

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



Recommendations made in response to a resident's concerns about bank erosion and sloughing on a CT River cove were adopted unanimously by the condominium board.



A second year of soil and cornstalk testing at the Greenbacker Farm silage cornfields led to the recommendation that manure from the farm be applied to fields treated with chemical fertilizers to improve soil fertility.



Monitoring of plots established at Westbrook's Salt Island Overlook showed that the first year of efforts to reclaim the property from rampant invasive plants had been very successful.



Students from a Wesleyan University aquatic ecosystems class conducted bioassessments at two Coginchaug River sites with support from the Connecticut River Watch Program.

Our Backyards and Farms: Green Land Care Practices

- Nutrient management efforts continued at Greenbacker Farm in Durham in collaboration with UConn Department of Plant Science. Based on soil and cornstalk sampling, application of manure was recommended for fields treated solely with chemical fertilizers due to an apparent decline in soil fertility.
- Promoting yards as more utilitarian and wildlife friendly spaces was the goal of our annual shrub and seedling sale, where we provided a single source for a wide variety of difficult to find Connecticut native and edible landscape plants.
- Educational outreach on diversifying home landscapes included an on-site seminar cosponsored with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Project Green Lawn, where participants learned firsthand how a lawn-dominated suburban lot was transformed into a haven for wildlife.
- Project Green Lawn efforts to promote healthy lawns benefited from a partnership with Middletown Regional Agricultural Science & Technology Center. A student team helped spread the word about the health and environmental risks of lawn care chemicals, and publicize a screening of the film, *A Chemical Reaction*, co-hosted by the school.
- Site assessments for property owners and residents, a major focus of our efforts, resulted in detailed management suggestions to address natural resource concerns.

Our Parks and Open Spaces: Planning and Management

- Ongoing invasive plant monitoring at Westbrook's Salt Island Overlook revealed that physical and chemical control activities were already having a tremendous impact, even in areas that had been taken over by invasive plants.
- A natural resource assessment and habitat management planning project at Great Cedars Conservation Area West was undertaken for the Old Saybrook Conservation Commission. Invasive plant control will be a major focus, and potential New England Cottontail habitat identified in field surveys will also be addressed.
- Our work on coastal habitat management planning continued in collaboration with CT Sea Grant and US Fish and Wildlife Service. Field assessment of Old Lyme's Bartholomew Preserve began in the spring with a breeding bird survey, and a habitat and vegetation survey.

Our Rivers and Watersheds: Assessment and Restoration

- An intensive stream corridor assessment of Middletown's Swamp Brook was the eighth conducted in our effort to "track down" sources of impairments in the Mattabeset watershed. High priority areas for restoration action and recommended management measures are identified in the resulting plan, which will help focus future improvement activities.
- Results of a study of potential pollution sources in the Laurel Brook watershed target downstream segments of the brook for future monitoring and restoration work, where *E. coli* bacteria levels were found to be higher and a number of pollution reduction fixes were identified.
- Connecticut River Watch Program activities included compiling and analyzing eight years of Eightmile River bioassessment results for the Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee. Based on past assessments, streams in the watershed are classified as having "very good" to "exceptional" water quality; future monitoring will determine whether differences revealed between individual sites, and year to year variability and trends are significant.

CONNECTICUT RIVER COASTAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT DONORS

We are grateful to the many Conservation District donors who support our important work. The following list reflects all individuals, municipalities, organizations, businesses and granting agencies that have supported the District from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Our sincere apologies for any omissions.

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010

INCOME	
State Funds	\$84,583
Local Funds	53,446
319 Grants	50,000
Material Sales	38,187
River Watch Program	5,340
UConn Nutrient Management Project	3,791
Contributions	3,116
US Fish & Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.	1,665
Rockfall Foundation Grant	1,000
Workshops	716
Interest Income	614
Miscellaneous	474
Total Income	\$242,932

EXPENSES	
Wages	\$136,658
Shrub Sale & Fundraising Expenses	27,484
Rent	13,200
Taxes	11,359
Grant Expenses	6,340
403(b) Matching	3,996
Telephone	3,202
Publications & Advertising	2,970
Equipment Lease & Maintenance	2,070
Insurance	1,942
Conferences, Meetings & Workshops	1,530
Office Expense	928
Mileage	793
Professional Fees	675
Postage	665
Dues & Subscriptions	208
Depreciation	163
Total Expenses	\$214,183

Excess (Deficiency) \$28,749

Compiled by Comer & Company, LLC,
Certified Public Accountants

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 Community Center, 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.

Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, Inc.
deKoven House Community Center
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Middletown, CT 06457

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Web: conservect.org/ctrivercoastal



Providing Technical Assistance
and Education for
Natural Resource
Conservation
since 1976

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
CONNECTICUT RIVER
COASTAL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT, INC.



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US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Geological Survey
Working Lands Alliance
The 26 District towns
Many local organizations

A Letter from the Executive Director

Much like the path of a river, the past year has had its slow meanders, steady runs, and rapids. While the focus of our conservation efforts remained constant, a few bumps along the way presented some new challenges and opportunities. A threatened loss of funds provided the impetus to raise our profile at the State Capitol, with a positive outcome. And the departure of Natural Resource Specialist Wendy Goodfriend led us to Erica Larner, who is settling in and establishing her own good reputation here.

Bumps aside, our conservation efforts continue to have a positive impact in our communities on individual stewardship, land management, and river and watershed health. Technical assistance, tools and information we provide to landowners helps them manage the natural resources in their backyards more responsibly. Habitat management and river restoration plans become blueprints for action for land trusts, municipalities and the District. And water quality reports bolster community efforts to better manage and protect their river resources.

With your support our efforts will continue in the coming year. Plans include new on-the-ground restoration projects, and a big push to mobilize Coginchaug River watershed communities to take steps to improve water quality.

Thanks to you, our donors, volunteers, partners and constituents, for contributing in so many ways to our conservation work. Together, we are protecting and improving our rivers and watersheds, parks and open spaces, farms, and our own backyards.

Jane L. Brawerman, Executive Director



The District's 62nd Annual Meeting was held on November 7, 2009 at the Connecticut River Museum in Essex. Participants were treated to a guided tour of the museum by Director of Education Jennifer White-Dobbs.

Congratulations 2009 Conservation Award Recipients!

Environmental Professional

Jiff Martin, CT State Director, American Farmland Trust and Project Director, Working Lands Alliance

Municipal Project

East Haddam Open Space Commission and East Haddam Land Trust

Cooperator

Joe Greenbacker, Greenbacker Farm, Durham



Teacher of the Year

Courtney Johnson, Middletown Regional Agricultural Science and Technology Center

Special Merit

"Greening Our Valley" Initiative

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