

SUMMER 2022

# Conservation Update

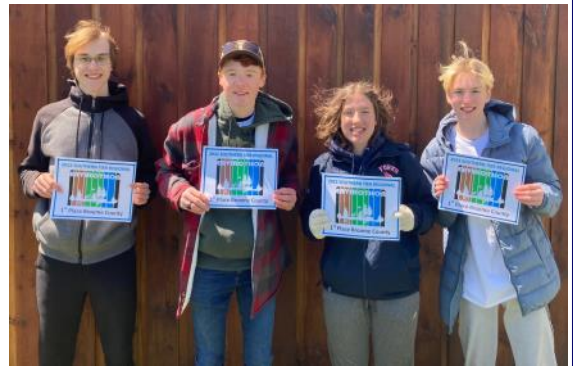
from the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District -  
assisting with the counties' natural resource needs

## 2022 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 28th. This was the **first in-person competition since 2019!** It was a cool, sunny day and all the teams had a good time. Broome County had 7 teams participate – 4 from Chenango Forks High School, and 3 from Union-Endicott High School. **Congratulations to Broome County's winning team from Chenango Forks High School—**

**pHish:** Team members : Daniel Calisi, Daisy Dimatos, Lucas Mcpeak, Kathryn White and Liam Wood. Advisors: Ms. Tina Giovenco and Ms. Lori Tecza. CF pHish also placed 3rd in the overall Regional competition. **Second Place** was Union-Endicott High School's Genius Rattus: Team members: Emilie Melynck, Bailey Collins, Coral Keller and Emma Butler; Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp.

**Third place** went to Chenango Forks High School's Sensational Scatters. Team members: Marissa Giovenco, Sahibah Haqq, Tessa Kocak, Sophie Shepard, and Abigael Taylor. Advisors: Ms. Tina Giovenco and Ms. Lori Tecza. The C-F "pHish" went on to represent Broome County at the **NYS Envirothon** Competition was held at William Hobart & Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY on May 25 & 26 and they placed 24th 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 at North Carolina State University.



The District would like to **THANK the following for their generous contributions** for the Envirothon (2020-2022) competition: Earth Day Southern Tier, Schaefer Logging Inc., Urda Engineering PLLC, Nimmonsburg Rotary Club, Square Deal Sportsmen, Guide-Step Sportsmens Club, Binghamton Garden Club, Enchanted Gardens, Terry Woodnorth, and Wendy Caldiero. 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 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 2023 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](http://www.broomeswcd.org)**

# Stream Buffers

By: Bailey Park, Natural Resource Assistant

The **Trees for Tributaries Spring 2022** planting season was a success! This program has been working to reforest New York's tributaries – small creeks and streams that flow into larger rivers and lakes. Stream buffers, also known as riparian buffers, are vegetated areas on either side of the stream or river. The goal of the program is to plant native trees and shrubs along streams to create a forested riparian buffer on public and private lands. Stream buffers are an important tool for watershed protection.

Broome County SWCD has been working diligently to establish more riparian buffer plantings throughout the watershed. Since 2021, the District has helped successfully plant 13 acres of riparian forested buffers utilizing the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Trees for Tributaries program, in conjunction with other cost-share programs available through partners such as the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) and the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency (USDA FSA). The District has also been involved in the planning process – developing and tailoring the planting plans for each project site, as well as recruiting volunteers to plant materials.

A healthy buffer supports a diversity of native species. Healthy buffers improve stream health and water quality by slowing runoff, filtering pollution, preventing soil erosion, and shading the stream to help keep waters cool. Property owners can help promote the protection of streams by allowing native trees, shrubs, vegetation to grow. Roots hold soil in place and help armor the stream bank, as well as absorb flood waters that aid in the protection of property and human safety.

Broome County has a number of suitable areas that would benefit by the implementation of forested buffers and we need your help finding them! If you have a waterbody on your property and are interested in this program, please reach out to schedule a site visit and begin the application process. The Fall 2022 planting season for the Trees for Tributaries (T4T) program is just around the corner!

Or, if you would like to volunteer in a tree planting event, please don't hesitate to reach out. Volunteers from SUNY Broome Community College Ecology Club, Binghamton University Environmental Science Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, local high school students and local residents interested in contributing to their community have all been involved in our tree plantings! To learn more about the Trees for Tributaries Program, please contact the District via email ([contact@broomeswcd.org](mailto:contact@broomeswcd.org)) or call the office at (607) 724-9268 ext. 5.



*Pictured: Private landowners help plant trees on their property along Tracy Creek in Vestal, New York during our Trees for Tributaries spring planting season. Thank you for being great conservation stewards!*

## Girl Scout Troops Plant Trees for World Thinking Day

The Broome County SWCD had trees left over from their Operation Arbor Green Tree Sale and donated 50 conifer seedlings to girl scout troops within the county! Girl Scouts planted trees in honor of World Thinking Day, with a focus on how important trees are to our environment and how they can help mitigate climate change in the future. Below are some photos of girl scouts planting their trees!



### 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 Justin at the SWCD for more information. (\$50 per visit)

# Upcoming Events

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

**\*\*Composting Indoors with Worms** —July 14 6:00-7:00pm at George F Johnson Memorial Library— Learn how to compost indoors year round with worms. —more info call Josh Enderie, Cornell Cooperative Extension at (607)772-8953.

**\*\*Much Ado in the Garden**—July 17 11 am—3 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. For more info call Linda Svoboda (607) 584-5016.

**\*\*Empire Farm Days**—August 2-4, Seneca Falls, NY for more info visit [www.empirefarmdays.com](http://www.empirefarmdays.com)

**\*\*Square Foot Gardening** —August 10, 5:30-7:30 pm join Br.Co. Master Gardeners to learn all about square foot gardening & growing in raised beds in small spaces. This workshop for Military Veterans. More info call Laura Biasillo at CCE (607) 584-5007.

**\*\*2022 Fresh Food Face Off—(\$)** Sept. 28 5-7:30 pm—CCE, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY—Local chefs create dishes using local, in season ingredients. Contact Broome CCE for info. 607-772-8953.

**\*\*CCE Wreath Sale—Oct. 24– Nov. 15, orders for wreaths contact CCE (607)584-5566.**



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

**Afton Fair**— July 7-10, Afton, NY

**Broome Co. Fair**—July 26-31; WhitneyPoint FairGrounds

**Tioga Co. Fair**—Aug. 10-13, Owego, NY

**Chenango Co. Fair**—August 10-14, Norwich, NY

**Delaware Co. Fair**—August 15-20, Walton, NY

**New York State Fair**—August 24—Sept. 5, Syracuse, NY

**Special THANKS to Wendy Calderioe who donated towards the Envirothon**

## District Staff District Directors

Justin Puglisi: District Manager  
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.  
Bailey Park: Nat. Resource Asst.  
Brandon Brideau: Nat Resource Asst.  
Elena Steele: NRCS District Con.  
Natalie Shudt: NRCS Soil Con.

Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large  
Kelly Wildoner: Co. Legislature  
Erin Heard: Urban At-Large  
Alex Urda: Agricultural Rep  
Peter Shafer (Vice-Chair): At Lrg. Rep  
Matthew Hilderbrant: Co. Legislature  
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:

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.



### SWCD Welcomes Brandon Brideau- Natural Resource Assistant

We are excited to introduce Brandon, our newest team member. He is looking forward to running the hydroseeding program, becoming a stream expert, and working with farmers in the community.

Brandon grew up in Long Island, but decided to stay in Binghamton after he graduated from Binghamton University. There, he pursued a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a specialization in Environmental Chemistry.

He is eager to apply his knowledge of environmental science and his love of conservation to the many projects at the District. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, camping, and kayaking. He lives with his partner Taylor in Binghamton. Together, they tend to their chickens and annual garden.



### USDA-NRCS STAFFING CHANGES



Natalie Shudt has transferred from the Troy Field Office to the Binghamton Field Office as Soil Conservationist.

Welcome Natalie!!



Elena Steele is moving to Missouri!! She will be the USDA NRCS State HEL/ Wetland Compliance Specialist. Her last day in New York is July 22, 2022. She is looking forward to the new opportunities but will miss working with the producers in Broome County. Best Wishes Elena! We will miss you!



Broome Co. SWCD  
1163 Upper Front St.  
Binghamton, NY 13905

(607) 724-9268 ext. 5; obroomecountys@stny.rr.com  
[www.broomeswcd.org](http://www.broomeswcd.org)

OR CURRENT POSTAL PATRON



**WATCH FOR OUR  
NEXT NEWSLETTER  
WITH THE TREE  
ORDER FORM**



**BINGHAMTON  
GARDEN CLUB**



Earth Day Southern  
Tier

PO Box 478  
Binghamton,



Post Office Box 75  
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745  
607.217.4122

*Serving your community since  
1949!*

*Please join us Fridays, at noon, Chenango Town Hall*

**Square Deal  
Sportsmen Club**

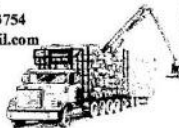


*Landscape Construction & Design  
Full Service Florist  
Garden Center  
Canoe Rental  
Antiques*

**Enchanted Gardens**

Sherry Johnson, Floral Designer Steve Johnson, Horticulturist  
2975 NY RT 7 • Harpursville, NY 13787  
607-693-2755 • [windharpe@aol.com](mailto:windharpe@aol.com)  
[www.enchantedgardens.us](http://www.enchantedgardens.us)

315 Old Rte. 10  
Deposit, N.Y. 13754  
[larryschf@gmail.com](mailto:larryschf@gmail.com)



OFFICE 607-467-4990  
FAX 607-467-6022  
LARRY 607-467-2899 (H)  
ADOLF 607-467-3177 (H)

**SCHAEFER LOGGING, Inc.**

*Buying Logs & Standing Timber  
Seasoned Firewood*

*Excavating  
Contracting*

*Also buying  
& selling land*

**URDA**  
**ENGINEERING, PLLC**

Alexander N. Urda, P.E., CPESC  
P.O. Box 142  
Windsor, NY 13865  
607.760.6545  
[alex@urdaengineering.com](mailto:alex@urdaengineering.com)

**Guide-Step  
Sportsmen's Club Inc.**