

Farm Bill Final Accomplishment Report

Year:	FY2017
State:	Maine
Cooperative Agreement Name:	Forest Pest Outreach and Survey Project
Cooperative Agreement Number:	FAIN AP17PPQFO000C365
Project Funding Period:	9/20/2017 – 9/19/2018
Project Report:	Farm Bill FPOSP Final Report
Project Document Date:	12/12/2018
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Quarterly Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Semi-Annual Accomplishment Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annual Accomplishment Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Approach

The cooperator (DACF) will provide a multi-pronged approach to invasive forest pest outreach by utilizing the additional resources of trained outreach volunteers (through contracts with NGOs) focusing on insect pests, as well as partnering with the Maine Natural Areas Program who will focus on federal noxious weeds and other invasive plants that are threats to Maine's forests.

A. *Invasive Forest Insects*: We will continue to deliver outreach and education by capitalizing on the additional resources and expertise of many of the trained Outreach volunteers that have been educated through DACF's Train-the-Trainer program since 2009. The previous two Farm Bill-awarded Forest Pest Outreach projects (FY15 and FY16) awarded sub-contracts to The Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and the Saco River Recreational Council (SRRC) to conduct outreach and training for invasive forest insects, specifically emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle, to their constituencies and beyond. Now with experience and infrastructure in place, the two agencies will again receive funds to continue their outreach efforts.

- 1) MACD workplan and report attached.
- 2) SRRC workplan and report attached.
- 3) DACF will:

- a. Maintain a list of outreach and training activities, tabling events, media contacts and targeted audience participants and report on these per reporting requirements in the cooperative agreement.

A database is maintained by the cooperator that tracks all events related to FPOSP outreach. Although we are no longer building up a volunteer base through DACF, we continue to solicit activity reports from our previously trained volunteers, and continue to participate in various outreach activities. Below is a list of events by DACF staff and/or volunteers for the **last half of the reporting period (4/1/18-9/19/18)**.

Date	Location	Event	Type	# Impacted	Notes
4/19/2018	Skype call	Invasive Forest Pest Mission overhaul on GMRI Vital Signs	Citizen-science mission brainstorming event	?	Discussion with Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Vital Signs program managers to revamp invasive forest pest missions.
4/27/2018	Naples	Agricultural Career Day	Invasive Forest Pest interactive display	150	Outreach to high school students to demonstrate different careers in agriculturally related fields
5/9/2018	World wide web	EAB Website Overhaul	Recreate Maine DACF's EAB website	1000's	DACF staff overhauled the EAB webpage to make it more comprehensive and user-friendly; www.maine.gov/eab
5/16/2018	Jefferson	Arbor Day /EAB Awareness Outreach – K-8 Education	Presentations, and tree-planting demonstration	120	Annual event. Central Maine Power arborist wears EAB costume; plants a tree.

5/17/2018	Windsor	Northeast Livestock Expo (NELE); Kids Day	Invasive Forest Pest interactive display	600	Invasive Forest Pest and Firewood Outreach with pictorial quiz. <i>Pics attached</i>
6/2/2018	Sears Island	Bioblitz	K-12 outreach	15	Friends of Sears Island and Waldo Co. SWCD. Survey with kids and opportunity to talk about invasive forest pests <i>Pic attached</i>
6/5/2018	Northport	EAB Presentation and purple trap deployment	K-12 outreach	25	Outreach with 3 rd - 5 th graders. Invited by the Edna Drinkwater school.
6/18/2018 – 6/20/2018	Phippsburg	Garden Federation of Maine Annual Meeting	Unmanned display	200	Invasive Forest Pest booth in the exhibition area, though much handout information was taken.
7/11/2018	Rockport	Kids Can Grow – UMaine 4H program	K-12 outreach	30	Teach kids about insect pests with an opportunity to talk about EAB and HWA. <i>Pic attached</i>
7/13/2018	Rockland	Coastal Children’s Museum Bug Program	K-12 outreach	6	Looked for “bad bugs” – opportunity to mention EAB
7/30/2018	Newry	Local Science in the Classroom	Presentation to school teachers	12	Invasive Forest Pests (EAB, SLF-Ailanthus, Browntail moth) citizen science opportunities via GMRI Vital Signs.
9/11/2018	Augusta	Bug Maine-ia	Invasive Forest pest and firewood outreach	800	Large extremely active booth educating primarily on firewood as a vector for invasive forest pest introductions. <i>Pics attached</i>
9/17/2018	Farmington	Farmington Fair – Ag Day	Invasive Forest Pest table	500	Popular fair – primarily ALB and EAB outreach and lots of giveaway items.

b. Maintain the in-state electronic list of citizen volunteers for present and future pest detection communications as well as requests for assistance. Most of the communications will be achieved through newsletters and social media.

We maintain a subscription list of our electronic newsletter, *Invasive Pest Outreach News*, which had 1889 subscribers by end of reporting period and is delivered electronically 3-6 times a year. Four newsletters were delivered during this project year (9/20/2017 - 9/19/2018).

In addition, we regularly post to our Maine Bug Watch [Facebook](#) (1935 followers) and [Twitter](#) (261 followers) pages, to not only cover pest updates, but announce events and volunteer opportunities. These metrics cover the project year (9/20/2017 - 9/19/2018).

Maine DACF-FPOSP Social Media Metrics						
9/20/17 - 9/19/18		# subscribers 9/20/17	# subscribers by 9/19/18	% increase	# posts/ tweets	engagement
Type	Name					
Newsletter	Invasive Pest Outreach News	1659	1889	14	4	28% "unique opens rate"
Facebook	Maine Bug Watch	676	1935	186	101	4449 "avg post reach"
Twitter	Maine Bug Watch	238	261	10	42	106 "impressions per day"

c. Coordinate FPO events with national outreach efforts, including Earth Day and National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW).

NISAW –

- 2/26/18 – The Department released a multi-agency newsletter in observance of NISAW (*in midyear report*), which was posted on Maine Bug Watch facebook and Twitter.

EAB Awareness Week –

- 5/16/18 – Jefferson School presentation described in event table.
- Posts on Maine Bug Watch facebook and twitter pages:
 - Changed Maine Bug Watch cover photo to promote Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week; 449 reach; 4 shares
 - Take Time Out for Trees; 446 reach; 3 shares
 - Out-of-State Firewood is Banned; 1161 reach; 17 shares
 - Inform of roadside checkpoints in NH for out-of-state firewood; 107 reach
 - Save Maine’s Ash Trees; 1351 reach; 15 shares (right after Maine’s first EAB find).

Other –

- 4/6/18 – Promoted Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness Month on Maine Bug Watch; 569 reach; 6 shares.
- 8/7/18 – The Department released a press release promoting “August is Tree Check Month”, which was also promoted on Maine Bug Watch facebook and Twitter three times; 1752 reach; 26 shares.

d. Cooperate with other agencies, contractors, and NGOs to develop and disseminate outreach materials.

We continue to share all our materials, including posters, presentations, handouts, tree tags, and insect and wood displays with SRRC, MACD, and others who make requests through our volunteer resource website (<http://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/caps/ALB/ALBvolunteers.shtml>). We continue to develop, print and distribute outreach materials to these groups and our trained volunteers.

e. Provide support to MACD and SRRC.

DACF staff supported:

- SRRC at the Fryeburg Fair with supplies of outreach items (bookmarks, transit cards, brochures, pencils, tattoos, etc.), and staffing for the booth.
 - MACD with connection to NH for the emerald ash borer field trip.
 - MACD with tree-tagging demonstration and supplies.
 - York Co. SWCD with ash tree scouting and inventory.
 - Oxford Co. SWCD – assisted with content for municipal websites.
 - Waldo Co. SWCD – Sears Island Bioblitz.
 - Franklin Co. SWCD – Farmington Fair Ag Day.
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DACF – NELE Kids' Day - 5/17/2018



DACF – Sears Island Bioblitz – 6/2/2018



DACF – Kids' Can Grow – 7/11/2018



DACF – Bug Maine-ia – 9/11/2018



B. *Invasive Forest Plants*: Outreach and education for this topic will be performed by the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP). MNAP is a program within the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) which supports an Invasive Plant Biologist as well as several Ecologists and an Information Manager.

- 1) MNAP will collaborate with partners to co-present workshops and other educational outreach opportunities, to ensure coverage of both insect and plant pests that threaten Maine's forested environments.
- 2) MNAP will develop and conduct up to 20 outreach and education workshops, in addition to developing educational materials such as an invasive plant ranking tool and websites providing key identification, reporting, and management guidance for the noxious weeds and invasive plants most threatening to Maine's forests and other natural areas. MNAP will share these resources freely with partners to spread the message of early detection of forest pests.
- 3) MNAP outreach efforts will target: 1) producers, forest landowners, and other likely first detectors such as foresters, park managers, land stewards, and conservation commission leaders; 2) field workers such as electric utility contractors, landscape professionals, arborists, nursery and garden center employees; 3) plant consumers such as gardeners; and 4) select youth already engaged with the topic of forest stewardship via forestry classes, high school projects, internships, or other related activities. Example outreach topics:
 - Early Detection of Invasive Plants and Noxious Weeds – New Species Threatening Maine's Forests
 - Invasive Plants 101: Intro to Invasive Plant Identification and Overview of Management
 - Invasive Plant Reporting using iMapInvasives (Early Detection tool and central repository for Maine)
 - Detailed Invasive Plant Mapping with iMapInvasives (to facilitate strategic management)
 - Advanced Invasive Plant Management: Detailed Control Techniques and Case Studies

Activities during the reporting period 4/1/18-9/19/18: the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) conducted 8 invasive plant workshops between 4/1/2018 and 5/30/2018 (when APHIS FY17 FPOSP funds were exhausted). These 8 workshops targeted a variety of audiences, reaching 223 attendees with the message of which invasive plants are harmful in the forest, why, and what they can do about it. Attendees included foresters, forest landowners, AmeriCorps Members who serve across the state, landscape and garden professionals, Tribal natural resource managers, licensed herbicide applicators, and the general public.

Of particular note is the series of Stewardship Forester Trainings in May, at which private consulting foresters received training on the online mapping tool iMapInvasives for use in invasive plant mapping. By using this tool, foresters can present their clients with a clear picture of how invasive plants are threatening their forests, and can better prepare management recommendations to assist clients in addressing the threats. Several foresters have since requested iMapInvasives accounts so that they can use the tool to help document invasive plant problems on client properties.

Date	Location	Event	Type	# Impacted	Notes
4/6/2018	Boothbay	Native and Invasive Plant Workshop	Invasive Plant Impacts, Prevention, and Management	42 landscapers and gardeners	Many professional and some amateur gardeners; good engagement
4/14/2018	Univ. of Vermont	Northeast Natural History Conference	Complex Invasive Plant Management Challenges	70 attendees	Implications of climate change
5/3/2018	Farmington	Maine Forest Service landowner class series	Invasive Plants 101	8 attendees	Woodland owners
5/8/2018	Bangor	Stewardship Forester Training	Invasive Plant Control for Foresters	32 foresters	Reviewed prioritization strategies, ID
5/9/2018	Augusta	Stewardship Forester Training	Invasive Plant Control for Foresters	18 foresters	Reviewed prioritization strategies, ID
5/11/2018	Scarborough	Stewardship Forester Training	Invasive Plant Control for Foresters	25 foresters	Reviewed prioritization strategies, ID
5/17/2018	Orono	EPA Workshop for Tribal Natural Resources Managers	Invasive Species and Climate Change	15 natural resource managers	Interested in applied impacts of invasive species
5/30/2018	Augusta	Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Stewards Training	Invasive Plants 101	13 AmeriCorps Stewards	Immediate hands-on application for Stewards

Other Invasive Forest Plants Outreach and Education Accomplished with APHIS Support:

- MNAP responded to 30 general inquiries about invasive plants via email or phone. These included: simple inquiries about how to identify a plant; complex conversations about treatment options, timelines, and prioritization; help finding sources of control project funding; how to spur towns to take action in town forests and parks; and what plants to plant after invasive plants are removed. Woodlot owners, conservation commission volunteers, forestry foundation staff, and the general public all received assistance with their invasive plant questions.
- Staff finished evaluating 124 potential invasive plants with an Invasive Plant Ranking Tool, and finalized a draft Advisory List of invasive plants, including ranking “bins” for plants with differing levels of harm. This work has informed our understanding of which plants are the most biologically harmful in the forest, which allows us to tailor outreach to focus on species of highest concern. We are in the process of formalizing the list to distribute the information to forest land managers.

Between 6/1/2018 and 9/19/2018, another 6 invasive plant outreach events were conducted using funding from other sources. These 6 workshops targeted a variety of audiences, reaching 132 attendees with the message of which invasive plants are harmful in the forest, why, and what they can do about it. Attendees included foresters, forest landowners, land trust staff and volunteers working in their local forests, licensed herbicide applicators, and

the general public. The growing season is always a good time to conduct workshops as people come with plant samples wanting to know “what is this plant that is taking over my woods!?”

Date	Location	Event	Type	# Impacted	Notes
6/20/2018	Gorham	Focus Group part of UNH/UMO research study	Identification, Ecology, and Impacts of Glossy Buckthorn	14 attendees	Woodland owners, mostly small-scale
7/18/2018	Monhegan	Weekly Speaker Series	Impacts, Prevention, and Management	25 land trust members and landowners	Very big-picture questions about invasive species
7/23/2018	Chesterville	Chesterville Meeting House Monthly Speaker Series	Invasive Plants 101	29 attendees	Landowners, general public
8/8/2018	Unity	Land trust Monthly Speaker Series	Invasive Management to Support Healthy Habitats	22 attendees	Land trust members, landowners, general public
8/9/2018	Farmington	Maine Forest Service-sponsored Workshop	Invasive Plants 101	16 attendees	Mix of foresters, landowners, general public
9/4/2018	Bath	Land trust-sponsored workshop	Invasive Species in Maine: the Big Picture	26 attendees	Licensed applicators, land trust members, landowners, general public

Invasive Forest Plants Outreach and Education Accomplished with Other Funding:

- MNAP responded to 58 general inquiries about invasive plants via email or phone during this time. These included: simple inquiries about how to identify a plant; complex conversations about treatment options, timelines, and prioritization; help finding sources of control project funding; how to spur towns to take action in town forests and parks; and what plants to plant after invasive plants are removed. Woodlot owners, conservation commission volunteers, forestry foundation staff, and the general public all received assistance with their invasive plant questions.
- MNAP hosted a booth display about invasive plants at the Maine Tree Farm Day on 9/8/2018, sponsored by Maine Woodland Owners, the Tree Farm system, and the Maine Forest Service. 77 attendees (woodland owners, foresters, loggers, and maple syrup producers) interacted with the booth, learning about invasive plants by handling the plant specimens, reading the poster display, asking questions, and/or taking home factsheets.



MNAP – Tree Farm Day, Wilton - 9/8/2018

Approved and signed by

Gary Fish
Cooperator

Date: 12/12/2018

ADODR

Date: _____

Attachments:

- Maine Association of Conservation District (MACD) Approach
- MACD Final Report
- Saco River Recreational Council (SRRC) Approach
- SRRC Final Report

Maine Association of Conservation District (MACD) Approach:

A. *Invasive Forest Insects:*

- 1) MACD: The Forest Invasive Pest Outreach and Education Technical Delivery Team will continue to provide cost efficient and effective outreach and education, and will expand outreach to all 16 counties in Maine from the initial 12 counties targeted in the first year of the grant.
 - A *Train the Trainer* session will be offered through MACD at the 2017 Winter Meeting, which will enable additional conservation district staff to become trained presenters.
 - Workshops, trainings and/or walk and talks will be held throughout Maine, and where possible, in conjunction with conservation partners during key awareness weeks such as the Invasive Species Awareness Week in late February and also the Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week in late May. Public Service Announcements will be provided to radio and news outlets in advance of these events in order to generate greater awareness of the threats to our forests and woodlots from invasive forest pests. These events will target outreach to local landowners and to forestry professionals. Events such as fairs will have invasive forest pest displays and handouts.
 - Municipal outreach will be provided through the Maine Municipal Association (MMA) and where possible through local municipal associations such as the Oxford County Municipal Association. This outreach will target municipal officials, public works department personnel and other local government officials through regional meetings with the goal of municipalities developing invasive pest management plans for their communities. Folders for municipalities, conservation commissions and tree boards will have focused information to provide strategies and draft management plans to address invasive forest pests in their communities.
 - Invasive Forest Pest Information Packets will be produced for all 16 conservation districts in Maine in order to significantly expand statewide outreach throughout the year. Conservation districts, while differing in their focus throughout the state, all provide numerous natural resource education workshops and technical trainings, giving opportunity to place these information packets out at relevant events. Additionally, many conservation districts offer tree and plants sales, during which these packets will be made available. Given that our target audiences for all events are conservation minded professional and landowners, conservation districts can put this important information in the hands of people who spend a good amount of their time outdoors, and who typically have very good awareness about the natural world, enabling them to notice any negative changes in their environment.



**Maine Association of Conservation Districts
Employees Committee**

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Invasive Forest Pest Outreach and Education Grant Report
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Bureau of Agriculture, Division of Animal and Plant Health
RFP #201506109

Reporting Period: April 1 – September 19, 2018

1. Education and Outreach: Programs

There were six programs held during this reporting period as listed in Table 1 below. Evaluations were completed at two of the Androscoggin Valley SWCD programs and are attached as an appendix to this report.

Table 1

Program Date	Presenter	Host and Town	Partners	CEU's	No. of Participants
April 26	Amy Polyot, PCSWCD & Terri Coolong, MFS	4 th & 5 th grades, Granite St School, Millinocket	Maine Forest Service	None	30
June 11	Joe Dembeck, Somerset County SWCD	ME Natural Areas Program, Skowhegan	ME Nat'l Areas Program (for seasonal staff)	None	3
July 10	Hildy Ellis, Knox- Lincoln SWCD	“Tree Fodder Seminar” Belfast		None	10
Sept 8	Josie Lahey, AVSWCD	Cooperative Ext's Rural Living Day, Houlton	Southern Aroostook SWCD	1 Pesticide Credit	5
Sept 12	Josie Lahey, AVSWCD	Topsham Public Library		2 Pesticide, 2 SAF	10 (w/ evaluations)
Sept 13	Josie Lahey, AVSWCD	USDA office, Lewiston		2 Pesticide, 2 SAF	10 (w/ evaluations)

2. Education and Outreach: Public Events

The following Invasive Forest Pests outreach events and display booths were led or staffed by SWCD employees as listed in Table 2. All IFP display booths were staffed by District personnel except for the week-long Farmington and Union Fairs. The state of Maine has a lot to offer in county and state fairs throughout the summer and fall and Districts took full advantage of the diverse array of these public events.

Table 2

Event Date	Event Name	Location	Host	Participating Districts	Approx. Event Attendees
April 6-7	Vacationland RV & Camping Show	Auburn	Norway Savings Bank	Andy Valley, Kennebec, Knox-Lincoln, Oxford	5,000 attend – over 100 packets handed out; hundreds of interactions; folders w/ display materials distributed to all campground owners
May 23	Kids Field Days	Leonard's Mills, Bradley	Maine Forest & Logging Museum	Penobscot	100+ students
June 7	Highway Congress	Skowhegan Fairgrounds	American Public Works Assoc	Franklin, Kennebec, Knox-Lincoln, Penobscot & Somerset SWCD's	1,000 from 100 Maine towns and agencies
July 12-15	Ossipee Fair	Hiram		Oxford	~3,000 attend, over 100 packets handed out
July 22	Open Farm Day	Union	Brae Maple Farm	Knox-Lincoln	200 attendees
July 28 – Aug 4	Northern Maine Fair	Presque Isle	Maine State Fair	Central Aroostook SWCD	~200 at booth during week
Aug 18 - 25	Union Fair	Union	Maine State Fair	Knox-Lincoln	Unstaffed booth – 150 packets distributed; Attended fair on 8/21 & 8/23 in EAB costume & interacted with many people
August 22-23	Maine Farm Days	Clinton	Misty Meadows Farm	Knox-Lincoln, Kennebec, Somerset, Waldo	~2,500 attend 2 day event

Sept 2	Oosoola Days	Somerset County Airport	Town of Norridgewock	Somerset	21 actively engaged – 41 booth visitors (300 total at event)
Sept 8	Rural Living Day	Houlton	Cooperative Extension	Androscoggin, Southern Aroostook	8 kids for crafts / 15 booth visitors
Sept 9	Brewer Land Trust Day	Brewer waterfront	Brewer Land Trust	Penobscot	14 kids for crafts/40 booth visitors
Sept 16 – 22	Farmington Fair	Farmington	Franklin County Ag Society	Franklin	thousands attend fair
Sept 17	Ag Day at Farmington Fair	Farmington	Farmington Fair/ Franklin County Ag Society	Franklin, MFS	1,140 (students, teachers, chaperones)

A broad range of the public was targeted at these events and Districts used activities like IFP crafts for children and one-on-one interaction with adults to share knowledge and information. District staff noted good public discussions with many individuals – from people who had limited IFP knowledge to the well-informed. Many attendees at the events were aware of the discovery of emerald ash borer, opening the opportunity for further discussion and questions with District personnel.

Public Program and Event Highlights

Programs: As indicated in Table 1, IFP programs reached children and adults. Penobscot County SWCD and Maine Forest Service worked in partnership to educate 4th and 5th graders in Millinocket about forest pests. Presenters discussed insects and what happens when an invasive species is introduced. The kids then played a game to bring together aspects of the educational lesson, capping the day off with playing an emerald ash borer game.



At previous District employees’ meetings, targeted IFP outreach has been discussed for related professions. Knox-Lincoln used the July 10 Tree Fodder Seminar to educate the primarily arborists and permaculturists attendees. The concerned and knowledgeable audience allowed for further discussion of threats. Somerset County also presented, upon request, to the Maine Natural Areas Program’s seasonal staff.



Of the three programs where Androscoggin Valley SWCD presented, audiences had limited knowledge of forest pests and the information was very well received. At the September 13th class, an employee of the city of Lewiston brought his new co-workers, something he has done each year AVSWCD provides an IFP workshop.

Events: Of the 13 public events attended by Districts throughout the state, only two were not staffed, allowing for face-to-face interactions with hundreds of attendees. The events continue to provide great outreach opportunities to a wide variety

of the public. Many of the public events were attended by multiple District staff members, providing a common goal in trying to have a presence at as many public events as possible.



"Ashley the EAB" at ME Farm Days 8/22&23

Event highlights include the addition of Hildy Ellis of Knox-Lincoln dressing as Ashley the Emerald Ash Borer to wander the fairgrounds at both the Union Fair and Farm Days in Clinton. The costume provided a creative way to open up discussions with fairgoers about IFP and especially about the discovery of EAB in Madawaska.



Rural Living Day, Sept 8, Houlton

The 2018 Highway Congress provided a venue to reach municipalities state-wide, along with the professionals responsible for the maintenance of local and state roads, as well as the Maine Turnpike and Right of Ways throughout the state. Staff from multiple Districts participated in the event and developed a "Time out for Training" educational activity, presentation and quiz. A total of 159 quizzes were handed in from the approximately 175 people who visited the booth.



Highway Congress, June 7, Skowhegan

Penobscot County SWCD has provided lots of different kids related IFP activities this reporting period, including building approximately 140 EAB and ALB beetles with children. The family friendly events were part of Kids Field Days at Leonard's Mills and Brewer Land Trust Day on the waterfront.



Leonard's Mills, May 23 & Brewer Land Trust Day, Sept 9

Ongoing IFP Projects

With knowledge increasing throughout the state regarding IFP’s, especially in areas with known locations of emerald ash borer or direct contact with browntail moth, Districts are looking to develop next steps for further landowner engagement through education and training.

Knox-Lincoln and Waldo County SWCD’s continued their “Woodland Stewardship Tour” series in partnership with the Maine Forest Service by each hosting monthly walk and talks, providing an ongoing venue to discuss updates on IFP issues and field questions. The tours are held at a different location each month and typically attract between 8 and 15 attendees.

The Waldo County SWCD has begun taking the next steps in addressing forest pest issues through the training of volunteers to monitor specific sites for approaching forest pests. Because the hemlock woolly adelgid was found in 2018 in adjacent counties the District began implementing the Maine Forest Service’s “Take a Stand” monitoring protocol for HWA. The HWA monitoring is the first phase of a larger District project called “Forests for Our Future,” a component of which is to provide leadership in forest pest response. Waldo’s “Forests for Our Future” project was also featured in the National Association of Conservation Districts September online newsletter.



Table 3 below highlights the ongoing forestry programs of Knox-Lincoln and Waldo counties.

Table 3

Project Name	Focus	Location	Participating Districts	Partners
Forests for Our Future	Hemlock woolly adelgid monitoring	Montville and Lincolnville	Waldo SWCD	Coastal Mtns Land Trust & Midcoast Conservancy
Woodland Stewardship Tours	Forest stewardship and conservation	Knox, Lincoln & Waldo counties	Knox-Lincoln & Waldo	Morten Moesswilde, Maine Forest Service

3. IFP Promotion and Outreach

Several Districts throughout the state used quarterly or annual newsletters to promote IFP awareness, especially after the discovery of emerald ash borer first in the Saint John Valley and then in Western Maine. Most newsletters were sent via email lists.

Social media remains a quick and effective way to reach a wider segment of the population and Districts like Androscoggin Valley, Knox-Lincoln, and Waldo County utilize Facebook regularly to update on EAB, browntail moth, winter moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, quarantines, and firewood. Many of these posts were shared by other Districts and FB users as well. For this grant reporting period, total FB users reached for Knox-Lincoln alone was 1,230.

Individual Districts like Washington County continued face to face meetings by revisiting area campgrounds and providing them with informational materials, along with introducing IFP to nine Washington County high schools and providing them with informational packets.

Knox-Lincoln SWCD distributed IFP information packets and conveyed information about EAB in Maine in particular at five District program events: a Native Plant Biodiversity talk July 5 in Rockport; a Fern walk July 10 in Belfast; at two farm training programs in Dresden July 23 and Damariscotta August 1; and at the District's Conservation Farm Tour September 8. A total of 208 people attended these events.

4. IFP Municipal Outreach

Somerset County SWCD reached out to municipalities in their district through a mailing that included a cover letter and informational material on IFP, highlighting the services and resources Somerset SWCD can provide to towns. Thirty-five towns were contacted with two towns responding. One of those, Norridgewock, asked the District to attend the September 2 Oosoola Days event to provide IFP information to the public.

Oxford County SWCD continued working with the town of Norway to develop an "Invasive Forest Pests of Importance" webpage on the town's website. The IFP page also provides a reference to the state's website. The IFP page expanded to the town of Paris and both web pages have been established. Population of Norway and Paris is approximately 10,000 and a follow-up press release reached a large portion of Oxford County as a whole. The town of Norway's site can be accessed at <http://norwaymaine.com/invasive-species-warning-from-ocswd/>

Knox-Lincoln, Kennebec SWCD, and Maine Natural Areas Program representatives met with the Maine Turnpike Authority in August to discuss a proposal that would include training of MTA staff in identification and management of invasive plants and forest pests. An official proposal has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

Appendices

- September 12 and 13 Program Participants' Evaluations (at end of combined report).

Saco River Recreational Council (SRRC) Approach:

1) *Invasive Forest Insects:*

- 2) SRRC: The SRRC will focus its outreach efforts at the organization's headquarters: Swans Falls Canoe Access and Campground in Fryeburg, Maine. Thousands of people use the landing each summer to access the Saco River for boating and camping, making it a prime location to engage with visitors from around the state and beyond about the threat that invasive forest pests pose to our region, how important it is to source firewood locally, and how they can help to identify and prevent the spread of these pests. Staff has the opportunity to talk with, and (sometimes provide impromptu training to) a high number of families, friend groups, and youth groups that visit the area. The Swans Falls education facility, which has been historically located in the small camp store, included a display to disseminate information about forest pests for several years now. This past year, construction began on a dedicated educational outreach facility that will house permanent displays – including an invasive forest pest display – which will be open to all who visit the property. With funding from this grant, the SRRC will be able to complete this facility, with hopes to use it not only as a visitor center, but also as a location for hosting trainings and workshops.

The SRRC will continue with forest pest outreach at fairs, conferences, schools, and other yet to be organized outreach events throughout the year, while focusing on engaging with constituents during the summer months at all riverside locations. This funding will also help the SRRC employ a summer intern to assist the short-handed staff with outreach and education at the landings, keep posted materials up-to-date, and identify and develop other ways in which to engage visitors. All staff members have been trained to understand the importance of purchasing local firewood, and engage in conversation with every group that arrives with or purchases wood. Materials provided by the DACF will be posted on the bulletin boards at all four of the local river landings and will be given to all campgrounds on the upper Saco River in Fryeburg and Brownfield. Participating local canoe liveries and other stakeholders along the Saco River Corridor have been educated through the SRRC about invasive forest pests and will continue to share the information with their customers as well. Metrics for assessing impacts will include reporting the number of events and trainings that focus on invasive forest pest education, tallies of those who attend trainings and events, and the number of visitors that bring out-of-state firewood.

SRRC Accomplishments Report: 4/1/2018 – 9/19/2018

APRIL – MID-JUNE:

The early season was spent updating resources and training staff with the most up-to-date forest pest information.

- The SRRC hired a Summer Outreach Intern to increase our presence at busy river landings during peak summer. She was trained in forest pest outreach, with an emphasis on the ‘Don’t Move Firewood’ campaign.
- Staff re-organized and updated the forest pest information on bulletin boards located at all Fryeburg and Brownfield river access locations. The visitor/education center display dedicated to increasing awareness about invasive pests and plants was also updated, using insect and wood samples, maps, and other outreach materials supplied by the DACF, as well as supplemental materials designed by the SRRC.
- The River Runners are SRRC employees who clean a 26 mile stretch of river during the week and help to staff the landings on weekends. They participated in a brief FPO training designed to help them spot signs of invasive pests along the river and to answer basic questions visitors may have about transporting firewood. They also remove all firewood that has been abandoned along the river, which is brought back to Swan’s Falls and burned.
- During the SRRC Board Meeting, members were given a refresher on the goals of our forest pest outreach campaign, and how they can further this mission by educating their own customers. Many attendees own or work for campgrounds and canoe rental companies, and can substantially increase our target audience. DACF materials were provided.

MID-JUNE - August:

The busy tourist season runs from Mid-June through the end of August, and thousands of people come to canoe and camp along the Saco. The SRRC’s forest pest outreach targets these visitors, and emphasizes the importance of leaving firewood at home.

- SRRC staff discusses the importance of not transporting firewood with all of the campers that come into our visitor center. The display that includes samples of the pests is particularly effective at initially capturing the attention of those browsing the office, and often provides a great lead-in to lengthier conversations about how to prevent the presence of these “nasty” bugs in Maine.
- The Swans Falls Landing is arguably the most popular area for river-goers to begin overnight trips. While patrolling the landing on Fridays-Sundays, we speak with every group that has firewood to determine that it was not brought from out-of-state. This summer, staff apprehended two groups with firewood that was brought from within the EAB quarantine zone in New Hampshire. Both groups were genuinely surprised that bringing wood from their homes was against the law; the firewood was inspected, and they were instructed to burn the wood within 24 hours.
- Swans Falls is one of only a few places to obtain a Saco River Fire Permit (necessary for building a fire at non-commercial campsites), and wrote over 200 of them this summer. Part of the process is discussing proper campfire etiquette with each group, and we have incorporated forest pest outreach into the discussion. The process involves obtaining an address, which is especially helpful in determining the source of firewood and teaching about quarantine zones.
- The SRRC grew its social media audience to well over 1,000 users. Staff utilized Facebook in particular to share information about the presence of invasive forest pests in Maine and beyond, particularly focusing on the discoveries of EAB in Maine, New England, and Canada.
- The SRRC hosted its 12th annual Saco River Cleanup event. 133 volunteers were briefed on ‘Don’t Move Firewood’ and the signs of an EAB infestation, and took DACF brochures and ID cards with them on the river.
- The SRRC hosted a field trip for members of the UNE Saco Watershed Collaborative, composed of a diverse group of stakeholders in the Saco River watershed. Before the paddle, attendees were given EAB brochures and ID cards, and a discussion was had about the recent discoveries of EAB in Maine and Vermont. Everyone was encouraged to stay up-to-date by following ‘Maine Bug Watch’ and the government’s reports.

DATE	EVENT	# ATTENDEES	NOTES
6/20/18	Staff Training	9	All staff prepped to provide assistance to and monitor firewood usage of recreational visitors.
6/26/18	Board Meeting	12	Campground and livery owners encouraged to promote ‘Don’t Move Firewood’ among visitors.
May-September	Visitor Outreach; Swan’s Falls Campground and	1000+	Outreach and assistance provided to hundreds of people accessing the river each weekend. Many were questioned about firewood origin.

2018	Education Facility, Fryeburg, ME		
9/8/18	Saco River Cleanup	133	Volunteers were briefed on 'Don't Move Firewood' and taught to recognize signs of EAB before heading out to clean along the river.
9/14/18	Saco Watershed Collaborative Field Trip	12	Stakeholders discussed EAB discovery and ways to stay up to date on the spread of invasive forest pests



Just a few of the many volunteers who attended the Saco River Cleanup event.



Many great discussions about stewardship (including the spread of invasive pests) at the Saco Watershed Collaborative Field Trip.

EAB FOUND IN MAINE

May 22nd, 2018
Emerald Ash Borer discovered in Madawaska, Aroostook County


Sep. 12th, 2018
Emerald Ash Borer discovered in Acton and Lebanon, York County

STAY INFORMED
 Parties interested in receiving updates regarding EAB in Maine can subscribe to the Department's electronic bulletin list "Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)". Subscriptions are available through a mail or text message (SMS).
http://bit.ly/subscribe_eab or text 603-271-6273 to 43434
www.maine.gov/eab

EAB FOUND IN MAINE

Ash trees infested with EAB may die within two to three years. Since its arrival in North America, EAB has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in infested states and provinces, and has cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators and forest products industries hundreds of millions of dollars.

Ash trees comprise four percent of Maine's hardwood forest, are a valuable timber species, and are also an important street tree. EAB threatens all species of ash trees (but not mountain-ash, Sorbus spp.) and will have significant ecological and economic impacts on the state. There are no practical means to control EAB in forested areas, though pesticide treatments can protect individual trees.



www.maine.gov/eab

A few of the resources we designed to hang on our bulletin boards and in the visitor center to keep the public informed.

INVASIVE FOREST PEST OUTREACH WORKSHOP

This workshop is brought to you by the Maine Association of Conservation Districts in partnership with Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District and SWOAM, and is supported by a grant from Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Date: Thursday, September 13th, 2018
Location: Topsham Public Library 25 Foreside Road Topsham, Maine 04086
Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- How did you find out about this training workshop?
Email
- Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
Yes
- Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
Yes
- Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
Yes
- What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
The program was very up-to-date with today's findings.
- What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
As a forester logger it will be beneficial when seeing new insects or change
- Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
Yes, Forester
- Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.
Yes
Aaron Messon ammason@meaplinc.net
- What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- How did you find out about this training workshop?
Brunswick Times Record newspaper
- Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
Yes
- Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
Yes
- Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
Yes
- What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
① info on brown tail moth
② good handouts, good info.
Sharing info with family, friends
- What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
- Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
NO
- Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.
Mary-Beth Kowalczyk mbkcozyk@gmail.com
- What are one or two recommendations for improvement?
① Can not think of anything. It was very informative and interesting.

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- How did you find out about this training workshop? *online*
- Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner? *yes*
- Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed? *very much so*
- Did the workshop fulfill your expectations? *yes*
- What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop? *Amount of visuals to help identify insects*
- What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how? *To know to identify invasive pests*
- Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs? *Yes Applicators license*
- Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here. *yes*
- What are one or two recommendations for improvement? *none*

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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- How did you find out about this training workshop? *online*
- Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner? *yes*
- Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed? *extremely*
- Did the workshop fulfill your expectations? *yes*
- What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop? *The knowledge of the presenter and physical representation of each subject.*
- What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how? *Able to recognize infestation*
- Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs? *no*
- Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here. *Already connected online (facebook)*
- What are one or two recommendations for improvement? *none*

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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- 1. How did you find out about this training workshop?
Jocelyn Lahey
- 2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
Absolutely concise and well planned
- 3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
Completely
- 4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
Yes
- 5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
Ways to identify the invasive species + steps to get them on their side
- 6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
Information regarding storing the spind will help aspects of forest in Maine
- 7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
-
- 8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.
- 9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?
Live specimens.

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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- 1. How did you find out about this training workshop?
Times Record
- 2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
Yes
- 3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
Yes
- 4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
Yes
- 5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
I've recently moved to Maine and wanted an overview of invasive species.
- 6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
Happily all of it. Being able to start recognizing pests.
- 7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
NO.
- 8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.
Yes. Brian Debasitis brian@maaby.com
- 9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?
A field presentation with live examples.

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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

Oxford Hills Newspaper

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

yes

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

that we call the state when we see something.

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

what something bad looks like

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

no

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

ebaker10@live.com
Beth Baker

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

none

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

newspaper LST

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

Better than I knew before

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

Hand out with different stages of Graft

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

—

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

NO

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

PAUL M CHAREST PAULMCHARST@HOTMAIL.COM

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

2.

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1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

newspaper

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

yes

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

taught how to find pests in my trees at home or elsewhere

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

send time in the woods like making observations and talking about them to other

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

NO

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

PAUL M CHAREST PAULMCHARST@HOTMAIL.COM

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

ask participants which of the pests have they seen and where

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Labey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?
Bureau of Pesticide Control

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
yes

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
clear photos - speaker speaks well

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
N/A Landowner

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
BPC

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?
N/A

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Labey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?
Steve March

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
yes

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
Presenters knowledge

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
Allows me to identify insects that are damaging trees

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
no

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?
None, very clear presentation.

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- 1. How did you find out about this training workshop?
a write-up in the Lewiston Sun-Journal
- 2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
Yes - excellent
- 3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
Yes - very much so
- 4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
Yes
- 5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
- 6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
- 7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

- 1. How did you find out about this training workshop?
NEWS PAPER
- 2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?
Yes
- 3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?
Yes
- 4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?
Yes
- 5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?
- PCS of insects vs. Look a Likes
- 6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?
All of it, we will look for signs of them first when we do tree work & spread the word
- 7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?
No

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

STEVEN MURCH & LEWISTON.ME.GOV

NO. NOT DONE.

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
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Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

Email from NRCS

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

Yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

Yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

Yes

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

Pictures of insects and of similar native trees
Scale of tree & actual emerald borer

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

Field guide helpful in field

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

Yes - Forestry License

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

Yes

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

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Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

From LPW

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

Yes

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

Yes

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

Yes

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

Great info on what to look for like the take home paperwork will be very helpful!

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

Things to look for that I would have otherwise overlooked.

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

No

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

Yes

Dana H. Drew pressure.pro@gmail.com

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

Nothing

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

work

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

YES

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

YES

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

YES

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

what they do to trees

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

We work with wood. good way to watch out for bugs!

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

NO

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

NO

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

NONE

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Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018
Location: 254 Goddard Road, Lewiston
Presenter: Jocelyn Lahey, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

1. How did you find out about this training workshop?

STEVE MARCH

2. Was the material presented in a clear, easy to understand manner?

YES

3. Was the presenter knowledgeable and prepared on the topics discussed?

YES

4. Did the workshop fulfill your expectations?

YES

5. What are one or two strong points of the presentation/workshop?

Bugs

6. What information/training from the workshop will you be able to integrate into your work, and how?

Bugs

7. Are you requesting CEUs for this workshop? If so, which CEUs?

NO

8. Would you like to receive information about future events offered through Maine's soil and water conservation districts? If so, please provide your name and email here.

NO

9. What are one or two recommendations for improvement?

NONE

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