

Lamoille County Conservation District

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Fall 2017 Newsletter



Lamoille County Conservation District

Conserving Our Natural Resources since 1945



DISTRICT NEWS

FALL 2017

Thank You To Kim Jensen!

The Lamoille County Conservation District recently bid farewell to long-time director, Kim Jensen. For the last ten years, Kim worked with the LCCD, serving as director since 2009. Previously, Kim held positions with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, the Berkshire Museum, Housatonic River Restoration, and Hoosic River Watershed Association—all building on her strong background in natural history and environmental science. While at the District, her vision was to build the capacity and sustain LCCD to complete its mission.



Kim's Bucket List of achievements for LCCD included working with local partners to expand the message for LCCD's capabilities, developing a bioengineered GSI Project (Hyde Park), installing a new culvert (with help from an engineer), securing funds for Lamoille County Nature Center, and topping the income of all the NRCD's in Vermont (FY2017).

She improved our natural resources by developing a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Initiative securing funds to implement a number of GSI projects throughout the county. By working with partners, she modeled Lamoille's Trees for Streams and Portable Skidder Bridge programs by developing and managing statewide programs to build the capacity of all VT NRCDs.



Kim and friends at the Nature Center.

In September, Kim received a position with the VT ANR Department of Environmental Conservation's Lakes & Pond Department as the Aquatic Invasives Plant Specialist, where she will work with partners to manage invasive aquatic species, and applying her skillset toward providing technical assistance to communities to plan and implement strategies for aquatic invasive species control and management.

The LCCD Board has appreciated Kim's commitment to improving the natural resources of Lamoille County while increasing LCCD's capacities and expansions of the District's programs. Kim's last cue was securing a building for the Lamoille County Nature Center. While we will certainly miss Kim's knowledge and leadership here at LCCD, we wish her the best as she continues her work as a protector of Vermont's natural resources.

Look for information about LCCD's new director in our spring newsletter!

Lamoille County Conservation District Mission:

To maintain and improve our natural resources.
 To aid and educate our fellow citizens to appreciate and adjust to the changes taking place in our natural resource system.
 To be a local voice for conservation, preservation and stewardship of all natural resources and work in conjunction with other agencies, private and public.

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LCCD FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2017 PROJECT UPDATES



Undersized Culvert Before

Connecting the Mid-Lamoille Culvert Project



Rusted Culvert Bottom



New Culvert & Heavy Rains

High Waters under the New Culvert!

LCCD assisted the Town of Hyde Park to install a new culvert on Cleveland Corners Road, opening 3.3 miles of Brook trout habitat while increasing the flood resiliency of Rodman Brook. LCCD's work began in 2012 to identify high priority structures blocking fish migration and causing flooding problems in the Lamoille Watershed. Funds were provided by the Lake Champlain Tributaries Restoration Fund, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and VT Agency of Transportation. Let the fish and flood waters flow!

Trees for Streams 2017

The local LCCD TFS project partnered with the Vermont River Conservancy again by completing a one acre buffer project in Wolcott on the Wild Branch this May. Lamoille Union High School students enthusiastically helped plant trees for the seventh season in a row!



Regional Hydroseeder Program with Essex and Caledonia County

Lamoille, Caledonia, and Essex Counties purchased three new Hydroseeders this summer with assistance from LCCD and the District counterparts. Fourteen towns benefitted from the program modeled after the LCCD Program. Hydroseeder use quickly covers bare soils after ditching and leads to faster grass growth at half the time of regular mulching. To date, nine miles of road were hydroseeded this summer! Funds for the program were provided by the VT ANR Ecosystem Restoration Program.



Kim with Hydroseeder Road Foreman



River Bank Before



New Access Site After

Lamoille River Paddlers Trail and LCCD Partnership River Access Site at Oxbow Park

LRPT & LCCD teamed up and restored then built an access site to the river at Oxbow Park with help from 30 volunteers, paddled the Lamoille with 19 friends, then held a "Social" with 47 enthusiastic friends to celebrate the paddlers trail and Lamoille River water quality health! Special thanks to Peoples Academy students, MACC, local friends, VYCC Crew, Northern Forest Canoe Trail volunteers, and Noah Pollack from the River Conservancy!



Managing Forests for Water Quality for Foresters, Loggers, and Landowners

VT Forests, Parks & Recreation's, David Wilcox, Watershed Forester, and Rick Dyer, Lamoille County Forester partnered with LCCD and Nancy Allen, Soil Conservationist from NRCS, on a well-attended field trip in the woods. 36 Participants attended to learn about the revisions to the Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont and shared challenges of maintaining the business of logging and forestry.

Improving Flood Resiliency at Smugglers' Notch Resort (SNR)

SNR and LCCD developed a partnership to restore a stretch of the Brewster River headwaters to improve floodplain access and restore the river channel for long term resiliency. After the major flood in Spring of 2011 and Tropical Storm Irene caused extensive damage throughout the entire Brewster River, SNR sought to proactively work with parenting agencies to restore the river's health. LCCD secured an Ecosystem Restoration Program Grant through the Clean Water Initiative to assist SNR to develop and plan the best course of action to implement the improvements to the river while protecting the infrastructure of the resort.

CALENDAR FALL/WINTER 2017

SEPTEMBER

Children's Program, Livin' It Up In The Leaf Litter

Monday, September 18, 6:00-7:00 pm. NIGHT OWL!
Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park

Ever wondered why we're not buried in leaves after millions of autumns? Now is a great time to explore the habitat formed on the forest floor by all of those falling leaves. We will dive in to deconstruct the layers of leaf litter and spy on the important creatures that call the leaf litter home. Preschool-4th grade. FREE.

OCTOBER

Children's Program, Not-So Spooky Spiders

Monday, October 16, 6:00-7:00 pm. NIGHT OWL!
Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park

Did you know that the average house contains 30 spiders at any one time? Or that spider silk is five times stronger than steel? We will build ourselves a spider, test our spidey-skills in a big web and try some weaving of our own. Then we'll partner up to become spiders to see how it feels to have eight legs. Preschool-4th grade. FREE.

NOVEMBER

Children's Program, Savvy Squirrels

Monday, November 20, 6:00-7:00 pm. NIGHT OWL!
Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park

Our most charismatic and accessible of wildlife neighbors, squirrels are industriously and shrewdly preparing for winter this time of year. But are all Vermont squirrels busy burying acorns? We will explore the differences between gray and red squirrels and test our own saver-skills with a nut hunt! Preschool-4th grade. FREE.



Getting creative with earth paints as students explore the beauty and variety of soil color.

DECEMBER

Children's Program, Hungry Bears

Monday, December 18, 6:00-7:00 pm. NIGHT OWL!
Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park

As Vermont's black bears settle into their dens for the winter, we will take a closer look at how they fuel up for months of dormancy. We will order from the Big Bear Bistro to see how much a bear has to eat to get ready for winter and play some games to learn more about the black bear's diet. Preschool-4th grade. FREE.

JANUARY

Children's Program, Animal Tracks and Traces

Monday, January 22, 6:00-7:00 pm. NIGHT OWL!
Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park

Wednesday, January 31, 3:30-4:30 pm.
Centennial Library, Morrisville

Become an animal tracker and discover the many signs animals leave behind. What can we learn about our animal neighbors from their tracks? Place, pattern and print will help us decipher animal mysteries. Then try your hand (or foot) at waking like a variety of Vermont creatures. Preschool-4th grade. FREE.

FEBRUARY

Children's Program, Back Off! Animal Defenses

Monday, February 19, 6:00-7:00 pm. NIGHT OWL!
Lanpher Memorial Library, Hyde Park

Animals have all sorts of interesting ways to keep predators at bay. From prickles to playing dead, stingers to slime, we will learn about different animal defense strategies, Preschool-4th grade. FREE.

PROGRAM REGISTRATION REQUIRED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
Look for Program Details at www.lcnrcd.com



Kindergarten students work on their snowflake symmetry.