

# Penobscot District News

## Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District

Fall 2004

[www.penobscotswcd.org](http://www.penobscotswcd.org)

### The Penobscot County Staff Honors D. Keith Parlette



Earth Team Volunteer & Associate  
Supervisor, Keith Parlette

D. Keith Parlette, an Earth Team Volunteer since 1997, passed away on July 23, 2004 after a long-term illness. Located in the Penobscot County, Maine office,

Parlette put in countless hours assisting in watershed survey work, conservation buffer plantings, shrub sales, and providing additional assistance where needed. Keith died at the age of 46.

One of the projects on which he took the lead, was the design and planting of a 125 foot buffer on the shores of Sebasticook Lake in Newport. Keith designed and oversaw the installation of the buffer by the Sebasticook Lake Conservation Corps in 2000. The buffer was installed near the outlet of Sebasticook Lake, where NRCS and other agencies partnered in the installation of a fish passage on the dam. The fish passage was completed in 2003.

In memory of Keith and his work as an Earth Team Volunteer, Penobscot County NRCS and District staff recently placed a plaque attached to a granite monu-

ment at the site of the buffer zone. The plaque reads: "This buffer is dedicated in memory of D. Keith Parlette for his many years of service to the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District". His work at the site will long be appreciated by all.

Keith enjoyed his time as a volunteer. The work and the people gave him something to look forward to while coping with his illness. He will long be remembered for his strength and can-do attitude towards life, and his friendliness towards all. Keith's dedication as a volunteer also led him to becoming an Associate Su-




The District and NRCS Staff dedicating the memorial.  
Sam Wright, Dan Schmidt, Alice Begin, Seth Jones and  
Chris Brewer.

pervisor with the District. Keith is missed by his friends at the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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## District Supervisors

- Neil Crane
- Bob Fogler, Vice Chair
- Dan Kusnierz, Treasurer
- John Simon
- Mary Wilson, Chair

## Associate Supervisors

- Lloyd Bolstridge
- Leslie Bolstridge
- Joseph Chernosky
- John Fogler
- William Michaud
- Larry Smith

## District Staff

- Joe Bertolaccini: District Engineer
- Chris Brewer: District Office Coordinator
- Kate Pond, District Soil Conservationist
- Sam Wright: Watershed Coordinator

## NRCS Staff

- Alice Begin: Soil Conservationist
- Ken Blazej: Conservation Technician
- Seth Jones: Conservation Technician
- Ron Olson: Area Soil Resource Specialist
- Dan Schmidt: District Conservationist

## 2002 Farm Bill Update

Chris Brewer

“How is the migration of EQIP payment responsibilities from FSA to NRCS going to impact me?” This is a question that we hear a lot lately here in the office. The answer in the long term is not much. However, during the next few months there may be delays in processing your payment requests.



In October the government started a new fiscal year, at which time payment responsibilities were transferred to NRCS for the Farm Bill Programs that they manage. For Penobscot County producers and landowners, we are now responsible for AMA, CSP, EQIP, GRP, WHIP, and WRP. When you request payments for conservation practices completed the staff here will process the paperwork and approve the payments.

**Why are there delays right now?** In October the Farm Service Agency transferred their electronic data on your contracts to NRCS. The two systems were not completely compatible. During the next couple of months we need to verify the data that was transferred and the data that was in our system to be sure they agree. Once this process is complete we will be allowed to make payments.

**Is there any way I can help you?** Yes. If you are anticipating turning in bills in the near future we need to have your bank account information in our system. You should request a the Direct Deposit form (SF 1199-A) from our office, or you can complete it electronically at <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov>.

## Conservation Security Program Watersheds Announced

Elaine Tremble, NRCS

Two Maine watersheds were among two hundred two across the nation invited to participate in a historic new program designed to reward farmers for long-term stewardship. U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann M. Veneman announced the selected watersheds today and said that sign-ups for the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP) would begin this winter.

CSP, part of the 2002 Farm Bill, was introduced last summer in 18 watersheds nationwide. In this first opportunity for farmers from each state to participate, about one eighth of the Nation's eligible farmers will be given the chance to apply each year over an eight-year period.

“As an agency and as a Nation we have helped farmers and ranchers fix conservation problems such as soil erosion or water conservation since the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s,” said Joyce Swartzendruber, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) overseeing CSP. “This, however, represents a whole new direction in conservation and agricultural policy and programs. These payments for demonstrable long-term stewardship will reward many of those who undertook conservation on their own initiative and who care for the resources we all share.”

The Casco Bay Watershed, primarily in Cumberland and Oxford Counties, and the Piscataquis River Watershed, primarily in Piscataquis County, are the Maine watersheds selected for 2005. The program is available on pastureland, hayland, and all types of cropland.

Participants will be enrolled in one of three tiers in the program, depending on the extent of the conservation treatment

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in place on their farm. Payments will be based in part on this existing conservation treatment as well as their willingness to undertake additional environmental enhancements.

Swartzendruber said that while protecting soil and water quality are the “price of admission” farmers will also have options to improve wildlife habitat, undertake on-farm energy conservation, improve air quality, and improve nutrient and pest management activities.

NRCS will offer local workshops in the selected watersheds to more fully explain the program to interested potential participants.

CSP will continue to be offered each year, on a rotational basis, in as many watersheds as funding allows. For more information on CSP and other NRCS programs see <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/> programs.

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## Forestry BMP Workshop a Success

*Sam Wright*

Recently the District teamed up with the Maine Forest Service and Katahdin Timberlands LLC to host a forestry best management practices workshop in Millinocket. The workshop was based around the Maine Forest Service’s new Best Management Practices (BMP) handbook and is intended to educate and inform loggers of techniques used to protect Maine’s water quality. Chris Martin and Jim Ecker of the Maine Forest Service began the morning session with discussion about different types of BMP’s used in the field and their different functions and purpose. Several types of BMP’s are outlined in the new handbook covering all facets of the operation from watershed analysis and proper layout of roads and twitch trails, to landings and yard BMP’s. The field portion consisted of a visit to a working woodlot managed by Katahdin Timberlands LLC, Dave Wilson of Katahdin Timberlands as well as Jim and Chris described a few differ-

ent BMP’s being implemented at the woodlot, one regarding an access road and the other on a twitch trail. Great discussion ensued on each site when participants were asked what they liked and what they would do different. Participants were given a copy of the new book and also acquired CLP credits for attending. The workshop was a great success, thank you to the Maine Forest Service and Katahdin Timberlands LLC for helping make this happen. For more information or copies of the new manual please contact Chris Martin at 287-1073 or [chris.martin@maine.gov](mailto:chris.martin@maine.gov).

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## Central High School Teens Practice Watershed Stewardship

*Ed Lindsey, Central High Biology Teacher*

Several Central High School students are working in the streams of the upper Kenduskeag watershed, learning chemistry, geology, and biology in the world right outside of their school building. They are working to build a base of water quality data that can be used by others, and that can serve as a starting point for further scientific investigation into the workings of this interesting natural and cultural system that houses most of our school district.

These students have become a Stream Team, part of a statewide network of water monitoring groups. In the first phase of this work, students are establishing relationships with professionals from different agencies, acquiring and learning how to use equipment, and developing skill with scientific methods. This provides a foundation for doing quality work that is acceptable to the scientific community. In phase two, an electronic database will be developed that will organize the growing body of data, make it easy to work with, and provide a means of presenting information

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**The Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District provides leadership, information, education and technical assistance to conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources through partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations and government.**

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## Annual Wreath Sale Now Underway

Recently the Maine Association of Conservation Districts launched a website. Detailed information on our Statewide programs such as Envirothon, is on this website. Check it out at [maindswcds.org](http://maindswcds.org)



Order a Handmade Maine Balsam Christmas Wreath from your local Soil and Water Conservation District. Your wreath is handmade by Maine Wreath Artisans.

It is: 22" in diameter decorated with Austrian pine cones, reindeer moss, red berries and a red velvet waterproof bow.

Price: \$27.00 Includes packaging and UPS shipping in the continental United States. Wreaths will be shipped right from the factory to the address on your order. Add \$7.50 for shipments to Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico. State of Maine Sales Tax will be applicable on wreathes shipped within the state. You may also order online at our website [www.penobscotswcd.org](http://www.penobscotswcd.org).

All proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit education programs for all the Districts in Maine.

### Christmas Wreath Order Form

Total Qty \_\_\_\_\_ \$27each    Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_  
5% Maine Sales Tax (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
Additional Shipping \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment  Check/Money Order  Cash

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordering deadline November 30, 2004. All orders will be shipped between November 22nd and December 4, 2004.

Return this form with payment to:  
Penobscot County SWCD  
28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2, Bangor, ME 04401

**Order #1** Please use UPS street addresses only no P.O. Box numbers.

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Please check if #1 is for yourself \_\_\_\_\_  
Ship To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your message for gift orders: \_\_\_\_\_

**Order #2** Please use UPS street addresses only no P.O. Box numbers.

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ship To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your message for gift orders: \_\_\_\_\_

If additional space for orders is needed please sent order information on a separate sheet of paper.

# Heart of Maine Resource Conservation & Development Area Council

## Presents

### Soil Quality Conference 2005

February 1, 2 and 3 at the Ramada Inn

Odlin Road (Exit 182B) Bangor, Maine

This year's speaker will be Dr. Arden Andersen, an authority in biological agriculture and agricultural consultant to farmers, farm consultants and product companies around the world. He specializes in nutritional management as well as the management of soils, crops and animals in a productive, profitable and economically sustainable way.

During this three day conference, you will:

- Discover what weeds are telling you about the health of your soil.
- Learn how effective farm management requires the best of biological and conventional theories, combined with natural science.
- Learn how biochemistry, physics and plant biology can guide you towards practical management decisions.
- Gain an insight into how beneficial microbial life helps to improve soil biology and plant balance, as well as reducing the risk of disease or insect attack.
- Learn how each individual farming application can affect the delicate balance of your soil's biological food web.
- Learn to build soil and foliar fertilizer programs that will maximize plant growth and enhance nutrient balance for your livestock and plants.
- Learn how innovative management techniques improve soil biology leading to increased plant and animal production.

#### Day 1 Laying the Foundation

- Today's agriculture and human health
- Paradigms and thought processes
- Beginning of basic sciences

#### Day 2 Basic Science and Agriculture

- Chemistry and Bio-chemistry
- Physics
- Biology and Microbiology
- Plant nutrients

#### COST

The cost for the three day event is \$125. A second person from the same farm may attend for \$100. Fee includes evening session, refreshments and lunch each day. The Ramada Inn is offering a discounted rate of \$59 per night for conference attendees. Call 207-947-6961 to reserve your room.

#### CREDITS

Credits are pending for the following programs: Certified Crop Adviser, Pesticide Applicator and Nutrient Management

#### Day 3 Growing High Quality Crops

- Summary of sciences and nutrients
- Building programs and soil testing
- Residue management
- Specific crop programs
- Field instruments

#### Tuesday Evening Session: "Real Medicine, Real Health"

The link between human health and food has been known for a long time and written about extensively. What hasn't been covered as well is the tremendous variation that exists between low-grade produce and top-quality produce. Inferior produce has low total dissolved sugars, poor nutrient density. doesn't taste good and is unable to confer good health and energy to the people eating it.

Join Dr. Arden Andersen, a respected physician and world authority in biological agriculture, for an informative and thought provoking presentation on the relationship between our health and the **quality** of the food we eat.

Whether you are farming 5 acres or 1,500, this event is for you! To register or for more information, please contact Heart of Maine RC&D please contact Heart of Maine RC&D 207-368-4433 or [info@heartofmainercd.org](mailto:info@heartofmainercd.org). More information is also on the Penobscot County SWCD's website at [www.penobscotswcd.org](http://www.penobscotswcd.org).

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## Central Teens Cont.

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to the public.

Partners in this work include: Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District, Penobscot Indian Nation, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, University of Maine, Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, and the Northeast Field Office of the Fisheries Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



The Stream Team recently visited the Thomas Farms of Garland.

Their work serves as a possible model for transforming the high school learning experience by offering students different ways to be engaged in learning, exposing students to expertise beyond the school walls, and giving students real-world problems to work on in the spirit of public service.

The upper Kenduskeag watershed is naturally arranged for a study that compares 5 streams to each other and allows land use in 5 subcatchments in the watershed to be correlated to stream characteristics. The 5 streams are Crooked Brook, the upper reach of Kenduskeag Stream, Allen Stream, French Stream, and Pierre Paul Brook. These streams drain the land of the upper Kenduskeag watershed and bring their water to a small area near Central High School. Conveniently, the road crosses each stream, providing easy access, just before the stream joins another stream.