

## 2012-2013 Annual Awards

Conservation Farmer of the Year: **Linda Tucker, SODCO**

Conservation Forester of the Year: **The Greene Company**

Excellence in Conservation Education: **Burness Guidry, RYSE School**

Excellence in Promotion and Conservation of Land and Water Resources:  
**Thomas B. Gentz, President of Charlestown Town Council**

Professional Conservationist of the Year:  
**Dr. Frank Golet, URI Professor (ret)**

# Annual Report July 2012 - June 2013



2012-2013 Financial Statement		
<b>Income:</b>		
	<b>Contribution Income</b>	<b>\$18,635.00</b>
	<b>Program Income</b>	<b>\$27,755.37</b>
<b>Expense:</b>		
	<b>Program Expense</b>	<b>\$2,870.35</b>
	<b>Business Expense</b>	<b>\$5,527.48</b>
	<b>Salary Expense</b>	<b>\$32,570.90</b>
	<b>Facilities and Equipment</b>	<b>\$7,991.00</b>
	<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$1,885.00</b>
	<b>Advertising</b>	<b>\$1,003.95</b>
	<b>Computer Expense</b>	<b>\$1,490.10</b>
	<b>Postage, Mailing Service</b>	<b>\$222.79</b>
	<b>Supplies, Printing</b>	<b>\$418.97</b>
	<b>Telephone, Internet</b>	<b>\$388.75</b>
	<b>Travel and Meetings</b>	<b>\$911.50</b>
	<b>Annual Dinner</b>	<b>\$224.98</b>
	<b>Contributions, Donations</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>		<b>(\$9,365.40)</b>



The Southern RI Conservation District serves the cities and towns of Kent & Washington Counties. If your community is not represented on our board of directors, please consider joining our team. We meet the first Monday of each month, in Building #61 (Master Gardener Field House) at URI East Farm, East Farm Road, Kingston, RI. To receive a copy of our agenda and minutes, please call 401-500-0422 or email [SRICD.info@gmail.com](mailto:SRICD.info@gmail.com)

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## What are Conservation Districts?

Conservation Districts were established in Rhode Island by State Law in 1944, and are a subdivision of the Rhode Island State Conservation Committee. Thus, Conservation Districts are quasi-public organizations with a wide breadth of opportunity to focus efforts on the environmental and conservation concerns within our communities.

The function of the Districts is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water and related resources. They operate on the premise that local people know the most about local needs. The Districts do not regulate or enforce laws. There are approximately 3,000 conservation districts nationwide. There are three Districts in Rhode Island.

◆ **Southern RI Conservation District, serving Washington and Kent Counties**

◆ Northern RI Conservation District, serving Providence County

◆ Eastern RI Conservation District, serving Newport and Bristol Counties

### ***SRICD's Primary Partners & Cooperators:***

- ◆ Landowners
- ◆ Municipalities, including Coventry, West Warwick, Warwick, West Greenwich, East Greenwich, Exeter, North Kingstown, Hopkinton, Richmond, South Kingstown, Westerly, Charlestown, Narragansett and New Shoreham (Block Island)
- ◆ Local and Private Land Trusts
- ◆ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ◆ RI Department of Environmental Management



## 2013 - 2014 SRICD Programs

### **Free Assistance Services**

#### **Contact Information & Recommendations for:**

- Foresters, Local Technical Service Providers, etc.
- Presentations to Municipal Boards, Commissions and/or Committees
- Site Visits to Farms & Woodlots

### **Fee-For-Service Programs**

#### **Land Management:**

- Farm, Forest, & Open Space Program —  
Farm Designation Plans & Open Space Mapping
- Whole Farm Conservation Planning
- Land Use Consultation
- Wetland Determinations and Delineations
- Soil Sample Collection, Preparation, & Shipment / Analysis Interpretations
- Natural Resource & Environmental Assessments
- GIS Mapping, Map Interpretation & Analysis
- Invasive Species Assessment & Management
- Public Outreach & Training

#### **Watershed Management:**

- Assistance with U.S. EPA Stormwater Phase II Requirements
- Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Review
- Stormwater Impact Assessment
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPP) Review
- Rain Garden & Bio-Retention Basin Design & Installation
- Stream Assessments
- Natural Resource & Environmental Assessments
- GIS Mapping, Map Interpretation & Analysis
- Invasive Species Assessment & Management
- Public Outreach & Training



## SRICD's Work in 2012 - 2013

### ◆ Agricultural & Forestland Outreach Workshops

The purpose of this outreach was to provide agricultural and forest landowners the opportunity to learn about technical and financial assistance available for conservation assistance through USDA-NRCS.

Workshops were held at *Richmond Grange (W. Kingston)*, *Crandall House (West Greenwich)*, *URI East Farm (Kingston)*, and *South County Rod & Gun Club (Exeter/West Greenwich)*.

**Special Events and Fairs** were also attended, including: URI Spring Festival (Kingston), Compass School Eco Fair (Kingston), RINLA Green Market Festival (Kingston), Washington County Fair (Richmond), URI Twilight Meetings (statewide).

### ◆ Farm, Forest & Open Space Plans

Natural resources on farmland, as well as the finances of farmland owners benefited from the technical oversight of District Ag Planners. Owners of agricultural land who chose to enroll in Rhode Island's *Farm, Forest, and Open Space Program* gained significant tax relief in 2013. District Ag Planners worked with farmers to outline operational objectives and provided recommendations to best manage and protect the farms' resources.

### ◆ Land Trust Planning Assistance

SRICD began work with the Hopkinton Land Trust to develop a Management Plan on one parcel, with expectations of expanding this service. *Land Management Plans* provide Land Trusts with best potential uses of specific sites, connect them with funding sources for short and long-term objectives, recommend best management practices, help set priorities and schedule managements.

### ◆ Land Trust Signage Project

SRICD worked with the RI Natural History Survey for the RI *Conservation Stewardship Collaborative (CSC)* to provide training and technical support for the development of signage, trail, and interpretive materials to enhance public access and educational opportunities on conservation lands. This document allows consistency for signage on all public lands throughout the state. Four (4) fact sheets were developed for use by RI's Land Trusts.

### ◆ Trail Mapping Projects

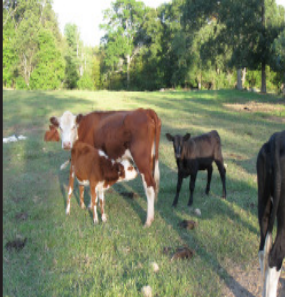
SRICD worked with the Town of Hopkinton Conservation Commission to digitally map three (3) different trail systems. Trail maps were developed in various formats and are available at trailheads for hikers. Maps are now available online at [ExploreRI.org](http://ExploreRI.org).

### ◆ Geese Abatement Workshop & Field Work

An educational workshop was held at Kettle Pond Visitor Center in Charlestown to introduce the *Waterfowl Control Measures to Mitigate NPS (non-point source) Pollution*; funded by RI DEM. Following the workshop, SRICD worked with the RYSE school (Chariho) to support the development of a conservation related, cross-curriculum program that allowed students to explore ideas and methods for educating their community in the conservaiton of natural resources and humane control of the resident geese population.

### ◆ Update of the RI Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook

Storm Water Phase II regulations require ongoing public education and outreach for preventing stormwater pollution, actively involving the public in carrying out the stormwater management plan. SRICD worked with URI and RI DEM to facilitate a major revision of the *RI Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook*. These revisions provide the framework for trainings for plan reviewers, site inspectors, DOT staff and their contractors.





USDA-NRCS Staff, (Stew Taffe pictured above) meet with landowners to assess resource concerns and coordinate technical and financial assistance for Best Management Practices.

## USDA-NRCS Assistance in Kent & Washington Counties

Conservation Districts have a unique relationship with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Program parameters are established by Congress through the Farm Bill, but local landowners meet monthly to identify and prioritize the needs for each state by local county. The SRICD Board of Directors

represent the communities, directing the work prioritized and conducted in Kent and Washington Counties. The District Conservationist at NRCS, John Richard, attends SRICD monthly meetings to work in conjunction with the Board to best serve people and protect natural resources in our communities.

SRICD works directly with USDA NRCS to accomplish and improve the process for NRCS Outreach and Education, Conservation Technical Assistance, Wetland Restoration, enhancing Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Grassland and Forestland Ecosystems, improving Soil Quality, Water Management, Water Quality, Energy Conservation, and Forest/Farmland Conservation.

The table below identifies the assistance provided in Kent and Washington Counties for each NRCS program through active contracts with agricultural producers and forestland owners.

COUNTY	PROGRAM	# ACTIVE CONTRACTS	ASSISTANCE PROVIDED
Kent	Conservation Stewardship Program	6	\$ 106,048.00
Washington	Conservation Stewardship Program	3	\$ 17,966.00
Kent	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	37	\$ 795,984.28
Washington	Environmental Quality Incentives Program	75	\$ 3,057,963.66
Kent	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	5	\$ 159,991.61
Washington	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	16	\$ 834,164.53
<b>Total</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>\$ 4,972,118.08</b>

## Local People Making Decisions

The Southern RI Conservation District is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and Associate Directors. Directors are locally elected and appointed. At monthly Board Meetings, Directors review requests for conservation assistance on private and local land, review project and program advancements, and establish priorities in response to concerns within the southern RI community.



SRICD Board (left to right): Carl Sawyer, Rudi Hempe (Vice Chair), Clarkson Collins (Chairman), Harvey Buford, Harriet Powell.  
Not pictured: Peter Stetson & Bill McCusker



*The mission of the SRICD is to promote and achieve a healthy environment and sustainable use of natural resources for the people of Kent and Washington Counties and the State of Rhode Island, now and for the future, by coordinating partners to provide technical, educational and financial resources.*

### Board of Directors:

Clarkson Collins, Chairman, Kingston  
Rudi Hempe, Vice-Chairman, Narragansett  
Harvey Buford, Treasurer, Hopkinton  
Harriet Powell, Secretary, North Kingstown  
Carl Sawyer, South Kingstown

### Associate Directors:

Peter Stetson, Richmond  
Bill McCusker, Charlestown

### SRICD Staff:

J. Eric Scherer, Executive Director & Nutrient Specialist/Soil Scientist  
Kate Bousquet, District Manager & Agricultural Planner  
Kat Zuromski, Biologist & GIS Specialist  
Jean Lambert, Engineering Consultant

### USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff serving SRICD:

John Richard, District Conservationist  
Maggie Payne, Soil Conservationist  
Steward Taffe, Soil Conservationist  
Matt Richardson, Soil Conservationist  
Joe Rocks, Civil Engineer