



Soil & Water News

107 Park Street - Farmington, ME 04938 (778-4279)
info@franklincswcd.org www.franklincswcd.org

Making Conservation Work For You

Oct./Nov. 2010 Volume XV Issue III

All programs and services of the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis



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Supervisor Election & Appointment



L. Herbert York
of Farmington
Supervisor since 1969

L. Herbert, Bussie, York ran unopposed for the three year supervisor position.

Pam Harnden's was the only name submitted to fill the appointed supervisor position.

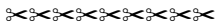


Pamela Harnden
of Dryden
Supervisor since 2001

LAKESMART PROGRAM

Supervisors

Pamela Harnden - *Chair*
 L. Herbert York - *Vice Chair*
 Bruce J. Tracy - *Secretary*
 Patty Cormier - *Treasurer*
 Thayden Farrington- *member*

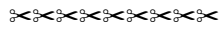


Associate Supervisors:

Linton Robinson
 Archie (Bill) Berry
 Robert Leso
 Henry Hardy - Fred Hardy
 Jeff Harris
 Rupert Pratt
 Raymond Buck

District Personnel

778-4279
 Rosetta Thompson
*Executive Director &
 Education Coordinator*
 Becky Millay
Office Trainee - 20/wk

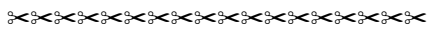


NRCS Personnel

778-2788 ext. 105
 Paul Hersey
District Conservationist

Anna Kettell

ext.108
Soil Conservationist



FSA Personnel

778-2788



The LakeSmart Awards program has gone through 8 years of growth. LakeSmart promotes lake friendly landscaping and responsible property maintenance and involves a site visit by FCSWCD staff. There have been a total of 69 awards presented through our District; 10 on *David Pond*, 24 on *Wilson Lake*, 8 on *Porter Lake*, 1 on Cupsuptic Lake, 6 on *Locke Pond*, 3 on *Sand Pond* and 8 on *Mooselookmeguntic* Lake, 3 on Rangeley Lake, 3 on Parker Pond, 2 on Dodge Pond, and 1 on Loone Lake. There are several categories evaluated: driveway & parking areas; structures & septic systems; yard, recreation areas and footpaths; shorefront & beach area; and undeveloped areas. If a homeowner qualifies for the first 4 categories, they receive the LakeSmart Award. If they qualify for the 5th category, they can receive additional recognition. An Award consists of up to 2 LakeSmart signs and a personalized certificate. A recognition certification is given for each of the other categories that is passed.

You can request a site evaluation by contacting your lake's/pond's coordinator. The entire visit takes about 1 to 1.5 hours. There is a pre-evaluation form that must be filled out and returned to the FCSWCD office prior to Rosetta's site visit. At the completion of the visit the evaluator will give the homeowner general recommendations for improvements. The site visit is not for enforcement purposes. For further information about LakeSmart, or to request a site evaluation contact the District Office.

Only the waterbodies in *italics* above are currently in the program. For an application form, go to <http://maine.gov/dep/blwq/doclake/lakesmart/application.htm> and become part of this great program in 2011.

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Brook & Rainbow Trout

We will be taking orders for both rainbow and brook trout for a May pick up. To get an order form with sizes and prices either call 778-4279 or go on line at www.franklincswcd.org for an order form the beginning of the 2011.

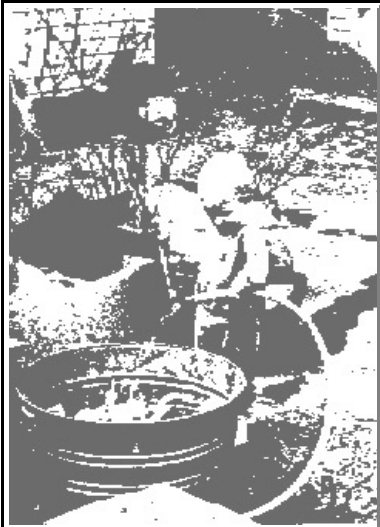
Stocking permits are available in our office.

If you would like to receive our 2011 shrub brochure with description and order form, Call 778-4279, go on line at www.franklincswcd.org or stop by our office in the USDA Service Center on Park St in Farmington.

A full color version will be available on line and in the office.

Volunteers - The Heart of Any Organization

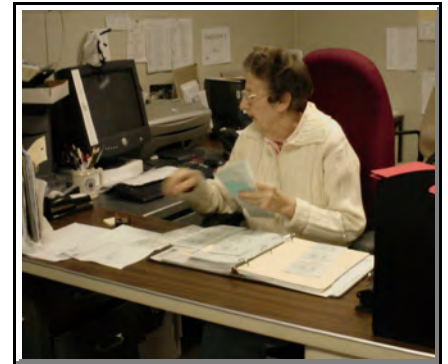
From The Youngest to The Oldest



Youngest Volunteer
My 19 month old grandson,
Dustin, waters shrubs.

Volunteers come from many walks of life. Usually the first volunteers seen at any place of work are recruited from among family members, relatives, and friends. From there the ranks flair out to include acquaintances and community members along with other agencies and organizations.

Mary Obrenberger was one of our faithful volunteers who worked an average of 10 hours every week during her time with us. She was a very special lady who worked her hardest to try to organize our many files and assist other volunteers. Mary passed away this year and will be missed very much.



When I started working for Franklin County Soil & Water 18 years ago the volunteers consisted of a few people who traditionally helped Edith with the annual shrub sale and a six week summer Upward Bound student, along with college intern Wanda Farrington (Thayden Farrington's late daughter).

Being the only employee of the Soil & Water Conservation District after March of 1993, there was not enough time to do all the work preformed by the previous two people who worked here and to expand the program base. This is where volunteers came into play within the first few months of my employment. First I drew from my family and those already involved with this District.

Edith McCleery, previous Office Manager, and Mary Ellen Ederly assisted with the sorting of shrubs and putting up orders. Bussie York moved the orders which had been loaded onto his flatbed from the McCleery's to the district courthouse parking lot where my then expectant daughter, Bobbi, assisted in handing out the orders. Bobbi continued to help whenever she could that year and for many more years to come. Throughout that year I used the volunteer help of my husband, my other daughters, my son-in-law, my mother, and individuals who had already been presenting at Ag Day at the Fair.

Every summer since 1983, FCSWCD has taken on a student or two through various programs such as Upward Bound, the Summer Youth Employment Training Program (SYETP) for 6 - 8 weeks depending on the student program. Upward Bound has been the only program to send students to us since 1997. We continue to use the talents of two students each summer for six weeks of up to 12 hrs per week. We help them learn new skills and they never fail to teach me something while they are here.

Our volunteer base continued to grow as I brought my husband, children, grandchildren and other friends, relatives and acquaintances on board. In the late fall of 1994, we reached out to ASPIRE, SERVE/Maine, WDC, RSVP, and ABLE's SCSEP and NCOA programs who have sent almost 30 trainee/volunteers our way.

Many of our own board members have helped as district volunteers for some of our fund raising programs such as the shrub program and the annual auction which we initiated in the mid 1990's as well as some of our educational programs such as Ag Day and Conservation Field Days.

We have some volunteers who have been with this district almost as long as I have and others that come and go. I believe that all our volunteers are fantastic and deserve a giant pat on the back. They are fantastic. Since 1993 volunteers have donated over 26,000 hours to help FCSWCD in a variety of ways.

Great learning experience for one and all at the 20th annual Ag Day



Students learned that apples grown on trees and that there are many different varieties and sizes of apples. They also learned that apples are used to make applesauce and cider. They even get to taste these products.



From the cow to the table

Students were amazed that milk comes from a cow and lined up to try milking. They also learned that butter and cheese are byproducts of milk. Tasting was part of the fun.

Many of our regular school classes canceled their trip to the 20th Agricultural/Environmental Day at the Fair, Ag Day, held at the Farmington Fair ground thanks the Franklin County Agricultural Society. However, new schools called the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District to take part for the first time. When the day was over and all the registrations were counted, we were surprised to find that our numbers were up from last year. Nearly 1,200 student, teachers, and chaperons moved from station to station learning where their food and fiber come from and how to take better care of their environment by composting and recycling.

Among the many things to do and see at stations and in the exhibition halls, museums, and barns were: paper making, trout, composting, bee keeping, nutrition, maple syrup production, invasive insects, ground water, forest fire prevention, a tour of the ambulances, hugs from Smoky Bear and forest fire prevention information, 4-H saddleback horse riding show, raising Emus and other large and small livestock, potato production and much more.



Making paper from pulp. Who knew!



Where do the pollutants go when you dump something down a drain?



Potatoes grow under ground!?

If you have students in grades K - 4 and want to attend our 2011 Ag Day, you must contact FCSWCD as we are the only ones who give passes.

Training, Workshops, Technical Assistance, and Grant Work

By Rosetta Thompson

Each year the Franklin County Soil & water Conservation District, FCSWCD, offers a variety of courses. I am pleased to announce that in 2011 we will be offering two classes directly through the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Non-Point Source Center. The first one will be held Wednesday, April 15th on "Basic and Advance Erosion and Sediment Practices" for contractors and others. Both certification and recertification credits will be available for this all day course being held in Rangeley. The second training will be on "Camp Road Maintenance" and will be held on Wednesday, June 8th either in Rangeley or Farmington. We need at least 15 to hold either session. If you are interested in attending either of these, please contact my office at 778-4279 to be put on the mailing or e mail list for the class.

A "Plumbing Code Changes" class will be held at the Granary in Farmington on Wednesday, April 27th with funds made available through Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District, CCSWCD, and the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee, JETCC, and hosted by Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Technical assistance and engineering services are available through the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation Service. We have three different engineering firms who are contracted with us to assist land owners for a fee. This fee to you, the landowner is usually less than what an engineer would charge directly. Contact Rosetta at 778-4279 for more information.

All the soil and water conservation districts in Maine are currently involved with a "Natural Resource Inventory" grant through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, and the Maine Association of Conservation Districts, MACD. There are several aspects to this grant for each county including gathering statistics, collecting survey results, and holding at least one Local Work Group meeting with the general public some time in January. Over 50 people have filled our surveys already and we appreciate their input. If you have not completed a survey this year, please take a few minutes to download the survey from our web site, fill it out and return it to our office before Christmas this year. Thank you.

The Department of Environmental Protection, DEP, is assisting FCSWCD with the task of tracking the outcome obtained through the pilot "Camp Road Project". We will track the outcome of road owners who attended a "forming a road association" workshop but did not receive technical assistance, TA, and draft a report to MACD and DEP by November 2011 for inclusion in the final project report. There will be an attempt to answer the following questions: (1) Does providing TA significantly improve the odds that a road association will form? (2) Is providing the TA a cost effective way to increase road association formation? Road associations that were nominated but did not receive TA will be contacted before the project is completed to see if they (a) reviewed the information sent and (b) if they did anything differently as a result of the information.

Cumberland County SWCD is taking the lead to write a grant which will involve every soil & water conservation district that is interested. This will be a grant to provide training to develop a "Harvest Lunch" program for one k-8 school (Sometime the third week in September). Additional training will help districts provide 3 lessons for k-6th graders and a one hour assembly for 7th & 8th graders.

Call this district at 778-4279 or 778-4767 ext 104 if you are interested in attending a GPS with mapping training in February and/or July 2011. We need at least 15 pre-registered to hold the class. I would like to also offer a map and compass reading class if there is interest. We only need 10 for this three hour class. The other training session we would like to offer you, if there is enough interest is on Tree Identification. Free Forest Trees of Maine books will be given to all who pre-register (They are really nice colored books.) by the 1st of May. The training date will be some time between May 19th and 27th. Again, please call me or e-mail me at info@franklincswcd.org if you are interested in any of these classes.

Topo Maps at Giveaway Prices

We have a limited number of topographical maps without the bottom legend on them at a really low price of \$3.25 tax included. The maps available are: Attean Pond, Bangor, Bethel, Boothbay Harbor, Bridgton, Bristol, Brunswick, Camden, Damariscotta, East Stoneham, Gilead, Great East Lake, Holeb, Kennebago, Kennebago Lake, Metallak Mtn, Norway, Old Speck Mtn, Rangeley, Readfield, Saddleback Mtn, Speckled Mtn, Stratton, Somersworth, West Port, and York Beach.

They also make great wrapping paper to give that gift just a little something different.

Become a Certified Excavation Contractor

Sign up with Rosetta at Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District - 778-4279 - to have an active site evaluation done. The process is quick and painless for the contractor who needs to have at least two BMPs in place (If more are needed at the site they need to be in place and maintained).

Remember that soon only certified contractors or site with a certified contractor on site may work within shoreland zoning.

You may take the day long course through the Non-Point Source Center before or after the site evaluation, but you need both parts to become certified.



Please Exchange Your Lead Tackle

Swap your old lead fishing tackle – for free! Non-lead tackle makes fishing safer for you, your children, and Maine’s wildlife.

Lead has been known for centuries to be toxic – to humans and wildlife alike. Angling and other outdoor sports deposit thousands of tons of lead into the environment each year.

Lead ingestion is a death sentence for Maine’s loons, other water birds, and even the raptors, such as bald eagles, that may feed on these water birds. Water birds ingest lead when foraging on lake bottoms for the gravel they require or from feeding on fish

attached to lead fishing gear. As the lead sinker or jig is exposed to the pebbles in the gizzard and acids of the stomach, lead enters the bird's system and slowly poisons the bird.

Children are particularly susceptible to lead absorption. Children handling lead sinkers and jigs are at risk of lead poisoning.

Now anglers can clean the toxic tackle out of their boxes and get replacement non-toxic tackle for free! Program will continue while supplies last. Go to the District’s website at www.franklincswcd.org for more information or stop by the District office at 107 Park St., Farmington to swap your lead tackle for non-toxic alternatives.

Topo maps

We currently have over 350 different in stock maps. Maps listed below are on sale for \$5 each plus tax (regular price \$8). We also have **one 15" Maps of Little Bigelow** -out of print for **\$6** and **30X60"** maps of Lewiston reduced to **\$7 plus tax.**

Addison - Albion	Bristol - Burham	Cumberland Center	Gardiner - Gilead	Monticello -Moose Bog
Alfred - Athens	Brownfield	Dover Foxcroft	Greenville -Greenwood	Moosehead Lake
Attean Pond	Brownville Junction	Drisko Island	Great Wass Island	Mooseleuk Lake
Augusta -Bangor	Blue Brook	Eastport - Ellsworth	Harrington - Hiram	Mount Keneo
Bar Harbor -Bar Mills	Bois Bubert	Deer Island	Harrington Lake	Mt Zircon - Mud Lake
Barren Mtn. East	Bosebuck Mtn	Devils Head	Harland - Holeb	Naples - New Harbor
Basin Mtn.	Branch Lake	Dexter - Dixfield	Heald Pond -Herman	New Sweden
Beech Hill Pond	Brooklin	Dixmont - Dover East	Hinckley -Hopkins Pond	No. Waterford
Belgrade - Bethel	Brooks East & West	East Carry Pond	Houghton -Isle	Norway - Plymouth
Belgrade Lakes	Buckfield - Burlington	East Dixmont	Isleboro - Jefferson	North Whitefield
Biddeford Pool	Cambridge - Canaan	Easton Ctr.	Jim Pond -Johns Island	Penobscot Farm
Big Shanty Mtn.	Canada Falls Lake	East Pittston	Kenduskeag Kennebunkport	Presque Isle
Bailey Island	Canton - Caratunk	East Stoneham	Kezar Falls - Kittery	Rainbow Lake W.
Baker Island	Caribou Lake N.	Ebeemee Mtn.	Kibby Mtn. - Kokadjo	Rochester (NH)
Baker Lake,NW	Caribou Lake S.	Echo Lake - Eastbrook	LaGrange -York Harbor	Sandy Bay Mtn.
Bartlett Island -Bath	Catheart Mtn	Ellsworth - Epping	Lake Auburn East	Searsmont
Belfast -Biddeford	Center Lovell	Enchanted Pond	Lake Auburn West -Wiscasset	Squa Pan Lake W.
Big Black Rapids	Charleston	Fayette - Fryeburg	Lewiston - Limerick	StinsonNeck - Tenmants
Big Brook Lake	Casco - China Lake	Fisher Pond	Lisbon Falls S.	Harbor Tomah Mtn.
Big Spencer Mtn	Columbia Falls -Corrina	Five Finger Brook	Lobster Mtn -Whitneyville	Trunk Lake - Union
Black Brook Pond	Cross Island	Fairfield -Farrar Mtn.	Louds Island - Lubec	Unity Pond -Vasalboro
Black Nubble	Camden - Cutler	Fisher Pond	Mapleton - Matinicus	Upper McNally Pond
Big Spencer Mtn.	Campbell Brook	Five Finger Brook	Mary L Pond -Matallak Mtn	Wadleigh Pond
Black Mtn. -Blue Hill	Cape Rosier	Fort Fairfield NW	McKeen Lake -Merrill Mtn	Waterboro -Vasalboro
Boundry Pond	Carmel - Clinton	Foster Ridge	Mckinnon Brook	West Corinth -Westfield
Brassua Lake East	Cherryfield -Chesuncook	Frenchboro -Friendship	Middle Dam -York Beach	West Lubec -WRockport
Brassua Lake West	Churchill Stream	Fryeburg -Garland	Millinocket Lake	West Summer

USDA initiative offers assistance with wildlife plans

Applications for the New England-New York Forestry Initiative accepted through March 1, 2011

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White has announced that \$2 million in federal funding is available to assist Maine forest land owners with forest land planning and management under the New England-New York Forestry Initiative. A total of \$5.9 million will be available to forest land owners throughout the New England-New York region.

"The main goal of this effort is to promote exemplary stewardship among private landowners by assisting them to improve forest health and productivity, wildlife habitat and water quality," White said. "Besides providing economic benefits, forests are home to diverse communities of fish and wildlife. Through sound planning and management, our goal is to help private landowners keep forests as forests."

Forest land owners who would like assistance may visit the Franklin County USDA Service Center at 107 Park Street, Farmington, by **March 1, 2011** or call 778-4767 to submit an application and complete the necessary paperwork to establish their eligibility. More information is available on the Maine NRCS website at www.me.nrcs.usda.gov.

The forestry initiative will assist private landowners in conservation planning and management of their private forests to improve wildlife habitat, forest health and productivity, and water quality. Eligible conservation practices include forest stand improvement, integrated pest management, early successional habitat development and management, tree and shrub establishment, upland wildlife habitat management, stream crossings, riparian forest buffer, fish passage, stream habitat improvement and management, forest trails and landings, conservation cover, access roads, road/trail/landing closure and treatment, wetland restoration, tree and shrub site preparation, and wetland wildlife habitat management.

2011 Shrub Program Offerings at a Glimpse

Some of the trees and shrubs being offered by the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District in 2011:

Apples, peaches, pears, and quince trees; highbush blueberries; dogwood and lilac bushes, herbs and mints, periwinkle ground cover, and potted perennials.

If you want or need 50 or more of any of the native conifers, we can get them for you. Just call 778-4279.

NRCS Invites Producers to Sign Up for Conservation Stewardship Program

Juan Hernandez, State Conservationist for NRCS in Maine, invites producers to apply for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), a program that offers payments to producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and who agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, and non-industrial forestland. The application deadline to be considered for the next ranking and funding period is **January 7, 2011**.

"CSP offers payments for adding conservation practices and maintaining and managing existing conservation practices," said Hernandez. "These voluntary conservation practices by producers are an essential part of our effort to improve soil and water quality."

Potential applicants are encouraged to use the CSP self-screening checklist to determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations, and potential payments. It is available from the Franklin County USDA Service Center or on the Maine NRCS web site at <http://www.me.nrcs.usda.gov>. Eligible producers may submit an application to enroll eligible land in CSP on a continuous basis. However, producers are encouraged to apply for CSP now to ensure their applications will be considered during the next funding and ranking period.

Landowners should call or visit the Franklin County USDA Service Center at 107 Park Street, Farmington, or call 778-4767 their local USDA Service Center to submit an application and complete the necessary paperwork to establish their eligibility. More information is available on the Maine NRCS website at www.me.nrcs.usda.gov