

# North Central Conservation District



## Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2011-2012

## North Central Conservation District

### Board of Supervisors

Jack Collins <i>Chairman</i>	Enfield
Jeff Folger <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Ellington
Lin Marino <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Tolland
Dan Camerota	West Hartford
Pamm Cooper	Vernon
Bob DePietro	Bolton
Harold Eastwood	Somers
Michael Mocko	Stafford Springs
Jane Seymour	Tolland
John Spencer	Glastonbury
John S. Weedon	Manchester

### Staff

David Askew	Executive Director
Barbara Kelly	Program Coordinator
Ruth Miller	Program Coordinator
Joanna Winkler	Natural Resource Specialist
Salvatore DeCarli	Environmental Planner
Barbara Gridley	Secretary
Heidi Cerrigone	Bookkeeper

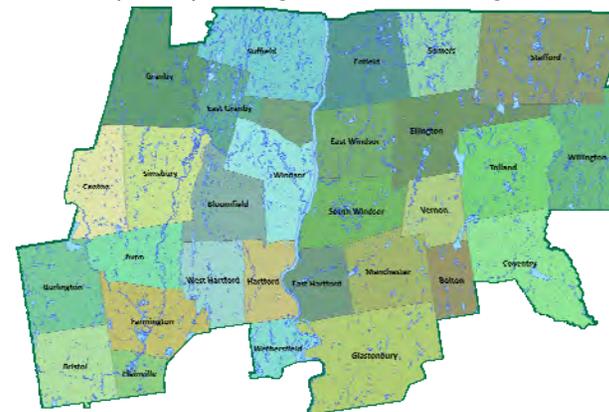
### Introduction

This Annual Report summarizes work performed by the North Central Conservation District (NCCD, or the District) Board of Directors and staff during the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

This year, we welcomed a new board member, Bob DePietro, who has much to contribute from his extensive professional experience in the conservation world, and we are privileged to have him "on board". NCCD also added a staff member, Salvatore DeCarli, as an Environmental Planner, primarily working on technical service grants contracted through the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS). Sal has a diverse background, including a degree in Environmental Science and experience in agriculture and fisheries.

NCCD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, primarily financed through municipal contributions, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) funding, US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 non-point source grants through CT DEEP, an annual Plant and Seedling Sale fundraiser, and private grants and contributions.



NCCD's service area includes 30 municipalities within north central Connecticut, essentially comprising the area within the northern Connecticut River watershed. Offices are located in Vernon and in Windsor.

NCCD is governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of local landowners with expertise and interest in the management and protection of our natural resources. NCCD is also an active member of the CT Envirothon Steering Committee, the Council on Soil and Water Conservation, and the CT Association of Conservation Districts. Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue (Rt. 30) in Vernon, at 7:00pm on the fourth Thursday of most months. Please visit [www.conservect.org/northcentral](http://www.conservect.org/northcentral) or call (860) 875-3881 for details.

# Chairman's Year in Review

The District maintained its services to municipalities by *reviewing wetland boundaries* and *servicing as wetland agent* for several towns, including Somers, Bolton, and Granby, and as acting wetland agent for the Town of Windsor.

In addition, the District accomplished the following:

## Education

### Connecticut Envirothon

A series of educational workshops were held throughout the year for high school students to learn about



aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife, and this year's current issue, low impact development. The program culminated with a field day competition at Winding Trails in Farmington.

The District continued to support *education* in natural resources by awarding two \$1,000 college *scholarships*. This year's recipients were Matthew Messina of Avon High School & Juliette Granger of Rockville High School.

The District co-sponsored numerous *workshops* with a focus on plants, leading up to the plant and seedling sale. Topics including landscaping and enhancing habitat for wildlife, pruning storm damaged trees, landscaping using native plants, and general planting & pruning.

Substantial staff time was spent on the Spring *Plant and Seedling Sale* and *Fish Fingerling Sale*. Both were successful, and promoted personal enjoyment of open space. Master Gardeners provided invaluable assistance at the plant sale.

The District provided *nutrient management* services to *local farmers*, collecting soil samples from cornfields in early summer and corn stalks in late summer in order to provide recommendations for fertilizer. The UCONN soils lab provides the results and recommendations. The program has helped local producers to substantially reduce fertilizer applications.



**North Central Conservation District  
FREE SPRING 2012 WORKSHOPS**

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**LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE: USING NATIVE PLANTS TO SUSTAIN WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD**  
 Jane Seymour, Wildlife Biologist  
 CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
 Manager, Backlog Wildlife Management Area, Vernon  
 Ginny Gingras, Board Chair, Tolland County Agricultural Center  
 Founder, Wotton Garden Club  
 Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT  
 Saturday, February 25th, 10:00 am - Noon

**ENHANCING HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE USING NATIVE PLANTS**  
 Peter Picotte, Wildlife Biologist  
 CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
 Author: *Wildlife is My Passion*  
 Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopewash Street, Simsbury, CT  
 Thursday, March 15th, 6:30-8:00 pm

**PRUNING STORM DAMAGED TREES & SHRUBS: EVALUATING, BASICS, SAFETY, HIRING PROFESSIONALS**  
 Robert Rocks, Service Forester,  
 CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
 Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopewash Street, Simsbury, CT  
 Thursday, February 23rd, 6:30-8:00 pm  
 and  
 Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT  
 Thursday, March 15th, 6:30-8:00 pm

**PLANTING & PRUNING BASICS, with OUTSIDE DEMONSTRATION**  
 Robert Rocks, see above  
 Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT  
 Saturday, April 21st, 2012, 9:30-11:00 am (plant sale pick-up day)

USDA - National Resources Conservation Service presents:  
**CHOOSING NATIVE PLANTS: HOME LANDSCAPING, HABITAT RESTORATION, AND CELEBRATING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE**  
 Charlotte Pyle, Landscape Ecologist, NRCS  
 Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon, CT  
 Tuesday, March 20th, 6:30-8:30 pm

[See inside for grant project information.](#)



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT\*

July 2011—June 2012

### Income

State of CT	50,000
319 Grant Projects	25,594
NRCS Grant	26,080
LIS Restoration Grant	72,500
HEAP Grant	3,500
Seedling/Fish Program	58,781
Municipal Fee for Service	42,802
Town Donations	32,650
Interest/Investments	6,583
Soil Testing Services	1,352
Misc.	8,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>328,545</b>

### Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	202,551
Taxes and Insurance	16,199
All Grants	82,265
Seedling and Fish Sale	40,578
Rent	6,503
Office Expenses/Postage/Equipment	6,873
Auto Expenses and Mileage	3,971
Scholarships	2,000
Audit	3,700
Dues	895
Misc.	2,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>368,297</b>

\*Detailed financial statement available upon request

## Grant Work

### Water Quality Enhancement Projects

#### Clean Water Act, Non-Point Source 319 Grants

The District installed several water quality treatment systems under the Section 319 non-point source program, including two stormwater projects. Nearly completed during this fiscal year was the installation of a hydrodynamic separator on Adams Street in Manchester to treat stormwater discharging to Bigelow Brook, a tributary of the Hockanum River.

We also began work a large stormwater project on West Middle Turnpike in Manchester. The project involves reconfiguring two large stormwater pipes that drain the Manchester Parkade plaza and discharge to Bigelow Brook, and reconstructing the associated stormwater basin, which was too small and eroded.

Lastly, District staff was fully engaged in a 319 project involving construction and planting of a bioretention area within an elementary school parking lot. That project, "Lake Street School, Vernon" is discussed below.



Hydrodynamic separator being moved and lowered into the ground within the roadway on Adams Street, Manchester.



Pre-construction photos of the stormwater outfalls and basin, in Manchester prior to being reconstructed as part of a 319 grant.

#### Laurel Marsh Invasive Plant Removal

The District has been implementing a plan to remove invasive plants from Laurel Marsh in Manchester, funded through the competitive *Long Island Sound Fund*. The project targets *Phragmites australis*, an invasive aquatic plant that has formed a monoculture throughout much of the marsh. The District has completed one year of a three year treatment plan, including both mowing and application of an aquatic herbicide. The treatment is intended to allow native plants to re-inhabit the area and better support wildlife.



Laurel Marsh following one year of mowing and spraying.

#### Lake Street School, Vernon

The conceptual plan to construct a Bioretention area within the parking lot of Lake Street School in Vernon was originally included within the Tankerhoosen River Watershed Management Plan, completed by Fuss and O'Neil, commissioned by the Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park of Vernon, Inc., along with various partner organizations, including the District. The District applied for funding through the 319 program to implement the plan, which would both improve water quality within the Tankerhoosen River watershed (within the larger Hockanum River watershed) by treating parking lot runoff, as well as serve as a public demonstration site of low impact development (LID) techniques for stormwater. District staff took an active role in every portion of implementation, including construction management/inspections, landscape design, and physical planting of hundreds of grass plugs, potted perennials, shrubs, and trees.



Pre-existing Conditions: Lake Street School's grassed and paved parking lot island and stormwater outfall, pre-construction.



District Staff planting grass plugs



Post-Construction: Lake Street School's parking lot area, with span bridge.

### Landscape Design Projects

The District's landscape design capability adds a valuable component to the services provided by the District. Over the past year, the District provided *planting instruction* as well as formalized *concept designs*, to many individuals and organizations. The drawing to the left is a planting plan designed by District staff for a homeowner in Manchester.

#### Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Grant

All five Conservation Districts in Connecticut, working in conjunction with the Council on Soil and Water, are assisting the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with a broad scope of Farm Bill work. The work includes preparation of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, Irrigation Management Plans, conducting workshops to promote USDA programs, and assisting NRCS staff with moving implementation projects forward. NCCD is also working with horse owners to expand the use of Best Management Practices for manure management. To this end, NCCD has purchased a manure composting system that produces bedding as an end product. The composter will be used at a large horse farm in East Windsor, CT.

