

CDEA News



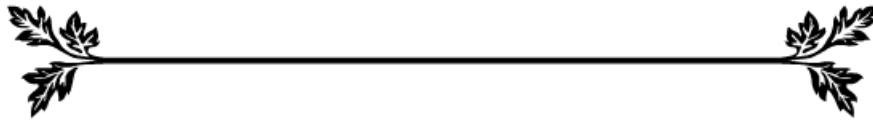
NEW YORK STATE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.



May 2022

Cover Photo

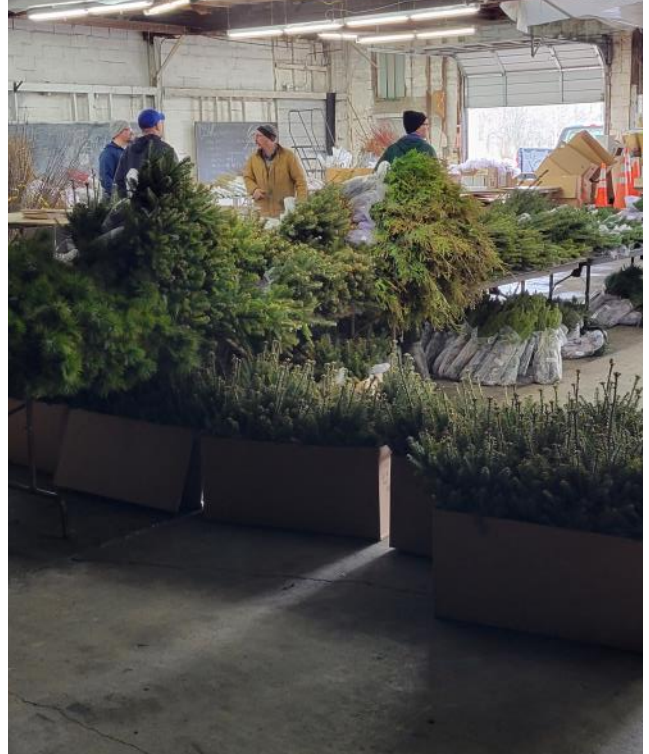
Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District completed a water and sediment control basin project above Canandaigua Lake and mulched it on May 13, 2022.. They took some great drone photos. Photo by Katie Lafler.



Spring happenings in Niagara County

Six teams of high school students competed May 5th at the Niagara-Orleans Regional Envirothon held at Bond Lake Park Nature Center in Lewiston. Congratulations to the winning teams, Niagara Career and Technical Education Center and Orleans Career and Technical Education Center. We wish both teams Good Luck as they move on to represent their counties at the NYS Envirothon. A special thank you to the event's sponsors GM Foundation, New Royal Orchards and Orleans Poverty Hill Farm.

This year's tree sale was a success with almost 40,000 trees sold! The team worked for a week bundling and packing trees to fill over 500 orders!





Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Days 2022



MAY 18 | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

New York City - Bronx | New Roots Community Farm
Topic: urban soil health, water management



JULY 13 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Central NY - Seneca Falls | Rodman Loft & Son Farms
Topic: cover crops, reduced tillage



JULY 20 | 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Northern NY - Peru | Sullivan Orchards (333 Rte 22B)
Topic: orchard weed management and soil health



JULY 25 | 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Central NY - Freeville | Thompson Research Farm
Topic: weed management, cover crops, reduced tillage



JULY 28 | 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Eastern NY - Johnstown | B & B Crop Farm
Topic: reduced tillage, cover crops



AUGUST 2 | TBD

Western NY - Portland | Cornell Lake Erie Rsrch & Ext. Lab
Topic: precision viticulture, soil health, cover crops



AUGUST 4 | 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Hudson Valley - Hurley | Hudson Valley Farm Hub
Topic: organic no-till



AUGUST 9 | TBD

Western NY - Orleans County
Topic: orchard groundcover mgmt, soil health demos



AUGUST 25 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Western NY - Pavilion | Swede Farm
Topic: planting green, cover crops, biostrips



AUGUST 31 | 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Long Island - Calverton | Lewin Farms
Topic: cover crops



FOR MORE DETAILS & TO REGISTER, VISIT: [FIELDAYS.NEWYORKSOILHEALTH.ORG](https://fielddays.newyorksoilhealth.org)

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

Liz Woods of Fine Character completed and delivered a brand new Ronny Raindrop to Hamilton County SWCD on June 10. CDEA Vice President Caitlin Stewart coordinated new costumes with Liz. With a happy face, streamlined body, and smaller shoes, Ronny has been completely revamped with comfort and durability in mind. 3 more costumes will be made for odd Divisions by the end of the year. Ronny is new and improved, and will precipitate to an event near you! New costumes are made possible by your NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.





New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
State Fair Committee

2022 New York State Fair Booth Volunteer Request

August 24, 2022 – September 5, 2022

Date: June 1, 2022

To: All NYS Soil and Water Conservation District Employees

From: Kristin White, Chairperson of the State Fair Committee

The NYS CDEA has had a booth at The Great New York State Fair for over 45 years! This booth is an educational display for fairgoers that promotes the great programs and projects of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts across the state. This year the event will be 13 days long and we're looking for your help!

The NYS CDEA State Fair Committee comes up with a theme that is used for two years. This year the theme is *"Healthy Lawn Healthy Environment"* where we have displays that correspond with the theme and include hands-on items for all ages of fairgoers.

If you volunteer, there is a Booth Binder behind the counter that has instructions for opening and closing shifts, the shift schedule for the current and next year, committee contact phone numbers, public and volunteer comment pages, and sign in and sign out sheets.

<u>Location</u>	Our booth is located in the Horticulture Building.
<u>Tickets</u>	Admission and Orange Parking Lot tickets will be issued to all volunteers.
<u>Shifts</u>	There are 2 shifts you can choose from: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We are looking to have 2 volunteers per shift. It helps greatly if 2 people from the same District work a shift together.
<u>Incentive</u>	Volunteers are eligible to a win \$50 cash incentive. The NYS CDEA State Fair Committee will draw 5 names from the sign-in/sign-out sheets. The winners will be notified via email.
<u>Shirts</u>	We are using the same shirts from 2021, so if you already have one, select N/A for the size. Please put your District's county in the Comment Section of the SignUpGenius®.

HOW TO SIGN-UP FOR A SHIFT

We are using SignUpGenius® for volunteer registrations for the State Fair Booth. The link can be found on our website at <https://www.NYS CDEA.com/state-fair-efd/>. If there are 2 employees volunteering to work a shift, please input each name separately. This program keeps track of how many people sign up for each shift and once a shift is filled, it becomes unavailable. To submit, select the yellow Sign Up box for the shift(s) you want. Then select the Submit and Sign Up button at the bottom of the screen. Put your County in the "Comment" section (**leave the Quantity at 1**; each volunteer must be entered separately) and if you don't have a shirt from last year, select your shirt size before clicking on the Sign Up Now button. Select N/A if you already have a shirt. Be sure to include your email. A reminder will be emailed to you and we will also use this email to inform you of any cancellations.

Plan-to-Pasture Training Delivers Hands-on Results

Troy Bishopp, Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District

Hubbardsville, NY-- The virtual world can only take one so far when applying conservation practices and grazing strategies on farms alongside farmers. Practicality in the field is where it's at. "In the end we retain from our studies only that which we practically apply."
~ Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

On May 3rd, 2022, thirty-three local NYS Conservation Agency professionals closed their computers for the day and traveled to Madison County New York for a unique grazing training opportunity on Keith and Jody Palmer's organic dairy farm in Hubbardsville, NY. The training opportunity initiated by Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District's resident "Grass Whisperer",

Troy Bishopp, was meant for new district employees using the Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) grazing planning matrix, conservation staff and agriculture professionals honing their technical skills in putting practical grazing on the ground and helping farmers be successful practitioners.

Bishopp teamed up with Dr. Samantha Glaze-Corcoran from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and the Palmer family, Madison County's 2015

Conservation Farm of the Year, to teach the power of grazing management for profit and improving soil health and animal production systems. Using grazing planning calculation tools and the Palmer's goals as a guide, agency professionals learned specific considerations to guide decision-making and allocate a forage plan for the herd of 52 organic dairy cows.



The large group started with everyone figuring out their "step" (in feet) and heading out to the pasture led by Dr. Sam to measure pasture growth (growing at 1"/day), determining the right time to graze based on how many leaves were present, count how many worms in a shovelful of soil and use a grazing stick or the "Canopeo" smart-phone App to calculate forage production. During this exchange of observation skills, Dr. Sam introduced the concept of being "thought partners" with farmers, "in helping guide decisions but not making them".

This ground-truthing inventory exercise helped as 5 teams, led by an experienced professional, spread out to estimate a daily paddock size to feed the dairy herd to which they would set the portable fence and move the cows to. Interestingly, the friendly competition, yielded a consensus of 2 acres/day for the herd, giving the farm and the people a confidence boost. Volunteers laid out the paddock shift and moved the eager cows while everyone observed how they grazed and what they grazed.

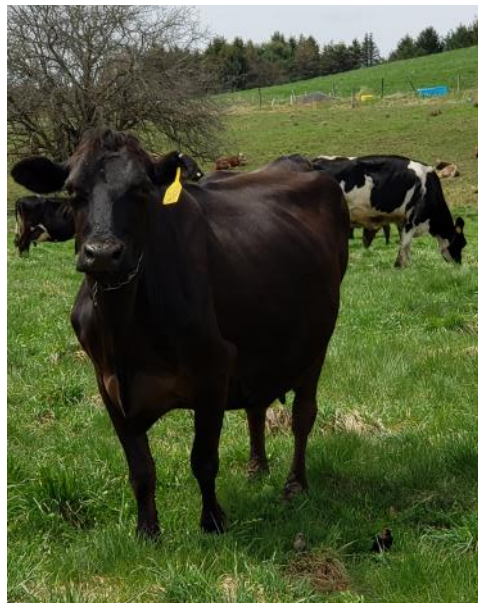
After a local lunch provided by Bishopp Family Farm and dairy products from Maple Hill Creamery, the now, well-fed group visited the cows again and learned about manure quality (pumpkin pie consistency) while seeing dung beetles and golden dung flies miraculously working a cow patty after just one hour. This led to a discussion of how fence and water tub placement and frequency of movement can positively affect fertility placement and increase forage yield. Dr. Sam, paraphrasing Vermont farmer, Jenn Colby, said; "the first two days of grazing are in the dining room, day 3 and 4 are in the living room and by days 5 and 7 you're in the bathroom. For many reasons, we strive to stay in the dining room".

Bishopp led the group into a mob grazing and paddock design

See Pasture, Page 6..

Pasture (from page 5)

exercise by sandwiching people together in a tight rectangular paddock to mimic efficient grazing, manure deposition and the trampling effect while explaining the need for frequent moves in this situation. He



then made a square paddock and the relieved group witnessed how the herd behavior changes. “You can create what you want just by moving fences and understanding herd dynamics,” he said.

The group then took a pasture walk to determine a week’s worth of pasture moves and were shown how the Palmers use a grazing planning chart to track their management decisions for organic verification. Ending the training on a positive note, guests were treated to ice-cream and participated in “Grazing

Olympics” featuring the portable fence post javelin throw and hay-bale toss for prizes.

“I didn’t know about the 3-4 leaf rule for grazing, and seeing it explained in the field was helpful,” said Watershed Agricultural Council Whole Farm Planner, Tristin Tait. “We learned so much and had a great time doing it. What a breath of fresh air after all those zoom trainings,” said Agronomist Ann Marie Calabro from Suffolk SWCD.

“I heartily endorse this kind of outdoor classroom experience and “hands on” knowledge. From a learning perspective and a networking experience it was a great day of knowledge, continued learning and fellowship in our professional network that share the same passion for farmers, agriculture, and the environment,” emphasized Paul Gier, Natural Resource Program Specialist from Tompkins SWCD. “We need more of these kinds of trainings. This was a fantastic example of putting planning into actionable results on the land. I’m excited to be a part of this professional family and to see how it translates into better service for beginning and experienced farmer customers,” said John Suscovich, Owner of Farm Marketing Solutions.

The training was supported by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, Maple Hill Creamery, Corrine Bishopp and Farm Marketing Solutions.



NRCS Announces Second Sign-up for CSP Kim Farrell, Natural Resources Conservation Service

New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces **June 10, 2022** as the application cutoff date for the General sign-up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. Through the CSP program, NRCS helps private landowners build their business while implementing conservation practices/enhancements that help ensure the sustainability of their entire operation. NRCS will work with applicants to assess resource concerns on the land included in their operation that they have effective control over to establish a benchmark stewardship condition. They will then use that information to select practices and enhancements that work for their operation so that a higher level of conservation is

See Pasture, CSP, page 7.

CSP (from page 6)

achieved on at least one land use. Applications accepted after June 10, 2022 will be considered in the next signup. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

If you are interested in applying for the CSP program please visit our web site for information on applying at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/ny/programs/financial/csp/?cid=nrcseprd1297724>. You may apply by visiting your local NRCS field office, which can be located using the web site: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=NY>.

Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

Jacob Kearney, Conservation Program Specialist, Monroe County SWCD

1. How long have you been working for your Soil and Water Conservation District?

I started as an intern doing invasive surveys in July 2020 and became a full-time employee in December 2021.

2. Who inspired you to pursue the career you have today?

My parents always inspired me to get a career that would get me outdoors and my advisors in college helped push me to the career I have today.

3. What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include hiking, nature photography, and kayaking.

4. What's on your bucket list?

Bucket list items include going to Ireland, Alaska, and Iceland.

5. Hawaiian pizza with ham and pineapple: super gross or supersize my pie?

Super gross, no question.

6. What is the best advice you give to other new District employees?

Best advice would be to dip your toes in as many projects as possible whether that is running them or just shadowing veteran employees on their projects.

7. How would you describe your job to a group of 5-year-olds?

My job is to provide education to the residents of Monroe County, young and old, and to work to protect the soil and water of our county.

8. What's the most epic thing you're working on right now at work?

I am currently working with our technician here in implementing a buffer and pollinator meadow at a town park.

9. Coffee or tea?

Neither – hot chocolate :-)

10. Share a humorous or memorable moment you have experienced while working at your District.

A memorable moment was being able to see the happiness and excitement of students at our Envirothon last week after two years of being unable to hold one. We even had a new school attend this year and they did very well!



Tree Plantings Across Tioga County

Heather Scott, Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District



Hickories Park Tree Planting April 23rd 2022.



Town of Owego, Miller Beach plantings with Waverly Central School District May 3rd 2022.



Tree Planting in Berkshire NY April 25th & April 28th.



Tree Planting at Two Sparrows Farm April 22nd 2022..

Rural and Forest Roads Training slated for July 19

Kristin Ballou, Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District


The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a Rural Roads and Forest Roads Training on July 19. This training is geared for District staff. The location is still being determined but please save the date and share with anyone from your staff that will be conducting assessments. Draft agenda follows below. For more information or to register, contact Kristin Ballou at (518) 651-2097, kballou@fcsxcd.org.

6 Hour Rural Roads Active Management Program Training for District Staff Agenda


- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Overview of RRAMP
History, goals and objectives of program, components, funding sources) |
| 9:00 a.m. | App Training
Teach SWCD staff and partners about the use of the app, how it functions, how to navigate it, data to be collected, where data is stored, etc. |
| 9:30 a.m. | Erosion Assessments – Roadside Sites
Visit pre-determined roadside erosion sites and evaluate them using the app. Each attendee will be required to work through the app independently. After the assessment is complete, the site will be reviewed and District professionals will discuss how to mitigate the erosion, and what practice works best where. |
| 12:00 p.m. | LUNCH
Lunch will be provided. |
| 12:30 p.m. | Erosion Assessments – Forest Roads
Visit pre-determined forest road and trail sites and evaluate them using the app. Each attendee will be required to work through the app independently. After the assessment is complete, the site will be reviewed and District professionals will discuss how to mitigate the erosion, and what practice works best where. |
| 2:00 p.m. | What to do with the data
Brief discussion on uploading data at your District office, how to retrieve data from the cloud, and what to do with it from here (report). |
| 2:30 p.m. | How to Involve Your Municipalities
Overview of ways to get your municipalities involved with RRAMP and possible funding sources and other partners to consider |
| 3:00 p.m. | Wrap Up
Thank you for attending, and safe travels! |

Events at Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Make a difference in...






May 2022



During the month of May, Let the Tioga County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) help you, your family, friends, co-workers and/or organization coordinate a Stream Clean-Up! WQCC will provide you the supplies (and participation gifts!) you will need to get outside and Clean-up a Tioga County stream of your choice.

LET'S DO IT. WHERE DO I START?

- 1 Select a date and time for a stream clean-up that works best for you and your fellow stream clean-up stewards.
- 2 Select a Tioga County stream location of your choice, or we can provide you a priority stream location after registration.
- 3 **Registration is required.**
Find link to registration via [Facebook.com/TiogaSWCD](https://www.facebook.com/TiogaSWCD)
- 4 Contact us to schedule a Pick-up time for your FREE supplies (trash bags, gloves, etc) and participation gifts from the office at 183 Corporate Drive, Owego NY 13827.
- 5 Find an easily accessible location at your site to neatly place your full trash bags/recycling. Disclose the location to us and We (WQCC) will come pick it all up for you!
- 6 Do your stream clean-up and enjoy the time serving your community, take photos and have fun!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT US:
Heather Scott
scotth@tiogacountyny.gov
(607) 201-9051
183 Corporate Drive, Owego NY 13827



SUNDAES AT THE FARM

Sunday July 24th 2022

12:00pm—3:00pm

Spencer Family Dairy Farm—3657 West Creek Road

This is a free family event hosted by the Tioga County Ag Resource Group. Highlights include a farm tour of a local working dairy farm, free ice cream sundaes, cheese, milk, and yogurt, balloons, face-painting, chicken bbq, hamburgers & hotdogs, scavenger hunt, educational displays, and farmers market.

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!



Susan Lewis, Albany County SWCD, is the champion of CDEA wine and pint glass photos!



Wine flies when you're having fun.
Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD, enjoys a robust red.

CDEA News needs YOUR news!

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

Special columns!
Cover Photo
CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour
Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

Visit www.nyscdea.com for newsletter back issues

Annual NYS CDEA Fish On Challenge

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



Participation Fee is \$10.00 per person and each participant will receive a NYSCDEA pocket tape measure (**If you haven't received a tape already). Registration is available for NYSCDEA members only.

Register [HERE](#) for the Fish On Challenge by May 31, 2022

***New district employees can sign up anytime!

There are **Six Categories** and prizes in each:

Smallmouth Bass

Largemouth Bass

Northern Pike

Trout Special

→ **Comradery Catch!**
For the spirit of friendship and good times with the family!

Jokers Wild

General Rules

- You are not eligible to enter a fish if you caught it while in a professional tournament.
- Only one prize per fish.
- Entries are limited to those caught from NY waters only (including boundary waters).
- Entries will be scored based on length except for
 - *Jokers Wild* will be judged 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.
 - *Comradery Catch* will be judged based on species, fishing story (optional), location, etc.
 - Trout will be judged based on length, species, and location of catch.

Enter a Fish: the participant is required to submit the following information to [Google Forms](#) or Fishcdea@gmail.com:

1. Name
2. Date caught
3. Species
4. Length
5. Location (waterbody)
6. Picture of fish with you or a measuring tape!
7. If entering the... **Jokers Wild** category you must include why the fish is unique and why it should win the category.

*All entries need to be submitted between
March 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023*

Examples for pictures:



Winners of all categories will be announced at the 2023 WQS Banquet.

Register for the Fish On Challenge [HERE](#)

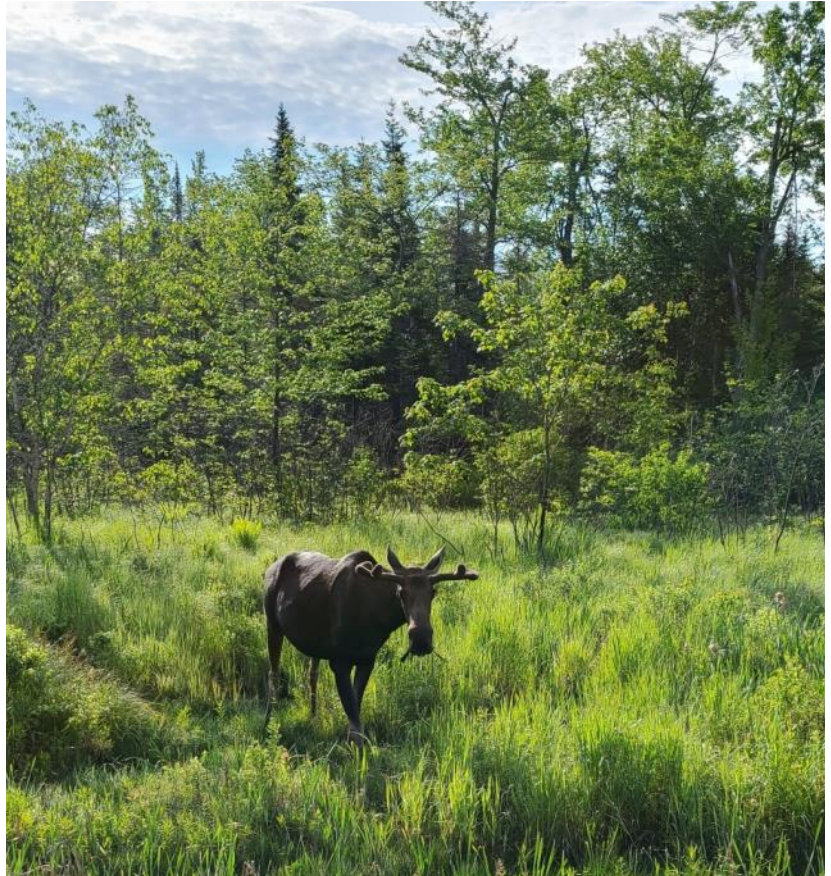
If you have any questions, comments or if you are interested in registering, contact Maren Stoddard at: Fishcdea@gmail.com.



Photo Album



A random hepatica. Photo by Corrina Aldrich, District Manager, Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Lenny Croote and Caitlin Stewart of Hamilton County SWCD spotted this magnificent moose in Indian Lake on their way to lake monitor. What a sight!

Madison Co. Buffer Steward training





Photo Album

Madison Co. Buffer Steward training





Photo Album

CDEA Executive Board and Division Reps go fishing on Long Island with Fishy Business Charters.





Photo Album

CDEA Executive Board and Division Reps go fishing on Long Island with Fishy Business Charters.



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.

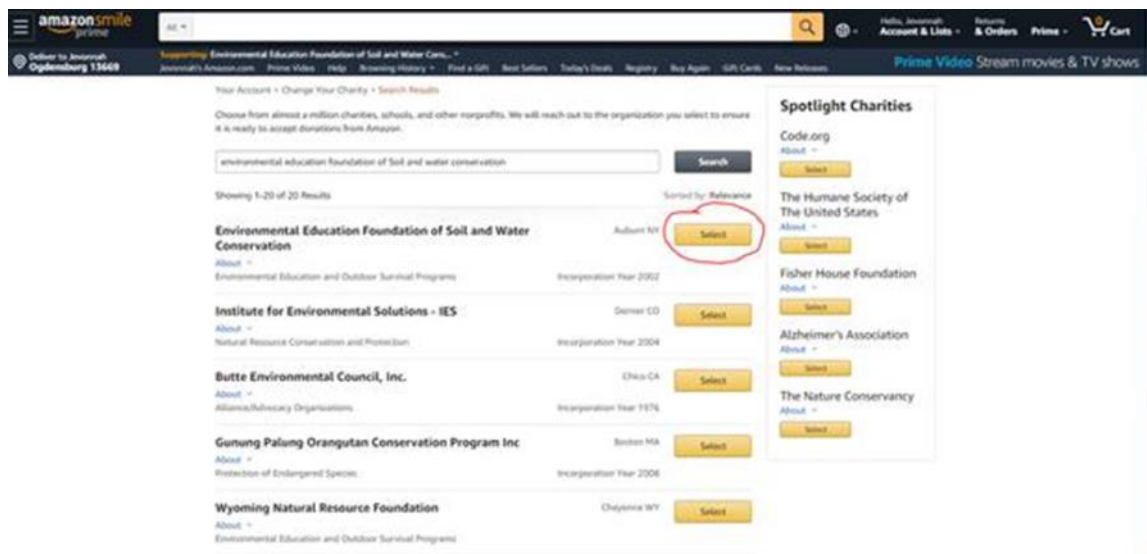
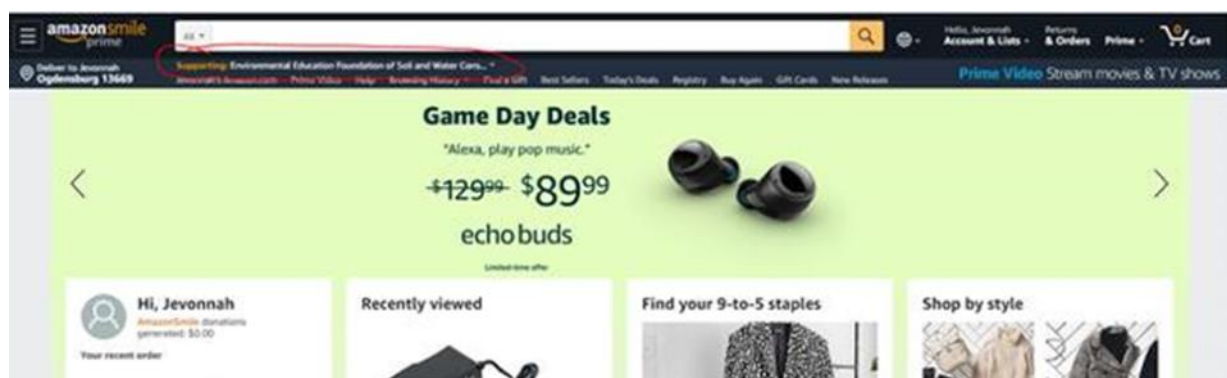
*Back issues are available on the CDEA website:
www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/*

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

Support the NYS Envirothon with Amazon Smile

Chastity Miller, 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.



Executive Committee Members

Dustin Lewis, President

Caitlin Stewart, Vice President

Joann Burke, Secretary

Chastity Miller, Treasurer

Dean Moore, Member at Large

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Jason Cuddeback , Division II

Raeanne Dulanski, Division III

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