

Winter/Spring 2023

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 54th Annual Tree & Shrub
Seedling Sale is Underway



This newsletter includes the 2023 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 packs. New species for this year's sale include: Red Oak, Streamco Willow, Silky Dogwood, Shagbark Hickory, Juneberry, Witch Hazel, Northern Catalpa, Black Willow, 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, 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 21st. 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, 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: "Red Oak"



Bristle-tipped leaves turn red in the fall. The leaves have 7 to 11 waxy lobes. A good street tree, tolerates pollution and compacted soil. Grows as much as two feet a year for 10 years. Grows to 60' to 75', 45' spread. (zones 3-8).

The red oak grows in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained and clay soils. While it prefers normal moisture, the tree has some drought tolerance.

Provides great fall color, with leaves turning russet-red to bright red. Is easier than most to transplant. Features alternating leaves that are 4-8" long and have 7-11 waxy, spine-tipped lobes. Produces pale yellow-green catkins that appear at about the same time new foliage is expanding, typically April-May. Yields acorns that are round and ¾-1" long with a flat, thick, saucer-like cap. Offers great shade due to a dense crown. Tolerates pollution and compacted soil. Grows in a rounded shape.

Acorns from this tree are at the top of the food preference list for blue jays, wild turkeys, squirrels, small rodents, whitetail deer, raccoons and black bears. Deer also browse the buds and twigs in wintertime.

For more information on this tree and other trees the District offers visit www.arborday.org/trees/treeguide. (information taken from Arbor Day plant website)

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



Broome County Buffers Expanding

By: Bailey Park

The Trees for Tributaries Program was a huge success this past planting season! With help from our partners: the Upper Susquehanna Coalition Buffer Team, town municipalities and local volunteers, we were able to establish just under 5 acres of riparian forest buffer along waterbodies in Broome County during the fall season of 2022.

There were six different buffer sites planted - half of them being located in Vestal Parks along the Choconut Creek & its tributaries (Vestal Center Park, Jones Park, & Richards Ave Park), with the other buffer sites being located in the Town of Maine Parks adjacent to the Nanticoke Creek & its tributaries, as well as Grippen County Park along the Susquehanna River. With all sites combined, nearly 1,000 native trees and shrubs were planted with the help of over 50 volunteers. Broome County SWCD wanted to thank volunteers from SUNY Binghamton University, Maine Memorial Elementary School, Southern Tier 8 Regional Board, Environmental Management Council (EMC), and interns from the City of Binghamton Parks & Recreation Department for their contribution in the establishment of Broome County Buffers.

Buffers are great tools for watershed protection, helping to stabilize streambanks and minimize erosion. Riparian buffers act as a sponge, utilizing vegetation and soil to soak up and filter non-point source pollutants that may be carried by surface water runoff. Buffers also provide food and habitat for animals, as well as promote habitat connectivity between different wildlife communities. Riparian buffers create shade for a stream or waterbody moderating water temperature and preventing elevated temperatures harmful to aquatic life.

The District is always looking for new opportunities to plant buffers along waterbodies in Broome County. Project eligibility is dependent on a stream being present. If you are interested in this program, please reach out to schedule a site visit and begin the application process. If you would like to participate in a local conservation effort, volunteer for one of our tree plantings in your watershed community! Events are posted on our website and social media page.



Students and teacher, Jim Tokos, from Maine Memorial Elementary School volunteer in a tree planting effort in the Town of Maine Park, Maine, NY

Stream Restoration in Delaware River Watershed

By: Bailey Park

Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District partnered with Trout Unlimited for a stream restoration project along Oquaga Creek in the lower west branch of the Delaware River Watershed. Oquaga Creek, Lower, and minor tributaries is approximately 22.3 miles long and is listed on the Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL) as a class C(T) stream, designated as trout spawning habitat. A biological assessment of Oquaga Creek was conducted in 2016; sampling results indicated non-impacted conditions and very good water quality.

Trout Unlimited connected with the private landowner of the property, adjacent to where stream restoration work was being targeted. The landowner allowed access to the property to implement streambank stabilization, as well as establish a riparian forest buffer. Root wads were utilized to armor the streambank by deflecting stream flows away from the bank. Root wads include the root mass or root ball of a tree plus a portion of the trunk. They were also utilized in this project to provide structural support to the streambank, habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, as well as a food source for aquatic insects. Willow stakes and conservation seed was planted along the floodplain, in addition to the streambank armor. This practice involves the planting of live, vegetative willow cuttings that will allow the stake to establish and grow, maintaining the stability of the streambank.



Wilbur at work, helping dig holes along Oquaga Creek with his owner, Joanne Humphrey, from Trout Unlimited

A riparian forest buffer was also established adjacent to Oquaga Creek as part of the stream restoration project. Approximately 500 native trees and shrubs were planted on both sides, along the gravel bar and floodplain. A healthy buffer supports a diversity of native species. Healthy buffers improve stream health and water quality by slowing runoff, filtering pollution, preventing soil erosion, and shading the stream to help keep waters cool.

Upcoming Events

2023 NY Farm Show, - February 23-25, 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 21; 8:30 am-4 pm @ the SWCD Shop Facility; Binghamton, NY

Southern Tier Regional Envirothon - April 27

2023 Empire Farm Days – Palladino Farms, Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY - August 3-5, more info www.empirefarmdays.com

Con't from previous page



Root wad armoring, willow staking, and seed matting along Oquaga Creek as part of a stream restoration project with Trout Unlimited, located in the Delaware River Watershed, NY.



Wilbur being a great helper, digging holes to plant trees along Oquaga Creek, Deposit, NY



A diverse selection of native trees & shrubs for a riparian buffer planting.

District Staff District Directors

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

Alana Covington: NRCS District Con.
Natalie Shudt: NRCS Soil Con.

Mike Donahue (Chair): Rural At-Large
Erin Heard: 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: (Treas.) 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.

College Intern—Summer Position—

Broome SWCD is seeking to fill a Summer Buffer Steward Intern Position—Interested applicants can fill out a Broome County Application found on the District's website. Mail applications to Broome SWCD, Attn: J. Puglisi, 1163 Upper Front St., Binghamton, NY 13905

No-Till Seeder

The Broome County SWCD has recently acquired a new no-till seeder, specifically an Esch 5607. This unit has a 15 row, 5.5" spaced seeder, covering a 7 ft. width. The no-till seeder can be rented from the District and used to plant wildlife food plots, crop fields, and improve species diversity in pastures. There are several benefits to no-till seedings. Land owners not only save labor and fuel expenses, but soil erosion and compaction are significantly reduced. Soil tilth and soil health are maintained and overall yields are generally better. Contact Justin at the Broome SWCD for more information. (607) 724-9268 x5.



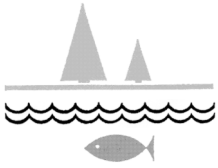
AG ASSESSMENTS

- 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>



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

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

Prst Std
US Postage
PAID
Binghamton, NY
Permit 197

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Annual Tree & Shrub Sale
Order Form & Information
Inside

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

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

Steve Johnson, Horticulturist Sherry Johnson, Proprietor



2975 NY Rte. 7 • Harpursville, New York 13787

WETLAND EXPERTS

800-693-2755

nywetlands.com

• Delineation • Mitigation • Buffer Strips • Wetland Nursery
• Stream Bank Stabilization • Design

**Guide-Step
Sportsmen's Club
Inc.**

**Square Deal
Sportsmen**

www.squaredealsportsmen.com

**Special thanks to:
Wendy Caldiero for
Envirothon Donations.**

URDA
ENGINEERING, PLLC

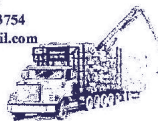
Alexander N. Urda, P.E., CPESC
P.O. Box 142
Windsor, NY 13865
607.760.6545
alex@urdaengineering.com



**Earth Day
Southern
Tier**

**PO Box 478
Binghamton,
NY**

315 Old Rte. 10
Deposit, N.Y. 13754
harryschif@gmail.com



OFFICE 607-467-4990
FAX 607-467-6022
LARRY 607-467-2899 (H)
ADOLF 607-467-3177 (H)

SCHAEFER LOGGING, Inc.

*Buying Logs & Standing Timber
Seasoned Firewood*

*Excavating
Contracting*

*Also buying
& selling land*



Binghamton Garden Club