



Quarterly

NEWSLETTER



DATES TO REMEMBER

July:



19 - Urban Nutrient Management Kickoff Meeting

August:



1 - Cortland County Buffer Steward Day
2-4 - USC Wetland Delineation Training
4 - RCPP Application Deadline

9 - Broome County Buffer Steward Day
11 - 3rd Annual NYS FOLA Conference
25 - USC Bi-Monthly Meeting, Owego, NY

September:



15 - Watershed Forum early registration deadline
18 - Week of Conservation Skills Workshop

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RCPP Application Deadline: August 4, 2023

The USC has partnered with New York NRCS to bring focused conservation program funding to the region. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) uses partnerships to coordinate and target resources to address regional conservation goals. August 4, 2023 is the application cutoff date for targeted conservation projects through the RCPP in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment. This round of special funding will be used to implement practices to address streambank priority resource concerns. Local SWCDs and NRCS offices will work together to provide assistance to producers in the project area in developing and implementing conservation practices. Interested farmers and landowners that are located within the Upper Susquehanna Watershed should contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District office or their local NRCS office for additional information and to obtain an application. NRCS office staff will be able to help confirm eligibility.

Elementary School Kids Experience Meaningful Watershed Education through Tree Planting

By: Bailey Park, Broome SWCD and Lydia Brinkley, USC

Broome County SWCD and the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) Buffer Team partnered with George F. Johnson Elementary School in Endicott, NY in June to plant trees and educate youth on why we are planting trees in the watershed. There was interest initially from school administrators in creating an outdoor, educational event that would involve students K-5 in a tree planting exercise. Utilizing the Trees for Tributaries Program and Arbor Day Foundation funding, the riparian buffer planting took place along Brixius Creek; a waterbody flowing through the school's property.

A total of ten classes participated in 1 hour time blocks throughout the day. Approximately 165 students engaged in the event involving tree leaf/bark identification, learning the importance of streamside buffers and the benefits they provide, an artistic tree bark rubbing activity exploring different textures, and planting trees/shrubs within the buffer area. Each class separated into small groups for the planting portion and were assisted by our Buffer Team in the planting process. Each class learned how to correctly plant a tree & helped establish 120 trees/shrubs by the end of the day!



While it was a hot day, and maybe not the most suitable for tree planting, many students were excited to come back very soon with water to help the plants out. Teachers were also committing to returning with watering strategies. It'll take follow up from these students and teachers to make the project successful, and they were excited and committed!

This planting event was an excellent opportunity to combine agency-wide outreach and community involvement in our local schools. Elementary school students walked away with an experience they will remember and bring home to share with their families. Efforts such as these are used to promote conservation awareness in younger generations. With the expanded funding from Arbor Day Foundation, larger stock trees were used in more visible areas. All involved felt a sense of accomplishment after the event, especially us staff!



USC Water Quality Program Expanded to Fund Afforestation Projects throughout the Watershed

By: Lydia Brinkley, USC Buffer Coordinator

Our tried-and-true Upper Susquehanna Coalition Water Quality Program is being expanded to fund afforestation projects throughout the landscape thanks to a recent award by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). This new grant that will expire March 2025, includes the goals of planting trees within urban areas, riparian areas, and upland areas. So often we're in a position where we're implementing a riparian buffer yet there is another opportunity on the farm to plant trees in an old field or for agroforestry. Now we have the funding capacity to do that.

Writing of this grant proposal was spurred on by feedback from many districts regarding landowner interest in reforesting parts of old agricultural fields. This, in addition to the USC not being able, at the time, to access Regenerate NY for landowners, led to us jumping at the opportunity to obtain funding for afforestation across the watershed. Additionally, research from The Nature Conservancy and Cornell University show that there is significant opportunity for afforestation within our watershed (their research was spurred on by carbon initiatives). This funding will allow for some invasive species management, site preparation, volunteer engagement, plan development, pollinator seed, and stewardship.

It's easy to access the funding! Just fill out the USC WQ Program application to request funds. The application can be found on the USC website, members only page, or by contacting a USC staff member. If you are unsure about applying for a project, reach out anyway and we can help you walk through the



Hardwood planting among slash and slash wall deer exclusion as part of an NRCS EQIP Forestry project in Tompkins County.

project or application. This funding is available to USC members throughout New York and Pennsylvania. While no match is specifically required, projects with at least 10% match will be prioritized.



Deer exclusion fence being implemented in the Mud Creek watershed, Steuben County

Learning Pasture Management Advances Practical Knowledge

By: Troy Bishopp , USC Grass Whisperer & Madison SWCD Grazing Specialist

Deansboro, NY – On May 18th, 38 local New York State Conservation Agency professionals herded up at Bishopp Family Farm for a unique in-field training and “moo-ving” experience about practical pasture management initiated by seasoned farmer and Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District’s resident “Grass Whisperer” Troy Bishopp.

The sold-out training opportunity funded by the NYS CDEA, engaged new and seasoned Conservation District employees using the Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) grazing planning matrix, NYSSWCC field staff, USDA-NRCS/FSA conservation staff, private planners, CCE educators and ag professionals who were interested in understanding the context, tools, and application of practical grazing on the ground and helping farmers be successful practitioners within the grazing model.

Troy and his wife, Corrine welcomed the group on a picturesque day with a snapshot of farm family history since 1890, goals and what a custom grass-finishing beef business entails. And of course, a look at the all-important grazing chart and strategic grazing plan, which Bishopp said, “Is imperative to build resilience, optimize animal performance, remain profitable, reduce stress and gain camping days with the family.

The Grass Whisperer introduced a grazing residual trial in which he used a mower to simulate grazing heights from 1 to 8 inches. Professionals learned that the shorter the residual, the slower the daily plant growth and accumulating dry matter forage inventory for future grazing. On the way to the cattle paddocks, he highlighted fencer technology, tree planting and how paddocks were laid out with watering points.

Kristen Workman, Pro-Dairy Nutrient Management/Environmental Sustainability Specialist stimulated minds as she dug around bale grazing spots and addressed soil health indicators as well as the importance of sod cover, soil temperature and achieving improved water infiltration for the ongoing dry period. She also talked about pasture forage, forbs and weeds and what they indicate for a pasture resource.

Bishopp’s favorite pasture routine is getting the group to act like cows and mimic various stock densities



...Continued on page 5

within different paddock designs (square vs rectangular) and see how the herd can affect grazing, manuring and trampling impact on the land. Plus, it's just fun to learn techniques that can be used at pasture walks for educational purposes.



Using grazing planning calculation tools and the Bishopp's beef cattle example as a guide, agency professionals did a ground-truthing forage inventory exercise using a pasture stick and learned the grazing concept— "that ballpark is good enough". They saw, first-hand what the dry matter/ forage availability numbers look like on the ground and how to interpret sizing a paddock for a customer.

The group also learned beef grazing behavior results of various fence movement strategies (daily to multiple moves per day) and which grazing practices achieved what outcome. There was also a discussion about targeting grazing management to optimize grassland bird habitat and wildlife management within the farm's context.

Lunch featured a relaxed setting on the lawn, highlighting the farm's beef with all the fixings prepared by Chef Corrine and enough local Roc-Star ice-cream to satisfy any conservationist's palate.

After lunch, John Suscovich, Media guy, Farm Marketing Solutions Entrepreneur, Connecticut's pastured poultry guru and small farm planner described what small farms need for grazing planning and frankly, "A fresh set of independent, technical advisors from the conservation profession to help customers make land management decisions". He explained how conservation/agency organizations could market better to the small farm demographic. And of course, he dove-tailed what quality pasture looks like and needs to be, "to optimize happiness for broiler and layer chickens".

The well-fed group then met at one of the farm's main streams to advance discussion on the dynamics of planning a stream crossing and what design criteria should be considered given the watershed above, "which isn't always correct from "stream-stats" and should be vetted by a field visit". Led by Madison County's SWCD Technician, Andrew Haslauer and Oneida County's SWCD Resource Conservation Specialist, Tim Wimmer, with experience in the field, they also taped what various buffer widths (35', 50' & 100') looked like that featured a lively exchange on what professionals could "sell" to landowners.

The group also accessed erosion points, grazing management context, how weather events effect the stream morphology, techniques and structural practices that could enhance flood mitigation and what conservation programs could be implemented on the site to help the farm maintain their water quality goals.

The group continued up the farm laneway to see the integration of planted shelter-belts (larch, honey & black locust, white pine and sycamore) adjacent to the pasture system and ending with a looksee about the attributes of an ongoing Conservation Stewardship Program which has furthered more tree planting within a riparian area and helps the farm manage for wildlife and forage goals.

A trip to the Bishopp Family Farm wouldn't be complete without a photo op of friends paying homage to the iconic "Thinking Tree" that overlooks the pastures, streams, the farmstead, and the next generation's opportunities to steward the land.

The grazing training was supported by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association, Pro-Dairy, Madison and Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Bishopp Family Farm.



Community Actions, Opportunities and Relationships

By: Ranier Lucas, USC Riparian Buffer Technician

What do community options mean to you? Some might say it's a list of things to do within your community such as recreational activities, public events, and local restaurants and business you can support. Others might say it is supporting the community around you by volunteering. We see it just the same; having options for everyone that facilitate actions, relationships, and strength in the community.

This spring, the USC and Broome SWCD partnered with Community Options to host a volunteer tree planting event at Schnurbusch Park. Community Options is a non-profit organization that "believes in the dignity of every person, and in the freedom of all people to experience the highest degree of self-determination". Schnurbusch Park is one of the many parks that the organization regularly visits and we were extremely happy that we were able to partner with them to help create a higher degree of relationship for them to the park and the environment.



Project Spotlight: Access Road Repair from Madison County SWCD

By: Troy Bishopp , USC Grass Whisperer & Madison SWCD Grazing Specialist

After many rain and snow events, flooding and road washouts, the farm was looking for help and Madison County Soil and Water Conservation delivered. This steep access road project located within the Sangerfield River Watershed encompassed over 950 feet of a 12' roadway on a 10 to 16% grade with 12 water bars diverting water into the adjacent pastures. This main trunk of the grazing system is used every day for livestock and tractor travel to reach the customer's fields and wintering/lambing barn.



Roadway before weather events



Photos:

Upper left:
Roadway
Erosion
concerns

Upper right
and lower
left: during
construction

Below: after





Friends of the
CHEMUNG RIVER
W A T E R S H E D
Welcomes a New Director

Friends of the Chemung River Watershed has hired a new director, Elizabeth “Liz” Zilinski, and an Outreach Coordinator, Karen Charnetski. Liz has worked with nonprofit organizations in various capacities for over a decade, providing grant writing, copyediting, marketing, and fundraising services. She’s served on several boards of directors and also manages websites for multiple nonprofits, including Chemung Valley Audubon Society, Horseheads Family Resource Center, and Chemung River Friends. Brought in as the interim executive director in February 2023, the board formally appointed Mrs. Zilinski to the position on May 1, 2023.

Mrs. Zilinski intends to continue the wonderful programs that Chemung River Friends currently offers: river clean-ups, watercolor workshops, fly fishing workshops, river safety workshops and the kayak rental program. She’s also going to expand the River Guardians volunteer program to provide more opportunities for families to directly participate in environmental stewardship programs and expand the educational offerings from the organization. The organization developed a five-year strategic plan in 2022 that will inform their mission and programming for the next few years.

Karen Charnetski was hired as the Outreach Coordinator on May 31, 2023—the first time the organization has had a second permanent employee. With Mrs. Charnetski on board and with the partnership of the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition, the Chemung Valley Audubon Society, and Tanglewood Nature Center, we can expect more community outreach and free and low-cost programs for those who live and work in the Chemung River Watershed. Friends is also planning to install the first ADA-accessible boat launch in Chemung County as part of their commitment to making the river accessible to all people.

Please visit our website, ChemungRiverFriends.org, to learn more about our programs and outreach efforts or to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

Opportunities in the Watershed

SWCD District Manager Position Announcement

Chemung County SWCD is accepting applications for a full-time District Manager. The position is responsible for supervising the County’s natural resource conservation programs as approved by the District Board of Directors. The incumbent coordinates the assistance of cooperating local, state and federal agencies in the execution of district programs. Manages all administrative and technical functions of the District. Represents the District and County interest in the formulation of regional, state and federal natural resource policies and programs...

The full position announcement and application can be found on the Chemung SWCD webpage:

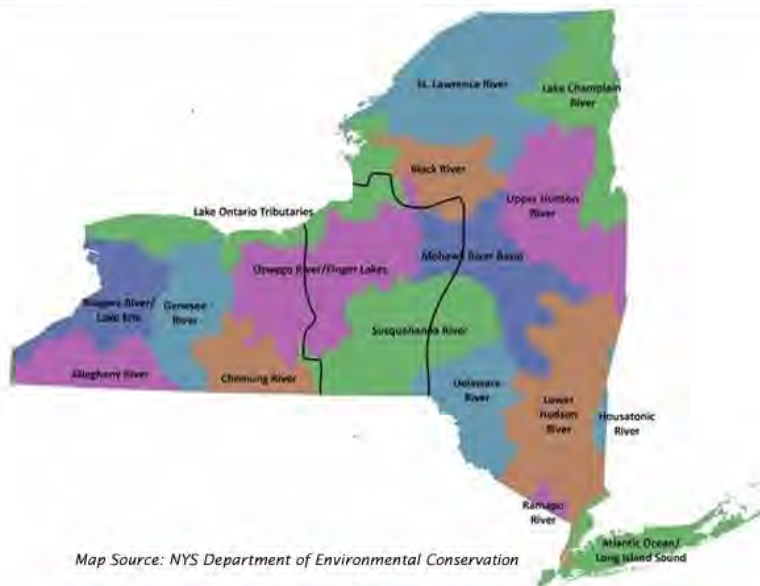
<https://www.chemungcountyswcd.net/district-manager-position.html>

CNY 3RD ANNUAL REGIONAL NYSFOLA CONFERENCE

Your Watershed in Focus

August 11, 2023

9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Map Source: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Register online at www.nysfola.org

Join us for the third CNY Regional NYSFOLA Conference!

“Your Watershed in Focus” will examine two emerging chemical compounds threatening the health of our lakes. “Forever chemicals” (polyfluoroalkyl substances) and “neonics” (synthetic systemic insecticides) will be the focus of Dr. Steven Souza and Dr. Douglas Merrill, respectively. Kevin Stack will then introduce us to “biomimicry” and enlighten us on learning from and mimicking the strategies found in nature for sustainable solutions.

The afternoon will focus on sharing projects from our CNY lakes using a broader lens to review watershed projects to improve the health of our lake systems. Presenters include Frank Moses from Skaneateles Lake, Amanda Barber from Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and members from our Kettle Lakes coalition and Echo Lake. We will end with a short section on current programs available for HABs detection.

Ample time is built-in for attendees to meet the exhibitors. It is also a unique opportunity to network with other regional lake residents and learn the work others are doing to protect and preserve our treasured watersheds.



The Stars Reception Hall at the Pavilion
Dwyer Memorial Park
6799 Little York Road
Preble, NY

Registration is \$30.00 and closes on August 7

Buffer Steward Season in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed

By: Ava Glasser, USC Buffer Steward Coordinator

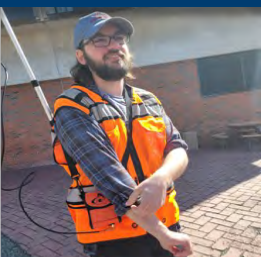
The buffer monitoring season is now in full swing as 10 stewards from across the upper Susquehanna watershed are hard at work caring for riparian tree & shrub plantings. This year, 8 counties are participating in the Upper Susquehanna Coalition buffer steward program, which assists in the hiring and training of seasonal workers to provide support for districts in the form of riparian forest buffer maintenance and survival monitoring. Buffer stewards are out in the field managing invasive and competing vegetation, performing survival assessments, fixing plant supports and taking detailed notes to help each buffer reach program goals, and mature into a healthy forest.



As a part of ongoing training and team building, group workdays are hosted throughout the season in each participating district's county and are open to all district staff and interested volunteers from other agencies. So far, we have done lots of replanting, monitoring, practicing tree ID, invasive plant removal and weed whacking as a crew to get our buffers on track for success. To date, we have planted 550 trees, stewarded 40 acres, and hosted over 50 participants at these workdays, with more to come! The group work days, when combined with all the independent stewardship being done in each county, provide a huge amount of assistance to many acres of riparian buffer in need. Stewardship is an important aspect of making sure trees & shrubs thrive- without active maintenance, buffers can easily be taken over by invasive plants, crowded out by competing grasses, chewed down by deer or toppled over if shelter & support are missing. Stewards are on the front lines of making sure our waterways become forested and stay forested.

We're so glad to have all our amazing stewards on the job this summer, read a bit more about each of them below!

2023 Buffer Stewards



Bradford County -

- Hi, my name's Dash Reasinger. I was born and raised in the Allentown PA area, and in the spring of 2023 I graduated from Mansfield University with a Bachelor's degree in watershed management. Currently I am the riparian buffer steward for Bradford County PA.

Dash

Ryan



Broome County -

- I joined SWCD because I wanted to have a more direct and impactful interaction with the natural world. As someone who aspires to work within the environmental field, the most important traits that matter to me are community, respect, and passion. I am passionate about learning new skills and taking on challenges and I am looking forward to doing both this summer. My goal this summer is to develop a deeper understanding of the natural world and my role as a member of the larger biotic community.



Destiny

Chenango County -

- Hello, my name is Destiny Teachout. I'm a Buffer Steward at Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District. I'm originally from Mexico, NY, but I live in Vernon, NY. I'm pursuing my bachelor's in environmental and natural resources management at SUNY Morrisville. I took this position as an internship to gain experience and knowledge for my future endeavors. I like hiking, cooking, reading, yoga, making art, and working out in my free time.

I'm looking forward to the season!

Cortland County -

- I am Cody Wilk, a conservation assistant in the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District. I am the Riparian Buffer Steward for Cortland County this summer. I am entering my senior year at SUNY Morrisville in the Environmental and Natural Resources Management Bachelor's program. I have received my Associates degree in Natural Resources with a minor in forestry. After school, I plan on staying in the environmental workforce in some perspective.



Cody

Brandon

Delaware County -

- My name is Brandon Wright, and I am 20 years old going into my third year of college at SUNY Cobleskill. I am going for my bachelor's degree in environmental management in hopes to become a Fish and Game Warden or conservation officer after college. I really enjoy activities outside such as hiking, biking, skiing, playing sports, hunting, fishing, and riding snowmobiles and ATV's. I also volunteer my time every winter at Plattekill Mountain with the National Ski Patrol. I truly believe if you strive for the things you enjoy in life as your career field, it becomes more of a hobby rather than a job. This is also my second summer here working as an intern with the Delaware County Soil and Water as a Riparian Buffer Steward.
- Hi, my name is Sophia and I am a recent Environmental Science graduate from Binghamton University. Currently, I am a buffer steward for Delaware County, and I am excited for this opportunity since I will be helping manage the Susquehanna watershed. In my free time, I enjoy riding my bike, hiking, and stargazing. I look forward to a great summer of working outdoors!



Sophia

Madison County -

- My name is Tommy Conklin, and I am a Buffer Steward for the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District. I am originally from Munnsville, NY where I grew up on small family dairy farm, and surrounded by nature. I am currently finishing up my Bachelor's degree in Environmental and Natural Resources Management at SUNY Morrisville. My favorite hobbies would include fishing, kayaking, and camping.



Thomas

Reya

Otsego County -

- Growing up along the Conestoga River has given me a deep love of the Susquehanna watershed as well as a firsthand look at the struggles it faces. Because of this I'm thrilled to be working with the Otsego community to help conserve this important watershed for future generations of people, fish, insects (and more!) to come.
- Hello my name is Shamar Fitzpatrick, I live in Ames NY. I attended SUNY Cobleskill from 2002-2005, where I received an associate's degree in animal science. I returned to SUNY Cobleskill in 2021 and graduated May 15 2023 with a bachelors in environmental management. I am a mom of 2; my son is 11 years old and my daughter is 14. I love hiking, camping, kayaking and gardening. I also enjoy canning and baking.



Shamar

Tioga County -

- My name is Shawna Stevenson, I am a graduate student at Binghamton University in the Geography Department. I'm happy to join the USC Buffer Team as a steward this year to learn more about ecologically integrative ways to improve water quality and habitats and the public-private cooperation which makes it possible. My research explores water resource management, waste management, conservation policy, and regional planning. In my free time, I enjoy cooking, making art, music, and playing outside.



Shawna

Bradford County Conservation District Starts New Eels in the Classroom Ambassador Program

By Dan Rhodes-Education Coordinator-Bradford County Conservation District

Thanks in large part to a Department of Environmental Education grant awarded to the Bradford County Conservation District this past spring, Bradford County students will be greeted to a very unusual sight as they enter their schools to start the 2023/2024 school year this fall. As they walk up to new aquariums teeming with some strange species of aquatic wildlife, some might ask, is that a snake? Others might ask, 'is that a fish'? Still others might shout, 'that is the largest salamander I've ever seen!' Unfortunately, they'd be wrong on all counts, as the brand-new aquariums, filters, and curriculum in their classrooms are centered around the history, biology, and conservation of the incredible American eel.

'Why eels...?' you might ask. They haven't been common in the Susquehanna River watershed for at least 100 years! Why put so much time, resources, and money into teaching kids about a single, relatively obscure fish species that seems to be part snake? The answer to that question might surprise you. Out of the dozens of past/present fish species that have called the Susquehanna River basin their home over the last few thousand years, there is certainly no fish more important to the economic, ecological, and culinary history of the watershed!

So how can one unassuming fish species be so important, and where is the evidence for such claims? Believe it or not, the evidence to support these claims is everywhere! To begin with, let's start with the culinary and economic importance of eels and go on from there. Going back thousands of years, Native Americans built and installed eel traps called 'weirs', across the Susquehanna River and its' tributaries to annually capture hundreds, if not thousands of eels during their annual spawning migration to the sea. Apparently, eel meat was high in protein and fat needed by people for survival when crops failed, or wildlife was scarce. Even today, these ancient eel weirs can be seen via google earth, as the stone remnants of their 'V' shaped structures can be seen even from the most basic satellite imagery. When you get the chance, check out Danville, PA on google maps and scroll west a couple of hundred yards from the bridge across the Susquehanna. It won't take a magnifying glass to clearly see a stone weir 'V' shaped structure still in the river to this day.

Besides Native Americans, early colonial folks also benefitted from and intensely enjoyed the culinary value of American eels as table fare. Early colonial settlers fresh off the boat in the New World, survived some hard times in the 17th century because they were eventually able to catch migratory eels and preserve the meat for consumption over the cold winter months. Besides roasted turkey, corn, squash, beans, and many other traditional food staples still enjoyed today, even the first Thanksgiving feast included American eel as a major component of the meal. As time went on, commercial eel fisheries were established throughout not only the Susquehanna River basin, but across the entire eastern United States and especially in the Mid-Atlantic region. Fishing for eels was so profitable, not only because everyone loved to eat the meat, but because there were so many eels to catch! In fact, the Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Cooperative points out within their eel restoration plan that historically, even up into the very early 20th century, American eel fish biomass estimates were as high as 50% in some Mid-Atlantic streams!

By the early 20th century however, this previously dominant, keystone fish species would become essentially extirpated from the northern reaches of the Susquehanna River basin. The large hydroelectric dams that were built during those decades served to completely cut off young migratory eel elvers from the upstream portions of the watershed. Fishing for eels could not be done sustainably throughout much of the eastern United States as young populations of eels were physically unable to replace their parents. As a result, a domino effect of negative ecological consequences ensued within many of the freshwater stream and river ecosystems across the eastern seaboard.

One such negative consequence was highlighted in 2008 through fieldwork completed by USGS, USFWS and other state agencies. Essentially, their experimental eel reintroduction surveys during this time proved the crucial importance of American eels to the continued reproduction and survival of seemingly unrelated organisms like freshwater mussels. Shockingly, it was discovered that only 5 out of 38 species of fish living in the region were suitable as reproductive hosts for freshwater mussels, and American eels were the primary reproductive host. In a nutshell, the loss of eels directly correlated to the fact that most of the 53 species of freshwater mussels in the state are now threatened, endangered, or extirpated, along with other factors such as industrial pollution, agricultural pollution, and disease.

In turn, the loss and destabilization of healthy freshwater mussel populations resulted in the loss of a MASSIVE natural filtration system that made life possible for many other species of fish, invertebrates, plants, and other organisms. To give you a picture of how significant freshwater mussels were to the health and overall ecosystem function of every stream and river in the watershed, Nevin Welte and Chris Urban from the PA fish and Boat Commission have estimated that a single, healthy, one mile stretch of freshwater mussel bed along the Susquehanna River would have historically anchored the river-bottom and prevented erosion while these animals additionally filtered out sediment, algae and bacteria through their bodies to the tune of two to four BILLION Gallons of water a day!

In short, as I hope you've gathered by now, the economic, ecological, biological, and culinary importance of eels and mussels together can not be overstated! Through the new K-12 Eels in the Classroom Curriculum I created in partnership with Johanna Hripto at SRBC as my curriculum editor; SRBC and BCCD hope to continue to use these past, present, and future natural resource issues to teach children of all ages how important and interconnected our resource-use decisions are to the health and vitality of natural systems. It is our sincere hope that by allowing students to raise a tank of eels and release them in the Susquehanna River at the end of the school year, while learning about watershed impacts and issues along the way, we can help train the next generation of watershed stewards. We are grateful for our DEP environmental education grant to start the process and look forward to seeing positive impacts and results!

To learn more about Eels in the Classroom, and how to get involved you can visit the SRBC webpage at <https://www.srbc.net/our-work/american-eels/classroom.html> or you can contact me directly via email/phone at Daniel.Rhodes@pa.nacdn.net (570) 485-3125. Bradford County's new Eels in the Classroom grant program will begin this July 2023 when the grant opens and aquariums, filtration systems, and food for the classroom eel setups can be purchased. By August I will have received from SRBC the eels transported from below the Conowingo Dam in Maryland up to our County. At that point, all participating classrooms will additionally receive their free K-12 Eels in the Classroom Curriculum. An official group eel release day will be scheduled for either late April or early May along the Susquehanna River. Additional classrooms, aquariums and eels will be added as funding, space, and supply of eels allows.

Hopefully, the future for eels in Bradford County remains bright! Take care, keep in touch, and remember to keep using natural resources wisely!

Photo by Steve Droter/Chesapeake Bay Program



Registration is Open for our 2023 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum

We are currently collecting registrations for attendees, posters, displays, vendors and sponsors. Be sure to spread the word, sign up and join us for this great event. All forum resources are available on our webpage: www.u-s-c.org/uscforum

Forum Date: October 18, 2023,

Sign in begins at 8:00 and forum activities run from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Forum Registration: Registration can be completed using our online form, or by emailing uscforum@u-s-c.org. Register by September 15 for early registration discount: \$20; registration after 9/15 is \$25

Registration fee covers forum registration and catered lunch

Location: Binghamton University
Innovative Technologies Complex
85 Murray Hill Rd
Vestal, New York 13850

SAVE THE DATE

Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum

This event is sponsored by:

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

 Choose Clean Water
COALITION

 SOUTHERN TIER
REGIONAL BOARD

 USC
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

October 18, 2023
at Binghamton University

Join us for a day of learning and sharing about Community Engagement in the Upper Susquehanna River Watershed, and ongoing efforts to improve water quality.

For more information visit:
www.u-s-c.org/uscforum

Scan Link

