

CDEA News

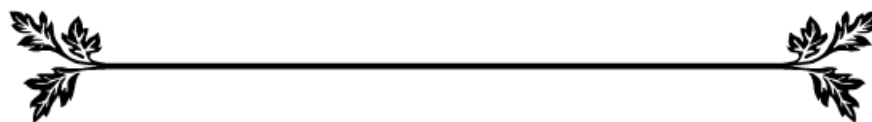
NEW YORK STATE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEW YORK STATE FAIR

September 2021

Cover Photo

Ronny traveled to Syracuse and had an absolute blast at the New York State Fair with Erica Schreiner, Sr. District Technician, Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District!



From the President's Desk

We are coming off an exciting summer of being able to get out and meet with people again and are heading into the fall and winter months with a little reservation. It has been quite some time since we have all been able to get together to both improve our skills through training and to improve our “networking” with other Districts and our partners. As I type this, we are planning for in person events this fall and winter. The Conservation Skills Workshop is open for registrations. The Water Quality Symposium is being planned for an in person event at the Double Tree Hilton in Syracuse again in 2022. We know that things are changing every day and we will continue to revise our plans as more details are available. While Caitlin is now heading up the Water Quality Symposium and the planning for that event, I cannot help but put in a plug for anyone that might be interested in helping with any aspect of the WQS.

Our next CDEA meeting will be held on Wednesday September 22nd at the Old McDonalds Farm at 14369 County Route 145 Sackets Harbor, NY 13685, more details will be sent out soon. We have set a regular schedule for upcoming meetings to make it easier for everyone to plan. Our meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each odd numbered month (January, March etc..). The one foreseeable exception is November where this schedule will place our meeting on the day before Thanksgiving and for that reason the November meeting will be held on the third Wednesday. I hope that this will allow for easier scheduling and more participation at our meetings.

Finally, please make sure you register for the 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop and thank you to everyone who has been working to make this event a success!!!

Dustin Lewis
CDEA President

Franklin County Soil and Water Awarded Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant

Allycia Foote, District Technician Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

Franklin County Soil and Water was awarded an urban agriculture conservation grant through a partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to boost technical capacity nationwide.

FCSWCD was one of 20 conservation districts across 14 states to receive funding. Being one of the few Districts selected in New York is such an honor. We were extremely excited to provide environmental conservation education programs to our North Country residents. On June 21, 2021 Franklin County Soil and Water held a Pollinator Palooza, the workshop focused on educating the participants about native pollinators. Urban/rural residents, Akwesasne community members, as well as members from our Plain Sect community were in attendance. Participants and their children learned about what pollinators are, why they are important, as well as how they can attract these pollinators into their backyards. Each participant was given an informational folder with

everything that was covered in the workshop, a pollinator seed packet to take home and start their own pollinator garden and participants also built their own solitary bee house. We had a guest speaker from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Boys and Girls Club to aid in explaining the importance of solitary bees and building habitat for them. Franklin County Soil and Water raffled off a small bee house that was purchased at a local dollar store.



On June 25, 2021 Franklin County held an irrigation workshop, attendees traveled to Riverside Supply, a small commercial vegetable farm and irrigation supply distributor. Here discussion included drip irrigation systems, vegetable plant water needs, different materials that can be used in a system, water supplies and small aerial irrigation systems for various plant types. Childstock Farm, a large commercial seed potato and sprout farm, was the next stop. Here participants learned about large scale aerial irrigation systems from large boom lines, to wheel drag lines, discussion also included food safety regulations and water drawing permits. NRCS was available to discuss funding opportunities through their offices, as well as to provide informational brochures for our participant folders. A starter irrigation kit was raffled off at the workshop, materials for this kit were purchased through Riverside Supply.

On July 13, 2021 FCSW held a "Soil Your Undies": Soil Health Workshop at STARGO Dairy. Presentations from NRCS, CCE, SUNY Potsdam Biologist and a Franklin County Producer covered topics such as basic soils, soil compaction, soil



microbes- Knowing friend from foe, as well as minimal tillage in permanent garden beds and mulching techniques. We held a “Soil Your Undies” competition, category winners received prized valued at \$100. Six entries were submitted under the “Home Gardener” category, the winner received a starter irrigation kit. Only one entry was submitted for the “Commercial Farmer” category, that winner received a NASO Soil Probe. There were no submissions for



the “High Tunnel” category, the starter irrigation kit prize was awarded through a random drawing. The winning entries were put on display at the AEM display at the Franklin County Fair, with an explanation of the contest, why soil health is important and ways to improve your soil health.

These workshops were amazing and very well received by the public. Since the Pollinator Palooza workshop on June 21, 2021 there have been multiple inquiries for aid from our office to implement pollinator gardens. Our Soil

and Water office has extended our pollinator garden and



has created informational signs about each plant in the garden. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe's Native Tree Nursery has been in contact with our office on creating a pollinator garden that will grow alongside their tree nursery, this will serve as an educational spot for their community members. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has a harvesting program in place for seeds of native plants, trees, and shrubs to grow in the nursery for future sales to the community and for reforestation and buffer projects. Brushton-Moira Central School is revamping their courtyard gardens. This project will be funded by Franklin County Soil & Water as a School Assistance Program. The district will assist the school in selecting pollinator friendly plants and developing a design. Their Ag class will be creating a pollinator



garden and adding pollinators to their curriculum. A local 4H group has reached out to the Soil and Water office to attend one of their meetings and to educate the group on pollinators, as many of the members were

unable to attend the workshop. This will serve as the 4H group's educational component and community service as they are hoping to meet with the town on creating a pollinator garden near the community center. Since the Irrigation

Management Workshop our office has fielded many calls from farmers interested in having conservation plans created for their farms, to implement irrigation within their vegetable crops to conserve water and reduce run off.

Franklin County Soil and Water is extremely excited to host workshops like these in the near future.



2021 Watershed Wednesdays

You are invited to our 2021 mini-session series highlighting conservation initiatives and projects in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2021, Watershed Wednesdays webinars will take place each Wednesday morning from August through October @ 9:30 am on zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85428683066>

Mark your calendars for the following sessions:

August 4	Practical Pasture Planning in Action on the Farm to Optimize Happiness with Troy Bishop, Madison SWCD
August 11	Securing USC Buffer Restoration Areas Permanently through Land Trust Partnerships with Kris West, Finger Lakes Land Trust
August 18	Using Underwater Drones to Teach about Aquatic Environments and Conservation with Dan Rhodes, Bradford CD
August 25	Pasture Water Systems that Work: from Simple to the Complex with Troy Bishop, Madison SWCD
September 1	Buffers and BMPs in Small Agricultural Watersheds with Lamonte Garber, Stroud Water Research Center
September 8	Wildlife in the Watershed with Michelle Herman, The Wetland Trust
September 15	Constructed Wetlands as part of Stormwater Management Practices at Binghamton University with Professor Joseph Graney, Binghamton University
September 22	Overview of the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Progress Dashboard with Cassandra Davis, NYS DEC
September 29	Chesapeake Bay Program for Local Governments with Danny Lapin, Otsego County Conservation Association
October 6	Headcuts in Streams: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, with Mark Watts, Chemung SWCD
October 13	Stabilization of Road Ditches with Mark Watts, Chemung SWCD
October 20	Black Rural Lives Matter: Stories of Black Rural Landowner Stewardship with Kristina Ferrare and Shorna Allred, Cornell University
October 27	Chesapeake Capacity Builders Project with Drew Robinson, Choose Clean Water Coalition

Visit www.u-s-c.org/watershedwednesdays to view post-session recordings and 2020 Watershed Wednesdays resources, and contact us at contact@u-s-c.org with questions about this, or other outreach programs.



New York Association of Conservation Districts update

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYS Envirothon Chair

NYACD Annual Meeting/Training

NYACD Annual Meeting/Training is set for Tuesday, October 19-Thursday, 21, 2021 to be held at the Hampton Inn, 25 Lakers Lane, Cazenovia, NY. We will be hosting a tour on Tuesday evening by Steve Lorraine, District Manager Madison County SWCD. Training will begin on Wednesday morning with Divisions meetings at noon and then annual business session. Registration is taking place presently with the Early Bird discount open until

September 10th. Make sure you register early. Don't forget to review the NYACD awards and nominate a worthy staff, director, partner, and/or associate for one of these awards. Registration deadline is September 24th to be on time. Hope to see all of you there!!!

NYS Envirothon

The Mount Academy took first at the NCF-Envirothon in July. We are very proud of the fine

job they did representing New York. Congratulations to Ulster County SWCD & The Mount Academy. The NYS Envirothon Committee has held their 2021-22 event meeting. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please reach out to Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair at 607-965-6316 or blanche_13335@yahoo.com. (Or any committee member). Next meeting is September 23rd with location to be determined. Zoom access will be made if possible. 2024 NCF-Envirothon will be hosted by New York!!! We are looking for committee members to join us. Open chair positions



are volunteer coordinator, activities coordinator, and sub-committee folks. Please come join us. This is a great privilege to be selected to host this event and we want to provide a great program for all the states/provinces present. Donations can be made directly to the CDEA or through the Environmental Education

Foundation. Please consider donating and volunteering. The location has not been determined at this time, but the dates are set for Sunday, July 28-Saturday, August 3, 2024.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

2021 NORTHEAST
REGIONAL MEETING

OCT 31 - NOV 3, 2021
PORTSMOUTH,
NEW HAMPSHIRE

**RESILIENT
WORKING
LANDS**

*CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
IN A CHANGING ERA*

Where in New York is **Ronny Raindrop?**

CDEA News is proud to present **Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?** By evaporation or precipitation, by sublimation or freezing, Ronny thrills crowds all across New York State. Submit your photos of Ronny with a brief description of what he's doing and where he is.



Ronny attended the Lewis County Fair on Children's Day, walking the midway greeting visitors and handing out freebies along the way. He even snuck in a photo with the Fair Board President, Doug Hanno!



Don't have a recent photo of Ronnie raindrop, but we recently found this "throwback" picture of Ronnie from the past from Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District. Photo was taken in the late 80s.



Ronny goes to the New York State Fair with Erica Schreiner, Sr. District Technician, Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District!

MISSING

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS RAIN DROP?

FULL NAME: Ronny Raindrop

DOB: Unknown

AGE: Eternal

HEIGHT: Fluctuates

WEIGHT: Fluctuates

RACE: Raindrop

EYES: Black

HAIR: Blue

MISSING FROM: Division 8

MISSING SINCE: 2016 or 2017?

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS: Has giant, clown-like, feet and is wearing: white sneakers, white gloves, and a white sash with "Ronny Raindrop" written on it. Also, is a Raindrop.



IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ABOUT RONNY RAINDROP,
PLEASE CONTACT KAITLIN SHAHINIAN AT THE SUFFOLK COUNTY SWCD

TELE: (631)-852-3289

FAX: (631)-852-3302

**The Suffolk County Soil and
Water Conservation District is on
Instagram!**



**Come follow us and see what's
going on at the Suffolk County
SWCD ☺**

Follow us: @suffolk_swcd

Fence Line Survival Tactics. It was brutal out there today!





Enhance Wetlands with Easements



Help Protect, Restore, and Enhance Wetlands through Conservation Easements

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers eligible landowners an opportunity to enroll in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE). WRE partners with interested landowners to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands through conservation easements.

WRE restoration projects provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including waterfowl, other migratory birds, amphibians and threatened and endangered species such as the Bog Turtle.

These restored wetland easements can also reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and recreational activities and improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands.



Land eligible for WRE includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully restored. Applications are prioritized based on ranking scores which consider



the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

3 Enrollment Options for WRE

1) Permanent Easements

Held in perpetuity

NRCS pays the landowner 100 percent of the easement purchase price and 75 to 100 percent of the restoration costs.

2) 30-year Easements

Expire after 30 years.

NRCS pays the landowner 75 percent of the easement purchase price and 50 to 75 percent of the restoration costs. The landowner is responsible for the remaining balance.

3) 30-year contract

Available to land owned by Indian tribes.

Program payment rates are the same as the 30-year easements.

You may enroll in WRE at any time

Contact your local NRCS field office if you would like to learn more about the program.

To find your local office go to:
www.bit.ly/NRCSField

Annual NYS CDEA Fish On Challenge

The NYSCDEA is sponsoring a fishing challenge to all anglers out there.



Official Rules and Regulations

Participation Fee is \$10.00 per person and each participant will receive a pocket tape measure with the NYSCDEA logo on it. Registration is available for NYSCDEA members only and is between March 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021.

Register for the Fish On Challenge at

<https://forms.gle/9Hhdj36oWyRTH8Yq5>

Yes...you need to be registered prior to submittal of any fish. All entries need to be submitted between March 1, 2021 – February 28, 2022. There are six categories and prizes in each!

Categories:	Smallmouth Bass	Largemouth Bass	Northern Pike
	Brook Trout	Rainbow Trout	Jokers Wild (Unique Fish)

General Rules

- You are not eligible to enter a fish if you caught it while fishing in a tournament.
- Entries are limited to those caught from NY waters only (including boundary waters).
- Entries will be scored based on length except for the *Jokers Wild* category, which will be judged by NYSCDEA on uniqueness of species, size and location of catch. Participant will have to specify why they think the fish is unique and why it should win.

Winners of all categories will be announced at the 2022 WQS Banquet.

For each entry, the participant is required to submit the following information to Fishcdea@gmail.com:

- 1.Name
- 2.Date caught
- 3.Location (waterbody) ...*don't give up your secret spot, so saying farm pond is OK!*
- 4.Species
- 5.Length
- 6.Picture of fish with the NYSCDEA tape measure or you in it.
- 7.If entering the *Jokers Wild* category you must include why the fish is unique and why it should win the category.

Register for the Fish On Challenge at <https://forms.gle/9Hhdj36oWyRTH8Yq5>

This is for fun only, so be honest and fair! If you have any questions, comments or if you are interested in registering, contact Maren Alexander at: Fishcdea@gmail.com. Tell us more about your fishing adventures and check out CDEA Fish On Challenge on Facebook!

It's time for me to say goodbye

Lauri Taylor, Manager, Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District

District Family,

After 30 years of being a member of the Soil and Water Conservation District family, it is time for me to say goodbye. It has been such a great opportunity for growth as a person and as a professional. Looking back I am very proud to say that I have had a wonderful career working for a Soil and Water Conservation District having boots on the ground and getting conservation projects done!

I'm not heading for a rocking chair on the front porch. I was appointed Mayor of the Village of Pawling in January and am currently running for a 4-year term (first female Mayor!!). I also will continue to seek the elusive "hole-in-one", spend more time on the Harley, and hopefully get back to my love of travel whenever we get past Covid.

But I have to be honest, although I'm looking forward to this new, exciting and challenging chapter, I'm going to miss all of you...we are family. We have had many trainings, meetings and adventures and as a "team" we have achieved great things!!!! I am taking with me some very special memories and friendships. I am thankful for all the support and laughs over the years.

All the best to all of you, stay safe!!

Lauri Taylor

Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District, District Manager

Congratulations, Lance!

Please join us today to celebrate the 34 year career of Lance Lockwood, District Manager of Chenango County SWCD, as it is his final day before retirement. During Lance's career, he has helped many landowners and farmers, served as mentor for many technicians, and has served a great leader to achieve the goals of the District. Congratulations on your retirement and best of luck in your future endeavors (see attached picture!). Well wishes can be sent to his email at llockwood@chenangoswcd.org or give him a call at the office today at 607-334-8634 ext. 7017.



An Introduction to Emergency Stream Intervention

Thursday October 7, 2021

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Ausable Inn
1809 NYS Rte 73 Keene Valley NY 12943

Concepts Covered

- ➡ how streams function
- ➡ historical perspective of the causes of stream instability
- ➡ overview of an Emergency Stream Intervention project

Supervisors, highway departments, planners, engineers,
and those interested in these concepts are encouraged to attend.

This training is an in-depth presentation building off of the introductory 2-hour program. It is intended as a tool to assist communities to better understand how streams function, why flooding occurs and how to begin addressing impacts to communities. A field component is included in this program, so please be prepared for rain or shine

*There is no cost to attend this training, lunch is provided to participants and
2.0 PDH's are available.*

Please register by October 1st, 2:00 PM

Go to: <https://forms.gle/TkeJ15iThMpJQ5Dm9>

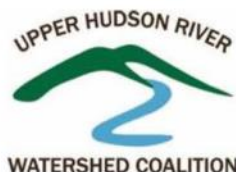
For questions or information, contact Jim Lieberum:

518.623.3119, jim99@nycap.rr.com

Please be prepared to follow COVID health protocols while at the facility.

*This presentation is sponsored by the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York, LLC.
and the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition*

*Funding for this presentation was provided by New York State through the
New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee.*



CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour

We all love our CDEA wine and pint glasses. Here they are in action across New York State. Cheers!



It's wine time. Cheers from Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD!



Susan Lewis of Albany County SWCD highly recommends this sour.



Photo Album



Jerry Boyd the practical District Technician from Madison County SWCD has retired to fishing and hunting. Photo by Troy Bishopp, Grass Whisperer, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Photo Album



Ontario County's Megan Webster snaps a shot of a dung beetle trap complete with poop at her grazing workshop. Photo by Troy Bishopp, Grass Whisperer, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Madison County's Andrew Haslauer found his calling. Photo by Troy Bishopp, Grass Whisperer, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Tompkins County SWCD Paul Gier participates in a soil health discussion at the Carey Farm pasture walk. Photo by Troy Bishopp, Grass Whisperer, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.



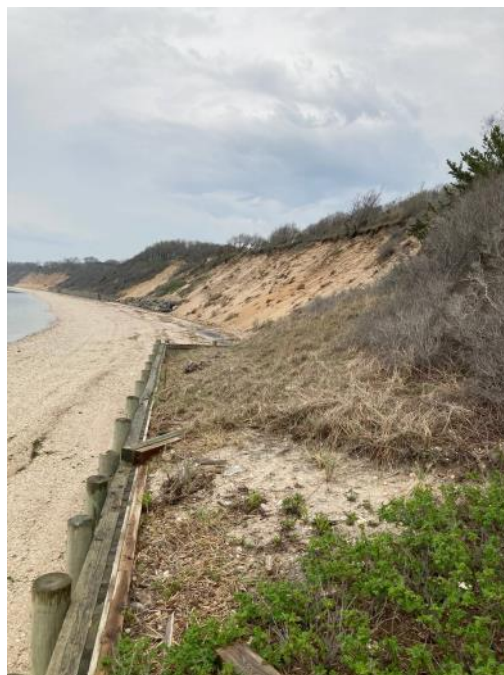
Danielle Singer from Tioga SWCD scoops the ice cream after a recent pasture walk. Photo by Troy Bishopp, Grass Whisperer, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Photo Album



A grower participating in our Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (Soil HELP) sent this photo to show just how much cover crop seeds he was planting in his fields! He had an assortment of summer cover crop species he was interested in testing out in his vegetable fields. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



This is an image of a coastal bluff, facing the Long Island Sound, experiencing erosion. This photo was taken during the early spring. The lack of seasonal vegetation shows the extent of erosion process and how bare the bluff face is. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



This photo was taken this summer. A grower was using our No Till Drill to plant little blue stem in his newly purchased 4 acre parcel of equine pastureland! Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



This photo was taken this summer of a pollinator enjoying red clover cover crop. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



Photo Album



During a visit with a grower, he was excited to show us his straw-mulch trial...and understandably so! He laid down about 12 rows worth of straw mulch, planted zucchini seeds in succession and placed his micro-irrigation lines. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



Dairy cows beating the summer heat and hanging out in the shade of an adjacent barn. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



A pollinator enjoying red clover cover crop. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.



Photo taken from a bluff facing the Long Island Sound! Check out those sand bags which were placed there in an attempt to lessen the impact from tidal and/or storm events. At least the bluff has a diverse presence of native vegetation and minimal bare soil exposed. Photo by Kaitlin R. Shahinian, Soil District Technician, Suffolk County, Soil and Water Conservation District.

CDEA News **needs *your* news!**

Please email your stories, photos, save the dates,
and fun moments to
caitlinstewart@frontier.com



Special Columns!

Cover Photo

Your stellar photo could be on the cover of CDEA News. Submit seasonal photos of landscapes or conservation practices through summer, fall, winter, or spring. Include a few sentences describing the photo.

CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour

We all love our CDEA wine and pint glasses. Email photos of your glass in action. Cheers!

Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

Email your photos of Ronny with a brief description of what he's doing and where he is.

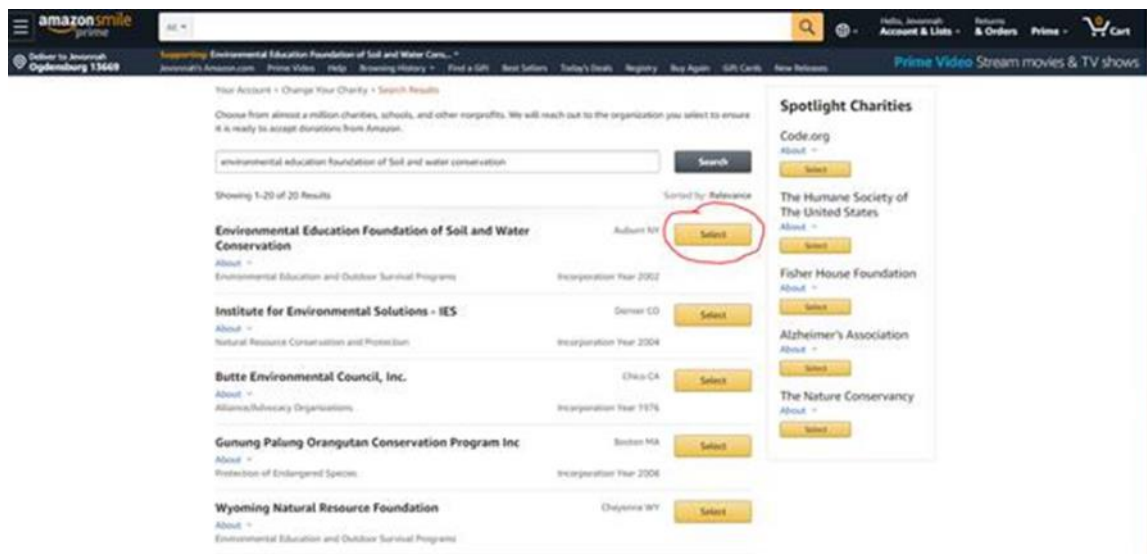
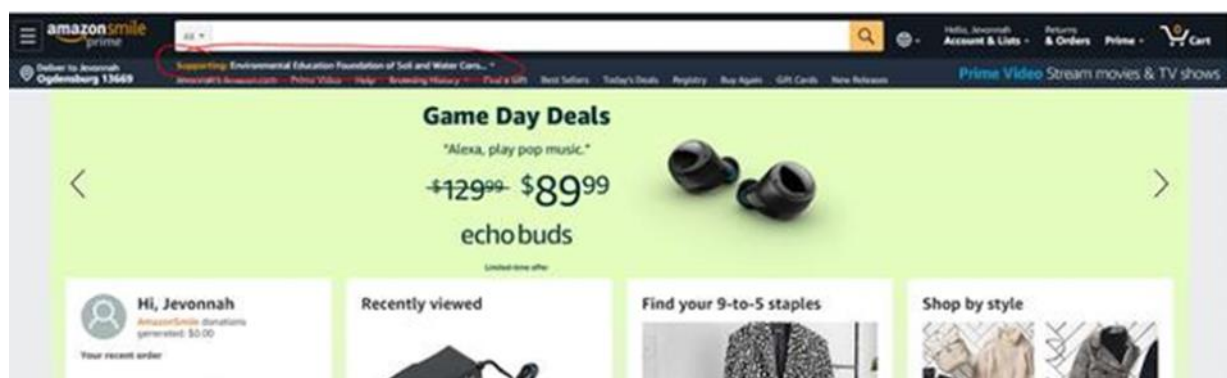
*Back issues are available on the CDEA website:
www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/*

**Thank you for making CDEA News a continued success.
Please keep you news rolling in!**

Support the NYS Envirothon with Amazon Smile

Chastity Miller, President, NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Did you know you can use AMAZON Smile to help the NYS Envirothon! Please use Amazon Smile to give back to the Environmental Education Foundation for the State Envirothon and the National Envirothon in 2023! Here is the link for amazon smile along with some screenshots of what it should look like. Once you have selected them, it works exactly the same as the regular amazon site. Just note that if you go to the regular amazon.com site or use the app the charity will not get any donations, you have to use the smile.amazon.com site. If you forget to go to the smile site and already have stuff in your cart (in app or on regular amazon site), you can still go to the smile site and login and the items in your cart will show up on that site too, I did it just to try! Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> & Sign in with your amazon account. This account has already done it, so it shows that their supporting the EEF already, but if you haven't yet you should automatically be prompted to pick a charity. Then you just search for "Environmental Education Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation" and hit select. REMEMBER- note that if you go to the regular amazon.com site or use the app the charity will not get any donations; you have to use the smile.amazon.com site. Thank you so much! We need all the help we can get.



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.



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Caitlin Stewart, Vice President

Joann Burke , Secretary

Chastity Miller, Treasurer

Dean Moore, Member at Large

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Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII