



Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
107 Park Street - Farmington, ME 04938 (778-4279)
web page: www.franklincswcd.org



Water Quality - Making A Difference!

Special Water Quality Edition - March 2007

LakeSmart Awards Program

Eleven LakeSmart evaluations were done in Franklin County between June and October 2004. Of the 83 evaluations performed throughout the state in 2005, 21 (25%) were completed by Rosetta Thompson, District Manager for Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Eight-seven evaluations were completed in 2006 through the end of August. Of these evaluations, 22% were performed by/for Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District. The total number of LakeSmart Awards earned to date is 117 along with over 150 recognitions of land owners.

Both the Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the DEP are trying to encourage individuals to sign up to have a LakeSmart evaluation done. These evaluations provide the property owner with one and a half hours of free technical assistance. Soil & water conservation districts are 100% *non-regulatory*, and therefore, it is up to the individual to decide if they wish to follow the recommendations and to implement the suggested erosion and sediment controls to improve and maintain water quality.

Rosetta will do evaluations by request of individuals on water bodies we have already been working with. There must be four or 5 land owners in the area who wish to have evaluations done. The lakes and ponds DEP says we can do evaluations on are Locke Pond, Porter Lake, Parker Pond, Wilson Lake, Clearwater Lake, (in the Rangeley/Oquossoc area maybe: Dodge Pond, Rangeley & Mooselookmeguntic Lakes). Others wishing to be part of the LakeSmart program and to have their waterbody included in the list should contact Christine Smith at DEP 287-7734.

Lake or road association presidents or other outgoing individuals who really care about water quality are encouraged to get others involved in the program. Do to the constraints on the LakeSmart evaluator's time, we ask individuals to contact other property owners on their lake or pond. The contact person for your waterbody should try to get property owners pooled together so that 4 to 6 evaluations can be done between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. allowing about 1.5 hours average for each evaluation plus travel time.

For more information or to schedule an evaluation for this year, please call Rosetta Thompson, FCSWCD, at 778-4279 or to leave a message call 778-2788 ext 114.

You and Your Water!

There are many things you can do to help ensure the quality that your waterbody is maintained and /or improved. Never use pesticides or herbicides on or near the water. Use only phosphorous free fertilizers if you feel you must use any at all. - Less lawn is better. - Maintain or plant buffers along the edge of the water at least 10 - 12 feet in depth. A buffer made up of plants of varying heights are best. Cover exposed areas with mulch... hay, erosion control bark mulch or stone. Direct water into wooded areas. -Use turn out, ditches, diversion ditches, etc. Clean up pet waste. Keep oil and propane tanks covered. Put crushed stone or erosion control mix under all drip edges. Leave the duff on the ground and leave as much area as possible in its natural state. Curve your pathways to the water. Only use rip rap as a last resort. Try to keep recreational areas back away from the water front. Slope driveways and heavily used areas away from the water.

There are people out there who are very capable of helping you to accomplish your goals with erosion control and water quality maintenance. Don't be afraid to ask questions of the individual or company you are thinking about hiring. Even better ask around to see if anyone you know has had any experience with them. After all, it is your water quality at risk and your money being put into the project.

If you like to do things yourself, great! There are businesses out there with just the materials you will need. For instance, our office maintains a list of vendors who carry erosion control mix.

This special edition newsletter is intended to give you suggestions and hints to help you around your waterfront property. Please share this information with others.

**LAKE SMART:
A WAY YOU CAN HELP
PROTECT YOUR LAKE**

What you do on the land does affect the lake! The *LakeSmart* Program recognizes property owners in lake watersheds who manage and landscape their property to protect lake water quality. Declining water quality can affect the type and number of fish species that inhabit the lake and can harm recreational uses as well as the local economy. Studies have shown that as water quality declines the value of shorefront property also decreases. This results in higher taxes for the other property owners in the watershed.

Homeowners may schedule a visit to be evaluated for a *LakeSmart* Award by contacting this office at 778-4279. A date can be set for during the months of May thru Oct. *(Please keep in mind that these visits are for education not for enforcement.)*

The evaluation involves a site visit to review the landscape and maintenance practices in four categories:

- Road, Driveway & Parking Areas.
- Structures & Septic System
- Lawn, Recreation Area & Footpaths
- Shorefront & Beach Area

If the owner's property exceeds the criteria in all four categories he/she will receive:

- A personalized award plaque
- Publicity in local newspaper or newsletters, and
- Signs for their *LakeSmart* property (optional)

WHAT ACTION CAN INDIVIDUALS TAKE?

Do your part around your home:

- ❖ Prevent soil erosion, use trees and instead of lawns to filter runoff.
- ❖ Use less fertilizers and pesticides.
- ❖ Dispose of chemicals properly.
- ❖ Pump septic systems every 2-3 year.
- ❖ Compost your waste.
- ❖ Participate in local planning efforts.

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***Landscape and Manage
Your Property the
LakeSmart Way !***

- ☺ *Beautify and increase the value of your lot*
- ☺ *Protect fishing and other recreational uses*
- ☺ *Keep taxes low and the local economy strong*
- ☺ *Protect the quality of your lake for current and future generations*

Clearly it is in everyone's best interest to take action to protect lake water quality.

To learn more visit our Web site at:

www.franklincswcd.org

or call:

778-4279



What Are the Rules for Cutting Trees on Shorefront Property?

Brie Begiebing, Portland Water District

This is a common question! The Shoreland Zoning Act, administered by your town Code Enforcement Officer (CEO), regulates activities within 250 feet of the normal high water line of Great Ponds, including tree cutting. Here are some guidelines that apply to every town in the state of Maine. Keep in mind that each town may individually adopt a more stringent shoreland zoning ordinance.

In the first 100 feet (buffer strip) from normal high-water line, no clear-cut openings (openings in the forest canopy greater than 250 square feet) are permitted, although 40% of the volume of trees four inches or more in diameter, measured at 4-1/2 feet above ground level, can be removed in any ten year period. The cutting must be done such that a well-distributed stand of trees and other vegetation remains. The “well-distributed stand of trees and other vegetation” is determined by a point system. The point system assigns values to trees down to 2 inches in diameter and requires a certain total value of trees be maintained in any 25-foot by 25-foot square area within the 100 foot buffer strip. Vegetation less than 3 feet tall must be maintained within the buffer strip. Pruning of tree branches on the bottom 1/3 of trees is permitted. Beyond the 100 foot buffer (Up to 250 feet) vegetative cutting cleared openings are permitted provided that such clearing do not exceed 25% of the lot area, or 10,000 square feet, whichever is greater. In total, however, no more that 40% of the volume of trees can be removed in any 10-year period from the shoreland zone.

Hazard Trees.....

Any tree that does not meet the above criteria for cutting may be cut if it is deemed a hazard tree by your CEO, and other trees are planted to replace it. A hazard tree is a tree that is dead, diseased, or dying, and has a target (it could damage people or property that cannot be moved out of the way).

Shoreland zoning also applies to rivers, and streams. For more information on clearing vegetation in the Shoreland Zone, visit the DEP’s website, www.maine.gov/dep/blwg/docstand/ipszveg.htm or contact your CEO before beginning cutting.



Resource Protection Zoning.....

Any cutting of vegetation is prohibited in areas zoned for Resource Protection for a distance of 75 feet from the normal high water line, except to remove safety hazards. Contact your CEO to find out if your land is zoned for Resource Protection.





John Black

55 Cemetery Road	Office: (207)645-5381
P.O. Box 836	Cell: (207)491-4842
Wilton, Maine 04294	rockyhill.landscaping@verizon.net

TRUCK & GUY

YARD & HOME SERVICES

179 Stream Road, Vienna, Me. 04360

Dan Foley

207 293 2851	207 446 0451
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If you are interested in having an evaluation done, please fill in the information on this sheet from property owner down.

Property Evaluation Form For Lakesmart Awards Program

The following evaluation and recommendations are based on commonly accepted Best Management Practices. They are aimed at improving the quality of Maine waters by recognizing and advising property owners who want to manage their properties in a manner that protects nearby waters. Participation in the program is purely voluntary. Landscaping and other activities within the shoreland zone are subject to state and local regulation. Permits should be obtained from the proper authorities. This evaluation covers only areas that were visually inspected and is based on site conditions apparent at the time of inspection. Interview homeowner and fill out the information below and ask the * questions in Section 2 and 3 then proceed with visual inspection.

Evaluator: Rosetta Thompson

Employer FCSWCD **Hours worked** _____ **hrs** **Travel** _____ **miles**

Property Owner(s) _____ **Date:** _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Rent / Own # Yrs _____ **Year round or seasonal?** _____

Body of Water/Watershed: _____

Town: _____ **Road or Fire Lane** _____

Do you give your permission to post your name(s) on the web? _____

Send plaque/certificate to (circle one): homeowner or evaluator?

Signs left with individual if award recipient: 1 or 2

Lakesmart Award Status:	Score	Recognition?
SECTION 1 POINTS (11/15 to qualify)	_____	_____
SECTION 2 POINTS (13/18 to qualify)	_____	_____
SECTION 3 POINTS (29/45 to qualify)	_____	_____
SECTION 4 POINTS (19/27 to qualify) (For shorefront properties only)	_____	_____
Sections 1-4 = LAKESMART award		_____

Please look out for violations of Environmental Law. We can not give a LakeSmart award unless the site is fully remediated. It is the evaluator's prerogative to withhold a LakeSmart award for properties that have recently altered in a way that negatively affects water quality. If in doubt, hold off making an award and consult the lake association or the CEO of the town for more information. This program should not be linked to enforcement action.

Spring Preparations and Activities on the Land and in the Water

Dale Finseth - Kennebec Soil & Water Conservation District

We are publishing parts of an article written by Kennebec County Soil & Water which focused on spring activities that you may currently be considering. Many people have been impatiently awaiting the arrival of spring soil and water conditions and are anxious to get started. Spring will soon be arriving and a number of tasks are at hand —

Gardeners need to turn the soil, work in compost and other soil amenities to create the sort of chemical and soil composition that best meets the needs of your trees, shrubs, perennials, and bedding plants. It is best to use a soil test every couple of years to determine what amenities you may need to add.

What to do with the waste appearing after the snow melts. Managing our waste has become an entirely separate issue. Once we come to the end of what we think is a product's lifespan, it is essential that we part company with it and "dispose of it". That may come in the form of burying it on land, drowning it at sea, burning it, or simply transporting it to a location out of our sight i.e. out back behind the pucker brush. All of these techniques have their merits, but all suffer some serious problems. Each method has costs and benefits. We are learning that the better way to analyze them is to take a look at the long term impacts of both the costs and benefits.

Recycling has many goals. On the one hand, recycling is an effort to use less of our limited resources. More and more, it is an effort to cut back on the waste produced by our consumptive life styles. The point is that we could fairly easily recycle our solid waste at a much higher rate than the 1995 level of 40-45%. The annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day an opportunity to properly dispose of paint cans and batteries. Public Works puts out a flyer for the event that is a good resource for anyone to have. In it is information on how to safely handle and transport hazardous items as well as lists of what these hazardous items are. Listed are some highlights from that safety list.

E-waste such as computer monitors, computers, TV's, is a matter the Maine Legislature has addressed by outlawing their disposal with your regular trash. The legislation is an effort to stop the disposal of the lead, mercury, and other toxins which are part of the over 300 million obsolete computers and TV's which we throw away every year. *

Buffers need to be planted and maintained. Your buffer is the boundary between the natural and man-made worlds. And that man-made world can be a major source of pollution. Water flowing over roads, lawns, fields, rooftops picks up sediments, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, heavy metals, and other pollutants that people don't want in their waterways: * Erosion: cutting of vegetation destabilizes shoreline and can lead to loss of land.

- * Flooding: land development increase runoff from impervious surfaces such as roofs, roads, sidewalks, and parking lots. Rainwater can run off lawns twice as fast as from forests.
- * Water damage: building structures within the riparian area places them in harm's way.
- * Unsightly algae blooms: just as fertilizers make your lawn green, they make your lake green by feeding algae and aquatic weeds.
- * Damage to fisheries: clearing trees exposes waters to more sunlight, raising water temperatures and stressing fish and their food supplies.
- * Loss of habitat: the stream edge is prime real estate for birds and other wildlife.
- * Loss of privacy: shoreland vegetation screens private lands from public view and helps reduce noise.

An easy guide for describing a riparian buffer is to identify its three zones.

- 1 Shoreline is that area from the water level to the top of the immediate bank. This area protects the bank and offers habitat. Mature forest is best but large shrubs may be a better where trees have collapsed a bank.
- 2 The Middle Zone is from the top of the bank inland. This area protects stream water quality and offers habitat. The best buffer has trees, shrubs, and perennial ground plants.
- 3 The Outer Zone is that area between your home and the rest of the buffer. It is your yard, garden or woods. It serves to trap sediment. This is the area more suitable for human activities.

(preceding information from the Connecticut River Joint Commission website www.crjc.org)

LAWNS GREEN, LAKES CLEAN

Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer

(Source: Christine Smith, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection)

Lake friendly fertilizer is now in stores. Sales are brisk in many locations due in part to lake association members who have already supported this promotion and COLA's endorsement.

If you do feel the need to fertilize your lawn and /or garden, test your soil first to ensure you do need fertilizer. Even natural fertilizer and compost contain an amount of phosphorus which can get washed into your nearby lake. If your home is not on the shorefront, rainwater can still wash phosphorus into a lake via a drainage ditch, storm drain or small stream resulting in increased growth of algae or green scum. Ask your lawn and garden center to stock phosphorus-free fertilizer.

A soils test kit and form may be picked up at the USDA office at 107 Park St., Farmington. Standard Soil test fee is, \$12.00. However, if the soil samples are received at the lab between January and March 15th, the fee will only be \$8.00.

“A Lakers’ Dozen”

13 Ways You Can Help the Lake

- 1. Always check boat, trailer and equipment for plant fragments before launch and after take-out.**
- 2. Respect shoreland Zone Regulations.** Before making any change on your land, check with your town to see what’s permitted and what’s not in the shoreland: 250’ of the lake and 75’ of streams.
- 3. Control storm water run-off from buildings, paths, driveways and road.** Check your property on a rainy day and fix run-off sites by planting, vegetation or constructing swales to direct water flow away from the lake.
- 4. Cultivate a wooded buffer.** Trees, shrubs and grasses slow the flow and filter soil and pollutants from rainwater before they end up in the lake.
- 5. Limit lawn size, mow less often, and don’t rake duff within 75 feet of shore.**
- 6. Limit fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide use.** Long lasting residues in these chemicals can turn lakes green and harm aquatic life.
- 7. Don’t stress the septic system.** Inspect the system yearly. Pump the tank regularly. Systems 20 years and older should be inspected by a specialist. Use phosphorus-free cleaners, and detergents. Stagger laundry loads. Minimize water use. Don’t put grease or toxins down the drain.
- 8. Construct docks and floats with lake-friendly materials.** Choose cedar, cypress, plastic, or aluminum over wood that’s pressure treated with arsenic.
- 9. Dogs, humans and boats should never be washed in the lake!**
- 10. Observe headway speed within 200 feet of shore.** Boating in shallow water disturbs fish habitat and stirs up sediment.
- 11. When you replace a boat motor, choose a clean 4-stroke engine.**
- 12. Preserve wildlife habitat on land and underwater.** Lake shallows and shorelands are home to many native species and nurseries for young.
- 13. Support your local lake association and Maine COLA.**

“A Laker’s Dozen” is available for download at www.mainecola.org

Recycling The Leftovers **Josh Platt**

“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!” By now, everyone has heard this phrase. This recycling campaign has been an extremely successful program in the United States since the mid 1970’s. Items made with plastic, paper, aluminum and glass are all very common and things that we throw out every day. In many regions of the country, recycling of these items has become second nature to people. In Augusta for example, sorted items are collected each month at curbside in addition to regular trash pick up. In communities where people visit the local transfer station, items can be thoroughly sorted into various containers making recycling easy for everyone.

I grew up in a town that had a large dump that was comprised of a single, huge pile of mixed trash that was usually burning. The smoke and flames produced by this inferno varied greatly in color indicating the release of all sorts of unhealthy toxins I am sure. Transfer stations of today look very different. We have come a long way.

Getting rid of our trash is a much more environmentally friendly process than it used to be. In some ways it has become simplified due to organized sorting of various items. With all of the sorting and specific “cubbies” for different kinds of trash, we are often left with items that don’t seem to fit into one of the designated “drops”. I have accumulated quite a stash of items that I just can’t seem to find a good way to dispose of. My conscience will not let me hide them in

with the regular household trash so I decided to look for some answers.

As a competitive angler, I go through huge amounts of fishing line. I think at last count I had filled 2 large garbage bags so full I could not fit another length of stripped line into the bag. Fishing line can cause big problems for wildlife. It can become tangled and the line also gets into outboard and electric motors leading to expensive repairs. I called around to local Wal-Marts and sporting goods stores to see if any of them knew about line recycling. Coming up empty, I visited several web sites that deal specifically with this issue. In some Florida schools, line-recycling programs are part of the curriculum.

Berkley Pure Fishing, one of the largest makers of fishing line, will supply fishing clubs, schools and businesses with a large receptacle to collect used line. The line is shipped to Berkley, melted down and made into items like tackle boxes and artificial fish habitats. To find out about getting a line-recycling program going in your community, contact Berkley Fishing Products at 1-800 Berkley.

Other used items that don’t seem to have a home in a standard recycling program are waste oil, old cans of paint, fire extinguishers and compressed gas cylinders. Often towns will hold hazardous waste collection days or times when residents can come and dispose of these items.

Franklin County Conservation District Rain Barrel Sale

What are the advantages of a rain barrel? Lawn and garden watering make up nearly 40% of total household water use during the summer. A rain barrel collects water and stores it for when you need it most – during periods of drought or during peak usage. It provides an ample supply of free "soft water" to homeowners, containing no chlorine, lime or calcium making it ideal for gardens, indoor plants, and car and window washing. A rain barrel will save most homeowners about 1,300 gallons of water during the peak summer months. Saving water not only helps protect the environment, it decreases the demand for treated tap water. Diverting water from storm drains also decreases the impact of runoff to streams. The IMPACT of this Rain Barrel Program grows as more community members and communities add Rain Barrels to their homes!



Recycled Rain Barrel \$75

- 55-gallon recycled food grade barrel
- Removable intake screen to keep debris and mosquitoes out
- Overflow directs water away from the foundation.
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- Saves rainwater and replenishes our groundwater
- Reduces runoff that adds to stormwater problems

To Order Your SkyJuice Barrel:

- Fill out the form below.
- Include your check or money order for the total amount.
- Payment must be received before May 11, 2007

To Pick Up Your Barrel:

- Barrels must be picked up at: *USDA Service Center on Park St in Farmington*
On May 23 between the hours of 1 and 5 p.m.

Franklin County Conservation District Rain Barrel Order Form

Number of Barrels Ordered: _____ Price: \$75 Total of Order: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Make checks Payable to: Franklin County SWCD

Drop off or Mail to: Rosetta Thompson, FCSWCD, 107 Park Street, Farmington ME 04938
207-778-4279 Fax: 207-778-5785

More on Dollars and Sense: The Economic Impact of Lake Use and Water Quality

The value of lakes is often taken for granted by those who enjoy them, and many people assume that the value of "clean water" is obvious. However, in a time when the bottom line is increasingly invoked to evaluate everything from state government programs to local decisions on ordinances, we need tools to better define the value of our natural resources. These tools must credibly illustrate the value of water quality to local officials and property owners, who make the bulk of land-use decisions which affect water quality by changing lake watersheds.

In order to provide a vehicle for economic activity estimates in Maine, Braley et al. (1996) developed a survey instrument which was field tested at four lakes in central Maine. This instrument was designed to estimate the recreational use of lakes, lake user's perceptions of water clarity, and the expenditures on local communities associated with recreational uses of lakes. The survey tool developed in this study could be easily adapted to other areas of the country as a way to develop local perspective on the economic value of lakes.

During the summer of 1995, 96 lake users were surveyed at public launch ramps and 151 lakefront resident surveys were administered door-to-door. This represented a random sample of approximately 25% of shorefront cottages

with a response rate of almost 100%. Swimming and fishing were the predominant activities for all lake users, but residents listed swimming as the primary use by 2 to 1 while visitors tended to use lakes mainly for fishing. However, public access is becoming a problem in central Maine, and the boat launch ramps at two of the lakes were used heavily for swimming by local residents who had no other means of lake access.

Boyle et al. (1997) used economic activity data and models to estimate how lakes are used and how this translates into economic activity. The money people spend to use lakes (so called "direct expenditures") for things like gasoline, fishing tackle, and food gives rise to money being re-spent within communities. This re-spending creates additional sales, income and jobs ("indirect" expenditures such as services to supply and maintain lake-related businesses, wages in the business being used in the community to make other purchases etc.). Economists can also estimate the difference between what people are willing to pay to use lakes and what they actually spend ("net economic value"). This is a combination of peoples' satisfaction with their lake experience and the total value they place on the use. The high net economic value associated with uses of Maine's lakes draw nonresident users to Maine and is a measure of the enjoyment and pride Maine people take in their lakes. If water quality in Maine's lakes declined, the enjoyment of Maine residents and visitors, and the economic activity it creates, would be reduced. Improving water quality would have the opposite effects. Net economic values are economic barometers that tell us what is happening to the quality of Maine's lakes.

The Soil & water Conservation District holds an annual tree and shrub program. Call 778-4279 for a list of plants that are left. Prices on any thing left the day of the shrub pick up (May 4th) are cut to our cost from 1 - 5 pm.

How Much Are Maine Lakes Worth?

Maine's lakes are the cleanest and least crowded in the eastern United States and forty million people live within a day's drive of them. Clean lakes increase lakeshore property values, contribute to the economic status of entire communities, provide lower cost drinking water and aesthetic value for recreation. It is better to protect water quality than to allow clarity to decline and then try to reverse the negative effects; increments of decline result, increasing economic losses. There are a large number of lake users who do not own lakefront property. These so called "access" users represent a part of the total lake use which is often overlooked in our public contacts because lake front property owners are the people with whom we most often have contact. Every time it rains, water runs across the landscape, picking up loose soil and washing it into lakes. A little runoff from one storm, in one place, may not seem important, but over time and across the landscape, large amounts of soil and nutrients wash into a lake. The result is murky, smelly water, algae blooms, lower property values, and a lot less enjoyment. To protect our lakes we must protect the "watershed," the land that drains or sheds its water into the lake.

What Can We All Do?

- ✓ Stop run off! Prevent erosion from your road, parking area, shoreland and garden.
- ✓ Maintain a wooded buffer.
- ✓ Stop raking and leave the duff.
- ✓ Cover bare soil and mulch paths.
- ✓ Always check your boat trailer and equipment for plant fragments before launch and after take out.
- ✓ Limit lawn size and mow less often.
- ✓ Avoid fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides.
- ✓ Preserve habitat for wildlife on land and underwater.

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District - (207) 778-4279 Fax: (207) 778-5785 rosetta.thompson@franklincswcd.org

All programs and services of the Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

Check our web site at www.franklincswcd.org



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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.

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Farmington, ME 04938

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