



Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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 Bill Rust, *Vice Chair/Secretary*
 Tom Gordon, *Treasurer*
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 Tamara Lee Pinard
Project Managers
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Education Coordinator
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NRCS STAFF

District Conservationist
 Wayne Munroe
Soil Conservationist
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DISTRICT MOVES TO WINDHAM



Clockwise from top: We occupy the right side of the building; the conference facilities; the office is a dog-friendly space—here, 3 of our regulars; and the volunteer/partner office.

In March, the District relocated from a 660 square foot office in Westbrook to a 3,000 square foot office on Route 202 in South Windham. At the old office, our six person staff shared offices, there were no conference facilities, and storage space was extremely limited. In the new space, each staff member has their own office with ample room to store materials and work on projects. In addition, the new office boasts a spacious conference room and plenty of storage for files, office supplies, education materials, and field equipment. Staff view the move as a significant step in the District's efforts to improve and expand our programs.

For example, the move allowed four Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) programs to work comfortably out of the District office during the 2006 field season. For the months of June through August, our staff of seven grew to a staff of ten, with the addition of three full time YCC Technical Directors. This feat would have been impossible at the old office. In addition, staff wasted no time putting the conference space to great use – a teacher workshop was held in the conference room in May, and the room has already been used for numerous committee meetings.

A resource library is now available for volunteers and partners seeking information about stormwater, erosion controls, streams and lakes, wildlife, and many other conservation-related topics. The new space provides an office for partners and volunteers, complete with work space and a computer networked to the internet. In addition, conference facilities are available to partners needing a large meeting space, accommodating up to twenty attendees. Staff are thrilled about the new opportunities the larger office provides. If you're in South Windham, please drop in to say hello. We'd love to show you around our new space.

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URBAN PROGRAM



District Engineer Chris Baldwin reviews a plan as part of the District's Urban Review Program.

Urban Review Program—Bridging the Stormwater Gap

The soil and water resources of Cumberland County continue to be impacted by development of agricultural and rural areas. Growth impacts the County's undeveloped areas, and its impact on water quality has become a major issue. Twenty-five years ago, the District recognized this problem and created the Urban Review Program. Since that time, the District has provided support to numerous municipalities on thousands of development projects within the County. The Urban Review Program helps municipalities ensure that stormwater and erosion do not impact local waters.

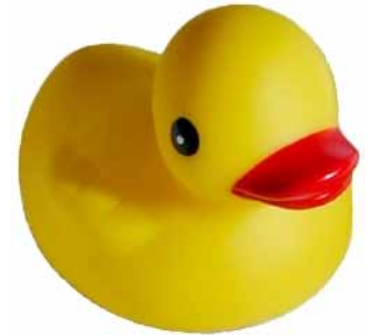
As part of the Program, the District assesses stormwater management plans as well as erosion and sediment control plans for proposed subdivisions and commercial developments. This ensures that stormwater is properly managed onsite during construction and impacts are limited after development. In addition to this plan review, the District also provides independent, third party construction inspection services to ensure that proper erosion control methods are used during construction and upon project completion.

For more information on the District's Urban Review Program, contact Chris Baldwin at (207)892-4700 or by email at chris-baldwin@cumberlandswcd.org.

Regional Cooperation—Interlocal Stormwater Work Group

Stormwater flows across political boundaries, presenting an opportunity for a cooperative management approach. The following communities recently became subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II stormwater regulations: 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 requires four control measures, listed below, to be implemented to prevent harmful pollutants from being washed by stormwater runoff into local water bodies.

The District continued to coordinate the successful "Interlocal Stormwater Work Group" (ISWG), which was formed in 2002 to address stormwater management issues and the NPDES regulations. In May 2006, the ISWG, as part of the ThinkBlueMaine Partnership, was awarded the EPA 2006 New England Environmental Merit Award. In addition, the ISWG's products and activities have been used as models by other regulated municipalities.



During 2005-2006, 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" media campaign.
- Implemented the "It's All Connected" classroom education program (see p. 3).
- Developed a plan to educate the public about lawn care, pet waste, and new development. The plan also incorporates a means for tracking behavior changes resulting from these educational efforts.
- Conducted a phone survey to assess lawn care and pet waste practices in the regulated communities.
- Developed educational materials for yard care, pet waste and new development campaigns.

2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- The District hosted an AmeriCorps member who coordinated a college student intern program. Geographic Information System, or GIS, students were available to map stormwater infrastructure.

3. Post-Construction

- Provided testimony to the Maine Legislature supporting proposed revisions to the state stormwater law to make it consistent with federal requirements.

4. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

- Coordinated a training program on Standard Operating Procedures for municipal operations. Partners included Edwards & Kelsey, the Maine Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials, and CBEP.

2006 Conservation Teachers of the Year

Each year the District selects a teacher in the County that has shown consistent interest in and dedication to teaching students about the importance of understanding and conserving natural resources.

In 2006, all of the Windham Middle School sixth grade science teachers were chosen as recipients of this award. Wendy Day-Maynard, Nancy Fish, Leah Campbell, Kristin Arbour, and Helen Hurgin demonstrated a collective commitment to both incorporating and teaching conservation education in their classrooms. These teachers incorporated environmental education into their curriculum. By doing so, their students successfully connected conservation issues to what they learned in their science classes. Their students truly enjoyed a hands-on learning approach and were enthusiastic about various environmental topics. Students were able to partake in this type of learning due to the efforts of their teachers.



Charles Norman and Sarah Plummer present the Windham sixth grade science teachers with the "Conservation Teachers of the Year Award." From left are Charles Norman, Kristin Arbor, Helen Hurgin, Wendy Day-Maynard, Sarah Plummer, & Nancy Fish.

"It's All Connected" Stormwater Education Grant



South Portland 4th graders build a lakeside landscape to learn the importance of vegetated buffers.

The "It's All Connected" Stormwater Education Grant, funded by the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, concluded in June, 2006. The project spanned two school years and provided stormwater-related education to students in the NPDES Phase II communities. These communities used this classroom education to meet the federal control measures (see p. 2)

The program was very successful, providing 3,199 students with hands-on learning experiences on various topics, including: watersheds, nonpoint source pollution, water quality parameters and testing, water cycle, hydrology, bioaccumulation, adaptations, historical and current pollutants in local water bodies, impervious surfaces, and vegetated buffers. The Casco Bay Curriculum, developed by the Friends of Casco Bay, was used to implement lessons and was the focus of a teacher workshop held on May 5, 2006. Seventeen local educators attended the day long event, held at the District's new office space in Windham.

Water Quality Sampling in the Libby Brook Watershed

During the 2005-06 school year, District staff worked with Gray-New Gloucester High School on an educational component of the Libby Brook Conservation Project. The following is an excerpt of an article written by students in Peter Reaman's Ecology class. The article appeared in the school paper in June, 2006.

On May 17th water sampling was conducted with representatives from CCSWCD and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP). Measurements of dissolved oxygen, turbidity, conductivity, pH, and temperature were collected. Overall stream health can be determined from these measurements because organisms are sensitive to factors such as acidity, available oxygen, and soil particles in the water. All [measurements] are considered within the normal range for a healthy stream.

The presence of pollution sensitive organisms indicates that Libby Brook is reasonably healthy. For example, caddisfly larvae and mayfly larvae were abundant at the Mayall and Foster Hill Road crossings. Organisms were collected using kick nets and identified on site.

While GNGHS's testing indicates an overall clean bill of health, Libby Brook may still be corrupted by pollutants. Busy roadways, trash, fertilizers, manure, and erosion all threaten the integrity of the watershed. GNGHS's Ecology class will continue to monitor Libby Brook and is now a member of MDEP's "Stream Team," a cooperative citizen's network monitoring local streams.



GNGHS senior Sarah Burgess collects macroinvertebrates in Libby Brook at the Foster Hill crossing site.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

Conservation Projects

The goal of these projects is to reduce erosion and other nonpoint source pollution (NPS) through conservation practices and public awareness, which fosters long-term stewardship. Below are the Conservation Projects currently underway at the District. Activities completed in fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 through June 2006) are provided.

Presumpscot River Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant

- Contacted towns regarding stream crossing sites
- Contacted agricultural landowners regarding water quality improvement projects
- WEPP Pollutants Controlled Report completed for 45 stream crossing sites
- Preparation for inaugural 2006 Youth Conservation Corps



Tannery Brook Water Quality Improvement Project

- 2 Stormwater management facilities installed in downtown area
- 1 remaining site on State Route 114 to be completed in 2007



Before

Long Lake Watershed Improvement Project—

Phase I

- 11 technical assistance visits
- 1 NPS site addressed on a private road
- Meetings held with Bridgton Academy & Town of Naples to discuss improvements at Naples Town & Bridgton Academy Beaches

Thomas Pond Conservation Project –

Phase I

- Steering committee formed and initial meeting held
- Project fact sheet created and distributed
- 1 technical assistance visit
- Plans drafted for a private road site

Forest Lake Conservation Project—Phase 1

- 10 technical assistance visits
- 6 conservation practice matching grants
- 3 Conservation Practice Workshops
- 2 road improvement projects



After

Infiltration steps were installed in October 2005 on a highly eroded access point at a Windham property as part of the Forest Lake Conservation Project.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project—Phase I

- 5 NPS sites addressed on a private road
- 1 NPS site addressed on a portion of a Town of Gray road
- 7 technical assistance visits (current total 29; goal was 18)
- Little Sebago Lake Association Annual Meeting presentation
- 16 residential matching grants
- 15 buffer matching grants

Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project—Phase II

- Preparation for inaugural 2006 Youth Conservation Corps
- 1 NPS site addressed on a private road
- 15 technical assistance visits

Highland Lake Watershed Improvement Project—Phase I

- 8 residential technical assistance visits
- 2 residential matching grants awarded
- Project fact sheet completed & distributed
- Technical assistance postcards distributed
- Engineered designs implemented on a town road site
- Contact made with matching grant qualifiers
- 2 steering committee meetings held
- Advertisement and notification of project in local newspapers, through Lake Environmental Association outlets, and posters

Highland Lake Conservation Project—Phase II

- 18 residential conservation practice matching grants
- 5 road improvement projects
- Highland Lake Association Annual Meeting presentation
- 25 sites completed by the Highland Lake Youth Conservation Corps
- 20 technical assistance visits

Upper New Meadows Watershed

Implementation Project—Phase I

- 3 steering committee meetings held
- 1 private road technical assistance visit
- Community project presentation made
- Completed overland nutrient pathway survey
- Worked on forming an NPS virtual tour
- Pollution reduction estimates at 3 sites



A buffer is planted at a June 2006 workshop on Forest Lake. Watershed Managers and Youth Conservation Corps Technical Directors and Crew Leaders learned conservation design and implementation strategies.

Libby Brook Conservation Project

- 1 steering committee meeting held
- Gravel Road Maintenance/Front Runner Workshop on Wild Acres Road
- 3 classroom presentations & 1 water quality sampling event with Gray/New Gloucester High School
- 2 technical assistance visits

Management Plans & Surveys

The goals of these projects are 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. The District was involved in one of these types of projects during fiscal year 2006 (July 2005 through June 2006).

Hancock & Sand Ponds Watershed Survey

- Survey work completed
- Hancock and Sand Ponds Watershed Survey Report published
- Survey information was used to apply for a conservation grant; Hancock & Sand Ponds Conservation Project—Phase I will begin in spring, 2007

ANNUAL MEETING

The District hosted its second Annual Meeting on the evening on April 19, 2006. The event, held at the Scarborough Grange, was attended by about 60 partners who were treated to a tasty roast beef dinner. Attendees included representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Conservation Service, local lake association members, District Board members and staff, and 2006 award recipients. State Representatives Sue Austin (Gray) and Darlene Curley (Scarborough), also in attendance, commended the work of the District and honorees as part of the award presentations.

Chairman of the District's Board of Supervisors, Charles Norman, recognized those that were crucial in helping the District achieve its conservation goals. Awards were also presented by District staff: Jami Fitch, Tamara Lee Pinard, Sarah Plummer, and Betty Williams.



Representatives Darlene Curley and Sue Austin congratulate District Supervisor Dick Wood and Public Works Director Steve LaValle, both of Gray.

The awards and winners are as follows:

Cooperator of the Year:	William H. Jordan Farm, Cape Elizabeth
Outstanding Conservation Leadership:	Town of Yarmouth - Community Services
Outstanding Steward:	Robert Heyner, Forest Lake
Outstanding Stewardship Group:	Sabbathday Lake Shaker Society
Outstanding Business Partner:	Full Court Press, Westbrook
Contractor of the Year:	Craig Gerry
Most Appreciated Public Works Partner:	Town of Gray - Public Works Department
Teachers of the Year:	Windham Middle School 6th Grade Science teachers: Wendy Day-Maynard, Nancy Fish, Leah Campbell, Kristen Arbour, & Helen Hurgin

District Supervisors Dick Wood and Tom Gordon also received awards to thank them for their noteworthy commitment to District work and staff. Thank you to all who attended and helped make our year successful. The 2007 Annual Meeting will be likely be held on Wednesday, April 18. We look forward to seeing you there!

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE UPDATE



A Year in Review

Thank you once again to all Cumberland County conservationists, partners, technical service providers, staff, volunteers, and leaders who have, with great enthusiasm, taken part in another banner year of conservation. The ebb and flow of conservation success stories reaches throughout Cumberland County's watersheds, from the foothills of the Lakes Region through the rivers and valleys to the coastal salt marshes.

2006 Milestone Conservation Achievements

- Cooperative Conservation assistance with The Friends of Scarborough Marsh to restore 790 acres of high value tidal marsh wetlands.
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and Private Grazing Lands improvements on more than 5,000 acres.
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan improvements on more than 3,000 acres.
- Erosion control treatment practices on 533 acres, conserving 1,400 tons of soil.

Current Events

The USDA NRCS recently released a 2005-2010 Strategic Plan charting the Agency's course for the future. The NRCS vision, "Productive Lands-Healthy Environment," mission, "Helping People Help the Land," and NRCS Strategic Plan Mission Goals are blueprints of future conservation opportunities for Cumberland County. Requests for hard copies of the Plan may be made at <http://landcare.sc.gov.usda.gov/> or by calling 1-888-LANDCARE.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 - UNRESTRICTED

Revenue

Grants	\$295,195
County Funding	15,650
State Funding	15,800
Urban Review Fees	33,344
Seminars	23,929
Water Festival	14,200
Other Regular Income	308,070
Interest	<u>3,215</u>
Total Revenue, Gains, & Other Support	\$709,403

Expenses

Wages	\$204,931
Payroll Taxes	16,146
Employee Benefits	19,450
Program	255,856
Project Costs	138,316
Dues & Subscriptions	3,094
Insurance	2,018
Printing & Reproduction	12,406
Rent	17,507
Meetings	2,972
Publications	40
Office	4,152
Other Expenses	11,396
Sponsorships	3,500
Telephone	3,730
Travel	<u>10,955</u>
Total expenses	\$706,469

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	2,934
Unrestricted New Assets at Beginning of Year	211,300
Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year	\$214,234



Native Plant Spotlight

Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*)

- Deciduous shrub that grows best in full to partial sun and moist soil.
- Foliage turns black after first frost.
- Green berries turn bright red in October and persist into winter.
- Berries only appear on female plants and need a male plant nearby for pollination.
- Grows 6-10 feet tall with similar spread.



AROUND THE OFFICE

Staff Highlight



Becky McKinnon is the District's new AmeriCorps Environmental Educator. She will be working on both education and watershed protection projects during her time here. Becky grew up outside of the Washington D.C. area in Potomac, Maryland. In 2002, she graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education from Wheaton College in Illinois. After college, Becky spent four years in Wisconsin and Minnesota as an environmental educator and a wilderness trip leader. She moved to Maine last summer and now resides on Forest Lake in Windham. Becky chose to work at the District because she was interested in pursuing a different environmental education experience and in exploring new opportunities in the field. The relaxed atmosphere, supportive work environment, and dog-friendly office are reasons Becky enjoys working here so far. In her spare time, Becky enjoys hiking, swimming, cooking, and partaking in any type of outdoor adventure.



**Cumberland County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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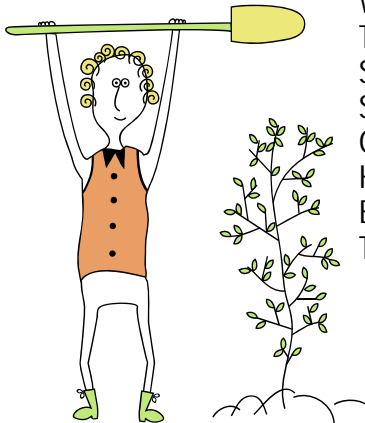
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Pollution Solution

by Shelby Kavanaugh's 4th Grade Class
March 2006
Kaler School, South Portland

We, the young landscape architects
Are designing a landscape so clean...
We'll start with the location of our home,
Then plant many bushes real green.
Our house we'll build away from the lake
With a driveway running parallel,
So pollutants won't flow into the water –
For our environment we want to stay well!
Grass we'll plant to cover the yard
To absorb water that will flow down;



We want to protect all organisms
Or their poor blue habitat will frown.
We will incorporate pervious plants, as well.
They'll help us not to pollute,
Serving as the lake's spongy soldiers
Standing their ground as they firmly root.
Our main goal all along
Has been to protect the lake
Because each one of us knows
That there is so much at stake!

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.