remainder of 2020.

For the Every Kid Outdoors National Park Service project, we had ~250 students lined up from two schools just for the month of May, with another dozen schools waiting to be scheduled. Unfortunately the in-person programming had to be suspended. We began working with the partners on transitioning to virtual programming.

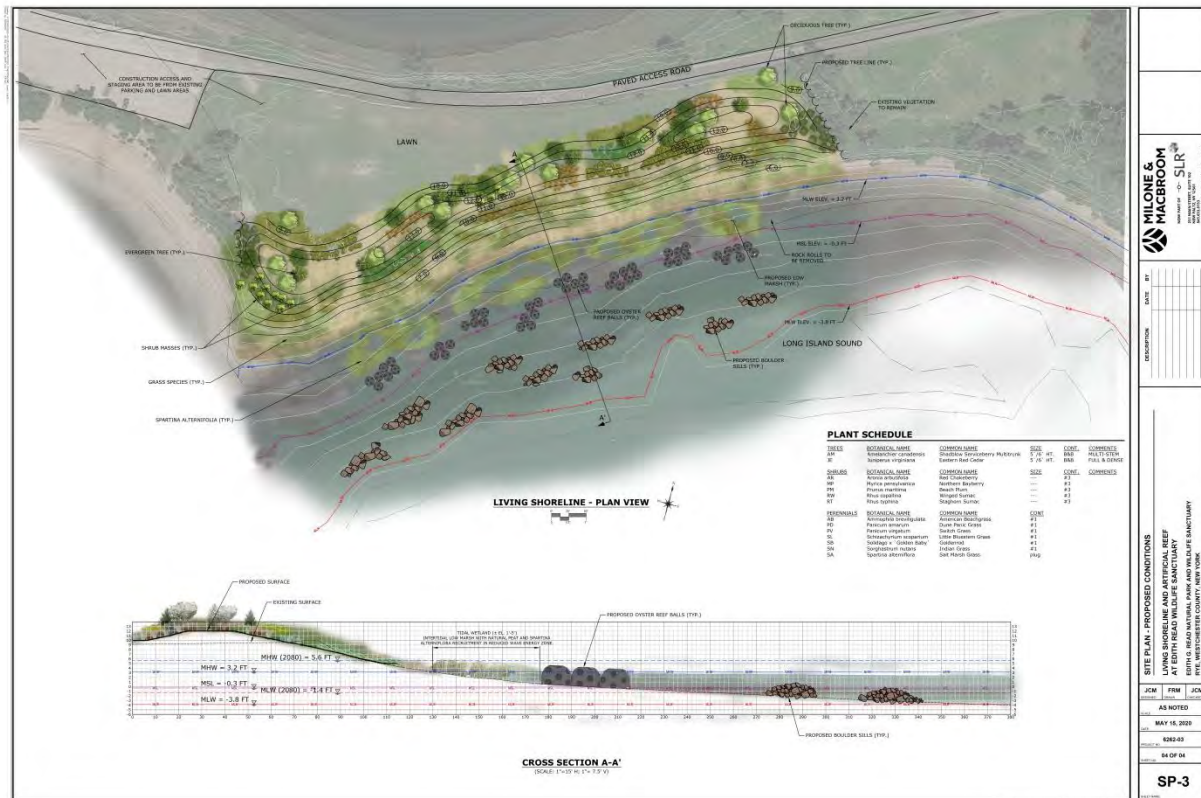
Annual Urban Soils Symposium

We were able to successfully transition our symposium to a virtual platform. Every Friday in October from 2 to 6PM, we hosted a panel of speakers followed by robust discussions by all participants. We organized the panels by themes, which included: Rights of Soil, Symbiogenesis, Gut Instinct and Gardenator.

Because of the virtual platform we were able to draw presenters and participants from all around the world, which enabled us to have great discussions with diversity of perspectives.

Westchester County SWCD:

The Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District is helping to advance a living shoreline and artificial reef project in and next to Long Island Sound and straddling the Westchester County-owned Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and Playland Park, both in Rye. The District hired SLR in 2020 to develop a feasibility study with a conceptual plan for the project. Using additional District funding, project design and permitting is anticipated to be complete by the end of this year. County capital funding is being sought for the project's construction in 2022. This would be the first living shoreline and artificial reef project on the north shore of Long Island Sound in New York and would be modeled after another successful project at Stratford Point in Stratford, Connecticut. That project is currently the only existing project containing both living shoreline and artificial reef components on the north shore of Long Island Sound.



Nassau County SWCD: No Report

Putnam County SWCD: No Report

Rockland County SWCD: No Report



2021 NYS Envirothon CDEA Annual Report

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The 2021 NYS Envirothon committee worked hard last year to pull off a statewide regional event. Since this was the first time, we had ever accomplished this we were able to do so with much work. The committee then went on to create a virtual NYS Envirothon event. This went off with little errors. Later in the day we were even able to host a short awards program. Much work was completed by JoAnn Kurtis, Miranda Palmer, and MaryLynne Malone!!

The present committee is as follows:

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair	Advisory Member Volunteer
JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair, Test/Resources	NRCS Earth Team Volunteer
Kristin White, Treasurer	Seneca - CDEA Representative
Susan Odell-Peppe, Secretary	Suffolk – Division VIII District Representative
Fred vonMechow, Oral Presentation	Advisory Member - Educator Volunteer
Tony Lufan Ye, Snacks	Advisory Member
MaryLynne Malone, Volunteers	Educator – Orange Co. Water Authority
Rachel Arnold	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
Pete Gier	Empire State Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society
Vacant	State Committee Ag & Mkts.

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.

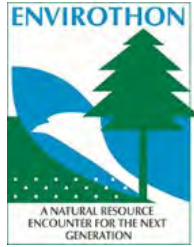
The committee is working hard on creating a face-to-face event as well as the possibility of having to host another virtual NYS Envirothon event.

It is our hope that in 2022 we will be able to host a face-to-face event for the top statewide county winners.

The 2021 event is planned to be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Wednesday, May 26th & Thursday, May 27th, 2021. This may end up being a virtual event. We will keep you posted as we move forward hosting this event.

The 2021 NYS Envirothon oral presentation problem was created last year, but since we did not include an oral presentation in last year's event, it will be used again. The 2020 & 2021 NCF-Envirothon current issue topic "***Water Resource Management: Local Control & Local Solutions***". The same issue is being reused since Nebraska was unable to host the national event in 2020.

We are continuing to hold Zoom monthly meetings and if you are interested in attending please let myself or a committee member know. We will be happy to add you to our list of attendees.



2024 New York

We are moving forward with preparing for New York to host the 2024 NCF-Envirothon. The dates have been set for Sunday, July 28th-Saturday, August 3rd, 2024. There are many things to be doing before, during, and after the weeklong event.

We presently have the following committee members:

Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair & Registration	JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair & Testing
Chastity Miller, Treasury & Publicity	Vacant - Secretary
Susan O'Dell – Peppe, T-shirts	Miranda Palmer, Awards
Tony Lufan Ye, Transportation	Ernie Swift, NYACD Rep.
Katy Kemmeren	Mollie Schoharie Burgett
Chelsea White, Activities	Bob Shenk, Test Scorer
Allen Fagan, Logistics	Paul Gier, Empire State Chapter SWCS
Vacant – NYS DEC	Vacant – State Committee Ag & Mkts.
Dean Moore, Oral Presentation Chair	
Sub-Committee: Fred vonMechow & Danielle Parker	

We need many more committee & sub-committee volunteers as well as during the weeklong event.

A temporary A, B, & C budgets have been created. Budget A is if we raise enough funds to host special daily events, Budget B is if we raise some but not all to do what we are hoping to do, Budget C is a barebones budget with everything being done on campus. We are hoping to take the teams to Niagara Falls for a day, a special fun night, ice cream social, and other special fund things.

SPONSORS are import for us to carry out this event. Invoices have been mailed to all the Districts for your support that can be paid in full, over the next four years, or as you can donate. We are also working closely with the Environmental Education Foundation searching for grants and corporate sponsorship.

VOLUNTEERS are needed!!! There is no way we will be able to pull this huge event off without all the great volunteers. Please take the time to become part of the committee. .

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

Supporting Environmental Awareness
Through the Funding of Educational Programs



2020 Annual Report

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

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



Environmental Education Foundation Fund Raising Efforts

Congratulations to all teams and specifically Mount Academy, Ulster Co, 2020 NYS Envirothon Winners!

researching, writing and submitting grants to support environmental education programs in New York State. The Foundation received limited funds from various sources including individual donations. We appreciate the continuing support of these individuals.

Also in 2020 the Foundation introduced and promoted the use of an Amazon Smile account as a means to raise funds to support our mission. An individual just needs to login to <https://smile.amazon.com> and search for the Foundation. Once logged in you can shop normally and Amazon will make a charitable contribution based on your spending. It is a great way to support the foundation and environmental education at no cost.

In an effort to assist regional/local county Envirothon's as well as natural resource and environmental education, the Foundation accepted \$8,533.21 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, our website has been updated. Foundation brochures and fact sheets are available for download, distribution and use at any state and regional event throughout New York.

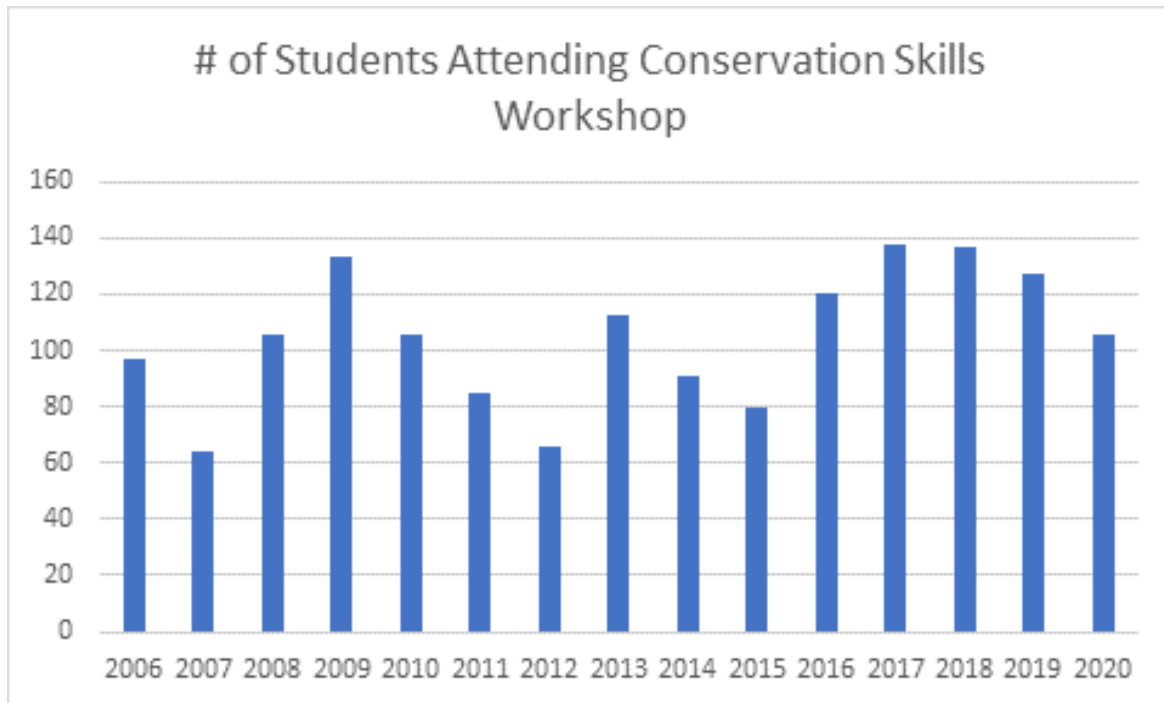
Get involved with the Environmental Education Foundation and send your financial support today - it's tax deductible! Help make a better future by supporting environmental awareness today! www.nyenviroed.org

The 2020 Conservation Skills Workshop certainly had its challenges this year but was still held using with the hard work of our coordinating team. Virtual training was held the week of September 14th and regional, single day field sessions were held the week of September 21st. The field sessions required all participants to submit to COVID-19 screening with masking and social distancing protocols all followed. Field sites were held regionally around NYS based upon an interest survey that was sent out for the topics being offered. It was another success! 106 folks registered (78 from SWCD's, 24 NRCS, 1 CCE, 1 SWCC, 1 ducks unlimited, and 1 from ag related businesses). The registration fee was reduced this year to \$10 a student for access to any requested classes.

Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has not yet set the 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting, but most likely it will be held virtually in early May. Be on the lookout for information. **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.** We are hoping by the fall of 2021 to return to a traditional model of the CSW held in Cortland, NY.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the following committee members for making the 2020 training happen: NYCDEA President Chastity Miller, Tom Eskildsen, Mark Burger, Stacy Russell, Lindsey Gerstenslager, Josh LaFountain, Gerry Smithson, Steve Loraine, Jon Negley, Kristen Ballou, Caitlin Stewart, Greg Albrecht, PJ Emmerick, & Paula Bagley. 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!

Other than a few technology issues, no major issues or problems were encountered and overall feedback seemed positive.



Webinar Classes

Number of Students	Class
37	NYS DEC Stormwater Construction Permit and MS4 review
52	Livestock Watering System Planning and Design
61	Cropland Overland Flow
31	AEM Tier 3 Basic Nutrient Management Planning Skills
45	Basic Soils

Field Classes

Number of Students	Class
21	Construction Site Stormwater Inspection – Monroe County
61	Livestock Watering System & Cropland Overland Flow – Essex, Onondaga, Ulster Counties
15	Cropland Overland Flow – Yates County
16	AEM Tier 3 Basic Nutrient Management Planning Skills
18	Basic Soils – Warren, Wayne Counties

Respectfully Submitted by: Tom Eskildsen, Mark Burger, & Stacy Russell

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

2021 Annual Report to the CDEA

The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program is in its fourth 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. The program is for 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.

To date there are 40 active certificate holders, 1 suspended certificate, 2 terminated certificates and 7 individuals approved to sit for the Exam. 2 will be taking the exam via proctoring in March.

With the Covid-19 pandemic it has been difficult to gain traction for the program. I have been contacted by a number of people requesting more information but most decide to hold off on moving forward until we have another Implementation/Review Course scheduled. I have started a waiting list of people interested in signing up for the next course. The good news is that all of the contacts are private industry which means word is out that this program is recognized by NYS DEC to make individuals “Qualified Inspectors” for SPDES permitted projects. Moving forward, the instructors for the course will discuss where the next event will be and when it would be safe to host one. This will all be determined by gathering sizes and travel restrictions.

Over this past year we have completed the following items:

- 💧 Updated and refined policy documents, application, and renewal forms
- 💧 Hosted 2 Implementation Review Courses. 1 at 2020 Water Quality Symposium and 1 in Ballston Spa August 2020
- 💧 Implemented online payments for the program through the Employees Association website

Items to work on through 2021:

- 💧 Develop a Implementation/Review Course Manual
- 💧 Garner interest in becoming a proctor for the exam from the list of 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Trainers
- 💧 Find more qualified individuals willing to help teach the Implementation/Review Course around New York State

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

<https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Verrigni, CPESC, CPSWQ
NYSESCCP Administrator

New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.



EMPIRE FARM DAYS & STATE FAIR BOOTH COMMITTEE

2020 REPORT

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, both venues were canceled in 2020. But this did not stop the committee from getting things ready for 2021!

2021 Empire Farm Days

The dates have been set for August 3, 4, 5, 2021 at a new location; Palladino Farms - Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY 13188. Alaina Robarge has been busy putting together a new display for us. We are planning to continue having our display alongside with the NYS SWCC displays.

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts

2021 State Fair Booth

The 2021 dates are August 20, 2021 – September 6, 2021! We are using our 2019 Theme, “*Soil Health*”. We will display once again “*Soil My Undies*” (Thank you Jason Cuddeback) which shows the different stages of decomposition of underwear that were buried in different soil types along with the great wall display Erica Schreiner put together for us and some tools that are used for soil sampling along with other handouts.

Shift Schedule – There will be two shifts to choose from: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We will be using Signup Genius for shift sign-ups. Look for the link on the nyscdea.com website.

Shirts – New orange polo shirts [featuring the new NYS CDEA logo](#), have been purchased and will be mailed to volunteers along with entrance and parking passes.

Give-Away Items – The committee purchased reusable shopping bags with the Ronny Raindrop™ logo, raindrop keychains, pencils, and for the guessing game prize we purchased beach towels with the Ronny Raindrop™ logo embroidered on them. We plan on using these as a prize for multiple years. [The guessing game will be brand new for 2021, so make sure to sign-up for a shift so you can take part in the game!](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristin White, Monroe County SWCD
Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD
Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD

Erica Schreiner, Oswego SWCD
Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD
Eva Brown, Onondaga County SWCD

4 HR On-Line Sediment and Erosion Control Training for Contractors

Income since program began: \$317,419.67

Expenses since program began: \$3,609

Net Income: \$313,810.68

2020- Income: \$181,112.91

2021- Income: As of Feb 22, 2021: \$29,583.90

Past:

- Monroe County assisted in the development and the setup of the class.
- Kristin White manages most aspects of the program and field all the questions.
- Utilized the program when Covid restrictions started and allowed Districts to use the program since they could not hold in-person classes.

Currently:

- Developing policy on what the funding collected can be used for.
- Updating formats and programs to assist in making things easier.
- Need to make the program more user friendly on the front and on the back.
- Invest in some assistance for management.

Future:

- Getting funding back to Districts through training.
- Updating the presentation.
- Coordinator/Contractor.

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

BY-LAW CHANGES- 2021



The biggest changes are the Frank Bratt Scholarship, 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 19: Updated the Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship- See yellow.

Application and Ranking sheet have also been updated in the Appendix

Added to the appendix:

- J. Environmental Education Foundation By-laws
- K. NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program Policy & Procedures
- L. Whistleblower Protection Policy, Conflict of Interest, Code of Conduct and Ethics

VI. Program Policy II: Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship

The Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship was initiated in 1990 to assist District employees with furthering their professional development and education. This scholarship can encompass a broad range of topics, with emphasis placed upon conservation related topics and subjects related to District function. Scholarships will be awarded based upon the supposed value of the course to the applicant, to be judged by the eight NYSCDEA Division Representatives.

The following policy covers the administration of the scholarship program.

- [1] The scholarship is available to members of the Association, and NYSSWCC staff only.
- [2] Eligible employees must hold a permanent position in their SWCD or NYSSWCC. Full- time or part-time employees are eligible. Employees in temporary positions are not eligible for the scholarship.
- [3] Scholarships may be used for credit or non-credit classes, workshops, or other professional development programs.
- [4] Eligible expenses include conference/workshop fees, tuition, online courses, fees for books/manuals and lodging when needed. Meals are only eligible if it is part of the conference/training registration. CDEA sanctioned functions are ineligible as well as mileage, other travel costs. Exam fees, equipment, software and other supplies that are not part of the course fee are ineligible.
- [5] Applicants must provide the following information within 2 pages:
 1. A competed scholarship application- 1 page.
 2. A brief description of the class and explanation of how the educational program will improve the employee's job performance.
- [6] Applications must be received by the application deadlines to be considered. The scholarship will be available and awarded four times per year. Applications deadlines are the 1st of March, June, September, and December. A special meeting may be called to approve awards.
- [7] Scholarships awards range from \$50 to \$500 per class/training. The number of scholarships awarded and the amounts are dependent upon number of applicants and funds available through the income and interest to the Frank Bratt Scholarship account.
- [8] All activities must be pre-paid. Scholarships will be paid upon submittal of NYSCDEA Reimbursement Request and proof of registration and successful completion of professional development activity, i.e. a class certificate or attendance sheet. A Soil and Water Conservation District can be reimbursed for an employee's training if they prepay on behalf of the employee.
- [9] Scholarship recipients have two years from the award letter to complete their training.
OR
Scholarship recipients can be reimbursed for trainings that take place before an application deadline as long as the training activity has been completed within the previous 4 months of the application deadline.
- [10] Successful applicants will be notified within one week following the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting that follows the application deadline.

Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship Application

The NYS Conservation District Employees Association holds a scholarship program for District employees who are interested in furthering their education. This scholarship can encompass a broad range of topics, with emphasis placed upon conservation related topics and subjects related to District function. Eligible expenses include conference/workshop fees, tuition, online courses, lodging when needed and **books or manuals** required for the training. Food is only eligible if it is part of the conference/training registration. CDEA sanctioned functions are ineligible as well as mileage or other travel costs.

Scholarships will be awarded based upon the supposed value of the course to the applicant, to be judged by the eight NYSCDEA Division Representatives. The minimum amount of the scholarship is \$50, and the maximum is \$500. Successful applicants will be notified within one week following the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting or a special meeting that follows the application deadline. Scholarship recipients have two years from the award letter to complete their training OR scholarship recipients can be reimbursed for trainings that take place before an application deadline as long as the training activity has been completed within the previous 4 months of the application deadline.

To apply, please answer the following questions:

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME OF DISTRICT: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

TITLE OF COURSE: _____

DATE OF COURSE: _____

INSTITUTION PROVIDING
TRAINING: _____

HAVE YOU HAD TRAINING ON THIS TOPIC IN THE PAST? _____

IF YES, WHEN? _____

AMOUNT APPLYING FOR: \$ _____

HAVE YOU RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE FRANK BRATT SCHOLARSHIP IN
THE PAST 5 YEARS? _____ YEAR RECEIVED? _____ **AWARD AMOUNT?** _____

RECEIVING COLLEGE CREDITS? _____ HOW MANY? _____

IS THIS PART OF AN ONGOING COLLEGE DEGREE? _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Please give a brief synopsis of your educational background,
including any special training.

On a separate piece of paper, please type a brief course description and explain how this course will benefit you personally or your job performance as a District employee. Your complete application is limited to two pages. Please keep the description to one page. Resumes or other attached documents will not be reviewed.

Mail or email completed entries to:

Scott Collins, Niagara County SWCD
4487 Lake Ave., Lockport, NY 14094
E-mail: scott.collins@ny.nacdnet.net

Application deadlines are **March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1**. For more information, contact Scott Collins at (716)434-4949. We look forward to hearing from you.

Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship Application Rating Form

The NYS Conservation District Employees Association holds a scholarship program for District employees who are interested in furthering their education. This scholarship can encompass a broad range of topics, with emphasis placed upon conservation related topics and subjects related to District function. Eligible expenses include conference/workshop fees, tuition, online courses, lodging when needed and **books or manuals** required for the training. Food is only eligible if it is part of the conference/training registration. CDEA sanctioned functions are ineligible as well as mileage or other travel costs.

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NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

NAME OF DISTRICT: _____

JOB TITLE _____

TITLE OF COURSE: _____

RATING

Relevance to applicant's current position description?

HI LOW

Relevance of the course to technical conservation practice implementation?

HI LOW

Relevance to direct district administration (bookkeeping, records retention...)?

HI LOW

Relevance of the course to district program?

HI LOW

Benefit to applicant and job performance?

HI LOW

Has the applicant previously received funding? **If the applicant was partially funded in a previous round, they should not receive penalty (due to the cap of funds available).**

(5 years or more, would give a rank of 5, 4 years ago would rank 4,... 1 year ago or less would rank 1)

No Yes

Is this for a college degree?

No Yes

Total Score: _____