

Fall 2024



"Providing today, protecting tomorrow"

In This Issue

Farewell to Chas

Intern spotlight

Planting with a Purpose

Project Highlight

EAB monitoring

Tire Recycling

Project Highlight

Arbor Day

NARE Winner

River Sampling

Other Projects

Directors

Ralph Child

Steve Gokey

Tom Derouchie

Denis Eagan

Paul Lauzon

Justus Martin

SWCD Personnel

Kristin Ballou

Devin Normandeau

Allisa Blanchard

Sarah Otis

Shayla Pfendler

Conservation News

Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

In June, we said farewell to Chastity "Chas" Miller. Chas was the District Manager of Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District for almost 16 years. In that time, she was involved with many local initiatives to improve and protect the resources in Franklin County and across the state. She was the go-to person for all of the weird and crazy questions and was willing to help anyone that came through the door. We have had a lot of laughs over the years, and we appreciate all that she did for the District and the County. Chas will be missed but we wish her all the best in her new adventure with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Soil & Water Conservation Committee!



A Surprise Party for Chastity. Left to Right: Paul Lauzon, Dennis Egan, Ralph Child, Steve Gokey, Chastity Miller, Tom Derouchie, and Justus Martin

Kristin Ballou, our District Forester for 10 years, has taken on the role of District Manager at Franklin County Soil and Water!



Kristin talking with students about farm equipment safety with the District's no till drill

Intern Bios

Hannah Manchester

Hi! I'm Hannah. I am currently a senior in high school at Brushton-Moira Central School. I was able to spend my summer as an intern, expanding my horizons. I plan to attend SUNY ESF to study Forestry. I've enjoyed the journey. It has been a great pleasure to work with the amazing team here.

Chelsea Cash

I am from Charleston, South Carolina, where I studied French at the College of Charleston. While in Charleston, I developed an interest in Permaculture Design – a method of designing food forests. I moved to Malone in 2022, and am happy to have found Franklin County Soil and Water! It has been so fun getting to know Kristin, Devin, and Hannah, and I look forward to hearing about how our projects progress!

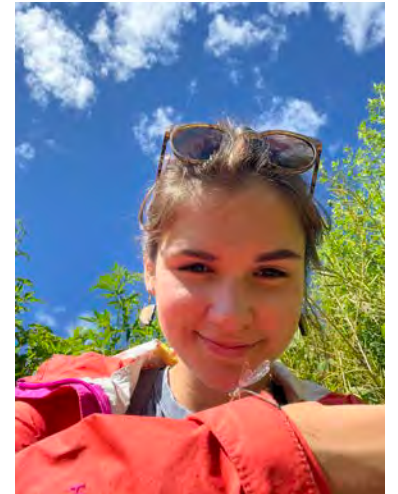
Hannah and Chelsea were busy assessing culverts, visiting AEM projects, conducting river and soil sampling, assisting with educational events, tire recycling events, site visits and forest inventories. Hannah and Chelsea were an amazing addition to the team and we wish them the best!

Intern Spotlight

Hannah and Chelsea Joined the team for the Summer!



Chelsea (left) and Hannah (right)



Planting With Purpose



Practice Overview New York State

About the Program:

Planting trees on your land is an impactful way to help mitigate climate change and improve your local environment by sequestering carbon, increasing wildlife habitat, provide shade and improving water quality. New York landowners like you can participate in The Nature Conservancy's newly launched Planting with Purpose program to get support in planting trees and expanding forest cover on your property.

How to Participate:

Planting with Purpose provides New York landowners with technical assistance in creating a tree planting plan and provides access to free trees and materials through your local District Tree Sale.



© Anthony Graziano

General Eligibility Guidelines:

- Your property is in Jefferson County, Franklin County or adjoining counties. Adjoining counties work with Jefferson and Franklin County District Tree Sales.
- Your property is privately owned, including ownership by individuals, families, trusts or nonprofit organizations (camps, churches etc.).
- At least 2 acres (up to 1,000 trees) of eligible land on the property with a minimum of 0.2 acres (100 trees), and your land must not have been forest for at least 10 years.
- Commercial Christmas tree stock, fruit trees and shrubs, and native shrubs are not eligible.

**Questions? Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff will help interested landowners determine if they qualify. Each project will be evaluated by The Nature Conservancy and SWCD on an individual basis.*

Terms & Conditions:

Contract Length: No term

Program Benefits:

- Tree planting plan, trees, and tree protection are covered services

Program Terms:

- Work with a conservation service professional to create a tree planting plan for your property
- Must plant the trees within 7 days of pick up from tree sale
- Allow access for monitoring of tree survival
- Maintain the trees (for example, fixing tree tubes and mowing around the trees)

To Learn More:

If you live in Jefferson County or adjoining counties, get in touch with Jefferson County SWCD to get started: **(315) 782-2749** or info@jeffersoncountyswcd.org

If you live in Franklin County or adjoining counties, get in touch with Franklin County SWCD to get started: **(518) 651-2097** or kballou@fcsxcd.org



Adult Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer Monitoring

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Monitoring Program continued through the summer of 2024. EAB is rapidly spreading throughout Franklin County, and we have recorded the presence of EAB in a number of new locations. The Emerald Ash Borer is an emerald-colored invasive beetle that bores into ash trees. It is steadily killing off the ash population, impacting ash trees and spreading across the eastern and midwest United States, as well as parts of Canada. It was found in Michigan in 2002 and first detected in New York in 2009. Since 2020, FCSWCD has made an effort to track its spread by setting up traps throughout the county. Before this year, EAB was found in traps in Bombay, Moira, Malone, Burke, and Chateaugay. In 2024, EAB was found as far south as Whippleville. Symptoms of an infestation may include dead branches near the top of ash trees, excessive branching on tree trunks, vertical cracks in tree bark and woodpecker activity. The infestation of EAB causes ash trees to become extremely brittle. Experts say that structural integrity of ash trees can begin to decline even when trees are mostly green and has two thirds of the canopy still intact. To minimize risk of harm, hire a trained professional who has experience removing EAB damaged trees. The District will continue monitoring and education efforts in 2025. If you have questions about your trees and if they are impacted or efforts you can take to mitigate damage give us a call.



From left to right, Devin, Kristin, Hannah, Chelsea



Town of Franklin Highway Department workers and District interns

Tire Recycling

Over the last few years several residents have been requesting assistance with the disposal of old tires. In 2024, the District was able to allocate funding to support this effort. With a huge thank you to the Town of Chateaugay and the Town of Franklin Highway Departments we were able to fill 3 tractor trailers with over 2,700 tires and send them for proper disposal! We hope to continue this program in 2025! Stay tuned for announcements for those events.



Dug Pit with perimeter trench



Rebar Installed



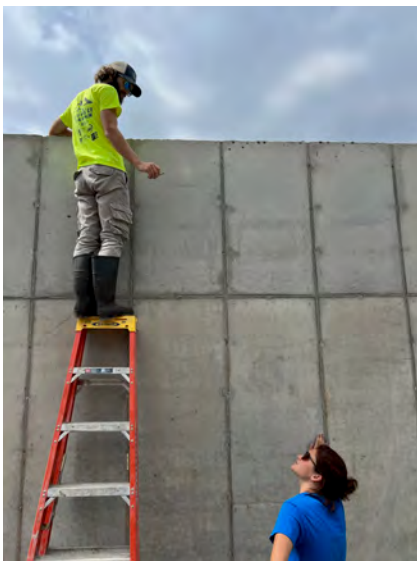
Pouring the Floor

Manure Storage in the Little Salmon River-Town of Bombay Watershed

Adventure Dairy farm has been working with Franklin County Soil and Water through a Round 24 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Grant to construct a 1.1-million-gallon manure storage. This storage is concrete with a clean out ramp, loading area, and access roads. A transfer pipe was installed from the barn seen in the picture below. This project will create a more efficient way to store and access manure, significantly increase the manure storage capacity of the farm, and allow them to spread or inject manure in more favorable weather conditions.



Walls Poured



Devin and Hannah inspecting the wall

This manure storage project was a huge effort by the farm, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, engineers, contractors, and Franklin County Soil & Water.



District staff hydroseeding the ditch near the new manure storage



Participants making sure the hole is deep enough

Arbor Day 2024

The 2024 event was held at the Westville Community Park. Members of the community assisted with planting four red oaks and one tulip poplar near the sports fields. There were crafts for kids and education materials on tree planting and care. Seedlings were also free for people to take and plant at their properties.



North Adirondack Regional Envirothon 2024

The Envirothon is a hands-on environmental education competition – testing knowledge and understanding of NYS natural resources. Envirothon activities begin locally with teams of five students, 9th through 12th grade, competing for their County Envirothon title. At the event each school district is able to send 2 teams of 5 students each. Teams rotate between stations where they are tested on their knowledge of five areas: aquatic ecology, forestry, soils & land use, wildlife, and the current environmental issue. The 2024 North Adirondack Regional Envirothon (NARE) event was held at the Paul Smiths College Visitors Interpretative Center on April 25. At the event 20 teams competed from Essex, Clinton, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties. The winning team from Franklin County was from Chateaugay Central School!



Chateaugay Central School Envirothon Team



Students at a station

River Sampling

In 2015, the District began a river sampling program. This program was started initially because we are competing with the rest of NYS for funding opportunities to improve water quality. However, our applications were not ranking well because our water was said to already be good quality. A significant portion of our streams are also noted as unassessed on the Priority Waterbodies List. This program was developed to determine where there are areas in the county that are high in nutrients and bacteria. Our sampling scheme was set up initially to sample at the outlet of each HUC-12 where there was a road crossing, with additional samples in areas of interest to us, with 25 locations being sampled each time. These areas were primarily in areas where we were trying to acquire grant funding for different projects so we could use the sample results as justification of need. This year only 1 round of sampling was conducted but 50 different locations were sampled. These results will be utilized over the next year to assist in securing grant funding. The results will also be added to the database to help us track trends and to better isolate areas of need.

Staff in the Field



Kristin, Chelsea, and Hannah assessing damaged culverts after a storm in August



Kristin assisting the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Farm with setting up insect netting for their gardens



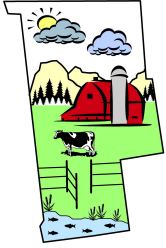
Winter Rye planted as a cover crop in 2024. Franklin County Soil and Water works with farms to implement progressive cover crops to reduce soil erosion and improve soil health



Devin surveying a field ditch

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
174 Finney Blvd.
Malone, NY 12953

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Malone, NY
Permit Number 6



Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8AM - 4PM
Water Drop Off
Thursday
By 9AM

Conservation News



District Reminders

Agricultural Assistance

The New York State Grown & Certified Infrastructure, Technology, Research and Development Grant is now open. Northern New York has \$2,550,000 in available funds with a maximum award amount of \$250,000.

- o Applications are due February 28, 2025. Farmers interested in becoming Grown and Certified to be eligible for this grant can contact Franklin SWCD.

Round 30 of the Agricultural Non-Point Source Abatement and Control Grant is out and due February 24, 2025. Projects focus on abating and preventing water pollution from agricultural activities

- o Farmers are encouraged to contact Franklin SWCD if interested in applying.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook!
@FrCoSoilandWater
Check out our website!
www.fcsxcd.org

Conservation News is published by
Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

Scan this QR code to easily reach our website!



Follow us!

Facebook: facebook.com/FrCoSoilandWater