

"Providing Today  
Protecting Tomorrow"

# Conservation News

Volume 16 Issue 1

Spring 2017

## Directors

William Wood  
Ralph Child  
David Vincent  
Tom Derouchie  
David Dunn  
Paul Lauzon  
Carl Sherwin

## SWCD Personnel

Chastity Miller  
Kristin Ballou  
Allycia Leach  
Karen Armstrong

## NRCS Personnel

Matthew Powers  
Tricia LaValley

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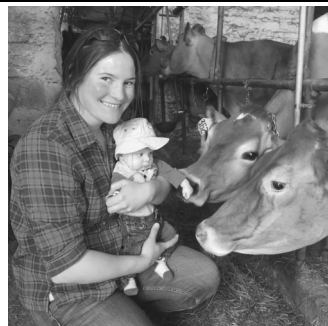
- ⇒ 2016 Wrap up
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- ⇒ 2017 NARE Winner

Wanna Go Green?  
Give us shout at  
fcsxcd@fcsxcd.org  
and we will add you  
to our email list!

If you would like to  
be added to our  
mailing list please  
contact us at (518)  
483-2850 ext 5

## The Past, The Present, The Future

2016 was a great year for Franklin County Soil and Water. We continued to add new programs, enhanced existing, were awarded more grants and developed more ways to assist the local residents. We received an increase in our county appropriation (thank you so much to the County Legislators and the County Manager), which in turn allows us to leverage more dollars for the county. In 2016 we were proud to offer many workshops and assist in the development of a new cover crop program, getting 100 more acres in cover crops this year. 2016 was a year with some new water issues for us including a drought which significantly increased the number of residents in the door with drinking water concerns. We are continuing our water sampling program, sampling water in every one of the 22 sub-regional watersheds across the entire county. We also closed out an agricultural grant, that assisted a local producer in meeting his permit requirements for being a CAFO and protected the Salmon River. We hired 2 interns in the summer of 2016 and kept them busy surveying road culverts across the county and mapping purple loosestrife. That mapping will be used this summer to release beetles that will eat the purple loosestrife and help stop the spread of the invasive species. In 2016 we were able to expand outreach to youth programs and help educate the youth on conservation practices they can do in their own lives. With all the projects that we are involved in, we were able to hire our new technician Allycia Leach! Allycia will be working with the Agricultural Environmental Management Program and would love to visit your farm! This will allow Kristin to work more with our forestry program. Call our office 518-483-2850 ext 5 to find out more on how either of them can help you out! Inside please find the new programs we are offering this year.



**Franklin County Soil and Water  
would like to welcome  
Landon Andrew Ballou born on  
January 24, 2017.  
Weighing in at 7 lbs. 5 oz.  
Congratulations Kristin and Chris!**

## **Welcome to the District Technician!**

Hello, my name is Allycia Leach and I am the new District Technician. I grew up in Jasper, NY which is a small town in Steuben County near the southern end of the state. Both of my parents grew up on small dairy farms, and I was raised on a small hobby farm with beef cows, chickens, horses, and pigs. During my summers growing up I spent a large portion of my time either working for my grandfather or one of my uncles, both of which operate small beef farms. Growing up I was very involved in 4H as well as my high school's FFA Chapter. After high school I attended SUNY Delhi and later SUNY Potsdam, studying Environmental Studies with a minor in Geology. During my time in college I was lucky enough to intern with two different Soil and Water Conservation Districts in NY state, working with farmers through various AEM programs. With my background, I feel as though I have a lot to bring to this organization and I am anxious to start working with the community.



## **Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District 2017 Soil Health Program**

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District is in the process of purchasing a no-till grain drill. Soil health workshops will be scheduled starting in July which will provide more information on this program as well as show interested participants how to use the drill. Selection for participation will be based on a number of factors.

### **Qualification Requirements:**

- At least one representative must attend one of the soil health workshops, put on by Franklin County Soil & Water, from each farm that is interested in participating in this program.
- Current participant of the AEM program with a minimum of a current Tier 2 assessment (completed within the last 3 years)
- A cropland plan will be developed for each of the fields that will be participating in this program through the AEM program

### **Preference will then be given to:**

- Producers that have documented soil health concerns
- Producers that have a conservation plan/CNMP in place
- Fields locations based on the County's AEM Strategy priority watersheds
- Field distance to the nearest waterbody

A letter of commitment and a contract with the FCSWCD will also be required. All practices will be required to follow the applicable NRCS Standards and re-imburements will be based on the applicable NRCS cost share rates. Funding is limited, applications will be prioritized on a first come first served basis. If you are interested in participating give us a call at (518) 483-2850 ext. 5 for an application.

**Application Deadline:** June 30, 2017

## **Franklin County Soil & Water is Offering a New Opportunity for Forest Management Plans and Implementation Practices**

A Forest Management Plan is developed for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource concerns, obtain volumes and species of trees on a property and to provide management recommendations. Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting applications for the creation of a Forest Management Plan. Forest Management Plans will be written by the Franklin County Soil & Water District Forester. Once management plans are completed landowners are not required to implement the plans. The plan can be used as a guide of what is recommended to be conducted on the property and can be used to apply for implementation cost share funding through the NRCS. Funding is limited, applications will be prioritized on a first come first served basis. Forest Management Plans will follow the 2017 NRCS CAP, Forest Management Plan Standard and rates.

### **Eligibility Requirements for a Plan:**

- Property must be located in Franklin County, NY
- Landowner is not required to be a resident of Franklin County
- Property must contain at least 10 acres and no more than 200 acres of forestland
- Property must not have a current forest management plan, if an old plan exists the work schedule must be complete
- Property must be private forestland but can be owned by an individual, corporation, non-profit, partnership, trust, estate, etc.

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District is also accepting applications for the implementation of Forest Management Practices. Practice layout and approval will be conducted by the Franklin County Soil & Water District Forester. All practices will need to be implemented to meet the appropriate NRCS Standards. This program is a re-imbursement program, funding will be reimbursed to the landowner as practices are completed and approved by Franklin County Soil & Water. Funding amounts will be based on the 2017 NRCS payment schedule.

### **Eligibility Requirements for Implementation:**

- Property must be located in Franklin County, NY
- Landowner is not required to be a resident of Franklin County
- Property must contain at least 10 acres and no more than 200 acres of forestland
- Property must not have a current forest management plan with the intended practices outlined in the stand prescription or work schedule
- Property must be private forestland but can be owned by an individual, corporation, non-profit, partnership, trust, estate, etc.

### **Available Practices:**

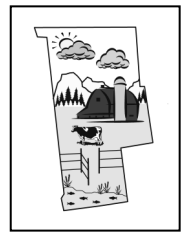
- Brush Management
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Forest Trails and Landings
- Structure for Wildlife
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Tree/Shrub Pruning
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Application Deadline: June 30, 2017. If you are interested in either of these opportunities contact Kristin, District Forester at (518) 483-2850 ext. 5.

**FRANKLIN CO SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Ag Service Center  
151 Finney Blvd  
Malone, NY 12953

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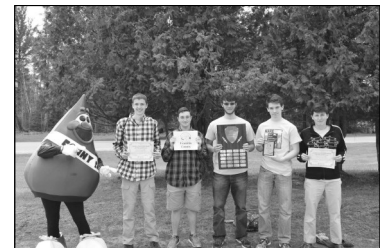
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### **Northern Adirondack Regional Envirothon 2016**

On May 11, 2017 the North Adirondack Regional Envirothon (NARE) was held at Paul Smith's College, with the Man Eating Squirrels team from Franklin Academy winning for Franklin County and taking first place in the whole event against teams from Essex, Clinton and St. Lawrence County's. The NARE program brings schools from all 4 Counties together to compete for the opportunity to participate in the New York State Envirothon.

The Envirothon involves teams of 5 students from each school competing to gain environmental knowledge based on the subjects of Forestry, Soils, Aquatics, Wildlife and Current Issues. The current issue for 2017 was Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship, which comes from the North American Envirothon which will be held in Emmitsburg, Maryland in July. The students are required to answer questions and demonstrate hands on application of these topics.

The program is put together by the local Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Clinton, Essex, Franklin and St Lawrence Counties. The regional program is sponsored by the Paul Smith's College along with other local supporters such as Price Chopper, Stewarts, ESF Ranger School, Ellsworth Homestead, Catamount Lodge & Forest LLC, Sheehan and Son's, Cassella Waste System, Northwoods Forest Consultants, Bilow Farms, LLC, Champlain Valley Agronomics, Vincent Farm, LLC, IP, Dick's Sporting Goods, Clinton County WQCC and Essex County WQCC.



Tom Shafer, Nick Croteau, Ben Senter, Colton Perham and Jack Petroski

Franklin Academy will join the other 3 County winners from NARE to travel to Hobart William Smith College in Geneva for the New York State Envirothon. The NYS Envirothon was held on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> with over 50 other teams from all over New York joining our North Country representatives to compete for the New York Winner.

For more information on the Envirothon working, with local schools to protect our environment, contact Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Chastity Miller at 518-483-2850 ext. 5.

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