

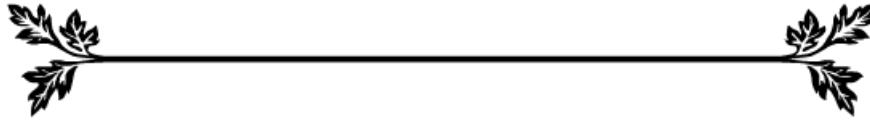
CDEA News



APRIL 2023

Cover Photo

Spring on Long Island at the Suffolk County CCE Gardens around the building that SC SWCD works in.
Photo by Susan Odell, Suffolk County SWCD.



The CDEA Corner

Caitlin Stewart, President, NYS CDEA, Inc.

Spring greetings! Congratulations to our new and returning CDEA Executive Board members, a tremendous thank you to our outgoing representatives, and warm greetings to our partners at NRCS, NYACD, and SWCC!

Four days, five tracks, thirty-three classes, over 300 attendees; this was the 2023 Water Quality Symposium! I extend my sincere gratitude to all those involved with planning, instructing classes, and assisting with event logistics. This year's event saw record numbers for attendance.

We need your help! Planning the Water Quality Symposium takes the dedication and commitment of an incredible group of people. If you are interested in leading a track, organizing a class, helping with the Farmers Market and Resource Fair, or scheduling entertainment, please contact CDEA Vice President Jessica McLaughlin: jessica.mclaughlin@oneidacountyswcd.org, 315-736-3334 ext. 135

I met with Bethany Bzduch (Executive Director, Soil and Water Conservation Committee) and Brian Steinmuller (Assistant Director, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets) to discuss the resolution that Mark Burger (Executive Director, Onondaga County SWCD) introduced at the Annual Meeting. The resolution stated, "For better partnership and representation of education, outreach, recruitment, retention and collaboration for the enhancement of agriculture and environmental opportunities in NYS, the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. recommends appointing these institutions to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Municipal Assistance Sub-committee: Miner Institute, SUNY Alfred, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Delhi, SUNY Morrisville, and Finger Lakes Community College." You can read Bethany's letter to Districts on Page 2.

The Four-Way Partnership will hold a meeting in May to renew the currently expired Memorandum of Agreement.

Please join us for our next CDEA meeting May 17, 9:00 a.m. Our meeting will have both virtual and in-person options to ensure everyone's participation. Join us in person at 423 Griffing Ave # 110, Riverhead, NY 11901, or join virtually on Zoom. Agenda to follow.

I am excited to serve New York's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and work alongside the 4-Way Partnership to get conservation on the ground. Please contact me with concerns or recommendations.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caitlin Stewart".

CDEA President

Get to know the NYS State Soil and Water Conservation Committee

Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee

The New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) was established through Soil and Water Conservation District Law in 1940. The SWCC is led by five voting members who are appointed by the Governor to serve five-year terms. District law defines that one member of the committee shall represent the state grange, one shall represent state farm bureau federation, one shall represent the New York Association of Conservation Districts, one shall be an at large member who represents the farm interest, and one shall be an at large member who represents the urban, suburban, and rural non-farm interest. The current members of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee are:

- Dale Stein - Committee Chair, Representative-at-Large for Farm Interests
- Darin Hickling – Committee Vice-Chair, represents the New York Farm Bureau
- David Brass - represents the New York State Grange
- Erica Goodman - Representative-at-Large for Urban, Suburban, and Rural Non-farm Interests
- Scott Ryan – represents the New York Association of Conservation Districts

Soil and Water Conservation District Law further states that representatives from nine agencies shall serve as advisory or consulting members of the NYS SWCC. These advisory agencies are:

- NYS Department of Agricultural and Markets
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Department of Health
- NYS Department of State
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University

- SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry
- NYS Conservation District Employee Association

Representatives from each advisory agency participate on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which is a sub-committee of the NYS SWCC. This sub-committee serves as a mechanism to engage advisory members and provides an opportunity to invite other subject matter experts to provide expert knowledge and insight into specific topics or discussions. This collaborative and cooperative approach is important to continue the advancement of common natural resources conservation goals and continue the support of Conservation Districts.

The mission of the SWCC is to advance comprehensive natural resources management through the support of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The SWCC works to establish policies to guide local programs, provide technical and administrative support for local programs, and administer various cost share programs. Ensuring that Districts continue to have ample resources to be local leaders in natural resource management is a top priority.

All Soil and Water Conservation Districts are encouraged to attend NYS SWCC meetings either in-person or through virtual call-in options. Meeting agendas, recordings, and minutes are posted and available on the Department of Agriculture and Markets website: [About the Soil & Water Conservation Committee | Agriculture and Markets \(ny.gov\)](https://www.nysed.gov/About-the-Soil-Water-Conservation-Committee).

In the coming weeks, the NYS SWCC will be sending out a survey to seek input from Districts on the development of the 2024-2029 NYS SWCC Strategic Plan. We hope everyone will be able to take a few minutes to complete the survey and provide valuable feedback.

Steve Lorraine Honored at NACD Annual Meeting

Troy Bishopp, Grazing Specialist, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

During the 2023 NACD National Association of Conservation Districts Annual meeting on February 14th in New Orleans, District Manager, Steve Lorraine, of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District was honored with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Excellence Regional Planner Award from the Northeast region. The award is given to an individual who demonstrates a high standard of conservation planning and implementation for customers as well as sharing his expertise with others. Congratulations Steve.



Catskill Regional Agriculture Conference Reunites Friends

Troy Bishopp, Grazing Specialist, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

DELHI, NY – Nothing beats a live event, especially after a two-year pandemic and being “Zoom-ified” by the virtual world of information sharing. What a difference it makes for farmers and presenters who can make eye contact, share practical ideas and brainstorm solutions on agricultural subjects and enjoy fellowship over a meal again.

The 2023 Catskill Regional Agriculture Conference was once again spearheaded by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County, in partnership with the Watershed Agricultural Council, and held on the SUNY Delhi Campus. Dairy, livestock, grazing management, vegetables and cut flower production continue to be the mainstay of information

requested from area farmers.

The vestibule offered a small trade show featuring services from the Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District, Farm Credit East, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Kencove Farm Fence and the Watershed Ag Council.

Two early bird sessions were showcased: “Creating an efficient pastured broiler enterprise” from CCE Livestock and Beginning Farm Specialist Amy Barkley and “Standing out at farm stands” with a panel of local farmers. A lunchtime presentation on the potential impacts of climate change policies on New York State agricultural producers was also discussed.

The dairy track featured how the milk price is determined, lowering bulk tank somatic cell counts and innovative approaches to terminating winter rye cover crops. The grazing session featured management tools for grazing success, hayfield grazing considerations and planning a fence project.

Livestock topics included leveraging the stocker cattle enterprise for

See Conference, page 5.

Conference (from page 4)

New York farmers, the basics of breeding selections for beef and sheep operations and an interesting look at the status of dung beetles in New York and their role in the ecosystem.

The vegetable track focused on weed identification and management options, soil health properties and expanding a farm's offerings to customers with uncommon fruits. The well-attended flower sessions discussed calculating cut flower profitability, considerations for a U-cut flower operation and wedding opportunities for the farmer florist.



Chastity Miller Praised for her Dedication to NY Conservation

Troy Bishopp, Grazing Specialist, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

Syracuse, NY—Figure Skater, Peggy Fleming once said, “Skating was the vessel into which I could pour my heart and soul.” For “Skater mom” and Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, Chastity Miller, this quote mirrors her ice time with her daughter, Anna and in her professional life, pouring her energy into local conservation efforts and mentoring staff throughout New York State.

At this year’s 2023 New York State Conservation District Employees’ Association (NYS CDEA) Annual Water Quality Symposium training and awards banquet held at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Syracuse New York, Chastity Miller was honored with the prestigious Willard F. Croney Distinguished Service Award for excelling as the outstanding Conservation District Employee in the state.

The Willard F. Croney Award, established in 1983, carries on a legacy to have district employees work togeth-

er through the CDEA to determine current and timely training needs, work with partner agencies and other professionals to provide quality training programs, and share their knowledge and experience with each other. District employees would take this knowledge back to their counties to help strengthen and add to their District programs and services, which Ms. Miller has epitomized throughout her career.

Adjectives from over a 15 nomination letters described her as; “a dedicated friend, a mentor, a person with unrelenting devotion, a leader who gives tirelessly and is always willing to help.”

“It would be easier to list the things she hasn’t done than what she has done,” said 2021 Croney Award recipient, Steve Lorraine, who introduced her in front of 200 guests and to a standing ovation.

“She has served in numerous roles and duties that promote District employees, including SWCD Manager, Technical Advisory Committee, District Operations Committee, Municipal Assistance Subcommittee, Soil and Water Conservation Committee Advisory Member, 4-Way Partnership member, Conservation Skills Workshop Committee, Water Quality Symposium coordinator, volunteer, and instructor, Administrative Conference coordinator, St. Lawrence River Watershed Project President, Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New

See Miller, page 6.

Miller (from page 5)

York President and current bookkeeper, New York State Environmental Committee member and volunteer, Environmental Education Foundation board member, NYACD Legislative Days and Annual Meeting volunteer, Water Quality Coordinating Committee president, CDEA Vice President, CDEA President and CDEA Treasurer, just to name a few.”

“Chastity’s extreme work ethic partnered with her never say no attitude has greatly assisted with her dedication to advancing soil and water conservation, not only in Franklin County but across New York State,” said Franklin County SWCD Chairman, William Wood.

“When you have an opportunity to work with a colleague like Chastity, you quickly realize that you not only have someone you can rely on professionally, but you have made a devoted and dedicated friend,” said Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director of the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

“I am humbled and honored to be recognized for my contribution to Mr. Croney’s ideals. Frankly, I was completely surprised and speechless, which is weird for me, said Miller. I consider my service to my community and the state of New York to be a journey and not just a destination.

I’m inspired every day to be part of an integral profession that works toward environmental resiliency goals for the future. With 54 new SWCD employees, I’m excited to see what else we can accomplish together.”

Franklin County SWCD District Technician, Devin Normandeau, was also touted with a CDEA 2023 Heroic Action Award for his quick response in assisting a fellow employee during a medical emergency and in his volunteer role on Ski Patrol for the Titus Mountain Family Ski Center administering first aid to an injured skier.

This year’s awards banquet also honored other deserving land stewards. The President’s Award was presented to Suffolk



Chastity Miller celebrates her William F Croney Conservation Award with husband Jeff, daughter Anna and mom Judy.

County’s SWCD Agronomist, Ann Marie Calabro for her unending dedication to the organization. The Partnership Appreciation Award was bestowed on PJ Emerick, CNY Associate Environmental Analyst for the NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Market- Division of Land & Water Resources. The District Director Award honored Robert Andrews, District Board Chairman of the St. Lawrence County SWCD for his years

of dedicated service. The Special Project Award went to the Pike Mills Dam project out of Wyoming County SWCD.

The Community Service Award was garnered by Shawn Murphy from Cortland County SWCD. Division Merit Awards were awarded to Al Fagan of Wyoming SWCD, Eric Jensen of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program, Aaron Barrigar of St. Lawrence County SWCD, Angel Hinickle from Tompkins County SWCD, Alice Halloran from Essex County SWCD, Jacob Hart of Fulton County SWCD, Christine DeGroodt from Orange County SWCD and Ann Marie Calabro from Suffolk County SWCD.

To learn more and get connected with your local conservation district or NYS CDEA staff personnel, visit nyscdea.com.



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. Awards Banquet 2023

Special Project Award

Acknowledges a District(s) that created a new service, conducted a special project or otherwise enhanced the District's overall program.



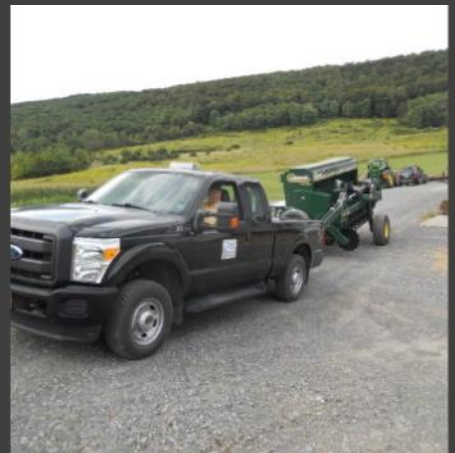
Wyoming County
Pike Mills Dam Removal Project

Division Merit Awards

Recognizes current District employees who have shown outstanding effort in promoting their District and its activities



Allen Fagen
Division I



Eric Jensen
Division II



Aaron Barriger
Division III



Angel Hinickle
Division IV



Alice Halloran
Division V



Jacob Burdette Hart
Division VI



Orange County SWCD Office Manager Christine DeGroodt assisting at a Saturday Trees for Tribes planting on the Mohagen Brook in Middletown, NY

Christine De Groodt Division VII

Ann Marie Calabro

Division VIII



District Director Award

Presented to a current District Director who has shown leadership, supervision and total dedication to the District through support of its image, activities and personnel



Robert Andrews
St. Lawrence County SWCD

Heroic Award

Given to a current District employee who has performed a heroic action, on or off duty, which benefited a person or physical property.



Devin Normandeau

Partner Appreciation Award

Appreciates a non-District person(s) who has promoted and supported soil and water conservation through District programs and activities.



PJ Emerick

Community Service Award

Commends a current District employee who has organized or participated in a community service, while on or off duty.



Shawn Murphy

New Employees January 1 2022 - December 31, 2022				
Division I				
Emily Kuhlkin	Allegany	District Technician	May	2022
Fletcher Daniel	Erie	District Technician	June	2022
William Lutz	Erie	District Technician	June	2022
Ronald Zietz	Niagara	Natural Resource Technician	Jan	2022
Hannah Shervin	Orleans	District Technician	June	2022
Division II				
Robert Krieger	Cayuga	Conservation District Technician	Oct	2022
James Sanders	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	Sept	2022
Danny Kite	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	January	2022
Traci Knieriem	Onondaga	Salary & Benefits Coordinator PT	April	2022
Tracey Waldron	Onondaga	Administrative Assistant	Jan	2022
Alyssa Deer	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	May	2022
Robert Hutteman	Wayne	Professional Engineer	Nov	2022
Division III				
George Birth	Jefferson	Environmental Resource Specialist	March	2022
Jonathan Crast	Jefferson	Environmental Resource Specialist	March	2022
Sarah Trick	Jefferson	Environmental Resource Specialist	March	2022
Andrea Fisher	Oneida	Secretary	Oct	2022
Payton Reese	Oneida	District Technician	Nov	2022
Sarra Learned	Oswego	Environmental Resource Technician	March	2021
Heidi Knafelc	St. Lawrence	Conservation District Technician	August	2022
McKenzie Church	St. Lawrence	Secretary/Treasurer	August	2022
Division IV				
Jacob Welsh	Chenango	District Technician	Jan	2022
Riley Krupitza	Chenango	District Technician	Jan	2022
Donna Wood	Delaware	Administrative Aide	July	2022
Ian Geddicks	Delaware	Technician	May	2022
Silus Weckel	Delaware	Technician	July	2022
Solvi Blue	Delaware	Technician	July	2022
Christos Galanopoulos	Otsego	District Manager	Nov	2022
Charles Susick	Steuben	AEM Specialist	May	2022
Devin Cox	Tompkins	Conservation Technician	Jan	2022
Andrew Stadler	Tompkins	Conservation Technician	July	2022
Division V				
Renee Clark	Essex	Secretary to the Board	Nov	2022
Paige Lamb	Essex	Conservation Technician	Feb	2022
Thomas Firkins	Essex	Conservation Technician	Sept	2022
Devin Normandeau	Franklin	District Technician	April	2022
Mason Stine	Franklin	District Technician	June	2022
Jake Dunkley	Warren	District Technician	Nov	2022
Division VI				
Rebecca Ferry	Montgomery	Ag Educator	Jan	2022
Penni Eggsware	Rensselaer	District Clerk	August	2022
Division VII				
Dylan Cipkowski	Columbia	Natural Resource Specialist	May	2022
Meghan Lane	Dutchess	Office Manager	Oct	2022
Division VIII				
Marina Kobasiuk	Suffolk	Soil District Technician	April	2022

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2023

Division I					
Kelly Friel	Cattaraugus	Secretary / Asst. Treasurer	Oct	2013	10
Dave Spann	Chautauqua	District Field Manager	Sept	1998	25
Mark Gaston	Erie	Field Manager	Oct	1998	25
Dave Reckahn	Niagara	Natural Resource Technician	Oct	1993	30
Division II					
Aaron Buchta	Onondaga	Program Manager	Jan	2013	10
Eva Brown	Onondaga	Accountant Clerk	Aug	2013	10
Maxine Appleby	Wayne	Conservation Public Relations Specialist	Oct	2013	10
Jamie Noga	Ontario	Administrative Assistant	Apr	2008	15
Chris Hotto	Wayne	District Technician: Soil Resource Specialist	May	2008	15
Scott DeRue	Wayne	District Technician: Water Resource Specialist	Oct	2008	15
Mark Burger	Onondaga	Executive Director SWCD/Program Manager SLWAP	Jan	2003	20
Colby Petersen	Yates	District Manager	Jan	2003	20
Brian Hall	Cayuga	Nutrient Management Specialist	June	1998	25
Robert Stryker	Livingston	District Manager	Jan	1998	25
Allyn Noga	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	Feb	1993	30
Valerie Horning	Cayuga	Conservation District Technician	March	1993	30
Rick Ayers	Yates	Senior District Technician	Oct	1988	35
Division III					
Jessica Pyrda	Oneida	Forestry Specialist	Nov	2013	10
David Livermore	Madison	Nutrient Management Planner	Feb	1998	25
Division IV					
David Adams	Delaware	Technician	Sept	2013	10
Jay Czerniak	Delaware	Technician	Aug	2017	10
Nora Mosher	Delaware	Technician	Oct	2018	10
Justin Puglisi	Broome	District Manager	Aug	2008	15
Shawn Murphy	Cortland	Natural Resource Conservationist	Oct.	2008	15
Tom Mallory	Tompkins	Water Resource Engineer	Oct	2003	20
Jessica Verrigni	Schuyler	Stormwater Technician	Aug	1998	25
Jeff Parker	Steuben	District Manager	June	1988	35
Lee Rizzon	Steuben	Equipment Operator (p/t)	June	1988	35
Brian Danforth	Delaware	Civil Engineering Technician	July	1983	40
Division V					
Chastity Miller	Franklin	District Manager	Dec	2008	15
Caitlin Stewart	Hamilton	District Manager	Jan	2008	15
Jim Lieberum	Warren	District Manager	July	1998	25
Division VI					
Tonnie Sauca Jr.	Albany	District Technician	June	2013	10
Peter Nichols	Schoharie	District Manager	May	2008	15
Corrina Aldrich	Washington	District Manager	Jan	2008	15
Darryl Romano	Schenectady	Gate Keeper	July	1998	25
Robert Kalbfliesh	Washington	District Technician	July	1998	25
Division VII					
Lauren Drum	Dutchess	District Technician	June	2013	10
Chris Langworthy	Greene	District Technician	Feb	2013	10
Allison Lent	Ulster	Stream Assessment Coordinator	January	2013	10
Abbe Martin	Greene	Conservation Planner	Oct	2003	20
Joel DuBois	Greene	Executive Director	Aug	1998	25
Lisa Schick	Sullivan	Program Assistant	Jan	1998	25
Division VIII					
Shino Tanikawa	NY City	Executive Director	Aug	1998	25

River Model is a hit during World Water Day

Alice Halloran, District Manager, Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District

Essex County SWCD brought the EM River model to the Champlain Center Mall for World Water Day, an event organized by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Over 200 people engaged with the model and learned about how streams work and how human activities can impact waterbodies.



Ag. Literacy Week in Syracuse City Schools

C. Travis and M. Burger, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District

The goal of New York Ag in the Classroom reading is to foster engagement, understanding and to cultivate an interest in our young people for agriculture and science. The book selected for this year's Ag. Literacy program was *Tomatoes for Neela*, written by Padma Lakshmi and illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal.

Ag. Program team members volunteered to participate by reading to second graders at two elementary schools in the City of Syracuse. SLWAP team member Chris Travis read the book on Tuesday March 21st at Dr. King Elementary School and Wednesday March 22nd at McKinley-Brighton Elementary School. SLWAP team member Eric Jensen read the same book on Friday March 24th at Dr. King Elementary School. The neat connection about the book and Ag Literacy Week is that the students at these schools actually grow tomatoes and other

On Monday, March 20, 2023,
Skaneateles Lake Watershed

See Literacy, page 19.

Literacy (from page 18)

vegetables for consumption at home! And, school team members are looking into the NY Ag in the Classroom Agricultural Literacy Grants to continue this great work into the future!

It is not often we conservation professionals have the opportunity to foster interest in science and agriculture to our youth, the future employees becoming empowered to carry on our work. We were rewarded with hugs-a-plenty and more than one request to return. And we, here at Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District hope to propel and inspire the youth of

Syracuse to take that first step toward a future in agriculture.

Special thanks to Vice-Principal of Dr. King Elementary Priscilla Newby, Librarian Rebecca Manion, and STEM coach Steve Vincent for the warm reception at Dr. King. Similarly, we would like to extend our gratitude to Vice-Principal Karen Dotson and Principal Eric Patterson at Brighton-McKinley Elementary School for greeting us and helping work out the details upon our arrival. We at OCSWCD recognize the teachers and administrators at these two elementary schools are doing the hard work of molding these youngsters into our future leaders.

Thank you to 4-H Outreach Coordinator Robin Bartholomew of Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County for supporting OCSWCD request to participate in this great opportunity and coordinating the Ag Literacy Outreach at these two City Schools. We are already looking forward to next year!



SLWAP team member Chris Travis reads to 2nd-graders at Dr. King Elementary School.



SLWAP team member Eric Jensen reads to 2nd-graders at Dr. King Elementary School

September 17 - 20, 2023





Photo Album



Tom Eskildsen Cole Hartman and Katie Lafler showcase their services at the Finger Lakes Graziers meeting.



Steve Lorraine receives the 2023 National NACD Hugh Hamond Bennett Conservation Regional Planner award.



The Grass Whisperer showcasing the grazing charts



Caitlin Stewart delivers opening remarks at the 2023 Water Quality Symposium.



Photo Album



The Tioga SWCD Ag Team completed a survey for a VTA project on a dairy farm as the weather warmed up in March. The District is working with the farm to repair an existing silage leachate collection system.



The Tioga SWCD Stream Team took advantage of the warmer weather at the end of March to survey for an AGNPS R28 stream project. They were joined by a technician from our neighbors at Tompkins County SWCD as part of a Stream Design Training we are hosting in which aims to build technical capacity throughout the Upper Susquehanna Coalition watershed. Pictured: Connor Hubbard, Tioga SWCD; Angel Hinickle, Tompkins SWCD.



This is a photo from a Privet Hedge near my home. Some how a 1/3 of a flour tortilla was wedged into the birds nest. Birds are resourceful in repurposing waste. Seems like nature has their act together and now if people could do the same we would have a cleaner earth. The latest trend is to recycle food waste because we have no where to put it. The landfills are overflowing and how much more can we dump in the ocean and bury in the ground. Susan Odell, Suffolk County SWCD.



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

2023 New York State Fair Booth Volunteer Request

August 23, 2023 – September 4, 2023

Date: March 30, 2023

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. For the second year in a row, 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 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 2022, so if you already have one, select N/A for the size when signing up for a shift. 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.



Information about The Great New York State Fair can be viewed from their website at www.nysfair.org

A free concert schedule (yes FREE!) during the Fair can be found here: <https://nysfair.ny.gov/venue/chevy-court/> and <https://nysfair.ny.gov/venue/chevy-park/>

Please contact Kristin White with any questions, 585-753-7663 or KristinWhite@monroecounty.gov.



(2022)

State Fair Committee

Erica Schreiner, Oswego County SWCD

Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD

Kristin White, Monroe County SWCD

Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD

Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD

Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD

Tools and References Updates

Tim Clark, PE, State Engineer, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee

The Tools and References Wiki has just been updated for 2023. This is a useful resource for new employees to learn about resources used in New York State conservation planning and design and related fields. Special thanks to Dan Ufnar, the new NRCS State Soil Scientist and Tyler Knapp, the SWCC Data Management/GIS specialist, for editing and reviewing sections this year!

<https://www.nyscdea.com/useful-resources/>

Getting Cropland Buffers

Lydia Brinkley, USC Buffer Coordinator

As you all know, we've been struggling to get cropland forest buffers in the watershed. Our current programs don't offer landowner incentives worthy of removing cropland from production. But recently, we've found a few landowners to work with that are interested in backing off of the stream bank for habitat



and water quality reasons. These landowners aren't individuals, but rather organizations that own the land. Working with these landowners has led to some large projects, and in some instances to pollinator habitat while the forest is being established. Since spring 2022, we've planted 44.7 acres of riparian cropland through 3 projects, all with permanent protections due to ownership and easements. Two example projects of establishing pollinator habitat while the forest is being established includes riparian buffers at Robert Riddell

State Park and Newark Valley Historical Society property.

Riddell State Park is located along Schenevus Creek in Otsego County. This creek suffers from a lack of riparian canopy along large stretches, but also has been known to be a productive trout stream. Upon starting this project, Department of Parks and Recreation has been deeply engaged and carried out a pollinator planting this spring as the crops were taken out of production on site in preparation for tree and shrub planting. While the riparian planting plan was being worked out for fall 2022 planting, pollinators such as purplestem and New England asters and wrinkleleaf goldenrod were growing. The mix spread contained 7 species total and was applied at 20 pounds per acre. In total, 11 acres was taken out of production for 100' buffers along Schenevus Creek.



See Buffers page 26.

Buffers (from page 25)



Cropland owned by the Town of Newark Valley along Owego Creek provided another great riparian and wetland restoration opportunity. Once retired from crops, Tioga SWCD and USC staff planted a wildflower mix of 18 species from American Meadows. This fall, 16 of the 18 species were observed. Check out the seed mix used here: <https://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-seeds/wildflower-mix/native-northeast-wildflower-seed-mix>.

Soil cover was needed in these projects and providing that through developing pollinator habitat was a win-win. Ownership of the properties was a crucial component in getting the cropland riparian forest buffers. Other large sites with cropland buffers are owned by The Wetland Trust, Inc, or have easements through the Otsego Land Trust.

The Grass Whisperer goes Viral

Nutrient management rolls out in the Grass Whisperer's first (and last) viral Instagram video <https://thegrasswhisperer.com/gone-viral/>



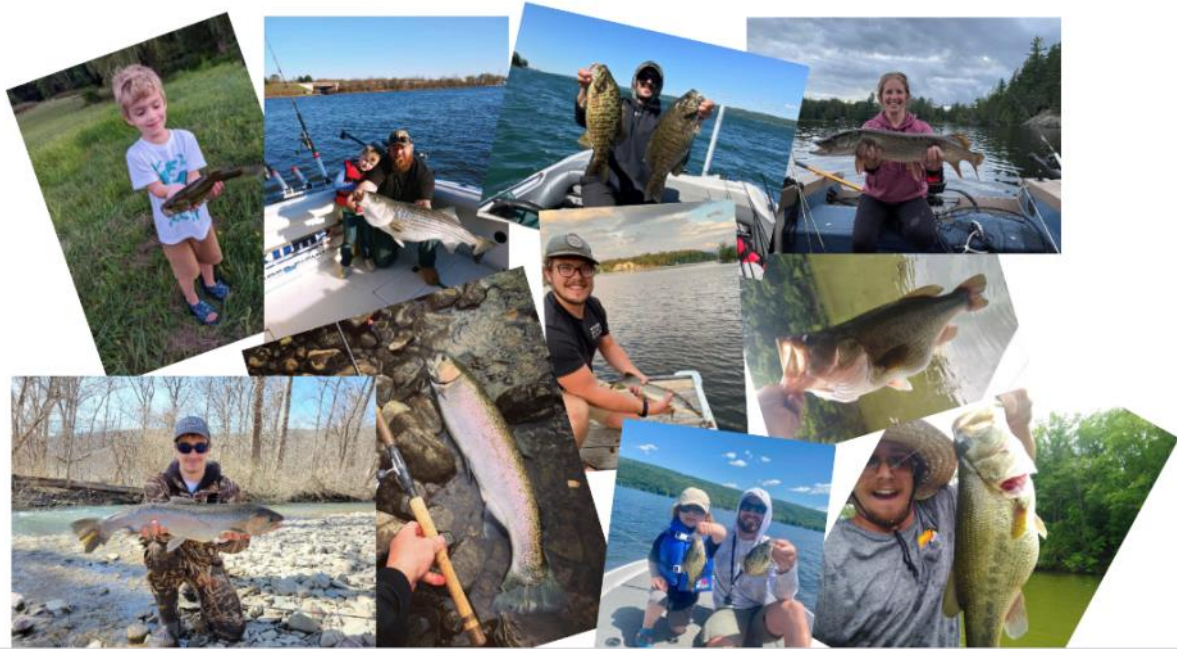
CDEA News needs YOUR news!

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Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

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Join the CDEA Fish On Challenge!



The NYSCDEA is sponsoring a fishing challenge to all the Soil & Water Conservation District 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. CASH Preferred!

Register [HERE](#) for the Fish On Challenge by May 31, 2023

***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, 2023 – February 28, 2024*

Examples for pictures:



Winners of all categories will be announced at the 2024 WQS Banquet.

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

CASH Preferred!

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



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

CDEA January 2023 Report Respectfully

Submitted by Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Ex. Dir.

Legislative Days Follow-Up: Since Legislative Days I have met with additional Legislators carrying our message regarding Stream C and concerns about District Law challenges. Farm Bureau carried our message as well. Our efforts have gathered legislative support to protect soil and water conservation districts. NYACD continues to spread our message.

Fly-In, Washington, DC: Sam Casella, NYACD President attended the NACD Fly-In, Washington, DC on March 22nd and met with members of the US Senate & Congress. Sam shared with the Legislators the soil and water conservation district projects and programs that you all do through-out the year.

2023 NYACD Annual Meeting: I'm also working on scheduling training sessions for the annual meeting to be held October 24-26, 2023. Scott Ryan, NYACD 2nd VP, is helping to determine the location and we will be reporting back to the NYACD Board at our April meeting. At that time the Board will be making the final decision on the location. Keep the dates on your calendar and plan on attending. Once the location has been determined, I will lock in instructors for the training sessions. If you have any special requests for a training session, please contact me directly.

Stream C Follow-Up: We have been working with folks from the NYS Majority Committee on the Stream C bill. They are working on a potential amendment to the bill, but at this time no amendments have been made. Stream C bill reintroduced by the Senate on 2/17/23 under bill #S4601 & Assembly #A4601 has presently no changes and both in committee in both houses.

Other Meetings: I met by Zoom with the St. Lawrence SWCD Board to share with them what I do for NYACD through-out the year. It was interesting to learn what St. Lawrence SWCD staff does through-out the year that is a bit different than other districts. If you'd like me to meet with your board, please feel free to reach out to me and I'd be happy to attend your board meetings in person or by zoom.

There is a 4-Way Partner meeting scheduled for Friday, April 14th in Albany at Ag & Mkts.



2023 NYS Envirothon & 2024 NCF Envirothon New York March Report

Respectfully Submitted by Blanche L. Hurlbutt

The 2023 NYS Envirothon event will be held on Wednesday, May 24th and Thursday, May 25th at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. The committee met on March 21, 2023, and everyone is busy completing their duties for this event. Our next meeting will be May 3rd at HWS. We have a workday scheduled for April 6th at the Steuben SWCD to prepare the Envirothon trailer for the event. Volunteer registration is up on the NYS Envirothon website, so please feel free to register as a volunteer. The NYS Envirothon website is www.nyenvirothon.org.

The 2024 NCF-Envirothon New York committee is working hard to prepare for this great event. We have met the NCF Envirothon timeline for the current issue topic. The current issue topic has been approved and NCF Envirothon will announce the topic in May. This summer there will be committee members attending the 2023 NCF Envirothon New Brunswick, Canada to shadow their counterparts. We want to be sure that we stay on track and learn from these folks, so we are fully prepared when we host the event next year.

At present we've had only sixteen (16) districts donate to this event, we are hopeful every district will do their part and provide the funding requested. Our present budget is far from where it needs to be at this time. We only have a little over \$56,000 of the \$450,000 + needed to host this event. This is why funding support for this major event is so very important. If your district has not provided funding for this event, I ask that you discuss it with the full board and support it. Let's show what NY has to offer and make New York proud.

The Envirothon committee is moving forward on securing busing, fun-day events, guest speakers, determining which rooms on campus we will be using, selection on & off site activities, secured training & testing sites, among a whole bunch more. We need office supplies, snacks, goodie bags, goodie bag items, posters, signs, t-shirts, and so much more.

Please consider supporting this major national event, if you haven't already, and volunteer to help out during the week. Come see what a great program Envirothon is for teaching our youth the importance of caring about their environment.



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