

***NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.  
NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee***

**TO:** SWCD Directors and staff, Water Quality Coordinating Committee members, and cooperating agencies, organizations, and partners  
**FROM:** Caitlin Stewart, Vice President, NYS CDEA, and Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director, NYS SWCC  
**DATE:** January 4, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** 2023 Water Quality Symposium / NYS CDEA Annual Training Session

Dear friends and colleagues:

It is our pleasure to invite you to the 2023 Water Quality Symposium and the NYS CDEA Annual Training Session March 14 – 17, 2023 at the Double Tree Hotel, 6301 NY-298, East Syracuse, NY 13057.

The partnership between the Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. and the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee makes the annual Water Quality Symposium possible. It takes the cooperation and dedication of many partners to make an event of this scale successful. Each year, the Symposium provides an invigorating and affordable forum to share ideas and learn science-based skills to advance natural resource conservation, climate resiliency, and watershed protection to all corners of New York State. While education and training efforts remain a high priority, identifying alternative resources for future Symposiums is an ongoing and challenging process. Partnerships that blend consistent funding with staff capable of delivering technical instruction are essential to the continuation of an event as unique as the Water Quality Symposium.

In this packet, you will find the Water Quality Symposium class schedule at-a-glance followed by class descriptions. **Registration is due by January 27, 2023, no exceptions.**

[Click here to register.](#) Each **instructor and attendee** must register separately online.

Payment is due Friday, February 24, 2023. [To pay by credit card, click here.](#) To pay by check, make checks payable to: NYS CDEA, Inc., and mail to: Franklin County SWCD, Attn: Chastity Miller, 151 Finney Blvd., Malone, NY 12953.

For questions, please contact Caitlin Stewart: [caitlinstewart@hamiltoncountyswcd.org](mailto:caitlinstewart@hamiltoncountyswcd.org), 518-548-3991.

With gratitude,

Caitlin Stewart, Vice President, NYS CDEA and Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director, NYS SWCC



**Soil and Water  
Conservation  
Committee**

# EVENT PAYMENT AND REFUND POLICY

## **PAYMENT:**

All attendance fees for the Water Quality Symposium Annual Training Sessions must be paid prior to the event. Full payment for Symposium attendance must be received or postmarked by March 7. If the attendance fee is not paid by this date, a late fee of \$50 may be added.

## **REFUNDS:**

### **A. CANCELLATIONS MADE BY ATTENDEE:**

If an attendee chooses not to attend an event, the cancellation must be made in writing to the NYS CDEA Vice-President by March 7 to be considered for a refund.

### **B. CANCELLATIONS MADE BY NYSCDEA:**

If the NYS CDEA cancels a class and that is the only class an attendee is attending, then a refund for the class will be granted. NYS CDEA will do its best to notify class participants that the class is canceled as soon as possible.

If the class is still held and the attendee does not notify the NYS CDEA Vice President by March 7, then no refund or partial refund will be issued regardless of the reason for missing the course (weather, life circumstance, etc.). If an attendee attends a class and is dissatisfied with the presentation or content, no refund or partial refund will be issued.

# Registration

**Online registration:** <https://forms.gle/GWidbu9G6aQiZp2aA>

**Registration deadline: January 27, 2023. Please register early.** No late registration forms will be accepted.

**Payment:** Payment is due Friday, February 24, 2023. [To pay by credit card, click here.](#) To pay by check, make checks payable to: NYS CDEA, Inc., and mail to: Franklin County SWCD, Attn: Chastity Miller, 151 Finney Blvd., Malone, NY 12953.

## **Registration fees:**

Full Conference - Single \$520

Full Conference - Double \$420 (YOU MUST HAVE A ROOMMATE BEFORE REGISTERING!)

Daily Conference (fee will vary) - selections in the next section.

Banquet Only - \$50

Daily Conference & Banquet (fee will vary)

## Daily Conference Registration Fee

Daily commuters must choose from the following list. Lunch and snacks are included in the Wednesday and Thursday Daily Commuter Registration Fee.

Tuesday includes lunch \$75

Wednesday includes lunch \$115

Thursday includes lunch \$115

Friday \$75

Banquet \$50

## Overnight Single Room - Daily Conference

Tuesday \$120

Wednesday \$120

Thursday \$120

## Overnight Double Room - Daily Conference

Double room option is only available if you have a roommate at time of registration and you are attending the conference for the same period of time. Please indicate your roommate's name.

Tuesday \$105

Wednesday \$105

Thursday \$105

## Breakfast - Daily Conference

Wednesday \$20

Thursday \$20

Friday \$20

## Dinner - Daily Conference

Tuesday \$35

Wednesday \$35

# 2023 Water Quality Symposium Class Schedule At-A-Glance

Ag Track    Non-Ag Track    Clerk / Admin Track    Forestry Track    Education Track

Tuesday March 14	Wednesday March 15	Thursday March 16	Friday March 17
Registration 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Breakfast 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Opening Session 1:00 p.m – 1:25 p.m. 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ag Protection Unit and SWCDs</li> <li>2. NYS Agricultural BMP System: Short-Term Waste Collection and Transfer System</li> <li>3. Watershed Committees: Planning, Partnerships, and Programs</li> <li>4. Stream Stats</li> <li>5. Time Management and Productivity</li> <li>6. Managers’ Forum</li> <li>7. Terrestrial Invasive Species Management</li> <li>8. Project WET</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. AEM Tier 3A Plan Peer Review Course (full day)</li> <li>10. Farm Drainage - Past, Present, Future</li> <li>11. 2022 Update to the NYSDEC MS4 General Permit</li> <li>12. Introduction to Using GIS for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (full day)</li> <li>13. OTN Septic System Inspection Training (full day)</li> <li>14. Project Management</li> <li>15. Understanding Forest Carbon, Markets and Management (full day)</li> <li>16. Leadership Course: Growing Emotional Intelligence through Constructive Communication – (full day)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19. Working Through The Red Tape</li> <li>20. CropwareNet: A New Tool For Crop Nutrient Management Planning (full day)</li> <li>21. RRAMP</li> <li>22. Post Construction Stormwater Management Practices</li> <li>23. QuickBooks (full day)</li> <li>24. Wildlife Habitat Management, Improvements, Projects and Programs (full day)</li> <li>25. Website Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Updates on the CAFO and Construction Stormwater Permits and 360 Regulations</li> <li>31. NYS AEM – Pasture Management: Seasonal Reflections</li> <li>32. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee Meeting</li> <li>33. Watershed Forum</li> <li>34. Clerks’ Forum</li> <li>35. Educators’ Forum</li> </ol>
Farmers Market / Resource Fair: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Lunch and Division Meetings 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Checkout by 12:00 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	1:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	
Game Night: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. AEM Tier 3A Plan Peer Review Course (full day)</li> <li>12. Introduction to Using GIS for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (full day)</li> <li>13. OTN Septic System Inspection Training (full day)</li> <li>15. Understanding Forest Carbon, Markets and Management (full day)</li> <li>16. Leadership Course: Growing Emotional Intelligence through Constructive Communication (full day)</li> <li>17. AEM Irrigation Planning</li> <li>18. Internal Controls for Payroll and Improving the Effectiveness of Your Claims Auditing Process</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20. CropwareNet: A New Tool For Crop Nutrient Management Planning (full day)</li> <li>23. QuickBooks (full day)</li> <li>24. Wildlife Habitat Management, Improvements, Projects and Programs (full day)</li> <li>26. Ag BMP Showcase</li> <li>27. Drone Use for SWCDs</li> <li>28. Stream Stabilization Techniques</li> <li>29. Superior Communication Skills and Tools</li> </ol>	
	Dinner: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Entertainment: 9:00 p.m.	Cocktail Hour: 5:30 – 6:30 Reception: 6:30 p.m. Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction winners announced Awards Banquet: 7:00 p.m. (formal dress attire)	

# Class Descriptions

*For clarity, the class numbers on the online registration form and the class schedule at-a-glance correspond to the numbers in the class descriptions below.*

## **1. Ag Protection Unit and SWCDs**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Jason Mulford, Principal Environmental Analyst, Department of Ag and Markets, Division of Land and Water, and Kathleen Tylutki, Department of Ag and Markets

**Description:** This afternoon class will focus on New York State Agriculture and Market's Agriculture District and Farmland Protection laws and Agriculture Protection Unit programs. The Agricultural Protection Unit panel will attempt to address SWCD and other conservation partners' questions and answers regarding NYS Agriculture and Market's position on a variety of topics, including, but not limited to: farmland preservation, development pressures, and Right to Farm.

**Credits:** CCA (1.5 SW, 0.5 PD)

## **2. NYS Agricultural BMP System: Short-Term Waste Collection and Transfer System**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, and Greg Albrecht, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee

**Description:** This afternoon course will provide an introduction, overview, and overall training in the planning and implementation of the newly adopted NYS Agricultural BMP System: Short-Term Waste Collection and Transfer System. Agricultural BMP Systems prevent or reduce the source or transport of substances originating from agricultural activities which may impact surface and ground waters as well as other resources (SWAPA+HE). Utilizing a complete Agricultural BMP System ensures a consistent and effective approach to addressing resource concerns, provides levels of protection and benefits to the environment that partial systems may not deliver, results in an effective use of public resources, and supports the reporting and planning efforts throughout many watersheds both entirely within NYS and those extending beyond (e.g., Clean Water Act 303(d) Programs, Clean Water Plans, and TMDLs for Chesapeake Bay, Lake Champlain, Long Island Sound, Finger Lakes). The Short-Term Waste Collection and Transfer System is appropriate for all situations on farms where manure or materials are currently managed and a resource concern has been identified; and where the collection, transfer, and short-term storage of materials is recommended to address resource concerns. Waste transfer areas paired with short-term waste storage facilities are effective in reducing loss of nutrients and pathogens by safely storing materials during critical runoff periods and applying nutrients under the guidelines of the nutrient management plan. This class will also provide details regarding important planning processes and key discussions to be had with producers when assessing, planning, treating, and managing nutrient sources around their farmstead and fields. Although similar to the existing Waste Storage and Transfer System, there are significant differences with this System and the goal of this class will be to highlight those distinctions and provide clarity, instruction, and support. General relationships with manure management and greenhouse gases will also be examined and discussed as part of this class. Please contact Ron Bush (ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov or 315.314.0352) if you have any questions while registering for this class.

**Credits:** CCA (1 NM, 1 SW, 0.5 CM)

## **3. Watershed Committees: Planning, Partnerships, and Programs**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Maureen Leupold, Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, SWCD Board Member and Garrett Koplun, NYSDEC Forester Forestry Division

**Description:** The Oatka Creek Watershed Committee (OCWC) is a not for profit group composed of

dedicated volunteers from a variety of backgrounds who are working together to develop and promote a watershed management plan for the Oatka Creek Watershed which is located within the four counties of Wyoming, Genesee, Livingston and Monroe in Western New York State. Our diverse membership is composed of people from local government, the farming community, public health, conservation and many other areas, and our activities have been supported through partnerships and federal, state and local grants. DEC foresters approached OCWC in 2014 to announce their new program Trees for Tribes. Since the arrival of the invasive alien Emerald Ash Borer, Oatka Creek has lost significant forest cover along the riparian border and adjacent forests. The NYS Department of Conservation foresters encouraged OCWC to work at reforestation of these areas. Since 2015, we have been planting trees in the Oatka Creek Watershed with the guidance and help of DEC and SWCD. This session will provide background on the formation and work of OCWC, the importance of partnerships in conservation work and current status of the Ash tree die-off and efforts for remediation

**Credits:** CCA (1 SW, 1 PD)

#### **4. Stream Stats**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Tim Schneider, Cayuga SWCD

**Description:** An introduction to streamstats powered by the USGS. Come learn the in's and out's of the program and how it can be applied to field work and design work. We will look into how it was developed, the components factored in, specific outputs that are useful for design work, and other useful tips. In addition, we will couple streamstats with GIS hydrology functions utilizing LiDAR to provide an even more in-depth analysis of watershed sizing. With these tools and knowledge, you will be able to handle any project that your district and county throws at you! From sizing culverts to designing WASCOBs, the options are endless

**Credits:** CCA (2 SW)

#### **5. Time Management and Productivity**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Ron Kirsop, OWWL Library System

**Description:** Time Management: We could all use a little help with managing our time, setting priorities, and controlling our workday. This presentation will talk about basic tools and tips to help set up a structure to accomplish the tasks that are most important. Productivity: Our personal productivity is in a constant state of exhaustion because of the endless tasks, email messages, and meetings we manage on a day-to-day basis. This presentation aims to reset our overwhelmed productivity systems by discussing specific methods that focus on setting priorities, creating action plans, and establishing a habitual review process.

**Credits:** CCA (2 PD)

#### **6. Managers' Forum**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Dustin Lewis, Saratoga County SWCD

**Description:** This Managers Forum is for Managers and Executive Directors only. This will be an open forum to discuss any and all topics freely. Please come with your questions and discussion topics. Some possible topics of discussion will include threats and opportunities for Soil and Water Conservation Districts in NYS.

**Credits:** CCA (0.5 SW, 1 PD)

#### **7. Terrestrial Invasive Species Management**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Donald Nelson, NYS DEC, Kellen Murphy, Murphy Forest Management, Megan Kocher, New York Sea Grant, and Mike Fournier, NRCS

**Description:** We have all been finding more invasive species throughout our woodlots and in our riparian project areas. This session will focus on laws and regulations relating to pesticide application, common species treated, timing of treatment, and methods of treatment. This session will also include a review of available funding to treat and monitor invasive species and case studies of projects completed around the state.

Agenda: [Terrestrial Invasive Species Management](#)

**Credits:** CCA (2 PM, 0.5 CM), SAF, ISA, DEC Pesticide Applicator Continuing Ed

### **8. Project WET**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Betsy A. Ukeritis, Inter-regional Environmental Educator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**Description:** Activities cover k-12 with connections to STEM, careers, and National learning standards. This is a very hands-on training, not just lecture. All participants will leave with a WET2.0 guide.

**Credits:** CCA (0.5 SW, 1 PD)

### **9. AEM Tier 3A Plan Peer Review Course**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, and Greg Albrecht, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee

**Description:** During this course you'll interactively review your AEM Tier 3A plans with Soil and Water District peers. Reviews are fun, constructive, and done in small groups (3-4 max), guided by an experienced planner...and really helpful in learning from each other based on your own work. The goal is to share and pick-up good ideas about key planning concepts while you "tour" your peers through the pages of your Tier 3A plans, such as:

- communicating and building trusting, working relationships with farmers;
- characterizing existing farm conditions (watershed scale, farmer goals, and site-specific assessment ala Tier 2);
- identifying resource concerns/opportunities;
- technical aspects of planning BMP systems and alternatives; and
- plan presentation and documentation.

Each participant will take turns informally presenting their 3A plan in its major sections to the small group (e.g., verbally describing, while showing key elements of that section in the plan binder), so peers may ask questions, learn, and provide feedback.

To participate in the course, please bring one or ideally two of your AEM Tier 3A plans (one copy of each plan) for peer review in one or more of the following Tier 3A categories:

- Farmstead 3A Plan;
- Pasture Management 3A Plan;
- Cropland Conservation 3A Plan;
- NM-Core 3A Plan;
- Full 590 Nutrient Management 3A Plan;
- Stream Corridor 3A Plan; or
- Forest Conservation 3A Plan.

Please indicate the categories of Tier 3A plans that you'll be bringing to the course in your Water

Quality Symposium registration. Plan on reviewing one of your plans during the day-long class and, if time allows, you'll have an opportunity to review a second (subject to sign-ups and time spent on reviews). You're welcome and encouraged to rotate to tables working on different Tier 3A planning categories during the day.

Please contact Ron Bush (ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov or 315.314.0352) if you have any questions while registering for this class.

**Credits:** CCA (1.5 NM, 2 SW, 1.5 CM, 0.5 PD)

#### **10. Farm Drainage – Past, Present, Future**

**Date:** Wednesday March 15, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Instructors:** Chad Klotzbach, Alleghany Farm Services

**Description:** Farm drainage or “tiling” has been installed in New York since 1838, yet most of the research, innovation, and education has taken place in the Midwest. This course will touch on the history and explore current practices of farm drainage adapted to New York State, from design to installation. The session will also explore conservation drainage and edge of field treatment options for new and existing systems, including the design and installation of saturated buffers, controlled drainage, denitrifying bioreactors and more.

**Credits:** CCA (2.5 SW)

#### **11. 2022 Update to the NYSDEC MS4 General Permit**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Instructors:** Christina Chiappetta, NYS DEC

**Description:** The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) has finalized the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4 General Permit). The MS4 General Permit was long overdue for renewal as it was essentially unchanged since its last full technical review in 2010. Changes have been made in the MS4 General Permit based on multiple public comment periods and stakeholder workgroup meetings. In this presentation, the Department will review select requirements of the 2022 permit, tools that have been developed to aid in the implementation of the permit, and ways to improve your MS4 program moving forward.

#### **12. Introduction to Using GIS for Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** George Hilton, Town of Queensbury

**Description:** The GIS Presentation and Class will be split into a morning session and an afternoon session. The morning session will focus on the basics of using ArcMap, including the basics of opening the software, accessing and loading GIS data, creating and sharing maps (print or electronic copy). As the course moves along the presentation will focus on using ArcMap to create, edit and analyze geographic data. The discussion of editing and creating data will focus on using “core” geoprocessing tools available in ArcMap. The afternoon session will be split into two parts, each focusing on different topics. The first part of the afternoon session will discuss using ArcPro and will touch on the basics of opening the software, creating maps and layouts, and locating and using “core” geoprocessing tools in ArcPro. The second part of the afternoon session will discuss and demonstrate using ESRI software for field data collection, mapping and data sharing.

**Credits:** CCA (4 SW, 1 PD)

**Items needed by class attendees:** Laptop

#### **13. OTN Septic System Inspection Training**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)



**Instructors:** Mark C Noga, and Eric Murdock, PE New York Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network, Inc.

**Description:** This class will instruct you how to conduct and document a thorough onsite septic system inspection. Various aspects of the inspection process will be discussed and reviewed in conjunction with the New York Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network's standardized inspection and reporting forms.

#### **14. Project Management**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Instructors:** Ron Kirsop, OWWL Library System

**Description:** Project management is the practice of initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing projects aimed at achieving a specific goal. During this workshop, we will explore how integrating project management practices into your district's culture can increase efficiency, improve communication, and lead to improved project execution at every level.

**Credits:** CCA (2 PD)

#### **15. Understanding Forest Carbon, Markets and Management**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** Molly Hassett, NYS DEC, Bryan Ellis, NYS DEC, Anne Armstrong, CCE NRCS, Gregg Sargis, TNC, Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC, Abigail Edwards, NYS SWCC, Brett Chedzoy, CCE Schuyler County, Colin Bier, SUNY ESF, David Weinstein, Cornell Senior Research Associate Emeritus, Brittany Wienke, Nature Conservancy Working Woodlands Program, and Chris Zimmerman, Nature Conservancy Working Woodlands Program

**Description:** Carbon sequestration, credits and accounting is becoming a bigger part of our conservation realm. This session will explore the carbon market, New York's potential for carbon storage, the various roles within the carbon markets, and programs available for forest owners and agricultural producers to begin engaging with carbon storage. The NYS SWCC will discuss the districts' role in this through the CRF program including potential projects and project highlights from previous rounds of funding. Presentations will be provided by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Nature Conservancy, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, The College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Cornell, Family Forest Carbon (TNC), and others.

Agenda: [Understanding Forest Carbon, Markets and Management](#)

**Credits:** CCA (2 SW, 1 CM, 1 PD), SAF, ISA

#### **16. Leadership Course: Growing Emotional Intelligence through Constructive Communication**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** Richard D. Orth, Independent Learning Consultant

**Description:** This class is an opportunity to further develop leadership skills and improve how you communicate with others. The class will refresh and expand upon the topics covered in the 2022 virtual WQS ½ day version of the class – no need to have attended it, past and new participants are welcome. This full day version will include new activities to learn how to apply these foundational leadership skills – and life skills – to real life scenarios at work and also in your personal relationships. The purpose of the class is to deepen your awareness of Emotional Intelligence (EI) – the capacity to be aware of, express and channel one's emotions, and to handle interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically. The learned skills are also an underpinning for increasing employee engagement, as well as improving – and sustaining – organizational performance. Through lecture, engaging conversations, story-telling and group activities, participants gain an introspection of EI concepts by developing their self-awareness and social-awareness. The class will be instructed by an outside lecturer, Richard D. Orth. Richard Orth is an independent Learning Consultant, building on 40 years' experience with IBM Corporation as a change leader, facilitator, trainer, leadership coach and business analyst. Richard has helped organizations and individuals to improve their capabilities in the areas of leadership development, cultural transformation

and process excellence. He has led hundreds of global organizational change engagements by developing capabilities in emotional intelligence, business improvement, collaborative problem-solving, team based decision-making, process facilitation and conflict resolution. He has been an invited speaker at various agencies and organizations, both nationally and internationally. We are excited to welcome him back to the WQS this year!

**Credits:** CCA (4 PD)

### **17. AEM Irrigation Planning**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Allen Young, Erie County SWCD

**Description:** An introduction to Irrigation planning using the AEM framework to start the discussion and compare alternatives with the farm. Learn about the basic of materials, methods and options that should be considered. Learn some irrigation rules of thumb and quick math for tailgate discussions in the field. An introduction to some of the tools and resources for irrigation planning. Have a practical irrigation discussion and Q&A session with Dan Henry, a vegetable farmer from Eden, NY.

**Credits:** CCA (2 SW, 1 CM)

### **18. Internal Controls for Payroll and Improving the Effectiveness of Your Claims Auditing Process**

**Date:** Wednesday, March 15, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** William Naylor, Office of the NYS Comptroller

**Description:** This session will cover the internal control framework for payroll, including steps for assessing risks and implementing safeguards, and will assist local officials in learning how to establish an effective and efficient claims processing system.

**Credits:** CCA (2 PD)

### **19. Working Through the Red Tape**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Instructors:** Tucker Kautz, Senior Conservation District Technician, Ontario County SWCD

**Description:** The road to getting conservation projects on the ground is rarely without a few bumps and turns. This class is intended to be open discussion about some of the BMP implementation roadblocks that we may run into, and how we navigate through these obstacles to provide a path to project completion. We will cover permits, policies and permissions as well as working through local laws and NRCS standards.

**Credits:** CCA (1 NM, 1 SW, 1 PD)

### **20. CropwareNet: A New Tool For Crop Nutrient Management Planning**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** Mike Contessa, Champlain Valley Agronomics, and Brendan Jordan, Ron Bush, and Greg Albrecht, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

**Description:** This full-day class will provide an in-depth introduction to the new version of Cropware: CropwareNet. As with Cropware Classic and Plus, CropwareNet is used to develop nutrient management plans for crop fields (including AEM Tier 3A NM-Core Plans, Full-590 Plans, and CNMPs). Relative to prior Cropware versions, CropwareNet is cloud-based; delivers P Index 2.0 and the latest Cornell Nutrient Guidelines; uses current soil map unit data from NRCS (compared to the coarser soil series data); provides an enhanced user interface and data backup; and offers updated standard report options for nutrient management plan development. Participants will gain experience in the new, online format and how to use it to characterize rotations, fertilizers, manure sources, and fields as well as allocate nutrients to fields according to NRCS 590 and generate reports. While not required for this course, participants who have access to a laptop are encouraged to bring it in order to follow along live with the content. Existing users will be able to use their current CropwareNet log in information and users new to the software will be provided a log in specific to this training to follow along. If you have any questions,

please contact Brendan Jordan (brendan.jordan@agriculture.ny.gov or 315.975.7216).

**Credits:** CCA (3 NM, 1.5 SW, 1 CM)

**Items needed by class attendees:** Laptop, charger, notetaking tools

## **21. RRAMP**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Instructors:** Chastity Miller, Franklin County SWCD

**Description:** The Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP) has been created to provide county and municipal highway departments and private associations with techniques to improve travel corridor risk assessments, project prioritization

## **22. Post Construction Stormwater Management Practices**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Instructors:** John Dunkle, P.E., CPESC, CPMSM

**Description:** From dry detention to tree plantings, the NYS Stormwater Design Manual outlines the numerous possibilities for selecting practices to meet the permit requirements for peak flow mitigation, water quality treatment and runoff reduction. This class reviews the characteristics and performance of each practice, and provides an overview of what considerations that must be made to choose the most appropriate ones for site specific needs. Practice sizing, construction and maintenance of each practice will also be covered.

**Credits:** CCA (2 SW)

## **23. QuickBooks Overview**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** Certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor

**Description:** This two-part full day session will be led by a certified QuickBooks ProAdvisor. Join us to learn tips and tricks and what is happening behind the scenes in this massive software program. The instructor will provide an overview of QuickBooks and put special emphasis on topics like reviewing your settings and setting a close date, accounts receivable and customizing invoices, reporting including customizing and memorizing reports, using classes, and maintaining your chart of accounts. There will be plenty of time for questions. This is a great time to up your QuickBooks game. Please note that this is a QuickBooks software class and not an accounting class. The instructor will be focused on teaching us about the software, not providing accounting support.

## **24. Wildlife Habitat Management, Improvements, Projects and Programs**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM (full day)

**Instructors:** Suzanne Treyger, NY Audubon, Mitchell Blake, National Wild Turkey Federation, Todd Waldron, Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society, Timothy Russell, Green Fire Forestry and Wildlife Service, Carl Schwartz, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Michael Fournier, NRCS

**Description:** Learn all about incorporating wildlife management practices into forest management and riparian corridor projects. This session will provide an overview of principles of wildlife ecology, management and habitat requirements. Species to be discussed include: songbirds, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, woodcock and white tail deer. Presenters will also discuss planning requirements, funding opportunities and highlight existing work ongoing throughout New York State.

Agenda: [Wildlife Habitat Management, Improvements, Projects and Programs](#)

**Credits:** CCA (2 SW, 1 CM, 1 PD), SAF, ISA and CEUs in Category I of the Certified Wildlife Biologist®/Professional Development Certificate Program

## **25. Website Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA")**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

**Instructors:** Nick Friedman, Adirondack Website Design

**Description:** Participants will learn what website accessibility is, and why it is important, from both moral and legal standpoints, for being in compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act (the "ADA"). The course will include a narrated PowerPoint presentation, a PDF file of all slides presented will be provided to all attendees following the session via e-mail, and a handout with pertinent information on where attendees could locate resources to gauge their current levels of accessibility using the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines standards which comprise ADA requirements. Discussion will include the business case for accessibility, legal aspects of ADA non-compliance, use cases and design considerations for people with specific conditions and disabilities (e.g., the ageing population, color blindness, screen reader users, those with dyslexia, autism, etc.) and some simple website modification techniques to assist District personnel in making their websites more accessible. The last 30 minutes will consist of an open Q&A session.

**Credits:** CCA (2 PD)

**Items needed by class attendees:** Laptop, pad, pencil and/or pen

### **26. Ag BMP Showcase**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD

**Description:** Ever wonder what other district folks have been implementing, are you new to the district life or just looking for somewhere to sit on a Thursday afternoon. Come hang out with a diverse group of individuals as we look over projects implemented and talk about what funding sources utilized to make these BMP's happen. We will have a Q & A session to discuss technical skills that may be lacking or what district's you can reach out to for support on related topics of interest.

**Credits:** CCA (1 NM, 1.5 SW)

### **27. Drone Use for Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Nick Friedman, Adirondack Website Design

**Description:** Are you wondering if you should purchase a Drone for your District? Do you fly a drone for your District but want to learn about proper certification requirements? You're in the right place! Topics will include: benefits for soil and water conservation districts using UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems, aka "drones") technology, Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST), commercial FAA UAS and pilot requirements (14 CFR Parts 48 and 107), factors to consider when purchasing a UAS, accessories for field work, general regulations for UAS flying, situational awareness during flight, special regulations for UAS flying in New York State and the Adirondack Park, and maintaining flight proficiency off season. There will be plenty of time for staff to discuss applications, challenges, and policies. Come with problems to solve and ideas to share.

**Credits:** CCA (0.5 SW, 0.5 PM, 1 PD)

**Items needed by class attendees:** Pad, pencil and/or pen

### **28. Stream Stabilization Techniques**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** Gian Dodici, Fish & Wildlife Biologist at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Description:** Present stream stabilization techniques and concepts.

**Credits:** CCA (2 SW)

### **29. Superior Communication Skills and Tools**

**Date:** Thursday, March 16, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

**Instructors:** John Mancuso, Authentic Communication Matters LLC

**Description:** Possessing superior communication skills has become a bigger predictor of success than one's vocational mastery, subject matter expertise and institutional knowledge. The good news is that communication best practices can be taught and mastered through exploration and practice. This session

will showcase interpersonal fundamentals as well as advanced concepts to help participants communicate more proficiently in their personal and professional lives.

**Credits:** CCA (3 PD)

### **30. Updates on the CAFO and Construction Stormwater Permits and 360 Regulations**

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Instructors:** Greg Albrecht, NYS AGM / SWCC, Sara Latessa, Sally Rowland, Molly Trembley, Dave Gasper, and Matt Kazmierski, NYS DEC

**Description:** This morning course will provide an overview and discussion of the ECL General Permit for CAFO (GP-0-22-001; <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6285.html>), the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-20-001; <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/43133.html>), and the NYS DEC Solid Waste Management Regulations (e.g., Part 360 revisions related to agriculture). The course is designed for conservation professionals from Districts, NRCS, private sector planning or engineering organizations, Extension, etc. to refresh on the long-standing key elements of the permits and regulations (especially as they pertain to agriculture), to learn about new approaches and requirements, and to ask questions. Please contact Greg Albrecht ([greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov) or 607.229.4654) if you have any questions while registering for this class.

**Credits:** CCA (1.5 NM, 1 SW)

### **31. NYS AEM – Pasture Management: Seasonal Reflections**

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Instructors:** Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, NYS SWCC, Troy Bishopp, Madison County SWCD

**Description** This morning course will provide an overview and discussion of NYS AEM Pasture Management (Planning and Implementation), with a special focus on developing effective Conservation Professionals. As a group, we will review and examine details regarding important planning processes and key discussions to be had with producers when assessing, planning, treating, and managing resources around their farmstead, pastures, animals, and fields. We will also highlight specific knowledge, skills, and abilities associated with working with various Grazers, styles of grazing, their animals, soils, and plants, and the associated Agricultural BMP Systems (and component NRCS Standards) that may address current resource concerns as well as their future goals. Once we have established a context for the discussion, we can then take a historical look into previously offered trainings, events, useful materials and resources, and experiences that have led to success for ‘seasoned’ professionals. The overall goal of this discussion is to ultimately hear from all of you!! How can we help each other to develop the necessary skills or offer specific trainings that are desired? Who is in our networks for Peer Review, Partnership, and Professional Advice? To better serve the producers, we must better ourselves first...hopefully this session is the first of a reoccurring series where we can all gather as Graziers, Grazers, or Browsers! This session is designed for conservation professionals from Districts, NRCS, private sector planning organizations, Extension. Please contact Ron Bush ([ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov) or 315.314.0352) if you have any questions while registering for this class.

**Credits:** CCA (0.5 SW, 1 CM, 0.5 PD)

### **32. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee Meeting**

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Instructors:** Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC

**Description:** This class will focus on district assistance to municipalities and include guest presentations on relevant topics, such as erosion and sediment control programs, permitting and general topics covering district and municipal programming.

### **33. Watershed Forum**

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Instructors:** Representatives (SWCDs and partner agencies) of New York State's Watershed Coalitions  
**Description:** From funding to climate resiliency to project implementation, SWCD watershed coalitions do it all. Join us as representatives from New York State's Watershed Coalitions discuss grants, watershed management and revitalization plans, challenges, and successes. Come with your stories to share and problems to solve.  
**Credits:** CCA (0.5 NM, 0.5 SW)

#### **34. Clerks' Forum**

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Instructors:** Vic DiGiacomo, Diana Thorn, Ontario County SWCD

**Description:** This year's Clerks Forum will feature a presentation on SharePoint followed by open time for questions and discussions relevant to District Clerks. Join us to connect and share with others serving in a similar capacity. This is an awesome opportunity to learn how other Districts handle programs and different situations. This will be a welcoming environment to ask questions as well as offer advice!

#### **35. Educators' Forum**

**Date:** Friday, March 17, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM

**Instructors:** Nikole Watts, Alaina Robarge, Lindsey Gerstenslager, Dean Moore, Erica Schreiner

**Description:** This will be a panel style class. Having the 5 instructors go through the different education programs and resources they use. Then having the class ask questions that they will have.

**Credits:** CCA (0.5 SW, 1.5 PD)