



# Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

## 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Dick Wood, *Chair*  
 Charles Norman, *Vice Chair*  
 Tom Gordon, *Treasurer*  
 Jack Flaherty  
 Bill Rust

### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

John Blake  
 Dick Brzozowski  
 Larry MacDonald  
 John Malley  
 Jeff Stern

### DISTRICT STAFF

*District Manager*  
 Betty L. McInnes  
*Watershed Program Manager*  
 Tamara Lee Pinard  
*District Engineer*  
 Christopher Baldwin, P.E.  
*Project Manager*  
 Betty Williams  
*Project Manager*  
 Jami Fitch  
*Education Coordinator*  
 Sarah C. Plummer

### NRCS STAFF

*District Conservationist*  
 Wayne Munroe  
*Soil Conservationist*  
 David Chiappetta

### WRAPPING IT UP:

#### THE DISTRICT HOLDS ITS ANNUAL MEETING

On the evening of April 20, the District and nearly 60 friends gathered for the CCSWCD Annual Meeting. The event was held at the Scarborough Grange, where guests enjoyed a delicious roast beef dinner complete with homemade pies, cooked to perfection by Barbara Griffin.

The evening began with opening remarks by Betty McInnes, District Manager, who thanked all for coming, including Senator Phil Bartlett and Representative Harold Clough. Betty recapped the past year's accomplishments and left everyone with an excellent thought on the future goals of conservation work: "We don't inherit the land from our parents, we borrow it from our children."



Bob Heyner, of Cumberland Conservation Commission, and Bill Longley, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Cumberland, accept the "Outstanding Conservation Leadership Award" on behalf of the Town of Cumberland. The award was presented by Dick Wood and Betty Williams.

Next, Dick Wood, Chairman of the District's Board of Supervisors, recognized those that were crucial in helping the District achieve its goals. Awards were also presented by District staff: Jami Fitch, Tamara Lee Pinard, Melissa Sternlieb, and Betty Williams.

The awards and winners are as follows:

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Cooperator of the Year:              | Sweetser's Apple Barrel & Orchards, Cumberland |
| Outstanding Conservation Leadership: | Town of Raymond & Town of Cumberland           |
| Outstanding Steward:                 | Julie Motherwell, Highland Lake                |
| Outstanding Stewardship Group:       | Little Sebago Lake Association                 |
| Outstanding Business Partner:        | Gorham Sand & Gravel                           |
| Contractor of the Year:              | Craig Gerry, Property Management Plus          |
| Teacher of the Year:                 | Bethany Fortier, Freeport High School          |

Thank you to everyone who attended and who helped make our year a success. We look forward to seeing you at next year's Annual Meeting!

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# URBAN PROGRAM

## Urban Technical Assistance

The soil and water resources of Cumberland County continue to be impacted by urbanization. Unprecedented growth is occurring throughout the County, and its impact on water quality has become a major issue.

CCSWCD offers technical assistance to municipalities to help them maintain reasonable control of land use changes. In the past year, District staff provided assistance with the review and implementation of erosion control and stormwater management plans for a number of Cumberland County municipalities. The District has established an excellent reputation for the delivery of quality technical assistance.



An intern uses GPS technology to document the location of a storm drain.

## Regional Cooperation

Stormwater flows across political boundaries, presenting an opportunity for a cooperative management approach. Eleven Cumberland County municipalities recently became subject to NPDES Phase II stormwater regulation, including: Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Falmouth, Freeport, Gorham, Portland, Scarborough, South Portland, Westbrook, Windham, and Yarmouth. Mandated by Congress under the Clean Water Act, the NPDES Stormwater Program addresses the non-agricultural sources of stormwater discharges which adversely affect water quality. The Program requires control measures to be implemented to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies. With support from the Cumberland County Commissioners and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, the District brought the 11 communities together in 2002 to form the "Interlocal Stormwater Work Group" (ISWG). Both the new regulation and other stormwater management issues are addressed in this effort. In June 2004, The Greater Portland Council of Governments presented the ISWG with an award for excellence in implementing a regional approach to stormwater management.

During 2004-2005, the ISWG focused on the following four control measures:

### 1. Public Education and Outreach

- Partnered with Maine DEP and regulated communities to coordinate the statewide "ThinkBlue Maine" stormwater media campaign.
- Partnered with Maine DEP, Aquarion Engineering, and the District to obtain a grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund for the "ThinkBlue Maine" website.
- Developed a curriculum and implemented a K-12 classroom stormwater education program, with funding from a Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) grant.
- Developed the structure for a half-time Public Education Coordinator to begin work in Permit Year 3 to coordinate activities within the communities to educate municipal/community members about stormwater runoff and its impacts to surface waters.

### 2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

- Developed a Standard Operating Procedures Manual focusing on IDDE and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping with funding from a CBEP grant.
- Coordinated a workshop, hosted by Town of Yarmouth, to present a model approach to the use of GIS for stormwater mapping programs.
- Implemented a college student intern program. Trained, qualified GIS students were available to map stormwater infrastructure. The District hosted an AmeriCorps member who developed and coordinated the program under the Cumberland County Training Resource Center's Emergency Response Corps Program.

### 3. Post-Construction

- Coordinated a 3 month program, in partnership with the CBEP, whereby a professional intern from EPA performed outreach and assessed the opportunities for low-impact development projects within the Casco Bay watershed.

### 4. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

- Developed a training program for the Standard Operating Procedures to be implemented in Permit Year 3.

In another regional effort, the District, in collaboration with the Cumberland County Commissioners, Emergency Management, and municipalities, drafted a countywide "All Hazards Mitigation Plan" to ensure that all communities maintain their eligibility for FEMA Mitigation funds. Communities are in the process of adopting this plan.

## URBAN PROGRAM

### Students Map Stormwater Systems through GIS Internships

What better way to spend the summer than working in the field with a Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) unit to record municipal stormwater outfalls? This opportunity was afforded to several college students through the first-ever Interlocal GIS Internship. Initiated by the ISWG and coordinated by the District with AmeriCorps assistance, this service learning project placed one part-time and six full-time interns at local municipalities to assist them in using GIS and GPS technology to map their municipal stormwater systems. GIS, which stands for Geographic Information Systems, is a computer software program that allows spatial information to be collected, connected to data, analyzed, and displayed. In other words, maps are generated on computers and the spatial data is connected to tables of data about it. As an example, a storm drain could be shown on a map and with many types of data related to it, such as the town it is in, street it's on, its measurements, etc.

The internship began on June 1, 2005 with a one-day GPS training led by GIS consultant Jim Thomas and a two-day GIS training led by USM's Karla Hyde and Rosemary Mosher at the University's GIS lab. The interns and respective municipalities were: Tim Bates in Yarmouth, Moriah Bedard in Freeport, Dan Bowe in Portland, Will Gove in South Portland, Sean Neely in Biddeford, Zach Rawe in Cumberland, and Marisa Sowles in Falmouth.

This internship provided a dual benefit, as interns learned valuable, hands-on GPS/GIS experience and municipalities gained much-needed technical support with GIS, while satisfying the new NPDES Phase II stormwater regulations. Recently, municipalities of the ISWG unanimously decided to continue the program for next year. Thanks to all the interns and municipalities for making this summer's internship a success.

## EDUCATION

### 2005 Conservation Teacher of the Year

Each year the District chooses a teacher who has shown consistent interest and dedication in actively teaching students about the importance of understanding and conserving our natural resources.

Bethany Fortier of Freeport High School was the award recipient this year. Bethany worked with the District to create a water quality monitoring program for her environmental science class. The students sampled various Freeport waterbodies last spring, becoming experts in water sampling and water pollution sources. In addition, they presented their data to the town council and participated in service planting project on Frost Gully Brook to stabilize the banks of a settling basin. Students thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and new students will be able to experience the class this fall. Bethany made this possible through her hard work and dedication!



Dick Wood presents Bethany Fortier with the "Conservation Teacher of the Year Award" at the District's Annual Meeting.

### Maine Harvest Lunch



The second annual Maine Harvest Lunch was held in three Gorham schools in September 2004 and was again a great success! This event incorporates Maine grown food into the school lunch program. Students learned about the benefits of eating locally grown food and made posters illustrating what they learned. Finally, they tasted a variety of Maine grown foods at a delicious lunch made almost entirely with local ingredients - including items such as veggies, cheese, chili, pizza, and tortilla chips!

The Harvest Lunch is organized by a committee with representatives from CCSWCD, People's Regional Opportunity Program's Communities Promoting Health, Farm Fresh Connection, Gorham teachers, and the Gorham School Nutrition Program.

# WATERSHED PROTECTION

## Conservation Projects

The goal of these projects is to reduce erosion through conservation practices and public awareness, which fosters long-term stewardship. Below are the Conservation Projects currently underway at the District. Components completed in fiscal year 2004 are provided.

### Forest Lake Conservation Project—Phase 1

- 6 road improvements, including 2 beach sites, 2 driveway sites, and 2 high priority buffer sites
- 6 native plant matching grants
- Interlocal municipal workgroup
- Gravel Road Network established

### Highland Lake Conservation Project—Phase II

- 1 road/beach/driveway construction site
- 13 Native Plant Matching Grants
- 12 Technical Assistance visits
- 1 Residential Matching Grant
- 23 sites completed by the Highland Lake Youth Conservation Corps

### Sabbathday Lake Watershed Improvement Project

- 9 sites completed by the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps, including planting buffers, cleaning ditches and settling basins, and installing infiltration steps, dripline trenches, drywells and rubber razorblades
- 6 technical assistance visits completed
- Final project report, submitted to MDEP in December 2004, completing the project

### Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project

- 1 project fact sheet, sent to watershed residents
- Grading, resurfacing, and installation of runoff diverters at the Qualey Road Right-of-Way site
- 22 Technical Assistance visits
- 1 Presentation at the Little Sebago Lake Association Annual Meeting and 3 at road association meetings
- 1 Buffer Cruise workshop
- 1 road maintenance workshop



Photo courtesy of Ben Tripp, Watchic Lake

### Raymond Pond/Crescent Lake

#### Demonstration Project

- Improved ditching on Spiller Hill Road in Raymond
- 2 technical assistance visits
- Final project report, submitted to MDEP in November 2004, completing the project

### Tannery Brook Water Quality Improvement Project

- Installation of 2 stormwater management facilities in the downtown village area occurred in 2004
- Construction of the remaining facilities is scheduled for 2005-6

### Libby Brook Conservation Project

- Stream Team formation
- Stream Habitat Walk
- Project Fact Sheet
- 2 Technical assistance visits
- 5 sites completed by the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps

### Thomas Pond Conservation Project

- 35 Technical Assistance visits
- 15 Road improvement construction projects
- 20 Native Plant Matching Grants
- 2 Buffer Cruise workshops
- 1 Final Project brochure

## WATERSHED PROTECTION



A high priority buffer site of the Forest Lake Conservation Project, completed in June, 2005.

### Management Plans & Surveys

The goal of these projects is to identify and prioritize water quality impacts throughout the watershed with the goal of minimizing pollutant loads, protecting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, and preserving low-impact recreational opportunities.

#### Tannery Brook Management Project

- Stream Habitat Walk
- Watershed Survey & Report
- Community Watershed Forum & brochure
- Community Forum Action group objectives & strategies finalized

#### Hancock & S and Ponds Watershed Survey

- 21 volunteers surveyed the entire 5.65 square mile watershed and documented erosion sites that are impacting or have the potential to impact the Ponds

### Septic Socials: The Newest Rage in Social Gatherings!

In the fall of 2004, the District, working with Districts in York, Androscoggin, Sagadahoc, and Oxford Counties, piloted a series of Septic Socials to educate and inform local residents about the importance of regular septic system upkeep. Social attendees were treated to a presentation from Deborah Kendall of York County SWCD, with additional input from local septic system installers and pumpers. Topics included an explanation of a watershed and the water cycle, an overview of the parts of a septic system, and a discussion of causes and prevention of system failure.



The program was funded by the Maine DEP through the Nonpoint Source (NPS) Training Center. A total of 55 people attended the four socials in Gray, Wells, Lewiston and Oxford, and participant feedback indicated that it was a great educational event. We hope to work with the NPS Training Center again to duplicate the program and possibly expand it into other Districts.

# SURFACE WATER PROGRAM

## 2005 Surface Water Program

The Surface Water Program has been instrumental in continuing to foster long term watershed protection. Yearly accomplishments include:

- Developed or provided assistance with 15 grant applications. Applications totaled \$615,238, of which six were funded, totaling \$276,929. One application remains pending.
- Provided support to 13 319-Grant projects through:
  - Assisting with BMP site design
  - Training of watershed survey volunteers and serving as a technical leader for surveys
  - Watershed survey technical follow-up
  - Planning buffer plantings and installation of conservation practices
  - Editing watershed survey and management plan reports
  - Developing and carrying out educational workshops on conservation landscaping and camp road issues and solutions
  - Training new district staff in project management
  - Serving on project steering committees



Volunteers install a rain garden in the Highland Lake Watershed in Windham.

The above projects were in the following watersheds: Bear Pond, East Branch of the Piscataqua River, Forest Lake, Hancock & Sand Ponds, Highland Lake (Bridgton), Highland Lake (Windham), Keoka Lake, Little Ossipee Lake, Little Sebago Lake, Long Lake, Sunday River, Tannery Brook, and Taylor Pond.

- Provided Technical Assistance to 15 landowners and organizations from six different watersheds, who were provided with summary reports and supporting educational materials.
- Prepared presentations on the following topics: 1) An overview of the impact of nonpoint source pollution on water quality at the Hancock/Sand Ponds Association Annual Meeting; 2) Camp Road Maintenance Basics to camp road residents throughout Cumberland County; 3) Fundraising and Capacity Building for Stream Projects at the 2005 Maine Stream Summit .

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE UPDATE

### A Year in Review

NRCS Staff have been busy writing conservation plans and designing conservation practices as many customers continue to invest in conservation. Conservation treatment themes showing popular demand this year include: Erosion Control, Farmland Protection, Grazing, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Soil Quality, Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat Management, and Wetlands Restoration.

Conservation treatment plans, contracts, and practices have been actively applied by 125 customers. Presently, we administer 47 active USDA Farm Bill Conservation Program cost share contracts including the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), Conservation Security Program (CSP), Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). We have successfully implemented many new software automation tools that will improve program delivery.

Conservation plans have been certified for 1,751 acres and more than 1,500 acres have been fully treated with conservation practices such as: Comprehensive Nutrient Management, Heavy Use Area Protection, Roof Runoff Structures, Filter Strips, Agricultural Fuel Secondary Containment, Pest Management, Agrichemical Mixing Facilities, Prescribed Grazing, Field Borders, Riparian Forest Buffers, Critical Area Plantings, Subsurface Drain, Lined Waterways/Outlets, Irrigation Water Conveyance, Wetlands Restoration, Micro Irrigation Systems, Wildlife Habitat Management, Watering Facilities, and Grassed Waterways.



As always, a special thank you to customers for planning and practicing conservation. Additionally, we would like to thank our many partners for sharing in our conservation delivery.

# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

## Revenue

Grants	\$439,318
County Funding	15,150
State Funding	17,100
Urban Review Fees	23,293
Seminars & Tours	34,748
Water Festival	3,800
Other Revenue	149,443
Interest and dividends	1,697
Unrealized Gains/Loss on Investment	303
<b>Total Revenue, Gains, &amp; Other Support</b>	<b>\$684,852</b>

## Expenses

Wages	\$215,962
Payroll Taxes	17,788
Employee Benefits	24,757
Program	288,178
Project Costs	57,485
Depreciation	3,281
Dues	2,835
Insurance	1,795
Printing & Postage	8,787
Rent	10,523
Meetings	4,009
Publications	167
Other Expenses	5,407
Maintenance & Repairs	2,551
Sponsorships	3,150
Supplies	9,716
Telephone	3,342
Travel	11,129
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$670,862</b>
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	13,990
Unrestricted Net Assets at Beginning of Year	211,300
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year</b>	<b>\$225,290</b>



## Plant Spotlight

### Echinacea

*(Echinacea purpurea)*

- Large, daisy-like flowers can be red, white, or light purple
- Attracts birds & butterflies
- Grows 1 - 3 feet high with a 1-2 foot spread and tends to form clumps
- Grows best in full sun with moist, well drained, & neutral to slightly alkaline soil
- Heat & drought tolerant
- Zones 3-10



## AROUND THE OFFICE

### Staff Highlight



Sarah Plummer is the District's new Education Coordinator. She is a native of Rhode Island, and after a two-year detour in Colorado, Sarah moved to Maine where she attended the University of Southern Maine. In 2004, Sarah graduated summa cum laude from USM with a major in Environmental Science and Policy and a minor in Political Science. She has gained valuable work experience with the Portland Water District, where she worked as a shorefront property specialist and an environmental educator. She has been on the boards of both the Friends of the Presumpscot River and the Southern Maine Children's Water Festival for several years. In her spare time, she enjoys running, biking, swimming, cooking, and renovating her new home. Sarah says she likes working at the District because of the people, the variety of work, and the feeling that she's making a difference! Married in June 2004, Sarah lives in Windham with her husband, Matt, and their dog, Zoë.



Cumberland County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

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### BUMPER STICKERS!

To receive the bumper sticker below for FREE, please email [sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org](mailto:sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org) with 3 reasons to purchase and eat locally grown food! Don't forget to include your mailing address!



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.



To receive this newsletter electronically, please email [sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org](mailto:sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org).