

WAYNE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025 EDITION

WAYNE COUNTY



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 [WEBSITE](#) AND [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE EVENTS.

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

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING AUGUST 13TH & 14
SIGN UP HERE:

[HTTPS://WWW.WAYNECOUNTYNYSOILANDWATER.ORG/ELECTRONICS-RECYCLING-EVENT](https://www.waynecountynysoilandwater.org/electronics-recycling-event)

SOIL HEALTH & AEM OPPORTUNITIES EVENT
AUGUST 28TH

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL WASTE RECYCLING EVENT
SEPTEMBER (DATE TBD)

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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 [here](#). 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.



PHOTO OF A HAB.
PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE US ARMY.

Past Events

Wayne County Envirothon

On April 30th, 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 28th and 29th at SUNY Cortland.



RED CREEK RAMS WINNING TEAM

Electronics Recycling Event

On March 26th and 27th, 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 13th and 14th. 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.



PHOTO OF THE COMPLETED EASTERN
BAR IN BLIND SODUS BAY

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 Ian at the office today to rent the drill!



PHOTO OF THE NO-TILL DRILL IN USE

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 Ian a call at the office, 315-946-7200.



Aquatic Vegetation Control Program & Water Chestnut Hand-pull Events

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.



PHOTO OF THE MECHANICAL WEED HARVESTERS

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.

WAYNE COUNTY



SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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 [here](#) 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