

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Board

John Rieger, President
Charles Maine, Vice President
Merrilyn Moulthrop, Secretary
Vic Putman, Treasurer
Sheelagh Baily
Lee Hollenbeck
Elizabeth Mangle
Bill Wellman

***Our mission** is to promote the wise use of natural resources and to enhance the economic vitality in the Greater Adirondack region.*

***Our vision** is a sustainable, regional community with healthy forests, clean water and air, and natural habitats in balance with a viable mixed economy that includes agriculture, commerce, forestry, and tourism.*

***Our strength** comes from the dedication and participation of local citizens.*

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

One thing we can count on in life is change. We started 2009 with a new US President and Administration, a new NRCS State Conservationist, and we said goodbye to Marc Usher, our Coordinator since 1994, and welcomed Julia Zehner as Coordinator in June. Our Area Plan has been updated and will take us forward to meet the natural resource and community challenges ahead. In 2009, we reconvened our Agriculture Committee to provide opportunities and alternatives to area farmers. We have completed projects with our partners on the Willsboro Black Ash dike, the 2009 Adirondack Waterfest and held Lumber Grading Workshops in Warrensburg and Keeseville. And we continue to provide service with the Venison Donation Program and with dry hydrant supplies to protect our area citizen's forests and property.

In addition to assisting with projects, in 2009, Council members attended a regional workshop on local food efforts and also training on non-profit communication and management to keep Greater Adirondack current with the latest information. Our Council members are dynamic people and that gives us our strength to meet area needs as conditions change.

Though change is inevitable, what remains constant is Greater Adirondack RC&D's commitment to our Council's mission and the people of the Greater Adirondack area. My thanks to the many volunteers who made our projects possible in 2009 and especially to our volunteer members who make our Council great every year!

John Rieger

AREA PLAN PROVIDES GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY

NRCS National Office in Washington DC has established new policy for RC&D area and annual plans to better demonstrate RC&D program accountability. By making goals, objectives and strategies specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-based (SMART), RC&D area and annual plans become more powerful tools to evaluate performance and achieve the RC&D program mission. The "SMART" method is not unique to NRCS and is used by local governments, businesses and individuals.

Greater Adirondack RC&D Planning Committee members, Bill Wellman and Sheelagh Baily, revised the Council's five-year Area Plan to reflect the new NRCS "SMART" planning policy. With quantifiable strategies in the revised 2010-2014 Area Plan, Greater Adirondack can chart and report its progress toward achieving its goals and objectives. Having "SMART" RC&D area and annual plans will help Greater Adirondack RC&D and NRCS demonstrate not only accountability but also the tremendous value of the RC&D program!

PARTNERSHIP SPONSORS TRAINING



Workshop Trainers Al DeBonis and Sloane Crawford engage the class in lumber grading exercises

Through a generous grant from the Northern Forest Partnership Program, the Black River-St. Lawrence RC&D and Greater Adirondack RC&D Councils and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Utilization Program sponsored Lumber Grading Workshops in October and November. Three workshops, held in Hannibal, Warrensburg and Keeseville, were attended by mill owners, mill operators and code enforcers.

The training focused on the “local option;” a building code compliance alternative (Parts 1220.2 and 1221.2 of Title 19 NYCRR) regarding the use of locally produced structural softwood lumber in both residential and commercial projects.

The objectives of the workshops were to:

- Provide both lumber producers and local building code officials with an overview of the New York Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code compliance alternative (local option) regarding the use of locally produced framing lumber;
- Provide background, understanding, and practical knowledge of the national lumber grading system, process, and requirements;
- Provide an overview of technical issues surrounding the local option including lumber characteristics critical to determining the grade of softwood framing lumber.

Course evaluation results indicate that the 137 workshop participants found the information useful and would recommend the workshop to others!

COUNCILS SERVE UP FORESTRY FACTS PLACEMATS

Did you know:

- **55,200 New Yorkers are employed in forest products industry?**
- **New York's forest industry contributes \$3.7 billion annually to the state gross product?**
- **85% of New York's forest land is privately owned?**
- **The value of timber sold by landowners annually is \$280 million?**

Guests in many North Country restaurants are able to learn about the importance of New York's forest before enjoying their meals!

Greater Adirondack and Black River St.-Lawrence RC&D Councils teamed up with Cornell University Cooperative Extension, SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry's Ranger School and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to produce the Forestry Facts Placemat to help people know more about New York's forest industry.

Through the generosity of the New York Society of American Foresters, Woodsmen's Field Days, and International Paper, 35,000 placemats were printed and distributed to area restaurants, church groups and other organizations.

You can learn about New York's forest resources on one side and test your forestry knowledge by playing the puzzles, games and activities on the other—color in an Asian Longhorned Beetle and play the Great Acorn Hunt! You can learn more about trees, forestry and wood products by downloading “The Life of the Forest” at www.internationalpaper.com.

Greater Adirondack RC&D thanks Chanda Lindsay and Becca Hare with USDA/NRCS and Black River-St. Lawrence RC&D for their design work and Bruce Breitmeyer of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry for his assistance!

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

Greater Adirondack RC&D's Agriculture Committee was reconvened this summer to advise and guide the Council in adopting projects that will help our area farms and dairies to be resilient in difficult economic times. The Ag Committee is exploring innovative on-farm energy options with biomass burners; expanding local food networks and value-added opportunities through the establishment of shared-use kitchens; and alternatives to traditional operations to help farmers be flexible to changing markets. With strong representation on the Ag Committee from Cornell University Cooperative Extension and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Greater Adirondack RC&D is well positioned to address the needs of area farmers.

FEEDING OURSELVES

Greater Adirondack RC&D Council members, Dave Reckahn (Ag Committee) and Sharon Ruggi (also representing the NY Federation of RC&D Councils) and Coordinator Julia Zehner attended the New England RC&D Areas' Fall Conference, "Feeding Ourselves," held in Portland, Maine in October. In addition to RC&D representatives from the region, the conference drew USDA and NRCS officials from Washington DC. Kathleen Merrigan, USDA Deputy Secretary highlighted a new department initiative, Know Your Farmer; Know Your Food and stated that, "Every family needs a farmer."

Conference participants learned that RC&D can help with marketing, networking, help local comprehensive plans to be more farm and farmer friendly; help remove risk associated with transitioning to local food production; help expand opportunities with winter farmers markets and extend growing seasons with greenhouses. Also RC&D can help with gaining greater access for small farmers to legislators and help unify their "voice."

WATERFEST 2009

This summer's Adirondack Waterfest was held in conjunction with Ticonderoga's Quadricentennial Celebration on July 25th. A generous grant from International Paper in Ticonderoga helped make the event possible. Greater Adirondack RC&D partnered with the Ticonderoga Main Street Partnership, the Town of Ticonderoga, PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York to make the day a success!

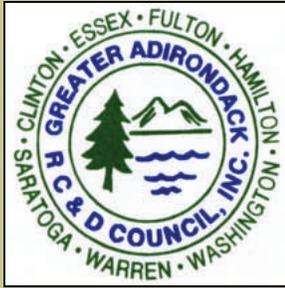
Waterfest was both an educational and festive event. With water related exhibitors, games for children and demonstrations along with re-enactments of Samuel de Champlain's exploration, this year's Waterfest was unique in displaying the historic and current significance of water resources to Ticonderoga.



Re-enactor explains the firearm technology of Champlain's era.



Children learning about macroinvertebrates that live in our streams.



"to promote the wise use of natural resources and to enhance the economic vitality of the Greater Adirondack area."

The RC&D Program

In 1962, Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act authorizing the Resource Conservation and Development Program. Administrative responsibility was given to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

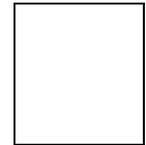
The purpose of the program is to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local governments and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas through the formation of regional non-profit organizations.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service facilitates activities and provides technical assistance to RC&D councils across the nation.

Greater Adirondack RC&D Council is a unique non-profit organization that helps people care for and protect their natural resources.

Working in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies and other nonprofit organizations, the Greater Adirondack RC&D Council brings together the people and resources needed to protect and enhance the area's environment, economy, and quality of life.

The all-volunteer Council is responsible for directing the program at the local level. Council members are county legislators or supervisors, conservation district, planning board and at-large members who serve for a two-year term. The dedication of these volunteers is the key to RC&D success.



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