

# CDEA News



NEW YORK STATE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.

October 2024



## Cover Photo

Keuka Lake in full autumn foliage. Photo by Tom Eskildsen, Senior District Technician, Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District. Tom paused during a surveying project to snap this beautiful photo.



## The CDEA Corner

**Caitlin Stewart, President, NYS CDEA, Inc.**

Autumn greetings! Please take a few minutes to refill your mug or water bottle and enjoy the November CDEA News.

The **November CDEA** meeting is November 13, 2024, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and November 14, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. You are welcome and encouraged to attend. Join in person at the Sunnyside Farm, 2174 Saxton Rd., Scipio Center NY 13147 or virtually. Meeting agenda and minutes have been emailed state-wide and are available on the CDEA website: <https://www.nyscdea.com/agenda-minutes/>

I attended the following meetings and provided updates to ensure CDEA's support of and contribution to the **4-Way Partnership** and beyond:

- SWCC September meeting
- SPAC October meeting
- CDEA Division V meeting
- NYACD Annual Meeting and Training Session
- Joint Invasive Species Advisory Committee and Invasive Species Council meeting, serving as Secretary

CDEA formed a sub-committee including Alice Halloran, Maren Stoddard, Jessica Armstrong, and myself to update the **CDEA By-Laws**, addressing feedback received after the most recent revisions were printed for the 2024 annual meeting. Review and revisions continue.

Hosted a **Rural Roads Active Management Program application** meeting with Franklin County SWCD's Kristin Ballou, Warren County SWCD's Maren Stoddard, Hamilton County SWCD's Katie WhitKovits, and SWCC's Tyler Knapp.

Working with SWCC's Ryan Cunningham and P.J. Emerick to host a Municipal Assistance Subcommittee meeting addressing **DEC permitting challenges**.

Spoke at the local level with the Hamilton County Personnel Officer regarding **civil service challenges** as Mr. Cavazos, Municipal Assistance Unit, has not replied to my email messages. Focus areas included updating the pool of testing question or transitioning to training and experience tests, and addressing the long length of time it takes for exams to be held after they are ordered.

Coordinated a drone class for the **Cons Skills Workshop**.

Solicited feedback on the CDEA **Event Coordinator RFP**.

Met with Saratoga County SWCD's Dustin Lewis and a local **lobbyist** to discuss opportunities.

*Continued on page 3.*

Developed and co-presented a **Director Orientation class** with SWCC's Ryan Cunningham and P.J. Emerick at the NYACD Annual Session.

Preliminary work with SWCC's Executive Director Bethany Bzduch to schedule a **4-Way Partnership meeting**.

Attended a meeting with Jared Popoli of Cornell University Water Resources Institute and SWCC's Ryan Cunningham to discuss the **North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative transfer** to the Southeast Aquatic Regional Partnership.

Charing the **Education Track** for the 2025 Water Quality Symposium and submitted class descriptions and instructor registration forms. Thank you, Tioga County SWCD's Danielle Singer for your longstanding service and positive energy to this track!

**Information requests:** paid family leave policy, civil service, insurance opt out, renewable energy on prime farmland, DEC permitting, NYSESCCP Steering Committee's challenged and concerns.

### Upcoming Events

- **Soil and Water Conservation Committee Meeting**  
November 12, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Virtual and in person options to attend  
Meeting materials were emailed state-wide
- **Conservation District Employees Association Meeting**  
November 13, 2024, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., and November 14, 2024, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Sunnyside Farm, 2174 Saxton Rd., Scipio Center NY 13147 and virtual  
Agenda to follow
- **CDEA's Administrative Conference**  
November 18 - 19, 2024  
Gideon Putnam, 24 Gideon Putnam Rd, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
Registration closed
- **Statewide District Managers Meeting hosted by SWCC**  
December 3 - 4, 2024  
Greek Peak Mountain Resort, Cortland, NY  
Registration closed
- **SWCC's State Programs Advisory Committee meeting**  
January 8, 2025, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Information to follow
- **National Association of Conservation Districts 79<sup>th</sup> annual meeting**  
February 8 – 12, 2025  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
<https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>
- **New York Association of Conservation Districts Legislative Days**  
March 3 - 4, 2025  
Albany, NY  
Information to follow

*Continued on page 4.*

- **CDEA's Water Quality Symposium**  
March 11 - 14, 2025  
Rochester Hyatt  
Registration to follow
- **NACD Northeast and NYACD annual event and session**  
September 21 - 24, 2025  
DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY  
Information to follow
- **New York State Envirothon**  
May 28 - 29, 2025  
SUNY Cortland

Please contact your Division Representative or me with questions or concerns. I wish you the very best with your upcoming programs and projects as we continue to adjust to the dreaded time change!

Kindest regards,

*Caitlin Stewart*

Caitlin Stewart, MS, President, NYS CDEA

“ Autumn  
leaves  
don't fall,  
they fly.  
They take  
their time  
and wander  
on this,  
their only  
chance to soar.  
~ **Delia Owens**







## Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District

145 Paul Road, Building #5, Rochester, NY 14624

Phone: (585) 753-7380 • email: mcswcd@monroecounty.gov

### Erosion & Sediment Control Training

*NYS DEC-endorsed 4-hour GP-0-20-001*

**December 10, 2024**

**8:30am – 1:00pm**



Under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit GP-0-20-001, all developers, contractors and subcontractors must identify at least one *trained contractor* from their company that will be responsible for implementation of the SWPPP, and have at least one *trained contractor* on site on a daily basis when soil disturbance activities are being performed. Also, developers must have a *qualified inspector* conduct regular site inspections in accordance with GP-0-20-001.

Code Enforcement Officers & Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals members may use this course as 4 hours of Professional Development Elective Credits. The individuals completing the training may also need to provide DOS with a copy of their wallet card or certificate of course completion, if requested.

\**Qualified inspectors and trained contractors* must have 4 hours of training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control endorsed by NYS DEC, SWCD, NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program, or CPESC, Inc. Training is good for 3 years. Training is **not** required for CPESC, LA, NYSE&SCCP, and PE certified persons. Upon completion of the course, each participant will receive a NYS DEC Stormwater Training Number on a certificate and wallet card good for 3 years. *Certificates and wallet cards will be issued to trainees after the class is held.*

**This training does not allow contractors to conduct their own Qualified Weekly Inspections.**

#### **LOCATION:**

**Virtual Class via Zoom** – Each student **must have a camera** on their computer, tablet, or phone and an internet connection. Screen shots of the attendees will be conducted at the beginning of the course, every hour thereafter, and at the conclusion of the course. *Students attending must not be working i.e. on a job site, driving, or performing other work duties during the virtual training.* If this is observed by the instructors, the student will be removed from the zoom course and will not receive a training certificate.

**A ZOOM training registration link will be emailed to the attendee no later than one day prior to the class.**

#### **COST:** \$100 per person, *non-refundable*

Pre-payment required; payment must be received by **December 6, 2024**. Payment can be made in the form of cash, check or credit card payment. Please make checks payable to MCSWCD and mail to 145 Paul Road, Building #5, Rochester, NY 14624. If you would like to make a credit card payment, please click on the online payment link found in your registration form or call our office to make a credit card payment over the phone.

*\*Free for Monroe County Municipal Staff that are members of the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County\**

**Registration begins at 8:00am; Presentation will begin at 8:30am.**

**Anyone logging-in after 8:45am will be denied admittance into the session.**

#### **PRE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by **December 4, 2024**.**

Register Online at <https://www.monroecountyswcd.org/page-2.html>

*Limited capacity. Class filled on 1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> serve basis.*

*Due to assigned training numbers, no substitutions or transfers are allowed after registration date!*

#### **INSTRUCTORS:**

**Kelly Emerick**, CPESC, CPSWQ, CPMSM – Monroe County SWCD

**James Sroka**, Monroe County SWCD

**PJ Emerick**, CPESC, CPSWQ, CPMSM – NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets

**\*\*More Training Available\*\***

For scheduled training please check the NYS DEC ([https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8694.html#Erosion\\_Sediment\\_Training](https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8694.html#Erosion_Sediment_Training)) and

Monroe County SWCD ([www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)) websites.



## Now available: 2023 NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Annual Report

Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director, NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) is excited to announce the release of the 2023 NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Annual Report. The a PDF of the report is attached and can be found online here: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-water-conservation-committee-2023-annual-report>. This report encapsulates the work of the SWCC, AEM program, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) for 2023. Below we have summarized just some of information the you'll find in the report.

2023 NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Annual Report Highlights:

In 2023, SWCDs responded to:

- 11,709 requests for technical assistance regarding water quality related concerns (i.e., eroding streambanks, runoff issues, permit applications)
- 2,194 requests for stormwater management assistance (i.e., conducting site visits, developing stormwater management plans, conducting contractor erosion and sediment control trainings, etc.)
- 11,913 requests for technical assistance regarding land use management issues
- 3,245 requests from municipalities to provide technical advice

In 2023, SWCDs completed:

- 224 stream and shoreline stabilization projects and 753 flood mitigation projects
- 23,139 acres of forest management and 87 forest management plans

- 135 invasive species management projects to restore 5,250 acres of land
- 1,128 septic tank upgrades or replacements

Education and Outreach Events Completed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in 2023:

- 50 county or regional Envirothon events
- 48 conservation field day events
- 67 education programs
- 15 Earth Day events
- 69 conservation project tours
- 47 soil health and pasture training events

*See Report, Page 7.*

## NYS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo Credit: Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District



**Soil and Water  
Conservation  
Committee**

## Report (from page 6)

Feature Articles Include:

- 2023 Agricultural Environmental Management Annual Report
- 2023 AEM - Leopold Conservation Award Winner
- AEM Base Program Project Showcase
- Agricultural Non-point Source Pollution Program Report and Best Management Practice Highlight
- Climate Resilient Farming Program Report and Best Management Practice Highlights
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) Support Urban Agriculture
- Advancing Soil and Water Conservation Through Watershed Coalitions
- State Aid to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) Part B Project Highlights
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in Action: 2023 in Photos

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the work you do day in and day out. The majority of this report is generated from the information provided by you through year end reporting, project close outs, and seasonal newsletters. Your work and accomplishments are what make this report shine! It is truly an honor and a privilege to be able to share these annual highlights with you, NYS SWCC members, NYS legislators, and the Governor's office.

## CDEA 4-Hour Funds Support Stormwater Tradeshow

**Maren Stoddard, Senior District Technician, Warren County SWCD**

We had 23 District staff members attend out North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference last week! 14 of the District employees were seeking continuing education credits for CPESC and NYS E&SCCP. Thank you again to CDEA for supporting the District staff to attend trainings like this!





# Thank You

## Troy Bishopp

Philosopher William James said, “The deepest craving of human nature is the need to be appreciated.”

This most basic appreciation goes out to my conservation family who have inspired me personally, professionally and spiritually on my life’s journey, “To Try”. Even the naysayers get a nod for their contribution, in forcing you to look inside yourself, to be your true self. Before I’m put out to pasture, I received word of a higher calling to work for the National Grazing Lands Coalition ([www.grazinglands.org/who-we-are](http://www.grazinglands.org/who-we-are)) as their Northeast Regional Resource Grazing Manager encompassing 15 states.

As I transition away from my beloved Madison County District and the farmers I serve, you’ll find that my energies for work “from the ground up” will be expanded to other communities. The lessons, connections, observations, training and experience that I have had the privilege to learn from all of you will benefit even more practitioners on the land. Thank you.

What I have learned from you is also mirrored on our NYS accredited Century Farm which looks a bit different from when I started over 19 years ago. If you walk my land (which some of you have), you’ll notice the subtleties of your influence from the trees planted to the vibrant, diverse pastures, abundant wildlife and the increased water holding capacity of our soils. Know this, your knowledge, friendship and cheerleading will be forever appreciated.

Caitlin asked me the standard interview questions but in GW fashion, I wanted to add some personal reflections. I’ll never forget how you made me feel, when I attributed my district merit award to my pal, Bob Weaver (RIP) and got a standing ovation honoring “one of the good guys”. It was an honor to recognize my boss, Steve Lorraine for the Croney Award who exemplifies the grit and determination to help customers with a mentality that’s brutally honest. I’ll always appreciate our banter sessions and him allowing me the flexibility to learn and lead others.



Whether emceeing the WQS, getting back-stories, planting trees, partnering on sold-out grazing events, taking countless pictures, putting projects on the ground, leading trainings, making quirky soundbites and videos or writing a story or a eulogy, my life is full as I ready for this career change to take the message of stewardship to a higher level and break the stereotype of the “best kept secret in conservation”.

I will never stop advocating for personal and professional growth, having fun and getting yourself lined up for “Awesome”, with the proper training. As the “old, seasoned, git-er-done, guy”, you must take charge of your own destiny and get the training you need by always, always looking for opportunities to mentor with someone for a day, see actual projects, listen to customer’s needs and seek out advice or alternatives that fit the proper context. You must be an active participant in your lifelong journey of learning. And whenever there’s an obstacle, I subscribe to asking for forgiveness not permission :).

My home base will still be on the farm with my family so I’ll be available if you have a question or a pasture walk to get up and running. I’ll also be looking to facilitate grazing groups of farmers and so I may be calling you to help make connections and partner on grass-centric projects and initiatives. Thank you again for taking me under your wing with a fulfilling career choice and remember: Observe the little things and learn how they effect the BIG things on a journey to optimize for happiness”



## On the Farm STEM Inspires NY Science Educators

Troy Bishopp



An On the Farm STEM professional development event, hosted by the New York Beef Council, provided eighteen dedicated middle and high school science educators with practical agricultural experience into the beef and dairy industries was held in Oneida and Lewis County.

Participants visited Simply C Farm in Boonville, exploring the beef lifecycle and learning about grazing principles from Troy Bishopp of Madison County SWCD, soil health principles from Oneida County SWCD Ag Intern, Hayleigh Gates, and forestry careers and initiatives from District Forester, Jessica Pyrda. Ronny Raindrop was on hand to help with chores and demonstrated the water infiltration test for teachers.

The program continued with a visit to Beller Farms in Lewis County, where attendees explored engineering and technology used in modern animal handling and care.

The session showcased the latest agricultural innovations, demonstrating how technology is applied to improve efficiency and animal welfare and how the farm works with Lewis County SWCD.

The “On the Farm STEM” trainings are a Beef Checkoff-funded program produced by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, a contractor of the Beef Checkoff, that helps STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) teachers develop curriculum for their classes using food and agriculture as a vehicle for scientific learning and development.





# Schools engaged to restore local waterways

Lydia Brinkley, USC Buffer Coordinator

Since 2016 the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) has been coordinating the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Trees for Tributaries Program (T4T) within the headwaters to the Chesapeake Bay. It started out slowly; mostly district staff were doing the planting, and we only offered the program in spring. Getting volunteers engaged with the program had been difficult and when we were able, volunteering mostly took place on the weekends.

Fast forward to 2024 and the USC is offering the program in both spring and fall, and more volunteers than ever are asking local SWCDs if they can participate! Better yet, we've been able to engage with a diverse range of volunteers within working hours during the week, accelerating the number and type of volunteers involved. As an example, school clubs and courses have been working with us to make tree planting a part of their school day. This past spring, efforts

resulted in 191 volunteers coming out, committing over 1,000 hours to streamside tree planting. Here are a few examples of how schools have been working with us this fall:



Picture 1.

Morris Central School teachers have engaged in Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) where they have been able to engage with the USC on environmental education within their local communities yet connect it back to Chesapeake Bay (Picture 1). Mt. Markham High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) club came out to help reconnect a stream channel with its floodplain- they really put some muscle into willow staking and tree planting (Picture 2)! Lastly, Owego Free Academy students have been ongoing volunteers, but recently planted trees to get credit for their Participation in

Government requirements. These students worked alongside NYSEG employees recently (Picture 3). Other schools are regulars too- such as Newark Valley Central School and Waverly Middle and High School students. The events that are being held during the week have been inspiring to both the participants, but also to SWCD employees. The kids are paying attention and are engaging with what is going on, really recognizing that their activities are part of something bigger.



Picture 3.

The student's participation is mutually beneficial. While they learn about the environmental impacts of their activities that day both locally and as it relates to the Chesapeake Bay, they also learn about the career paths available for them in the environmental field. We'll hopefully see them all again for Envirothon, and then later in spring for tree stewardship! We're looking forward to making more connections with schools in the future to help with Chesapeake Bay and New York State afforestation goals.



Picture 2.



# Creek Willow Staking Project

Jeremy Kraus, Chemung County Cornell Cooperative Extension



*GST BOCES Students staking the prepped willow cuttings into sections of eroding stream bank.*

CCSWCD staff along with NYS DEC and CCE have been observing Sleeper Creek in the town of Millport for the past few months. After multiple field trips to observe the area, stream bank erosion was apparent in multiple locations. When erosion occurs along stream banks, there are often negative ecosystem impacts like sedimentation, thermal pollution and habitat degradation at and downstream of those sites. With the help of GST BOCES interns, SWD staff opted to deploy live staking with willow as a method to help control the erosion issue.

The process included taking live willow cuttings (< 1" in diameter) and driving them perpendicular into bare soil along the stream bank. Willow cuttings make great "live stakes" for stream bank stabilization projects due to the plant's resiliency and ability to take root without the use of chemicals. Staking on its own helps keep the soil along stream banks in place, but the tree root systems that develop after willow staking anchors soil and restores fish and wildlife habitat. SWCD staff will continue to plant and monitor willows stakes as a successful means of erosion control in Sleeper Creek.



*Completed section of staked stream bank.*



# Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

*Please note: black pants and a black long sleeved shirt must be worn with the costume.*

Ronny Raindrop had a fun two days catching up with Orleans County residents informing them about the importance of clean water and even had time to stop and enjoy some water themed games, the fair game workers were very impressed with his skills.



Ronny Raindrop explores conservation in Madison County.





# Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?

*Please note: black pants and a black long sleeved shirt must be worn with the costume.*



Ronny Raindrop stopped by the On the Farm STEM professional development event, hosted by the New York Beef Council. The event provided eighteen dedicated middle and high school science educators with practical agricultural experience into the beef and dairy industries was held in Oneida and Lewis County.



Ronny Raindrop posing with Susan Lewis (Albany County SWCD) and Pete Nichols (Schoharie County SWCD) at the NY Power Authority Blenheim-Gilboa Visitor Center's Wildlife Festival.

On September 28th, Ronny was spotted at the New York Power Authority's Wildlife Festival in North Blenheim, NY. While there, he visited with his good friends Susan Lewis from Albany County SWCD and Pete Nichols from Schoharie County SWCD. The two counties hosted a joint booth, loaded with information for the public on the different services Districts provide as well as promoting the Envirothon. Susan had supplies to make "Grass Friends" and Pete brought the stream table. Both a big hit with the kids (and even some adults!)







# Photo Album

Cons Skills Nutrient Management class on site at Carovail Fertilizer.  
Photos by Chastity Miller, SWCC.







# Photo Album

Cons Skills Workshop.  
Photos by Chastity Miller, SWCC.





# Photo Album



Tom Eskildsen led an amazing tour of Yates County during the NYACD Annual Meeting.



This is a drone picture, taken by one of the landowners of this Orange County SWCD project site. It shows the ongoing construction of floodplain benches/riparian forest buffers along the Wallkill River. It depicts fairly well how the bench/buffer will insulate the river from the adjacent cropland while mitigating agricultural flooding.

## NRCS Update

**Alana Covington, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

For any SWCD interested in learning more about Cooperative, Contribution, and MOU Agreements, please visit the links below:

- <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/new-york>

The following updates were provided during the last NYS SWCC meeting on September 17, 2024:

- All new FY2025 agreements are being completed. NRCS has a September 30, 2024 deadline to finalize each pending new agreement.
- Districts desiring to enter into new agreements should begin discussions with their NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations (ASTC-FO).
- Please don't wait. If a partner knows they're interested in pursuing a new agreement with NRCS, begin working with your local ASTC-FO now. The first deadline for all documents required for new FY2026 agreements must be submitted by December 2025.
- There will be a second deadline for any agreements that are discussed with ASTC-FOs after December 2025. I have not received that date yet; it will be provided to me at a later time.



# Annual NYS CDEA Fish On Challenge

The NYSCDEA is sponsoring a fishing challenge to all 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.

**Submission form [HERE](#) for the Fish On Challenge**

There are Seven Categories and prizes in each: \*New\* Saltwater Fish

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](mailto: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, 2024 – February 28, 2025*

Examples for pictures:



Winners of all categories will be announced at the 2025 WQS Banquet.

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

If you have any questions, comments or if you are interested in registering, contact Katie WhitKovits at: [Fishcdea@gmail.com](mailto:Fishcdea@gmail.com).



Congratulations  
CDEA Vice President and  
Oneida County SWCD Manager  
Jessica Armsgrong!  
Jess delivered twins  
on October 28!  
The family is doing well.

≡TWINS!≡

## **CDEA News needs YOUR news!**

Email your stories, photos, save the dates,  
and fun moments  
to Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD

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

Visit [www.nyscdea.com](http://www.nyscdea.com) for newsletter back issues





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

November 1, 2024

Dear Directors:

**2024 NYACD Annual Meeting/Training:** Overall the annual meeting and training went off without a hitch. It was held at the Hampton Inn, Penn Yan, NY on the lake shore. The setting was great, and the weather was beautiful. This year we changed things up a little bit and had a two-day full event with a tour provided by Yates County, which was enjoyed by over forty-five folks. There were great training sessions on Monday morning and Tuesday there was the annual meeting and luncheon. Even though the attendance was down we are hoping that in the future we can change things up a bit, change location, provide new and different training sessions, and have more people able to attend. The two new division reps are Brian Danforth Otsego IV and Sherri Slater Washington VI.

**2025 NACD NE/NYACD Event:** NYACD will be hosting the NACD NE annual event along with NY's annual session in 2025. The dates have been set for Sunday, September 21-24, 2025. It will be held at the DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. This event will be full of training sessions, annual meetings, and so much more. More information will follow as we move forward in the planning process.

**2024 NY Envirothon:** The NYS Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Once again it will be at SUNY Cortland, Cortland, NY. The NYS Envirothon website is updated with all new pdf references. The oral presentation problem will be added to the NYS Envirothon website in January 2025 on the current issue topic "Roots and Resiliency: Fostering Forest Stewardship in a Canopy of Change." The NYS Envirothon website is [www.nysenvirothon.org](http://www.nysenvirothon.org). Check out the website.

**2025 Legislative Days:** Legislative days is scheduled for Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Additional information will be provided soon.

**Great Lakes Commission:** I will be attending a meeting with other Executive Directors in Ann Arbor, Michigan on November 19-22, 2024. With the help of Chastity Miller, a PowerPoint was created regarding NY's soil and water districts to be presented during this meeting. The first meeting will be an organizational meeting, so more information will be provided.

Sincerely,

*Blanche*

Mrs. Blanche L. Hurlbutt,  
NYACD Executive Director





**SAVE THE  
DATE!!!!!!**

**2025 Legislative Days**

**DATES:**

**Monday,  
March 3 &  
Tuesday,  
March 4, 2025**

**Sponsored by  
NYACD**





*Save the Dates!!!*

The NYACD and NACD NE Annual Event will be  
held on

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> to Thursday, September  
24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

At the

DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse  
6301 State Route 298  
East Syracuse, New York

More information will be provided as the committee meets throughout the coming year. Any questions please contact Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director or any NYACD Board of Directors.



### **Executive Committee Members**

**President: Caitlin Stewart**  
Hamilton County SWCD

**Vice President: Jessica Armstrong**  
Oneida County SWCD

**Secretary: Joann Burke**  
Madison County SWCD

**Treasurer: Katy Kemmeren**  
Chenango County SWCD

**Member At Large: Alice Halloran**  
Essex County SWCD

### **Partners**

**Natural Resources Conservation Service:**  
**Blake Glover**

**New York Association of Conservation Districts:**  
**Blanche L. Hurlbutt**

**Soil and Water Conservation Committee:**  
**Bethany Bzduch**

### **Division Representatives**

**Division I: Rebecca Campbell**  
Wyoming County SWCD

**Division II: Jason Cuddeback**  
Cayuga County SWCD

**Division III: Carla Yaw**  
Lewis County SWCD

**Division IV: Lydia Brinkley**  
Tioga County SWCD

**Division V: Maren Stoddard**  
Warren County SWCD

**Division VI: Nicholas Klemczak**  
Schenectady County SWCD

**Division VII: Travis Ferry**  
Ulster County SWCD

**Division VIII: Olivia Cunningham**  
Nassau County SWCD