

Winter/Spring 2022

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 53rd Annual Tree & Shrub
Seedling Sale is Underway**



This newsletter includes the 2022 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: Sawtooth Oak, Streamco Willow, Redosier Dogwood, Am. Hazelnut, Arrowwood, White Birch, and Berry Pac. Also, included are pollinator species: Arrowwood, Serviceberry & Tulip Tree. Quantity conifer seedlings are available in groups of 25, 100, 250, & 500. Limited quantities of Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and Conifer seedlings 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 15th. 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, and day lilies. 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: "Tulip Tree"

A fast growing tree. Likes full sun, prefers moist, sandy, well drained and clay soils. The flowers from this generous tree provide a significant portion of nectar in each flower. Blooms in May and June, producing tulip-shaped flowers 1½–2" in diameter with greenish-yellow petals and a splash of orange at the base. Provides vibrant yellow color in the fall.

This tree provides food in many forms for many animals. In fall and winter, young trees are browsed by white-tailed deer and rabbits. The spring flowers provide nectar for ruby-throated hummingbirds. Tulip tree seeds, maturing in summer and persisting into winter, provide food for both birds and mammals, including finches, cardinals, quail, mice, red squirrels, gray squirrels and rabbits.

This is a great hardwood tree and is very popular as a source of timber. It grows straight and tall and can live for centuries. Once plentiful in their natural habitat in eastern America, tulip trees were favored by loggers for railroad ties and fence posts. George Washington planted tulip trees at Mount Vernon which are now 140' tall. And Daniel Boone used the wood of this tree for his 60' dugout canoe. (information taken from www.arboday.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

The Trees for Tributaries Spring 2022 planting season is approaching fast! 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. So far, this program has helped to establish buffers at local parks and private properties in Broome County!

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, and intercepting water from storms events. Riparian buffers act as a sponge, utilizing vegetation and soil to soak up and filter pollutants that may be present. Buffers create shade for a stream or water body, reducing water temperatures and also provide food and habitat for a diversity of wildlife.

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. 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, Binghamton University's Environmental Science Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, Newark Valley Highschool, 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) or call the office at (607) 724-9268 ext. 5.



Oquaga Creek Streambank Stabilization

By: Justin Puglisi



The Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District, in conjunction with the Delaware County SWCD, and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) worked together this past summer to stabilize the streambanks of Oquaga Creek in the Town of Sanford. Initially the USC's wetland team removed berms along the agricultural fields adjacent to the stream. This allows the stream to access its flood plain during storm events, and then

recede as water levels drop. Following the berm removal project Delaware County SWCD designed and engineered a streambank stabilization plan that would prevent further erosion of the site and reduce head cuts above the bridge on Route 17. Materials included 465 cubic yards of rock, allowing construction of 600' of rip rap, 2 grade control structures, and 3 stream barbs. Redosier dogwood and streamco willow plugs were planted in and along the disturbed areas, then the entire site was seeded and mulched. This project not only protects valuable cropland and public infrastructure, but will be a benefit to the aquatic ecosystem of Oquaga Creek.



Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program - Round 16

By: Justin Puglisi

This year concludes the first round of Broome County's AEM Implementation Program. In total, the District was able to leverage \$100,000 in funding to implement projects on 11 farms. Projects included spring developments, watering facilities, laneways, pipeline, and fencing all to facilitate prescribed grazing management systems. The AEM Implementation program is critical in the District's pursuit of better water quality and sustainable agriculture in Broome county.

Upcoming Events

2022 NY Farm Show, - February 24-26, 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 15; 8:30 am-4 pm @ the SWCD Shop Facility; Binghamton, NY

Southern Tier Regional Envirothon - April 29

2022 Empire Farm Days – Palladino Farms, Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY - August 2-4, more info www.empirefarmdays.com



CONGRATULATIONS Justin Puglisi—District Manager

Justin has recently been hired as the District Manager for the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District. He began work at the District in 2008 as a Natural Resource Assistant and was soon promoted to the Grazing Specialist position. He is a graduate of SUNY Cortland, with a bachelor's degree in Biology and a concentration in Environmental Science.

Justin resides in Greene NY, where he was born and raised on a small farm. He and his family manage a few beef cattle and honey bees on their 30-acre farm. He is passionate about conservation, and is an avid outdoorsman that enjoys hunting and fishing. He has a love and respect for the "family farm" and believes in its ideals and values. Justin is open minded, approachable, and easy to work with.

Justin was quoted as saying "I am thankful and grateful for the opportunity I have been given. It is an honor to lead the Soil & Water District in focusing on Conservation, Water Quality, Flooding, and Sustainable Agriculture in Broome County. I look forward to working with local leaders, farmers, landowners, municipalities, colleagues, and staff in addressing these dynamic issues."



Trees for Tribes - Fall Planting Volunteers from Newark Valley High School

District Staff District Directors

Justin Puglisi—District Manager
Holly Lurenz: Secretary/Asst. Treas.
Vacant : Natural Resource Con.
Bailey Park: Nat. Resource Asst.

Elena Steele: NRCS District Con.

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



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COVER CROPS

By: Bailey Park

Broome County SWCD kicked off their first round of the Cover Crop Incentive Program for 2021. Producers in Broome County helped to establish over 900 acres of cover crops into their annual row crop planting systems. A cover crop is a grass, legume, or forb planted in late summer establishing seasonal vegetative cover. Typical varieties include cereal rye, winter triticale, winter wheat, and oats. The most common cover crop planted throughout Broome County for this program year was winter rye and triticale.

Cover crops provide additional biomass, ground cover, soil infiltration, and plant diversity. This practice is an essential part to protecting our farmland from erosion through the winter months, reducing sediments and nutrients from entering our streams, benefiting water quality. Cover crops protect valuable resources, enhance sustainable agriculture, as well as improve soil health.

This program is available to any producers in Broome County willing to follow the guidelines of the program for qualification purposes. For more information regarding payment rates and program details, please call the District at (607) 724-9268 ext. 5 or email the District at contact@broomeswcd.org. Sign up for the next round of funding will begin in April of 2022 .



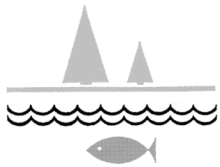
AG ASSESSMENTS

- The paperwork needs to be to your assessor by March 1st, therefore you should contact the District and complete the necessary forms before Feb. 18. 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).



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

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



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Annual Tree & Shrub Sale
Order Form & Information
Inside

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