



# Franklin County Conservation District



50 S. Main St. Suite B-20  
St. Albans, VT 05478

[franklincountynrcd.org](http://franklincountynrcd.org)

[info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org)  
802-528-4176



*Outgoing District Manager Jeannie Bartlett (left) and incoming Manager Lauren Weston (right.)*

## Changing hands

Dear friends,  
I'm both excited and sad to share that I am moving on from my role managing the Conservation District here. After almost five years doing my best to serve farmers and advise people on their trees,

I'm taking a turn in the producer's shoes. This winter I'll be working at an apple orchard and then at one of the VT nurseries that supplies some of the trees sold here. In the near term I'll probably move around a bit since many of these jobs are seasonal, but I intend to keep connected with the wonderful people I've met in Franklin County. I treasure the privilege I've had to walk your farms, hear your dreams and frustrations, and provide your trees. Thanks for supporting me and trusting me, and I hope you'll similarly welcome the District's new manager Lauren Weston.

Lauren's background includes water resources engineering, agriculture, climate resilience, and community building; she is excited to combine and continue these skills as part of her new role as District Manager. In 2015, Lauren graduated from Smith College in her hometown of Northampton, MA (very near my own hometown!). She worked in different places for a few years until settling into Vermont to work designing natural resources restoration projects from rain gardens to stream restorations to a dam removal. She spent the 2019 growing season in Franklin County working on a small farm in Montgomery and serving the community at two local restaurants. Lauren currently serves as an active Board Member for the Vermont Healthy Soils Coalition and is also a 2021 Fellow with the New Leaders Council Vermont. She is incredibly eager to work in Franklin County again with folks who are dedicated to the land, water, and life around them, and the District is eager for her talents and leadership. Please join us in welcoming Lauren!

*-Jeannie Bartlett, outgoing District Manager*

## Tree Survivorship – Year 1 Results!

Thank you to the 30 tree sale customers who completed the survivorship survey we shared with you all last year! You collectively reported on over 500 individual trees of almost 40 different varieties, representing purchases from 2019 all the way back to the 1990's. It's an impressive start to the dataset we intend to build. What we can report so far with confidence is that the surveys we received showed an overall average survivorship rate of 82%. While we would like to see survival above 90%, 82% is reasonable given all the variable stresses these trees might face: deer, drought, pests, overgrown with weeds, hit by a mower, improperly planted, poor quality planting stock, floods, voles, etc. We'd like to be able to analyze better which of these possible issues are most responsible when the trees you buy from us die, and to do that we need as much data as we can get. Please help us by completing the survey included on page 7 or on [franklincountynrcd.org/treesurvey](http://franklincountynrcd.org/treesurvey). Thanks!

## Time to place your orders for trees!

Looking for something besides the end of COVID to look forward to? Now's the time to plan some trees, shrubs, or fruit for your home! We're excited to bring back butternut and pear trees this year. The early-bird prices on the enclosed order form are valid through March 15th, after which most listings will rise by 10-20%.

**Fill out our tree survivorship survey** on pg 7 if you have purchased trees from us before, and earn a discount on your order!

Questions about what to buy? We'd love to help advise. Since we are mostly remote in the COVID environment, calling or emailing is the better way to reach us rather than stopping by the office. We look forward to seeing you and your trees!



## Tree Sale Adapts to COVID

In 2020 we asked our customers to arrive for pick-up within particular time-slots on a series of days to ensure social distancing. In addition to

keeping our community safe, we found that the change reduced wait times for customers, improved order accuracy, and provided more time for our staff and customers to connect individually. We'll be keeping many of these changes for 2021!

## A Conversation with Daton Fleury by Jeannie Bartlett

Daton Fleury is a retired dairy farmer and sugar-maker in Richford. In December of last year, he retired from the Franklin County Natural Resources Conservation District's supervisory board after 50 years of service. This August, Franklin County NRCD staff Jeannie Bartlett and Brodie Haenke sat down with him to learn more about the changes he's seen in farming and conservation over his life. For the full interview, visit [vacd.org/datonfleury](http://vacd.org/datonfleury).

**Brodie :** Why do you think you were asked to serve on the District's board?

**Daton:** I have no idea. [Laughter.] But they used to have a Goodyear Award [for conservation], and my father [Noah Fleury] and Frank Myott went to Arizona on that as a Cooperator once. We always used good practices. When they came out with this rotational pasture program, we'd done that for years already. So it was nothing new to us.

**Jeannie:** What do you think has changed in farming over the last 50 years?

**Daton:** Well, farmers are leaving left and right, they can't stay in it no more. Not that they don't want to, we grew up with that stuff. It's just second nature to keep farming. [Growing up] you had, I think, eleven farms from Richford to Berkshire Center that were milking cows. There's one now. And, of course, he's making up for all of them that went out. There was a lot of real small farms. You had farms that had ten cows, or less, which went by the wayside a long time ago. When they went to where you had to have a milk tank, a lot of them didn't want to invest that kind of money- which, you couldn't blame them any. When my father put a tank in, there were only eight [bulk tanks] in Franklin County. It eliminated a lot [of farms], because they just couldn't see the price. Milk cans didn't last too much longer because some of those guys sent milk that wasn't cold. The night's milk was cold, but the morning's milk was just out of the cows and they took it all and put it together. Well, that didn't help quality, let's say. And some of them at wintertime didn't ship anything. But up here, we always sent milk. But at times the road didn't get plowed for months. We used to go cross lots, go cut 'cross that meadow and come out by the other farm. That's the way we went to town.

But we always came back to maple. When we sold syrup, it paid off the debt for the winter. That's the way you kept going! We did a lot of other things besides that. We'd pedal sweetcorn and stuff downtown. There were a couple stores in Richford that would take all you could bring. Because if it was fresh, people would buy it! Yeah... You didn't get much for [the milk. And in the winter] you didn't have much milk. I know my father said at one time if we get three fifty a hundred [pounds of milk] and it costs you seventy-five cents a hundred to get it hauled, that didn't leave too much. But that's the way it was.

Read more at [vacd.org/datonfleury](http://vacd.org/datonfleury)

We would welcome a volunteer with basic audio-editing skills to create a public-facing version of our 1.5 hr raw audio interview. Call 528-4176 or [info@franklincountynrkd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrkd.org)



December, 1954 newspaper clipping from the St. Albans Messenger. Noah Fleury received a conservation award and traveled with the District to Arizona to be honored.



"Loading milk cans into a truck at the United Farmers' Co-op Creamery at East Berkshire, VT." Sept. 1941 photo by Jack Delano, Farm Security Administration. Find more at the Library of Congress:

<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/fsa/item/2017796359/>

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.



The District's Brodie Haenke collects a soil sample from a hayfield.

### **NRCS to Offer Soil Health Planning** by Jeannie Bartlett

Vermont NRCS will begin offering new financial and technical assistance for soil health this year. NRCS staff and Technical Service Providers (such as those who often write Nutrient Management Plans) will be trained to conduct in-field soil health analyses and recommend practices—now including soil carbon amendments (e.g. compost or biochar.) These will be much more in-depth analyses of the soil than the basic soil-chemistry tests required by the RAPs and used in Nutrient Management Planning. With these new conservation practices, NRCS hopes to encourage farmers and service providers to dig into their soil with an even deeper curiosity, for improvements in both yields and conservation.

Contact your NRCS staff person or the St. Albans NRCS office to learn more: 527-1296.

### **USDA Declares Vermont a Natural Disaster Area Due to Drought** by Brodie Haenke

This year is in a virtual tie with 2016 to be the hottest year on record and Vermont is feeling the heat. According to the US Drought Monitor, much of Vermont experienced abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions this year due to low precipitation rates and exceptional heat. The potential for dry wells and stunted crop growth led the USDA to declare 9 Vermont counties natural disaster areas. Although Franklin County was not one of them, farmers here are still eligible to apply for emergency loans from FSA (due July 12, 2021). Despite this summer's abnormally dry conditions, Vermont is actually getting wetter. Since 1958, Vermont now receives 9 more inches of annual precipitation on average. In a changing global climate, state climate scientists expect Vermonters will need to adapt to more weather "extremes", meaning greater fluctuations in both precipitation and temperature. This includes longer stretches of dry weather, more frequent heavy rainfall events, less snow cover, and shorter winters. For more information about climate change's impact on Vermont, visit [climatechange.vermont.gov](http://climatechange.vermont.gov).

### **District Assists Farms with Nutrient Management Plans** by Jeannie Bartlett

The Conservation District again provided one-on-one assistance to ten small, family farms participating in UVM Extension's Nutrient Management Planning class. The 2020 graduates completed Plans that conform to NRCS and State standards and will guide their applications of manure and other nutrients. As almost all VT farms have Nutrient Management Plans now, the 2021 class will have just three Franklin County participants. The District and UVM are providing ongoing assistance to class alumni with record keeping and updates to plans. Contact Brodie to inquire about the class for 2022 or for NMP update assistance. 528-4180 or [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org).



FCSVT.org

### **Improve Water Quality from your Home**

by Jeannie Bartlett

Franklin County Stormwater just published a beautifully-illustrated, easy-to-use website full of clear, helpful information to help people improve water quality and reduce runoff from their home or other properties. You can understand the issues, as well as solutions ranging from picking up pet waste and adjusting your winter salting to overhauling your septic system or driveway. Additional videos, guidance, and workshops will be released throughout this winter. Visit the site at [fcsvt.org](http://fcsvt.org), call 524-5958, or follow them on facebook @fcsvt.org. Franklin County Stormwater is a joint project of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission and St. Albans City and Town.

## Dam Removal Effort Continues in Bakersfield

by Brodie Haenke

The District continued our work with US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2020 on removing the Johnsons Mill Dam in Bakersfield to restore and reconnect habitat for native brook trout in the Bogue Branch. The Johnsons Mill Dam, built on the Bogue Branch near Witchcat Road, was once a productive sawmill but is now in a state of deterioration after decades of disuse. Removing the dam will reconnect 22 stream miles and allow brook trout to move upstream and downstream of the dam, allowing them to access the cool, high-elevation streams they need during Vermont's hot summer months. Dam removals also improve water quality by allowing streams to naturally transport sediment and by helping mitigate excessive erosion in the case of a dam failure. Thanks to support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, the project is fully now funded and we expect to remove the dam in summer 2021. The fine, nutrient-rich sediment being removed from the former impoundment of the dam will be transported down the road to Gervais Family Farm where it will be spread and incorporated into one of their fields to grow crops.

## CREP Stream Buffer Program Returns

by Brodie Haenke

One of the most fundamental and cost-effective ways Vermont plans to improve water quality in Lake Champlain is through reforestation of our stream and river banks. According to the EPA, nearly 25% of all phosphorus that enters Lake Champlain originates from unstable and eroding streams and ditches. A 35 or 50 foot buffer of trees and shrubs between the top of the bank of a stream and any adjacent land use can help stabilize erosion, filter out nutrients, and provide shade for cold-water loving fish like brook trout. To compensate farmers for adopting this crucial body of conservation work, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) can compensate landowners for the loss of productive farm land through upfront incentive payments and annual rental payments. Contact us or visit [agriculture.vermont.gov/crep](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/crep) to learn more.

## District Plants 7 Acres of Trees, Begins 3 Years of Follow-Up - by Jeannie Bartlett



Jeannie Bartlett installs a willow stake as part of a windbreak at Health Hero Farm in South Hero. Photo credit: Joan Falcao

Here at the District we recognize the hard work it has taken to clear trees from land where farmers now pasture and grow crops. At the same time, wherever they're not directly in the way of agriculture or other projects, trees provide enormous benefits. Especially along streams, rivers and lakes, trees reduce streambank erosion, filter nutrients, slow floodwaters, provide shade and cool water temperatures, and provide food and shelter for birds, fish and other wildlife. Of course trees also capture carbon from the atmosphere. In the right context, trees can provide building materials, food for people (think apples or butternuts), cultural items (Christmas trees, spring pussy willows, or black ash for Abenaki baskets), crop protection from harsh winds or pollution, shade for livestock, and much more.

This past spring the District worked with five landowners to plant over seven acres of trees. Included were a windbreak for a livestock farm in the Islands, trees for livestock shade and habitat at a dairy in Highgate, stream protection and habitat

projects along the Hungerford Brook and Black Creek, and a large wetland planting along the west shore of Fairfield Swamp. Already the new trees have received weed control, deer repellent soap, and water (during the drought, where practical), and we will continue that work over the next three years to give these new trees the best chance we can. Are you a farm looking to install trees for any purpose, or anyone with a stream that could use trees? Get in touch! [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org)



ECO AmeriCorps member Eliza Letourneau plants a red osier dogwood at a reforestation site along the Black Creek in Fairfield.

## **The Trout that Grow on Trees** - by Katherine Helmer

As the trout fishing season winds down and the weather gets colder, it's natural to turn our attention towards our other hobbies. The trout, however, swim on in our lakes, streams, and rivers, locked in an upstream battle against habitat loss and climate change. Warming waters, deforestation, and increasing pressure from non-native trout species such as rainbow trout and brown trout have caused a deep decline in Vermont's native brook trout population. What's more, these pressures make it much more difficult for you to find native trout on your hook during the fishing season. Fisheries biologists around the state have been working on projects for years to improve the outlook for trout and future fishing seasons to come. For the past several years, they have been cutting trees in upland forests and strategically placing them into streams and rivers to support Vermont's trout fisheries. But how can cutting down trees on dry land help water dwellers like trout?



*When trees and branches fall into your stream, it might be your instinct to take them out. But fisheries biologists say trees and log-jams create important trout habitat. Shown here: a project where trees were purposefully felled into a stream to create trout habitat. Photo by Katherine Helmer.*

To answer that, we need to take a deep dive into the life and habitat of Vermont's favorite fish. Trout start out as tiny eggs in a **redd**, or a clearing on the stream-bottom that the female crafts during the spawning season in the fall with her strong tail. As these eggs change over the course of the winter, fueled by the yolk of their egg sac, they develop eyes and become more sensitive to temperature changes and water quality shifts. In the spring, the eggs hatch and continue to feed off of their yolk sac. Trout in this stage are called **sac-fry** or **alvelin**. When the yolk sac is empty around February or March, the newly minted **fry** swim out of the redd to find plankton to eat. As the fry grow larger and spring turns to summer, they settle in shallow pools to hide from prey and feed on small insects and plankton. The fry develop dark vertical stripes on their sides called parr that act as camouflage. Trout in this stage are called **fingerlings**. They develop into adults throughout the summer and fall, trading their camouflage stripes for their more characteristic orange stomachs and dark green bodies.

Despite how differently trout look and behave in each phase of growth, there is one similarity: trout demand clear, clean, and cold waters in every step of their development. This means that they favor cold, fast-moving streams and rivers and the deep waters of lakes. Trout favor these conditions because colder waters hold more oxygen. As a respite from the harsh strength of quick-flowing streams, however, trout also use deep pools and slow-moving sections to save their energy, find food, and hide from predators. Fallen trees and branches can provide this kind of habitat because they can slow the water speed down while still allowing water to flow through and around them. Branches and trees in streams also attract insects and provide shelter from prey for hungry and vulnerable trout.

This is where fallen trees can help save our trout. Unfortunately, the amount of woody material in our streams and rivers has declined because of deforestation along stream banks. This creates faster-moving waters with lower visibility, which hurts trout development and growth. By returning woody material to our waterways, we create habitat complexity, structure, and stability that will support trout fisheries for years to come. So what can you do to help?

**Leave it be!** Save your chainsaw for another day and leave fallen trees, branches, and sticks in waterways that run through your property. The trout of Vermont and your fishing pole will thank you!

**Plant a tree!** Volunteer for a community tree planting along a river bank or start your own tree planting project along your own to stabilize our waterways and provide habitat complexity for trout! Contact the Franklin County Conservation District for opportunities: [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org)

**Save our Streams!** Take a look at the websites of Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, and other organizations with articles full of information about trout in our waterways.



**District and State Monitor Local Water Quality** by Brodie Haenke

Did you know that local water quality data is being collected all throughout the Missisquoi River watershed? In 2018 and 2019, the District led a volunteer water quality monitoring program in the Hungerford Brook and Black Creek subwatersheds through the Vermont DEC’s LaRosa Partnership Program. The LaRosa program will return in 2021 and we are looking for input from the community about priority sampling sites. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer water sampler or are interested in knowing more about your local water quality please contact us.

**Welcome Katherine Helmer**

Katherine joined our team as an ECO AmeriCorps Member in September 2020. She studied Environmental Science with a concentration in water resources at UVM, with a minor in French. During her year-long position, Katherine will be assisting with water quality monitoring and soil sampling as well as community outreach projects across the county. Katherine is excited to be a part of such a passionate team working towards the improvement of water quality in Vermont!



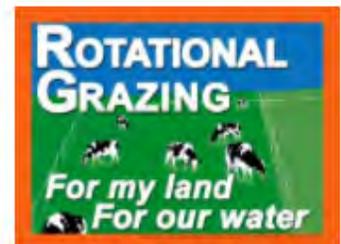
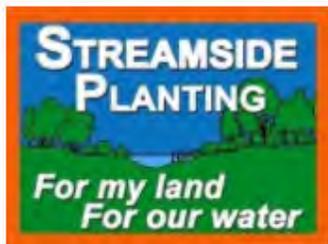
**Signs of Conservation**

by Jeannie Bartlett

Roadside “Signs of Conservation” now illustrate ten of the most common practices Vermont farmers use to grow great crops, build their soil’s health, and improve water quality. Without signs calling attention to what farmers are doing, it can be easy to take their work for granted or to simply not know what you are seeing. To learn more about



any of these practices, visit the campaign’s website at [www.signsofconservation.org](http://www.signsofconservation.org). There you can also see pictures of these practices in action, and a map of where to see them. Share your own pictures on social media using #signsofconservation. The signs are available at no cost to any farmer in Franklin Co., and at a subsidized rate statewide. Call Katherine at 528-4185 for signs or info.



**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 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

**Tree Survivorship Survey – Get \$2 off your 2021 tree order as thanks for completing this survey!** **Full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Why do we want survivorship data? Your data will help us figure out how to help increase success with your trees, and it may provide the opportunity for outside organizations to sponsor trees (improving their carbon footprint and providing you with more free trees!)

Instructions: For each year you purchased trees from the Franklin Co. NRCD, fill in which species you bought. For each species in each year mark how many you purchased, size at purchase, how many are still surviving and how many of the surviving trees show weak, moderate, and vigorous growth. Finally, please use the space below to describe how you cared for your trees, causes of mortality when known, and any other comments. If you don't remember every tree, just fill in what you can! If you need additional space, feel free to photocopy this form and submit multiple sheets, or **fill it out online at [franklincountynr.cd.org/tree-survey](http://franklincountynr.cd.org/tree-survey)**

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**Please describe tree care** (did you use tree trunk protectors? How much did you mulch, weed, or water your trees after planting?), **causes for tree death** (if known, e.g. deer, drought, hit it with the mower, etc.) and any other notes you may have. Thank you!

**How to turn in your survey:** Mail your tree survey to us at 50 South Main St., Ste. B-20, St. Albans, VT 05478 or bring it in with your 2021 Tree Sale Order form.

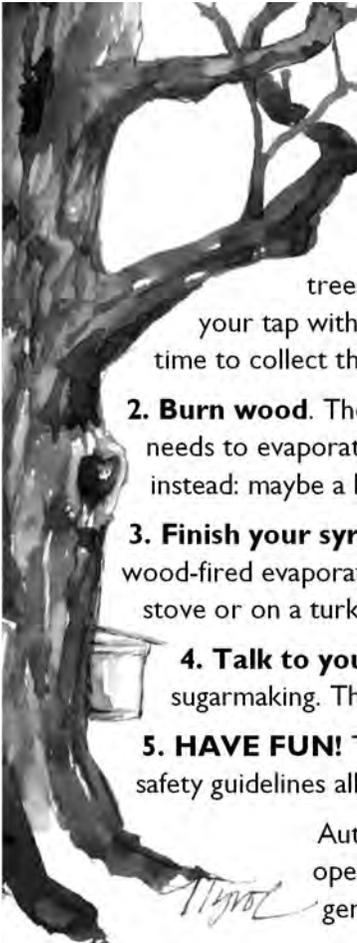
**Montgomery Pick-up Option for Tree Sale**

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 be in touch with you about local pick-up logistics for May 1st.



**Trout Habitat Workshop** by Katherine Helmer

Join us to learn about trout habitat in your own streams this spring at a webinar hosted by the FCNRCD and Women Owning Woodlands! The webinar will feature experts in fisheries, land management, and forestry discussing the work they do and what you can do to help trout stay afloat in Vermont. The focus will be on how landowners can manage their land for successful trout habitat restoration. Keep an eye out for more information about this great learning opportunity.



**Five Tips on Making Maple Syrup at Home** by our sponsor CDL USA

Let's start with a quick fact: did you know that Franklin County, VT has one of the highest densities of tapped sugar maples in the world? Living here, there are most likely sugar maples around your property, whether it's on your land, the neighbor's or by the road. Here are 5 tips to easily start making your own maple syrup at home this season!

- 1. Use 5 gallons pails.** We all know about the traditional buckets hanging from the trees. However, you might want to consider collecting sap using 5 gallon pails, connected to your tap with a section of sap line. They are usually easy to find and will hold more sap, giving you more time to collect the sap in your busy schedule. The handle on the pail also makes collection much easier!
- 2. Burn wood.** The temptation of using gas for boiling is strong but don't underestimate how much water needs to evaporate! On big days, you'll most likely go through several 20L tanks! Think about using wood instead: maybe a little dirty but much cheaper (free for many of us).
- 3. Finish your syrup on the side.** It is very difficult to bring your syrup to the perfect density on a hobby wood-fired evaporator. I usually recommend drawing off your syrup a few degrees early and finishing it on the stove or on a turkey fryer, where you have more control over the temperature.
- 4. Talk to your local maple equipment dealer.** Consider talking to an expert before jumping into sugarmaking. They can help you avoid potential mistakes and let you focus on tip #5.
- 5. HAVE FUN!** This is the most important thing of all! Have fun, involve the kids, invite friends (if Vermont safety guidelines allow it). This is the best time of the year for creating memories of a lifetime!

Author: David Lalanne is the operations manager at CDL USA and runs a family sugaring operation of 25,000 taps with his father and grandfather. He is currently raising the fourth generation in his Fairfax home.

**Spring Trout Sale**

We will be offering Rainbow and Brook Trout this spring for stocking ponds. 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 11th, 1:00 pm.** Please fill out this form and deliver it with payment to 50 South Main St. no later than May 4th.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions (orders of 10-12" fish only): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**FISH**

Rainbow 6-8"	} \$70 per lot of 25 fish	{	\$ _____
Brook 6-8"			\$ _____
Rainbow 10-12"	} \$260 for 50, +\$5.20 per each additional fish	{	\$ _____
Brook 10-12"			\$ _____

**FISH FOOD**

Whole bag (40 lbs)	\$45.00	\$ _____
Half bag (20 lbs)	\$30.00	\$ _____

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Franklin County Conservation District  
2021 Tree Sale Order Form**

**Habitat-quality deciduous** : Some may produce human-edible fruit, but they have wild genetics and were not bred for cultivation.

Source Name	Botanical name	Size	Price until Mar 15th	Price after Mar 15th	Number	Total Price
* MI Aronia (Black chokeberry)	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	S 2-3 ft	\$7.00	\$9.00		\$
* MI American Hornbeam (Musclewood) -NEW!-	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	T 2-3 ft	<b>SALE! \$5.00</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>		\$
* MI Birch, Paper	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	T 4-5 ft	\$18.00	\$22.00		\$
* NY Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	T 2-3 ft	\$7.00	\$9.00		\$
* MI Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	S 2-3 ft	\$7.00	\$9.00		\$
* VT Butternut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	T 2-4 ft	\$15.00	\$18.00		\$
* NY Cherry, Black (wildlife quality)	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	T 18" +	\$5.00	\$6.00		\$
* MI Dogwood, Red Osier	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	S 2-3 ft	\$7.00	\$9.00		\$
* MI Hazelnut, American (wildlife quality) -NEW!-	<i>Corylus americana</i>	S 2-3 ft	\$7.00	\$9.00		\$
* NY Maple, Sugar -SALE!-	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	T 18" +	<b>SALE! \$2.00</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>		\$
* MI Maple, Sugar	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	T 4-5 ft	\$18.00	\$22.00		\$
* NY Oak, Red	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	T 18" +	\$5.00	\$6.00		\$
MI Pawpaw (northeast of native range) -NEW!-	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	T 2-3 ft	\$15.00	\$18.00		\$
* NY Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	T 18" +	\$5.00	\$6.00		\$
* NY Viburnum (Arrowwood)	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	S 18" +	\$5.00	\$6.00		\$
* NY Willow, Black (becomes full tree) -SALE!-	<i>Salix nigra</i>	T 2-3 ft	<b>SALE! \$2.00</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>		\$
Total this category:						\$

**Domesticated fruits, nuts and flowers** : Bred from introduced species and hybrids to be great for fruit production or flowers.

Source Name	Botanical name	Size	Price until Mar 15th	Price after Mar 15th	Number	Total Price
NY Apple, Empire	<i>Malus domestica</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$25.00	\$28.00		\$
NY Apple, Golden Delicious -NEW!-	<i>Malus domestica</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$25.00	\$28.00		\$
NY Apple, Honeycrisp -NEW!-	<i>Malus domestica</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$25.00	\$28.00		\$
NY Apple, Liberty	<i>Malus domestica</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$25.00	\$28.00		\$
NY Apple, Macintosh	<i>Malus domestica</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$25.00	\$28.00		\$
* NJ Blueberries, Bluecrop & Northland	<i>Vaccinium cyanococcus</i>	S pair, 18-24 in	\$20.00	\$22.00		\$
VT Chestnut, American-Chinquapin cross**	<i>Castanea dentata X</i>	T 2-3 ft	\$20.00	\$22.00		\$
MA Elderberry, cultivated**	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	S plug, 2-6 in	\$10.00	\$12.00		\$
VT Grapes, Vanessa Seedless -NEW!-	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	V 1 ft	\$5.00	\$6.00		\$
NY Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	S 2-3 ft	\$8.00	\$12.00		\$
NY Peach, Reliance -NEW!-	<i>Prunus persica</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$28.00	\$30.00		\$
NY Pear, Moonglow*** -NEW!-	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	T 1/2" diam	\$28.00	\$30.00		\$
WA Pear, Seckle (self-fertile, prefers crossing)	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	T 4-6 ft	\$35.00	\$38.00		\$
MA Raspberries, Anne (fall-bearing, golden)	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	rooted cane	\$4.00	\$6.00		\$
MA Strawberries, Sparkle - low price!-	<i>Fragaria x ananassa</i>	5 plants	\$2.50	\$3.50		\$
Total this category:						\$

T = Tree S = Shrub V = Vine

\* native to VT \*\*plant at least 2-3 for cross-pollination \*\*\*plant near a different variety of pear (e.g. Seckle) for cross-pollination

Find a **catalog with full descriptions of all the items** we offer in the outdoor envelope at the lower-level entrance to 50 S. Main St, St. Albans (USDA office) or at [franklincountynrcd.org](http://franklincountynrcd.org). Thanks!

We make every effort to source plant material locally, both to ensure VT-adapted products and to support our local land-based economy. This year we had to source from outside the Northeast more than we normally do, due to changes in local nurseries and ordering timelines. We expect to return to a higher-proportion of our offerings being VT-grown next year, although our supplier of large, balled & burlapped trees has closed permanently

**Mushrooms:** We're taking a break from offering mushroom-growing supplies this year. **Trout:** Order form in the newsletter or at franklincountynrcd.org

**Wildflowers & pollinator plants:** We offer seed mixes on the second page, but if you're looking for perennial plants in small pots for your garden or yard, we highly recommend River Berry Farm in Fairfax. Browse their offerings at northeastpollinator.com or stop by the farm at 191 Goose Pond Rd.

Contact: Lauren Weston  
802-528-4176  
info@franklincountynrcd.org

**Franklin County Conservation District  
2021 Tree Sale Order Form**

**Pick-up:** April 30 - May 2nd  
Franklin County Fair Grounds  
294 Airport Road, Highgate

**Evergreens** : buying in quantity? See bulk pricing below.

Source	Name	Botanical name	Size	Price until Mar 15th	Price after Mar 15th	Number	Total Price
*	NY	Cedar, Northern White (Arborvitae)	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	6-12 in ^	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$
*	MI	Cedar, Northern White (Arborvitae)	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	3-4 ft	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$
*	NY	Fir, Balsam	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	10-18 in ^	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$
	NY	Fir, Fraser <i>native to Appalachia</i>	<i>Abies fraseri</i>	10-18 in ^	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$
*	NY	Pine, Eastern White	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	10-16 in ^	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$
	NY	Spruce, Colorado Blue <i>native to Rocky Mtns</i>	<i>Picea pungens</i>	15-24 in ^	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$
*	NY	Spruce, White	<i>Picea glauca</i>	15-24 in ^	\$4.00	\$5.00	\$
*	MI	Spruce, White	<i>Picea glauca</i>	3-4 ft	\$20.00	\$22.00	\$
* native to VT ^ eligible for bulk pricing							Total this category: \$

**Bulk Evergreen Starts** : (small items only)

Evergreens marked with ^ available in bundles of 10 for \$25, 50 for \$100, or 100 for \$150. Pricing after Mar. 15th is 10 for \$30, 50 for \$120, or 100 for \$180.

Tree variety:	Size of bundle:	\$ per bundle:	# bundles	Total Price
example: Fraser Fir	100	\$150	2	\$ 300.00
				\$
				\$
Total this category:				\$

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

Source	Name		Price thru Mar 15th	Price after Mar 15th	Number	Total Price
PA	Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden	1oz bag for 300 sq ft	\$7.00	\$8.00		
PA	Riparian Buffer	1oz bag for 150 sq ft	\$6.00	\$7.00		
PA	Wetland	1oz bag for 150 sq ft	\$8.00	\$9.00		

**Full Subtotal:** \$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Coupons: \$

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$

**Total Enclosed:** \$

Street, Town, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
**Franklin County NRCD**  
Mail/deliver checks and orders to  
50 S. Main St. Suite B-20  
St. Albans, VT 05478

**Can we reach you via email in April?** Yes / No If no, specify preferred: phone / mail

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

**If items are unavailable, would you like us to:** substitute / refund / contact you

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

Orders must be **received by March 15 for early-bird pricing**. All orders are first-come first-served. All items are bare-root.

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. Check your order for quality and accuracy at pickup. Follow all care instructions.

**PICKUP:** We're going to keep the adaptations we made for COVID last year, for safety, reducing driving and because we felt it offered a higher-quality experience. You will be assigned a pickup time-slot between Friday, April 30 and Sunday, May 2nd, or we will let you know if a neighbor has volunteered to bring it to you. You must be available at least one day 4/30-5/2 to pick up or receive your order. Please check for one or more emails from us in April with final logistical details. If we cannot reach you your order may be forfeitted.

I'm interested in volunteering to bring neighbors' orders to our local area and I have a: *sedan hatchback SUV pickup trailer* Thank you!

**Thanks! We look forward to seeing you and your trees!**

**Featured Trees:** These are some of the trees we're most excited to offer this year. Find descriptions of all our offerings at [franklincountynrcd.org](http://franklincountynrcd.org) or from the plastic envelope mounted outside the USDA office at 50 S. Main St., St. Albans.

### Black Willow

This is the only willow native to Vermont that grows into a full, beautiful tree—though there are many shrub-willow species. Like other willows, black willow is fast-growing and readily re-sprouts if it is munched by deer or beavers. It loves to grow in wet spots. Willow trees and shrubs are some of the most powerful habitat-creators. They host 415 species of caterpillars, more than any other in VT, which in turn attracts birds to eat the caterpillars. And, being among the first trees to bloom in the spring, they are a crucial early-season source of pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators. If planted



A bee gathers pollen from a willow flower. Credit: Bob Peterson, @BobinSwamp



Black willow leans over a slow river, providing habitat for both fish and birds. Credit: Steven J. Baskauf



Musclewood's rippled trunk. Credit: Mary Holland, VT. Naturally Curious

next to a stream or pond, insects and caterpillars also drop off the tree into the water to feed trout and other fish. Domestic livestock can also graze on willow leaves, and willows provide outstanding erosion-control along streambanks.

### Musclewood, or American Hornbeam

This smaller tree, usually found in the understory or forest-edge, fascinated me as a child because its smooth bark is rippled like toned muscles. Along with serviceberry, it makes a beautiful addition to the edge of a forest or stream, or it can accent the shadier side of a building. The wood is extremely hard. It is closely related to birches. Birds enjoy eating the catkins (type of seed), but perhaps most exciting is that swallowtail butterflies, luna moths, and many others use musclewood as a host.

### Sugar Maple - a classic

Surely you know our friend the sugar maple! But besides the sweets we make from its sap (not to be underestimated) the sugar maple is important for many other reasons. By some reports, sugar maple twigs, leaves and bark make up 25-50% of the diets of both white-tailed deer and porcupines! Moose, snowshoe hares, finches, chickadees, and many



A golden-crowned kinglet perched in spruce boughs. Credit: Jack Bartholmai.

more forest animals love sugar maples. Sugar maple does best on deep, fertile, well-drained soil, sometimes competing with farmland for that prime soil. Wild leeks or "ramps" and other spring ephemeral flowers love a sugar maple forest.



Sap buckets on sugar maples. Credit: Michael Farrell

### Native Evergreens, or Conifers

Native evergreens such as northern white cedar, white pine, balsam fir, white spruce, hemlock, eastern redcedar, black spruce, and red pine provide a unique role in our landscapes from both human and wildlife points of view. For humans, evergreens provide a natural buffer or screen year-round, whether blocking an unsightly view, muting sound, filtering dust, creating a windbreak, or blocking blowing snow. Similarly, birds and mammals find winter shelter in these trees. Chickadees love to forage in conifers, and robins prefer conifers for nesting. You can attract tiny golden-crowned kinglets—which won't come to your feeder since they eat almost exclusively insects—with a stand of conifers where they'll forage and might even nest. In a winter with little snow, ruffed grouse keep warm under dense evergreens (usually they bury themselves in soft snow to keep warm.) Conifers also create a different soil environment that is more acidic and welcomes understory plants like blueberries, bunchberry, wintergreen, partridgeberry, and mosses. And of course, fir and spruce bring the most classic winter holiday cheer.



An evergreen windbreak blocks snow, wind, dust and sound year-round. Credit: [midwestgardeningtips.com](http://midwestgardeningtips.com)



Franklin County NRCD

**NEW:** 50 S. Main St. Ste B-20  
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: 802-528-4176  
Email: [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org)  
Web: [franklincountynrcd.org](http://franklincountynrcd.org)

**Franklin County  
Natural Resources  
Conservation District**

Supervisors:  
Richard Noel, *Chair*  
Philip Parent  
Eileen Trudell  
Molly Magnan

Staff:  
Lauren Weston, *Manager (incoming)*  
Jeannie Bartlett, *Manager (outgoing)*  
Brodie Haenke, *Conservation Specialist*  
Katherine Helmer, *ECO AmeriCorps  
Conservation Technician*

**Help us conserve paper and save  
money by going paperless**

Please call 802-528-4176,  
or email [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org), and tell  
us the physical address you would like  
removed and the email address you would like  
to add. Thank you!

**Tree Sale Information Inside!**

Thank you to our Silver Sponsors:



800-639-4017 | 802-388-7917



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802-524-2113



802-868-2328



802-527-0000



802-479-2196



802-238-4904



802-524-2938

Thank you to our Bronze Sponsors:

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**Franklin County Conservation District**



**Annual Newsletter 2021**

with Tree and Trout Sale ordering information

Inside This Issue:

- \* Reflections on Franklin Co. farming history with Daton Fleury (pg. 2)
- \* Improving trout habitat by planting trees and restoring streams (pg. 5)
- \* \$2 off your tree order for completing tree survivorship survey (pg. 7)
- \* Tips for maple sugaring at home—plus sugar maples are on sale this year! (pg. 8-9)
- \* Find tips for improving water quality coming off your land (pg. 3)
- \* Introducing Lauren Weston, our new District Manager (pg. 1)



Unloading milk cans at the E. Berkshire creamery. Credit: Jack Delano, 1941, from the Library of Congress

Want to sponsor our newsletter? Write to [info@franklincountynrcd.org](mailto:info@franklincountynrcd.org) or call 802-528-4176 to support the Conservation District's work.

Our 2,500 readers appreciate your generous support!