

Volunteers and Conservation District improve habitat on Belmont trail

BELMONT — This Spring, there's been a lot of activity on Belmont's Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail. Volunteers from Belmont's Penstock Gardeners, Belknap County's Recovery Court and Restorative Justice Programs and others recently planted more than 100 trees and shrubs and wild flower seed along the "Winni" Trail. The trees, shrubs and seeds were donated by the Belknap County Conservation District (BCCD) to improve wildlife habitat and enhance the experience for trail users. Volunteers planted trees and shrubs which produce fruit and seeds valuable for wildlife including crab apple and cherry trees, native dogwood, elderberry, service berry, chokeberry, sumac, sugar maple,

arrowwood, and ninebark. Taking advantage of two large openings, volunteers cleared rocks and debris, raked and sowed wild flower seeds to create pollinator meadows for bees and helpful insects. BCCD donated the plants and seeds to demonstrate how landowners can improve habitat and conserve soil and water resources on their own land.

Use is definitely ramping up on the trail as more discover its rolling terrain and beautiful forested setting. The Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail connects to Laconia's popular WOW Trail, forming 4.5 miles of continuous paved recreation trail. As walkers and cyclists pass, they will see orange flags identifying shrubs, trees

and future meadows planted by the Penstock Gardeners and community service volunteers. These groups have stepped up in the past to help with clean up efforts and have pledged to help continue to support the Winni Trail.

Donna Hepp from the Belmont Trail Team and Belknap County Conservation District coordinated the planting effort. Brian Loanes and Michael Mac Fadzen from the County Restorative Justice and Rick Ball from Belmont's Land Use staff provided assistance to the effort. Ginger Wells-Kay led Belmont's Penstock Gardeners Denise Naiva, Chris Fogg and Woody Fogg in planting tree whips and installing two wild flower meadows using organic land-



COURTESY

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scape principles. Dean La Plante from Belmont led community service volunteers on two work days and planted over 80 trees and shrubs and as-

sisted with one meadow. These volunteers included: Matt Andrews, Matt Boynton, Tarrra Bruno, Patrick O'Connor and John Coturier.

"These young people and the Penstock Gardeners can take pride in seeing their efforts improve the trail's habitat and natural setting," said Hepp.

Dean La Plante was recently appointed an Associate Supervisor on the Belknap County Conservation District Board.

"Dean showed such strong interest in our conservation mission

and leading crews to do conservation projects that we invited him join our Board. We're always looking for volunteers to help us on conservation projects," said Hepp. Volunteers are needed on June 24 for a Work Day on the Wetlands Walk boardwalk at Gunstock Mountain Resort. For more information go to wetlandswalk@my-fairpoint.net. There's also an opportunity to donate to the Wetlands Walk through the NH Gives Campaign on June 6 & 7. See the BCCD Web site for details: www.belknapccd.org/.

The Pines offers dog training classes

NORTHFIELD — The Pines Community Center will be offering a six-week session of dog training classes led by instructor Diane Hanley from Treat 'Em Right LLC from July 6-Aug. 10.

The classes will be divided according to the following age groups:

"Beginner Skills for Puppy" at 5:30 p.m. for

means introducing your puppies to new people, situations and dogs, tolerating touch by the vet or groomer, and more. This training program includes name recognition, focus on you, sit down, stand, no biting, take treats/toys gently, socialization and enrichment activities.

"Beginner Manners"

issues. This training program includes attention, manners and beginning self-control skills, including loose leash walking, sit for greeting, "leave it," come when called, no jumping, stay, mouthing/biting, etc., along with socialization and enrichment activities.

In "Intermediate

to work on skills learned in beginner manners, adding duration, distance and distractions. Dogs should have good self-control. Aimed toward the AKC Canine Good Citizen evaluation.

To register for any of these classes, stop in at The Pines Community Center, located on Summer Street in Northfield,