



# Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Volume 1  
Issue 2  
Summer 2004

## 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

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Charles Norman, *Vice Chair*  
Tom Gordon, *Treasurer*  
Jack Flaherty  
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John Malley  
Clifton Foster  
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John Blake  
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### DISTRICT STAFF

*District Manager*  
Betty L. McInnes  
*Farm Bill Program Technician*  
Sandy Deschaine  
*Lakes Program Manager*  
Tamara Lee Pinard  
*District Engineer*  
Christopher Baldwin, P.E.  
*Project Manager*  
Betty Williams  
*Project Manager*  
Jami Fitch  
*Education Coordinator*  
Melissa Sternlieb

### NRCS STAFF

*District Conservationist*  
Wayne Munroe  
*Soil Conservationist*  
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### THE POWER OF A WATER DROPLET

Just like one droplet of water, a small group of people can make an impact. Throughout the year the staff and Board of Supervisors of the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) have been working hard to educate the citizens of Cumberland County on the importance of preserving our soil and water resources. This goal has been pursued in many ways, from lake shore erosion control projects to organizing international conferences on stormwater management.

Some exciting changes have happened in our office over the past year. We hired Christopher Baldwin, our new District Engineer in March 2003, Melissa Sternlieb transitioned from AmeriCorps volunteer to full-time education coordinator in October 2003, and most recently Jami Fitch was hired in April 2004 as a project manager.

A sampling of major events and projects we helped to organize and/or participated in:

- Forest Lake Community Forum
- "Stormwater Management in Cold Climates" Conference
- The Maine Harvest Lunch
- Southern Maine Water Festival
- Southern Regional Envirothon
- The Maine Water Conference
- Watershed Stewards Program
- FrontRunner Workshop
- Fryeburg Fair
- Conservation Expo



## URBAN PROGRAM

### Urban Technical Assistance

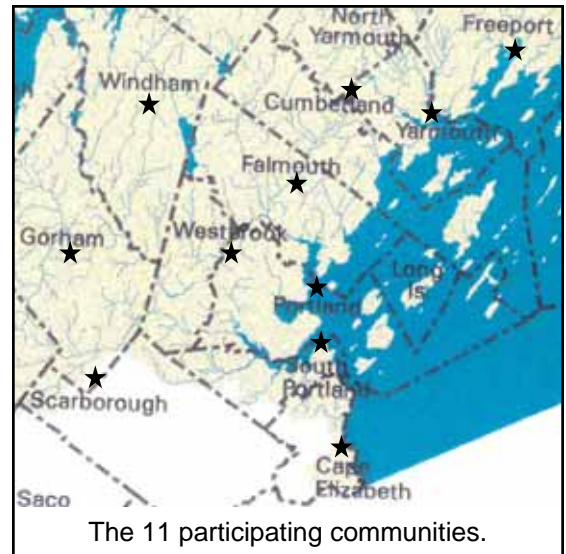
Urbanization is having an increasing impact on the soil and water resources of Cumberland County. Unprecedented growth is occurring throughout the county. Development has been given a boost by recent lowered mortgage rates, a vigorous building industry and farmland going out of production. Recent regulations have been passed that require each municipality to review and grant approval to all land subdivided within a 5-year period into 3 or more lots after September 23, 1977. As a result, there has been a great demand from municipalities and the public for technical assistance regarding erosion/sediment control and stormwater management at development sites. Towns can retain control of land use changes with the technical assistance available through the CCSWCD. District staff provide assistance with the review and implementation of sediment and erosion control, and stormwater management plans. Currently more than half of the municipalities in Cumberland County routinely rely on the District for their technical assistance needs.

### Regional Cooperation

Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program is a comprehensive national program for addressing the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges, which adversely affect the quality of our Nation's waters. The program uses an established permitting mechanism to require the implementation of controls designed to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies. The US Environmental Protection Agency's regulations require communities in urbanized areas to develop programs to manage stormwater runoff by addressing the following six minimum control measures:

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts.
2. Public involvement/participation.
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination.
4. Construction-site stormwater runoff control.
5. Post-construction stormwater management in new development and redevelopment.
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations.

Eleven Cumberland County municipalities are subject to Phase II stormwater regulation. In 2002, the District, along with other partners, brought the communities together into the "Interlocal Stormwater Workgroup" (ISWG). The group developed a model plan to be submitted to Maine DEP. This plan and interlocal approach has been used by the State as a model for the other 17 regulated municipalities in the State. The ISWG was profiled at the Stormwater Management in Cold Climates Conference in November 2003 and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Committee Stormwater Conference in Spring 2004.



## AROUND THE OFFICE



### Staff Highlight

Jami Fitch is the newest project manager at the District. She is a native of Auburn and graduated from Edward Little High School in 1999. Jami continued her studies at Boston University. At BU she majored in Environmental Science with a concentration in Marine Ecology. Jami spent a semester in Arizona with Columbia University's Biosphere 2 Program and also a semester with the BU Marine Program at Woods Hole in Massachusetts. Since graduating in 2003, Jami has gained some valuable work experience at both the New England Aquarium and the Department of Marine Resources Aquarium in Boothbay Harbor. So far her favorite part of working here at the District is the support from coworkers and being able to make a difference in the various watersheds. Buffer plantings (in any weather) are her specialty. Recently married, Jami lives in Minot with her husband, Ryan.

2004 Children's Water Festival



Hands-on learning at the Marine Touch Tank.

On May 21, more than 800 fifth and sixth grade students descended on the University of Southern Maine's Gorham campus for the 2004 Southern Maine Water Festival. They were treated to a variety of informative sessions including classroom presentations, a quiz show with celebrity hosts, and a stage show. The students also explored 16 hands-on activities displayed in the exhibit hall.

The District was one of eight organizations that helped to coordinate all aspects of this successful Festival!

2004 Conservation

Teacher of the Year

Marypat Bowen, a second grade teacher at Yarmouth Elementary School received the award this year. She and her students created the "Yarmouth Community Garden Project". This spring the students prepared their plot and planted rows of vegetables and flowers.

The students will be tending the garden during the summer with their families and harvesting their veggies in the fall to serve the rest of the school at a special harvest lunch.

They are also donating some of their produce to the Ronald McDonald House in Portland. Great job on such a worthwhile project!



Native Plant Spotlight



**Solomon's Seal**  
(*Polygonatum pubescens*)

- Grows from 1 to 3 feet high.
- Typically found in wooded areas.
- Leaves are slightly hairy underneath
- Flowers are greenish white in color and flower in late spring to early summer.
- Deep blue berries in the fall.
- Grows best in full to partial shade with rich, moist soil.
- Zones 3-9.



Regional Watershed Watch

The goal of this project was to pilot an environmental education program that encouraged students to take ownership of local natural resource issues through investigations of local watersheds. Four schools participated.

- Freeport High School students presented water quality data they collected to their town council and planted a buffer on Frost Gully.
- Gorham Middle School students conducted a clean-up of Tannery Brook and learned about water sampling techniques.
- Westcott Jr. High students sampled the Presumpscot River and raised salmon fry with Portland Water District.
- The Windham Middle School Stream Team used their study of Otter Brook and stream ecology for academic fair projects to share with the school.



Trash from Tannery Brook collected by Gorham Middle School students.

## WATERSHED PROTECTION



Before



After

### Thomas Pond Conservation Project

This project began in June 2003 with the goal to significantly reduce erosion in the Thomas Pond Watershed.

- 22 Technical Assistance visits
- 1 Buffer Workshop—*Cruise the Buffers*
- 5 native plant matching grants and plantings
- Construction of ditches, settling basins, level lip spreaders, culvert armoring, and culvert sleeves have taken place on three roads.

### Tannery Brook Management Project

- The anticipated goal identified by the watershed management plan is to minimize pollutant loads, protect Tannery Brook's water quality and enhance brook trout habitat and low-impact recreational opportunities.
- A stream habitat walk, watershed survey, and planning for the Community Watershed Forum have taken place.

### Libby Brook

The Libby Brook Implementation Plan was completed in December 2003. The identified sites from the watershed survey were rechecked and documented to determine if erosion problems persisted.



### Little Sebago Watershed Survey – Phase II

- Volunteers surveyed the entire southern portion of the Little Sebago Lake Watershed for soil erosion impacting the lake. In total, 130 soil erosion sites were identified.
- Survey findings were compiled into a report and distributed to town officials, The Little Sebago Lake Association Board, and watershed residents.

### Tannery Brook Water Quality Improvement Project

- The purpose of this project is to construct nine stormwater management facilities along the Tannery Brook system.
- These facilities will remove excess sediment, attenuate peak velocities and flows, and lower elevated temperatures and conductivity caused by stormwater runoff.
- Construction is scheduled for summer and fall of 2004.

### Raymond Pond/Crescent Lake

A total of 9 Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) abatement projects were completed including 2 residential sites, 3 commercial sites, 1 town road, 1 private road, 1 beach and 1 driveway.

- Nine technical assistance visits were made.
- Two field tours of completed projects were conducted.

## WATERSHED PROTECTION



Photo courtesy of Ben Tripp, Watchic Lake

### Crystal Lake Watershed Survey

- The purpose of this project was to identify, document, and prioritize soil erosion sites in the Crystal Lake Watershed.
- The survey was completed with the help of volunteers in May 2003.
- The results of the survey were compiled into a Watershed Survey Report that was distributed to shoreline landowners, interested citizens, and the public library.

### Sabbathday Lake WIFAP (Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Partnership)

- A total of 17 Non-Point Source (NPS) pollution abatement projects were completed, including 8 residential properties, 5 private road sites, 1 town road site, 1 right of way, 1 commercial site and 1 beach site.
- One road workshop and one buffer planting workshop occurred.
- Twelve Technical Assistance visits were conducted around the watershed.
- A presentation was given at the Sabbathday Lake Association Annual Meeting.
- A final brochure highlighting grant activities was produced and distributed.
- The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) has just completed work for the 2004 field season.

### Frost Gully Retrofit Project Phase II

- Construction was completed at two sites, including 1 commercial property and 1 private property
- A private property drainage easement was submitted to the Freeport Registry of Deeds. This completed the long process of transferring the easement from the Freeport Housing Trust to the Town of Freeport.
- 12 Freeport High School students participated in a buffer planting workshop

### Forest Lake Management Plan

This project was initiated by the Forest Lake Association who organized a volunteer effort to survey and document erosion problems in the watershed. The ultimate goal of this project was to develop the Forest Lake Watershed Management Plan. The following components have been completed:

- Watershed survey
- Septic survey
- Shoreline survey
- Road association survey
- Community Watershed Forum
- Final Watershed Management Plan



Before



After

## LAKE S PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

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### 2004 Lakes Program

The Lakes Program has been instrumental in fostering long term lake watershed protection. Specifically, this position either developed or assisted with the development of fifteen grant applications totaling \$664,630 of which twelve were funded totaling \$452,912. It is important to note that support was provided for an additional four grant applications that, for different reasons, were not submitted for consideration.

Provided support to eighteen 319-grant projects through:

- Assisting with BMP (Best Management Practices) site design;
- Organizing and leading tours of project sites;
- Technical follow up of watershed surveys;
- Planning buffer plantings and installation of conservation practices;
- Editing watershed survey and management plan reports;
- Developing and carrying out educational workshops on septic systems and camp road issues and solutions;
- Training new district staff in project management; and
- Serving on project steering committees.

The grant projects were in the following watersheds: Bauneg Beg Pond, Bear Pond, Crystal Lake, Highland Lake, Keoka Lake, Middle Range Pond, Little Ossipee Lake, Little Sebago Lake, Mousam Lake, Raymond and Crescent Lakes, Sabbathday Lake, Sabattus Pond and Watchic Lake.

Technical Assistance was provided to 16 landowners and organizations from eleven different watersheds, who were provided with summary reports and supporting educational materials. Prepared and presented Lake Success stories and an overview of district's role in watershed management, which were given at the Maine Water Conference and the Congress of Lake Association's Annual Meeting, respectively.



Melissa Sternlieb and Tamara Lee Pinard assist with a planting at Turner Town Beach on Bear Pond.

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## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE UPDATE

### A Year in Review

We are lucky to have a skilled team of professional conservationists, technical support staff, volunteers, and partners working to conserve Cumberland County's natural resources. Our conservation accomplishments are also aided by an exceptionally productive Local Work Group effort that provides guidance and leadership to identify natural resource concerns and appropriate conservation programs. The USDA-NRCS Field Office Staff have been busy writing conservation plans and designing conservation practices to assist SWCD cooperators and land users conserve and improve natural resources.

- 110 land owners have actively applied conservation treatment plans, contracts, and practices.
- Presently 40 active USDA Farm Bill Conservation Program contracts are administered.
- Conservation plans have been certified for 2,255 acres.
- More than 1,200 acres have been fully treated with a range of 25 different conservation practices from irrigation systems to erosion control measures.



A special thank you to all District Cooperators for planning and practicing conservation. The 2002 Farm Bill will continue to bring new Conservation Program funding opportunities in the months ahead. For further information on this program please contact Wayne Munroe at the NRCS Field office in Scarborough at 883-0159

# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

**Revenue**

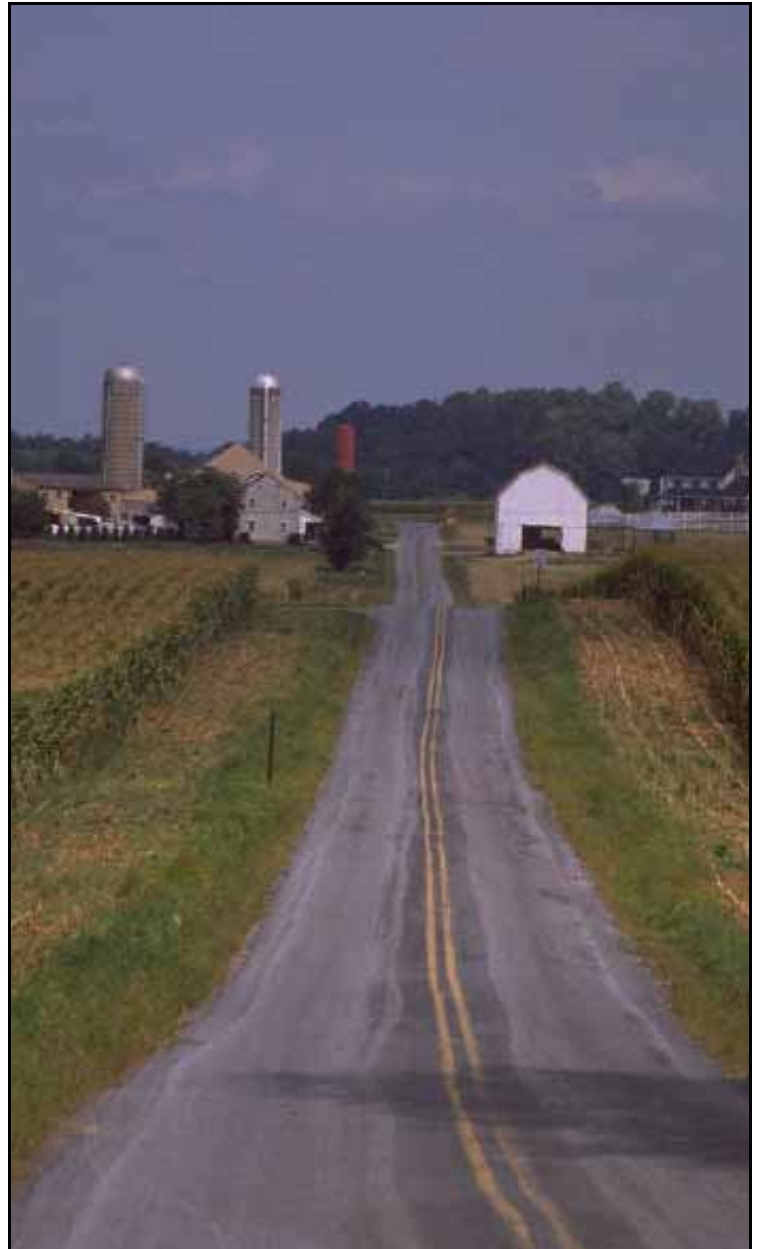
Grants	\$258,795
County Funding	13,764
State Funding	16,100
Urban review fees	21,527
Seminars and Tours	45,384
Water Festival	9,800
Other revenue	65,380
Interest and dividend income	4,082
Unrealized loss on investments	(866)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>433,966</b>

**Expenses**

Wages	176,248
Payroll taxes	14,816
Employee benefits	19,612
Program	110,639
Project costs	36,192
Depreciation	3,618
Dues	2,053
Insurance	1,480
Printing and postage	4,370
Rent	7,872
Meetings	2,149
Publications	110
Office Supplies	4,769
Other expenses	6,351
Maintenance and repairs	1,165
Sponsorships	7,200
Telephone	2,122
Travel	7,046
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>407,782</b>

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	26,184
Unrestricted Net Assets at Beginning of Year	175,942

<b>Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$202,126</b>
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

September

Tuesday, September 14th -Municipal Cruise of Little Sebago Lake

Wednesday, September 22nd-Maine Harvest Lunch in Gorham Schools (K-8)

October

Thursday, October 7th - Septic System Workshop at Stimpson Hall in Gray, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Saturday, October 23rd—Tannery Brook Community Watershed Forum, 8:00 am to 3:00pm

For more information on any events please call (207) 856-2777.



Visit our website at: [www.cumberlandswcd.org](http://www.cumberlandswcd.org)

All programs and services of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, marital, or familial status.

