



Grafton County Conservation District

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Annual Report 2009

Calvin Perkins, Chairman

Grafton County Conservation District (GCCCD) has been helping landowners make informed natural resource decisions in Grafton County since 1946. Conservation districts are a political subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, RSA 432:12, with a 170 C 1 non-profit status under the IRS tax code. Districts are a partnership of federal, state and local agencies interested in the wise use 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. 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. GCCCD is co-located with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), providing technical assistance to County landowners. GCCCD works closely with many other partners including USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) and UNH Cooperative Extension (UNH CE). Dedicated volunteers assist the District each year with the Conservation Plant Sale and the North Haverhill Fair. GCCCD is fortunate to have the support of the Grafton County Commissioners and County Delegates who generously provide funding for the Office Administrator. Services and events provided by GCCCD include:

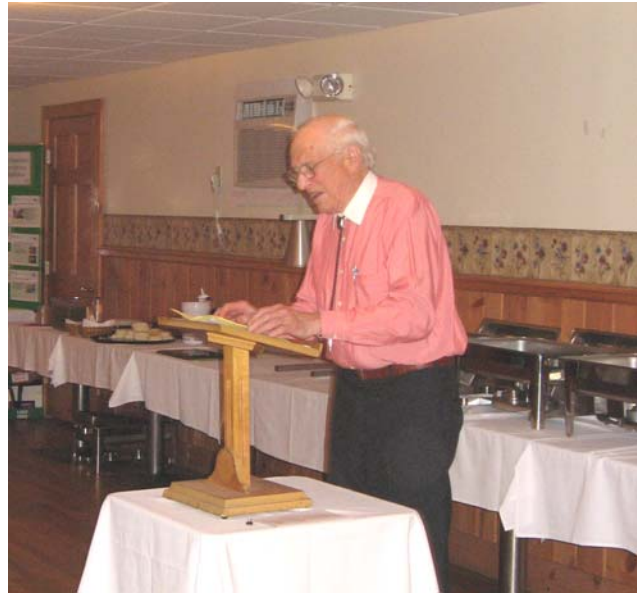
Conservation Plant Sale: Annual fundraising program offering plants for landscaping, conservation buffers, wildlife food source. Windy Ridge Orchard donates space.

Planting and Pruning Workshop: Demonstrations and planting discussion by Dick Fabrizio, Associate Supervisor and Windy Ridge Orchard owner, and retired UNH CE Forest Resources Educator, Nory Parr.

Annual Meeting: Held at the Happy Hour Restaurant, the District recognized Tony Morse, Goose Lane Farm, as Co-operator of the Year and Ehrhard Frost, Full Circle Forestry, as Forest Steward of the Year. Tony Morse spoke about local geologic influences on farming and forestry.



John O'Brien, GCCCD Associate Supervisor, presents award to Ehrhard Frost, Forest Steward of the Year



Tony Morse, Cooperator of the Year, and Speaker at the GCCCD Annual Meeting, Happy Hour Restaurant

Trout stocking program: New Hampshire raised, disease free rainbow and brook trout for pond owners in May.

Pond Clinic: Ray Lobdell, natural resource consultant, and Dean Bascom, NRCS District Conservationist, discussed pond uses and types, site selection, pond design, construction, permitting, pond ecology and water quality.



Over time, high water and an unstable river bank have left tree roots exposed.



Harry McGovern, Mill Brook Farm, describes his plans for rotational pasture grazing to Carolyn and Gary Danielson.

ess of expanding their grazing area, installing fencing and a pasture watering system, and preparing a rotational grazing plan.

Education: Awarded two \$250 Jim Page Conservation Scholarships for summer conservation camp. Winners were: Calsea Bryer and Jaden Dalton. Assisted with NHACD Soil Judging Contest and contributed to NH Envirothon. *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* was the theme of the spring conservation poster contest. Kassidy Patone, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School, won First Place.

Landowner and Community Assistance: Soils information, using Area Soil Survey of Grafton County or digitized ArcMap GIS program. Soil Potential Index calculations for NH Current Use program. Historical aerial photos 1930's - 1990's, Wetland Inventory and FEMA maps.

Respectfully submitted,

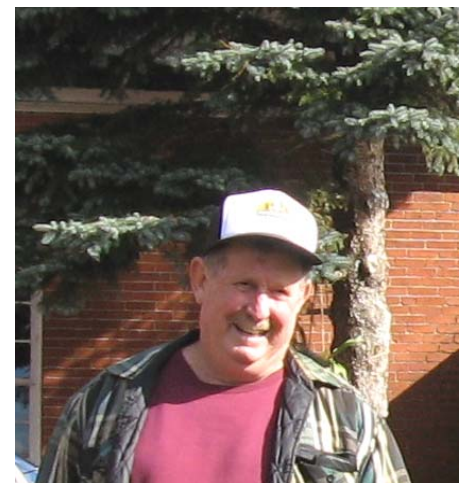
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Annual Fall Tour of Conservation Practices: Despite wintry weather, we made site visits selected to highlight local resource conservation practices and concerns. Our first stop was a tour of the Woodsville Water Treatment Plant, which serves about 1,500 people drawing surface water from the Ammonoosuc River. Next we stopped in Swiftwater on the Wild Ammonoosuc River to discuss effects of gold dredging on water quality, aquatic life, the streambed and river banks. We then visited Landaff Creamery on Mill Brook Road, Landaff. Dairy farmers Doug and Debby Erb became interested in cheese making as



Doug Erb, Landaff Creamery, shares his experience learning to make farmstead Landaff Cheese. The Erbs turned to cheese-making to make their dairy farm more sustainable.

a way to make their dairy farm more sustainable. Doug is now a Certified Cheese-maker and they are selling farmstead Landaff Cheese. Our last stop was Mill Brook Farm, owned by Harry and Becky McGovern. Working with NRCS, they received cost-share assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The McGovern's have installed a waste storage facility, a heavy use area, waterline, and fencing. They are now in the proc-



Cal Perkins, Fall Tour 2008. Thanks, Cal, you made it fun for all of us!