



## **USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference**

### [Linking Students, Landowners and Lake-friendly Landscaping through LEAP](#)

For the past two years, we have been exploring the use of Youth Conservation Corps through LEAP – the Northern New England Lake Education and Action Project. Many of our underserved lake audience are senior citizens who are physically incapable of implementing the necessary best management practices to accomplish effective lake protection and restoration efforts. By providing youth to do this work, we are not only taking action to correct the problem, but we are also educating future decision makers. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension, University of New Hampshire Extension and University of Vermont Extension/Lake Champlain Sea Grant have hosted and organized Youth Corps specifically to assist lakefront landowners with buffer plantings. During 2004 and 2005, crews completed 23 sites in Maine, one large demonstration site in New Hampshire, and 18 sites in Vermont with additional projects planned for 2006. We learned that the ability to assist landowners with landscape design and plant selection is essential to gain landowner cooperation. LEAP received funding in 2003 from the USDA through a CSREES Water Quality (406) grant for implementation through 2006.

Author: Laura Wilson

Coauthor(s): Jeffrey Schloss Jurij Homziak