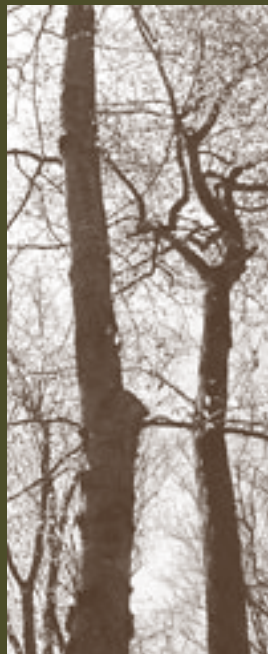
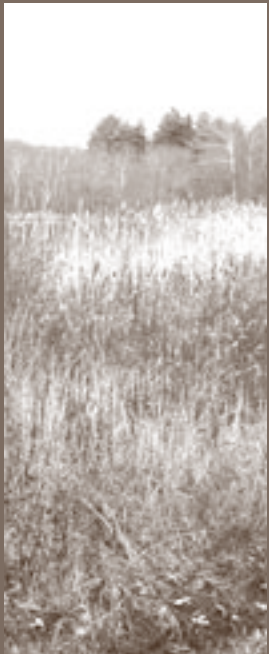




ANNUAL REPORT 2007

CONNECTICUT RIVER COASTAL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

*Providing Technical Assistance
and Education for Natural
Resource Conservation
since 1946*





ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Board of Directors

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Staff

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Wendy L. Goodfriend, *Natural Resource Specialist*
Barbara A. Davis, *Office Administrator*
Eric S. Mosher, *Watershed Projects Coordinator*
Paul M. Woodworth, *Watershed Projects Coordinator (former)*
Kenneth H. Geisler, *Senior GIS Analyst*
Kathryn Woodruff, *Watershed Projects Intern*
Tyler Raymond, *Track Down Survey Intern*
Richard Kszystyniak, *USDA/NRCS Liaison*

Partners

American Farmland Trust
CT Association of Conservation Districts
CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation
CT Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
CT Resource Conservation and Development Council
CT RC&D Environmental Review Team Program
National Association of Conservation Districts
Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials Program (NEMO)
UConn Cooperative Extension System
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
US Geological Survey
The 26 District towns
Many local organizations

A Letter from the Executive Director


This year marks a significant milestone for our organization—60 years of conservation! So much has changed since Connecticut's Conservation Districts first formed in 1946. We have gone from small organizations with no paid staff, working hand-in-hand with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (then Soil Conservation Service) primarily on agricultural issues, to independent private nonprofits with a whole crew of paid professional staff focused on protecting water quality and mitigating the impacts of urban development. These changes bring many new challenges and opportunities, and never a shortage of things to do! What we can accomplish is limited only by funding, staff resources, and, at times, the political climate.

Some of our work—in fact, the core technical assistance we provide to municipal staff and land use commissioners—is done behind the scenes, unnoticed by most people. Take, for example, our efforts to protect natural resources by reviewing and recommending changes to site development plans. This is one of the most important ways we can effect positive change in land use practices and ensure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized. Though not flashy or in the public eye, the cumulative benefit is significant.

On the more public side, informing and engaging others furthers our conservation efforts greatly. Connecticut River Watch Program volunteers become our “eyes and ears,” and water quality information

they collect fuels river management and protection projects in their communities. Restoration projects are made possible through the hard work and grit of many volunteers, who have provided countless hours of digging, mulching and planting. And workshops and educational materials help local residents put safe and sound conservation practices in place in their own backyards.

Without these efforts, both in the public eye and behind the scenes, and the work of countless others in the conservation community, the places we love would slowly become degraded or disappear. Thanks to all of our partners, donors and volunteers for all you do. And here's to another 60 years of conservation!



Jane L. Brawerman
Executive Director

The Mission of the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District is to promote the sound use and management of our natural resources through technical assistance and education. Our programs and services are provided to municipal staff, land use decision makers, environmental professionals, engineers, farmers, teachers, Realtors, civic groups, and the general public.

The District holds public meetings every fourth Wednesday, 7:00 pm at the deKoven House, 27 Washington Street in Middletown. All programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

The District serves the towns of Berlin, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Cromwell, Deep River, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Hebron, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Marlborough, Middlefield, Middletown, New Britain, Newington, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Portland, Rocky Hill, Salem and Westbrook.



Promoting the Responsible Use of Natural Resources Through Technical Assistance and Training



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING programs focus on balancing natural resource protection with appropriate land use and development. These programs are available to municipal land use commissioners and staff, private residents, and the development community.

Thirty-two (32) Site Plan Reviews, one ERT, and seventeen (17) on-site natural resource evaluations were conducted. This work is funded primarily by donations from our municipalities and the State of Connecticut Fee Bill (P.A. 92-235).

Environmental Reviews

Thirty-two Site Plan Reviews, primarily for residential and commercial developments, and one Environmental Review Team evaluation were conducted at the request of municipalities. These reviews provided decision makers with critical information for reducing potential impacts through careful site planning and design, erosion prevention and sediment control, and stormwater management.

Landowner Assistance

Seventeen on-site natural resource evaluations were provided to local municipalities and private residents throughout the District. Assessments addressed landowner concerns with water quality impairments, soil and streambank

erosion, drainage and flooding, invasive species and wildlife. Stewardship and management practices were recommended to help landowners protect and improve the resource of concern.

Pond Health Checks

The District is contacted frequently by landowners with concerns about the health of their ponds. To better respond to these requests, a new Pond Health Check field protocol was developed and educational materials compiled. The goal of this program is to increase awareness among pond owners about land stewardship and other management practices needed to maintain healthy ponds. Funding was provided by The Rockfall Foundation.



Protecting and Improving Natural Resources and Watershed Health

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS focused on natural resource assessment, management, protection and restoration are conducted in collaboration with local communities and other partners. The District also contributes to regional and statewide conservation efforts.

Restoring the Mattabeset River Watershed

Since 1992 the District has worked with local communities to improve water quality in the Mattabeset River, listed by the state as impaired, with the goal of restoring the river to fishable and swimmable conditions. Recent efforts in the Mattabeset have focused on stream assessment, restoration planning, and on-the-ground implementation. Mattabeset projects were funded by the CT DEP through an EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source grant; Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program; Long Island Sound Futures Fund; and The Rockfall Foundation.

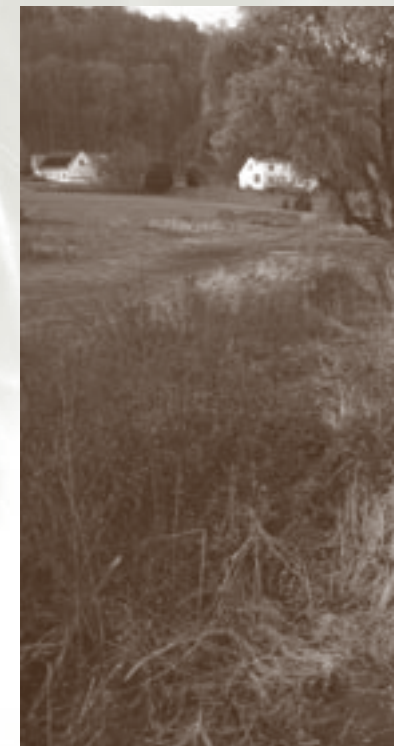
Watershed Planning and Outreach in the Coginchaug River

With our strong ties to municipalities and other stakeholders in the Coginchaug River watershed, the District was asked to serve as the local liaison for a watershed study sponsored by NRCS and CT DEP. District staff helped plan and publicize education and outreach activities, and participated on the study advisory committee. The study's goal is to develop recommendations to address water quality impairments in the watershed. Funding

for this project was provided by the CT DEP through an EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source grant.

Building Community Stewardship for River Protection through Citizen Monitoring

Through our nationally recognized and award-winning citizen monitoring program, the Connecticut River Watch Program (CRWP), District staff engages community members in scientific studies of river health. Established in 1992, CRWP goals are to build awareness about river resources, and collect scientifically credible data to identify and address water quality threats and impairments. CRWP supports five ongoing watershed-based monitoring programs. Activities include water sampling, bioassessment, and visual monitoring. Funds were provided by the CT DEP through an EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source grant and private sources. CRWP also received new monitoring equipment through the EPA New England Equipment Loan Program.





Planning for Open Space Management

Working with the Town of Westbrook Conservation Commission, the District developed open space management plans for two town-owned open space properties, Horse Hill Gorge and Horse Hill Woods. Existing natural resource information was compiled, field surveys were conducted, and a report was produced. This effort supports Westbrook's goal of managing town open space for passive recreation and natural resource protection. Funds for the project were provided by the Town of Westbrook.

District Chairman Tom ODe'll served on the Boards of the CT Association of Conservation Districts, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation, Eastern CT Resource Conservation and Development Council, Working Lands Alliance, and the CT DEP Landscape Stewardship Advisory Committee; Board members Cindy Fazendeiro-Gaudino and Michael Lutz were on the Horse Environmental Awareness Program (HEAP) committee, a statewide coalition working to prevent pollution from horse facilities; and Board member Gary Crump was active with the CT Farm Bureau.

Improving Land Management for Agriculture and Conservation

In cooperation with NRCS, the District promoted Federal conservation assistance programs, including the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), and approved conservation plans and applications for assistance for agricultural operations in the District. The District also co-sponsored a *Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland* workshop in Middlesex County with American Farmland Trust.

Working with Partners

The District contributes to regional and statewide conservation efforts through participation on boards and committees.



The 2nd Annual River Cruise and Wine Tasting fundraiser aboard the *RiverQuest* was held to benefit CRWP. This successful event featured local wines from Priam and Chamard Vineyards, hors d'oeuvres prepared by the Center for Culinary Arts, and a unique and spectacular natural phenomenon, the swallow ballet.



Expanding Environmental Awareness, Knowledge and Action



OUTREACH AND EDUCATION efforts sponsored by the District build awareness and appreciation for the resources in our “backyards,” and promote individual action to protect and improve the environment. Activities include both school-based youth conservation education and public programs.

The Connecticut Envirothon

Thirty high school teams participated in the 16th annual CT Envirothon, held at Winding Trails Recreation Center in Farmington. This District-sponsored program challenges students to develop critical thinking, cooperative problem-solving and decision-making skills. The year-end competition covers five fields of study: aquatics, forestry, wildlife, soils, and a special topic, this year clean/renewable energy. Our District was represented by Bacon Academy (Colchester), Coginchaug Regional

H.S. (Durham-Middlefield), The Morgan School (Clinton), and Xavier H.S. (Middletown). The winning team from Housatonic Valley Regional H.S. came in first place at this year’s national Envirothon.

Project Green Lawn

Encouraging residents and businesses to maintain healthy lawns free of harmful chemicals is the goal of Project Green Lawn, an ongoing collaboration with the City of Middletown. Outreach activities included: a program and book signing featuring Paul Tukey, author of *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* and the national spokesperson for SafeLawns.Org; and an on-site seminar on *Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat* with CT DEP Wildlife Biologist Peter Picone and Connecticut Forest & Park Association Educator Lori Brant.

Rain Garden Workshop

The message of this how-to workshop co-sponsored with the UConn NEMO program was that rain gardens are fun, easy and aesthetically pleasing—and will make a real difference in your local watershed. Dr. Michael Dietz, NEMO stormwater specialist, introduced *Rain Gardens in Connecticut: A Design Guide for Homeowners*, and provided tips on how to design, plant and maintain a rain garden.

The Annual Shrub and Seedling Sale

Promoting the use of Connecticut native plants continues to be a central goal of the District’s Annual Shrub and Seedling Sale fundraiser. This year our 16th annual sale was held on Earth Day weekend at the Tanger Outlet Center in Westbrook. Our sincere thanks to Tanger for the generous donation of retail space for our sale, and to our many volunteers who made it such a success.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER COASTAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT DONORS**

We are grateful to the many Conservation District donors who support our important local conservation work.

The following list reflects all individuals, municipalities, organizations, businesses and granting agencies that have supported the District from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

Individuals

Charlene & David Amacher
Anonymus
Barbara Bartoli
Gail & Philip Bassett
Alex Bell
Jean Benoit & Paul Derdeyn
Joanne & Robert Blake
Winifred Bonney
Lori Paradis Brant
Carol & Steve Buzash
Jane Brawerman & Brian Stewart
Marilyn & George Brierley
Susan G. Burns
Norman C. Caine
Elizabeth & Joseph Carl
Jeanne & Paul Carroll
Leslie Carroll
Jerry Clark, Jr.
Mary Comfort
Inger & J.M. Connery
Margaret & Edmund Cornish
Renee & Jim Costello
Ann Moser Courtney
Jeanne Coyne
Jerry & Gene Cronin
Denis Cunningham
Eileen & Lawrence Dallas
Barbara David
Jane I. Davison
Raul deBrigard
Michael & Lucinda DeLorenzo
Susan & John Dempsey
Daniel Digiulio
Cal DuFour
Beth Emery & Tim Roaix
Shirley Feldmann
Patricia Florio
Nancy & Steve Fox
Jean & Robert Gagnon
Lisa Gauthier
Jennifer & Kenneth Geisler
Stephen Gephard
Anna & Joseph Giannetti
Kathy Gifford
Debra & John Gilbert
Russ Gomes
Wendy Goodfriend & John Rozum

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Ann & Scott Hadley
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Judith C. Hawke
Lynn Herlihy
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Anthony Irving
Livia Jacobs
Steven L. Joseph
Sara & James Keaney
Nancy & Richard King
Suellen Kozey McQuin
Kristin & Brian Lambert
Debra & Charles Landrey
Mark W. Langton
Pierre Lemieux
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Diana Lord
Ellen & Lew Lukens
Michael Lutz
Helen McDonald
Marcia & Dennis McMullen
Rosemary & Michael McNeil
Elaine & Robert Melvin
Steven Merrick
Sydney Mintz
Iola Monahan
Bill Neale
Cynthia & John Norris
Ann & Bob Nussbaum
Carol & Tom ODell
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Sue Sweet
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Rachel & Eric Thomas
Sandra & Chris Ulbrich
Martha Vernlund
Lisa Wahle
William Wasch
Adela Wilmerding
Krishna Winston
Susan & Jim Wyne

Businesses

Aetna Foundation, Inc.
Chamard Vineyards
Clinton Nurseries, Inc.
Comer & Company, LLC
Connecticut River Expeditions
Connecticut River Watershed Council
Dean's Auto Recycling
Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park
Kensington Garden Club
Lyme Garden Club
Madison Rod & Gun Club
New England Wetland Plants, Inc.
Patricia Rasch, Graphic Design
Priam Vineyards
Rhode vanGessel Design
Rose's Berry Farm
Starbucks Coffee
Storey Publishing
Summer Hill Nursery, Inc.
Sunny Border Nurseries, Inc.
Tanger Outlet Stores
Walker Systems Support
Washington Mutual Matching Gift Program
Young's Printing

Municipalities

Berlin
Chester
Clinton
Cromwell
Deep River
Durham
East Haddam
East Hampton
Essex
Haddam
Hebron
Killingworth
Lyme
Madison
Marlborough
Middletown
Newington
New Britain
Old Lyme
Old Saybrook
Portland
Rocky Hill
Westbrook

Grants

Connecticut Council on Soil and Water Conservation
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act §319
EPA New England Equipment Loan Program
Five-Star Restoration Matching Grant Program
Long Island Sound Futures Fund
Middlesex County Community Foundation
Quebec-Labrador Foundation/
Atlantic Center for the Environment, *The Sounds Conservancy Program*
The Rockfall Foundation

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

INCOME

319 Grants	\$19,000
CT River Watch Program Grants	10,734
State Funds	69,375
Local Funds	42,110
Material Sales	39,566
CT Council on Soil and Water	1,000
Long Island Sound Futures Fund	11,700
Middlesex County Community Foundation	2,000
National Park Service Eightmile Funds	1,318
Rockfall Foundation Grant	2,600
Workshops	560
Interest Income	2,762
Contributions	2,623
Miscellaneous	778

Total Income **\$206,126**

EXPENSES

Wages	\$142,165
Professional Fees	475
Postage	723
Publications & Advertising	3,790
Insurance	2,292
Taxes	11,484
Dues & Subscriptions	70
Telephone	3,041
Conferences, Meetings & Workshops	1,032
Mileage	568
Office Expense	1,101
Rent	12,000
Depreciation	1,164
Grant Expenses	23,132
Shrub Sale	23,201
Equipment lease & maintenance	2,620
403(b) Matching	4,078

Total Expenses **\$232,936**
Excess (Deficiency) **(\$26,810)**

Compiled by Comer & Company, LLC, Certified Public Accountants

CONNECTICUT RIVER COASTAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

deKoven House Community Center
27 Washington Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: (860) 346-3282
E-mail: ctrivercoastal@conservect.org
Web: www.conservect.org/ctrivercoastal

**Recognizing Conservation Efforts:
The Annual Awards Program**

Each year the District honors individuals and organizations whose efforts have exemplified and supported our mission. Conservation Awards were presented at the District's 59th Annual Meeting on October 25, 2006.



Members of the Bolton Conservation Commission receive an award from District Chairman Tom O'Dell for ongoing leadership in maintaining the community-based Blackledge River monitoring program.

Environmental Professional: Kevin Case, former Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Coordinator

Municipality: City of New Britain

Agricultural Cooperator: Priam Vineyards, Colchester

Teacher of the Year: Susan Michael, Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham-Middlefield

Mort Gelston Service Award: Ruth Penfield, Berlin

Special Merit Awards: Bolton Conservation Commission; Tyler Raymond, East Haddam

Certificates of Appreciation: Larry McCulloch, Chamard Vineyards;

Mark and Mindy Yuknat, CT River Expeditions;

Gary Crump and Gloria Priam, Priam Vineyards;

John Dolishny, General Manager, Tanger Outlet Center, Westbrook;

Thomas D. Comer, CPA, Comer and Company, LLC, Middletown

**CONNECTICUT RIVER COASTAL
CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.**

deKoven House Community Center

27 Washington Street

Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: (860) 346-3282

E-mail: ctrivercoastal@conservect.org

Web: conservect.org/ctrivercoastal

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