



ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT NEWS

"MAKING CONSERVATION WORK FOR YOU"

YOUR TREES

January, February, and March is the perfect time to look at your trees in your backyard or woods. You can see the condition of the trees, their layout in your backyard or woods, and any changes in your land. Assess the tasks that are needed to salvage or restore the health and beauty of your backyard or woods. Caring for your trees will provide wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and soil stability.

You will find a Native Conservation Plant Sale list and order form enclosed in this newsletter. This plant sale will allow you to choose items needed to enhance or restore your backyard or woodlands.

The Conservation District seeks to provide a ready-made vehicle to address local resource problems and help landowners and citizens address the issues important to them. The District brings educational resource specialists together, to offer a focus that meets the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

In the "National Woodlands" Winter of 2007 magazine issue, of interest locally, three threats to backyard trees and woodlands were identified—invasive species, loss of open space, and unmanaged recreation vehicles.

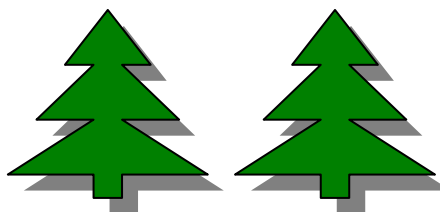
Thousands of non-native plants, invertebrates, vertebrates and disease-causing pathogens are infesting millions of acres of lands across the nation. These invaders cause massive disruptions in ecosystem function, and

reduce or degrade the health of your trees in the backyard or woods. Invasive species not only affect the health of your trees, but also the health and survival of wildlife, livestock, fish, and humans. The financial impact from invasive species infestations has been estimated at a cost of \$138 billion per year in damages and to control.

More than 34 million acres of open space were lost to development between 1982 and 2001, about 6,000 acres per day, or 4 acres per minute. The loss of open space adversely impacts clean water, scenic beauty, places to recreate, wildlife, room for backyard trees and woodlands, food, and jobs.

Providing for long-term sustainable lands and maintaining a quality recreational experience for all users, requires a responsible and an appropriate means to sightsee, access hunting and fishing opportunities and enjoy other outdoor recreation.

The Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a series of "Spring Landowner Classes" that will provide insight to the threat poised by invasive species. You may sign up for one or all five classroom sessions. Notice the inserted flyer in this newsletter.



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JUNE 2007

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John A. Hemond, Secretary
Shirley Hatch, Treasurer

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Androscoggin Valley SWCD

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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.

2007 "Ag Map" Sign up Time

The Androscoggin Valley SWCD will produce an "Ag Map" for use this summer. The "Ag Map" will list local producers who outlet their foodstuffs and farm products at farm stands or farmer's markets. The location of each participating producer will be added to the map, as will a brief description of product lines, hours of operation, and contact information.

Because of cuts in funding, there will be a cost of \$20 for a listing. If you want to have your farm stand appear on our map, call Jane Heikkinen at 753-9400, ext. 400. Look at this as a great opportunity, but act quickly. We hope to get the map into the hands of the public by Memorial Day.

Call now!!

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

*The Conservation District is looking for a private road association or group of camp owners interested in hosting a demonstration of gravel road maintenance using a FrontRunner on June 14, 2007. A section of road will be repaired, and attendees will learn how to use a FrontRunner. A group of ten attendees is required by the teachers.
Call Jane at 207-753-9400 ext 400.*

BASIC ONSITE WASTEWATER SYSTEM INSTALLATION CLASS OFFERED

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District will host a course designed to help land-owners and wastewater system installers learn about the various types of systems recognized, and the rule sections that relate to construction of the subsurface system. A detailed description of the inspection process will be presented, as well as the use of erosion control devices, and the Department of Environmental Protection's permitting process.

Participation in the course will qualify attendees for a Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordination Committee (JETCC) certificate, and six and one half training contact hours accreditation to be applied to re-certification for CEOs and LPs. Also, accreditation will go towards the Voluntary Certification Program for Septic System Installers and Contractors.

The classes will be led by staff from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' Subsurface Wastewater Program.

Pre-registration is required with a prepayment of \$65.00 per person, payable to JETCC, and must be received by February 21, 2007. The course is to be held at the Fireside Inn on Route 202 just beside Turnpike Exit 75 in Auburn on March 7, 2007. Registration is from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m., and the day concludes at 4 p.m. Coffee break refreshments and lunch are included in the cost. A \$25 fee will be assessed for any cancellations not received 48 hours prior to the day of the program. Call the Conservation District Office at 207-753-9400 ext 400 or JETCC at 207-253-8020 for registration information.

Who Can Help Maine Farms

Are you aware of the federal, state, and local agencies providing services to Maine Farms? Plans are under way to give interested participants the opportunity to meet the service providers, and to hear about various farm assistance programs. This event will be held in the USDA Service Center at 254 Goddard Road in Lewiston. Save the dates on your calendar for April 18 and 19, 2007. More information will be announced in local papers.

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service will serve as host for this gathering. A good number of service provider agencies are planning to join this event. Other agencies within USDA participating will be the Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, and Time and Tide Resource

Conservation and Development.

Among the other partners, there will be representation from Maine's Department of Agriculture's Farmland Protection, Land for Maine's Future, Maine Farmland Trust, and the FarmLink programs. Other possible service providers will come from Northeast Sustainable Agriculture, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, an attorney skilled in farm/estate transfers, and farmland taxation program.

Call the office at 207-753-9400 ext 400 if you are interested in attending. A mailing will be sent out at a later date.

NRCS ANNOUNCES EQIP PRESCRIBED FORESTRY PLAN

Overview:

Forestland is a major part of the Maine landscape. When properly managed, woodlands can provide many environmental benefits such as improved water quality and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Well managed forestland can add value to timber resources and to adjacent cropland, grazing land or other land. Landowners with forestland can manage their forest resources in a more sustainable way by having a prescribed forestry plan.

Maine NRCS is now offering the practice "Prescribed Forestry" through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This practice offering will provide an incentive payment to qualified landowners who, with assistance from a Maine-licensed forester, prepare a plan to manage their forestland and conserve natural resources.

Payment Rates:

With the EQIP Prescribed Forestry Plan Incentive, selected applicants can receive a one-time payment to help cover the costs of having a prescribed forestry

plan prepared. There are two categories of incentive with total payment not to exceed \$4,000. The first category is 10 to 50 forested acres at \$20 per acre (flat rate), and the second is more than 50 forested acres at \$12 per acre (flat rate).

Eligibility:

To be eligible for this initiative, forest landowners.....

- Must have at least 10 acres of contiguous forestland to manage
- Must not have a current (10 yrs or less) forest management plan
- Are not eligible to receive Woodswise payments for a stewardship plan on the offered acres
- Must meet all other EQIP eligibility criteria

Sign Up Period:

Application for this initiative must be received at the NRCS office at 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston, not later than March 15, 2007. Contact Autumn or Paul at 207-753-9400 #3 if you have questions.



**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.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

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

SABATTUS POND TO BENEFIT FROM GRANT FUNDS

A Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Partnership (WIFAP) grant has recently been awarded Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. In a cooperative agreement with the Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership (SPWP), the grant will focus on improving the water quality of Sabattus Pond. The goal is to reduce the amount of soil, sediments, and associated contaminants that are washed into the Pond from public and private roads and private properties.

To achieve this goal, the Conservation District will provide technical assistance and financial help to install conservation practices. The conservation practices will protect the soil and water resources, lower maintenance costs, and enhance property values in the Sabattus Pond watershed.

To volunteer to serve on a steering committee, participate in grant activities, request technical assistance, help install conservation practices, contact Project Manager Susan Gammon at 207-753-9400 ext 404.

SIGN UP FOR MAINE'S ENVIROTHON PROGRAM

The Mock Envirothon will be held April 26 at the Jay Recreational Center. This gives high school students an opportunity to see what the Envirothon competition is all about and to talk one-on-one with natural resource specialists.

The Western Maine Regional Envirothon will be held on May 8 at the Maine Conservation School in Bryant Pond. Teams will be tested in their knowledge of soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and a current issue. The first, second, and third place winners will go on to compete in the State competition on May 24 in Bradley.

Contact our Office for more information at 207-753-9400 ext 400.

Franklin County SWCD invites you to attend:

Saturday, March 31, 2007: Public Auction To Raise Funds for Education Programs is to be held at Mt Blue Middle School in Farmington. Doors open at 5:15 pm with the bidding commencing at 6 pm. Auction lists will be available at the USDA Service Center at 107 Park St in Farmington starting Friday, March 23rd.

Friday, April 4, 2007: Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District (FCSWCD) will be holding a carved turkey breast buffet meal, followed by their annual meeting, with Dr Julia Daily and some of her UMF students presenting the Sandy River mapping project. Tickets will be sold and collected at 5 p.m. Attendees will be sent through the lines at 5:30 p.m. Tickets will be our cost of \$13/person when purchased by March 30th and \$15 thereafter. Call 778-4279 for more details or for a registration form.