

# CDEA News

NEW YORK STATE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.



JULY 2022

## Cover Photo

The 2022 New York State Envirothon was held May 25 and 26 at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva. Photo submitted by Blanche Hurlbutt, NYS Envirothon Chairperson.

 <p>NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.</p>	<h1>21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL NYSCDEA GOLF TOURNAMENT</h1> <p>TO BENEFIT CDEA PROGRAMS</p>
<p>Each team that brings a donation for prizes will receive a <i>Mulligan</i>. Please bring a Donation!</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY—August 11, 2022</b> 10 a.m. shotgun start <b>CASOLWOOD GOLF CLUB</b> Canastota, NY</p> <p><b>\$65 per person</b> <b>Includes:</b> Greens fees, cart, lunch at the turn, and dinner (Casolwood steak bake, salad, salt potatoes, lasagna, vegetable)</p> <p>Open to all SWCD &amp; NRCS employees, their families, and all of our conservation partners The perfect tournament for the avid golfer or the golfer that plays once a year. Come out and join the fun!</p> <p><b>Need directions? <a href="http://www.casolwoodgc.com">www.casolwoodgc.com</a></b></p>
<p><i>Free gift for every participant</i></p> <p><b>50/50 DRAWING</b></p>	
<p><b>SKINS GAME (Optional)</b> <b>LONGEST DRIVE</b> <b>CLOSEST TO THE PIN</b> <b>CLOSEST TO THE LINE</b></p>	

**Make checks payable to  
NYSCDEA**

Send check and registration to:  
**Franklin County SWCD**  
151 Finney Blvd.  
Malone, NY 12953

**Questions?**  
Contact:  
Doug Kierst 315-252-4171  
Russell Smith 607-756-5991

## CAPTAIN & CREW

County/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Telephone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list your team members)

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline  
August 2nd**



# 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!



Tad Gerace, Ontario County  
SWCD, cheers to my fabulous  
coworkers!

## Frank Bratt Scholarship Applications Due September 1 Caitlin Stewart, New York State Conservation District Employees' Association Vice President

The next round of Frank Bratt scholarship applications are due September 1, 2022. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist future conservationist's in expanding their education on topics related to natural resources. The Frank Bratt Scholarship is available to Conservation District Employees. The scholarship is also available to selected conservation partners in New York State. Those interested in applying can do so four times throughout the year. Application deadlines are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, and can be downloaded from the [NYS CDEA website](#). The scholarship is not available to the general public. For more information, contact Scott Collins at (716) 434-4949.



## 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: [FIELDDAYS.NEWYORKSOILHEALTH.ORG](https://fielddays.newyorksoilhealth.org)



## 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.



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

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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.

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**Location**

Our booth is located in the Horticulture Building.

**Tickets**

Admission and Orange Parking Lot tickets will be issued to all volunteers.

**Shifts**

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.

**Incentive**

**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.**

**Shirts**

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®.

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**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.



# Photo Album

## 2022 NYS Envirothon in Photos



*Dean Moore, photo bomb.*



*Sam enjoying Stewart's Shops ice cream.*



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



*Ronny was spotted at the Mohawk Valley Water Authority in Utica. Hamilton County SWCD staff delivered water samples for analysis, and Ronny came out for a photo op.*

## **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](mailto:kballou@fcsxcd.org).

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

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Overview of RRAMP</b><br>History, goals and objectives of program, components, funding sources)  |
| <b>9:00 a.m.</b>  | <b>App Training</b><br>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.   |
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Erosion Assessments – Roadside Sites</b><br>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.    |
| <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>LUNCH</b><br>Lunch will be provided.   |
| <b>12:30 p.m.</b> | <b>Erosion Assessments – Forest Roads</b><br>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. |
| <b>2:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>What to do with the data</b><br>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).  |
| <b>2:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>How to Involve Your Municipalities</b><br>Overview of ways to get your municipalities involved with RRAMP and possible funding sources and other partners to consider  |
| <b>3:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Wrap Up</b><br>Thank you for attending, and safe travels!  |

## Senior citizens receive awards at Poetry Contest Gala

### Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District



LONG LAKE - Seven senior citizens received awards at the Arbor Day Poetry Contest Gala held at the CVW Long Lake Public Library June 29. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day Poetry Contest for senior citizens this past spring.

#### THE CONTEST

“Now in its fourteenth year, the Arbor Day Poetry Contest was as creative as ever,” said District Manager Caitlin Stewart. “I always look forward to re-working the theme and poetic form each year to keep the contest fresh for our seniors. It is important to me to offer something fun just for them.”

Eleven poets submitted *Clogyrnach* poems based on the theme “Hope Grows Through Trees.” Special guest judge Kathy Stewart ranked blind copies.

“Another Arbor Day poetry jubilee with so many different interpretations of this year’s theme, “Hope Grows Through Trees,” said judge Kathy Stewart. “These poems, all composed by Hamilton Country seniors, seemed especially poignant this year. Our local poets’ thoughtful creativity always reminds me that time taken to reconnect with nature is time well spent. As I read the submissions I often think that the poems in hand will be difficult to top, but every year, these wonderful people offer me new ways to see trees - through their eyes.”

#### THE GALA

During the gala, District Manager Caitlin Stewart awarded all poets certificates of merit. She also awarded town-wide and overall first, second, and third place certificates to the seniors. Overall winners received wildflower packets. The seniors read their poems, and enjoyed refreshments courtesy of the Long Lake Public Library.

#### THE WINNERS

Betsy Comeau of Long Lake received first place, Nancy B. Williams of Lake Pleasant received second place, and Deborah Hodgkins of Wells received third place.

“Hamilton County SWD has provided a unique opportunity for senior citizens during the past 14 years,” said Long Lake poet Betsy Comeau. “Generally, we tend to think of poetry contests as being relegated to schools and children, but a contest just for Seniors? This gem of an event which occurs during mud season is just the perfect springtime tonic to awaken our weary souls with thoughts about trees, gardening, and everything green. Knowing Spring is just around the corner while we create a poem to celebrate the season of renewal gives seniors a chance to experiment with a variety of poetic forms. We are teased into thinking about the importance of trees in our world in new ways with words. This is a contest seniors anxiously await the arrival of every year. Like the trees we think and write about, the opportunity to

See Gala, page 8.

## Gala (from page 7)

grow our minds takes root in the Annual Arbor Day Poetry Contest.”

“Competing in the Hamilton County Arbor Day Poetry Contest is a way of showing the vibrancy of our lives, standing like a grove of healthy trees,” said Long Lake poet Bob Tice. Arbor Day was celebrated April 29 and honored the importance of planting trees.

Seniors interested in participating in the 2023 Arbor Day Poetry Contest can contact the District for more information.

THE WINNING POEM PENNED BY BETSY COMEAU

Maple tree once whispered to me

Under her rustling canopy

Always remember

Living roots are strong

Full of hope...

Full of song.

The District has been working to manage and promote the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County since 1965. For more information go to [www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com](http://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.com) or call 518-548-3991.

## **CDEA News needs YOUR news!**

Email your stories, photos, save the dates,  
and fun moments  
to [caitlinstewart@frontier.com](mailto:caitlinstewart@frontier.com)

Special columns!

Cover Photo

CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour

Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

Visit [www.nyscdea.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Fishcdea@gmail.com).

## **NYACD Update**

### **Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NY Association Conservation Districts Executive Director**

2022 has been a busy year for NYACD with attending face-to-face meetings and really good to see folks again.

The NYACD Board has had some changes related to the Board members. Tom Ryan, Secretary & acting Treasurer has stepped down from his positions due to health reasons. Tom will be missed come October. Ernie Swift will be stepping down from his position as Division 4 Representative and will be stepping into the roll as Treasurer.

**WE NEED DIRECTORS!!!** We need a secretary, and the following Division Representatives.

Divisions needed to be filled are III, IV, VI, VII, and VIII. It is important that these division positions are filled. This is how NYACD learns about the needs, concerns, and topics to be addressed to help districts and their directors.

NYACD annual meeting will be hosted October 2022 at the Hampton Inn, Cazenovia will be kicking off with a Madison Co. SWCD tour highlighting projects completed within their county this past year on Tuesday, October 20, 2022. Wednesday morning, we have great sessions scheduled following with the NYACD annual board meeting. Thursday morning, we have some more great sessions for Directors, Managers, and Clerks. The first packet of information has been mailed and the registration packet will be out in August. Do not forget to register and discuss any potential resolutions you would like to have brought forward at the annual meeting.

NYACD have been hosting their monthly meetings by Zoom. The Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month. NYACD is happy to share the Zoom meeting contact information to anyone that would like to attend. Please reach out to the NYACD Executive Director.

The 4-Way Partners scheduling their next quarterly meeting in person at the Chenango Co. SWCD office. One of the items on the agenda is

the 4-Way Partnership MOU. Anyone who would like to attend this event please let us know. I would be happy to share date & time with you once everything is set.

Once again NYACD and Districts shared their concern regarding the Stream C bill created in 2019-2020 budget period vetoed by the Governor in 2020. The bill was reintroduced under bill numbers in the Senate #S4162 & Assembly #A6652 and passed in both houses once again. As of this writing (June 23rd) the Stream C bills have not been received by Governor Hochul. We were hoping & pushing for this bill not to be reintroduced or passed, but since it has, we expressed our concerns and hardship this would cause the districts if they had to go through the NYS DEC permitting process. Once again, we are encouraging the Governor to not support this bill. Once the Governor receives the bill on her desk, she has ten (10) days to pass or veto. So, please if you have not already done so, send her a letter opposing this bill.

I met with the Director of Rensselaer in May and what a good meeting that was. I was invited to share with them what NYACD does and what I do on their behalf to promote NYACD.

This summer Sam Casella, NYACD President will be traveling to the NACD Summer meeting to represent New York. In late August Sam & myself will be attending the NE NACD representing New York. These are both important meetings to share what NY is doing, learn from meeting others to hear what they are doing. To bring back what we have learned to share with Directors & Districts.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to be a part of the NYACD Board please reach out to me, Blanche L. Hurlbutt by phone #607-965-6316 (if calling home number is best, cell does not always come in) or email [blanche\\_13335@yahoo.com](mailto:blanche_13335@yahoo.com)

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

Please email your stories, photos, save the dates,  
and fun moments to  
[caitlinstewart@frontier.com](mailto: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.

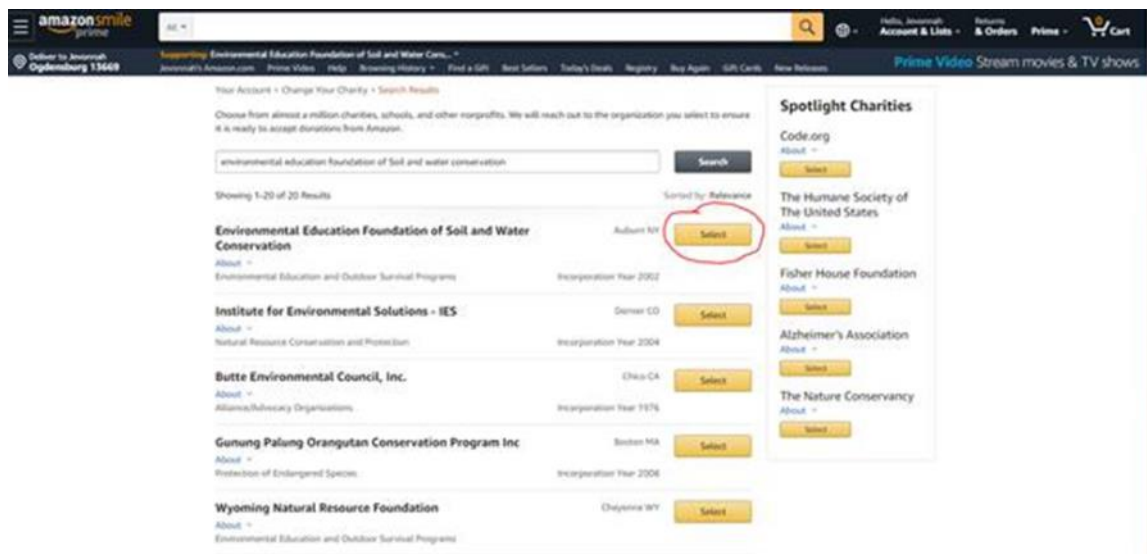
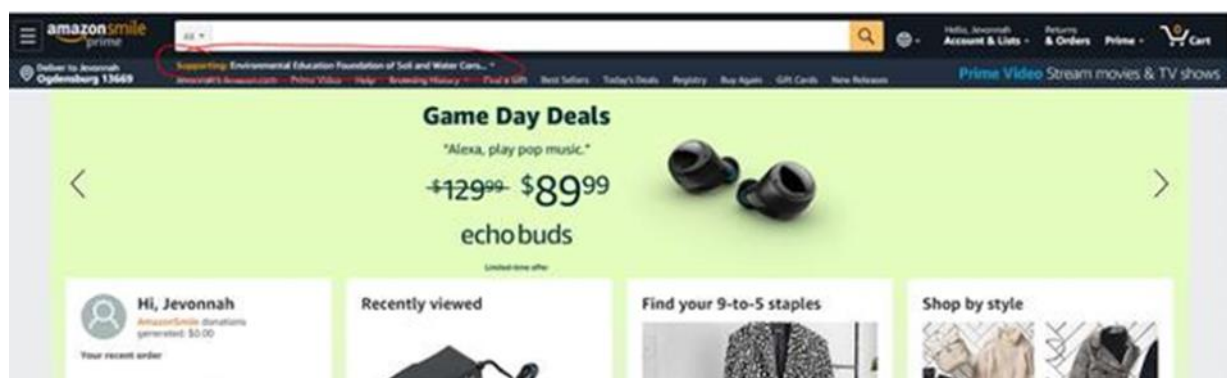
*Back issues are available on the CDEA website:  
[www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/](http://www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/)*

**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

## **Division Representatives**

Scott Collins, Division I

Jason Cuddeback , Division II

Raeanne Dulanski, Division III

Shawn Murphy, Division IV

Kristin Ballou, Division V

Corrina Aldrich, Division VI

Erin Sommerville, Division VII

Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

**[www.nyscdea.com](http://www.nyscdea.com)**