

SUMMER 2024

# Conservation Update

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

## 2024 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, sunny day and all the teams had a good time. Broome County had 6 teams participate – 2 from Chenango Forks High School, 3 from Union-Endicott High School and 1 from Windsor Central 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. They also took **1st place** in the overall Regional Competition!

**Second Place** was Union-Endicott High Schools "Genus Rattus"

Team members: Emilie Melnyk, Bailey Collins, Coral Keller, Emma Butler, and Kathryn Pascarelli/ Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp. **Third place** went to Windsor Central High School Team. Team members: Makenna King, Evy Cease, Tanner Krom, and Elizabeth Criddle. Advisors: Ms. Tina Miner-James and Mikayla Anderson..

The U-E "The Awesome Possums" went on to represent Broome County at the **NYS Envirothon** Competition was held at SUNY Cortland, Cortland NY on May 22 & 23 and they placed 30th out of 41 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 New York State** at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY.

The District would like to **THANK the following for their generous contributions** for the Envirothon competition: Square-Deal Sportsmens Club, Urda Enginnering PLLC, Nimmonsburg Rotary Club, Wendy Caldiero, and Wayne Jennings. 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 2025 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](http://www.broomeswcd.org)**

## Urban Street Trees Established in the Village of Whitney Point

by: Bailey Park – Natural Resource Conservationist

Partners: Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) Buffer Team, Village of Whitney Point Maintenance Crew, and Matthew Hilderbrant (District 9, Broome County Legislator)

The Broome County SWCD, in collaboration with the partners listed above, was able to successfully plant trees along the streets in the Village of Whitney Point. The District worked closely with the village crew to establish the street trees in appropriate locations keeping spacing, height, and maintenance in mind. Species that grow to a maximum height of 25 feet tall are ideal for planting under powerlines where canopy interference won't be an issue. Serviceberry, flowering dogwood, and Eastern redbud were selected to aesthetically enhance the streets.

Like riparian buffers, there are many benefits to urban trees such as providing canopy cover, root structure, and habitat for important insects and wildlife. Urban trees are a crucial asset to cities where impermeable surfaces exist. They lower surface and air temperatures, providing shade and cooling through evapotranspiration. Trees also contribute to cleaner air within our communities by absorbing harmful gases through their leaves and in turn, producing oxygen. Trees sequester carbon as part of their nutrient cycle and play a vital role in mitigating the effects of climate change in our municipal areas. (Con't next column)



Above: Urban trees planted in the Village of Whitney Point in collaboration with Broome County SWCD, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC,) and the village maintenance crew



Above: Matthew Hilderbrant (District 9, Broome County Legislator) helping plant street trees in the Village of Whitney Point, NY

The District wants to thank the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) for providing large containerized stock for the planting and to thank the Village of Whitney Point's maintenance crew, as well as Matthew Hilderbrant (County Legislator) for being dedicated to the project and wanting to improve the local community with the many benefits urban street trees provide.

### 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)

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.

BARLEY STRAW - The District is selling barley straw bales to help pond owners control algae growth in their ponds. As a general rule, place one bale of straw per 1/3 ac. of pond in the spring (before the algae gets a chance to start growing). The cost \$10/bale.

# Upcoming Events

## SWCD News & Notes

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

**\*\*Much Ado in the Garden 2024**—July 21 12 pm-4pm— @Broome County CCE Cutler Gardens—Much Ado in the Garden is a family-friendly public event in Cutler Botanical Gardens (at CCE) that combines a celebration of the music, dance, theater, and crafts of Elizabethan England. Now in its fifth year, the festival also features children's activities, vendors, basket raffles, and craft demonstrations —more info call Cornell Cooperative Extension at (607)772-8953.

**\*\*Empire Farm Days**—August 1-3, Palladino Farms, 3149 Sweet Rd., Pompey, NY for more info visit [www.empirefarmdays.com](http://www.empirefarmdays.com)

**\*\*Useful Herbs**— August 10, 12 pm—1 pm—@Johnson City Public Library, 107 Main St. Johnson City, NY— Learn about some useful herbs often considered weeds that may be growing in your own backyard. Presented by Master Gardner Volunteer and herb enthusiast Elaine Gregory. Part of the Summer Gardening Series at Your Home Public Library, JC. Pre-register either by phone (607) 797-4816, at circulation desk, or by emailing [jc.natassia@4cls.org](mailto:jc.natassia@4cls.org).

**\*\*2024 Fresh Food Face Off**—(\$ ) Sept. 18 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.



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

**Afton Fair**— July 18-21, Afton, NY

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

**Tioga Co. Fair**—Aug. 7-10, Owego, NY

**Chenango Co. Fair**—August 7-11, Norwich, NY

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

**New York State Fair**—August 21—Sept. 2, 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### SWCD Welcomes Nathan Slisher-Buffer Intern

The District would like to welcome Nathan Slisher, summer buffer intern. "I am currently attending Binghamton University, majoring in Biology and Geology because I love learning how things work, especially in the natural world. I enjoy uncovering the processes behind what surrounds us and am excited to learn more about how conservation works by actually doing it this summer. In joining the SWCD, I hope to gain new skills and put into practice my ideals for making the world a better place to live. Additionally, when I get the chance, I enjoy making music, exploring new places, and making fresh cornbread."



## District Staff District Directors

Justin Puglisi: District Manager  
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.  
Bailey Park: Nat.Res.Conservationist  
vacant: Nat Resource Asst.  
vacant: NRCS District Con.  
Juliana Fitts: 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 Lrg. Rep  
Lester Price: 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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NEXT NEWSLETTER  
WITH THE TREE  
ORDER FORM**



**Look for our buffer  
signs around the  
county!!**

**NIMMONSBURG ROTARY CLUB**



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*

**Special thanks to:  
Wendy Caldiero for her  
Envirothon Donation.**

**Square Deal  
Sportsmen Club**  
3205 State Rte 26  
Glen Aubrey, NY 13777

**URDA**  
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