



A publication of Wayne County Soil & Water



# Annual Report 2016

## NEW PROGRAMS FOR NEW YORK STATE ARE OPPORTUNITIES LOCALLY



RON THORN CONSERVATION FIELD PROGRAM MANAGER

Towards the end of 2016, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets introduced a new program with the intent of helping farmers market their commodity production to the public. As shoppers continue to become more conscientious of purchasing locally, the market for food that consumers have knowledge of its origin is expanding. The Grown & Certified program seeks to capitalize on this by providing marketing abilities to producers. Stickers featuring the logo are available for producers along with being featured on the New York State List of Certified Producers and inclusion in the marketing campaign aimed at restaurants and wholesale and retail purchasers.



The Grown & Certified stickers are made available to participating producers



Being New York State Grown & Certified will not only expand the marketing power of a farm's product, it will enhance the image of their farm as a high quality operation with high quality products.



This year's program will only be available to produce farmers but will eventually be opened up to dairy, eggs, beef and other specialty crops. Wayne County ranks as the clear leader in NYS for apple growers and hopefully will be the leader in getting this program established. Completely voluntary and free, the program is open to AEM participants at Tier 2 who have completed T2 training and are also GAP certified.

If you are an interested producer only at Tier 1 or have a Tier 2 assessment older than 3 years, we can make a quick visit to get you up to date and certifiable.

## Conservation Cover Workshop: Cover Cropping? How can it work for you?

In partnership with New York State Agricultural Markets, the District as part of the first round of funding for Soil Health, hosted a Cover Crop workshop at the Wayne Cornell Cooperative Extension office, on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. Over 25 farmers and a few industry partners attended the workshop which included the following speakers: Joe Lawrence from the PRO Dairy program at Cornell University, who covered topics on cover crop termination vs. double

### Cover Crop Workshop Observations:

1. Much planning is needed to do a good job in rotating your crops to be successful.
2. The benefits of cover cropping are numerous for soil health and water quality.
3. Varieties are constantly changing along with all the other variables such as climate.

termination and benefits of cover crops.

As one aspect of a whole farm plan, cover crops can significantly reduce soil erosion and leaching of nutrients while providing beneficial organic matter, nitrogen, weed suppression, better water infiltration and beneficial insects. Cover crops can also provide the soil with the ability to hold water longer and infiltrate better which can prove crucial in a year as hot and dry as the one we went through in 2016. As the soil has better tilth, the water will travel further down to be stored for times of drought.



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Scott DeRue, Water Quality Specialist, District Technician  
Terry Reynolds, Agriculture Implementation Specialist, District Technician  
Maxine Appleby, Conservation Public Relations Specialist  
Ian Priestley, District Technician, AEM Specialist  
Drew Starkey, District Technician, Program Specialist

## Conservation Cornerstones for 2016



Lindsey Gerstenslager,  
District Manager

“Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints!” **Chief Seattle**

December 2016 – The final month of the year is always a good time for reflection about a year full of conservation and boots-on-the-ground efforts. This year’s memories continue to highlight so much hard work throughout all of the communities of Wayne County. With over 45,000 contacts across all of the District programs for technical assistance, it leaves a great deal of conversations about conservation and how to make our communities sustainable and stronger.

Partnership and principle knowledge are the foundation of all efforts for the District throughout 2016. This year was a challenging year for water quality, erosion control, and soil health management due to weather conditions. From devastating floods in 2015 to drought conditions occurring over 50% of the County, left many in the community with numerous concerns. Because of the unwavering determination of this community, the members pushed forward on several projects with the District ready for action, but short on staff for 2017. Due to the success of in-state and grant funding efforts, the District was able to leverage local funding to begin to expand efforts to newly observed areas of concern including protecting Lake Ontario coastal infrastructure, Land Owner Assistance programs, and expansion of the Agriculture Environmental Management program of NYS.

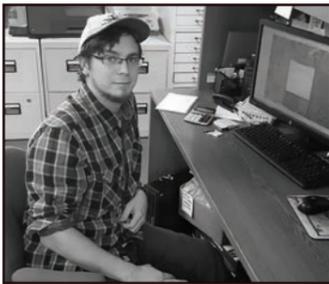
**Partnership and principle knowledge are the foundations of all efforts for the District throughout 2016.**

### The District is pleased to be able to welcome new talent to our technical staff.

Ian Priestley, who was hired to backfill the Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) Position, grew up in Lyons and, after having lived abroad for 8 years, has recently returned to Wayne County. Between spending his summers thinning peaches on his extended family’s fruit orchards and always being hauled off to do some outdoor recreation (camping, skiing, hiking, kayaking), he always knew he wanted a career that ideally dealt with both agriculture and the great outdoors. Ian went to college qualifying as an archaeologist and was fortunate enough to get site-work for a few years before the recession hit and left that field ‘in ruins.’ Fast forward a few years and Ian landed his new position as District Technician with the Wayne Co. SWCD, where he is helping run the AEM Program and lending a hand to any of the other District programs as needed. He is also a busy family man with a noisy house that includes 3 kids, Rowan, Arlo and Juniper, and an awesome wife, Annmarie, along with a bunch of chickens and a dog. **And**



Thomas Andrew Starkey, better known as Drew. As a graduate of SUNY-ESF’s Class of 2015 with a



degree in Environmental Biology, Drew began his professional career in Wayne County as an intern with the NRCS office in Lyons in the summer of 2015. This three-month position was spent primarily conducting inspections for wetland easements in the WRP Program. Growing up in central Massachusetts, he spent his middle and high school years working on one of the oldest u-pick orchards in the commonwealth. During his collegiate stint, he explored a few different areas of focus from plant genetics/propagation to successional ecology and eventually settled on soil sciences.

Outside of the classroom, Drew worked hard to complete internships with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), co-heading their environmental protection campaign, and also with Cross Island Farms, a small organic operation on Wellesley Island. During his final semester, he was fortunate enough to notice a flier in the library basement advertising summer internships with NRCS. After that position in Lyons, his skill set had been recognized by the District and he was brought on to assist in updating the County’s water quality information for the NYS DEC’s Waterbody Inventory/ Priority Waterbody List, which is a helpful tool for prioritizing the future restoration efforts of the State’s waterbodies.

After completion of this project, Drew began looking for his next adventure. From February to June 2016, he was offered a position through AmeriCorps with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Wildland Fire Technician in southeast Louisiana. Here, along with responding to wildfire details in the Appalachian Mountains of western Virginia and in the bayous of Mississippi and Alabama, they conducted prescribed burns for Longleaf Pine, Gopher Tortoise, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, and Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitats.

When Drew returned to NY, he was eager to interview for a full-time position with the District. Drew accepted the position in August 2016 and because of his previous knowledge of the District and areas of conservation programming in Wayne County he was able to spring right into technical services! Drew is the Program Specialist, District Technician; a position which handles the education, outreach, and landowner assistance programs (LAPs) such as Tree and Shrub Sale, Fish Sale, and Envirothon. Over the next two years, Drew will spend a bulk of his time on invasive species management and technical project surveys.

**We are excited to welcome both Ian and Drew to the staff and look forward to the coming 2017 Conservation Year.**

## Community Loss of a Good Friend



1932-2016

Robert VanLare, aka Bob, was no stranger to all realms of Wayne County. Serving on the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District board for over 20 years, Bob was passionate about conservation, youth education and sustainable community. He and Pat, his wife for over 60 years traveled together and supplied much knowledge and dedication through their participation in Grange, Soil & Water District, Association of Conservation Districts, and environmental education at the State and local levels through Envirothon. Bob was the two-time recipient of Conservation Association Director of the Year, Conservation District Employees Association Director of the Year, and President’s Award Recipient from the National Association of Conservation Districts. Bob’s commitment, ideas, joyful and positive spirit has impacted the work of conservation statewide and is an example of selfless service for the future of New York. Bob will be greatly missed.



Terry Reynolds,  
Agriculture  
Implementation  
Specialist

## Water Quality Improvement for the community as a result of farmer participation

Agricultural Non Point Source (AgNPS) Program.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) completed for non-point agricultural projects have resulted in cleaner water for all Wayne County residents. To date, 3.25 million dollars of BMPs have been applied under AgNPS in Wayne County. Specific watersheds receiving grants are:

- Round 15 – Canandaigua Outlet**
- Round 16 – Great Sodus Bay**
- Round 17 – Black Brook and Port Bay**
- Round 19 – Central Canal Coordinator  
Lower Ganargua Creek**

- Round 20 – Port Bay and Ganargua Creek**
- Round 21 – Black Brook and Salmon Creek West**
- Round 22 – Erie Canal West**



(AEM) is a voluntary incentive-based program that helps all farmers operate environmentally sound and economically viable businesses.

The AEM Program coordinates existing agricultural and environmental conservation agencies and programs as well as agribusiness, to provide one-stop shopping for services.

The Wayne County Water Quality Committee (WQCC) and the Wayne County Agricultural Advisory Committee have identified major contributors to the degradation of water quality in several streams and tributaries. They include runoff from manure and silage juices, and erodible areas that yield high levels of phosphorous, nitrogen, and suspended solids.

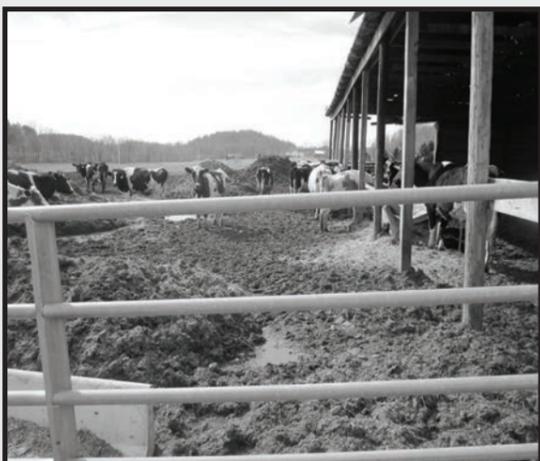
Through farm planning, BMPs that will address major contributors are identified for specific farms. Through a volunteer program, farms that agree to install BMPs sign up for the grant program and are required to cost-share for the projects. Projects include barnyard improvement, heavy use area protection, silage leachate management, soil and residue management, cover crops, waste storage, and exclusion fencing. Other projects include roof water management, water and sediment control structures (WASCOBs), agrichemical mixing facilities, diversions and waterways, prescribed grazing, animal walkways, compost facilities, and access road stabilization.

These projects, address the two most important goals identified by the Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). First and foremost, the SWCD mission is to protect and improve water quality for all residents in Wayne County. Second is to support the county's primary industry (agriculture) by assisting farmers with environmental stewardship, while at the same time keeping them economically viable. Installed projects reduce and abate nonpoint source pollutants in the watershed, thereby improving surface and ground water quality as well as reducing the loss of prime farmland.

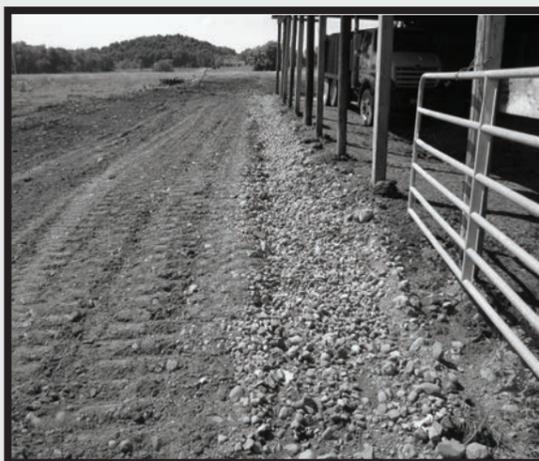
For 2017, grants have been obtained and projects are already in the planning stages including 2 silage leachate control projects, 3 barnyard improvement projects, a heavy use area protection project, and one stream corridor protection project. New opportunities are coming available for 2017, call our office for more details.

## Applying Best Management Practices (BMP) For Barnyard Run-Off

Chuck Raes operates a fourth generation organic dairy farm, milking approximately 50 cows and raising another 20 head of young stock. The farm is located in the Town of Arcadia, adjacent to Lower Ganargua Creek. Chuck is conservation minded and has always wanted to decrease the amount of polluted runoff from his farm to help improve the quality of water in Ganargua Creek. Previously, a large drumlin above the farm produced runoff that ran directly into the barnyard. In addition, roof runoff from several buildings contributed to significant amounts of clean water flowing into the barnyard. Chuck worked with the Wayne County SWCD to identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would reduce runoff



BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION



AFTER IMPLEMENTATION

The Wayne SWCD was successful in obtaining a grant under the New York State Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPS) that covered a portion of the costs to correct the problems. Clean water was excluded from the barnyard through the collection and disposal of all roof water and a diversion was constructed above the barn to intercept surface runoff. The water from these areas resulted in the need for a 24-inch culvert under the adjacent road.

This water had previously been contaminated when mixed with the manure in the barnyard.

A concrete pad was constructed for the barnyard where the effluent from this pad is collected and transferred to a vegetated treatment area.

Construction of these practices controls nutrient, pathogen, and sediment runoff, ultimately resulting in improved water quality in Ganargua Creek. The farm has also been active in the community promoting good watershed management and Best Management Practices to help improve water quality in other areas of Wayne County and surrounding areas.

Within these pages of the 2016 Annual Report, there is a highlight of some of the work that was completed in 2016. However, for complete updates and information about current program and project efforts, please visit our website at: **WayneCountyNYSoilandwater.org**

## Aquatic Vegetative Control Annual Report



Scott DeRue,  
District Technician

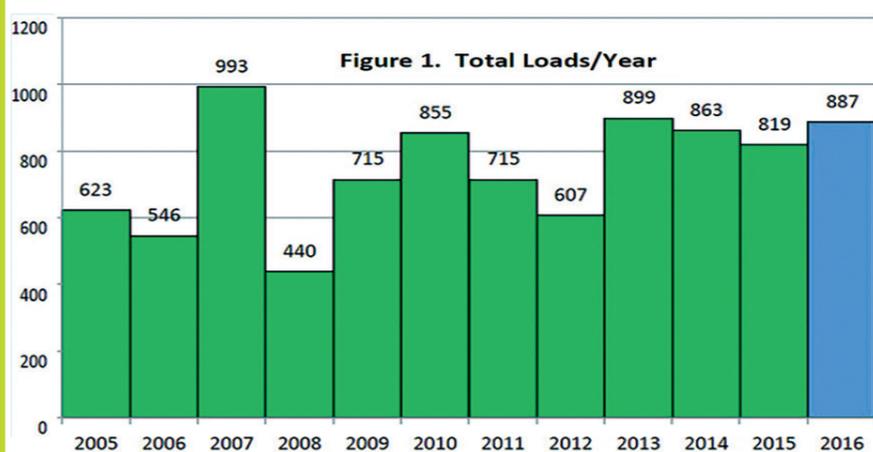
### 2016 Weed Harvesting Season

Harvesting operations for the 2016 season were carried out for 67 days between June and September. The final removal amounts for each bay are as follows;

**Sodus Bay – 775 loads,  
Port Bay – 57 loads, and  
Maxwell Bay – 55 loads.**

For the 2016 season, aquatic vegetation concentrations present in East Bay and Blind Sodus Bay were significantly less than observed in previous years.

The total amount removed from the three (3) embayments was 887 loads. The general rule in previous years has been that one (1) harvester load is equal to two (2) tons of wet plant material. With the advancements in the equipment that SWCD deploys, it has been observed that 2 tons may be a drastic under-estimation for the capacity of a single harvester.



The most important factor that influenced plant density in 2016 was the seasonal Lake Ontario water level fluctuations. Historically water levels peak in June. This year, water levels peaked in April, decreasing through the summer. Lake Ontario water levels remained below the long-term seasonal average from June through the entire harvesting season. The higher than average water levels in the spring limited the amount of early season plant growth. Once the water levels receded, a drastic increase in aquatic plant growth occurred. This was more typical in Sodus Bay where the water clarity commonly extends into the 12 feet of water depth range. Port Bay, East Bay, and Blind Sodus Bay have historically appeared more turbid, or green, than Sodus Bay. Turbidity in East and Blind Sodus Bay limited plant growth for the entire length of the AVC season. Port Bay's increased turbidity limited plant growth in the later season.



Seasonal precipitation for the 2016 AVC program could be categorized as moderate drought conditions with short, intense bursts of rain. This intense rain impacting on unsaturated soil would lead to increased surface runoff, contributing nutrients to waterbodies. Increased nutrient loading leads to increased turbidity in the receiving waterbody. This prevented UV light from reaching plants further out in the littoral zone, thus limiting availability for photosynthesis.

## Acknowledgment

The success of this program depends greatly on numerous groups and individuals: Wayne County Board of Supervisors, Town of Sodus, Town of Huron, Town of Wolcott, Village of Sodus Point, Wayne County SWCD Board of Directors, FLOWPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Save Our Sodus, Port Bay Association, and the numerous private landowners who provided access for equipment.

The most important factor that influenced plant density in 2016 was the seasonal Lake Ontario water level fluctuations.

The complete AVC Program report can be found online [www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org](http://www.waynecountyNYsoilandwater.org)



Total operating time of the AVC Program is calculated by each harvester operating a 10-hour shift each day. Therefore, 3 harvesters would produce 30 operating hours in one day.

Comparing 2015 and 2016, total operating time slightly increased from 1600 hours in 2015 to 1718 hours in 2016. This is most likely due to the 2016 program operating 67 days compared to 62 days in 2015.

Non-harvesting down time due to mechanical issues and repairs totaled 222 hours. The mechanical issues encountered this year were associated with the moving parts systems of the harvesters' cutting head (i.e. broken/bent knives, worn out tie-rod bearing). Multiple hours were spent replacing the components. Damage to the blades is most often caused by the harvester head colliding with underwater structures.

### In 2016, the District partnered with the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL PRISM).

The FL-PRISM assembled a strike team specifically to address infestation of water chestnut to help local areas where mechanical harvesting wasn't possible due to low water levels. The strike team spent eight days surveying about 190 acres and helping with control efforts on 34.5 acres. The team hand-pulled plants in conjunction with volunteers, harvesters, and a contracted airboat.



**Finger Lakes PRISM Strike Team at Maxwell Bay**

The pulled water chestnut were estimated to be 15,000lbs. Weight measurements were provided by Wayne County who operated the harvesters, conveyers, and dump trucks that collected the water chestnut. Pulled material was transferred to conveyers and trucks for it to be transported to a composting area offsite. Post-control survey was only completed in Second Creek, north of the Bay Bridge, and Clark Creek since these were the areas where pulls occurred. Additional invasive species observed included starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), and frog bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*).

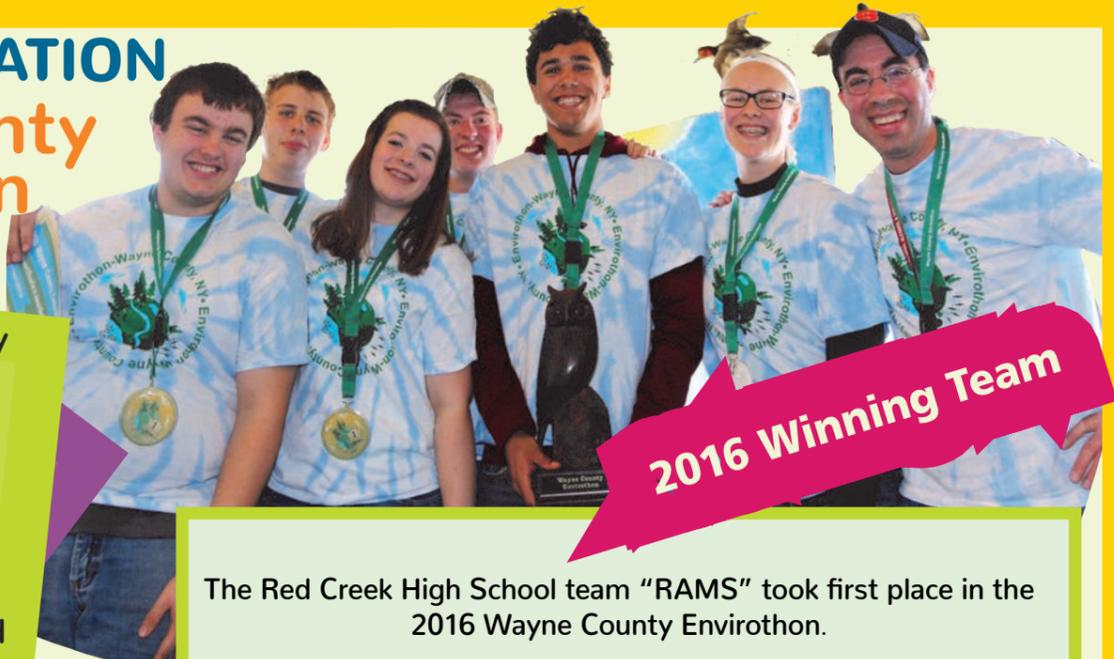


## CONSERVATION EDUCATION

### Wayne County Envirothon



This year's Wayne County Envirothon was held at Montezuma Audubon Center. Eight teams, representing area High Schools: Palmyra - Macedon, Lyons, North Rose - Wolcott and Red Creek competed in the event.



**2016 Winning Team**

The Red Creek High School team "RAMS" took first place in the 2016 Wayne County Envirothon.

Led by teacher Mr. Joseph Bonanno, Joshua Fillingham, Katie Smith, Matthew Ubbink, Tyler Duvall, Gracie Wright & Skyler Eggeston

## THE ENVIROTHON COMPETITION BUILDS CONFIDENCE



**SPECIAL THANK YOU!**

To area businesses for donations of support to the 2016 successful youth conservation program. Their support assisted in the purchase of Envirothon T-shirts & educational prizes and awards. Area sponsors included Lyons National Bank, Arney's Marina, Captain Jack's, Dobbins Drugs, Lyons Veterinary Clinic, Marshall Farms & Finger Lakes Aquaculture. In addition recognition goes to Montezuma Audubon Center Director Chris Lajewski and staff.



**2016 Wayne County Envirothon Teams, Congrats to all who participated**

**Is your school interested in participating in the Envirothon?** Contact Drew Starkey 315-946-4136

## Green Bucks for Green Schools

/ Drew Starkey, District Technician, Program Specialist



In 2016, the District has provided technical and financial assistance through education mini grants to two high schools who wished to implement water quality improvement orientated projects. Both Wayne Central and Sodus High participated by acquiring water testing kits for stream monitoring and a rain garden construction project.

Three seniors from Wayne Central High, Jessica Belmore, Ronnie Casaccia, and Ben Schultes, partnered with the District to conduct stream monitoring on Bear Creek in Ontario for their capstone projects. All three students intend on pursuing higher education in the biological or engineering sciences after graduation this spring. Claire Morgan, the Regents Earth Science teacher at Wayne Central, has coordinated and spearheaded this effort. With long term goals of repeating this monitoring annually and potentially expanding to other nearby streams, the District is eager to support this effort for the future of conservation in Wayne County.

Bear Creek flows along Walworth Rd through downtown Ontario and outlets directly into Lake Ontario, between Rt-104 and Ridge Rd. it flows through high density residential and urban areas. The team will be comparing test results between sites upstream and downstream from this area to see its impact on the current water quality. Although each student is participating in chemical analyses, they will focus individual projects on varying aspects of water quality, ranging from land use to public health and to the patterns of water quality issues seen across the southern Lake Ontario shoreline.

Sodus Central High School is doing its part to improve water quality in the Lake Ontario drainage basin as well, through their installation of a rain garden. The garden is a collaborative effort between fifty active members of three different extracurricular groups; Tech Club, Garden Club, and Eco Club.

Christina Costich, the Environmental Science teacher and head of the Eco Club, acted as liaison between the District and the school's various partnering organizations. Funds were utilized in order to purchase plants, bird houses, construction materials, and irrigation supplies.

The garden functions as wildlife and pollinator habitat while at the same time improving water quality by reducing runoff during rain storm events.



Funding for these projects was provided in partnership with the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA).

FOLLOWPA's mission is to foster coordinated watershed management programs across the Lake Ontario Basin based on local needs.





Christopher Hotto  
District Technician,  
Soil Resource Specialist

## Agricultural Group Drainage Program Annual Report

Through the Agricultural Group Drainage Program, the Wayne County SWCD completed maintenance on 9 projects in 2016. The projects combined totaled over 13 miles of drainage channel maintained in nine different towns. Maintenance work included mowing of overgrown vegetation, debris blockage removal, channel dipping, and culvert work, as needed. These projects worked directly through or along 75 landowner properties and benefit many more within the watersheds. These projects help drain a total watershed area over 17,000 acres, thousands of which are agricultural lands that directly benefit from the work completed.



**Sodus Ditch South:** This project is about three miles long and goes through the Towns of Galen and Rose. The entire length of the project was mowed, dipped for about one mile, and had some minor tree and debris removal. A culvert under a main access road was replaced because it was too high and in poor condition. The project directly affects 10 landowners and helps maintain proper drainage for hundreds of acres of agricultural land.



**Bear Creek:** This project is 2 miles long and flows through the Towns of Walworth and Ontario. The entire length of the project was mowed and dipped about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. This project has five culvert crossings that are in poor condition and will need to be replaced in the next couple of years. Work was completed through 12 properties.



**Butler Creek & Slyburg Project:** These were two separate projects that were combined into one in the Town of Butler. Maintenance was completed on about 2.5 miles of drainage course, but a half mile section was not completed due to landowner permission issues. Work on the project consisted of mowing and removing blockages. There are also three culvert crossings along the project that are in need of replacement. Two of the crossings have already failed and the third is in very poor condition.



**Farnsworth Project:** For this project, mowing and blockage removal was completed along a 0.6-mile section of drainage channel in the Town of Marion. Much of this project was not done due to landowner issues with previous work completed without permission by a private individual. The District completed work through and along 20 properties.



## Soil Health Testing Services

A continuous goal for all farmers who are depending on the soil is to ensure sufficient nutrients are present. As part of New York State's attempt to improve education and outreach for utilizing soil science discoveries and an ecosystem-based management approach, Wayne County was able to obtain a Soil Health Mini Grant to help farms assess their soil health and the economic risks associated with it. The District is able to offer soil sampling tests at a cost-share rate and provide the manpower to take the samples. It is a winning situation for local communities of Wayne to begin looking at how land management can benefit them economically and environmentally while promoting the good stewardship that has been practiced for decades.

Fifteen farmers and gardeners took this opportunity. Overall there was a total 94 soil samples in 2016. The samples came from 8 different townships and 6 different watersheds within Wayne County. Whether the operation is a large beef farm producing high quality forage or a small scale CSA program focusing on salad greens, a soil sample will be vital in growing the most nutritious and highest yielding product possible. Assessment results

from the sample provide clues on what additives and actions need to be taken to improve soil health. Obtaining a baseline for soil nutrition can also provide direction for years to come in regards to soil health as well as being economically beneficial. Soil health, assessments provide a balanced approach to improving the environment and managing necessary input costs for any crop commodity production.

The Soil Health Testing Services offers a variety of tests including those for Field Crops, Home & Landscape, Fruit, Vegetables, and Turf. The tests vary but the main elements tested for are phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc, aluminum along with pH level, buffer pH and the percent of organic matter. Comments and recommendations from Agro-One and Cornell are also available. Soil sampling is still being offered, give us a call at 946-4136 to arrange a site visit!

## Awarding stewardship effort from across the agriculture community

2016 was a great year for conservation in the agricultural industry in Wayne County. Many farms were able to implement projects simply because crops were able to be planted at the appropriate time.

Over the past several years, the District has recognized members of the agriculture community for their contributions and examples of conservation stewardship. In 2016, Crandon Farms of Lyons, NY was awarded "Conservation Farm of the Year." The Crandons are third generation farmers, started by Art & Shelia Crandon, as a small dairy, now converted to a Certified Organic Crop Farm run by Art & Shelia's son Duane, and his son Jerred. They currently own over 650 acres and farm around 1300 acres of mostly corn, soybeans and small grains. Crandon Farms has been a long time participant in Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) and NRCS's EQIP and CRP programs, and have



implemented and maintained many Best Management Practices (BMPs) including: cover crops, grassed waterways, water & sediment control basins, composting facility and others. They had a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) completed back when they were a dairy.



The District also awarded an "Agricultural Environmental Stewardship" award to a member of the agricultural support community that goes above and beyond to continue to provide services and manage environmental issues, aid in dealing with the difficult years and lend a hand to other farms. The award was created to be given, at a grassroots level, to individuals that strengthen the community. Wayne County could not prosper without individuals that participate, act, engage and play a key role in agricultural, while supporting strong aspects of conservation for the environment.

The 2016 award receipt was presented to Michael Stanyard, Team Leader, Field Crops Specialist of the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crop Team, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County on December 20, 2016 with recognition by the County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Stanyard has been supporting Wayne County agricultural communities while continuing to address environmental related issues including but not limited to: soil health, cover crops, integrated pest management, crop disease management, climate resiliency, commodity marketing research, crop typing, organization of technical Ag teams, agricultural business planning, discussion groups, agriculture water quality management and so much more. We honor Mike as the 2016 Wayne County Agriculture Environmental Stewardship recipient because of his dedication and continued passion for leading the Wayne County Agricultural Community into the future.

## Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) Maxwell Creek Stream Assessment

The WQCC is responsible for defining county water quality priorities and strategies. Membership includes representatives from County departments, regional planning councils, Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA agencies, municipalities, environmental organizations, citizens groups, and lake associations. The committee determined a need for an evaluation of Maxwell Creek in Sodus, NY.



Maxwell Creek assessment areas

In the summer of 2016, the low surface water levels provided excellent conditions for visual assessment. The stream was surveyed from the Maxwell Bay outlet near Beechwood Park to Sodus Center Pond. Over eight linear miles were traversed in search of resource concerns such as point sources of nutrient deposition, non-vegetated riparian areas subject to streambank erosion, or blockages to stream flow and aquatic habitat.

Future restoration efforts can now be efficiently targeted as this waterbody segment is on the docket for upcoming stream projects.

## Critical Area Seeding and Stabilization Projects

Partnership with all levels of government and private landowners for erosion control and shoreline protection



Application on steep slope

The District kept the hydro-seeder busy this year, especially this fall, getting various projects around the county stabilized before winter. In total, over 50 loads of materials were applied to 7.5 acres around Wayne County.

**The Blind Sodus Bay Project** was one of the most unique stabilization projects that the District has completed. The Town of Wolcott approached the District with this project because the Lake Ontario shoreline had eroded to a point that it was threatening an access road and utilities. Hydro-seed material was applied on the bluff as a temporary measure to slow erosion until a more permanent solution can be implemented.



Before and after implementation



**Knapp Farms** were having difficulty re-establishing vegetation on the hill and were experiencing severe erosion during intense rain events. The District applied 20 loads material, covering almost 3 acres of area to stabilize the hill.



Application of hydro-seed material



12 days after seeding



30 days after seeding



3 days after seeding (left)

### Lakeview Health Services – Woodland Commons, Macedon, NY

The Upper Ganargua Creek is a main tributary to the Erie Canal that runs along the southern property of the Woodland Commons. NYS DEC Waterbody Inventory categorizes the creek as a Class C stream with minor impacts stressing the aquatic life. Pollutants effecting the stream include nutrients, silt/sediment, dissolve oxygen /oxygen demand, and ammonia. Sources that may be contributing these pollutants to Ganargua Creek include construction activity, stormwater runoff, agriculture and municipal practices. The District came up with cost-effective, environmentally-sound practices for remediation. A combination of methods called 'Locked Logs' and 'Root Wads' which use natural woody debris, were installed by an operator and excavator provide by the Town of Macedon. These woody debris structures armor the stream-bank, redirect erosive stream energy, and provide fish and wildlife habitat. The new bank was then revegetated with an erosion control seed mix and dormant willow and dogwood live stakes were installed to provide woody vegetative structure.



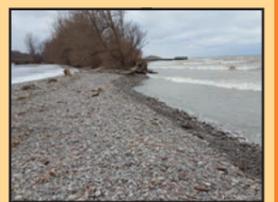
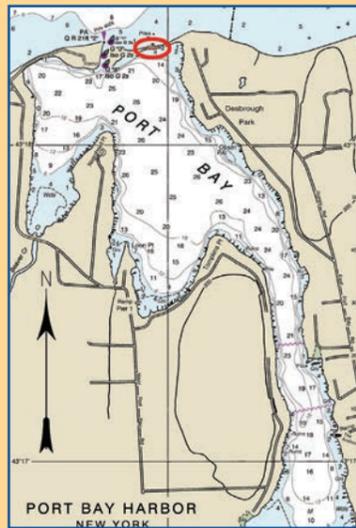
Errored streambanks before



Revegetated with an erosion control

### Conserving the Integrity of Port Bay

In 2014, the Port Bay Improvement Association (PBIA) and the District embarked on a journey for protection of the East Barrier Bar, which has led to many other opportunities with the development of the Port Bay Working Group. The Workgroup is made up of PBIA, NY Sea Grant, Town Representatives from Wolcott & Huron, local constituents and NYSDEC Region 8. In partnership with NYSDEC Region 8, USACE, NYSDOS, FLOWPA and the Great Lakes Basin Coalition's Sediment & Erosion Control program, the Port Bay East Barrier Bar had a demonstration project implemented in 2016 to demonstrate that use of natural materials can be effective while combating the high water and weather reactions from Lake Ontario. The project provided security for habitat, safety for boaters and anglers, and continues to provide barrier for water quality improvement.



### Sodus Point living shoreline protection project, planting the rain garden with the help of local stakeholders

In June of 2016, a rain garden was installed as the last steps of the living shoreline project along Wickham Blvd, Sodus Point NY. Over 120 plants were planted to act as deep rooting structure for stabilization and that have a large capacity of water uptake. By installing these types of plants, not only did it provide a beautification, windbreak, and habitat for pollinators and birds, it also helps manage the stormwater capacity along the harden surfaces of the roadway and walkway. Friends and neighbors from the Rotary Club, Sodus Point Neighborhood Association, Village Staff & Trustees, including Mayor Chris Tertinek, Buildings & Grounds and the Highway Department, joined the District in completing this project and then celebrating with lunch.

This project began in 2014 as a demonstration project for natural shoreline stabilization, stormwater management and infrastructure protection for a sewer main that supports 1/3 of the residents in the Village. The project requires maintenance and will have continued support in partnership with the Village and District.



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