



Newsletter of The Merrimack County Conservation District distributed free to Merrimack County residents and others interested in conservation of natural resources.

Merrimack County  
Conservation District  
10 Ferry Street Suite 211  
Concord, NH 03301-5081  
(603) 223-6023  
<http://www.merrimackccd.org>  
E-mail: [info@merrimackccd.org](mailto:info@merrimackccd.org)

**District Staff:**

Stacy Luke, District Manager

**Board of Supervisors:**

Peter Blakeman, Chair  
(Sutton)

Gerald Courser, Vice Chair  
(Warner)

Robert Larocque, Treasurer  
(Concord)

Brenda Digilio  
(North Sutton)

Jeffrey Moore  
(Loudon)

**Associate Supervisors:**

Scott Bartlett (Concord)

Robert Bradbury (Webster)

Robert Drown, Jr. (Webster)

Audra Klumb (Concord)

James Robertson (Contoocook)

THE MISSION OF THE MERRIMACK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT IS TO PROMOTE AND ACHIEVE CONSERVATION OF THE LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE OF MERRIMACK COUNTY.

Copyright © March 2015 MCCD  
All Rights Reserve

# CONSERVATION NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE MERRIMACK COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## PAYING IT FORWARD: MERRIMACK COUNTY PARTICIPATES IN NH GLEANS

by Rhonda Milliken, NH Gleans

If you've ever grown your own garden, you know all too well that your final products are not always "picture perfect". You then go to your local farmers market and you marvel at the beautiful bounty before you. In the recesses of your mind you know that they must have had some "uglies"..... you know, less than beautiful produce... it's part of the process, right? Have you ever wondered what becomes of the under-loved veggies? Often times they are used as silage, goes to compost or, worse, waste. At home, we make do with what we have. We overlook the blemishes and other imperfections and we make edible use of our gardens. What can happen to farm excess? Instead of going to compost could it feed families in need? Enter gleaning... more specifically, NH Gleans. Our mission is to rescue excess produce from local farms and make it available to the food pantries and soup kitchens in our communities. There is



*Our Youngest Gleaning Volunteer Maddie Helping Bring Food to Concord Headstart*

*Continued on page 2*

## 2014 GLEANING STATS

This season Merrimack County Conservation District collected a total of 9,633 lbs of produce!

### **Thank you to the participating Merrimack County farms!**

Carter Hill Orchards, Concord; Kearsarge Gore Farm, Warner; Lewis Farm, Concord; Owen Farm, Hopkinton; Two Mountain Farm, Andover; Warner River Organics, Webster; Work Song Farm, Hopkinton

### **The Recipients of the Gleaned Food**

Concord Headstart, The Friendly Kitchen in Concord, Friends of Forgotten Children in Concord, Henniker Food Pantry, New London Area Food Pantry, Warner Food Pantry.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MCCD needs volunteers to help with our gleaning program that runs from Concord to New London and to help with the SNAP/ EBT Booths at the Concord Summer Market, Penacook Farmers' Market, and Winter Farmers' Market at Cole Gardens. If you are interested in helping families having access to local, nutritious food, please give Stacy or Becca a call at 223-6023 or email [info@merrimackccd.org](mailto:info@merrimackccd.org).



## MCCD AWARDED A MOOSEPLATE GRANT FOR AN INNOVATIVE HEAVY USE AREA FOR BISON

MCCD has recently been awarded a 2015 MoosePlate Grant to assist Yankee Farmers' Market with their Innovative Heavy Use Area using woodchips for Bison. MCCD will highlight this project in the next **Conservation News** edition. Stay tuned...

also the "Grow a Row" project where residential gardeners do just that, grow an extra row of produce in their gardens and donate it to those less fortunate.

Gleaning is not a novel concept yet it exists outside the common vernacular. Historically, gleaning dates back to at least biblical times. Affluent farmers were obligated (at times by law) to make their excess food products available to the impoverished. The end result is a harmonious connection between food and mankind. Personally my work with gleaning, while at culinary school and also now, leaves me with a sense community and goodwill and it can be contagious!

At the beginning of last summer's farmers market season, I visited some area markets to heighten awareness and recruit new farmers. One small farm vendor at the Contoocook farmers market, Denise Green, pulled me aside one Saturday. "Rhonda," she said, "I want you to know that you have inspired me."

I responded curiously with a simple "Oh?"

She continued, "I do farm runs every week and recently decided to take on a few families to sponsor. When I arrive at their homes they just run up to my truck smiling.... they so appreciate the fresh produce I bring to them. Thank you so much for this idea; I never knew how good it could feel!"

I took her hand, smiled and said, "And ya' know, that's what it's all about!"

That is what it's all about...

Merrimack County Conservation District is hoping to grow the program in 2015. Would you like to help pick up food, glean from a field, or deliver food to a food pantry? Is so, please call us at 223-6023 or email [info@merrimackccd.org](mailto:info@merrimackccd.org).

## STANLEY GRIMES SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS TO PEMBROKE ACADEMY GRADUATES



Merrimack County Conservation District's Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce the awarding of the first Stanley Grimes Memorial Scholarship to Dillon Sirrinc of Epsom and Mariah Mitchell of Pembroke. Sirrinc is a 2013 graduate of Pembroke Academy who has completed his first year of an Agricultural Diesel Technician at SUNY College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill, NY. Mitchell, a 2014 graduate of Pembroke Academy, recently began her freshman year at

*Continued on page 3*

## USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE UPDATES

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service continues to accept applications for financial assistance programs to help implement conservation practices on farm and forest land. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is focused this year on soil health and practices geared to improve soil quality, such as reduced tillage no-till/zone-till), crop rotation, cover crops, deep tillage, and hay/pasture seeding. Assistance is also provided for manure related concerns, rotational pasture systems, water conserving irrigation systems, and forestry and wildlife work, among others. There is no deadline for EQIP applications, so please apply anytime. Under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applicants can adopt innovative enhancements on crop and/or forest land that raises the bar on their already great conservation work. There is an application deadline for CSP of March 13, 2015. If you would like additional information, please call Chad Cochran, NRCS District Conservationist, at (603)223-6021.



**Stanley Grimes** *continued from page 2*

Southern NH University, majoring in Environmental Science.

"I feel very honored to have received this scholarship," said Mitchell. "This scholarship is a tremendous aid in helping me to afford my college education and being able to pursue my dreams. I never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Grimes, but I have heard that he had quite a passion for environmental science. I am looking forward to all of the fascinating opportunities that I will be able to encounter in my future career of environmental science. Thank you so much!"

The Grimes Scholarship honors Stanley Grimes, a Pembroke dairy farmer who served for 33 years on the District's Board of Supervisors and 18 years on the Pembroke School Board. He was a lifelong Pembroke resident, a 1945 Pembroke Academy graduate and hardworking owner of Grimes Dairy on Buck Street. The Grimes Scholarship is open to students majoring or planning to major in an agriculture, conservation or the natural resources field.

For further information about the Grimes Memorial Scholarship contact Merrimack County Conservation District Manager Stacy Luke (603-223-6023 or [info@merrimackccd.org](mailto:info@merrimackccd.org)).

---

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY MICROLOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche and small family farm operations.

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers. This loan program will also be useful to specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

Eligible applicants can apply for a maximum amount of \$50,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program.

Individuals who are interested in applying for a microloan or would like to discuss other farm loan programs available should contact their local FSA office to set up an appointment with a loan official. In Merrimack County, please contact: Donna Juneau, County Executive Director, Merrimack-Belknap-Hillsborough County Farm Service Agency, phone: 603.223-6003; email: [donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov](mailto:donna.juneau@nh.usda.gov).



**CONSERVATION NEWS**  
**Merrimack County Conservation District**  
**10 Ferry Street, Suite 211**  
**Concord NH 03301-5081**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Concord NH  
03301  
Permit # 1460

Return Service Requested

## UPCOMING MCCD EVENTS

March 19th from 5:30-8PM: **MCCD Annual Dinner featuring Kevin Gardner, author of The Granite Kiss: Traditions of Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls**. Discover New England Stone Walls at this Ham & Beans Dinner at Cole Gardens. Enjoy good company, door prizes, food from the Winter Farmers' Market at Cole Garden, and a great presentation. \$18/ pp for dinner. Call 223-6023 to RSVP.



**Deadline Extended to March 20th: Tree, Shrub, Bulb, Composters & More Conservation Fundraiser priority deadline.** Please support the conservation district by ordering from our annual fundraiser. Back this year! The NH Wildlife Package (formerly Wild Turkey Package) is back featuring 10 different trees and shrubs for a total of 50 plants that will benefit NH wildlife. This package retails for \$200 but is \$160 through a partnership with NH Wildlife Federation. Call 223-6023 for an order form or visit [www.merrimackccd.org](http://www.merrimackccd.org) today.



May 1st from 4-7 pm and May 2nd from 9am-1 pm: **Tree, Shrub, Bulb, Composters & More Conservation Fundraiser Pick-up at Carter Hill Orchards.** Extras will be available at pick-up.

May 10th: **Order deadline for our Backyard Trout Program.** Get Brook or Rainbow Trout for your backyard pond. Have 10-12" trout delivered or pick up for 6-8" trout is on Sunday, May 17th at our office in Concord. Visit [www.merrimackccd.org](http://www.merrimackccd.org) today for more information or call us at 223-6023 to have a flyer mailed to you.