

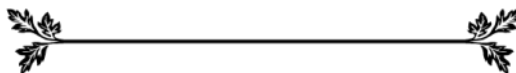
CDEA News



JUNE 2023

Cover Photo

Ontario and Yates County SWCDs partnered together on this project through AgNPS Round 27. This picture is of the Ontario County DPW hydro-seeder being used on a critical area seeding over a concentrated flow path in the Canandaigua Lake watershed. Photo by Katie Lafler, Water Resource Technician, Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District.



The CDEA Corner

Caitlin Stewart, President, NYS CDEA, Inc.

Summer greetings!

Former CDEA Division VIII Representative and Suffolk County SWCD Agronomist Ann Marie Calabro has taken a new position with the Soil Health Institute as their Educator and Project Manager. Ann Marie served CDEA for many years with professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication. She traveled thousands of miles to attend meetings in person, served on the Environmental Education Foundation, and organized the Annual Awards Ceremony. Please join me in wishing Ann Marie the very best as she begins a much deserved new chapter in her robust career. She will be dearly missed among our Soil and Water family!

The Four-Way Partnership met in May, and I am incorporating comments and updates that we discussed to finalize the currently expired Memorandum of Agreement. I will email the final copy to all SWCDs and partners.

Shawn Murphy has done a stellar job organizing the **2023 Leadership Institute** that will be held July 18 - 21 at the Ranger School in Wanakena. All members of the 4-Way Partnership will attend from the New York Association of Conservation Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and CDEA. There are 23 attendees in total!

Don't miss the fun at the 22nd annual **CDEA Golf Tournament** August 10, and register up for the CDEA **Fish On Challenge**. Flip through the Newsletter for all the details and sign up!

Speaking of signing up, please volunteer at **Empire Farm Days** and the **Great New York State Fair**. Let's get the word out about Districts and the incredible work we do for conservation! Thank you Kristin White and committee members for organizing these valuable events!

Tom Eskildsen and the Conservation Skills Workshop Committee are preparing an incredible event slated for September 18 - 21 at the Auburn Holiday Inn.

The SWCC held fantastic Managers' Meetings across the state, and we are now discussing challenges and ideas brought forward. Partnerships make it happen, and we look forward to working on items including a shared support system and a borrowing / lending database for educational materials.

Please join us for our next CDEA meeting July 25 and 26, held at a location to be determined in the 1000 Islands. Our meeting will have both virtual and in-person options to ensure everyone's participation. This meeting fulfills performance measures that make your District eligible for State Aid. Agenda to follow.

What questions or challenges do you have? Please contact me or your Division Representative to discuss. We are here to help. I wish you the very best for a productive and safe summer field season!

With gratitude,

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

CDEA President

Passing of Dave Derrick

David Leslie Derrick passed away on June 17, 2023, at the age of 66. Dave worked with many across the state with trainings and stream restoration projects.

Dave was born on September 25, 1956, the son of Leslie Gerald Derrick and Louise Conklin Derrick. His childhood love of the outdoors and rivers and streams manifested into a career in potamology. He spent his entire adulthood traveling the country walking outdoors along streambanks and rivers. He retired after 35 years with Engineering Research and Development Center at Waterways Experiment Station. Since 1996 he has been co-owner and Vice President of River Research and Design (R2d) where he continued his passion of designing stream erosion, control, and restoration solutions and immersing himself in the outdoors he loved so much.



Dave had a spirit for adventure and a tenacity for living life to the fullest. He was known for his Fu Manchu and handkerchiefs, of which he had one in every color and for every occasion. Dave had a passion for antique cars and he was one of the founding members of the Vicksburg Cruisers Car Club. Some of his children's earliest memories are traveling to car shows with him. Dave began collecting antique signs as a young adult and that passion exploded into a collection rivaled by most collectors and museums. Anyone that has been to his house knows how well he has filled every available

inch with signs. When there was a space to be found, Dave was known to measure it and take a picture so that he could find the exact right size sign on his next antiquing adventure. This hobby led Dave to be one of the most well-known pickers and collectors in the sign community. He drove all over the country for his work, and he made life-long friends at every antique store and vintage show along the way. He invited these friends to "pick" in his home and he went "picking" at their homes as well. He was the original American picker.

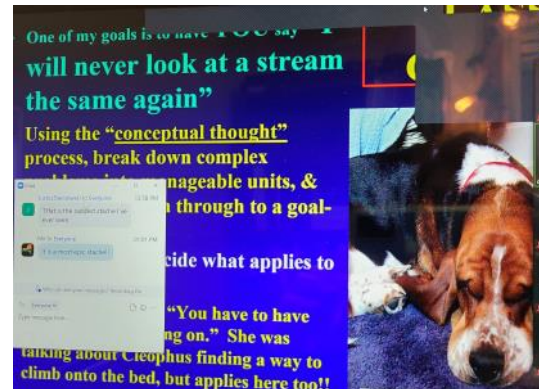
Dave was always the loudest person in the room with the biggest smile. He loved his work and his hobbies, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and especially his grandchildren (Peyton and Jackson Rainer, Kaylyn and Michael May, Ryan and John Reed Derrick and Cooper Jackson). If he wasn't spending time with his grandchildren or buying signs for his grandchildren, then he was talking someone's ear off about his grandchildren. They were the joy of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda Derrick; daughters, Dana May (Daniel) and Amy Rainer (Drew); and sons, Ian Derrick (Allie), Jason Jackson, Brent Jackson, Howie Starnes and David Derrick Jr.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Partners for Clean Streams or for you to plant a tree directly or via the charity of your choice. Dave loved nature and preserving the beautiful outdoors is the best way to memorialize him.

To plant Memorial Trees in memory of **David Leslie Derrick**, please [click here to visit our Sympathy Store](https://www.fisherrilesfuneralhome.com/obituary/david-leslie-derrick).
<https://www.fisherrilesfuneralhome.com/obituary/david-leslie-derrick>



Farewell, Ann Marie!

Susan L Odell Pepe, Administrator I , Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District



Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District says goodbye to Ann Marie Calabro. Ann Marie was a dedicated Soil and Water Conservation District Agronomist and USDA NRCS Conservation Planner with 10 year, 7 months and 3 days of service. She was devoted to the Suffolk County community giving 125% of her time to conservation practices to protect the environment and will be missed.

Farmland Protection in New York State

Kelly Emerick, Executive Director, Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District

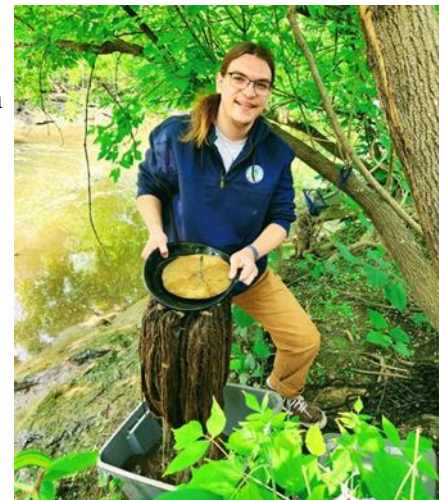
Board member Maureen Leupold and Executive Director Kelly Emerick from Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District attended a press conference with Commissioner Ball at Mulligan Farm on Thursday, April 20th to announce NYS reaching a major milestone in the Farmland Protection program in terms of the number of acres preserved. For full details, visit <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-over-100000-acres-farmland-has-been-protected-across-new-york-state>



Rensselaer County SWCD Welcomes Intern

Megan P. Myers, District Manager Director, Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District's 2023 Intern is Cass Klingaman! Cass is from Rensselaer County and a student at SUNY Binghamton working on his bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a focus on Ecosystems. This summer, his tasks will involve a variety of field work including but not limited to USDA NRCS wetland reserve monitoring, pond and road-stream crossing assessments, surveying, soil sampling, and assisting in hydroseeding along county highways for water quality. In addition, he will be helping with the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) under our Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program on multiple farm and stream projects this summer. He also just helped the District wrap up the Eel Project, surveying native American Eels (A High Priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need) in two tributaries leading to the Hudson River. Welcome aboard Cass!



Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

Jonathan Crast, Forester/Environmental Resource Specialist Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

A. Just about a year and a half

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

A. My father



Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Hunting, Fishing, anything outdoors

Q. What's on your bucket list?

A. Travel to Norway or Sweden

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

A. Hawaiian pizza is super gross.

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

A. Start your career off at a good pace, and maintain it, as soon as you slow down it's hard to get back into a rhythm.

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

A. I go out into the woods and help keep the trees healthy and grow big and strong.

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

A. Using new silvicultural practices on the 5500 acres of county forest.

Q. Coffee or tea?

A. COFFEE

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

A. Its always a great time working the tree sale, lots of laughs and jokes in between bagging trees.



Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

Christos Galanopoulos, District Manager

Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

A. As of June it will be 7 months that I've been in my current position. Still I have done and learned quite a lot in my brief time here.

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

A. I always had a propensity for extension and outreach work since my undergraduate days and have either worked or co-authored extension papers and presentations during my years in academia. Some of those skills have translated quite well in my current position. Still, I will also say that luck has also brought me to my current position too.

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Many. Since my early 20s I've had a propensity for outdoor activities such as hiking, trekking and even camping. I also do scuba diving when able, which helps me volunteer time for the mussel surveys done in Otsego lake. For indoor or less active things I also do nature photography and paintings (though I'm not too good at it).

Q. What's on your bucket list?

A. Getting my pilot license, learning how to sail and travelling across the globe.

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

A.

No way! This is New York. Pizza with pineapple is tantamount to treason in these parts.

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

A. It starts off really hard, then it gets a lot easier as you learn the ropes. Then it gets hard again because the training wheels come off and also because there's always some procedure that you don't know about.

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

A. I help farmers and towns/villages by making their work easier in the greater picture.

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

A. A large Ag Nonpoint project

Q. Coffee or tea?

A. Coffee. Although tea can be suitable in the evening.

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

A. I'm too new to have such a story, though I'm sure that when it comes everyone will hear of it.



Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District Holds Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®

Carla Yaw, Safety Day Coordinator, Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District



On Wednesday, May 24th the Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District held its Annual Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® at the Lewis County Fairgrounds. The Safety Day teaches children lessons that help keep them, as well as their families, safe and healthy.

At the event, participants were divided into groups and took turns visiting 15 safety learning stations. This year, 257 fifth grade students along with 24 teachers and chaperones from Lewis County schools attended this event. 36 local volunteers were also on site dedicating their time to teach lessons or provide other program support.

The 2023 station lesson topics were: Small Tools (Black Moose Automotive), 911 Emergency Phone Procedures (Lewis County Dispatch), Gun Safety (NYS DEC), Vaping/Tobacco Use Prevention (Mountainview Prevention Services), Fire Safety (Lowville Fire Dept.), Tractor Safety (Cazenovia Equipment of Lowville NY), Tick and Lyme Disease Prevention (Lewis

County Public Health), Animal Safety (Lewis County Cornell Cooperative Extension), Grain Bin Safety (Gold Star Feed and Grain), Disability Awareness (Aaron Mayer), ATV Safety (Lewis County Recreation, Forestry & Parks), Underground Utilities (UDig NY), Look Alike Poisons (Lewis County Public Health), Electrical Safety (National Grid), and Meth Dump Awareness (Lewis County Emergency Management). The stations included hands on and/or visual demonstrations that helped to reinforce the various safety lessons instructed.

Each student that attended received a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® t-shirt and a take home bag containing first aid kits, reusable hot/cold packs, safety sunglasses, ear plugs, safety brochures, key chains, pens, pencils, stickers, neck gaiters, ATV trail maps, and much more.

Local Safety Day sponsors include those who instructed safety lessons as well as the Lowville Elks Lodge and Stewart's Shops.



We are always looking for local businesses to become involved in this event. To see how you or your business can help, volunteer, or to contribute, contact the District's Treasurer and Progressive Agriculture Safety Day® Coordinator, Carla Yaw, at (315) 376-6122.

The Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to express our sincere gratitude to the local businesses, organizations, and volunteers for their time and contributions that made this event possible and to the Lewis County Fair Board for the use of their facilities!

Learning Pasture Management Advances Practical Knowledge

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

Deansboro, NY – On May 18th, 38 local New York State Conservation Agency professionals herded up at Bishopp Family Farm for a unique in-field training and “mooo-ving” experience about practical pasture management initiated by seasoned farmer and Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District’s resident “Grass Whisperer” Troy Bishopp.

The sold-out training opportunity funded by the NYS CDEA, engaged new and seasoned Conservation District employees using the Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) grazing planning matrix, NYSSWCC field staff, USDA -NRCS/FSA conservation staff, private planners, CCE educators and ag professionals who were interested in understanding the context, tools, and application of practical grazing on the ground and helping farmers be successful practitioners within the grazing model.

Troy and his wife, Corrine welcomed the group on a picturesque day with a snapshot of farm family history since 1890, goals and what a custom grass-finishing beef business entails. And of course, a look at the all-important grazing chart and strategic grazing plan, which Bishopp said, “Is imperative to build resilience, optimize animal performance, remain profitable, reduce stress and gain camping days with the family.

The Grass Whisperer introduced a grazing residual trial in which he used a mower to simulate grazing heights from 1 to 8 inches. Professionals learned that the shorter the residual,

the slower the daily plant growth and accumulating dry matter forage inventory for future grazing. On the way to the cattle paddocks, he highlighted fencer technology, tree planting and how paddocks were laid out with watering points.

Kristen Workman, Pro-Dairy Nutrient Management/ Environmental Sustainability Specialist stimulated minds as she dug around bale grazing spots and addressed soil health indicators as well as the importance of sod cover, soil temperature and achieving improved water infiltration for the ongoing dry period. She also talked about pasture forage, forbs and weeds and what they indicate for a pasture resource.

Bishopp’s favorite pasture routine is getting the group to act like cows and mimic various stock densities within different paddock designs (square vs rectangular) and see how the herd can affect grazing, manuring and trampling impact on the land. Plus, it’s just fun to learn techniques that can be used at pasture walks for educational purposes.

Using grazing planning calculation tools and the Bishopp’s beef cattle example as a guide, agency professionals did a ground-truthing forage inventory exercise using a pasture stick and learned the grazing concept— “that ballpark is good enough”. They saw, first-hand what the dry matter/ forage availability numbers look like on the ground and how to interpret sizing a paddock for a customer.

The group also learned beef grazing behavior results of various fence movement strategies (daily to multiple moves per day) and which grazing practices achieved what outcome. There was also a discussion about targeting grazing management to optimize grassland bird habitat and wildlife management within the farm’s context.

Lunch featured a relaxed setting on the lawn, highlighting the farm’s beef with all the fixings prepared by Chef Corrine and enough local Roc-Star ice-cream to satisfy any conservationist’s palate.

After lunch, John Suscovich, Media guy, Farm Marketing Solutions Entrepreneur, Connecticut’s pastured poultry guru and small farm planner described what small farms need for grazing planning and frankly, “A fresh set of independent, technical advisors from the conservation profession to help customers

Pasture (from page 8)

make land management decisions”. He explained how conservation/agency organizations could market better to the small farm demographic. And of course, he dove-tailed what quality pasture looks like and needs to be, “to optimize happiness for broiler and layer chickens”.

The well-fed group then met at one of the farm’s main streams to advance discussion on the dynamics of planning a stream crossing and what design criteria should be considered given the watershed above, “which isn’t always correct from “stream-stats” and should be vetted by a field visit”. Led by Madison County’s SWCD Technician, Andrew Haslauer and Oneida County’s SWCD Resource Conservation Specialist, Tim Wimmer, with experience in the field, they also taped what various buffer widths (35’, 50’ & 100’) looked like that featured a lively exchange on what professionals could “sell” to

landowners.

The group also accessed erosion points, grazing management context, how weather events effect the stream morphology, techniques and structural practices that could enhance flood mitigation and what conservation programs could be implemented on the site to help the farm maintain their water quality goals.

The group continued up the farm laneway to see the integration of planted shelter-belts (larch, honey & black locust, white pine and sycamore) adjacent to the pasture system and ending with a looksee about the attributes of an ongoing Conservation Stewardship Program which has furthered more tree planting within a riparian area and helps the farm manage for wildlife and forage goals.

A trip to the Bishopp Family Farm wouldn’t be complete without a photo op of friends paying homage to the iconic “Thinking Tree” that overlooks the pastures, streams, the farmstead, and the next generation’s opportunities to steward the land.

The grazing training was supported by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, Pro-Dairy, Madison and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Bishopp Family Farm.

Fertilizing Grass with a Mechanical Cow

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

Nowadays many farmers are rolling down growing cover crops and plowing under sod as green manures for a corn crop. The traditional rotation practice adds nutrients and organic matter benefits to the next crop. So, it wouldn’t be a stretch to figure mowing or trampling down a pasture crop could help fertilize itself also.

This makes some sense since my animal numbers didn’t match the explosive growth of May.

See Cow, page 10.



Cow (from page 9)



What to do with all the “seedheads” and excess pasture has been a hot topic on many social media platforms and group chats. The typical banter is to cut it for hay, put on more animals to eat it down (not so easy), do some form of adaptive mob-grazing and/or clip pastures before or after the ruminant’s graze period. Recipes and off-handed comments, (just do this or that), abound with little context for individual farm goals, tools, experience and the price of high input costs. Considering what your best options are, should be holistically vetted given our current parameters.

For many farmers without the scale, resources or desire to make winter feed from their pastures in this environment of high costs, the thought process can be daunting as the plants mature and feed quality dwindles. Maybe all this grass has a silver lining. We should consider this a good problem to have, given our

western counterparts have little moisture or pasture and have sold their animals.

An enterprising alternative, back in 1955, was used by Farmer/ Author, Newman Turner who wrote about his experiences in “Making a Ley with a Mower” as a chapter in his book, Fertility Pastures and Cover Crops. Turner wrote, “In my experience the only essential is organic matter. The use of adequate organic manure (crop residue) and animal wastes will, on all soils, ensure the release of all other requirements of the “ley”— pasture. Organic nitrogen, phosphates, potash, even calcium in small but usually adequate quantities are supplied in the process of decomposition of organic matter.”

He continued, “The orthodox reason for topping (mowing) after grazing is to stop the seeding stems and encourage fresh, leafy growth. But I soon discovered the benefits resulting from the mowing after grazing , consisted of deep rooting herbs and a diversity of plant herbage supplying a rich supply of subsoil minerals, trace elements, plant hormones, mycelia, fungi and who knows what, contributing free fertilizer back on itself. I found in this way that I could maintain, entirely by utilizing free natural processes, the high production of the pasture.”

His premise and study didn’t really sit well with fertilizer salesman and his own “Ministry of Agriculture experts”. The frugal farmer was more concerned about thriving from his homegrown, productive, diverse pastures than making friends from industry. A sentiment that could be realized in today’s farming environment perhaps.

There is a bevy of information of how many nutrients are extracted from forage harvesting per ton. Many university bulletins give a range of 40 to 60 dollars’ worth of NPK in a ton of hay harvested as an example. What if we looked at this as fertilizer instead of cow feed only?

This is what I think about as I ride my mechanical Deutz cow with Woods mower in tow, emulating Mr. Turner’s teachings and pruning my barely grazed pastures. This ain’t no vanity mowing. This is fertilizing pastures.

I reached out to several agronomy professionals for a hypothetical look on what I may be achieving. According to my pasture sward measurements, I am mowing down 1 to 1.5 dry matter tons/acre (20 inches x 150lbs./in/ac) after the 50 beef finishers took their grass cream off the paddock.

See Cow, page 11.

Cow (from page 10)

Some said the greener the material the more nitrogen potential (<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/pnw636.pdf>). All said it takes time for the material to break down and provide its slow-release fertilizer so the benefits aren't immediate like other sources of fertility. There were many intangibles from mowing such as weed suppression, covering the soil, encouraging new growth, feeding the biology community, providing a natural seedbank and creating organic matter on the soil plus roots sloughing off the plants under the soil.

The fertilizer value of bushhogged pasture was said to “depend” on what stage of pasture maturity was getting mowed. Apparently, the older the plants the less nutrients applied. After much discussion a 10-10-45 fertilizer ratio on a dry matter basis was agreed upon. Given that today's prices are over a dollar a pound for nitrogen and phosphorus, and .60/lb. for potassium, a hypothetical value of this mowed fertilizer is somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 dollars per acre. Not bad if you have excess grass to



invest in your soil and don't have enough cows to eat or trample it down.

Of course, mechanical cows don't run for free or horse drawn iron, for that matter. For me, I bill the mowing operation out at \$90/hr. these days to account for the increased fuel, maintenance and labor costs. I'm keeping track on my grazing chart how long it takes me to mow a field off behind the cows. Typically, I can mow 4 acres of heavy pasture down to 6 inches in 1.5 hours with my 7 foot bushhog, and sharp blades. The math plays out in my head, 4 acres x \$50/ac = \$200. \$90/ac x 1.5hrs. = \$135 for a positive return of \$16/acre for doing the practice that Mr. Turner discussed. Is it enough benefit to use Mr. Turner's idea? You'll have to judge based on your own considerations.

This idea has some merit to consider especially as outside inputs become more expensive or even scarce. It's just one tool in a vast tool box of possibilities for this short-term excess pasture issue some folks are experiencing. However, the ultimate pasture scenario is to have every blade harvested by an appreciating grazing animal to be truly sustainable. Don't be yourself up if you have a few too many seedheads. Finding the triple bottom line balance is always a moving target. Invest in knowledge, you won't be sorry.



Students help save a stream

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

Students helped save a trout stream with the historic conservation practice of planting trees. Warner Brook, Town of Arietta, has been negatively impacted by bank erosion for years, and the Halloween Storm of 2019 worsened the stream's condition. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District teamed up with

partners and students to get conservation on the ground and stabilize Warner Brook.

Warner Brook has been plagued by erosion for decades. During the Halloween Storm, fast moving flood waters, rocks, and boulders scoured and undercut the banks.

Where Warner Brook enters Piseco Lake, water velocity decreased, and sediment settled out to create a delta. Instead of exhibiting natural steps and pools that are

characteristic of steep mountain streams, the down-stream section of Warner Brook was straight and steep with no meanders, steps, and pools. These altered, post-flood conditions resulted in an unstable, highly erosive stream.

Warner Brook is classified as a trout stream, but fish were unable to pass through the culvert and safely migrate upstream to spawn. The downstream

end of the culvert was perched high above the stream, creating a waterfall that inhibited aquatic passage.

In September 2022, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District team placed large boulders below the culvert to shorten the distance of the waterfall and create steps and pools. The step-pool system promotes aquatic passage and dissipates stream energy, decreasing erosion. Filter fabric was installed to prevent sub-surface flow, enhancing fish passage, and a cross vein was installed for grade control.

"The Halloween storm of 2019 showed the power of water in a way none of us could miss, and what happens when a brook is not functioning in the ecosystem as it should," said United States Fish and Wildlife Senior Natural Resource Scientist and part-time Arietta resident



Lake Pleasant Central School students with small seedlings



Mr. Cline, center, helps his students plant trees

See Save, page 13.

Save (from page 12)



Students plant trees along Warner Brook

Katherine Weil. “Seeing this brook restored in a way where the water could flow naturally, as opposed to forcefully and directed through man-made structures, is a dream come true for our family.”

Federal, state, and local partners made this project economical and successful. The Hamilton County Department of Public Work hauled 160 tons of rock, and provided an excavator and operator. The New York State Department of Transportation provided rock. The Town of Arietta Highway Department provided a second excavator.

The District purchased filter fabric, obtained permits from the Department of Environmental Conservation, Adirondack Park Agency, and Army

Crops of Engineers, and designed and oversaw project installation. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service approved the project design.

“No one does it better than New York State’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts,” said manager Caitlin Stewart. “Technician Lenny Croote has established incredible partnerships with Hamilton County’s agencies and departments, and was able to install a \$70,000 stream stabilization project for a fraction of the cost. Partners brought the cost way down for equipment, labor, and rock.”

On May 4, District staff gave a presentation to Lake Pleasant Central School’s fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classes detailing the Warner Brook streambank stabilization project. The students then took to the field to plant native trees along the streambank.

Sand cherry, nine bark, red osier dogwood, silver maple, white cedar, and Streamco willow were selected for this project sight because these species are resilient, like wet conditions,

and exhibit superior performance in streambank stabilization. Streamco willow has large root biomass, stem resiliency, and grows quickly.

“Fishing brought my family to Piseco Lake 80 years ago and I remember vividly how concerned my grandfather was when the fish populations were low,” said Weil. “I became the wildlife scientist I am now in many ways because of him. So, seeing Warner Brook function for the first time in my lifetime in such a way that we saw Common Mergansers and young trout was beyond amazing. A dream come true!”

“I thank the Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association for contributing to the expense of shovels,” said Stewart. “Their support is invaluable. I also thank Katherine Weil, who purchased trees for the project and offered a warming station with hot cocoa for the students.”

See Save, page 14.

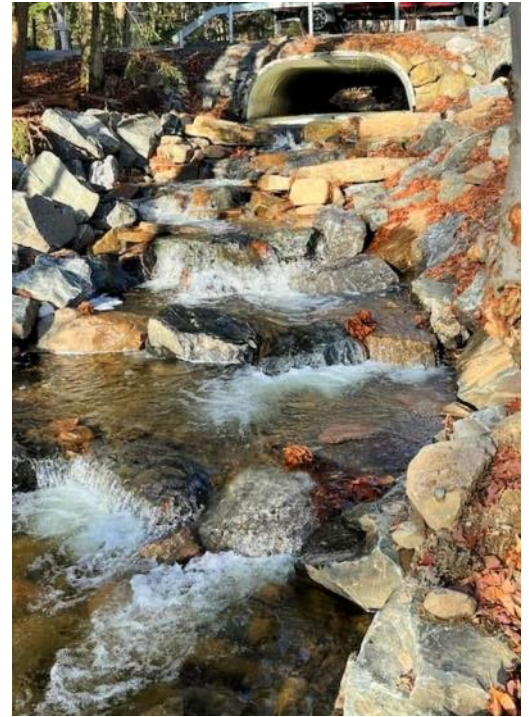
Save (from page 13)

The trees students planted will shade Warner Brook, enhance trout habitat, and provide food for local wildlife and pollinators. The step-pool system the District installed encourages fish passage, and decreases erosion. Partners came together to successfully save Warner Brook.

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.org or call 518-548-3991.




Road and culvert damage caused by the Halloween Storm of 2019.



This step-pool system promotes aquatic passage and dissipates stream energy, decreasing erosion.

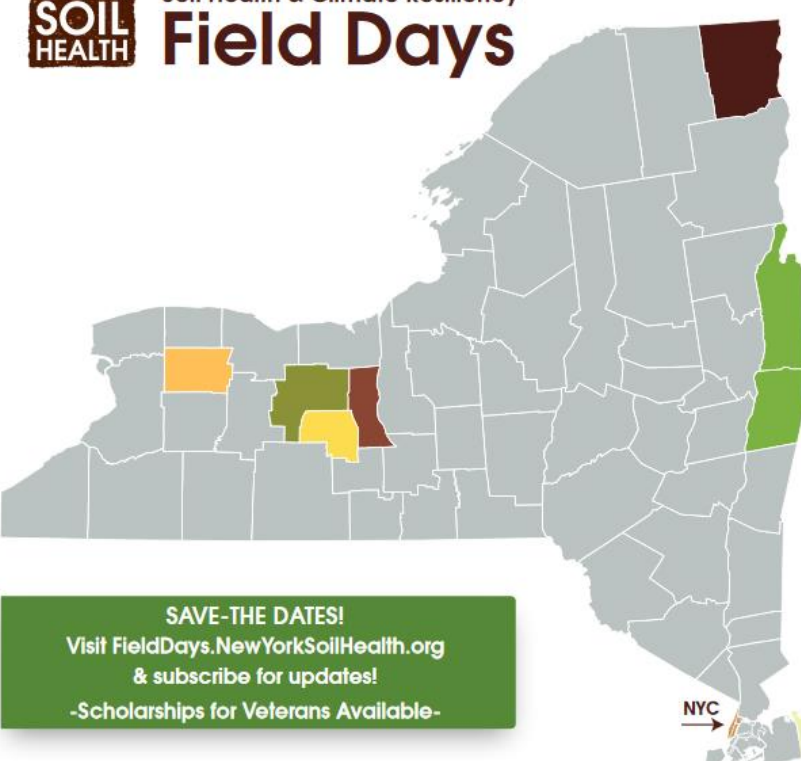


Stream erosion and deposition caused by the Halloween Storm of 2019.



2023

Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Days



JUNE 22-23 | 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM (both days)
Central NY – Canandaigua | Ontario County Fair Grounds
Topic: biochar for agriculture, demos, tours

JUNE 28 | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM
New York City – Harlem | Harlem Grown
Topic: soil biology, urban soil health

JULY 13 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Central NY – Seneca Falls | Rodman Lott & Son Farms
Topic: cover crops, reduced tillage, soil health, pest mgmt

JULY 19 | 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Eastern NY – Washington & Rensselaer Cos. | Landview Farm
Topic: Interseeded cover crops, reduced tillage, farm tour










AUGUST 16 | TBD
Northern NY – Chazy | Miner Institute
Topic: Interseeded cover crops, reduced tillage, farm tour

AUGUST 24 | TBD
Central NY – Penn Yan | Martens Farm
Topic: organic, cover crops, reduced tillage

AUGUST 31 | TBD
Western NY – Le Roy | Branton Farms
Topic: planting green, biostrip till, weed management

SEPTEMBER 12 | 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Long Island – Suffolk County | TBD
Topic: soil amendments

SAVE-THE DATES!
Visit FieldDays.NewYorkSoilHealth.org
& subscribe for updates!
-Scholarships for Veterans Available-

Volunteers Needed for State Fair and Empire Farm Days

Kristin White, Principal Office Account Clerk, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District

The NYSCDEA State Fair Committee is looking for volunteers for the **2023 Empire Farm Days** and **2023 NYS Fair Booth**. **Empire Farm Days** is scheduled differently than in the past. This year the event is being run from Thursday, August 3rd from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Friday, August 4th from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and Saturday, August 5th from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. **The State Fair** will be from August 23rd to September 4th. There are two shifts to choose from: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. If you have any questions about Empire Farm Days, please contact Alaina Robarge at Ontario County SWCD. For questions regarding the State Fair, you can contact me or any other committee member. Thank you for your support.

[Empire Farm Days Volunteer Link](#)

[State Fair Volunteer Link](#)



22ND ANNUAL NYSCDEA GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT CDEA PROGRAMS

Each team that brings a donation for prizes will receive a *Mulligan*.
Please bring a Donation!

Free gift for every participant

50/50 DRAWING

SKINS GAME (Optional)
LONGEST DRIVE
CLOSEST TO THE PIN
CLOSEST TO THE LINE

THURSDAY—August 10, 2023

10 a.m. shotgun start

CASOLWOOD GOLF CLUB

Canastota, NY

\$70 per person

Includes: Greens fees, cart, lunch at the turn, and dinner (Steak, salad, salt potatoes, vegetable)

Open to all SWCD & 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!

Need directions? www.casolwoodgc.com

**Make checks payable to
NYSCDEA**

Send check and registration to:
Chenango County SWCD
99 North Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815

Questions?

Contact:

Doug Kierst 315-252-4171 x 4
Russell Smith 607-756-5991

CAPTAIN & CREW

County/Affiliation _____

Contact Telephone # (____) _____ - _____

(Please list your team members)

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

**Deadline
August 4th**



Conservation Skills Workshop



Save the Date!

September 18 - 21, 2023

Auburn Holiday Inn

Registration packet to follow

Save the Date

NACD Northeast Regional Conference

Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks
200 Sable Oaks
Portland, ME 04106

September 17 - 20, 2023



Photo Album



First Butterfly of the season 2023. Photo by Susan Odell, Suffolk County SWCD.



Woodcock fledglings-3 in the photo that my toe is in! It's a birdfind not wordfind!! Photo by Corrina Aldrich, Washington County SWCD.

Annual NYS 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 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

CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour

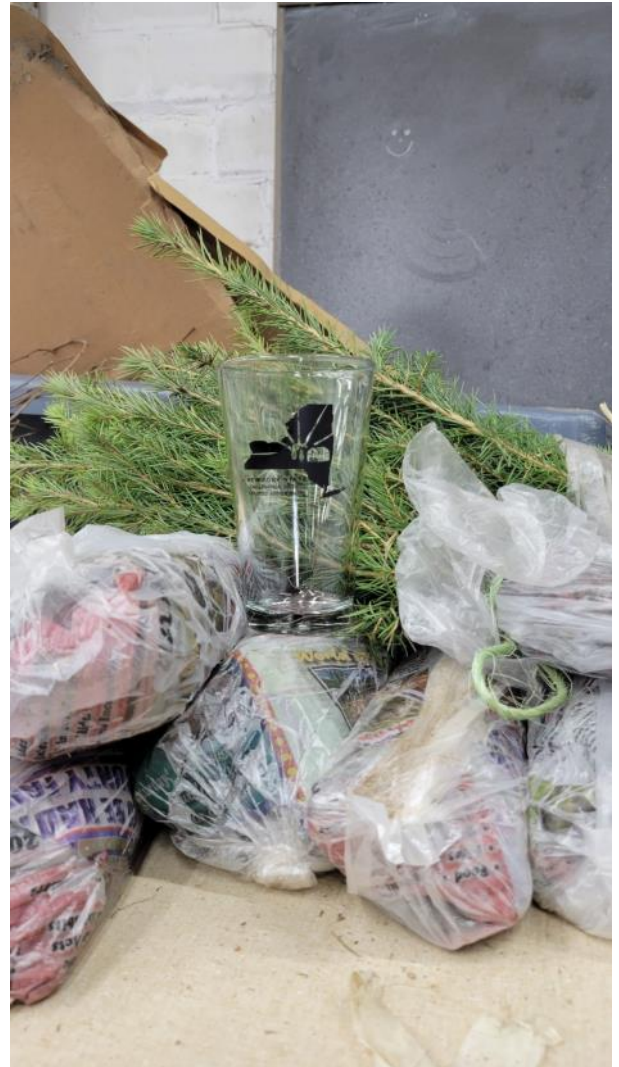
We all love our CDEA wine and pint glasses. Here they are in action across New York State. Cheers!



NYACD Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt enjoys a refreshing drink in her CDEA pint glass.



It was a beautiful day for a beverage on the Deck! Photo by Susan Lewis, Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District.



Scott Collins of Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District snapped this photo of the CDEA pint glass as it floated through the building during the seedling handout.



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

CDEA June Report

Our May meeting was moved to Wednesday, May 31, 2023, due to the NYS Envirothon being held at Hobart & William Smith colleges in Geneva, NY on our usual monthly meeting date.

The location for the NYACD Annual meeting will be held at the Hampton Inn in Penn Yan, NY on October 24-26, 2023. I have been busy working on potential training sessions and have a few more to reach out to before starting the updating process of the registration packet. We will be having another tour on Tuesday afternoon hosted by Yates County SWCD. Registration packets should be updated and mailed in August for the annual event.

We are closely monitoring the Stream C bill that has been amended and passed in the Assembly. It is presently in the Senate for discussion and possible approval. I will continue to keep the districts informed of any changes.

I have only heard from four districts opposing the amendment.

We are looking for District Directors to fill positions on the NYACD Board. We need representation from Divisions IV, VI, VII, VIII. This is where your district's voices can be heard, shared, and actions taken. If you are in one of these divisions and know of a director that is interested in becoming an NYACD Board, please let us know. The NYACD President can call a special division meeting and have your division take a vote for you to be their representative on the NYACD Board. Please consider joining us. We host a Zoom meeting once a month and have two face-to-face meetings a year. One of those face-to-face meetings is the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Blanche L Hurlbutt,
NYACD Executive Director



Clean Up to Green Up

USDA People's Gardens USDA People's Gardens "planting the seed and nurturing the next generation" in New York City

In celebration of the one-year anniversary of the renewal of the USDA People's Garden Initiative, NRCS New York employees and other partners collaborated in a spring clean-up in the Bronx on May 5th at Taqwa Community Farm and the Garden of Happiness. Together, garden members and partners from The New York Botanical Garden, Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center, and Xerces Society, cleaned out 30 cubic yards of waste, weeded raised beds to prepare them for planting, and planted native plants for pollinators provided by Xerces Society.



The following day, a dedication ceremony celebrated the Garden of Happiness' designation as a People's Garden partner during an hour-long event. The Garden of Happiness is one of the two USDA People's Gardens in The Bronx—along with Taqwa Community Farm. These gardens are part of a larger network of over 550 gardens supported by NYC Parks GreenThumb, the nation's largest urban gardening program. The Urban Soils Institute on Governors Island is the third USDA People's Garden in New York City, one of the 17 Urban Hubs around the country.

Speakers at the dedication included Karen Washington of the Garden of Happiness, Abu Talib of Taqwa Community Farm, Congressman Richie Torres, NYC Parks First Deputy Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Qiana Mickie, Executive Director of the NYC Mayor's Office of Urban Agriculture, and Blake Glover, New York State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Remarks were followed by a tour of the garden.

"Community gardens are the product of people power," said Congressman Torres. "The Bronx has a long history of harnessing people power to turn blight into beauty."

The Garden of Happiness and Taqwa Community Farm were selected for funding to educate the community on growing food, help provide a source of fresh and nutritious food, connect people to nature and green spaces, and provide a place of refuge. Funding also helps with various needed conservation improvements such as raised beds and rainwater harvesting. The Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Foundation is the managing partner for the partnership agreement while the New York Botanical Garden's Bronx Green Up Program provided much needed conservation technical assistance to the gardens.

"USDA selected these gardens for funding based on their commitment to serve and empower this community," said Glover. "These funds will allow them to grow food for consumption and to provide to those in need."

"We are thankful to USDA and the federal government for their support for our community gardens, and were so happy to join them at this event highlighting their great work," said NYC Parks First Deputy Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa. "This partnership is a great example of government partnering with communities, and we will continue to champion our city's community gardens and support them into the future."

Green Up (from page 24)

“Community gardens and urban farms are the lungs of New York City,” said NYC Mayor’s Office of Urban Agriculture Executive Director Qiana Mickie. “The People’s Garden Initiative provides critical funding and support to land stewards to make gardens inspiring hubs of growing healthy food, soils, and community power. I look forward to more vibrant NYC gardens becoming designated People’s Gardens.”

On May 3, 2022, USDA renewed the People’s Garden initiative. Today there are more than 1,250 registered gardens in the U.S. and internationally, with New York leading the way in the total number of gardens registered. People’s Gardens empower communities to participate in local food production and provide diversity and resiliency to the food supply chain. They also teach about the benefits of sustainable, local agriculture and how gardening can foster community



collaboration, provide green gathering spaces, and benefit the environment. Community gardens, urban farms, school gardens, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural, suburban and urban areas are all invited to join the People’s Garden community.

“This is what these gardens are all about,” said Washington. “Planting the seed, bringing community together, and nurturing the next generation.”

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Are you a member of a community garden, or do you want to find a People’s Garden near you?

The People’s Garden community is growing! Last May, USDA renewed the People’s Garden initiative. On the anniversary of this reopening, we invite you to join approximately 1,200 other People’s Gardens nationwide by registering on the USDA People’s Garden website. Community gardens, urban farms, school gardens, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural, suburban, and urban areas can join the “People’s Garden” community.

We invite you to:

- o Join the People’s Garden community.
- o Grow using sustainable practices that benefit people and wildlife.
- o Teach about local, resilient food systems.

People’s Garden locations are marked on a map on the USDA website and may be featured in USDA communications. You’ll receive a People’s Garden sign to display, learn about People’s Garden community, and gain access to resources such as webinars.

The People’s Garden community is open to eligible gardens nationwide, including school gardens, community gardens, urban farms, and small-scale agriculture projects in rural and urban areas.

To register a public garden as a People’s Garden on the USDA website, visit www.usda.gov/peoples-garden, and fill out a registration form.

State Cultural Resources Specialist: Phil Bauschard

Phillip Bauschard is an SOI-Qualified Archeologist with a master's degree in Cultural Resource Management Archaeology from Saint Cloud State University in Minnesota and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Ohio University. His specialty, in addition to NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act) compliance, is lithic analysis. His career in cultural resource management began as a field technician and eventually a principal investigator working in states including New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, and California. His federal employment began in 2019 in California with the USDA-NRCS. In addition to his experience with research, field methodology, laboratory/archival management, his proficiencies include review of NRCS undertakings and assessment of their potential to effect cultural resources, tribal consultation, determination of site national register eligibility, the crafting of plans for avoidance/minimization of undertaking impacts, consultation with state historic preservation offices, and record management. Phil has enjoyed working closely with project planners and district conservationists to understand each undertaking's goals and methodologies to efficiently and appropriately assure agency compliance with NHPA. In his spare time Phil enjoys hiking (especially with challenging elevation change), fishing, outdoor gardening, collecting houseplants, visiting national and state parks, visiting botanical gardens, and visiting museums. Following his rewarding experience with NRCS in California, he is excited to bring his skills and love of the land to the NRCS family in New York. E-Mail: phillip.bauschard@usda.gov



CDEA News needs YOUR news!

Email your stories, photos, save the dates,
and fun moments
to caitlin@hamcoswcd.org

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

Visit www.nyscdea.com for newsletter back issues



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