



A publication of Wayne County Soil & Water



Annual Report 2013

Water Quality Protection - Canal Corridor, Black Brook Watershed, Lyons & Galen

In 2012, the AEM Staff began working on the approved NYS Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Round 17 grant for Central Canal Corridor: Black Brook Watershed. The Black Brook Watershed is one of the contributing tributaries to the NYS Canal Barge System which is a significant part of the Seneca River Watershed connecting to the South Eastern Shoreline of Lake Ontario!

Dilution is not the solution to pollution!

This grant program cost shares farms/landowners through NYS Environmental Protection Fund and helps to reduce the impact through implementation and education of new and/improved farming practices and management opportunities. The Central Canal Watershed Ag program began in 2009 with phase one in the Canandaigua Outlet in partnership with USDA NRCS and continues now throughout 2014 with phase two in Black Brook and recently funded phase three in Lower Ganargua Creek which partners with sixteen (16) farm businesses for control of potential non-point source pollution.



Our Agricultural implementation program is overseen by Terry Reynolds

Hidden Canyon Farm participates in protection of Black Brook Watershed

Steve and Susan Olson own and operate a 40 cow/calf beef farm, specializing in high quality meat production. As stewards of the land, the Olsons' farm falls directly within the critical areas of drainage for Black Brook, headwaters of Butternut Run and Sodus Creek Watersheds. They are working with the Agricultural Environment Management program for precautions to the community and water quality. The Olsons have implemented BMPs through Phase 2 & 3 of our watershed program to improve their barnyard water management and manure handling through a compost facility, along with implementing various individual practices through conservation water management on their crop fields to improve water runoff and filtration of daily operations. This in turn helps the farmers to focus on conservation of the land and water but also on the other needs of daily farm management.

The project was installed in the late months of 2013 and will be complete in the spring of 2014. Reynolds designed the project with farm management in consideration but focuses on water quality.

Implementation of all three of these projects limits nutrients to drainage channels; removed clean water from becoming dirty and filters the dirty water to become clean; all in protection for the Black Brook watershed.



Before: Implementation



After: Implementation



Before: Implementation



After: Implementation

Ag NPS Abatement and Control Program is a success in Wayne County

County Soil & Water Conservation Districts apply for the competitive grants on behalf of farmers and coordinate funded activities. Grants can cost-share up to 75% of project costs or more if farm owners or operators contribute, in the following two areas:

1. **Planning; funds awarded to conduct environmental planning**
2. **Implementation; funds awarded to construct or apply management practices**

The New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee and the Department of Agriculture & Markets coordinate the statewide program and

allocate funds provided by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund on a semi-annual basis.

Since the program began in 1994 more than \$50 million has been awarded to 53 Soil & Water Conservation Districts across the state to help farmers reduce and prevent agricultural sources of Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution.

The Wayne County District has been successful in bringing in over \$1 million dollars in agricultural conservation management cost share funding for over 50 farms in conjunction with USDA NRCS and FSA to Wayne County.

2013 Board of Directors

Steve Brownell, Board Chair, Farm Bureau
 Bob VanLare, Vice Chair, Grange Representative
 Bill Hammond, Macedon Town Supervisor
 Tom Caprilla, Member at Large
 Steve LeRoy, Sodus Town Supervisor

2013 Conservation Staff

Lindsey Gerstenslager MSEd, District Manager
 Catherine Comfort, Conservation Sec./Treasurer
 Ronald Thorn, CCA, AEM Specialist, District Technician
 Chris Hotto, Drainage Specialist, District Technician
 Scott DeRue, Water Quality Specialist, District Technician
 Terry Reynolds, Agriculture Implementation Specialist, District Technician



Conservation Cornerstones for 2013

Lindsey M. Gerstenslager, District Manager

The 2013 year was a year of conservation cornerstones for all of the 20 plus programs for Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District. Conservation is a community effort and 2013 proved to be a strong hold for the community's involvement with various education events and outreach activities. Below are just a few samples of the many opportunities to visit with the District and get involved with your neighborhood partners.

Working Together



The first Saturday in May, 2013 was our partners at the Montezuma Audubon Center's Annual Wildlife Festival. Chris Hotta attended to showcase the different programs we offer at the District. We plan to be there again this May and hope you can be too!

Ronny the Raindrop made an appearance too. Ronny was there to tell his life story on how he has travelled through the water cycle at the Wayne County Fair, Empire Farm Days and Sodus Bay



The Soil & Water Conservation District was chartered back in 1944 in Wayne County by the State of New York. The mission and purpose of our existence is to help to reduce human and natural impacts on Wayne County's natural resources through implementation and education of conservation practices.

Work Force Of Tomorrow

As a small organization of three and 1/2 technical staff and two administrators, sometimes it is hard to answer many of the calls we receive for technical assistance.

In 2013, the District offered work experience to two graduate assistants; this experience advances their technical experience and assists in the professional development of their resume.



Andrew working with youth at Maxwell Creek water chestnut hand pull harvest

We are happy to say that Andrew Wegman and Stephanie Schroeder, both graduates of RIT were able to be a part of the team in 2013.



Stephanie working at the Wayne County Fair

Their additional efforts allowed us opportunities at the Wayne County Fair, along with more pond management and local outreach efforts to support the rest of the District Technicians!



Ron Thorn received the "New Tricks" award for his continued service!

2013 marked Ronald Thorn, District Technician of Clyde NY's 10th anniversary +1.

We are very glad to recognize Ron for his continuing conservation efforts in the Agricultural Community and as the historian of the District Staff.

Please visit us on the Web!
www.waynecountynysoilandwater.org



From the Desk of Cathy Comfort:

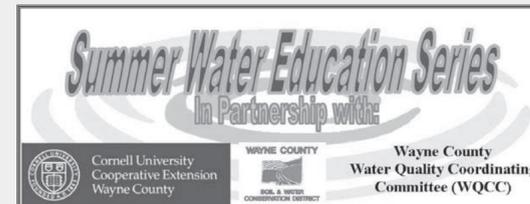
2013 provided many opportunities to sharpen our abilities to track finances through professional use and development of QuickBooks. The District completed a full external audit of financial record keeping and soundness. We are pleased to say we passed with flying colors!

In the spring of 2013, thank you to the Conservation Employees Association's Frank Bratt Scholarship, Cathy Comfort, the Conservation Secretary/Treasurer proceeded to study for the QuickBooks Pro Exam and refresh the

Districts awareness for the new NYS accounting policies and procedures for NYS Retirement and Financial practices.

What's Up With Water Quality?

Water Quality is important to everyone in Wayne County. Luckily Wayne County has many active partnerships to continue to bring new information to our local neighborhoods. It is important to be actively involved with organizations like Trail Works, Save Our Sodus Inc., Sodus Bay Improvement Association, Port Bay Improvement Association, East Bay Improvement Association, Blind Sodus Bay Improvement Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County, WC Water & Sewer Authority, Rotary Clubs, Business Associations and other advisory groups such as Farm Bureau, Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District Ag Advisory Committee and Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. All of these groups work collectively together to bring community awareness to issues and education.



The Water Quality Coordinating Committee of Wayne County sponsored four workshops as a Summer Water Education Series. These workshops covered a variety of topics including: landowner waterfront management, landscaping for water quality, septic systems for homeowners, and composting for water quality.

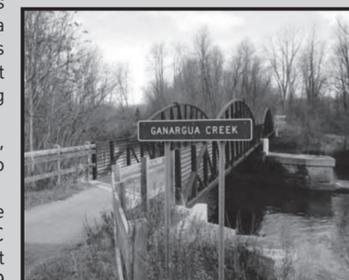
Last year other partners held a variety of water quality workshops in addition to the workshop series we ran. If you missed ours in 2013 you are in luck! The 2014 Summer Water Education Series will be doing an encore in a neighborhood near you. In addition we will continue our work with partners such as Save Our Sodus and Port Bay Improvement Association to provide quality education again in 2014!



The 3 "R"s of Water Quality Weed Rake Demo

In 2012-2013 Scott DeRue, District Technician, worked on updating information for stream stabilization and water quality concerns with the Lower Ganargua Creek Watershed which runs from Swift's Landing in Palmyra 16.5 miles east to Lyons. This 32 page assessment gives insight to where problems are occurring in the watershed, sampling data results and a variety of charts, graphs, maps and pictures to demonstrate issues.

From this assessment, the District wrote a NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement grant to work on 8 of the 19 stream bank erosion issues and blockages that impede the pass thru of the water way. Many groups that actively kayak and canoe through this stream system are excited for the possibility of these improvements.



Lower Ganargua Creek Watershed Assessment

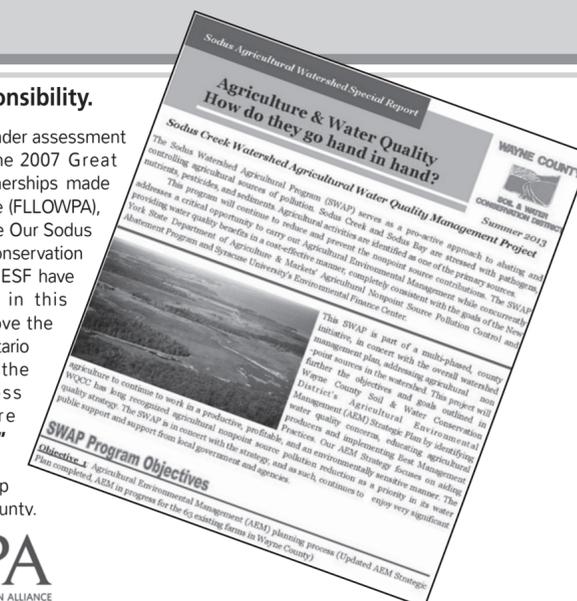
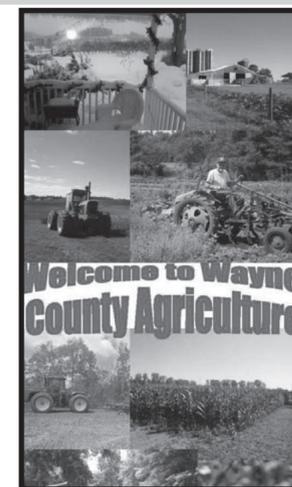
2012 - 2013

Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District

Copies of the assessment are available digitally and in hard copy. For more information please contact our office and ask for Scott 315-946-4136.

Water Quality is everyone responsibility.

Since 2010, the Sodus Creek Watershed has been under assessment and implementation with directive action from the 2007 Great Sodus Bay Watershed Implementation Plan. Partnerships made up of Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA), Syracuse University's Environmental Finance Center, Save Our Sodus Inc, US Fish & Wildlife Service, NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee, Wayne County Government and SUNY ESF have been working to implement various activities in this tributary and the Sodus Bay watershed to improve the water quality and reduce nutrient flows into Lake Ontario. In 2013, an update report was produced about the agricultural implementation conducted across the Sodus Creek Watershed and a brochure entitled "Welcome to Wayne County Agriculture." These two publications are one of the many pieces that have been produced since 2010 that help provide information to our neighbors in Wayne County.



Wondering where the weed harvesting crew is located during the summer months?





Invasive Species & Eradication through Aquatic Vegetative Control

Scott DeRue, District Technician

The most important factor that influenced plant density in 2013 was the seasonal Lake Ontario water level fluctuations. Historically water levels peaking in June. This year, water levels were lower than the long-term average from April 2012 through June 2013. This allowed aquatic plants like Curly-leaf pond weed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), to flourish in spring. Water levels climaxed above the historic average in July this year and were caused by numerous precipitation events. The direct input of rain and stream contributions caused turbidity in the bays to increase. This prevented UV light from reaching plants further out in the littoral zone, thus causing a mid-season die-off. When water levels began to subside, the plants that previously died-off began to re-establish.

Result of 2013 Weed Harvesting Season

Harvesting operations for the 2013 season were carried out for 76 days between June and October. The final removal amounts for each bay are as follows; Sodus Bay – 1540 tons, East Bay – 156 tons, Port Bay – 36 tons, Maxwell Bay – 52 tons, Blind Sodus Bay – 14 tons. Total amount removed from the five (5) embayments was 1798 tons. The general rule has been that one (1) harvester load is equal to two (2) tons of wet plant material.

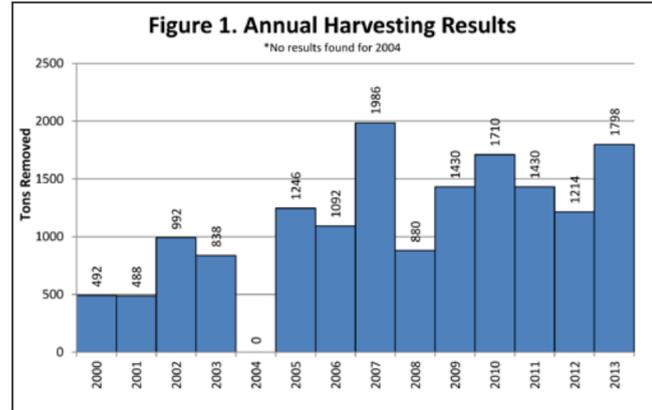


Table 1 illustrates the time distribution of daily activities in the harvesting operation for the entire 2013 season. The results represent 10 hours of operation per machine, meaning three machines equal 30 hours of operation per day.

Table 1. Distribution of Daily Activities

2013 Activity	Hours	Percentage
Maintenance Down Time	41	2%
Transport Down Time	102	5%
Operation	1907	93%
Total	2050	

A more detailed Aquatic Vegetative Control (AVC) Annual report is available in digital and hard copy by contacting our office.

2014 Season is already on its way! Interested to know where the harvesting crew will be each week? Call our Water Quality Hotline at 315.759.3097 or visit our website at www.waynecountynysoilandwater.org, to view the weed harvesting location calendar.

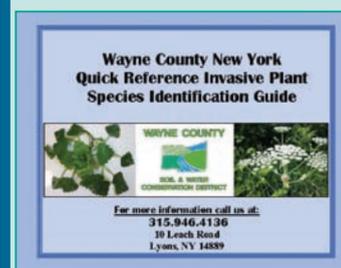
Acknowledgment

The success of this program depends greatly on numerous groups and individuals. The Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District would like to thank the following for their support:

- Wayne County Board of Supervisors
- Town of Sodus
- Town of Huron
- Town of Wolcott
- Wayne County SWCD Board of Directors
- FLOWPA
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

The numerous private landowners who provided access for equipment.

Invasive Species Calendar and Identification Guide Book



While invasive species continue to invade our County, it is important to be able to identify them so we can actively prevent them and remove them.

In 2012, the Wayne County Invasive Species Identification Guidebook was produced as a field tool for every homeowner on their property. We still have them available. If you wish to have copies please stop by our office and pick one up and these

guidebooks are free! If you wish us to mail you a copy or two, we will invoice for the postage. For groups that wish to have ten or more guide books please call ahead so we can prepare them for you. Lesson plans are also available for labs, merit badges and other community groups!

In late 2013, the Invasive Species Calendar was produced for 2014 and is now available! If you are interested in a copy of this, please give us a call. 12 different terrestrial and aquatic invasives to read about.



Harvesting is not just for machines!

In 2014 Wayne County SWCD partnered around Sodus Bay and Maxwell bay to hand harvest the invaded areas of Water Chestnuts.



Water Chestnut Pod



Water Rosette



Handpulling Event Totals

1. Maxwell Bay had 17 volunteers (in the pouring rain) and harvested about 1.5 tons of immature water chestnuts.
2. Sodus Bay Improvement Association – self run program on Saturday of Independence Day weekend has been hand harvesting for the past several years. Due to their continued efforts the sightings of the water chestnut were scarce! They only harvested a couple 30 gal. trash bags for upland disposal. Congrats to the SBIA for their continued efforts!
3. Sodus Creek hand pull was held in conjunction with Save Our Sodus Inc and had 30+ volunteers who harvested over 4 tons of water chestnuts!
4. Bay Bridge Hand pull was held in conjunction with Sodus Bay Improvement Association (SBIA), Water Quality Control WQCC and Save Our Sodus and hand harvested about 2 tons in 1.5 hours of work before we were rained out!

Congratulations to all the volunteers that came out and got hands-on experience!

Boy Scout Troops 108 of Rose and 115 of Wolcott along with a few Girl Scouts from the Clyde area participated throughout the summer at some of the 5 hand harvesting events around Maxwell Bay and Sodus Bay! Special thanks to the Boys and Girls and their Troop leaders Al Walker and Donetta Ufholtz.

Volunteers included: Jesse Verstrete, Ryan Verstrete, Jackson Sehm, Anthony Templar, Kyle Kasper, Drew Fowler, Philip Ufholz, Jake Minier, Kalen Roberts, Lisa Templar, Jessica Templar and Sheridan Verstrete.



Camp Beechwood Campers

Project WET Day Camp at Camp Beechwood

Soil Science and Water Quality Education with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County's Summer Day Camp at Camp Beechwood 2013 marked the first year CCE of Wayne held the Day Camp Experience for a variety of ages.

The District was asked to work with the kids during a morning session to talk about environment and water quality. Stephanie Schroeder, District Environmental Educator Assistant used the curriculum developed through Project WET to engage the kids in activities about the water cycle, and environment impacts on water quality.

How do invasive species affect watersheds?

Invasive species may be a concern for watershed management. Many invasive species out compete native species. When native grasses that stabilize stream banks are out competed, sedimentation in streams and rivers may increase. When native plants closer to the ground are shaded out by larger invasive species, bare soil may be eroded. Invasive species degrade wetlands, which perform important functions like water purification, flood protection, and shoreline stabilization. All of these examples have negative implications for stormwater control measures that intend to control the volume and pollutant concentration of stormwater.



Ron Thorn, Ag Planner



**Agricultural
Environmental
Management**

AEM has five levels or "Tiers" of planning and assessment

Tier 1 - Farm Inventory or Summary

Basic farm data is recorded: owner and/or operator's names, location of the farm, products, livestock numbers, and acres farmed. General questions about practices such as crop rotation, manure management, and pesticide use are asked.

Tier 2 - Farm Assessment

These worksheets ask about characteristics and operational procedures on the farm. A potential level of risk is assigned based on that information. Existing stewardship and conservation practices are recorded. SWCD staff process the information from Tier 2, creating a summary which will include basic recommendations for the farmer to consider if planning continues to Tier 3.

Tier 3 - Development of a Conservation Plan

The farmer may choose to address one or more concerns identified in Tier 2. Projects undertaken range from simple cropland erosion control plans (Tier 3A) barnyard water management plans and Agricultural Mixing Facilities. Tier 3B includes a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) that addresses agricultural runoff, agricultural waste and nutrient management issues. Tier 3B plans are required by federal and state law for large livestock operations designated as Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). Tier 3 plans are used to prepare cost estimates and to apply for cost-share funding from state and federal sources.

Tier 4 - Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs)

When both grant and personal funding sources are committed, implementation of BMPs can take place. SWCD and NRCS staff assist in preparation of designs and construction plans and will work with contractors to ensure proper installation.

How you can get involved?

Contact: Ron Thorn, Agricultural Planner
10 Leach Road, Lyons, NY 14489
Office Phone: 315.946.4136

Tier 5 - Follow Up and Evaluation

After conservation practices or management recommendations have been implemented, evaluation takes place to assess the effectiveness of the practices. Tier 5 is similar to the Tier 2 process. A revised farm assessment is prepared to again evaluate potential risk levels for farm operations. For example, if a leachate collection system was installed for a bunker silo, the potential should be considerably reduced. **Tier 5A** is used for non-CAFO farms; **Tier 5B** is required for CAFOs.

Agriculture Value Assessments

In 2013, the staff completed 152 soil group worksheets covering over 9500 acres of agricultural land in all 15 townships of Wayne County as a part of the Agriculture Value Assessment Program. Agriculture Value Assessments help tax assessors to determine the amount of land available for land owners to be allowed the Agriculture Tax Exemptions. In an effort to increase AEM awareness and participation the price for Soil Group Worksheets have been adjusted to \$25 but if the farmer fills out a Tier 1 (one time) worksheet the cost will be \$15 and if a Tier 2 visit and assessment is completed a full one time refund is in order.

Soil Health Field Day

This summer 42 farm folks from Wayne and neighboring counties attended our Soil Health field day. This opportunity was made possible by Wayne SWCD, USDA NRCS of Wayne County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County partnership with the Field Crops/Fruit & Vegetable Team.



Topics covered included cover crop opportunities and trial reviews, soil health tillage compaction, equipment diversification and barley hops for economic development. There were five speakers with hands on demonstrations.



Ag Non-Point Source Abatement & Control Grant Program Update

The Ag Grant funding for Round 19 funded 4 farms in the Lower Ganaruga Creek Watershed for various practices related to Barnyard Water Management, Prescribed Grazing Management and Manure Handling Facilities. We are very excited to begin working on these projects in the fall of 2014.

ASPECTS OF AEM

d t n e m e g a n a m t i y
d c o m m u n i t y n d r t
n o i t a t n e m e l p m i
d d t a d c c e m e a d e l
w r a d r a y n r a b l r a
g a v s f d o o s a b d u u
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e n e l i e l w n h n t l v
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d g n o i t a r e p o o c r
n e o f l t e r n e c e i y
i i c a s t a o t i o n r t
n l n u a p l a n n i n g d
t d s w a e n n m t i t a d

AEM
Cooperation
CAFO
Quality
Management
Drainage
Community
Planning
Conservation
Agriculture
Environment
DEC
CCE
FSA
Implementation
Fields
Barnyard
SWCD
Sustainable
Watershed
Wetland



Christopher Hotto

2013 Agricultural Group Drainage Program Annual Report

Prepared by: Christopher Hotto, District Technician, Soil Resource Specialist

The agricultural group drainage program is responsible for the maintenance of 66 projects throughout Wayne County. There is now over 80 miles of streams and drainage channels that the program maintains on a five year cycle. Due to the amount of maintenance that needed to be completed we opted not to take on any new projects this year. Over the last three years we have averaged eight miles of maintenance and one and a half miles of new drainage work. Because we did not take on any new projects this year we were able to maintain about fourteen miles of drainage channel, an increase of six miles. The projects completed this year go directly through more than 60 landowner's property and indirectly affect numerous additional properties. The projects preserve and enhance drainage for thousands of acres of agricultural and residential property.

Drainage Program

Fourmile Creek

The Fourmile Creek project is located in the town of Ontario, but also improves drainage for land in the town of Walworth. The project goes through four landowners and is three quarters of a mile in length. The entire length of the project was mowed and about half was dipped. This project maintains proper drainage for agricultural and residential property.



Haley Road Project

The Haley Road Project is located in the town of Walworth. It was completed as a new project in 2008, so this was the first maintenance conducted on the project. The project is just under a mile in length and goes through four landowners. Work on the project included mowing, dipping and blockage removal to maintain proper drainage for agricultural lands.



Dennison Creek

Dennison Creek is a .65 mile long project located in the town of Ontario. The project runs through eight property owners and maintains drainage for residential and agricultural land. Work on this project consisted of mowing and minor dipping.



Wilson Road Project

This project begins in the town of Butler and ends in Wolcott. This project is now tied in with the Wolcott Creek project. The upper end of this drainage channel had a beaver issue, which was flooding out one home and agricultural land. The County Highway coordinated the trapping of the beaver because it was causing issues with a county road. We removed the dam from a private culvert crossing.



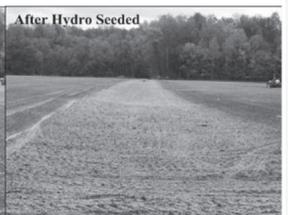
Critical Area Stabilization

The critical area stabilization program was utilized to hydro seed five agricultural non point source projects totaling about two and a half acres of area. Projects completed included diversions, waterways, vegetated treatment areas and other area disturbed during construction. We did not complete as much acreage as planned due to not taking on any new drainage projects and receiving very little interest from Towns and Highway departments for hydro seeding their projects.

Humbert- Main Farm Diversion



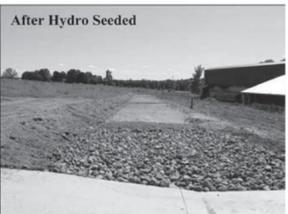
Humbert- 75 Acre Field Waterway



Humbert- Brand Road Waterway



High- Vegetated Treatment Area & Disturbed Area



Hill- Vegetated Treatment Area & Disturbed Area



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www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org

Envirothon 2013

Wayne County SWCD co-hosted Western Finger Lakes Regional Envirothon held at FLCC in Canandaigua in April 2013. Wayne County had three teams from Red Creek. The Red Creek Rams were the Champions to win the Wayne County spot to go to State Envirothon Competition at SUNY Morrisville in May 2013 however due to a SR Class conflict the team decided to turn over the reins to the Reserve Champions the Red Creek Kodiak Squirrels.

Boyscouts on Winter Hike



In the winter months of March, 2013 Cub Scout Troop 126 spent the morning winter hiking through the Chimney Bluffs State Park, in Huron NY. 8 Cub Scouts and 5 den leaders spent the morning in the woods, learning the importance of conservation hiking techniques, wilderness safety, and natural erosion.



Congrats to all Envirothon Teams

Red Creek Kodiak Squirrels
Red Creek Rams
Red Creek Mules

Drainage Program continued

Wolcott Creek West Branch

The Wolcott Creek project is responsible for the maintenance of about four miles of drainage channel in the towns of Huron, Wolcott and the Village of Wolcott. Work on this project involved mowing, dipping and removal of numerous beaver dams.

We also completed a half mile section that had been previously skipped to connect this project to the Wilson Road Project. The project helps improve and maintain drainage for residential lands as well as hundreds of acres of agricultural land. Twenty property owners are directly impacted by this project, and many more are indirectly affected.



Kelsey Road Project

The Kelsey Road Project is 2.25 miles in length and runs through the towns of Rose and Galen. The project goes across four landowners' property. Work on the project consisted of mowing and blockage removal that maintains drainage for agricultural land and helps reduce flooding.



Clintons Ditch Project

Clintons Ditch is almost three miles in length and is in Lyons and Galen. The project goes through 12 landowners and helps maintain drainage for agricultural and residential land. Work on the project involved mowing both sides and cleaning up trees that have fallen.



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