

SUMMER 2018

Conservation Update

from the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District -
assisting with the counties' natural resource needs

2018 Envirothon Union Endicott Wins Broome County Envirothon

This year's regional Envirothon competition was held at the Tioga County Sportsmen's Association in Owego on April 30th. It was a cool, windy day and all the teams had a good time. Broome County had 12 teams participate – 1 from Deposit High School, 4 from Chenango Forks High School, 3 from Union-Endicott High School, 2 from Windsor High School, and 2 from Chenango Valley High School. **Congratulations to Broome County's winning team from Union-Endicott High School—Pusillanimous Pismires:**

They also won 3rd place in the Regional Competition. Team members (pictured at right)(R to L) : Rebecalyn Barber, Catie Collins, Annebelle Judy, Joey Champaign and Michael Herceg; Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp; **Second Place** was Union-Endicott High School's UE Science-Union Community Club: Team members: Amy Tye, Sam Malone, Zach Mariano, Zach Evans and Haven Chady-Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp. **Third place** went to Chenango Forks High School's Tree Huggers: Team members: Kylie Gilroy, Lexi Bartlow, Anna Kalivoda, Julie Sbarra, and Hannah Benscoter: Advisors: Ms. Tina Giovenco & Ms. Lori Tecza. The U-E "Pusillanimous Pismires" went on to represent Broome County at the **NYS Envirothon** Competition held at William Hobart & Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY on May 23 & 24 and placed 33rd out of 45 teams. **Congratulations!!!** This year's NYS winner is the Mount Academy from Ulster County. They will move on to the National Envirothon in July at Idaho State University.



The District would like to **THANK the following for their generous contributions** for this year's competition: Earth Day Southern Tier, Schaefer Logging Inc., Woit Engineering & Consulting P.C., Urda Engineering, Nimmonsburg Rotary Club, Enchanted Gardens, Washington Development Associates LLC, Square Deal Sportsmen, Guide-Step Sportsmens Club, Terry Woodnorth, and Wendy Caldiero. Also, thanks goes to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for coaching in soils, and all the people who volunteered and helped prepare the students for the competition.

The Envirothon is a scholastic competition involving natural resources for high school students. Local Envirothons are held across New York State each spring. The Envirothon tests students' knowledge on five topics: soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues with a unique approach to environmental education where teams compete outdoors and cooperation is needed to achieve success. Participation in this competition is great fun for both students and their advisors with activities designed to help students become action-oriented adults. The winning team from each county then goes to the New York State Envirothon. The winner from the State then represents New York State at the National Envirothon.

Anyone wishing to contribute towards to 2019 Envirothon may do so by sending a check to the Broome Co. SWCD. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. This program is funded completely on donations. Feel free to contact the District for any questions regarding donations, volunteering, or the competition in general. Any school in the Broome County area interested in participating may also contact the District office.

FALL FISH SALE - Perch, Crappie & Minnows — Orders due by Oct 8, 2018.



Pick up scheduled for October 19. Order forms available in August at the office & on our website.

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.broomeswcd.org

Composting At Home



Compost is organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow. Food scraps and yard waste currently make up 20 to 30 percent of what we throw away, and should be composted instead. Making compost keeps these materials out of landfills where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Composting Basics

All composting requires three basic ingredients:

1. Browns - This includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs.
2. Greens - This includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds.
3. Water - Having the right amount of water, greens, and browns is important for compost development.

Your compost pile should have an equal amount of browns to greens. You should also alternate layers of organic materials of different-sized particles. The brown materials provide carbon for your compost, the green materials provide nitrogen, and the water provides moisture to help break down the organic matter.

What To Compost

- **Fruits and vegetables, Eggshells, Coffee grounds and filters, Tea bags, Nut shells, Shredded newspaper, Cardboard, Paper, Yard trimmings, Grass clippings, Houseplants, Hay and straw, Leaves, Sawdust, Wood chips, Cotton and Wool Rags, Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint, Hair and fur, Fireplace ashes**

What NOT To Compost and Why :

- **Black walnut tree leaves or twigs** - Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
- **Coal or charcoal ash** - Might contain substances harmful to plants
- **Dairy products** (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs* - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- **Diseased or insect-ridden plants** - Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants
- **Fats, grease, lard, or oils*** - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- **Meat or fish bones and scraps*** - Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies
- **Pet wastes** (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)* - Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans
- **Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides** - Might kill beneficial composting organisms

*Check with your local composting or recycling Coordinator to see if these organics are accepted by your community curbside or drop-off composting program



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Benefits of Composting

Enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.

Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.

Encourages the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create humus, a rich nutrient-filled material.

Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.

How to Compost at Home

There are many different ways to make a compost pile; we have provided the following for general reference. Helpful tools include pitchforks, square-point shovels or machetes, and water hoses with a spray head. Regular mixing or turning of the compost and some water will help maintain the compost.



Backyard Composting

Select a dry, shady spot near a water source for your compost pile or bin.

Add brown and green materials as they are collected, making sure larger pieces are chopped or shredded.

Moisten dry materials as they are added.

Once your compost pile is established, mix grass clippings and green waste into the pile and bury fruit and vegetable waste under 10 inches of compost material.

Optional: Cover top of compost with a tarp to keep it moist. When the material at the bottom is dark and rich in color, your compost is ready to use. This usually takes anywhere between two months to two years.

Composting Resources:

Cornell Waste Management Institute's Small Scale Composting Exit: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/smallscale.htm>

U.S. Department of Agriculture Backyard Composting Tip Sheet:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcs143_023537 OR search "backyard composting"

Article taken from: <https://www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home>



MULCH AROUND PLANTS & SHRUBS

Mulching cools, protects, and enriches the soil. Placing a layer of organic material around plants provides important nutrients for the plants and an ideal environment for earthworms and other organisms that help enrich the soil.

AVAILABLE FROM THE DISTRICT: (607) 724-9268 x5

BARLEY STRAW: The District has barley straw bales for sale to help pond owners control algae growth in their ponds. The cost is \$10/a bale. (just the bale, not packages like past) Contact the District before coming in to pick up a bale.

NO-TILL SEEDER: The District continues rental of our Truax No-Till seeder for agricultural as well as wildlife plantings. Rental rates for the seeder are \$20 per acre, \$0.75/loaded mile and a \$50 set-up fee within the county. Contact Justin at the SWCD for more information. Requirement for using the no-till seeder is a tractor of minimum 50 horsepower with dual remotes.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - The District continues to offer technical assistance for pond evaluations, sediment & erosion control, and drainage - contact Chip at the SWCD for more information. (\$50 per visit)

Upcoming Events

****Binghamton Regional Farmers Market—Saturdays** (year round) 9am-1pm and **Tuesdays** (June-Sept) 3pm-6pm behind Cornell Cooperative Extension, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY

****Canning with Ann—Principal of Pickles—(\$)**
July 10 6-8 pm OR July 21, 3-5 p.m. CCE—Broome Co., 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY—Come learn proper techniques for making dill & chunk pickles. To register call (607) 584-9966.

****Much Ado in the Garden—July 15 1-4 pm—Broome Co. Regional Farmers Market/Cutler Botanic Gardens** - Celebrate the Renaissance Era in Cutler Botanic Gardens. Featuring Madrigal Choir of Binghamton, EPAC's Steampunk Romeo & Juliet, tours, vendors, food and more. Pre-registration requested call (607) 584-9966.

****Empire Farm Days—August 7-9, Seneca Falls, NY** for more info visit www.empirefarmdays.com

****2018 Fresh Food Face Off—(\$)** Sept. 19 5-8 pm—CCE, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY—Local chefs create dishes using local, in season ingredients. Contract Broome CCE for info. 607-584-9966.

****Ginseng Workshop—Sept. 22 1-5 pm— (\$)** Join Ginseng Expert Bob Beyfuss for classroom presentation & woods walk. CCE— Broome County—Must pre-register, space limited call 607-584-9966

****Perch, Crappie & Minnows—Orders due by Oct. 8, pickup will be Friday, Oct. 19 @ 9:00a.m.**

****CCE Wreath Sale—Oct. 29, pre-orders begin (607)584-5566.**

FAIRS: (you can search the internet for fair information):
Afton Fair— July 6-8, Afton, NY
Broome Co. Fair—July 24-29; Whitney Point Fair Grounds
Tioga Co. Fair—Aug. 7-11, Owego, NY
Chenango Co. Fair—August 7-12, Norwich, NY
Delaware Co. Fair—August 13-18, Walton, NY
New York State Fair—August 22—Sept. 3, Syracuse, NY

Horticulture Hot Line (607) 772-5958 Thursdays 9am-12 noon—Cornell Cooperative Ext. Broome County

Special THANKS to Wendy Calderio and Terry Woodnorth who donated towards the 2018 Envirothon

District Staff District Directors

Charles McElwee: Exec. Director	Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.	Kelly Wildoner: Co. Legislature
Justin Puglisi: Grazing Specialist	Erin Heard: Urban At-Large
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Elena Steele: NRCS District Con.	David Bradstreet: Grange Rep
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	Lester Price (Treas): Farm Bureau

The Broome Co. SWCD & USDA Agencies prohibit any discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.

SWCD News & Notes

CRITICAL AREA SEEDING:



District Purchases New 2018 Finn Hydroseeder

The District's hydroseeding program is in full swing. Municipalities are encouraged to utilize this reduced-cost seeding program. Quotes are provided to schools, towns, villages, and county departments for hydroseeding to assist with stabilizing streambanks, road ditches, construction sites, etc., which helps to reduce erosion and improves water quality in the region. If you have an area that requires hydroseeding, contact Justin at the SWCD (607-724-9268 x5) for more information.

USDA-NRCS WELCOMES TONI DAINO- STUDENT INTERN, AND COLLIN SULLIVAN – SOIL CONSERVATIONIST STUDENT TRAINEE

Toni Daino was born and raised in the Town of Maine, New York. She has a passion for the outdoors, wildlife and education. She has volunteered throughout the community with several different organizations. She will be a sophomore at SUNY- ESF in Syracuse this fall and is majoring in Conservation Biology. She looks forward to working with the Binghamton NRCS office this summer.

Collin Sullivan was born and raised in the Town of Springfield, New York. He has always had a passion for the outdoors doing various activities: hunting, fishing, camping, & riding mountain bikes. Due to this passion, he knew at a young age he wanted to work in conservation. He attends Morrisville State College for Renewable Resources and will be graduating next year. Last summer he was an Earth Team Volunteer in Montgomery County for NRCS. Currently, he has a Pathways internship with NRCS in Binghamton and plans on continuing his career with NRCS upon graduation, with an interest of moving out west.

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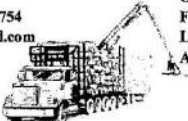
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