

SUMMER 2019

Conservation Update

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

2019 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 25th. It was a cool, sunny day and all the teams had a good time. Broome County had 11 teams participate – 2 from Deposit High School, 3 from Chenango Forks High School, 3 from Union-Endicott High School, 1 from Windsor High School, and 2 from Chenango Valley High School. **Congratulations to Broome County's winning team from Union-Endicott High School—Fluoride Treatment:**

Team members (pictured at right)(L to R) : Amy Tye, Megan Barber, Haven Chady, Alexandra Georgoudes, and Zach Evans- Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp; **Second Place** was Union-Endicott High School's Water Bears: Team members: Maddie Mariano, Rebecalyn Barber, Rohan Bajwa, Shaylee Ford, and Dylan Roberts- Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp. **Third place** went to Chenango Valley High School's Hellbenders: Team members: Marc Marion, Carter Wilson, Nick Norton, Darin Dupuy and Hunter Warren: Advisor: Mr. Michael Breed. The U-E "Fluoride Treatment" went on to represent Broome County at the **NYS Envirothon** Competition was held at William Hobart & Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY on May 22 & 23 and they placed 36th out of 46 teams. **Congratulations!!!** This year's NYS winner is the Mount Academy from Ulster County. They will move on to the National Envirothon in July in North Carolina 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., Urda Engineering PLLC, Nimmonsburg Rotary Club, Square Deal Sportsmen, Guide-Step Sportsmens Club, Binghamton Garden 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.

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Anyone wishing to contribute towards to 2020 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.

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

How to Build a Pollinator Garden in Seven Steps



Creating habitat, no matter the size, is helpful for monarchs and pollinators.
Photo from internet images.

Pollinators are in trouble. You can help by planting a pollinator garden! You can plant a garden anywhere - your yard, school, church, business or even in a pot for your front steps.

Despite its namesake, milkweed is not a weed. These beautiful wildflowers are the only source of food for monarch caterpillars and essential for their survival. Plant milkweed that is native to your area and attract all kinds of pollinators.

Photo by Joanna Gilkeson/USFWS.



Native wildflower gardens add a pop of color to your garden, help bumblebees and butterflies, and need less maintenance. This purple coneflower attracted both bumblebees and a crab spider! What's not to love? Photo by Jim Hudgins/USFWS.

A simple, native flower garden will attract beautiful butterflies and birds to your yard and help pollinators stay healthy. In addition to nectar from flowers, monarch butterflies need milkweed to survive, so if you notice the leaves on your milkweed have been chomped, don't worry, it's a great sign!

Before gardening

Gather your supplies and research what varieties of milkweed and wildflowers are native to your area. You can also look up pollinator-friendly plant lists for your region. If you're starting from seeds, find a local seed supplier. What you'll need: -A yard, raised bed or some flower pots, -Garden tools to break the soil or build a raised bed, -Extra dirt and mulch, -Native milkweed and nectar plants.

Seven easy steps



Choose your location: Butterflies enjoy basking in the sun. Gardens should be planted in sunny spots, with some protection from the wind.

Take a look at your soil: Break ground to see the consistency of the soil in your yard. Soil may influence the kinds of plants you can grow, or may require special considerations. If you find that your soil type doesn't match the plants you'd like to plant, you might consider building a raised bed or using flower pots.

Prep your soil: If you're planting in your yard, remove the lawn and current plant cover and rake the soil. Additional dirt can be helpful no matter the location and is necessary for raised beds and flower pots - add your soil to the bed or pot.

(Continued at top of page)

Choose your plants: Find a nursery near you that sells native and local plants and milkweed for your area. Native plants are the ideal choice because they require less maintenance and tend to be heartier.

Choose plants that have not been treated with pesticides, insecticides or neonicotinoids.

Plant perennials to ensure your plants come back each year and don't require a lot of maintenance.

Choose a diversity of plants that bloom throughout the seasons to ensure pollinators benefit in the spring, summer and fall. This will also ensure that your garden is bright and colorful for months!

Choosing seeds or small plants: Small plants that have already started growing in a nursery are simple and show instant return on pollinator visits, especially if you are planting in a small space. Seeds are best if you have more time. If you'd like to use seeds, plan ahead to plant in spring or fall, giving the seeds time to germinate. Seeds can also be best if you are doing a very large garden as they tend to cost less. Remember to water your seeds even before you see plants.

Plant your flowers and milkweed: For small plants, dig holes just big enough for the root system. Cover the roots with dirt and reinforce with dirt or straw mulch to reduce weed growth. For seeding, spread seeds across your freshly prepared garden and cover them with dirt. Consider adding some flat rocks so butterflies can bask in the sun!

Wait, watch, water and weed your garden: It may take some time, but you will eventually see butterflies and other pollinators enjoying your garden. Make sure to weed and water your garden to keep it healthy.

Best of luck, and thank you for helping monarchs, bumble bees and other pollinators!



Article taken from website for:

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service



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

48" TREE TUBES: These help protect seedlings from wildlife & promote growth. These lighter colored vented shelters provide enough light to enter the protector wall to stimulate diameter growth. It is recommended inspecting your plantings and remove tube once tree base reaches tube diameter. 10 tubes for \$32.00_(tax inc)

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

****Herbs & How to Use Them—July 25 6:30-7:30pm** at Broome County CCE—(\$). Will explore benefits of some common herbs—to register call Cornell Cooperative Extension at (607)584-9966

**** Herbal First Aid Kit Workshop—August 8 6:30-7:30 pm** at Broome County CCE (\$) learn to create your own herbal first aid kit. Class size limited, pre-registration is required. Contact CCE at (607)584-9966.

**** Bus Trip to NYC Botanical Gardens & Bronx Zoo— August 9, (\$85/person)** Deadline to register July 22. Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension for more info and reserve tickets—Carol (607)772-8953.

****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 6-8, Seneca Falls, NY** for more info visit www.empirefarmdays.com

****2019 Fresh Food Face Off—(\$)** Sept. 24 5-8 pm—CCE, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY—Local chefs create dishes using local, in season ingredients. Contact Broome CCE for info. 607-584-9966.

****CCE Wreath Sale—Oct. 28, pre-orders begin (607)584-5566.**

FAIRS: (you can search the internet for fair information):

Afton Fair— June 20-23, Afton, NY

Broome Co. Fair—July 23-28; WhitneyPoint FairGrounds

Tioga Co. Fair—Aug. 5-10, Owego, NY

Chenango Co. Fair—August 6-11, Norwich, NY

Delaware Co. Fair—August 12-17, Walton, NY

New York State Fair—August 21—Sept. 2, 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 2019 Envirothon

District Staff District Directors

Charles McElwee: Exec. Director
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Justin Puglisi: Grazing Specialist
Vacant: Natural Resource Asst.
Elena Steele: NRCS District Con.
Phil Zurheide: NRCS Soil Con.

Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large
Kelly Wildoner: Co. Legislature
Erin Heard: Urban At-Large
Alex Urda (ViceChair): Agricultural Rep
Peter Shafer: Grange Rep
Scott Baker: Co. Legislature
Lester Price (Treas): Farm Bureau

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SWCD News & Notes

CRITICAL AREA SEEDING:

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.



SUSQUEHANNA REGIONAL RIVER INITIATIVE:



The Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District (Broome County SWCD) held a series of watershed focused public informational meetings where residents learned about watershed function and hear an overview of field assessments completed in each of these watersheds. The watershed assessed were Brixius Creek in the T.O. Union, Chamberlain Creek in the C.O. Binghamton and Fuller Hollow Creek in the T.O. Vestal.

The three informational meetings provided an overview of the "Susquehanna Regional River Initiative" and watershed assessment findings completed in the fall of 2018. Funding for this work is through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Block Grant-Disaster Recover (CDBG-DR) for long-term recovery and resiliency projects. Funding is being delivered through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program of New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR). The purpose of this project is to establish a regional river initiative to build resilience and capacity in the Tioga and Broome Rising Communities. The project will link the local communities together with a consistent comprehensive watershed approach to understand and address flooding issues in the Upper Susquehanna River.

The initiative will include two main project components:

- Education and Outreach to municipal officials, county legislators and residents of the NYRCR Tioga and Broome Communities
- Watershed Assessment and modeling to identify natural infrastructure practices for implementation.



USDA-NRCS BROOME COUNTY Staffing Changes



Alana Covington has accepted a promotion to the Norwich Field Office. She is the new Resource Conservationist in charge of Chenango County. She was in the Broome County office for 9 years and her daily presence will be missed. **Good Luck Alana!**

Philip Zurheide has transferred from the Waverly Field Office to the Binghamton Field Office. He has 9 years of experience as a Soil Conservationist. He is filling the vacancy left by Alana and has experience with High Tunnels, Forestry, Habitat and Grazing. **Welcome to the office Phil!**

Toni Daino is back as our summer intern in Broome County. This is her second summer interning with us. She has just finished her Sophomore year at SUNY ESF. It is great to have her back and will be a good experience for her to see the completion of projects that she began planning her first summer here. **Welcome Back Toni!**



Broome Co. SWCD
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Binghamton, NY 13905

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