

SUMMER 2025

Conservation Update

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

2025 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 7 teams participate – 3 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, Kathryn Pascarelli, Faith Castoro. Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp & Ms. Clare McGovern-Lind. They also took **3rd place** in the overall Regional Competition! **Second Place** was Union-Endicott High School "The Jazzy Goblins" Team members: Jack Klein, Colin He, Ibaz Zarib, Arman Bajwa, and Gabriel Crocker. Advisor: Ms. Terre Trupp. **Third place** went to Windsor Central High School "Em-Bark-ers". Team members: Faith Putney, Michaela Thomas, Talon Otis, Ava Platner, and Kohen Werner. Advisor: Ms. Tina Miner-James. The U-E "The Awesome Possums" went on to represent Broome County at the NYS Envirothon Competition held at SUNY Cortland, Cortland NY on May 28 & 29 and they placed 28th out of 39 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** Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta, Canada on July 20-26, 2025.



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, Zigmont's Excavation & Septic Service, and Jennings Environmental Mgmt. 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 2026 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

Streambank Stabilization Efforts along Nanticoke Creek

Bailey Park – Natural Resource Conservationist

A local landowner recently contacted the District with concerns about ongoing streambank erosion on their property along Nanticoke Creek. Following a site visit, the District identified the lack of woody vegetation—due to years of agricultural use—as a contributing factor to the erosion. In response, we proposed the establishment of a riparian buffer using native trees and shrubs as a natural and effective solution.

As part of a streambank stabilization and riparian forest buffer restoration initiative in the Nanticoke Creek Watershed, the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District planted 115 containerized trees and shrubs along 800 feet of the affected section of streambank. These plantings are intended to stabilize the soil, reduce erosion, and enhance the ecological health of the riparian corridor.

In addition, the District harvested 1,000 pussy willow stems for propagation this spring and planted them within the previously established buffer. Pussy willows are especially effective for rapid root establishment and bank stabilization due to their vigorous growth.

While the newly planted woody vegetation will take time to mature and develop extensive root systems, their long-term benefits for erosion control are significant. (Con't next column)



Buffer along Nanticoke Creek

Through our stewardship program, the District will continue to monitor the site to track plant survival and overall progress, ensuring the success of this restoration effort for years to come.



Harvesting willow to use on buffer planting



Planting Willows

Kids Column:

Eastern Bluebird



An eastern bluebird perches on a branch, patiently watching the ground below. Suddenly it spots a beetle. The bird spreads its bright blue wings, flies to the ground, and gobbles up the small insect. Then the colorful flier returns to its perch to wait for its next snack. Common Name: Eastern Bluebird

Scientific Name: *Sialia sialis* Size: Length: 7 inches

WHERE THEY LIVE: Eastern bluebirds can be found in the eastern parts of North and Central America from southern Canada into the country of Nicaragua. They also dwell on the islands of Cuba and Bermuda. The eastern bluebird is the state bird of New York and Missouri. These birds can often be found on trees or fences that border meadows, scanning the clearings for food.

WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE: The bird has a round belly, long wings, and short legs. Its black bill is short and straight. Male eastern bluebirds are easily identified by their bright blue heads and wings. Females sport duller colors, with grayish heads and backs and bluish wings. Both males and females have a rust-colored throats and white stomachs.

WHAT THEY EAT: More than half of an eastern bluebird's diet consists of beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, and caterpillars. When the weather is cooler and insects are scarce, it'll also eat fruits and berries.

HOW THEY BEHAVE: These birds are skilled fliers with incredible vision. They can spot an insect on the ground from 60 feet away. Eastern bluebirds often sing, using their voices to stay in touch with flock members. They also use vocalizations to warn predators to stay away from their small, cup-like nests that are usually built inside old woodpecker holes. Eastern bluebird eggs are pale blue. Most fledglings, or baby birds, leave the nest about three weeks after they hatch, but some stay to help their parents with the next batch of eggs. (taken from internet—National Geographic Kids)

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 2025**—July 20 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.

****NY Botanical Gardens Bus Trip** (\$) August Pre-registration is required at (607) 772-8953.

****2025 Taste Of Market Garden Party** (\$) Sept. 16 5-7:30 pm—CCE, 840 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY—Contract Broome CCE for info. 607-772-8953.

****Beef Quality Assurance Training**—November 15 10am-3pm (\$) @ 55 Foland Rd., Binghamton—BQAs mission is to guide producers towards continuous improvement using science-based production practices that assure cattle well-being, beef quality & safety. For more info and to register contact Linnea Depue—CCE at 607-773-3300.



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

Afton Fair— August 5-9, Afton, NY

Broome Co. Fair—July 22-27; Whitney Point Fairgrounds

Tioga Co. Fair—Aug. 5-9, Owego, NY

Chenango Co. Fair—July 28—August 1, Norwich, NY

Delaware Co. Fair—August 11-16, Walton, NY

New York State Fair—August 20—Sept. 1, 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.



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 \$15 and duck boxes \$25. They will also be sold during our tree sale next year! Contact the District at 607-724-9268 x5

District Staff District Directors

Justin Puglisi: District Manager
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Bailey Park: Nat.Res.Conservationist
Chuck Lanfranchi: Nat Res. Asst.
vacant: NRCS District Con.
Juliaana 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 -Large Rep
Steve Livingston: Farm Bureau Rep.
Matthew Hilderbrant (vice-chair) Co. Legislature

SWCD Welcomes
Dylan Stone-
Buffer Intern

Welcome

The District would like to welcome Dylan Stone, summer buffer intern. "I am currently working for Broome County Soil and Water as a Buffer Steward. I'm an undergraduate student at Binghamton University studying Environmental Science. My hobbies are outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and playing different sports."





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

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