

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Letter From the Nursery Manager

Sunny and 60. Overcast and 40. Old snow sloughing off hillsides. Rain, wind, ice, sleet. In other words: a typical March and the time of year when plant lovers start dreaming of the ripe, earthy scent of awakening soil. Last fall, we began establishing our new native plant nursery, funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, to supply plants for our annual tree sale and restoration projects in the region. The Lamoille County Nature Center was humming with activity as a site was prepared for the greenhouse, a fence was built, and trees and shrubs were planted with help from Mud City Forest School students to provide future seeds for the nursery.

All winter, evidence of that activity lay beneath a thick layer of snow, marked only by tracks of animals crossing the field in search of food and shelter. Starting this spring, the Nature Center will once again be a center of activity. Soil will be uncovered; 1,500 starts will be planted in the nursery, where they will spend their early years before being transplanted to backyards, streambanks, and wetlands to support water quality, wildlife habitat, and restoration; the greenhouse will be constructed in early summer; and participants of the Forest School and summer camps will bring their youthful energy and enthusiasm for the natural world.

For those who want to add new life to your own home landscapes, our annual trout and tree sales are scheduled for April 29th and May 2nd, respectively. Pre-order on our website: www.lamoillenrcd.org. New this year, pick-up for the plant sale will be at the Lamoille County Nature Center and will feature a full morning of activities, including art projects, trail exploration, and a tree planting workshop and demonstration from 11:30-12:30. There will also be t-shirts and compost for sale. We look forward to seeing you there this spring!



Contact Sarah Skelding for more information about our nursery and Tree and Trout Sales.

Email: LCCD.ag.ss@gmail.com

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Gratitude and appreciation to our 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

LCCD Staff

Emily Porter-Goff, District Manager
Sarah Skelding, Agricultural Program Specialist
Emily Lughart Agricultural Program Specialist
Willow Longo, Public Relations and Education Coordinator

Thank you to our current members! If your name is not on this list, please renew your membership. If you are a current member and you do not see your name listed, please let us know.

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

Program Participation 2025

Educational Programs	1431
Volunteers	50
Trainings & Workshops	47
Sales Customers	150
Farms Assisted	12
Conservation Program Partners	58
Total Participants	1748

Lamoille County NRCD Supervisors

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

Get a Tee Shirt! www.lcnrcd.com/gear



LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Education Updates

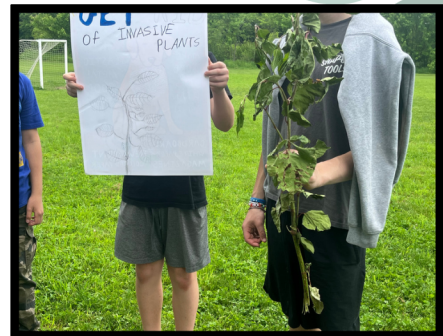
Mud City Forest School Update

Mud City Forest School completed two sessions over the Fall: one in Milton, at Sharp Park, and the other at our original site in Morrisville. This spring, we are focusing on our original site, and the program is completely full! We have youth aged 7-14 and the focus is Vermont birds. Youth are creating guidebooks, art, and a project to help their bird (bird houses, nesting material holders, etc). Youth are enjoying the spring, learning to build safe fires, identifying native plants, and cooking together as a community.



Flood Resilience at the High School Level

Lake Champlain Basin Program and NEWIPCC funded a high school level flood resilience education program for Lamoille County youth. LCCD educators Emily and Willow have been working with two 9th grade classes and one 12th grade class to delve into the science of flooding. Youth will be participating in local action projects that benefit the community. Stay tuned for updates on their work!



Junior Naturalist Continues to Thrive

We are delighted to be bringing our junior naturalist program to Morrisville elementary school this year. We will be working with every class through all grades throughout the calendar year. Students are enjoying these active, hands-on learning experiences and come with many great questions and observations about the natural world that they live in. Reach out now to reserve a spot for your school for the school year 2026/2027.



LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Educational Updates, Continued

***New* April Break Camp**

New this year! We are piloting our very first April break camp! This is a week-long day camp held at our nature center in Morrisville! Youth will be playing outside, creating art, playing games, learning about their surroundings, whittling, and so much more. We have room for more students, sign up on our website now!



Rewilding Our Lens

LCCD is pleased to announce that we have received a grant through The Champlain Valley Natural Heritage Partnership. This grant will allow LCCD to collaborate with local youth in order to create a lens themed interpretive trail experience at the Lamoille County Nature Center. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like to get involved, contact Willow at WillowL.LCCD@gmail.com

Mud City Summer Camps

Summer Camps are filling swiftly! We are offering 4 week-long day camps at our nature center: Fantastic Fairies and Where to Find Them, Viking Camp, Fantasy World Travelers, and Wild Explorers. LCCD camps aim to educate youth on preservation of the natural world, foster curiosity and creativity, and build community. We are always excited to see returning youth and meet new campers both.

Contact Emily Porter-Goff

Email: EmilyLCCDedu@gmail.com

Contact Willow Longo

Email: WillowL.LCCD@gmail.com



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Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Youth Art Gallery

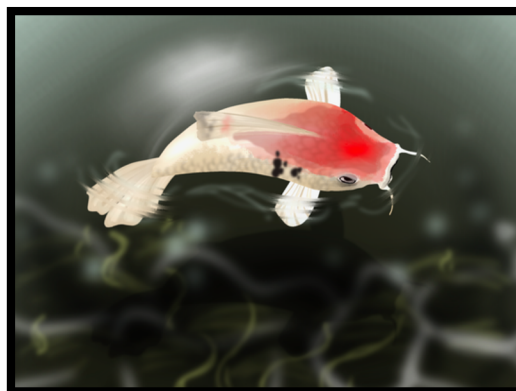
New for this newsletter, LCCD is proud to present the creative work of youth artists. LCCD is hoping to showcase both adult and youth art and creative writing in the Fall Newsletter (see below for submission directions). Connecting with the environment is vital, and an important part of our mission. Art is one way of multitudes that we can connect with, and celebrate our wild surroundings.



"Osprey" By Alice Longo



"Duck Pouch" by Ivy Forsyth



"Koi" by Zephyr Métiévier

To submit artwork and creative writing for the Fall Newsletter:

Nature-themed art work and creative writing should be original and submitted by the artist/author. The deadline for the Fall Newsletter is October 1st 2026.

We are accepting nature-themed art and creative writing from both youth and adults. Please indicate if your submission is for the Youth or Adult Galleries. Creative Writing must be short form.

Email: Willow.LCCD@gmail.com with "Fall 2026 Art Submission" as the subject line

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Agricultural Updates

Locally Led Conservation

Locally Led Conservation is a process that emphasizes community stakeholder involvement in natural resource planning, implementation of solutions, and evaluation of results. The process begins with the community itself, working through the local Conservation Districts. It is based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to address local resource challenges.



Photo by Julia King



Photo by Julia King

Each winter for the last 3 years, Lamoille County NRCD, in partnership with Franklin and Grand Isle NRCDs, has organized a partners meeting, survey, and community dinner to inform how funds from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be spent on local resource concerns in the region, as well as the work of the Conservation Districts. In the winter of 2024- 2025, this process led to the creation of the following NRCS EQIP funding pools to address priority concerns in each county:

- Lamoille County: \$200,000 for forest structure & health
- Franklin County: \$1.5 million for farmstead & infrastructure improvements
- Grand Isle County: \$300,000 for soil health

NRCS is in the process of ranking and preapproving forest structure and health projects with the fiscal year 2026 Locally Led funding.

This winter 2025 -2026, the Locally Led process led to the creation of a Soil Health for Water Quality & Flood Resilience proposal which Lamoille County NRCD submitted to the NRCS for approval. If approved, funding will be available for Fiscal Year 2027 NRCS applications within Lamoille County.

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Agricultural Updates, Continued

Technical Assistance Available to Farmers and Producers

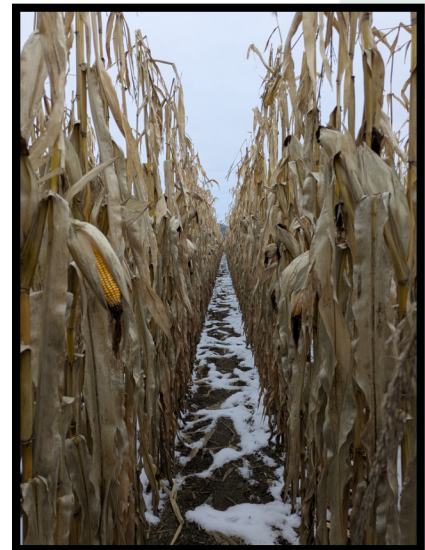
Lamoille County NRCDC offers a range of free technical assistance to farmers and other producers within Lamoille County. Please reach out to emilyl.lccd@gmail.com or lccd.ag.ss@gmail.com!

Soil Sampling

Need current soil tests to update your NMP? Experiencing weedy pastures or declining yields? Or just curious about available nutrients in soils? LCNRCDC provides free soil sampling and soil test results interpretation.

Nutrient Management Planning

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is required of all Certified Small Farm Operations (CSFOs), Medium Farm Operations (MFOs), and Large Farm Operations (LFOs). A NMP is a certified plan for applying nutrients using the right amount, source, timing and method, based on regular soil tests and management strategies, in order to reduce erosion, runoff, and leaching of excess nutrients into our waterways. We can provide financial and technical assistance for producers going through the UVM Extension's six-week NMP course and writing an NMP for the first time. We also provide assistance with soil and manure sampling and updates to existing plans. For more information, visit the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Market's NMP webpage.



Grant Writing + Funding Navigation

There are a wealth of technical service providers and cost-share programs available to assist farmers in Vermont, but navigating the various resources and programs can feel like a full-time job. LCNRCDC offers grant writing assistance and ag funding navigation services to farmers and other agricultural producers.

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Agricultural Updates, Continued

Soil Health and Weather Resilience

Soil health focuses on how well a soil performs all of its functions including supporting plant and animal life, biodiversity, and environmental health. Improved soil health also means soil is better able to support livestock and crop productivity. Increasingly erratic weather patterns including heavy rain events and periods of drought place further importance in prioritizing soil health across Vermont's landscape.



The United State's Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service recommends four major principles for building and maintaining healthy soils: minimize soil disturbance, maximize soil cover, maximize biodiversity, and maximize the presence of living roots. These principles all help minimize soil erosion and build up soil organic matter. Soil organic matter helps soil act like a sponge allowing it to better absorb, hold, and slowly release water. Farming practices like no-till, crop rotation, cover crops, and rotational grazing can help improve soil health on farmland, but these soil health principles apply to all human managed landscapes. Taking steps to improve biodiversity in your backyard by planting native plants and making sure there is adequate ground cover can help improve local soil health.

Soil Health and Flood Resilience Workshop

We are planning a soil health workshop for farmers and community members that dives into how improving soil organic matter can lead to better soil water holding capacity and water infiltration. Be on the lookout for additional information about this workshop later this spring!

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

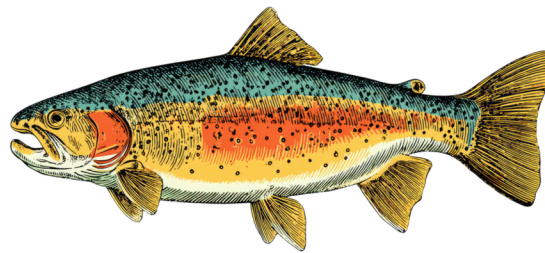


Tree & Trout Edition Spring 2026

Tree & Trout Sale Information

2026 Trout Sale

Pickup/delivery for our annual spring trout sale is on Wednesday, April 29th. Pickup of 6-8" trout will be from 12:00pm-1:00pm at Oxbow Park in Morristown. Deliveries of 10-12" trout will be made throughout the afternoon. Place an order by filling out the [online form](#), or request a printed form by emailing Sarah at lccd.ag.ss@gmail.com. Visit our [website](#) for more information. Order deadline is April 22nd.



2026 Spring Tree Sale

Pickup for our annual spring tree sale is on Saturday, May 2nd from 9:00am-12:30pm at the Lamoille County Nature Center in Morristown. Pre-order your native trees and shrubs by filling out the [online form](#), or request a printed form by emailing Sarah at lccd.ag.ss@gmail.com. Visit our [website](#) for current availability and species descriptions. Order deadline is April 24th.

Didn't get your order in on time? We will have limited trees and shrubs available for sale day-of, while inventory lasts. In addition, there will be t-shirts and 5 gallon bags of Lamoille Soil compost for sale, guided trail exploration, and art projects. We look forward to seeing you there!



Lamoille County Conservation District Annual Tree Sale

PICK UP AT OUR NEW NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

*Native
Trees!*

We will have for sale:

- Extra trees and shrubs
- T-Shirts
- Compost

Cash or check accepted

For more information contact:
Sarah Skelding
LCCD.AG.SS@gmail.com

LamoilleNRCD.org

ORDERS DUE

- Friday April, 24th 2026

PICK UP DAY

- Saturday, May 2, 2026

LOCATION

- 1600 Cole Hill Rd. Morrisville, VT 05661

PICK UP TIME

- 9am-12:30pm

ACTIVITIES

- 11:30am-12:30pm Planting Workshop
- Mud City Forest School & Camp Table
- Art Project
- Explore the trails
- T Shirt Sales
- Compost for sale! (\$3 per 5 gallon bag)
- Extra trees and shrubs for sale!



LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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Tree Sale Featured Species

Quaking Aspen - Known for its leaves that shimmer in the breeze, quaking aspen is a fast-growing pioneer species that establishes in recently disturbed areas, helping to stabilize soils and jumpstart reforestation. Growing up to 60' tall, quaking aspen is extremely hardy and tolerates a range of soil conditions, but prefers moist, well-drained soils. Buds, bark, and leaves provide food for wildlife, and standing dead creates nesting habitat for birds. Trees are often interconnected via a single root system which supplies water and nutrients, and thus makes it resilient to continued disturbance.

Red Maple - a medium-sized native tree that grows up to 60' tall. Broad adaptability to temperature and soil type may make it more resilient to climate change than other species of maple. Often planted as an ornamental, buds, twigs, flowers, and foliage color the landscape red throughout the seasons. Red maple is an important host species for moths, native bees, and other pollinators. Its seeds provide food for birds and small mammals, and branches and hollows provide nesting sites. Like sugar maple, red maple can be tapped for its sap.

Speckled Alder - an extremely hardy native shrub that grows up to 15' tall, speckled alder is often used for streambank stabilization and wetland restoration. A nitrogen-fixing species, it can be found growing in the sandy, well-drained soils along rivers, and can help restore degraded soils. Beavers, moose, white-tailed deer, snow shoe hare, and grouse feed on the buds, twigs, and bark; many species of birds eat the seeds in autumn. Alder thickets provide dense, protective cover for birds and mammals.

Swamp White Oak - growing up to 60' tall, swamp white oak does well in floodplains, swamps and poorly drained soils, both upland and adjacent to wetlands. Flood-resilient and hardy to zones 4-8, it appears to be highly adaptable to a changing climate. The acorns of this long-lived species are favored by wild turkeys, squirrels, deer, ducks, and other animals; spreading branches provide habitat.

LAMOILLE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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Upcoming Events

March 12th–May 28th

Mud City Forest School Spring Session

April 15th:

Lamoille County Conservation District Board Meeting from 10AM–12PM at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT.

April 20th–April 24th:

April Break Camp for youth ages 7+ at our Nature Center in Morrisville! Check out our website to register now.

April 22nd:

Deadline for trout orders

April 24th:

Deadline for tree orders

April 29th:

6–8" trout pick-up from 12PM–1PM at Oxbow Park

April 29th–April 30th:

10–12" Trout delivery (Please see the trout order form for details)

May 2nd:

Tree Planting Workshop and Demonstration & Tree Pick-up Day

Join us at our annual spring tree sale for a hands-on workshop and planting demonstration when you pick up your tree orders! Help establish plants in our new native plant nursery while learning about planting technique, care, and maintenance for your young trees and shrubs. Please send RSVP to Sarah at lccd.ag.ss@gmail.com if you plan on attending.

Also at the Tree Pick Up Day, learn About Mud City Forest Schools and Camps! Meet the teachers, complete an art project, and explore the Nature Center.

May 20th:

Lamoille County Conservation District Board Meeting from 10AM–12PM at 109 Professional Drive, Suite 2, Morrisville, VT.



Spring 2026 Newsletter
Lamoille County Conservation District

Our Sponsors

