

Winter/Spring 2025

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 56th Annual Tree & Shrub
Seedling Sale is Underway



This newsletter includes the 2025 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, Pussy Willow, Redosier Dogwood, Ninebark, Black Hills Spruce, Pink Damask Day Lily, and Patriot Blueberry. Also included are pollinator species: Lavender Pac & Tulip Tree. Quantity conifer seedlings are available in groups of 25, 100, 250, & 500. Limited quantities of Apple and Pear 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. Also new this year are Blue Bird boxes and Wood Duck boxes. (limited quantities)

The order deadline is March 31st with the pick up (at the District's shop facility) scheduled for Friday, April 18th. 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, 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: "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 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



Improving Water Quality through Heavy Use Area Protection in Broome County

By Bailey Park – Natural Resource Conservationist

Through the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program, Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District partnered with a local producer to implement a Heavy Use Area (HUA) Runoff Management System at a beef farm in Harpursville, NY. A diversion and subsurface drain were installed to effectively remove excess water from a spring discharging in the pasture above. Surface water runoff was entering the barnyard, creating a resource concern for the livestock and nearby water courses. Muddy areas are breeding grounds for disease causing bacteria and can hinder movement and access to food and water, impacting overall animal performance and health. Runoff from heavy use areas can include pollutants such as manure, fertilizers, sediment from soil erosion, and even bacteria from animal waste.

Through the installation of the diversion and underground outlet, the amount of clean water entering the barnyard has reduced significantly, allowing the HUA to remain dry and manageable. An animal trail and walkway with exclusion fence was also installed outside of the barnyard to help control animal traffic within the area and minimize compaction over the recently installed drain. Areas that were re-graded and disturbed from implementation were seeded back to vegetative cover for the purpose of surface stabilization and to help filter nutrients and sediment.

The combination of these best management practices will help strengthen the HUA's integrity & functionality, as well as protect nearby natural resources through reduced erosion, improved surface stability, and enhanced water quality. (Photos taken by Broome Co. SWCD staff, 2024)



Figure 1. Condition of HUA before installation of diversion & subsurface drain.



Figure 2. HUA during installation of subsurface drain.



Figure 3. HUA after construction of diversion & subsurface drain.



Figure 4. Condition of HUA after installation of animal trail & walkway.

Upcoming Events

2025 NY Farm Show, - February 20-22, 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 18; 8:30 am-4 pm @ the SWCD Shop Facility; Binghamton, NY

Southern Tier Regional Envirothon - April 25

2025 Empire Farm Days – Palladino Farms, Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY - August 2025, more info www.empirefarmdays.com

Welcome

BROOME SWCD STAFFING CHANGES

Hi, my name is Chuck Lanfranchi, Natural Resource Assistant at Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District. I am a graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry where I received my Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Energy Management. Outside of work, I enjoy fishing, hiking, and most of all playing golf. I am very happy to be working for Broome SWCD and look forward to continuing to help get conservation projects on the ground!



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.
Chuck Lanfranchi : Nat.. Res. 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
Amy Willis: Urban, At-Large
Matt Hilderbrant: (ViceChair) Co.

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 by February 28, 2025 or email jpuglisi@broomeswcd.org



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.

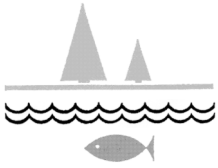
HYDROSEEDING

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 2025 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. 15. 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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