

Winter/Spring 2021

Conservation Update

from the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District -

Phone #: (607) 724-9268 ext. 5

ASSISTING WITH THE COUNTIES' NATURAL RESOURCE NEEDS — www.broomeswcd.org

Operation Arbor Green



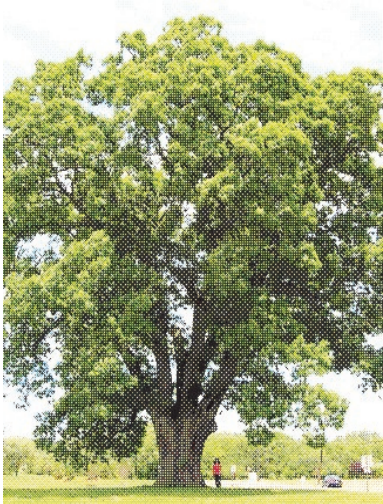
Broome County's 52nd Annual Tree & Shrub
Seedling Sale is Underway



This newsletter includes the 2021 tree/shrub order form and information. The order form includes over 40 species of conservation trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and wildflowers, as well as, different variety pacs. New species for this year's sale include: Swamp White Oak, Black Willow, Streamco Willow, Silky Dogwood, Shagbark Hickory, Serviceberry, Honeoye Strawberry, and Berry Pac. Also, included are some pollinator species: Redbud & Tulip Tree. Quantity conifer seedlings are available in groups of 25, 100, 250, 500, & 1000. Limited quantities of Fraser Fir, White Cedar, Balsam Fir and Sugar Maple are available. Refer to the species descriptions included with the order information for further details on the different plants. These bare-root seedlings are excellent for starting wildlife habitat, improving woodlots, and establishing protective cover on critical areas.

The order deadline is March 31st with the pick up (at the District's shop facility) scheduled for Friday, April 16th. Quantities are limited and we tend to sell out of several species early. Therefore, please place your orders promptly as we may not be able to accommodate later orders. However, orders after the deadline will be accepted based on species availability. Some of our more popular species and/or those that tend to sell out quickly are: blackberry, raspberry, blueberry, cranberry, black cherry, black walnut, sugar maple, butterfly bush, fountain grass, day lilies, and fern pacs. All extra trees will be available the following week to purchase. Feel free to contact the District if you have any questions regarding Operation Arbor Green, the different species offered, and/or species selection. Call (607-724-9268 x5) or check our website: www.broomeswcd.org

Conservation Tree Spotlight: "Swamp White Oak"



The Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) has conservation and wildlife attributes. This crown shape & bi-colored leaves (dark above, lighter beneath) are attractive features; fall color is yellow with occasional red-purple; in the beech family and commonly grows 50-60 feet with equal spread. Flowering occurs in May-June, during early development of leaves, while fruiting occurs in August-October. The acorns have no dormancy and may germinate the same season as ripening and falling. Planting in swamp forests of river bottoms, streambanks, borders of ponds, lakes and swamps and moist peaty flats; grows best in full sun in acidic soils. The tree can grow well in areas that are dry, poorly drained and wet, or even occasionally flooded, and they will tolerate significant soil compaction. Swamp white oak trees provide cover for birds and mammals. The acorns are sweet and are important food for wildlife such as squirrels, mice, white-tailed deer, beaver, black bear, and a variety of birds, including ducks and turkeys. The wood is an excellent source for fine timber. (information taken from USDA-NRCS plant website)

For more information on this tree and other trees the District offers visit www.arborday.org.

For more information on trees—check the District website - visit www.broomeswcd.org.



SPRING FISH SALE: Keep an eye on the Broome Soil & Water website for the spring fish sale. Trout, bass, catfish, minnows, bluegills, perch, crappie and grass carp will be offered again. There is only **ONE** fish program this year!
www.broomeswcd.org

News & Notes



Trees for Tributaries

by: Bailey Park

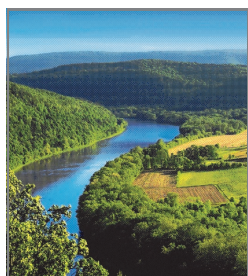


Here in Broome County, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in a statewide program known as Trees for Tributaries. This program has been working to reforest New York's tributaries – small creeks and streams that flow into larger rivers and lakes. The goal of the program is to plant trees and shrubs along streams to create a forested riparian buffer on public and private lands. The program is funded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and plant materials are being supplied through the Saratoga Tree Nursery. The Upper Susquehanna Coalition helps facilitate this program and works with partners such as various Soil and Water Conservation Districts, municipalities, and private land owners to establish riparian buffers across the Upper Susquehanna Watershed.

There are several ecological benefits associated with establishing a riparian buffer. Some of the advantages include holding soil in place, slowing down and filtering runoff, intercepting water from storms events, creating shade for a stream or other water body, and providing food and habitat for a diversity of wildlife. Riparian buffers act as a sponge, utilizing vegetation to filter and permeable soil to soak up runoff and any pollutants that may be present.

Broome has a number of suitable areas that would benefit by the implementation of forested buffers. In the Spring of 2021 riparian restoration will take place at several locations in the county. Currently, there are established buffers in our area, including Jackson Pond Park in Binghamton, NY. Trees for Tribs is a great opportunity for the restoration and long-term functionality of riparian zones. We look forward to expanding this program and establishing buffers in the years to come.

As a District, we are looking to recruit volunteers for the planting of trees and shrubs. If you're interested in participating in any of the planting events in the Spring, please contact us through the District email (contact@broomeswcd.org) or call the office at (607) 724-9268 Ext. 5. Also, if you would like to learn more details regarding the program or would like to plant a riparian forested buffer somewhere on your property, please don't hesitate to reach out to us!



River and Stream Dredging – What works and What Doesn't

By: Chip McElwee

Dredging seems like a simple and cost-effective way to address flooding by increasing the size of the stream/river channel. If the channel is deeper, water won't spill out onto the floodplain and will move through the area faster. Isn't this a good way to "fix" flooding problems?

Unfortunately, dredging can actually increase flood damage. Some of the stream problems we see today are the result of past disturbance of stream channels. Unanticipated consequences can take the form of increased erosion and/or excessive sediment deposition. Altering stream channels without considering the long-term channel stability is at best a short-term fix and quite often the beginning of maintenance nightmares.

We know, of course, that streams and rivers collect and move water and that too much water causes flooding. Another, less obvious, function of streams is to move sediment. In the process of moving water and sediment downhill, a stream dissipates energy. Streams are dynamic systems that naturally adjust to changes in flow, sediment load, and energy distribution. A stream with excess energy will pick up more sediment, often by eroding the banks or channel. Conversely, if the stream lacks the energy needed to transport its sediment load, deposition occurs.

What dredging does:

- Dredging removes compacted sediment that armors the stream bed, thus increasing the susceptibility to erosion.
- Dredging disrupts the alternating deep and shallow areas called pools and riffles, which serve as speed bumps for the stream, slowing the water and absorbing energy. Without these features, the stream has more energy to use eroding its bed and banks.
- Dredging creates a flattened streambed without a low-flow channel where concentrated flow has enough energy to transport sediment through the system. This can result in deposition of far more sediment than the amount removed by dredging.
- If a dredged channel is also straightened, the water velocity is increased significantly, due to increased slope and the loss of energy dissipation at bends. Faster water causes much more damage during floods.
- Dredging creates a deeper channel with high banks that are often susceptible to erosion or slumping. In addition, the lower water level can stress adjacent plant communities, reducing the ability of their root systems to stabilize the banks.
- Dredging disconnects the stream from its floodplain, so there is no longer space where the water can spread out and slow down. All of the stream's energy is confined to the channel, where it tears at the banks and scours the bed.
- Dredging alters the channel slope, which can increase erosion, particularly at the upstream end of the excavation, where water flows faster over the steepened streambed. This eroding slope, called a headcut, shifts upstream and can continue to generate sediment long after the dredged channel is filled.

(Continued on next page)

Upcoming Events

2021 NY Farm Show, - February 25-27, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY,

Ag Assessment Paperwork Due to Town Assessor by March 1st

District Tree Order Deadline - March 31 (orders will be accepted after this date if species is available)

District Tree Order Pick-Up - April 16; 8:30 am-4 pm @ the SWCD Shop Facility; Binghamton, NY

Southern Tier Regional Envirothon (virtual event)- April 29

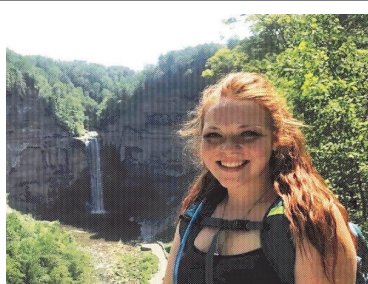
2021 Empire Farm Days – Palladino Farms, Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY - August 3-5, more info www.empirefarmdays.com

SWCD Welcomes Bailey Park- Natural Resource Assistant

Bailey is a recent graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry (ESF), where she obtained two degrees; a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management and an Associate of Applied Science in Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation from the Ranger School, which is an extension of ESF in the Adirondack Park.

She is a Binghamton native who graduated from Chenango Forks High School and began her college education at SUNY Broome Community College, where she pursued her passion for nature through studying environmental science.

Bailey hopes to gain valuable experience in the field of conservation by planning and implementing projects for various natural resource concerns. She looks forward to all the learning opportunities with Broome County SWCD and is excited to work and build connections with the farming community!



Hydroseeding -- New WQIP Round 16 Grant May 2019-April 2024



The Broome County SWCD is now in the Implementation phase of our newly funded WQIP Round 16 Grant. The continued critical area seeding grant funded through the DEC commenced this summer and will run until April 2024 or until funding is exhausted. This round of monies will leverage \$70,000 in State funds to be used in the purchase of materials which will provide hydroseeding for local school districts and municipalities. Through the life of this grant the District will be able to provide cost share seeding for over 70 acres of critical areas. Any school district or municipality in need of a critical area seeding contact Justin Puglisi at the Broome County SWCD.

District Staff District Directors

Charles McElwee: Exec. Director
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Justin Puglisi: Grazing Specialist
Bailey Park: Nat. Resource Asst.
Elena Steele: NRCS District Con.
Phil Zurheide: NRCS Soil Con.

Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large
Erin Heard: Urban At-Large
Pete Shafer: Urban, At-Large
Scott Baker: Co. Legislative Rep
Kelly Wildoner: Co. Legislative Rep
Alex Urda: (Vice-Chair) Agricultural Rep
Lester Price: (Treas.) Farm Bureau Rep



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River and Stream Dredging – What works and What Doesn't

(Continued from previous page)

Is dredging a good solution?

Increased erosion and deposition of sediment are ways that the stream responds to the altered shape of a dredged channel. But are there also benefits?

Does a dredged channel reduce flooding?

- In some cases, dredging can create enough space to confine moderate flood events to the channel. However, this increased capacity is quickly lost due to increased sediment deposits caused by the disturbance.
 - The volume of material removed by dredging is insignificant compared to the volume of water in a major flood event.
 - To the extent that dredging conveys water more quickly through one area, it can increase the overall severity of flooding regionally by increasing flood peaks in downstream communities.
- For more information on the Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District's stream program take a look at the article and short film referenced below.

https://www.bayjournal.com/news/climate_change/floods-drive-binghamton-toward-sea-change-of-resiliency/article_e75c7f86-354d-11eb-b83f-ab0b9281bf63.html

<https://vimeo.com/487019658>



Don't forget the Broome County Regional Farmer's Market is open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
840 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, New York

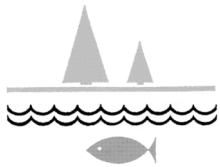
AG ASSESSMENTS

- The paperwork needs to be to your assessor by March 1st, therefore you should contact the District and complete the necessary forms before Feb. 21. To learn more about the NYS Ag Assessment program & criteria go to www.orps.state.ny.us (look under tax policy & exemptions), contact your town tax assessor or contact the District office. (Eligibility: Land must consist of 7 acres or more & annual gross sales from agricultural products must average \$10,000 or more for preceding 2 years)(\$30 for new parcel, \$15 for revised parcel) (607-724-9268 x5).

Broome Co. Cornell Cooperative Extension contact info:
607-772-8953; <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/broome>

URDA
ENGINEERING, PLLC

Alexander N. Urda, P.E., CPESC
P.O. Box 142
Windsor, NY 13865
607.760.6545
alex@urdaengineering.com



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

(607) 724-9268 ext. 5 obroomecountys@stny.rr.com

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Order Form & Information
Inside

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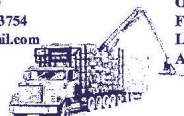
**Special thanks to: Terry
Woodnorth, and Wendy
Caldiero for Envirothon
Donations.**



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**PO Box 478
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315 Old Rte. 10
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