2016 ANNUAL REPORT

“The earth is what we all have in common.”
Wendell Berry

“Spring” by Lori Hill

Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District
17 Olson Road, Suite 3, South Paris ME 04281
207-743-5789 EXT. 101/111
oxfordcountyswcd.org
Oxford County Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors and Support Staff

Supervisors
Merle Ring, Chairman
Gary Hill, Vice Chairman
Frances Head
Arlan Jodrey
Linda Hooker

Associates
Rick Micklon
Richard Merk

District Staff
Michele Windsor, Project/Program Manager
Jean E. Federico, Education & Outreach Coordinator

Contracted Engineer
Ross Cudlitz, Professional Engineer
Engineering Assistance & Design, Inc.

NRCS Staff
Anna Donahue, District Conservationist
Alex Stace, Soil Conservationist
David Wilkinson, Soil Resource Specialist

Representatives
Merle Ring, MACD Director/Advisory Council
Merle Ring, NRCS State Technical Committee

County Commissioners
Steven M. Merrill, Chairman, District 1
David A. Duguay, District 2
Timothy Turner, District 3

Annual Photo Contest Winners
Cover Photo
Spring, by Lori Hill
This photo was taken near Sawin Hill Farm in Waterford, Maine.

A Walk in the Maine Woods
by Hunter Koskela
We wanted to take a moment to recognize our youngest entrant in the photo contest. Hunter Koskela is 9 years old and the oldest of 4 boys. His hobbies are hunting, fishing and football. His mom says the photo of the newborn fawn was a lucky shot taken while fishing in Mason Township. The fawn was curled up next to the base of the tree as they walked by and Hunter asked for his mom’s phone to take a picture. Hunter is the great-grandson of the late Taisto Koskela of Woodstock, and Hunter’s ties to the land and nature seem to be just as strong as his great-grampa’s, who would have been very proud of him.

Honorable Mention
A Walk in Maine Woods by Hunter Koskela
Loons on Hall’s Pond by Charles Martin
Winter by Lori Hill

Thanks to Our Prize Sponsors
Aubuchon Hardware
Paris Farmer’s Union
Young’s Greenhouse

The public is cordially invited to attend Board Meetings of Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District. They are held at 4:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the office located at 17 Olson Road in South Paris.

Tenmile River Demonstration Forest
Located in Brownfield, Tenmile River Demonstration Forest is a great learning opportunity for all ages. Call us at 743-5789, ext. 101 to set up a field trip.

Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Main-Land Development Consultants, Inc.
Land Use Professionals
P.O. Box Q • Livermore Falls, Maine 04254

ROBERT BERRY III, P.E.
Owner/President
Senior Engineer
Email: bob@main-landdc.com
Cell: (207) 931-9931
Tel: (207) 897-6752
Fax: (207) 897-5404
GIS Mapping Services ~ GIS Mapping services are now being offered to Town Planning Departments and CEOs in Oxford County as a fee-for-service. Maps and Map packages include: Tax Parcel Maps, Natural Resource Maps, Soil Maps, Shoreland Zoning Maps, Land Use Maps, Aerial Photo Maps, and Land Cover Maps. Maps are available as large format prints or electronic PDF files for printing on demand.

### Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District
#### Profit & Loss
**January through October 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>District Property Income</strong></td>
<td>Administrative Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,530.58</td>
<td>6,797.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Educational Program Income</strong></td>
<td>District Property Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,600.00</td>
<td>1,474.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fee-For-Service Program</strong></td>
<td>Educational Program Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,873.60</td>
<td>1,508.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising/District Sales</strong></td>
<td>Engineering/Consultants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,114.73</td>
<td>1,482.28</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gov't Funding-State &amp; Local</strong></td>
<td>Fee For Service Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47,275.00</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grant Income</strong></td>
<td>Grant Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13,137.48</td>
<td>9,435.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68.17</td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>Outreach and PR Costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79,599.56</td>
<td>545.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of Goods Sold</strong></td>
<td>Payroll Expense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost of Goods Sold</strong></td>
<td>53,672.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,749.23</td>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,749.23</td>
<td>74,936.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>76,850.33</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,913.49</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the late summer of 2013 Ellis Pond experienced an intense, but brief, localized algae bloom. In 2014, a steering committee formed and organized a watershed survey of the direct watershed. Surveyors identified 183 non-point source pollution (NPS) sites during the Ellis (Roxbury) Pond Watershed Survey. In 2015 Ellis Pond Watershed-based Protection Plan was completed and the Ellis Pond Watershed Committee enlisted the help of the District to apply for funding to address the sites identified in the watershed survey. A project proposal received approval for funding through the Maine DEP and this spring the District, in partnership with the Town of Roxbury, Androscoggin River Watershed Council and several local watershed groups, began a 2 year NPS remediation project, funded in large part through a DEP 319 grant funded by the Clean Water Act. The Ellis Pond Watershed Protection Project provides free technical assistance to property owners in the Ellis Pond watershed and residential matching grants up to $350 to residents that follow through with technical assistance recommendations that decrease erosion and sedimentation. Also included in the project is cost-share funding to the Town of Roxbury to remediate town road and property sites that are experiencing significant erosion problems. Education and outreach are another component of the project with plans to erect a Kiosk near the pond that will highlight ways in which the town and property owners can help protect the water quality of Ellis Pond, as well as public meetings and workshops on topics such as maintaining ATV trails to prevent erosion and planting vegetation along waterfront areas to help filter phosphorous, a great contributor to algae blooms. This summer was the first year of the project. It began with a postcard mailing and local newspaper articles about the project. By the end of the October we had reached many of the first year goals. We were able to conduct 12 technical assistance site visits and 3 property owners of those are following through with recommendations made to take advantage of residential matching grants. The Town of Roxbury had, since the watershed survey, already begun addressing some undersized culverts and eroding ditches on town roads and with the additional funding to continue with more work have agreed to complete 5 road more improvement sites this fall. Other sites that will be addressed include several tributary streams, which during big rainfall events are experiencing severe bank erosion and depositing sediment plumes into the pond. ATV trails and logging roads that are in need of “best management practices” (BMPs) to help divert runoff are also on the list of sites to be remediated. This project would not be possible but for the dedicated efforts of the Ellis Pond Watershed Committee. We look forward to continuing this project through next year.

Our Demonstration Forest is slowly being discovered and enjoyed by more and more people in the Brownfield/Hiram area of Oxford County. This summer the District worked on adding 2 more trails. The River Loop Trail and the Cutoff Trail are located in the northern most part of the 211 acre parcel and skirt along sections of the Tenmile River and tall stands of red pine planted in the 1960’s. We also added 4 resting benches so that our visitors will have places to sit and enjoy this beautiful place. Additional news: our neighbor and friend Robert Hughes has been working actively to help convince other property owners that abut the Demonstration Forest, and his property, to either sell or donate their property for inclusion in our project. Robert will be gifting his land in his will to the District to keep it conservation after his passing.
2016 Conservation Awards

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Jane Heikkinen**

For the past 25 years Jane has been the first face folks would see when visiting Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Oxford and Androscoggin counties. Her outlook is best described as follows. When asked to tell a bit about her history with the district, she made a huge list and headed it “Special People I Got to Work With”. She says “At the end of each work day, there was the satisfaction of knowing a passion to help others had been accomplished. The greatest satisfaction was working together with so many people over the years with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts to have a positive impact on our natural resources.” She put her heart into her work and her retirement will leave a big hole in our offices!

**Partnership in Conservation**

**SWOAM Small Woodlot Owners of Maine**

For the past few years SWOAM and OCSWCD have partnered to bring several workshops and trainings to the Oxford County area. These included Invasive Forest Pest and Invasive Plant ID, a visit to the Tenmile River Demonstration Forest in Brownfield, Restoring Wild Apples Trees for Wildlife with Joeseph Dembeck and Non-Traditional Forest Products with David Fuller, Agriculture and Non-Timber Forest Products Professional with the University of Maine.

**Award for Continuing Support of Educational Programs**

**UMaine Cooperative Extension, Oxford County**

Annual Local Working Group meetings are held at the Extension Office each year in late November to early December to provide recommendations for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). For several years OCSWCD and Cooperative Extension have worked together on Learning Stations for Ag-Con Day at Waterford and Oxford Fairs. This year we’re very proud to have had a new Envirothon Team in Oxford County made up of a group of 4-H’ers. These teens studied hard and competed for their first time at the Southwest Regional Envirothon held at Robert’s Farm in Norway. As part of their studies they attended one of our Invasive Forest Pest Presentations.

**First Baptist Church of Paris**

With it’s large, comfortable space Cummings Hall at First Baptist Church is a wonderful place to hold workshops. Some of the events we’ve held there are: How to Build a Farm Pond, How to Stock Trout, an Invasive Forest Pest survey complete with Walk’n Talk around Historic Paris Hill, and Non-traditional Forest Products such as fiber, food, herbs, medicinal, ornamentals, resins, seeds and Maine Woods Icons (walking sticks & balsam pillows).

**Volunteer(s) of the Year**

**Oxford Hills Christian Academy**

This is the third time we’ve given the high school students at OCHA an award for volunteerism and it is richly deserved. These teens are amazing! In addition to their help at the Oxford County Fair this year they also helped at the Southwestern Regional Envirothon as runners for each of the stations and helped prepare snacks and food for over 100 people – and clean-up. We couldn’t do it without their help!

**Marilyn Jones**

Miss Marilyn has helped with Agriculture & Conservation Day at both Waterford and Oxford Fair for several years as our “Registration” lady. She likes drawing the names for door prizes, too!

**Linda Hooker/Hooker Family Farm**

Linda has been part of Agriculture & Conservation Day for a long time! She also helped at Envirothon, lends a hand wherever needed and hosts the annual Plant & Tree Sale at Hooker Family Farm in Oxford.
As part of the Invasive Forest Pest grant we worked to educate the public on several different invasive pests, including Asian Longhorned Beetle, Hemlock Wooley Adelgid, Winter Moth, Browntail Moth (which seems to be gaining ground again) and some others. A PowerPoint was developed for use by all SWCD’s in the state and can be adapted to the needs of each specific area. We presented Invasive Forest Pest outreach at Ossipee Fair and presentations or trainings were held in Oxford, South Paris and Lewiston. This year HWA was found on Frye Island in Sebago Lake and three more states reported Emerald Ash Borer sightings. EAB was discovered in Texas on May 6, Nebraska on June 6 and Delaware on August 23, bringing the number of states to 28. A guide to help Maine towns and cities with needed preparation for EAB is available and we are staying on top of the latest information so that we can assist them with the process. After traveling through Pennsylvania in April and viewing the devastating results of the EAB outbreaks, we are eager to share the plan and help them prepare for this damaging pest.

Ossipee Fair Outreach

We always seem to make great contacts at Ossipee Valley Fair! The focus for Ossipee Fair is on the Tenmile River Demonstration Forest, which just happens to be in their backyard, and getting the word out that they are part of the Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District service area. Emerald Ash Borer updates are really important to them due to the closeness of the nearest outbreak just over the New Hampshire border.

Agriculture & Conservation Day at Waterford Fair

Another great day at the fair! This year we began work on a multi-year project to add to the existing “Little Hands for Agriculture” which has been going for a couple years now and has been wildly popular. The next step has been adding “Little Hands for Forestry”! Over the next year we will be working on the addition of a building devoted to forestry that will house displays and become a permanent part of the Waterford Fair. On Agriculture & Conservation Day the exhibit will be expanded to include stations for young children where they will plant trees, care for a tree farm, harvest their trees, load them into tractors and wagons, haul them to the log yard and get paid, then visit the “Woodshop” where they get to purchase items made from wood with their “earned” money. This year was definitely a success! The children loved the program and the feedback was great. The folks of the Waterford Fair Agricultural Society work hard to put this small fair together and they’re a great group of people to work with.

Agriculture & Conservation Day at Oxford Fair

What a fun time at the fair! Although the day was overcast we had over 1000 students, teachers, parents and support personnel attending. This years event was entitled “What would you like to do when you grow up?” and the focus was on careers in conservation. Some very wonderful friends of the district volunteered to lead stations about careers in Agriculture Education, Ecology, Engineering, Entomology, Farming, Forestry, Forest Ranger, Land Trust, Landscape Architecture, Outdoor Education & Recreation and Soil Conservation. The highlight of the day for the children (and many adults) was a visit from Smokey Bear! Also included in the event were Livestock, Demonstrations, Exhibits and representatives from Fire, Police and Rescue. Volunteer students from Oxford Hills Christian Academy led interactive stations, photographed the event and helped with set up and take down. They have become an integral part of this learning event. Truly an amazing day!
**Technical Assistance**

Skidder Bridge Rental

We have 2 steel skidder bridges available for loan to Maine loggers.

For more info please call (207)743-5789, ext. 101

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**Oxford County Big Tree Contest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Current Big Tree Location</th>
<th>Measured</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash, White</td>
<td>South Waterford</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspen, Bigtooth</td>
<td>Hebron</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basswood, American</td>
<td>South Waterford</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch, Paper</td>
<td>Stow</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch, Yellow</td>
<td>Paris, Otisfield</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butternut</td>
<td>Buckfield</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar,Northern White</td>
<td>Lovell</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry, Black</td>
<td>South Paris</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut, American</td>
<td>Hebron</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut, American</td>
<td>Lovell</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut, American</td>
<td>Porter</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood, Eastern</td>
<td>South Paris</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elm, American</td>
<td>Richardson Town Twp.</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fir, Balsam</td>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemlock,Eastern</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hickory, Shagbark</td>
<td>Buckfield</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hophornbeam, Eastern</td>
<td>Paris</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniper, Common</td>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple, Silver</td>
<td>Fryeburg</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple, Striped</td>
<td>Byron</td>
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<td>Maple, Sugar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak, Black</td>
<td>Sumner</td>
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<td>Oak, Chestnut</td>
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<td>Oak, Northern Red</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak, White Swamp</td>
<td>Paris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oak, White</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pine, Eastern White</td>
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<td>Redcedar. Eastern</td>
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<td>Spruce, White</td>
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<td>Sycamore, American</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamarack</td>
<td>Milton Township</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witch Hazel</td>
<td>West Paris</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Ross Cudlitz** has been working as the District’s contracted engineer for over 25 years. As a Professional Engineer (P.E.) he has extensive training, experience and credentials to design a wide assortment of projects related to the District’s mission. Ross has been involved in several projects to assist towns in Oxford County this past year. This spring he finished overseeing work on Cobb Hill Rd in Otisfield where he redesigned several failing culverts that were contributing to erosion and sedimentation close to Thompson Lake. The Town of Sweden sought the District engineer’s advice for remediation of extensive road clearing project on Wint Rd. close to the shoreline of Stearns Pond which was done by a private contractor without proper erosion controls, or a phosphorous plan. Ross provided in-depth recommendations for correcting the problems so that the town could move forward with having the contractor address fixing them. This summer Ross began assisting the Town of Roxbury in preparing a NRPA permit application and designed a plan for a retaining wall on their town beach on Roxbury Pond.

We are very fortunate to have Ross’s expertise in helping us design and implement ways to protect water quality in Oxford County’s lake and pond watersheds.

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**Water Quality**

The District Project Manager, Michele Windsor, provided technical assistance on 2 watershed surveys this past spring, one on North Pond in Norway, another on Worthley Pond in Peru. These watershed surveys involve small groups of citizen volunteers walking the pond watershed areas and identifying locations of concern where NPS pollution, in the form of erosion and sedimentation, which is impacting the pond. In most cases these surveys result in the development of a Watershed Management Plan and are followed up by an application for federal Clean Water Act funding to address the worst impacts identified in the survey.
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