

Winter/Spring 2024

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 55th Annual Tree & Shrub
Seedling Sale is Underway



This newsletter includes the 2024 tree/shrub order form and information. The order form includes over 40 species of conservation trees, shrubs, and wildflowers, as well as, different variety packs. New species for this year's sale include: Arrowwood, Streamco Willow, Redosier Dogwood, Ninebark, Serviceberry, White Willow, Blueberry and Berry Pac. Also, included are pollinator species: Juneberry & Tulip Tree. Quantity conifer seedlings are available in groups of 25, 100, 250, & 500. Limited quantities of Fraser Fir 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 29th with the pick up (at the District's shop facility) scheduled for Friday, April 19th. Quantities are limited and we tend to sell out of several species early. 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, fountain grass, and swamp white oak. 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 Spotlight: "Ninebark"



Ninebark is capable of growing in dry or moist soils, prefers full sun to partial shade. Branches are arching and can grow up to ten feet tall. The bark peels off in papery layers, hence the common name "ninebark."

Its flowers have five white petals & grow in flat clusters, blooming in May or June. Flowers turn into a bladder shaped fruit later in the summer. Leaves can turn purplish color in fall when they are growing in full sun and soils conditions that are not overly wet. Ninebark can provide a good source of nectar & pollen for a variety of pollinators including butterflies, native bees, and honey bees.

Its dense growth form provides nesting cover for songbirds and winter cover for wildlife such as pheasants, quail, grouse, rabbits, and songbirds. The seeds are a good food source for these animals.

(information taken from USDA-NRCS plant website and Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources)

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, crappie and grass carp will be offered again. There is only **ONE** fish program this year!
www.broomeswcd.org

News & Notes



2023 Buffer Season – Monitoring & Maintenance

By Bailey Park – Natural Resource Conservationist

As our riparian forested buffers continue to grow throughout Broome County, the need to monitor and maintain them also grows. After a buffer is planted, the site is recorded in our database to monitor progression and ensure each site receives the proper maintenance required for the site to become a successfully established riparian forested buffer. Site maintenance is crucial in the initial years of a tree/shrub planting and can be in the form of mowing, watering, weeding, replanting, clearing debris within shelter tubes, securing, or removing stakes/tubes, and controlling invasive species within the project area.

The Broome County SWCD hired a buffer steward this past growing season to assist with the monitoring and maintenance workload. The District plans to hire an intern annually to continue with the Buffer Stewardship Program. A total of 178 acres were monitored and maintained, as well as 15 acres newly planted. A survival assessment is performed at each site to gauge how well the buffer is becoming established and to observe the challenges the site may be facing that's hindering any progression. There are several factors that contribute to a buffer's success such as herbivory, competing vegetation, invasive species pressure, species selection, and soil composition.

As a District, if we take these factors into account and perform the required actions, we can assist with the development and long-term establishment of these riparian forested buffers. As each site matures and reaches adequate stocking rates, we can consider deeming that site officially established and then let nature do the rest!



Figure 1. Buffer Steward removing a shelter tube from an established river birch tree.



Figure 2. Buffer Steward cutting down competing vegetation around tree tubes & suppressing invasive species at the site.

Upcoming Events

2024 NY Farm Show, - February 22-24, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY,

Ag Assessment Paperwork Due to Town Assessor by March 1st

District Tree Order Deadline - March 29 (orders will be accepted after this date if species is available)

District Tree Order Pick-Up - April 19; 8:30 am-4 pm @ the SWCD Shop Facility; Binghamton, NY

Southern Tier Regional Envirothon - April 25

2024 Empire Farm Days – Palladino Farms, Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY - August 1-3, more info www.empirefarmdays.com

USDA-NRCS STAFFING CHANGES

Welcome



My name is Juliaana Fitts. I recently graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. I have a bachelor's degree in agriculture with a concentration of plant and soil science. I joined NRCS full time after interning in the Binghamton field office this summer. I am passionate about finding new ways and ideas on how we can further help our environment. My goal working with NRCS is to gain more knowledge about sustainability, conservation, and the world of agriculture. I am excited to be a part of the team and can't wait to see what the future holds.

Good luck!

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Alana Covington has taken a new job. She is the Asst State Conservationist - Partnerships for the State Office Leadership Team. She is looking forward to the new opportunities but will miss working with the producers in Broome County. Best Wishes Alana! We will miss you!



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

District Staff District Directors

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

vacant: NRCS District Con.
Juliaana Fitts: NRCS Soil Con.

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



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.

Buffer Steward Internship—Broome SWCD is seeking to fill a Seasonal Buffer Steward Intern position— The job description can be found on the District website. Interested applicants can send their resume and cover letter to Broome SWCD, Attn: J. Puglisi, 1163 Upper Front St. Binghamton, NY 13905.



BARLEY STRAW !!

- The District will be 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 District will have bales available by early-mid April. The cost \$10/bale. Contact the SWCD with any questions. 607-724-9268 x5.

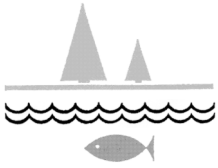
HYDROSEEDING

The Broome County SWCD is in the Implementation phase of our WQIP Round 16 Grant. The continued critical area seeding grant funded through the DEC 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 (607) 724-9268 x5 at Broome SWCD.

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. 16. 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>



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Annual Tree & Shrub Sale
Order Form & Information
Inside

Don't forget to check our website: www.broomeswcd.org

Special thanks to:
Wendy Caldiero for her
Envirothon Donation.

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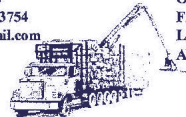
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