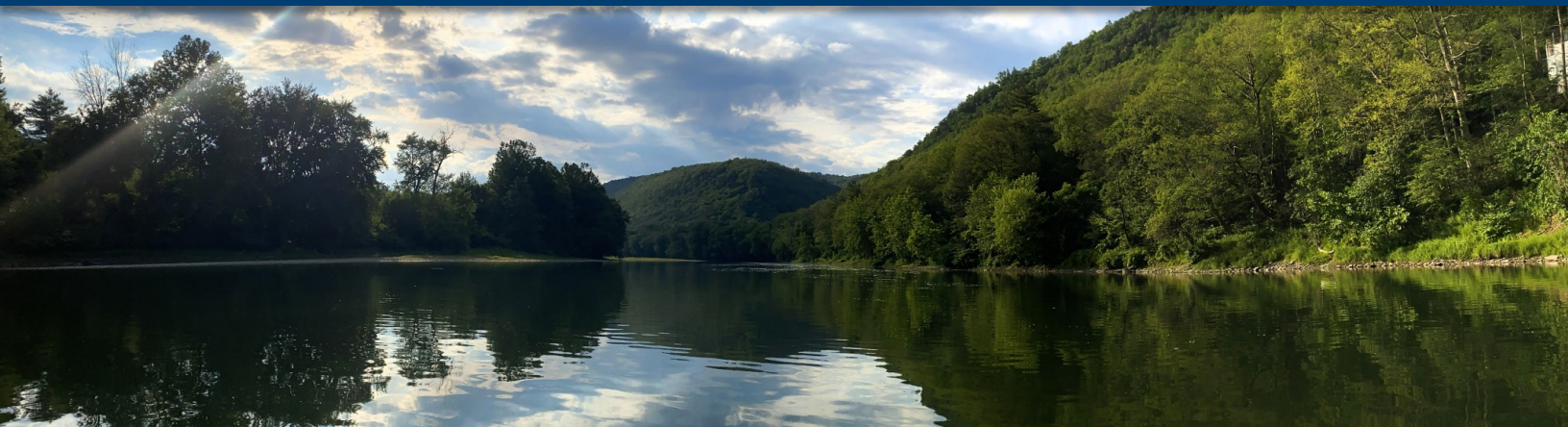




Quarterly

NEWSLETTER



DATES TO REMEMBER

August:

- 12 - Stream Bank Training Registrations Due
- 12 - Watershed Wednesdays Presentation Submission Deadline
- 18 - Lake Associations 2022 Conference
- 26 - USC Bi-Monthly Meeting



September:

- 2 - Trees 4 Tributaries plant orders due
- 14 - Watershed Wednesdays Session 1
- 21 - Watershed Wednesdays Session 2
- 24 - Butternut Valley Riparian Stewardship Day - Morris, NY
- 28 - Watershed Wednesdays Session 3



October:

- 1 - C-OFOKLA Tree & Shrub Festival - Tully

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2021 Final Progress Outcomes

The Chesapeake Bay Program Office finalized the 2021 Progress Scenario in June. During the Progress evaluation, EPA identified many accomplishments in NY ranging from continued and expanded program opportunities, to increased technical capacity. During the 2021 progress year the agricultural sector implemented and documented 215 new multi-year practices, and 539 annual practices, as well as completed “whole farm verification” on 191 farms. This agricultural implementation along with implementation of practices in other source sectors, assisted with reducing 629,988 lbs. of Nitrogen, 39,117 lbs. of Phosphorus, and 13,122,502 lbs. of Sediment from reaching the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay on an annual basis. New York is currently achieving 69% of the Nitrogen, 76% of the Phosphorus, and 21% of the Sediment reduction goals for 2025.

The USC is currently finalizing their 2022 Progress data to prepare for model submission this fall, while looking ahead at the 2023 progress year which started on July 1st.



Dry Weather Provides a Backdrop for Learning

By Troy Bishopp - *Grass Whisperer*,
Madison County SWCD

Two “cool” pasture walks were hosted by New York dairy farmers, Richard Nolt of Yates County and Martin Schlabach of Tioga County as part of a series offered by Danone North America/Horizon Organic.

Led by Danone’s North America Regenerative Project team of Katherine Staiger and Caitlin Dillon, Madison County Grazing Specialist, Troy Bishopp and Sustainable Environmental Consultant’s Agronomist, Katie Catron, these walks brought farmers together to highlight resilient indicators and practices that hold moisture during these drier periods. Tom Eskildsen from Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District and Tioga County’s Danielle Singer and Heather Scott were on hand to highlight soils and mapping information, pass out grazing sticks and provide farmers with technical knowledge for resilient conservation practices.

Staiger shared that “Danone is dedicated to sharing knowledge, introducing new approaches and practices, and partnering with farmers. To succeed in our mission, The Regenerative Agriculture Program is committed to growing food in a way that supports farmers and farm workers, regenerates nature and supports animal welfare.”

Right from the start, inspiration for ah-ha moments came in the form of a simple infrared digital thermometer that showed farmers bare soil was



over 100 degrees while plant or trampled residue cover kept the soil cooler at 65 to 70 degrees (pictured above right). This stark observation showed how important pasture residual is to keeping biology and plant growth rates positive during hot, dry times.

The Grass Whisperer helped farmers interpret plant growth rates for the two locations which provided another teachable moment in which 4 inch pasture residuals yielded 0.3/in/day of growth while 6 inch plant residuals yielded double that in the same time frame. The proof of higher grazing heights substantiated a monitoring program (yardstick in the field) and allowed for future growth projections with dry periods upon us. Both farms recognized the concerns of slower growth and had built in at least a 40 day recovery period for their pasture swards so the cows could keep harvesting fresh forage daily.

Another simple tool to sample soil health during the summertime heat is the often, overlooked soil infiltration test. Using a 6 x 6 circular metal ring driven in the ground 3 inches and a bottle of water, Mrs. Staiger demonstrated to the farmers how to mimic a one and two inch rainfall event. Both farms were able to infiltrate the simulation within 10 minutes; a win for when the quick hitting thunderstorm drops the much-needed moisture. It also gives the practitioner confidence in how improving soil health practices relate back to a farm's resiliency. It not how much rain you get that's important, it's how much you can hold on to.

Diversity of plants and their varied root systems and canopy cover also showed up as a positive to infiltrating water as well as the importance of providing a good cool home for the microbes, earthworms and dung beetles to thrive. Farmers got to "feel" the temperature difference under a new Shade Haven™ portable grazing shade structure where the 25 cow unit was twenty degrees cooler than the ambient temperature. This structure was a way to keep fertility in the field and build soil health capacity for future grazings.

Whether it's a thermometer, an infiltration test or maintaining higher forage residuals and longer recovery periods, learning ways a farmer can read the land and improve the water cycle is cool. And when indicators are showing you positive gains, take a break from the heat and celebrate with some ice-cream and a dip in your favorite waterbody. You've earned it!



Trees for Tributaries Fall Update

Our Trees for Tributaries Program is all set and ready for the fall! We're happy to be providing 24 different species of containerized plants, protective tubes, and wooden stakes. All information about the program, including the order form, application, and species booklet can be found on our website: <http://www.u-s-c.org/T4T>. A couple of noteworthy deadlines are September 2, as that is when the plant order form is due to Ranier lucasr@tiogacountyny.gov, and then November 18th is when all project information is due for DEC reporting.

Please help advertise for Trees for Tributaries! You can use the attached advertisement, and contact Ranier to modify it with your districts contact information if you choose.



Trees For Tributaries

By supporting plantings along tributaries, small streams that feed larger rivers and lakes, the program helps create healthier, more climate-resilient communities



Do you own property along a stream, creek or body of water within the Headwaters of the Susquehanna River? Even Intermittent streams qualify!



We have many different trees and shrubs that attract anything from pollinators to deer and other animals

Would you like to increase flood protection and reduce stream bank erosion? Or interested in increasing wildlife value on your land?

The Trees for Tribes Program allows us to help improve the water quality throughout our watershed by offering Free Trees to plant Riparian Buffers



For More Information: Email: Bufferteam@u-s-c.org

New York State Federation of Lake Associations' 2022 CNY Regional Conference: Collaboration: The Key to Watershed Protection and Water Quality

When: August 19th, 9:30 - 4:30

**Where: Little York Lake "Stars Reception" Hall, Dwyer Park
6799 Little York Lake Road, Preble**

Please join us for a day of collaborative learning and networking with other associations, municipalities, and agencies. [The Program](#) includes presentations and discussions on mitigating stormwater impacts, evaluating long term data trends and working with municipalities and land trusts to protect water quality.

The \$25.00 registration fee includes lunch. Please register [HERE](#). Registration closes 5pm August 12th

True to the theme, this conference is a collaboration between [NYSFOLA](#), the Kettle Lake Associations ([C-OFOKLA](#)) and the Madison County Federation Lake Associations



Announcing Potential New Funding for the USC

Proposed Federal Investment Would Make Waves on NY’s Southern Tier Waterways

(OWEGO, NY)–The House Interior appropriations bill was recently passed including a Community Project Funding Item called the *Upper Susquehanna River Watershed Resilience Project*. This funding item would provide \$1.58 million to support clean water restoration efforts throughout the New York portion of the Upper Susquehanna watershed. All streams and tributaries from this region flow into the Susquehanna River, which eventually leads to the Chesapeake Bay. In response, Upper Susquehanna Coalition Watershed Coordinator Wendy Walsh issued the following statement:

“We are thrilled to learn of this critical investment in clean water throughout the Southern Tier of New York. This funding will support keeping nutrient and sediment pollution out of our local waterways and reduce flooding potential through proven conservation projects. These include practices such as stream corridor restoration, planting streamside forested buffers, wetland restoration and many more. This investment will support numerous projects throughout our region.”

“We want to thank Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-NY) for fighting for this crucial funding in the House Interior appropriations bill. We also want to thank Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) for supporting this investment in the Senate. With the support of these leaders in Congress, we are optimistic this provision will pass and produce countless positive ripple effects for New York’s Southern Tier and for cleaner water in our local rivers and streams.”

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) is a network of 22 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (18 in New York and 4 in Pennsylvania) that encompass the entire headwaters of the Susquehanna River Basin. Our mission is to protect and improve water quality and natural resources in the river basin.

Watershed Wednesdays is Back!

2022 Watershed Wednesdays

The USC and partners plan to host a series of wednesday morning mini webinars between September 14 and November 2.

Call for Presentations

Please complete our online form by Friday August 12 if you are interested in sharing information about an ongoing or recent natural resource-related project:

www.u-s-c.org/webinartopics



Be sure to share the word, sign up to present at www.u-s-c.org/webinartopics, and visit our [Watershed Wednesdays webpage](#) to see past sessions and join our outreach mailing list.

New Staff in the Watershed

Broome SWCD Welcomes Brandon Brideau - Natural Resource Assistant

Broome SWCD is excited to introduce Brandon, our newest team member. He is looking forward to running the hydroseeding program, becoming a stream expert, and working with farmers in the community. Brandon grew up in Long Island, but decided to stay in Binghamton after he graduated from Binghamton University. There, he pursued a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a specialization in Environmental Chemistry. He is eager to apply his knowledge of environmental science and his love of conservation to the many projects at the District. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, camping, and kayaking. He lives with his partner Taylor in Binghamton. Together, they tend to their chickens and annual garden.



USDA-NRCS Binghamton Office Welcomes Natalie Shudt

USDA NRCS would like to welcome Natalie Shudt to the Broome County Field Office as a Soil Conservationist. Natalie is from Melrose, NY about 20 miles east of Albany. Even though she may not have had the opportunity to grow up on a farm, she has been heavily involved with agriculture for close to 10 years. Her passion for agriculture stemmed from the countless programs through 4-H and other dairy advocating activities. She has just started her career with the agency and just graduated from SUNY Morrisville with a Bachelor's degree in Dairy Management. She completed the Pathways Internship program with the Troy, NY Field Office where she discovered her interests for implementing rotational grazing plans and farmstead related practices. She is excited to learn more about the area and meet with new producers while striving to meet business goals.



OCCA New Job Opening : Sr. Environmental Planner

Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) is looking to add an experienced, motivated Environmental Planner to our growing team. We work with a variety of communities to develop/update Comprehensive Plans, develop natural resource protection plans, and assist communities with long-range climate mitigation and adaptation plans. This individual will work collaboratively with our team to assist with a wide range of environmental projects while providing top-notch customer service to our municipal clients.

OCCA is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and sustainable use of Otsego County's natural resources through research, education, advocacy, planning and resource management and practice. All replies will be held in confidence. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and detailed resume including education, work history and experience, with an emphasis on the elements identified above to Executive Director Amy Wyant at director@occainfo.org.

Visit the OCCA Website for the complete position announcement:

[New Job Opening: Sr. Environmental Planner – OCCA – Otsego County Conservation Association \(occainfo.org\)](https://www.occainfo.org)

Otsego SWCD New Job Openings : Conservation District Manager

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: This is an administrative position responsible for coordinating and supervising the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) programs. The Conservation District Manager plans, develops and implements county natural resource conservation programs as approved by the Board of Directors of the Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District and coordinates the assistance of cooperating local, state and federal agencies in the execution of District programs. The work includes both administrative and technical planning of environmental and conservation programs. Such programs involve both private and public properties and entities in all aspects of natural resource management. Work is performed under State and Federal Laws and guidelines as well as established District policies and procedures. Supervision is exercised over other District office and field personnel in the planning and execution of District programs. Work is performed under the direction of the District Board. Does related work as required.

Visit the Otsego SWCD Website for the complete position announcement (2nd announcement on the page) :

<https://www.otsegoilandwater.com/job-volunteer-opportunities>

FL PRISM Positions : Seasonal Aquatic Field Positions

Finger Lakes Institute and FL PRISM is undertaking a focused, final recruitment effort for the rest of their 2022 season! They are actively recruiting for aquatic invasive species programs positions, including Watercraft Steward and AIS Technician positions.

They have openings at many of their 24 FLI Watercraft Steward Program boat launches throughout the Finger Lakes Region due to many of the seasonal employees returning to school in mid-August.

Visit the Finger Lakes Institute website for the complete position announcements:

<https://www.hws.edu/offices/hr/employment/summer.aspx>

Opportunities in the Watershed

2022 Buffer Steward Season

By: Lydia Brinkley - USC Buffer Coordinator

Throughout the watershed 6 buffer stewards were hired to lift a big workload this year! And the workload is growing as we are all working hard to get more and more buffer acres planted each season. Buffer survival surveys and stewardship is tough work in uneven terrain, often accompanied by deer flies and wasps. But, our buffer stewards have been providing as good as care as they can to our young riparian forests. To encourage camaraderie and learning we held 6 steward works days, with stewards and local district staff helping out. So much can get done when you have a crew of stewards working on one project. Without further ado, please welcome our stewards and thank them for their hard work this summer:



My name is Jenea Evans. I'm 19 years old and going into my junior year at college. I have just recently transferred to SUNY Oneonta to finish out a bachelor's degree in biology. I'm glad I get to work as a buffer steward this summer because I get to be outside almost everyday and I feel like the skills I have learned will be able to help me in the future.

My name is Austin LaForce. I'm currently finishing my bachelor's degree in Environmental and Natural Resource Management at SUNY Morrisville. After I finish my degree I plan on pursuing a career in conservation. I enjoy being outdoors doing activities like hiking or beekeeping.

Kiana Bacon of Unadilla, NY is a junior at SUNY Cobleskill majoring in Environmental Management. She hopes one day to have a career in stream restoration and water quality management. During her time in high school, Kiana was president of her Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter. Kiana was an active participant in the Sidney Central School District's Upper Susquehanna Watershed project where she collected water samples from the Susquehanna River and performed lab tests for water quality. She also helped maintain precipitation gauges used to monitor local flooding events.

Brandon Wright of Grand Gorge, NY is a sophomore at SUNY Cobleskill majoring in Environmental Management. After graduation, he aspires to become a Fish and Game Warden. In his spare time, Brandon enjoys outdoor activities like hiking, playing sports, skiing, hunting, fishing, and more! He also volunteers his time every winter at Plattekill Ski Mountain with the National Ski Patrol. He truly believes that "if you strive for the things you enjoy in life as your career field, it becomes more of a hobby rather than a job".

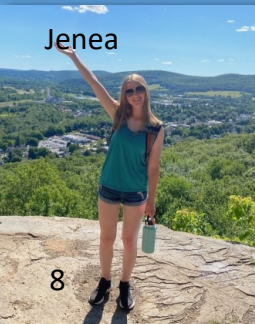
Kollin VanWagenen is from Truxton, NY where he grew up surrounded by nature. Due to deep interest in fishing and gardening, Kollin decided to study Conservation Biology at SUNY Cortland. After graduation in the fall, he plans to continue his career in the conservation field.

Hi my name is Eric and I am currently the buffer steward for Tioga County, and a senior studying environmental science at Binghamton University. I absolutely love spending my free time outdoors and within nature. This position has been amazing, as it has given me a great opportunity to help the environment that I enjoy so much. From helping manage our watersheds' health to reclaiming fields and rebuilding forests, the work I'm doing here really feels like it is making a difference.

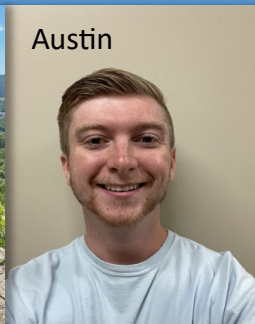
Thank you to the districts participating in this years Buffer Steward Program. We're hoping to continue the program next year, provide steward work days, and offer more opportunities for communities to get involved in young forest stewardship!

Meet the Stewards

Jenea



Austin



Kiana



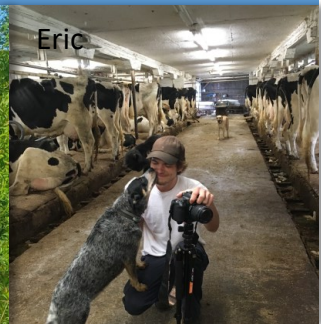
Brandon



Kollin



Eric



The Payne Project

Rome Township, Bradford County,
Trib to Parks Creek, Wysox Creek Watershed

By Theresa Flynn - *Bradford County Conservation District*



The Payne project is part of extensive watershed restoration that is ongoing within the Wysox Creek watershed. This project included the installation of 11 constructed riffles for the purpose of prohibiting further streambank erosion and channel incision. Streambanks were appropriately sloped, vegetated, and 2.5 acres of forested buffer was planted inside 2,600 feet of existing and new fencing. One livestock crossing and one adequately sized stream culvert were installed to provide stream continuity and aquatic organism passage.

Before



Looking downstream before channel work



Outlet before stream crossing replacement

After



Looking downstream after channel work



Outlet after stream crossing replacement.

This project utilized NFWF Stream Corridor Restoration funding, along with multiple district resources

Landowners Devote Their Backyard to Establishing a Riparian Buffer

Vestal, Broome County,
Tracy Creek & Tribs

By: Bailey Parks -
Broome County SWCD,
Natural Resource
Assistant



Private landowners located in Vestal, NY reached out to the Broome County SWCD after receiving one of the conservation newsletters and expressed their interest in the Trees for Tributaries (T4T) program. After a site visit, the Ellis's willingly offered a majority of their backyard, roughly half an acre, to be planted as part of the T4T effort. The Ellis's property resides along Tracy Creek, a 14.1 mile long "class C" stream, designated as aquatic habitat according to the DEC's Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (PWL). The Ellis's were interested in planting trees to help stabilize the streambank, enhance wildlife and aquatic habitat, and to improve water quality within the watershed. They expressed their excitement about the project and even volunteered their help, planting alongside Broome County SWCD staff and the USC Buffer Team staff.

Through the establishment of a riparian buffer along Tracy Creek, this project is helping to improve both streambank stabilization and aquatic habitat in the watershed.



Tree and Shrub Festival

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST
TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH~
MEETINGHOUSE ROAD
10:00-12:00**

**AN INVITATION TO ALL FROM THE KETTLE LAKES
ASSOCIATION AND UPPER SUSQUEHANNA
COALITION**

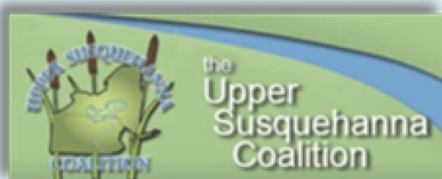
**THREE FREE 18" SAPLINGS
YOU MAY RESERVE UP TO THREE SELECTIONS.
CHOICES INCLUDE WITCH HAZEL,
NANNYBERRY, BUTTONBUSH, BLACK TUPELO, AND
SERVICEBERRY**

**TREE PLANTING AND MAINTENANCE DEMOS WILL
BE AT 10:00 AND 11:00.**

**PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS WILL BEAUTIFY YOUR
HOME AND PROPERTY WHILE DIMINISHING STORM
RUN-OFF INTO OUR WATERWAYS AS WE
ANTICIPATE MORE FREQUENT, INTENSE STORMS.
WE ALL BENEFIT FROM THIS WIN-WIN!**

[Click here to register](#)

**For More info contact
(607) 687-3553**



Tioga County Sundaes at the Farm 2022 Event

By: Danielle Singer - Tioga County SWCD, Water Quality and Nutrient Management Specialist

After a two year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, the annual Tioga County Sundaes at the Farm event returned this year on July 24th. The event is hosted by the Tioga County Agricultural Resource Group (ARG), a county association that is made up of representatives from several Tioga County organizations and farmers who collaborate on agricultural initiatives. The event is held at a different dairy farm in the county each year and provides an opportunity to get the public on a working dairy farm that they wouldn't normally have access to. The goal of the event to educate the public about local agriculture and connect them to the farmers in their community that grow their food. Tioga SWCD has always taken on the majority of the event's coordination since its inception in 2007 as part of our partnership in the ARG.

We had an amazing event this year at Spencer Farms in Newark Valley with over 800 attendees. Through support from local sponsors, we were able to provide a free event with ice cream sundaes, yogurt, cheese, milk and activities for all. Attendees spent time touring the farm, learning about the style of milking used at this farm, how the cows are fed and children completed the scavenger hunt for a coupon to a local ice cream business for a kiddie cone. The farm family and local partners that participate in ARG provided the educational activities to showcase the dairy industry, how it fits into our food system, the stages of corn growth, practices that improve soil health that farms participate in and the nutrient cycle that takes place on farms. Local Dairy Ambassadors helped kids milk the fake Maggie Moo cow we borrowed from Chemung County and passed out coloring books that show how milk is processed. The farm family provided an equipment display and calf hutch for the kids to play in and pretend to be a calf! We also

invited a local band for entertainment and local farmers' market vendors. The local Rotary Club and Fire Station sold food and drinks during the event as fundraisers for their organizations.

over
800
attendees!





UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION

Basic Streambank Design Training Phase 1

Please submit applications to: Juram@tiogacountyny.gov by COB on August 12, 2022

Purpose:

The intent of this training is to train individuals or small groups (2-3 people at a time), to be able to provide basic rip rap designs in a consistent format using NRCS standards that Brian Reaser, Tioga County SWCD P.E. is comfortable with reviewing and stamping. We will informally discuss permit requirements as they pertain to design documents, but this course will not cover permit coverages or applications.

Pre-Requisites and Requirements for the Course:

This course is geared toward people who already have a basic knowledge of stream systems and how they function, causes and effects of human interventions, and the ability to read and evaluate a site to determine the appropriate actions, which will also be developed further throughout the course of the training. That being said, attendance at a three day Emergency Stream Intervention Training (ESI), or the USC online ESI training within the last year; and ability to conduct basic surveying with a laser level are required. Someone with a higher level of training and experience can waive the first requirement (the ESI Training) on a case-by-case basis. Funding ends in winter of 2023, so the course must be completed by then. There is potential for a small stipend to assist with the training up to \$5,000. Please contact Wendy Walsh, walshw@tiogacountyny.gov with specific questions on that.

Applicant Information:

Name, Title:

County:

Additional Trainees for this county (Name and title):

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Describe current level of experience, stream knowledge, design knowledge, education pertaining to stream design and or trainings previously attended below:

Stipend assistance requested.

If you have a site in mind in your county, please describe it below:

Potential Training Site Information:

Project Name:

Landowner Name (where applicable):

Stream Name:

Watershed Name (Please provide a map of the project location):

Is there funding for this site: Yes No

Lat/Long (<http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>): *Latitude:*

Longitude:

Please submit Lat/Lon in decimal degrees (42.141877, -76.268377) format.

Please provide an aerial photo and other "before" photos that adequately depict the project site with submittal