

# CONSERVATION NEWS NOW

315-386-3582



1942 OLD DEKALB RD  
CANTON, NY 13617



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## Student Spotlight

Meet **Alyssa Card** and **Jason Donovan** our 2026 summer interns. They will be out and about monitoring wetlands within St. Lawrence County. Please keep an eye out as they sometimes have to park on the side of the road!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **Farmer's Markets**  
May - October 2026  
Soil and Water will be manning a table at your local market. Check out our Facebook page to see which one!
- \* **Water Chestnut Pull**  
July 17<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> ; August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Staff will be assisting SLELO Prism and the DEC to remove water chestnut, an invasive species, from our waterways.
- \* **St. Lawrence County Fair**  
August 4<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Visit us at our booth in the 4-H building during the county fair. Not at the table? We are probably walking about and chatting with community members!

## Welcome!

Welcome to St. Lawrence County Soil and Water's first addition of our newsletter! We are happy you're reading. Before we start, did you know SWCD's are not regulatory entities? All of our programs are tailored to help St. Lawrence County residence and the environment. We're here to provide education, information, and technical assistance to St. Lawrence County property owners. Most people are surprised by the breadth of our services and programs.

Some of our programs will be highlighted in this conservation news issue! We have a wide partner network - if we don't have an answer, we know who does and can help you get the information you need!

Thank you for signing up - make sure to tell your friends!

Now, let's

## Meet the Staff



Alivia Bleau -  
District Manager



Allycia Foote -  
District Technician



Melissa Woods -  
Secretary/Assistant  
Treasurer



Aaron Barrigar -  
District Forester



Heidi Knafelc -  
District Technician

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Services

**Ag Value Assessment – Soil Group Worksheet**

Need a soil group worksheet completed for ag value assessment? Call or stop in to the office to request one! Get your request in before the spring rush. \$30 a parcel until February 15<sup>th</sup>, then the price jumps to \$40 per parcel.

**Forest Management Plans**

Interested in knowing more about your forest, how to manage it, or how to apply for incentive programs? We can help! District Forester, Aaron Barrigar, offers forest management services to landowners with private forestlands between 50-500 acres, for **free**. Call the office to learn more.

**Invasive Species Spotlight**

**Wild Parsnip**

Wild Parsnip is native to Europe and Asia. It is an aggressive perennial plant. Wild Parsnip grows 4-6 feet tall. The flower umbrellas are general 2-6 inches wide and contain 5-petaled yellow flowers that bloom from June through late August. Wild Parsnip is generally found on the sides of roads and railways. **WATCH OUT** - wild parsnip causes phytophotodermatitis - causing severe rashes, blisters, and discoloration of the skin when plant sap comes in contact with the skin. Appropriate protective clothing including gloves, long sleeves, and long pants should be worn and direct contact with the plant should be avoided. If sap comes in contact with skin, avoid exposure to sunlight, immediately wash skin with soap and water, and **seek medical attention**.



Program Spotlight

# Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) is a **voluntary**, incentive-base program available to all farmers throughout St. Lawrence County. AEM supports common-sense, cost-effective, and science-based decisions to meet farms goals while protecting and conserving St. Lawrence County natural resources. By participating in AEM, farmers can document their environmental stewardship, further advance their stewardship as well as further advance their positive contributions to their communities, our food and bio-systems, the economy, and the environment. To start or continue with AEM, farmers can contact Allycia Foote to progress through the confidential, AEM tiers :

- Tier 1- Inventory current activities, interests, and potential environmental concerns of the farm.
- Tier 2- Document current environmental stewardship and access/prioritize areas of concern.
- Tier 3 - Develop conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to the farm’s goals.
- Tier 4- Implement these plans using available education, technician and financial assistance.
- Tier 5 - Evaluate practices and plans for conservation and farm viability.



## 2026 Cover Crop Program

Are you interested in adding cover crops into your field rotation? Soil & Water could help, through our incentive-based reimbursement cover crop program!

**50 acre cap/farm**

Call the office for more information

What we've been up to...

### Northern Adirondack Regional Envirothon (NARE)



On April 28<sup>th</sup> St. Lawrence, Clinton, Essex, and Franklin County Soil and Waters hosted the NARE event for high school students.

Congratulations to Canton Central School who won 1<sup>st</sup> place and competed at the State event hosted at SUNY Cortland May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

### Earth Day & Arbor Day Event

Allycia Foote, Heidi Knalfec and Melissa Woods hosted a Nature Walk on April 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day. While there, community members learned to ID many tree species as well as other species in nature.



### SWCD in Pictures



SLC SWCD employees attended the Water Quality Symposium. This is an intense four-day training for District employees.



On June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SLC SWCD employees will be attending the Conservation Field Days hosted at the Indian Creek Nature Center.



SLC SWCD has an annual tree sale. We sell a variety of conifer and deciduous trees, berries, and wildflower seeds. All carefully selected to survive our climate.



District Forester Aaron Barrigar eating lunch while out in the field doing a forest inventory for a forest management plan.

### Other Services

### Soil Sampling

While St. Lawrence County Soil and Water does not conduct soil sampling, unless done through our AEM program, we do aid landowners in filling out paperwork if they are sampling on their own. Soil samples can be dropped off at Wight & Pattersons; Dairy One Laboratory picks up here daily. Samples must have associated paperwork and payment along with it. If you have any further questions, please give our office a call.



# Dairy One

### Water Quality Testing



We partner with Endyne Labs to help residents of St. Lawrence County ensure their drinking water is safe! Whether you're an individual or a municipality, you can now pick up your water testing bottles and instructions from our office in Canton.

Water samples are picked up by Endyne Labs on the second Monday of every month at 10am. Samples **must** be dropped off between 7am and

10am on the second Monday of each month. Samples should be taken within 24 hours of drop off time and kept cold (but **not** frozen).

If you have questions please give us a call or stop in.

### Upcoming Edition



St. Lawrence County Soil and Water would like to thank you for signing up to receive our newsletter. We truly appreciate your interest in the work we do. We are continuing to grow our mailing list, and if you know anyone who may enjoy or benefit from our updates, we would be grateful if you encourage them to sign up! Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,  
The SLC SWCD Staff

