

# Conservation Education News

## WHAT'S IN THIS YEAR'S ISSUE:

- Law Farm Classroom Update
- PCSWCD Forestry Series
- Local Students Make Bee Waterers!
- Families in the Outdoors
- Soil Health Day/Tree & Plant Sale
- Stream Crossing Design & Installation Workshop



## ON SKIS, SNOWSHOES AND BOOTS...PCSWCD DELIVERS PROGRAMMING!

Read on to learn about what the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District has delivered for programming and what we have planned!

## LAW FARM EDUCATION CLASSROOM TO DEBUT MAY 2022



The Mountain View Correctional Facility's Correctional Trades Supervisor Corey Hill and his work crew have been working diligently through the Fall and Winter to construct the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District's (PCSWCD) Outdoor Classroom at their public land, the Law Farm. The construction of this outdoor classroom has been part of the Law Farm long-range plan and a big goal for the continued development of the property.

**Article Continued on Page 2...**

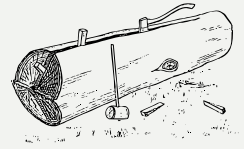
## Outdoor Classroom Article Continued...

During a visit to the finished classroom, Sarah Robinson, PCSWCD Executive Director, and Toby Hall, Board chair, expressed to Chad Curtis, Deputy Warden of Mountain View Correctional that "we are grateful for this partnership and Mr. Hill's expertise and quality work."



The Outdoor Education Classroom came together in connection with a settlement of an enforcement action taken by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for violations of *Maine's Protection and Improvement of Waters law*. PCSWCD is grateful for the opportunity to apply these funds to something positive for the community and natural resources.

The Law Farm education classroom will primarily provide a classroom space for PCSWCD events and storage for land maintenance equipment. Additionally, it will be equipped with rain barrels to provide a water resource for the pollinator garden, all-season shelter and a space for community events.



PCSWCD will have a ribbon cutting ceremony at our upcoming Soil Health Day on May 21st! For more information on this event, see our article **Celebrating Soil!** on page 5.

Many Piscataquis County community partners have made this project obtainable and have come together to make it a reality. PCSWCD wants to thank Mountain View Correctional Facility, Corey Hill Trades Supervisor, Dover True Value, Pleasant River Lumber Co. and Johnson Foundation for their partnership.

## FORESTRY SERIES WILL BRING MANY VOICES & IDEAS TO PISCATAQUIS COUNTY

Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) is hosting a forestry series in 2022 and we are so excited it is underway! PCSWCD designed the series to provide opportunities for the community to learn about forestry topics including silviculture, climate change, recreation, and wildlife biodiversity. The goal of this series is to reach small woodland owners and new landowners, connect them with resources and information on different topics specific to their needs and help them understand best management practices to keep their forests healthy. This information hits home to many in Piscataquis County, the most forested county in Maine.

**Article Continued on Page 3...**







### Forestry Series Article Continued....

PCSWCD encourages participants to join any or all of the events in this well-rounded, dynamic series. Thanks to generous sponsorships from Pleasant River Lumber Company, Maine Woodland Owners and Forest Stewards Guild, every event is free to attend!

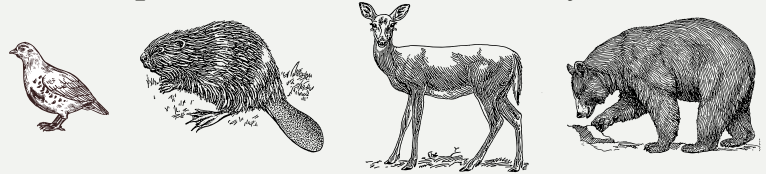
The Forestry Series started on April 2nd with Silviculture 101 at the Law Farm Nature trails. Mike Pouch (*photo above*), PCSWCD Supervisor and Chief of Silviculture Bureau of Public Lands, and Nicole Rogers, UMaine School of Forest Resources Silviculture professor led a field tour and welcomed participants that traveled as far as Freeport, Stockton Springs, Belfast, Lincolnville, Guilford and Blanchard to attend this workshop!



### Session 2: Climate Change & Forest Ecology.

Join Jay Wason, Assistant Professor at the University of Maine, and Shawn Fraver, from UMaine School of Forest Resources, for this 2-part discussion. First Jay and Shawn will present a lunchtime webinar on June 8th from 12-1:30PM, followed by a field tour on June 9th from 5-7PM at the Law Farm Nature Trails. This 2-part workshop will provide participants with a well-rounded understanding of climate change, terminology and impacts on forest ecology - an emerging topic impacting forest management.

*Session 3: Forest Recreation Management for Small Woodland Owners.* On Friday August 12th from 9-12PM join Jessica Leahy, Professor of Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from the UMaine School of Forest Resources, Prentiss & Carlisle forester Brett Gerrish, and Jensen Bissell, former Baxter State Park's Resource Manager and PCSWCD Supervisor for this great event. Learn about different resources and tools for building and maintaining recreational trails on your land and see first-hand how trails can be managed for multi-use at the Law Farm Nature Trails and on a local landowners woodlot. This workshop is geared toward land owners interested in updating or creating new trail systems for different types of recreation, examples of creating food plots, bridge work and trail renovation and a chance to speak directly with professionals that can assist you.



### Session 4: Wildlife Biodiversity.

Our last workshop in the Forestry Series is with PCSWCD Supervisor and Maine Forest Service District Forester, Jim Ferrante and Joe Roy, IF&W Private Lands Wildlife Biologist, and will explore wildlife biodiversity and your land. This event has been presented around the state and we are thrilled to welcome this useful program to Piscataquis County and provide participants with a closer look at how woodlot owners can manage their land for wildlife. Walk away with knowledge on how to enhance biodiversity on your property with this enthusiastic walk and talk at the PCSWCD's Forest in Williamsburg on September 20th from 4-6PM.

Registration is open for all events at [www.piscataquisswcd.org](http://www.piscataquisswcd.org). We look forward to learning with you!



# Featured Events



**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**



**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](http://www.piscataquisswcd.org)**







**PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

PCSWCD presents

## STREAM CROSSING DESIGN & INSTALLATION WORKSHOP

**FREE**

Learn the process and design principles installing resilient stream crossing structures and how improving infrastructure creates valuable wildlife habitat for wildlife species. This event will also provide details about funding opportunities that may be available to aid in the engineering and construction of road-stream crossings through the Watershed Approach To Restoring Stream Systems (WATRSS) A project of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in Piscataquis County.

**REGISTRATION [www.piscataquisswcd.org](http://www.piscataquisswcd.org)**

**SPONSORED BY SFI (SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE IN MAINE)**

**Contractor & Forestry credits available**

**June 7th 9:30-3pm - Field Tour**

Lunch included

Location: Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)






See the full 2022 Calendar of Events on page 10!



## Families in the Outdoors: Fisheries Day!

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**GUIDED TOUR OF THE MOOSEHEAD FISH LADDER, STOCKING WITH MAINE IF&W, FLY CASTING & FISHING!**

**SUNDAY MAY 22 RAIN OR SHINE! 9:30-11:30AM**

**EAST OUTLET, MOOSEHEAD LAKE**

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED \$5 PER PERSON**

**RECOMMENDED AGES 5+**



**PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## Foraging

**SUNDAY AUGUST 7TH**

**LAW FARM NATURE TRAILS**

**9-11pm OR 1-3pm**

**with Sarah Robinson from PCSWCD and Dustin Small from BB3R**

**\$20/person**



# CELEBRATING SOIL!

PCSWCD's biggest annual fundraiser, our Tree & Plant Sale, provides an opportunity for customers to fill their landscapes with organic, locally-grown perennial plants and purchase landscaping materials, all while supporting local conservation efforts. Customers rave about the quality of the plants and the variety of unique, native flowers, herbs and trees. The Tree & Plant Sale is open through May 6th. Head on over to the Tree & Plant Sale page on our website:

[piscataquisswcd.org/PCSWCD/tree-and-plant-sale/](http://piscataquisswcd.org/PCSWCD/tree-and-plant-sale/)



## Soil Health Day

### Tree & Plant Sale Pick up!

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

**Pack a picnic and enjoy local musicians for lunch!**

**21 MAY 2022**

Law Farm Nature Trails  
LEE CEMETERY RD  
Dover-Foxcroft Maine

Join  
us!

As if the Tree & Plant Sale wasn't fun enough, this year, we took the plant pick-up day up a few notches by combining it with our Soil Health Day!



Customers who placed plant orders will pick-up their orders at the Law Farm on May 21st between 10-2PM. Additionally, during that time PCSWCD will have activities, demonstrations and information to provide a fun way for the public to learn all about soil health. After all, healthy soil grows healthy plants! Soil Health Day will kick-off with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Law Farm Outdoor Education Classroom! Throughout the event, there will be live music, areas to have a picnic lunch, and time to walk the trails to visit and learn at the soil pits. Presenters will include UMaine Cooperative Extension, Thompson Free Library and USDA NRCS Soil Scientists and Soil Conservationists. They will lead hands-on activities including soil painting, making dirt babies, a soil-inspired lego activity and more. Additionally, there will be information for gardeners on how to improve soil health, demonstrations, and experts available for questions. There will be something for the whole family!

Soil Health Day is open to the public, not just our Tree & Plant Sale customers! Mark your calendars for May 21st, 10AM-2PM and venture on out to the Law Farm for some fun in the soil!



## PCSWCD & MAINE IF&W TO HOST FAMILIES IN THE OUTDOORS FOR FISHERIES DAY!

The Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) and the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) are teaming up for PCSWCD's Spring installment of our Families in the Outdoors program, Fisheries Day! This event will be held on Sunday May 22nd, from 9:30-11:30AM at the East Outlet on Moosehead lake.

Presenters for Fisheries Day! will be Tim Obrey, Maine IF&W Regional Fisheries Biologist, and Gene Arsenault, Fish Culture Supervisor at the Embden Fish Rearing Station. Tim and Gene will share information about the fish species that live in Moosehead lake, how these fisheries are maintained, the management practices that are in place to protect the fishery, and much more.

Everyone will get an up-close-and-personal look at the salmon that are stocked in Moosehead Lake, as YOU will be helping to stock the salmon! We will also enjoy a guided tour of the fish ladder at the dam - pretty cool! After these dynamic presentations, participants are welcome to drop a line and fish! The PCSWCD will have a handful of fly rods available for folks to try out - casting lessons included! Registration is required for this event and can be found at [www.piscataquisswcd.org](http://www.piscataquisswcd.org).



## PCSWCD CONSERVATION EDUCATION - HELPING POLLINATORS



Through a grant to Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District from Helping Hands with Heart, our Educational Coordinator, Kacey, has been able to meet the increase in demand for schools wanting access to outdoor education. Kacey has worked with all ages and several schools and educational organizations in Piscataquis County, including homeschool groups.

She was recently able to work with a local homeschool group and make bee waterers with the kids. Bee waterers are a simple design - all that's needed is a shallow dish and some rocks - but they drive home the message that pollinators need our help to thrive. A fact from a June 2020 article published on Farmers.gov, states that "more than 80 percent of the world's flowering plants need a pollinator to reproduce; and we need pollinators too, since most of our food comes from flowering plants. One out of every three bites of our food, including fruits, vegetables, chocolate, coffee, nuts, and spices, is created with the help of pollinators."

Article Continued on Page 7...

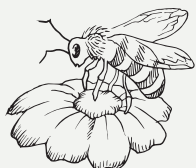




### Pollinators Article Continued...

The waterers are typically placed in gardens, providing a balanced habitat for a variety of pollinators. Since bees and butterflies are not great swimmers, they need the rocks to perch on as they sip. The kids took the shallow dishes and jazzed them up with beautiful, bright designs. Each child designed a waterer for home and 10 children designed another for the pollinator garden at the Law Farm! We are excited to add them to the garden at our Soil Health Day event, as UMaine Cooperative Extension plans to certify that garden as pollinator habitat on that day!

Kacey also plans to work with SeDoMoCha 2nd graders at the end of April to add a few bee waterers to the Dot Warren Nature Trail. Reach out to Kacey if your group has interest in this project!



Piscataquis  
County Soil and  
Water  
Conservation  
District



## Educational Services

- Field Trips to our Law Farm and Demonstration Forest Public Lands
- Hands-on Educational Programs Tailored to the Needs of Your School or Group
- Natural Resource Conservation Presentations to Any Group
- Merit Badge Opportunities for Scout Groups
- Bridging Connections to Local Resources and Help Addressing Natural Resource Concerns
- Year-Round Educational Programs and Events Geared Towards Multiple Audiences
- Envirothon Team Support
- Volunteering Opportunities - Ways to Earn Community Service Hours!
- Watersheds & You Program for K-12



FMI: Reach out to our Educational Coordinator  
[katherine.weber@piscataquisswcd.org](mailto:katherine.weber@piscataquisswcd.org)  
207-564-2321 ext. 3

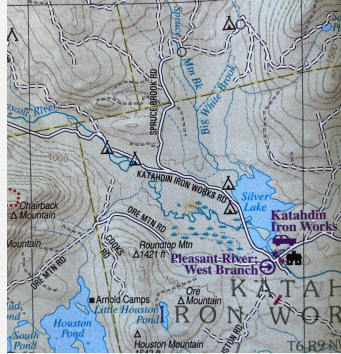
## THE LAW FARM POLLINATOR GARDEN WAS PLANTED IN 2019





## PCSWCD TO OFFER STREAM CROSSING DESIGN & INSTALLATION WORKSHOP

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) is hosting the Stream Crossing Design & Installation workshop on Appalachian Mountain Club's property in the Katahdin Ironworks area (Maine Atlas & Gazetteer Map 42, D2, Katahdin Iron Works) on June 7th, from 9:30AM to 3:00PM.



Join us in the field and get your boots wet while discussing the principles of managing "Stream Smart" road crossings and implementing Best Management Practices (BPM) during installation. This workshop will introduce you to the importance of free-flowing streams, stream surveying and structure engineering, enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, erosion and sediment BMPs, cost and maintenance benefits of crossings, and how PCSWCD can evaluate your crossings and provide other technical assistance.

PCSWCD's own Stream Restoration Project Manager, Emily Dickison, will lead the discussion and provide information about barrier assessments and stream surveying. NRCS's Fisheries Biology, Chris Reidy will present on the importance of reestablishing natural stream habitat and connectivity. Learn from Maine's NRCS Aquatic Restoration Engineer, Heidi Bunn, as she explains how "Stream Smart" structures are designed and installed.

Christian Fox with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will outline stream crossing conservation work occurring throughout the state. The Maine Forest Service will continue the discussion of BMP's during in-water construction work, what technical assistance is available, and answer regulatory questions. Hear from AMC's Land Manager, Steve Tatko as he showcases crossings that improved trout and salmon habitat on their property by removing stream barriers on their road systems. Additionally, this workshop will provide details about funding opportunities that may be available to aid in the engineering and construction of road-stream crossings!



CEUs available: 4.0 Cat. 1 for contractors certified in erosion control practices; 3.25 Cat. 1 from Maine Board of Forestry Licensure; 4.0 Cat. 1 from SAF. The workshop is sponsored by Sustainable Forestry Initiative and is free with lunch included. Registration is required and can be completed at this link: <https://piscataquisswcd.org/PCSWCD/event/stream-crossing-design-installation-workshop/>





# Support the PCSWCD!

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S

## TREE & PLANT SALE

ORDERS DUE MAY 6TH, 2022



### PICK UP

MAY 21ST 10-2PM, LAW FARM NATURE TRAILS  
LEE CEMETERY RD DOVER-FOXCROFT  
SOIL HEALTH DAY!  
ACTIVITIES & MUSIC ON THE DAY OF PICK UP!

Click the  
Images  
for More  
Information



## TROUT SALE

Limited Supply, Order Early!



Order ONLINE at

[www.piscataquisswcd.org](http://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

## 2022 PCSWCD ANNUAL APPEAL



# 2022 PCSWCD Events



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY  
**SOIL & WATER**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2022 Sales, Services, Workshops & Events

### January

**Fruit Tree Pre-Sale**, Online Ordering, Jan. 21st-30th

### February

**"Piscataquis Pests" Webinar: Browntail Moth, Emerald Ash Borer and Ticks**, February 1st  
12-1pm

**Families in the Outdoors: Snowshoeing Adventure!**, Law Farm, February 23rd 1-3pm, RD 24th

### March

**Tree & Plant Sale** Ordering Open!

**Trout Sale** Ordering Open!

**Basic and Advanced Erosion Control Practices**, Monson, March 3rd, 8-4PM, RD March 7th

**Apple Pruning Workshop**, March 26th, 10-2:30pm RD 27th

### April

**Forestry Series: Silviculture 101**, April 2nd 1-4pm, RD April 3rd

### May

**Bird Walk** Forest Society of Maine, Nickerson Tree Farm, Greenville May 7th 8am

**Trout Sale Pick Up!** May 16th, Time/Location TBA

**Families in the Outdoors: Family Fishing Day**,  
East Outlet Greenville, Sunday May 22nd 9-11am Rain or Shine

**Plant Sale Pick Up & Soil Health Day!** May 21st at Law Farm, 9-12PM

### June

**Law Farm Volunteer Work Day**, June 11th 8AM-12PM RD June 18th

**Stream Crossing Design & Installation Workshop**,

AMC and Katahdin Ironworks June 7th, RD June 14th

**Forestry Series: Climate Change Impact on Forest Ecology**, June 8th 12-1:30pm *Webinar*  
and June 9th *Field Tour*, Law Farm 5-7pm

**Trailblazers** with AMC Medawisla June 26th-27th

**Garden Party!** Rose Rehab and Children's Garden Upkeep

Friday June 24th 8-10am RD June 25th

### July

**Demonstration Forest Volunteer Workday**, July 9th 8-12pm RD July 16th

**Teen Wilderness Expedition**, AMC's Gorman Chairback Lodge, July 19th-21st

**Forestry Series: Forest Recreation Management for Small Woodland Owners**,

Law Farm and private landowner property tour, Friday July 8th, RD July 9th

### August

**Foraging**, Saturday August 7th, RD August 14th Location/Time TBD

### September

**Cider Pressing**, September 17th, Location/Time TBD

**Forestry Series: Wildlife Biodiversity**, Demonstration Forest,

September 20th, 4-6pm RD 21st

### October

**Comprehensive Chainsaw Safety for Women**, 2-day course October 1&2 RD Oct. 3rd,  
Demonstration Forest

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [www.piscataquisswcd.org](http://www.piscataquisswcd.org)