

CDEA News



NEW YORK STATE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, INC.

DECEMBER 2023

The CDEA Corner

Caitlin Stewart, President, NYS CDEA, Inc.

December greetings! Please take a few minutes to refill your mug or water bottle and browse the December CDEA News.

January CDEA Meeting

I welcome SWCD staff, Directors, and all members of the 4-Way Partnership to attend our upcoming meeting. Get a head start on completing performance measures that make your District eligible to receive state aid funding. Save the date: **January 23, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and January 24, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse <6301 NY-298, East Syracuse, NY 13057 >. CDEA meeting minutes, agendas, and annual reports are available [here](#).

November CDEA Meeting Recap

CDEA and representatives from the 4-Way Partnership met in Kingston to discuss new initiatives like DEC culvert permit challenges and long standing programs and events like the Water Quality Symposium. We warmly welcomed new Division VIII Representative Olivia Calandra to her first meeting. The CDEA board unanimously decided to pass my hotel reservation duty to Division V Representative Maren Stoddard. I booked our rooms at a Super 8 hotel, complete with large bugs, dog chewed furniture, and a dumpster full of old mattresses. I'll NEVER live this one down. A special thank you to Division VII Representative Travis Ferry for coordinating the meeting location and a tour of the Hudson Valley Farm Hub.



Images from the Super 8: old carpet, dysfunctional faucet nobs and dog chewed furniture.

See Corner, Page 3.



Hudson Valley Farm Hub tour.

Corner (from page 2)

President's Priorities

- Bond Act - funding for SWCDs, work with SWCC
- Civil Service - coordinate job descriptions and increase the frequency of exams
- DEC culvert permits - develop survey and work with SWCC and DEC on solutions
- 2024 CDEA budget
- Finalize 4 Hour Fund application documents (thank you Carla Yaw, Corrina Aldrich, and Kelly Emerick!)
- Education Track - coordinate courses for the 2024 Water Quality Symposium
- CDEA News
- Continue discussions with SWCC that focus on District concerns, challenges, and successes

Upcoming Events

- Managers' Meeting - January 10, 2024, Zoom
- CDEA Meeting - January 23 - 24, 2024, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse
- [Water Quality Symposium](#) - March 12 - 15, 2024, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Syracuse



Please contact your Division Representative or me with questions or concerns.

I wish you all a successful and safe winter, and hope to see you at an upcoming meeting or training!

Kindest regards,

Caitlin Stewart
President, NYS CDEA Inc.

Remembering Dave Derrick

Mark E. Burger, Executive Director, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District

On Wednesday, November 1, 2024, the Onondaga County SWCD planted a Sycamore tree at their offices along Onondaga Lake in memory of Dave Derrick. Mr. Derrick was a renowned trainer on stream bed and bank stabilization techniques across the world.

Dave led the design and remediation efforts for 1.2 miles of the Onondaga Creek stream restoration project in the Tully/Onondaga Valley back in the early 2000's. He also provided his expertise on the miles of stream remediation on Nine-Mile Creek through the Town of Marcellus and Marcellus Park.

In 2022 he presented a 4-hour "Introduction to Stream Stabilization

and Restoration" for the NY CDEA at Water Quality Symposium on May 25 and then lead a 3-day field training out of the Onondaga County SWCD shop in August.

Most recently he has been instrumental in design and assessment of the high-slope failure on Butternut Creek just upstream of the delta forming in Jamesville Reservoir. And, he was going to spend a few days in July in the summer of 2023 with SWCD staff on the project.

Those who had the opportunity to train with Dave had a most remarkable experience. Lessons learned that will never be forgotten. To Dave's family, "Thank You for sharing him with all of us!". We will pay it forward and share the stream knowledge, training, experience and wisdom that he impressed upon all of us. God Speed Dave! We will take it from here.



Envirothon needs YOU!

Caitlin Stewart, President, New York State Conservation District Employees' Association

High school students from across the globe will descend on New York to compete in the 2024 National Conservation Foundation's Envirothon. Our very own New York State Envirothon Committee will host the national event July 28 through August 3 in Geneva, when teams will take tough exams in Aquatics Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Land Use, Wildlife, and this year's current issue Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future.

The New York State Envirothon Committee has been working around the clock to prepare for the 2024 NCF-Envirothon, including fundraising, activities, exams, volunteers, and much more.



Caitlin Stewart and her teammates complete the wetlands exam at the Oneida County Envirothon April 26, 2000.

A Brief History

The New York State Conservation District Employees Association began the NYS Envirothon in 1990 with the mission to test students' knowledge and understanding of natural resource issues within the state and cultivate students' desire to learn more about natural resources and environmental issues. CDEA created a subcommittee to coordinate this annual event. The NYS Envirothon Committee is an energetic group of SWCD staff and cooperating agency representatives.

Competitions are held at the local, regional, state and national levels. New high schools continue to be attracted to the program.

Our Envirothon Needs YOU!

If you have not done so already, please make a donation. Any amount will help, and **\$3,000 from each District will ensure that the NCF-Envirothon is fully supported.** Make check payable to NYSCDEA for NCF-Envirothon, and mail to:

Katy Kemmeren
c/o Chenango County SWCD
99 North Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815

Envirothon Leads to Conservation Careers

When I was a senior at New Hartford Senior High in 1999 and 2000, I dreamed about teaching social studies. Things quickly changed when I signed up for a full year of Ecology with Mr. Pens. In late September, I joined New Hartford's Envirothon team. Little did I know that this series of fortunate events would allow me to cultivate my true passion: conservation.

Mr. Pens organized field trips to the Oneida County SWCD, Cornell University, local waste water treatment plant, and fish hatchery, where my team learned about natural resources from the experts. As the event drew near, my teammates and I spent lunch hours and study halls quizzing each other, reading articles, and committing notes memory.

I distinctly remember the event. My topic was soils, which I bombed. However, I wrote a paper about wetlands, and this came in incredibly handy for the current issue exam. My team received the Current Issue top core, and third place overall.

The Oneida County Envirothon develop my communication and teamwork skills, and sparked my career in conservation.

Please, support your local and state Envirothon events, and allow New York to shine as we prepare for the 2024 NCF-Envirothon. Make your donation and volunteer today!



New Hartford Central School's Envirothon team.

Nassau County SWCD's S.E.P.T.I.C. Replacement Program

Olivia Calandra, Conservation Technician, Nassau County Soil and Water Conservation District

The Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District manages the Nassau County S.E.P.T.I.C. Replacement Program. This program offers grants of up to \$20,000 for homeowners, small business, and nonprofits for them to convert their conventional systems to nitrogen reducing septic systems. **We are excited to announce that we have officially installed 100 nitrogen-reducing septic systems in Nassau County!** Tens of thousands of properties throughout Nassau County are currently served by conventional cesspools and septic systems. Conventional systems have been identified as the largest single cause of degraded water quality on Long Island, contributing to beach closures, restrictions on shell fishing, toxic algae blooms, and massive fish kills. When properly designed, sited,

installed, managed, and maintained, nitrogen reducing septic systems provide a cost-effective and environmentally sound alternative to sewers in areas that are outside designated sewer areas. These systems significantly reduce nitrogen, biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids, before being discharged below grade to leaching structures. They also provide greater performance reliability and enhanced treatment that helps to protect public health and the environment. For more information: www.nassaucountyny.gov/septicreplace



A recent installation that took place in Oyster Bay Cove.



Final project in Oyster Bay Cove.

Ditch Replacement Project Installed by Madison County SWCD

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

The Madison County SWCD designed and facilitated a rock-lined ditch replacement project on a 13% sloped, undersized, erosion plagued ditch on a town road above the Sangerfield River tributary adjacent to a local dairy farm. The job consisted of impacting the farmer's pasture fields and fences to regrade, reshape and install right-sized culvert pipes, non-woven geotextile fabric and 240 tons of heavy rip-rap along a 1600 foot section of road to mitigate flooding and erosion issues on private land owners. A new high tensile fence was erected, and the project was seeded and mulched ahead of this summer's rainfall events.



Construction during wildfire smoke.

Along with the farmer's cooperation and land access, the district utilized the Town of Hamilton Highway Department and Timberline Fence Company for construction and secured grant funding from Madison County's Flood Mitigation Program and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition's Road Ditch Pilot Project to complete the needed road upgrades.



After construction.



After construction with the new fence.

Lessons Learned During a Recent Manure Spill

Mark E. Burger, Executive Director, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District and
Matt Kazmierski, Environmental Program Specialist II, NYS DEC Region 7

Often times a life experience can remind us of how important it is to follow all the requirements in our industry. This is no exception when it comes to spreading organic manure nutrients on our cropland.

The reminders are:

- 1) Follow (and document) the rate, location, time, weather, etc. during spreading activities
- 2) Make sure to be following your spreading plan (especially if you are a CAFO-sized farm)
- 3) Protect existing buffers; they may be most beneficial to help prevent/contain a manure runoff event
- 4) Don't spread in draws in the field as water will eventually flow through them during large enough rain and/or snow melt events and can carry manure down to a stream and/or wetland
- 5) Incorporate manure during the time of application, if possible to do so
- 6) Make a couple of passes with the chisel plow across the lower field edges to create surface roughness. It can help to mix manure into the soil, infiltrate water and reduce runoff across the fields
- 7) Don't spread on frozen and/or saturated ground. Check the weather for the following day as well
- 8) If using an underground manure

transfer line, pressure test the line before using it to help identify any leaks, etc.

- 9) Clean and pig your lines after use. Build up of solids can lead to clogging and pipe failure.
- 10) Check valves and junctions for proper operation on a routine basis.
- 11) When using an above or under ground transfer line, make sure to continuously run the line during pumping operations to look for any failures in the system
- 12) Always have radio and/or cell phone communication immediately available to communicate with the pump operator in the event of a system failure
- 13) Have a Plan! Know what to do in the event of a spill. Ask yourself: what resources does your farm have? Who will you call? Refresh with staff the plan and make sure that everybody knows their roles and

responsibilities should they need to spring into spill response mode! Don't go at it alone, make the call to your SWCD Office – we're here to help!

- 14) Have a meeting every spring and fall with your application team, before you start the spreading season

- 15) Manure transfer lines have a useful life – NRCS Standards recommend a useful life of 15 years. If your transfer lines are aging, you should consider replacing sections incrementally.

Areas with bends or where lines extend uphill will be under the greatest pressure when pumping, these areas should be prioritized for replacement.

- 16) Pipe materials are always improving. Discuss the best option with your engineer when it's time to install new lines or replace aging ones (even heavy-duty PVC pipes have a limited lifespan).

As always, the goal is to continue to be the best neighbor we can while maintaining our "social license to farm."



Meet the Newcomers!

Introducing the newest
Soil and Water Conservation District employees

**Dylan Cipkowski, Natural Resource Specialist
Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District**

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

A. I started with Columbia SWCD in May 2022. It was a big transition from identifying native bees and natural resource inventories, which were the main components to my last job. But, everything is connected in conservation.



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

A. My mom forced me to garden, go hunting, etc. as a kid, so I guess she is the one who inspired me to have a conservation career. Thanks mom!

Q. What are your hobbies?

A. Like a lot of District folks, I am drawn to the outdoors. My wife and I try to get out all times of year. Luckily NY has a lot to offer in terms of outdoor activities and lifestyles. This past June we (and dog) paddled the Whitney Loop in the Adirondacks. That was a fun challenge. In fall we spend a lot of time hunting and processing deer we harvest.

Q. What's on your bucket list?

A. Paddle the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, hunt other kinds of deer in other places, hike rim to rim of the Grant Canyon.

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

A. I eat and love all varieties of pizza.

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

A. There is a big learning curve with this work. Be patient. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

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

A. My job is to help people, farms and nature.

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

A. We designed and implemented a gravity water system on a beef farm in 2023. Construction is just wrapping up. I don't know if "epic" is the right term, but it sure was exciting seeing water pump out of the hydrant following construction.

Q. Coffee or tea?

A. Coffee.

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

A. Volunteering at the State Envirothon for the past two years has been a highlight. It's a great way to meet other District staff. And the students that compete are really inspiring.

Watershed Forum Shares Knowledge and Expands Partnerships

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

Binghamton University, NY—Suzanna Randall, Chief Resiliency Officer for NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, dropped the soundbite of the day when she said, “Resilience is about connection”. Very apropos messaging for the 2023 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum.

Since 2015, the forum has provided a space for natural resource professionals, academics, municipalities, government representatives, agriculturists, outdoor enthusiasts and private citizens to form relationships and address opportunities and challenges within the watershed. This year’s event boasted a capacity crowd of 165 passionate advocates and associated speakers, sponsors and exhibitors ready to brainstorm possibilities for water quality.

The plenary session was led by Ms. Randall, who detailed the historic 4.2

billion NYS Bond Act. In the “All things Bond Act” presentation, she described what the money is geared toward: *Climate Change Mitigation, Restoration & Flood Risk Reduction, Open Space Land Conservation and Recreation Water Quality Improvement & Resilient*



Ranier Lucas of the USC excites the crowd to be volunteer champions.

Infrastructure. Bond Act priorities were shared as, *Updating Infrastructure, Protecting Natural Resources, Creating Jobs and Advancing Environmental Justice.* Along with the context came a practical description of where the connection is for the watershed and the impact for citizens and the service providers who help.

Guests then attended macro sessions throughout the morning and afternoon in the areas of Climate Resiliency and Sustainability, Regenerative Agriculture, Ecosystem Services from Wildlife to Fisheries and Community Engagement. Led by talented professionals, farmers, sustainability coordinators and professors, attendees were able to gain a cornucopia of knowledge and connection through mini presentations within each title. From restoring forests to implementing large scale regenerative farming practices or building a community of volunteers and engaging in a local conservation district program, there was plenty of diverse, hands-on information for all participants.

The forum culminated with a “Funding Opportunities in the Watershed” panel which featured professionals from



Chuck and the Boyz from Steuben SWCD.

See Forum, page 11.

Forum (from page 10)

NYS DAM, NYS DEC, USCA, NFWF and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Generous sponsors for the event include: Binghamton University Center for Integrated Watershed Studies, The Choose Clean Water Coalition, Southern Tier 8, American Dairy Association, Meadowview Nursery, Octoraro Native Plant Nursery, Conservation Services Company and the teams at the Upper Susquehanna Coalition.

To access all the presentations and connect with the forum participants visit: <https://www.uppersusquehanna.org/usc/usc-resources/2023-watershed-forum/>



Becca Rimmel and Danielle Singer present at the regenerative ag session.



Lauren Townley, Joe Toolen, Bethany Bzduch, Wendy Walsh, and David Stilwell form the Funding Opportunities panel.



Tioga County SWCD District Manager and USC Coordinator Wendy Walsh welcomes guests to the forum.



Dennis DeWeese and Tony Capraro answers questions at the forum.

Good Eats



4-Way Partners travel all over the state, and we get hungry! These ice cream parlors, pizza joints, diners, food trucks, ethnic restaurants, dive bars, and farm to table establishments come highly recommended. Stop in for a bite the next time you're in the area.

Warren County SWCD
Manager Jim Lieberum
loves Jane's Diner on
Conklin Ave, Binghamton
for any meal.

The CDEA board
enjoyed a superb
supper at the Front
Street Tavern,
Kingston (63 N.
Front Street). We
loved the brussels
sprouts, tavern
classic poutine,
lobster linguine, and
roasted vegetables
Buddah bowl.
Cocktail favorites
included lavender
lemonade and the
paloma.



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!



Another great wine from
Lakeland Winery. Susan Lewis,
Albany County SWCD.



Cheers! Caitlin Stewart,
Hamilton County SWCD.



Photo Album



An autumn drone inspection of the Cattaraugus County Flood Control Dams. This was taken at Ischua Creek Watershed Site #6A (aka Case Lake) in early October as the leaves were just starting to change down here.



Rensselaer County SWCD's Tire Recycling Program, the first in their District's history (since we were established in 1949). We plan to host this program twice a year across our county. The program filled up with registrations as soon as we advertised the program and we took in a full trailer of tires.



2023 triticale cover crop planting in Berkshire, NY. Tioga County SWCD assisted 14 farms with cover crop payments on 1,415.5 acres through USC funds and AGNPS R26 this year.



Photo Album



Tioga SWCD Stream Technician Mike Jura wrapping up construction on an AGNPS R28 project this fall. The project utilized riprap with rootballs, barbs and live willow plantings to stabilize the streambank. A riparian forest buffer planting will be added in the spring to finish the project.



Tioga SWCD AEM Specialist Heather Gulliford hanging out with Kune Kune pigs on a site visit!



Tioga SWCD completed construction on a small retention pond project funded through CRF R6 to mitigate erosion in a sugarbush, reduce peak stormflows from the property and add resiliency to the watershed. The project will receive a riparian forest buffer planting this spring along the active cropfield as the final component.



Warren County has cows!



Photo Album



Dawn is breaking in Warren County. Photo by Jim



Fruits of fall in Warren County.
Photo by Jim Lieberum, Warren
County SWCD.



Photo by Troy Bishopp, Madison County SWCD.



Photo by Troy Bishopp, Madison
County SWCD.



Photo Album



Carl Bartlett, Madison County SWCD Technician surveys an ongoing Ag Bag Pad project.
Photo by Troy Bishopp, Madison County SWCD.



Corn chopping getting finished up.
Photo by Troy Bishopp, Madison County SWCD.

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

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

News from NYACD

Updates on what NYACD has for you.

Stream C Bills There has been no movement on Stream C bill now that it has passed both houses. The next step is to be provided to the Governor and she has ten days to decide. At this point we are not sure where it is.

2023 NYACD Annual Meeting..... The annual meeting started off with a great tour scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, October 24th from Yates County SWCD staff. They topped it off with a wine tasting event at the end. Wednesday, October 25th the first round of training sessions began, and they were all well attended. The annual business meeting took place in the afternoon with folks sharing their thoughts and ideas as it related to the three resolutions presented. All three resolutions passed with one being revised. Thursday, October 26th, 2023, morning more training to place. The new location at the Hampton Inn, 110 Mace Street, Penn Yan, NY was a great success.

On Wednesday evening NYACD hosted their annual banquet with Chris Young, NACD as the guest speaker. Chris shared with everyone what NACD is presently doing now and in the future. NYACD also hosted their annual awards. The following folks were presented with the NYACD awards:

2023	
Appreciation Award	Hickling's Fish Farm
NYACD Commendation Award	Wendy Walsh
Associate Member Award	Allegany Farm Services
Partnership Award	Shannon Lyaski
Diversity Award	Madison Co SWCD
Special Service Award	Suffolk SWCD
Distinguished Service Award	John Rieger
Bob VanLare Award	Steuben Co SWCD Board
Media: Best Ed/Outreach	Hamilton SWCD
Media: Best AEM	Madison Co SWCD
Media: Best Core SWCD Mission	Monroe SWCD
Bill Peoples Award	Rollin Pickering

NYACD appreciates the time and effort folks put in for all the nominations provided. The nomination committee had some tough decisions to select the overall winners. Thanks to all the folks that nominated others for these awards.



Some of the award winners were unable to attend, so they were accepted by others on their behalf.

Legislative Days: The dates have not been determined due to the Legislative Calander for 2024 not completed. Once the date has been selected I will advisor everyone. As we move forward in the next couple of months, I will be working on the resolutions that passed and provide you with the necessary information for Legislative Days to share with the Legislators.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blanche. Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director



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

November 30, 2023

Dear Directors:

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

Hoping you had a nice Thanksgiving with family and friends. We had a nice quiet one and enjoyed the company of family and friends throughout the week.

We have a new board member for Division V. Frank Thomas after serving on the board of directors for several years has elected to step down. John M. Stortecky from Hamilton County SWCD was elected during the annual meeting to be the Division V representative on the board. We welcome John and know that he will be a valuable member of the board moving forward. John plans on meeting with all his division directors in the upcoming year. The present NYACD officers were reelected for another term.

The NYACD Board is as follows:

Sam Casella, President

[Ontario County Soil and Water](#), Director
4044 Woolhouse Road., Canandaigua, NY 14424
C 585-490-2833 H 585-394-9359
sjcasellajr@frontiernet.net

Scott Ryan, Second Vice President

[Montgomery County Soil and Water](#), Director
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Ernie Swift, Treasurer

[Steuben County Soil and Water](#), Director
415 W Morris St., Bath, NY 14810
H 607-776-4777

James Brick, Division I Director

[Wyoming County Soil and Water](#), Director
36 Center St., Warsaw, NY 14569
H 585-237-2472 townofpe@rochester.rr.com

Rob Carpenter, First Vice President

[Suffolk County Soil and Water](#), Director
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Vacant, Secretary

Bruce Dolph Member @ Large

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Rollin Pickering, Division II Director

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John M. Stortecky, Division V Director
[Hamilton County Soil and Water](#), Director
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Vacant, Division IV, VI, VII, VIII Director

Dan Farrand, Past President (non-voting)
[Steuben County Soil and Water](#), Former Director
H 607-359-2611 C 607-542-8304
farrandc@yahoo.com

The Governor vetoed the Stream C bills A4601 & S1725. This is great news, and I will be watching to see if Senator Harckham brings it forward again. Hopefully he will not. I have not heard the reason behind the Governor's veto, but once I do, I will share with you, her reasons.

Legislative Days are in the process and as soon as possible I will provide you with the dates. I'm still waiting for the Legislators calendar for 2024. We will once again host a table at the Farm Bureau "Taste of NY" the evening before Legislative days.

I have notified the districts to provide me with photos of projects and programs they have or are working on for the yearly Legislative booklet. They are due by December 15th. I will be working on the booklet to have it ready for mailing to Legislators and hand-outs in advance of Legislative days.

Sam and I will be attending the 2024 NACD annual meeting in San Diego, California February 11-14 representing New York along with some other folks from New York.

The 2024 NACD NE annual meeting is in the works, and it is expected to be held in Boston, Mass. We are hoping many folks from New York will attend this meeting. The 2025 NACD NE Annual meeting will be held in New York. This will be a work in process for 2024.

Sincerely,

Blanche

Mrs. Blanche L. Hurlbutt,
NYACD Executive Director



New York State Envirothon

The NYS Envirothon is scheduled for Wednesday, May 22nd and Thursday, May 23rd, 2024, at SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY. The oral presentation problem will be up online in January 2024. The committee is working on their perspective duties, and all is moving forward as expected.



The 2024 NCF Envirothon New York is scheduled for Sunday, July 28th- Saturday, August 3, 2024, at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. Things are coming along, and the committee is working on many different things to make this a great event.

Respectfully submitted,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt,

NYS Envirothon & NCF NY Chair



Executive Committee Members

President: Caitlin Stewart

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caitlin@hamcoswcd.org
518-548-3991

Vice President: Jessica McLaughlin

Oneida County SWCD
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Secretary: Joann Burke

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Treasurer: Katy Kemmeren

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Member At Large: Alice Halloran

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New York Association of Conservation Districts:

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Soil and Water Conservation Committee:

Bethany Bzduch

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Division Representatives

Division I: Rebecca Campbell

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Division II: Jason Cuddeback

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Division IV: Shawn Murphy

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