



Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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STIMULUS FUNDS HELP RESTORE LONG CREEK

The Long Creek Watershed Management Plan (July 2009) is a locally supported plan that was developed through a two-year stakeholder process that involved the District, South Portland, Portland, Westbrook, Scarborough, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Conservation Law Foundation, local nonprofits, and businesses within the Long Creek Watershed.

Partners are currently working to implement this first in the nation effort to address stormwater requirements through public-private collaboration. Plan implementation will include restoring stream banks and channels and installing devices that treat stormwater at priority locations. These sites are based on environmental and cost effectiveness.

Implementation of the Plan was jumpstarted by funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stimulus funding). The District worked in partnership with the City of South Portland to secure this funding, which is administered through the Clean Water Revolving Fund Program. A no interest loan for \$2.1 million dollars with 27.7% principal forgiveness was received.

The funding came with the stipulation that the full \$2.1 million needed to be under construction contract by February 2010. The first contract was executed in June 2009. The Philbrook Avenue Improvement Project, the first site addressed with stimulus funds, was substantially completed last October. The project involved two parts: modifying the existing road drainage system so runoff is stored and treated to removed pollutants, and establishing 2,000 feet of streamside vegetation to provide shade and temperature control for the stream, as well as wildlife habitat and food for aquatic animals.

Partners on the Philbrook Project included General Growth Properties (Maine Mall), Hampton Inn, EconoLodge, City of South Portland, South Portland Land Trust, White Brothers Construction, Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers, Bourne Landscaping, and community volunteers.

Stimulus funding is also supporting the implementation of the Darling Avenue and the Mall Plaza improvement projects, which will also store and treat polluted runoff. Work at Darling Avenue involves installation of Filterra tree boxes to filter polluted runoff and regrading and stabilizing road shoulder and open ditches along Darling Avenue to eliminate existing erosion. Mall Plaza involves installation of piping to capture stormwater and direct it to a sand filter for treatment. Both projects are scheduled for completion in 2010.



Installation of a Filterra tree box at an existing catch basin on Philbrook Avenue in South Portland.



Regional Cooperation—Interlocal Stormwater Working Group

The District continues to coordinate the successful Interlocal Stormwater Working Group (ISWG), which was formed in 2002 to address stormwater management issues and, ultimately, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II regulations. The ISWG includes fourteen communities in Southern Maine.

During 2008-2009, the ISWG focused on developing their behavior change education plan and worked cooperatively with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the other regulated communities throughout Maine to develop the Statewide Stormwater Awareness Plan. These educational plans outline the tasks the ISWG will undertake to educate the public about stormwater and to inspire residents to take action to help reduce stormwater pollution.

The message the ISWG and other regulated communities want the public to understand is that the water that falls on properties when it rains can pick up pollutants (lawn chemicals, soil, pet waste, etc.) and then flows untreated into places we fish and swim. As part of the statewide stormwater awareness campaign, the District coordinated the airing of the rubber ducky ads on local television stations during the month of August. In addition, posters that show runoff from a residential property were developed to accompany the ducky campaign. The posters have been distributed throughout the greater Portland area.

The group also continued their successful lawn care education program, YardScaping, coordinated by the District. The program received national attention at the Environmental Protection Agency's 5th National Conference on Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Outreach, held in Portland, OR last May. Please see "National Spotlight Shines on YardScaping" (right) for more information about the conference.



This poster, showing runoff from a residential property, can be seen at businesses in ISWG communities and regulated communities throughout the State.

National Spotlight Shines on YardScaping

Last spring, Jami Fitch, District Project Manager, was invited to give a presentation about the YardScaping program at the Environmental Protection Agency's 5th National Conference on Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Outreach. Stormwater managers from around the country converged on Portland, Oregon from May 11-14 to share their outreach programs, successes, and challenges.



Fitch presented "Greening the Grass: Encouraging Mainers to Adopt Low-Impact Lawn Care Techniques" to an audience of roughly 100 people. The presentation covered the need for a natural lawn care education program in Maine, outreach efforts undertaken, lessons learned, and the positive results the program is experiencing.

Evaluations show that the presentation was well received at the conference. One participant noted he most enjoyed the "excellent Maine example with great, replicable information." In addition, some of the materials highlighted in the presentation caught the eye of EPA staff. YardScaping's "Ducky Approved" logo will be featured in EPA's updated *Getting in Step* guidebook on conducting effective outreach campaigns.

The District wishes to thank the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership for providing travel sponsorship to the Conference. For more information about the YardScaping program, please visit the District's website at www.cumberlandswcd.org/yardscape or contact Jami Fitch at jami@cumberlandswcd.org.

Urban Review Program—Bridging the Stormwater Gap

Not unlike the rest of the nation, Cumberland County saw a decline in development based construction in 2009. However, the District's Urban Review Program still had a busy year providing "in-house" plan review, third party field inspection services, and general technical assistance on stormwater and erosion control issues for municipalities and developers. The Urban Review Program is a fee-for-service program that focuses on ensuring proper stormwater management techniques and erosion and sedimentation control measures are planned for and used during and after construction.

Projects reviewed by the District in 2009 included:

- Six residential subdivisions
- Four school development projects
- One commercial subdivision

Third Party Inspection services were provided in 2009 for the following construction projects:

- Three school development projects
- Three residential, commercial, or mixed developments

In addition, the District provided technical assistance to a number of municipalities. These projects involved issues such as a surface drainage problem at a residential subdivision in Falmouth, a wetland mitigation project on a private property in Cumberland, and field monitoring during the draining and restoration of a pond and wetland area on a private property in Falmouth.



District Engineer Christopher Baldwin conducts a Third Party Inspection at the Portland Jetport.

Upcoming in 2010, work through the Urban Review Program will include reviewing proposed changes to the Lakes Region High School in Naples, performing Third Party Inspector services for the Jetport Aircraft Apron Expansion project at Portland International Jetport, and updating Cumberland County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. For more information on the District's Urban Review Programs, contact Christopher Baldwin at (207) 892-4700 or chris-baldwin@cumberlandswcd.org.

Presumpscot River "Maps for Schools" Program: Educator Workshop

The District coordinated two educator workshops as part of the education activities in the Presumpscot River Targeted Watershed Initiative Grant (PRTWIG). The workshops focused on using maps to teach students about the Presumpscot River and its watershed. Participants received a CD containing various maps and an accompanying Resource Guide. The first workshop was attended by ten educators and held at Windham High School in January 2009. A second workshop was attended by 18 educators and held on the Gorham Campus of the University of Southern Maine in August 2009. Sarah Plummer, the District's Education Coordinator, Dr. Robert Sanford, professor of environmental science, and Rosemary Mosher, Orbis Mapping, facilitated the workshops.

The workshops showcased a CD of customized Presumpscot River Watershed maps and accompanying guides for each map. The maps were created as part of the PRTWIG for use in watershed schools, and were generated through GIS (geographic information system). Maps are interactive and designed for use by middle and high school students in an easy-to-use Adobe format. Maps on the CD include population density, land uses, impervious surfaces, dams, stream classifications, and historical maps. The accompanying guide includes background information and several lesson applications for each map.

Evaluations from the workshops indicated information was well-received and educators were interested in learning more about the Presumpscot River Watershed, water-related issues, and teaching resources. Most educators indicated they planned to incorporate the CD and Guide into this year's curriculum. If you are interested in resources or future workshops, please contact Sarah Plummer at sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org.

Maps, such as the "Impervious Surfaces" one shown below, are part of a CD that was featured at two educator workshops in 2009.



Conservation & Restoration Projects

The goal of these projects is to reduce erosion and other nonpoint source (NPS) pollution through conservation practices and public awareness that foster long-term stewardship. Below are the District's ongoing Conservation & Restoration Projects.

Long Creek Restoration Project ¹

- Stakeholder meeting held to gain comments on the Management Plan and provide information about Plan implementation.
- Funding model developed and finalized for Long Creek Watershed Management District.
- Long Creek Watershed Based Management Plan approved by EPA on July 1, 2009.
- The Long Creek Watershed Management District created by interlocal agreement among South Portland, Portland, Westbrook, and Scarborough. Agreement executed in August 2009.
- A Participating Landowner Agreement negotiated and developed over an eight month stakeholder process involving numerous meetings and 16 drafts
- Water quality monitoring plan and operation and maintenance plan, as identified in the Management Plan, drafted.
- Designated impervious acreage evaluated. Information documented in a web-based database created to track Long Creek impervious area, BMPs, road and parking surfaces requiring maintenance and credits.
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funding sought and received through the Maine State Revolving Loan Fund – a \$2,095,000 no interest loan with 27.7% principal forgiveness. See front page for details.
- Implementation of the Management Plan continues over the next decade.



A future steward plants a buffer at Philbrook Avenue in South Portland.

Highland Lake (Windham & Falmouth)

Conservation Project—Phase III ²

- Seven road improvement projects completed
- Five sites addressed by Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps
- Two steering committee meetings held
- Inventory of best management practices conducted
- Three presentations: Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials at Town of Falmouth, Highland Lake Association Annual Meeting, and Pride Farm Road Improvement Association Annual Meeting
- Seven Forum design team meetings held
- 50 stakeholders attended the Highland Lake Watershed Forum on Sept. 12
- Phase III continues until September 2010



A view of Highland Lake in Falmouth.

Forest Lake Conservation Project—Phase II ²

- Three road improvement projects completed
- 11 sites addressed by the Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps
- Six steering committee meetings held
- 17 matching grants awarded
- 24 volunteers participated in the “Buffers Benefit” pilot program
- Presentation made at the Forest Lake Association Annual Meeting
- Numerous articles published
- Project continues until March 2010

¹ Funding for this project was provided, in part, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 604 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Section 604 (b) grants are administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) in partnership with EPA.

² Funding for this project was provided, in part, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Section 319 grants are administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA.

WATERSHED PROJECTS

Long Lake Watershed Improvement Project— Phase II²

- Seven technical assistance visits completed
- Eight road and residential improvement projects completed
- Two sites addressed by Casco Bay Youth Conservation Corps
- Work completed will keep an estimated 87 tons of soil out of Long Lake each year

Sebago Lake Conservation Project—Phase I²

- 12 technical assistance visits completed
- Two road improvement projects completed
- Two road improvement projects in progress
- Five sets of engineering designs completed
- Three project check-in meetings held
- Two articles written for Portland Water District (PWD) newsletter
- 425 Shoreland Zoning & Natural Resources Protection Act inspections completed by PWD
- 15 Watershed Consultations completed by PWD
- 32 large subdivision inspections completed by PWD
- Project continues into 2011

Hancock & Sand Ponds Conservation Project²

- 13 technical assistance visits completed
- 14 road improvement projects completed
- Two steering committee meetings held
- Presentations at Hancock and Sand Pond Association Annual Meeting and to Town of Sebago Select Board
- Gravel Road Maintenance & Homeowner Conservation Practice workshops held
- Project continues until February 2010



Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop in Sebago on Sept. 19.

Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Conservation Project²

- 18 technical assistance visits completed
- One steering committee meeting held
- Presentations at Pleasant Lake & Parker Pond Association Annual Meeting & to Town of Otisfield Select Board
- 500 watershed residents received postcard advertising matching grants
- Two articles written for Bridgton News & Advertiser Democrat
- Project continues into 2011

Watershed Surveys

The goal of these projects is to identify and prioritize erosion sites throughout the watershed that have an impact on water quality and to recommend conservation practices to reduce erosion.

Brandy Pond Watershed Survey²

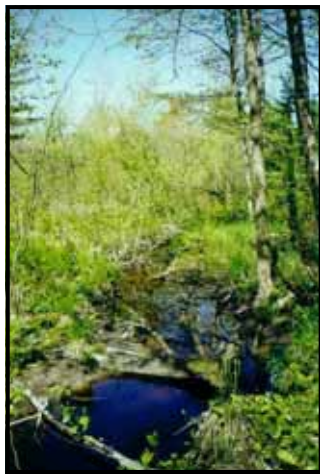
- Volunteer survey began on April 19, 2009
- 73 sites identified and entered into database
- Survey report of all sites developed and available on the District's website
- Project completed in September 2009

Sabbathday Lake Watershed Survey²

- Volunteer survey began on May 3, 2008
- 58 sites identified
- Survey report of all sites developed and available on the District's website
- Project completed in September 2009

Watershed Based Plan Projects

The goal of these projects is to develop a locally supported watershed based management plan that will outline a strategy to help restore water quality. Below is information about the Watershed Based Management Plan currently implemented by the District and many partners.



Red Brook, Scarborough

Red Brook Watershed Based Plan Project ¹

- Steering committee formed; three meetings held
- Initial site visits conducted to determine structural retrofits
- Fluvial geomorphologist contacted & cursory assessment completed for a section of Red Brook from the Turnpike south to confluence with Clark's Pond
- Draft project announcement postcard completed
- Major stakeholders identified
- Existing town ordinance review completed
- Watershed delineation completed
- Water quality monitoring plan completed
- Quality Assurance Project Plan in progress
- Watershed landowner mailing list updated

Watershed Project Highlight: Highland Lake Watershed Forum

On Saturday, September 12, over 50 stakeholders attended the Highland Lake Watershed Forum at Windham High School. The purpose was to foster community stewardship and to create an action plan to continue efforts to improve the Lake's water quality. The District worked with a group of dedicated volunteers to organize the event.

For over a decade, the District has collaborated with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), Highland Lake Association (HLA), and local citizens to address water quality issues in Highland Lake and its watershed, located primarily in Falmouth and Windham. Since 1997, over \$440,000 federal dollars have been awarded to this watershed, generating over \$350,000 in matching funds. The water quality, which was once rapidly declining, is now showing signs of improvement due to these ongoing restoration efforts. The Forum gave the community an opportunity to consider past improvement projects and prioritize future protection efforts.



Stakeholders participate in the Highland Lake Watershed Forum held at Windham High School in September.

E. Shippen "Ship" Bright, founder of the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute, began the Forum by discussing global water quality and its connection to protection efforts on Highland Lake. The District's Project Manager, Heather True, followed with an overview of Highland Lake, its current state, and efforts to improve its water quality. Brad Rounds facilitated the event by helping participants identify both benefits received from previous water quality protection efforts and concerns to be addressed in the future. Participants derived four key issues of interest: land use, lake access, invasive aquatic plants, and shoreland zoning. Attendees worked in breakout groups and as a whole to discuss these issues and next steps.

Windham High School donated the Forum meeting space and Hannaford contributed a portion of the food. Funding was provided by the Town of Falmouth and the HLA in conjunction with Phase III of the *Highland Lake Conservation Project* granted to the District by the MDEP.

Based on the turnout, enthusiasm, and participant feedback, the Highland Lake community is interested in continued lake protection efforts. Phase III of the *Highland Lake Conservation Project* is scheduled to end in September 2010. The District will work with Forum participants and other partners to create community action groups based on the key issue areas. Findings will be used to update action items in the Highland Lake Watershed Management Plan. For more information or to become involved in this process, please contact Heather True at htrue@cumberlandswcd.org.

WATERSHED PROJECTS

Watershed Project Highlight: Eight Years of Protection Efforts on Forest Lake

Water quality protection work first began on Forest Lake in 2002. The District collaborated with the Forest Lake Association, the towns of Windham, Gray, and Cumberland, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the watershed community to carry out projects in the 3.2 square mile watershed to improve water quality and energize and unite the watershed community. The last phase of water quality protection work will end in March 2010, with the health of the Lake improved and the community steadfast in their dedication to continue protection efforts.

The first projects in the Forest Lake watershed included septic system, shoreline, and watershed surveys, as well as a Community Watershed Forum. Over 50 people attended the Forum, an event that acted as a catalyst for bringing watershed residents and municipalities together for the greater good of Forest Lake. A watershed management plan was developed and on-the-ground conservation projects began.

Many projects were completed through two phases of conservation projects on Forest Lake. Numerous roads, beach access sites, driveways, buffers, and residential sites were addressed, with work undertaken by a motivated community and local Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crews. A total of 76 tons of soil will be kept from entering the Lake through these projects each year. Native plant matching grants were awarded, technical assistance visits conducted, and outreach initiatives were undertaken, such as the pilot "Buffers Benefit" program. This program enabled watershed residents to purchase native plants at a reduced cost when they pledged to enhance their buffers. An Interlocal Municipal Workgroup and steering committees were formed to work towards improved water quality.

Work on Forest Lake and within its watershed has been extremely successful. The watershed community had a chance to work together on committees, at the Forum, and by spending over three thousand hours volunteering on numerous projects around the Lake. The active Forest Lake Association will continue to forge ahead on projects, hoping to fund future YCC work and forming the Forest Lake Management Council that will guide and oversee the implementation of the Forest Lake Management Plan. Although grant work on this Lake is ending, the interest and projects will continue through the dedication of watershed residents!

Forest Lake Before & After Photos

Photos below depict work completed through the Forest Lake project. Left: Gabion baskets were installed in 2006 to prevent shoreline erosion at this site on Forest Avenue in Windham. Sixteen volunteers hand-placed 35 tons of stone to fill the baskets. Right: An oval, aluminized culvert replaced three failing culverts on Cottage Road in Gray in 2009.



A Year in Review: 2009 Milestones

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) experienced another successful year assisting with the conservation of Cumberland County's natural resources. Many practices were implemented, including cover crop, critical area plantings, forest trails and landings, prescribed grazing, and waste storage facilities.

Noteworthy achievements include:

- Six Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans written for 677 acres; 12 plans implemented, improving over 4,000 acres of grazing, forest, and crop lands.
- Partnered with the Maine Audubon Society Gilsland Farm staff to treat 65 acres of invasive species to improve wildlife habitat.
- Worked with the Maine Forest Service, private foresters, and landowners to increase participation in programs. NRCS and the Maine Forest Service will partner on private forest landowner conservation efforts.
- Successful New England Cottontail workshop held at Cabela's. New England Cottontail funds are available for eligible private landowners.

A new USDA pilot project, "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food," offers eligible farmers assistance with extending the growing season. Visit www.usda.gov/knowyourfarmer for more information.

Wetland Reserve Program Funds will be available in 2010. These can be used to purchase easements and restore previously altered or drained wetlands with agricultural history.

Thank you cooperators, customers, partners, and staff for a very productive 2009!

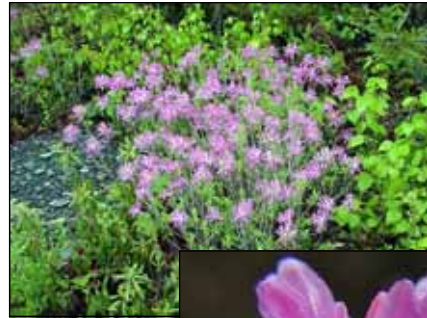


Native Plant Spotlight

Rhodora

(*Rhodora canadensis*)

- Maine's native rhododendron
- Grows 18-36 inches tall
- Prefers part shade and moist soils
- Flowers are typically pink or purple and bloom in the late spring
- Attractive to bumble bees and butterflies



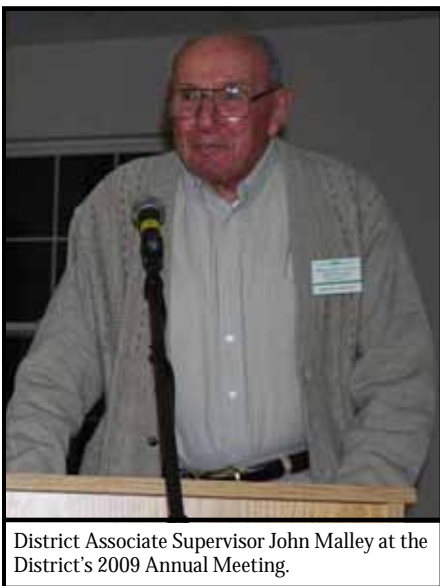
AROUND THE OFFICE

Malley's Can-Do Approach Will Be Missed

Longtime Associate Supervisor John Malley has announced his decision to step down from the District's Board of Supervisors after 25 years of service. During that time his humble, but knowledgeable, presence has provided technical oversight and direction to a Board that witnessed a significant evolution of the County's lands from predominately agricultural to a more urban mix.

The technical expertise John shared was largely developed during his time with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as District Conservationist (DC) from the late 1950's to the early 1980's. His education at the University of New Hampshire and years running the family's dairy farm prepared him well for his role as DC. After a successful career, he retired from the SCS but continued expanding his technical knowledge performing site evaluation work for Sebago-Technics and later running his own environmental consulting business. It was during this period that the District was fortunate enough to have John's assistance, and gentle nudging, as we evolved into the soil and water conservation district we are today.

Fifty years of experience devoted to our southern Maine community is a hard thing to replace. Fortunately, John's insight and can-do attitude have fashioned a legacy of programs that will continue into the future. The District plans to honor John at our Annual Meeting on March 31st. We will miss you at the District, John, and are truly grateful for all you have done for us.



District Associate Supervisor John Malley at the District's 2009 Annual Meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

Operating Revenues		
Grants	\$526,383	
County ³ & State Funding	28,000	
Urban Review Fees	47,190	
Seminars & Tours	24,971	
Water Festival	14,600	
Other Revenue	<u>177,609</u>	
Total Operating Revenues	\$818,754	
Operating Expenses		
Salaries & Wages	\$286,715	
Payroll Taxes	22,822	
Employee Benefits	33,180	
Program Expenses	94,764	
Project Costs	267,454	
Dues & Subscriptions	3,616	
Insurance	1,976	
Printing & Postage	14,449	
Rent	26,000	
Meetings	2,055	
Publications	71	
Other Expenses	12,426	
Maintenance & Repairs	2,472	
Sponsorships	9,200	
Supplies	14,486	
Telephone	2,586	
Travel Expense	<u>19,386</u>	
Total Operating Expenses	\$813,658	
		Net Operating Income (Loss) \$5,096
		Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)
		Interest & Dividends \$2,917
		Interest Expense <u>0</u>
		Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses) \$2,917
		Change in Net Assets \$8,013
		Balance at Beginning of Year \$188,411
		Balance at End of Year \$196,424



Forest Lake

³The District thanks the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee and County Commissioners for their continuing support, which has made much of the District's work possible.

ANNUAL MEETING

The District hosted its fifth Annual Meeting on March 18, 2009 at the Old Robie School in Gorham. Attendees included State Representatives Mark Bryant and Jon Hinck, Cumberland County Commissioner Malory Shaughnessy, and representatives from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, US Department of Agriculture, local lake association members, District board and staff, and 2009 award recipients.

2009 awards and winners:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Outstanding Steward: | Jeff Dennis, Maine DEP |
| Contractor of the Year: | Ralph Perry, R.H. Perry Excavating |
| Teacher of the Year: | Christine Olsen,
Falmouth Middle School |
| Outstanding Stewardship Group: | Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program |
| Outstanding Conservation Farm: | Wormell Farm,
Lee Jr. & Brendan Wormell |
| Journalist of the Year: | John Richardson,
Portland Press Herald |
| Outstanding Business Partner: | Matt Brunner & Melissa Hamlin, Gunderboom, Inc. |



District Chair Tom Gordon presents Lee Wormell Jr. of Wormell Farm with the 2009 Outstanding Conservation Farm Award.

Two District staff members were also recognized for their years of service to the District: Tamara Lee Pinard, 10 years, and Betty McInnes, 25 years. Thank you to all who attended and helped make our year successful. The 2010 Annual Meeting will be March 31st, 2010. Please join us! See back page for details.



**Cumberland County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
2010 ANNUAL MEETING



Wednesday, March 31st
Robie School, 668 Gray Road (Rt. 202), Gorham, Maine

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The evening will include a social hour and buffet dinner. A presentation of awards will follow the meal.

RSVP: By March 17th to Betty McInnes
betty-mcinnis@cumberlandswcd.org • 207.892.4700



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The District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

To receive this newsletter electronically, please email sarah-plummer@cumberlandswcd.org