



Conservation at the Core of Wayne County



Local Community Stewardship Creates Conservation Partnerships

Every resident in Wayne County has the potential to be a steward within the community. There are many ways to perform this stewardship whether it is being part of a community group, or simply caring for your own backyard. Stewardship is defined as being responsible for the use and protection of the natural environment through conservation and sustainable practices to enhance ecosystem resilience and human well-being. Conservation cannot be a true success without on-going partnership. The Soil and Water Conservation District is fortunate to have connections lending to creative stewardship through a professional network of knowledge and resources, including equipment, skills, and grant cost-share. In 2020 alone, the District managed partnership with over 112 entities. All the conservation is possible because of these partnerships and each and every one of them are appreciated. It is always better when we do it together.

In 2021, the District Board and Managers will be reviewing the last 5 year strategy deliverables and will be authoring a Report Card to show where continued conservation should be applied. The process assesses all strategy objectives, and outlines the importance of partnerships with landowners, farmers/operators, concerned citizens, students, and municipal leaders.

Community Partnership Addresses Stormwater for 1/3 of Village of Sodus Point



This project started many years ago due to flooding issues. South Ontario Street runs directly off of New York State Route 14. This street is the stormwater conveyance point for roughly 1/3 of the Village’s stormwater drainage. An estimated 52 acres and over 200 properties drain through the area.

Over the years, small cottages in the Village of Sodus Point expanded into larger homes, driveways were paved and trees were removed. Village drainage code did not address

the stormwater issue. The cumulative effect of these community changes, as well heightened storm intensity, all contributed to an increase in stormwater run-off directed into undersized drainage infrastructure causing the street and residential properties to flood during heavy rain events.

The District partnered with the Village of Sodus Point in securing funding through New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) to implement the project.

Costich Engineering provided a design that better fit the site, and Decker Excavating started the project in February, 2020. The renovated stormwater conveyance system was completed and had final erosion control stabilization in May.

The project disconnected and removed over 3200 lf. of failed drainage infrastructure, and installed approximately 2750 ft of new, appropriately-sized stormwater conveyance systems. This included best management practices for

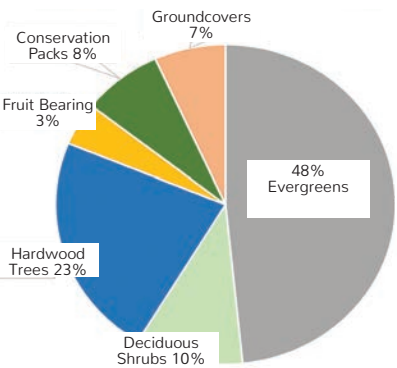
nutrient sedimentation; a vegetative swale, rock lined outlets and two practices for clean water exclusion; removal of one direct outlet from Sodus Bay without filtration and replacement of an outlet with filter strip as well as removal of terrestrial invasives.

At present the Village is undergoing a drainage and stormwater code review in conjunction with its Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to address overall drainage issues.

Forever Green= clean air by planting trees

Trees act as the earth’s purification system by absorbing airborne chemicals and releasing oxygen. Over 8012 trees and 680 conservation planting items contributed to a successful conservation effort in 2020. Holding true to the “Forever Green” sale name, nearly 1/2 of tree sales were evergreens, with Arborvitae being the most popular. Other varieties were Colorado blue spruce, Elderberry, Lilac, as well as Red and White oaks. Hardwood trees contributed to 25%, with the remaining quarter divided

2020 Conservation Tree Sales



between conservation packs, deciduous shrubs, ground covers and berry plants. Be sure to subscribe to the e-blast list. Tree Sale begins in mid January.

Towns of Williamson and Walworth partner to take action to address stormwater in Wayne County. Page B4

Wayne County Residents Recycle Tires Less waste into streams equals better water quality by tire recycling



habitat for pests, mainly mosquitos (carriers of West Nile & EEE), and rodents. Tires are also unsightly in a county known for its beauty across farms, drumlins and woodlands. In 2020 approximately 28,000 lbs of tires from 110 landowners and 2 farms were collected.

In partnership with Nucor Corporation, (Auburn, NY), the District began holding annual tire collection events starting in 2019.

Dumped tires that live in hedges, streams, and other out of the way places can leach toxic chemicals and heavy metals that eventually make their way into our waterways and soils. Discarded tires have shown to be harmful for fish populations in various streams across the country. Significant issues arise with the creation of prime

County residents showed high interest and turned out with all kinds of tires. **Watch for more events in the coming year.**

2020 Board of Directors
Mark Humbert – Chair, Farm Bureau,
Lynn Chatfield – Vice Chair, County Legislator
Steve Olson – Treasurer, Member At Large
Patricia VanLare – Grange Representative
Jake Emmel – County Legislator

2020 Conservation Staff
Lindsey Gerstenslager MSEd, District Manager
Bethany Comella, Conservation Sec./Treasurer
Ronald Thom, CCA, Conservation Program Manager, Ag Planner
Chris Hotto, CPESC., Senior District Technician
Scott DeRue, NYSEPESC., Senior District Technician
Terry Reynolds, Senior District Technician, Ag Implementation Specialist
Ian Priestley, CCA, District Technician, AEM Specialist
Drew Starkey, District Technician, Program Specialist
Maxine Appleby, Conservation Public Relations Specialist

Stewardship starts with you

Plant trees, the more the better, reforestation is a critical part of conservation restoring previously degraded ecosystems provides essential habitat for threatened species.

Adopt a storm drain in your neighborhood, use a rake or pitch fork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from a catch basin or ditch close to home. This is especially important during storms when the high volume of water falling on streets would otherwise cause flooding.

Harvest rainwater, rainwater is free and keeping it on your property reduces the amount of pollutants from flowing into storm drains and into our waterways. Create rain gardens for soggy yard areas and add rain barrels to downspouts to capture water for use in the garden.

Shop local, locally owned businesses make more local purchases —shopping at seasonal markets requires less transportation and supports local farmers. That means less sprawl, congestion, habitat loss & pollution.

Mow less, mow over leaves so they decompose along with grass clippings. Use mulching blades/kits to shred clipping. Change mowing patterns regularly to evenly distribute grass and clippings.

Use cloth towels, paper towels are convenient to use, but they’re not eco-friendly. Since they can’t be recycled, about 6 million pounds of paper towels end up in landfills each year. Cloth fabric is also a great touch for wrapping gifts.

Community Conservation Takes Passion and Commitment

Wayne County is fortunate to have people that have both passion and commitment for community conservation. The Wayne County SWCD team is made up of people that are in community service because of conservation. In 2020, 17 people provided service to over 19,530+ landowners, community members, farmers, and municipalities. 12 staff members – 7 full-time, 2 part-time, 3 seasonal and 5 volunteer Directors manage over 25 programs in 2020 through a pandemic. They simply love the environments, love what they do and aiding in making improvements for the people of Wayne County; (even in the toughest times of 2020).

These neighbors work to improve the science part of environmental management by helping landowners and municipal leaders to manage, mitigate, prevent and protect from pollution that impacts all ecosystems in Wayne County. The vast diversity of the environments is Wayne County creates need for specialists able to answer questions, provide solutions and connect networks. The District team is made up of a local network of people that know the information or where to find it.



Ronald Thorn, CCA, Conservation Program Manager, has been with Wayne County SWCD since 2002. A local resident of the Town of Galen, Ron is a member of the Ag Economic Development Board, manages the Ag program side of the District through the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program and continues to look at land management through planning for Wayne County. Email: Ron@WayneNYswcd.org



Lindsey M. Gerstenslager, District Manager, has been with the District since 2010. A resident of Cayuga County, Lindsey works to assess and organize science-based conservation programs that address ecosystem and community wellness. This holistic approach focuses on water quality enhancement and protection, economic stability. Lindsey works with over 50 partners annually to make the most networking connections for Wayne County and general operation for the District. Email: Lindsey@WayneNYswcd.org



Christopher Hotto, Senior District Technician, has been with Wayne County SWCD since 2008. A local resident of the Town of Sodus, Chris is a Certified Professional of Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and has managed the Agracultural Drainage Program and is now transitioning to Agricultural Field Engineering for Farm Best Management Practice designs to assist the Ag Program Implementation for Wayne County. Email: Chris@WayneNYswcd.org



Scott DeRue, Senior District Technician, has been with Wayne County SWCD since 2008. A local resident of Palmyra, Scott is a New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Specialist and focuses on watershed planning and Stormwater management for Wayne County. His role and specialty in the science of water quality aids all the programs within the District. He is the program manager for data and support to the Aquatic Vegetative Control program. Email: Scott@WayneNYswcd.org



Thomas “Drew” Starkey, District Technician, has been with Wayne County SWCD since 2016. A resident of Cayuga County, Drew is a Program Specialist with the District. His position provides support for conservation community outreach and support to technical staff in the office. Drew also manages the Source Water Septic Replacement Program and Invasive Species Management Community program for Wayne County. Email: Drew@WayneNYswcd.org



Ian Priestley, District Technician, has been with Wayne County SWCD since 2016. A local resident of Palmyra. Ian is a Certified Crop Advisor and farm planner with the NYSAEM program. He manages the Soil Health program with the District and has recently taken over the Community Conservation Tire Recycling program which provides coordination with Nucor Steel of Auburn for tire collection with municipalities and landowners for a complete recycling effort. Email: Ian@WayneNYswcd.org



Terry Reynolds, Senior District Technician, has been with Wayne County SWCD since 2010. A resident of Onondaga County, Terry brings over 50 years of conservation experience in best management planning, design and construction management. Terry has worked with over 72 farms to install projects associated with Agricultural Grants in partner with New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Email: Terry@WayneNYswcd.org



Maxine Appleby, Conservation Public Relations Specialist and part-time since 2013 and resides in Sodus Point. As a UX designer she brings over 35 years of marketing and graphic design experience. Her passion is the environment and water quality aid in community education along getting the word out to the local community. Maxine manages all publications, branding, marketing and website. An avid angler she manages the Wayne County Youth Fishing Derby in partnership with Sportsmen’s Club of Wayne County. Email: Maxine@WayneNYswcd.org



Michael Walker, Crew Leader of the Aquatic Vegetative Control Program, has been with the District for the summer seasons since 2002. A resident of the Town of Sodus, Mike keeps the aquatic vegetative control program going. He assesses sites bi-weekly in partnership with others Technicians’ to identify the needs of the vegetation grown, documents changes in waterways with Scott DeRue, creates the schedule, gives directions for specifics in harvesting to the crew and manages the mechanical needs of the equipment.



Bethany Comella, started with the District in 2019 as the Secretary/Treasurer, serving as the secretary to the Board of Directors and managing the District’s finances. Bethany lives in Lyons with her cat Oreo, and is in her 7th year on the Trail Works Board of Directors, currently in the role of President. She also co-founded the "Common Threads" children’s clothing closet in Newark, and spends her Sundays as a church organist. Email: Bethany@WayneNYswcd.org.



William “Bill” Hall, Crew Member of the Aquatic Vegetative Control Program, has been with the District for the summer seasons since 2006. A resident of the Town of Sodus, Bill operates an aquatic vegetation harvester. His passion for managing aquatic invasives like the “Water Chestnut” improves the flow, increases oxygen to the waterbody and provides better fisheries opportunities in cove areas where spawning and bird nesting occur. Bill is an avid supporter of many Sodus community programs.

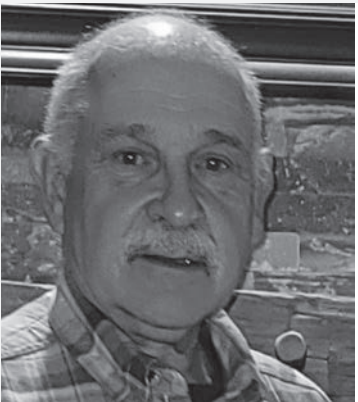


Marlin Morley, Crew Member of the Aquatic Vegetative Control Program, has been with the District for the summer seasons since 2015. A resident of the Town of Wolcott, Marlin operates an aquatic vegetation harvester and supports the removal of the loaded vegetation through his skilled driving ability of our dump trucks. His mechanical and welding skills aid Mike in keeping equipment maintained. Marlin is an accomplished mechanic and helps with composting site management.

2020 District Board Members

New York State Senate Law depicts who is eligible to participate on the Soil & Water Conservation Board of Directors.

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/SWC/9>



Mark Humbert, Chairman, Farm Bureau Representative, has been a member of the District’s Board of Directors since 2015.	Steven Olson, Treasurer, Member at Large, has been a member of the District’s Board of Directors since 2015.	Patricia “Pat” VanLare, Grange Representative, has been an official member of the District’s Board since 2018.	Lynn Chatfield, Vice Chair, Legislative Representative, has been a member of the District’s Board of Directors since 2018.	Jake Emmel, Legislative Representative, has been a member of the District’s Board since 2020.
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Need Assistance?

The District Team now has a simplified method for landowners, municipalities and school programs to be able to apply for technical services or assistance. To request assistance on a project, to identify a known concern within the community, or seek potential financial assistance on a project, requests can be made by filling out standard information on a one page form. This gives the District Team the ability to more efficiently track and provide conservation assistance while managing other regular responsibilities.

www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org/create-conservation/

Water Quality is a Cool Glass of Water on a Hot Summer Day

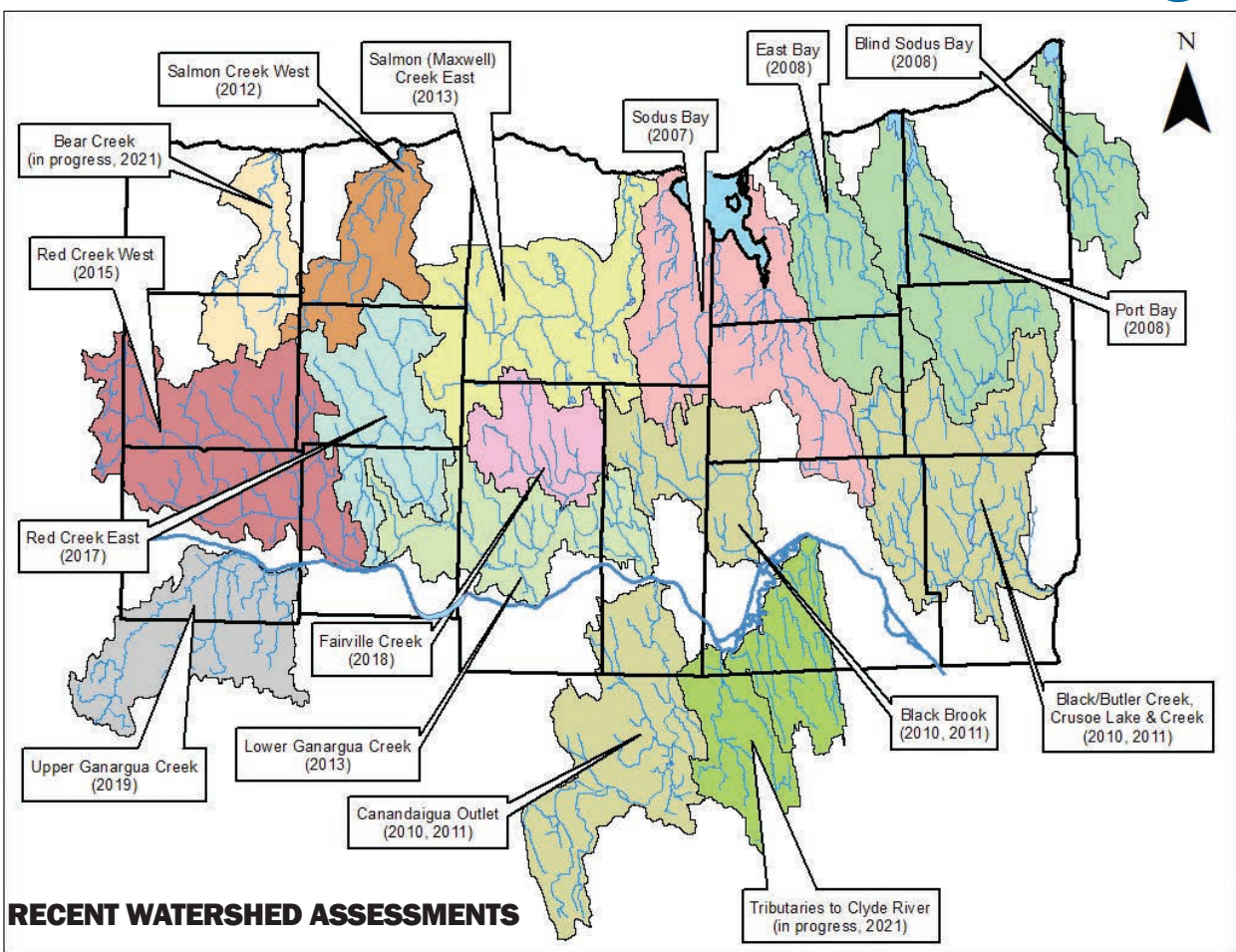
Remember that stretch of weather in 2020 where the thermometer didn't drop below 88 degrees for 35 straight days? Recall how dry it was? Parts of your community that you had never seen dry before were parched. In 2017 and 2019 residents along the Lake Ontario shoreline in Wayne County saw the other extreme end of the spectrum with an over-abundance of water. Hydrologic balance that occurs during regular weather patterns is what we see without the excesses. Drought and flooding are the weather extremes that make each of us take notice. Unfortunately, these extreme weather patterns will continue to occur. This is why it is more important than ever to take stock in how water quality impacts will continue to affect our community.

Water Quality is something we take for granted in NY because we have such an abundance with the Great Lakes and Finger Lakes. **So why is it so important to continue to implement pollution mitigation on land for water quality?**

- All living things need water to survive
- Clean water equals clean communities
- Dilution is not the solution to pollution.

This is at a waste of precious resources, and destruction to an entire ecosystem. It actually only makes preservation and mitigation that much harder. Beginning in the 2010s, the District began assessing the water quality in various watersheds throughout the County to identify areas within those watersheds that need preservation, enhancement, and mitigation to ensure future uses.

Senior District Technician Scott DeRue spends the spring, summer, and fall months collecting water quality samples from the streams and tributaries of the county. The samples are analyzed and used

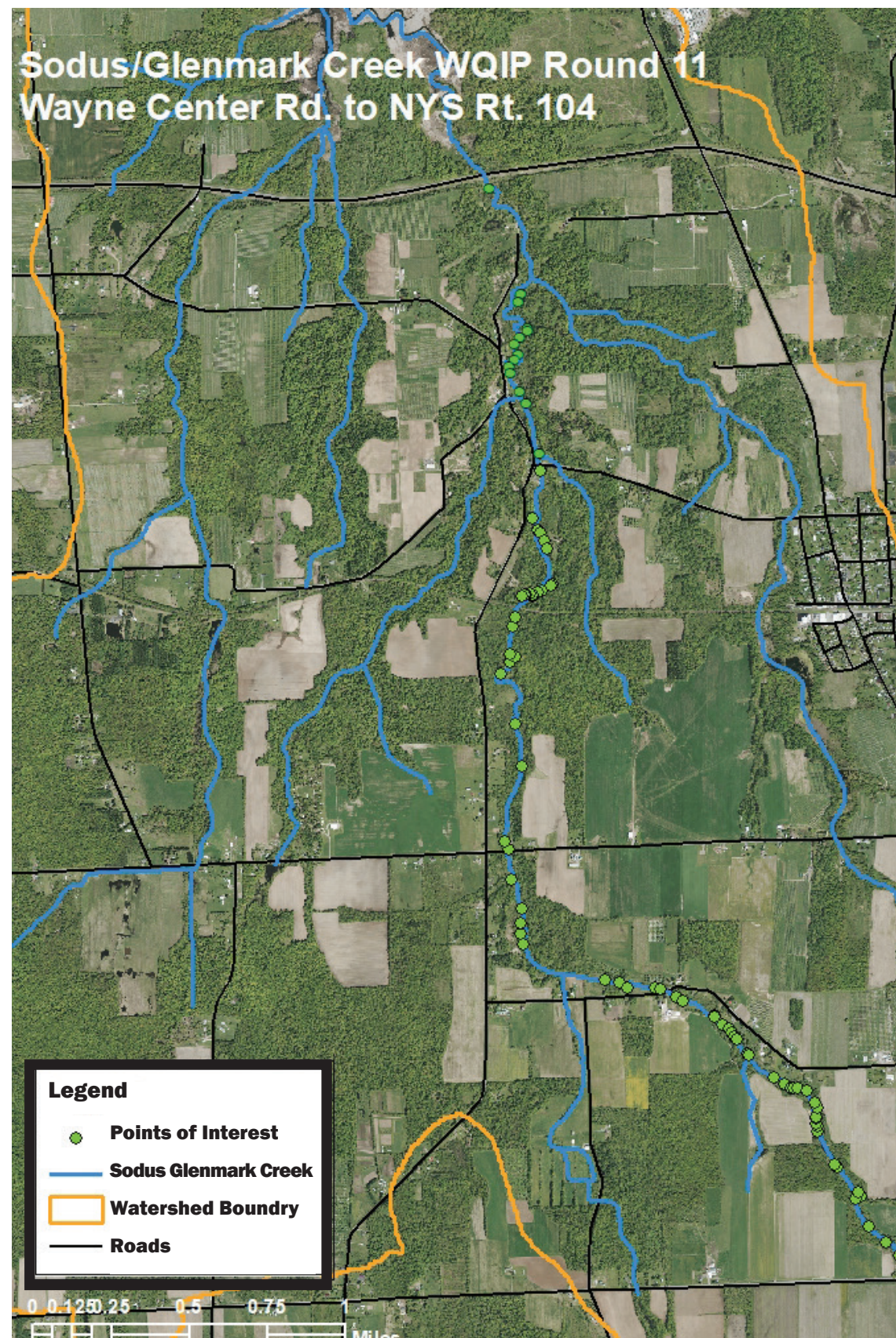


to describe waterbody and watershed conditions based on what activities are occurring on the land. In 2013, Scott began the assessment process of all the watersheds for the Central Canal Corridor due to a lack of historic data and verification of impacts. In 2020, tributary data was collected on

the watersheds of Clyde River and Bear Creek. The completed assessments will be used to prioritize corrective actions and assist in funding opportunities to mitigate sources of pollution.

Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) Extends Planning efforts through Implementation

Sodus / Glenmark Creek stream corridor management aids over 4800 acres of non-point source pollution mitigation and water quality improvements by erosion control



At the double culverts of Sodus/Glenmark Creek under NYS Route 104, the stream channel had migrated, creating a misalignment and extreme stream flow concerns. There was significant erosion of the west bank of the stream. The misalignment contributed to seasonal flooding as the stream flow was drastically slowed down and began to back up. Significant flooding along Briggs Road has caused damage to homes and vehicles, and also inundating septic systems. With the increase in more intense storms, mitigating this situation became extremely important. The proposed action was to realign the channel with the culverts and

armor the adjacent banks with riprap stone. Approximately 200 cubic yards of streambed material was removed to realign the stream. Due to the location of the site, it was not feasible to transport riprap stone to the project. The banks were armored using brush mattresses, and live willow stakes were installed. All disturbed areas were permanently stabilized upon completion using an erosion control grass seed mixture. All work was performed during low water conditions and from the upper banks.

Why does Sodus Creek matter?

- composes 25% of the Sodus Bay Watershed
- 45% of Total Phosphorus Loading to Sodus Bay comes from the tributary watershed
- irreplaceable wildlife corridor for the region.



Stormwater Management

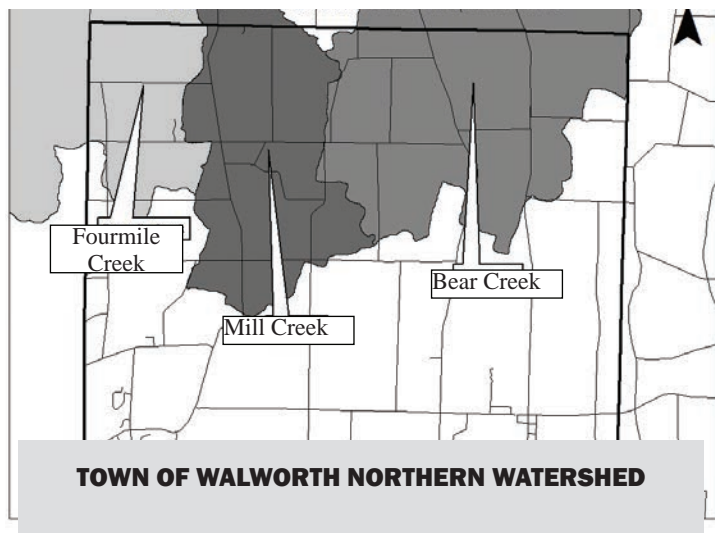
Wayne Couny Towns take action to address water quality and stream corridor stormwater management

In 2012, the Town of Williamson began a partnership with the District to begin organizing a science-based approach to managing “drainage” within the Town. After completing assessments of the three main stream corridors it was determined by keeping the corridors managed, flow would continue up into the watershed for all landowners. Since then, the District has been working in partnership with a Drainage Committee, made up of Town Councilman Gary Orbaker, Landowner/Farmer Rick Vos and Highway Superintendent, Kurt Allman to manage the program. Each of the 3 stream corridors are on a rotation for management.

In 2020, through the Williamson Stream Corridor Management program the District completed maintenance along 3.3 miles of Jack Creek. Section I, which is 1.7 miles long and runs from Lake Road to Shepherd Road, was mowed and blockages were removed. Section II runs from Shepherd Road to Seeley Road and is 1.6 miles long. Section II was mowed, about a half mile dipped, and blockages were removed as well. The work completed goes directly through 24 properties and also benefits numerous adjacent properties and hundreds of acres of active farm of connected farm lands. The District also obtained most of the necessary easements for section III, which will have corridor management work completed in 2021. Rotation work is performed during certain time periods due to restrictions to access and permit responsibilities for fisheries management.



In 2019 the Town of Walworth began planning watershed assessments for a stormwater management program in conjunction with their participation of the Ontario Wayne Stormwater Coalition. In 2020, Scott DeRue spent time collecting data and information, and water quality sampling the northern watersheds of the Town of Williamson and Red Creek West.



The Assessment was completed as part of the Central Canal Corridor in 2018 in partnership with the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLLOWPA).

During this time, the Town also had the District working on technical requests from local landowners that required special inspection or permitting for Stormwater Management. “Overall, a partnership with the Town leaders and the District expands the opportunity for water quality protection and enhancement for not only stormwater management but for the whole watershed environment.

Overall, the Town of Williamson and Walworth are seeking to assess these areas for water quality and environmental interests as a large effort in long range community planning!

For more information, contact Scott@WayneNYswcd.org



Sodus Creek Extension Project leads to agricultural access without stream disturbance

Funded by FLLOWPA, the project provided erosion management and equipment crossings to access approximately 750 acres of farm fields. The Sodus Creek Double Culvert Replacement Project and Sodus Creek Extension work were two main branches off of the main branch tributary in conjunction with a project for the main tributary of Sodus Creek. Approximatly 3.25 miles was maintained and three degraded culvert crossings replaced. The entire length of the project was mowed, and approximately 3 miles were reprofiled. The culvert crossings that were replaced were originally installed by the Soil & Water Conservation District back in the mid 1980s when the project was originally completed. These crossing were beginning to fail and become unsafe to use.



Progress

In 2020 the County Agricultural Group Drainage Program was responsible for the management of over seven miles of agricultural drainage corridors on five projects around Wayne County. Work on these projects included mowing all seven miles, dipping approximately 5 miles, removal of numerous blockages and the replacement of five culverts.

All of these projects support drainage for hundreds of acres of agricultural land throughout the County.



Ontario Wayne Stormwater Coalition

This coalition was formed in 2007 to support the MS4 needs of Wayne and Ontario County Municipalities that fell into the criteria for this regulation. By working together, the OWSC addresses the Stormwater pollution and non-point source



pollution mitigation needed to make sure the member communities continue to have sustainable water quality and management plans in place to address them. Wayne County and Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District’s aid the OWSC in advertismment and operational support.

<https://www.owsc.org/>

Aquatic Conservation

Aquatic Nuisance Species Planning aids the Great Sodus Bay in Healthier Ecosystems



For the past few years, Drew Starkey has been working on managing aquatic invasive species, specifically Water Chestnuts (*Trapa natans*). Invasive species are non-native, introduced species that negatively affect the local economy, ecology, or human health. This floating plant forms dense beds that out compete local types of aquatic vegetation and changes the aquatic landscape in shallow, slow moving waters. These water chestnuts are not the same type of plant that you would find in your lo-mein or stir-fry, but you may have come across some of their black spiky seed pods on the shore of the bays.

The District has partnered with environmental organizations like NYSDEC, NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, The Nature Conservancy, Finger Lakes – Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, Save Our Sodus, Sodus Bay Improvement Association, and dozens of local volunteers to help manage these water chestnut infestations.

Presently, Wayne County has known infestations in Maxwell, Port, East, and Sodus Bays, as well as a few other small tributaries around the north and southeastern parts of the County.



Comprehensive Invasive Species plan for Lake Shore Marshes

One of the largest infestations is in the portion of Sodus Bay south of the Ridge Road bridge. The District has been actively combating a 27-acre infestation by utilizing harvester boats and volunteer hand pulls. Because this is such a problematic infestation, and as part of the Lake Shore Marshes Management Unit, the District and the NYSDEC, Division of Habitat began a partnership in 2014 to address the expanding problem of Water Chestnut Mats South of the Sodus Bay Bridge which had expanded to 34.2 acres of infestation. Due to the partnership, the District worked within the membership of FLOWPA to apply for US Fish and Wildlife funding to aid in the management effort in this area. The management plan is now in final draft and will be eligible for comment and will be posted to the District website. Starkey has worked with NYSDEC and other invasive species partners to address this area and gather methods that are now approved for waterway management.

This 10-year plan is considered a cycle plan, meaning every 10 years it will be reassessed and amended to address the issues associated within the wetland complex effectively to gain in process. “The hope is that over the next decade we will continue to see progress. Just this year, after 5 years of strategically targeting immature plants with mechanical harvesting there has been an increase of native species, fish and water

fowl,” says Lindsey Gerstenslager, District Manager.” The Crew and project partners all play a role in the success of this plan, which can potentially be a template for other areas of water chestnut locally. According to Starkey, “There are multiple reasons why we have chosen to invest time, energy, and funding into producing this resource. For starters, the geographic location and size of this infestation has made it a managerial priority. Its proximity to local water access (fishing along the bridge, two local marinas, and a car-top NYSDEC launch) means this area has a lot of visitors.”



WANTED

In the FLX

Volunteers

No experience required!
We provide tools and training!

Fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/Xcfacg1kBSW7S4YK9> or email mharris@hws.edu to sign up

Macrophyte Survey Program

Why?

The key to controlling the spread of invasive species like Hydrilla and Starry Stonewort, is detecting them! We need your help identifying key invasives before they cause significant damage.

What do you need to do?

Say yes! Sign up at the link below. Attend a short training either in person or virtual, get your supplies and you are ready to roll! Sample once every two weeks and report back using an invasive species app on your phone or tablet.

Where?

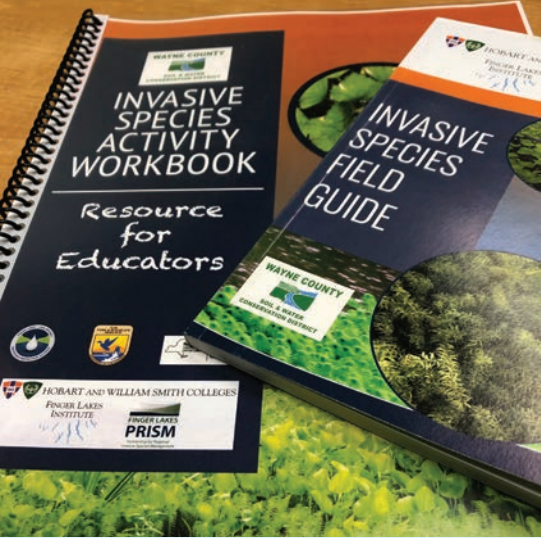
Any lake or river nearby. If it's got water access, it works.

When?

Sampling occurs biweekly from June to October. If you can only commit to a certain time frame, just let us know!

For more information visit: fingerlakesinvasives.org/invasive-survey

Invasive Species Education - New Activity Workbook



In 2020 the Finger Lakes PRISM partnered with the District to produce an “Invasive Species Activity Workbook” for teachers to use in the classroom. The resource contains hands-on lesson plans, fun cutout masks (shown right), as well as IMAP Invasive app instructions and NYSDEC “10 most wanted invasive species.”

In conjunction with the production of the Activity Workbook, the FL-PRISM and the District held a teachers training webinar for over 50 participants from three counties.

The Invasive Species Activity Workbook was produced with a grant from the USFWS and NYSDEC in partnership with Finger Lakes PRISM and Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith College, Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA) To download visit waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org/is/ or email maxine@wayneNYswcd.org to request a copy.

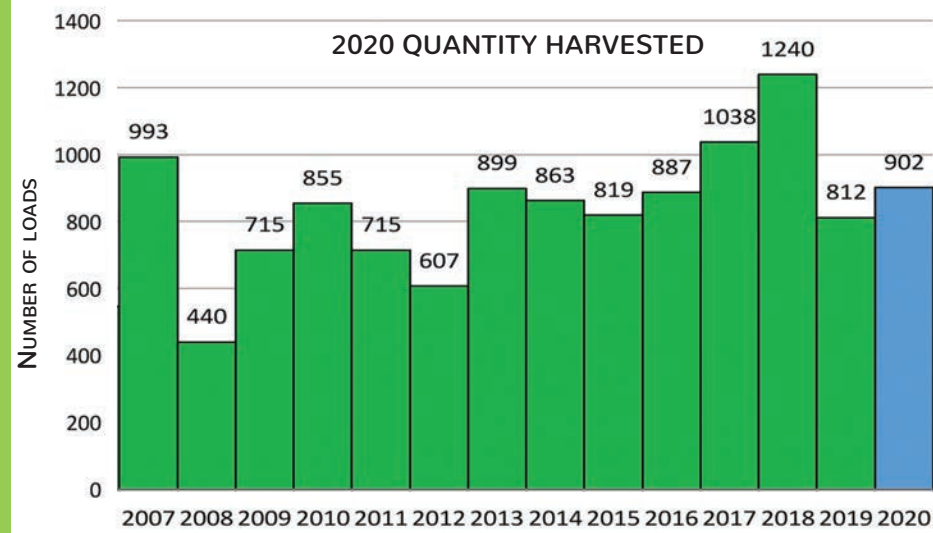


2020 Aquatic Vegetative Control (AVC)

Mechanical harvesting has proven to be a short-term, effective and environmentally safe means by which to control excessive aquatic plant growth. Harvesting operations for the 2020 season were carried out for 62 days between mid-June and late-September. The final removal amounts for each bay are as follows;

Sodus Bay – 705 loads
Port Bay – 163 loads
East Bay – 34 loads

The total amount removed from the three (3) embayments was 902 loads. This season, the water was too low to harvest Maxwell Bay. Again we concentrated on the area south of the Ridge Rd. at Bay Bridge in North Rose. This was the forth consecutive year to control invasive water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) with 250 loads from south of the Bay Bridge in the Sodus Bay Lake Shore Marsh complex.



The COVID-19 pandemic put a hiring freeze on the harvesting crew in 2020. Only 3 operators were on the crew this year, while District Technicians assisted when possible to supplement the crew. Maintaining the fleet became a more challenging task. Like everyone, 2020 brought on a number of tribulations that AVC program can learn from and adapt to for the future to improve the program.

Acknowledgment

The success of this program depends greatly on numerous groups and individuals: Wayne County Board of Supervisors, Town of Sodus, Town of Huron, Town of Wolcott, Wayne County SWCD Board of Directors, FLOWPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, FL PRISM, NYSDEC and the numerous private landowners who provided access for equipment.

Agriculture

Agricultural Environmental Management

Ag communities bridge the gap for local water quality improvements and prevention

Wayne County CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program



NYS increased regulations to larger farms to address manure controls for winter spreading in 2017/2018. In response to the change, NYS offered opportunities to farms that are defined as Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and operate under a NYSDEC Environmental State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (SPEDS.) Many of the farms had been looking for ways to update or increase manure storage capacity to allow them to better utilize the “greener (non-petroleum)”fertilizer value when they need it during planting season. There were three rounds of funding hosted by NYS. In Round One, Wayne County had been successful with three applications for three farms.

Maplelawn Farms of Lyons NY was the first of the three farms to complete their project with it being operational in 2020. Their storage now provides containment for 7 months of manure storage based on margin of operational animal numbers. Maplelawn Farms has a long history of implementing conservation practices to improve their environmental footprint as well as on farm efficiency. Although highly beneficial to the farm, the cost of these storages is often prohibitive to implementation. Securing funding through the CAFO Waste Storage grant, Maplelawn Farms, Wayne County SWCD, and USDA NRCS were able to implement a manure waste storage. Construction of the storage will immediately impact the nutrient management of the local area, including

the Canandaigua Outlet and the Erie Canal. Often times the pressure to spreadmanure in less optimal conditions due to a lack of storage.

The new additional capacity will enable the farm to follow their Certified Nutrient Management Plan and ensure prime conditions for spreading.



Installation of concrete runways for maintenance



Manure pump



Safety fencing



Hydroseeded slope to prevent erosion

Farms work toward climate resiliency

The Climate Resiliency Farming (CRF) program was developed to address farming resiliency opportunities due to dramatic fluctuations of the weather. This program not only address water quality protection, mitigation and improvement but also quantity. The District was able to secure grant funding through round II of the CRF fund to help four Wayne County farms dealing with this problem. All four farms worked through the AEM program to establish baseline conditions and plan out conservation Best Management Practices (BMPs) to save their soil.



AERIAL SHOWING EROSION

Cobblestone Legacy Farm, Lyons, NY

Cobblestone Legacy Farm - Lyons, put in five Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs) on a particularly tricky project to keep their farm resilient against soil loss and flooding. Soil saving Best Management Practices (BMPs) help ensure soil stays in place, so that clean water travels where it should, and keeps fields more productive leading to greater yields.



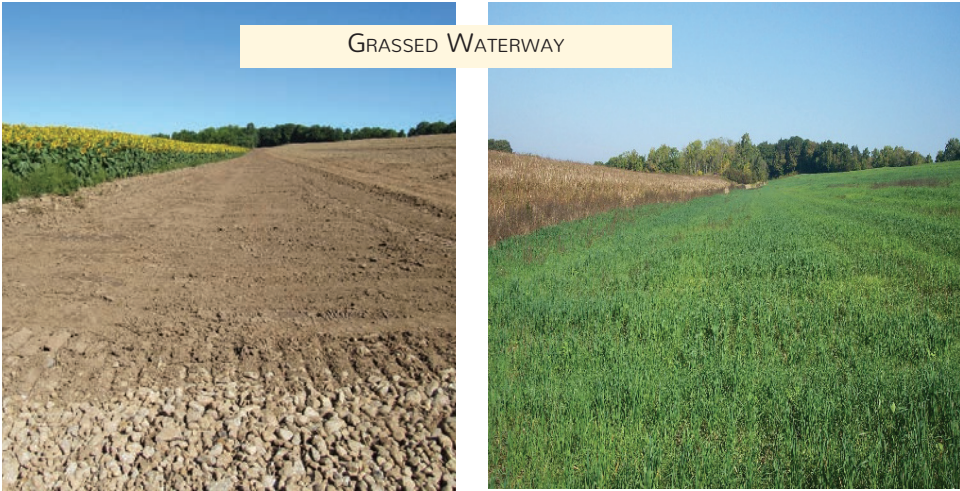
Before: Field erosion



After: Stone Lined Waterway to stabilize and prevent future gully erosion.

THORN FARMS - Galen, installation of a grassed waterway to deal with erosion issues on the edge of a field. The Best Management Practices used were Wascob, Diversion, Filtered outlets.

MAPLELAWN FARMS - Lyons, has cropland on both sides of the Canandaigua Outlet. They installed a WASCOB to reduce erosion on a field with highly erodible soils. This also helped reduce erosion on a neighboring field.



GRASSED WATERWAY



STONE LINED WATERWAY

BMPs

Conservation Best Management Practices

Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs) – Are a series of small embankments across concentrated flow paths on cropland that store then slowly release runoff through an underground outlet. As sediment laden runoff enters the basin, it is stored and sediment is settled out. The intakes that meter the water out are typically a plastic perforated stand pipe about 4 feet high. The embankments themselves can be designed to be farmed (NRCS).

Stoned Lined Waterway– A practice using an erosion resistant lining of concrete, stone, synthetic turf reinforcement fabrics, or other permanent material. Best used to provide a safe conveyance of runoff from conservation structures or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding. Also used to stabilize existing and prevent future gully erosion and protect and improve water quality. (NRCS).

Grassed Waterways - Grass waterways are a type of conservation buffer; these downhill grassed channels are generally broad and shallow, and designed to prevent soil erosion while draining runoff water from crop fields. When water travels down the waterway, the grass vegetation prevents erosion that would otherwise result from concentrated flows.

THOMS FARMS - Galen, worked with the District in conjunction with the USDA, Nature Resources Conservation Service (NCRS.) The farm installed a total of 8 Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs) to save a large field with a long, steep, slope.



BEFORE: FIELD EROSION



BEFORE: EROSION ON SLOPE



HYDRO SEEDED GRASS WATERWAY



STONELINED WATERWAY

Soil Health Conservation

Building Soil Health with Conservation Tillage Strategies

Operating on a no-till or minimal tillage management system decreases soil compaction, improves soil drainage and overall soil health, along with reducing time in the field

Several years ago the District, through a grant and partnership with New York State Department of Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Ag and Markets (NYSDAM), purchased a No-Till drill. Presently the program leases the equipment to local farms with a minimal cost for setup and maintenance.

The farms are generally looking to experiment with minimum tillage or have a small enough area to use the drill on that purchasing a machine doesn't make fiscal sense. Multiple farms have purchased

their own drill after using ours and experiencing the numerous benefits of this method.

In 2020 the No-Till drill was used to seed approximately 228 acres across Wayne County by 13 producers.

Orchards, pastures, crop fields and hay lots were rejuvenated. The machine has also been popular with farms participating in USDA NRCS programs that require special seeding rates and application methods. This year, more so than past years, cover crops were implemented with the drill with great success.

**Rent the Seeder / Tiller Drill
\$15/ Acre + \$50 Set Up Fee
315-946-7200**



Understanding Soil Health

There are many ways that healthy soil supports the growth of high-yielding, high-quality and healthy crops. The benefits range from better management of nutrients to structural changes in the soil that improve water capture and storage. All of these benefits can lead to higher farm profitability.

Farms are continually looking for ways to improve soil health and Wayne County farms are often leading the way. The majority of our cash crop producers implement cover crops when possible. One farm used the No-Till drill to put in a mix turnip, radish, dwarf pearl millet, sorghum sudan, cowpeas, plantain, and chicory as a way to conserve soil, increase organic matter, increase water infiltration, and reduce compaction. Over the last 5 years the District has worked with over 90 farms to take soil samples, totaling 7,000 acres. This allows farmers to understand their current soil nutrient status can help ensure they appropriately place their fertilizer, often saving money.

Historically in the Ag community, moldboard plowing has been the dominant tillage practice, but more and more farms area working their way into chisel, strip or other means of minimal tillage, including no-till. The District's no-till drill has been used on over 600 acres, putting in everything from soybeans to hay mixes, refreshing pastures, and covering orchards prior to planting new trees. When no-till is used, infiltration is increased, time & fuel savings can be achieved, and erosion reduced. While Wayne County may be known nationally for producing amazing fruit - it's the farming soil practices that can make or break harvest yields.

New York State Grown and Certified



Mr. and Mrs. Hotto of Brick Church Farms, Sodus NY -- took the steps to enroll in the NYS Grown and Certified program.

The NYS Grown and Certified began in 2016 as a way to help farms market products produced within New York. As consumers become more educated and continue to make the conscientious decision to purchase locally and environmentally sustainable products, there is a need to increase awareness on how much is produced within the State. Farms need to show they are involved with the Agricultural Environmental Management program (AEM) with the District, as well as provide proof their product originates in New York. Participation in the program provides the farm with use of the Grown & Certified Logo – proof that their product is grown here in NY and from a farm that is conservation minded.

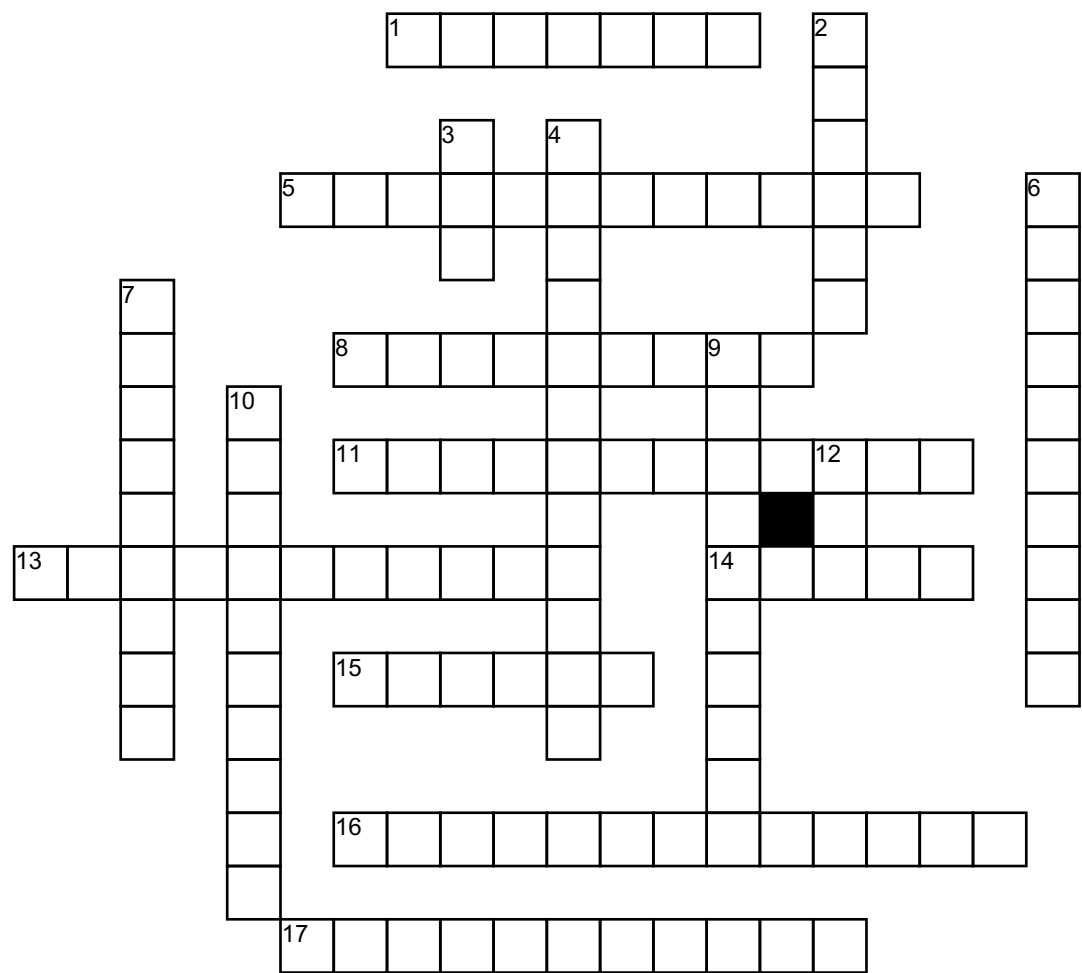
In 2020 Mott's, a mainstay in the local fruit industry, expressed interest in becoming Grown & Certified. In order to do this as a processor, they needed 65% of their producers to become Grown & Certified. The District worked towards this goal and in conjunction with NYSDAM signed up 27 farms new to the program. Getting these farms into the program helps Mott's explore new markets, improves the producer's marketing, and establishes the working relationship between the District and community.



The program is completely free, voluntary, and easy to complete. To be eligible to participate in this program, producers will need to have an AEM tier 1 & tier 2 completed or revisited within the last three years. There are also other requirements producers need to meet for each respective commodity.

For any questions on requirements or what the AEM program has to offer you, please call us at (315)946-7200 or send an email to ian@waynenyswcd.org.

Soil Health Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. An earthen embankment, ridge or ridge-and-channel built across a slope (on the contour) to intercept runoff water and reduce soil erosion.
5. The process of changing crops yearly to maintain nutrients in the soil.
8. They can be beneficial or pests. They can aid in either pest management or the nutrient cycle.
11. In agriculture, this refers to a wide variety of plant and animal species on the farm, both across the landscape and throughout the season.
13. _____ is parallel to the crust and is made up of layers
14. What is a well-decomposed organic material in soil is called?
15. An agricultural technique for growing crops or pasture without disturbing the soil
16. _____ is a critical process in the nutrient dynamics of a soil.
17. Caused by excessive rain or over cropping

WORD BANK

DECOMPOSITION	HUMUS
BIODIVERSITY	SOILTRIANGLE
SOILHORIZON	NEMATODES
NOTILL	IPM
RUNOFF	EARTHWORMS
NPK	CROPROTATION
ORGANISMS	COVERCROPS
ARTHROPODS	SOILEROSION
TERRACE	

Down

2. When rainfall exceeds a soil's infiltration capacity, this is produced
3. ____ These three numbers represent the primary nutrients (nitrogen(N) - phosphorus(P) - potassium(K)) found in fertilizer
4. Tool used to determine soil texture.
6. Planting these can improve soil aggregation and reduce soil erosion.
7. These simple organisms found in soil play important roles in promoting a healthier soil ecosystem and more resilient plants.
9. Their burrowing habit can increase water infiltration, aerate the soil and create channels for plant roots to grow into, making it easier for plants to access nutrients and water.
10. Beetles, ants, spiders centipedes and millipedes are _____, and they aerate and mix the soil.
12. ____, combines different types of controls from hands-on pest removal to traditional synthetic pesticides

Planning Needs?

- Non-Point Source Abatement and Control
- Climate Resiliency Farming
- Soil Assessment
- New York State Grown & Certified: Specialty Crop
- Conservation Cover & Soil Health Management

315-946-7200

or email

Ron@wayneNYswcd.org or Ian@wayneNYswcd.org

Agriculture

Humbert Farms Erosion and Sediment Control



This project was implemented on a 140 acre parcel owned and operated by Humbert Farms in the town of Rose. Water control and erosion had been an ongoing concern on this farm due to hilly terrain and a soil composition that is over 50% highly erodible soils.

The project included the installation of water management & erosion control systems, both structural and cultural. The structural system consists of a series of Water & Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB's) along with underground outlets and subsurface drainage. The installed system will aid in water control and thus reduce erosion and nutrient runoff from the farm. On the cultural side, the farm is committed to a soil conservation system that will include cover cropping, conservation crop rotation and tillage management (no-till/strip-till). These Best Management Practices will greatly improve the structure, organic matter and overall soil health of the farm.

The structural and cultural systems combined will help mitigate the impact of significant rain events by slowing and diffusing concentrated water flows and thus significantly reduce the possibility of erosion. A Denitrifying Bioreactor (DNBR) is an underground bladder that received storm flow through a bed of wood chips with provide biding opportunity for nutrient filtration before reintroducing the water back into the watershed system. Humbert Farms maintains many acres around an area of drumlins within the Sodus Creek Watershed to the great Sodus Bay. With interest from the farm and District's Ag Implementer, Terry Reynolds, the design for this Denitrifying Bioreactor will address over 12 acres of potential nutrient runoff for the next 10 years.

FARMERS

GREAT PLAINS MODEL 1000NT

Seeder-Tiller Drill Rental

\$15/Acre

315-946-7200
lan@wayneNYswcd.org

\$15/ACRE
\$50 delivery /setup

WAYNE COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Activities

Wayne County Youth Derby



As water quality improves in Wayne County, so does fishing opportunities. Fish are an excellent indicator of long-term effects and broad habitat conditions and purchases of tackle and licenses all contribute to habitat conservation.

In it's 22nd year Wayne County Youth Derby wrapped up with the McDonald's awards ceremony held outside at the Sodus Point fire hall. Ken Miller, Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, assisted with the awards.

112 youth anglers fished in three separate tournaments in one derby, and received prizes and awards for places one - sixth. Isabella Vuittonet, age 6, fishing the Erie Canal took home the prize for the largest fish. There was a three-way tie in the Al Shultz Memorial Challenge (ages 4-7.) Isabella Vuittonet, age 6, tied for first place with Natalie Thomas, age 6 and Logan Smith, age 5. Noah Wazinski, age 14 won the Merchant's Challenge for the second year in a row. Noah successfully caught all five species—Perch, Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike & Smallmouth Bass—for the grand prize. In the Species Challenge, the largest fish in any division is the determination of award; prizes and awards given to first place thru sixth place. The first place winner were;

Issiah Jarvis of Wolcott, 4.1lb 6 oz. Largemouth Bass; Scott Barnes of North Rose, 3lb 11oz. Smallmouth Bass; Isabella Vuittonet of Victor, 6lb Northern Pike caught on the Erie Canal, Daisy Barnes, of North Rose for a 15oz Perch and Noah Wazinski, of Wolcott with a 3lb Walleye. Tripp Knapp, age 4 received the 'Captain Larry' award for the youngest angler. Tackle boxes and fishing poles were also awarded to Thomas Perrin, Joe Barnes, Andrew Patchett, Tobin Thomas and Payton Williamson for their participation. The District partners with Wayne County Federation of Sportmen's Club for the event.

Thank you!

This annual summer family activity could not happen without community support. Volunteers and donations provide tackle boxes, youth trophies and other items to make for success event.

Thank You 2020 Donors:

Nancy Wilkes and McDonald's of Wayne County - Paton's Sodus Market - PJ Unisex Salon - Lyons National Bank - Sodus Rotary - Katlynn Marine - Rubinos on the Bay - Sodus Point Pit Stop - Martin's Tideside Marine - Ashley Insurance - Lyons Veterinary Clinic - Clingerman Taxidermy - Dynalec Corporation - Fishin Magician Charters - Humbert Farms - KC Baily Orchards - Farm Bureau of Wayne County - Dobbin's Drugs - Ely & Leene Insurance - Hughes Marina - Joey's Northside Grocery - Fowler's Marina - Key's Energy - Krenzer Marine - the Steger Haus - Termatec Molding - Davenport's Bait and Livery - Bay Bridge Bait - Palmyra Country Max - Ontario Country Max - Wayne County Tourism - Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District - Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs and Sodus Bay Sportsman Club.

If you would like to volunteer or donate?

contact: maxine@wayneNYswcd.org



wayneNYswcd.org/youth-derby

SUMMER OUTDOOR FUN FOR THE KIDS

June 18th - July 25th, 2021 AGES 4-16

Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District & Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

\$5.00

3 TOURNAMENTS

FISH THE WATERS OF WAYNE COUNTY IN ONE BIG DERBY

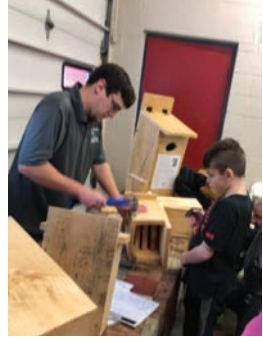
NEW YORK **WAYNE COUNTY**

SOCIAL DISTANCING



Learning About Bats and their Habitat

18 habitat boxes constructed !



In 2020 the Clyde, Red Creek and Sodus Rotary Clubs invited the District to participate in "WINTERFEST" at the Village of Sodus Point. The District brought a "hands-on" habitat box building educational experience to the event.

From the moment District Technician, Drew Starkey set up the wood and box building materials, lines of families started to form. Everyone was excited to build these very important homes for bats. Each participant got to take their finished product, along with information about bats and instructions on the best location to place and monitor.

Bats are too often overlooked, but they play a significant role in controlling insect populations. Bats consume the majority of night-flying insects and that includes many, agricultural pests. As the primary predators of night-flying insect, bats eat more than 70% of their weight in insects each night. Bats will also pluck tomato hornworms, cucumber beetles, codling moths, earworms (like the kind you find in corn) and even stink bugs!

If you would like to learn more about bats and download plans to build your own bat house, visit the District's website. www.wayneNYswcd.org/bat-house/

