

Oct/Nov 2009

# Soil & Water News

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District  
107 Park Street - Farmington, ME 04938 (778-4279)  
[info@franklincswcd.org](mailto:info@franklincswcd.org) [www.franklincswcd.org](http://www.franklincswcd.org)  
Making Conservation Work For You

*Water Quality - Making A Difference!*



Issue 3 Volume XIV

## *Ag Day Offers A Great Educational Opportunity*

Agricultural Day At the Fair this year had 810 teachers, students and chaperons sign up. This educational program which is coordinated and run by Franklin County Soil & Water and facilitated by the Franklin County Agricultural Society at the Fair Grounds in Farmington is designed for and offered to students in grades K - 4.

Those attending not only enjoyed the animal barns with talks and demonstrations on the care of animals, but they were able to visit over twenty different learning stations including: apple production, Asian beetles, butter making demonstration, composting, emus, beef & other farm animals, forest fire prevention, fruits & vegetables - life cycle of pumpkins, groundwater, milking demonstration, milking cow, non-point source puzzle, organic dairy & 4-h display, trout farming. They enjoyed seeing how maple syrup is made and heard how much sap it takes to make a gallon of syrup. They walked through the agricultural museum and learned about items of the past. Visitors to the Red School House sat at old desks. At the blacksmiths shop, visitors watch the forge heat iron red hot before it was hammered into the desired shape. The 4-H horse clubs judged the performance of the horse and rider teams before the interested audience of on lookers. Smoky Bear was seen with the Forest Ranger reminding all to be careful not to start a wildfire and Oakie the Acorn was seen wondering around greeting young and old alike.

The entire Phillips eight grade class under the direction of their teacher Tom Piekart and volunteer Noni Badershall helped to answer questions in the museum, provided a display and talked to the participants about pumpkin production as well as working at the press cider, give out cider samples. Next to the apple cider demonstration those who stopped by enjoyed samples of freshly prepared and milled applesauce.

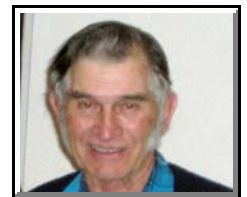
Any school who wishes to take part in the 2010 Ag Day at the Fair MUST register with FCSWCD by submitting their school name, address, and phone number along the number of students in each grade from K - 4.

If you believe that Ag Day at the Fair is a viable program, please help ensure that it will continue by submitting your evaluation forms in a timely manor, thanking presenters and the fair association, sending letters of support to the District's Board of Supervisors, and or sending in a contribution to the District which is a not-for-profit entity.

### *Supervisor Elections*

Every Soil & Water Conservation District in Maine is governed by a board of supervisors. This board is made up of three elected and two (Commissioner of Agriculture) appointed supervisors. Each supervisor serves a staggered three year term. This year we have one opening for the appointed position and one supervisor who is running for reelection.

If you wish to vote, please stop by our 107 Park street office to pick up a ballot. Any one who is a registered voter in Franklin County may vote.



Thayden Farrington runs for re-election

### *In This Issue*

- Ads
- Volunteers
- Ag Day at the Fair
- Supervisor Elections
- GPS & Other Trainings
- Auction Donations needed
- LakeSmart Awards Program
- 2010 Shrub brochure ready to go
- Items on Sale: maps, barrels, bins
- 2009-2010 Conservation Poster Contest

### *Volunteers Help Keep Us Moving Forward*

Forty five individuals and all of the Phillips 8<sup>th</sup> grade class donated time this year to help with our many programs and projects.

Of those helping this year, the following have been signed up as Earth Team volunteers for over 15 yrs: Marcy Libby, 14 yrs: Walter Thompson, 10<sup>+</sup> yrs: Rhona Barri, Pam Harnden, Connie Tibbetts, Doris Westgate, and over 5 yrs:

Bob Leso, Gary Hedstrom, and Mary Ohrenberger.

A few volunteers donated over a hundred hours each. These include: Marcy Libby, Becky Millay, Connie Tibbetts, and the Phillips 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

If you would like to sign up to help with a specific program or just to do office work call Rosetta at 778-4279 for more information.


## LakeSmart Awards Given in 09

There were fewer than usual requests for LakeSmart evaluations in the 2009 awards program partly due to inclement weather.

Calls came in late summer for Rosetta to do evaluations on Porter Lake, Sand Pond, and Locke Pond. Wynn Muller and Kathy Schultz were able to get several more evaluations done on Wilson Lake.

Eight evaluations were completed this year by Rosetta with awards going to Sherwood & Mary Elizabeth Anderson, Millard Parlin, Jr., and The Stanzel Family Trust on Porter Lake and to Carol Anderson and Sylvia & Reggie Richards on Locke Pond. Robert & Melanie Pullo, Ruth & Glen Evans, and Wayne Smith, Jr received the LakeSmart status through evaluations done on Wilson Lake by Kathy and Wynn.

If we were not able to get to your property on Mooselookmeguntic, Porter, or Wilson Lake or on Locke Pond and Sand Pond for a LakeSmart evaluation this year, please Rosetta about getting set up for one next year any time after May 20<sup>th</sup>. 2010.



**NORPINE**  
LANDSCAPE, INC.  
Hydroseeding & Erosion Control Specialists  
Landscaping Design & Construction  
Nursery and Planting Supplies  
**Wholesale - Retail**

Salem Rd., Kingfield, ME 04947  
207-265-2430 Fax: 265-2431

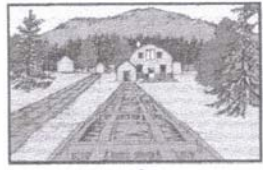
Elizabeth A. Listowich, MCL, MCN, President  
e-mail: norpine@roadrunner.com

## Donation of Land Wanted


FCSWCD is looking for someone who would like to donate forested land to the District to benefit our educational programs.

Your tax-deductible donation would allow us to provide additional learning opportunities for both students and adults. It would open up opportunities for grant funding and allow the District to tie into monies available for forest, habitat and conservation programs. Owning land has allowed the Piscataquis County SWCD to obtain grants and other funds to establish a summer camp and host ongoing educational activities at their Demonstration Project in Williamsburg.

If you have land that you would like to generously donate, call FCSWCD at 778-4279.



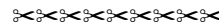
**Dead River**  
**Fish Hatchery**



Christopher Pray • Manager • (207) 628-2816  
HCR 68, Box 510 • North New Portland, Maine • 04961

### Supervisors

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

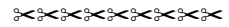


### Associate Supervisors:

Linton Robinson  
Archie (Bill) Berry  
Robert Leso  
Henry Hardy  
Patty Cormier  
Jeff Harris  
Ellen James

### District Personnel

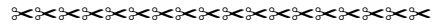
778-4279  
Rosetta Thompson  
*Executive Director &  
Education Coordinator*  
Becky Millay  
*Office Trainee - 20/wk*



### NRCS Personnel

778-2788 ext. 105  
Paul Hersey  
*District Conservationist*

**Anna Kettell**  
ext.108  
*Soil Conservationist*



### FSA Personnel

778-2788  
Gary Raymond - **ext. 102**  
*County Executive Dir.*  
Trina Smith - **ext. 100**  
*Program Technician*

## FrontRunner/Gravel Rake



**Protecting our water quality  
by helping to change the condition  
& prevent erosion from Maine's  
camp roads**

For more information on  
check out the road maintenance section of  
[www.RuralHomeTech.com](http://www.RuralHomeTech.com) To find out how to partici-  
pate in the FrontRunner loan program, contact  
Rosetta at FCSWCD, 207-778-4279

## Front Runners for Lease

Statewide there are seven FrontRunner grader rakes available. To lease one of the graders, you must have taken a class in the maintenance of gravel roads and the hands-on training in the proper mounting and use of the equipment.

New classes can be run for as few as 15 participants. If you are interested in taking a training class, contact your nearest Soil & Water Conservation District or call Rosetta at 778-4279 in Farmington.

Proper maintenance of your gravel road helps protect and improve the quality of your waterbody.

## Contractor Certification Program & New Law

"I have just updated my database on individuals who qualify as candidates for certification in erosion control practices. We now have over 1000 individuals who could become certified provided they have one of their construction sites evaluated. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, probably less than 10 percent of these folks will take the next step and contact your office to arrange for such an evaluation in 2009. In 2004, I surveyed a sample of these individuals to determine what constituted the barriers to taking that final step in the certification process. 55% of the respondents indicated that assistance in scheduling an appointment for a construction site evaluation would help them to get certified." With that in mind, I again would like to request your assistance in getting more participants involved in the program by making the initial contact with candidates in your area. *Bill LaFlamme, DEP*

"An Act to Protect Lake Water Quality, was signed by the Governor on April 10th and is now Public Law Chapter 593. The contractor certification requirement (Section 2) takes effect January 1, 2013. And the section concerning the water quality impact of private roads requires the Department of Environmental Protection to evaluate "strategies to diminish the impact of private roads, driveways and boat ramps on lake water quality. You can view the law at the following: <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/LawMakerWeb/externalsiteframe.asp?ID=280028252&LD=2249&Type=1&SessionID=7>."

*Don Witherill, DEP Director, Division of Watershed Management*

It is important to know that soon only contractors who are certified or have a certified contractor on site will be able to work within shoreland zoning. Many municipalities are already using only certified contractors. With all this in mind, you might want to work on getting certified this coming Winter or Spring. Contact J.E.T.C.C. at 253-8020 sign up to take one of the Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center courses towards contractor certification.

I look forward to assisting anyone working in Franklin County with the contractor site evaluation portion of certification. Call 778-4279. *Rosetta Thompson, Executive Director, FCSWCD.*



**Jordan Excavation**

479 Main Street  
Kingfield, Maine 04947

◆ Excavation ◆ Earthwork ◆ Septics ◆  
◆ Wells ◆ Gravel ◆ Landscaping ◆ Equipment Sales

Leslie Jordan, President  
Ph (207) 265-5500  
Fax : (207) 265-5503

Cell (207) 491-2637  
email: jordanexc@tds.net



**Hight**

Since 1911

Skowhegan Farmington

## Shrub Brochures For 2010 Are Completed

We are pleased to announce that our colored shrub brochure is now posted on our web site at [www.franklincswcd.org](http://www.franklincswcd.org). I believe there is something for almost everyone and you can open just the section(s) you are interested in. These sections are: **Fruit trees:** apples, pears, plums, and peaches; **High bush blueberries;** **Brambles:** blackberries and raspberries; **Edibles - herbs & medicinals:** asparagus, onion chives, comfrey, English lavender, catnip, leather leaf, bee balm, tansy, lemon grass, wild ginger, mints, etc; **Flowering shrubs:** weigela, Daphne, Potentilla, spirea; **Lilacs:** pink, purple, yellow, white, blue in various sizes and blooming times; **Perennials:** coneflowers, astilbe, bleeding heart, and more; **Conifers:** fir, pine, cedar, hemlock, and spruce; and **Erosion control shrubs, ground cover & naturalizing plants:** cranberries, dogwood, and holly.

As in the past, we cannot control winter loss or other nursery causes for not getting all the items we have been promised. If we have enough warning that an item is unavailable, we will make every effort to find a new source. Sometimes that means some additional costs to our customers, but we will ask you before assuming you still want the item.

We already have a few orders in for next year. We plan to mail out the lists of available items along with an order form next month. If you do not receive one by November 15th, contact us and we will be happy to mail it. Again the mailed version is only the listing. If you would like a black & white copy of the 25 page brochure with order form, please stop by the office or send \$2.50 for postage. We also have colored copies on display in the office.



One of Rosetta's perennial beds with silky dogwood behind

*Please return your order with payment a.s.a.p. before **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.*  
Orders for left over items will be taken through May 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Pick-up: Fri., May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-5pm & Sat. May 8<sup>th</sup>, 8a.m. - noon**

## Heart of Our Organization

Volunteers are the heart of our not-for-profit organization. We have many volunteers who work on or with specific things such as the shrub program, the auction, or Agricultural Day at the Farmington Fair. Others choose to help cover the office when I have to be out. Some wish to be given the opportunity to work on a variety of programs, projects and office work. Some of these wonderful people choose to work a few hours or days a year, while others work a few hours each week.

I could not have gotten through the 2009 year without all the following people: Rhona Barrie, Clem Begin, Alex Bittues, Dick Brooks, Bruce Clark, Sky & Tad Danforth, Doris Dolan, Jean Ferrari, Henry Hardy, Pam Harnden, Gary Hedstrom, Ellie Hopkins, Karolyn Jakubowski, Robert Leso, Marcy Libby, Becky Millay, Stephanie Millay, Katelynn McLaughlin, JoAnne Moody, Wes Moody, Eleanor Neuman, Mary Ohrenberger, Anne Piroso, Jim Page, Janet & Richard Plouff, Cathy & Tony Ramsey, Chris Richardson, Judy & Laurie Sawyer, Lydia Smith, Wally Thompson, Blaine & Connie Tibbetts, Dustin & Braden Thompson, Kyle Tracy, Naomi, Roland, & Sylvie Venter, Doris Westgate, Michelle Winslow, Brenda York, and the Phillips 8th Grade class.

If you would like to volunteer time for a program or to work in the office, please call 778-4279.

## Managing for Wildlife, Invasive Plant Species, GPS, and Septic System Workshops and Training Sessions



The "*Managing for Wildlife*" and the "*Invasive Plant Species*" workshops each had 18 participants who spent part of the day in a classroom setting and the rest of the time out at field sites.

Individuals from the Maine and USDA Forest Service as well as USDA's NRCS held set up and do presentations for these sessions that FCSWCD hosted.

### GPS Training

Thanks to Patty Cormier of the Maine Forest Service, we were able to get 51 people through training on the use of hand held GPS systems.

If you are interested in learning to use your own GPS unit or perhaps one you might get or buy over the next few months, call us to be put on a list to be notified about our next training session.

We anticipate hosting sessions in February, May/June and/or July depending on the need. Call 778-4279 to be put on a list.

### Basic Wastewater System Installation Course

A voluntary Certification Program for System Installers was held for contractors, code enforcement officers, licensed plumbing inspectors, and site evaluators in April with 75 attending.

## Trout Program

For more than 50 years Soil & Water Conservation Districts have held annual trout sales and offered brook, rainbow, and sometimes brown trout.

With the endangered listing of Atlantic salmon, the area of the state where non-native fish can be stocked is growing smaller each year. If you have a valid stocking permit for rainbows, you may wish to fill your pond while you still can. However, brook trout are native and should be the preferred fish to stock. Call the office at 778-4279 if you would like an order form sent to you for the May trout program.

## Clear Pond

*Clear Pond* is a water quality product that controls algae. This product is a live bacteria liquid that "feeds" on the excess nutrients in your trout pond reducing phosphorus levels and the chance for algal bloom. The addition of

bacteria to a trout pond will reduce organic matter "build-up" and stabilize oxygen swings. Apply one gallon/ one acre pond.

This product will not kill your fish and should be added before an algal bloom occurs, but not until the water temperature reaches 55°F. The bacteria does not overwinter and should be added annually.

*Order now for spring.*

We have one gallon left at \$59.

## PETER K. DESCHAMP Agent

20 Main Street  
Livermore Falls, ME 04254  
Bus: (207) 897-2500  
Toll Free: (877) 386-3045  
Fax: (207) 897-2299



Farm Family Life Insurance Company  
Farm Family Casualty Insurance Company  
United Farm Family Insurance Company  
Glenmont, NY

# Envirothon Program Reorganized

For several years now the number of schools and high school teams that have been able to compete in the Envirothon has continued to decline.

In an effort to provide the best possible regional competitions for all the participants and to hopefully reduce travel distances for most of the teams, the Maine Association of Conservation Districts, MACD, Education Committee voted to hold four Regional events instead of six. These are intended to cover the northern (Northern Regional), the southern (Southern & Western Regional combined), the eastern (Mid Coast & Down East Regional combined), and the western (Central Regional) parts of the state.

The 2010 regionals will be held in Fort Kent on May 20<sup>th</sup> - Northern, Gray Animal Preserve on April 28<sup>th</sup> - Southern; Unity College on May 21<sup>st</sup> - Mid Coast; and Bradley on May 19<sup>th</sup> - Central. Registration information may be found at [www.maineenvirothon.org](http://www.maineenvirothon.org). Tish Carr, MACD Education Coordinator, may be contacted at 495-2392

MACD has \$50 in travel money available for any team who has to travel over 75 miles to a regional or state Envirothon competition. There may be other funding available for registered teams. Contact Tish by phone or e mail her at [tish.carr@maineswcd.org](mailto:tish.carr@maineswcd.org).

Ju



Soils station

## Topo Maps on Sale

We currently have over 350 different in stock maps with all but a few on sale for \$5 each plus tax (regular price \$8). We also have **one 15" Map of Little Bigelow** -now out of print for **\$6** and 30X60" maps of Lewiston reduced to \$7 plus tax. Contact us at 778-4279 for a complete list or go to [www.franklincswcd.org](http://www.franklincswcd.org)

## Compost Bins and Rain Barrels

These items make good gifts for the person who has everything. We can all do with some composting of scraps and yard waste and it never hurts to save water when it rains for those times when we have dry weather. Some people have picked up one or two rain barrels to have at their camp or summer home.

*\$10 off original price until end of the year  
when you bring in this page*



Please recycle plant pots & shopping bags.  
Drop them off at the District Office.  
107 Park Street in Farmington.

## Conservation Poster Contest

The theme for the 2010 conservation poster contest is "**Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats**". All posters must go through your local Soil & Water Conservation District to qualify to move on to the state and national competitions. An entry form must be attached to the back of the poster. For rules and other information stop by the district office at 107 Park St. Farmington. Posters are due in the FCSWCD office by 4 p.m. on 2/12/2010.

Call 778-4279 for information to be mailed to you.

PO BOX 392, 166 MAIN STREET  
FARMINGTON, MAINE 04938



# SHIRETOWN

SCOTT LANDRY, LUTCF  
[shircins@gwi.net](mailto:shircins@gwi.net)

1-888-266-1572  
(207) 778-5282  
Fax (207)-778-9453