

**DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

2715 Route 44, Suite 3  
Millbrook, New York 12545



DUTCHESS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# Conservation News

February 2017

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**District Staff**

Brian F. Scoralick  
Executive Director

Erin Sommerville  
MS4 Coordinator

Tonnie Sauca  
District Technician

Lauren Drum  
AEM Technician

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Chairperson

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Contact us:

[dutch@dutchessswcd.org](mailto:dutch@dutchessswcd.org)

[www.dutchessswcd.org](http://www.dutchessswcd.org)

Find Us on  
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## Shapp Pond Dam Removal Project

Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District was the recipient of a grant to assist landowner Hilary Kliros, in the Town of Clinton, with the removal of a dam located on the East Branch of the Wappinger Creek. The project was fund-

ed through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The Shapp Pond Dam was determined to be in need of repair or removal after some damaging flood events in recent years. Based on inspections, the landowner decided to move forward

with removal to prevent the possibility for failure of the dam and damage to downstream properties. Removal of the dam also increased the ability for aquatic passage and fish migration by reconnecting sections of the creek. The landowner received all of the necessary permits and DCSWCD provided technical assistance and assisted with contractor selection and grant administration. The removal project was finished in August of 2016.



*Shapp Pond Dam prior to demolition*

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*During Construction*

Thank you to Rodney Morrison, PE of the LRC Group for providing the engineering services and Corewood Ventures of Poughkeepsie for providing the excavation services.



*After removal of the Shapp Pond Dam (September 2016)*

See the insert for this year's Seedling Sale Order Form!

New Species Available This Year!

Please place your order by **March 24th**

Pickup dates:

Friday April 21st 9AM-6PM

AND

Saturday April 22nd 9AM-12PM

\*Native Flowering Pack

\*New Pear combo pack

\*Buttonbush (below)

\*Red Maple (shown in Fall below)



# Farmer Improves Water Quality

In 2013, we started to plan and design an intensive grazing system for Chaseholm Farm, a small grass-based dairy farm. Several needs were identified including a consistent and reliable watering system, an improved stream crossing and livestock exclusion fencing with a new riparian buffer for the stream that divides the pasture land. In 2015, Chaseholm Farm received Ag-Non-Point Source grant money from NYS, and EQIP money from USDA-NRCS to help install these systems. In 2016, a portion of the watering system and the new stream crossing for the cattle and machinery were completed. More construction is planned for 2017.



Above: Prior unstable stream crossing

Below: Stabilized Stream Crossing



Above: New watering hydrant installed

Right: New water supply line being installed

# Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon

This year's Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon had a great turnout and some very impressive competition with over twenty teams from 12 schools and 5 counties!! Congratulations to the students from Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappinger for 1st place amongst Dutchess County teams. The overall winner of this year's Envirothon is the returning champ which is the team from The Mount Academy in Ulster County!! The Mount Academy team went on to place first at the State Envirothon with two other teams from the regional placing 10th and 17th out of over 50 teams!

The Envirothon is a statewide competition that tests groups of students on their knowledge and skills in environmental topics including wildlife, forestry, soils, aquatics and a current issue. In addition, the teams are asked to prepare a presentation on their solution to an environmental problem. If you are a high school teacher or know a high school teacher that would be interested in leading a team please contact Tonnie Sauca at [Tonnie.Sauca@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:Tonnie.Sauca@ny.nacdnet.net) for more information.



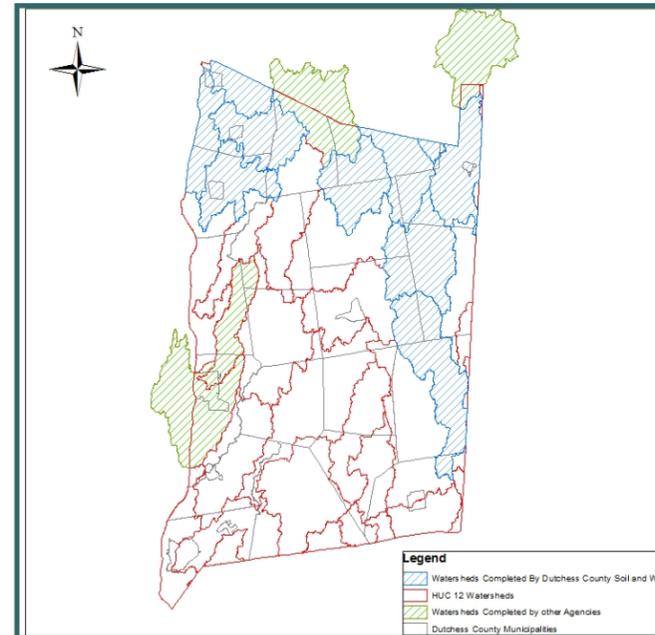
*Congratulations to Roy C. Ketcham High School. They were Dutchess County's first place team in 2016!*

# Aquatic Habitat Inventories and Assessments

Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District continued our culvert inventory project in 2016. Funding for part of this project was received through the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) with the Wildlife Management Institute to continue working on the culvert inventory project. In this time-frame six watersheds were focused on including; Tenmile River, Cold Spring Creek, Headwater Webatuck Creek, Wassaic Creek, Stony Creek, and Muddler Kill Creek. These watersheds cover portions of Dover, Pawling, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan, Amenia, Northeast, Millerton, Tivoli, Red Hook and Rhinebeck. The field work was completed by DCSWCD staff and interns who collected data based on location, shape, and material type of the culverts. They also took measurements of the culvert length and width, outlet perch, inlet drop, water depth, and slope. They took notes on the condition of the culverts, along with barrier significance and presence of scour pools. Once data was collected from each watershed, the data was entered into NAACC's database where a score for aquatic life passability is calculated. Many of the culverts original designs included perched inlets or outlets which can disrupt aquatic connectivity and wildlife. This kind of habitat fragmentation can impede on wildlife's ability to find food and shelter, as well as, their breeding migrations. With the data collected, towns and municipalities can utilize this information to resolve issues with fragmented wildlife habitats due to culvert crossings.



Above: Intern Cassandra Bibbo in front of an elliptical culvert.  
Below: Intern Alexandra Reichert inside a box bridge crossing



The map to the left shows the areas of Dutchess County where culverts have been inventoried using the NAACC Protocol. The blue shaded areas are watersheds that have been completed by DCSWCD. In 2016 alone 308 road stream crossings were looked at! DCSWCD plans to continue working on culvert inventories in 2017.

The Town of Washington Highway Department had a crossing begin to fail in the spring of 2016. The collapsing headwall threatened to clog the inlet and close Verbank Road. The District assisted by calculating hydrology and preparing plans to provide increased structural stability and capacity for years to come. NYSDEC and USACE received the permit applications compiled by the District and were rapid in their permitting response allowing the project to be completed by the end of the summer.

## Failing Culvert Replaced



Before

After