



**New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.**

*Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.*

## 2024 Committees & Appointments

<b>Division Representative Responsibilities</b>		
<b>Division</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Representative</b>
I	Coordinates the Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship.	Rebecca Campbell, Wyoming County SWCD
II	Assists with New York State Fair, CDEA Historical Archives.	Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD
III	Coordinates the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction with Division IV.	Carla Yaw, Lewis County SWCD
IV	Coordinates the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction with Division III.	Lydia Brinkley, Tioga County SWCD
V	New Employees / Years of Service - track new employees, years of service, and promotions for recognition at the annual meeting. Coordinates marketing for Ronny Raindrop®.	Maren Stoddard, Warren County SWCD
VI	Fertilizer tablet sales, organize the Hospitality Suite at the Water Quality Symposium.	Nicholas Klemczak, Schenectady County SWCD
VII	Water Quality Symposium Awards Banquet and Sunshine Fund.	Travis Ferry, Ulster County SWCD
VIII	Water Quality Symposium Awards Banquet.	Olivia Cunningham Nassau County SWCD

<b>Standing Committees</b>		
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
State Fair/ Empire Farm Days	This committee will plan and organize the Association's exhibit at the NYS Fair. Responsibilities include developing a theme/design, preparing a budget, and organizing employee assistance with the construction and supervision of the exhibit.	Kristin White, Monroe County SWCD
Training	This committee is responsible for working with the NYSSWCC and other cooperating agencies to develop a training agenda for the annual training session and to address additional training needs as directed by the Executive Board.	Jessica Armstrong, Oneida County SWCD
Legislative	This committee will work actively to develop and implement a legislative agenda to benefit the SWCDs statewide. The committee will work closely with the Executive Director of NYACD and other groups as necessary and appropriate. The committee may receive additional direction from the President or the Executive Board.	Mark Burger, Onondaga County SWCD
Envirothon	This committee consists of SWCD employees and members from a multitude of cooperating agencies. The committee operates as a sub-committee of the Association and has a detailed and specific set of guidelines via which it administers the NYS Envirothon. These guidelines are included in the NYSCDEA policy book.	Katy Kemmeren, Chenango County SWCD
Nominating	This committee nominates and carries out elections of the regular officers of the Association. The immediate past President of the Employees' Association will serve as chairperson.	Dustin Lewis, Saratoga County SWCD
NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program Administrator	The purpose of this certificate program is to establish and maintain a process to identify and recognize individuals who are capable of developing, designing, inspecting and maintaining erosion and sediment control plans on projects that disturb soils in New York State. The development and oversight of these plans will be executed in accordance with the New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control and the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination	Jessica Verrigni, Schuyler County SWCD

	System (SPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity. See NYSESCCP Policy and Procedures for more information.	
NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program Steering Committee	The Steering Committee is comprised of Jessica Verrigni, Tim Clark, Matt Giannetta, John Muthersbaugh, and PJ Emerick, and includes 2 CDEA representatives to be appointed annually.	Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD; Jim Lieberum, Warren County SWCD

## Other Committees

Committee	Description	Members
<p>Conservation Skills Workshop</p>	<p>The Conservation Skills Workshop is a collaboration between the NYS Conservation District Employee’s Association, NYS Soil &amp; Water Conservation Committee, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The goals of this workshop are to offer field-based training sessions to conservation professionals operating in New York State.</p>	<p>Chair: Tom Eskildsen, Yates County SWCD</p> <p>Members: Stacy Russell, Cortland County SWCD; Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD; Jessica Armstrong, Oneida County SWCD; Jacob Kelly, Cattaraugus County SWCD; Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD; Jon Negley, Tompkins County SWCD; Kristin Ballou, Franklin County SWCD; Corrina Aldrich, Washington County SWCD; Greg Albrecht, SWCC; PJ Emerick, SWCC; Ronald Bush, SWCC; Brendan Jordan, SWCC; Tim Clark, SWCC; Paula Bagley, NRCS; and Valerie Podolec, NRCS</p>
<p>Water Quality Symposium</p>	<p>Each year in March, CDEA jointly sponsors the annual training session with the SWCC and NRCS. The 4 day session offers training that covers topic related to conservation education, administration, water quality management, natural resource planning, forestry, agriculture, non-agriculture, and technical assistance.</p>	<p>Chair: Jessica Armstrong, Oneida County SWCD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agriculture Track</p> <p>Chair: Troy Bishopp, Madison County SWCD</p> <p>Members: Greg Albrecht, SWCC; Ron Bush, SWCC; Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD; Tonnie Sauca, Albany County SWCD; Nikole Watts, Chemung County SWCD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clerk / Admin</p> <p>Chair: Diana Thorn, Ontario County SWCD</p> <p>Members: Daniel Zimmerman, Otsego County SWCD; Sean Rooney, Nassau County SWCD</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Education Track</p> <p>Chair: Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD</p> <p>Members: Danielle Singer, Tioga County SWCD; Nikole Watts, Chemung County SWCD; Jessica Armstrong, Oneida County SWCD</p>

		<p>Non-Agriculture Track  Chair: Tim Schneider, Cayuga County SWCD  Members: Nick Rowell, Warren County SWCD; Jessica Armstrong, Oneida County SWCD; Joseph Bodnarchuk, Erie County SWCD; Sean Rooney, Nassau County SWCD; Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition</p> <p>Forestry Track  Chair: Kristn Ballou, Franklin County SWCD  Members: Lydia Brinkley, Upper Susquehanna Coalition; Tonnie Sauca, Albany County SWCD; Allie Holmes, NRCS; Teresa Link, Onondaga County SWCD</p> <p>SWCC Partners  Bethany Bzduch, Victor DiGiacomo, PJ Emerick, Scott Fickbohm, Ryan Cunningham, Ben Luskin, Tim Clark, Lauren Prezorski, Jennifer Clifford, Ron Bush</p> <p>NRCS Partners  Blake Glover, Dennis Deweese, Paula Bagley</p>
Administrative Conference	This conference provides specific and pertinent information and training for SWCD administrative staff. It also serves as a forum to initiate discussion on mutual problems and concerns among Districts.	<p>Chair: Dustin Lewis, Saratoga County SWCD  Jennifer Kelly, Laura Bestehorn, Wendy Walsh, Katy, Kemmeren, Diana Thorn, Melissa Rutter</p>
Leadership Institute	Held every 4 years, the Leadership Institute is held to cultivate personal development and improve leadership skills. The next event will be held in 2027.	Committee to include participants of the 2023 event.
Civil Service	This committee works with the New York State Department of Civil Service to discuss and find	Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD; Dustin Lewis, Saratoga County SWCD

	solutions for challenges SWCDs experience with Civil Service.	
Management Development Certification Program Committee	For certification in the Management Development Certification Program, District staff take a minimum of 6 course hours in each competency area, including Communication and Interpersonal Skills, Leading and Motivating Others, Planning and Administering Systems and Processes, Organizational Knowledge and Strategy, Self-Management Skills, and Strategic Innovation Skills. The CDEA Member-At-Large manages the program and files with the support of the Administrative Management Committee.	Chair: Alice Halloran, Essex County SWCD
Recruitment and Retention Committee	This committee works with NYACD and NRCS to promote recruitment and retention. Activities include attending job fairs.	Chair: Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD Members: Katie WhitKovits, Hamilton County SWCD; Troy Bishopp, Madison County SWCD
Publications and Promotions Committee	Oversees NYS CDEA News and promotional activities.	Chair: Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD
Sunshine Fund Committee	Oversees sending celebratory or condolence flowers and cards.	Chair: Travis Ferry Ulster County SWCD
NYS DEC Endorsed 4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Online Training	This training is for SWCD staff who help farmers, foresters, municipalities, and landowners with erosion and sediment control issues. Registration is at no cost to SWCD employees. Learn how to and understand why it is important to implement erosion and sediment control practices correctly. Currently, Monroe County SWCD holds the contract to perform services relating to this program.	Kristin White, Monroe County SWCD
CDEA Golf Tournament	This annual event is open to all members of the 4-Way Partnership. This is the perfect tournament for the avid golfer or	Chair: Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD Member: Russell Smith, Cortland County SWCD

	<p>the golfer that plays once a year. Prizes and a 50/50 raffle are offered. Registration fees support CDEA programs.</p>	
<p>CDEA 5-Stand Tournament</p>	<p>Open to all members of the 4-Way Partnership, registration fees support CDEA programs.</p>	<p>Chair: Joann Burke, Madison County SWCD</p>
<p>CDEA Fish On! Challenge</p>	<p>NYSCDEA fishing tournament for NYSCDEA members only. Participation Fee is \$10.00 per person and each participant will receive a NYSCDEA pocket tape measure. Categories include Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Northern Pike, Trout Special, Saltwater, Comradery Catch!, and Jokers Wild. Category winners are announced at the Water Quality Symposium. Contact Katie WhitKovits via fishcdea@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Chair: Katie WhitKovits, Hamilton County SWCD</p>

### **Environmental Education Foundation**

The mission of the EEF as a 501c3 not-for-profit organization is to provide financial assistance to educational programs that encourage conservation of the environment while raising environmental awareness in the minds of young people - the future stewards of our environment. One such effort is the NYS Envirothon

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Mark Gaston	Chairperson	Erie County SWCD
George Sisco	Vice Chairperson	USDA / NRCS
Lisa Miller	Treasurer	Cayuga County SWCD
Chastity Miller	Secretary	Franklin County SWCD
JoAnn Kurtis	Member	USDA / NRCS
Erin Sommerville	Member	Dutchess County SWCD
Corrina Aldrich	Member	Washington County SWCD
Jevonnah Foster	Member	St. Lawrence County SWCD
JoAnn Burke	Member	Madison County SWCD
Katie WhitKovits	Member	Hamilton County SWCD



### **CDEA Advisory Appointments**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson / Facilitator</b>	<b>CDEA Representative</b>
New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee	Dale Stein, Chairman and Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President; and Jessica Armstrong, CDEA Vice President
SWCC Technical Advisory Committee	Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President; and Jason Cuddeback, CDEA Division Representative
SWCC Municipal Assistance Sub-Committee	Ryan Cunningham and PJ Emerick, Associate Environmental Analysts	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President; Jessica Armstrong, CDEA Vice President
SWCC District Operations Manual Sub-Committee	Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President
SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee	Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President; Division Representatives; Jennifer Kelly, Chenango County SWCD
Four-Way Partnership	NYACD: Blanche Hurlbutt; SWCC: Bethany Bzduch; NRCS: Blake Glover	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President; Jessica Armstrong, CDEA Vice President
Invasive Species Advisory Committee	Kristopher Williams, Director	Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President
Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees	Vice President Velynda Parker	Velynda and Jeff Parker, Steuben County SWCD
National Conservation District Employees Association	Regional Alternate Velynda Parker	None