



ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

"MAKING CONSERVATION WORK FOR YOU"

Board of Supervisors Meeting Activities

At the Board of Supervisors monthly meeting held on March 21st, Jill Agnew was invited to share about the farm operation and how the staff with Natural Resources Conservation Service has assisted.

Agnew said, "Willow Pond Farm has seven acres of assorted vegetables that have been produced organically over a decade. The operation regularly provides 180 farm shares a year for Community Supported Agriculture participants and 78 farm shares for senior citizens. The farm also has an eight acre apple orchard that is harvested and sold in the farm store, as well as producing apple cider on site for local consumption."

Willow Pond Farm has also utilized USDA programs and technical assistance to improve farm operations, as well as soil and water quality. In 2007, Agnew has installed diversions, stream crossings and implemented contour farming techniques. Currently the development of a Micro irrigation system for the crop lands is under way.

Agnew continued saying, "We at Willow Pond Farm value NRCS staff as a problem-solving resource tool for our farm issues."

NRCS tag line says, "Conservation: Our Purpose, Our Passion—Helping People Help the Land."



At the conclusion of the report from Agnew, the Conservation District presented her with the "2006 Cooperator of the Year" sign. The picture adequately shows the surprise and honor felt with this award.

Assistant State Conservationist Pauline Pare (also former District Conservationist for this office) reported on the Civil Rights Review conducted in the previous two days. The NRCS and District staff were commended for the commitment in "Making Conservation Work For You".

The meeting was concluded with a discussion about the promotion of our District Conservationist (DC) Autumn Birt and the transitional period this District will experience as she moves on to the Belfast field office. Autumn will continue as Acting DC during the month of April, allowing her to finish up some projects. Autumn will be working from the Belfast office. Paul will be in contact with Autumn and efforts will be made to address your needs as quickly as possible. Do bear with us in this transition.

The day was ended with a surprise farewell luncheon for Autumn.

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DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Arthur Dunlap, Chairman
Paul Roseberry, Vice-Chair
John A. Hemond, Secretary
Shirley Hatch, Treasurer
Mark Emmons

ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Katie Carville
Ellsworth Chipman
Lionel Ferland
Bill Hatch
Richard Thibodeau
William Varney

DISTRICT STAFF

Project Manager
Susan Gammon
Office Manager
Jane Heikkinen
Project Coordinator
Megan Wooster
Conservation Technicians
Scott McLaren
Adam Paul
District Consulting Engineer
Ross Cudlitz, PE
NRCS STAFF
Acting District Conservationist
Autumn Birt
Soil Technician
Paul Carmichael
Agricultural Engineer
Candi Benwitz Gilpatric
Engineering Intern
Adam Cattrell
Engineering Technician
Brian Stuart
Soil Resource Specialist
Dave Wilkinson
Computer Specialist
Halla Black

Androscoggin Valley SWCD

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www.androscogginswcd.net

The mission of the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the conservation and stewardship of soil, water, and related natural resources, by providing leadership, technical assistance and educational programming to and with the citizens of Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Working on the Carbon Credit of Maine Program Water Act Section 319 Grant Program.

Project Coordinator Megan Wooster has assisted with a PowerPoint presentation describing the program. Sue is in the process now of taking the presentation on the road across the state to regional meetings.

This program is a Conservation Innovation Grant funded by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Other partners include Maine Association of Conservation Districts, Time & tide RC&D, University of Southern Maine and Maine Department of Agriculture.

Working on the Drinking Water /Groundwater Pilot Project

Sue and Megan have worked on revising and adding to the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's "FarmASyst" sections, which will be used as a tool to help farmers focus on practices that may impact drinking water sources and groundwater quality. After the pilot is completed, the program will be extended across Maine. This program is funded with the State of Maine CDC Drinking Water Program.

Working on the Nequasset Lake Implementation Project

Sue and Megan are working together to prepare for a public meeting to be held on May 1st. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce the grant, bring a better understanding of conservation practices and look at what is involved in technical assistance for property owners with nonpoint source pollution issues needing attention. This project is funded through an Environmental Protection Agency/Maine/Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Water Act Section 319 grant project.

Working on the Sabattus Pond Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Project

Sue and Megan have worked with a steering committee to strategize plans and implement conservation practices to reduce soil erosion and pollution impacting the water quality in the watershed for the final field season of this grant. This project is also funded by the EPA/MDEP Clean

Working on Securing Grant Funding

Project Manager Sue Gammon has been working day and night writing grants for segments of Phase Two for the Carbon Credit Program, which will focus on education and outreach and data collection statewide. Megan is exploring educational grant sources for a classroom groundwater project, a classroom garden project and yardscaping.

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation Service will be writing a grant proposal to the EPA/MDEP Clean Water Act Program Phase III for the Sabattus Pond Watershed. The District is talking with partners from the Taylor Pond Watershed about possibly writing another grant proposal to the EPA/MDEP Clean Water Act Program.

Working on the District Website

Office Manager Jane Heikkinen is in the process of developing and expanding our Website. Additions are yet to be made. Those interested in being listed on our website as a provider of conservation products and services are encouraged to contact Jane at 753-9400 ext 400 for details. Visit the site at www.androscogginswcd.net.

Working on a Donation Campaign

Those giving a donation of \$250 or over will be listed on a page in our website as "Friends of Conservation". Donations of any size are appreciated. Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is classified as a Sec 501 C 1 organization and as such any donations or gifts to the District qualify as charitable contributions under section 170 C 1 of the IRS Code.

Working on Fundraising Events

The deadline for the Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sales is April 11. The pick up dates are for May 21 and 22. If you missed this deadline for ordering, call Jane at 753-9400 ext 400 to see if there are any extras. The Native Conservation Plant Sale list and order form are enclosed in this mailing. Orders must be received by May 27th and the pick up will be June 13th and 14th.

“Making Conservation Work For You” Through Education

Advanced Septic Workshop

The Conservation District partnered with the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee to offer an Advance Wastewater/Septic Workshop on February 13, which had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. This class was rescheduled for April 16th at the Lewiston Ramada Inn. The cost is \$70 and registration may be done online at www.jetcc.org.

Mock Envirothon Training

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting and coordinating the Western Maine Mock Envirothon Training on April 29th at Beaver Park, in Lisbon, in partnership with the Franklin and Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Mock Envirothon is a training opportunity for high school students to prepare for a regional competition in May. This is a first-step preparation for new participants in the competition. Envirothon is a natural resource problem-solving competition for those in grades 9 to 12. In an outdoor setting, students are tested in five natural resource areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current national issue. This program requires a team effort of three to five members that includes site-specific, hands-on tasks.

Androscoggin Valley SWCD will provide assistance at the Western Maine Regional Envirothon competition in Wilton on May 15th.

Terrestrial Invasive Training

The Conservation District has partnered with the Maine Forest Service in promoting this training opportunity. The first workshop will be held on May 3rd at the Bath City Hall. The workshop will be offered again on May 10th at the Sherwood Elementary School in Auburn. Contact Maine Forest Service at 657-3535 to register.

Yardscaping Workshop

This workshop will focus on Lawn Care. Space is limited to a maximum of 25 participants. Pre-registration is required by May 5th with a non-refundable fee of \$12 payable to Androscoggin Valley SWCD and mailed to PO Box 1938, Lewiston, Me 04241. The District will hold this workshop at the Auburn City Hall on May 8th from 6 to 8 p.m..

GPS Unit Use Training

On March 29th the Conservation District held a workshop at Beaver Park in Lisbon. When this workshop was offered, we had no idea how many would register. There were 40 people on a waiting list! The workshop is being offered again on June 6 and June 7 again at Beaver Park to accommodate those on that waiting list. The class registration is limited as we have only 25 units available per class session. To eliminate confusion over the many different types of units, we discourage bringing your own GPS unit to the session.

Education Through Displays

The Conservation District displayed its Carbon Credit of Maine Program and the Maine Organic Farmers Association Conference on March 15th. The FarmASyst was displayed at the Water Conference and we will have a display at the Maine Garden Day to be held at the Maine Community College in Auburn on April 12th.

Other Public Awareness Activities

The Conservation District has issued press releases to notify the public of upcoming events and district programming. The 2007 Annual Report is now completed and can be requested by calling the District Office at 753-9400 ext 400.

Our press releases, newsletters and annual reports can be found on our website at www.androscogginswcd.net.



If you as a farmer use other landowners property and need maps of their property, please bring a note from the landowner authorizing you to get a copy. This will save time and inconvenience for you. This requirement is for the privacy and protection of our landowners.



**ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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"Making Conservation Work for You"

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Both Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service are equal opportunity providers and employers.

Donations made to Androscoggin Valley SWCD are used to offset the costs of the Conservation District's educational programming.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meet the third Friday, monthly. Public is welcome. Call the Conservation District to confirm the time and date at (207) 753-9400 #3.

- **Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Orders are due by April 11th.**
- **Maine Garden Day at Maine Community College in Auburn April 12th**
- **Carbon Credit of Maine Program Public Meetings: April 18th in Rumford**
- **Mock Envirothon: April 29th at Beaver Park, Lisbon**
- **Sabattus Pond Watershed Steering Committee Meeting April 30th**
- **Nequasset Lake Watershed Public Meeting: May 1st at Woolwich Town Hall**
- **Terrestrial Invasive Workshops:
May 3rd Bath City Hall
May 10th Sherwood Elementary, Auburn**
- **Yardscaping Workshop
May 8th at Auburn City Hall**
- **Western Maine Regional Envirothon
May 15 in Wilton**
- **Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale Pick Up on May 21 and 22 at USDA Service Center, 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston**
- **Native Conservation Plant Orders are due by May 27th.**
- **GPS Unit Use Workshop:
June 6 and June 7th at Beaver Park, Lisbon**
- **Native Conservation Plant Sale Pick Up on June 13 and 14 at USDA Service Center, 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston**
- *Those attending District events with special needs or in need of more information should contact the District Office in advance at 753-9400 ext 400*