



## Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District and Nature Center



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### Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District Arbor Day Event & Conservation Seedling & Tree Sale May 2, 2009

The Lamoille County Natural Resources Conservation District's (LCNRCD) 2009 Conservation Seedling and Tree Sale was a great success with the addition of the Arbor Day Event. Approximately 47 individuals or families purchased over 700 trees and plants for their gardens, yards, shorelines, and stream banks. Some examples of the native trees and shrubs that were offered and were sold ranged from multiple species of maple, ash, willow, dogwood, and conifers to blueberries, raspberries, service berries, and even ostrich ferns.



The day's activities were attended by parents, children, and Johnson State College (JSC) students who participated in the day's activities which consisted of tree planting orientations, tree activities, and river tree walk to the Lamoille River. Early risers attended a tree planting orientation, with LCNRCD's Naturalist, Kim Komer who provided an overview of proper planting techniques, site selection, and nutrient/habitat needs of each species purchased by individuals and families. JSC students were available as well to provide Project Learning Tree activities for children. Participants also joined in on a river walk where LCNRCD staff discussed the importance and value for the role of forested buffers on water quality, soil retention, and enhancing the river's stream bank stability and ecology. Students and participants were also given a tour of LCNRCD's willow nursery growing at the local farm which is the site of our annual Conservation Seedling Sale. An overview of the role of soil bioengineering techniques and the use of willow wattles/fascines and willow stakes in

LCNRCD's Trees for Streams program was also provided. Most of the willows were showing significant health and growth, and participants were excited to see how spring flooding had provided a beaver with access to this abundant food source.

LCNRCD is looking forward to next year's Conservation Seedling and Tree Sale and now Arbor Day Event with the hope of increasing our outreach and education about the importance of planting trees to a wider audience and continuing our partnerships with area colleges such as JSC. LCNRCD provides a variety of tree friendly environmental education programs and workshops throughout the year such as "Tree ID and the Colors of Fall", "Flowers and Fruits", and "Harvests and Happenings." We also provide hands-on opportunities for kids to get dirty learning about, handling, and planting trees in their community through our Trees for Streams program.

LCNRCD greatly appreciates the generous support of the New England Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture to broaden our capacity, and excitement for the Conservation Seedling and Tree Sale with the addition of an Arbor Day Event.

