

SUMMER 2026

Conservation Update

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

2026 Envirothon Chenango Forks 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, sunny day and all the teams had a good time. Broome County had 6 teams participate – 3 from Chenango Forks High School, 2 from Union-Endicott High School and 1 from Windsor Central High School. **Congratulations to Broome County's winning team from Chenango Forks High School—"The Phinntastic Phish"** Team members: Samuel Nowik, Jason Nabinger, Anna Nottingham, Jillian Howell and Jack Donovan. Advisor: Ms. Tina Giovenco & Ms. Lori Willchock. They also took **2nd place** in the overall Regional Competition! **Second Place** was Union-Endicott High School – "The Carbon Neutral Cupcakes". Team members: Sasha Pavlovich, Eva Pavlovich, Belma Fetibegovic, Emma Ingram, and Ainsley Edwards. — Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp & Ms. Clare McGovern-Lind. They took **3rd place** in the overall Regional Competition! **Third place** went to Union-Endicott High School – "The Gene Machine" – Team members: Abhijeet Saha, Brooke Laveria, Morgan Faucher, Terra Evans, and Sneha Saha. - Advisors: Ms. Terre Trupp and Ms. Clare McGovern-Lind. The Phinntastic Phish went on to represent Broome County at the **NYS Envirothon** Competition held at SUNY Cortland, Cortland NY on May 27 & 28 and they placed 27th out of 38 teams. **Congratulations!!!** This year's NYS winner is the Mount Academy from Ulster County. They will move on to the National Envirothon in July which will be **hosted by** Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi on July 19-25, 2026.



The District would like to **THANK the following for their generous contributions** for the Envirothon competition: Square-Deal Sportsmens Club, Urda Engineering PLLC, Nimmonsburg Rotary Club, and Zigmont's Excavation & Septic Service. Also, thanks goes to 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 Envirothon's 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 the 2027 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.



**WATCH FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER
WITH THE TREE ORDER FORM IN JANUARY!**

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

Wetland Restoration Project Enhances Nanticoke Creek Watershed

Bailey Griffiths – Natural Resource Conservationist

The District continued its restoration efforts in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed this spring by planting approximately 2.6 acres of freshwater emergent wetland with native trees and shrubs through the Trees for Tributaries Program. This project builds upon the 225 trees and shrubs planted in the site's upland area during spring 2025.

The success of this project was made possible through the cooperation of two adjacent landowners whose properties share a common boundary. Their commitment to conservation allowed for a coordinated planting effort that maximized the ecological benefits across the site.

A new planting technique, known as “micro-clusters,” was also tested at the site. Using four-foot welded wire fencing and T-posts provided by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition Watershed Forestry Team, eleven clusters were installed to protect approximately 210 trees and shrubs from deer browse while allowing adequate space for growth. An additional 75 trees were planted using shelter tubes and stakes outside the clusters.

The goal of the project is to improve water quality by reducing nutrient and sediment runoff before it reaches nearby waterways. The restoration will also provide important benefits including floodwater storage, wildlife habitat, and increased biodiversity. Projects like this demonstrate the value of collaboration between landowners, conservation partners, and local organizations in protecting and improving natural resources for future generations.



Figure 1. The planting crew poses at the Nanticoke Creek Watershed restoration site after a successful day of installing native trees and shrubs.

AEM Spotlight Castle Creek Watershed

Chuck Lanfranchi - Natural Resource Assistant

Broome County SWCD was contacted by a farmer in Castle Creek, New York, who was interested in participating in NYS Ag. & Markets Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program. The AEM Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that helps farmers identify and address resource concerns on their farm, as well as provide funding and technical assistance for the planning and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

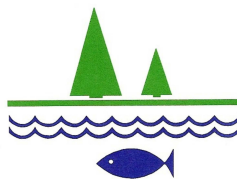
The farm that was interested in participating in the AEM program is a beef operation, and was only grazing his animals in two small paddocks (3.3 AC). He was interested in fencing the rest of his field and rotationally grazing his animals. A Prescribed Rotational Grazing System is a grazing system with 5 or more paddocks, where animals are rotated through the paddocks after 7 days so that the pasture has time to regrow. These systems are very beneficial, as they fence grazing animals out of streams and other hydrologically sensitive areas. These systems also prevent soil erosion, and reduce nutrient, sediment, and pathogen runoff. Additionally, these systems provide better forage quality for the grazing animals, improving livestock health.

The farmer has decided to participate in this current round of AEM, and just recently completed the implementation of his grazing system. He implemented approximately 3,600 feet of Hi-tensile fence and expanded his grazing acres from 3.3 to 15.6. His next step will be implementation of an Alternative Watering System to provide water to each paddock.



Figure 1. Hi-tensile fence installed as part of a Prescribed Rotational Grazing System.

If you are interested in learning more about the AEM program, call our office at (607)-724-9268 x5.



Join a
**TRAIL SURVEY PROGRAM
WORKSHOP**

in partnership with CCE
Broome and Broome County
Soil and Water
Conservation District

**CCE
BROOME**

When: Friday, July 17th from 12pm - 2pm

Where: Wolfe Park
42°09'436"N 75°54'493"W

What to expect: Learn how to identify key terrestrial
invasive species, understand its impact on our
ecosystems, and gain the knowledge you need to
survey on your own!

Register
Here

Upcoming Events

SWCD News & Notes

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

****Growing Great Garlic** – August 8, 1pm-2pm – free; soon we will be seeing “seed garlic” for sale at markets & farm stands. Learn what it takes to grow great heads of garlic in your own garden this fall for a fine harvest next summer. Pre-registration is required. Contact Linda Svoboda at CCE – 607-584-5016.

****CCE EcoFest**—August 16; 11am- 3pm—@Broome County CCE -840 Upper Front St., Binghamton—CCE EcoFest, a free, family-friendly celebration of sustainability, creativity, & community connection. Check out CCE’s website, Events page for more information or call Aranka Hoosein at 607-584-5020 for more information.

****2026 Fresh Food Face Off** – September 15; 5pm – 7:30pm @ Broome County Regional Farmers Market. This is their 15 Annual Fresh Food Face Off. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$120 per couple. Tickets will not be mailed – please bring your proof of purchase to check in at the door! Talented chefs from across the region using local ingredients-- will feature a “People’s Choice Award” to decide the winner.— Contact Broome CCE Aranka Hoosein at 607-584-5020 for more information. Or visit CCE’s Events website.



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

Afton Fair— August 11-15, Afton, NY
Broome Co. Fair—July 28-Aug. 2; Whitney Point Fairgrounds
Tioga Co. Fair—Aug. 11-15, Owego, NY
Chenango Co. Fair—August 12-16, Norwich, NY
Delaware Co. Fair—August 17-22, Walton, NY
New York State Fair—August 26—Sept. 7, Syracuse, NY

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 hydro-seeding 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.



NO-TILL SEEDER

The District continues rental of our Esch 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.



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

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - The District continues to offer technical assistance for pond evaluations, sediment & erosion control, and drainage - contact Justin at the SWCD for more information.

Bluebird & Duck Boxes—the District still has some boxes available—bluebird boxes \$20 and duck boxes \$40. They will also be sold during our tree sale next year! Contact the District at 607-724-9268 x5

Broome County SWCD Welcomes Olivia Fenwick & Ashton McCann

Buffer Interns



Hello! My name is Olivia Fenwick and I am from Westchester, NY. After receiving a B.S. in Environmental Science at Binghamton University, I was thrilled to be accepted as a Buffer Steward Intern for the Broome County SWCD. I am very happy to be a part of something so important this summer.

My name is Ashton McCann and I am an undergraduate Biology student at University of Rochester, going into my senior year. I am originally from Binghamton and went to Seton Catholic Central High School. I enjoy being outside and learning more about the environment, whether it involves plants, animals, or people.

District Staff District Directors

Justin Puglisi: District Manager
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Bailey Griffiths: Nat. Res. Conservationist
Chuck Lanfranchi: Nat. Res. Asst.
vacant: NRCS District Con.
Charles Carrier: NRCS Soil Con.

Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large
Kelly Wildoner: Co. Legislature
Erin Heard (Treas): Urban At-Large
Alex Urda: Agricultural Rep
Amy Willis: At -Large Rep
Steve Livingston: Farm Bureau Rep.
Matthew Hilderbrant (vice-chair) Co. Legislature

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.



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