

# Report of the MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children*

*Anonymous*

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

During the year ending December 31, 2003 the Marion Conservation Commission issued:

26 Notices of Intent  
42 Requests for Determination of Applicability  
14 Extensions on existing Orders  
8 Amendments to previously approved Orders  
17 Certificates of Compliance  
3 Enforcement Orders

These documents were written and approved at the 22 meetings the Commission held during the year. Prior to these meetings, Commission members conducted more than 145 site inspections during our Saturday morning excursions throughout the wilds of Marion.

There were some staff changes during 2003. Frank J. Germano, Jr., a former Commissioner and more recently an associate member, completed his term and declined a reappointment. We thank Frank for his many contributions to our activities. A new associate member, Norman A. Hills, was appointed to fill the vacancy. He has been conscientious and actively involved in our site visits and meetings. We appreciate his interest and enthusiasm.

On July 31, 2003 a revision to state law was enacted which allows conservation commissions to assess fees on applicants to hire experts to assist where they are needed to review proposed projects. Planning boards, health departments and zoning boards have had this authority for over a decade. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, the Conservation Commission adopted rules at its meeting on December 3. We are in the process of obtaining qualifications from local firms so that we may hire consultants as needed to assist us in our work. We anticipate that such assistance will only be required for large or complex projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Merlino, Chairman  
Jeffrey W. Oakes, Vice Chairman  
Janice M. Mendes, Treasurer  
Sherman E. Briggs, Jr., Recording Secretary  
Joel D. Hartley, Member  
Horace S. Kenney, Jr., Associate Member  
Norman A. Hills, Associate Member