



Conservation District News

February 2015

107 Park Street - Farmington, ME 04938

info@franklincswcd.org www.franklincswcd.org

Office: 778-4279 Cell: 212-6109

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All programs and services of the Franklin County Soil & Water are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis.
Making Conservation Work For You

Try the Delicious “Hotties”



On April 3rd, the public will have the opportunity to taste many of the delicious “Hotties” created locally by the Marble Family Farms at the West Farmington Grange Hall.

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a public supper featuring “Hotties”. The meal will be served 5:30 - 6:15. The public is invited to move upstairs in the grange hall after the meal to find out more about the Marble Family Farms and their locally produced products. The family farm presentation will be led by Andrew Marble.

A public silent auction will be set up with registration and viewing starting at 5:15 p.m. The high bidders will be announced at about 6:45 p.m. and items may be paid for and picked up after the Marble presentation about 7 p.m.

Directly after the Marble Family Farms presentation, the FCSWCD will honor volunteers and conservation award recipients. After this brief statements will be heard from our Commissioner of Agriculture and a representative from the State USDA NRCS Office in Bangor.

Call 778-4279 for a registration form or stop by our 107 Park Street Office to sign up for the meal &/or the auction. There will be a registration charge of \$11 per person for the meal and auction. The registration form may be found on the last page 7 of this newsletter.

Supervisors

Pamela Harnden, Chair
Henry Hardy, Vice-Chair
Patty Cormier, Treasurer
Bruce Tracy, Secretary
L. Herbert York, Member

Associate Supervisors

Linton Robinson
Robert Leso
Ellie Hopkins
Archie Berry
Frank Forster
George Weeks
Thayden Farrington



The mission of Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District is to address the voluntary conservation of natural resources for all citizens by providing technical assistance and educational programming.

2015 Big Tree Contest

The Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District's Big Tree Contest will run from May 1st through September 30th in 2015.

The goal of the contest is to find the largest possible native trees including the lesser-known trees as listed on the Maine Forest Service website: maineforestservice.org under "Project Canopy".

Nominations submitted to the District will be given to Patty Cormier, Maine Forest Service District Forester, to measure and photograph. She will determine if these trees really are the biggest in Franklin County or even better, in the State!

There is a simple nomination form that can be picked

up at our 107 Park St, Farmington office or one can be requested by e mailing info@franklincswcd.org. Information requested on the form includes who nominated the tree, where the property owner of the tree is located, and information on the tree itself.

Individuals who nominate a big tree will receive a complimentary "Forest Trees of Maine" booklet. Anyone who finds a tree that becomes a state winner will receive recognition at the District's annual meeting where they will be awarded a certificate as well as being posted on the Maine Forest Service and the FCSWCD web sites.

For more information please contact Rosetta Thompson at FCSWCD (778-4279) or Patty Cormier at MFS (592-2238).



Invasive Plant Alert: Hardy Kiwi

Mass Audubon issued an alert in 2011 about the infestation of hardy kiwi. In the photo at the left ~3 acres in Western MA was covered with an intertwining mat more than 4 ft deep. The ground under the mat was littered with trees that succumbed to the vines' weight. Seeds are dispersed by raccoons & other mammals (possibly turkeys & grouse) and can establish in closed canopy woodlands. This plant should be on everyone's "don't plant" list based on some scary populations seen right here in Maine. Spread the word. Learn more about the increasing number of invasive plants in Maine. Learn how to identify them and possible ways to remove or prevent these unwanted invasive plants from the landscape.

Invasive Upland Plant *Identification and Control*

The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding an invasive plant identification and control workshop on Tuesday, May 12th. *This training will help participants identify common upland invasive plants common to Maine's forests and discuss mechanical and chemical control strategies for these plants.*

Anyone with an interest in invasive plants is encouraged to attend.

3 Maine Pesticide Applicator credits or 2.5 Category 1 SFE's for Maine Licensed Foresters (SAF) are available. Ann Gibbs, State Horticulturist, will be the presenter for the classroom session and will discuss issues and controls of the invasive plants. Patty Cormier, of the Maine Forest Service, will serve as facilitator and will help with the field identification session. **Bring appropriate gear for the weather conditions for the field identification session.**

Must Pre-register

To register for the 2015 Invasive Plant Workshop, please fill out this form and return it with payment to:

Franklin County SWCD - 107 Park St. - Farmington, ME 04938

Please, list all additional participants on the back of your form.

Name: _____ Phone/cell _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

\$20 per person before May 1st, \$25 after April 30th. Total enclosed \$ _____

Anyone registered by April 17th will be offered a free lunch.

Pond Construction and Maintenance Plus Fish Health and Care

Would you like to have a new pond built or renovate an existing pond for stocking fish, or for wildlife, or just to enhance your property? Join us on April 14th at the Farmington Municipal Building's downstairs conference room to get all your questions answered in a clear and concise manner.

Candi Gilpatric, a civil engineer for over 20 years with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and a Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife service employee will discuss the importance of oxygen levels and temperature for fish health along with other biology type information such as algae, cattails, etc.

Bring all your pond questions to share and to find the answers to.

Each participant will leave with their own "Ponds - Planning, Design, Construction" handbook and a certificate of participation, plus new knowledge about ponds.

Pre-registration is required. A registration form may be picked up at our 107 Park St - Farmington office or downloaded from our web site at www.franklincswcd.org - look under press releases and click on the workshop you are interested in.

To register for the Pond Construction Workshop, please fill out this form and return it with payment of \$20 before April/1 or \$25 after March/31st to:

Franklin County SWCD, 107 Park St., Farmington, ME 04938

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of People _____ Total Registration Fee enclosed \$ _____
list extra people separately on another sheet of paper

2015 FISH ORDER

Place orders by May 7, 2015 *Pick up Monday, May 11th behind the District Office*

Trout will be packaged on site - *MINIMUM ORDER: 34 (5-6") or 33 (6-7") trout*

sizes available	# Brook Trout	Price before 4/25	Price after 4/25	Sub total	\$5/oxygen bag & box	Fish feed or Clear Pond	totals
5 - 6" 1 bag/50 fish		\$2.25 each	\$2.50 each				
6 - 7" 1 bag/33 fish		\$2.70 each	\$3.00 each				
	Rainbow						
5 - 6" 1 bag/50 fish		\$2.25 each	\$2.50 each				
6 - 7" 1 bag/33 fish		\$2.70 each	\$3.00 each				
\$57/gal. & \$2.85 sale tax							
Clear Pond a water quality product that controls algae. 1 gallon treats a 1 acre pond.							
\$59/44# bag & \$2.75 sales tax fresh "floating trout food".							
total enclosed							

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ back up phone number: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Basic & Advanced Erosion Control Class Offered

March 24, 2015 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Chesterville Town Office

Refreshments, lunch, and a manual (if needed) will be provided.

By attending this session, you qualify to become DEP certified in erosion and sediment control practices after the completion of a site evaluation. You will also learn about new state-of-the-art erosion control techniques and ways to save time and money on your construction projects as well as become eligible for discounts, expedited DEP permitting and other free educational resources. For more information about the benefits of contractor certification, visit www.maine.gov/dep/training.

7 Shoreland Zoning credits available for CEOs

Register by completing the form below (List all additional participants on the back)

Send registration & check to: Franklin County SWCD 107 Park St., Farmington, ME 04938

Name: _____ Representing _____

E-Mail: _____ cell: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City & Zip: _____



For certification:

___ At \$85 before March 10th - materials, refreshments, and lunch included. Enclosed \$ _____

___ At \$95 after that date - materials, refreshments, and lunch included. Enclosed \$ _____

For re-certification, bring your old binder: (must have it with you the day of the class)

___ At \$55 before March 10th - materials, refreshments, and lunch included. Enclosed \$ _____

___ At \$65 after that date - materials, refreshments, and lunch included. Enclosed \$ _____

Regional and State Envirothon Competition

This years Regional Competitions have been scheduled for the following dates and locations: Southwest Regional - May 14, Packard Farm, Lisbon; Northern Regional - TBA; Mid-Coast Regional - May 15 at Unity College, Unity; Downeast/Central Regional - May 21 at Foxcroft Academy, Dover-Foxcroft; The Maine Envirothon (State Competition) - May 29 at University of Maine Augusta. [NCF Envirothon will be held at Missouri State University, Springfield 7/27th - 8/2nd.]

This year Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District will be assisting Androscoggin Valley SWCD who is hosting the competition. The Envirothon competition for high school students rotates between Conservation Districts within each regional - Southwestern, Downeast, Central, and Northern. The Southwestern Regional is organized and hosted by Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford and York County Soil and Water Conservation Districts with some financial assistance from Cumberland County SWCD.

The Envirothon is an environmental competition where high school students test their knowledge of natural resources and current environmental issues. Teams consisting of 3-5 students compete first at a regional level, answering questions and solving hands-on problems at five stations: Wildlife, Water/Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, and a Current Natural Resource Issue. The top four teams from each regional then compete at the State competition with the winning team going to the national competition.

Succession Planning of Woodlands

Do you know who will be the steward of your woodlands when you can no longer care for it? If not, consider joining Rich Merk and the Upper Kennebec Valley chapter of the Small Woodlands Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM) on February 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Farmington Town Office to discuss ways to plan for the future management of your lands. Rich will discuss the need for planning and possible ways Landowners can develop a plan to insure their lifetime spent managing their woodlots will be sustained in the future. He will also go over the legacy planning guidebook just published by SWOAM. For additional information about the chapter meeting contact Patty Cormier, 592-2238 or patty.cormier@maine.gov. The town office located at 153 Farmington Falls Road(Rte. 2) in Farmington. All are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Paul Hersey Retires After 40 Years With the USDA's NRCS

"FCSWCD thanks you to all that supported Paul Hersey's retirement event on January 17th. Over 100 people came to pay tribute to Paul and wish him well in the next chapter of his life. The outpouring was tremendous and truly showed the impact that Paul has had in the conservation community."

Both Senator Tom Saviello and Representative Russell Black were there to honor Paul with words of encouragement and a certificate from the Maine State legislature.

Paul's first permanent position with SCS now NRCS was as a soil scientist in Rockland, Maine in Nov. of 1974. In 1975, he went to Cumberland County as a soil conservationist, then to Farmington in 1976 as a district conservationist, back to Cumberland County in 1984 and returned to Farmington in 1990 for a 24-year stay as district conservationist.

Words of wisdom from Paul: (1) You have to love your job and what you do. (2) Just get the job/task done somehow, some way. (3) "Don't watch the clock". Sometimes you just need to work a few hours in the evenings, maybe on weekends, and do not be concerned about being paid or not paid. (4) Get to know your customers, their families, and be involved in your community.



Organized by Candi Gilpatric & Therese Hersey

New Temporary DC, Amanda Burton

You may see a new but familiar face when you stop in the office this month! Amanda Burton is the NRCS Acting District Conservationist since Paul Hersey retired on January 2nd. She is filling the position at least temporarily until it is advertised and a new District Conservationist is hired permanently. Amanda is a Soil Conservationist out of the Augusta NRCS office, though you may recognize her, as she started her NRCS career working with Paul in the Farmington office from 2002-2004. Amanda has always enjoyed the Farmington area and is happy to be working here again and meeting and "re-meeting" the producers of Franklin County.

Amanda currently resides in Mount Vernon with her husband Ryan and their two boys, Nathaniel (4), and Silas (4 months).



Amanda Burton

Answers to "Your Laws That Affect Landowners" Questions

Please join the Upper Kennebec Valley chapter of SWOAM for an informative session given by Rick LaFlamme, the Landowner Relations Specialist with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Rick will talk about his role working with landowners to help with issues that might arise concerning your land and other users. He will answer your questions on laws that affect landowners such as access, trespass, what wardens will assist you with, etc. This is a great chance to get your questions answered. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Farmington Town Office (please park around back), on Thursday, March 19th. All are welcome, and no need to pre-register. If you have questions contact Patty Cormier at 592-2238, or patty.cormier@maine.gov. The town office is located at 153 Farmington Falls Road (Route 2). See you there, says Patty!

USDA Personnel - Farmington Field Office

Amanda Burton - 778-4767 x105
NRCS Interim District Conservationist
Jade Gianforte - 778-4767 x108
NRCS Soil Conservationist
Gary Raymond - 778-2788 x102
FSA County Ex. Director
Tina Penley - 778-2788 x100
FSA Program Technician

Maine Forest Service Seeks Help Locating Invasive Winter Moths



Winged male moth

If you see moth flights this time of year in Maine, the Maine Forest Service would like to know how many, what size, when and where through a simple online survey at <http://www.maine.gov/dacf/wintermothsurvey>. Moth flights can also be reported at 207-287-2431. Public assistance is sought to help combat the destructive winter moth (*Operophtera brumata*) by better understanding the locations and sizes of the populations in Maine. The moth flies when it is dark, and this time of year many of us are still out after dark, or we may notice small tan moths at windows trying to get to indoor lights. Adults are active from late November to January whenever the temperature is above freezing. The larvae (caterpillars) of winter moth



Wingless female moth

defoliate deciduous trees and shrubs such as oaks, maples, apples and blueberries in early spring.

Maine Agriculture is “Up” in More Ways than One

Posted by Gary Keough, New England Field Office State Statistician, National Agricultural Statistics Service, on July 10, 2014

When examining the status of Maine’s agriculture using statistics derived from the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the words “up” and “increase” appear quite often. Our state’s agriculture and farm-related demographics are growing and diversifying each year.

Both the number of farms and farmland acres in Maine increased since the last Census of Agriculture in 2007. In fact, we have the most farms of the New England states, and the farmland acres are up eight percent from 2007. In addition, the average size of a Maine farm is 178 acres, up seven percent since 2007. Organic production and aquaculture sales increased between 2007 and 2012 as well: the value of aquaculture sales increased from \$26.3 million to \$75.1 million (ranking us eighth nationally) and organic products increased from \$23.3 million to \$36.4 million. Lastly, since the 2007 Census, the total market value of agricultural sales increased 24 percent, the average value of sales per farm increased 23 percent, and the value of crops, including nursery and greenhouse, went up 46 percent.

There are even more examples of increases on the demographic side of Maine’s agriculture. For instance, in 2012, the average age of a principal farm operator was 57 years-old, up from 56.4 in 2007. However, this is still younger than the national average of 58.3 years for principal operators. Additionally, the number of female operators increased 17 percent, and the percent of principal farm operators who were women in 2012 increased to 29 percent from 25 percent in 2007. Nationally, women make up about 14 percent of all principal operators. Finally, although the percent of principal operators in Maine who were beginning farmers (those who have been on their current operation 10 years or fewer) did not change from 2007 to 2012, the number of those who had been on their present farm two or fewer years increased 23%.

In addition to its general upward momentum, Maine agriculture is unique in other ways. In the 16 Maine counties there are 1,133 farms turning out forest products totaling \$8.6 million in sales. We also have 2,311 operations with direct market sales, placing us fifth nationally for direct market sales measured in percent of farms. Five percent of Maine farms participate in a community supported agriculture (CSA) arrangement, placing us third nationally, and we have three counties in the top twenty nationwide for the number of farms practicing a CSA arrangement. We rank fifth nationally for potato acreage, second nationally for land in berries, and first nationally for wild blueberry (our state fruit) acreage. We have 264 farms that have their own renewable energy producing systems, with solar panels being the most popular, followed by wind turbines. Lastly, Somerset County ranks first nationally for the number of maple taps and the gallons of maple syrup produced and Aroostook County ranks first for oat acreage and oat production.

The rapid increases and diversification of Maine’s agriculture reflects the dynamic nature of agriculture and farm-related demographics in our country, and it’s clear that our state will remain a key player.

- See more at: <http://blogs.usda.gov/2014/07/10/maine-agriculture-is-up-in-more-ways-than-one/#more-52996>

Public Auction To Benefit Education Programs

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District will hold a public auction at WG Mallett School on Middle Street in Farmington on Friday, March 27th, 2015.

Doors open at 5:15 pm with the bidding commencing at 6 pm. Jeff Harris will start the auction at 6 p.m. Anyone who registers for a bid number by March 20th will have **a chance to win** a gift basket.

Items big and small as well as certificates from individuals, businesses, doctors, dentists and vets will be auctioned off. Items include gift baskets, furniture, pet food and pet items, pies and pastries, hand-made soaps, hydraulic oil, clothes drying rack, framed photo, dipping oil and bowls, snow shovel, Johnny's tote full of gardening items, baby wrap, motor oil, movie passes, and stacks of Chinet plates. Certificates range from reflexology sessions, to wood pellets, to meals, to strawberries, pizza, and general merchandise, to propane tanks, ground beef and maple syrup to fair passes and a Christmas tree, from 2 yd compost and loam to dental and vet exams. Donations are still coming in.

Punctuation

An up to date auction list will be available at the USDA Service Center at 107 Park St in Farmington starting Monday, March 23rd. Pre-register for a bid# and get a ticket for the free special drawing (must be present to win). Stop by the office or call 778-4279 for more information.

Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell _____

E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

Public Auction (3/27/2015)

I would like a bid number _____ and an extra number for _____

Annual Meeting (4/3/2015)

\$11 per person Total enclosed _____

Tackle Exchange & Presentations

On-going exchanges are taking place at many of the disposal locations. We are currently assembling exchange kits for distribution in 2015. If you are attending a public event like a lake association meeting or civic group meeting, or if you have a location like a town office or library that could host an exchange, please let us know. Each kit comes with an assortment of lead-free tackle (valued at over \$100 retail), outreach materials (rack cards and posters), and stickers to attach to a container for lead tackle collection. Kits will be mailed out in spring of 2015. Please fill out the Contact Form below and we will get in touch with you in the spring!

Presentations are 30-50 minutes long and include a multimedia slide show about loon natural history as well as an overview of the current threats, including lead tackle. Lead-free tackle and outreach materials will also be available. Below is a list of presentations currently scheduled. Date: 3/26/15 Time: 6:00 pm Location: Ellsworth Public Library

We are taking reservations and saving dates for 2015! Please fill out the Contact Form below and we will get in touch with you!

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Cell _____

E-Mail: _____

Interested in: _____

Location: _____ date, if known: _____