



PMNRCD News and Information

POULTNEY METTOWEE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PO BOX 209, POULTNEY, VT 05757; OFFICE: 802-287-8339; PMNRCD@GMAIL.COM; WWW.PMNRCD.COM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weathering the Storm: Community-based Planning for Flood Resiliency in Flower Brook

Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) and Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) have partnered under the South Lake Champlain Partnership to implement flood resiliency projects in the Flower Brook Watershed shared by Danby, Tinmouth, and Pawlet.

The South Lake Champlain Partnership will be offering various Weathering the Storm community events all of which lead towards a great three-town.....



Community gathering on Sunday, August 28th 5th anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene.

The High Meadows Fund is generously supporting this project as part of a series of watershed resilience projects identified throughout the State.

District Plant Sale

PMNRCD is happy to once again offer a variety of native trees and shrubs at low cost to local landowners. This service is again through the assistance of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Orders are due by March 15th and plants must be picked up between 10:00am and noon on Sunday, May 8th at the Stonebridge Inn in Poultney.

You may obtain an order form through our website at: <http://www.pmnrcd.org/resources/district-plant-and-tree-sale/>.



NEW! South Lake Education Center Summer Camp



This year, with the restoration of the Poultney Nature Trail behind its office at the South Lake Education Center in Poultney, PMNRCD is able to offer a one week place-based camp at the South Lake Education Center and Nature Trail for children ages 7 – 10.

Children participating in this camp will explore their surroundings using science/ scientific method and the arts together to facilitate an integrated learning experience. The summer camp is made possible through Lake Champlain Basin Program and will be offered through the Poultney Recreation Department. This program is made possible through the Vermont Community Foundation and the Hills and Hollows Fund.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Agriculture

PMNRCD serves the local agricultural community by providing free technical assistance, farm equipment rentals, and other programs to benefit the farming community. PMNRCD is constantly evolving to provide better service to our agricultural community. We regularly partner with UVM Extension, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and USDA/NRCS to provide an expanded knowledge base and cost share opportunities.

Agronomy and Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)

If you are interested in one-on-one assistance with adopting new farm practices call Jen Alexander at 802-558-6470 or acap.Jennifer@gmail.com. ACAP is in its third year with the District and made possible with funding from the Great Lakes Fishery and the Lake Champlain Basin. Priority is given to farms that are not subject to permitting under the state medium- or large-farm operation programs.



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

PMNRCD, in partnership with the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD), University of Vermont Extension and VT Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is assisting small farm operators in the development of nutrient management plans (NMPs).

This 5 week course provides an opportunity to develop and implement nutrient management plans. For more information contact Jen Alexander at 802-558-6470 or acap.Jennifer@gmail.com

Upcoming meetings to help smaller farms with Required Agricultural Practices

PMNRCD will be holding meetings throughout the District to provide ongoing communication and education for farmers around the now Clean Water Act and the integration of the Required Agricultural Practices. Please watch for dates or contact Jen Alexander for updates. These meetings are made possible through the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Agricultural Equipment Use/Rental

New! No-Till Drill: Thanks to the generosity of the Lookout Foundation, PMNRCD has purchased a 10ft Haybuster 107C No-Till Drill. The unit has 2 large seed boxes and a separate legume/small seed, seed box. Seeding space is 7.5in and the working width is 10ft. This unit is available for free to farmers until fall 2017.

Also available for rental is the 8'9" Gen-TillAerator. Aerators create a vertical slit in the soil that opens up the soil for better water and nutrient infiltration and decreases compaction at the surface, at least on a temporary basis.



Forestry

Portable Skidder Bridge

PMNRCD had our first skidder bridge built this year for use on timber harvesting operations. The Forestry and Natural Resources Program at Stafford Technical Center built the bridge at their location in Rutland. It was then trucked to Northeast Timber Exchange where it is available for monthly rental.

Portable Skidder Bridges allow loggers to harvest timber while following the "Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont" (AMPs). This portable skidder bridge was made possible through an Ecosystem Restoration Program grant to the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts and with assistance from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Please contact Beth Miller at 802-235-2734 or beth@pmnr.cd.org for more information and reservation of the bridge.



Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery



The nursery is a partnership between the Poultney-Mettowee Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, and Green Mountain College. The main goal of the nursery is to the propagation of native seeds for plantings for stabilizing streambanks, restoring native plant communities, re-establishing connectivity of habitat along riparian corridors, improving water quality, and preventing the spread of non-native plant material in the landscape.

Many volunteer and internship opportunities exist for individuals and groups interested in learning about native plant production including seed collection, propagation and growing operations. If you are interested in helping with the nursery, please contact Beth Miller at beth@pmnr.cd.org.

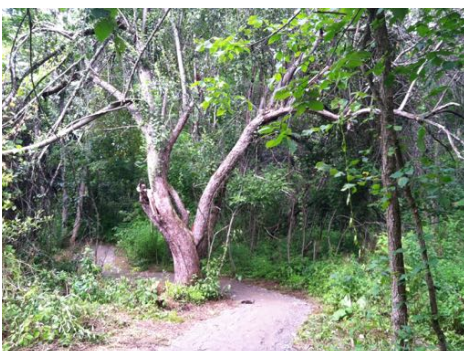
Lake Education and Action Program (LEAP)

LEAP is a collaborative community outreach, education, and ACTION program also made possible through Watershed Alliance. The purpose of LEAP is to increase local awareness of lake water quality issues by planting substantial buffers and rain gardens around Lake St. Catherine for individual homeowners. LEAP is sponsored by **Lake Champlain Sea Grant**, a marine and great lakes initiative coordinated through NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

We are currently looking to identify projects for 2016. If you are interested in plantings on your lakeshore property, contact Beth Miller at beth@pmnr.cd.org.



Poultney Educational Trail



This past summer LEAP interns took a one week break from the LEAP schedule to work with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to restore Poultney Educational Trail behind the Stonebridge. The interns worked on removing invasives, clearing debris, as well as laying the sand and gravel for a handicapped accessible trail. The trail is open to the public. A trail guide will be available at the Visitor Center.

THANK YOU

PMNRCD would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their support: Jonas Rosenthal, Chuck and Gail Helfer, Keith Roberts, Murray McHugh, Natalie Coe, Chris Smid, David Adams, David Emmons, Bill Steinmetz, Ethan Swift,

Water Quality Initiatives

Trees for Streams

PMNRCD receives grant funding to plant buffers for landowners who have bodies of water on or adjoining their land. These vegetative buffers will increase available wildlife cover and food supply, improve aquatic habitat and food supply, protect water quality, increase connectivity of wild lands, as well as reduce erosion and flooding damage. ***Trees for Streams*** is a state-wide program funded by an Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) grant through the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts.

If you are interested in learning more and possibly participating in a planting on your property, the District would gladly schedule a time to visit with you. Please contact Hilary at pmnrcd@gmail.com or Beth at beth@pmnrcd.org.

