

## **BENNINGTON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The mission of the Bennington County Conservation District is to promote rural livelihoods and protect natural resources in southwestern Vermont. Our projects in 2009 were largely focused on restoring water resources, protecting and promoting sustainable forests, and educating the public regarding conservation issues. Our work included:

A stormwater education project with an emphasis on practices appropriate for the homeowner or small business, a Batten Kill habitat restoration project, a shoreline restoration project at Sucker Pond in Stamford, six workshops for forest landowners and forest professionals on everything from woodland invasive plant management to timber sales, and a Japanese knotweed control initiative on a Green River tributary.

We wrote a bi-weekly Conservation Currents column for the Bennington Banner. We are producing a brochure for Batten Kill watershed landowners. We maintain an attractive and educational website.

We responded to requests for assistance from private citizens from all over the county. We worked with schools, especially with the Career Development Center. Students at the CDC were crucial partners in many projects in 2009. We assisted or were assisted by several town boards and staff. We worked closely with the Green Mountain National Forest, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and many like-minded local, regional, and national non-profit organizations.

Respectfully submitted

Shelly Stiles, District Manager