

Belknap County Conservation District

NewsNotes

719 North Main Street, Laconia, NH 03246 Tel.# (603) 527-5880 or 9146

What We've Been Up To

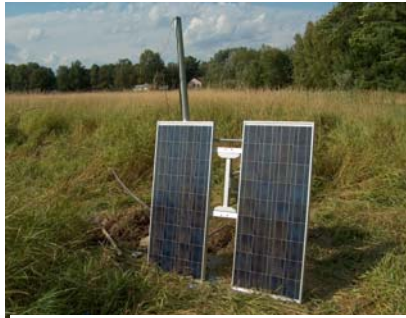
It's hard to believe the year 2010 is half over! BCCD staff has been busy serving the communities of Belknap County. Some of our activity highlights include: hosting multiple conservation funding assistance information sessions, meeting with municipal Conservation Commissions, providing grant writing assistance to municipalities, installation of a rain garden, and maintenance of water quality practices at Hunkins Pond. To review BCCD's 2010 Mid-Year Report, please visit our website at www.belknapccd.org

Funding Proposals

The second half of 2010 will potentially see BCCD start work on two energy conservation grants. One proposal offers to use solar energy to pre-heat water to be used in milk-house sanitation and the other details a plan to employ a high efficiency wood burning furnace to heat multiple greenhouses. Both proposals set out to retro-fit and convert existing fossil fuel energy systems. We should learn before the end of August if these proposals have been funded. As always, BCCD has several projects 'in the works' and the staff is pleased to be meeting the needs of the public. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have project ideas or would like our assistance.

Have You Seen Us?

On July 12th we discovered someone had stolen the solar panels used to power the irrigation system at the Belknap County Community Gardens.



Solar panels in the process of being installed in 2006. Panels were fixed atop the pole with security chain and locks. They were stolen in July 2010.

The Laconia Police were notified and are interested in hearing from anyone with information regarding the crime or whereabouts of the stolen panels. Please contact Officer Jeff Wholley at telephone number 524-5257 extension 519. Unfortunately, the deductible associated with the insurance policy on the irrigation system is greater than the value of the panels. Fundraising will need to be done to recoup the financial loss.



All programs and services of the Belknap County Conservation District are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, political belief, and marital or familial status

Upcoming Information Sessions

BCCD is teaming up with UNH Cooperative Extension to co-host the following free programs. The public is invited.

Aug. 24 – Hayfield Management and Restoration. Topics to be covered are Soil Health & Fertilizer Options, Seeding, Funding Assistance Programs, Forming a Hay Cooperative

Location: Belmont Corner Meeting House

Time: 6:30 – 8 PM

To RSVP call 527-5880

Oct. 12 – NH Current Use Tax Rules. You must own 10 or more acres to qualify for current use. Topics to be covered are: who is eligible, restrictions under current use, and updates on changes to program. This program is good for novices or as a refresher for people who signed up years ago.

Location: New Hampton School

Time: 6:30 PM

To RSVP: call 527-5475

Nov. 10 – Resources for Landowners. This session will introduce forest owners to the basics of what's available for conservation programs, publications, web-based resources, and project funding.

Location: Belmont Corner Meeting House

Time: 6:30 PM

To RSVP: call 527-5475

All programs are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

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Flowering Bulb Sale

Tell yer Ma and tell yer Pa – it's time for Belknap County Conservation District's Annual Fall Fundraising Bulb Sale !! We all know summer is too short and the 'to do' list for fall activities is already being written. Why not add to that list the satisfying event of purchasing and planting spring flowering bulbs? You'll thank yourself come April. Not only that, but by making a purchase through the Conservation District you are helping to support local conservation efforts. For more information and to see pictures of the inventory being offered please visit website www.belknapccd.org or telephone 527-5880. Ordering deadline is September 8th.

Beach Gets A Garden

In June, BCCD and the Town of Center Harbor Parks and Recreation Department installed roof gutters and a rain garden at the town beach with funds received from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation – Lakes Region



NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

This gutter and garden system will help collect and purify rainwater from the covered picnic area and the adjacent steep hill. The garden will allow rain water to slowly soak into the ground. This is important because fast moving water is a major factor in soil erosion known to occur at the beach. For more information on rain gardens visit website <http://www.vacd.org/~winooski/VtRainGardenManual.pdf> to

review the Vermont Rain Garden Manual.



Emma Melvin (left), contractor hired by BCCD and Jared McGrath (right), of the Town of Center Harbor Parks & Recreation Department mulch the newly planted rain garden.

A Management Plan for Lake Winnepesaukee

The Lakes Region Planning Commission is in partnership with the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association, and other groups, to help draft and implement a watershed management plan for the big lake. Called the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan, its focus is to set local water quality goals in the various bays for phosphorus present in the water. Phosphorus (a.k.a. P) occurs naturally in our environment and soils but it is also an element present in fertilizers and animal waste. "P", when introduced into our waters through human activity, can serve as a food for algae and water plants such as invasive milfoil. Low levels of "P" generally translate to clear inviting waters for recreation. To ascertain if waters are safe for wildlife and human consumption requires testing for a variety of other possible contaminants. To learn more about the Lake Winnepesaukee Management Plan visit website <http://www.lakesrpc.org/lwwlw/> For more information on water quality, the big lake, and the Lake Winnepesaukee Wa-

tershed Association visit the web at www.winnepesaukee.org Remember don't "P" in the lake!

Adopt Winni Be A Bay Watcher!

Help support seasonal water sampling efforts in Lake Winnepesaukee. Water samples are analyzed to determine how healthy the water is to drink and play in. Your support can be in the form of volunteering to perform water sampling or through financial support to cover the cost of laboratory analyses and the necessary testing materials. Financial support will be recognized publicly and volunteers will receive guidance from water resource professionals. The data collected will be used by the UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program and will help in the development of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Management Plan. For more information on the *Adopt Winni* program contact Pat Tarpey at telephone 527-2093.



Eco-Agent Posters Available

Eco-Agent Otter, a creation of BCCD, is employed to raise public awareness of the influence each one of us has in helping maintain good water quality in the Lakes Region. The posters, featuring the Eco-Agent Otter, are titled "What You Otter Know About Water, Rain and Runoff", "What You

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Otter Know About Yard Care”, and “What You Otter Know About Agriculture and Gardens”. They are a great resource for educators or anyone who wishes to learn more about these topics. The posters are purposely printed in black & white so that children can color as they learn. These materials are available as PDF files on our website (belknapccd.org) or you may request copies from BCCD while supplies last. Please contact our office by telephone at (603) 527-5880 or by email to lisa.morin@nh.nacdnet.net. BCCD has other Eco-Agent posters currently in development.

Funding for this project was provided in part by a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Opechee Garden Club, and others.



Interested In Farming?

If you have an interest in farming but don't know how to get started consider attending a meeting of the Small and Beginner Farmers of New Hampshire (SBFNH). This group is made up of individuals with a wide range of talents, interests, farming skill levels, and resources. What is common among them is the desire to raise their own animals or produce. Some members farm as a commercial venture and some are looking for the peace of mind of knowing where their food comes from and how it was handled. For information

visit website www.sbfnh.org or attend a meeting. Belknap joins Grafton and Merrimack counties in meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at various locations within the three counties. For a schedule of upcoming meetings please contact Melanie Benton at email ctrmtn@msn.com or visit website www.smbf.org Membership benefits are available on an annual basis.



Grocery Shopper's Guide to Pesticides

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) has available online a list of the 12 dirtiest (aka most pesticide laden) produce items commonly available in grocery stores, and a list of the 15 foods lowest in residual pesticides. EWG research has found that people who eat five fruits and vegetables a day from the 'Dirty Dozen' list consume an average of 10 pesticides a day while those that eat from the 'Clean 15' list ingest fewer than 2 pesticides a day. EWG recommends that if you desire a 'Dirty Dozen' food you opt to buy it organically grown. For more information, including the Shopper's Guide To Pesticides, go to www.foodnews.org a website associated with the:



BCCD Spring NewsNotes

If you missed our spring 2010 NewsNotes visit our website www.belknapccd.org to view.

Move to Form Local Ag Resource Center

Karen Barker is the force behind a grassroots initiative to repurpose the now vacant NH State Prison in Laconia to house an agricultural resource center. On July 28th approximately 25 people met to share their ideas and vision. To attend future meetings please contact Karen at telephone 528-8560.



Sunny Days at Picnic Rock Farms

Ward Bird, of Picnic Rock Farms in Meredith, is one of several commercial farmers in the area that use solar energy to help power their irrigation systems. Solar panels power a pump that draws water from irrigation ponds to a 'storage bag', similar to a cistern. From there gravity draws the water through drip irrigation hoses that service approximately 5 acres of land used to grow produce. Ward says the yearly supply and maintenance costs for the system are very reasonable and the value of the energy saved is remarkable. The cost of materials and installation of the drip irrigation system were, in part, met through grants and 'sweat equity' of the farm staff. Many grants pay a portion of the cost for a project and ask that the project recipient pay either out of pocket or donate their time and resources toward the completion of the project. For more information on drip irrigation or project funding assistance please contact BCCD at telephone 527-5880.