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Wildlife Station



Water Taste Test Station

Regional Envirothon Competition a Success!

Teams of high school students across Wyoming and Allegany Counties have been busy studying environmental topics for the Annual "Trailside Envirothon Competition" for some time, which was held on May 6th, 2015 at Letchworth State Park in Castile.

The event, which is put together by the Wyoming and Allegany County Soil & water Conservation Districts, provides a hands-on, environmental education event in the outdoors for local area schools. Teams of five students in grades 9-12 are tested on topics including: wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils use, and a current environmental issue, with this year's current issue being Urban / Community Forestry. Winning teams will represent their county at the New York State Envirothon Competition at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY on May 27th and 28th.

"At the Envirothon Competition, students interested in the environment have the chance to learn outside of the classroom, and test their knowledge on various topics directly related to the environment," said Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District Technician, Al Fagan.

This year's event brought over 110 students from both Wyoming and Allegany Counties out for the event. Representative schools from Wyoming County were Perry High School, Warsaw High School, and Attica High School. Cuba Rushford High School and Fillmore High School attended representing Allegany County. With great weather for the event and some very tight competition, winning teams from each county were presented.

The Wyoming County Envirothon Champion was Perry High School Team #1 with a score of 419 out of a possible 553. The Allegany County



Wyoming County Winning Team: Perry High School Team #1 (standing left to right) – Matt Clark, Boyd Dickson, Mike Safford, Melissa Kirsop, and Emily Grierson Advisor (not pictured) – Bill Augrom

winning title went to Cuba Rushford High School Team #2 with a score of 462. Students also had the opportunity to taste water taken from 5 anonymous municipalities from throughout the County. After the votes were tallied, it was determined that students voted for Arcade having the best tasting water in Wyoming County.

The Wyoming County SWCD Board of Directors and Staff would like to sincerely thank the Letchworth State Park staff, sponsors, and volunteers that made the 2015 Trailside Envirothon a success. Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state help organize annual County and Regional Envirothon competitions. Essential support is provided by school science teachers, school districts and local businesses that donate supporting funds. To learn more about the Envirothon please visit its website at: www.nysenvirothon.net.

In addition to our educational programs, the Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District provides programs and technical services to help residents and communities protect and improve the water quality and other natural resources of Wyoming County. To learn more visit: www.wcsxcd.org or call 585-786-5070.

James Hendrickson Success Story

By Mike Shaw, Soil Conservationist

In 2011 James Hendrickson contacted NRCS about help with fencing his beef cows out of the stream. At the time he was wintering and feeding the cows along the stream channel. He did not have any pasture to graze the animals in, all the fields were in crop production. NRCS met with Jim and looked at his site to develop a grazing plan for the amount of animals and land acreage needed.

In developing the grazing plan, we took into account the daily forage needs of the beef cows and their calves to figure out the paddock sizes and residency periods. The residency period is the amount of days the animals are left in each paddock. Fields are divided into paddocks to best manage the grass growth, animal intake (grazing term for the amount the cows will

eat in a day) and the field conditions to minimize any compaction or heavy use areas damage.

The conversion of cropland to pasture and fencing of the cows out of the stream keeps any excess nutrients and sediment from reaching the stream which is a tributary to East Koy Creek. Also by the cows harvesting their own food and spreading their waste saves time and energy.

A well and watering system were also installed as the main source of water for the cows, previously it was the stream. Installing the watering system allows the cows to drink at their own leisure as opposed to mob drinking (where the whole group goes at once) allowing all cows to drink as much as they need.



Looking at the walkway paddocks on either side with watering trough on left



Cows are now fenced out of the stream



Stabilized stream crossing with animal walkway



Recently planted pasture on left, previously cows were on the right side of the fence in stream corridor

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Trees for Tribs - Coming to the Genesee River Basin

Trees for Tribs is a New York State Program that promotes native tree planting along streams (also known as tributaries - hence the name). Trees provide many benefits to streams, helping to stabilize streambanks, reducing sediment pollution, reducing stream temperatures, and supporting aquatic ecosystems.

The program is expanding to the Genesee River Basin this year. Through the program, private landowners, community groups, and local governments will be given free or low cost trees to plant along streams in high priority areas of the Genesee River Basin. The photos to the right show a recent Trees for Tribs planting on Oatka Creek at the Genesee Country Village. If you are interested in planting trees along your stream in the Oatka Creek Watershed, contact Wyoming County SWCD for more information.



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 Grange Representative - Joseph Gozelski
 County Supervisor - James Brick
 County Supervisor— John Knab

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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 send your complete mailing address to our office.

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