

SUMMER 2023

Conservation Update

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

2023 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 27th. 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 and 3 from Union-Endicott High School. **Congratulations to Broome County's winning team from Union-Endicott High School—**

The Awesome Possums: Team members: Allison Mariano, Amelia Swavola, Madilyn Swavola, Layla Sweezy, Faith Castoro. Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp. **Second Place** was Chenango Forks High School's Phish: Team members: Liam Wood, Daniel Calisi, Daisy Dimatos, Lucas McPeak, and Kathryn White; Advisors: Ms. Tina Giovenco & Ms. Lori Willchock. **Third place** went to Union-Endicott High School's Genius Rattus. Team members: Emilie Melnyk, Bailey Collins, Coral Keller, Emma Butler, and Kathryn Pascarelli. Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp.



The U-E "The Awesome Possums" went on to represent Broome County at the **NYS Envirothon** Competition was held at William Hobart & Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY on May 24 & 25 and they placed 23rd out of 42 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 Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick.

The District would like to **THANK the following for their generous contributions** for the Envirothon competition: Earth Day Southern Tier, Nimmonsburg Rotary and Square-Deal Sportsmens Club. 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 the 2024 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 Enhancement Project in Culver Creek - Dudley Creek Watershed

By: Bailey Park

Broome County SWCD partnered with a private landowner and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) Wetland Team and Buffer Team to implement a 13.5-acre wetland enhancement in the Culver Creek-Dudley Creek Watershed. This project is located along one of the headwater tributaries connecting to Culver-Dudley Creek, having an overall waterbody size of 66.7 miles.

The goal of this project was to enhance the freshwater emergent wetland by establishing a functioning riparian forest buffer. There was also the creation of shallow water habitat for plants and animals throughout the project area. Wetland enhancement was accomplished in the fall of 2022 by creating three wetlands &/or shallow ponds, followed by planting approximately 7 acres of native trees and shrubs within the project area in the spring of 2023. Buffer establishment consisted of both upland and riparian plantings (1,500 stems total), contributing to species diversity and food/shelter enhancement for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. The established buffer will also promote habitat connectivity between the upland and lowland communities, as well as filter excess nutrients and sediment. The District and the USC hope to partner more in the future to implement projects such as this throughout Broome County.



Figure 1. Wetland Enhancement Project in the Culver-Dudley Creek Watershed – establishing shallow water habitat and riparian/upland forest buffers within a 13.5-acre project area (Richford, NY).



ATTENTION BROOME COUNTY FARMERS!

The Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District is partnering with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to deliver a grants program supporting agricultural projects in Broome County.

Funding will be available through the Broome County Agricultural Environmental Management Implementation Program for landowners to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on their farms that increase farm production, advance on farm conservation or environmental goals. Eligible projects include but are not limited to: Fencing, livestock watering improvements, erosion control systems, and farmstead runoff treatment.

Funding will be available to address projects up to \$20,000 per farm. The program requires a 20% match that can be supplied by in-kind services or cash.

Projects must implement part(s) of a farm management plan. Farms must meet all eligibility requirements and participate in the Agricultural Environmental Management program. Applications will be accepted in October 2023.



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 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 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.

Upcoming Events

SWCD News & Notes

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

****Summer Foraging** —June29 & July6 6:30-7:30—6/29 @South Mountain Park, Binghamton and 7/6 at IBM Glen, Johnson City. Learn how to identify & forage summer plants and mushrooms & more. —more info call Cornell Cooperative Extension at (607)772-8953.

****Wetlands 2 part series** -July 11 at Upper Lisle Park, July 18 at Chenango Valley State Park—6:30-7:30 p.m. Educational series on wetlands of Broome County—viable habitats and provide numerous services to humans. For more info call Cam Winzinger at CCE (607) 584-5001.

****Empire Farm Days**—August 3-5, Seneca Falls, NY for more info visit www.empirefarmdays.com

****Outdoor Skills** — Greenwood Park—August 13, 4:00-7:00 pm for fire skills & safety and August 20, 2:00—4:00 p.m. for hiking skills and safety. More info call Cam Winzinger at CCE (607) 584-5001.

****2023 Fresh Food Face Off—(\$)** Sept. 20 5-7:30 pm—CCE, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY—Local chefs create dishes using local, in season ingredients. Contract Broome CCE for info. 607-772-8953.



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

Afton Fair— July 6-9, Afton, NY

Broome Co. Fair—July 25-30; WhitneyPoint FairGrounds

Tioga Co. Fair—Aug. 8-12, Owego, NY

Chenango Co. Fair—August 9-13, Norwich, NY

Delaware Co. Fair—August 14-19, Walton, NY

New York State Fair—August 23—Sept. 4, 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 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.



The Broome County SWCD hydroseeded the ballfield along Dudley Creek in the Town of Lisle for the Whitney Point Little League Association!

Have a great season!



SWCD Welcomes Ryan Brannigan- Buffer Intern

We are excited to introduce Ryan, our summer buffer intern. Ryan attends SUNY Binghamton

"I joined SWCD because I wanted to have a more direct and impactful interaction with the natural world. As someone who aspires to work within the environmental field, the most important traits that matter to me are community, respect, and passion. I am passionate about learning new skills and taking on challenges and I am looking forward to doing both this summer. My goal this summer is to develop a deeper understanding of the natural world and my role as a member of the larger biotic community."



District Staff District Directors

Justin Puglisi: District Manager
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Bailey Park: Nat.Res.Conservationist
vacant: Nat Resource Asst.
Alana Covington: NRCS DistrictCon
Natalie Shudt: NRCS Soil Con.

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



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Look for our buffer signs around the county!!

