

# 2006 Annual Report

## Southern NH Resource Conservation and Development Area Council

10 Ferry Street, Box 4, Suite 422, Concord, NH 03301-5019  
Ph: 603-223-0083 Fax: 603-223-0084 Web: [www.nhrcd.net](http://www.nhrcd.net)



Message From the Chairman – 2006 was a year of transition for the Resource Conservation and Development Program in Southern New Hampshire!

We started the year by welcoming our new Coordinator, Susan Hoey. Sue came to us from the New Hampshire NRCS, where she was District Conservationist for Strafford and Rockingham Counties. She has brought energy and vitality to her work, and started right off by leading the Council in preparing new Area and Annual Plans.



The Council also welcomed two new Board members to our ranks in 2006. Don Black comes to us from UNH Cooperative Extension in Strafford County, while Kerrie Diers is the Assistant Director of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission. Kerrie will represent Hillsborough County.

Our Annual Report this year is dedicated to Terry Frost. Terry has been our Vice Chairman for many years, and has been active in many conservation organizations here in NH, such as the Society for Protection of NH Forests, and the Merrimack County Conservation District. Terry is stepping down from the position of Vice Chairman, but will remain on the Board of Directors, where he will continue to provide us with his wise counsel.



We are grateful for the time and dedication of our volunteers, program supporters, and project partners. We value your contributions to our activities, and trust that you will continue to help us make a difference.

*Wilbur Babine*

## *2006 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS*

### **Manchester Community Garden & Education Center**

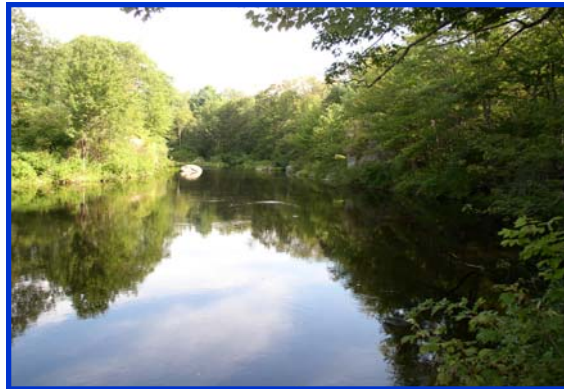
This project involves providing community garden plots to underserved residents of Manchester, NH, on 10-20 acres of land located at the Youth Development Center (YDC) in Manchester. The plots will not only provide food for families in need, but also for the NH Food Bank, and will highlight Best Agricultural Practices. The project also involves improvement of wildlife habitat, re-



moval of invasive species, and restoration of the NH Heritage Trail that is located on YDC land. The SNHRC&D Area Council is acting as Fiscal Agent for the project, and is helping to secure funding for a start in May, 2007.

### **Cocheco River Trail**

This scenic and often used trail winds for approximately one mile along the river and through the woods behind the Strafford County Complex. The Council is working with a group of partners including UNH Cooperative Extension, the Cocheco River Watershed Association, and the Strafford County Commissioners to improve the accessibility of the trail, develop new and accessible education materials, and construct wildlife viewing platforms and other structures. A



recently awarded LWCF grant will enable the Strafford County community to enjoy a fully accessible facility that celebrates the natural beauty of the Cocheco River.

## Rebuild Alstead Baseball

The SNHRC&D Council was very pleased to assist Randy Gendron and Rebuild Alstead Baseball in securing grants for reconstruction of the athletic fields destroyed by the October 2005 flood in Alstead. We are very grateful to C&S Wholesale Grocers of Keene and the Wal-Mart Foundation for their donations to the reconstruction effort. Pictured are (l to r) Jamie Seidel, Acting RC&D Coordinator, Bud Winsor, SNHRC&D Council, the Manager of the Keene Wal-Mart, and Scott Heckman, NRCS District Conservationist.



## Agricultural Innovation Program

Ten farms in the Southern NH RC&D Area are part of the first class of participants in the New Hampshire Agricultural Innovation Program (NHAIP) which through the help of a grant from the USDA Rural Development Business Enterprise Grant Program are receiving technical assistance to develop a new business plan for their farming operation. Southern New Hampshire RC&D is one of several sponsors of the NHAIP which is being coordinated by the North Country RC&D Area. Farms in the Southern New Hampshire RC&D Area include Apple Annie Farm in Brentwood, Bickfords Diamond B Farm in New Durham, Char-Belle Farm in Hooksett, Found Well farm in Pembroke, Greenhill Farm in Sutton, Kimball Farm in Kensington, Shady Maple Farm in Greenfield, Starry Night Farm in Warner, The Hoof Beat Farm in Temple and Thyme and Ewe Farm in Claremont. The Southern NH RC&D hopes that the NHAIP will serve as a model for a NH Farm Viability Program like is offered in other New England states. The Governors Farm Viability Task Force has recommended such an effort for NH.

## Senior Gardens



The Southern NH RC&D Council distributed wheel-chair accessible garden planters to 13 nursing homes and assisted living facilities in 8 communities in southern NH in August, 2006. The planters were constructed to ADA standards by the Alvirne Building Trades Dept. at the Wilbur Palmer Vocational & Technical High School in Hudson, NH. Communities

served included Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth, Dover, Derry, Hudson, Concord and Exeter. The planters allow access to all residents for planting flowers and vegetables, enabling them to enjoy the fruits of their handiwork.

## Northern Heritage Mills

For some time the need for a wool processing facility in New England has been apparent to wool growers and artisans. Gerry DeMuro, a contractor in Acworth, contacted Jan Heighes of the Sullivan County Conservation District about obtaining assistance in establishing such a facility. She put him in touch with the Council, and we agreed to act as fiscal agent and in the area of fund raising. The Council is also assisting Northern Heritage Mills in establishing a working model of the NH mill economy that existed in the early part of the last century.

## A Thumbnail Sketch of RC&D

Resource Conservation & Development is usually shortened to “RC&D”. RC&D encourages the conservation and development of natural and community resources within the RC&D Area.

RC&Ds are locally initiated, sponsored and directed Councils that usually cover several counties that share natural resource problems and opportunities. The Southern NH RC&D covers Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford, and Sullivan counties.

RC&D council members are responsible for faithful attendance at meetings, active participation, voicing their views and opinions, and having knowledge of the RC&D program including its goals, objectives, mission and vision. Members serve actively by developing ideas, reporting problems, devising solutions, relaying information and listening to concerns of their fellow citizens. The **most** important part of a Council member’s job is ACTIVE involvement in the identification of area-wide problems and opportunities. The strength of the RC&D concept lies in the public participation and local control that comes primarily from the participation of Council members.

The Southern NH RC&D Area Council meets on a monthly basis in full session, with Leadership or Special Committee meetings as necessary. Members are notified of the time and place of meetings through email, written notices and/or telephone calls.

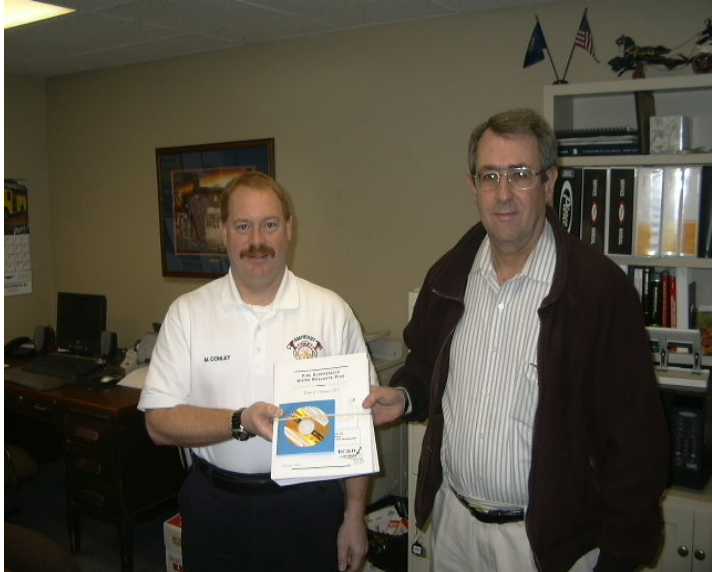
RC&D is a program sponsored by USDA and the Natural Resources Conservation Service has administrative leadership for the program. Southern NH RC&D is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization.

## Small and Beginning Farmers

The Southern NH RC&D is proud to have been a supporter of the 3rd Annual Northern New England Small and Beginning Farmers Conference again this year which was held November 17 & 18, 2006 in Meredith, NH. Over 114 farmers attended and participated in over a dozen workshops geared towards very small and beginning farm operations. Over the summer 3 organizational meetings covering the 6 counties in southern NH were held to assist Southern Beginner Farmers in recruiting new members and revitalizing the existing membership. Articles were also written for the Beginner Farmer newsletter to help accomplish these goals.

## **New Hampshire Rural Fire Protection Initiative**

Under the auspices of the New Hampshire Rural Fire Protection Initiative, the Southern NH RC&D Council provided assistance to a number of communities. This assistance has been in the form of water resource plans and dry hydrant designs for the communities of Antrim, Amherst (pictured), Alstead, Bradford, Deerfield, Deering,



Loudon, and Wilmot. Also grant funds for Loudon, Salisbury, Springfield, New Durham, and Wilmot enabled them to install dry hydrants. A grant from NH Emergency Management will enable the rural fire program to enhance a community's hazard mitigation plan by locating and evaluating water resource sites available to local and mutual aid fire personnel for fire fighting purposes.

*All RC&D activities will be provided to anyone regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, marital status or disability.*

# Major Partners & Friends of Southern NH RC&D — Thank You!

## Project and Program Partners

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development  
USDA—Rural Development  
NH Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Beaver Lake Improvement Association  
Pinkerton Academy  
City of Derry  
Nashua Regional Planning Commission  
Rockingham County Conservation Dist.  
NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets, & Food  
Cheshire County Conservation District  
Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee RPC  
Concord Conservation Trust  
NH Div. of Forests & Lands  
Claremont Conservation Commission  
Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Facility

North Country RC & D Council  
US Forest Service  
NH Dept. of Environmental Services  
NH Developmental Disabilities Comm.  
Audubon Society of New Hampshire  
Town of Auburn  
Town of East Kington  
Alvirne High School  
Hillsborough County Conservation District  
Beginner Farmers of NH  
Merrimack County Conservation District  
NH Stories  
Southern NH Planning Commission  
NH Association of Conservation Districts  
Derry Conservation Commission  
NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions  
NH Lakes Association

Farm Service Agency  
Granite State Ind Living  
UNH Cooperative Extension  
Strafford County Commissioners  
Cocheco River Watershed Coalition  
Town of Chester  
Nashua Continuum of Care  
East Derry Improvement Society  
NH Timberland Owners Association  
Sullivan County Conservation Dist.  
Strafford County Conservation Dist.  
Concord Conservation Commission  
Rochester Conservation Commission  
NH Div. of Parks & Recreation  
Turkey River Basin Trust  
Harris Center for Conservation Edu  
Swanzy Conservation Commission

## Council Members & Administrative Staff

### Board of Directors

Webb Palmer, *Chairman*  
*Director at Large*  
Richard D. Babcock  
*Strafford County*  
Don Black  
*UNH Cooperative Extension*  
Kerrie Diers  
*Hillsborough County*  
Donald G. Ferren  
*Director at Large*  
Terry Frost, *Vice Chairman*  
*Merrimack County Conservation District*  
James H. Moore, *Secretary*  
*Director at Large*  
Edwin Robinson  
*Concord Conservation Commission*  
Robert Spoerl, *First Vice Chairman*  
*NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Devel*  
Bud Winsor, *Treasurer*  
*Cheshire County*

### Thank You to Our Contributors

Rockingham County Conservation District

Our 2006 IRS 990 Tax Return will be available early in  
2007

Please contact the office for a copy of this public document

### Southern NH RC & D Area Council

10 Ferry Street, Box 4, Suite 422  
Concord, NH 03301-5019

*Susan Hoey, Coordinator*  
*Bob Scheirer, Program Manager*

Phone: 603.223.0083      Email: susan.hoey@nh.usda.gov  
Fax: 603.223.0084      Email: robert.scheirer@nh.usda.gov  
Website: www.nhrcd.net

Southern New Hampshire RC&D Area  
Council's  
Annual Report for  
2006



10 Ferry Street, Suite 422, Box 4  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5019

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Concord, NH  
Permit No. 1587