



BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

July 1st, 2013-June 30th, 2014

2014 Annual Meeting, November 13, 2014

Berkshire Conservation District is a tax-exempt state agency in alliance with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service whose mission is to support local conservation efforts and environmental education for landowners. The district is guided by an elected volunteer board of supervisors and is operated by part-time staff. The district continues to be solely dependent on the proceeds of fundraising sales and private donations in order to continue offering environmental scholarships, educational workshops, and community programs. This annual report details our activities during the previous fiscal year.

We want to thank all of our friends who have supported us within the last year: customers, donors, volunteers, agency partners, and associate members. We could not have done it without all of your generous support!

INCOME AND SALES

The fall flowering bulb sale and the spring seedling sale provide local residents, organizations, schools and municipalities with flowers, trees, and shrubs to beautify our community, promote gardening and local food production, build wildlife habitat and promote reforestation. These annual sales also provide the district with the majority of its operational funds and bring in many donations to our two scholarship funds. The bulb sale profits continue to decrease year to year, while gross sales for the 2014 plant sale grew almost 11% compared to the previous year.



This was the second year that the district held sale pick-up at Springside Park in Pittsfield during the spring plant sale, but it was the first year we partnered with the Springside Greenhouse Group to hold pick-up during their annual plant sale weekend which draws hundreds of customers. This partnership was a great success and we sold a lot of additional overstock. We would like to thank supervisor Ned Kirchner and his wife Kate for once again providing us with storage and work space on their property to organize our fundraisers. We would also like to thank the City of Pittsfield, Parks and Open Space Manager, Jim McGrath, and the folks of Springside Greenhouse Group for their hospitality. The district donated hundreds of seedlings to various nonprofit groups including Melville's Arrowhead Farm CSA, Hebert Arboretum, Pittsfield Tree Watch, Springside Greenhouse Group, Louison House, and National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge.

In addition to our bi-annual sales, the district continues to sell items year-round through the district store. Items include Plantskydd deer and critter repellent (100% natural, biodegradable, and effective!), flowering bulb fertilizer as well as gift items such as nature note cards, pocket nature guides, and wildflower guides by local author Phyllis Pryzby. Let us know if you have suggestions for us!

If you would like to support Berkshire Conservation District by participating in our fundraising sales, call the office or send an email to be added to our mailing list. The spring seedling sale brochure is released in February and pick-up is held in early May. The fall bulb brochure is released late-summer and pick-up is held in the fall.

IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Many thanks to the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), the State Commission for Soil, Water, and Related Resources, and others who advocated on behalf of conservation districts to make the Environmental Bond Bill a reality. Because of their efforts, most likely by late 2015, districts across the state will have access to state grant funds for programs and projects. The Bond Bill has been a key motivator for districts, MACD, the State Commission, and NRCS to work together to prepare for future funding and program opportunities.

NEW PROGRAMS

UMass/CISA Dairy Survey

Last winter, UMass Amherst Center for Agriculture and Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) teamed up to study the costs and profits of the Massachusetts dairy industry. The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) called on local districts to help survey dairy farmers and collect the data. This helped re-establish local connections with farmers who entrusted their personal and financial information to district personnel as enumerators, filling in the survey and submitting it to UMass Professor Daniel Lass for analysis. It also provided additional funds to the districts through MACD reimbursements for labor costs. Dairy farms from Sheffield, Monterey, and Williamstown volunteered to participate. UMass has yet to publish a report of their findings.

Sustainable Gardens Cost-Share Program

Last March, Administrator Aimee V. Annichiarico developed a cost-share program to support community agriculture and drafted a grant proposal that was successfully funded by the Green Pastures Fund at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. The district received \$3,000 to help small scale community gardens and nonprofit groups improve their environmental and financial sustainability. Funding is still available and interested organizations should contact the district office to learn how to apply.



VIRIDIAN RFP

Berkshire Conservation District continues the Residual Fundraising Program (RFP) with Viridian Energy. Viridian is an energy supply company that provides competitive renewable energy rates to electricity and natural gas customers. Every time a

customer switches their energy supply to Viridian, they can start saving money over time, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support the district as the district earns residual income. Your utility company stays the same. Viridian now also offers a new solar program. Go to www.viridian.com/berkshireconservationdistrict to learn more and view rates or call the office.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Conservation Poster Contest

Each year the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and NACD Auxiliary host a national poster contest with a different conservation theme. The 2013 theme was “Where Does Your Water Shed?” helping students understand the principles of watershed science and the importance of local water conservation. The contest is available to students from grades K-12 and occurred last fall. Two schools participated from Berkshire County. The winners were Amber Furtado, grade 11 of Wahconah Regional High School and Carly Munzer, grade 9 of Mount Greylock Regional High School. Each winner received \$25 from Berkshire Conservation District and \$25 from MACD. See their posters attached.

BCC Environmental Science Award

This \$250 award goes to a promising Berkshire Community College student interested in the environmental field. The scholarship is awarded in May of each year. This year’s recipient was Kessa Battaini, graduate of Wahconah high school, entering the BCC environmental science program. Congratulations Kessa!

Adrian “Beau” Meyer Forestry Award

The district continues to collect funds for the forestry scholarship at UMass Amherst created in memory of beloved longtime chairman and district supervisor Adrian “Beau” Meyer who passed away in 2004. The \$750 award goes to a UMass junior or senior undergraduate forestry student from Western or Central MA. The very first recipient was Tyler Weinstein from Great Barrington. The district is expecting a contribution to the fund from the disbanding of the Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation and Development Council that may help us reach the goal of endowment status.

Massachusetts Envirothon Program

The Envirothon program started in 1979 in Pennsylvania and was first known as the Environmental Olympics. The Massachusetts Envirothon falls under the stewardship of the

State Commission for Soil, Water, and Related Resources. High school students form teams to compete in a statewide, academically rigorous day of events focused on conservation issues such as forestry, soil, water, and wildlife. The 2014 MA Envirothon event took place in May 2014 at Sholan Farms in Leominster. The 2014 issue was Sustainable Local Agriculture. There were no participating schools from Berkshire County but the district continues to be an annual Envirothon sponsor. For more information, visit www.maenvirothon.org.



STAFF AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

At this time last year we welcomed Patricia (Penny) Saupe from Richmond and William (Bill) Pike from Hinsdale to the board. Penny filled the one year term left open by David Jurczak in 2013 and resigned this fall. Kevin Zimmer of Lenox, board member since 2010 and treasurer since 2011 is also leaving us. David Frazier of Pittsfield also left the board this past year. We want to thank them all for their service and we wish them well. Their resignations leave two open supervisor positions on the board up for election tonight.

Aimee V. Annichiarico joined the district as the administrator in 2011. Last summer she took a full-time position with MACD as an administrative assistant in the Pittsfield and Hadley NRCS offices. She has continued to serve as the interim administrator in her spare time. The board hired Timothy J. (T.J.) Kennedy this fall to plan the 2014 Fall Bulb Sale. We hope he will stay on with us in fuller capacity continuing into the future!

ABOUT US

Founded in 1946, the Berkshire Conservation District is one of more than 3,000 conservation districts across the country mandated by state law and guided by an elected volunteer Board of Supervisors. Berkshire Conservation District is a not for profit, tax-exempt agency dedicated to environmental education and the conservation of natural resources in Berkshire County, MA. The District works closely with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on matters of local soil, water, and environmental conservation. Conservation planning and services are available through NRCS conservation programs to qualifying farmers and land owners. For more information, contact District Conservationist Vince Snyder in the Hadley NRCS Field Office, (413) 585-1000 ext. 3 or visit www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/.

FY2014 BOARD

Board of Supervisors

Robert Lear, Chairman
Kevin Zimmer, Treasurer
Ned Kirchner, Vice-Chair
David Frazier
William Florek
Patricia Saupe
William Pike

Associate Supervisors.

Deborah Burke
David Jurczak
Anthony Boyer
Dennis Mareb

Administrator/Secretary

Aimee V. Annichiarico

District Conservationist

Kate Parsons, NRCS
Vincent Snyder, NRCS

SAVE THE DATES!!

Our 2015 Spring Seedling Sale – Check your mailboxes and inboxes in early February. Pick up will be held in mid-May. Specific dates and locations TBA. Offering a variety of bare root tree and shrub seedlings, fruit trees, berry bushes, and more! Beautify your home and garden!

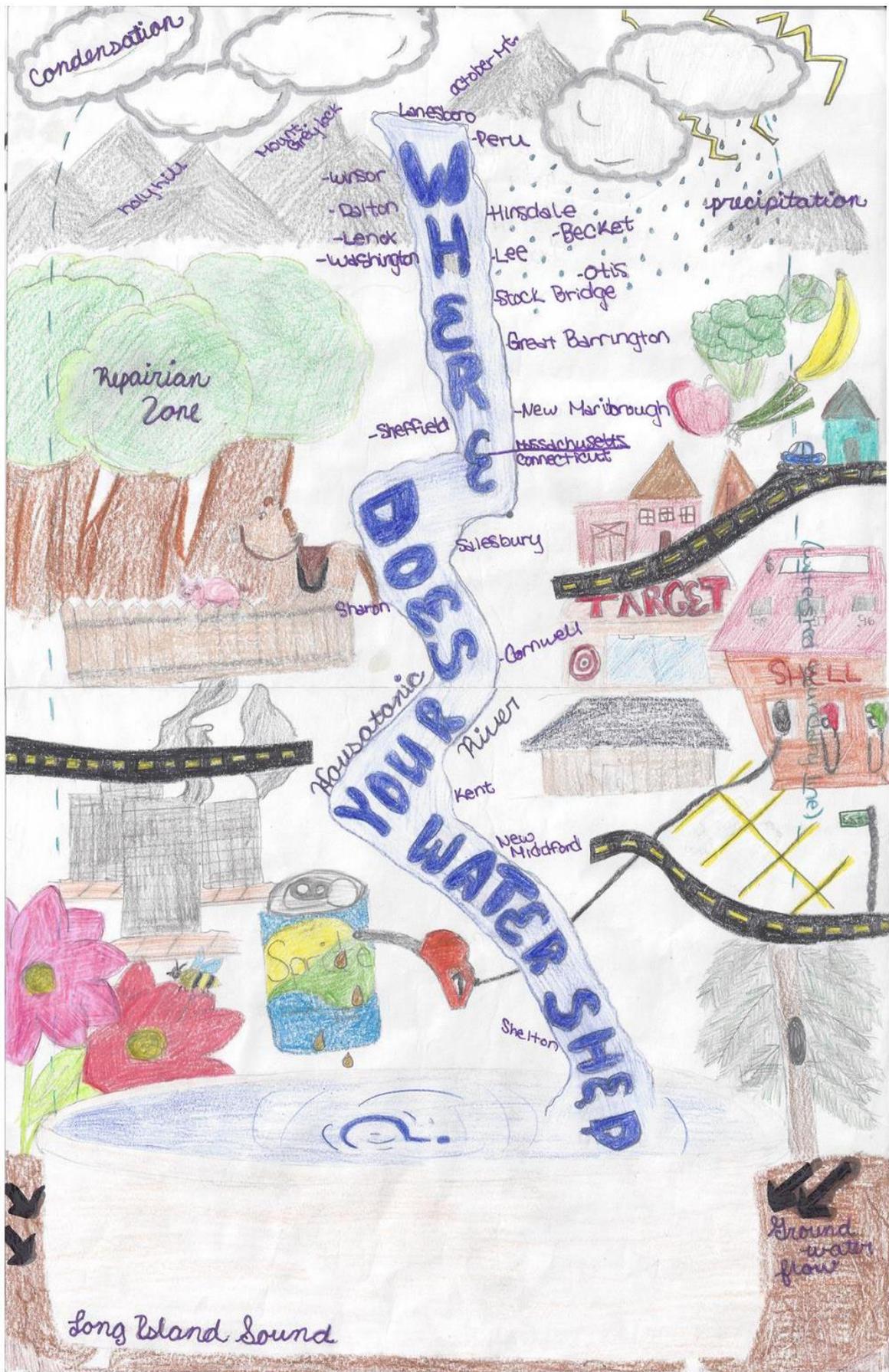
Our 2015 Fall Bulb Sale – Look for your brochure in late summer. Pick up will be in the late fall. Dates and locations TBA. Offering a variety of flowering fall bulbs and bulbs for indoor forcing throughout the winter as well!

Berkshire Conservation District
78 Center Street, Suite 206
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 443-1776 ext. 102

www.berkshireconservation.org
BerkshireConservationDistrict@gmail.com

Financial Report and FY 2014 Operational Budget

FY 2014 District Budget			
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014			
GROSS INCOME	Projected	Mid-Year Actual	FYE Actual
2014 Tree Sale	\$11,800	\$0.00	\$12,926.71
2013 Bulb Sale	\$1,850	\$2,398.00	\$2,398.00
2013 Holiday Sale	\$1,250	\$470.40	\$494.40
Product Sales	\$620	\$22.00	\$22.00
Annual Meeting	\$625	\$476.00	\$504.00
Donations	\$500	\$155.00	\$299.00
Grants/Awards	\$0	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Reimbursements/Gifts	\$125	\$12.00	\$1,529.98
TOTAL GROSS INCOME	\$16,770.00	\$3,533.40	\$21,174.09
EXPENSES	Estimated Costs	Costs Mid-Year	Actual Costs
Payroll			
Admin. Salary	\$7,800.00	\$2,807.15	\$5,651.21
Payroll Processing	\$760.00	\$366.52	\$777.20
Taxes	\$1,400.00	\$671.70	\$1,356.71
Payroll Subtotal	\$9,960.00	\$3,845.37	\$7,785.12
Sales/Events			
2014 Tree Sale	\$5,600.00	\$0.00	\$8,663.64
2013 Bulb Sale	\$700.00	\$812.87	\$812.87
2013 Holiday Sale	\$550.00	\$263.31	\$263.31
Fall Sale printing/mailing	\$910.00	\$905.90	\$905.90
Annual Meeting	\$500.00	\$513.18	\$513.18
New Sales Inventory	\$200.00	\$193.41	\$282.25
Sales/Events Subtotal	\$8,460.00	\$2,688.67	\$11,441.15
Administrative			
Software License	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$74.99
Insurance	\$775.00	\$0.00	\$770.00
Web Maintenance	\$1,100.00	\$828.75	\$1,091.25
BCC Scholarship donation	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
MA Envirothon donation	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
NACD dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
MACD dues	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$45.00	\$171.60
Postage/Shipping	\$150.00	\$46.00	\$95.00
MDAR License	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Gifts/Awards	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$100.00
Conferences/Workshops	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Purchase Reimbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$219.23
Adrian Meyer donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Administrative Subtotal	\$2,795.00	\$994.75	\$3,242.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,215.00	\$7,528.79	\$22,468.34
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(\$4,445.00)	-\$3,995.39	-\$1,294.25
ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Checking	As of 7/1/2013	As of 6/30/2014	
	\$8,686.95	\$7,552.06	
Savings	As of 7/1/2013	As of 6/30/2014	
	\$9,461.92	\$9,466.64	



Amber Furtado, Grade 11, Wahconah Regional High School



Carly Munzer, Grade 9, Mount Greylock Regional High School