



CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Conservation in Action

2019 Annual Report

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Photo by Allan Miller

THE CAYUGA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District to enhance and protect the natural resources of Cayuga County through "hands-on" implementation of best management practices.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District**STAFF**

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Doug Kierst, CPESC, CPSWQ | <i>Executive Director</i> |
| Brian Hall, CPESC, CCA, CNMP | <i>Nutrient Management Specialist</i> |
| Jason Cuddeback, CCA | <i>Grazing Specialist</i> |
| Valerie Horning | <i>Conservation District Technician</i> |
| Tyler Knapp | <i>Watershed Conservation Specialist</i> |
| Timothy Schneider, NYSECCP | <i>Watershed Conservation Specialist</i> |
| Kimberly Jakaub | <i>Watershed Conservation Specialist</i> |
| Wanda Jakaub | <i>Principal Account Clerk</i> |
| Lisa Miller | <i>Senior Typist</i> |
| Mike Riley | <i>Working Foreman</i> |
| Pat DeVoe | <i>Motor Equipment Operator</i> |
| Dan Bowen | <i>Motor Equipment Operator</i> |
| Tim Lozier | <i>Motor Equipment Operator</i> |
| Sean McCarthy | <i>Motor Equipment Operator</i> |
| Al Noga | <i>Motor Equipment Operator</i> |
| Denise Dixon | <i>Cleaner</i> |

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Valerie Podolec | <i>Acting District Conservationist</i> |
| Katherine Schor | <i>District Conservationist</i> |
| Miranda Ciardulli | <i>Student Trainee</i> |

**About Cayuga County SWCD**

As the result of petitions and resolutions submitted to the Cayuga County Board of Supervisors (today the County Legislature) by the Farm Bureau, Grange, Dairymen's League, and other farm organizations, the Cayuga County Soil Conservation District was formed on August 8, 1944. Cayuga County is well known for its abundance of productive farmland and high quality water. The foresight of the governing body to protect the natural resource needs located within the County proved to be a good investment. Agriculture is the predominant economic engine of the County.

Over the past 70 years, we have expanded to include Wastewater Management, Nutrient Management, Stormwater Management, and Erosion and Sediment Control Programs.

Today we are the local agency that many community members and government agencies "go to first" with their environmental related problems and concerns. We take pride in not only listening, but getting things solved.

2019 Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ray Lockwood | <i>Chairman, Farm Bureau</i> |
| James Young | <i>Vice Chairman, Member at Large</i> |
| Andrew Dennison | <i>County Legislator</i> |
| Paul Pinckney | <i>County Legislator</i> |
| Roger Conner | <i>Member, Grange</i> |
| Terry Baxter | <i>Member at Large</i> |
| Steve Nemec | <i>Member at Large</i> |

"This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in."

- Theodore Roosevelt

A message from the Executive Director

Each year, the professional staff at the Cayuga SWCD look forward to working with municipalities and private landowners to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs). Sometimes plans have already been drawn up, while other strategies are still being developed to address previously identified natural resource concerns.

Despite the persistent wet weather, we were able to continue to get a variety of conservation practices on the ground. Our ability to work closely with our partner agencies, municipalities, private organizations and individual landowners, permitted this to happen.

The results of our collective hard work have yielded success. For example, despite the wet conditions and frequent runoff events, Owasco Lake testing results showed continued signs of improvement. This is an indication that the BMPs we are implementing are worth the effort and landowners should be proud of the critical role they play in protecting our resources.

Thank you to the Cayuga County Legislature for your continued support towards protecting water quality throughout Cayuga County. Your support allows us to be the local go-to agency and provide *in the field assistance* where it is requested and needed the most.

The Value of the SWCD in Cayuga County

Since it was established by the County Board of Supervisors in August of 1944, the Cayuga SWCD has been actively involved with the protection of natural resources throughout the County. The benefits that come with having a local, technical program dedicated to resource concerns includes the immediate availability to provide important technical assistance, local knowledge of the landowners and the environmental resources, an extensive network of partner agencies at the State and Federal levels and the ability to look at the broad picture of the landscape.

Agricultural Assistance:

The role that agriculture plays in the economy of Cayuga County is substantial. As a result, farms and farm businesses need to remain viable and sustainable to provide healthy, local food, maintain a diversity of open space and continue to provide needed jobs. According to the most recent Census of Agriculture (2017), Cayuga County ranked #2 in NYS in the total market value of agricultural products sold with \$287,853,000. When our favorable agricultural environment is combined with statistics that indicate the County has the most freshwater shoreline in NYS, a healthy balance must be obtained. The Cayuga SWCD has the opportunity to have a significant impact throughout our community as a result of its capability to work directly with private landowners as well as local municipalities.

The programs provided by the Cayuga SWCD to assist agricultural operations in remaining sustainable and viable include the Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM), assistance with nutrient management planning, the promotion of soil health practices, oversight of water quality protecting best management practice (BMP) implementation, and conservation mowing and seeding. In 2019, the Cayuga SWCD assisted with the implementation of on farm agricultural BMPs totaling \$989,926.11. The landowners contributed \$319,626.22 towards the costs, while State funding was leveraged to cover the additional \$667,299.89. The Cayuga SWCD was awarded an additional (Round 25 AgNPS and CRF 4) \$3,566,231 in new grant funding for important projects on Cayuga County farms. Participating farms will be contributing \$1,820,302 towards the implementation of the projects. The funding is focused directly on agricultural BMP implementation. This is in addition to the on-going conservation work that farms complete utilizing their own resources. In addition, the Cayuga SWCD works closely with our Federal partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to promote additional conservation programs, many of which are available to assist with BMP implementation projects.

Non-Agricultural Residential and Municipal Assistance:

The Cayuga SWCD also works closely with the non-agricultural landowners and municipalities throughout the County. We further our efforts on protecting water quality through programs that focus on stormwater management, wastewater management, aquatic vegetation control, streambank and shoreline stabilization, proper site drainage, critical area stabilization/seeding, roadside stabilization measures and the proper recycling of yard waste.

Cayuga County is home to a very diverse collection of water bodies. Lake Ontario defines the northern boundary of the County which also includes all or parts of three Finger Lakes - Cayuga, Owasco, and Skaneateles. In addition there are several smaller water bodies including Cross Lake, Duck Lake, Lake Como, and Otter Lake. The Cayuga SWCD's Aquatic Vegetation Control Program's objectives are to increase the accessibility and usability of the County's water bodies, while seeking to leave the lakes in the most ecologically intact manner possible. Over the past 5 years, we have removed an average of 2,153 cubic yards per year of vegetation from the waterbodies that we harvest.

The stabilization of exposed and eroding critical areas continues to be another important area of focus for the Cayuga SWCD. In 2019, the Cayuga SWCD was awarded \$729,000 in new State grant funding that will be used towards the installation of a new salt storage shed at a local Town Highway Department, stabilize a stream corridor and evaluate road culverts.

Being located in the Finger Lakes Region has many benefits, primarily an abundance of clean, fresh water. Farming operations and many others benefit from the availability of clean water. For instance, the tourism industry including recreational boating, hiking and fishing opportunities thrive throughout the County.

***“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds that you plant”***

- Robert Louis Stevenson

District Services

A fawn hiding at one of the District's wildlife seeding sites



No-Till Conservation Seeding

The Cayuga SWCD uses a tractor with a Truax no-till drill to seed for various projects, including: pasture, hay fields, wildlife and pollinator habitat, and cover crops. The Truax drill is capable of handling the wide variety of seed sizes and textures necessary for all of these projects. The seedings provide a variety of benefits to landowners, including reduced erosion, better soil health, and improved habitat. If you are interested in seeding, you should contact Jason Cuddeback.

Conservation Mowing

The Cayuga SWCD owns two mowers that are used in our conservation mowing program. The boom mower has a floating brush-hog style head on an arm that gives it a reach of over 15 feet. It is best for trimming back overgrown hedgerows, ditches and roadsides. The "bat-wing" deck mower can mow a 15 foot width in one pass, making it ideal for overgrown pastures and field conservation programs. Over the last few years, the Cayuga SWCD has been increasing the number of acres mowed and trimmed. **In 2019, the Cayuga SWCD mowed 5 acres of pasture and wildlife habitat and approximately 128 miles of conservation ditches, field edges and roadsides.**



Bat Wing Deck can cut 15 feet in one pass

Critical Area Seeding

Soil erosion and sedimentation are leading causes of water quality degradation. The Cayuga SWCD uses many tools to establish grass cover on bare soils, from road-side drainage ditches to erosion control on slopes and even establishing athletic fields. Our technicians work with local seed distributors to create formulas that work for any type of situation. Using our 1,000 gallon hydroseeder, the Cayuga SWCD can quickly respond to requests for assistance. The Cayuga SWCD provides hydroseeding for county, town and village governmental departments.



Cayuga SWCD Staff hydroseeding a grass waterway



Calibrating a manure spreader for a CNMP involves weighing the spreader when it's full and when it's empty in order to determine the application rate

Comprehensive Nutrient Management

Nutrient management plans help farmers balance their nutrient applications (manure and fertilizer) with the needs of the crops. Soil samples are taken on all of the fields to help determine this balance. The nutrient management plan also prescribes crop rotations that will keep soil erosion rates below a defined "tolerable" level. By following this plan, a farm can reduce erosion and nutrient losses from their fields, thereby helping to improve water quality and reduce fertilizer costs. A nutrient management planner must also look at the farmstead facilities. Barnyards, feed storage areas, and milking centers are all potential sources of nutrients that need to be addressed. A plan that covers both the agronomic (field) practices, as well as the farmstead, is called a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). CNMP's must be updated annually.

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A semi-transparent white box at the top center contains the text "Stormwater surface flow into Vaness Brook." in bold black font. A black arrow points from this box down to a specific area on the ground where a light-colored, muddy stream flows across a brown, tilled field. The surrounding area includes other fields, some with patches of snow or frost, and a line of bare trees in the background.



Assistance to Municipalities & Organizations

During 2019, the Cayuga SWCD assisted many municipalities throughout the county on various erosion control and water quality projects. The projects included streambank stabilizations, ditch stabilization, flood mitigation, and erosion control.



Mill Street Dam Bank Stabilization

The District assisted the City of Auburn to protect the downstream toe and slope of the Dam on Mill Street. An access ramp was installed to allow for mowing equipment to access the top of bank, to manage the vegetation. This project was funded by a New York State Water Quality Improvement Project grant.



West Barrier Bar Shoreline Stabilization

The District assisted the Village of Fair Haven to stabilize over 250 feet of highly eroded shoreline along Little Sodus Bay after record high Lake Ontario water levels and wind storms caused over 8 feet of shoreline to erode in 2 years. Over 415 tons of medium stone fill and gabion stone was used to line the shoreline to protect the bank from wave action and future erosion. This project was funded with Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

Assistance to Municipalities & Organizations—cont'd



Old State Road Streambank Stabilization

The District assisted the Town of Niles to stabilize 130 feet of Dutch Hollow Brook to protect Old State Road. Flat stackable rocks were used as toe protection, while also installing stream training weirs to move the thalweg to the middle of the stream. Medium stone fill was used to line the top of the bank at a manageable slope for further road shoulder stabilization. The project was funded by a New York State Water Quality Improvement Project grant.



Cream Hollow Road Streambank Stabilization

The District assisted the Town of Niles to stabilize 85 feet of a steep ravine that was severely eroded after many heavy rain events caused instability to the bank. Medium stone fill and geotextile fabric were used to protect the slope from further erosion. The site was then hydroseeded with FGM (Flexible Growth Medium) products. The project was funded by a New York State Water Quality Improvement Project grant.

Owasco Inlet Streambank Stabilization Project

The District was able to complete 750 feet of streambank stabilization along the Owasco Inlet in the Town of Locke utilizing natural stream design methods and stream training structures. Project site #1 had an 8 foot vertical streambank that was severely eroded due to the streams flow path being directed into the bank on a 90 degree angle; toewood was installed to move the thalweg to the middle of the stream, while also establishing a new flood plain.

Project Site #1



BEFORE



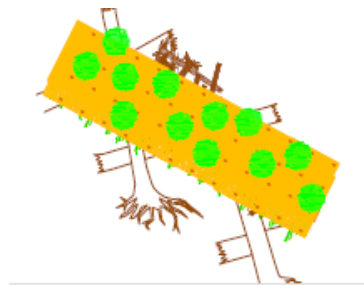
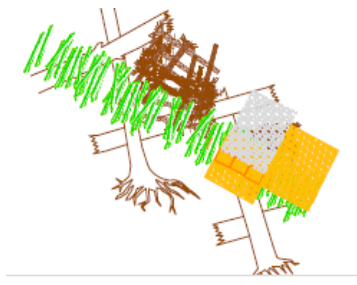
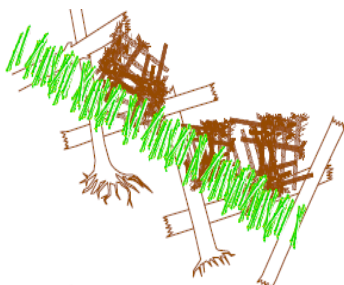
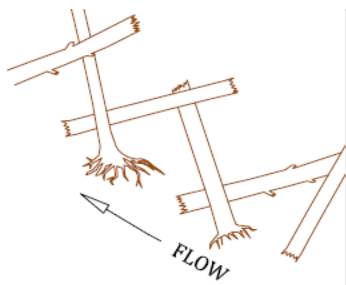
AFTER

Step 1: Lay toewood structures in a lattice formation pointing upstream (30 degrees) to deflect flows to the middle of the stream. Trees are placed at or below water level to ensure the wood does not rot when exposed to the air.

Step 2: Lay brush and cuttings on top of the toewood to fill the voids, while also adding a carbon component to the project. Willow and dogwood cuttings will take hold with deep roots to hold the bank in place during major flood events.

Step 3: Lay coir fabric on top of the brush layer and back fill with native material. This will create a soil lift and act as a floodplain during high flow events. It is important to place the fabric in a shingle pattern to prevent water from getting behind the fabric and causing erosion.

Step 4: Wrap the coir fabric atop the soil and stake in willow and dogwood cuttings for additional root structure and as an anchor for the fabric. Twine and wood stakes can be used to provide additional anchoring until vegetation is well established.



Owasco Inlet Streambank Stabilization Project—cont'd

Project site #2 had a 16 foot streambank where the toe of the slope was constantly being undermined. The District installed two weirs to try and bend the stream flow around the meander to take pressure off the unstable bank. Project site #3 required maintenance of a previous project where rip rap started to fail, and began to encroach a landowners driveway. The district installed a combination of toewood structures while also reworking the rip rap.

Project Site #2



Project Site #3





Moshers Road Ditch Stabilization

The District assisted the Town of Scipio to stabilize 250 feet of steep road ditch that was experiencing severe erosion. Medium stone fill and gabion fill was used to line the bottom of the ditch and stabilize the toe of the banks to slow water velocities and protect against further erosion. Rock check dams were also installed to break the slope into smaller segments and act as a velocity control during heavy storm events. This project was funded by the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.



Ensore Point Shoreline Stabilization

The District assisted a landowner whose property was experiencing erosion from wave action that undermined a log cribbing structure by helping fund materials through a NYS Water Quality Improvement Project grant and helping with the design. A private contractor completed the work, and over 120 feet of shoreline was protected using medium stone fill, locked in with gabion stone fill.

Aquatic Vegetation Control (AVC) Program

The AVC program provides relief to the County's waterbodies that have become impaired by dense vegetative growth. Due to nutrient inputs and sunlight, aquatic vegetation is an unavoidable reality in lake ecosystems. From hindering navigation and swimming, to creating water and air quality issues during mass die off events, aquatic vegetation can dramatically interfere with people's use of the lakes. The Cayuga County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program's objective is to increase the accessibility and usability of the County's waterbodies, while seeking to leave the lakes as ecologically intact as possible.

The District's AVC program consists of two boats, an on-shore conveyor, and a small dump truck. The largest boat is a paddlewheel type boat that is designed to access heavy vegetation in shallow water. This boat cuts and picks up the weeds. The second boat is a transport boat, used on the larger lakes to cut down transport time from the cutting area to the truck, increasing the efficiency of the program. The weeds are off-loaded onto the dump truck using the conveyor, and taken to nearby farms where the vegetation is used as compost to enrich the soil.

The water bodies that our program covers are Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake, Otter Lake, Lake Como and Fair Haven Bay. Some of the common weeds found in our lakes include: Common Elodea, Starry Stonewort, Nitella, Eel Grass, Milfoil, and European Frogbit.

In 2019, the Aquatic Vegetation Control Program removed from Cayuga County waterbodies: • 2,139 cubic yards (Yd³) Aquatic Vegetation • 278,070 dry pounds Aquatic Vegetation • 5,777 pounds of Nitrogen • 495 pounds of Phosphorus • 3,099 pounds of Potassium



Harvester Boat operated by Tim Lozier



Sean McCarthy using the conveyor to empty a full boat of weeds.

| Volume (Yd ³) | Owasco Lake | Cayuga Lake | Fair-Haven Bay | Lake Como |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-----------|
| 2019 | 489 | 756 | 252 | 138 |
| 2018 | 474 | 496 | 780 | 38 |
| 2017 | 872 | 627 | 91 | 214 |
| 2016 | 734 | 581 | 795 | N/A |
| 2015 | 45 | 306 | 397 | 53 |

Road Ditch and Critical Area Hydroseeding Program

The District assisted towns in Cayuga County to hydroseed road side ditches that are cleaned of accumulated sediment to reestablish vegetation and prevent future erosion. The District was able to hydroseed 25 miles of road ditch in 2019, compared to 7 miles in 2018. This was possible due to the strong working relationship with the local municipalities.





Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

The County's **Agricultural Environmental Management** Program is a voluntary, watershed based, locally-led effort to protect and enhance the environment while maintaining the viability of agriculture in Cayuga County.

The AEM Program in Cayuga County is administered through the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and is designed to assist farmers protect the natural resources that they depend on. The AEM assessment, planning and implementation process helps to target local, state and federal technical and financial resources to farms with the greatest potential for impacting the environment. For additional information or to start the process by completing a Tier 1 Worksheet, visit www.cayugaswcd.org.

Benefits of AEM Participation:

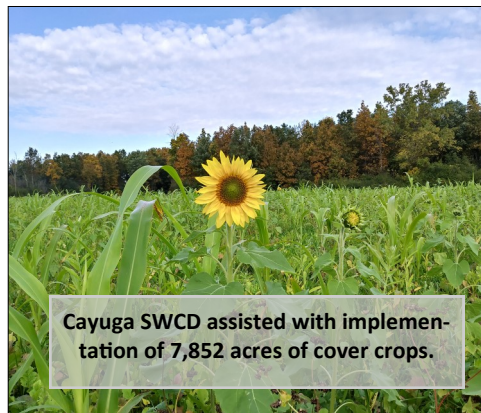
- Potential funding for planning and implementation of on farm Best Management Practices
- Documentation of current environmental stewardship activities on farms
- Farmer driven decision making and goal setting
- Increased awareness of how farm practices affect the surrounding environment both on and off the farm

Examples of BMPs that have been implemented on Cayuga County farms through the AEM Program:

- Manure Management Systems, including waste storages and transfer systems
- Silage Leachate Management
- Erosion Control Systems, including Cover Crop, Water & Sediment Control Basins and grassed or lined waterways
- Prescribed Grazing Systems, including Laneways, Water Source Development and Fence



Cayuga View Farm receives 2018 NY Beef Producers Association Environmental Award



Cayuga SWCD assisted with implementation of 7,852 acres of cover crops.



Reducing Erosion with Cover Crops

SOIL HEALTH SEMINAR AT CUDDEBACK FARM & THE 2019 EMPIRE FARM DAYS



Soil Health Seminar, Cuddeback Farms



Reduced Tillage Management



Soil Health Building, EFD, 2019



Soil Health Cover Crop Tour, EFD 2019



Tillage Tour for SWCD & NRCS staff.

NYS Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program

The Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPS) is coordinated by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee through NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets. It is a competitive grant program that awards cost-share funding to farmers to address water quality challenges facing farms across NYS. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) play an integral role in the administration of grant funds and provide planning, design, and implementation assistance for projects.

2019 AgNPS Active Grants "ON THE BOOKS"

- 22 Grants Encompassing 41 Farms
- \$12,799,169.29 Contracted with NYS and Landowners

2020 AgNPS Active & CRF Pending "Coming Soon"

- \$1,779,080.00 Pending with NYS and Landowners

2019 AgNPS BMPs "ON THE GROUND"

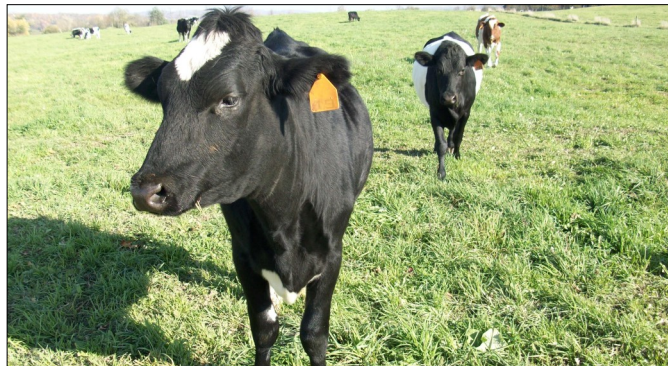
- 39 Farms Completed BMPs
- 45+ BMP Systems
- \$667,299.89 State Share
- \$319,626.22 Landowner Share
- \$906,926.11 Total Project Costs



Installed Best Management Practice (BMP) Systems

Structural BMPs

- Erosion Control Basins
- Livestock Exclusion
- Access Road Stabilization
- Waste Storage Facilities
- Waste Transfer
- Runoff Control and Treatment
- Heavy Use Area Stabilization



Management BMPs

- Nutrient Management
- Soil Management
- Crop Rotations
- Cover Crops
- Soil Testing and Analysis
- Soil Amendments
- Rotational Grazing



Looking Forward to 2020



Moravia Flood Mitigation Project

The District will be assisting the Town and Village of Moravia to reduce the flooding impact along North Main Street, West Ave, and Oak Hill Road. This will happen by installing a stormwater basin to capture stormwater runoff and slowly release the volume over a longer period of time, installing a sediment catch basin, and removing a culvert that accumulated sediment restricting the flow of stormwater. The project is planned to start in June of 2020

Fillmore Road Culvert Replacement Project

The District will be assisting the Town of Summerhill to replace an old and failing culvert that experienced failure in 2019 after heavy rain and saturate soils crushed the existing culvert. Due to steep slopes and a confined ravine, a steel reinforced polyethylene pipe will be installed to handle a 100 year flood, while also protecting the road shoulder from future erosion. This project will be funded through a New York State Water Quality Improvement Project grant and is planned to start in July of 2020.



Community Recycling Events

The Cayuga SWCD partners with the Cayuga County Planning Department and Cornell Cooperative Extension, who act as coordinators for the Tire Roundup. The Cayuga SWCD assists by making facilities, equipment and staff available.

- **TIRE ROUNDUP**– Old tires can be brought in by county residents for a small fee. Lead weights are removed and most of the tires go to NUCOR to supply carbon for steel production. Others are shredded to be reused as road, building and drainage materials. **This year participants recycled approximately 2,950 tires and 23 pounds of lead during the event held on June 22, 2019.**

- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP DAY**- Is an opportunity for county residents to responsibly dispose of substances that do not belong in normal garbage, such as pesticides, oil-based paints, and household chemicals that was held at the Natural Resource Center on October 26, 2019.

- **TRADE-A-TREE**– County residents have the chance to drop off Christmas trees from the holiday season in exchange for a voucher granting them a free tree seedling. The trees are chipped and used as mulch. **Over 250 trees were traded and recycled in the winter of 2019.**

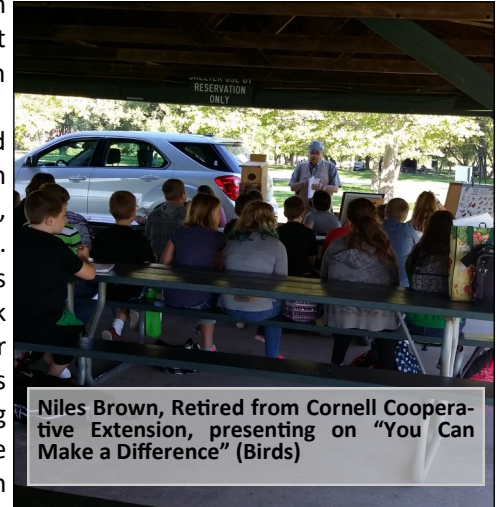


EDUCATION

Conservation Field Days

Conservation Field Days is an exciting way to give sixth grade students from around Cayuga County the opportunity to become better acquainted with natural resources and the environment. Professionals from various fields conduct short educational programs, enabling the students to learn not only about the subject matter discussed, but also see nature and conservation occupations in action.

In 2019, there were 18 stations for the students to attend. The stations covered subjects such as: Trees of Emerson Park, Fish ID and Senses, Soils, Bats, Invasive Species, Birds, Bees, and more. Students from 13 local school districts gathered together at Emerson Park over two days in September. After spending the day at the park, students are asked to write an essay detailing their favorite station at field days. The essays are collected and judged, with the top place winners earning recognition, as well as a voucher for 10 tree seedlings and a bird house to continue their environmental learning.



Regional Envirothon

The Envirothon is a fun, outdoor, team-based program designed to help high school students better understand their environment through exploration of ecology, natural resource management, and current environmental issues. The Envirothon combines classroom learning with hands-on field experience focused around five major topics:

•Soil and Land Use •Aquatic Ecology •Forestry •Wildlife •Environmental Issues

The 2019 Regional Envirothon was held at the Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne, NY on April 24, 2019. Cayuga County winners for 2019 were the "Weedsport Stumpies" for first place and the "Weedsport Naturalists" for second place.



District Training Sessions

Throughout 2019, the Cayuga SWCD held seven erosion and sediment control workshops for construction site contractors and operators. One hundred and twenty five trainees attended these workshops, which New York State requires for contractors working on construction sites which disturb at least one acre of soil. The four hour workshops covered permit regulations, contractor responsibilities, construction site inspections, and erosion and sediment control best management practices.



Rain barrels are an easy way to collect and store water

Conservation Programs offered at the District



Cayuga SWCD staff provides technical assistance directly to the residents of Cayuga County by discussing the concern with the individual, conducting site visits and then, if needed, working with the individual to rectify the concern. Services we provide include site planning, technical guidelines and literature, and permitting assistance. When applicable, the Cayuga SWCD seeks grant funding to assist with project implementation.

Rain Barrels– The Cayuga SWCD has 55 gallon rain barrels available to purchase at a minimal cost. A rain barrel is an easy way to collect and store rainwater from rooftops, conserving water and helping to lower costs. Rain barrels collect runoff that could otherwise easily travel across paved surfaces, collecting pollution along the way, and into the natural resources area waterways.

Barley Rolls– Traditional and chemical methods of controlling the algae in ponds are not always effective or economical. The use of barley straw has been found to be a successful method of algae control. When applied correctly, barley rolls do not kill existing algae, but inhibits the growth of new algae. Our barley rolls float near the surface of the water allowing water to flow through the straw, effectively reducing algae levels.



Annual Fish Stocking Sale– The Cayuga SWCD held Fish Stocking Sales in May, June and September of 2018 to serve landowners in the county. A variety of fish for ponds were available for sale including rainbow trout, largemouth bass, minnows, channel catfish and grass carp. **In 2019 the Cayuga SWCD sold over 600 fish including 84 grass carp during the fish stocking sales.**

Tree, Shrub & Groundcover Sale– The Cayuga SWCD held their 47th Annual Spring Tree and Groundcover Sale in May 2018. As in the past, the Cayuga SWCD offered a variety of conifers, hardwoods, shrubs, groundcovers and perennial plants, fruit trees, and native flowering plants. These seedlings and other plants are a very low-cost way to prevent erosion and to promote wildlife in your area, create noise and visual buffers, and are perfect for creating natural snow and wind breaks. **In 2019 the Cayuga SWCD sold over 8,000 Trees, Shrubs and Groundcovers in our Annual Tree Sale.**

Annual Fish Stocking Sale

Bird & Bat Houses– Wooden nesting boxes help promote backyard conservation and increase the population of local birds and bats. Locally-made wooden nesting boxes that provide safe habitat for bluebirds, screech owls, kestrels, wood ducks, and bats are offered for sale at the Cayuga SWCD office.



Cedar and Pine Blue Bird Boxes provide safe habitat

Septic System Inspections & Dye Testing– The Cayuga SWCD provides services to county landowners for septic system inspections (dye tests) that are mandated by the Cayuga County Health Department. The Cayuga SWCD also provides percolation tests, septic system designs and inspections of newly installed septic systems in compliance with Cayuga County and NY State Health Codes.

Agricultural Land Assessment– 170 Soil Group Worksheets were completed for landowners in Cayuga County in 2019. The Agricultural Land Assessment Program is a state-wide program that provides the opportunity for farmland owners to receive real property assessments based on the value of their land for agricultural production rather than on its development value. Eligibility requirements are outlined by the State Office of Real Property and Department of Ag and Markets, and determined by local assessors.

Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District

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