



Conservation District News

Oct 2016

107 Park Street - Farmington, ME 04938

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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



Cancellation

Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop

Due to an unforeseen situation, Bill LaFlamme will be out on sick leave until early to mid November. Many of his workshops were or might be canceled. Check with your workshop host, call Bill Longfellow 287-2821 or go to <http://www.maine.gov/dep/training>.

Coming Events

- Oct. 20th Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop
- Nov 7th Counting of supervisor election ballots
- Nov 7th & Dec 5th Monthly District Board Meeting
- Dec 8th - 9th MACD Winter Meeting in Orono
- Completion of Natural Resource Assessment grant
- Completion of Forest Pest Outreach grant

Supervisors

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

Associate Supervisors

- Linton Robinson
- Robert Leso
- Ellie Hopkins
- Archie Berry
- Frank Forster
- Scot Bubier

Rosetta White, Exec. Director

USDA Personnel - Farmington Field Office

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

Agricultural/Environmental Day, Ag Day With Enthusiastic Students



Over 1,100 kindergarten through 4th grade students, teachers and chaperons attended Franklin County Soil & Water's 26th annual agricultural and environmental day at the fair. The Franklin County Ag. Society allows the Conservation District to use the fair grounds for this valuable learning program each year. *Ag Day Continued on page 2.*

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.



Ag Day, continued



Lots to see and to do

Attendance up: 519 from including 340 from RSU



Franklin County
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(Academy Hill, Cape Cod Hill, Cascade Brook, Cushing, and WG Mallett) and 179 from RSU 56 (Phillips, Kingfield, and Strong) 231 from Androscoggin/Franklin Cty's Spruce Mtn Elementary and Primary 13 from Somerset County's Garret Schenck School 93 from Kennebec Cty's Winthrop and Fayette Schools 40 from Oxford County's Meroby school in Mexico plus 43 students from home/private/Christian Schools.

With the additional 200 plus teachers and chaperons,



over 1139 individuals were kept busy at the many learning stations.



Supervisor Election

Each Soil & Water Conservation District, SWCD, is an independent unit of state government written into law under the Department of Agriculture. However they are not State employees. SWCD efficiency and effectiveness rests solely with the Board of Supervisors operating under the State Soil and Water Conservation District Law. Supervisors are primarily responsible to the District land-users for the conduct of District affairs.

While other public and private organizations also have programs or responsibilities for the management of our natural resources, SWCD Boards has been assigned specific responsibilities and powers that no other agency has.



L. Herbert (Bussie) York is running for re-election as a supervisor on the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation Board. All Franklin County residents who are registered voters may vote for Bussie or write in their vote.

To pick up an election ballot or to vote, stop by our 107 Park St office (USDA Service Center) in Farmington. All ballots must be submitted in an unmarked envelop inside of an envelop with your full name & address and signed that you are a registered voted in Franklin County. All ballots must be in by 4 p.m. Nov. 4, 2016.

The District Needs Your Support

We all benefit from the conservation of soil and water resources. Franklin County SWCD provides many programs to assist in resource conservation, including but not limited to: workshops; training sessions; aerial photos, as well as soils, sand and gravel aquifer and topographical maps. Also included, are educational programs, newsletters, annual reports, and a trout restocking program. The Conservation District is here to help people with the wise management of land and natural resources by offering technical assistance and information delivered by our engineer and Executive Director when possible.

If you could/would like to donate to one or more of these programs to help educate students about our natural resources as well as to where our food and fiber come from, please fill out the form below and send to FCSWCD, 107 Park St, Farmington, ME 04938. Thank you. You will be sent a tax deductible receipt for your records.

I would like to donate ___\$25 ___\$50 ___ \$100 (gets a thank you gift calendar with note pad)
___Ag Day at the Fair ___ Envirothon Program ___ All Environmental Education Programs

Donations are gratefully appreciated - both money & time. Thank you in advance for your generous support!

Office Assistant Changes



Dan Schmidt, Kathleen Randall, and Amanda Burton.

Kathleen Randall was presented a volunteer service award by Dan Schmidt, Maine NRCS's ASTC for Operations and Amanda Burton, FC District Conservationist. She retired in June 2016 and is currently helping volunteer organizations she is affiliated with including the Grange. From time to time Kathleen will return to assist Rosetta and the District.

Maria Musto joined Franklin County Soil & Water a few months prior to Kathleen's leaving in June. Maria went to high school in Boston. She moved to Rangeley, Maine before settling in Farmington. She went to college at the University of Augusta. Maria will remain here until she finishes the ABLE program the end of December.



Maria Musto

NRCS Local Working Group Meeting

A meeting of the Franklin County Local Working Group will be scheduled for some time early this winter. NRCS will facilitate this meeting to gather input that will help prioritize local resource concerns and the Franklin County Farm Bill funding. Your input is important.

For more information call the USDA Service Center at 778-4767 Amanda Burton ext 105 or Jade Gianforte ext 108.



NRCS AMA Deadline Extended

The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) 2017 program application funding deadline has been extended to Nov. 18, 2016. This program has potential funding for irrigation and high tunnel structures. For more information regarding offered practices, rates and ranking, or for help with applying call 778-4767 for Amanda Burton, District Conservationist (ext 105) or Jade Gianforte, Soil Conservationist (ext 108).

Date Set For Annual Auction

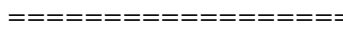
The date has been set for the 2017 District's annual education program fund raising auction. The WG Mallett School has been reserved for Friday, March 10, 2017 and Jeff Harris has agreed to serve as the auctioneer for the night

We will soon be reaching out to all our faithful donor friends for their help and support. As in the past we accept items, gift certificates and cash. Everyone who donates receives a tax deductible certificate, unless they decline it. All donations over \$100 in value will receive a thank you pocket calendar with note pad and will be advertised on our web site, if they so choos.

Thank you all in advance for your help with either a donation or coming to the auction, or both.

For more information, check out our February newsletter.

If you have never donated and would like to help this year, please call Rosetta at 778-4279.



Big Tree Contest



This 121" white pine was nominated by Bruce Turcotte of New Vineyard.

The big tree contest has ended for 2016 in Franklin County. Jon & Annette Pound nominated a white pine tree on their property in Phillips. Patty Cormier, District Forester for MFS, measured the tree and came up with a circumference of 130" at 4.5 ft off the ground.

Though not confirmed, it appears that this might be the largest Eastern White Pine in Franklin County.

Other nominations were received from: Melissa Shea, Dave Fuller, Chuck Cary & Jeff Brown.

USDA declares five Maine counties a 'disaster area' (Bangor Daily News) The U.S. Department of Agriculture is declaring five counties in southern Maine a disaster area over the recent drought. Farmers in York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Androscoggin and Oxford counties are now eligible for emergency loans. <http://bangordailynews.com/2016/09/30/homestead/usda-declares-five-maine-counties-a-disaster-area/>

Insanely Bad Summer Drought is Decimating New England Farms (Modern Farmer) Unbeknownst to most of the country, big chunks of New England - especially in New Hampshire, parts of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine-have been hit by one of the most dramatic droughts in recent memory. <http://modernfarmer.com/2016/10/new-england-drought/>

Topo Maps at Giveaway Prices

We have a limited number of topographical maps without the bottom legend on them at the really low price of \$3.17 tax included. The maps available are: Bridgton, Bristol, Brunswick, Camden, Damariscotta, East Stoneham, Gilead, Great East Lake, Holeb, Kennebago, Kennebago Lake, Metallak Mtn, Norway, Old Speck Mtn, Readfield, Saddleback Mtn, Speckled Mtn, Stratton, Somersworth. *Great wrapping paper for gifts - just a little something different.*

Parasite Control in Ruminants

By Nick Pairitz, Soil Conservationist

SKOWHEGAN (Oct. 17, 2016) -- Cattle, goats and sheep are a few ruminants commonly seen around pastures in Maine. A ruminant is an animal that has a highly efficient digestive system that extracts nutrients from plants via fermentation prior to digestion. You may notice that these animals often have their head down in the grass doing what they do best... grazing. Potential parasite infection is an issue that needs regular attention for managing healthy livestock. Often, the approach of parasite control is treatment rather than prevention. For the complete article go to the following link: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/me/newsroom/features/?cid=nrcseprd1295215>

Points to Remember: Incorporating grazing management into an operation will provide economic return. Maintain grazing heights of 4" or greater. Move animals to a new paddock before parasites enter infectious stage. Allow parasites to complete their life cycle and die before regrazing. Know what you are treating before you select a dewormer. Selective use of dewormer will induce less parasitic resistance.

LakeSmart Awards Program



A great LakeSmart property

Franklin County Soil & Water's Executive Director, Rosetta White, has been involved with doing evaluations for the LakeSmart Awards program for fourteen years. This summer, we were pleased to complete eleven evaluations.

Many of the properties were revisits due to new ownership. Rosetta was also able to do one LoonSmart evaluation and to assist Wynn Muller with several other LoonSmart evaluations.

Side note:

Rosetta also assisted the Town of Wilton, FOWL and other area entities with a survey within the Wilson Lake watershed.

Topo Map Sale

We currently have over 350 different in stock maps. Maps listed below are on sale for \$5 each plus tax (regular \$10).

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