



Bi-monthly

# NEWSLETTER



## DATES TO REMEMBER



### April:

- 22 - Earth Day
- 24 - Arbor Day



### July:

- 16 - USC Wetland Soil Training



### June:

- 17 & 18 - Riparian Buffer Training (Cortland)

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Add your event to our calendar by emailing [Palmerm@co.tioga.ny.us](mailto:Palmerm@co.tioga.ny.us)

## USC to Host Riparian Buffer Training with Stroud Water Research Center

By: Taylor Held  
USC Buffer Technician

With spring just around the corner, it is time to start preparing for the field season. The Stroud Water Research Center and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition will be kicking the season off with a Riparian Buffer Training. This two-day training will be held on June 17th and June 18th at The Grange Auditorium in Cortland and is welcoming all conservation professionals from throughout New York State. Primarily, this training will provide valuable information regarding the importance of riparian buffers, how to technically and financially implement buffers and what measures need to be taken to ensure practice functionality. For USC members and SWCD staff, registration is now open at: [www.u-s-c.org/bufferregistration](http://www.u-s-c.org/bufferregistration).

For other conservation professionals, the registration period is now open, and will close on June 8th. Space is limited.



# NYS Conservation Districts: Providing Today-Protecting Tomorrow

By: Troy Bishopp  
USC Grazing Specialist/

Syracuse, NY--- American author and farmer, Wendell Berry waxed philosophic about our greatest resource, "The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, and death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life." Connection, community and care are tenets soil and water conservationists abide by every day.

Each year the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. (NYS CDEA) and their 58 respective districts from every county and borough in New York State connect residents with programs, initiatives and projects that conserve, protect and enhance New York's soil, water and related natural resources. Providing this technical assistance workload and diverse programs to farmers, landowners, the general public, units of government and communities takes training, practical solutions, networking and mentorship to get proactive conservation.

To facilitate novice and advanced learning, the NYS CDEA holds an intensive, four-day New York State Water Quality Symposium for district directors and employees, USDA/NRCS personnel, water quality committee representatives, and all conservation partners who seek effective professional development experiences. This delivery of conservation requires ongoing adaptive training, sharing and learning from others about what works on the land and identifying ongoing challenges in the era of climate change.

"The Symposium affords us the time to train staff, provide networking opportunities and recognize the accomplishments and leadership of our conservation professional family, for their important and inspired work," said Chastity Miller, President of the NYS CDEA and Franklin County SWCD District Manager.



Doug Fisher joins the fraternity of past Willard Croney award recipients Jim Lieberum, Dave Reckahn, Amanda Barber, Christine Watkins, Kevin Lewis, Mark Watts, Jeff Parker

The meeting, attended by over 250 professionals throughout the week, featured 42 classes consisting of establishing & running an invasive species program, qualifying for the New York State Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program, storm-water management practices, using Cropware Plus to develop nutrient management plans for crop fields, forest bird conservation, successful barnyard projects, innovative grazing management practices, piping used for seasonal livestock watering and micro irrigation systems, management of interfering vegetation in forest landscapes, quantifying economic and environmental outcomes of soil health practices, using drones in conservation, practices and design considerations to enhance in stream habitat for aquatic organism passage and the always riveting, new employee orientation.

The highlight of the annual association is the awards banquet which honors employees, conservation partners and special projects. This year's event was led by NYS CDEA President, Chastity Miller and Master of Ceremonies, Shawn Murphy of Cortland County SWCD telling the stories of people in the field that have a positive contribution to their respective communities. The highly respected 2020 Willard F. Croney Award for Distinguished Service in NYS Conservation was presented to Doug Fisher of Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Last year's Croney award recipient Jim Lieberum, heralded Fisher by saying, "Reading the letters of support and speaking to colleagues and family; several things become clear - the words trusted, professional and respect are often referred to. Family-oriented, caring, supportive and kind, come up as well."

... Continued on page 3



**NYS Conservation Districts: Providing Today-Protecting Tomorrow ... Continued from Page 2**

It's conservatively estimated that Mr. Fisher has been involved with the sale and distribution of over 11,750,000 seedlings, planted on 18,500 acres of land and over 2000 acres of annual cover crops on farmland. He has provided instruction on erosion and sediment control at 128 courses, which totals nearly 3,500 students. He has served on the local fire department for 48 years as Chief, Assistant Chief, Chief Bottle Washer, Executive Committee, Vice President and assists with the animal response team as well as organizing farm safety classes and helped develop a county wide Agricultural Spill Response and Recovery Team. "This award is recognition for your many accomplishments, a thank you for your dedicated service and congratulations on your retirement. We all wish you the best and hope that those country roads, do take you home," said Lieberum.

The President's Award was presented to Madison County SWCD District Manager, Steve Lorraine for his practical mentorship, field experience and years of service to the association as President and board member. The Partnership Appreciation Award was bestowed on recently retired, NRCS Resource Conservationist, partner, mentor and friend to many, Dale Gates. The District Director Award honored Mr. Ken Bush, District Chairman of the Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District for his 40 years of dedicated service and promotion of the district.

Division Merit Awards were awarded to Megan McAnn of Orleans County SWCD, Jeremy Paris of Monroe County SWCD, Cindy Williams of Oswego County SWCD, Nikole Watts from Chemung County SWCD, Marjorie Remias from Hamilton County SWCD and Joseph Slezak from Montgomery County SWCD. The Special Project Award went to the Ontario County SWCD. The Community Service Award was presented to Lindsey Gerstenslager Wayne County SWCD. Robbie Rioux, Water Chestnut Crew Leader for the Onondaga County SWCD received the Heroic Action Award for saving two swimmers on Skaneateles Lake.

"The land is a powerful teacher. The land taught me patience. The land taught me wonder. The land taught me respect. And perhaps most importantly, the land taught me to never forget that we are but visitors, temporary stewards, and what we do with the land will dramatically affect those who follow us. Caring for the land is one way to care for the future." ~ Jerry Apps, author of "Every Farm Tells a Story"

To learn more and get connected to your local NYS CDEA staff, visit: [www.nyscdea.com](http://www.nyscdea.com)



Above: Nikole Watts of Chemung County SWCD receives the Division Merit Award



Greg Albrecht Partnership Award winner Dale Gates, Ed Henry, Brian Steinmuller, and NY NRCS state conservationist Blake Glover



Above: Steve Lorraine of Madison County SWCD receives the President's Award



## Restoration Project Benefits Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat

Submitted by: Finger Lakes Land Trust

In 2019, the Land Trust added a [key 20-acre parcel](#) to its [Goetchius Wetland Preserve](#)—an area with rich bird and wildlife habitat. The preserve features 3,000 feet of frontage along the West Branch of Owego Creek, recognized as one of the region’s premiere trout streams.

Much of this land was previously used as a pasture for livestock by the former owner. To reestablish a streamside forest and restore wetlands, the Land Trust partnered with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) to control non-native invasive species like Japanese knotweed and to plant more than 2,000 native tree and shrub seedlings.

More than a dozen different species were planted, including trees such as sycamore, basswood, and red maple and shrubs such as arrowwood, buttonbush, and spicebush. To enhance their survival and to reduce deer browse, each seedling was planted in an individual tree tube that will be removed after several years of growth. Funding for USC’s Buffer Program was provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

When complete, the newly planted trees and shrubs will act as a buffer, reducing runoff while also creating new habitat for birds and other wildlife. “This project is a huge win for water and habitat quality here,” says Lydia Brinkley, Buffer Coordinator for the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. “Livestock is out of the wetland and stream, and the enhanced riparian and wetland areas will provide complexity for aquatic and terrestrial organisms that will be protected in perpetuity!”

During the next few years, Land Trust staff and volunteers will monitor the plantings on a periodic basis. They are easily visible from Flatiron Road, a local byway in the town of Caroline that borders the preserve and runs north from State Route 79 toward Hammond Hill State Forest.



Before and After Photos - West Branch of Owego Creek Site buffer planting, owned by Finger Lakes Land Trust



# A Collaborative Update to Chemung SWCD's Best Management Practices During Timber Harvesting Operations Booklet

By: Melissa Yearick  
USC Wetland Coordinator

In 1997, Chemung County SWCD in partnership with a large group of contributors developed a Forestry BMP guide to address erosion concerns during timber activities. The printed guide was targeted to private landowners, timber harvesters, consulting foresters and municipal officials in Chemung County. The booklet was used by community members throughout the county to improve soil management in harvesting projects, and even by some municipalities to develop logging guidance, from timber harvesting rules to ordinances. Despite its usefulness, after 23 years, the age of the material coupled with no digital copy available, made an update necessary. With funding provided by FLOWPA, Chemung County SWCD spearheaded an update to the guide in 2019.

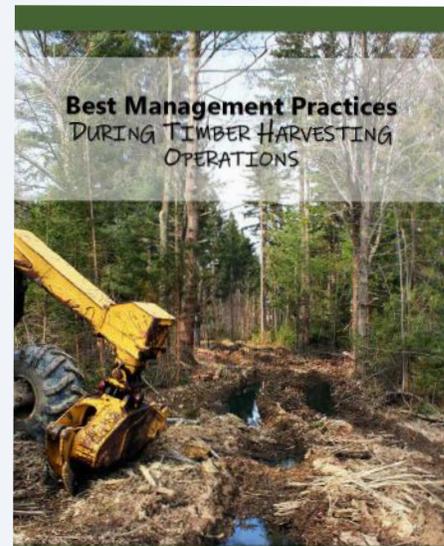
The guide update was developed through a partnership of Chemung County SWCD, Schuyler County Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the USC, and began with a review of the original booklet and digitization of the booklet text. Updates included a streamlining of the format, reorganization of the chapters, addition of timber harvest sales contracts guidance, and the broadening of the booklet scope to include the region rather than just Chemung County. Several BMPs were added and several were removed to better match their current use in the region. Updates to most of the BMP drawings, as well as several photos were provided courtesy of the Watershed Ag Council from their 2018 [New York State Forestry Voluntary Best Management Practices for Water Quality](#). Other photos came from Chemung SWCD and the USC's photo library, currently shared with USC members through Flickr.

The 43-page booklet should be a great resource for landowners, towns and counties with guidance on harvest planning, identifying sensitive areas, forest roads, stream crossings and soil stabilization. An overview chapter is also included outlining important BMPs by activity:

- Timber Harvesting Operation
- Adverse Weather Harvesting
- Forest Road and Skid Trail
- Log Landing
- Water Control
- Riparian Management Zone
- Freshwater Wetland
- Stream Crossing
- Soil Stabilization
- Forest Roads Maintenance for Landowners
- Hazardous Materials Handling

Chemung County, Schuyler County and Steuben County SWCDs pooled resources with the FLOWPA funding and local firm, Bob Carr 2.0 Printing in Binghamton, NY was contracted to print 15,000 copies. These copies will be used for county education efforts, however some are available for purchase at \$3 each. Contact Chemung SWCD for purchase information.

A digital copy of the booklet can be found online at: [www.u-s-c.org/forestrybmps](http://www.u-s-c.org/forestrybmps)



**Pipe culvert construction guidelines**

**PIPE CULVERTS**

Pipe culverts are used to channel water under the road surface from water collected in road side ditches. They are installed before major logging cut on permanent forest roads. They are commonly used where vehicle traffic will be infrequent. Heavy following logging activities. Pipe structures are the most expensive type of cross drain. But are effective in controlling water flow. It is important to periodically clean out pipe culverts, keeping them free of leaf litter and other forest debris to maintain their effectiveness. Pipe culverts are also used at the entrance to public roads where a roadside ditch is present.

Recommended Pipe Diameter (inches)	Approximate Pipe Diameter (inches)
2	12
4	15
7	18
11	21
15	24
23	27
34	30
45	33
52	36
110	42
200	48
300	54

**Diversion ditch construction guidelines**

**DIVERSION DITCHES**

Diversion ditches (also called turn rock) channel water away from roads on a 1% downward slope. Construct the diversion ditch at a 30-degree angle away from the ditch being drained to ensure the water cannot enter the road down fall. Care should be taken to ensure each diversion ditch outlet into rock or ditch to allow runoff and decrease the erosion force of the flow. Whenever possible avoid placing the diversion into a Riparian Management Zone stream, instead on the ditch along a public road.

Slope Class (%)	Approximate Distance between Diversion Ditches (ft)	Recommended Spacing for Diversion Ditches
0-2	500-500	
3-4	250-100	
5-10	175-100	
11-15	135-120	
16-20	124-101	
21+	100	



# USC Attends 8th Annual Chesapeake Bay Day on Capitol Hill

By: Emily Dekar  
USC Ag Coordinator

On March 4, 2020, the Choose Clean Water Coalition hosted the 8th annual Chesapeake Bay Day on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. More than 100 organizations from across the entire Chesapeake Bay Region were in attendance to discuss our Chesapeake Bay priorities and goals with member of Congress. From New York, Emily Dekar from the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Danny Lapin and Amy Wyant from Otsego County Conservation Association(OCCA), as well as Mike Sellitti from Sidney Center Improvement Group met with all of NY's members of Congress or staff within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Discussion was focused around asking for continued support for key funding programs in the Watershed that include the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and USDA Farm Bill funding (RCPP, EQIP, CREP). These programs help to support the work that the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and our partners are doing to implement best management practices that will protect and enhance water quality in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed. We met with staff from the offices of Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, Congressman Tom Reed (NY-23), Congressman Anthony Brindisi (NY-22), and Congressman John Katko (NY-24). We also had a brief but great meeting with Congressman Antonio Delgado from the 19th District.

There were 11 members of Congress from across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed from Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland that joined us for a lunch briefing sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Members spoke on their commitment to the great work being done as well as restoring full funding for the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program. A poster session was held during lunch, where the USC and others from across all the Chesapeake Bay Watershed displayed their recent accomplishments through funding provided by NFWF. A copy of the USC's poster is to the right and can also be found on our website at:

<http://www.uppersusquehanna.org/usc/usc-resources/>.



Left to Right - Danny Lapin (OCCA), Peter Marx (Choose Clean Water Coalition), Mike Sellitti (Sidney Center Improvement Group), Congressman Antonio Delgado (NY-19), Amy Wyant (OCCA), and Emily Dekar (USC).

**A Commitment to Improving Water Quality**

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition is committed to improving water quality locally and in the Chesapeake Bay. Located at the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, we support sustainable agriculture, promote the restoration and long-term functionality of riparian areas, and are dedicated to increasing wetland restoration and understanding across our region.

Our partners, members and teams work hard to put grant funds to use efficiently and effectively.

Project Type	Project Count
Buffer	106 acres 27 farms 21 farms
Wetland	17 acres 22 acres
Conservation	440 acres 470 acres
Stream Corridor	4,000 feet 8,500 feet

**USC Water Quality Program**

Our Water Quality Program builds on our team-based structure for addressing nutrients and sediment loads in the Headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. The USC primary focus areas, sustainable agriculture, streams, and wetlands are interconnected, and the integration of team projects makes sense. In addition to benefiting water quality practices installed as part of this program can improve cattle health, increase habitat diversity and reduce flooding across the watershed.

Our goal is to continue using Water Quality Program funds to fill the gaps left from state and federal programming, and as stand alone funding for project implementation, getting more work done for less. Funding matched or leveraged with this program is about 40% of total project costs.

Barriers: 38% of Goal  
Wetlands: 40% of Goal  
Drinking: 17% of Goal  
Green Corridor: 24% of Goal

Stream Coverage: 45,000  
Acres of Stream  
Wetland Restored: 14  
Wetland Systems  
Lost or Disturbed: 19,752

NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund



## Vernal Pools

By: Kevin VanHine  
USC Wetland Technician

Every springtime throughout the Northeast, the environment around us undergoes a burst of life. Spring ephemeral wildflowers pop up out of the ground, trees bud out, birds start to sing, and wetland habitats become inundated with life. The early months of spring are when amphibians migrate from hundreds of meters away to breed in small, shallow, fishless, ephemerally wet pockets of water called vernal pools. Vernal pools can form from glaciers over 10,000 years ago, at the base of fallen down trees, within a floodplain where water remains, or through anthropogenic excavation. Copious flora and fauna populations rely on vernal pools for a source of habitat, food, migratory pathways or reproduction. Wood frogs (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) and salamanders are two amphibious species who rely heavily on vernal pools to complete their lifecycles. Within the first spring rain event (when temperatures reach 50°F), thousands of wood frogs and salamanders will come out of their overwintering tunnels under the leaf litter and migrate to vernal pools, sometimes traveling a distance of over 800 meters wood frogs will return to the same breeding pool year after year over 80% of the time and potted salamanders will use the exact same route to the pool when they breed (Colburn, 2004). If you come across a vernal pool in early April, you may notice amphibian egg masses. The wood frog can lay up to 1,000 eggs resembling individual spherical balls of jelly (refer to Figure 1). The spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) female can lay up to 100 eggs looking like balls of jelly clumped together by a uniform layer of clear jelly which is often attached to woody debris or vegetation (refer to figure 2). Spotted salamanders can live up to 18 years and rely on the surrounding forested habitat to migrate to outside the breeding period (Colburn, 2004). Vernal pools provide essential functions such as floodwater storage, nutrient uptake, and create habitats with diverse cover types. Over the past 5 years, the USC has constructed 78 wetland pools in state forests throughout the watershed utilizing funds through the DEC's WQIP Southern Tier Natural Infrastructure Implementation grant. We will continue construction of wetland pools this upcoming field season within state land.

### References Cited:

Colburn, Elizabeth A. Vernal Pools: Natural History and Conservation. McDonald & Woodward Pub. Co., 2004.



Figure 1: Wood Frog Eggs



Figure 3: USC Constructed Wetland Pool



Figure 2: Spotted Salamander Eggs

## Wetland Team will Host a Soils Training

We're excited to expand on our wetland trainings this year to offer a Soils Training on Thursday, July 16th (rain date scheduled for the 17th). The training will include six hours of both office and field exercises studying soil fundamentals, understanding soil surveys, soils in regions of NY State, soil classification systems, determining soil texture, hydric soils and their indicators; and field examples and exercises on site including the evaluation of IRIS tubes.

Two soils experts from our region will be instructors for this training, Laurence Day PG, CPSS, Delaware County SWCD, and Steven Carlisle, USDA-NRCS Soil Scientist, retired and mid-Atlantic Hydric Soil Committee Member. Training agenda and specific information to come, but the planned training location is the TWT Wetland Field Station, New Berlin, NY.



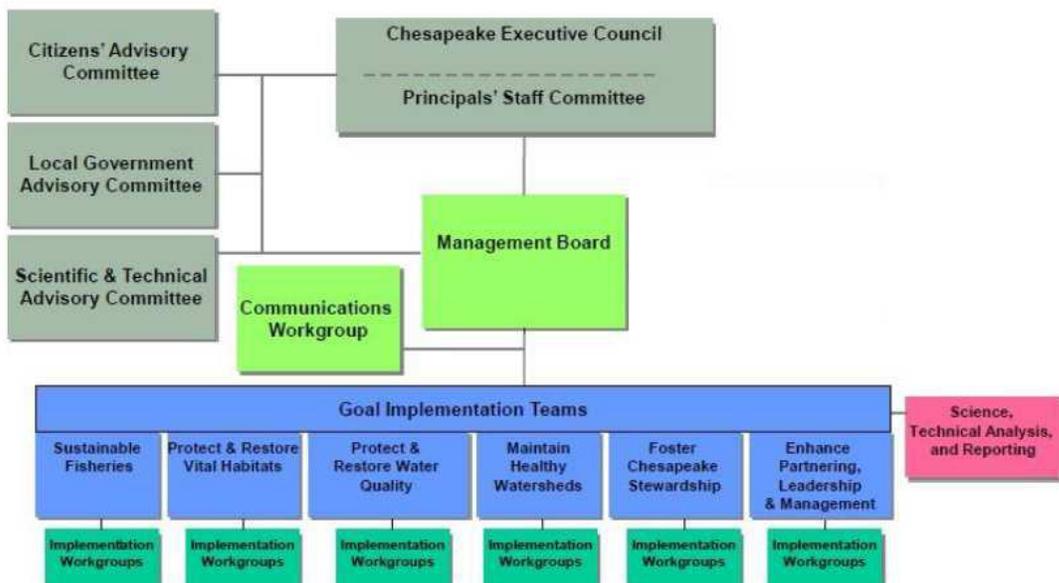
# The USC - The Watershed's Voice

By: Mike Lovegreen  
USC Stream Team Leader

As Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NY) / Conservation Districts (PA) our primary mission is to represent the needs of our farmers, landowners/managers and communities is identifying and addressing the natural resource needs of our counties. The USC, as a coalition of the Districts, is our collective voice for the region of the Susquehanna Watershed. Each of us on the Coalition has opportunities to express those needs and inputs into a multitude of venues, forums, conferences, programs and committees. Examples of this include the various committees and advisory work groups of the Chesapeake Bay Program, which potentially have impacts on multiple States and Jurisdictions. How those Committees and Advisory Groups are organized, what they are discussing, who is representing the USC and how you can provide input to our representative to each of those forums is the subject of this ongoing column in this newsletter. In the issues to come we'll provide a detailed overview of the Committee/Group, who your representative is and what issues are current.

## How The Chesapeake Bay Program Is Organized

Figure 1. Organizational Structure of the Chesapeake Bay Program



### CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Consisting of the governors of the six watershed states, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency— establishes the policy direction for the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. Officially Governor Andrew Cuomo is our representative. On the regular, day to day decision making, the Principals' Staff represent the positions of the Governors.

### THE PRINCIPALS STAFF COMMITTEE

(PSC) acts as the policy advisors to the Executive Council, accepting items for Council consideration and approval, and setting agendas for Council meetings. Individual members of the PSC arrange and provide briefings to their principals, the Agreement signatories. The PSC also provides policy and program direction to the Management Board. The Committee is made up of various representatives for State and Federal agencies as well as organizational representatives. Basil Seggos, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is our representative.

### THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Chaired by the Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program, an EPA administrator, works to provide strategic planning, set priorities and offer operational guidance to the Bay Program, including overseeing the Goal Implementation Teams and implementation of the management strategies. As with the Principals' Staff Committee a multitude of Federal, State and Regional Agencies and Organizations are represented on this Board. Lauren Townley, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, is our representative.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

All three of the above "top management" groups are provided direct advice and input from three advisory committees. These groups meet on a regular basis to review the decisions that are both upcoming and being decided. Normally the Governor of the jurisdictions appoint representatives to these Committees but exceptions are made where the various Committees may appoint "at large" members where representation may be needed. The description of each are as follows:

#### THE CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Works to advise the leadership of the Chesapeake Bay Program by representing the residents and stakeholders of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, advocating for transparency and accountability, engagement and education, and evaluation of restoration work. Mike Lovegreen, USC Stream Team Leader, serves as our representative.

#### THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Advises the Executive Council on how to engage local governments by sharing the views and insights of local elected officials and enhancing the flow of information among local governments. Currently there is no NY representative on this Committee. There is a workgroup of this Committee that is assigned to address Local Government Engagement Initiative. Wendy Walsh, USC Coordinator, is our representative on this group.

#### SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Provides independent scientific and technical advice in various ways, including (1) technical reports and position papers, (2) discussion groups, (3) assistance in organizing merit reviews of CBP programs and projects, (4) technical workshops, and (5) interaction between STAC members and the CBP. STAC serves as a liaison between the region's scientific community and the CBP. Through professional and academic contacts and organizational networks of its members, STAC ensures close cooperation among and between the various research institutions and management agencies represented in the Bay watershed. Currently there is no NY representative on this Committee.



# Project Spotlight : Chenango County SWCD

Submitted by: Jennifer Kelly

## Kutik's Honey Chenango County STAIEP Project

When Governor Cuomo announced the inception of the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program a handful of years ago, the District felt as though we had just stepped into something and we weren't quite sure what it was. A new, economically driven program? For farmers? We are conservationists, not economists.

Farmers, however, seem to have an eye for both conservation and business. Once the program was announced to the public, we read several creative applications. The most unique, was the proposal to build a new warehouse equipped with a new honey extractor, laboratory, and office space for employees. Since we are used to working with livestock farmers, honey production was a bit outside our purview.

To our surprise, the project ended up exceeding our expectations as it evolved into much more. Kutik's Honey has been bottling honey since 1979 in a small facility in Oxford, New York. Kutik's Honey is a little known secret in Chenango County as it is the largest and most diversified honey farm headquartered in New York State. In addition to retailing and wholesaling large quantities of honey, the farm produces all of their own queen bees and contracts pollinates with nut and fruit farmers in California, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Maine and in the Finger Lakes of New York.

In 2016, the Kutiks decided they wanted to expand their operation and build a new facility to increase their extraction efficiency, storage capacity and to utilize their skilled laborers more efficiently. With these changes and a significant capital investment, honey production was estimated to increase by 52%.

After the award was made, the proposed project area ran into several problems. The project area is located adjacent to both the Chenango River, the Chenango Canal and a major state highway. There were floodplain mitigation issues, the New York State Historical Preservation Office voiced their concerns, and a small federally protected wetland bordered the site. As you know, these are not simple problems to navigate.

Undeterred, the Kutiks and the District worked through all the red tape and soon the building was completed. Kauffman Builders, from Bainbridge, NY, built the 14,000 square foot structure. A new extractor was placed in a hot room with in-floor heating to update and increase efficiency in the extraction process. The warehouse was built large enough so pallettes could be moved with forklifts and a section offers employees offices, a break room, and bathrooms.

But, the story doesn't end there. The new facility was part of the Kutik's plan to diversify their business further. After the new extraction building was complete, the Kutiks refashioned an existing building into a retail store called Kutik's Everything Bees. The small store offers unique gifts from local artists, honey, tea, soap, beekeeping supplies and offers beekeeping classes for bee enthusiasts. The shop also offers crafting classes like candle making or papermaking.

Aside from the twists and turns this project took us on, we are all very proud of the outcome and for the new opportunities that it brings to the community. We are all in a place and in a time that undervalues agriculture for its contribution to both the economy, community and prosperity. I believe this project exceptionally confirms E. Emmons' assertion that, "Agriculture is civilization."



Pictured:(Left) Construction of the honey extraction building underway. (Right) Delivery of the new extractor.



Above: (Left) Kutik's Everything Bees Store. (Right) Chuck Kutik is teaching little bee keepers

