



Thank you to the Emery family for the 2022 TWE donation in remembrance of George R. Emery

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to build resilient, sustainable farms and forests through education, technical services, demonstration, and stewardship.

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Additional Information:

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Tree & Plant Sale Order
Deadline: April 28th, 2023
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Visit our website at
www.piscataquisswcd.org.



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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



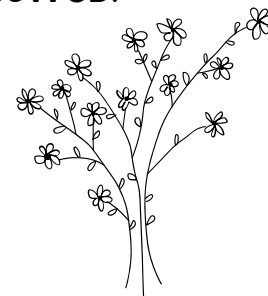
On behalf of the PCSWCD Board of Supervisors, I hope you enjoy the 2022 Annual Report. Our mission is to build sustainable resilient farms and forests. Our tools are education, demonstration, technical assistance and stewardship. We are committed to the importance of farms and forests in Piscataquis County and our programs, educational outreach and demonstration are available to all for at little and often zero cost.

We own and manage over 400 acres of forests and fields, providing great opportunities to get out, hike and enjoy the landscape and learn as you go.

Our lands and programs are managed and administered by a great team at PCSWCD. It's an open and welcoming group so if you want to join us for a meeting, volunteer day or one of our programs, you should! It's great fun and a great group to be a part of.

I hope you enjoy the report - it's a great snapshot of what we do at PCSWCD.

Best,
Jensen Bissell, Board Chair



TASKS COMPLETED BY PCSWCD IN 2022



WORKSHOPS

539 people reached through 24 workshops and events that focused on wildlife, forestry, land management, and water quality. Free or low-cost registration with support from sponsorships or private funders.



PUBLIC LANDS

Managed 400 acres of public land and community forests in Piscataquis County. Enhanced trail systems at the Law Farm and Williamsburg Forest with help from community members and Maine Community Foundation Grant.



EDUCATION

PCSWCD's Education Coordinator worked with SeDoMoCha, Penquis Valley Schools, and Piscataquis Community schools, reaching over 900 students. UMaine School of Forest Resources Partnership



TECHNICAL SERVICES

71 customers for 2022 Tree & Plant Sale
34 customers through Trout Sale
16 LakeSmart Evaluations on Sebec Lake, Wasookeag Lake and Whetstone Pond



STREAM RESTORATION

11 projects freed up 18 total upstream miles for 4 landowners in Dover-Foxcroft, Blanchard, Bowdoin College Grant East TWP, Bowdoin College Grant West TWP, TB R11 WELS and T7 R9 NWP.



NRCS COLLABORATION

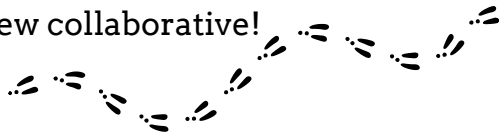
PCSWCD are the "boots on the ground" connection to NRCS and FSA cost-share programs that assist land owners financially and help address natural resource concerns.

PCSWCD FY23 OPERATING BUDGET

	100 TNC	200 NRCS	300 Sales/Services	400 Workshops/Programs	900 Admin	Total
Revenue:						
Government Grants		8,411			40,000	48,411
Other Grants	84,014					84,014
Donations					500	500
Sales & Services			22,300			22,300
Workshop & Program Fees	0			19,495		19,495
Miscellaneous	0				20	20
Total Revenue	84,014	8,411	22,300	19,495	40,520	174,740
Expenses:						
Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	78,303	7,639	2,855	4,009	38,604	131,410
Other Direct Expenses	3,700	2,843	13,589	2,559	10,245	32,936
Administrative Allocation	5,914	756	1,186	474	(8,329)	0
Total Expenses	87,916	11,238	17,630	7,042	40,520	164,346
Operating Surplus/(Loss)	(3,902)	(2,827)	4,670	12,453	0	10,394
Interest Income						0
Net Operating Surplus/(Loss)	(3,902)	(2,827)	4,670	12,453	0	10,394

CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) has had a strong presence in our communities for 79 years. Our current team has been together for 5 years now and our seamless ability to pull from each other's talents and support each other translates into high quality programming for all of you. We consider ourselves lucky to go to work and provide accessible, affordable conservation opportunities to the residents and visitors of Piscataquis County. In addition to continuing to strengthen our team, we also expanded our partnerships, pulling in new concepts, ideas and services to share with our constituents. In 2022, PCSWCD youth programming grew exponentially, more than tripling our reach, after we received grant funding from the Onion Foundation and Helping Hands with Heart. PCSWCD turned that funding into significantly increased presence in schools, providing hands-on education to kids, new field trips and overall more meaningful experiences for youth in our county. Additionally, we formed an exciting new collaborative with partners from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), Rural Aspirations and the Natural Resource Education Center (NREC) - which formed the Piscataquis Environmental Education Collaborative (PEEC) - and there is now an organized, united team ready and willing to provide complete environmental youth education services county-wide. Read more about this exciting new collaborative!



This past year we made significant upgrades to our public lands, the Law Farm and Williamsburg Forest. We now have a brand-new outdoor classroom at the Law Farm, which was constructed using awarded funding from 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 and through stellar work provided by Corey Hill and his team from Mountain View Correctional Facility.

Additionally, Corey and his crew helped construct a new viewing area at the end of the Bog Walk Trail, helping to "re-wild" the bog area and fix a trail safety issue that was created by an old bog walk, which has now been removed. Our dedicated Board members worked to blaze a new connecting trail, keeping our "Law Farm Looping Trail" intact. We encourage you to strap on some snowshoes and get out there this winter to check out all the new infrastructure there! The Maine Community Foundation awarded PCSWCD with a grant to improve signage, access and trail systems at the Williamsburg Forest. Thanks to these grant funds, we now have all-vehicle access to the outdoor classroom, upgraded signage and an updated Forest Management Plan. Another major goal of the grant project was to market the land as a "Forest for Everyone, Managed by Women," encouraging women to explore and participate in skill building activities, forestry demonstrations and have a safe place to enjoy the outdoors. We moved our Chainsaw Safety for Women course to the Williamsburg Forest this past October and it was the perfect location! We could go on for pages sharing about everything we worked on in 2022...and that's exactly what we are going to do! We suggest you grab a hot drink and snuggle up for some good reading! After you are finished, we hope you are inspired to connect with us in 2023 - come to an event, have a conversation with us, establish a partnership, seek out technical assistance or take a walk at one of our public lands.

Without all of you, there wouldn't be an us, so we are grateful for your support and it is our privilege to serve all of Piscataquis County.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR PARTNERS:
Introducing the Piscataquis Environmental Education Collaborative

Partnerships bring in exciting and unique opportunities to Piscataquis County. As we have noted in this report, our youth education services have tripled in the last year. Not only are we reaching more kids, we are also increasing the number of programs and experiences they have with us and with partner organizations. This has given us an opportunity to see how much is gained when we work together with partners - our program offerings are strengthened and diversified, which ultimately benefits the youth we serve.





In Maine, we are fortunate to have many organizations that offer youth education and we all bring something unique to the table. As the demand for youth programming grew, so did our partnerships with three key organizations: the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the Natural Resources Education Center (NREC) and Rural Aspirations. We found ourselves engaged in the same conversations, at the same meetings and pulling each other in to strengthen each other's programs. We started to see that each of our organizations offer something different, yet together, we complement each other's work so well.

We started meeting as a group and came up with the idea to package our services under the umbrella of a new collaborative, which we named the Piscataquis Environmental Education Collaborative or PEEC. By organizing our youth education services under PEEC, any representative of PEEC would be able to go into schools, assess their needs and meet those needs through a collaborative effort from each of the 4 organizations.

PEEC will be meeting with Piscataquis County school administrators in March, so we can formally introduce ourselves, the collaborative and hear how we can meet school needs.

Whether you are a parent or family member of a student who attends Piscataquis County schools, an educator, an administrator, school board member or just curious to learn more about efforts in your local community, we encourage you to read over the PEEC outreach material below. Reach out to any of us for an introduction to each organization, what our focus is and an overview of the goals of the collaborative. PEEC is the next step in offering high quality programming, year-round to youth in Piscataquis County.

Piscataquis Environmental Education Collaborative

Organization	Contact	Programming & Resources
 APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB	Stephany Perkins sperkins@outdoors.org (207) 399-6784	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PreK-12 environmental and outdoor education • Leadership & team building programs • Community science projects • After-school programs & outdoor clubs • Field trip opportunities including local hikes and overnights at AMC lodges • Climate Change and nature-based workshops for teachers
 PISCATAQUIS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT	Kacey Webber katherine.weber@piscataquiswcd.org (207) 564-2321 ext. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on & tailored PreK-12 natural resource & agriculture education • Guided field trips to PCSWCD public lands, the Law Farm and Williamsburg Forest. • Student opportunities for participation in research trials • Additional year-round programming outside of schools • Junior Representative Board position - resume building & experience for kids interesting in natural resource professions
 RURAL ASPIRATIONS PROJECT <small>OPERATING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN MAINE</small>	Dawna Blackstone dawna@ruralaspirations.org (207)-280-0226	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsive professional development- instructional design, curriculum development, school-wide assessment systems • Place-based learning, 21st century skill development • Multiple Pathways - Program Design and Development • School cohort programs - Maine Forest Collaborative and Northern Maine Outdoor Ed Cohort
 NREC Moosehead <small>It's time to get lost in the Maine woods!</small>	Suzannah Sinclair nrecmoosehead@gmail.com (207) 280-0782	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine Woods Explorers: Summer Day Camp for youth 8-12 years old with focus on becoming a mindful steward of the natural environment. • Moosehead BKL: K-8th youth Nordic Learn-to-ski after school program. • Affordable seasonal youth nordic ski package rentals. • Resource & Guide to implementing Nordic Ski Program at schools. • Moosehead Lake Region Visitors' Center Campus: Warden Cabin, Firetower, and nature trails.

2022 EDUCATION OVERVIEW

What's that saying...give a little, get a lot? PCSWCD put a whole new spin on that as we "got a little" and now we are giving a lot! In 2022, we were awarded grants from the Onion Foundation and Helping Hands with Heart to increase our capacity for youth services and programming. With these funds, we were able to transition our Education Coordinator position from part-time to full-time and dedicate additional hours solely to providing youth natural resource conservation education. We tripled our reach from 2021 to well over 900 youth served with in-school programming alone. This number includes kids from all over Piscataquis County, across all grades and from public, private and homeschools. We provided hands-on lessons in pollinator conservation, tree ID, watershed conservation, soil health and more. We worked with students on PCSWCD public lands, public parks, on school nature trails, in classrooms and even on the Katahdin Steamship! We may be tired, but we are proud of this work and look forward to expanding it further in 2023.

Our District provided well-rounded, informative events and services to the public. We started out the year with a webinar about ticks, browntail moth and other invasive pests for us all to have on our radar. We refreshed some of our annual offerings in a few different ways! Our popular Bird Walk at the Law Farm was moved to the Nickerson Tree Farm in Greenville, so we could enjoy the change of scenery, find new species and work with partners the Forest Society of Maine. We welcomed Dustin Small as our Foraging presenter and he and PCSWCD Executive Director Sarah Robinson found loads of edible plants and mushrooms at the Law Farm. Our Chainsaw Safety for Women course was moved to the Williamsburg Forest, as it is our goal to have that public land serve as a place for women (and all!) to learn and recreate. Participants were able to enjoy new upgrades to the Williamsburg Forest, including a brand-new all vehicle access to the outdoor classroom. CJ Walke led a pruning class,



Pollinator Program at Thompson Free Library

this time in Parkman, ME, and has been providing orchard workshops for us since 2014! We provided family-centered options through our Snowshoe Adventure event and Family Fishing Day program. We teamed up with partners from Pleasant River Lumber, Woodland Owners of Maine and the Forest Stewards Guild to offer a 4-part Forestry Series, which covered topics in recreational trail management, silviculture, climate change and wildlife biodiversity. The series brought many voices, ideas and strategies to Piscataquis County, in addition to providing opportunities for participants to see practices first-hand on public and private lands. Each offering was free to attend thanks to sponsorship from our series partners. Our two technical trainings, Stream Crossing Design & Installation and Basic & Advanced Erosion Control Practices, were well-attended and offered information and continuing education credits to contractors, foresters and others. Even though most, if not all, of our offerings had fun elements, our super fun events, Cider Pressing and Teen Wilderness Expedition, were particularly great this year! The District was approached by the Emery family and in honor of George Emery, who had recently passed, they donated the registration fees for every single participant to attend Teen Wilderness! What an impactful gift!

We held several successful volunteer workdays at each of our public lands and added a few new and unique ones, including our garden party and rose rehabilitation events.

We rotate back and forth, year to year, from honoring an Educator of the Year or a Cooperator of the Year. In 2022, it was time to honor a producer who has exemplified sustainability on their land and our Board of Supervisors nominated Marr Pond Farm to receive our Outstanding Cooperator of the Year award. Courtney and Ryan of Marr Pond Farm hosted the District, friends, family and the public on their farm and all together we enjoyed a tour of their farm operations, a beautiful meal, beverages from Bissell Brothers Three Rivers, music from the Timberdoodle Band and an awards ceremony honoring them for their dedication to conservation efforts on their farm. We will remember that Cooperator of the Year celebration for years to come!

There was exceptional work that was done in 2022 by our Stream Restoration Project Manager and our work with The Nature Conservancy. You can read about the next chapter of that work in this report. Our LakeSmart service expanded in 2022 as well. It was a positive experience for all involved to work together with a few lake associations to plan full days providing LakeSmart evaluations. We would like to keep going with that model in 2023 and encourage lake and pond association members to reach out to us!

We had a blast in 2022 and have our 2023 Calendar of Events ready to go! Registration is open for a few events already, so join us, mark your calendars for events that interest you and keep your eyes peeled for registration announcements!



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 farmers, ranchers, and landowners through a variety of commodity, credit, and disaster assistance programs designed to stabilize and enhance our rural landscape. FSA is at the forefront of providing services the farming community has 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.

An advertisement for Ellis Forest Management & Greenhouse/Nursery. The top part of the ad has the company name in a stylized font. Below that, the location is listed as 218 Old Town Road, Hudson, Maine, 04449. There are two circular images: one on the left showing a forest scene and one on the right showing a white flower. The text in the middle says 'From a single plant to 1000's of acres We can grow it or manage it'. At the bottom, the contact information is provided: Tel: (207) 327-4674 and www.ellisnursery.com. The words 'Forestry Management' and 'Greenhouse/Nursery' are written at the bottom corners.

An advertisement for Dale Brackett Top 2 Lane Dexter, Maine. The ad features a grayscale background image of a wooded area. The company name 'Dale Brackett Top 2 Lane Dexter, Maine' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, it says 'LAND CLEARING SPECIALISTS'. At the bottom, the contact information is provided: PHONE: 207-270-3068, FREE ESTIMATES, and E-MAIL: dalembrackett@gmail.com. A list of services is also included: TREE REMOVAL | LAND CLEARING | STUMP GRINDING.

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MAINE SOIL SURVEY UPDATE

By Chris Mann, Ecological Site Specialist

Local Level:

Throughout 2022 NRCS staff (soil scientists/ecologist) implemented and assisted on many projects throughout the state of Maine. These projects investigated soil health, ecological site variables, and Maine's changing climate. Soil survey office staff established a collaboration with University of Maine and the University of Maine Fort Kent to develop and implement a long-term monitoring of forest health using a network of soil and climate monitoring stations associated with forest inventory plots. This project explores the effects of extreme temperatures and precipitation events on the ecological cycles of important tree species such as sugar maple, red spruce, balsam fir and northern white cedar. This project provides a better understanding of the current and potential limitations of successful forest regeneration, will improve education and best management recommendations for landowners, and engage University students in research related to climate change and forest science.

In collaboration with the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), soil survey office staff assisted on their long-term ecological reserve monitoring (ERM) project. This project collects and monitors forest inventory and analysis data on over 550 plots on a 10-year sampling rotation, located in 20 ecological reserves throughout the state of Maine. Soil Survey office staff were able to implement for the first time in the project, collection of soil data to provide complete soil profiles associated with each plot in the 2022 round of ERM sampling. This ongoing collaborating with MNAP will provide valuable data to model and identify long-term changes to the health of Maine soils and forests while also providing an opportunity for NRCS to further advance ecological site descriptions within Maine.

National Level:

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. In the Northeast the last remaining area that had yet to be mapped was in the White Mountains in parts of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Soil survey office staff assisted NRCS employees in Vermont and completed the remaining field data collection in 2022. This data will be digitized and used to create raster soil survey maps to improve conservation practices of local natural resources.

Soil survey office staff provided a considerable assistance to the Coastal Zone Soil Survey team on the Long Island Sound project. This national priority project aims to map all the subaqueous soils along the length of the Long Island Sound. Office staff assisted with obtaining these subaqueous samples and splitting the sample cores to provide full soil descriptions. Soil survey office staff greatly assisted on a large raster soil survey project to map shoreline distribution and identify long-term alteration and degradation for shorelines on Lake Champlain in Vermont. Lastly, the office staff assisted PCSWCD and other organizations with youth and public education opportunities on soil health and conservation.

Soil Survey Office Leader Nick Butler took on the position of Assistant State Soil Scientist in the NRCS state office in Bangor, ME. Ecologist Christopher Mann has taken on the role as acting Soil Survey Office Leader until the position is filled permanently.

If you have any questions regarding soils information throughout Maine, please stop by the office or give us a call. 42 Engdahl Drive Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426, Phone: (207) 802-4016. You can also reach me via email at: Christopher.Mann@usda.gov.




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CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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with us in 2022!*

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE UPDATE

By Seth Jones, District Conservationist

During 2020, 2021 and well into 2022, in the height of the Covid19 response, USDA offices were primarily run on a skeleton crew, often with no more than one person being allowed at an office and no public visitation. The doors to your service centers were closed and locked requiring most of our business to be conducted electronically or through the mail. Communication could be difficult, messaging was a challenge and outreach was mostly at a standstill.

Things changed during 2022, and the latter part of the year we were able to start conducting business in a manner that more closely resembles how we had done things prior to 2020. We have staff back in the offices, the public is encouraged to come in to discuss plans and contracts and we're able to get back into the field to work directly, face-to-face with our participants and landowners.

We still managed to utilize our diverse programs, get plans written and conservation on the ground with \$983,000 in 23 contracts in 4 unique programs on 930 acres in Piscataquis County.

The challenge moving forward is to increase those numbers across the board through promoting program participation and outreach. The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and I started evaluating how to develop that interest and where we can work more effectively to support our landowners as we work to rebuild what has been lost the last couple of years.

Each year each SWCD holds a Local Work Group meeting as a way to gather information from the local ag and forestry community and assist NRCS with setting up priorities and goals for the future for NRCS programs. We've been developing a new method for those meetings by increasing the number of meetings held during the year to allow a more appropriate amount of time to discuss the needs of the community, discuss what needs to be a priority, and advise me on where the most benefit for program dollars can be found.

We will be using that information to help guide where we can best focus outreach efforts to promote programs where they offer the most benefit for Piscataquis County natural resources.

We are also excited to welcome the new SWCD employee Mark Warren who will be learning all the Regional Conservation Partnership Program nuts and bolts for you in the Aquatic Organism Passage world. He jumped in with both feet and is learning everything very quickly. He's a very welcome new team member and we're happy to have him on board.

If you have any questions about NRCS cost-share programs, please reach out to me or Carl Bickford at 207-564-2321 ext. 3.



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PCSWCD ANNUAL APPEAL

What comes to mind when you hear the word conservation? Perhaps it's interwoven into many aspects of your life, or it never crosses your mind, or perhaps it brings negative thoughts and opinions. Most of our Board and staff members join this organization not as conservationists, but as people who love the outdoors and the unique landscape of Central Maine - the seemingly endless and untouched wilderness that stretches out within and beyond all corners of Piscataquis County. As we grew into our positions here, we stayed committed to learning about conservation issues, barriers and potential solutions. It was easy to see the plethora of service providers, who lived and breathed conservation, whether it be of a species, our soil, or our forests. It's also clear that there were many people who lived without consideration of the effort that was going into keeping Piscataquis ecosystems healthy. Then there is the largest portion of the population, the people who know and see the value of where we live, work and visit, but don't quite understand what their role is in keeping it healthy, safe and beautiful. That's when the role of the Conservation District becomes crystal clear - when thinking about the folks in between. PCSWCD's role is to bring everyone together, starting from the ground up, and learn about sustainable ways in which we can live, farm, recreate, harvest, work and play here. Learn together, adapt together, share ideas and solutions both large and small.

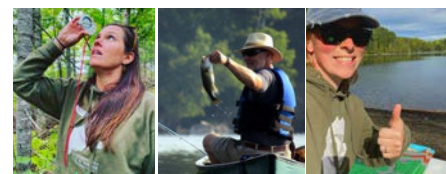
Without trees, soil and clean water, humans and all species would simply not survive. We depend on natural resources for food, shelter, our livelihoods and so much more. Some of our favorite moments at the District have been when we make connections with small landowners and they see the difference they can make in the big picture, by implementing small changes on their land. We love that beautiful click when folks realize conservation does not mean no harvesting, no use of resources - it means how do we

sustainably use them, how do we ensure their future and how do we keep them healthy for generations to come. Despite how you felt about conservation at the beginning of this article, perhaps you are now wondering, "*what's my role?*"

The PCSWCD has been helping Piscataquis County residents and visitors since 1944 figure out how to be part of the big picture happening around them. To quote Professor Douglas W. Tallamy, "knowledge generates interest and interest generates compassion." As the PCSWCD plans and carries out our annual educational programming, our underlying goal is to spark that interest, in hopes that it generates compassion and understanding of how simple the solutions are. Planting a flower garden or checking your backyard trees for signs of invasive species are small, yet hugely beneficial practices in the fight for conservation of natural resources.

Now that we have you thinking about your role in local conservation, we ask you to consider financially supporting the Piscataquis County Soil and Water Conservation District through our Annual Appeal. Donations can be made at www.piscataquisswcd.org. Your donation directly supports education and conservation efforts - youth programming, development of new services, updates to our public lands and so much more. If you still need convincing, we encourage you to read through our annual report, see how we put everything we gain from county and state funding, donations, partnerships, grants and other opportunities right back into the community, into your hands, and arm you with knowledge to make a difference for you and for future generations. Our water resources and soil are healthier, our farms and forests are more productive and our residents can enjoy clean air and the beauty that surrounds them.

Thank you for your consideration and support.



Thank you very much to ALL who assisted us in 2022!

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

Ada Vilches, USDA NRCS	Jay Wason, UMaine School of Forest Resources	Piscataquis County Commissioners
Adam Bagley, DACF	Jensen Bissell	Piscataquis Observer
Alaina Kresovic, USDA NRCS	Jessica Leahy, UMaine School of Forest Resources	Piscataquis Regional YMCA
Amber Hines	Jim Ferrante, MFS	Pleasant River Lumber
Amelia Robinson	John MacLaine, DEP	Prouty Auto Body
Amy Polyot of PCSWCD	Joseph Dembeck of SCSWCD	Ripley Farm
Andrew Robinson	Joseph Roy, ME IF&W	Robert Weber
Appalachian Mountain Club	Joshua Dera, USDA NRCS	Robin Raye
Bangor Daily News	Kacey Weber	Rod Hamel
Bissell Brothers Brewing	Kent Black	Rolling Thunder
Brett Gerrish, Prentiss & Carlisle	Kim & Chuck Merritt	Rowell's Garage
Carl Bickford, USDA NRCS	Kirby Ellis, Ellis Forest Management	Sam Brown
Carolyn Clark	Kiwanis of Dover-Foxcroft	Sam Heffner, Maine Forest Ranger
Carolyn Ziegler, AMC	Kris McCabe, IF&W	Sarah Robinson
Checkerberry Farm	Logan Johnson, Maine TREE	Scott Speck, FSA
Chris Reidy, USDA NRCS	Law Farm Volunteers	Sean Fraver, UMaine School of Forest Resources
Christian Fox, TNC	Lumbra Hardwoods Inc.	SeDoMoCha
Chuck Hulsey, IF&W	Lynn & Jim Lubas	Seth Jones, USDA NRCS
Chuck Penney, NRCS	Maddie Eberly, Forest Stewards Guild	Shane Barker
Chris Mann, USDA NRCS	Maine Forest Services	Sheila Ashburn, Small Business Consulting
Christine Cannon, Wildrose Flower Farm	Maine Association of Conservation Districts	Steph Perkins, AMC
Corey Hill, Mountain View Correctional Facility	Maine Audubon	Steve Tatko
CJ Walke, MOFGA	Maine Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation	Sue Mackey Andrews
Dan Perkins, DACF	Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry	Susan Gallo, Maine Lakes
Daniel Rosebush	Maine Department of Environmental Protection	Terri Coolong
Davinci Signs	Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	Thompson Free Library
Demonstration Forest Volunteers	Maine Forest Service	The Commons at Central Hall
Donna Coffin of UMaine Coop Ext	Maine Lakes	The Nature Conservancy
Don't Move Firewood Initiative	Maine Woodland Owners	Three River's Kiwanis
Dover True Value Hardware Store	Marr Pond Farm	Tim Obrey
Dyan McCarthy Clark	Melanie Ruark	Toby & Cynthia Hall
Dustin Small	MicMac Farms	Tom Klak, American Chestnut Foundation
Eastern Gazette	Mike Pouch	Tom Gilbert, DACF
East Sangerville Grange	Milo Garden Club	Thomas Schmeelk, DACF
Eileen Bader Hall, TNC	Molly Ferrante	USDA Farm Service Agency
Elisa Schine	Molly London	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Elissa Ballman, Maine Forest Tick Survey	Moosehead Matters	University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Emily Dickison	NACD Forestry Notes	UMaine School of Forest Resources
E.R. Palmer Lumber Co., Inc.	Nicole Rogers, UMaine School of Forest Resources	WABITV5
Eric Ogden	North Branch Farm	Whetstone Pond Association
Forest Society of Maine	Penquis Valley Schools	
Friends of Wilson Pond	Piscataquis County Chamber of Commerce	
GA Jackson & Son		
Gene Arsenault		
Haley's Inc.		
Halls Christmas Tree Farm		
Heidi Bunn, USDA NRCS		
Helping Hands with Heart		

WHERE WE WERE THEN AND WHERE ARE WE NOW: 15 YEARS OF PCSWCD'S TREE & PLANT SALE

In the last few years, our Tree & Plant Sale has evolved, quite significantly. The sale is now a new and improved system of supporting and showcasing local, organic farms and their products. The Tree & Plant Sale is one of our largest fundraisers, which helps keep PCSWCD's general operations healthy as we aim to host more free and affordable conservation programs in the region. The sale provides an opportunity to generate income, while giving back to our local farmers and highlight the availability of local organic plants and trees in our county. Buying locally not only helps our economy, but by planting natives, perennials and pollinator-friendly plants, our native wildlife and gardens benefit. Bringing beneficial insects and pollinators to our gardens helps to increase our harvests of fruits, berries, flowers, vegetables and forests! It's a win-win for everyone involved! Before the Covid-19 global pandemic, customers would pick up their plant and tree orders at the USDA Service Center, where the Piscataquis SWCD is co-located. The office would smell earthy and the plants were all laid out on a tarp, taking up much of the office floor, while we patiently waited for customers to pick up their orders throughout the week.

In 2020, we decided to partner with Piscataquis Regional Food Center (PRFC) to offer a "Soil Health for Gardeners," day where other organizations would join us such as UMaine Extension Piscataquis County, Jackson Regenerational Farms, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) and the program "Garden in the Box" would be demonstrated by PRFC. Unfortunately, due to the disruption in the world at that time, this was canceled and we were forced to offer a safe curbside pick up option at the PRFC. Despite the change in plans, the fundraiser was still successful as many people wanted to support us and our partners highlighted in the sale. We saw the rise in people's desire to garden and get outside in the spring and summer of 2020.

In 2021, much of everything was online ordering, zoom meetings, events were remote and people were still socially distant and enjoying the outdoors more than ever before! The world remained upside down and people were continuing to figure out how to maneuver without changing the things they loved, making sacrifices to feel comfortable to live their lives. We knew we needed to shift our sale to online to keep up with the everchanging times. The change to online ordering also saved us a lot of paper, time and cost from not having to print out the beloved catalog. (We know some of you still miss it!) Although online ordering was a transition, we got through it, and in 2021 we were able to offer new products such as Haleys Inc. landscaping material and blueberry sod from Sunkhaze farms. We continued our solid partnerships with North Branch Farms, Checkerberry Farms and Ripley Farms for our organic perennial flowers, herbs, shrubs and fruit trees. Again, the sale was a hit - doubling the amount of customers from the previous year and tripling our income - and showed us how much interest people were gaining.



The pick up was held at the Law Farm Nature Trails where PCSWCD Staff and NRCS Soil Scientist were available to answer questions regarding soil health tips for gardeners.

Last year we planned a ribbon cutting ceremony for our newly-built education classroom at the Law Farm Nature Trails and we decided to pair the grand opening of the classroom with our Tree & Plant Sale pick up, along with a 'Soil Health Day' event that we had so longed for. The sale remained a huge success as customers were starting to seek us out for the quality plants grown by our reliable producers.

Thanks to our Executive Director for having the idea of a Fruit Tree pre-sale that we launched in February, we sold out of all our trees, raised money for PCSWCD's own educational apple orchard that is now planted and located at the Law Farm, and marked continued growth in our overall fundraising efforts. At 2022's Soil Health Day, we were joined by our partners NRCS Soil Scientists, Thompson Free Library, UMaine Extension Piscataquis, accompanied by Timberdoodle band, Piscataquis County Chamber of Commerce and Cub Scout Pack 61. It was a day to remember! To read more about the day, enjoy Sheila Grant's article in the June 17th-23rd 2022 edition of the Eastern Gazette here. This year, we have evolved once again and will be offering a new and improved online ordering system with our Fruit Tree pre-sale, which is now live until February 27th. We have a delicious variety of apple and pear trees available and in March we will be opening up our full Tree & Plant sale with our favorite farmers, Checkerberry Farms, Ripley Farms, North Branch Farms. Not only will we be offering perennial plants and fruit trees, but expanding to offer local organic vegetable seedlings with a new producer that you may already know, Marr Pond Farm! PCSWCD staff are beyond excited to keep our sale going strong in 2023 and are here to improve the ways we can keep this offering easy, affordable, interesting and local. Thank you to all that have supported us and our farmers in the past, we look forward to serving you again and hope to see new customers this year! You can find more information about our Tree & Plant sale online at www.piscataquisswcd.org and for those who still have their hearts set on ordering in person, we are located at 42 Engdahl Drive, Dover-Foxcroft ME to assist you with the process. Here's to another year of our favorite Tree & Plant Sale Fundraiser!



Piscataquis County SWCD

Fruit Tree Pre-Sale

Apple Tree & Pear Trees available!

*This 2 week PRE SALE is
online from
February 13th-27th*

**LIMITED
QUANTITY!**

Reserve your trees now
and pick up and plant in
the spring!
Pick up day is May 18th
4-6pm Law Farm Nature
Trails!

Place your orders online at
www.piscataquisswcd.org





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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY BRINGS STREAM RESTORATION OPPORTUNITIES TO PISCATAQUIS COUNTY

The Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District (PCSWCD) is excited to announce we are entering into a three-year contract with the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that focuses on implementation of stream restoration and aquatic organism passage projects. The work will be administered through the Watershed-scale Approach to Restoring Stream Systems (WATRSS), a program developed to restore aquatic organism passage to road-stream crossings on private lands funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). WATRSS is a five-year, almost \$7 million dollar program that provides significant financial aid and technical assistance to private landowners to help them upgrade road-stream crossings. TNC is the lead partner organization for the project.

The project improves road safety and stability while increasing opportunities for fish and other aquatic life to thrive. WATRSS is supported by a collaboration of nine tribal, state, federal and nonprofit organizations (such as PCSWCD) and covers 25,255 square miles of project area, including the last endangered Atlantic Salmon spawning waters in the U.S. and critical Eastern brook trout habitat. Landowners are eligible for financial and technical assistance to implement aquatic organism passage projects that improve fish habitat and stream connectivity while strengthening roadway infrastructure and the forest economy.

Over the last two years, PCSWCD has been working with TNC and the RCPP program to improve and enhance fishway and aquatic organism passages in Piscataquis County. TNC in Maine is dedicated to restoring connected river systems for the state's twelve sea-run fish species and wild native brook trout. TNC has a long history of collaborating with private forest landowners and municipalities throughout Maine to implement river restoration

projects that allow these species to thrive while providing climate-ready road crossings designed to stand up to increased flooding. To date, with help from TNC, PCSWCD has completed 30 projects in Piscataquis County in partnership with NRCS and local landowners, opening 37 total stream miles to fish passage.

In addition to the WATRSS contract, TNC awarded PCSWCD another private award for the next two years! This will provide capacity support to PCSWCD to enable an increased focus on stream and river connectivity, restoration activities, and educational events and opportunities for youth and adults related to aquatic ecosystem health and stream restoration. One project PCSWCD has already gotten underway is implementing Trout in the Classroom, with Sedomocha Elementary School's 4th grade library class. This project was funded through the partnership with TNC and allows PCSWCD's Education Coordinator, Kacey Weber, to connect students with their local watersheds. Students will learn to see connections between the trout, water resources, the environment, and themselves while studying and raising trout from eggs to fingerlings. PCSWCD set up a cold-water aquarium and 300 trout eggs just arrived! The program culminates with a field trip to Brown's Mills Park, in Dover-Foxcroft, where students will release their fish into the state-approved location, the Piscataquis River. PCSWCD will be offering several workshops and outreach opportunities in the coming year with the focus on Stream Smart and aquatic organism restoration. For more information on these services, visit www.piscataquisswcd.org or follow PCSWCD on Facebook to stay up to date with the projects.

"This project was made possible through support provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), under the terms of the RCPP Agreement Supplemental- 2306-A-0437. The content and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or the policy of such agency or The Nature Conservancy, and no official endorsement should be inferred. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, any reference to specific brands or types of products or services does not constitute or imply an endorsement by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for those products or services."



PISCATAQUIS COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2023 Events & Workshops Calendar

Individuals, students, families and organizations are encouraged to get involved in conservation efforts by participating in our programs. We can tailor programs to the needs of your school, club or civic organization and we also offer CEUs for municipal workers, trades and businesses through several of our workshops. Mark your calendars!

For more information on any PCSWCD events, programs, sales or services, see us on Facebook, Instagram, visit our website - www.piscataquisswcd.org - or email us info@piscataquisswcd.org Registration/RSVP is required for all events.

February

Snowshoe with a Forester, February 10th, 3:30pm Law Farm Nature Trails
Pollinators & the Forest Program, February 16th, 6pm Thompson Free Library
Fruit Tree PRE-SALE online ordering Feb.13th-27th

March

Trout Sale Ordering Open March 1st!
Local Working Group Part 2- March 7th 1-3pm
Tree & Plant Sale Ordering Open March 13th-April 28th!



April

Stream Smart Workshop, April 25th, 8:30-12:30pm, Thompson Free Library
Lunchtime Forest Health Webinars: Invasive Plants April 6th 11:30-12:30pm
Pests & Disease April 13th 11:30-12:30pm

May

Bird Walk with Maine Audubon & Forest Society of Maine,
Williamsburg Forest, May 20th 8am
PCSWCD Annual Tree & Plant Sale Pick Up! May 18th at Law Farm, 4-6pm
Trout Sale Pick Up, Wednesday, May 3rd, USDA Service Center DF 12PM

June

Law Farm Volunteer Work Day, June 10th, 8AM-12PM RD June 17th
Organic Orchard Care with CJ Walke, June 14th 5:30-7:30pm
Gravel Roads Workshop, June 22nd, Dover-Foxcroft, 8-12:30pm
Agriculture Series: High Tunnels & Irrigation with Marr Pond Farm, TBD



**Piscataquis County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

July

Teen Wilderness Expedition, AMC's Gorman Chairback Lodge, July 18th-20th

August

Foraging at Law Farm, August 13th RD August 20th

Invasive Plant Paddle with Lake Stewards of Maine, TBD

Agriculture Series: Cover Cropping for Maine Healthy Soils TBD

September

Cider Pressing with East Sangerville Grange, September 17th

October

Chainsaw Safety for All! Williamsburg Forest, TBD

Technical Services

LakeSmart: This free program is available to waterfront property owners looking to protect water bodies from damaging soil erosion. PCSWCD is a hub for LakeSmart, sharing watershed knowledge and technical capacity to support lake association volunteer programs and educate homeowners about Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution and remediate NPS pollution sources in the hub's lake shore lands. Call or email Kacey at the PCSWCD FMI.

Education & Outreach

Is your school, club or youth organization interested in learning more about natural resources? The PCSWCD has a fantastic hands-on presentations that we want to share with you! For more information or to learn with us in the outdoors contact Kacey at the PCSWCD.

Visit our Public Lands!

Law Farm Nature Trails located on Lee Cemetery Rd

Dover-Foxcroft, ME

Williamsburg Forest in Williamsburg Twshp

USDA Service Center, 42 Engdahl Drive, Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

Visit our website! www.piscataquisswcd.org Follow us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/www.piscataquisswcd.org



Phone: (207) 564-2321 ext. 3 Email: info@piscataquisswcd.org

Check us out on instagram! [#piscataquiscountyswcd](https://www.instagram.com/piscataquiscountyswcd)



Our mission is to build resilient, sustainable farms and forests through education, technical services, demonstration and stewardship.

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- 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 March 1st for inclusion in this year's 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!

CONTACT US

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