## WAYNE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025 EDITION

# SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### Introduction

We are thrilled to present the very first edition of our quarterly newsletter. Our aim is to keep you informed about our projects and events, while also sharing valuable conservation information.

#### **Upcoming Events**

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR <u>WEBSITE</u> AND <u>FACEBOOK PAGE</u> FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS.

MEET US AT THE WAYNE COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 4TH-10TH

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14
SIGN UP HERE:

HTTPS://WWW.WAYNECOUNTYNYSOILANDWATER.ORG/E
LECTRONICS-RECYCLING-EVENT

SOIL HEALTH & AEM OPPORTUNITIES EVENT AUGUST 28TH

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE RECYCLING EVENT SEPTEMBER (DATE TBD)

#### This issue:

Intro & Upcoming Events
PAGE 01

Seasonal Article & Past Events PAGE 02

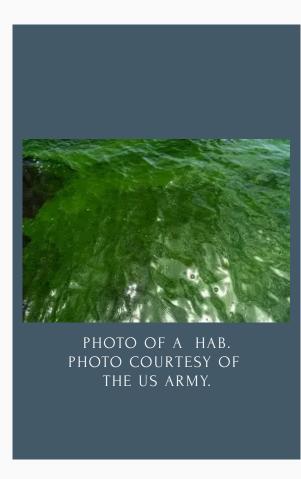
Project Updates
PAGE 03

2024 Highlights PAGE 06



#### Seasonal Article - Water Safety

The summer brings with it warmer weather and the opportunity to spend time out on the water. Before you go out on the water, there are a few things you should know. As of this year, all boat operators must complete a safety course. A list of approved courses can be found here. The warmer weather, along with excess nutrients in waterways, can also contribute to the growth of harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs are made up of cyanobacteria that can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals. Check here to see where HABs have been found across the state. Lastly, you can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species are species of plants and animals that are not native to New York, which can be harmful to native plants, animals, and habitats. You can help prevent the spread by cleaning, draining, and drying your boat and gear. More information on how to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species can be found <u>here</u>. We hope you have a fun and safe summer on the water, if you have any questions or concerns about water quality, please contact us at 315-946-7200.



#### **Past Events**

#### Wayne County Envirothon

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the Wayne County and Cayuga County Soil Water Conservation Districts held the annual county-level Envirothon at Montezuma Audubon Center. The Envirothon is an annual competition in which high school teams compete by demonstrating their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management. Teams, each consisting of five students, exercise their training and problem-solving skills in a competition centered on five testing categories: Soils/Land Use, Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues. The winners of this year's Envirothon were Red Creek and the runners-up were Weedsport. Both teams competed at the state competition on May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at SUNY Cortland.



RED CREEK RAMS WINNING TEAM

#### **Electronics Recycling Event**

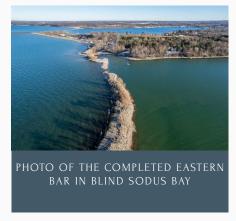
On March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the annual spring electronics recycling event. Community members from across the county dropped electronics like televisions and computers. Overall, we collected nearly 8000 pounds of electronics. Sunnking, an electronics recycling company, located in Brockport, NY picked up the electronics and properly processed the items at their facility. Our next recycling event will take place on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. To sign up please visit our website here: Electronics Recycling Event | Wayne County Soil An



#### **Project Updates**

#### Blind Sodus Bay Eastern Bar Project

Following storms in 2017 and 2019, the eastern barrier bar in Blind Sodus Bay was almost completely destroyed. The changes to the bar caused an impact on both the water quality and the wildlife habitat of the bay. In 2020, the District, in conjunction with Wayne County and the NY REDI Commission, launched a project to rebuild the eastern barrier bar in Blind Sodus Bay. We are happy to announce that this July, with the placement of buoys, the project was officially finished.



#### Silage Bunk Project

The District is currently working on implementation of a new silage bunk for a farm in Clyde, NY. Their previous bunk was in poor shape, poorly sited, and too far from the farm for efficient feed management. Through Ag NPS funding, the District has been able to provide cost-share funding for the farm to build a new bunk floor, with associated treatment area, and leachate collection system. Putting the bunk on the farmstead will drastically reduce time spent transporting feed, ensure leachate is captured and treated, and reduce the farm's GHG emissions with the reduction of trucks on the road. The project continues, with a completion due later this summer.

#### **No-Till Drill**

Wayne County Soil and Water's No – Till drill has had a busy spring, being used to put in over 150 acres of crops through conservation tillage practices. The drill has been used to put in cover crops, reseed hay lots, and seed pastures. Call lan at the office today to rent the drill!



#### Mixing Facilities

The District is currently working on the construction of 4 Agrichemical Mixing Facilities with various fruit producers. Each producer worked with the District to implement the practices recommended from their conservation plans, created through AEM planning. Construction of these buildings will help the farms more efficiently mix and store pesticides, and fertilizers. The structures will provide containment to protect against spill contamination, a safe, locked area for storage of spray, and a reliable, safe water supply.

#### NY Grown & Certified Program

For participants that have joined the program previously, it may now be time to re-certify, recertification should occur every 3 years. If you're wondering about your status, give lan a call at the office, 315-946-7200.



The aquatic vegetation control (AVC) program kicked off its season in early June. The program utilizes mechanical harvesters to remove invasive species, such as water chestnut, in bays throughout Wayne County. The focus of the program is the management of critical aquatic invasive species, where impact to the environment and potential spread impedes access, uses, and overall water quality; and to address in-flow areas of the tributary streams to promote water circulation and aeration. There are some areas of the bays and tributaries that we cannot access with the harvesters and must go out and hand pull the water chestnut via kayak or canoe. Please see the flyer on the next page for how you can help us manage water chestnut.





## VOLUNTEER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



### WATER CHESTNUT HAND PULL EVENTS

- ENJOY BEING OUTSIDE?
- PASSIONATE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?
- DO YOU CANOE OR KAYAK?
- PLANNING A COMMUNITY EVENT?



WHAT ARE WATER CHESTNUTS? THEY ARE AN INVASIVE PLANT THAT HARMS AQUATIC WILDLIFE AND PREVENTS, BOATERS, ANGLERS AND PADDLERS FROM UTILIZING THESE AREAS.



INTERESTED? CONTACT ANNIKA LACHNOR- PUBLIC RELATIONS

SPECIALIST

315-946-7200 ANNIKA@WAYNENYSWCD.ORG

#### 2024 Highlights

Each year we publish an annual report to summarize our activities from the prior year. Please click <u>here</u> to see the full 2024 annual report. Listed below are the highlights by the numbers.

700 acres of cover crops planted



7 miles of agriculture drainage projects completed

117 acres planted using the no-till drill



78 soil samples taken for 1500 acres of land

2,464 tons of aquatic invasive and nuisance plants removed



45,000 pounds of tires recycled

86,700 pounds of electronic waste recycled



2,600 pounds of household hazardous waste collected and properly disposed