



Lamoille County Conservation District News

Conserving Our Natural Resources Since 1945

Fall 2024

Letter from the Director

Flooding persisted in 2024. Towns, farms, businesses and private landowners continue to scramble for assistance from state and federal governments, non-profit organizations, and help from their neighbors to repair the damage. As I cleaned the river and planted trees with people around Lamoille County, it was clear that the community is already working hard together. The ongoing climate crisis demands that we all collaborate to find solutions that will make our communities resilient.

Lamoille County Conservation District (LCCD) remains a resource for the community to address their natural resource concerns. This coming year we plan to host a number of community resilience forums for towns and for the entire county. These forums will have expert panelists from the public and private sectors to address questions the community may have about the best approaches for flood mitigation, water quality needs, wildlife habitat expansion, floodplain and wetland restoration, stormwater mitigation, soil health, invasive species controls, and sustainable energy solutions. *All of these topics* will be addressed within the context of continued population growth and the current housing crisis. Easy right? The hope of these forums is to create some consensus on how to move forward with sustainable solutions.

In the meantime, LCCD will work with the public to do educational outreach and to design and implement projects that will address the natural resource concerns listed above. Please reach out to us at LCCD to be put on our listserv so you can be notified of workshops, forums and volunteer opportunities.

Peter Danforth
Director, LCCD



Contact Information

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Web: lcnrcd.specialdistrict.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

Staff Updates

LCCD is excited to announce four new staff members joining our team!



Johna Keefe
Administrative Assistant
Johnak.LCCD@gmail.com

Your Johna Keefe (She/Her) follows her passion by advocating for the environment in the form of personal education and getting involved within her local community. Johna is a recent graduate from Vermont State University where she received her second bachelor's degree in environmental science with a focus on advocating and policy change. For the past four years she has been on the Town of Johnson's Beautification Committee to bring art and nature together. She is also a member of the Johnson Conservation Commission. Johna was a part of the 2024 Vermont Climate Catalysts Community Leadership Program which led her to be a part of the Vermont Council on Rural Development's on-going project in her town called Re-imagine Johnson. Her goals are to help her town and other towns within Vermont to create and rewild wetlands and rain gardens as a form of mitigating floods and removing toxins from local watersheds. She hopes to help build a framework for other communities as well as helping her town and others to become resilient and adaptable to climate change.



Willow Longo
Public Relations and Education Outreach Coordinator
WillowLCCD@gmail.com

Willow Longo (She/Her) grew up in rural Vermont surrounded by forests, rivers, and farms. She was interested in the natural world from an early age but pursued degrees in English literature and education while continuing to learn about Vermont's ecosystem. She received her MA in English from Middlebury College's Bread Loaf School of English and is a licensed teacher. She has been co-directing Mud City Forest School from its inception and is thrilled to combine her writing skills and naturalist knowledge for LCCD.



Caleb Nollenberger
Lamoille County Agricultural Program Specialist

I grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota with my two parents and three older siblings. I started off School at the University of Minnesota studying Forestry and Natural Resource Management, but by my junior year had added a degree path in agronomy production after discovering my interest in agriculture and sustainable food systems. I moved to Craftsbury in the summer of 2024 after spending my summers at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center since 2021. In my free time I enjoy athletics, especially rowing and cycling, as well as baking, and watching movies with my roommates. I am extremely happy to be living in the Northeast Kingdom, and working in Lamoille County because four years ago when I visited for the first time it was clear to me that this is a special place.

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Staff Updates, Continued



Sarah Skelding
Lamoille County Agricultural Program Specialist
LCCD.AG.SS@gmail.com

Sarah Skelding was born and raised in Montpelier, Vermont. She graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a BA in philosophy, and briefly lived in Oregon before returning to Vermont in 2011. She has worked on farms in Lamoille County for the past 13 years, with a focus on growing fruit trees, berry bushes, native plants, and nursery stock. She is excited for the opportunity to apply her knowledge and experience toward supporting water quality and conservation efforts throughout Lamoille County.

2024 Educational Program Updates

Streamwise

Do you have a stream or river on your property? Are you worried about the course of the river changing or just want to make sure you are supporting river health to the best of your ability? Free Stream Wise consultations for Lamoille County have been funded for a second time, courtesy of the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Stream Wise, similar to the successful Lake Wise program, aims to award landowners with existing model stream stewardship practices and educate and support interested landowners to become model land stewards. All consultation slots are filled for 2024, but contact us to join the waitlist for 2025!

Contact: EmilyLCCDEDU@gmail.com



Elliot Waring of Wolcott proudly accepting his award

Lamoille County Conservation District

Educational Program Updates, Continued

LCCD Brings Conservation Learning to Classrooms Through Our Jr Naturalist Program

Jr Naturalist has been bringing children's conservation learning throughout the county for nearly two decades. Topics ranging from Fantastic Fungi to Living it up in the Riparian teach kids about the world around them. This year we proudly bring the program to Cambridge Elementary, Apple Tree Child Care, Stowe Elementary, The Kids School, Red Pine Child Care, and Arrowhead Forest Farm School. Is your child offered this opportunity for hands-on outdoor learning? Suggest our program to their school! Learning outdoors has been shown to improve attention span, mental and physical health, increase empathy, critical thinking and problem-solving skills!

Flood Resilience Education Grant

LCCD was awarded a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program aimed towards 3rd-4th grade children to learn about the science of flooding and grow their resilience to flooding. This grant involves working with youth in the classroom to build a strong foundation for the program, and then leaving the four walls of the school and venturing outdoors to the river for a half-day field trip. The program blends science, art, engineering, and social studies to create a holistic educational experience. The grant covers four classrooms, and it has been so popular that there is a waitlist. Some activities include flood demos, hands-on art activities, and opportunities for students to take action in their community.

Mud City Forest Camps

The 2024 summer was a great year for Mud City Forest Camps! The themes were: Nature Scouts, Forest Creatures, and Greek Mythology. We look forward to more exciting and engaging camps this coming summer. Be on the lookout for registration and theme announcements this winter.



Web: lcnrcd.specialdistrict.org

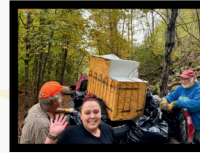
Email: EmilyLCCDEDU@gmail.com

Lamoille County Conservation District

2024 Project Updates

Lamoille River Clean Up

LCCD partnered with The Lamoille River Paddlers Club and volunteers to clean up trash along two sections of the Lamoille River corridor in Morrisville and Johnson on September 28th 2024 . Some items were too big to load into canoes but they were marked for future pick up with larger equipment. LCCD looks forward to partnering with towns all along the Lamoille for future clean up efforts!



Tree Plantings

LCCD had two tree planting events in the spring of 2024. These plantings amounted to a total of 6 acres and about 2,400 stems planted in all. One planting was along the main stem of the Lamoille at 10 Bends in Hyde Park, some of the buffer extending almost 200 ft. This was funded through state clean water funds overseen by the Clean Water Service Provider of Lamoille The other planting was along the Seymour River at Valley Dream farm where there is a Vermont Land Trust easement in place. This was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Trees For Streams program overseen by the Vermont Natural Resources Conservation Council.



Call for Volunteers!

Email Peter at LCCDdirector@gmail.com



Lamoille County Conservation District

Gratitude To Our LCCD Members!

Thank You to our Current Members! We appreciate your help!!!

If you're not listed on this page and are receiving this newsletter, please renew your membership.

Please let us know if your name is missing from the list.

2024 Members List

Martha Battle; Bruce and Theresa Barrows; Colleen Brennan; Thomas & Tatjana Cady; Concept II Inc.; Erin M Carroll & Richard J Fitzhenry; Anne & Mike Cassidy; Kendall Chamberlin; Charlie Davis; Elie Dolgin; Dorcas Jones; Judy Geer & Dick Dreissigacker; Jeffery Emenheiser; Katie Grenon; Penelope & Frank J. Harris III; Richard Heh; Liz & Tom Lackey; Kenneth Lamb; Janet Lanphear in memory of Pete Lanphear; Heather Loya; Susan Ludington in memory of Chris Ludington; Linda Thomas Martin; Frank Brenda Mills; Sally Peter Nolan; John Faith Parker; Chris Shelby Padulo; Chuck Pepe; David Pound; William & Donna Putnam; William & Stacey Schaaf; David & Debbie Schoop; Janet and MJ Shaw; Bruce Shields; CJ & Gail Seitz; Sandy & Don Simonds; Janet & MJ Shaw; Kate Smith; Kermit & Hazel Spaulding; Anne & John Steel; S. David & Jenny Stoner; Mark & Barb Storch; Susan & Bob Titterton; Jeannine Valcour; Duane Wheeler; Chris Amy Whitlock; Cynthia & Charlie Yerrick

Gratitude and Appreciation to LCCD's Generous Members:

Conservationist: Debbie & David Schoop; Judy Geer and Dick Dreissigacker
Sponsor: Elizabeth & Nicholas Deane; Janet Lanphear in memory of Pete Lanphear; Susan & Bob Titterton
Supporters: Erin M Carroll & Richard J Fitzhenry; Bebe & Fred Dudley; Howard Manosh; Butternut Mountain Farm; Susan Ludington in memory of Chris Ludington, John & Faith Parker; Ron & Judy Stancliff; Edward & Mary Ann Wilson

Lamoille County NRCD Supervisors

Charles Davis, Chair
Fran Sladyk, Vice Chair
Linda Martin, Supervisor
Sarah Ford, Treasurer
Jim Pease, Supervisor
Jo-Anne Ring, Associate
Silene DeCiucec, Associate



The Nature Center Pavilion is up! Thank you for making this happen!

Get a Tee Shirt!

lcnrcd.specialdistrict.org/gear



Lamoille County Conservation District

Mud City Forest School Update

"Wow, I never appreciated teamwork before now!" exclaimed a student at Mud City Forest School as she turned the crank to press apples into cider. Youth had walked the perimeter of the 40 acre property carrying buckets and crates to harvest apples. Shaking the apples down from the tops of the trees, hunting for drops in the tall grass, and carrying them all back to camp also required teamwork. As the apples were gathered and processed into cider, returning students noticed how the apples changed from year-to-year. One student remarked on how the apples seemed a little drier. A conversation followed on why that would be, and speculations on how that would affect the flavor of the cider this year compared to last. Opinions were mixed on which year's cider was better, but everyone agreed that the labor yielded sweet results.

Mud City Forest School kicked off our third fall session this September. Youth are focusing on game design and development this fall, but are not constrained to board games. Some students are creating movement games, and others are creating card games with handmade cards. Game design is a theme that co-directors Emily Porter-Goff and Willow Longo share a passion for with their own families.

Project-based learning rooted in a shared framework is the foundation for much of the learning at Mud City Forest School. Youth are encouraged to envision, plan, and carry out a project of their choosing with support from their peers and adults. Creation is a powerful teacher, and youth grow their executive functioning, strengthen their academic skills, and build confidence as they make an idea into reality. "I am always surprised to see so many wildly different ideas," Emily said recently.

Youth study taxonomy every Mud City Forest School day, and have been expanding their bushcraft skills. Youth have made waterproof fire starters and learned about fatwood and how its resinous properties make it more flammable. The outdoor skills students learn are connected directly to the land, fostering a sense of place and connection. It is frequent that students will help each other find supplies, "I know where there are some good birch sticks!" or "I saw a quartz rock, I'll show you!" Strengthening this connection to place will motivate our students to support conservation in the future.

"What do you wonder about?" Willow asks during our closing circle for the day. "Why does pine pitch burn so well?" A student asks, and we write it on the board to explore later. "I learned that there is more than one kind of moss!" someone else declares. It was a good day.



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