

Penobscot District News

Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring/Summer 2005

www.penobscotswcd.org

Maine Envirothon 2005

Chris Brewer & Sheila Grant Piscataquis SWCD

High school students from Penobscot, Piscataquis and Somerset counties gathered at Breakneck Ridge Farm in Blanchard on May 11 to compete in the Central Maine Envirothon. This year's competition was hosted by the Piscataquis County SWCD.

Students from high schools in Bangor, Guilford, Greenville, Hampden, and Newport were tested by natural resource professionals at five subject stations; current issues, wildlife, aquatics, forestry and soils science. Judges

volunteering their time for this hands-on, outdoor competition came from a number of natural resource-based agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection,

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Piscataquis, Penobscot and Somerset Soil and Water Conser-



Hampden Academy Team Members, Chris Hawkins, Matt Scott, Stanley Abraham, Lynnsay Maynard and Chris Cowin

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Dexter Lakes NPS Watershed Survey Project is Underway!

Sara McCabe


Thanks to a grant written by former Watershed Coordinator, Sam Wright, Penobscot County SWCD has received funding to conduct a non-point source watershed survey for Lake Wassookeag and Puffers Pond in Dexter. As the new Watershed Coordinator, I am picking up where Sam left off to make the plans a reality. A rapidly approaching meeting in June will bring together steering committee members representing partnering groups on this project such as the Dexter Lakes Association, area town and public works officials, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. A survey training day will take place in the following months, involving a hands-on training on non-point source pollution and field survey techniques, followed by an afternoon in the field with a resource professional to begin documenting NPS sites. If you have time to volunteer for this rewarding effort, please contact me.

As part of this project, a demonstration buffer planting will be designed and installed on the lake in a public area. We are very excited that landscape designer Kirsten Reberg-Horton of Kalmia Landscape Design in Old Town, known for her amazing buffer designs, has agreed to participate in the project. Besides the survey training and the buffer planting, additional educational outreach will be developed for the Dexter lakes watershed. With these activities, the project promises to positively impact the watershed!

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions about this or other watershed projects.

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Penobscot District News

District Supervisors

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- Dan Kusnierz, Treasurer
- John Simon
- Mary Wilson, Chair

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

District Staff

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

NRCS Staff

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

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vation Districts.

Hamden Academy took first place in the competition with, Bangor High School in second place and Nokomis High School in third. Each team received trophies for their schools, and commemorative medallions for each team member, and the opportunity to compete at the next level, the Maine Envirothon. This state competition was held at the Pottle Tree Farm in Perry on May 26. There were 18 teams at this competition representing the top three scoring teams from the six regional competitions. After a long ride to Perry the students had to compete in torrential downpours that lasted throughout the day. At the end of the day the Cony High School team persevered, followed by Bonny Eagle and Easton. The Cony team will go on to compete at the Canon Envirothon Competition in July at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield. Canon Envirothon is North Americas largest environmental competition with nearly every State and Canadian Province represented.

Maine Envirothon meets the criteria of the Maine Learning Results. Students who participate and then go on to the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture at UMO are considered for a \$2,000 scholarship. For more information on Envirothon, or if you are interested in starting a team contact Chris Brewer.



Bangor High Team 1, Noa Silver, Matt Pittis, Tessa Roscoe, Valerie Hart, Elizabeth Barris



Nokomis Regional High School Team 1, Katie Rowe, Janelle Vigue, Ashley Pingree, Vanessa Cross, Sara Martin



Nokomis Team 1's presentation was on the environmental impact of the Eastland Woolen Mill on the Town of Corinna and the remediation work that has been done to restore downtown. Pictured above is the a timeline for the site that the team used to illustrate their points.

Penobscot County Soil Survey Update

Dover-Foxcroft based soil scientists continue their update of the Southern Penobscot County Soil Survey, which is part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. This survey is the first update in the state of Maine by the USDA's – Natural Resources Conservation Service. Twenty nine percent of the survey has been completed to date, with the forecast for completion in 2009. The survey area extends to the north as far as the town of La-Grange. The University of Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, Maine Department of Agriculture and Penobscot Soil & Water Conservation District are cooperators in this endeavor.

The most recent soil survey of Penobscot County was published in 1963, with most of the fieldwork done in the late 1940's and 1950's. This original survey is considered to be out of date, and not within current National Cooperative Soil Survey standards and guidelines for quality, classification and interpretations. The current survey is an effort to provide landowners and land use planners in Southern Penobscot County with the best up-to-date information available. Interpretive information that will be provided by the survey includes cropland, pastureland, hayland, woodland, recreation, sanitary, building development and engineering applications.

Soil maps are indeed intended for many uses. For example, these maps are important tools for a homebuyer or developer in determining soil-related hazards

or limitations that could potentially affect a homesite. They can also help land use planners determine what areas are appropriate for onsite sewage disposal systems, or aid farmers in estimating the potential crop or forage production of their land. Soil maps also provide information that can be used to determine the suitability and limitations of soils for pipelines, buildings, roads, recreation areas, forest management and many other uses.

This summer the soil survey will be progressing through the towns of Levant, Carmel, Etna, Newburgh, Dixmont and Stetson. Soil scientists working in these areas will walk over the land and dig or bore small holes to enable them to assess the physical characteristics of the soil,

such as soil drainage class, soil depth to bedrock, and soil texture. These holes are always filled in after they've made their observations of these major soil properties. These soil attributes are analyzed and occasionally described once the parent material (glacial till, glacial outwash or glaciomarine sediments) and bedrock geology of an area is deter-

mined. They will then delineate units of similar soils on aerial photographs, creating a soil map of the area.

Copies of the mapping with tentative map unit descriptions (where available) can be obtained in late autumn by contacting the USDA – NRCS Dover-Foxcroft Soil Survey Office at 564-2628. When requesting copies of soil mapping, please specify what precise geographic area you are interested in (such as a fax or photocopy of the area on a map).



Soil Scientists Tim Daubert, Anna Kettell and Suzy Park may be visiting your property soon.

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.

The District has an Aerway Aerator available for rent at a reasonable rate of \$3.00 per acre. The aerator can be used anywhere soil compaction is resulting in reduced growth in pastures or hay ground. For more information contact the District and speak with Chris.

Staff Changes at the District & NRCS

As you may have guessed from the previous article on the Dexter Lakes Project there has been a change in District Staff. Sam Wright left the District in March to take a job with the Department of Home Land Security. Sam is now an Agricultural Specialist at the Houlton Border Crossing. We thank Sam for his service to the District and wish him luck with his new Job.



Sara Colburn McCabe, our new Watershed Coordinator, comes to us from the University of Maine, where she will be receiving her Master's of Science in Water Resources upon

completion of her thesis this fall. Her work at the University has been in the development of a website to help non-technical audiences interpret and use environmental data, such as water quality data for lakes in Maine. She received her undergraduate degree in Environmental Education from Unity College, and has experience in teaching (having taught seventh grade science for three years). Sara lives in Skowhegan with her husband Jeff and German shepherd, Riggs, and enjoys all types of outdoor recreation.

After five years of service to the Bangor NRCS Office we bid farewell to Alice Begin. Alice has accepted a position as a Resource Conservationist at the NRCS State Office. She may have only moved across town but she will be missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Be LakeSmart for Your Lake's Sake

In case you have not heard about LakeSmart. It is the relatively new (in its third year) program that promotes lake friendly landscaping and property maintenance. It involves a site visit by a Soil and Water Conservation District personnel or DEP educator. There are several categories that are evaluated: 1) driveway and parking areas; 2) structures and septic systems; 3) yard, recreation areas and footpaths; 4) shorefront and beach areas; and 5) the new category for 2005, undeveloped areas. If a homeowner qualifies for the first 4 categories, they receive the LakeSmart Award. If they also qualify for the 5th category undeveloped areas they get additional recognition. An award winner receives two LakeSmart signs and a personalized plaque. If a homeowner qualifies in one to three of the categories, they receive a recognition certification.

Anyone who qualifies for recognition or award is listed on the LakeSmart web site. Want to see the names of the property owners? Go to www.MaineDEP.com and click on LakeSmart.

Want to get LakeSmart going in your watershed? There are several ways request a site visit, attend a LakeSmart Workshop or initiate a LakeSmart Walk 'N Talk.

Anyone can request a LakeSmart site evaluation by the District or Christine Smith or at DEP 287-3901. A site visit is best done during the summer when the plants are growing and the owner is home. It takes about 1 – 2 hours. The evaluator will ask questions of the owner regarding the septic system, yard maintenance and property boundaries. Next, the evaluator will walk the prop-

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Support the Maine Agricultural License Plate

Legislative Document No 437 authorizes the issuance of an agricultural recognition registration plate to support programs that benefit agricultural education. This initiative is being spearheaded by the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Association (MAITCA) and they are required to collect a list of 2,000 names, signatures and current plate numbers of supporters who intend to purchase the plate and a fee of \$40,000 (\$20 for each signature) by September 1, 2005

MAITCA is a partner of Maine Conservation Districts, who's mission is to promote the understanding of agriculture and natural resources among, students educators, and the general public.

You can help us make this license plate a reality by signing up to reserve your own set(s) of this colorful & attractive plate. \$20 per set of plates must accompany your sign-up. Once we attain the minimum number of plate orders (2,000), the license plate will become a reality (we will try for 2006 if we cannot get 2,000 in time for the state's 2005 deadline, and in a worst case scenario, the \$20 will be refunded to everyone). Of the subsequent \$15 annual fee, \$10 will be transferred to a special fund for agricultural education programs administered by the MAITCA. The remaining \$5 (per set of plates) will be used for administration and production costs of the plate. For even more information, visit the AG Tag Initiative website at www.umaine.edu/umext/cranberries/atgag.htm or call MAITCA at 287-5522. You can also sign up at the District Office.

The District would like to thank our volunteers who assisted with the 2005 Wildlife Tree and Shrub Sale; Lois Crane, Jill Perkins, Guy Brewer, Josh Brewer, Bob Fogler, Jan Paul, Rhonda Daigle, Susan Poole, Carolyn Ellis, Lucia Brown and many others.



Information for supporters who intend to purchase the Agricultural Specialty License Plate

I understand by signing this form and paying the \$20 fee per set of license plates, that I agree to purchase the agricultural specialty license plate. A voucher will be issued to me by the Secretary of State's Office when the plates are available.

Print Name: _____	Mailing Address: _____
Signature _____	Town & Zip: _____
Current Plate #: _____	E-mail Address: _____

Please mail with check made payable to Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Assn. (MAITCA) 28 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333. For more information call the MAITCA office at (207) 287-5522 or e-mail maitca@maine.gov

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Attention Sebasticook Lake Certified FrontRunner Operators. Penobscot County has obtained a FrontRunner that is kept in Bangor. The FrontRunner is available to you at a rental rate of \$50/week. If you are interested please contact Chris.

LakeSmart Continued

erty to determine the flow of the storm-water and look for possible sources of pollution to the lake. At the completion of the visit the evaluator will give the homeowner general recommendations for improvements.

Keep in mind these site visits are not for enforcement purposes. If there is a visible violation, the evaluator will let the homeowners know so they can correct the problem without enforcement action. The evaluator will give written recommendations for improvements to the property on the day of the evaluation. This recommendation sheet will also indicate if the owner has received LakeSmart recognition in one or more of the five categories or the LakeSmart award. Award plaques and signs or recognition certificates will be presented or mailed to the homeowner by DEP or

SWCD.

For those who do not feel ready to have someone come to their property, they can attend one of the FREE workshops offered this summer.



Vegetative buffers can be designed to add beauty to your property without obstructing your view of the lake and all the while they are also protecting water quality.

Dear Cooperators and Friends,

For more than 60 years, the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District has assisted local landowners with conservation programs. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our patrons, for the support and assistance you have provided us over the years! Without your cooperation, the District would find itself hard-pressed to exist. We are a not-for-profit organization and with our small budget each year, it is important to receive local support to continue our program. Our educational programs and technical assistance services are funded solely by grants, donations and profit from our fundraisers, like the Wildlife Tree and Shrub Sale. If you are new to the District or one of our longtime supporters, we would like to ask for your support, in order to continue our high level of service. Contributions of any amount would be greatly appreciated and are, of course, tax-deductible. Thank you, in advance.

2005 Membership Dues

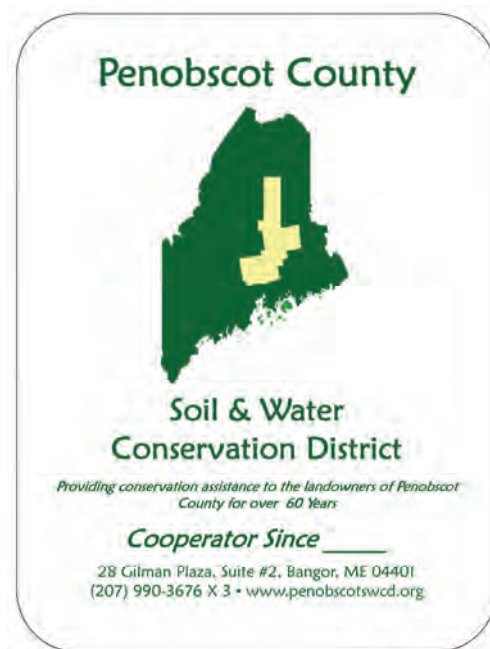
Please stop by the office to request your own Cooperator Sign, available with your donation of \$25 or more! Show your Support today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____



Please return this form with your dues to:
Penobscot County SWCD
28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2
Bangor, ME 04401



Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop

An Introduction to the basic road building and maintenance and the FrontRunner

Friday July 29

8:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Glenburn Town Office,
144 Lakeview Road



Sponsored By:



Penobscot County
Soil & Water
Conservation District



- ▶ During this half day event you will learn about basic road building and maintenance techniques and will be introduced to a “do-it-yourself” road maintenance tool called the FrontRunner. There will be a short morning classroom session, followed by a hands-on demonstration. The \$15 registration fee includes educational materials, coffee, snacks and lunch.

The Front Runner grader/rake is an attachment that fits onto the front of pick-up trucks utilizing a snowplow mount. It is used for road grading, maintenance, site cleanup, landscaping, finish grading, and snow removal on soft roads.

The Front Runner consists of a row of heavy-duty, flexible, spring steel tines individually bolted to a rugged, welded steel frame. A set of adjustable gauge wheels is attached to this frame in front of the tines for support. The entire attachment forms the configuration of a miniature road grader. It is controlled by the truck’s snowplow hydraulic hoist.

Front Runners have the advantage of improved visibility and control over rear-mounted attachments. The spring steel tines allow faster operating speeds than a bucket or blade because of their “forgiveness,” plus they have the ability to separate and remove debris ahead of the vehicle so that it will not have to drive over the debris—as happens with a rear-mounted or towed device.

The front runner will be available for use at a low cost of \$50 to anyone who participates in this workshop and has access to a ¾ or 1 ton truck equipped with an 8’ Fisher 25” push tab snowplow mount.

The FrontRunner:

- penetrates the surface and can be controlled better than rear mounted attachments.
- works faster than a blade because of the flexibility of the tines.
- provides true grading action, unlike other machines that require back dragging
- restores the road crown by pulling material from shoulders and separates unwanted debris.

Name	
Representing:	
Address:	
Telephone: (H)	(W)
E-mail:	
Number Attending (\$15.00 per person):	Total:

Registration Required:

To register please return this form to:

Penobscot County SWCD
28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2
Bangor, ME 04401

Telephone: 990-3676 ext 3.

Please Register by 7/27/05

To register online visit:
www.penobscotswcd.org

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Penobscot County SWCD
28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2
Bangor, ME 04401
(207)990-3676

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2005 Fall Bulb Sale Order
Form Also Enclosed!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Penobscot County SWCD prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Upcoming Events

Open Farm Day—On Sunday, July 24, 2005, over 80 farms throughout Maine will be open to the public. Visit a farm and see what farm life is all about.

Watch farm activities and demonstrations from milking to felting; pet farm animals, pick berries, tour a barn or go on a hay ride. There will be farm-raised products for sale, displays to see and samples to taste. A list of participating farms can be found at

www.gettrealmaine.com. Farms in Penobscot County include:

- Ash Hill View Deer Farm, 89 Swett Road, Carmel
- Mapleshade Farm, 248 Corinth Road, Garland
- Page Farm & Home Museum, University of Maine, Orono
- The Curran Homestead Living History Farm & Museum, Fields Pond Road, Orrington

- Windkist Haven Farm, 158 Lagrange Road, Bradford
- Double L. Ranch, 483 Nokomis Road, Corinna

Gravel Road & FrontRunner Workshop—This workshop will highlight installation and management of gravel roads and will be held on July 29 at the Glenburn Town office. For more information look inside this newsletter.

Dexter Lakes Watershed Survey Training—Volunteers are needed to assist the District and the Dexter Lakes Association to complete a survey of Wassookeag Lake and Puffers Pond in Dexter. A training session will be held on July 23rd. For more information contact the District.

Maine Farm Days will be held at the Wright Farms in Clinton on August 23rd and 24th.