



# KNOX LINCOLN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# 2014 Annual Report

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# Soil Conservation, Erosion Control, Wildlife Habitat

## Spring Plant Sale & Fair May 3 & 4, 2014

Since 2012, our annual plant sale fundraiser has been held at the Union Fairgrounds. The central location and ample parking has allowed us to expand the reach of this event to include cash-&-carry as well as pre-order sales. In 2014, we offered 72 varieties of bareroot fruit trees & berries, and mostly native conifers, trees & shrubs for shade, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and backyard plantings. In addition, we offered 31 varieties of potted native perennials and herbs organically grown in Maine by Rebel Hill Farm and selected to bloom throughout the season to keep the pollinators happy.



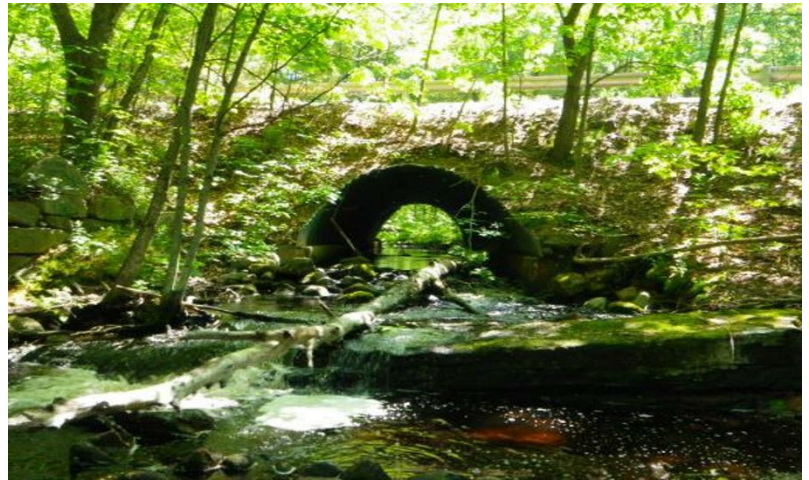
With the added space at the fairground, we have reached out beyond plant sales to include an educational component with hand-outs on plant culture, exhibits and displays from local conservation organizations and mini-workshops, such as “Fruit Tree Pruning” by Cheryl Denz of Terra Optima Farm in Appleton. (pictured above)



We couldn't do this without the score (or more) volunteers who unpack, label, water, mulch, and repack 1000s of individual plants into pre-orders, as well as serve the more than 300 residents who attend the weekend sale.

*Thanks to all who purchased plants and who helped to make the 2014 sale a great success!*

## Stream Smart Road Crossings



In 2014, Knox-Lincoln SWCD and other SWCDs in the midcoast area worked with Maine Audubon and the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission to bring information about *Stream Smart* to local municipalities. *Stream Smart* is a new program that trains contractors, landowners and other professionals responsible for road-stream crossings, how to construct crossings that maintain fish and wildlife habitat while protecting roads and public safety. *Stream Smart* encourages replacing traditional culverts with open-bottom structures that allow the stream to act like a stream and be invisible to the road with immeasurable benefit to the 85% of wildlife species that use streams for breeding, travel, food, and water. In addition, *Stream Smart* crossings are typically better able to handle flooding and heavy flows associated with increasing frequent high-intensity storm events. We look forward to continuing to work together to improve stream habitats and road crossings in Midcoast Maine.

## Maine DEP Contractor Certification Program

In January 2013, DEP certification was made mandatory for contractors excavating more than one cubic yard of soil in the shoreland zone. In addition to attending a day-long course in “Basic and Advanced Erosion Control Practices,” contractors must undergo the inspection of these practices on an active work site before they can receive certification. As the site evaluators for Knox and Lincoln counties, Knox-Lincoln SWCD travels the highways and byways of the two-county region to evaluate the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for contractors seeking certification. We check to see that the appropriate practices have been chosen and correctly installed and submit the findings to the DEP.

*Congratulations to the 20 individuals in Knox-Lincoln who received DEP certification in 2014!*

# Agriculture Programs

## Conservation Farm Tour of Lincoln County

In 2014, our farm tour took us to Lincoln County. To save travel time – and fuel – the tour-goers met the luxury coach from Northeast Charter and Tours in Waldoboro on the morning of August 9 to start our day-long adventure. We visited the following four sites where we were given tours and learned about farming, forestry, and energy conservation:

- Sheepscot General Farm, Whitefield
- Goranson Farm, Dresden
- Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson
- NEWAIM Farm, Waldoboro

Joining us on the bus was Garrison Beck, Program Manager for Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association, to tell us about the watershed survey recently conducted on the lake. The group now has the information necessary to target education and effort in areas most needing help.



At our first stop, *Sheepscot General Farm*, we were greeted by farmers Taryn Hammer and Ben Marcus. Ben took us on a tour of the pick-your-own organic strawberry fields, while Taryn treated the group to coffee and homemade pastries in the café and general store that is part of their operation.



Next we visited *Goranson Farm*, where we were treated to a tractor-drawn hayride to the organic vegetable fields with Rob Johanson and son, Carl. Goranson Farm received a Soil Health Award at our 2013 Annual Banquet and Rob showed us how they increase soil fertility, reduce erosion, preserve water quality, and control weeds using no-till and cover cropping. We took time to visit – and shop at – the well-stocked farm stand before heading out.



Our third stop was *Hidden Valley Nature Center*. After a picnic lunch and homemade cookies, Director Andy McEvoy guided half the guests on a tour of the on-going sustainable forestry project, while Hildy Ellis (KLSWCD) took the rest of the group to the kettlehole bog via the 250-ft floating boardwalk, where we saw pitcher plants galore and a late-blooming orchid!



We ended the day at *NEWAIM Farm*, where Nancy Williams and Al Maloney breed CVM Romeldale sheep, sell wool, and operate an onsite fiber-processing mill powered by their grid-tied photovoltaic system, solar hot water and a new heat pump. NEWAIM has dramatically reduced its dependence on outside energy sources.

We are already looking forward to next year's tour of Knox County farms!

## NRCS Updates

In addition to assisting the Knox-Lincoln SWCD with the Conservation Fair, Union Fair display, Annual Awards Banquet, and education programs, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assisted producers in Knox and Lincoln counties through Federal Farm Bill programs. Below is a partial list of NRCS contributions to local landowners.

### Knox County

#### *Autumn Birt, District Conservationist*

- Participated in Read ME Ag
- Presentation on “Nonpoint Source Pollution in Agriculture” to Pen Bay Stewards
- Provided technical assistance to landowners on wild blueberry production, hayland production, manure management, soil information, aerial photo results, and erosion and water quality concerns
- USDA funding for 2014 included Federal Farm Bill obligations of more than \$125,000:
  - *Environmental Quality Incentives Program* – 10 contracts covering nearly 450 acres for \$127,940

### Lincoln County

#### *Peter Abello, District Conservationist*

- Provided technical advice on best ways to address natural resource concerns to 34 landowners in Lincoln County
- Developed conservation plans for 14 farms addressing natural resource concerns specific to soil, water, air, plants and animals
- Provided designs, construction oversight and project closeout on 38 conservation practices that addressed soil, water and wildlife habitat concerns on 17 farms
- USDA funding for 2014 included Federal Farm Bill obligations of more than \$190,000:
  - *Agricultural Management Assistance* (risk management) – 2 contracts for \$7,445
  - *Environmental Quality Incentives Program* – 12 contracts for \$184,003

# K-12 Education Highlights

## Conservation Fair

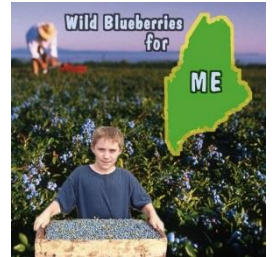
Every year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of September, we bring Knox-Lincoln students to the Union Fairgrounds for a day of conservation and environmental education. Here state and local professionals and volunteers engage them in interactive demonstrations and activities about food, farming, bee keeping, marine resources, forestry...and more.

In 2014, more than 700 elementary students joined us for this exciting educational event!



## Read ME Ag: Wild Blueberries for ME

Read ME Agriculture is a statewide program initiated by *Maine Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)* to introduce farming - and farmers - to area students. Education Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs and a cadre of volunteer readers that she recruited spent a week in March visiting local elementary schools to read the 2014 book, *Wild Blueberries for ME*, to more than 500 students in grades K-4.



In addition to reading the book, volunteers shared their own diverse backgrounds in horticulture, beekeeping, forestry, community supported agriculture and hobby farming with the classes.

*All participating teachers receive a copy of the book along with supplementary materials to use in future lessons, courtesy of MAITC.*

## NACD Annual Poster Contest

### Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil



Grade 4-6 winner  
Emma Gerrish  
Thomaston Grammar  
School



Grade 2-3 winner  
Abby Young  
Lura Libby School



Grade K-1 winner  
Henry Ackor  
Gilford Butler School

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District is pleased to announce – and congratulate – the winners of the annual conservation poster contest. This program is part of the National Association of Conservation Districts' contest, which each year sets a national stewardship theme. Rebecca Jacobs, KLSWCD education coordinator, presented a lesson on this year's theme, *Dig Deeper: Mysteries in the Soil*, to more than 650 K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students in 10 schools throughout Knox and Lincoln counties.

We greatly appreciate the enthusiasm, knowledge, and support of this year's judges – David Marceau from Gartley and Dorsky Engineering; Barry Tibbetts, KLSWCD Associate Supervisor; Mary Thompson, USDA-NRCS; and Sharon Chadwick, KLSWCD Supervisor – who evaluated 550 posters on content, visual effectiveness, originality, and universal appeal to select the winners.

*Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District congratulates all of the winners and commends all of the students for their efforts.*

# Annual Awards Banquet

*Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water  
Conservation District  
Annual Awards Banquet*



*Thursday, November 13, 2014  
North Nobleboro Community Hall*



Our Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for the first Wednesday in November, but because of the freak blizzard in early November we had to postpone it one week. Not only were the roads still pretty bad on November 5, but the North Nobleboro Community Hall where we hold the event didn't have power. More importantly, many of the homes of the wonderful women of Nobleboro, who bake the best pies, around also had not had power restored – and a banquet without pie is not a banquet, at all!

Fortunately, most everyone was able to attend on November 13 for the yearly gathering to enjoy a meal of home cooked food – and pie, to celebrate the presentation of conservation awards to friends and neighbors, and to hear an interesting talk by a guest speaker. This year's speaker was Duncan McSweeney of Backyard Farms in Madison.

Pictured below are this year's awards recipients. Not pictured are Irene Hawes of Union who received an award for *Conservation Teacher of the Year*, and Cheryl Denz of Appleton who received an award for *Promoting Agricultural Awareness*.



**Cooperating Conservation Farm of 2014  
Ben and Taryn Marcus  
Sheepscot General Farm, Whitefield**



**Lifetime Achievement in Promoting  
Conservation in Agriculture  
Mary Thompson, Union**



**Excellence in Conservation Education  
Brett Willard  
Merryspring Nature Center**



**Special Recognition for Natural  
Resource Conservation  
Mike Thompson, Union**



**District Volunteer of the Year  
Larry Thornburg (left), Richmond  
(with Herman Lovejoy, Alna)**

# Community Outreach

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District takes advantage of local fairs and events to share the conservation message. In 2014, we had interactive educational displays on various topics at:

- Hammond Tractor Open House
- Union Farm Equipment Open House
- Union Fair and Wild Blueberry Festival
- Tree Farm Field Day, Hidden Valley Nature Center
- Partnered with Waldo County SWCD to host a display at the Common Ground Country Fair on *Invasive Plants of Midcoast Maine*

In addition, we reach out through our dynamic website featuring District, NRCS, and other local conservation events, news, and publications of conservation interest; an active Facebook page; and an occasional – and lively – e-newsletter. All of these can be accessed from our website at [www.knox-lincoln.org](http://www.knox-lincoln.org) – come see us!



## Hammond Tractor/Union Farm Equipment Open Houses

In early spring, KLSWCD put together a display on soil health based on information and handouts provided by USDA-NRCS.



## 2014 Common Ground Country Fair

Knox-Lincoln and Waldo SWCD shared a booth at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity (Sep19-21) with literature and samples to help people identify invasive plants found in Midcoast Maine.

## At the Office

### Aerial Photos

The District office has a large collection of aerial photos taken of Knox and Lincoln counties in 1940, 1966, 1980, 1991, and 1996. These photos are available for anyone to look at during office hours. If you need a copy of a photo, we can scan and email one to you.

### Soil Test Kits and Planting Guides

We also have Soil Test Kits and a variety of planting guides on hand for you to pick up at your convenience. It is always a good idea to test your soil and follow the recommendations before planting a new garden area!

## Volunteers needed!

We often need an extra hand, whether for the *Plant Sale* - packing orders, helping customers with plant selections or finding new sources of locally grown plants; *education programs*, like Read ME Agriculture for K-4 students or the Conservation Fair; *staffing displays* at local events; *posting flyers* for events and workshops; *folding brochures*; or maybe you are interested in becoming an *associate supervisor* to help guide the district in its conservation efforts!

If you have a few hours – or a skill that you think we might be able to use – please contact Hildy or Rebecca at 596-2040 or [info@knox-lincoln.org](mailto:info@knox-lincoln.org).

# 2014 Financial report

Operating Expenses		Operating Income	
Salaries	64,831.74	County & State Funding	72,419.00
Payroll Taxes	5790.36	Business Contributions	645.00
Education Programs	4,360.44	Technical Assistance	5,463.35
Fundraising Expenses	18,100.67	Education Programs	5,860.61
Annual Meeting	1134.28	Fundraising Income	28,166.54
Travel/Meetings	2447.55	Annual Meeting	438.09
Dues	2427.50	Other	5,498.00
Fees/Permits	210.40	<b>Total</b>	<b>118,490.59</b>
Supplies	1096.02	<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>684.31</b>
Accounting	2171.29	<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>13,156.94</b>
Equipment & Repair	1690.44	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>14,066.56</b>
Computer Tech Support	507.35		
Printing & Postage	1110.98		
Rent	10,200.00		
Utilities	892.12		
Other expenses	609.83		
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,580.97</b>		

## 2014 Supporters

*Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District* extends our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following agencies and businesses, who, through their financial support in 2013, made it possible for us to provide educational programs and technical assistance to the residents of Knox and Lincoln counties.

### Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Commissioners, County of Knox  
Commissioners, County of Lincoln

Floor Magic

Ober & Barrett Builders

A.E. Sampson & Son

Fresh Off The Farm

Good Tern Coop

Green Thumb

Mid-Maine Forestry

Moose Crossing Garden Center

Rising Tide Coop

Rockport Automotive

Viking Lumber

## District Supervisors and Staff

### District Supervisors

Mark Hedrich, *Chair*  
Tim Hathorne, *Vice-Chair*  
Richard Parent, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
Sharon Chadwick  
Gary Balducci

### Associate Supervisors

Barrie Brusila  
Jan Goranson  
David Hayden

### Lifetime Honorary Supervisors

Robert Spear  
Barry Tibbetts

### District Staff

Hildy Ellis  
*District Coordinator*

Rebecca Jacobs  
*Education/Outreach Coordinator*

### Consulting Engineer

Stephen Roberge

### NRCS Staff

#### Augusta Field Office (*Lincoln County*)

Peter Abello  
Xandy Brown  
Bianca Diaz-Deliz  
Gregory Ranger

#### Belfast Field Office (*Knox County*)

Autumn Birt

### Engineer

Candi Gilpatric, PE

# 2015 Special Events

## **May 2 & 3, 2015: Spring Conservation Plant Sale at Union Fairgrounds**

Bareroot fruit trees & berry bushes, native trees, shrubs, and perennials for conservation, wildlife & ornamental plantings. Pre-order and cash & carry. Order forms will be available late January 2014.

## **May 3, 2015: Trout Stocking Sale pick up at Union Fairgrounds**

Brook and rainbow trout to stock your pond. Pre-order only (IF&W permit required). Order forms will be available late January 2014.

## **May 2015: Maine Envirothon for Grades 9-12**

## **Summer 2015: Ecology Camps at Merryspring Nature Center**

## **August 8, 2015: Conservation Farm Tour of Knox County**

## **September 24, 2015: Conservation Fair for Grades 5-8 at Union Fairgrounds**

## **November 4, 2015: Annual Awards Banquet at North Nobleboro Community Building**

Check our website ([www.knox-lincoln.org](http://www.knox-lincoln.org)) and Facebook page  
or call the District office at 596-2040  
for details of these and other programs and events.

*This report is printed on paper made from trees harvested from a forest managed to strict environmental, social and economic standards, and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international non-profit association working to improve forest management worldwide.*



**Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

*Conserving land & water resources*

893 West Street, #103 Rockport, Maine 04856

[www.knox-lincoln.org](http://www.knox-lincoln.org) | (207) 596-2040