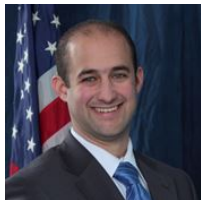


COMMITTEES

- Cornell University's Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center - Advisory Council
- Environmental Education Foundation of Soil & Water Districts
- Long Island Agricultural Stewardship Working Group
- Long Island Ag. Forum Planning Committee
- Long Island Commission on Aquifer Protection
- Long Island Regional Envirothon
- New York Association of Conservation Districts
- NYS Conservation District Employees Association
- New York State Envirothon
- North Shore Coastal Erosion Control Taskforce
- Peconic Estuary Technical Advisory Committee
- Suffolk County Ag. Stewardship Program
- Suffolk County Department of Health Services Peconic River Project
- Suffolk County Land & Water Invasive Species Advisory Board
- Suffolk County GIS Users Group
- Suffolk County Vector Control Long Range Planning Committee
- South Shore Estuary Reserve
- Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Committee
- Suffolk County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

The District Welcomes three new faces to our office:



Suffolk County Legislator Robert Calarco of the 7th District was appointed to the Board of Directors in March.



Susan Odell-Pepe, Principal Account Clerk, transferred from the Suffolk County Department of Health Service.



Kenneth Johnson, Soil District Technician formerly of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Ag. Stewardship Program

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN Robert Carpenter, District Chairman



As I review the past year's activities, I am amazed at the quantity and quality of the projects that the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District (District) staff have accomplished. It has been a busy and fruitful year.

One of the biggest concerns we face in Suffolk County is the issue of ground and surface water protection. The pressure for agricultural land owners to voluntarily manage nutrients before they are mandated to do so is increasing. County Executive Steve Bellone declared nitrogen as public enemy number one. This has been an issue on the front burner for the last 10 years. Through funding supplied by the 2016 and 2017 NYS Environmental Protection Fund, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the District are collaborating on two \$500,000 awards to assist farmers with their conservation efforts and become better stewards of the land. Utilizing these awards, Cornell Cooperative Extension will research efficient ways for the agricultural community to utilize nitrogen by studying new technologies such as slow release fertilizers. The District will use a portion of the funds to develop nutrient management plans to make recommendations for farmers to reduce nitrogen leaching usage. Additionally, with help of Suffolk County and our agricultural partners, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Regional Conservation Partnership Program has awarded 1.2 million dollars to the County to assist farms within the Peconic Estuary Watershed to secure similar plans. The District and NRCS will implement this grant, furthering the voluntary solutions aimed at improving and conserving soil and water resources within the watershed.

We are excited that the Suffolk County Legislature awarded \$250,000 (through Suffolk County's Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program) to assist Crescent Duck Farm in building an Agricultural Waste Storage Facility. This grant was the first of its kind to be given to a farmer and private business. The new storage facility that was constructed is adjacent to Meeting House Creek in Aquebogue. The project was completed this past summer and allows Crescent Duck Farm additional means to protect our ground and surface water resources. I want to thank Suffolk County, the District, and the Corwin Family for their hard work and continued stewardship efforts.

The District continues to administer programs assisting landowners in Suffolk County that include: the Fuel Tank Replacement Program, irrigation system design, rain gardens, agrichemical handling facilities, bluff erosion, deer fence installation grants, and so many other programs.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank the Board of Directors who volunteered their time to serve the residents of Suffolk County; Legislators Al Krupski and Rob Calarco, Brian Culhane and Phil Schmitt. Directors devote several hours every month to guide the District. Of course, we could not do any of this without our staff; District Manager Corey Humphrey, Technicians Sharon Frost, Ann Marie Calabro, and Ken Johnson, and Principal Account Clerk Susan O'Dell-Pepe who keep us on the straight and narrow and are responsible for the great work being done!

LOOKING BACK ON 2017 Corey Humphrey, District Manager



As the fall winds blow colder and the days become shorter, I am reminded that we truly live in a beautiful place. Suffolk County is rich with natural beauty, bountiful seas, fruitful soils and I am fortunate to work alongside the residents of Suffolk County to protect these natural resources. 2017 was a terrific year for conservation and I look forward to a busy, but rewarding 2018.

This year we hired two new members to the District Team. Soil District Technician, Ken Johnson and Principal Account Clerk, Susan Odell-Pepe. Ken and Susan joined the District Team at the end of 2016, and have proven to be great additions to the District. They both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the District. Ken holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Connecticut and has previously worked for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County's Ag Stewardship Program. In addition to his responsibilities with the SWCD, Ken is studying towards his certification as a Northeast Regional - Certified Crop Advisor (NR-CCA) and NRCS Planner. Susan holds a Bachelor's Degree from Dowling College and transferred to the SWCD after 19 years with Suffolk County's Department of Health Services. Ken and Susan have proven to be complimentary additions to our Team that includes Soil District Technicians Sharon Frost and Ann Marie Calabro.

In 2017, the SWCD and our local Ag Partners were awarded two new grant opportunities for farmers in Suffolk County. The N.Y.S.D.E.C. Environmental Protection Fund (\$500,000) and the N.R.C.S. Resource Conservation Partnership Program (\$1,200,000) grant awards provide funds for the development of Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) and the implementation of on-farm Best Management Practices (BMP). Every NMP provides a series of BMP recommendations specific to your farm's operation. NMPs are then leveraged to secure additional grant funds to implement BMPs on your farm. Past BMP cost-share grant awards include the replacement of fuel tanks, conversion to drip irrigation, engine efficiency upgrades, and the construction of agro-chemical mixing facilities. For more information or to sign-up for our programs simply call, email or visit the District office located at 423 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead and let the District Team assist you in reaching your resource conservation goals.

I wish everyone a healthy Holiday Season and look forward to continuing the great work of the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2018.



SUFFOLK COUNTY Soil & Water Conservation District

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Board of Directors

Robert Carpenter
Chairperson

Phil Schmitt
Director
Farmer

Al Krupski
Director
Legislator

Brian Culhane
Director
Member At Large

Robert Calarco
Director
Legislator

District Staff
Corey Humphrey
District Manager

Susan Odell-Pepe
Principal Account
Clerk

Sharon Frost
Soil District
Technician

Ann Marie Calabro
Soil District
Technician

Kenneth Johnson
Soil District
Technician

USDA-NRCS Staff
Liz Camps
District
Conservationist

Allan Connell
Conservation
Specialist



Crescent Duck Farm's Agricultural Waste Storage Facility located in Aquebogue, N.Y.

Long Island's Last Remaining Duck Farm Receives \$250,000 For Agricultural Waste Storage Facility By Sharon Frost

The last remaining duck farm on Long Island received \$250,000 to install an Agricultural Waste Storage Facility through Suffolk County's Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program. This District sponsored project was the first of its kind and is preventing 3,750 pounds of nitrogen annually from leaching into the Peconic Estuary and our sole source aquifer.

The Agricultural Waste Storage Facility was recommended in the Crescent Duck Farm Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), which was developed April 2015. The farm raises approximately one million ducks annually. There are about 125,000 ducks on hand that produce 50,000 pounds of manure daily. The facility is designed to store 100% of the dry manure that is generated on the farm each year. Before the Waste Storage Facility was installed, the dry manure was trucked off site to other local farms and stockpiled until the farms were ready to spread. The 26,000 square foot Agricultural Waste Storage Facility is designed with an impervious surface and a roof to prevent leaching.

The liquid manure produced at the farm is sent through a previous installed onsite Wastewater Treatment System, which is a combination of anaerobic and aerobic treatment technologies. These two Best Management Practices (BMP) have reduced the duck farm's daily nitrogen leaching potential to below 10ppm which is a requirement of the New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation.

This project was widely supported by the Suffolk County Executive, the Legislature, environmental groups, and Suffolk County's residents.

District services provided...

Agriculture

- Engineering Practices
- Irrigation Design
- Agricultural Environment Management
- Ag. Value Assessment
- Agronomic Practices
- Erosion Control
- Conservation Planning
- Cost-Share Programs
- Transition to Organic Farming
- Technical Assistance
- Practice, Design & Installation Supervision
- Drainage Systems
- Agricultural Waste Systems

Landowners

- Bluff Shoreline Erosion Recommendations
- Conservation Information
- Educational Materials
- Invasive Species Management
- Pond Assistance
- Sediment & Erosion Control
- Soils Information
- Habitat and Restoration
- Wildlife Management

Education

- Conservation Materials
- Program Guides

Municipalities

- Nonpoint Source Pollution Remediation
- Site Plan & Subdivision Reviews
- Grant Partnerships
- Watershed Management

Environmental Consultants

- Natural Resource Maps
- Aerial Photos



A bluff erosion site in Suffolk County.



West Islip High School Educational Garden.

Ag Education in the Classroom Grant Program

By Kenneth Johnson

In April 2017 the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District funded agricultural education programs at several schools in Suffolk County. As part of successfully meeting its annual performance measures, the SWCD received \$6,000 from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to implement local conservation projects. The District used these funds for our first Ag Education in the Classroom grant program.

The West Islip High School Life Skills program received funding to help install several raised beds and a small greenhouse. The life skills program works with special needs students and helps prepare students for life outside of school. The students run a small snack and coffee shop, and plan on selling some of the fruits and vegetables at the store.

East Quogue Elementary received funding to build nine raised small raised that will be utilized by the K-6 students. They plan on forming a summer gardening club to maintain the garden throughout the growing season.

East Moriches Middle School received funding for several raised beds, as well as an indoor growing tower with lighting. They plan on integrating the garden into the curriculum of several classes to get the most out of their school garden.

The District is excited to be able to bring this program to Suffolk County schools. The program will continue in 2018, so stay tuned for funding announcements.



Compost and Soil Health Workshop

By Kenneth Johnson

The concept of soil health is steadily gaining attention in the agricultural industry. As agricultural lands rise in value, and the land base shrinks, it is important that croplands remain healthy and productive. Healthy soils are better equipped to resist erosion, drought, flooding, and compaction. This in turn means that farmers get to enjoy the long term benefit of improved yields and farm viability. Numerous

projects and initiatives are focused on soil health outreach programs to farmers- work is being done on diverse practices such as cover cropping, adopting reduced tillage practices, crop rotations, and increasing soil organic matter and biological activity.

In November, the Harbes Farm in Mattituck hosted the Soil Health Field Day focusing on compost. The event was led by American Farmland Trust New York, with local cooperators including Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, Peconic Land Trust, and Cornell Waste Management Institute. The event was a half day discussion on the benefits of adding compost to soil, the challenges in sourcing and applying it, and how to produce and manage on-site compost production. Compost, when available, is a powerful tool that land managers can utilize to improve soil health.

Soil & Water District Deer Fencing Program By Ann Marie Calabro

The deer population on Long Island continues to grow nearly exponentially. Obtaining an accurate tally of the local deer herd is difficult to assess and any attempt at population control has become a topic for debate. Items not up for debate are the toll this overpopulation is taking on the agricultural community and the financial strain on the farmers. Over the past few years farmers have experienced a significant increase in damage to agricultural crops, nursery stock, landscape plantings, orchards, etc. In my travels I have seen devastation to fields of young trees in nurseries and orchards due to rubbing and browsing, trampled pumpkins, and over-browsed vegetable crops. Until everyone can agree on a solution to managing the local deer population the best we can do is to put up fences to protect our crops and investments.

The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District received \$600,000 from FY 2015 – 2017 for the installation of deer fence to farmers who are experiencing crop damage from the over population of white-tail deer. Cost sharing was provided to sixty (60) farmers for the installation of Deer Fence on agricultural land. All participants were required to follow USDA NRCS Standards and Specifications. These funds were approved in the NYS Budget for the past three (3) years and have been tentatively written in for the next two. We hope that the funding continues as many have expressed the need for fencing. In the past we received word the funding was approved in April, I am hoping to hear the same this coming April 2018.

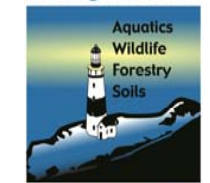


Best Management Practice—Deer Control Fence
Standard 382A Woven Wire



Sachem North High Scholl Envirothon team was recognized by Suffolk Legislator for their accomplishments at the New York State Envirothon. From left to right: Legislator Tom Muratore 4th District, Legislator Al Krupski 1st District, Teacher Monica Saleh, L.I. Envirothon Coordinator Sharon Frost, students, Isabel Martins, Michaela Lynch, Emily Gelardi, Jack McGlinchey, Erin Maryzek, and Emily Watson, Legislator William J. Lindsay 8th District, and Legislator Robert Calarco 7th District.

Long Island



Regional Envirothon

The 19th LONG ISLAND ENVIROTHON By Sharon Frost

The 2017 L.I. Envirothon was another successful event. We had 42 teams compete at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration in Old Bethpage, N.Y.

Although the weather didn't cooperate we were fortunate to have Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph S. Saladino and L.I. Farm Bureau Administrative Director Robert Carpenter address the students this year. In their inspirational speeches, they told the students how they admired them for their dedication to Long Island's environment.

Great Neck South and Sachem North High Schools took top honors for Nassau and Suffolk Counties, respectively. They went on to compete at the New York State Envirothon, which was held in May at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, located in the heart of the Fingerlakes in Upstate, New York.

This local component of the state and national competitions held annually in late spring is based on five subject areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and the current issue, Agricultural Soil & Water Conservation Stewardship.

Each member of the winning teams, from Nassau and Suffolk, received a \$500 scholarship. The LI Envirothon has awarded over \$60,000 in scholarship money in its tenure. In addition, each team received paid registration and transportation to the NYS Envirothon competition.

"We are very proud that acknowledge the importance of the program and the dedication, enthusiasm, and perseverance of the teachers and students who participate," said Sharon Frost, L.I. Envirothon Coordinator.

Additionally, we are proud to announce that Covanta Energy will be sponsoring the LI Envirothon again this year with another generous \$10,000 donation.

The 2018 L.I. Envirothon will be held on Wednesday, April 25th at the Usdan Summer Camp for the Arts in Wheatley Heights.