



## Grafton County Conservation District

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### Annual Report 2008

Calvin Perkins, Chairman

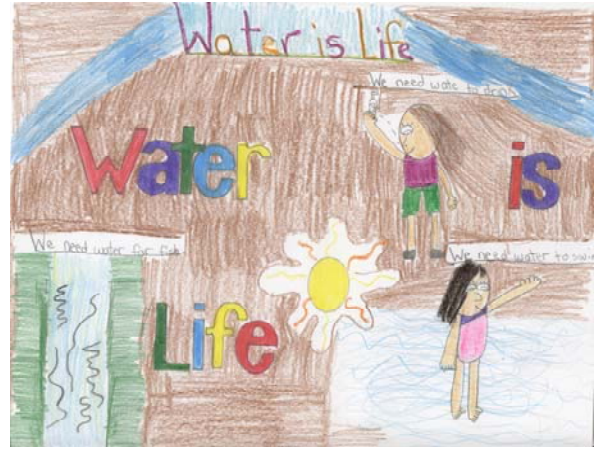
Grafton County Conservation District (GCCD) was created in 1946. It is a political subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, RSA 432:12, with a 170 (c) (1) non-profit status under the IRS tax code. As a subdivision of the State of New Hampshire, conservation districts are a partnership of federal, state and local agencies interested in the wise use of natural resources. GCCD is co-located with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), providing technical assistance to County landowners. The District elects a Board of Supervisors annually, and Associate Supervisors are appointed by the Board. The District Supervisors and Associate Supervisors bring local contacts to the conservation process, representing local needs, and bringing technical expertise from the community to the District. GCCD 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. GCCD 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 GCCD include:

- Conservation Plant Sale held each spring, offering plants for landscaping, conservation buffers, wildlife food source. Funds raised through the Conservation Plant Sale are used to support District programs, including the poster contest and conservation camp scholarships. Windy Ridge Orchard donates the site for this annual fundraising program.
- Planting and Pruning Workshop with demonstrations by Dick Fabrizio, District Associate Supervisor and Windy Ridge Orchard owner, and UNH CE Forest Resources Educator, Nory Parr.
- Annual Meeting for District Cooperators, and interested landowners held at the Happy Hour Restaurant April 10, 2008. Cooperator of the Year, Fred and Linda Brownson, were recognized for outstanding forest and wildlife management practices including wildlife openings, tree and shrub plantings, mast tree release, and installed forest trails and landings. The Brownsons received cost-share assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) with technical assistance from NRCS. Nory Parr, UNH CE Forest Resources Educator was recognized as the Forest Steward of the Year, for sharing his enthusiasm and passion educating school children and forest landowners about the benefits of forest management. Lorraine Merrill, Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food spoke about local agricultural commissions and their role in local government, promoting working farms, land conservation and agricultural development.
- The 2008 Jim Page Conservation Scholarship was awarded to Trevor LaPierre, assisting with his session at Barry Conservation Camp, where Trevor was excited to learn about wildlife, hunting and fishing.
- Soils information, using [Area Soil Survey of Grafton County](#) or digitized aerial photo with ArcMap GIS program. Soil Potential Index calculations for NH Current Use program.



NORY PARR, FOREST STEWARD OF THE YEAR,  
SPEAKS AT THE GCCD ANNUAL MEETING

- *Water is Life* 2008 Poster Contest for Grafton County fifth grade students. GCCD purchases instructional booklets based on an environmental theme for any school group or 4-H group interested in participating. The winning poster was drawn by Brittany Derrington, Haverhill Cooperative Middle School.
- Trout stocking program, New Hampshire raised, disease free rainbow and brook trout for pond owners each May.



RAY BURTON, GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER, AND ROBB THOMSON, FSA STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AT GCCD DISPLAY

- Historical aerial photos 1930's -1990's, Wetland Inventory maps and FEMA Flood Hazard maps are available for viewing at the USDA Service Center.
- Grafton County Conservation District educational displays at the Annual Meeting and North Haverhill Fair, exhibiting natural resource conservation information, District award winners and local projects.
- GCCD Annual Fall Tour of Conservation Practices gives land-owners an opportunity to share conservation projects with neighbors. The Fall Tour visited Fred and Linda Brownson, and observed forest management practices and wildlife practices. Bruce and Christine Balch hosted the second stop, with dessert fresh from the Bunten Farmhouse Kitchen. The Balches use the rich milk from their Devon herd to make yogurt, cheeses and ice cream. They serve locally grown food and produce for their brunches and dinners at their restaurant. Working with NRCS, several conservation practices including fencing and rotational grazing, were planned and installed as part of an EQIP contract. The last stop was the Robie Farm Store, offering farm-raised eggs,

raw milk, farm-made cheese and breads, and frozen meats from local producers. Betty Sue Robie discussed the challenges and lessons learned marketing directly to the customer.

- Grafton County Conservation District completed a Contribution Agreement with our technical partners, NRCS, to provide administrative assistance with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) Farm Bill Programs.
- Grafton County Conservation District is represented on the State Technical Committee (STC). The STC is a group of resource professionals and producers that work with NRCS recommending priorities and policies for management of USDA conservation programs in New Hampshire.
- The District monitored conservation easements in Franconia/ Sugar Hill, and Haverhill, and filed monitoring reports with the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Respectfully submitted,

Calvin Perkins, Chairman



2008 FALL TOUR OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES, BUNTEN FARMHOUSE KITCHEN