

Southern Aroostook Soil & Water Conservation District

WINTER / SPRING AG SCHOOL

Please note location information and meeting type under each class listing.

All classes are free and open to the public unless otherwise specified.

1. ESTABLISHING WILDFLOWER PLANTINGS FOR POLLINATORS

Tuesday, March 5, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Erin Cocca, Pollinator Conservation Specialist, Xerces and NRCS partner biologist

Online via Zoom – Register: <https://bit.ly/3HDpbUf>

- Learn the various methods to prepare ground for wildflower plantings
- Timing strategies, plant suggestions and follow-up maintenance for successful establishment

We will also be showing this online class at Houlton Higher Education Ctr, 18 Military St, Rm 123. If you would prefer to watch with a group, please join us!

2. MAINE'S FORESTS & HOW THEY ARE RESPONDING TO RAPID ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Tuesday, March 19, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Justin Schlawin, Beginning with Habitat, Maine IF&W, and Dr. Jay Wason, Ass't Professor of Forest Ecosystem Physiology, UMaine

Online via Zoom – Register: <https://bit.ly/3w3XzFy>

- Our forests are impacted by climate change, invasive pests and diseases. Learn about some of these changes and what landowners can do to understand different tree and site characteristics for forest resiliency and adaptation

3. PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION & OPTIONAL TEST

Thursday, March 21, 1:00 – 4:00 pm (class)
4:00-5:00 pm (test if needed)

John Pietroski, Board of Pesticide Control
Houlton Higher Education Ctr, 18 Military St.

- For applicators needing the basic agricultural license (for growers selling over \$1,000 in produce), private or commercial applicator pesticide license
- Opportunity to gain continuing ed recertification credits
- Take the core exam, if needed (please bring gov't issued i.d. or birth certificate)

Credits: 3 Pesticide

4. FORESTRY NIGHT: RESEARCH TO APPLICATION

Thursday, March 28, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Keith Kanoti, Forester, UMaine Forests; Dr. Neil Thompson, Associate Professor, UMFK; Matt Stedman, Planning Forester, Irving Woodlands, Bud Philbrook, CLP & ABC Panel Member

Meduxnekeag Ramblers Club, Wiley Rd, Littleton

- University Forests and current research projects

- UMFK's forestry research with students, including spruce budworm
- Irving Woodland's on-the-ground management based on research outcomes.
- Credits: ½ day recert CLP; 4 QLP; 2.5 Cat 1 SAF/LPF; 1 Pesticide

5. CHAINSAW SAFETY TRAINING – in partnership w/ MAINE WOODLAND OWNERS

Saturday, April 27, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Jack Houtz, UMaine Forests

VFW, 81 Houlton Rd, Island Falls

- Learn about saw handling and maintenance, protective equipment, firewood cutting, and tree felling
- This class is beginner level and is not Certified Logging Professional training
- Safety gear required. Use your own saw or one of ours.
- Lunch will be provided
- Class is limited to 12 people. Cost is \$25 and pre-registration with SASWCD is **REQUIRED**.

View safety video: <https://youtu.be/OxTxyUXgZLU>

6. SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Saturday, May 11, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Dr. Jim Goltz, Naturalist, recipient of the New Brunswick Lieutenant-Governor's Award for Excellence in Land Conservation and subject expert for *New Brunswick Plants*, and Andrea Flemming, Project Coordinator, *New Brunswick Plants*

Meduxnekeag Riverfront Park, Houlton (meet at parking lot)

- Walk the trail and learn about those perennial woodland wildflowers that are referred to as "spring ephemerals"
- Discover their importance to the forest ecosystem, along with their visual beauty
- Please come prepared for the weather and to walk the trail

7. ON-FARM CHICKEN PROCESSING

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 – 11:00 am

Keith and Liz Wehmeyer, Keep Ridge Farm
Keep Ridge Farm, Benedicta

- Learn how to process your own backyard meat birds safely and efficiently. Keith and Liz will cover the process from slaughter to finish.
- Participants will prepare and leave with one processed roaster chicken
- Class is limited to 5 people. Cost is \$50 and pre-registration with SASWCD is **REQUIRED**.

SASWCD is an equal opportunity provider



2024 Winter & Spring Ag School is presented by SASWCD with valuable assistance from session speakers. Special thank you to UMPI and the Houlton/Hodgdon Adult & Community Education program for providing space at Houlton Higher Education Center.

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