



Fall Newsletter

OCTOBER 2018



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT'S GOING ON WHEN THE LEAVES CHANGE COLORS IN THE FALL?

In the spring and summer trees are busy making food. This process happens in the leaf when cells filled with chlorophyll absorb energy from the sun. This energy sparks a chemical reaction with water and carbon dioxide to create glucose and oxygen. Chlorophyll is a green pigment, which is why during the summer months green is the primary color we see on trees. There are other color pigment compounds in the leaves during the summer but they are hidden by the green. There is anthocyanins (red/purple), xanthophylls (yellow), and carotenoids (orange). As the days become shorter and the temperature begins to drop, the production of food stops and chlorophyll starts to break down. The less and less chlorophyll left in the leaves means the more that the other pigments can shine through. Temperature and cloud cover can make a big difference in whether a tree displays red from year to year. Researchers have found that the production of anthocyanins allows a tree to recover the remaining nutrients from the leaves before they fall off. This phenomena is commonly seen with warm, sunny falls days and chilly but not freezing nights.

HOME ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR FALL AND WINTER

- Allow sunlight to naturally heat your home during the day by opening your shades. In the evening, close them back up to reduce the chill from the cold glass of the window.
- Install heavy-duty plastic around your drafty windows. Seal any leaks that will not obstruct the use of the window with caulking or tape.
- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable. When you are away or asleep, turn your thermostat down 10-15 degrees for eight hours.
- Seal leaks in chimneys, unfinished spaces, recessed lights, and utility cut-throughs for pipes.
- Maintain your heating system whether it is a furnace, boiler, heat pump, or wood/pellet stove. Keeping these clean and up-to-date helps with efficiency.

SUPERVISOR ELECTIONS 2018

Persons desiring to run for the office of District Supervisor for Androscoggin Valley SWCD should contact the District Manager to obtain nomination papers. Persons who desire to run of office of Supervisor must be a registered voter either in the county of Androscoggin or Sagadahoc. The position is for a three-year term. Petition papers are due by 4:30PM on October 26, 2018.

Persons wishing to vote in the 2018 Supervisor election must contact the District Manager to obtain a ballot or pick one up at 254 Goddard Rd. Lewiston, ME 04240. Ballots will be made available from 8:30 AM on November 5, 2018 until 4:30PM on November 16, 2018.



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UPCOMING EVENTS!

CALL 207.241.5374 TO REGISTER

Forest Soil Management Workshop **Wednesday, October 24th, 2018**

25 Foreside Road
Topsham, ME 04086
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Join the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District at the Topsham Library for a presentation by a state district forester, discussing forest ecology, soil health and sustainable logging practices.

Cost: Free

Preparing your Garden Beds For Winter **Friday, November 9th, 2018**

254 Goddard Rd.
Lewiston, ME 04240
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Topics will cover preparation for garden beds and soil before winter arrives, pest and disease management, composting, mulching, cover crops, and late-season fruit and vegetable planting. The discussion will be led by a certified Maine Master Gardener.

Cost: Free

Field, Farm, and Forest: Creating and Conserving Pollinator and Wildlife Habitat **Thursday, November 15th, 2018**

254 Goddard Rd.
Lewiston, ME 04240
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Join us for a morning filled with pollinators and wildlife. The morning will be finished with a question and answer session and information regarding NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program cost-share opportunities.

Cost: Free

Agricultural Food Safety Q&A Session **Thursday, November 29th, 2018**

254 Goddard Rd.
Lewiston, ME 04240
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join us for a morning session to help answer some of your lingering Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) questions. This Q&A session is not a replacement for the Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course. Topics will be; eligibility, crops, water quality testing, health and hygiene, compliance dates, manure and soil amendments, farm food safety plan.

Maine DEP Contractor Certification Course: Basic and Advanced Erosion and Sediment Control Practices **Thursday, December 6th, 2018**

190 Middle Rd.
Sabattus, ME 04280
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

By attending this session, you qualify to become Maine DEP certified in erosion and sediment control practices after the completion of a site evaluation. Topics will include; why erosion control is needed, laws and regulations requiring erosion control, erosion and sedimentation, erosion control best management practices and planning, pollution prevention at construction sites, erosion control plan design, next steps in obtaining certification.

Cost: \$75.00 per person– includes educational material, breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

CONTACT US:

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District
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www.androscogginswcd.org

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