



# ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

# ANNUAL REPORT

"MAKING CONSERVATION WORK FOR YOU"

## A YEAR WITH A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

The year began with the challenges of a reduced level in financial support from the Androscoggin County Commissioners and the prospect of changes within the District staff. After serving with the District for 13 years, Phoebe Hardesty resigned.



*Phoebe admires gift at her farewell party*

It has been said, "Strength is gained through adversity." The Board of Supervisors and Associate Supervisors proved the truth of this statement time and again during the challenging days these changes brought to the District. Rather than retreat in despair, the Supervisors and Associates stepped up to the plate and recruited Project Manager Susan Gammon to continue the conservation grant projects and find funding for new conservation grant projects.

Their next step was to form committees that would address, strategize and prioritize for District programming and financial costs needed for the day-to-day operations.

Another step was taken to enlarge the

District's outreach through planning the development of a website. Finally in April of 2007 we reached our goal! Look at [www.androscogginswcd.net](http://www.androscogginswcd.net).

The District worked to enhance and expand our partnerships with other agencies and resource personnel. Vivanne Holmes with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension of Androscoggin/Sagadahoc Counties, Sue Watson with Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development, Ferg Lea with Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, David Rocque with Maine Department of Agriculture and Esther Lacognata with Farmlink have given updates on their activities and proposed future endeavors.



*Board Supervisors and Associates above stop a moment to have their picture taken.*

*Newly appointed Supervisor Paul Roseberry has picture snapped with a special friend in the barn.*



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### DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

Arthur Dunlap, Chairman  
Paul Roseberry, Vice-Chair  
John A. Hemond, Secretary  
Shirley Hatch, Treasurer

### ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS

Katie Carville  
Ellsworth Chipman  
Lionel Ferland  
Bill Hatch  
Thomas Hoerth  
Lawrence Moreau  
Richard Thibodeau  
William Varney

### DISTRICT STAFF

*Project Manager*  
Susan Gammon  
*Office Manager*  
Jane Heikkinen  
*Consulting Technician*  
Adam Paul  
*Conservation Technician*  
Scott McLaren  
*District Consulting Engineers*  
Ross Cudlitz, PE

### NRCS STAFF

*District Conservationist*  
Autumn Birt  
*Soil Technician*  
Paul Carmichael  
*Agricultural Engineer*  
Candi Benwitz  
*Ag Engineer Intern*  
Adam Catrell  
*Engineering Technician*  
Brian Stuart  
*Soil Resource Specialist*  
Dave Wilkinson  
*Computer Specialist*  
Halla Black

## Androscoggin Valley SWCD

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*The mission of the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the conservation and stewardship of soil, water, and related natural resources, by providing leadership, technical assistance and educational programming to and with the citizens of Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties.*

## Staff Making Conservation Work For You

The Conservation District quickly learned what great support our partners provide. With much help from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), a published report for the Taylor Pond Watershed Survey project was completed. Phoebe agreed to continue until the final report for the Phase One Sabattus Pond Implementation Project was completed. This was such a help in a very trying time.

Sue's employment began with a whirlwind of activity. Her first deadline was writing the final report for the Taylor Pond Watershed Survey grant project, and was followed with writing the Sabattus Pond Watershed Base Management Plan. Her first field season required working with watershed associations for No Name Pond and Range Pond to install conservation practices. The purpose of this work was to prevent erosion and pollution which degrades the water quality in these water bodies.

In addition, she worked with the Nequasset Lake Stakeholders to conduct a watershed survey identifying sources of pollution. The funding for these projects were provided by the Environmental Protection Agency's 319 Clean Water Act and administered through MDEP.

Sue submitted and secured the approval for a Phase 2 Sabattus Pond Watershed Implementation Project with MDEP and submitted a proposal to Maine Division of Health and Human Services for a Groundwater Pilot Project. This project was approved and is scheduled to begin in June, 2007.

District Consulting Engineer Ross Cudltz continues to provide third party reviews for municipalities in their subdivision and commercial construction projects. Conservation Engineering Technician Scott McLaren provides technical assistance to land owners instituting plans to protect soil and water quality.



*Students from Poland Regional High School working on a community action project.*

The District continued to work with teacher Michelle Garcia and her Poland Regional High School students on community action projects. We worked with teacher Sandy Rodrique and others at the Lake Awareness Day at Camp Agassiz. The purpose of these activities are to promote conservation with service-learning projects. The Conservation District offered educational workshops for adults. A Gravel Road Maintenance and Front Runner Operation workshop was held in August to train private road owners about maintenance imperatives and operation of the equipment. A Highway Design workshop focused on erosion control materials, and a Home Owner Conservation workshop focused on preventing pollution of our water.

Office Manager Jane Heikkinen coordinated the Western Maine Regional Envirothon, a competition in the knowledge and problem-solving skills of high school students dealing with natural resources. Five topics considered were soils, forestry, wildlife, aquatics and a current issue. The current issue theme was land management. Twelve schools participated with 17 teams enrolled. This event was held at Beaver Park in Lisbon. How exciting it was to see Edward Little win third place in the regional competition and have the highest score in the soils station at the State competition! Jane also assisted at the Mock Envirothon and State competition.

Jane provided outreach with educational materials on conservation for the public through a display booth at the Maine Garden Day in April. She worked with the Southwestern Conservation Alliance (SWCA) to produce a display for the Fryeburg Fair and spent time staffing the booth during the fair. SWCA is comprised of Soil and Water Conservation Districts from Androscoggin Valley and Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec, Oxford and York Counties. Press releases and newsletters have been prepared to increase the public awareness of soil, water and related natural resource activities and concerns.

As a public service, the Conservation District produced a "Food and Farm Ag Map" brochure giving a location on a map and brief description of farms selling locally grown products at the farm or a nearby farm market for Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties.

As another service, we have aerial maps dated in the 40's for the public to use as a historical prospective documenting land changes over the years. Also, the District maintains a collection of natural resource information for distribution.



Participants in the Conservation Security Program receive a sign for the great conservation practices they have installed.

Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District hosted the final "Conservation Security Program" information meeting. This program is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Participants were recognized financially for great conservation work installed on their land in the Middle Androscoggin River Watershed. Twelve participants are receiving a financial reward.

The Conservation District also continues to support NRCS through serving as a host to the Local Work Group meetings designed to provide guidance and set priorities for Farm Bill work each year.

Our District Conservationist Autumn Birt and Soil Conservation Technician Paul Carmichael have worked hard during 2006. Goals have been exceeded, state and national reviews have been passed and program dollars have been utilized to put conservation measures on the ground.

The NRCS staff have addressed conservation measures like comprehensive nutrient management, riparian buffers, wildlife habitat, rotational grazing, soil erosion prevention and heavy use areas.



Another conservation measure used is testing compaction after tillage.

The commitment and quality of work exhibited by the NRCS local staff and regional resource specialists has resulted in helping landowners care for our natural resources.

The Conservation District has worked this past year with NRCS, other agencies and resource personnel to enable us to solve problems related to soil and water quality and protect the precious resources of concerned property owners in Androscoggin and Sagadahoc County.



A panoramic view from a manure storage facility

## ANDROSCOGGIN VALLEY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### 2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2006</b>
Beginning Balance	52932.66
County & State Funding	33256.00
Fundraising Events Net Income	1472.59
Grant Income	46437.76
Misc/Interest Income	5082.50
Rental Income	2215.08
Urban Development Review Income	3455.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>144851.59</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administrative Costs	
Advertising	115.36
Equipment Maintenance	1152.10
Equipment Insurance	200.00
Dues	2141.05
Office Supplies	883.78
Outreach	933.02
Postage	788.91
Printing Newsletters	699.81
Professional Fees	268.00
Stewardship Education	0.00
Training Costs	884.00
Travel	1678.49
Supervisor Costs	2358.93
Personnel Costs (includes Grant Time)	<b>85556.43</b>
Miscellaneous Costs	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>97659.88</b>
<b>Net Worth as of 12/31</b>	<b>47191.71</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE/NET WORTH</b>	<b><u>144851.59</u></b>
* Obligated fund balances for programs.	
Accrued Leave	2743.41
Equipment Depreciation fund	1047.68
Rent	11290.00
Grant Funds	16721.23
Minimum Balance Required	2750.00
Obligated Carryover Funds as of 12/31/06	34552.32
Unobligated Funds as of 12/31/06	12639.39
<b>Net Worth</b>	<b>47191.71</b>

#### SUBJECT TO AUDIT

The Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates the financial support received from our advertisers, donors, Maine Department of Agriculture and County Commissioners in both Androscoggin and Sagadahoc Counties. The Conservation District also thanks all the local land owners and land users who willingly participated in our programs.