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## Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District

28 Gilman Plaza, Suite #2  
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## Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District



***Providing conservation assistance to the landowners of Penobscot County for over 50 years.***

# 2004 Annual Report

## This report is dedicated to:



**D. Keith Parlette**, an Earth Team Volunteer since 1997, passed away on July 23, 2004 after a long-term illness. Keith put in countless hours assisting in watershed survey work, conservation buffer plantings, shrub sales, and providing additional assistance where needed. Keith died at the age of 46.

Keith enjoyed his time as a volunteer. The work and the people gave him something to look forward to while coping with his illness. He will long be remembered for his strength and can-do attitude towards life, and his friendliness towards all. Keith's dedication as a volunteer also led him to

becoming an Associate Supervisor with the District. Keith is missed by his friends at the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District.



**Beatrice "Bea" Potter** passed away on December 3, 2004 at the age of 85. Bea served as the District Clerk and Treasurer from 1978 to 1985. Bea also served as an Associate Supervisor for many years after her retirement.


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## Conservation Farm Continued

terways, and tile drainage. He has also been trying different methods of winter cover which helps protect bare soil from erosion from late fall through spring. He plants winter rye on potato ground after harvest with traditional methods, and has been interseeding rye into silage corn fields in early July. When exposed to sunlight after harvest the cover crop

grows vigorously until winter arrives.

All of the land that Roger farms is within the Sebasticook Lake Watershed. Knowing that his activities upstream of the lake can impact it's water quality, Roger tries his best to protect the resource base while growing crops to feed us all.

## Envirothon Continued

Water Falls State Park, where they heard presentations on geology, forestry and park history. The last stop of the day was Canaan Valley Resort where they had free time to participate in several outdoor activities including hiking, riding the ski lift, bonfires and making s'mores.

On Friday the team was sequestered for 12 hours to work on their oral presentation and the advisors were sent off to enjoy a white water rafting trip through the New River Gorge. The team's challenge was to develop a grant proposal for a state-of-the-art NASCAR racing com-

plex while protecting and managing the natural resources surrounding the park. The team's made their presentations on Saturday and the winning teams were announced during the Awards Ceremony, with the team from Florida taking first place. Maine placed 18th out of 52 teams competing an excellent standing!

Interested teachers, youth leaders and students can contact the District for more information on Envirothon.

## Board of Supervisors



*Mary Wilson*  
Chair  
Dairy Farmer,  
Garland



*Robert Fogler*  
Vice Chair  
Dairy Farmer,  
Exeter



*Daniel Kusnierz*  
Treasurer  
Water Quality Spec.,  
Garland



*Neil Crane*  
Supervisor  
Potato Farmer,  
Exeter

**Associate Supervisors**  
*Leslie Bolstridge • Lloyd Bolstridge • Joe Chernosky • John Fogler • Bill Michaud • Larry Smith*



*John Simon*  
Supervisor  
Engineer,  
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**The Mission of the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District is to provide leadership, information, education and technical assistance to conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources through partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations and government.**

## Penobscot County SWCD Staff



*Chris Brewer  
District Office  
Coordinator*



*Sam Wright  
Watershed  
Coordinator*



*Kate Pond  
Soil  
Conservationist*



*Joseph  
Bertolaccini  
District Engineer*

## Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff



*Daniel Schmidt  
District  
Conservationist*



*David Power  
Soil  
Conservationist*



*Alice Begin  
Soil  
Conservationist*



*Kenneth Blazej  
Soil Conservation  
Technician*



*Seth Jones  
Soil Conservation  
Technician*



*Ronald Olson  
Soil Resource  
Specialist*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

)..

Roger started using this technique last spring, injecting liquid dairy manure below the ground surface on 200 acres, and then again on another 200 acres in the fall after harvest. He says the benefits are multiple; much less odor than with spread manure, more nitrogen available to plant roots, fewer trips over the field and more “neighbor friendly”. Although still in the learning stage, Roger is sold on this new technology, and will continue to perfect it.

Efficient irrigation and water withdrawal from non-sensitive sources is a priority in



*Roger has been experimenting with this injector that injects cow manure into the soil rather than on the surface.*



*This center pivot sprinkler was used to irrigate this potato field during the growing season and winter cover was planted after harvest to protect the soil.*

central Maine. One pond that Roger relies on was built by his great-grandfather. This pond has a watershed of over 800 acres, and the original overflow pipe was severely deteriorated. If the pipe were to fail, and the 18 foot high dam breached,

substantial damage could have occurred to downstream properties, roads and natural areas. The pipe was decommissioned and a new, safe stone-lined outlet was installed. Roger also built a new 2 acre irrigation storage pond where the finishing touches were put on last year. Although a challenging site, it will be worth the effort to safely irrigate over 75 acres of potatoes from a reliable water source.

Another addition to his irrigation system was a center-pivot sprinkler system. This computer controlled irrigator places water at a very accurate rate and placement compared to older type systems.

Roger has installed and maintains a number of traditional crop field conservation practices to manage surface and subsurface water flow. These include contour farming, crop rotations, diversions, wa-

*(Continued on page 18)*

## The 2004 Conservation Farm Award Goes To

*Most every year the District Supervisors travel around the county and visit select farms to choose one for the District's conservation farm award.*

*At the farms we look at conservation practices that have been installed over the years. We speak with the farmers about their operation, their past successes and their future plans to protect natural resources.*

*Protecting soil and water resources can be a major commitment for a land owner. It can take a lot of precious time, money and effort to install practices, and make adjustments to their operation to manage those practices. But the rewards are worth it for many District cooperators.*

*Unfortunately we can only select one recipient per year. There are many equally worthy farmers throughout Penobscot County that we have not yet recognized, but we will do our best to acknowledge them in the years to come...*

This year the Supervisors chose Roger A. Whitney of Corinna as the Conservation Farm Award recipient for 2004.



*New rock-lined irrigation pond outlet.*



*Roger and Sherry were presented with the Conservation Farm Award at the District's Annual Banquet.*

Roger owns a farm northeast of downtown Corinna that has been in the family for four generations. He manages his own land and also does custom farming operations for two large dairy farms in town. With assistance from one full time employee and a few seasonal workers he farms over 600 acres of silage corn, 250 acres of alfalfa/grass mix, 210 acres of native grass and over 240 acres of potatoes. With this amount of acreage, a large increase in only a few years, Roger has found a need to improve his equipment and methods to plant, harvest and store the crops more efficiently and reliably while protecting the resource base.

When utilizing the manure produced by the dairy farms, Roger follows a Nutrient Management Plan to balance the nutrients spread (or injected) to the plants uptake requirements. Injecting manure is not a common sight in Central Maine.

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Conservation Education Fund Raffle

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## 2004 Financial Report

### Income

Annual Banquet .....	818.51
Cooperative Agreement w/ NRCS .....	27,498.56
Fundraising, Shrub Sale, Trout Sale, etc. ....	26,604.08
Grants Maine Dept of Ag & Others .....	17,400.00
Grants Maine Dept of Environmental Prot .....	43,694.20
Indirect Cost Allocation .....	2,388.62
Interest Income .....	799.00
Miscellaneous Income .....	15.86
Kenduskeag Watershed Program .....	143,049.59
Postage & Handling Charges.....	88.99
Reimbursable Program Income.....	3,318.88
Special Project - Kenduskeag Stream .....	7,977.03
Technical Service Fees.....	493.00
Video Rentals.....	472.75
Workshop Income .....	2,107.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b><u>\$276,726.07</u></b>

### Expense

Annual Banquet .....	1,922.71
Awards .....	250.34
Bad Debit Expense .....	63.32
Bank Charges .....	195.10
Donations.....	100.00
Dues .....	2,105.00
Education Programs.....	3,464.19
Employee Development/Training .....	130.00
Fundraising Expenses .....	18,709.41
Insurance .....	774.00
Internet Server Hosting Fees .....	290.00
Kenduskeag Watershed Program .....	143,049.59
Licenses and Permits.....	53.00
Marketing Expenses .....	274.11
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	16.45
Office Supplies.....	1,692.27
Total Payroll Expenses .....	63,761.09
Postage and Delivery .....	1,887.64
Printing and Reproduction .....	1,430.82
Programs/Workshops .....	1,789.43
Reimbursable Expenses .....	649.98
Kenduskeag Stream Special Project .....	7,977.03
Travel & Meetings.....	2,801.33
Water Quality Programs.....	30,355.79
<b>Total Expense .....</b>	<b><u>\$283,742.60</u></b>
<b>Net Income .....</b>	<b><u>(\$7,016.53)</u></b>

## I Students

Shawn Briggs. The team was advised by Betsy Bass. Penobscot County SWCD District Office Coordinator Chris Brewer represented the Maine Association of Conservation Districts and chaperoned the team on their trip to the competition.

The Canon Envirothon is a week long competition that is held at a different location every year in the United States or Canada. This year it was held in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Forty-four teams from the United States and eight from Canada participated.

The schedule for the team was quite aggressive, which left everyone exhausted including advisors. The opening ceremony was held on Monday. The team heard from several people from West Virginia including Jessica Lynch, the former Army Pfc and Prisoner of War. Shaun Briggs and Megan Worcester, of the Hampden Team, had the honor of

being the flag bearers during the Parade of Flags. Tuesday was training day, where the teams learned about the soils, wildlife and trees in West Virginia. On Wednesday the teams took their written exams.

Thursday was the team's rest day before preparing for their oral presentation. The team and their advisors went on a tour that included Mt. Storm, a coal-fired power plant with an 85-degree man-made lake used for steam generators. Next, they went to see a wind farm operated by Florida Power and Light. After lunch the tour stopped at Black

*(Continued on page 18)*

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*The Maine Delegation at the Canon Envirothon (Front) Chris Brewer, Megan Worcester, Chris Hawkins, (Back) Betsy Bass, Greg Jones, Shawn Briggs, Jim McCabe and Paul Wilson*

## 2004 Envirothon—An Exciting Year For Local

On a warm and sunny day in May seventy high school students descended on the Maine Forestry and Logging Museum at Leonard's Mills in Bradley to compete in the Central Maine Envirothon. Envirothon is our most popular education program reaching over 400 students in Maine and over 500,000 students throughout the United States and Canada. Students competed in several categories; forestry, wildlife, soils and aquatics, this year's current issue was "Natural Resource Management in the Urban Environment".

The Central Maine Regional Competition was hosted by the District with assistance from NRCS, the Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Forest Service, Maine Department of Agriculture and the Somerset and Piscataquis County SWCDs. The schools competing were, Greenville High School, Bucksport High School, Bangor High School, Nokomis Regional High School,



Central Team 1: Andrea LaFlamme, Daniel Kekacs, John Shaw, Abby Arena, Andrew Nevells

Upper Kennebec Valley High School, Jonesport Beals High School, Old Town High School, Central High School and Hampden Academy.

With a score of 427 out of 500 points the Hampden Academy Team placed first at our regional competition. Placing second was Old Town High School and third was the Central High School Team. A clean sweep for Penobscot County teams! These teams went on to compete in the Maine Envirothon which was held at the Pine Tree Arboretum in Augusta at the end of May. Hampden Academy placed first at the state competition and went on to compete at the North American Canon Envirothon (sponsored by Canon Company) held during the last week of July.

The Hampden Academy team members were Greg Jones Team Captain, Chris Hawkins, Megan Worcester, Paul Wilson, Jim McCabe and alternate member



Old Town Team 1: Tiger Huang, Rachel Bay, Kristen Paul, Sharon Fuller, & Mike Swett

## Chairman's Corner



*As I struggled to think of something meaningful, something worthy of your time to read, I suddenly ran into a friend from the past. She inspired me to take time to thank all the small land owners and homeowners who think their contribution to soil and water conservation is insignificant. She told me how she always read the newsletters sent out by the Soil and Water Conservation District. She proudly told me that she and her husband did their part to protect the water body near their home. I don't know the specifics of her lawn maintenance or driveway care, but I know that she took her responsibility to reduce run-off and decrease pesticide usage as seriously as any large land owner. She acted like she was not worthy to attend our annual supper. I'm sure she felt like "small potatoes" when she thought of herself in comparison to the land that any farmer owns. I have to say that as a long time member of the board of supervisors for the District, I was quite excited over her interest in the District's activities. She made me realize how many people there are that never get the recognition they deserve. So many small landowners combined represent a huge number of acres. "Thank you" to all of you who try so hard to "do the right thing" when it comes to protecting our natural resources. So even though you all don't have signs on your lawns proclaiming you as the "Cooperator of the Year," it's not because you don't deserve it. Thank you very much.*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Wilson".

Mary E. Wilson  
Chair, Penobscot County Soil & Water Conservation District

## 2004 Conservation Highlights

### Watershed Projects

- The District sponsored Ken-duskeag Stream Watershed Project is still very active. We have been addressing natural resource concerns in this watershed for 13 years now. Over \$1,550,000 has been provided to landowners in cost-share assistance, which translates to well over \$3 million in conservation practice installation. To date 42 contracts with participating farms have been implemented with more planned. The District will continue to seek funding through the USDA for this program.
- We have been working with Maine DEP to implement 3 phases of our Sebasticook Lake Project. The goal of this project is to work with landowners and towns around the lake to improve the water quality of the lake by providing education on water quality and installing demonstra-



*An example of a properly installed and armored culvert in the Sebasticook Watershed.*

tion sites. The first phase began in 2002 and was completed this summer. Phase 2 of the project began in late 2002 and to date we have installed 13 demonstration projects totaling over \$34,545 in cost-share assistance. We received our funding for Phase 3 this fall and through this project we will be able to provide around \$50,000 for conservation projects.

- We have also received approval for Phase 1 of the Dexter Lakes Non-Point Source (NPS) Survey Project, which will begin in the spring of 2005. This project will help us to identify and prioritize existing sources of NPS pollution in the watersheds of Dexter's Lakes, raise public awareness of NPS issues and identify actions to help maintain the water quality of the Dexter Lakes.
- Last winter the District partnered



*Roofed manure storage structures are now being used in areas where ground and surface water cannot be protected adequately.*

trict.

Water Quality conscious Sebasticook watershed residents should be aware that the District has 319 grant money for the 2005 construction season. This money is eligible for farmers, foresters and general landowners with problems dealing with soil erosion and runoff to install conservation practices within the Sebasticook Watershed.

Received for year 2005 funding is a Watershed Survey grant for the Dexter Lakes Association (Puffers Pond and Wassooskeag Lake). This grant is designed to be an educational tool involving land use in the watershed and the impacts of non point source pollution. The District will seek volunteers from the individual lakes, surrounding towns as well as municipal personnel to conduct the survey and also help distribute informational brochures in the watersheds. Those interested in participating in the survey, educational outreach or

interested in being part of the grant steering committee should contact the District for more information.




*A properly constructed road ditch will require less maintenance and save money in the long run.*

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# Water Quality Program Review

The water quality programs at the district experienced a busy summer conducting educational workshops and installing several Best Management Practices. In total over ten separate projects were completed ranging in size from a few hundred dollars to several



*This past year the District completed several thousand feet of road rehabilitation including, ditches, culverts and other conservation BMPs.*

thousand. The total dollar amount installed through 319 funding to Penobscot County totaled nearly \$50,000.

The District also participated in several educational endeavors related to water quality. A farm tour in the Kenduskeag Stream Watershed took place this summer with the Salmon Recovery Stream Team from East Corinth High. The group of students was introduced to area farms and the conservation measures being implemented in the watershed. Many great questions were asked as students viewed working farms and the farmers also learned a little about the watershed and some of the projects

the students are working on. The tour was a great success for everyone involved and we look forward to similar tours next year.

With the purchase of a new watershed model and our existing groundwater model the District has even more resources to expand our educational outreach to Penobscot County schools. The District was invited to present the model at the 2004 Children's Water Festival at the University of Maine. This day of water quality and environmental education is open to middle school students in Maine with over 800 total students participating. Teachers and students are provided with an involved demonstration or activity and then given classroom materials such as donated books, curricula, posters and other items that come from the many participants. Interested teachers or school districts should contact the Dis-



*A well armored culvert will last much longer and prevent several tons of soil loss over it's lifespan.*



*This beaver deceiver was installed in the Sebesticook Watershed to help reduce damage by beavers.*

with the Cooperative Extension's Water Quality Staff to bring their "Watershed Stewards Program" to the Sebesticook Lake Watershed. This program provides education on many of the topics that affect water quality in a lake. Training is provided to the Stewards in exchange for public service that they perform in their watershed. The Sebesticook Lake Stewards helped by updating the NPS Survey for the lake.

- The District participated in the Northern Maine Children's Water Festival at the University of Maine. District Staff used the Enviroscope model to educate the children on NPS pollution and how it affects water quality. The Enviroscope uses household items like cocoa mix to demonstrate the migration of soil erosion and other pollutants into our rivers and lakes. There are also sample demonstration sites on

the model which show how to reduce runoff. The Enviroscope model was also used at the Penobscot Nation's "Non-Point Source Water Conference" for the members of the tribe. The day was a great success with 100 people attending to hear presentations from Jason Mitchell and Dan Kusnierz from the Nations' Department of Natural Resources as well.

## General Assistance

- Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) 17 new contracts were funded for 2004, totaling over \$1,213,234 of cost-share assistance, which will be used throughout the county. The Penobscot Nation also received a new contract for \$69,750, which will be used on 3,000 acres of tribal land in Alton.
- The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program also received funding in Penobscot County. We were able



*Our trout stocking program changed in 2004. Now our trout are packaged for the customer right at the office!*

## 2004 Conservation Highlights

to allocate an additional \$27,000 for the Sebasticook River Restoration Project for streambank restoration. We also received \$33,650 that will be used to improve the upland habitat at the Leavitt Wildlife Management Area in Garland.

- Advisory services were provided to many Penobscot County municipalities and nonfarming citizens on such matters as soil testing, fertility management on lawns and recreation fields and erosion control measures at construction sites and shore frontage. We also provide soils maps and information, flood control area maps, aerial photography and much more.
- We continue to assist the Maine Department of Agriculture with agricultural complaints. We are also working with the Department to implement the Nutrient Management Law, The Nutrient Management Grant Program, and



*The FrontRunner workshop included a demonstration on repairing a rutted and eroding ATV trail near Sebasticook Lake.*

the Irrigation Water Quality Program.

- In July the District hosted a Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop in Newport. Presentations were made on gravel road design, and regulatory factors to consider during maintenance. The primary focus of the workshop was the demonstration of the FrontRunner. The FrontRunner is a grader/rake that is attached to the plow mount of a pickup that can be used for maintenance, site cleanup, landscaping, grading and snow removal.
- The District hosted a Septic Installers Workshop in the Spring. This workshop is for Code Enforcement Officers, Local Plumbing Inspectors and Contractors. The workshop focuses on the proper installation and maintenance of septic systems and why this is important to protect water



*Live brook trout caught the eyes of these sports at our display at the Penobscot County Sportsman's Show.*



*The Central High School Stream Team touring the Thomas Farms of Garland. Mary Wilson conducted the tour.*

quality.

- Through the efforts of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts Public Relation's Committee we have been actively promoting the activities of your Conservation District. The Districts recently went to the State House and setup displays in the Hall of Flags in and meet with the state Congressmen and Senators.
- Over 300 customers participated in the Wildlife Tree and Shrub Sale and the Fall Bulb Sale. Each customer receives a planting guide from this District, and the opportunity to take home flyers on the Backyard Conservation Program.
- Another well received workshop that we hosted was the "Forestry BMP Workshop". We partnered with the Maine Forest Service to provide an educational opportunity for foresters and other log-

ging professionals to learn about the "Best Management Practices" that can be used on the woodlot. Participants were provided with a copy of the Forest Services' BMP handbook.

- The District judged at the Maine State Science Fair. Our special category was "Conservation and Natural Resources". It is encouraging to see so many young people from around the state interested in natural resources. However, each year the District can only choose one student. Last year the winner was Megan Crane from Exeter, with her presentation on "Winter Cover."
- Last fall we provided a tour of several farms in the Kenduskeag Watershed for the Central High School Stream Team. This tour highlighted conservation practices that have been installed on cropland and farmsteads to help reduce the amount of erosion and runoff that reaches the water bodies in the Kenduskeag Watershed.



*John Simon judging at the Maine Science Fair at Brewer High School.*