

August 2019



WYOMING COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wyoming County Welcomes New Technicians



Becca Mann was hired as a full time Conservation District Technician on May 6th. Becca graduated in 2018 from the SUNY at Buffalo with a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Geoscience. She interned with Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District during college and began her career as a seasonal Invasive Species Management Assistant with Western New York PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management).



Becca currently lives in Erie County but hopes to serve the countryside of Wyoming County to the best of her ability. She is interested in stream bank restoration projects that will decrease erosion and improve water quality throughout the county. Becca looks forward to building relationships with residents and professionals in the Wyoming County community.

Emelyn Bell is the 2019 summer intern for Wyoming County Soil and Water. She is currently a senior at SUNY Geneseo, majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies. She has worked as a research assistant for Dr. Suann Yang of the Geneseo Biology department for two years studying the effects of invasive plant species and the extended leaf phenology phenomenon. As well as spending a summer working alongside Dr. Isidro Bosch of SUNY Geneseo testing and monitoring the toxic algae blooms of both Conesus and Silver Lake.

This opportunity to learn and gain experience will be of great value as she prepares to enter the work force. As a Wyoming County resident, a farmer's daughter, and a former 4-Her, she is thrilled to be working and serving the residents, farmers, and professionals of this county for the summer.



Warsaw High School Wins 2019 Trailside Envirothon

The Trailside Envirothon is a regional competition for high school students in the local area, including Wyoming and Allegany County. Teams of students are tested on their knowledge of five different subjects throughout the day which include Forestry, Wildlife, Soils, Aquatics, and the **2019 Current Issue "Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World"**.

This hands-on educational event includes a wide variety of questions on examinations; anywhere from identifying an animal from its fur to measuring the board footage in a tree to using reference materials to determine a soil type. Students spend a significant amount of time studying for the event, both in their normal classes, and also attending study sessions after school hours. The winning team from each county is able to advance on to the New York State Envirothon, which was held at Hobart William Smith College in Geneva, NY on May 22nd and 23rd.



Wyoming County - Warsaw High School

Left to Right: Justin Baker, Allisyn Wick, Michael Baker, Sarah Cox and Kyle Glosser. Led by advisor, James Carter

Invasive Species Corner

Spotlight Species: Giant Hogweed

Scientific Name: *Heracleum mantegazzianum*

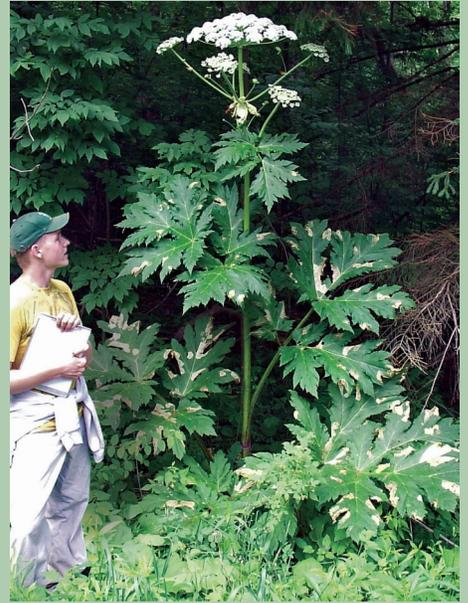
Giant Hogweed ID: Tips and Tricks*

Giant means...well... giant! At maturity this plant reaches anywhere from 8 to 14 feet tall when flowering. The flowers bloom in late June/July and form a flat-topped umbrella shape over the plant. The leaves are lobed with deep cuts in between each lobe, and in mature plants the leaves can measure up to 5 feet across. The most distinct part of the plant is the stem. It's characterized by a signature purple and green blotched (or mottled) stem with dispersed coarse white hairs. *These ID references are for a mature plant at approx. 5 years old. See NYS DEC website for each life stage and specified identification descriptions.

Who to Contact?

To report giant hogweed contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Giant Hogweed Information Line at 845-256-3111 or email their organization at ghogweed@dec.ny.gov.

It's best to include pictures of the entire plant as well as the stem, leaves, and flower for their review. If possible include a detailed description of the location and the number of plants in the infestation.



To learn more about Giant Hogweed and some identification tips visit www.dec.ny.gov/animals/72766.html.

**All photos taken from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Look – a – Likes

Wild Parsnip – Caution! Do Not Touch!
Similar to Giant Hogweed the sap of this plant can cause severe burns.



Angelica – Very commonly mistaken for giant hogweed, Angelica has an entirely purple stem and is typically shorter than its noxious relative.
May cause burns.



Cow Parsnip – In the field, This plant has the potential to look like giant hogweed but overall it is shorter with a smaller flower head. May cause burns.



Queen Ann's Lace – In comparison to Giant hogweed this plant is anything but giant! Its lacey fernlike leaves are a clear indicator when trying to identify between the similar species.



Wyoming County Leads the Way

Statistics presented by the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets reveal that the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District has secured the highest amount of funding through the New York State Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program (Ag NPS) within the Great Lakes Basin. These statistics represent Rounds 20 through 24 of Ag NPS and include 26 counties with watersheds that drain to the Great Lakes. This cost share program is important to agriculture in New York State.

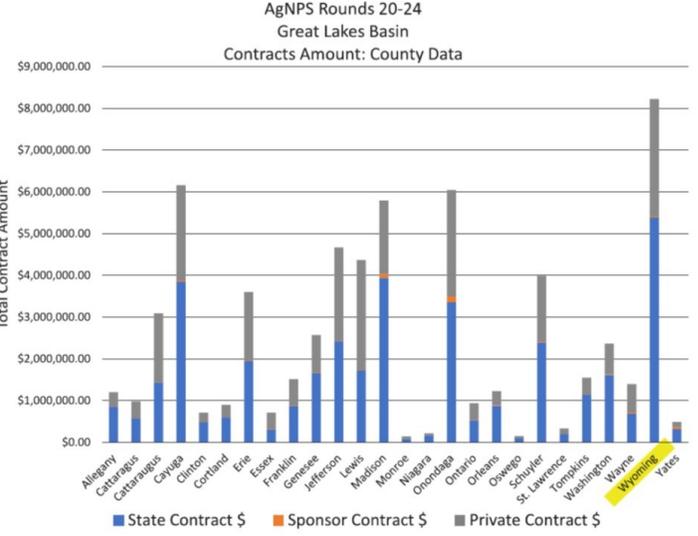
Ag NPS has been in existence for over 25 years to provide cost-share funding to farms. The funding allows farms to implement water quality improvement Best Management Practices (BMP's) on their property in high priority watershed in the New York State. "Rounds" of funding are generally released annually at some point during each calendar year, which of course is all dependent on Albany. This data generally represents those contracts between 2014 and 2018.

Wyoming County is nearly equally divided by the Lake Erie/Niagara River Watershed on the western half of the county and the Genesee River Basin on the eastern half with all drainage eventually ending up in the Great Lakes. During these past 5 contract years/rounds, Wyoming County farms have received \$5,385,748.15 in state cost-share dollars to fund BMP's. Landowners & farm

producers have contributed \$2,810,021.29 in this effort along with \$27,231.40 in sponsor contributions. The total amount of

conservation work conducted through this program in the Great Lakes Basin is well over \$8 million dollars – by far the highest in the state.

In Wyoming County, the greatest number of projects involve implementing water quality BMP's such as waste storage facilities, waste transfer systems, and bunk silo leachate management systems. Farms have also implemented many other water quality BMP's such as cover cropping, stream buffers, compost facilities, barnyard runoff control practices, heavy use area protection, stream crossing, livestock exclusion and more. Wyoming County farms are progressive and environmentally conscience in maintaining their farm operations and the District is pleased to be able to provide this level of assistance to one of our greatest assets.



**New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee Statistics (2019)

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3. Environmental Stewardship – Requires submission of Honey Bee Health Form and a biennial Honey Bee Health Inspection by the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Apiary inspectors.

For forms, applications and any other information please visit:

<https://certified.ny.gov/get-certified-honey>

This publication is the quarterly newsletter of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to all District cooperators, all interested landowner and land users, and to the general public. To receive this newsletter, simply email us at wcsxcd@frontiernet.net or send your complete mailing address to our office.

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Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation

District Phone & Fax: 585-786-3675

wcsxcd@frontiernet.net

wcsxcd.org



Wyoming County SWCD

36 Center St. Suite D

Warsaw, NY 14569

NON-PROFIT
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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