

## GRAFTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

<http://graftonccd.org>



### Orford Ridge Business Park

Mon Tue Thu Fri  
19 Archertown Road, Suite 1  
Orford, NH 03777  
(603) 353-4652, ext. 103

### Grafton County Complex

Wed or by appointment  
3855 DCH, Room 268  
North Haverhill, NH 03774  
(603) 787-6973, ext. 351

## GRAFTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Gary Peters, Chair

Annual Report 2011

Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD) has been helping landowners make informed natural resource decisions in Grafton County since 1946. Conservation districts work in partnership with federal, state and local agencies providing technical and financial assistance, and education to local landowners. District Supervisors are appointed by the State Conservation Committee, are volunteers, and serve without pay. Supervisors develop a plan of work each year to direct annual operations based on local resource concerns. The supervisors and partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA) and UNH Cooperative Extension, (UNH CE) 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 holds Local Work Group meetings each year comprised of interested farm and forest landowners, and area agencies and organizations working with natural resource concerns. The LWG identifies locally important natural resource needs and makes recommendations to the State Technical Committee and USDA NRCS State Conservationist on such items as resource priorities, conservation practices, and policies. GCCD also became members of the NH Farm Bureau and NH Timberland Owners Association to broaden our perspective on concerns to agricultural and forest producers in NH.

GCCD is grateful to have the support of the County Commissioners and County Delegates who provide funding for the Office Administrator and office space for the District at the Grafton County Complex. 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.
- **Workshop:** Heather Bryant, UNH CE Agricultural Resources,
- **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 the Common Man Inn in Plymouth, the District recognized Chet Walker, Jr., Walker Farm Dairy and Produce as Cooperator of the Year; and New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association received the Forest Steward of the Year award. Linda Brownson delivered the Speaking for Wildlife presentation, **Wonders of Nature: A Photo Gallery of New Hampshire's Natural Communities.**

- **Trout stocking program:** New Hampshire raised, disease free rainbow and brook trout for pond owners in May.
- **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. The day started at the Trescott Company in Hanover, formerly Hanover Water Works. Foresters John O'Brien and Jeff Smith discussed the glossy and common buckthorn invasive plant problem and efforts to slow the spread of these unwanted plants using mechanical control methods. Because of the public water supply, chemical control cannot be used. We saw a newly cleared area that will be planted to red pine or white spruce, and an area that was cleared and planted several years ago that remains free of buckthorn. Trescott Company received cost-share assistance through a Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) contract for mechanical removal and tree planting to restore wildlife habitat. Our second stop was at Acorn Hill Farm in Lyme Center, operated by Janine Weins. Janine shared her enthusiasm for growing flavorful foods that delight the senses with color and texture. Janine has successfully grown and marketed her organic vegetables, supplying fresh produce to area restaurants, Alice Peck Day Hospital and Harvest Hill residents. Janine applied for and received cost-share assistance through an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract to install a season extension high tunnel. This high tunnel was designed by Four Season Tools and can be moved along a track to accommodate the start of plants outside while a different crop is currently finishing in the high tunnel. High tunnels can extend the market season, improve soil and plant health, and reduce use of pesticides to control leaf diseases. Next we visited the Mascoma Headwaters Project with Joe Homer, NRCS Assistant State Soil Scientist. NRCS has been conducting research on hydric soils and wetland boundary delineation at the site for over 16 years. Data on air temperature, soil temperature at various depths, soil moisture, and plant communities is collected and analyzed to better understand wetland characteristics. The Mascoma Project is also Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) site.
- **Education:** Awarded three \$300 Jim Page Conservation Scholarships to Hunter Gablinske, Alyssa Bach and Madison Lewis to attend Barry Conservation Camp. Stewardship materials with the theme *Forests for People – More Than You Can Imagine!* were provided 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, Chair



White spruce planting at  
Trescott Company



Movable high tunnel at  
Janine Weins



Mascoma Headwaters SCAN site