



Quarterly NEWSLETTER



DATES TO REMEMBER



December:

9 - Cost Share Pilot Request Due



January:

6 - Planting Contractor Estimate requests due
10 - Buffer Steward Program Funding requests due
31 - February 1 USC Annual Retreat

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Arbor Day Foundation®

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition has been awarded another Arbor Day Foundation grant for the 2023 planting season! For this project we are looking to provide funds for various stock sizes given the current shortage with getting small containerized stock. We plan on funding bare root stock as well as larger stock for urban plantings.

Our goal is to plant another 30,000 trees and shrubs throughout the landscape, therefore this grant is not just riparian focused. Reach out to Lydia at lbrinkley@u-s-c.org to get Arbor Day Foundation funds for your 2023 project.



First New York State Silvopasture Showcase Tour a HUGE Success

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

On September 15th, over 160 farmers, conservation district staff (including several USC staff members) and agency professionals gathered from around the Northeast in Watkins Glen, New York for the inaugural Silvopasture Showcase Tour led by Brett Chedzoy and Peter Smallidge and organized by the Cornell Cooperative Extension SCNY Ag Team, with generous support from the National Grazing Lands Coalition, Society of American Foresters Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund, National Agroforestry Center, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Edwards Mother Earth Foundation, Propagate Ventures, Soil Carbon Partners.

The informative 2-day in-the-field program toured 4 practitioner's farms (Burns Family Farm, Kurtz Family Farm, Angus Glen Farm and Fieldstone Acres) in various stages of silvo-pasture management contexts and experience. Along the way through the woods and pastures, there were mini-presentations led by experienced professionals focusing on a cornucopia of topics including: Silvopasturing goals & management, grazing principals for successful silvopasturing, keys to a successful commercial timber harvest, value-added silvopastures, tree selection and residual stocking principals for silvopastures, professional resources for planning and implementation, managing post-harvest slash and interfering vegetation, benefits of adding functional trees into grazing systems, designing and implementing plantation silvopastures and using browse, fodder and coppice systems in silvopastures and ending with "The good, the bad and the ugly of twenty years of silvopasture experimentation" at Angus Glen Farms.

To learn more about this topic or about the event, visit cornellforestconnect.ning.com or reach out to Brett Chedzoy, Sr. Resource Educator - Ag and Natural Resources CCE of Schuyler County at 607-535-7161 or bjc226@cornell.edu



Getting Cropland Buffers

Location: Otsego, Chenango and Tioga Counties
By: Lydia Brinkley - USC Buffer Team Coordinator

As you all know, we've been struggling to get cropland forest buffers in the watershed. Our current programs don't offer landowner incentives worthy of removing cropland from production. But recently, we've found a few landowners to work with that are interested in backing off of the stream bank for habitat and water quality reasons. These landowners aren't individuals, but rather organizations that own the land. Working with these landowners has led to some large projects, and in some instances to pollinator habitat while the forest is being established. Since spring 2022, we've planted 44.7 acres of riparian cropland through 3 projects, all with permanent protections due to ownership and easements. Two example projects of establishing pollinator habitat while the forest is being established include riparian buffers at Robert Riddell State Park and a property owned by the Town of Newark Valley.

Riddell State Park is located along Schenevus Creek in Otsego County. This creek suffers from a lack of riparian canopy along large stretches, but also has been known to be a productive trout stream. Upon starting this project, Department of Parks and Recreation has been deeply engaged and carried out a pollinator planting this spring as the crops were taken out of production in preparation for tree and shrub planting. While the riparian planting plan was being worked out for fall 2022 planting, pollinator-friendly species such as purplestem and New England asters and wrinkleleaf goldenrod were growing. The mix spread contained 7 species total and was applied at 20 pounds per acre. In total, 11 acres was taken out of production for 100' buffers along Schenevus Creek.

Cropland owned by the Town of Newark Valley along Owego Creek provided another great riparian and wetland restoration opportunity. Once retired from crops, Tioga SWCD and USC staff planted a wildflower mix of 18 species from American Meadows. This fall, 16 of the 18 species were observed. Check out the seed mix used here:

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-seeds/wildflower-mix/native-northeast-wildflower-seed-mix>.

Soil cover was needed in these projects, and providing that through developing pollinator habitat was a win-win. Ownership of the properties was a crucial component in getting the cropland riparian forest buffers. Other large sites with cropland buffers are owned by The Wetland Trust, Inc, or have easements through the Otsego Land Trust.

Project Partners:

New York State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation, Town of Newark Valley, The Wetland Trust, Tioga County SWCD and Chenango County SWCD.



Partridge pea @ Newark Valley Site



Planting at Riddell Park along Schenevus Creek. The site was mowed prior to planting in November.

Tom Hughes, FORCES Program Coordinator, Natural Resource Steward Biologist and Mat Bilz, Steward Specialist with the NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation taking a look at the pollinator seeding at Riddell State Park.



Gypsy Moths: A Clear and Present Danger... To Our Forests

By: Adam Chorba, Forest Specialist, Bradford County Conservation District

The European Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) is native to Europe and first arrived in the United States in Massachusetts in 1869. A professor by the name of Etienne Trouvelot was studying Gypsy Moths that he had acquired from France. He was trying to cross breed the gypsy moth with silkworms in North America to develop a better silk industry. The project failed and some gypsy moths escaped. Gypsy Moths are currently found in the New England Region, Delaware, Washington D.C., Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and eastern Canada. Kentucky is considered High risk for expansion.



Gypsy moths are defoliators and will consume over 300 different species of trees and shrubs, posing a threat to most of North America's forests. Early detection and management are critical to limiting the gypsy moth's spread and saving our trees. Gypsy moths only feed for about 6-8 weeks during the larval stage. However, during this period it is estimated that each caterpillar can consume about 1 square meter of plant material.



Gypsy moth caterpillars begin feeding at the tops of the outer branches and work inward until the tree is stripped of its foliage. During this feeding cycle the caterpillar feeds mostly at night and travels down the tree and hides near the base of the tree or in any crevasse to try and avoid detection during daylight hours. Even though the gypsy moth is a non-native invasive, some native small mammals and birds like, White-footed mouse, Short tailed Shrew, Chickadees, and Blue Jays have developed the habit of consuming them so it is encouraged to promote this type of wildlife where gypsy moth population is significant.

Gypsy moths have four stages of life: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (cocoon) and adult (moth). Females lay a mass of 100-500 tan, fuzzy eggs typically hidden near the base of trees but could be found higher up or even on random things like machinery. The eggs remain over winter and hatch in the spring often in correlation with the tree's blooming stage. Once hatched, the larvae feed for 6-8 weeks and pupate in a protected area for two weeks. Then emerge in moth form, when they will mate and start the cycle over.

Because of its life cycle and feeding habits, there are 2 opportunities to effectively manage for population control during the eggs stage and the larval stage. However, population control is encouraged at any stage. Controlling the gypsy moth at the egg stage is easy to do if you can find them, simply scrape the eggs off of the surface where you find them and destroy by either crushing, burning or soak in dish soap water. Simply just scraping the egg mass's on to the ground and leaving them there could potentially increase their rate of survival. Coming snowfall will hide them better and add insulation from the winter cold and predators.

The next effective management stage is the larval stage when the caterpillars emerge from the eggs. For a short time, you could find clusters of caterpillars at egg sites making them more noticeable and vulnerable. When removing the caterpillars be sure to also remove and destroy the remaining egg sac because they often don't all

emerge at once. Once the Caterpillar begins to feed and travel up and down the tree, pesticide treatment and trapping are the best management strategies.

Certain biological pesticides like *Bacillus thuringiensis*, commonly known as Bt can be applied at early stages of the caterpillar's cycle. Pesticides can be very effective with little to no effect on non-target species if applied properly so be sure to read and follow all safety warnings and application directions when using pesticides. If chemicals are not wanted, then trapping the caterpillar in a burlap banding can be another effective management strategy

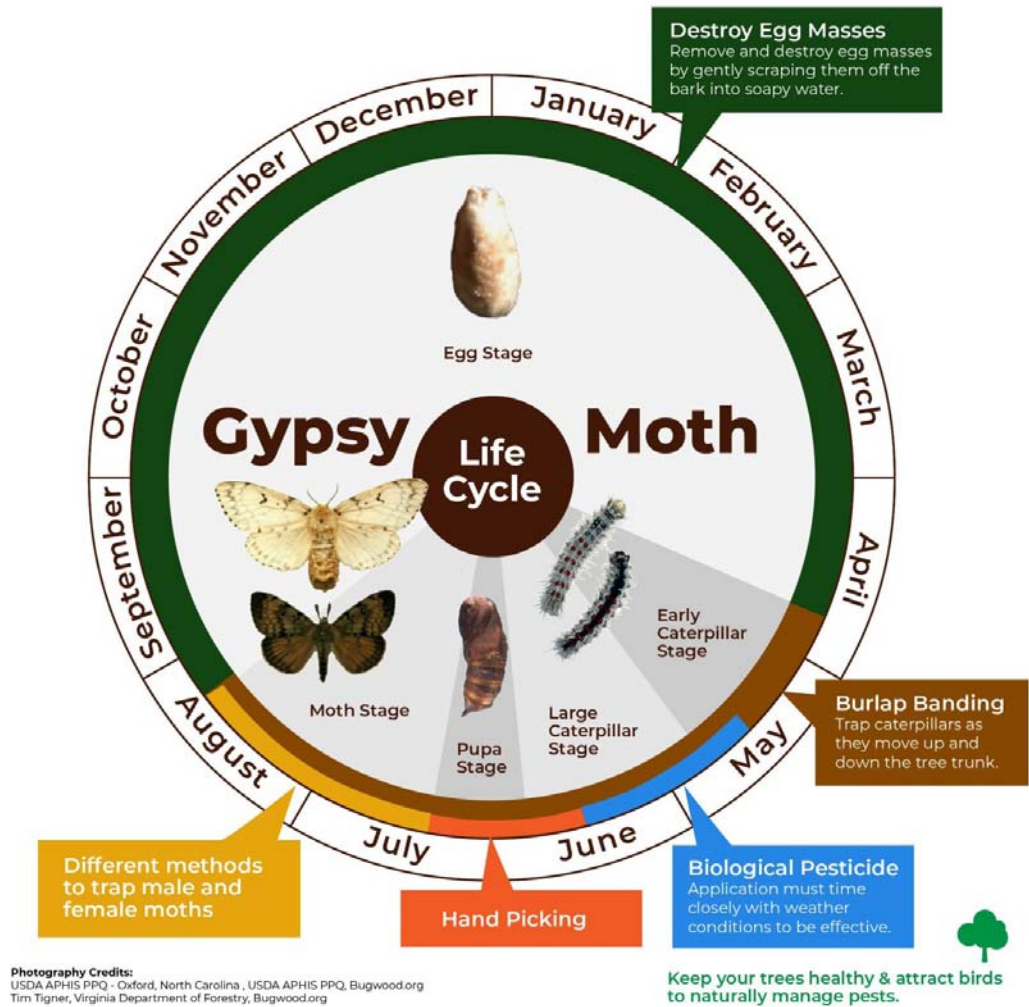
Burlap banding or burlap traps don't physically restrain the caterpillar but rather provide an easily accessible hiding spot where they will concentrate during the daylight hours. Here they can be easily gathered and destroyed in large numbers. Burlap bands consist of a piece of burlap about 12" wide and long enough to wrap the tree once. First wrap the burlap band around the tree securing with twine at its horizontal center and fold the top half down, creating a flap. Be sure to check traps regularly, preferably once a day during daylight hours when the tree is in full sun or as close to full sun as it might receive. You should always try to use natural based materials for traps in case they get left out that way they have a possibility of decomposition. Never intentionally leave traps out beyond the large caterpillar stage to avoid harm to non-target species and the tree. The exact times may vary due to location so just use your best judgment, if you see caterpillars begin to appear, place traps, once caterpillars stop showing up in your traps, remove them.

Controlling the Gypsy Moth population is important for the health and safety of our forest, wildlife and forest related industries so any and all assistance in controlling this pest is important. Management strategies during the later life stages are the least effective but always encouraged. The easiest management strategy is, if you see it, kill it. Always double check that you have properly identified the intended target as a gypsy moth. Luckily, they are easily identifiable. We don't want to harm native animals. Lastly, always use caution when handling the gypsy moth caterpillar, their hairs can be a skin irritant and create a rash so protective gloves are recommended.

The Bradford County Conservation District is committed to helping people manage resources wisely. You can visit the Bradford County Conservation District at 200 Lake Rd in Wysox across from the Wysox Fire Hall. Contact us at (570) 485-3144 or visit our web page at www.bccdpa.com.

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Photo Credit (noted directly in photo): USDA-APHIS-PPQ – Oxford, North Carolina; USDA-APHIS-PPQ Bugwood.org; Tim Tinger, Virginia Dept of Forestry, Bugwood.org



Volunteering in Numbers

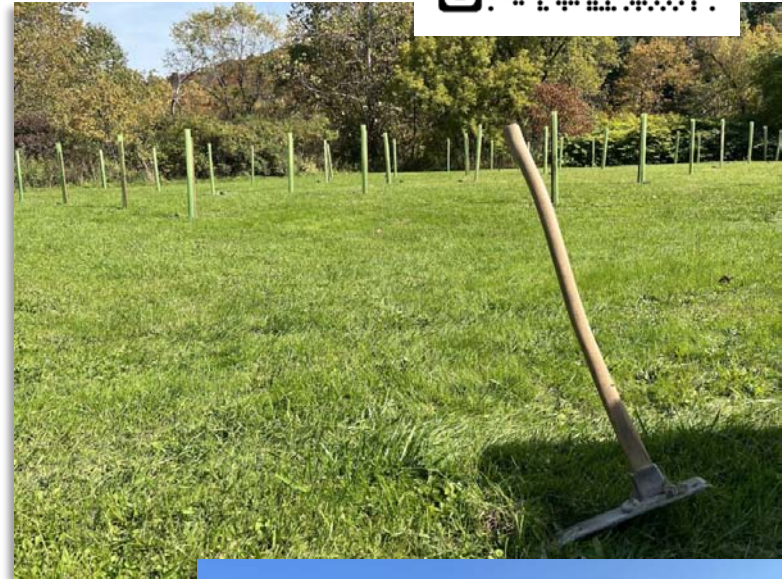
By: Ranier Lucas - USC Buffer Technician

Do you enjoy making a difference and want to get your hands dirty? Have you ever planted a tree? At every planting event I ask these questions. Surprisingly only a couple of hands slowly rise up. "Well today you will be helping to create a Riparian Buffer by planting a couple hundred trees and shrubs." The shock falls suddenly upon their faces. One volunteer asked "how long is this going to take?", I replied "around 2 hours if we work together as a team, so let's get to work!"

This planting took two hours and 15 minutes to complete, planting 225 stems with 14 volunteers. And by the end of it the volunteers were asking when the next planting event would be and how they would like to volunteer again. One Rotary Member, at the end of the planting as said: "When you said to us that it would only take about 2 hours I would have said you are crazy, but would you look at that!"

We have had amazing support from new and reoccurring volunteers this planting year. A total of 359 volunteers have donated over 1110 hours to come out and help us plant trees. From local parks to private back yards we all are making a difference in the quality of our water ways. If you would like to make a difference, get your hands dirty, and be able to raise your hand and say you have planted a tree then please let us know by emailing us at Bufferteam@u-s-c.org and fill out our Volunteer request form:

<https://forms.gle/SXvwPwN8qdxo9WwbA>



Tioga County Spotlights

By: Connor Hubbard & Danielle Singer, Tioga County SWCD

Tioga County SWCD has been busy in 2022 installing several projects with help from the USC. We have utilized several of the funding opportunities to match with our state awards to make projects feasible and also received implementation assistance from USC staff.

We worked with a beef farm to implement a grazing system for their 60 cow-calf pair herd. The farm is located in the Pipe Creek watershed in the town of Tioga. We paired AGNPS Round 24 with the second round of RCPP funding to assist with the cost-share. Two seasonal watering systems (one solar and one electric) and one winterized watering system were installed with over 20,500 ft of fence to create the infrastructure for the grazing plan. All of the streams and wetland areas were excluded from livestock.

Creeley Farm in Berkshire also implemented a grazing plan for their 40 cow beef farm situated along Wilson Creek in the East Branch Owego Creek Watershed. The District worked with the farm on expanding an existing grazing system from the AEM Round 17 Tier 4 Cost-Share funds and USC Water Quality Funding. In total, 2,200 ft of fence, 210 ft of streambank rehabilitation, 1 seasonal watering system and 1 acre of riparian forest buffer were installed. Students from a local high school ag class helped us plant the buffer this fall.

We were awarded funds through AGNPS R27 to complete the planned work at a beef farm in Nichols, but as with all the projects this year, we couldn't move forward without some extra funds because materials and fuel costs were up and the landowner was already at the max of feasible cost-share commitment. The USC awarded us some extra funds through the State Grant Cost-Share Program that allowed us to move forward and complete the majority of the project. We installed one culvert crossing, two stream crossings, 130 ft of access road, 215 ft of stream rehabilitation and 685 ft of diversion ditch repair. Next, 6,900 ft of fence was built to exclude livestock from the stream and diversions. The project will reduce clean water mixing in the barnyard with manure from failing diversions and stabilized large gully erosion in the stream corridor, improving the Wappasening Creek water quality. A 2-acre buffer/wetland will be planted adjacent to the stream in the spring to finish the project.

At the Stoltzfus Farm in Nichols (Wappasening Creek watershed), we piloted a small planted retention basin to capture runoff water from the extremely long driveway. We have worked with this environmentally conscious farm in the past on wetland ponds and a 4.6 acre riparian forest buffer so they were very interested in trying out this small scale, low cost way to slow down runoff water. We utilized Part B funds and the USC Wetland Team completed the work.



Figure 1: Constructed solar pond watering system



Figure 2: Creeley farm streambank protection and access road improvements just after final hydroseeding



Figure 3: Volunteers helping plant the buffer



Figure 4: Check dams installed in a tributary that headwaters on the farm

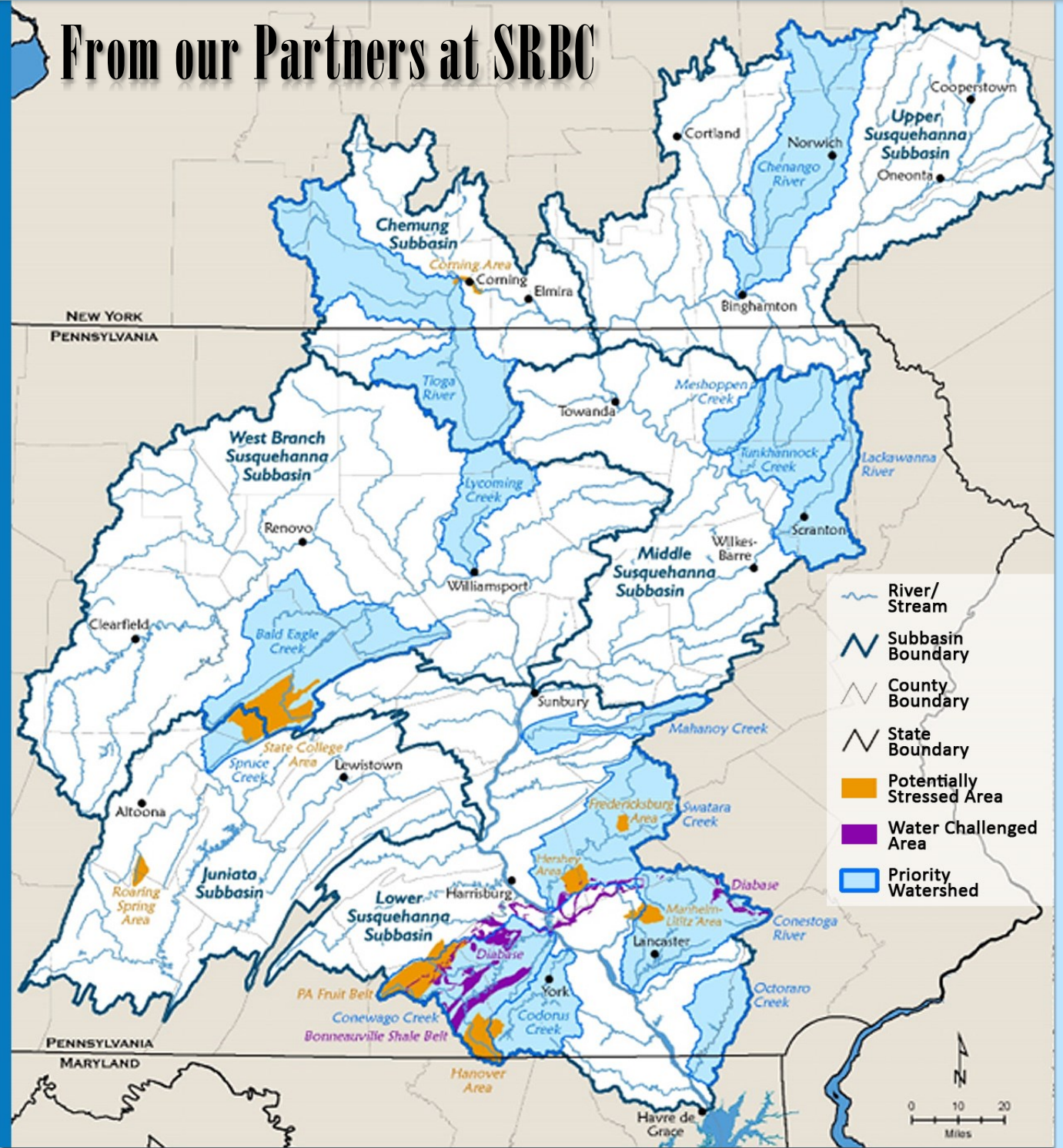


Figure 5: Finished planted stormwater basin at Stoltzfus Farm

PRIORITY WATERSHEDS FOR CONSUMPTIVE USE MITIGATION IN THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN



From our Partners at SRBC



Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants now Available

By: Stacey Hanrahan, SRBC Communications & Outreach Specialist

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) is offering a second year of grants for projects focused on improving the sustainability of streamflows and groundwater during times of drought to support both water supplies and the aquatic ecosystem. Up to \$6 million in funding is available this round.

Consumptive use (CU) refers to water that is used but not returned to the river basin. The [2023 Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant](#) program is aimed at projects that will improve the watershed’s drought resilience including:

- Water storage and release projects (e.g., impoundments, inactive quarries, and underground mine pools);
- Projects that modify current operations or implement new practices that increase instream flows or improve flow resilience (e.g., reservoir conservation releases, aquifer storage and recovery, and coordinated use of surface water and groundwater);
- Demand modification projects (e.g., projects that achieve water conservation, reuse and/or recycling); and
- Environmental and water quality improvement projects that support the resiliency of water resources (e.g., groundwater recharge, restoring wetlands/streams/floodplains, improving stormwater management, and treating abandoned mine drainage).

“In our inaugural year, we were able to fund some remarkably innovative and beneficial projects,” said SRBC Executive Director Andrew Dehoff. “For example, Kline Township in Schuylkill County was awarded a grant to use cutting-edge satellite technology to find leaks in their water supply distribution system. It’s estimated that detecting and fixing these leaks will save 125,000 gallons per day in real water loss.”

Grant funds, anticipated in the range of \$100,000 or more, may be used to cover a variety of project costs that reduce water use or increase water availability to help protect public health and safety, avoid water use conflicts, prevent water quality impacts, sustain economic production, and/or support ecological flow needs. A minimum 10% cash match of the requested funds is required, or 25% cash match for requests in excess of \$500,000.

Eligible applicants include SRBC permit holders, government agencies, academia, and non-profit organizations. Although proposed projects generally must be located within the Susquehanna River Basin, adjacent projects may be eligible provided the mitigation will benefit watersheds and streams within this basin.

Applications will be accepted from November 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023. Awardees will be announced in April 2023. For full details on the program, please visit the [grant application webpage](#) at www.srbc.net.

Stream Salinization Study

By: Stacey Hanrahan, SRBC Communications & Outreach Specialist

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) recently initiated a pilot study to examine the potential salinization of freshwater streams. An evaluation of data collected over the last 20 years led to a selection of 10 sampling sites that consistently have the highest concentrations of chloride in the Susquehanna River Basin.

Four of these sites are in the Upper Susquehanna and Chemung subbasins - Apalachin, Sing Sing, Baldwin and Cayuta Creeks. SRBC staff will target sampling around snow melt and/or rain events after road salting. Additionally, continuous instream data is being collected at these sites, as a strong correlation between chloride and conductivity has been demonstrated in the past.

This project is in the early stages but has important implications for both stream water quality and biological integrity, and may be exacerbated by climate change. The SRBC is funding this work internally in its first year. They’re hopeful that in subsequent years, the study can be expanded to include high frequency sampling using autosamplers, as well as the addition of case studies on the impacts to biological communities.

New to Our Watershed

Otsego SWCD Welcomes New District Manager: Christos Galanopoulos

Hello, my name is Christos Galanopoulos and I am the new Soil & Water Conservation District Manager at Otsego County NY. As an agronomist and horticulturalist I have worked in the academic, public and private sphere. I got my BS in Plant and Soil Science at Virginia State University (VSU) in 2016, after which I spent time working as a Biological Aid technician for the USDA-ARS at both Pullman and Prosser in Washington State. After a brief stint at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign I returned back to my alma mater at VSU where I worked in small fruit production and soil/water/energy resource conservation for small farm production. Afterwards, I got my MS in horticulture at Virginia Tech, examining ways to increase production of high-value specialty crops via novel resource conservation techniques. Once I graduated with my MS, I participated in a project examining salt remediation methods for runoff of highway deicing applications, before finally finding myself in my current position. I have worked with a variety of crops including corn, soybean, tobacco, small fruits & berries, grapes, mustard greens as well as some soil, wetland and forestry research projects. I look forward to meeting everyone and to start new and exciting projects with USC.



Chenango River Restoration

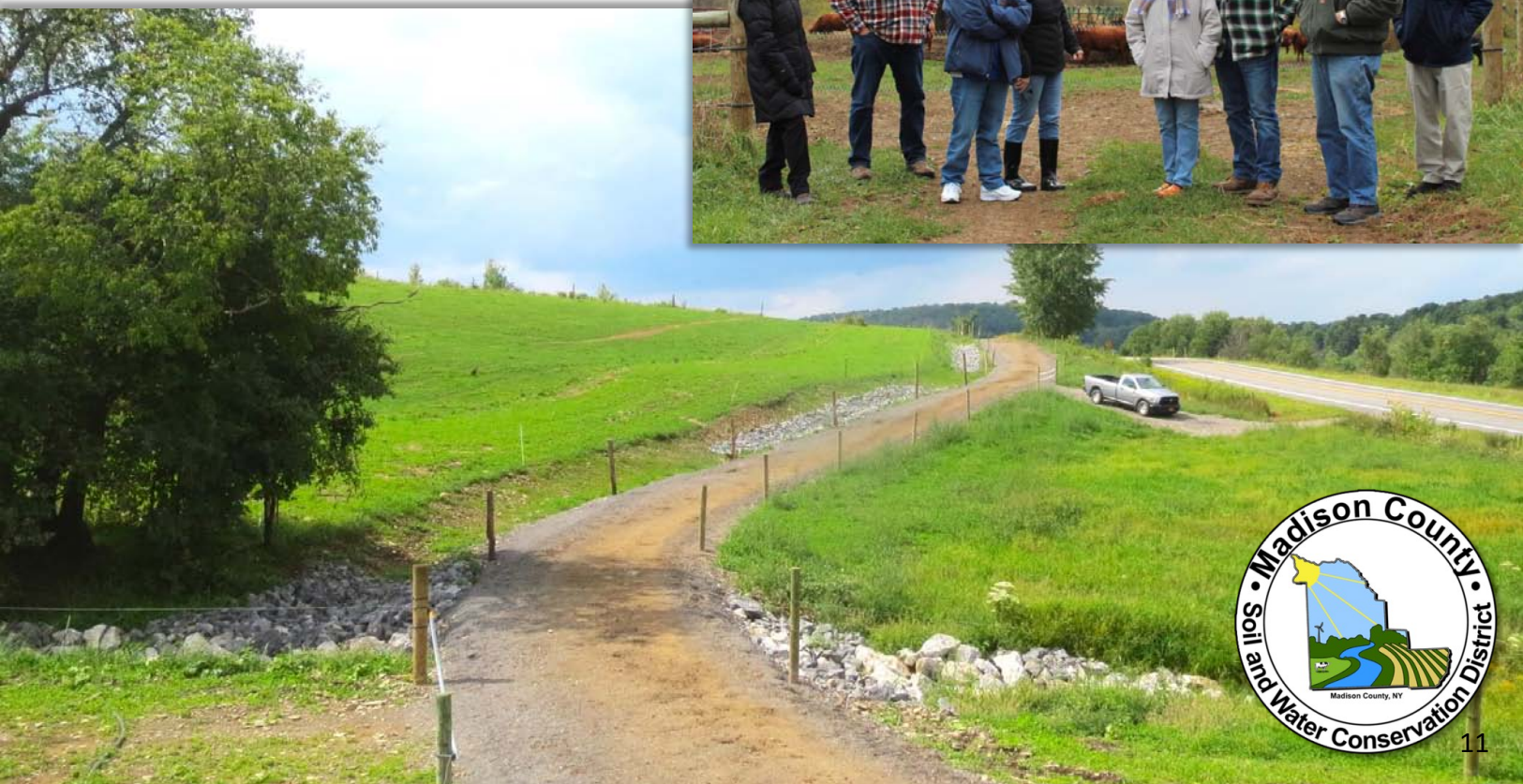
The First phase of our SRBC Funded Chenango River Restoration Project was implemented this fall with the planting of 1,600 trees and shrubs across 6 acres of wetland and buffer area. A portion of the planting was done by contractor, with a volunteer planting completing the effort. The project, in partnership with Chenango SWCD, and the project landowner, the Chenango Greenway Conservancy will ultimately result in 500+ feet of streambank stabilization, 19+ acres of wetland restoration and enhancement, and 7.1 acres of riparian forest restoration, all which will be protected in perpetuity by this conservation-minded landowner.



Madison County SWCD Hosts Local Project Tour

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

On a picturesque fall day, Madison County SWCD welcomed NYACD members, district staff and guests for a bus tour of diverse projects and a few area history lessons led by District Manager, Steve Lorraine. The group got a looksee at an organic dairy farm's covered barnyard project from last year and how it fared against some intense rain events with management changes and some redesign work during frozen ground scenarios. The 2 ½ hour trip also showcased several recently completed township stream culvert jobs, cover crop plantings, a laneway and silage leachate collection system for 280 organic cows and ending up at an ongoing heavy use area construction project with planted riparian buffer site for a 40 head cow/calf beef operation. The trip wouldn't be complete within the dairy county without milk and cookies for all the guests and a hardy thank you from Madison County.



“The Best Time to Plant a Tree was 10 Years Ago”

By: Thomas Flynn - USC Conservation Technician

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition used funding from the NYS DEC's Water Quality Improvement Program to contract Shenandoah Habitats to bring a vision into reality. Shenandoah habitats hired a team called 7 Rivers to plant over 2,250 trees and shrub over 7 acres in a day's work. This project was the intersection of multiple different partnerships actualizing on a conservation goal that benefits not only the environment but the family's farm for generations.



Tree and shrub tubes with bark mulch inoculated with mycelium, simulating a forest floor. The mulch suppresses weeds while providing a diversity of bacteria and fungus to breakdown any pathogens that could stunt or kill the young plant.

Steep sloping hills abruptly flatten and meet the floodplain of the Cayuta Creek. The farmers drawn to the valley's rich soils aptly named the adjacent road Hickory Grove Rd. Reminiscent of the dense stands of masting trees that once flourished. Shagbark Hickories still remain few and far between but, during the planning process the Stoscheck family saw an opportunity to reintroduce these fruit and nut bearing species of plants.

Reintroducing edible food not only feeds the family but also feeds the animals. Forgetful squirrels burying Hickory nuts and migrating birds carrying elderberry seeds all become diligent workers of conservation. Spreading these fruit and nut bearing species of plants over time. Feeding macroinvertebrates, ducks, otters and their families for generations.

Two neighboring siblings desire to turn their backyards into a productive food forest shared goals with a larger watershed conservation vision. 1,500 feet of the Cayuta Creek now has species growing that will feed human and animal families for generations. Experienced wild food foragers, the Stoschecks see their landscape as a generational food forest.

With 2 decades of experience in growing apple trees, the team at Eve's Cidery and the USC incorporated the similar soil conservation methods to the newly planted trees. Applying cleaned cardboard and mulch infused with mycelia, a forest floor is simulated for the next 2 to 3 years.

During the process of mulching, snapping turtle eggs were found. An unusual occurrence for November, suggesting that the warmer fall may have caused a late nesting for a local turtle family. Mild falls and warmer winter conditions could justify incorporating more southern species of trees such as the Paw Paw or Persimmon tree. As climate changes so will fruit species and pests that tolerate the more mild winters.

Autumn and Ezra Stoscheck decommissioned a section of their pasture to create a riparian forest buffer. With help from the Chemung Soil and Water Conservation District they shifted the pasture's fence to make way for the afforestation efforts. Autumn and Ezra own and operate Eve's Cidery, a nationally and internationally recognized cidery; the uniqueness of their orchard shines through their cider because of their dedication to organic conservation methods. They work with the land not against it. Believing that “a path to planet, animal and plant health begins with the soil.”



While spreading mulch snapping turtle eggs were found. An unusual occurrence for November, the warmer September and October may have caused a late breeding cycle.

Ag Committee Updates

By Emily Dekar - USC Ag Coordinator

While it has been a long few years of meeting in the virtual world, that time has finally started to come to an end. On October 21st, the USC was able to hold our first in person Ag Committee meeting since the face-to-face world was put on hold in March of 2020. We focused the meeting on bringing all of our SWCD staff and partners back to the table to discuss the USC's priorities, and program opportunities. Almost 50 people attended from SWCDs, NRCS, FSA, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and NYS DEC, with quite a few new faces in the room. With presentations on the USC, NY's TMDL and the demands of the Agricultural Programs, Grazing and Outreach in the watershed, training opportunities, a spotlight of Cortland Counties Cover Crop program, and a presentation on NYS Ag and Markets Milk Inspection Program, it was a packed agenda.

Thank you for those that presented and those that attended, it was great to get back together and meet a lot of new staff. We are looking to continue holding in person Ag Team and Ag Committee meetings on a more regular basis. If you would like to be added to the email list for the USC Ag Committee, please reach out to Emily Dekar, dekare@tiogacountyny.gov.



2022 Watershed Wednesdays Wraps Up

Our third year of Watershed Wednesdays wrapped up in early November. With 8 sessions, 153 webinar participants, and 167 online video views and counting, the series was a successful outreach tool for our team. We want to thank our speakers, Amy Wyant and the Otsego County Conservation Association, and our participants for tuning in and interacting. Topics this year included Ag-related webinars, streambank erosion, reforestation, invasive species and new climate initiatives. Visit our webpage www.u-s-c.org/ww for webinar resources both from this year, and from 2020 and 2021. Videos are also posted on our youtube page: www.u-s-c.org/youtube

Opportunities in the Watershed

USC BUFFER STEWARD COORDINATOR

SALARY GRADE: \$15.00-\$18.00/hour, depending on qualifications. Benefits may be provided.

ADOPTED: 08/2022 Tioga Co. Personnel & Civil Service

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position is responsible for researching, planning and coordinating various programs related to natural resource conservation and forest establishment within the Upper Susquehanna and Chemung Watersheds. The work involves tasks such as, but not limited to: developing educational training materials, interacting with various landowners, contractors, Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) members, and the Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District in order to accomplish program and project goals. Work is performed under the direct supervision of the Program Coordinator. Performs related work as required.



TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

- Coordinates and implements district programs involving the organization of forest establishment information;
- Makes management decisions regarding forest establishment.
- Performs and expedites tasks associated with young forest establishment, including planning, contracting, oversight and maintenance;
- Meets with landowners and USC team members to provide assistance with established plans, procedures and goals;
- Conducts plant survival assessments;
- Coordinates educational trainings, workshops, and hosts events in order to educate USC members, partners, volunteers and landowners on young forest establishment;
- Prepares various reports related to USC programs and activities;
- Completes other duties as assigned by the Conservation District Manager and Buffer Coordinator.

FULL PERFORMANCE, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Thorough knowledge of principles and practices of natural resource conservation with an emphasis in forest management and establishment; thorough knowledge of Best Management practices for water quality, water management, and related practices; good knowledge of techniques and practices of verbal and written communication and the ability to present ideas clearly and effectively, both written and orally; ability to deal effectively with the public and to represent conservation programs to interested parties; ability to compile and prepare reports; ability to create, foster and facilitate networks of partner agencies and organizations to achieve program goals; working knowledge of geographic information systems (GIS) platform, map reading and creation; working knowledge of plant identification; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS (Either):

- a. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resource management, watershed restoration, conservation, or closely related field; OR
- b. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's degree in forestry, natural resource management, watershed restoration, conservation, or closely related field and two (2) years of full-time experience (or its part-time equivalent) in the field of natural resource conservation or closely related field.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Must possess an appropriate and valid NYS driver's license at the time of appointment and continuously during employment to perform essential duties occurring during the normal course of work. Position will be provisional dependent upon passing a civil service exam.

To Apply: Email resume and cover letter to Lydia Brinkley (lbrinkley@u-s-c.org) and Wendy Walsh (WalshW@tiogacountyny.gov).

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. - Assistant Program Manager



New York State Federation
of Lake Associations

The New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), Inc. is a 501(c) not-for-profit organization whose membership consists of lake associations, individuals, and lake management professionals. NYFOLA's mission is "To protect the water resources of New York by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts." In addition, NYFOLA collaborates with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to coordinate the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), the state's largest volunteer lake monitoring program.

This is a part-time position primarily located in LaFayette, NY. Some occasional travel may be required including travel to the NYFOLA annual conference in early May. There is also flexibility to complete some tasks remotely with prior arrangements with the NYFOLA Director.

Duties to include –

- NYFOLA Membership – Update and maintain NYFOLA membership database, website, records, and Listserv.
- Assist NYFOLA Director with membership communications and outreach.
- NYFOLA Annual Conference – Update and maintain conference registrations and registration confirmations to attendees. Layout annual program for printing. Prepare attendee packages (name tags, meal tickets, etc.). Assist with onsite registration desk, Silent Auction, and other onsite duties as needed. Assist members of the Board of Directors with planning, registration, and other duties at their request.
- NYFOLA Newsletter – Solicit articles, edit, and layout 3x/year newsletter "Waterworks." Prepare printed newsletters for mailing with US Postal Service software and labels.
- Fulfill book orders and other requests for information from NYFOLA.
- Update and maintain database of CSLAP volunteers and contact information.
- Review and enter online field data, as needed during the CSLAP season, and assist with other functions as deemed necessary.

Candidates must:

- Be familiar with Microsoft Office including Publisher
- Have strong verbal and written communication skills
- Have strong time management skills to work flexible hours
- Have a valid driver's license and reliable access to a vehicle for transportation (mileage reimbursement for work travel will be provided)
- Have reliable internet access for approved remote work
- Be able to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- It is recommended that candidates
- Are familiar with WordPress web hosting tools
- Are experienced with either nonprofit or business administration
- Have some experience in public relations, grant writing, fundraising or membership development
- Are customer service oriented, can work with a variety of professional and nonprofessional clients, to convey professionalism and courtesy

An associate or bachelor's degree with some background in hydrology or limnology is preferred.

Compensation, Benefits and hours to be discussed with application.

Interested should submit resume and 2 writing examples to Nancy Mueller fola@nysfola.org or NYFOLA c/o Nancy Mueller, Manager, PO Box 84, LaFayette, NY 13084

Opportunities in the Watershed

Opportunities in the Watershed

USC RIPARIAN BUFFER STEWARDS

Office Location: Cortland, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, and Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Specify in cover letter which counties you would consider working in.

Seeking stewards for the 2023 summer season. 8-10 positions are open.



Position Description:

Riparian buffer stewards support the establishment of young forests, such as riparian forest buffers, throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in NY. Stewards travel throughout a given area to monitor reforestation, perform and coordinate management activities, and write reports. Riparian and young forest restoration is a priority for water and habitat quality within the Chesapeake Bay. Stream, wetland, and agriculture team support may also be required. Stewards will work closely with a SWCD supervisor and as part of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition Buffer Team. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the work of SWCDs, and Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration.

Steward tasks will include:

- Perform tasks associated with riparian and young forest establishment, including data collection, monitoring, development of management activities and oversight of management. This will include species identification, in field measurements, and report writing.
- Perform riparian buffer implementation, including the planning, design, installation, and maintenance of streamside buffers. Buffer maintenance includes weeding tree tubes, replacing protective materials, weed wacking, mowing, and management oversight.
- Provide direct, one-on-one assistance to landowners on buffer implementation and maintenance;
- Educate and coordinate volunteer groups, landowners, and municipalities; and
- Work with other stewards throughout the watershed performing similar tasks.

Qualifications include: Excellent verbal communication skills with interest in working with the public, valid NYS Driver's License with reliable transportation, ability to perform physically demanding work in an outdoor setting, flexibility to occasionally work weekend hours, and interest in forestry, habitat restoration or public outreach. Ability to utilize ArcGIS is preferred.

Supervision/Location: Stewards will be based at within counties throughout the Upper Susquehanna Watershed, including Tioga, Cortland, Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District offices. The stewards will be supervised in the field by each respective district and participate in Upper Susquehanna Coalition Buffer Team events throughout the watershed. Stewards may be asked to assist in other counties for extended periods.

Schedule: This stewardship position is full time (40 hours per week) beginning in May/June and ending in the fall, with a potential for extension. Stewards may adjust their schedule as needed to accommodate for time off, pending approval from the SWCD. Weekend work may be required, but will likely be seldom.

Travel: Travel will be limited to within the Chesapeake Bay watershed in NY. Travel is limited to day trips using a work assigned vehicle.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to Lydia Brinkley at lbrinkley@u-s-c.org. Applicant review will continue until all positions are filled. We anticipate filling all positions by March, 2023. There are 8-10 positions to be filled.