



Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District 2006 Annual Report



190 Bangor Road, Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Winter 2006-2007

A look back at 2006...and forward to 2007!

2006 was yet another busy and productive year for the District. From extensive camp road improvements in the Branch Lake Watershed - thanks to a Phosphorus Compensation Fund Grant from the Maine DEP - to public workshops on Small Woodlot Management and Camp Road Maintenance, we continue to address a wide variety of conservation issues throughout Hancock County. As you read through our accomplishments for 2006, we encourage you to contact us with your ideas on future public workshops or programs. We serve you, and would like to hear your thoughts!

Inside this issue you'll also find our much anticipated **2007 Annual Tree & Shrub Sale** plant listing and order form, as well as information on our popular spring **Trout Sale** for stocking private ponds!

We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2007.

New Local Plumbing Inspector Course

Wednesday, April 4th, 2007, 8:30am - 4:00pm
The White Birches, Ellsworth

Presented by the Subsurface Wastewater Program staff and hosted by the District, this session will provide newly certified local plumbing inspectors and individuals seeking to become certified with a thorough explanation of the permitting, inspection, and enforcement provisions contained in the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, CMR 241. This session will be of primary interest to local plumbing inspectors, but is open to all, including site evaluators and system installers. To learn more, contact Bill LaFlamme at (207) 287-7726 or email william.n.laflamme@state.me.us.

Upcoming Watershed Stewards Program - Join Us!



Maine lakes are at risk.. It is up to us, Maine's citizens, to recognize current sources of pollution and learn to correct these problems. The University of Maine Cooperative Extension's **WATERSHED STEWARDS PROGRAM** can help YOU do this! We provide 20 hours of training designed to aid local citizens in recognizing threats to their lake, and give "Stewards" the tools needed to reduce or eliminate those threats. In turn our volunteers return at least 20 hours of service to their watershed. There is no cost to participate, and all Stewards receive our resource notebook (a \$60 value!).

We will focus on the **Branch Pond** watershed area when we travel to Ellsworth this spring, as we partner with the Branch Pond Association and the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District! The majority of topics are relevant to any local lake or pond - so if you're on **Green, Toddy**, or one of the other area lakes, you are welcome to join us! The program begins March 19, and will be held on Monday evenings, 6:30 - 9:00 PM at the Hancock County Cooperative Extension office on Boggy Brook Road. For more information or to register, call Laura Wilson at 581-2971 (or 1-800-870-7270) **Registration deadline is March 12th.**

2006 Annual Report of District Accomplishments

· In the spring of 2006, the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District applied for and received a Stormwater Compensation Fund Grant from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) for the Branch Lake watershed in Ellsworth in the amount of \$53,900. Maine's Stormwater Management Law authorizes the MDEP to accept a compensation fee in lieu of some phosphorus reduction (i.e. soil erosion control) necessary from a project to meet its phosphorus allocation in lake watersheds. This collected fee is then turned around and applied within the watershed to help provide long-term elimination or reduction of chronic phosphorus sources. As project administrator, the District chose four gravel road sites for phosphorus mitigation projects including; Cove Way, Sargent Drive, Walls Farm Way, and Phillips Way. Upon the completion of these road projects in October, an estimated 95 tons of total phosphorus has been alleviated in the Branch Lake watershed. Special thanks go to the aforementioned Road Associations for their hard work and dedication to the protection of Branch Lake water quality. (see photos to right)

· The Annual HCSWCD District Meeting & Banquet, held this year in early April at the White Birches in Ellsworth, focused on the topic of "Small Woodlot Management", featuring speakers from the Maine Forest Service, SWOAM, USDA-NRCS, and local foresters and loggers, discussing services and programs available to assist woodlot owners and managers.

· In May, HCSWCD assisted our sister District in Washington County during their hosting of the Downeast Regional Envirothon competition for nine high school teams from Hancock & Washington County. Students from Hancock & Washington counties compete in an exciting, day-long, outdoor event, testing their knowledge of environmental resources in Maine. Teams consist of 3-5 high school age students plus an advisor (parent, teacher, etc.). Many schools form teams from science clubs, FFA groups, classrooms, or simply a group of interested students. Working as a team, students test their knowledge of natural resource issues by answering questions and solving hands-on problems at five stations: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, Water/Aquatics, and a Current Natural Resource Issue. The event was held on the grounds of the Jacksonville Campground in East Machias. To learn more about Envirothon, please visit www.maineswcds.org/envirothon.htm. In 2007, the Downeast Regional Envirothon will return to Hancock County, hosted by HCSWCD.



Before: A photo of Cove Way in the Branch Lake Watershed prior to road work. Notice the lack of proper ditching and extensive plant growth on the left side of the road.



After: Cove Way with a 1300+ ft. rocked ditch installed, helping to direct rain/snow runoff away from the road surface, reduce erosion, eliminate road washouts, and help protect nearby lake water quality.

2006 Annual Report of Major Accomplishments (continued)

· In July, the District again hosted a local Unpaved/Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop, teaching participants about basic road building and maintenance techniques, a review of regulatory factors, and a hands-on, field demonstration of the "do it yourself" road maintenance tool called the Front Runner, which is available for rent from the District for use on private roads. Presenters included Phil Curtis from the Maine Rural Roads program, Jon Cullen from the Maine DEP, and Russ Lanoie, designer of the Front Runner. Twenty-five participants attended the workshop. This educational program is very important, as erosion and runoff from unpaved/gravel camp roads are the number one pollutant of Maine's lakes and ponds. To learn more about the Front Runner rake and how your Road Association can use it, contact the District.

· In August, the District coordinated the third annual Hancock County Lake Survey Week for Aquatic Invasive Plants, with the assistance of 50+ volunteers performing Tier 1 (boat launch area) lake surveys over 50 access points throughout Hancock County. These areas continue to be targeted in the annual survey due to their high use and subsequent vulnerability to aquatic invasive plant infestation. Though no aquatic invasive plants have been discovered in Hancock County to date, the District will continue coordinating the annual Lake Survey Week, as early detection is the best defense against these environmentally and economically destructive plants - already a problem in Southern Maine. In preparation for the Lake Survey Week event, the following activities were also hosted by the District in August:



Members of the Maine Seaplane Association graciously donated use of a plane to assist aquatic invasive plant surveyors on remote lakes in northern Hancock County.

~ The District again partnered with the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) to present an Advanced Aquatic Invasive Plant ID Workshop. This workshop included an overview and

updates on the invasive aquatic plant issue in Maine, and also included a hands-on advanced identification training session for aquatic invasive plants.

~ For the second year, the District presented a Native Aquatic Plant Workshop, in cooperation with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension - Ellsworth office. The purpose of this workshop was to help lake residents identify the native plant life in their lakes, thus better preparing them to recognize an invasive invader.

~ For the first year, District staff were assisted by the use of a seaplane for quicker access to northern Hancock County lakes, in order to complete aquatic invasive plant surveys. Special thanks go to Tom Dunn, member of the Maine Sea Pilots Association, for the donation of his time, plane and fuel!, and the Association's strong support for protecting Maine lakes from the spread of invasive plants.

The District continues to thank the invaluable staff from the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) - Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants and the Maine DEP Invasive Species Program for their strong support and assistance with our District invasives program.



A student analyzes a water sample from a pond at the Aquatics Station during the Downeast Regional Envirothon in 2005.

Our Board of Supervisors:

Paul Birdsall, Chairperson, Horsepower Farm
RR #1 Box 1095 Penobscot, ME 04476 (207) 374-5038

William Thayer, Vice Chair, Darthia Farm
51 Darthia Farm Rd., Gouldsboro, ME 04607 (207) 963-7771

Wilbur A. Saunders, Treasurer
108 Cunningham Ridge Rd. Surry, Maine 04684 (207) 667-5424

Lawton Vogel
P.O. Box 1330, Penobscot, ME 04476 (207) 374-5737

Gary Sargent
67 Jellison Ridge Road, Surry, ME 04684 (207) 667-6701

Associate Supervisors:

Peter Ober
724 North Bend Road
Surry, ME 04684

Marjorie Saunders
108 Cunningham Ridge Road, Surry, ME 04684

Ann Haley
P.O. Box 1126, Holden, ME 04429

Paul Volckhausen, Happytown Farm
835 Happytown Rd., Orland, ME 04472

Dennis King, King Hill Farm
Box 31, Penobscot, ME 04476

Attention High School Teachers & Students!

It's time again for the
Downeast Regional Envirothon Competition,
this year scheduled for
Thursday, May 10th, 2007 in Winter Harbor
and hosted by Hancock County SWCD!

Are you a High School teacher or home-school instructor looking for a fun way to teach your students about Maine's natural resources? Do you know high school-age students who enjoy showing off their knowledge of Maine's forests, lakes, or wildlife?...then this is your invitation to **Envirothon!**

Envirothon is a natural resource problem solving competition for high school students. In an outdoor setting, students are tested in five natural resources areas: soils, wildlife, forestry, aquatics, and a current national, environmental issue. Envirothon is a team effort that includes site specific, hands-on tasks. Regional and state competitions are held each spring. The top Maine team qualifies for national finals to compete against teams from across the USA and Canada.

To learn more, contact the District.

District Board Meetings



The District Board of Supervisors currently meet on the third Wednesday of each month, 8:00am - 10:00am. (Summer meeting hours, April - October, are 6:00pm - 8:00pm) Meetings are open to the public and we encourage your participation!

Please contact the District office to learn more
@ (207) 664-7496.

2006 Annual Report of Major Accomplishments

(continued)

· In October, the District was asked to present at the Maine Innkeepers Association Meeting in Rockland. The District spoke on simple conservation practices that can be used on landscapes, yards, driveways, etc., ensuring soil and surface/ground water quality protection. Innkeepers are very interested in these practices and may be developing a state-wide program where properties receive awards for incorporating sound on-the-ground conservation measures throughout their property.

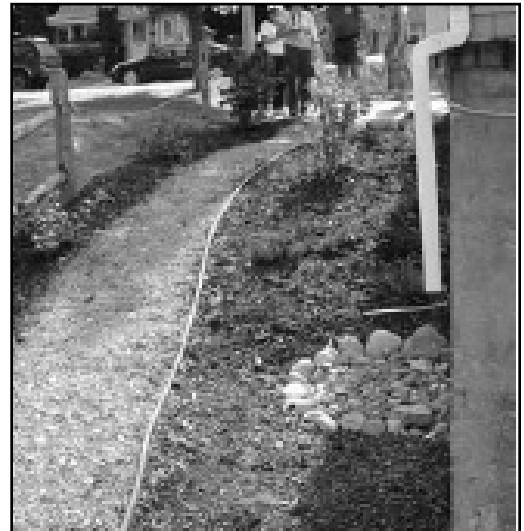
· For a second year, the District presented a “Living Lightly on the Land for the Sake of our Lakes” workshop during the 2006 Master Gardener program offered through the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The presentation supports the principles of the Maine LakeSmart program and included a field trip to a local residence to observe conservation methods being used that prevent soil erosion and protect surface water quality.

· The District continues to administer the Blueberry Integrated Crop Management (ICM) program comprised of Hancock County blueberry growers, 400+ acres, with approximately \$8,100 in federal monies received by growers in 2006. The benefits of the program continue to decrease pesticide use, improve soil conditions and surface water quality, and help control weeds - all resulting in the best quality harvest and overall soil and water protection.

· The District continues to promote and support the Educational Farm Tour program for local schools and youth organizations, reimbursing farm fees accrued for tours. The District strongly believes in the importance of bringing young children on-site to traditional working farms. To learn more about the Farm Tour Program, please contact the District.

· Remaining the only agency offering free on-site technical assistance to landowners for erosion and storm water management concerns throughout Hancock County, the District provided over 35 property owners with assistance in 2006, in addition to assisting over 150 walk-in customers with technical assistance and conservation questions. Our Ellsworth office continues to distribute soil maps and descriptions, provide in-house viewing of topographic, aquifer, and flood maps, as well as aerial photos, and provide informational pamphlets on a variety of conservation topics

· Through our annual District conservation sales, HCSWCD provided over 1,600 trees and shrubs to area residents, over 2,100 fish to stock private ponds, and over 2,500 spring bulbs.



Using crushed stone, dry wells are a conservation practice that can easily be installed on properties where gutter downspouts cause significant erosion. This photo shows an example installed on the grounds of a local Bed & Breakfast.

Annual Spring Trout Order Form

Sale Date: Wednesday, May 9th, 2007, at Noon (orders must be placed by Friday, May 4th)

Please mail completed forms to: Hancock County SWCD, 190 Bangor Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605

*Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your order to obtain a blank application for a 5-year stocking permit from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and mail it to IF&W (no more single-use permits offered). You must present this permit to the game warden in order to pick up your fish the day of the sale.

Please note: Maine IF&W is restricting the stocking of rainbow and brown trout in drainages of the eight listed Atlantic Salmon rivers. Call (207) 287-5261 for specific information.

<u>Fish Size</u>	<u>Price per 100</u>	<u># Fish Requested</u>	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u># Oxygen Bags</u> (\$.00 each)	<u>TOTAL</u>
Rainbows					
5-6 inches	\$180	_____	_____	2 per 100 fish	_____
6-7 inches	\$230	_____	_____	3 per 100 fish	_____
Brook Trout					
5-6 inches	\$180	_____	_____	2 per 100 fish	_____
6-7 inches	\$230	_____	_____	3 per 100 fish	_____

(no Brown Trout available)

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____



District Special!

Free bag of 4-5" rainbows (30 fish) with all rainbow orders over \$250

Stocking Guide

The number of fish a pond can support depends on many factors including water temperature, available food, flow of fresh water through the pond, depth, and surface area. Surface area is the best factor to use as an estimate, in addition to the following guide to stocking:

Surface area of pond

1/4 acre
1/2 acre
3/4 acre
1 acre

Number of fish 5-6 inches and larger

50 fish
100 fish
125-150 fish
150-250 fish

**You are cordially invited to the
Hancock County SWCD
Annual Banquet!**



**This Year's Theme:
Farmland/Open Space/Woodlot Preservation
in Hancock County**

Join local farmers, woodlot owners, and land owners, along with representatives from Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Maine Farmland Trust, and the Frenchman Bay Conservancy as we conduct an open forum on the benefits of land preservation.

Join us for a night of great food, door prizes, and lively conversation!

A delicious buffet will be served at 6:00pm. Cost: \$17.50 per person

Saturday, April 14th, 2007

5:30pm - 8:30pm

The White Birches, Ellsworth

Please pre-register with the District by mailing payment and the form below by **Friday, April 6th, 2007**. Checks may be payable to: Hancock County SWCD

Hancock County SWCD Annual Banquet

Registration Form

5:30pm - 8:30pm, Saturday, April 14th, 2007

The White Birches, Ellsworth

Name(s) _____ # attending _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Hancock County SWCD, 190 Bangor Road, Ellsworth, ME 04605



Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District

190 Bangor Road
Ellsworth, Maine 04605
(207) 664 - 7496

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*If you have a change of
address, if you receive two newsletters,
or if you no longer wish to receive one,
please let us know. Thanks.*

All programs and services of the Hancock County Soil & Water Conservation District and USDA are offered on a nondiscriminatory bases without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600.

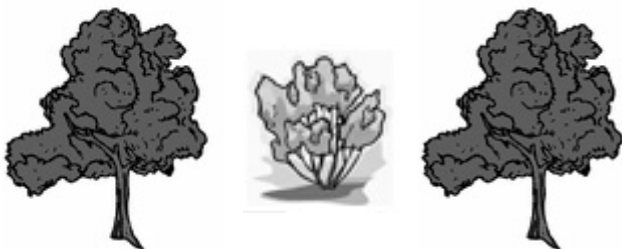
To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W Whitten Bldg. 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington D.C. 20250-9410, or call (292) 720-5964.

2006 Annual Report

Spring is on the way!

Look inside for our Annual Tree & Shrub Sale Order Form

(also online at <http://ellsworthme.org/soilandwater>)



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