



Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District 2021 Annual Report

Our mission is to be a leader in agriculture and forestry, by providing education and technical assistance to promote conservation of the natural resources upon which we depend.



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*Thanks for
learning with us
in 2021.*

Hello 2022!

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Additional Information

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Amber Hines

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Kacey Weber, Educational Coordinator
Emily Dickison, Stream Restoration Project
Manager

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Elisa Schine, Community Forestry Rep.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

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Seth Jones, District Conservationist
Carl Bickford, Soil Conservationist
Nick Butler, MLRA 144B Project Leader
Alaina Kresovic, Soil Scientist
Joshua Dera, Soil Scientist
Chris Mann, Ecological Site Specialist

FARM SERVICE AGENCY STAFF:

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WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



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Supervisor**



**Amber Hines
Associate
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**Jim Ferrante
Associate
Supervisor**

Our shared vision is of an environmentally stronger Maine with healthy soils, clean rivers, streams, brooks, and waterbodies, strong and productive forested areas, profitable and sustainable agriculture, informed and involved conservation minded residents, and for Maine to be a leader in individual conservation practices on private property.

MESSAGE FROM THE PCSWCD BOARD CHAIR, TOBY HALL



I am filled with excitement and have much to say about this past year, but little space to write about it all. I encourage everyone to catch up on all of the accomplishments, ideas and plans for the future of PCSWCD included in this newsletter.

It is my hope that you will feel it is everyone's responsibility to recognize and respect the value of our water and soil along with our other natural resources and the importance of conserving them now and for future generations.

The PCSWCD mission focuses on education and we use our properties in Williamsburg and Dover-Foxcroft as places where you can go to learn, relax, enjoy and even volunteer. There are all season trails at both locations and many things to observe for free.

So, pack up your binoculars, field guides, camera, notebook, pencil, family and friends! Put on your walking shoes and check it all out.

Looking forward to seeing you on the trail,

Toby Hall 

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BUDGET FY 2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

Summary

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – FY22 BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>100</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>900</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>TNC</u>	<u>NRCS</u>	<u>Sales/Services</u>	<u>Workshops/Programs</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>	<u>Admin</u>	
Revenue:							
Government Grants		6,489				40,000	46,489
Other Grants	66,165						66,165
Donations					0	500	500
Sales & Services			19,029		0		19,029
Workshop & Program Fees	375			20,988			21,363
Miscellaneous	0					20	20
Total Revenue	66,540	6,489	19,029	20,988	0	40,520	153,566
Expenses:							
Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	63,427	7,298	2,640	4,543	0	38,495	116,403
Other Direct Expenses	740	0	14,190	3,715	0	10,474	29,119
Administrative Allocation	5,614	639	1,473	723	0	(8,448)	0
Total Expenses	69,782	7,937	18,302	8,981	0	40,520	145,521
Operating Surplus/(Loss)	(3,241)	(1,448)	727	12,007	0	(0)	8,045
Interest Income							0
Net Operating Surplus/(Loss)	(3,241)	(1,448)	727	12,007	0	(0)	8,045

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) has had a strong presence in our communities for 78 years. This Annual Report provides our constituents with an overview of the work that has been done in 2021 and a chance for our staff to reflect on progress and strengthen plans for the new year. By this time each year, we have presented our annual Calendar of Events (see pages 16 & 17 for what we are offering) and are already deep into our new year work plans. Writing this article is a welcomed pause, a moment to breathe, reflect and be proud, collectively. In 2021, PCSWCD offered 27 events, programs and technical trainings, covering topics in forestry, agriculture, invasive species, wildlife habitat, foraging and chainsaw safety. We also provided recreational opportunities paired with hands-on learning (for youth, families and the general public), free technical services and outdoor education throughout the county. With impressive volunteer power, we maintained public spaces at the Law Farm and Demonstration Forest, revamped our children's pollinator garden, planned a rescue mission for heirloom roses found at the Law Farm, updated property maps, marked trails and boundary lines and rediscovered our Bailey Hill woodlot. Our public lands saw more foot traffic than ever before as people discovered the respite of the outdoors while navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Our trails were traversed, our programs filled to capacity and our sales tripled. Our small "staff that could" worked hard to meet needs and met you with quality and thanks for your continued support. Now here we are, February 2022, with a year of programming planned in front of us. This programming is designed to arm you with the information and skills you need to apply conservation on your land, in your life and in our communities. Piscataquis County is not immune to concerns seen around the world. We need to be proactive, knowledgeable and responsive to what is happening right outside and within our county lines. We can lead by example, and have a happy ending...that is really exciting! Boots-on-the-ground conservation is happening right here in Piscataquis County. Our Stream Restoration Project Manager, Emily Dickison, worked to free up 9.15 miles of upstream aquatic habitat last year. We held several events targeted to women woodlot owners, inspiring them to explore sustainable use and management of their wooded acres. We took 20 youth into the woods for 3 days through our Teen Wilderness Expedition program, talked with them and encouraged them to engage in meaningful ways with nature. Our Board of Supervisors grew, our partnerships grew and we met many new people and had new experiences with old friends! Conservation is a responsibility that we all have. PCSWCD is here to guide you and give you the tools to put exciting, positive things together for your land, home and community. We hope you enjoy reading our 2021 Annual Report. Please make a plan to support our local advertisers, support Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District and connect with us in 2022!

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SPOTLIGHT ON PARTNERS OF THE PISCATAQUIS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT!

Our Rewarding Work with The Nature Conservancy (TNC)



These photos were taken at AMC's Unnamed Tributary to Caribou Stream. This project freed up 0.75 stream miles of prime brook trout habitat.

Left to right: Before photo: A perched, undersized culvert that prevents aquatic organism passage. Photo 2: Native brook trout removed from construction area. After photo: A timber bridge with block abutments spanning 1.2 bankfull allowing AOP.

The Maine Aquatic Connectivity Restoration Project is a five-year, \$6 million dollar effort that provides significant financial and technical assistance to private landowners to upgrade road-stream crossings. The project improves road safety and stability, while increasing opportunities for fish and other aquatic life to thrive. Made possible through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the project is available from 2018-2022. The project is supported by a collaboration of 26 tribal, state, federal, nonprofit, and private landowners, and covers 25,255 square miles of project area, including the last endangered Atlantic salmon-listed watersheds in the U.S. and critical Eastern brook trout habitat. The overall goal is to restore aquatic organism passage to at least 50 miles of stream, brook, and river habitat.

The Nature Conservancy responded to the demand for aquatic organism passage (AOP) projects in Piscataquis County by strengthening their relationship with PCSWCD and creating a full time Stream Restoration Project Manager position. TNC and PCSWCD have many shared natural resource conservation goals as both organizations aim to protect and conserve water quality and wildlife habitat through outreach and boots-on-the-ground efforts. The Project Manager (PM) provides technical assistance for efforts to connect waterways used by fish and wildlife species. The creation of this position has streamlined the process of aquatic organism projects for TNC and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and created an amazing outreach opportunity for PCSWCD.

PCSWCD's Project Manager, Emily Dickison, connects with landowners to offer assistance and plan improvements in wildlife habitat and road conditions on their property. The PM has many responsibilities including road-stream barrier assessments, stream surveying with engineers, environmental and cultural NRCS reviews, assisting in structure engineering, coordinating with construction contractors, construction visits documenting structure placement and removal of fish/wildlife in the work area, and structure inspection after the projects are complete.

In 2021, PCSWCD's Stream Restoration PM conducted 16 road-stream crossing assessments for 5 landowners. Of those crossings, 10 were barriers to fish crossing making a total of 17 sites that qualify for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). If the qualifying sites proceed to construction in 2022 it would free up just over 21 miles of upstream aquatic habitat! During the 2021 construction season, 9 Aquatic Organism Passages were completed in Piscataquis county which freed up a total of 9.15 miles of upstream aquatic habitat. Prior to construction, 5 sites were electro-fished, and over 50 trout were moved outside of the construction area. Within hours of barrier removal, fish were seen accessing upstream habitat that had been blocked for many years. In partnership with NRCS, TNC and Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), PCSWCD's PM held a webinar "Getting

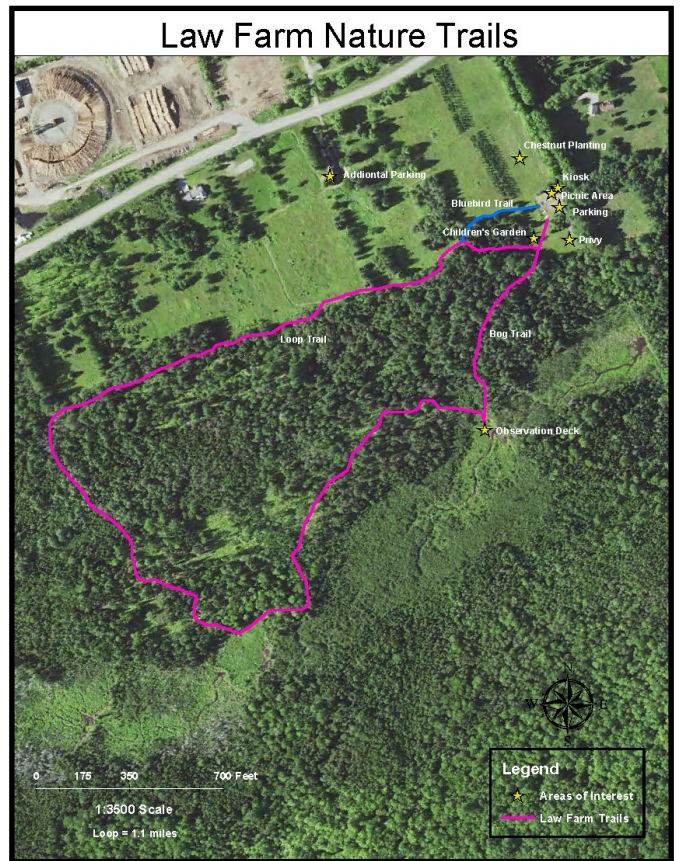
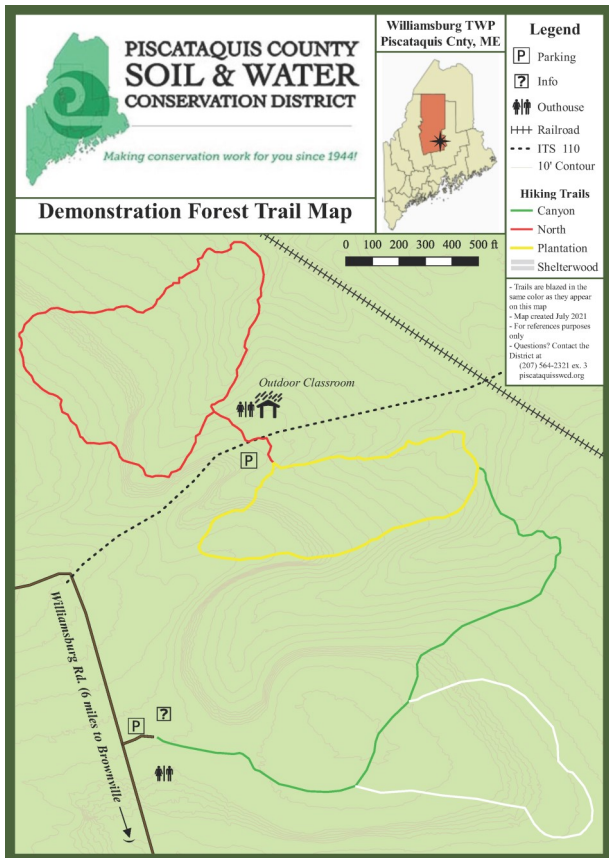
Article Continued on page 6...

Spotlight on our Partners Article continued from page 5...Your Feet Wet: Enhancing Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Your Property,” a discussion on how to take the first steps in stream restoration by learning how maintaining “Stream Smart” road crossings on your property can benefit you as a landowner. This workshop introduced the importance of free-flowing streams, ways to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, the “Stream Smart” rules of building crossings, cost and maintenance benefits of these crossings and how PCSWCD can evaluate your crossings and provide other technical assistance.

TNC and PCSWCD have plans to continue their partnership beyond 2022 with a new contract underway! In this next year, you will see the continued efforts in Piscataquis County and more educational outreach and opportunities to learn the process and design principles of installing resilient stream crossing structures. Through a Stream Crossing Design and Installation Workshop for Aquatic Organisms event, PCSWCD will provide information on how improving infrastructure creates valuable wildlife habitat for wildlife species, details about funding opportunities that may be available to aid in the engineering and construction of road-stream crossings and the work that is being done by the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in Piscataquis County. For more information about this workshop contact emily.dickison@piscataquisswcd.org or visit our website at www.piscataquisswcd.org.

VOLUNTEERS UPDATE TRAIL MAPS FOR BOTH PCSWCD PUBLIC LANDS

Volunteers Mike Pouch, PCSWCD Supervisor, Nick Butler, USDA NRCS Soil Science Division, and UMaine School of Forest Resource students worked to update the trail maps for both the Law Farm Nature Trails and the Demonstration Forest. The Law Farm Trail map was updated to include new education demonstration sites. The Demonstration Forest trail map received a major upgrade and now works with the Avenza Maps app—so cool! Thank you to our volunteers for these awesome updates. Learn more about the Law Farm Nature Trails [here](#) and the Demonstration Forest [here](#). Take a look at the new maps below and better yet, head on out to the properties for a snowshoe or ski!



Women in Conservation

Written by PCSWCD's Executive Director, Sarah Robinson



(from the left: Photo 1: Heidi Bunn, NRCS Aquatic Restoration Engineer, Sarah Robinson, PCSWCD Executive Director, Emily Dickison, Stream Restoration Project Manager, Kacey Weber, PCSWCD Educational Coordinator; Photo 2: Molly London, WW London Woodlot Management Co; Photo 3: Alaina Kresovic, USDA NRCS Soil Scientist; Photo 4: Chainsaw Safety 2021 class participants. Elisa Schbine 2nd from right)

When you look around the Dover-Foxcroft USDA Service Center office and the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) staff, you will notice there has been a growing network of women in the field of conservation. Through outreach, boots-on-the-ground efforts, and programs and workshops, positive women role models are taking charge in Piscataquis County's conservation field and gaining momentum.

Women in Science Outreach! We are working to make a lasting impact by spreading the word to young ladies that there is a growing field for women in science and conservation. Last fall, PCSWCD's Stream Restoration Project Manager Emily Dickison and Heidi Bunn, NRCS Aquatic Restoration Engineer, presented an *Introduction to Stream and Fisheries Restoration* for college-bound young women. Seven ladies were present along with Heidi Landis from Maine River and Miranda with Atlantic Salmon Federation. They spent time at four Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) sites ranging from completed, under construction, and planned for construction, that would all open waters from the Ocean to China Lake for Alewives to run and spawn. They saw thousands of juvenile Alewives making their way down to the ocean and the presenters talked about their career paths, hurdles, and gave advice to the young women about what it is like being in Maine in the STEM field. They talked individually with several young women about what they aspire to do, which ranged from Marine Biology, Ecology, to Environmental Policy. Read more about Emily's efforts on pages 4 & 5. Kacey Weber, PCSWCD Educational Coordinator, met remotely with students from Sanford High School for a presentation on Women in Science. She shared about her career path, education, what her job is like and the challenges and perks in her field.

Boots-on-the-Ground! Piscataquis women have their hands in the water, and also in the soil! They are proactively seeking ways to keep our forests healthy by keeping learning opportunities available for future women. Alaina Kresovic, NRCS Soil Scientist, graduated with a Plant and Soil Science degree from the School of Agriculture at Middle Tennessee State University and completed a soil science internship with USDA-NRCS's Pathways program. She now works out of the Dover-Foxcroft USDA Service Center, and in the last year she has assisted PCSWCD in many ways. With a team of soil scientists, Alaina helped put the soil pit demonstration areas in place at the Law Farm Nature Trails and assisted with the signage. You may have seen her at the PCSWCD's Tree & Plant Sale last year where she was available to answer questions around soil health for gardeners and offered resources. Alaina has also helped with soil testing for the Law Farm Educational Apple Orchard and created a social media tutorial on how to use a soil test kit. You will see Alaina again this year at the 2022 Tree & Plant Sale with Ada Vilches, NRCS Soil Conservationist, as they present and lead soil health activities for kids and the general public. Molly London, from WW London Woodlot Management Co. joined the PCSWCD as a consulting forester for the Demonstration Forest in Williamsburg. She will be taking on the task in 2022 to update the Forest Management Plan, which will be geared towards creating demonstration areas and land management for women woodlot owners. Molly will be working with several other women professionals to gain insight and information on how to create a women-focused demonstration forest.. *Article continued on page 8...*

Women in Conservation Article continued from page 7...

Workshops & Programs offered by PCSWCD! In 2021, PCSWCD's staff held and implemented four workshops and programs specifically geared toward women: Tea and Trees, "It's My Nature Series" with Outdoor Women Brand and two Chainsaw Safety courses. *Tea and Trees* was co hosted by UMaine School of Forest Resources professor and owner and operator of Wicopy Woods in Sebec, Dr. Jessica Leahy, and Terri Coolong of the Maine Forest Service. PCSWCD welcomed women to the informal gathering to talk about their land, forests and forestry. "*It's My Nature Series*" featured event organizers Kylie Dow, PCSWCD's Junior Community Forestry Representative, and Outdoor Women Brand and was attended by 27 participants including Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) Commissioner, Judy Camuso. Women engaged with PCSWCD staff at stations along the Law Farm Nature trails, learning how to properly manage their own parcel of land and/or woodlot, how to update or create recreational trails and how to implement best management practices. PCSWCD held our annual *Chainsaw Safety for Women* courses, one focusing on advanced skills and the second on comprehensive safety and operation. Last year, our Women's Chainsaw Safety course gained national recognition with National Association of Conservation Districts Forestry Notes. You can find that article here: <https://www.nacdnet.org/2020/10/23/maine-swcd-workshop-caters-to-female-forest-landowners/>

Most recently, we have had another woman join the PCSWCD team, Elisa Schine. Elisa has taken on the role of our Community Forestry Representative and will be working closely on the Williamsburg Demonstration Forest project with forester Molly London. She will be assisting in the forest management plan, under the supervision of other consulting foresters, while she gains her masters degree in Forestry at University of Maine. We are thrilled to have her on board as we continue the momentum of women based workshops, programs and the future demonstration forest that will cater towards women woodlot owners. *We hope you enjoy her article submitted below!*

It's been an empowering place to be in Piscataquis County, surrounded by so many positive women that seem to gravitate here, find each other and want to implement and share their science-based skills and knowledge. They are intelligent, tenacious, making a huge impact in the forestry and agriculture sector and showing up when there is a call for conservation work to be done. They are being seen and given a hearty welcome as Piscataquis County continues to encourage a community of women in conservation.

Women and Chainsaws, Article Written by Elisa Schine

In October of last year, the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a chainsaw safety course, just for women. They were chilly, gray days at the Law Farm in Dover-Foxcroft, but six of us showed up, with battered or shiny chainsaws, mismatched or brand new safety gear, and varied reasons for being there. Of course, we all came utterly scared of our chainsaws. A reasonable fear, we all agreed. I had only ever cut firewood, far away from the forest where it had grown, logs already limbed, cut to cord length, and stacked. I left with an appreciation for chaps, the chain brake, and a safety plan that turns felling a tree into a calm, controlled action. One woman was using the course to learn how to help her husband with bucking log-length firewood; she came with his chainsaw. She left vowing that she would buy her own - and it was going to be bigger than his. Another woman came with a small electric saw. She only needed it for yard work, but had always felt unsure about its proper use. She left with greater confidence and a clearer understanding of what the saw could do.

Over the course of two days, we learned how to take apart our chainsaws, to clean them, to sharpen the teeth on the chain, to make sure the bar was flat, the air filter clean. The second day we spent in the woods. Each student got a chance to buck and limb a log on the ground, to gauge whether to cut up or down depending on where the cut might pinch the bar. And then, the piece de resistance, we all got to fell a tree.

Each step, we learned, is part of a sequence: to determine the direction the tree should fall, the direction of its lean, the width and depth of the notch to be cut and the width of the hinge at which the tree tilts, the clear escape route in the safest direction away from the trunk when the tree begins to fall. A clear plan and a day's practice with the saw made each of us comfortable to try. This course gave its students the knowledge and confidence to make choices safely with a chainsaw in hand. No doubt it will empower them in further decisions as stewards of their land and their woods.



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PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S

TREE & PLANT SALE

ORDERS DUE MAY 6TH, 2022



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PCSWCD ANNUAL APPEAL—BE A PART OF THE AMAZING WORK BEING DONE!

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District has been working in our communities for 78 years. We are partially supported by the state and county and with these funds we have been a consistent force for positive progress in Piscataquis County. Our tenacity and impact is shown when we receive grants or private donations, as these opportunities allow us to expand and enhance our public offerings. Over the past 5 years, we have made considerable progress on our two public lands - the Law Farm Nature Trails and the Demonstration Forest. Visitors to these two lands have seen first hand what we are able to do with funding - update trails, build community gardens, outdoor classrooms, update educational signage and if that wasn't enough, we have increased the number of partners we work with and the number of quality programs we offer. By looking at our numbers served data, one can see how broad our reach is across the county (and state) and how that reach has grown exponentially. Our services and programs are in-demand and with reinforcement, we are ready to bring the community more!

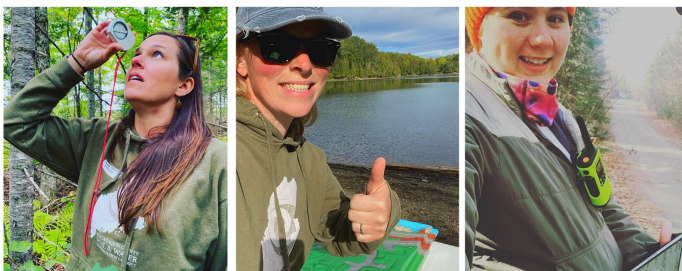
Our mission is to be a leader in agriculture and forestry by providing education and technical assistance to promote conservation of natural resources that we depend on. We accomplish this mission when we work with our partners. **It takes Piscataquis County as a whole to value our natural resources and work together to conserve, protect and sustainably utilize them. PCSWCD needs partners in the fight for the conservation.** Conservation doesn't mean no logging, no development, no progress. It means using methods and tools available to us. It means taking *preventative measures* against threats to the health of our natural resources.

Already, we offer a changing, adaptive annual line-up of educational events, focused at arming landowners with information they can use to address resource concerns on their land. We provide technical trainings to teach folks methods and techniques to apply on their land. We offer free programming to help waterfront property owners protect their beloved lake or pond from the damages of soil erosion. We promote local agriculture, grow-your-own opportunities and efficient land utilization. We own and maintain two community forests - the Law Farm Nature Trails and the Demonstration Forest - which provide recreation opportunities and learning spaces. We work collaboratively with local organizations, professionals and institutions and create connected communities. **We do all of this, because we need and depend on our natural resources. We depend on their health and resilience for our own health and resilience.** We appreciate the spectacular imagery and peace they give to us. We do this because we care about the future of Piscataquis County.

That is what we do. *What can you do?* You can join us in our fight for conservation. You can donate to the Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District and with your gift, we can expand on our educational programming and what we are already doing in our communities. Our Conservation Champions program provides targeted ways you can give to the District and make a positive impact. You can read out Conservation Champions,

see provided examples of how we utilize and manage funds given to our District and our organizational structure and donate directly on our Support Our Work tab on our website: <https://piscataquisswcd.org/PCSWCD/support/>.

Join the growing group of PCSWCD Conservation Champions! **Any gift, any size, makes a BIG difference. We appreciate your consideration and support!**



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THANK YOU!

2021 EDUCATION OVERVIEW—WORKING WITH SCHOOLS, AWARDS & MORE!

A positive outcome from the COVID-19 pandemic has been the increase in awareness of and demand for outdoor education. Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation (PCSWCD) has been a leader in providing outdoor education as we have traditionally offered these services to schools. With funding from Helping Hands with Heart, we were able to meet the increased demand and broaden our reach in 2021. What an increase it was! Annual events and programming aside, our Educational Coordinator, Kacey Weber, worked with 5 Schools, 2 educational organizations and 1 homeschool group for a total of 350+ kids served, ranging in age from preK through high school. PCSWCD covered topics in water, wildlife, tree and soil conservation. Each of these educational offerings took place outdoors and incorporated hands-on learning, use of tools and resources and exploratory learning opportunities. The numbers served did not include visitors who enjoyed educational demonstrations at PCSWCD public lands. Our funding has been renewed for 2022 and we look forward to a year of natural resource conservation education in our local schools

Although our work with Piscataquis schools is notably impressive, it wasn't the only education highlight in 2021. We were approached by our partner Maine Tree and asked to host their Maine Tree Teachers Tour at the Law Farm. We led teachers along the nature trails, shared the exciting undergoing projects and how we are involving schools and plans for the future. We established a new partnership with the University of Maine's Maine Bound program for our *Families in the Outdoors: Camp Out!* event. This program offered an all-inclusive camp out experience, complete with tents, food and programming. Maine Bound led educational and team-building games and activities and our collaboration created an exceptional experience for participants. PCSWCD was able to check off a long-term goal - overnight camping program at the Law Farm! Check!

It is always a wonderful thing to stop and recognize people for the great work they do. Every other year, we honor an educator in Piscataquis County as our Outstanding Conservation Educator of the Year for their contributions to conservation education. In 2021, our award recipient was Elizabeth Bisson, preK teacher at SeDoMoCha Elementary School. Elizabeth goes above and beyond to provide her students with unique learning experiences outdoors. She was the ideal candidate for this award and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work with her over the years and into the future! Congratulations to Elizabeth once again.

As mentioned above, it is wonderful to recognize great work and equally so to be recognized for your own efforts! In 2021, Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District received the 2021 Award of Recognition from the Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society "in appreciation of (our) commitment to increasing community appreciation and sound management of natural resources, and fostering of important conversations about those resources that are critical to wildlife in Piscataquis County and beyond." PCSWCD was honored to receive this award.

Be on the lookout for PCSWCD in your area schools, towns, trails and more. If you are an educator or organization interested in working with us, please reach out as we want to work with you! We have a full calendar of workshops and events, all highlighted on pages 16 & 17.



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FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST
By Seth Jones, Piscataquis County District Conservationist

I never like to wish away time, but I'm very happy to have started a new year. It's not going to be perfect, I'm a realist, but hopefully we learned enough throughout the year that we can apply to 2022 to make it more pleasant and productive than its predecessor. I could use that, and I doubt I'm alone.

The USDA on a national level is working on a plan to have all field and state offices open and all staff back to work during the second quarter of 2022. We have been maintaining operations through limited in-office staff and maximum telework for basically two years. The allowed in-office staff numbers have changed every week. It has been a challenge, and it has wreaked havoc on everybody's ability to plan out their work schedule because they're always waiting for the news that they aren't allowed in the office the rest of the week. Through this, everybody has been kept up a positive attitude and really learned to just roll with the punches. I appreciate the support from all the staff, their ability to adapt, and their ability to just get everything done regardless of what comes at us. The professionalism and dedication exhibited by all of the field office staff should be acknowledged and held up as a standard to be met by others.

Through it all, Piscataquis still managed successful program participation. We were able to obligate just shy of \$1.1 Million across three farm bill programs. This is program money that allows landowners across the county to implement environmentally sound conservation practices on local lands. The money that comes through USDA farm bill programs is typically utilized locally, supporting agriculture, forestry and businesses in the communities in Piscataquis County and Maine to enhance and protect farms and forests that benefit all of us.

Throughout 2021 and into 2022 other program opportunities also started to develop. The USDA has been promoting Climate Smart agricultural practices by initiating state-wide funding pools intended to be utilized through practices that promote soil and air quality. Practices such as precision agriculture, diversified cover crop programs, practices that help reduce air emitted particulate matter and others. These funding opportunities can assist local program participants make changes in their agricultural practices that can help protect their farms from extreme weather events in the future such as extremely dry summer conditions which have been reality instead of theoretical the last couple of years.

Locally we worked hard to start to diversify the programs utilized in Piscataquis County specifically through promotion of the Conservation Stewardship Program. While by some measures this was a successful endeavor, it didn't end up exactly how we envisioned. We learned about the program, conducted some outreach and received valuable feedback, but ultimately weren't able to produce the program utilization we were hoping for. Moving forward we're trying to take the lessons from 2021 to continue to build a successful program for the potential participants within our county. I have been working with your SWCS staff to develop ways to promote the programs more successfully. Sarah and Kacey both have proven very successful at conducting outreach that results in success, and I'm learning from them in order to be able to provide better opportunities for you. Through collaboration we will be able to produce a very successful, well rounded and diverse set of programs to assist local agriculture and forest owners meet their goals.

One final note I want to mention another tool in the box that we have called [Farmers.gov](https://farmers.gov). Farmers.gov is an online portal that allows interested participants to access NRCS updates, information, request appointments and assistance and electronically sign required program documents. The more that landowners work with our agency, they quickly realize there are lots of documents requiring a signature. For years we always tried to meet face to face for these signatures, but sometimes that doesn't work out very well so we mailed the documents, which can get expensive and cumbersome, especially at an agency or department level. Utilizing the Farmers.gov portal has been very successful for our participants that have worked through the process, and it's very fast to have documents produced signed and uploaded, and they are available electronically for participants and staff to access. It is a valuable and useful tool and I'd encourage anybody who works with us to take the time to set up the account and information and start to utilize it. The portal is free to use helps all of us be more organized and efficient as we work to help you meet your conservation goals on your property with assistance from NRCS.

MAINE SOIL SURVEY UPDATE

By Nicholas Butler, USDA Soil Scientist, Soil Survey Office Leader

The soil survey office has hired a new ecological site specialist and a college pathway's student since last year's update. Christopher Mann has joined our crew to fill the Ecological Site Specialist position. Chris formally worked for the forest service in Colorado. Jasmine Gregory was hired as a student pathway employee. Jasmine is a college student at the University of Maine and worked with us this past summer and will continue working part time as she pursues a master's degree.

On the local scale the Soil Survey Office is concluding a multi-year project started in 2018 that uses rather new technology in the field of soil science. Historically, soil maps were hand drawn using tools such as stereoscopes and topographic maps. In more recent years, with the aid of very detailed imagery known as LiDAR, computers have played a larger role in the creation of soil maps. We have spent the last several years using this modern Digital Soil Mapping (DSM) technology to make improvements to areas in central Maine. This past field season we spent a lot of time in the field collecting soils data in southern Somerset County. We used this data to train the computer how to predict the various soil series across the landscape. We are planning to extrapolate the predictive soil models we created in central Maine across the entire state. This will result in a raster-based soils map for the entire state. If you are interested in this data, it should be available by 2023!

On the national scale there is a large push to complete all the initial soil surveys left in the entire United States. Most of this unmapped land resides in very remote areas of Alaska and mountainous regions of the western U.S. Here in the Northeast the last remaining area that has yet to be mapped are the White Mountains in parts of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Soil staff throughout the region have been asked to assist in the ongoing efforts to complete the required work by 2026. Most of the soil staff in the Dover-Foxcroft Office will be spending time helping the St. Johnsbury, VT Soil Survey Office on this remote working detail in portions of the White Mountains during the summer of 2022.

With increased staff we are hoping to get a lot of work done on the raster-based soil map of the entire state this field season. We will also be in travel status and out of the office a lot assisting with the initial mapping in the White Mountains. If you need to contact the soil survey office, please be patient as we will be out of the office most of the time and will get back to you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding soils information throughout Maine please stop by or give us a call at USDA NRCS, 42 Engdahl Drive, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426, Phone: (207) 802-4007. You can also reach me via email at: Nicholas.Butler@usda.gov

FARM SERVICE AGENCY UPDATE

By Scott Speck, County Executive Director

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), located in the USDA Service Center in Dover-Foxcroft, is a branch of the United States Department of Agriculture. The FSA supports American farmers through a variety of commodity and credit programs designed to stabilize and enhance our rural landscape. FSA is at the forefront of providing services farmers have come to trust. The overall purpose of FSA is to compliment agricultural operations in times of plenty and brace their operations during times of economic insecurity. You can obtain further information online at www.fsa.usda.gov and www.farmers.gov.

FSA welcomes you to come pick up pamphlets and brochures, but if you'd like face to face contact it's best to set up an appointment by contacting Scott at 207-474-8323 x2, or by email at Scott.Speck@usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (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 to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.


WELCOME CHRIS MANN, ECOLOGICAL SITE SPECIALIST, NRCS

The Dover-Foxcroft USDA Service Center has a new employee—Christopher (Chris) Mann, Ecological Site Specialist (ESS) for NRCS.

His background includes a B.S. in Biology and a M.S. in Plant Biology and Conservation from Northwestern University, Illinois. Prior to his employment by NRCS he served several years in the Marine Corps, served as a wildland firefighter with the BLM in California, and worked as a forester with the USFS in Colorado. His position as an ESS entails working to advance Ecological Site Descriptions across New England and serve as a liaison and subject matter expert on collaborative ecological projects. Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) are a site-based approach to identify and better understand the complex and dynamic spatial, temporal, and biological parameters that define them. Field data is collected for soil properties, vegetation attributes, hydrology, climate, forest composition, and additional biological and physiological properties. This data is then used to develop State and Transition Models which are input into an online interactive user interface called EDIT (Ecosystem Dynamics Interpretive Tool). EDIT provides critical data driven interpretations for land and natural resource managers at all levels to assess historical and current conditions, evaluate best practice management options, and visualize predictive site changes in response to disturbances and management approaches.



For more information on Ecological Site Descriptions please visit: [Ecological Site Descriptions | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/land-stewardship/conservation-planning/ecological-site-descriptions) For questions, collaboration, or technical service inquires please utilize the following contact information: Christopher.Mann@usda.gov


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THE CURE THE SMITHS LUCINDA WILLIAMS
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BRANDI CARLILE DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE DISPATCH
JOE JACKSON ROXIE MUSIC GANG OF YOUTHS
DAVE MATTHEWS BAND COUNTING CROWS NORAH JONES
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Thank you very much to ALL who assisted us in 2021!

Our deepest appreciation goes out to **all of our volunteers whose services are invaluable to the PCSWCD!**

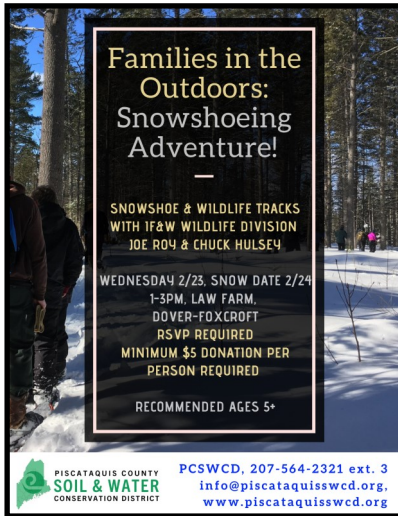
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Ada Vilches, USDA NRCS | Helping Hands with Heart | Piscataquis County Economic |
| Alaina Kresovic, USDA NRCS | Indian Hill Trading Post | Development Council |
| Alexandra Conover Bennett | Janet Sawyer | Piscataquis Observer |
| Amber Hines | Jensen Bissell | Piscataquis Regional YMCA |
| Amelia Robinson | Jessica Leahy, UMaine School of Forest | Pleasant River Lumber |
| Amy Polyot of PCSWCD | Resources | Prouty Auto Body |
| Andrew Robinson | Jim Ferrante, MFS | Ripley Farm |
| Andy Shultz, MFS | Joseph Dembeck of SCSWCD | Robert Weber |
| Appalachian Mountain Club | Joseph Roy, ME IF&W | Rolling Thunder |
| Bangor Daily News | Joshua Dera, USDA NRCS | Rod Hamel |
| Bangor Public Health | Kacey Weber | Rowell's Garage |
| Ben Cookson | Kirby Ellis, Ellis Forest Management | Sam Brown |
| Ben Naumann, USDA NRCS | Kiwanis of Dover-Foxcroft | Sam Heffner, Maine Forest Ranger |
| Bissell Brothers Brewing | Kylie Dow | Sarah Robinson |
| Bob Duchesne | Law Farm Volunteers | Sarah Spencer, ME IF&W |
| Bob's Farm, Home & Garden | Living the Dream Farm | Scott Speck, FSA |
| Brian Roth, Maine Chapter American | Lumbra Hardwoods Inc. | SeDoMoCha |
| Chestnut Foundation | Lynn & Jim Lubas | Seeds LLC |
| Brownville Snowmobile Club | Maine Association of Conservation | Seth Jones, USDA NRCS |
| Carl Bickford, USDA NRCS | Districts | Shaw Road Farm |
| Carolyn Clark | Maine Audubon | Shaw's Supermarket of Dover-Foxcroft |
| Checkerberry Farm | Maine Bound | Sheila Ashburn, Small Business |
| Chris Mann, USDA NRCS | Maine Chapter of the American Chestnut | Consulting |
| CJ Walke, MOFGA | Foundation | Steph Perkins, AMC |
| Claire Moore | Maine Department of Agriculture, | Steve Tatko |
| Daniel Rosebush | Conservation & Forestry | Sue Mackey Andrews |
| Davinci Signs | Maine Department of Environmental | Sunkhaze Blueberries |
| Davis Conservation Foundation | Protection | Susan Gallo, Maine Lakes |
| Deborah Gould, Outdoor Women | Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & | Terri Coolong |
| Brand | Wildlife | Thompson Free Library |
| Demonstration Forest Volunteers | Maine Forest Service | The Commons at Central Hall |
| Donna Coffin of UMaine Coop Ext | Maine Highlands Senior Center | The Nature Conservancy |
| Don't Move Firewood Initiative | Maine Lakes | Three River's Kiwanis |
| Dover-Dexter Area in Transition | Maine Woodland Owners | Toby & Cynthia Hall |
| Dover True Value Hardware Store | Marr Pond Farm | Tom Klak, American Chestnut |
| Dwain Allen | MAYB TMRW | Foundation |
| Dyan McCarthy Clark | Melanie Ruark | Tom Seymour |
| Eastern Gazette | MicMac Farms | Town of Dover-Foxcroft |
| East Sangerville Grange | Mike Pouch | USDA Farm Service Agency |
| Eileen Bader Hall, TNC | Milo Garden Club | USDA Natural Resources |
| Elizabeth Bisson | Milo Tradewinds | Conservation Service |
| Emily Dickison | Molly London | University of Maine Cooperative |
| E.R. Palmer Lumber Co., Inc. | Moosehead Matters | Extension |
| Eric Ogden | NACD Forestry Notes | UMaine Forestry Students Zack, Jenna, |
| Friends of Wilson Pond | Nick Butler, USDA Soil Survey | Jack, Caleb, Ashley, Carolyn |
| GA Jackson & Son | North Branch Farm | UMaine School of Forest Resources |
| Gordon Moore | Pam Wells | WABITV5 |
| Haley's Inc. | Penquis Valley Schools | Whetstone Pond Association |
| Halls Christmas Tree Farm | Piscataquis County | Widdershins Farm LLC |
| Harvey Farm Equipment LLC | Chamber of Commerce | Will's Shop n' Save |
| Heidi Bunn, USDA NRCS | Piscataquis County Commissioners | |

A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people. – Franklin D. Roosevelt

**THE DISTRICT IS OFFERING A FULL RANGE OF
EDUCATIONAL EVENTS, WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS IN 2022!**

Below are just a sampling of what we have to offer!

Visit our website www.piscataquisswcd.org to see all our offerings in 2022!



Families in the Outdoors: Snowshoeing Adventure!

SNOWSHOE & WILDLIFE TRACKS WITH IF&W WILDLIFE DIVISION JOE ROY & CHUCK HULSEY

WEDNESDAY 2/23, SNOW DATE 2/24
1-3PM, LAW FARM, DOVER-FOXCROFT
RSVP REQUIRED
MINIMUM \$5 DONATION PER PERSON REQUIRED

RECOMMENDED AGES 5+

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PCSWCD, 207-564-2321 ext. 3
info@piscataquisswcd.org
www.piscataquisswcd.org



**PRUNING FRUIT TREES
CJ WALKER**

SATURDAY MARCH 26TH, 2022
10:30-2:30PM
\$30/PARTICIPANT
PARKMAN, ME

REGISTRATION REQUIRED & SPACES LIMITED

www.piscataquisswcd.org

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2022 Forestry Series

- SILVICULTURE 101 FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS- LAW FARM- APRIL 2ND 1-4PM
- CLIMATE CHANGE & IMPACT ON FOREST ECOLOGY WEBINAR JUNE 8TH 12-1:30PM AND LAW FARM FIELD TOUR JUNE 9TH 5-7PM
- FOREST RECREATION MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL WOODLAND OWNERS FRIDAY AUGUST 12TH 2022 9-12PM LAW FARM & LOCAL WOODLOT OWNER FIELD TOUR
- WILDLIFE BIODIVERSITY DEMONSTRATION FOREST- SEPTEMBER 20TH 4-6PM

SPONSORED BY

Forest Stewards Guild, Pleasant River Woodland Society



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PCSWCD and Forest Society of Maine host

Bird Walk at Nickerson Tree Farm

Saturday May 7th
8-10am
Greenville, ME

FOREST SOCIETY OF MAINE

Come join us for this FREE event!

PCSWCD is collaborating with Forest Society of Maine for a bird walk with FSM Conservation Specialist Kristin Peet and experienced birder, Shane Barker.

To Register or FMI visit www.piscataquisswcd.org



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PCSWCD presents

Soil Health Day

Tree & Plant Sale Pick up!

10 am Outdoor Education Classroom Ribbon Cutting!
10-2 Plant Sale pick up. Soil health and kids activities, resources for gardeners with UMaine Extension and NRCS Soil Scientists

21 MAY 2022

Law Farm Nature Trails
LEE CEMETERY RD
Dover-Foxcroft Maine

Join us!



Families in the Outdoors: Family Fishing Day!

GUIDED TOUR OF THE MOOSEHEAD FISH LADDER- STOCKING WITH MAINE IF&W AND FISHING!

SUNDAY MAY 22 RAIN OR SHINE!
9:30-11:30AM
EAST OUTLET, MOOSEHEAD LAKE
RSVP REQUIRED
MINIMUM \$5 DONATION PER PERSON REQUIRED

RECOMMENDED AGES 5+

PCSWCD, 207-564-2321 ext. 3
info@piscataquisswcd.org
www.piscataquisswcd.org



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Join PCSWCD

SATURDAY, JUNE 11th
for our annual

LAW FARM VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Lee Cemetery Rd, Dover-Foxcroft ME
8 AM- 12pm

All are welcome!
Rain Date June 18th

RSVP by registering online www.piscataquisswcd.org



Garden Party!!!

Law Farm Nature Trails
Friday June 24th 8am

COME LEND A HAND!
Rose garden rehab and children's garden upkeep

LEE CEMETERY RD DOVER-FOXCROFT
Register Online www.piscataquisswcd.org
email: info@piscataquisswcd.org FMI



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DEMONSTRATION FOREST WORK DAY

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY!
ALL ARE WELCOME!
SATURDAY JULY 9TH 2022
RD JULY 16TH
8-12PM
WILLIAMSBURG, ME

RSVP www.piscataquisswcd.org



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S

TEEN WILDERNESS EXPEDITION

8th Annual in 2022!
July 19-21st, 2022
FMI & Registration: 207-564-2321
ext. 3, info@piscataquisswcd.org
www.piscataquisswcd.org



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Foraging

SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH
LAW FARM NATURE TRAILS
9-12pm OR 1-3pm
with Sarah Robinson from PCSWCD and Dustin Small from BB3R

To Register or FMI visit www.piscataquisswcd.org

THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFERS SEVERAL
TECHNICAL TRAININGS AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

CEUs are often available for participation in some of these workshops.

A Sampling of Featured Trainings and Services in 2022 Include:

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STATE OF MAINE

Basic & Advanced Erosion Control Practices Contractor Certification

MARCH 3RD, 2022, 8-4PM
 MONSON, MAINE
 RD: MARCH 7TH

This course is necessary to become a Contractor Certified in Erosion and Sedimentation Control Practices.

- ✓ 6 Continuing Education Hours (CEH)
- ✓ 6 years of recertification.
- ✓ 4 Credits for Certified Tank Installers

REGISTRATION REQUIRED & SPACES ARE LIMITED
 REGISTER AT: WWW.PISCATAQUISSWCD.ORG

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CHAINSAW SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

2 Days of Training, 9-3:30PM
 Level 1 & 2
October 1st & 2nd, 2022
 (weather flex date 9/30)
 Law Farm, Dover-Foxcroft, ME
\$90/participant

To Register:
info@piscataquisswcd.org

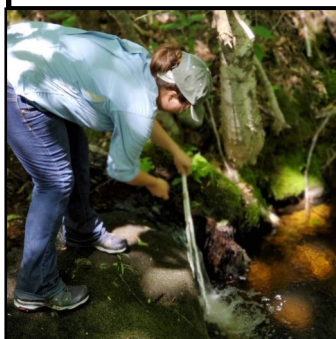
Stream Crossing
 Design & Installation
 Workshop

June 7th, 2022

Details & Registration
 Coming Soon!



LakeSmart Program: Our staff is trained to conduct LakeSmart evaluations for all waterfront property owners in Piscataquis County. LakeSmart is a free program aimed at addressing habitat-damaging soil erosion occurring on properties. Evaluations measure the amount of erosion occurring and offer helpful do-it-yourself suggestions for how owners can correct any issues found. This evaluation process also offers the chance for folks to be awarded with a LakeSmart Award! Additionally, our District serves as a LakeSmart Hub—a service center of this valuable program!



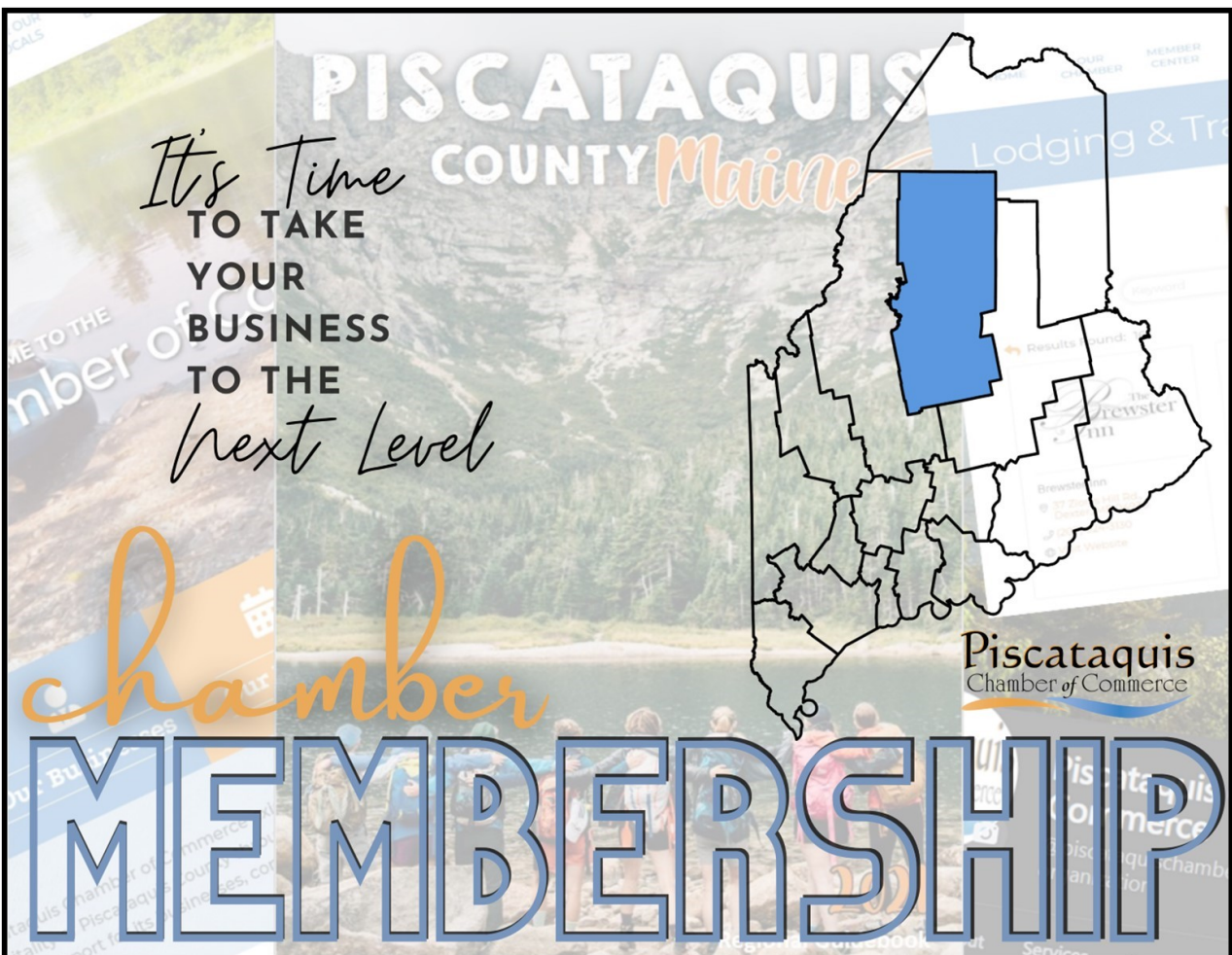
Stream Restoration: Work with the PCSWCD to help protect and restore stream habitat. Connect with us to see if a stream on your property qualifies for program assistance to help with aquatic organism passage and/or repair or replacement of crossings. Contact: Emily Dickison, Stream Restoration Project Manager – emily.dickison@piscataquisswcd.org, 207-564-2321 ext. 3.

2022 TROUT SALE
 Limited Supply, Order Early!

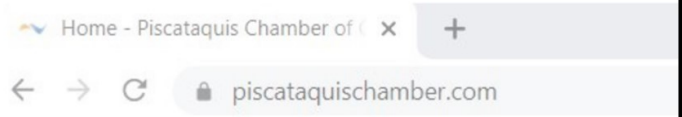
Order ONLINE at:
www.piscataquisswcd.org
 Paper Order Forms Available!
ORDER DEADLINE - May 12th at 4PM
ORDER PICKUP - May 16th at 12PM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Trout Sale for Stocking Ponds: We will be selling 8-10 inch brook trout to folks with current fish stocking permits from the Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. The trout are supplied by MicMac Farms. **Orders must be received by May 12th, 2022** and the **pick-up date will be May 16th** in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine (location being finalized). **FMI and to receive order information: info@piscataquisswcd.org** It is strongly encouraged to place your orders early as there we have a **LIMITED SUPPLY!**



joining is
easy as
 1,2,3!



- HOME
- OUR CHAMBER
- FOR OUR VISITORS
- FOR OUR LOCALS
- Piscataquis Chamber of Commerce
- MEMBER CENTER
- BECOME A MEMBER!
- CHAMBER BUCKS
- CONTACT US

- 1) Visit piscataquischamber.com to learn about our chamber, and click **MEMBER CENTER** for information on member benefits.
- 2) Next, click **BECOME A MEMBER** to view membership levels, options and pricing, and to submit your application.
- 3) Pay for your first year online or request an invoice. You'll get a call from the director to discuss your specific needs and to determine how the chamber can best support you.

Join by Mar. 1 for inclusion in the 2022 Relocation & Visitor's Guide!

why join?....We're glad you asked.

The chamber exists for YOU! Our purpose is to promote, protect and provide vital support to business owners within the borders of Piscataquis County.

Membership to the Piscataquis Chamber is KEY to taking your business to the next level. Call us for more information!

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