



The Inside Scoop

New Hampshire

Summer/Fall 2004



Meet New Hampshire's 9th State Conservationist

Theresa "Tessa" Chadwick comes to New Hampshire from Illinois where she held the position of Assistant State Conservationist.

In 1986, Tessa received a BS degree from Illinois State University in Agronomy with a concentrated study in Plant Science. Her career began as a Soil Conservationist Trainee and quickly followed the path of Soil Conservationist to a District Conservationist before becoming a State Resource Conservationist for North Carolina. Tessa then returned to Illinois to serve as an Assistant State Conservationist where she has been until coming to us.



Since Tessa arrived she has been sending "Weekly Updates" to all NH NRCS employees and Conservation District personnel. These updates have included information and action items relevant to all.

Before Tessa arrived in New Hampshire, we were privileged to have Terry Cosby, Deputy State Conservationist from Idaho, as our Acting State Conservationist to guide us after Dick Babcock retired.



Terry Cosby, Acting State Conservationist presents Rick Ellsmore with an award for his work while in the Acting Assistant State Conservationist position.

What's Inside... Page

FRPP Dedication Ceremonies...	2
NRCS Soil Data Mart.....	3
Where's the Water?.....	4
2004 Envirothon.....	5
SCCD Success Story.....	7
Volunteers Recognized.....	8
Personnel Happenings.....	11

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) Dedication Ceremonies

This summer the Longridge Farm in Meredith and the Flag Hill Winery in Lee celebrated the protection of their farmland through conservation easements utilizing FRPP. At both ceremonies, Stephen Taylor, Commissioner of the NH Department of Agriculture, Food & Markets gave a welcoming address to more than 100 citizens who gathered to celebrate.

Longridge Farm, owned by the same family since 1801, will keep its colonial farmscape and scenic vistas through this conservation easement. A partnership between NRCS, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the Town of Meredith and the owner, John Hodsdon have all contributed to the purchase of this prime farmland.

Flag Hill Winery has been permanently protected through a unique partnership involving the Rockingham Land Trust, Lamprey River Advisory Committee, Strafford Rivers Conservancy, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the Otto Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the Town of Lee and NRCS. This 106 acre farm, with nearly a mile of forested shoreline on the Lamprey and North Rivers, boasts prime agricultural soils, beautiful scenic views, and an active relationship with the local community.

During fiscal year 2004, New Hampshire NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) awarded \$2,822,627 to assist in acquiring 13 easements to protect 1,775.9 acres of farmland in the state.



Longridge Farm - Meredith



Flag Hill Winery - Lee

NRCS Participates in UNH Career and Internship Fairs

During the past year Hollie Umphrey, Rebecca Wessling, Roy Thompson, Sandy Sears, Brian Linvill and Lynn Howell have all taken turns talking to UNH students about career possibilities with NRCS at job fairs held at the University of New Hampshire.



Rebecca "talks NRCS" with a student.

NRCS will continue to attend job fairs at UNH and other colleges in the state in hopes of recruiting students for internships and careers with the agency.



**National Hispanic
Heritage Month
October**

Cocheco River Buffer Zone to Provide Wildlife Corridor

In an effort to help preserve wildlife, Strafford County Commissioners recently unveiled a new buffer zone that extends along the Cocheco River and stretches for 3,200 feet on county land. Bambi Miller, Strafford County Conservation District Manager and Rick Ellsmore, Acting State Conservationist for NRCS attended the dedication along with County Commissioners and representatives from UNH Cooperative Extension.



Bambi Miller looking for wildlife!

NRCS Soil Data Mart

All New Hampshire soil survey information will soon be available on the internet for use by the general public. NRCS has already posted the soil data for Cheshire County and expects to have all of the state on line by the end of this year.

The new system, called the Soil Data Mart (SDM), is capable of generating a wide range of reports in various formats. The SDM will become the delivery point for all official soil survey information generated by NRCS, replacing bulky manuals and paper maps.

SDM doesn't physically store pre-packaged datasets. Datasets are generated in real time as a request is made from a user. The address to access SDM is: www.soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov. If you have any questions please contact Peter Whitcomb, Soil Database Manager.

Where's the Water?

NH Fire Departments are getting much needed assistance in their efforts to improve fire fighting capability.

Submitted by Pat Tarpey

Over the last several years the New Hampshire Rural Fire Protection Initiative (NHRFPI) has been working with fire departments throughout the state to improve the water supply capability for firefighting in rural communities. Through the NHRFPI, a project directed by the North Country and Southern NH Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Councils, communities are able to receive free technical assistance and some financial assistance to improve their firefighting capability.

The Town of Effingham recently benefited from this project through the development of a water supply plan. Up-to-date rural water supply plans are an extremely useful tool for planning emergency responses to rural fire situations, and also provide a framework for community planners to identify priority areas for future installations of water drafting facilities such as dry hydrants and cisterns. Effingham's water supply plan provides the town with a detailed map of the town's current water drafting sites, potential sites for future development, and sites improved with dry hydrants or cisterns. A detailed description of each site is included in the plan along with water supply literature to assist the town in formulating a long term plan for development of their rural water supplies.

To date the NHRFPI has worked with 58 towns and completed 39 water supply plans. The project is currently funded through the end of 2004, through a grant from the US Forest Service through the New Hampshire State Forester's Office.



Pat Tarpey with members of the Effingham Fire Department.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month October

Janet Boduch Nominated for “Unsung Hero Award” 2004 Federal Women’s Program (FWP)

New Hampshire proudly nominated Janet C. Boduch for the Unsung Hero Award. Janet served tirelessly as the NH Federal Women’s Program Manager for six years. Unfamiliar with the Federal Women’s Program at first, Janet learned all that she could about the program and its potential. She spent the next few years carving out a prominent spot for the FWP within NH NRCS. As she networked with other FWPMs from around the country and at conferences, Janet then ensured that the relevant information was presented to all of her fellow NH employees. The work Janet performed during her six year tenure has elevated the role and expectations of the FWP in NH.



At work, Janet sees when injustices are done and works to correct them. As an advocate for all the women in NH NRCS, she is diplomatic and respectful of procedures and authority. She makes sure all women employees know about the support available to them through NRCS and how to get it. In addition, she works within the system to point out when the work place has been unequal because of gender or if there has been an appearance of inequality because of gender.

As FWPM, Janet dutifully noted and took great personal pride in every single accomplishment by the women of NRCS in New Hampshire. It has been two years since Janet passed the baton to a new FWPM, yet her network continues and she remains a source of information and inspiration. She continues to provide invaluable continued support to the current program managers and to the program in general. Janet recognizes opportunities to promote the health and well being of women, recruit new women to the agency and to honor achievements of co-workers.

Janet is a person who always thinks of others first and offers her assistance to everyone. She quietly encourages each NRCS woman to take on new challenges, to further their education, and cheers them on in their work. She is the first to congratulate women for their achievements no matter how big or small. She will often send a written note of appreciation or gratitude to a co-worker for personal or professional occasions. Janet goes out of her way to extend a compliment or to publicly sing the praises of others. Janet continually thinks of opportunities to showcase NRCS to potential future women employees.

Janet’s enthusiasm and support of other women is unsurpassed. Away from the office, Janet is just as tireless in her actions to make other people’s lives better. She works quietly behind the scenes supporting many people in her family and community. She is the first person to recognize when a person is in need of help and she either provides the help herself or arranges for help to be provided. She always goes the extra mile.

Janet set a standard of excellence for the FWP in NH, and her continued guidance and support will guarantee the future success of the program. The women of NH owe her a debt of gratitude for her work toward their success.

Thank you Sandy Sears, Co-Chair of the FWP, Dawn Genes and Priscilla Johnston for nominating Janet Boduch for the “Unsung Hero Award.” Although Janet did not receive the national award, she certainly receives New Hampshire’s vote!

Souhegan High School Represents New Hampshire at the 2004 National Canon Envirothon

This spring twenty-one high school teams throughout the state competed in the 13th annual Envirothon at St. Anslem College in Goffstown. This unique environmental competition, sponsored yearly by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, tests student's knowledge on soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife and this year's current issue—Natural Resource Management in Urban Areas.

Souhegan High School from Amherst took first place honors for the second year in a row. Keene High School received the second place award and Hanover High School came in third place in the competition. Awards based on school size were presented to: Conant High School Class "M," Souhegan High School Class "I," Holderness School Class "S," and Keene High School Class "L."

The Envirothon builds an awareness of environmental issues while stressing wise use and science-based management of natural resources. Volunteers from local conservation districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, UNH Cooperative Extension, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NH Fish and Game Department, Department of Environmental Services and others help make the program a success.

Souhegan High School represented New Hampshire at the Canon International Envirothon at Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, West Virginia July 26th through August 1. Unfortunately, our New Hampshire team did not place this year in the National competition. Florida, Virginia and New Jersey took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. Let's see if we can place next year!



NH Envirothon Winners for 2004: Souhegan High School

Gary Domian Accepts Detail to Afghansitan

New Hampshire's Assistant State Conservationist for Operations, Gary Domian is currently detailed to Afghanistan and will soon be returning to NH. He joined a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) which is a joint civil military unit in late April. The purpose of the PRT is to provide a secure and stable environment in rural provinces so that development and reconstruction activities can take place.



This USDA initiative is contributing to Operation Enduring Freedom. Some of the activities that Gary has been involved with include soil and water conservation projects throughout the province. He is assessing the needs of rural farmers and has provided technical and operational guidance to help them increase the production and marketing of agricultural products to increase family incomes.

Gary is missed here in New Hampshire by his NRCS and Conservation District colleagues. We all wish him a safe stay and return.

Sullivan County Conservation District Shares Success Story

**Submitted by Jan Heighes,
District Manager**

This spring Charles Whitehead contacted the Sullivan County Conservation District looking for assistance in stabilizing a very serious erosion problem on his property. He had contracted a logger to cut timber on his property and because the logger did not implement the best management practices, a very serious erosion problem occurred. He explained he was an absentee landowner and hired the logger in good faith and now, due to the poor logging operations, he was facing a possible fine of \$40,000 by NH Department of Environmental Services (DES).

SCCD turned to District Conservationist, Scott Heckman for his expertise and technical assistance. Scott after visiting the site suggested to the landowner that the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) might be the answer to his problem. The landowner applied for EQIP funds and the application was approved. A rock lined waterway was designed and the stabilization project will begin in August.

The district has kept in touch with DES to keep them informed of how the landowner has worked through their office to rectify the problem. It is possible that DES may forgive the landowner's fines when the project is completed.

It's this kind of assistance that makes the work we do so gratifying and why our partnership with NRCS is so important. Thanks for your continued support!

Earth Team Volunteers Recognized



Priscilla Johnston
Earth Team
Coordinator
honors State
Office
Volunteers
during
National
Volunteer
Week.



Solange Knowles sits in her Earth Team
canvas chair while reading her Certificate
of Appreciation that acknowledges her
volunteer efforts.



Lisa Morin receives a Certificate of Appreciation for her participation in the Earth Team and Community Tree Stewards Training program from Acting Assistant State Conservationist, Rick Ellsmore.



Bette Babock receives an Earth Team
award and certificate from Priscilla.



Nels Liljedahl, District Conservationist in Conway with Earth Team volunteers. The group planted trees along the Saco River.

School to Farm at UNH Dairy Barns

Strafford County Conservation District, NH Farm Bureau, NH Agriculture in the Classroom, NH Beekeepers, the University of New Hampshire and NRCS greeted 1300 fourth graders at the annual School to Farm Days in June. This event is held at the UNH Dairy Facility in Durham. Earth Team volunteers from Strafford County Conservation District and NRCS employees, Brian Linvill and Leo Smock-Randall helped staff the “Soil Erosion Model” and “Soil Tunnel Tent.” The volunteers answered many questions from the curious students.



Soil Erosion Model



Brian fielding questions.



“Soil Tunnel Tent”



Landfill area inside the “Soil Tunnel Tent.”

Snapshots from Recent NH NRCS Retirement Parties



John O'Neill, New England Interdisciplinary Resource Team (IRT) Economist receives retirement plaque for 32 years of federal service from Gerry Lang, Acting State Conservationist at an office gathering.



Dick Babcock, State Conservationist celebrated his retirement with family, friends and colleagues at the Flag Hill Winery in Lee. Terry Cosby, Acting State Conservationist congratulates Dick for his 37 years of federal service.



Gerry Lang, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology accepts retirement plaque from Terry Cosby. Gerry retired on July 1 with 35 1/2 years of service.

Personnel Happenings

Retirements:

John L. O'Neill, Economist, NE Interdisciplinary Resource Technical Team (IRT),
32 years of service - May 3, 2004

Richard D. Babcock, State Conservationist, 37 years of service - June 3, 2004

Gerald J. Lang, Assistant State Conservationist for Technology, 35 1/2 years of service -
June 30, 2004

Don Haley, Hydraulic Engineer, NE IRT, 39+ years of service - September 3, 2004

Dawn Genes, Natural Resource Manager, 25+ years of service - September 3, 2004

Greg Smead, Planning Engineer, NE IRT, 37 years of service - October 1, 2004

Promotions:

Theresa "Tessa" Chadwick, State Conservationist

Transfers:

Rebecca Lee, Information Technology Specialist, from FSA in Concord to Durham
Susan Wood, Management Analyst for Connecticut, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire

New Hires:

Carrie Walia, WAE Conway Field office
Leo Smock-Randall, Student Trainee - Durham

Graduation:

Rebecca Lee received her BS degree at the 134th Commencement Ceremony at the
University of New Hampshire on May 22, 2004.

Wedding Bells:

Heidi Smith married David Konesko high up in the Colorado mountains with elk grazing in
the valley and a redtail hawk soaring overhead.

Brian Linvill married Maria Kanters on July 4, 2004 in Lee.

Rebecca Lee became Rebecca Wessling after her marriage to Mike on July 10, 2004 in
Portsmouth.

Congratulations!

Master Calendar

September 16	State Conservation Committee Meeting, Concord
October 15	NH Soil Judging Contest - Kingman Farm, Durham
October 20	National Leadership Team Meeting
October 26	Quarterly Principal Staff & Field Management Team Meeting, Concord
October 28-30	New England RC&D Annual Conference, Portsmouth
November 3-4	Employee Appreciation Day, North Conway
November 9	Cultural Resources Training, Concord
November 9-10	East Region State Conservationists Meeting, Beltsville
November 16-17	NHACD Annual Meeting (Tentative) Location TBD
November 18	QSAT Meeting, Concord

New England Association of RC&D Area Councils Fall Conference

**RC&D: Bringing People, Ideas, and Resources
Together**

**Best Western Wynwood Suites
Portsmouth, NH
October 28 - 30, 2004**



USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)
2 Madbury Road
Durham, NH 03824

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.
Visit us at www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov