Spring 2019

A publication of Wayne County Soil & Water

WAYNE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

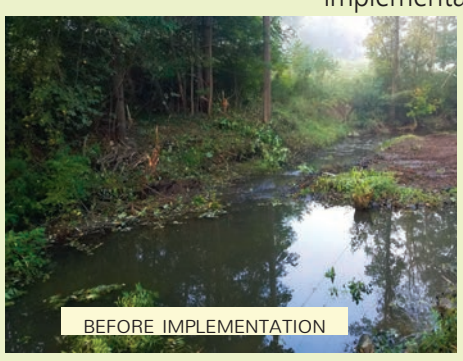
Annual Report 2018

Sodus Creek Stream Corridor Management Project

Scott DeRue,
Senior District Technician

The scope of this project is to promote streambank stabilization, instream habitat, and improve natural drainage on the main channel of Sodus Creek from Wayne Center Rose Rd. to NYS Route 104. A majority of the project requires the removal of woody debris blockages obstructing natural flow and fish movement. There are approximately 80 potential sites along the main channel identified as blockages or streambank erosion. The District uses guidelines from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation Service best management practices to design and engineer an implementation plan for these stream passage and stabilization sites.

This year, approximately half of the potential sites were remediated. These included five streambank stabilization sites and one culvert crossing implementation. The adjacent pictures are of two different streambank stabilization sites before and after implementation.


BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION


AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

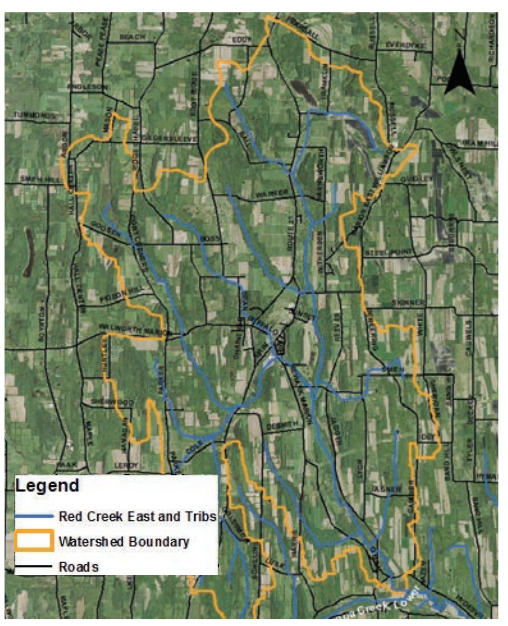

BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION


AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

The end result of the project is to restore and preserve the balance of the ecosystem while reducing sediment loading, preserve and encourage fish/aquatic habitat within the stream and to reduce nutrient contribution to Sodus Bay.

Watershed Management Through Conservation Inventory and Assessment

Red Creek East (RCE) is a tributary stream to Lower Ganargua Creek, mostly located in Marion, NY. Historical water quality information is scarce and NYSDEC Waterbody Inventory describes RCE as needing verification to determine the extent of stress to aquatic life. Per NYSDEC, the suspected source of impact is from agriculture. For this assessment, water quality samples were collected at strategic locations from May 2017 - June 2018.



The samples were analyzed for nutrient and sediment concentrations. Phosphorus and organic nitrogen concentrations were noticeably elevated throughout the stream system. Approximately 89% of the RCE watershed is composed of agricultural land use including livestock operations and row crop lands, making management of these land uses imperative. Water quality impacts by such operations could be attributed to over-grazed pastures and runoff from animal feeding systems. Runoff from cropland was observed as a potential source of nonpoint source pollution. Other possible sources of nonpoint sources may include storm-water runoff from municipal and commercial properties.

POTENTIAL BARN YARD RUN-OFF

Implementation of green infrastructure practice can be used to manage runoff from these areas. A possible point source is the aging infrastructure of the Town of Marion wastewater treatment plant, who are in the process of exploring remediation options. The final result of this assessment will serve as a guideline for restoration and improvements to ecology within the watershed.

WAYNE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

7312 Rt. 31 Lyons, NY 14489
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Conservation Cornerstones for 2018

Lindsey M. Gerstenslager, District Manager

December 2018 – The conservation in the communities across Wayne County continues to thrive as we make adjustments with infrastructure and habitat. 2018 marked one of the best years for conservation planning. This year, the Soil and Water Conservation District worked on planning (i.e. assessment, design and permitting) in all 24 communities.

The 7 full time, 2 part time and 5 seasonal staff continue to plan with the residents of this community to build a stronger framework for "weathering the storms" of tomorrow. The weather and economy proved to be difficult for actual construction,although many stream and stormwater management projects were implemented to aid in water management and invasive species management programs. The District used these weather events to evaluate all possibilities and make adjustments to stream corridor management, invasive species management, municipal stormwater assistance related to flow drainage patterns and write grants for implementation of these assessments through several state and federal program opportunities. Partnership is key to implementing any conservation best management practice and that is why awareness and individual buy-in is so critical for building strength for protection of our natural resources.

2019 marks the District 75th birthday of providing conservation to the communities of Wayne. We are pleased to share in the history of this community as continue to plan for the future while preserving the past and present. The planning of today and this year will provide for many opportunities for implementation of these plans in the next several years with science, research, construction and compassion for community sustainability.

What are the primary goals of a Soil and Water Conservation District?

- Enhance farm stewardship and viability through conservation planning.
- Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farm and rural lands to protect and improve soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat protection.
- Enhance fish and wildlife through invasive species management.
- Protect private and public property with stream and stormwater management.
- Assist local municipalities with flood prevention projects.
- Educate developers in soil erosion and sediment control practices.
- Conduct outreach to communities and schools to teach the value of natural resource conservation.

As reported by NY State Soil and Water Conservation District Employee Association, Inc.

Fish Sale

The District held a fall and spring fish sale in 2018. The spring fish sale was our largest to date with over 30 pond owners placing fish order. Species available included fat head minnows, largemouth bass, perch, catfish, crappie, bluegill and grass carp. Also available through the fish sale was fish food and barley straw rolls for algae control. Balance life pond ecosystems through diversity.

Ag Literacy

In March 2018 District Manager Lindsey Gerstenslager and District Technician Ian Priestley went to the North Rose Wolcott Elementary school to read a book about farming to a class of budding stewards of our earth. Following the story, students were encouraged to ask questions and tell stories of their own about agriculture. Ranging from the child who had seen a tractor to the student who lived on a farm their entire life, the classes were full of chat. This event was done in conjunction with AG Literacy Week and was very enjoyable.

2018 Forever Green Tree & Shrub Sale for Conservation Landscapes

Drew Starkey District Technician, Program Specialist

During the 2018 Forever Green Tree and Shrub sale, the District sold an incredible number of trees, shrubs, fruit bearing bushes, ground covers and flowers. In total, we sold 8805 individual plants,1131 conservation related items as well as 40 bird and bat habitat boxes from 156 orders. Our distributing nursery informed us that we had ordered over 18 acres of nursery stock this past season. We offered over 35 individual plant species, and had a total of 61 different species and varieties available through individual and bundled variety pac options.

Last year was a year of firsts for our tree sale. It was the the first time we accepted orders from our online store, and the first time that we managed the tree sale from our new office located at 7312 Rt-31 in Lyons. It was also the first time we offered Peterson bluebird boxes and wren boxes from our conservation department.

We add and remove different species and variety packs of plants each year, so join our mailing list to stay updated on the latest updates! We will be accepting orders for the 2019 Forever Green Tree & Shrub sale until March 18th, 2019. If you wish to place an order, call our office at (315) 946-7200 or visit our website at www.WayneCountyNYswcd.org to see a catalog of plant descriptions.

Conservation Farm of the Year Award Recipient

Ron Thorn, Jason and Amber Demay, Ian Priestley and Steve Olson

Empire Farms was the 2018 Wayne County Conservation Farm of the Year award recipient.

The award is given to a farm each year that inspires continued implementation of sustainable agriculture and to farm families that strengthen the community in which they work, play and live. The work the DeMay family does makes a difference in the community. Wayne County could not survive without conservation-minded farmers that continue to find the balance both economically and environmentally and protect water quality through land management.

The DeMay family continues to strive to support agriculture through constant review of farm management and implementation of sustainable resource management practices. Thank you for your continued efforts in supporting and demonstrating conservation efforts within the agricultural communities of Wayne County.

Producers Attend Soil Health Workshop

In November 2018 the District held a Soil Health Workshop at the Fairville Fire Department to a group of active, enthused producers and home gardeners. Even with a solid 8 inches of snow on the ground and slushy roads, attendance was still excellent. Around 25 participants discussed soil health topics. Speakers included; Dr. Thomas Bjorkman, Cornell University in the horticulture section who spoke on 'Interpreting the Cornell Soil Health Assessment'. Followed by Ryan Maher who works as an Extension Specialist in the Cornell Small Farms program. His recent research has been into the use of tarps as a means to reduce tillage on smaller vegetable operations. Ryan provided a great insight into not only how tarps can reduce weed pressure, reduce leaching of nutrients and help conserve some moisture in the soil. While tarps may not fully eliminate tillage or weeds, they can be a useful tool.


Soil Health Workshop / Farville Fire Department

Improving soil health and conserving soil is one of the main focuses of conservation. Through provision of soil sample services and continuing community education the District seeks to raise awareness of the importance of soil, both on farms and off.

The workshop in November is the start of a series of continued workshops which will be aimed at various commodities and topics with the agricultural community.

Agricultural Environmental Steward Award

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County's Executive Director and Agricultural Issue Leader, Elizabeth Claypoole (Beth), was named the recipient of the 2018 Agricultural Environmental Steward Award for her outstanding efforts to bring a balance between commodity agricultural issues and a sustainable community environment. Beth's knowledge of agricultural programs provides information to the local communities to help them address environmental related issues including agricultural business planning, agricultural water quality management.


Ron Thorn, Beth Claypoole, Ian Preistly

Beth has been an active participant in the Wayne County Farm Bureau, Wayne County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, & Wayne County Agriculture Economic Development Committee; working to strengthen partnerships for commodity economics locally and statewide by implementing several projects that encourages farms to seek other sources of partnership & perspective. Beth continues to work to improve Wayne County's ties to other State and Federal Departments and Agencies, currently acting as an Advisory Member appointed by Cornell University on the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee at NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, division of Land and Water Resources.

Soil Sampling Stewardship

Soil sampling can be one of the most important ways to understand soil health and plan for future improvements to the soil. In 2018 the District covered around 1350 acres and took 200 samples for interested participants. Samples were taken in 14 of 15 townships around the county. Some of the most common findings in sample results are more acidic than expected soils, low nutrient levels and very low organic matter levels. The value of sampling is that rather than covering a broad area with fertilizer or lime, this can be directed to particular areas that have shown deficiencies.

Samples can be taken for any crop or results will provide recommendations for most nutrients and pH. For more information please call the office 315-946-7200 or email Ian at Ian@waynenyswcd.org.

Creating Conservation Kids!

Two District Technicians, Drew Starkey and Ian Priestley presented to two groups of campers at the 4-H summer camp on the exciting topics of Soil Health and Invasive Species.

Speaking to a total of 40 kids, the Technicians hoped to instill a sense of importance in the kids for their environment. Using the District's soil health demonstration equipment, Ian was able to provide the campers with visual evidence of the importance of keeping vegetation on the soil and reducing disturbance to soil, generally through tillage. The kids learned to classify soils by getting their hands dirty and creating soil ribbons along with looking at soil particle size.

Drew gave the kids a great presentation on the importance of identifying and removing invasive species. Utilizing a few fun games, the kids were able to see how once an invasive species entrenches in an area it quickly works towards taking resources from competing native species.

Find us on: facebook®

Are You On Facebook?

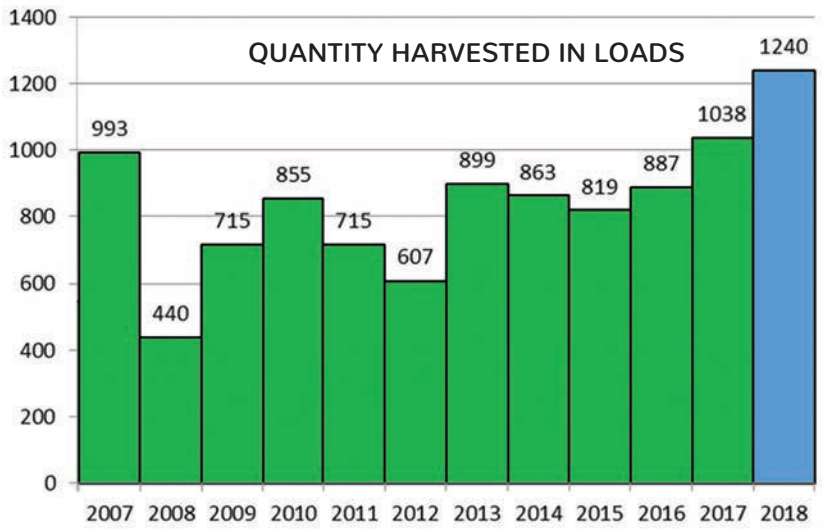
Like our page at Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District for continued updates and notifications about local opportunities

Aquatic Vegetative Control (AVC) Annual Report

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 2018 season were carried out for 66 days between mid-June and late-September. The final removal amounts for each bay are as follows;

Sodus Bay – 1066 loads,
Port Bay – 84 loads,
East Bay – 60 loads, and
Maxwell Bay – 30 loads.

The total amount removed from the four (4) embayments was 1240 loads, the highest amount of loads removed in the program's history. This season, a significant majority of the loads recorded for Sodus Bay came from the wetland area south of the Ridge Rd. bay bridge. This was the second consecutive year to control invasive water chestnut (Trapa natans) in the Sodus Bay Lake Shore Marsh complex. 343 loads of plant material were removed from south of the bay bridge.



HARVESTER AT VOLUNTEER HAND-PULL EVENT

Total operating time of the AVC Program is calculated by each harvester operating a 10-hour shift each day. Towards the end of the season, the shifts change to five 8-hour days per week. Generally, 3 harvesters would produce 30 operating hours in one day. Comparing 2017 and 2018, total operating time slightly decreased from 1620 hours in 2017 to 1481 hours in 2018.

The most important factors that influenced plant density in 2018, as with most years, was the seasonal Lake Ontario water level fluctuations. This can determine the extent of plant growth and the ability to use different off loading sites.

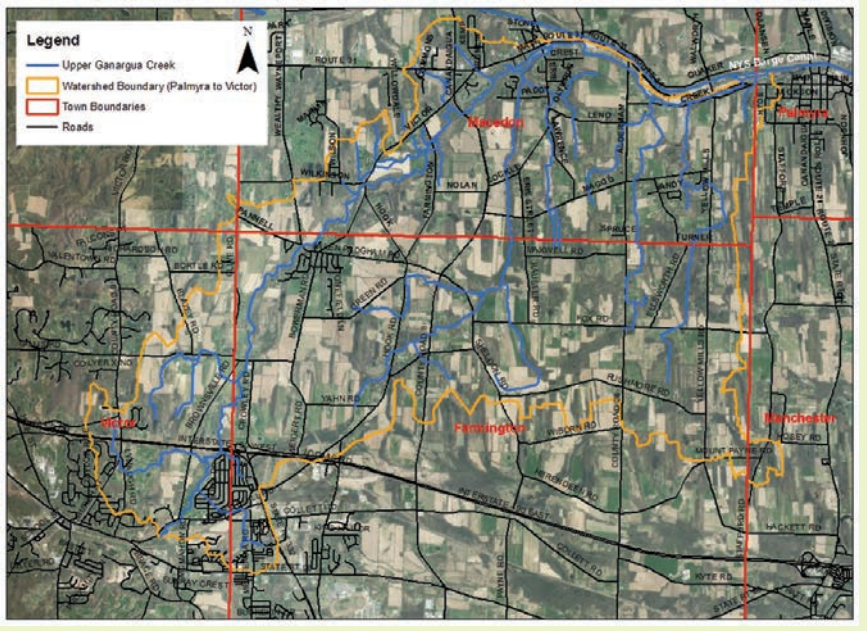
Acknowledgment

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, FLLOWPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, FL PRISM and the numerous private landowners who provided access for equipment.

Upper Ganargua Creek Watershed Assessment 2018-2019

Scott's report is continued from page 1

Upper Ganargua Creek (UGC) has an expansive, multi-county stream system. It includes Trapp Brook, in both Ontario and Wayne County, and Ontario County tributaries Mud Creek, Great Brook, Trout Brook, Sucker Brook, Beaver Creek, Fish Creek, and Schaffer Creek. The total watershed including all major and minor tributaries is 78,900 acres. The entire watershed includes the Towns of South Bristol, Bristol, Canandaigua, West Bloomfield, East Bloomfield, Farmington, Victor, Macedon, and small portions of Mendon, Perinton, Manchester, and Palmyra.



The stream section identified as UGC begins at the confluence of Great Brook and Mud Creek, near Plaster Mills Rd. in the Town of Victor, approximately 0.4 miles east of State Route 96. The watershed for this section (excluding tributaries upstream of Plaster Mills Rd.) is approximately 19,600 acres.

The area of interest for this assessment is the main channel of UGC that extends from Allen Padgham Rd. (upstream) to the creek's outlet at Aqueduct Park, Palmyra. Samples are being collected at Allen Padgham Rd. bridge to identify and omit contributions from upstream, and to compare/evaluate contributions in the stream system within Wayne County. Major and minor tributary streams south of UGC, including Trapp Brook, have drainage basins that originate in Ontario County. Single outfall sampling stations were chosen for these tributaries to evaluate their contribution to UGC.

In total, sampling include seven sites on the main channel and 6 tributary sites. Water quality monitoring parameters include (phosphorus, nitrogen, calcium) and suspended solids. The product of this assessment will act as a guide for restoration and enhancement to the watershed. Results of the Assessment will be completed in the fall of 2019

Conservation Education

Wayne County Envirothon

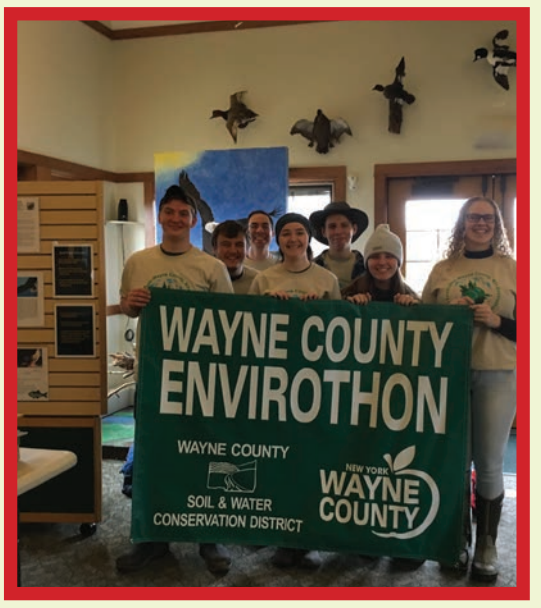
Nine Teams competed in the 2018 Wayne County Envirothon held at the Montezuma Wetland Complex

waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org/envirothon

THANK YOU SPONSORS

Area sponsors included Westbury Lumber Company, Newark Wegmans, Wayne County Pomona Grange, Lyons Veterinary Clinic, Dynalec Corporation, Lyons National Bank, Wayne County Farm Bureau, Marshall Farms, E.F. Ashley & Co Inc., Galens Health Mart Pharmacy, Walmart, Arney's Marina, KC Bailey Orchards, RoadTek LLC, Clingerman Taxidermy and Thorpe Vineyard. Special thank you to Montezuma Audubon Center Director Chris Lajewski.

COMPETITION BUILDS CONFIDENCE



WINNING TEAM

Red Creek High School team took first place in the 2018 Wayne County Envirothon. Led by teacher - Mr. Joseph Bonanno the team members included Kathryn Smith, Matthew Ubbink, Skyler Strobel, Skyler Eggleston, Joshua Fillingham , Meadow Alexander

Second place was awarded to North Rose Wolcott H.S. led by their teacher Mr. Nick Wojieck, Third Place was awarded to the Red Creek Remediators, led by Mr. Terry Elmer.

The Envirothon is designed to give students the opportunity to learn about environmental issues and natural resources by conducting tests in the field. Often times this experience becomes a lifestyle for students and goes beyond competitions—it encourages students to be actively engaged in the environment around them at all times.

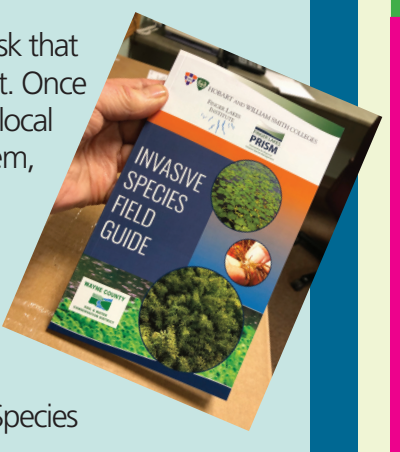
INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?
CALL DREW AT 315-946-7200

INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS

Invasive species control is a large endeavor whose success heavily relies on the local community. It is impossible for public land managers to stay vigilant over all public lands at all times. Equipping the general public with the tools to identify, locate, and properly deal with local invasive species is critical.

The Wayne County SWCD is in the process of assembling and installing a series of informational kiosks and invasive species disposal bins at boat launch sites around the county. Each kiosk will have a map of the immediate area with points of interest, invasive identification, and tips to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. The disposal bins are receptacles for any plants or seaweed that may have been caught on your boat, trailer, fishing gear, or related equipment.

Stopping the spread of invasive species is a task that all aquatic recreationalists should take to heart. Once established, invasive species can outcompete local plants and animals. This changes the ecosystem, and can cause issues such as being unable to swim, boat, paddle or fish in what was once your favorite summer spot.



If you are interested in learning more about both terrestrial & aquatic invasive plants and animals, contact our office for a free Invasive Species Field Guide.

HOMEOWNERS GUIDE

12 simple strategies for sustainable waterfronts & landscape practices for healthy shorelines

Maxine Appleby Discusses Guide at Southeast Lake Ontario Workshop

In 2018 the District developed an illustrated guide book to help waterfront property owners understand their individual relationship to a healthy environment. The guide is divided into three main categories; (1) Minimize Run-off, (2) Eliminate Pollutants, (3) Capture & Infiltrate. Through illustrated best management practices each page identifies simple ways to protect water quality of waterfront properties. By following these simple steps, homeowners can maintain property values and enjoy the beauty and health of living by the water for years to come.

INVASIVE SPECIES WARRIOR PLEDGE

Wayne County Fair attendees became 'Invasive Species Warriors', recognizing the harm invasive species can cause to the lands, waters, economies and communities of Wayne County, NY by pledging to become more aware and educate others to stop the spread.

Agricultural Environmental Management Program (AEM)

science-based decisions to help meet business objectives while protecting and conserving the State's natural resources.

Farmers work with local AEM resource professionals to develop comprehensive farm plans using a tiered process

Tier 1 – Inventory current activities, future plans and potential environmental concerns.
Tier 2 – Document current land stewardship; assess and prioritize areas of concern.
Tier 3 – Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals.
Tier 4 – Implement plans utilizing available financial, educational and technical assistance.
Tier 5 – Evaluate to ensure the protection of the environment and farm viability.

How you can get involved?

Contact: Ron Thorn or Ian Priestley
7312 Rt. 31 Lyons, NY 14489
Office Phone: 315.946.7200
www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org

Farm Planning for Productive Implementation

Terry Reynolds,District Technician, Agricultural Implementer

KC Bailey Orchards, Inc. is a first generation farm, currently being operated by Charles (Chip) and Karla Bailey and their children. They farm 400 acres of which 190 are used for apple production. The farm is located just within a mile from the shores of Lake Ontario within the Salmon Creek Watershed. Three projects were installed under a grant funded under the New York State Grown and Certified Program.

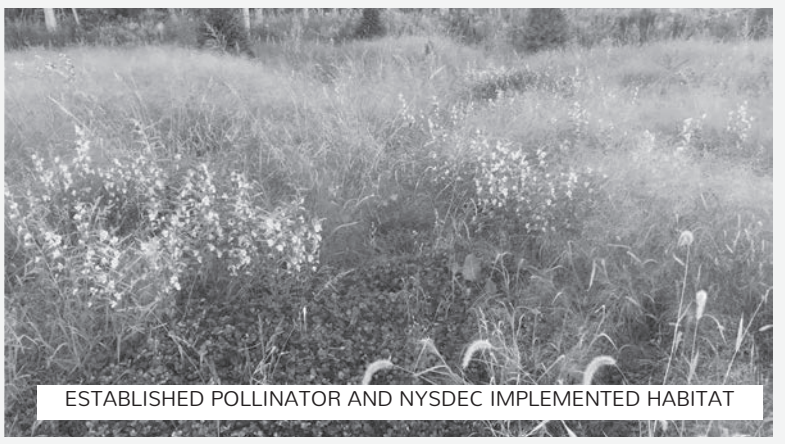
1. A micro-irrigation project that covers approximately 22 acres. This micro-irrigation project enables the Baileys to greatly reduce the stress on the fruit trees by having a constant controlled amount of water. The system efficiently applies water and/fertilizer directly to the plant roots only when needed to maintain soil moisture for optimum plant and fruit growth. Direct sourcing of the water to the trees reduces runoff.

2. A 2 acre riparian buffer system with riparian herbaceous cover. This project provides a nutrient filter around two farm ponds and both sides of a tributary/ditch, thereby reducing nutrient and sediment loads to the ponds and tributary/ditch.

A ½ acre soil conservation system with conservation cover. This project established planting that is beneficial to bees and established habitat so that the bees would be able to reside in the area year round. The project enhances local habitat and promotes annual production of fruit.

KC Bailey Orchards, Inc. are GAP certified and have been very progressive in their environmental stewardship having installed many Best Management Practices including Agrichemical Mixing Facilities, Integrated Pest Management, Low Impact Sprayers, Irrigation Systems, Windmills, and Solar Energy, along with many others. They also are involved with the Natural Resource Conservation Service's EQIP, CSP and CRP programs. Chip and Karla are past recipients of the 2013 Wayne County Agriculture Environmental Stewardship of the Year Award.

POND #1 TO RECEIVE RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER



ESTABLISHED POLLINATOR AND NYSDEC IMPLEMENTED HABITAT

POND #2 TO RECEIVE RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER

DITCH TO RECEIVE RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER

Conservation Tillage

An increasing number of farms are beginning to move towards reduced tillage methods, for various reasons. Common among them are the benefits these farms will see in their soil, both long term and short term. Limiting soil disturbance in croplands will lead to reduced erosion, higher moisture holding capacity within the soil (which leads to more resilient soils during dry times), reduced compaction, reduced trips across the field and increasing organic matter, if done right. When the soil is not turned over, it also diminishes the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. According to the United Nations Environmental Program, "no-tillage operations in the United States have helped avoid 241 million metric tons of carbon dioxide since the 1970. That's equivalent to the annual emissions of about 50 million cars."

Once again the District's No-Till Drill had a busy spring and fall. Farms used the drill to put in cover crops, hay lots, plant soybeans as well as implement an interesting new pre plant orchard regime. A farm also put in a pollinator habitat as part of a conservation program through NRCS. Overall we had 6 farms use the drill, some multiple times for a total of 160 acres. Call the office and talk to Ian or Ron who can provide details and answer questions on drill rental. A technician will deliver the drill and help calibrate if needed. The drill can be rented for $15 an acre with a $50 setup and delivery fee.

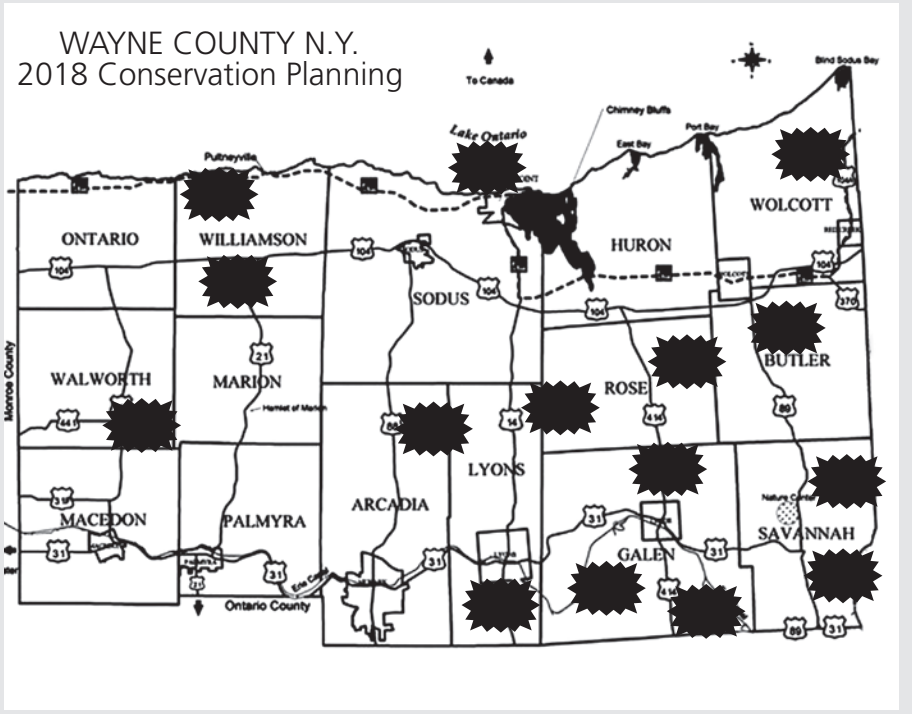
ADDITIONAL PROJECTS FOR 2018

In addition to the inspection of on-going grant projects, we provided assistance to landowners for several non-grant projects and were able to get a head-start on the design of a number of projects for 2019. Design for projects included:

1. A barnyard stabilization, roof runoff control, livestock exclusion, heavy use area protection, and access road project in the Town of Savannah.
2. A shoreline erosion project in the Town of Williamson.
3. An erosion control project using several Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs), waterways, and underground outlets in Town of Lyons.
4. Three erosion control projects with grassed waterways – in the Towns of Galen and Lyons.
5. A project involving conversion of cropland to pasture, and livestock exclusion, in the Town of Butler.
6. A WASCOB, underground outlet, subsurface drainage project in the Town of Wolcott.
7. Two irrigation projects in the Town of Rose.
8. WASCOB/underground outlet projects in the Towns of Rose and Galen
9. A livestock crossing/livestock exclusion project in the Town of Butler.
10. A WASCOB and water management project in the Town of Arcadia.

ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS INCLUDED:

1. Assistance to landowners for applications to funding agencies for barnyard stabilization, leachate collection, roof runoff, and WASCOB and other erosion control projects in the Towns of Butler (2), Galen, Rose, Savannah, and Williamson.
2. Erosion control recommendations for a landowner in the Town of Lyons. of clean water from animal use areas, treatment of runoff in vegetated treatment areas, silage leachate control, livestock exclusion from direct



access to streams, and reduced soil erosion, all resulting in lowered nutrient loadings and reduced sediment to streams and lakes.
3. Recommendations for water control for a project in the Town of Galen.
4. Barnyard stabilization, erosion control, and water management assistance to a landowner in the Town of Arcadia.
5. Assisting the Village of Sodus Point with water management issues.
6. Pollution control assistance to a landowner in the Town of Walworth.
7. Leachate control assistance to a landowner in the Town of Williamson. Benefits of the proposed projects include exclusion

NY Grown and Certified

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 produced 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 providing proof their product originates in NY. 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 conservationally minded. This year the District signed up hop, maple, and fruit/veg operations, and Christmas tree farms.

The program is completely free and voluntary. 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.

Invasive Species Management on Bays and Streams

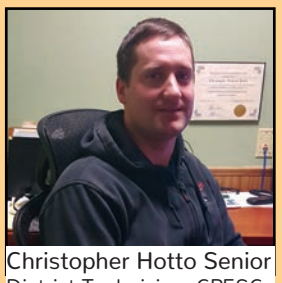
The summer of 2018 was a successful year for invasive species management on the bays and streams of Wayne county. Working with partner organizations such as the Finger Lakes PRISM, The Nature Conservancy, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Wayne County 4H, NYS Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation and many other local volunteers there were over 13,000 lbs of invasive water chestnut was removed by hand.

Water Chestnut is an invasive aquatic plant native to Eurasia which forms extremely dense mats in slow moving waters such as rivers, ponds, and shallow bays. They produce spiky seeds which wash ashore after germinating, causing a nuisance to beach goers. The dense mats not only remove habitat for native species, but also make recreation such as fishing, swimming, boating and paddling nearly impossible.

The District participated in twelve different events, which spanned over five infestation sites in three watersheds for a total of 463 hours spent out on the water. Two of the most successful events were collaborating with the 4H camp as well as utilizing the FL PRISM's strike team, boat stewards and NYS Parks stewards as well.

At the 4H camp, we reviewed the importance of early detection/ rapid response through a game similar to sharks and minnows. This hands-on example shows how it is much easier to control a small infestation when first discovered rather than try to eradicate a large, well-established population of invasive species.

The Finger Lakes- Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management once again proved to be a critical partner in combating the spread of water chestnuts. Hosted by Hobart & William – Smith's Finger Lakes Institute, their strike team serves as the eyes and ears out in the field for detecting newly infested sites and monitoring existing sites while supporting ongoing management efforts. Their boat stewards can be found at public boat launches around the region. The FL-PRISM sponsored the herbicide treatment of a 5 acre site in Red Creek, which was the first time that a chemical treatment specifically targeted water chestnut in the county. The FL-PRISM brought their strike team and crew of boat stewards to meet with District employees and NYS Parks boat stewards for a handpull in early August. Twenty-nine participants were present at the event, and removed a total of 1829 lbs in just 5 hours. This was the largest event of the season and we hope to continue to grow the program in the summer of 2019. If you are interested in learning more about invasive species management or how you can become a part of the team, contact our office today!

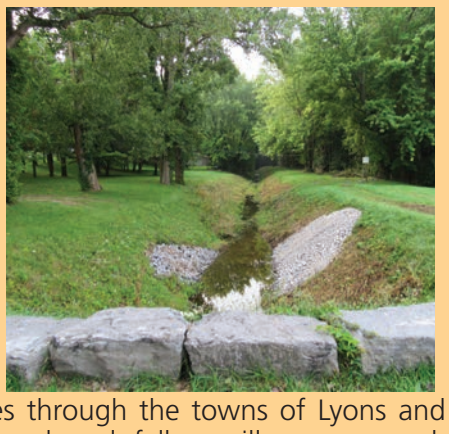


Christopher Hotto Senior
District Technician, CPESC

Agricultural Group Drainage Program

Through the Agricultural Group Drainage Program the District completed maintenance work on about eight miles of drainage course throughout the county. The work completed included mowing, dipping, blockage removal and culvert repair/replacement. The projects completed help maintain drainage to a couple thousand acres of agricultural land.

CLINTON'S DITCH



This project is 3 miles long and goes through the towns of Lyons and Galen. The entire project was mowed and fallen willows removed. Rip-rap was placed near a culvert outlet to stabilize the ditch banks. Much of the project needed dipping but due to the number of large trees in the waymost of the work could not be continued during this cycle.

MELVIN BROOK EXTENSION

Located in the towns of Rose and Galen the project is just over a mile long. Trees were removed along the ditch and the entire section was dipped. The work completed will allow the adjacent agricultural land to be tiled as well, further improving stormwater flows.

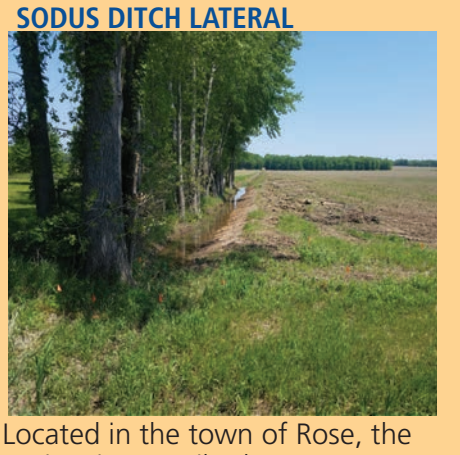
FOURMILE CREEK

Fourmile Creek: Project is located in the town of Ontario and is about 1.5 miles long. We mowed the entire project as well as removed blockages in the wooded sections. We also replaced one failing culvert and added a new culvert for improved access.

DENNISON CREEK

This project is about ¾ of a mile long and located in the town of Ontario. Project was mowed and dipped.

SODUS DITCH LATERAL



Located in the town of Rose, the project is 1.5 miles long. Due to crop production we could only mow and dip 1/2 of the area.

Critical Area Seeding Program

The District hydroseeded approximately 4 acres on six sites around the County in 2018. Sites included two farms projects, two Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) projects and two sites for private landowners.

KC BAILEY ORCHARDS RIPARIAN BUFFER PROJECT

Hydroseeded about 2 acres with a pollinator habitat seed mix around two farm ponds and a drainage ditch. These area will provide habitat for pollinators as well as filter nutrients and sediment from runoff.

8 WEEKS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

HYDRO SEEDED AREA

GLENMARK CREEK

This was a Water Quality Improvement Program project, covering one load of hydroseed to stabilize a reconstructed swale and a culvert crossing that outlets into the creek.

HYDRO SEEDED AREA

2 WEEKS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

GANARGUA CREEK

Another Water Quality Improvement Program project, we hydroseeded area disturbed during the implementation of stream bank stabilization along the creek, to provide vegitive stabilization for years to come.

STREAM BANK STABILIZATION

PALMYRA POND

Just under an acre was hydroseeded around a newly constructed pond and a steep slope behind the owners garage. The seeding should help keep the area stable during the winter and then come up as soon as weather conditions allow in the spring.

STEEP SLOPE AROUND POND

North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC)

In 2018 Wayne County SWCD began working on a project known as NAACC. NAACC is an assortment of certified individuals mainly in universities, conservation groups and state and federal government organizations across 13 states. The goal of the project is to assess the connectivity for aquatic wildlife in road-stream crossings. Two technicians, Ian Priestley and Chris Hotto became certified to participate in the program and have been assessing culverts, bridges, and other water passageways along four watersheds, Bear Creek, Glenmark Creek, Mink Creek and East Bay. To date, over 130 crossings have been assessed for crossing adequacy, as well infrustructure security for stormwater and erosian control management.

Ideally over the next few years all of the watersheds in the County will have their crossings assessed. Once fully assessed local highway departments and conservation organizations can utilize this information to aid in planning purposes,and apply for funding assistance.