The holidays are over, but one song is still playing through my head: *All I want for Christmas is you*. Because your participation – above and beyond what you’re already doing – is what we most want here at the Conservation District. Probably you are already doing something to steward our natural resources – maybe you plant native shrubs for the birds, maybe you build soil health by cover cropping or maybe you volunteer picking up roadside litter. Thank you, and we are making progress. At the same time, everyone would like to see faster progress, and everyone can see something that someone else should be doing better.

Here are some of the key things I hear again and again from community members and scientists that we need individuals to do to get us to the good fishing and swimming conditions we want:

- Plant trees or shrubs along streambanks and lake shores
- Restore wetlands and floodplains
- Upgrade lakefront septic systems
- Improve maintenance of driveways and private roads
- Manage storm water from roofs and paved areas
- Leave permanent “grassed waterways” in areas of crop fields that tend to wash out

Often there are clear benefits for you in addition to cleaner water, like better bird watching or easier maintenance of your driveway. Sometimes these projects also require a change of perspective. For example, my aunt loved her clear view of the lake from her camp, but five years ago she agreed to plant a low buffer of blueberry bushes and other shrubs. Now she picks berries from that buffer with her grandkids, and her lake view is framed by leaves and flowers. In a similar way, many farmers have changed their vision of a perfect cornfield from one with impeccably bare soil between the rows to one protected by a cover crop and residue from the previous year.

Our State has allocated substantial taxpayer money to clean up our waters, but money can’t buy us further improvement without community members participating on their land. At the Conservation District we can connect you to the experts or information you need to undertake any of these projects, and often funding, too.

To help you take advantage of the broad array of opportunities available, the Conservation District will be launching bi-monthly email updates this year for people who opt in. We will share information on workshops (think topics like driveway maintenance, septic solutions, tree care, or wildlife tracking); programs that pay for conservation work on your land; volunteer opportunities; availability of new data; and opportunities for public engagement in clean water policy.

So I ask everyone to consider – what more can you give this year to improve the health of our community’s natural resources? Because all we need this year is you. 

-Jeannie Bartlett, District Manager

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**Time to place your orders for trees, trout, mushrooms and hops**

It's still winter, but spring is just around the corner! We’re using early-bird pricing again this year so that we can finalize arrangements with our suppliers on-time. The prices on the enclosed order form are valid through February 28, after which most listings will rise by $1 each.

We have two native shrubs discounted to $5 for their wildlife benefits, and this year we’re piloting two new offerings: mushroom-growing supplies and hops bines!

If you’d like to plant 50 trees or more, we may be able to match you with a funder who will pay for the trees, in recognition of their benefit to our environment.

As always, feel free to stop by the office or give a call with any questions. We look forward to seeing you and your trees!

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**Let’s keep in touch!**

Email franklincountynrcd@gmail.com or call 528-4176 to sign up for bi-monthly conservation opportunities, or for assistance with a conservation project.
The mission of the Franklin County Conservation District is to promote land use that supports human livelihoods and sustains ecosystems in Franklin County, VT. We empower and convene landowners and land-users to prioritize and address natural resource concerns through USDA and locally-developed programs. We recognize water quality and the continuance of our land-based economy as key concerns for Franklin County today.

Eric Noel shared from Jenn Colby, Vermont Grass Farmers Association

Vermont Grass Farmers Association and the world lost a great friend, advocate, educator, and leader on December 18 in the passing of Eric Noel, after a long illness.

Eric was a dairy farm kid turned racecar mechanic turned soil-building, regenerative-grazing beef farmer, success coach, and technical innovator. Eric served on the Vermont Grass Farmers Association (VGFA) board for the maximum number of years (5), four of those as President. He participated in the VT NRCS State Technical Committee and represented VGFA every year learning about NE regional grazing research through the Northeast Pasture Consortium. He actively hosted workshops, events, and on-farm research. He spoke widely about his experiences and shared his story about the power of livestock grazing and soil health. Most recently, Eric was part of an engineering team developing new technology on vertical takeoff aircraft, which will be on display in the Smithsonian later in the year. This is just a tiny glimpse into the caring, giving, visionary husband, parent and person we knew. Rest in Peace.

A celebration of life for Eric will be held in June.

[Eric was the son of Conservation District Treasurer Richard Noel and long-time Farm Services Agency Program Technician Maggie Noel. He was the brother of NRCS Soil Conservationist Sarah Noel Larose. Our hearts are with all Eric’s family as we remember his joyous life.]

District Assists Farms with Nutrient Management

The Conservation District again provided one-on-one assistance to eight small, family farms participating in UVM Extension’s Nutrient Management Planning class. The 2018 graduates, pictured below with UVM and District staff, completed Plans that conform to NRCS and State standards and will guide their applications of manure and other nutrients. The 2019 class is already underway, and the District and UVM are providing ongoing assistance to class alumni with record keeping and updates to plans. Contact Jeannie to inquire about the class for 2020. 528-4176 or franklincountynrcd@gmail.com

Help Direct Local Conservation Programs

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Conservation Districts are seeking your ideas to focus our outreach activities and cost share programs over the next year. Your feedback will be considered by regional professionals in resource management and agriculture, and it will be incorporated into the NRCS’s ranking system for awarding financial assistance to producers. Give us your thoughts using the survey on page 7 or at www.franklincountynrcd.org.

Daton Fleury Celebrates 50 Years on the Conservation District Board

Daton Fleury joined the Franklin County Conservation District as a Supervisor in 1968. He oversaw the completion of the Vermont Soil Survey in 1975 (pictured above, center) and has been a grass-based dairy farmer, maple sugarmaker, and reliable leader of resource conservation for his whole life. Daton also serves on the Board of the Missisquoi River Basin Association. We thank and congratulate Daton for his service, and wish him many more years of good health and guidance to the District. Thanks Daton!
Montgomery to host tree and shrub talk from Charlie Nardozzi

Wondering how to get the most benefit from the trees and shrubs of your yard and garden? Nationally recognized garden writer, radio and TV host, and frequent guest on VPR Charlie Nardozzi will cure your spring fever with tips for gardening with trees and shrubs. Hosted by the Montgomery Conservation Commission. See events listing.

Grazing Plans Class

In this four-session class, UVM Ext Grazing Specialist Cheryl Cesario will teach plant identification, pasture nutrition, paddock sizing, and more. Through the course you will develop a Grazing Plan specific to your farm that will improve your pastures and may improve your eligibility for NRCS financial assistance on grazing infrastructure. This opportunity is for anyone who currently owns cows, sheep or goats and wants to begin, expand, or improve their grazing system. Classes will meet Thursdays in March, 1 pm-2pm, in St. Albans. Cost is $40 and includes lunches and a copy of Sarah Flack’s book The Art and Science of Grazing. For more information or to register call Jeannie 528-4176 or email franklincountynrcd@gmail.com.

Precision Agriculture Forum – Save the date

The Farmers Watershed Alliance will be hosting the 2nd annual Precision Agriculture Forum this February. This year’s forum will host Art Graves and Claude Fortin as keynotes, presenting on how technology impacts crops all the way to the cow’s mouth, and the agronomic benefits of understanding precision agriculture technology’s role in farm management. Breakout sessions will be offered on concepts of feed management & feed tags, data management, and fertilizer planting recommendations. See events listing below. Email FarmersWatershedAllianceNW@gmail.com with any questions. Lunch included. More detailed presentation information, sponsors, and speakers TBA. We hope to see you there!

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Learn and practice caring for your trees under the guidance of long-time fruit-grower and nursery owner John Hayden. John will guide participants through selection, care and sharpening of tools; training young trees for long-term health; pruning for pest management and fruit production; and reclaiming abandoned orchards. Participants will then work in teams to try reinvigorating neglected apple trees! Hot drinks provided. March 23, 10am-12pm, three minutes from Bakersfield center. $10. Call Jeannie at 528-4176 or franklincountynrcd@gmail.com to register.

Regional Events

Interested in more workshops and events like these? Sign up for our bi-monthly events listing by emailing franklincountynrcd.org or calling 528-4176. Don’t use email? We’ll be sure to call you!

Jan 17 – Bird Diva Bridget Butler’s Birding Essentials: Learning to Look, 6:30pm, Barlow St. Community Center, St. Albans, $35, 524-1500 x *268
Jan 23 – NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting, 9:30am, 356 Mountain View Dr., Colchester, 951-6796
Feb 12 – Transferring the Farm Workshop, 9:00am - 3:30pm, Berlin office of UVM Ext., $10 (lunch included) 603-357-1600
Feb 15 – Precision Ag Forum, 10am-2pm, The Abbey, Enosburg Falls. Contact farmerswatershedalliancenw@gmail.com
Feb 21 – Bird Diva Bridget Butler’s Birding Essentials: Learning to Listen, 6:30pm, Barlow St. Community Center, St. Albans, $35, 524-1500 x *268
Feb 28 – No-Till and Cover Crop Symposium, Burlington, 524-6501
Mar 18 – Trees and shrubs for your garden with Charlie Nardozzi, 5:30pm, Montgomery Center Town Hall (Grange), 326-6728
Mar 21 – Bird Diva Bridget Butler’s Birding Essentials: Bird Behavior & Language, 6:30pm, Barlow St. Community Center, St. Albans, $35, 524-1500 x *268
Mar 23 – Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, 10am-12pm, Bakersfield, $10, 528-4176
Apr 18 – Bird Diva Bridget Butler’s Birding Essentials: Using Apps & eBird, 6:30pm, Barlow St. Community Center, St. Albans, $35, 524-1500 x *268
May (TBD) – Septic conference for lakeshore owners and industry professionals. Hosted by the Winooski NRCD: 778-3178
May 4 – District Tree Sale pick-up, see order form pgs 9-10
May 14 – District Trout Sale pick-up, see order form pg 8
Volunteers Needed to Monitor Precipitation

The Community Collaborative for Rain, Hail and Snow (CoCoRaHS) is a network of citizen scientists working across the country to measure and map precipitation. Data is used by the National Weather Service, emergency managers, USDA, students and teachers, farmers, Conservation Districts, and more. Unfortunately, there is currently very little data for Franklin County. Want to volunteer? You will need an approved rain gauge and basic training, then you will measure and report every precipitation event from your home. Help fill in a piece of the weather puzzle! Visit www.CoCoRaHS.org or call Jeannie at 528-4176 to learn more or sign up.

Business Planning & Succession Planning Services from the Viability Program

The Vermont Farm and Forest Viability Program offers business planning, business ownership succession planning, and technical assistance to enterprises that keep Vermont’s working landscape in production. These include: farm businesses of all sizes and sectors; food businesses that process, store, market, or distribute local agricultural products; and forest products businesses such as maple producers, consulting forestry firms, loggers, sawmills, craftspeople and more.

In addition, the program provides forestland ownership succession planning assistance to families who own forestland in Vermont.

These services are offered at no cost to the client, except for a $75 enrollment fee for the Viability Program’s 2-year business planning assistance program. Contact Liz at 828-3370.

We’ve moved!

The Franklin County Conservation District and St. Albans USDA Service Center moved from our old home at Valley Crossroads to the passport building at 50 South Main St., St. Albans. Enter around the back off Stebbins St.

Faces of Vermont Agriculture: New Video Series

Faces of Vermont Agriculture is a collection of short video profiles that highlight outstanding stewards of the land who live and farm in the Green Mountain State. These dedicated farmers tell us in their own words, “Why Conservation Matters”—to their bottom line, to the health and sustainability of the resources on and around their farm, and to the future of farming. They were unveiled recently on the farmers.gov blog with an introduction from one of the highlighted farms, Last Resort, in Monkton. Farm owner Eugenie Doyle wrote a beautiful piece to share what motivated her and her husband Sam to participate in the video series.

One of the featured farms is Franklin County’s own Choiniere Family Farm, in Highgate.

Listen and watch as these farmers share what motivates them to care for the land. We hope you will join us in sharing these videos on social media. VT NRCS and Peregrine Productions produced this series.
A Farm Bill for the Future adapted with permission from a blog post by Andrew Bahrenburg, Holly Rippon-Butler, and Erin Foster West for the National Young Farmers Coalition. Find the original post at www.youngfarmers.org.

On December 21, 2018 President Trump signed widely-supported bipartisan legislation authorizing a new Farm Bill. After months of tense negotiations between House and Senate leaders and a three-month lapse in Farm Bill authorization, the new Farm Bill creates:

- Increased and permanent funding to train the next generation of farmers;
- Increased and permanent funding to support veteran farmers, farmers of color, and indigenous farmers;
- Increased and permanent funding for programs that support local food and expand regional markets;
- More funding for farmland protection and reforms that will help farmers gain access to affordable land;
- Reforms to loan programs that increase flexibility for beginning farmers and reflect the increased cost of farmland;
- Establishment of a beginning farmer and rancher coordinator in each state;
- Authorization of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network to provide mental health resources to farmers and farmworkers who need them;
- Preservation of the Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

These wins are the result of years of organizing by the National Young Farmers Coalition and others: farmer surveys, listening sessions, testimony in front of Congress, hundreds of face-to-face meetings between farmers and their elected officials, and a series of stand-alone marker bills. When over 120 young farmers went to Capitol Hill in November for NYFC’s Leadership Convergence, these are the policies and programs they were asking for.

Collaborating to Enhance an Oxbow Ecosystem in Fairfax

Goose Pond is an oxbow pond rich with wildlife along the Lamoille River. When Flora Hurteau and her late husband conserved land there, they had trees planted along the pond’s edge and the high, eroding river bank. Four years later, though, only a fraction of trees had survived. This spring the Franklin Co. Conservation District and U.S. Fish & Wildlife (USFWS) arranged for a crew from the VT Youth Conservation Corps to spend three days clearing competing vegetation from around surviving trees, removing invasive shrub honeysuckle, and planting new trees. The new trees will now receive annual stewardship until they have become established above the height of the tall, dense grasses that surround them. The project is part of an ongoing effort by the District, NRCS, and USFWS to provide more follow-up on tree-planting projects.
Welcome Liza Lemieux

Liza Lemieux joined us this September as an ECO AmeriCorps Conservation Technician, bringing our staff team to three. After spending the last few years studying environmental science at the University of Vermont and working in the Agricultural & Environmental Testing Laboratory, she is excited to get things done to improve the quality of life, land, and water in her home state.

Scholarships

Are you a college student, or will you be this fall? The District awards $500 scholarships for students from Franklin County in conservation-related fields. Please contact our office for an application! All applications due by September 1st.

Tile Drainage: “Good” or “Bad”? by Liza Lemieux

Tile drainage can have many benefits. By more quickly draining extra water from a field, the field can be accessed sooner for planting, crop roots can grow farther down, compaction is reduced, and soil moisture is more often optimal for crop growth. These soil health improvements are key for maintaining productivity in the face of more frequent, intense precipitation and droughts we’ve been seeing in this region.

Unfortunately, because the drained water is flowing out of a pipe which often discharges directly into a stream or ditch, tile drainage also has potential to be a source of pollution. To better understand the impact of tile drainage on our streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds, some of the Vermont Conservation Districts and UVM Extension staff are participating in a three-year study of tile drainage, commissioned by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets.

We have just completed our first year of sampling tile outlets, representing a variety of crops, fertilization methods, tillage systems, soil types, soil phosphorus levels, field slopes, and lengths of tile line. Every other week, samplers go out to their tile outlet sites and collect water samples to be analyzed for total and dissolved phosphorus, total nitrogen, turbidity (a measure of the “cloudiness” of water), and an estimate of the amount of water flowing from the outlet at that point in time.

While the statewide data has yet to be compiled so we don’t have any formal results to share, simply looking at when we did and did not collect samples begins to tell a story about tile drainage. Beginning in December 2017, most of the tile outlets we sample were flowing regularly throughout the winter and into spring, with some very high flows during warmer periods. As the summer carried on, each of the outlets ran slower and slower, most drying up around June and all finally trickling to a stop by mid-September. After some fall rain and an early snow, in late November 2018 all our outlets were running. This information about seasonal fluctuations in tile outlet flow can help us to pinpoint when we might need to be worried about pollution, especially when it is paired with nutrient levels. With a year of data, we can begin to establish a baseline and identify patterns. However; even just the variability in our flow results highlights the complexity of tile drainage systems and emphasizes the importance of continuing to study these outlets in order to fully understand their impacts on agricultural fields and the greater environment.

Because recent legislation bans installation of new surface inlets, the study is looking to add sites with existing surface inlets to better understand their impact. If you’d be willing to include your tile outlet in the study (sites are anonymous!) please contact the District.

Interested in a paid position serving your own local working landscape? The Conservation Districts are frequently hiring. Watch vacd.org/jobs, or contact Jeannie for more information: 802-528-4176.

Positions through the ECO*AmeriCorps program will also be available again this spring. AmeriCorps service members serve for from Sept-Aug with a Vermont conservation organization furthering water quality or waste reduction. They receive a living stipend and training. Contact Dustin at 462-5222.

Local Directory:

USDA-NRCS & FSA, NW VT—527-1296
USDA Wetlands—855-794-3677 x239
VT DEC Wetlands—490-6758
U.S. Army Corps. Engineers—872-2893
Franklin County Forester—524-6501
UVM Ext. St. Albans—524-6501

Agency of Ag. Small Farm Certifiers:
N. Lake Direct Watershed—272-9636
Missisquoi Bay Watershed—782-3388
VT Land Trust—223-5234
VT Farm Viability Program—828-3370
FarmFirst prof. support—877-493-6216
NOFA-VT—434-4122

NW Regional Planning Comm.—524-5958
Missisquoi River Basin Assoc.—393-0076
Farmers’ Watershed Alliance—796-3292
Cold Hollow to Canada PO Box 406, Montgomery 05471
Friends of Northern Lake Champlain PO Box 58, Swanton 05488

USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.
Locally Led Conservation Survey – Northwest VT Zone

The Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Franklin, Grand Isle, and Lamoille Conservation Districts are seeking your ideas to focus our outreach activities and cost share programs over the next year in the Northwest Zone.

We hope to incorporate the goals and needs of residents into developing priorities for program direction and funding. To do this, we need your help in deciding which environmental concerns, along with their appropriate solutions, are most important in each of our counties. This survey is open to farmers, farmworkers, forest owners, loggers, resource professionals, and all residents. It is also available online at franklincountynrcd.org.

Your feedback will be considered by regional professionals in resource management and agriculture, and incorporated into the NRCS's ranking system for awarding financial assistance to producers.

1. County (Select all that apply): ___ Franklin ___ Grand Isle ___ Lamoille

2. Please indicate which land-uses you think should receive the most financial assistance:
   ___ Cropland ___ Pastureland ___ Farmstead ___ Forestry/Wildlife

3. Please indicate the practices that are implementation priorities on land you manage or provide assistance:

   ___ Access Road       ___ Forest Stand Improvement       ___ Invasive Control
   ___ Animal Trail      ___ Grade Stabilization Structure ___ Irrigation
   ___ Cover Crop       ___ Grassed Waterway              ___ Manure Injection
   ___ Critical Area Planting ___ Heavy Use Area Protection ___ Pipeline
   ___ Diversion        ___ Herbaceous Weed Control      ___ Pumping Plant
   ___ Diversion        ___ High Tunnel System           ___ Reduced Tillage
   ___ Drainage        ___ Integrated Pest Management    ___ Watering Facility
   ___ Forage & Biomass Planting ___ Streambank erosion prevention ___ Floodwater management
   ___ Native tree planting ___ Information (specify topic below) ___ Other (please specify below)

OTHER COMMENTS: (For example: additional practices that should be prioritized, NRCS specifications on practices, level of financial assistance provided for practices, timeline or process of working with NRCS, or desired workshop topics. Note that some decisions are made at the state or national level. We will do our best to incorporate your feedback!)

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

We ask for your personal information as an option to track responses in the county and provide follow-up on your feedback. This information will remain confidential and used only for these purposes.

Name: ________________________________ E-mail/Phone: _______________________
Address: ___________________________ City: __________________ Zip Code: _________

Years in farming/producing? <1 1-3 3-5 5-10 10+ Other: __________________________

Are you interested in receiving workshop dates or program information from NRCS and your District?

Yes No

Please return to your local USDA-NRCS & Conservation District office or:
50 South Main St. Ste 20
St. Albans, VT 05478

Thank you! USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider and lender.
**Montgomery Pick-up Option for Tree Sale**

The Montgomery Conservation Commission is again offering a satellite pick-up location for our spring tree sale. Simply write clearly “Montgomery pickup” on your order, and the Conservation Commission will bring it to the Public Safety building at 86 Mountain Rd., Montgomery Center for pickup between 11:30am-2:30pm on Saturday, May 4th. All other orders will be at the Field Days on Airport Rd in Highgate, as usual.

**Plant Swap**

This year we will be hosting a Plant Swap in conjunction with our Tree Sale Pick-up Day. Bring extra veggie starts you may have or extra perennials from your garden, and take home something new! Please bring plants labeled and contained, and please do not bring species that are invasive or spread uncontrollably. We will share more information as it’s available on our new bi-monthly e-updates – sign up by emailing franklincountynrcd.org or calling 528-4176.

**Hops – new addition to our tree sale!**

Like a good hoppy ale? We’re selling a cold-hardy hops variety that comes at the recommendation of Julian Post, farm manager at Champlain Valley Hops and former Crops Technician at UVM Extension. Plant five rhizomes per hill for best success. To learn more about growing hops, attend Julian’s presentation at the NOFA-VT conference, attend the annual Hops Conference (see Events on pg. 3) or contact UVM Extension’s hops specialist John Bruce at 524-6501.

**Grow Your Own Mushrooms and Build Soil**

Part of what gives mushrooms their rich flavors is the high concentration of important vitamins, minerals and antioxidants they contain. And, with a little care, you can grow your own! This year we’re offering spawn for shiitake mushrooms, which are grown on logs, and wine cap mushrooms, which are grown in woodchip mulch. To grow winecaps, simply rake a little spawn into untreated, hardwood mulch, keep moist, and wait for the mushrooms to emerge later that season and for the following few years. Wine caps grow well under raspberries, in garden borders, or other areas you might mulch anyway. The mushrooms build fungal networks in the soil that can improve neighboring plants’ access to vital nutrients! Check page 10 to place your order and call 528-4176 for more information on growing mushrooms.

**Spring Trout Sale**

We will be offering Rainbow and Brook Trout this Spring. 6-8” fish in lots of 25 can be picked up at the NRCS office. 10-12” fish require a minimum order of 50 and will be delivered to your pond, in which case please give detailed directions to it. **Pick up and delivery date:**

**Tuesday May 14th, 1:00 pm.** Please fill out this form and deliver it with payment to 50 South Main St. no later than May 7th.

**FISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow 6-8”</td>
<td>$70 per lot of 25 fish $</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brook 6-8”</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow 10-12”</td>
<td>$260 for 50, +$5.20 per each additional fish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brook 10-12”</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FISH FOOD**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole bag (40 lbs)</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half bag (20 lbs)</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL $**

**Transferring the Farm Workshop**

Farmers will learn from professionals and other farmers who have been through a transfer. Topics include why succession planning is important, retirement and estate planning, addressing tax issues in a transfer, legal entities and tools you can use to transfer farm assets, and setting your goals to address transfer planning and business transition. See Events pg. 3.
**Bare-root: Habitat-quality deciduous**

Other sizes & varieties may be available. Call to inquire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VT Aromia (Black chokeberry) <strong>SALE!</strong></td>
<td>Aronia melanocarpa</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>Sale! $5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Birch, Yellow</td>
<td>Betula alleghaniensis</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Black Walnut</td>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Buttonnut</td>
<td>Juglans cinerea</td>
<td>tree pot, 1-2 ft</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Buttonbush <strong>NEW!</strong> <strong>SALE!</strong></td>
<td>Cephalanthus occidentalis</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>Sale! $5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Dogwood, Red Osier</td>
<td>Cornus sericea</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Elderberry, American</td>
<td>Sambucus canadensis</td>
<td>plug, 10-18 in</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Maple, Red</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VT Maple, Sugar</td>
<td>Acer saccharum</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>VT Oak, White <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Quercus alba</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Oak, Red</td>
<td>Quercus rubra</td>
<td>1-2 ft</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Serviceberry</td>
<td>Amelanchier canadensis</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Sycamore, American <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Platanus occidentalis</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Tamarack (Larch)</td>
<td>Larix laricina</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Viburnum (Highbush cranberry)</td>
<td>Viburnum trilobum</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Willow, Black (tree) <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Salix nigra</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
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**Bare-root: Domesticated fruits, nuts and flowers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NY Apple, Cortland</td>
<td>Malus domestica</td>
<td>1/2&quot; diam</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Apple, Liberty</td>
<td>Malus domestica</td>
<td>1/2&quot; diam</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Apple, Macintosh</td>
<td>Malus domestica</td>
<td>1/2&quot; diam</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Apple, &quot;Pear Apple&quot; <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Malus domestica</td>
<td>3-4 ft</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Apple, Pristine <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Malus domestica</td>
<td>3-4 ft</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NJ pair of Bluecrop &amp; Patriot Blueberries</td>
<td>Vaccinium cyanococcus</td>
<td>3 yr 18-24 in 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Cherry, North Star Sour <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Prunus cerasus</td>
<td>diam, 3-4 ft plug,</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Elderberry, cultivated</td>
<td>Sambucus</td>
<td>4-8 in</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Grapes, Concord</td>
<td>Vitis labrusca</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Hazelnut, hybrid</td>
<td>Corylus</td>
<td>3 ft</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Hops <strong>NEW!</strong></td>
<td>Humulus lupulus</td>
<td>5 rhizomes (1 hill)</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Lilac</td>
<td>Syringa vulgaris</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Raspberries, Encore (summer)</td>
<td>Rubus idaeus</td>
<td>rooted cutting</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Raspberries, Joan J (fall)</td>
<td>Rubus idaeus</td>
<td>rooted cutting</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Strawberries, Honeoye (early)</td>
<td>Fragaria x ananassa</td>
<td>rooted cutting</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA Strawberries, Sparkle (late)</td>
<td>Fragaria x ananassa</td>
<td>rooted cutting</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bare-root: Evergreens**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NY Cedar, Northern White (Arborvitae)</td>
<td>Thuja occidentalis</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Fir, Balsam</td>
<td>Abies balsamea</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Fir, Balsam</td>
<td>Abies balsamea</td>
<td>2-3 ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Fir, Canaan</td>
<td>Abies balsamea</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Fir, Fraser</td>
<td>Abies fraseri</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VT Pine, Eastern White</td>
<td>Pinus strobus</td>
<td>3-4 ft</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Spruce, Colorado Blue</td>
<td>Picea pungens</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NY Spruce, White</td>
<td>Picea glauca</td>
<td>1 ft</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bulk Evergreen Seedlings:** 1-ft evergreen seedlings are available in bundles of 10 for $25, 25 for $50, or 100 for $150

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tree variety:</th>
<th>Size of bundle:</th>
<th>$ per bundle:</th>
<th># bundles</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>example: Balsam Fir</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* indicates species is native to Vermont

Bulk discount! 10% off on orders of 25 trees or more, excluding bulk seedlings. Discount not available on orders received after February 28, 2018.
For a catalog with full descriptions of all the items we offer, visit us at 50 S. Main St, St. Albans or at franklincountynrcd.org. Thanks!

**-NEW!- Mushroom Growing Spawn & Supplies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Winecap sawdust spawn</td>
<td>5.5 lb bag (for 50 sq ft of wood chips)</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Shiitake plug spawn</td>
<td>50 plugs (for a 3-4 ft log 3-8&quot; in diameter)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>Wax for covering shiitake plugs</td>
<td>3 oz tub (covers 500 plugs, for shiitake logs)</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Native Balled-and-Burlapped Trees:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Birch, White (Paper)</td>
<td>Betula papyrifera</td>
<td>6-8 ft</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Cedar, Northern White (Arborvitae)</td>
<td>Thuja occidentalis</td>
<td>4-5 ft</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Cedar, Northern White (Arborvitae)</td>
<td>Thuja occidentalis</td>
<td>6-8 ft</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Fir, Balsam</td>
<td>Abies balsamea</td>
<td>4-5 ft</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Fir, Balsam</td>
<td>Abies balsamea</td>
<td>6-8 ft</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Maple, Red</td>
<td>Acer rubrum</td>
<td>2&quot; diam</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Maple, Sugar</td>
<td>Acer saccharum</td>
<td>6-8 ft</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Maple, Sugar</td>
<td>Acer saccharum</td>
<td>2&quot; diam</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Spruce, White</td>
<td>Picea glauca</td>
<td>4-5 ft</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Spruce, White</td>
<td>Picea glauca</td>
<td>6-8 ft</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* VT</td>
<td>Tamarack, Larch</td>
<td>Larix laricina</td>
<td>6-8 ft</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wildflower seed mixes (predominantly native, some naturalized):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Unit Price</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Butterfly &amp; Hummingbird Garden</td>
<td>1 oz bag for 300 sq ft</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Riparian Buffer</td>
<td>1 oz bag for 150 sq ft</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Wetland</td>
<td>1 oz bag for 150 sq ft</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subtotal: $_______

Donation: $_______

Total Enclosed: $_______

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Email: ____________________________________________________________

Street, Town, Zip: _______________________________________________

Preferred method of contact: (circle one) Phone / Email / Mail

If “mail,” please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for us to mail your order confirmation.

(Optional) Tell us about why or where you’re planting trees!

Please make checks payable to Franklin County NRCD

Deliver checks and order forms to 50 S. Main St. Suite B-20
St. Albans, VT 05478

* indicates species is native to Vermont

Bulk discount! 10% off on orders of 25 trees or more, excluding bulk seedlings.

Discount not available on orders received after February 28, 2018.

These early-bird prices are available through February 28th. Prices will increase for orders placed beginning March 1st.

Interested in volunteering for the tree sale? We could use extra hands, and we'll give you 20% off your order as thanks! Call 528-4176.

Payment must be received with orders to reserve your trees. You may also order trees online at franklincountynrcd.org.

There is no warranty on any tree, shrub, or vine. To minimize losses, please follow planting and care instructions.

Missing something you’d like? Call 802-528-4176 and we’d be happy to source additional native species or alternative sizes for you.

Planting more than 50 trees? You may be able to get them free or discounted! Call 802-528-4176 for information.

All orders must be picked up between 8:30am and 1:30 pm on Saturday, May 4th at Franklin County Field Days, 294 Airport Rd, Highgate, VT, or they will be forfeited. Please find a friend or neighbor to pick up your order if you cannot make it on the 4th.

Pick-up: Saturday May 4th
Franklin County Field Days
294 Airport Road, Highgate
Buttonbush for Butterflies - adapted from a blog post by Justin Wheeler for the Xerces Society, xerces.org

Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) has one of the most unique flowers of any shrub, and butterflies think so too. Skippers, monarchs, and virtually any butterflies that happen to be passing by love the white flowers. In addition to its appeal for butterflies, buttonbush also serves as a host plant for some of our largest and showiest moths including the titan sphinx (Aellopos titan) and the hydrangea sphinx (Darapsa versicolor). Bees also love buttonbush, giving it the second nickname “honeyball.”

Towards fall, flowers develop into button-like seed heads and the leaves turn deep reds and yellows. The “buttons” turn a deep crimson as they linger in the winter landscape. Ducks and other waterfowl also eat the seed heads.

Between the showy blooms, glossy green leaves, fall color, and red “buttons,” buttonbush is a 4-season beauty. It can tolerate shade and a variety of soils, and it thrives in wet spots and flooded areas. You’d be hard pressed to find a more valuable or versatile native shrub.

Buttonbush’s natural tendency is towards a leggy, gangly shape – however, it can take heavy pruning to give it a more rounded habit or to train it into an upright specimen. If you want a dense, rounded shrub you could plant three buttonbush close together to provide a fuller appearance.

Awesome Aronia – adapted from “Aronia: Native shrubs with untapped potential,” by Mark Brand for U. Conn.

The genus Aronia is a group of largely overlooked shrubs native to the eastern United States that has tremendous potential for use as ornamental landscape plants and as an edible fruit crop. One thing that has held back consumer acceptance of Aronia is the unfortunate common name “chokeberry.” Its name is also often confused with chokecherry (Prunus virginiana). Black chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa) is rapidly gaining momentum as a new small fruit crop. The blueberry-sized black fruits have the highest known levels of antioxidants (anthocyanins and flavonoids) of any temperate fruit, five times higher than cranberry and blueberry, and contain strong anticancer compounds. While edible as a fresh fruit, Aronia berries are much tastier when the fruits have been processed. It has been widely grown in Eastern Europe and Russia where it is used in beverages, wine, jelly, and baked goods. Preliminary work in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Nebraska has demonstrated the viability of Aronia as a fruit crop in many regions, including New England.

Aronia melanocarpa attains a mature height of 4 to 8 feet and forms dense plants and colonies, rarely appearing leggy. Plants can be grown successfully in partial shade or full sun, but better flowering, fruiting, and fall color occur in full sun situations. Transplanting and establishment are easy with chokeberries even when they are given only modest care. Insects and diseases rarely affect the plant, so it is considered relatively carefree. Plant Aronia for an easy, beautiful piece of habitat for birds and insects, and for your own health!

Discounted and free trees available for conservation projects with 50+ trees

In addition to funding that is routinely available for tree projects from USDA, this year the Conservation District can connect you with another program. PUR Projet wants to support agroforestry, silvopasture, and ecological restoration in Vermont. Contact Jeannie for more information: 528-4176 or franklincountynrcd@gmail.com.

Volunteer for Conservation and get 20% off!

Our tree sale, water quality monitoring and restoration projects rely on volunteers. Many of our partners in conservation and resilient local food systems also rely on volunteers to keep our environment and our communities healthy.

We are launching a brand new bi-monthly email for volunteer opportunities. By signing up, you will learn about opportunities with the Franklin County Conservation District and our partners to:

• plant trees
• monitor water quality
• track wildlife
• monitor & report precipitation
• steward a restoration site
• glean produce from farms for food shelves
• help a farm bring in the harvest
• enhance water quality and habitat on your own land

Volunteers for the tree sale or other programs receive up to 20% off their tree order and the opportunity to purchase overstocks at cost. If the program grows we may be able to offer other discounts as well.

Contact Jeannie at franklincountynrcd@gmail.com or 528-4176 to learn more or sign up – access to email preferred but not required to be on the list. Thank you!
Thank you to our Silver Sponsors:

Franklin County Conservation District
Annual Newsletter 2019
with Tree and Trout Sale ordering information

Inside This Issue:

- Early observations from Tile Drainage Study (pg. 6)
- Hops & mushroom spawn—new offerings from District tree sale (pg. 8)
- Help direct conservation programs (pg. 7)
- New Farm Bill promises assistance to young and beginning farmers (pg. 5)
- District assists eight farmers in Nutrient Management Planning class (pg. 2)
- Youth Corps and District care for trees at oxbow pond on Lamoille River (pg. 5)
- Events on tree pruning, grazing, precision agriculture, bird watching and more (pg. 3)

Want to sponsor our newsletter? Write to franklincountynrcd@gmail.com or call 802-528-4176 to support the Conservation District’s work. Our 2,500 readers appreciate your generous support!