

York Water District is pleased to announce that Matthew Charpentier of York has been selected as the fourth annual recipient of the Josiah Chase Clean Water Scholarship Award. Matthew is pursuing a bachelor's degree from Bates College. His dedication and passion for the outdoors and interest in the protection of our natural resources make him a clear fit for this scholarship.

The Josiah Chase Clean Water Scholarship was created to attract young professionals to a career in or related to the drinking water industry, helping to offset the employment gap created by the current aging industry workforce. The scholarship is entirely funded by York Water District's conservation forestry program. This program manages and sustainably harvests timber on an 1,800-acre certified tree farm surrounding York Water District's only water supply, Chase's Pond.

Josiah Chase (1840-1928) was a Maine environmentalist, lawyer and legislator who was the moving spirit and controlling factor in the development of public water supply, first known as York Shore Water company, now known as the York Water District. Josiah Chase was the first president of the company organized in 1895 and remained in that capacity until his death in 1928. He is credited with conserving much of the land surrounding Chase's Pond to protect its excellent water quality and readily available source for municipal and domestic purposes in the Town of York. His devotion to creating a safe public water supply system while protecting the source is why the York Water District continues to provide the Town of York with safe, clean, reliable drinking water every day.

