

GRAFTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Gary Peters, Vice Chair

Annual Report 2010

Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD) has been helping landowners make informed natural resource decisions in Grafton County since 1946. Districts are a partnership of federal, state and local agencies interested in the stewardship of natural resources. District Supervisors are appointed by the State Conservation Committee, serve without pay, and develop an annual plan of work based on local concerns. All supervisors are volunteers. Thank you to the supervisors and partners (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and UNH Cooperative Extension, (UNH CE)) that make the District successful. The District assists agricultural producers, forest landowners, schools and towns in conserving our natural resources and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) through education, workshops and tours. The District provides soils information, Soil Potential Index calculations for NH Current Use program, historical aerial photos 1930's -1990's, NH Wetland Inventory and FEMA maps.

Grafton County Conservation District experienced many changes this year. We have had a quite a disruption in our District activities and function with the passing of Cal Perkins. GCCD supervisors all have shared the burden. Thank you, Supervisors, and Pam Gilbert, Office Administrator, for the extra effort. We welcomed new supervisors Linda Brownson, Wentworth, and Harry McGovern, Landaff, to the Board. The District sponsored Linda's attendance to the National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Regional Meeting in Portland, ME.

We were informed that a new office site in Orford had been chosen. GCCD felt the office should remain in the Woodsville/Haverhill area. The struggle followed to see where the Conservation District would fit. Thanks to the assistance of the Grafton County Commissioners our direction seems much clearer. GCCD is grateful to have the support of the County Commissioners and County Delegates who provide funding for the Office Administrator. GCCD meets the third Wednesday of the Month at the Grafton County Complex. Meetings are open to the public and all are invited to attend.

Services and events provided by GCCD include:

- **Conservation Plant Sale:** Annual fundraising program offering plants for landscaping, conservation buffers, wildlife food source. Windy Ridge Orchard donates space and dedicated volunteers assist with sorting orders.
- **Growing Raspberries Workshop:** Heather Bryant, UNH CE Agricultural Resources, reviewed basic raspberry biology, site preparation, planting, pruning, and harvesting.
- **Planting and Pruning Workshop:** Demonstrations and planting discussion by Dick Fabrizio, Associate Supervisor and Windy Ridge Orchard owner, and UNH CE Forest Resources Educator, Dave Falkenham.
- **Annual Meeting:** Held at Woodward's Resort in Lincoln, the District recognized the Schwaegler Family Tree Farm, as Cooperator of the Year and Forest Steward of the Year for their outstanding stewardship and outreach to the community. Bruce Schwaegler delivered the Speaking for Wildlife presentation, **New Hampshire's Wild History** - 350 years of changing habitat.
- **Trout stocking program:** New Hampshire raised, disease free rainbow and brook trout for pond owners in May.
- **Pond Clinic:** GCCD Supervisor and consultant, Ray Lobdell, discussed pond ecology, water quality, weed control, design, construction, and the NH Department of Environmental Services permitting process
- **Conservation Easements:** Annual monitoring of seven conservation easements in Franconia/Sugar Hill, Landaff and Haverhill. Filed monitoring reports with the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests.
- **Annual Fall Tour of Conservation Practices:** Highlights projects and practices protecting local resource concerns. We visited the Woodsville Water Treatment Plant, sites in Swiftwater on the Wild Ammonoosuc, Landaff Creamery and Mill Brook Farm.
- **Education:** Awarded a \$250 Jim Page Conservation Scholarship to Melanie Peters-Basch. Provided stewardship materials to fifth grade students.
- GCCD participates in the State Conservation Committee, NH State Technical Committee, NH Association of Conservation Districts, and Employee Association.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Peters, Vice Chair