

# CDEA News



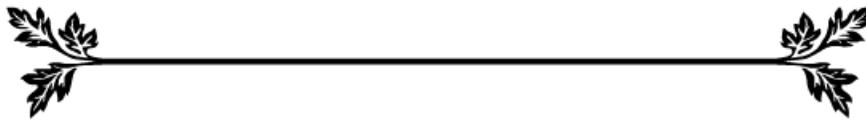
NEW YORK STATE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.



January 2022

## Cover Photo

Cows grazing stockpiled pasture in Madison County. Photo by Troy Bishopp, The Grass Whisperer, Madison County SWCD.



# Water Quality Symposium

*2 weeks!  
32 classes!  
Expert instructors!*



**March 14 - 25, 2022**

**Registration due February 18**  
**<https://forms.gle/pdTmhNisVbAWyCEd8>**

## Warren County SWCD awarded agroforestry grant

Nick Rowell, Natural Resource Specialist, Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District, and SUNY Adirondack

The Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce a new grant program, Education on Agroforestry, funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) and Northeast Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC). The grant funds a pilot program to develop education and implementation of an agroforestry plan for SUNY Adirondack's farmlands.

Traditional agroforestry focuses on producing agricultural products from the forested landscape, such as maple syrup, but this project puts conservation of agricultural fields and ecosystems at the forefront. Plans include installing forest hedgerows and waterway buffers in and around agricultural fields to conserve water, reduce erosion, grow commercial tree crops such as chestnuts, and improve ecological diversity.

With this grant, Warren County SWCD, SUNY Adirondack's Agricultural Business program and The Farm @ SUNY Adirondack will work together to promote research, education and implementation of new agroforestry projects in our region. The grant will fund three public workshops designed for college students, farmers, agricultural professionals and the public to develop a management plan for fields on SUNY Adirondack's campus. The workshops will be held throughout the

summer and fall of 2022.

Education on Agroforestry will improve and protect natural resources on the farmland and benefit water quality in the Lake Champlain Watershed, and provide guidance for farms in our region to adopt agroforestry practices.

For more information about the project, contact Nick Rowell at (518)623-3119 or [nrowell123@nycap.rr.com](mailto:nrowell123@nycap.rr.com).

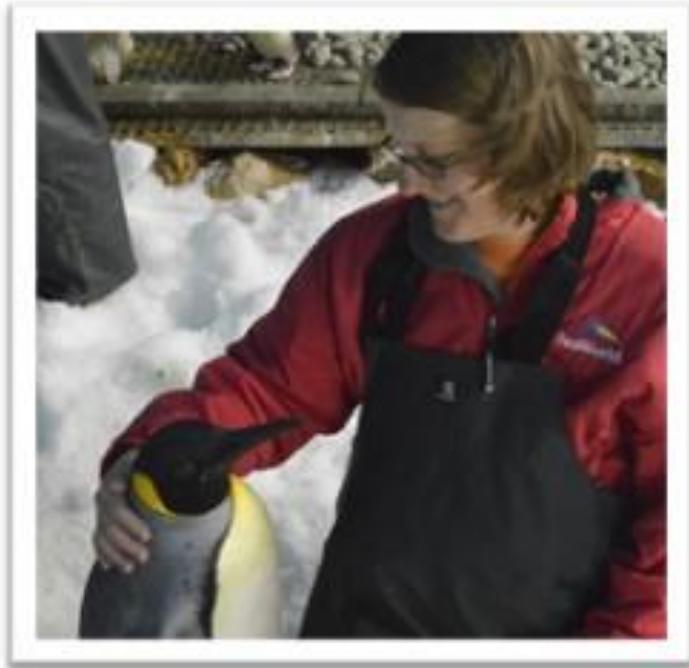
"This project has been funded wholly or in part by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under assistance agreement (LC00A00707-0) to NEIWPC in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program."



*Ag fields at SUNY Adirondack where Warren County SWCD will be implementing the grant.*

## New NRCS State Biologist

Valerie Podolec, State Resource Conservationist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



Christina Ripplinger has a B.S. in Animal Science, a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife from the University of Minnesota, and a M.S. in Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management from Newcastle University in England. Christina's professional career has taken her all over the US: hummingbird nest surveys in AZ, Spotted Owl surveys in OR, Bobwhite Quail tracking in KY, Golden-cheeked Warbler surveys in TX, bat fatality researcher for a windmill farm in PA and TX and a wildlife biologist studying Lesser Prairie Chicken in NM.

Christina joined the NRCS in 2015 and has since worked as a Wetland Compliance Specialist in MN and TX. On her down time, Christina enjoys being outdoors, hiking and exploring national parks with her husband, Jason.

## ESRI Software Available to SWCDs through the USDA license agreement

Katie Duncan, GIS Specialist, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Districts have access to ESRI Software through the USDA license agreement. Both ArcGIS Desktop (ArcMap) 10.8 and ArcGIS Pro 2.8 are available and can run simultaneously.

- Conservation Districts that are co-located and are using USDA computers can download and install the software directly from the software center.
- Conservation Districts that are not co-located can send me a thumb drive with a letter describing the software they want and I will load up the requested software when they sign the user license agreement.

Thumb drives should be sent to:

Katie Duncan

USDA-NRCS

441. S. Salina St., Suite 354

Syracuse, NY 13202

# Orange County SWCD Controls Knotweed

Kevin Sumner, Manager, Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District



Hand-pulling took place 3-4 times subsequent to initial removal by machine. Plant material left on edge of gravel driveway to desiccate.



Streambank plantings with weed mats surrounded by Knotweed re-growth.



Uncontrolled Knotweed on streambank downstream of Project site.



This entire area was covered with rank Knotweed before removal and plantings. Unfortunately, the bridge next to the site is being replaced by the City, so this site has been pretty much obliterated.

## Madison SWCD hosts luncheon and awards Conservation Farm of the Year Troy Bishopp, The Grass Whisperer, Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District

For the 11th year, The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District and its board of directors, held their annual customer appreciation luncheon at the White



*Bill and Monica Cody take a stroll through the hay field with their children.*

Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, New York. With 50 guests in attendance, the casual get-together serves to appreciate the family of conservation stewards and partners who help the district initiate its mission to promote voluntary, economically viable and environmentally conscience agriculture through continual implementation of their locally-led Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM).

“It’s a small gesture of thanks to our local family farmers, local contractors, town supervisors, county employees, elected officials, Agri-business companies, engineering support, state and federal conservation partners and funding organizations, said District Manager, Steve Lorraine. Conservation practices don’t just happen in a vacuum, it takes many hands”.

The effort put forth was anything but commonplace because of the construction material challenges during the pandemic. During a family style slideshow presentation, Lorraine highlighted a diversity of 2020 and 2021 projects that he and his staff of 9 worked on using the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program planning matrix. These plans led to funding opportunities, design and construction of grade stabilization projects, municipal culvert projects, stream remediation, manure storage projects, pasture systems, laneways, spring developments, milk-house waste systems, heavy use areas, riparian buffers and planting over a 780 acres

of cover crops locally.

“A special thanks to the Madison County Board of Supervisors for continuing to fund the Flood Mitigation Program. It assists municipalities and landowners with the financial resources to implement designs that the district has completed to repair and upgrade infrastructure, capable of handling the severe storm events we have been experiencing recently”, empathized Lorraine.

The afternoon was marked by the retirements of long-time Conservation District Board Member, Town of Madison Supervisor, Ron Bono and SWCD Conservation Technician, Jerry Boyd. US Congresswoman, Claudia Tenney from New York's 22nd congressional district and New York State Assemblyman, John Salka of the 121st District were also in attendance to learn about local conservation projects implemented and to answer questions from the agricultural community.

*Continued on Page 7*



*Cody Farms are honored as the 40th Madison County Conservaton Farm of the year as three generations converge for a picture.*

## Awards (from page 6)

In other news, the District awarded Cody Farms of Cazenovia, NY its 40th Madison County Conservation Farm of the Year. Over 150 years ago, eighteen-year-old, Kendall Cody, saw great possibilities of starting a farm in Madison County on the Honeoye rich soils in the town of Fenner within the Chittenango Creek watershed. By 1868 standards, Kendall's true grit, hard work and skillful artistry for growing hops and raising horses put him on the map as one of the largest operations in New York State. He lived through the powdery mildew fungus that decimated the New York hops industry and quickly transitioned the farm to cows. And just like milk helps to build strong bones, the Cody family built a strong foundation with their dairy farm operation of today.

Kendall's legacy lives on through the Cody lineage and family stories. The only tangible existence of great-grandad Kendall exists in the well-laid wooden buildings with crop notes on boards that he constructed. Now in the third, fourth and fifth generations of farm life, the 150-cow dairy operation working over 500 acres of healthy soil, represents a community-based focused ideal where the farming lifestyle isn't just about animals or crops. "It's about beliefs and values passed down through generations, ensuring things are left better for those yet to come. It's about our heritage and our future," said Bill Cody.

The Codys provide their passion and milk to the Dairy



*A recently completed animal waste facility help Cody Farms meet their nutrient management goals*



*Guests to SWCD luncheon U.S. Congresswoman, Claudia Tenney (R-NY 22nd) and New York State Assemblyman, John Salka (R-121st) District*

Farmers of America Marketing Cooperative (DFA) and have garnered many "Super Milk" distinctions for producing high quality, tasty, nutritious milk.

The Dairy of Distinction Farm and 2019 Heritage Farm Award honoree has been proactive in building soil and animal health, installing and managing water quality conservation practices while being good neighbors in the community. The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District recognizes this commitment to a collaborative approach in implementing common sense conservation practices that include: a comprehensive nutrient management plan, a precision dairy feed management program, strip cropping, a milk-house waste system, a silage leachate

*Continued on Page 8*

## Awards (from page 7)

control system, roof water management, and animal waste management systems.

These measures have enhanced water quality throughout the property using the family's resources and sweat equity along with program funding and technical assistance from the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management Program, the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, and the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA).

"We appreciate working with Ken, Bill and the whole family to create pro-active farming systems that enhance the natural resources for all Madison County residents and supporting the farm's endeavors for the future," said Steve Lorraine, Madison County SWCD District Manager.

In addition to their dairy farming prowess, the family is leading a non-profit project, in conjunction with Cornell

Cooperative Extension, from the Literacy Coalition of Madison County, which cultivates the next generation of farmers through the "Growing Minds to

Feed the Future" initiative. "The initiative brings agriculture and literacy together to place agriculturally accurate books in Madison County libraries and school districts", said Monica Cody.

The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors congratulates the Cody family on 153 years of success and for their positive community impacts and volunteerism within the county. To see their latest newsletter:

[www.madcoswcd.com/uploads/2/8/1/4/28145137/winter2021.pdf](http://www.madcoswcd.com/uploads/2/8/1/4/28145137/winter2021.pdf)



*Madison SWCD Board of Directors: James Cunningham, Ronald Bono, Cedric Barnes III, Alan Hough, Chairman Douglas Holdridge*

## District Battles Knotweed

**David Reckahn, Natural Resource Technician, Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District**

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District has been doing battle with Japanese Knotweed for over six years and is still in the middle of a full-fledged war. The District started in 2016 attacking Japanese Knotweed patches along the shoreline in Olcott Harbor, where Eighteenmile



Micron injectordos pro.

Creek enters the lake. The steep banks around the harbor were covered with heavy patches of knotweed.

The District started the program to reduce and then eliminate the knotweed from the harbor areas which were part of the Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) using funding from the Environmental Protection Agency. A Great Lakes restoration initiative grant was

*Continued on page 9.*

## **Knotweed (from page 8)**

later obtained to expand the program countywide.

Early efforts consisted of cutting the plants to reduce the plants energy reserves and then to apply herbicide through a foliar spray. It expanded into injecting the hollow stem of the knotweed plant with herbicide using a JK International injection gun. The treatment phased into the use of Micron Pro Injectors with a 32-ounce jug capacity from England as opposed to the 16- ounce JK gun. The Western NY Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) provided staff and equipment to assist with the project through a partnership pro-

gram.

The beginning stages of the program started using existing District staff to perform the herbicide treatments and expanded to add seasonal staff hired using grant funding. In 2019, it became a full-time job to coordinate daily treatments, log new sites, and work on landowner permission, so a full-time coordinator was hired along with three part-

*Continued on page 10.*



*Hyde Park Lake Niagara Falls before treatment 2018.*



*Hyde Park Lake after treatment 2019*

## **Knotweed (from page 9)**

time seasonal workers. By this time the program had expanded to nearly 300 sites around the county, that had all been surveyed with a handheld GPS unit and mapped in a GIS system.

Even though some of the early sites near the Olcott harbor had been greatly reduced and were under control, the crew continued to find additional sites while scouting the county on rainy days too wet to complete knotweed treatments. The District continued to partner with PRISM which provided its crew to assist with herbicide applications for several days each year. The PRISM crew were utilized on our largest patches, which in 2019 was a 1.5 acres patch along the Niagara River near Niagara Falls. Over three days the crew injected herbicide into over 5000 stems. It was a grueling job crawling around on hands and knees, pushing through patches trying to stay in line, and walking back and forth through poison ivy and Multiflora Rose to refill injection guns. It was all worth it though, as the following year 70% of the patch was dead.

The project has continued through 2020 and 2021 expanding to over 400 sites. Currently, we are treating more than 50 acres of knotweed during the season through a combination of injection and foliar spray. About half of the sites are in small application phase where there are only a handful of knotweed plants remaining. We continue to find and treat new sites also. We have found over the years, that treatments completed

early in the season in June, do not seem to be as effective as our treatments from August to October.

The District has hired a new technician to help coordinate the knotweed program in 2022 and will be bringing on a seasonal crew ready to do battle in the spring. We have gained a new partner, the Niagara County Cornell Cooperative Extension, which is planning on releasing some bugs as a biological control. We will continue to partner with PRISM which has aided in the project for several years. Treated sites where no knotweed was visually identified in 2021 will be monitored on a yearly basis for a few years to make sure that no plants were missed to assure the knotweed patch has been completely eradicated and does not regrow at the site. We will continue to work on eliminating knotweed from all the sites in the County but understand we still have some major battles in the future to win the war. If you decide to take on the Japanese Knotweed challenge good luck and be prepared for a long-term war but it can be won.

## **Climate Resilient Farming Program, Your Resource for Addressing Climate Change with Farms**

**Jennifer Clifford, CRF Program Manager, SWCC**

Climate change has impacted the agricultural sector in a variety of ways, such as increasing the risks of soil erosion, reducing soil quality, lowering agricultural productivity, increasing the risk of pollution events, and impacting food security.

The [Climate Resilient Farming \(CRF\) Program](#), has awarded \$12 million since 2015 to 200 farms across the state to reduce their GHG emissions and increase resiliency from the impacts of climate change. Eligible projects include agricultural waste storage cover and flare systems, water management systems, and soil health projects.

*Continued on page 11.*

## Climate (from page 10)

Key items about CRF:

Equipment is eligible when directly related to the function of the BMPs being implemented.

Farm eligibility is not linked to water quality. CRF is open to all farms regardless of proximity to priority watersheds.

Tree planting is eligible within eligible practice systems.

Water management project sites may be off farm if they impact farmland in proximity to the project.



Cover and flare systems involve installing an impermeable cover over a manure storage facility, piping the emitted methane and other gases away from the facility, and burning the gas in a flare. A cover also eliminates millions of gallons of clean rainwater from entering the storage, keeping clean water clean, and reducing emissions associated with spreading millions of gallons of rainwater on crop fields.

Water management projects supported through CRF address flood events and drought. They include conservation practices, such as riparian forest buffers, stream corridor management, erosion control, ponds, and wetlands, that stabilize conveyances, reduce flows, and store water.

Pictured: Wetland installed on a farm in the Skaneateles Lake watershed in Onondaga County. The project involved the creation of a one-acre constructed wetland with an extensive floodplain capturing two million gallons during high-flow events.



Improving soil health on farms can significantly enhance a farm's resiliency to the impacts of climate change. Soil health practices increase soil organic matter, allow for increased water storage, reduce erosion, and improve recycling of nitrogen by crops, thereby mitigating GHG emissions. Eligible soil conservation practices include conservation crop rotations, reduced or no tillage, cover cropping, and nutrient management.

Pictured: Interseeder purchased by Schuyler SWCD through the CRF grant program to aid farmers in planting cover crops.

Round 6 of CRF will be released in early 2022 with up to \$8 million available. Reach out to your AEA to discuss potential projects. Questions regarding project eligibility can be submitted during the open RFP Q&A period. Additional information about the program can be found at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/climate-resilient-farming>.

## Fall Tree Planting at Pratt's

**Teresa Link, Conservation District Technician, Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District**

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, Onondaga County SWCD and Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC) hosted a community tree planting event at Pratt's Falls County Park. 50 trees were planted by 31 volunteers along with 20 OEC staff and 2 OCSWCD staff members. 14 different tree species were planted including bald cypress, persimmons, black gum, red maple, London planetree, and serviceberry. These trees were planted to replace ash trees that are dead and/or dying due to the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) as part of Onondaga County's ash tree management strategy. A total of 67 trees were planted at Pratt's Falls this fall by OEC. Special thanks to the community volunteers that came out and helped plant trees!





## NYACD News - January 2022



From the desk of Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Ex. Director

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!** I am hoping 2022 will be a good year for all of you personally & professionally.

NYACD Board is looking forward to all that is before us in 2022 with Legislative days, NACD winter & summer meetings, annual meeting, 4-Way Partner & CDEA meetings as well.

It is Legislative prepping time. I have completed the 2022 Legislative booklet with the help of twenty-six districts. The booklet will be off to the printers in another day and when completed mailed to all the Legislators and Districts for Legislative days.

Presently there are three days of meeting with Legislators scheduled and about full starting with Tuesday, March 1 through Thursday, March 3, 2022. I have thirty-eight appointments scheduled over the three days, with one scheduled for Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. If you have not sent in your request to meet with your Legislators **PLEASE** do so, so I can schedule an appointment. I have only heard from eight (8) districts so far. As most of you know this is a very important to meet with the Legislators to express your thanks, appreciation, and for us to encourage them to continue to support SWCD's.

I will be working hard to promote and show Legislators the importance of all that SWCD's do through-out New York to protect and preserve our soil & water.

NYACD is supporting the NYS Envirothon as well as the 2024 NCF-Envirothon-New York events. The NYACD Board feels this is one of the ways Districts can encourage students to become a district employee. Steering them into the field of environmental & conservation. We are working with the 4-Way Partners to find ways we can encourage college bound and college students to step into this field.



## **2022 NYS Envirothon** By **Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYS Envirothon Chair**

The NYS Envirothon committee began in September 2021 to start prepping for the 2022 NYS Envirothon event. With consideration to covid-19 and all that has taken place these last two years it was determined after meeting with Hobart & William Smith Colleges representatives we would move forward with a face-to-face event.

The NYS Envirothon will be Wednesday, May 25 & Thursday, May 26, 2022, at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY.

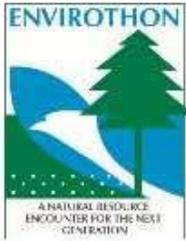
The committee has been working on testing site location, tests writers, and the oral presentation material.

Our biggest change this year is the oral presentation. The committee has decided that we will follow in the footsteps of the NCF-Envirothon and allow the students to prepare and present their oral presentation using laptops. The NYS Envirothon committee purchased ten (10) laptops and laser remotes. It met we had to change the oral presentation rules and make it clear what is expected, allowed, and used. A sub-committee formed with Dean Moore (OP Chair), MaryLynne Malone (Educator), JoAnn Kurtis (Tests), and Tony Lufan Ye (former Envirothon student), and me, to discuss, review, and determine the new oral presentation rules. Once the rules were completed the new score sheets was created by Dean. Now that all of this is completed and reviewed it will be placed on our website [www.nysenvirotho.org](http://www.nysenvirotho.org)

The 2022 Current Issue is "Waste to Resources" and the oral presentation problem has been completed and in review. Once this has been approved it will also go up online.

Another change this year is the team registration fees have been increased to \$550.00 per team due to the increase cost for campus use and etc. It is not something we wanted to do, and it has been over five (5) years since the last increase, but something we had to consider and do.

Thank you for your continued support & **DON'T forget to volunteer!!!**



## 2024 New York

### 2024 NCF-Envirothon – New York by Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

Presently the 2024 NCF-Envirothon NY committee is working closely with the Environmental Education Foundation to search and find funding. As you may or may not know this event is a seven-day event beginning on Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 & ending on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. We will need big dollars to make this one of the greatest events ever.

New York hosted this event back in 2007 and what an event it was! We were able to host the event at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY, and this opened the door for wonderful things to take place. We worked with a local college campus to have our training site at their campus, we worked with Robert Congel, owner of Savannah Du to host our testing site, after a sweltering day in the sun we took everyone to a water park to cool off, and for fun we took all the students and advisors to Niagara Falls, one of the seven wonders of the world. For 2024 we are hoping to do repeat some of these events and add a few others.

**We NEED YOU!!!** Yes, we do!!! We need volunteer & activities coordinators for this event. These are two especially important positions on the committee. We will also need lots of volunteers and subcommittee members over the seven-day event, so **PLEASE, PLEASE** consider stepping up and joining the 2024 NCF-Envirothon – New York committee.

We also need your financial support to pull this major event off. This event will take lots of volunteers and financial support. Your donations to this event will offset the cost of room & board, meals, travel to & from training/testing sites, our proposed fun day to Niagara Falls, and so much more.

We are working with NCF-Envirothon Committee & Board to select the site location. They stated they will provide us with the final selection this month (January). Once we hear back from the NCF-Envirothon Executive Director we will notify all the districts.

I would also like to take this time to **THANK** the SWCD's that have shown their support of this event by sending our requested funds and are thanking those districts in advance who are and will be supporting this event after discussing it with their board.

## New NRCS Program – Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Conservation Incentive Contracts!

Kim Farrell, ASTC-Programs, USDA-NRCS

NRCS – New York is excited to announce a new program to assist agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest operators with the implementation and adoption of incentive conservation practices. Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP – CIC) allows NRCS to provide technical and financial assistance to address eligible priority resource concerns within NY, including practices such as cover crops, residue and tillage management, prescribed grazing, and early successional forest habitat. EQIP-CIC focuses on Climate Smart

Agriculture and Forestry.

EQIP-CIC can be a steppingstone for producers between EQIP classic and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Similar to CSP, EQIP-CIC allows producers to enhance stewardship but does not require enrollment of the entire operation.

High Priority Areas for NY include Chautauqua Lake watershed, Lake Champlain watershed, eastern NY, including the Capital District and Hudson Valley, and Long Island.

Applications for EQIP-CIC are accepted on a continuous basis, however, only the applications received by March 11, 2022, will be considered for funding during this cycle. Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed in subsequent cycles. For more information or to apply, contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center, [USDA Service Center Locator](#).

## Conservation District closes out 2021 with Annual Report

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

The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District closes out 2021 with the release of their Annual Report. The document details the District’s 2021 programs, projects, and events.

“The accomplishments listed in our 2021 Annual Report would not be possible without the steadfast support from our Board of Directors, the Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Association of Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Hamilton County, and local organizations and agencies” said District Manager Caitlin Stewart. “Technicians Lenny Croote and Jaime Parslow, and Clerk Marj Remias provided expert and excellent service to landowners and municipalities year round.”

Highlights from the District’s Annual Report include:

### MARION BROOK STABILIZATION PROJECT

This summer, the District, Village of Speculator Department of Public Works, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Bluman family partnered to stabilize 120 feet of Marion Brook’s streambanks. The Village of Speculator contacted the Hamilton County SWCD for assistance, and District staff recommended installing Streamco willow wattles and rock structures for

*Continued on page 17.*



## Report (from page 16)

effective streambank erosion control. The willows established well, grass grew, and the riparian buffer began to take shape. The District created a video that details the project, and is available on their website at [www.heswcd.com](http://www.heswcd.com).

### WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

- Created and published GIS Story Maps showcasing 2020 lake monitoring data
- Monitored priority lakes from May through October
- The District contracted with an Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) certified lab in Rochester to complete lake sample analysis
- Shared lake monitoring data with lake associations, colleges, and the public
- Work has begun on the 2021 Water Quality Monitoring Report
- Assisted lake associations with water quality needs



### HYDROSEEDING

- Hydroseeded 9.5 acres for private landowners and municipalities
- 2.5 miles of road ditches were hydroseeded for municipalities



### RECYCLING PROGRAMS

- Assisted Hamilton County with recycling paper
- The District partnered with marinas to recycle 4,880 pounds of plastic through the Boat Storage Plastic Recycling Program

### GREEN SERVICES

- Reviewed and provided feedback on Hamilton County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Assisted municipalities, landowners and loggers with erosion and sediment control problems, road restoration and stabilization, stream stabilization, and critical area seeding
- Partnered with the New York State Department of Transportation to provide flood assistance to the Town of Lake Pleasant. The District's trash pump was utilized to control flood water in a Lewey Lake tributary.
- Soil pH and fertility tests for landowners

### INVASIVE SPECIES

- Invasive Plant Management
  - Croote and Parslow are Certified Pesticide Applicators.
  - Treated 30 purple loosestrife sites by pulling, cutting, or herbicide



*Continued on page 18.*

## Report (from page 17)

- Treated 1 Phragmites site with herbicide
- Treated 25 Japanese knotweed sites with herbicide, 800 canes were stem-injected with herbicide
- Staff dedicated 80 hours to management
- Invasive Species Monitoring
  - Surveyed Eighth Lake for aquatic invasive species – none found
  - Spiny waterflea tows during lake monitoring – none found
  - *Galerucella* beetle monitoring on Oxbow Lake, Speculator Pavilion, and Sacandaga River – leaf damage and stunted growth of purple



loosestrife was seen

- Landowner Assistance
  - Species identification
  - Best management practice recommendations

### CONSERVATION EDUCATION

- Over 481 people of all ages attended conservation presentations and events
- Replied to over 357 natural resource information requests

- Forest Pest Symposium – Our District organized and hosted this event on April 22. Presenters included APIPP, the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. 39 people attended.
- Held the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Conservation Field Day for fifth and sixth graders

### WATER TESTING PROGRAM

- Landowners dropped off 45 water samples for analysis with certified results
- Samples are analyzed for lead, copper, a water chemistry panel (alkalinity, total hardness, calcium hardness, fluoride, chloride, and conductivity), total coliform and *E. coli*

### GIS SERVICES

- Assisted landowners with GIS services
- Digitizing Master Plan for Village of Speculator
- Town of Arietta cemetery project
- Town of Morehouse snowmobile trail project
- Lake Monitoring Program results story maps



### HAMILTON COUNTY TRAIL INITIATIVES

- Staff dedicated 779 hours to the trail initiatives
- Hired two seasonal technicians for trail work thanks to generous funding from Hamilton County
- Built trail on Buck Mountain with support from the Town of Long Lake and the Adirondack Mountain Club
- Assisted DEC with bridge construction on Colonel Peck's

*Continued on page 19.*

## Report (from page 18)

Grave trail, construction of bridge on Pillsbury Mountain Trail, Mad Tom bridge construction

- Foxy Brown Trail - brushing, cleared beaver dam by new bridge
- Panther Mountain maintenance
- Tannery trash removal
- Powley Road campsite cleanup
- Auger Falls trail assessment
- Sacandaga Pathways work – stained signs, weed whacked, brush work
- Blue Mountain trail – worked with volunteers and DEC on old ranger cabin restoration

### SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT FUND

At the request of Hamilton County, the District is administering this program. Lake Eaton was identified by New York State as being in a priority geographic area where there is a critical need to reduce the impact of sewage effluent from cesspools and septic systems on groundwater and surface water. The Program provides grants to homeowners to cover up to 50% of the eligible costs of eligible septic system projects, up to \$10,000 per project.

- Staff dedicated 47 hours to the program
- Developed all program logistics and outreach materials
- Ranked applications
- 11 of 13 applicants were awarded funds, expending the entire \$85,000 grant for Lake Eaton

“2021 was a stellar year for natural resource conservation in Hamilton County,” said Stewart. “The District team is always eager to implement cutting edge technology and fresh ideas that get conservation on the ground.”

The report is available online at [www.hcswcd.com](http://www.hcswcd.com).

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.hcswcd.com](http://www.hcswcd.com) or call 518-548-3991.





# Photo Album

Photos from the November 2021 CDEA meeting at Marjim Manor, Appleton NY

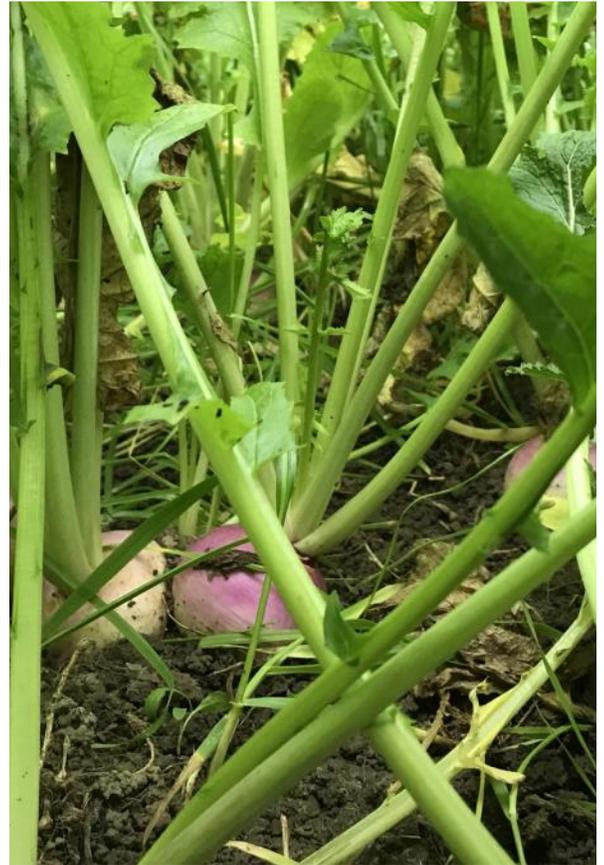




# Photo Album



CDEA Division I Representative Scott Collins took a picture of the pint glass during a Keg Creek water quality monitoring trip.



A little turnip action in the cover crops.  
Photo by Jason Cuddeback, CCA  
Grazing Specialist/AEM, Cauuga County  
SWCD.



A little choppy chop and a little planty plant. Photo by Jason Cuddeback, CCA Grazing Specialist/AEM, Cauuga County SWCD.



A red barn overlooking the Oriskany Creek watershed in Oneida County by Troy Bishopp, The Grass Whisperer, Madison County SWCD.



# Photo Album



ESI class in Keene, Essex County.



Ice harvesting on the farm is still an important job especially for making ice-cream in June. Photo by Troy Bishopp, The Grass Whisperer, Madison County SWCD.



Snowshoeing is a great wintertime activity. Photo by Troy Bishopp, The Grass Whisperer, Madison County SWCD.



Photo by Alice Halloran, District Manager, Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District.



## Photo Album



Soil Health at its finest, earthworm castings along with a rolled-up leaf that has been pulled into a worm channel. Photo by Jason Cuddeback, CCA Grazing Specialist/AEM, Cauuga County SWCD.



Zone building into standing cover crops, why not?? Photo by Jason Cuddeback, CCA Grazing Specialist/AEM, Cauuga County SWCD.



## Photo Album



Inter-seeding cover crops into standing grain corn, before and after. Photo by Jason Cuddeback, CCA Grazing Specialist/AEM, Cauuga 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!



Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD, is a huge fan of cheese and wine!



Susan Lewis, Albany County SWCD, enjoys red wine in her CDEA glass.

# **CDEA News** **needs *your* news!**

Please email your stories, photos, save the dates,  
and fun moments to  
[caitlinstewart@frontier.com](mailto:caitlinstewart@frontier.com)



## **Special Columns!**

### **Cover Photo**

Your stellar photo could be on the cover of CDEA News. Submit seasonal photos of landscapes or conservation practices through summer, fall, winter, or spring. Include a few sentences describing the photo.

### **CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour**

We all love our CDEA wine and pint glasses. Email photos of your glass in action. Cheers!

### **Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop?**

Email your photos of Ronny with a brief description of what he's doing and where he is.

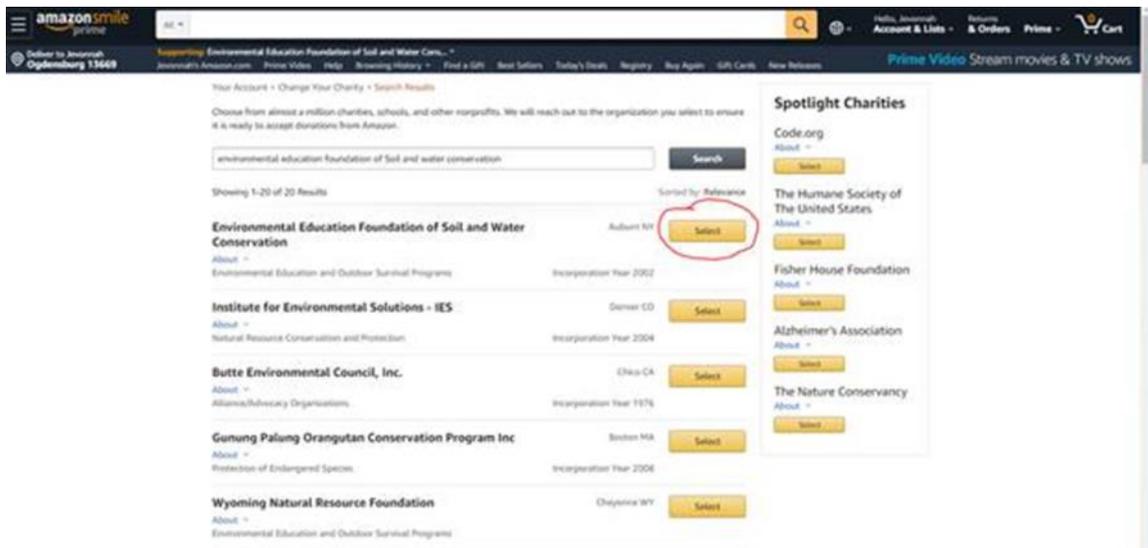
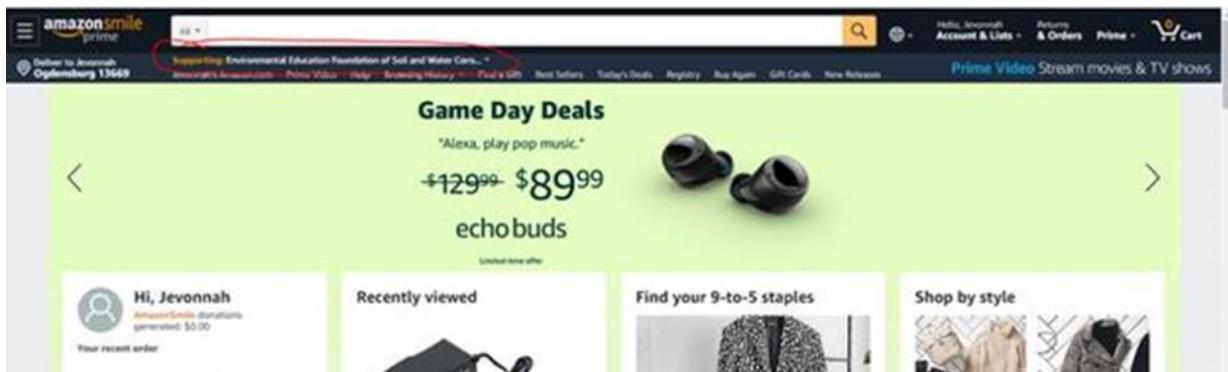
*Back issues are available on the CDEA website:  
[www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/](http://www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/)*

**Thank you for making CDEA News a continued success.  
Please keep you news rolling in!**

# Support the NYS Envirothon with Amazon Smile

Chastity Miller, President, NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Did you know you can use AMAZON Smile to help the NYS Envirothon! Please use Amazon Smile to give back to the Environmental Education Foundation for the State Envirothon and the National Envirothon in 2023! Here is the link for amazon smile along with some screenshots of what it should look like. Once you have selected them, it works exactly the same as the regular amazon site. Just note that if you go to the regular amazon.com site or use the app the charity will not get any donations, you have to use the smile.amazon.com site. If you forget to go to the smile site and already have stuff in your cart (in app or on regular amazon site), you can still go to the smile site and login and the items in your cart will show up on that site too, I did it just to try! Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> & Sign in with your amazon account. This account has already done it, so it shows that their supporting the EEF already, but if you haven't yet you should automatically be prompted to pick a charity. Then you just search for "Environmental Education Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation" and hit select. REMEMBER- note that if you go to the regular amazon.com site or use the app the charity will not get any donations; you have to use the smile.amazon.com site. Thank you so much! We need all the help we can get.



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



## **Executive Committee Members**

Dustin Lewis, President

Caitlin Stewart, Vice President

Joann Burke , Secretary

Chastity Miller, Treasurer

Dean Moore, Member at Large

## **Division Representatives**

Scott Collins, Division I

Aaron Buchta, Division II

Raeanne Dulanski, Division III

Shawn Murphy, Division IV

Kristin Ballou, Division V

Amber Luke, Division VI

Erin Sommerville, Division VII

Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII