



Lamoille County Conservation District News

Conserving Our Natural Resources Since 1945

Fall 2026

Letter from Alice Weis, Clean Water Grant Manager

I've come to LCNRCD after a string of seasonal jobs where my tasks ranged from seed collection, to building stormwater infrastructure, to banding loons. I fell into the work almost accidentally, applying for a local watersheds restoration crew job that started shortly after my graduation from Sterling College. I didn't have to plant very many trees during that spring season before realizing I had found something I would be sticking with.

Ecological restoration is a necessary gift back to the land that provides us all the resources we need to live. Water, in particular, is one of the most vital of these resources. Recently, I attended a training with The Nature Conservancy to learn more about Strategic Woody Additions, or SWAs—a growing stream restoration practice that involves felling trees into rivers to provide fish habitat, diversify stream flow, and catch sediment.



Historically, streams in Vermont have been straightened and cleared, increasing their velocity and erosive force. Before the 20th century, the state was almost completely deforested, removing source material of wood that naturally falls into streams and rivers. SWAs begin to remedy this. They fall into a category of project called "Process Based Restoration". In these project types, structures made from natural materials are installed, kicking off a natural process which will continue to restore beneficial ecological functions without further human intervention.

Lamoille County Conservation District

Letter from Alice Weis, continued

When an SWA is first installed, it looks like no more than a pile of wood in the river, only discernible as human-made by the cuts at the ends of the logs. As water rises behind SWAs, the stream reconnects with its floodplain, which can hold water in place to percolate into the land during flood events. Sediment will build up behind them instead of washing downstream. Deep pools form behind the additions, providing cold water habitats for trout and other organisms. The benefits to habitat, water quality, and flood resilience are innumerable.

I look forward to bringing more of these practices to the waterways of Lamoille County. As the Clean Water Grant Manager, I'm excited to implement process based restoration projects like these that will improve water quality not only in our community, but in those downstream from us. If you have a stream on your land that you think could benefit from SWA installation, please reach out.

Yours,

Alice Weis

Clean Water Grant Manager



Alice earned a BA in Ecology from Sterling College in Craftsbury. They have done field work across Vermont and New Hampshire in watershed ecosystem restoration, stormwater management, wildlife biology, and habitat conservation.

Alice.Weis@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

2026 Project Updates

Wolcott Town Forest

Lamoille County NRCD received DEC-CWIP (Clean Water Initiative Program) funding through the Lamoille CWSP (Clean Water Service Provider) to address areas of erosion in the Wolcott Town Forest. This project will bring more than 5000 feet of forest roads up to the Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs) for Maintaining Water Quality standard. Work will include both road closure and reclamation of eroded areas by grading, shaping, installing water bars, seeding, and mulching. Work is expected to conclude later this fall.



10 Bends, Hyde Park

Through a grant from the Lamoille Clean Water Service Provider, Lamoille County Conservation District contracted Watershed Consulting to create a preliminary design for a possible flood restoration project in Hyde Park in the 10 Bends area. This project is in the early design phase, but if completed, could significantly reduce phosphorus in the Lamoille watershed.

Wild Branch Culverts, Eden

This project, in collaboration with Stone Environmental, will replace two perched and undersized culverts on Wild Branch, which is a tributary to the Gihon River. The existing perched culverts do not allow for aquatic organisms to pass upstream along Wild Branch, while the undersized culvert increases the velocity of the water, thereby increasing the erosive forces downstream of each culvert. This project will fund full engineering designs.



Emily.PorterGoff@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

2026 Project Updates, Continued

West Loop Rd, Elmore

This summer plans were completed for storm water reduction practices on West Loop Rd. Homeowners along the road worked closely with Fitzgerald Environmental Associates and our District to analyze problem areas of the road and trouble shoot for solutions using best practices. The preliminary designs have been completed and we look forward to proceeding with the final designs and getting these practices in place.



Northwest
Regional Planning
Commission

Silver Ridge, Morrisville

Silver Ridge Rd has a history of storm water issues stemming from commercial land use and other residential properties in the area, which drain through outdated and undersized storm water infrastructure. This has been creating runoff pollution and issues for the receiving residences. We have been working with Fitzgerald Environmental Associates to create final designs for storm water practices which will reduce phosphorus entering the Lamoille River as well as reduce the costs of property upkeep due to the erosive forces of storm water.



Emily.PorterGoff@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

Gratitude To Our LCCD Members!

Thank you to our valued Members. Your support is vital to our conservation work.

2026 Members List

Robert Whitely, James Merikangas, Martin Hodge, Jennifer Isabell, Michael Gaydos, Douglas Varney, Lisa Gosselin, Janice Girard, William & Donna Putnam, Mark & Barb Storch in memory of our dog Lily, Charlie Davis, Laura Weickert, Ann Nichols, Trudy Louson, Richard Rubin, Frank Peterson, Denise & Todd Greene, Omar Graddock, Kim Cotnoir, Janet & MJ Shaw, Stacey & William Schaaf, David Pound, Frank & Brenda Mills, Brian & Nan Doyal, Thomas & Tatjana Cady, Howard VanBenthuyts, Melissa Rose, Alan Peister, Eric Nua, Jessica Moore, Pixie Loomis, Dorcus Jones, Gail Seitz, Ayelet Barkai, Jerry Throne, David Siu, Kim Nichols in Memory of Jeanette & Gert Lepine, Susan & Donald Miller, Lindsay E. Ingalls, Geoffrey & Martha Bentley, Bruce Shields, Cynthia & Charlie Yerrick, Samantha Yeatman, Paul Louviere, Chris & Amy Whitlock, Jan & Richard Bailey, Ted Alexander Jr, Laurie Rakowski, Richard Heh, Kathleen & Andrew Knittle, Michael Snyder & Kristen Sharpless, CJ & Gale Seitz, Michael & Louisa Pfaelzer, Roy & Marcia Marble, Nick Crandall & Sarah Tousignant, Anne & Mike Cassidy, Anne Marie Bahr, Bob & Nancy Durand, Ron & Judy Stancliff, Benjamin Sklardki, Liz & Tom Lackey, Penelope & Frank J Harris III, Katie Grenon, Alice & Gary Godin, Stephen & Mary Donohoe



Lamoille County NRCD Supervisors

Chair: Fran Sladyk
Vice Chair: Martha Battle
Treasurer: Sarah Ford
Supervisor: Brian Jones
Supervisor: Jim Pease

Gratitude and Appreciation to LCCD's Generous Members:

Steward: Daniel A. & Marlaina Hunter, Concept 2 Inc.

Supporters: Howard Manosh, Frank Mills, Edward & Mary Ann Wilson, Gary & Nancy Banks, John & Faith Parker, Jeff & Penni Rochette, David Harrison, Laura Selfors, Leighton C Detora, Fran Sladyk, Donald & Noella Tillotson, Peter & Shirley Opstrup

Current Member Benefits

Members receive \$50 off summer camps, first choice on tree & trout sales, and discounts on tree & trout sales.

Visit our website to renew or begin your membership!

Buy T-Shirts!

lcnrcd.com/gear

LCCD Staff

District Manager: Emily Porter-Goff
Assistant District Manager/Education: Willow Longo
Nursery Manager/Agriculture: Sarah Skelding
Agricultural Program Manager: Emily Lughart
Clean Water Grant Manager: Alice Weis



Lamoille County Conservation District

New Membership Benefits Guide

New Membership Benefits Starting December 1st

Prices
increase
December 1st

Single-\$50

- First Choice on tree and Trout Sale
- 10% Discount Tree and Trout Sale
- Your name in the Newsletter

Sponsor-\$275

- All of Supporter benefits, plus:
- Free Pavilion rental once per year

Family-\$75

- All of the Single benefits, plus:
- \$50 Discount on all youth camps

Steward-\$500

- All of the Sponsor benefits, plus
- Free tree from Tree Sale

Supporter-\$150

- All of Family benefits, plus:
- Your name gets special gratitude in the newsletter
- Free T-Shirt

Business-\$700

- All of the Steward benefits, plus
- Your company logo in our newsletter, on our website, and on our pavilion
- Membership is tax-deductable

Information About New Membership Prices and Benefits

Lamoille NRCD is pleased to update membership benefits! We strive to offer membership benefits that are a reflection of our appreciation. These new benefits and pricing tiers will come into effect on December 1st. The benefits stack, so the higher priced tier receives all of the benefits of the tiers below. We no longer mail out newsletters, as it is costly, and most members reported reading the newsletter digitally. However, if you want a physical copy mailed to you, simply reach out and we will send one to you! All donations are tax-deductable.

Please email Willow with any
Membership questions

Willow.Longo@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

Board of Supervisors Updates

Supervisor Elections in December!

Do you want to get involved with the District?

- Lamoille District Supervisors have one spot opening in December.
- Being on the Board of Supervisors requires approximately 6 hours of time each month, including a Board of Supervisors meeting once per month.



How to Run for Lamoille Board of Supervisors

To have your name placed on the December 9, 2026 election ballot for the office of district supervisor, a person must obtain a minimum of twenty-five (25) signatures on nominating petitions. Anyone residing within Lamoille District may run for office of Conservation District Supervisor.

Anyone owning land and residing within Lamoille District may sign a nominating petition.

Supervisors for each Conservation District board are elected for a term of five (5) years. The deadline for submitting nominating petitions to Lamoille Conservation District office is November 3, 2026. [Petitions can be found on our website.](#)

Please email Willow with any
questions

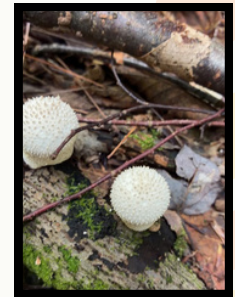
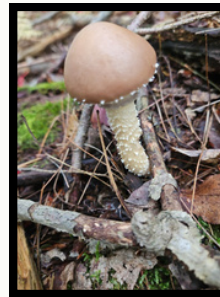
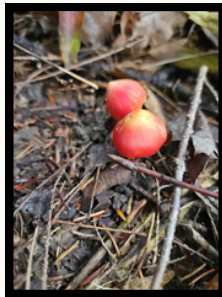
Willow.Longo@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

2026 Educational Program Updates

Mud City School Fall Session: Mushrooms and Mysteries

As the leaves brighten and fall, youth gather once-a-week to explore the forests and fields of the Lamoille Nature Center. This session is a youth-chosen theme embracing mycology (the study of mushrooms) and the world of mysteries. We have been searching (and finding!) a mushroom called Dyer's Polypore that we will use to dye wool. We have been identifying many of the mushrooms we find on the ground, learning their anatomy, and how they fit into the ecosystem. We have pressed fresh apple cider from the wild apples of the Nature Center, and spotted different kinds of animal scat. We have played games, and reflected on our learning. We are looking forward to the rest of this session, ending in late November. Willow Longo or Emily Porter-Goff would happy to hear from you if you have any questions.



Voices of the Riparian

With support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, we are offering a riparian education learning experience for public school classes grades 1-4. Over the course of four classroom visits, we will explore questions like what is a riparian zone? Who depends on riparian zones and how can we protect and improve those near us? We will build 3D models of riparian zones and head on a field trip to see a riparian zone nearby. Please contact Emily Porter-Goff if you are a teacher interested in this opportunity.



Willow.Longo@LamoilleNRCD.org

Emily.PorterGoff@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

Educational Program Updates, Continued



Mud City Forest Camps

Camps this summer were as busy and joyful as always. Emily Porter-Goff, Willow Longo, and a Vermont State University intern hosted four full camps on topics such as Fantasy Worlds, Vikings, Fairies, and Wild Exploring. Youth aged 5+ frolicked, explored, played, celebrated, and sang together at the Lamoille Nature Center. We will miss the fun and all the kids as we head into colder weather, but look out for camp registration opening in January! Feel free to reach out to Willow Longo with any questions.



Conservation Learning In Classrooms Through Our Jr Naturalist Program

This October we'll kick off our Junior Naturalist program learning about bats: their favorite foods, the basics of bat biology, and what it's like being a baby bat. Alice will visit three schools in the area to teach this hands-on curriculum to preschool and elementary age students. We have new topics every month; beavers, solar power, and snow ecology are coming up next. If you're interested in learning more, or having the Junior Naturalist Program come to your classroom, reach out to Alice Weis.



Willow.Longo@LamoilleNRCD.org

Alice.Weis@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

Educational Program Updates, Continued



Send Us Art and Creative Writing

Lamoille County Conservation District is seeking art and creative writing to include in our newsletters. We are open to most nature-themed pieces, and would prefer short-form creative writing, due to space limitations. Please email your submissions to Willow Longo by March 1st 2027 with the words: "Spring 2027 Newsletter Submission" in the subject. We accept submissions from all ages.



Wild Focus: Reconnecting with our Natural Heritage

Through the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership between the National Parks Services and Lake Champlain Basin Program, LCCD received a grant titled Wild Focus: Reconnecting with our Natural Heritage. This project aims to connect the general public with the natural world through an interpretive trail at the Lamoille County Nature Center. We are looking for two teachers who are interested in getting kids outdoors installing signs, exploring the trails, and helping to create some of the curriculum. Contact Willow Longo to get involved.



Willow.Longo@LamoilleNRCD.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

2026 Agricultural Updates

Locally Led Conservation Funding

The Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District (LCNRCD) is pleased to announce locally led conservation funding available for Soil Health Practices for Water Quality and Flood Resiliency. This project addresses natural resource concerns identified and prioritized by our community through the locally led process. The intent of this funding is to improve soil health on farms while mitigating water quality and weather impacts. The application deadline was September 25, 2026.



Scheduling Soil Sampling Now for Fall or Spring

Need current soil tests to update your NMP? Experiencing weedy pastures or declining yields? Or just curious about available nutrients in your soils? LCNRCD provides free soil sampling to farms and covers lab fees for up to 10 samples. Contact Emily Lugthart For more information or to schedule a site visit.

We want to hear from you! Please fill out our [farmer survey](#) or email Emily Lugthart to let us know about topics that are of interest.

emily.lugthart@lamoillenrcd.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

2026 Agricultural Updates, Continued

Nutrient Management Planning

Vermont's Required Agriculture Practices (RAPs) require farms of a certain size (Certified Small, Medium, and Large) to keep updated Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) for each season. Are you a CSFO, MFO, or LFO in Lamoille County? If so, we can assist with creating or updating a 2027 plan. For more information or to schedule a time to meet, email Emily Lugthart.



Riparian Tree Plantings

Vermont's RAPs require a minimum 25' perennial buffer on surface water and 10' perennial buffer on ditches. Buffers that consist of trees and shrubs can have the greatest impact on water quality and flood resilience. Deep roots help stabilize soil and reduce erosion; plant debris helps slow runoff and increase infiltration; and trees help reduce flooding through water absorption and evaporation. For more information about tree planting and funding programs that assist with implementing riparian buffers on farms, email Sarah Skelding.



Farmer Survey

LCNRCD is here to assist Lamoille County farmers in management practices that preserve and protect our natural resources so that our farms can be productive for generations to come. Our assistance is free, confidential, and non-regulatory. Please fill out this brief, confidential survey to let us know what programs and services you use or would like to use so that we may better assist you!

emily.lugthart@lamoillenrccd.org

sarah.skelding@lamoillenrccd.org

Lamoille County Conservation District

Notes from the Nursery

Wild Apples at the Lamoille County Nature Center

Wild apple trees abound along the road and clearings at the Lamoille County Nature Center. The 40-acre parcel, owned by LCNRCD, was once an old farmstead; as fields reverted to a semi-wild state, apple trees, too, escaped the confines of cultivation. Such feral trees are notably distinct from their cultivated relatives. Some are tall and lanky; others are short and shrubby. Some have multiple trunks growing from the same root system, wrapped around each other in a tight embrace. The canopies of these trees are dark and dense, thick with half-decayed limbs. Their fruit comes in all shapes, sizes, and colors, and collectively, they tell a story about the land..



Food Forest Crab at the Lamoille County Nature Center

Lamoille County Conservation District

Notes from the Nursery, continued

Wild Apples at the Lamoille County Nature Center

2026 was a good year for apples at the Nature Center. While there on a sunny, breezy day in mid-September, I took a sampling of its fruit. Wild apples get a bad rap for being too small or sour to eat, and those varieties that comprise the modern diet are just a tiny percentage of all the apples that have ever existed, but wild apples offer a complexity of flavors and uses that many cultivated varieties do not. After cutting back brush along the path, I took an apple from a tree growing near the pavilion, which Forest School students had pruned the previous spring.



From there, I walked across the road. Acres of chest-high purple asters filled the meadow, the sound of bees like highway traffic. Farther along, in the food forest, I harvested a small fruit from a 10-foot tall, heavily pruned tree, and a larger fruit from a 25-foot unpruned tree. Across the footbridge and nearing the road on the other side, I used a pole pruner to pull down a striped, red apple growing near the property line. And on the road, I picked a single tree within a hedgerow of red and yellow apples, hawthorn, chokecherries, and white ash. I passed more wild apples on my short walk than I could harvest and sample.



Apple pomace spread in a nursery bed



Lamoille County Conservation District

Notes from the Nursery, continued

Below are tasting notes of those selected:

Leaning Road Apple – medium-sized, round with red stripes over yellow, white flesh. Sweet-tart and moderately crisp and juicy.

Food Forest Crab – 1 ½", green with red blush and prominent, areolar dots; russet on stem end. Green flesh with tough outer skin. Crisp, dry, and sweet.

Pavilion Apple (possibly a cultivated variety) – medium, roundish, with red over green and prominent dots. Splashy green on stem end, pale green flesh. Moderately crisp, juicy, and sweet.

Food Forest Old Giant Apple – medium, round with red blush over yellow, and red dots. Russet on stem end, white flesh. Crisp, juicy, and moderately tart.

Across from Greenhouse Apple – medium, roundish-oblately, prominent red stripes over green, and prominent dots. White flesh; crisp, juicy, moderately tart, and slightly astringent.



From left to right: Food Forest Old Giant, Food Forest Crab Tree, Apple Sampler

Lamoille County Conservation District

Notes from the Nursery, continued

What does this say about the land, about its soils, its history, its human and wild inhabitants? I am not fluent in the language of the landscape, but I imagine it draws an invisible thread between past and present, from forest to farm to early successional fields. It speaks of the animals, both wild and human, who have made the land their home, their tastes and the paths they have walked. Today, this story of the land continues. On a Thursday in late September, Forest School students collected apples from dozens of trees (including those sampled above) and pressed them into cider. It was a quintessential fall day: cool, foggy morning gave way to blue sky and sweater-sheddings as the students took turns cranking the grinder and the press, like countless generations before them. The next day, I spread the spent pressings (pomace) in a nursery bed, and covered it with compost and wood chips. Separated from the pulp and in contact with the soil, these thousands of seeds will have a chance to sprout and grow into individual trees. In time, each might come to tell a new story about the land.



We will be updating our website soon with information about the 2027 tree sale! In the meantime, feel free to email Sarah at sarah.skelding@lamoillenrcd.org with any questions.



Apples collected at Lamoille Nature Center

Lamoille County Conservation District

Upcoming Events

October 15th

Lamoille County Conservation District Board of Supervisors' Meeting

10am-12pm at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661

November 3rd

Board of Supervisor Election Petitions Due

9am-3:00pm 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661

November 11th

Lamoille County Conservation District Board of Supervisors' Meeting

10am-12pm at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661

December TBA

CEMA and Soil Health Testing Workshop

Are you interested in learning more about soil health on your farm and what it can tell you about your management? This workshop will explore interpreting soil health results and soil health funding opportunities. Keep a lookout for additional information about this hybrid remote and in-person workshop planned for December 2026, details TBA.

December 9th

Lamoille County Conservation District Board of Supervisors' Meeting

Election Meeting

10am-12pm at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661

January 13th

Lamoille County Conservation District Board of Supervisors' Meeting

10am-12pm at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661

February 10th

Lamoille County Conservation District Board of Supervisors' Meeting

10am-12pm at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT 05661



Lamoille County Conservation District
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Fall 2026 Newsletter

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