



# BERKSHIRE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FY 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

*The economic crisis has been on the minds of most people for the last two years. Berkshire Conservation District has been in a financial crisis for the last 8 years when state funding was cut by then Governor Romney. Districts all across the state has been struggling to keep their doors open and the past several years have been spent trying to figure out ways to raise funding. We have met with legislators and submitted a budget request to higher ups for FY12. The district's future hangs in the balance as the state decides if conservation districts are worth funding. Please contact your legislators if you would like to see Conservation Districts continue to exist in Massachusetts. Please voice your support for Conservation Districts.!*

## **ANNUAL FUNDRAISING SALES**

The state of our economy was reflected in our **Spring'10 Seedling Sale**. The number of customers was down from last year as well as the amount spent by each customer. There were over 7000 seedlings sold during this seedling sale and 670 packages of bulbs sold during the **Fall '09 Bulb Sale**. The Master Gardeners volunteered their time to help us out with soil testing on pickup day. Thank you to all the volunteers who help make our fundraisers successful and the loyal customers who keep returning each year.

The 2011 spring sale brochure will be mailed out by February. Proceeds from these sales help to provide technical assistance to landowners, workshops, BCC scholarship and environmental educational materials to schools in Berkshire County.

## **BERKSHIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 2010 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

Congratulations to **Michael Hitchcock**, this year's recipient of Berkshire Conservation District's Environmental Science Scholarship at Berkshire Community College. Guidelines for this scholarship require that the student be a second year environmental studies student at BCC.

## **MASSACHUSETTS ENVIROTHON**

Massachusetts Envirothon is a statewide competition that tests students' knowledge of aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife, and environmental issues. Congratulations to **Lexington High School**, the overall first place winner, of the 2010 Massachusetts Envirothon.

## **DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Kevin Zimmer, Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer at Greylock Credit Union joined our board as a Supervisor this past year. We are still looking for someone to fill the last opening. Anyone interested in helping to oversee the programs and direction of the Berkshire Conservation District may apply for the volunteer position by contacting Deb Burke at [deborah.burke@ma.usda.gov](mailto:deborah.burke@ma.usda.gov).

Ideally we are looking for someone who:

- Has a willingness to volunteer (3yr term)
- Can help out with annual sales
- Is available for the monthly meetings: (3rd Wednesday of the month at 4pm.)

<b>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</b>	
Robert Lear	Chairman
Dave Jurczak	Vice-Chair
Tony Boyer	Treasurer
Dennis Mareb	
Ned Kirchner	
Kevin Zimmer	

<b>ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS</b>
Aimee Thayer
Frances Turner
Jeff Jourdain
<b>Deborah Burke, Administrator</b>