

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District

2011 Annual Report

*Our mission is to provide assistance in conservation
of land and water resources for our community
through proactive efforts, actions, and education*

The 2011 Annual Report is dedicated to.....

Trudy Soucy

USDA Farm Service Agency County Executive Director,
Retired



*In recognition of over three decades of outstanding service and leadership to
the farmers and citizens of Knox and Lincoln counties.*

Best wishes on your retirement from the Board of Supervisors and Staff.

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Report
is published annually to provide information to the landuser.
If you have conservation questions or concerns, please contact us:

191 Camden Road, Warren, Maine 04864
207 273 2005 x101

info@knox-lincoln.org
www.knox-lincoln.org

Board meetings are held at 6:30pm on the second Wednesday of most months at the District office
and are open to the public.

All programs and services of Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a non-
discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, or
handicap.

Knox-Lincoln SWCD is a member of the non-profit Maine Association of Conservation Districts.

Chairman's Message – 2011

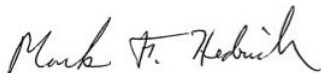
2010 certainly was another year of change, both across the world and within our District. Nevertheless, District supervisors, staff, and volunteers forged ahead delivering an impressive array of conservation and agricultural projects and services that benefit the residents of Knox and Lincoln Counties, most of which are detailed in this report. This year the Board welcomed Hildy Ellis, our new Conservation District Coordinator, to the team. Hildy is working closely with Rebecca Jacobs, our Education/Outreach Coordinator, on traditional tasks and many new initiatives, as well as filling the role of office manager.

It appears that more change is in the offing for 2012. Budget and other considerations have resulted in our long-standing partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, temporarily closing the Warren office, with Mary Thompson, our invaluable resource conservationist for many years, now operating out of the Waldo County office. Nevertheless, Mary and other NRCS staff, hopefully, still will be available to assist us when needed. The Farm Service Agency also now is serving our counties from their Kennebec office.

Our District office remains in Warren at this time; however, supervisors are seeking to lease office space in a central location within the counties, with an anticipated move in spring 2012. This change constitutes a radical departure from our traditional arrangement of co-location with our long-standing federal agency partners. Nevertheless, the District remains committed to offering the excellent services to residents, farmers, municipalities and others within our District to which they have become accustomed. Our visionary staff and supervisors continue to refocus priorities for meeting emerging needs and for remaining a relevant, vibrant force in agriculture and in natural resource conservation and education. New technologies, a diverse agricultural population, and ongoing natural resource concerns, coupled with limited personnel and financial resources, will require innovative ideas and decisive actions for us to move ahead. One of those bold visions includes effecting the means for owning our own building and office space!

Finally, the coming year promises to be another challenging one during which we see a continuation of the many efforts expended to conserve, improve, and utilize our local natural resources, as well as the adoption of many new initiatives. The continued support of our cooperators, partners, county commissioners, budget committee members and others is critical for getting this work accomplished. Conservation and stewardship have to be team effort, and we sincerely encourage you, our cooperators, and others, to join us in these endeavors!

Sincerely,



Mark F. Hedrich
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Meet the Board of Supervisors – Guiding the District into the Future

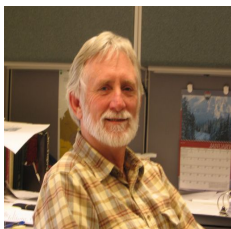


Mark F. Hedrich (Chair) has been an elected Supervisor since 1986. Mark and his wife, Linda Rose, own Agricola Farms, a diversified 117 acre farm in Union, where they raise forage crops, flowers, bedding plants, and vegetables, in addition to operating Agricola Farms County Store and a Gallagher Power Fence dealership. Mark graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with a B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Sciences and received an M.S. from Cornell University, specializing in ruminant nutrition. He is a former planner and administrator at Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, New York, a former dairy farmer, and has served on numerous regional and local committees. He was a member of the Executive Board of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) for 8 years, serving as President for two years.

Subsequently, he was a member of the MACD Advisory Council and served as Councilman to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), traveling extensively throughout the U.S. representing Maine. Mark also was active with the Farm Service Agency County Committee for 21 years, serving as Chairman for 10 years. Currently, Mark is the State Nutrient Management Program Coordinator for the Maine Department of Agriculture.



Tim Hathorne (Vice-Chair) joined the District in May of 2008 and is a strong advocate of the District's many environmental, agricultural/forestry, and educational programs. Tim's background includes both formal study and experience in agriculture, technology, animal and veterinary science, and over 40 years in education as a teacher, principal, and director/superintendent. He enjoys working with people to develop and implement soil and water conservation projects that are environmentally, socially, and economically friendly and has a special interest in alternative energy initiatives. Tim has been actively involved with "Agriculture in the Classroom" projects and volunteers regularly at the Plant Sale and Conservation Fair.



Rick Parent, Jr. (Secretary/Treasurer) became a District Supervisor in the fall of 2007. He lives in Warren with his wife, Ann, and daughter Molly, where he has a small custom sawmill. Rick graduated from Rockland District High School and the University of Maine. He worked for the ME Dept. of Agriculture in various capacities for about 12 years before transferring to the ME Dept. of Transportation where, for 26 years, he was a real estate manager with the highway program. Rick retired in April 2008 and is busier than ever, serving as a Knox County Commissioner and on several boards and committees, including Time & Tide RC&D Council.



Sharon G. Chadwick (Supervisor) lives with her husband, Gerald, and daughter Shelby at BenEva Farm in Warren, which was started more than 65 years ago by her grandparents, Ben and Eva Barbour. Sharon and Jerry "came home" to run the farm with Sharon's grandparents in 1988 and still operate as a conservation farm, raising commercial Black Angus beef for the freezer and feedlots, and selling hay. They expanded nutrient and pasture management practices with a manure storage facility, a heavy use pad area, and, recently, a livestock barn. In addition, Sharon works in laboratory research at Lonza BioScience in Rockland and Jerry works for the Nobleboro Sanitation Department. Sharon looks forward to judging the Annual Poster Contest and helping out at the Conservation Fair and Plant Sale.



Gary A. Balducci, Sr. (Supervisor) lives with his wife, Donna, at Wishing Well Acres, a 40-acre diversified family farm in Edgecomb. He has been farming for 28 years and provides customers with fresh, local products, including chickens, meat goats, lamb, holiday turkeys, llamas, and emus. Gary is President of the Knox-Lincoln County Farm Bureau, of which he has been a member for 17 years. In 2001, he received the Friend of the Farm Bureau Award as well as recognition for outstanding leadership. Gary is President of the Maine Poultry Growers Association, a Chairman of the Sheep and Goat Committee, and has been an instructor of the Knox-Lincoln County Tractor Safety Course for 10 years.

Honorary Lifetime Member



Robert W. Spear received Knox-Lincoln's Honorary Lifetime Membership Award in 2005. Bob served as an Associate Supervisor of Knox-Lincoln SWCD for 8 years and a Supervisor for 20 years, and was Maine's Commissioner of Agriculture from 1999-2005. His expertise and dedication are greatly appreciated by all who share his values of agriculture and conservation. Bob is generous of his time and talents, representing Maine across the US to ensure continuing accomplishments in resource conservation. Bob and his wife, Janet, reside in Nobleboro where they operate Spear's Vegetable Farm with their sons and grandchildren.

Associate Supervisors

Barrie Brusila, Warren
Donald Burke, Appleton

Jan Goranson, Dresden
Dave Hayden, Whitefield

Terry Spear, Nobleboro
Barry J. Tibbetts, Whitefield

Office Staff and Field Personnel – Providing technical and administrative assistance

Rebecca Jacobs, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Rebecca is a formally trained landscape designer with degrees from Springfield Technical Community College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Rebecca worked at Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary in Monson, MA – where she cultivated a strong interest in native and non-native invasive plants – and served on the Monson conservation and master plan committees, and the board of Opacum Land Trust, which serves 13 towns in south-central Massachusetts. Before joining the District in 2009, Rebecca was Education Coordinator at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. She now divides her professional time between the District and Gabriella's Gardens, her own landscape design/build business. She is a member of the design committee for Rockland Main Street, Inc. and a member for the Go! Malawi running team, raising funds for educational and environmental efforts in one of the world's most impoverished nations. In her free time, she enjoys hiking and traveling with her husband and daughter, running, biking, gardening (of course!), and, generally, anything that involves being outdoors.

Hildy Ellis, District Coordinator

Hildy has a degree in horticulture from the University of Maine where she also did graduate research on non-native invasive plants, which included studying an invasive population of *Euonymus alatus* at Oven's Mouth Preserve in Boothbay. In addition to working as a professional gardener in Knox County for many years, Hildy was Education Coordinator at Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve in New Hope, PA. She has long been interested in the effects of development on natural systems and is looking forward to putting her skills to work for Knox and Lincoln counties.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Autumn Birt is the USDA/NRCS Zone District Conservationist assigned the supervisory responsibilities for the midcoast zone, which covers Knox, Lincoln, Waldo, and Kennebec counties. Autumn holds a Masters of Science in Ecology & Environmental Science from the University of ME in Orono. She also holds a Studio Arts degree and enjoys painting and writing - when she can find the time. In addition to her art, she enjoys riding her motorcycle, sailing, gardening, hiking, and kayaking - anything that involves the outdoors.

Mary E. Thompson, USDA/NRCS Resource Conservationist, provides technical assistance to District Cooperators, landowners, municipalities, and state and federal agencies. In 2011, KLSWCD honored Mary with an Outstanding Service Award, in recognition of more than 19 years of helping the District with numerous projects and helping landowners in Knox and Lincoln counties implement projects authorized by the Farm Bill. Mary currently serves producers in Knox County from the NRCS Waldo office and is the Blueberry Specialist for Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, and Waldo counties. She graduated from Belfast Area High School and has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Maine. In her spare time, she swims with the Maine Masters swim team, enjoys camp, and tends her vegetable garden.

2011 Accomplishments

Looking Back and Looking Ahead...

- *Rebecca Jacobs, Education and Outreach Coordinator*

2011 is almost gone and we have much to be proud of:

- Our programs reached thousands of students, providing them with knowledge to become better stewards of our Earth.
- We connected landowners with information to make the best land-use decisions possible
- With the help of our partners, we addressed best management practices with both contractors and private landowners to ensure that water quality remains a priority, even when land use changes.

Looking ahead to 2012, I envision carrying forward all of these programs, but with better outreach. An improved website and updated handouts will help accomplish this goal. In addition, we will utilize the Knox-Lincoln Natural Resource Assessment to incorporate input from our educators, agricultural producers, and landowners about their needs for training and to brainstorm new programs. Here's to exciting opportunities and continued success!

K-12 Education

NACD Annual Poster Contest—Forests for People: More than you can imagine!

Students in grades K-6 participated in the National Association of Conservation District's annual poster contest. This year's theme was presented to the younger grades by playing a categorizing game in which students identified everyday objects made from forest products, namely trees. Once the kids caught on, they were very enthusiastic and everyone wanted to share an item they knew of that comes from a tree! The older students in grades 4-6 were challenged to a game of tree jeopardy. Though some of the questions were tough, remembering to phrase their answer in the form of a question was often the hardest part of the game!

Read ME Agriculture

"Agriculture for ME" was the name of the book for this year's Read ME Agriculture program that served over 500 students in grades K-4. Education Coordinator, Rebecca Jacobs and six volunteer readers spent a week visiting classrooms reading this book and sharing their own agricultural backgrounds ranging from horticulture, to forestry, to beekeeping, community supported agriculture, and hobby farming.

Envirothon

Mid-Coast Envirothon is a collaborative effort between Somerset SWCD, Kennebec SWCD, Waldo SWCD, and Knox-Lincoln SWCD. 17 teams participated on what turned out to be the nicest day of the year to date. The top four winners were as follows: 1st place: Jay H.S.; 2nd place: Nokomis H.S. Team A; 3rd place: Belfast H.S.; 4th place: Ellsworth H.S. Of note, Mid-Coast Envirothon's first place winner, Jay H.S., went on to win first place at the State Envirothon competition the following month and was invited to participate in the International Competition in New Brunswick, Canada.

Conservation Fair

Eight schools participated with over 250 middle school students for this daylong educational event held at the Union Fairgrounds on Thursday, September 29. 25 presenters from federal, state, and regional non-profit agencies provided interactive and informative presentations for small groups of students throughout the day ranging from invasive species to fiber arts and aquaponics to beekeeping. New to the event this year was a Conservation Trail: Students were provided a worksheet with fill in the blank and true/false questions. 50 conservation facts were placed on signs throughout the grounds and questions on the worksheet corresponded with each of the facts on the ground. Not only did the students have something to do while traveling from each presenter, they had something new to learn along the way.

Common Ground School Garden - Thomaston Grammar School

Through the generosity of a grant from Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, the District was able to assist the 5th graders at Thomaston Grammar School on the evolution of their Common Ground School Garden. Monthly and weekly programs helped students understand the math and science behind a successful garden. Students learned proper use of hand tools and each took their turn in the less thrilling jobs—like weeding! Produce from the garden went to the Good Shepherd Food Bank. Remaining funds from the grant were combined with a donation by Lowe's to purchase a much-needed tool shed.

Conservation Teachers of the Year

- Rebecca Jacobs, Education and Outreach Coordinator

Knox County: Anne Pavalkis Science Teacher, Thomaston Grammar School

I met Anne during poster contest presentations at the Thomaston Grammar School (TGS) in December of 2009, and learned of the recently established Common Ground School Garden. She expressed a need for help and I hoped to be able to fill it! A grant from Maine Agriculture in the Classroom made it possible for me to work with Anne, her colleague Lynn Snow, and the 5th graders at TGS to bring their garden to fruition. Anne's classroom is equal parts art and science, math and history. Using math as a base and the garden as inspiration, students create paintings learning perspective, proportion, and more. Mobiles of root systems, drying beans, and other interesting garden-related specimens hang from her ceiling. In the garden, there are no bad or unanswered questions. When a student asks to ID an insect or how something works, if Anne doesn't know the answer a sample is taken back to the classroom for research. Often Anne would say to me in desperation, "We have a lot to do in the garden," yet she managed to inspire the students to do more than anticipated. I greatly appreciate her enthusiasm and will probably never dig a hole for a tree or shrub again without picturing in my mind her lessons in radius, diameter, and circumference using a stick, string, and powdered sugar! Thank you, Anne, for showing your students the art in science and the science behind the arts – *and* for doing it in a way that students relate to, both in the classroom and the garden.

Lincoln County: Susan Kistenmacher Science Teacher, Wiscasset Middle School

Susan Kistenmacher's nomination came to me from her principal, Linda Bleile, at the Wiscasset Middle School. Linda simply couldn't say enough about what a committed and hard-working educator Susan is. Linda and Susan started together as the original 8th grade team at the Wiscasset Middle School over 30 years ago and Linda has remained a loyal supporter of Susan's work. When I met Susan, she spoke about the hands-on service learning projects she engages her student in, including: *Sheepscot River Watershed*: learning to better understand the watershed they live in; *Insect Collection*: studying classification, conservation, ecology; *Clamflat Restoration*: researching the relative success of four clamflat reseeding methods; and the *Chewonki Montsweag Brook Restoration*: monitoring a tributary for pH, channel shape, and vegetation. Sue also worked with Chewonki to help them align their programs to Maine Learning Results. Each year Sue takes her students to Chewonki for a daylong or overnight program. This past October, a grant allowed Sue to take her 8th grade class to Chewonki's weeklong program. Students backpacked, slept outside, went to the bathroom in the woods and not one student, not even the "girliest" of girls, complained. When told of her award Sue stated, "Of any award I could receive, none means more to me than one in conservation." We are proud to be able to recognize you for your efforts, Susan. Keep up the good work!

Adult Programs

Clam-flat Closure and Septic Systems Workshop

This program brought together several of our partners to raise awareness on the effects of improperly managed septic systems to our waterways, especially our clam-flats. Thank you to Maine Department of Agriculture, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Department of Marine Resources, and Time and Tide RC&D for their presentations.

Yardscaping

Dozens of concerned citizens participated in this program where landowners learned how to protect water quality, people, pets and wildlife, save time and money, and improve air quality on their properties

School Gardens 101 – University of ME Cooperative Extension and Maine School Garden Day

In April, Education Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs, was invited to teach the teachers in two separate events. Jacobs

focused on the importance of planning to guarantee a successful school garden. Site evaluation, stakeholders, and maintenance were among the many topics covered.

Loon & Lead Program/Lead Tackle Exchange

The Washington Lakes Association and Hill & Gully Snowmobile Club helped raise awareness of the effect of lead tackle on loons and the environment at snowmobile club's annual ice fishing derby.

Non-Native Invasive Ornamental Plants

Knox-Lincoln Education Coordinator, Rebecca Jacobs, and District Coordinator, Hildy Ellis, each presented a program on non-native invasive plants for Medomak Valley Land Trust and Wiscasset Conservation Commission, respectively. Attendees learned the harmful ecological effects of invaders and how to identify and manage infestations.

Technical Assistance

Voluntary Contractor Certification Program (VCCP)

Knox-Lincoln SWCD is the Midcoast Regional Evaluator for Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) VCCP, a program to certify individuals and companies involved in soil disturbance activities of greater than one cubic yard in a shoreland zone. This program, which becomes mandatory in 2013, requires individuals and contractors to complete one 8-hour training session and successful evaluation of an active construction site.

In 2011, we performed 13 site evaluations and certified 24 individuals from 12 different companies in 2011. Among other benefits, a certified contractor may advertise as a “DEP Certified Contractor” and be listed on the DEP website. All certified individuals may obtain any publication from the Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center Library at no charge and are eligible for discounts from four suppliers of erosion control products. For more information, see our website, www.knox-lincoln.org/contractor-certification.

Gravel Roads

In a cooperative effort with our partners Maine Association of Conservation Districts and DEP, Knox-Lincoln SWCD worked with two gravel road associations to aide in developing three-five year plans for improving road and water quality and reducing erosion, the #1

pollutant of surface water in Maine. Soil erosion is a natural process – how could something so natural be so bad? When we change the landscape from forest to yards, streets, farm fields, shopping centers, and roads, we accelerate soil erosion. Each year rainstorms and snowmelt wash tons – literally – of dirt off the land to the detriment of lakes and ponds, rivers and streams. DEP and the District are working hard to keep our waters clean!

LakeSmart

LakeSmart is a program of the Maine DEP that recognizes lakefront property owners for conservation practices that reduce erosion and promote water quality. Knox-Lincoln SWCD, in cooperation with the Pemaquid Watershed Association (PWA), is one of the regional site evaluators for this program. Interested property owners request an evaluation through a local lake or watershed association and a District employee visits the site to review landscape and management practices in the five following categories: 1. *Road, Driveway, and Parking Areas*; 2. *Structures and Septic System*; 3. *Lawn, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths*; 4. *Shorefront and Beach*; 5. *Undeveloped Land*. Knox-Lincoln SWCD completed 14 evaluations in the 2011 season, resulting in numerous awards and commendations. We would like to thank our partner, Pemaquid Watershed Association, for their commitment to this program.

Community Outreach

Natural Resource Assessment

In 2011, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) contracted districts statewide through Maine Association of Conservation Districts to write a Natural Resource Assessment (NRA) to identify concerns and needs of each district. Two public meetings were held, one each in Knox and Lincoln counties. Current census data and other regional environmental reports were combined with public input to provide evidence of priority concerns for each county. This information will be used by NRCS and the conservation district to focus energy and programs in areas of greatest concern. The report is divided into the following categories:

- Irrigated Cropland
- Non-irrigated Cropland
- Hay & Pasture
- Forest Landscapes
- Urban Landscapes
- Water Landscapes
- Farmstead/Headquarters/Livestock Concentration Area
- Other (Organic, Small Scale Farm, Aquaculture...)

Some major concerns in our district were identified as non-point source pollution, invasive species, soil and water quality, and erosion control. One item of note is that although average per farm acreage is down, both Knox and Lincoln counties experienced an increase in the number of farms (11% and 24%, respectively) from 2002-2007 for a total of 60,000 acres of farmland and 667 farms.

Open Farm Day – July 24, 2011

Every July, farms all over the state open their gates to the public and provide tours, tastes, and activities. In 2011, the following farms in our counties participated in this family event:

Lincoln County

Beau Chemin Preservation Farm
Bridge Farm
Cloud Hollow Farm

County Fair Farm
Hidden Valley Nature Center
Morris Farm

Shepards and Nonesuch Farms
Stones Edge Farm
Two Sons Alpaca Farm

Knox County

Agricola Farms
Black Locust Farm
Brae Maple Farm

Glendarragh Lavender Farm
Guini Ridge Farm
Savage Oakes Vineyard & Winery

Seabreeze Farm
Spruce Mountain Blueberries
Sweetgrass Farm Winery & Distillery

Union Fair Display – August 20 - 27, 2011

The centerpiece of our volunteer-staffed booth at the Union Fair in 2011 was our new tri-fold display and informative brochures, both of which highlight our programs and events. We also held a free raffle for a ticket for the Conservation Bus Tour, which was won by Barbara Carney of Washington.

Website, Facebook, and E-Newsletter

One of our primary goals for 2011 was to improve our outreach and communication by upgrading our website, establishing a Facebook page, and initiating an e-newsletter. By using electronic communication, we can keep our constituents informed and up to date on programs, events, and news, while saving on paper and postage.

Our new website includes information about all of our K-12 and adult education programs, an events calendar, plant and trout sale information and order forms, as well as a resources section with a news journal for USDA-NRCS press releases as well as local and District items of conservation interest to farmers and landowners. Other items of interest include a guide to farmers markets and farmstands in Knox and Lincoln counties and a tutorial on how to use the USDA Web Soil Survey. Be sure to visit us at www.knox-lincoln.org, on our Facebook page, and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

Special Events

Plant Sale – May 7, 2011

In the spring, Knox-Lincoln SWCD coordinated the 2011 Plant Sale. The goal of the sale is to provide native and non-invasive trees, shrubs, fruits, berries, and Maine-grown perennials to residents to use in home and garden landscapes, buffers, and wildlife plantings. This event reached over 150 families with information on the proper care & maintenance for their bare-root stock selections. Additional information available highlighted conservation practices that landowners can use in their own yards to promote soil and water stewardship.

Working side by side, dedicated District supporters helped sort stock and prepare customer's orders at Spear Farms on the Friday before the sale. Revenue generated by this fundraiser is returned to the community in the form of conservation education programs and activities. As with all major fundraising events, many months of preparation and planning take place prior to the actual sale day and could not be accomplished without the dedication and support of our volunteers.

Our 2012 Plant Sale will be held at Union Fairgrounds and will include an Education Fair with expanded information and displays, as well as a series of "10-minute talks" on plant and soil related topics.

Trout Sale – May, 2011

Since 1947, the District has held a trout-stocking sale every spring, to offer local pond owners the opportunity to stock

their ponds with rainbow and brook trout. After obtaining a permit from the Dept. of Inland Fish and Wildlife, pond owners picked up their fish in oxygen- and water-filled bags or, in some cases, had the fish delivered right to their ponds.

Conservation Bus Tour – October 6, 2011

Early on the clear, frosty morning of October 6, a hardy group of 31 Knox and Lincoln County residents met at the Conservation District office in Warren for the annual Conservation Bus Tour. This year the group traveled to four Lincoln County destinations:

- An award-winning LakeSmart property on Damariscotta Lake in Jefferson (Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association),
- Morris Farm and Education Center in Wiscasset,
- Dragonfly Cove Farm in Dresden, and the
- Backyard Apiary of Jean and Dick Vose in Nobleboro (Knox-Lincoln County Beekeepers).

The weather was glorious, the scenery was spectacular, the food was delicious, and everyone learned something new - whether about the relationship between erosion and water quality, the importance of conserving farmland and buying locally produced foods, companion planting and how to attract pollinators, or just how much cider you can press from not very many apples! As one participant pronounced at the end of the day, it was "nothing short of magical!"

2011 Awards Banquet at Nobleboro Community Building – November 3, 2011



Excellence in Conservation Education
Herring Gut Learning Center



Cooperator of the Year
Bill and Holly Wilkinson



Streambank and Habitat Restoration
Tim Hathorne, Maxey Hannan, Helen Zahn (not pictured-John & Catherine Field)

Conservation Teachers of the Year



Susan Kistenmacher
Wiscasset Middle School



Anne Pavalkis
Thomaston Grammar School



Water Quality Improvement
Spear's Farm, Inc.



Lifetime Service to Agriculture
Trudy Soucy



Special Recognition for Outstanding Service
Mary Thompson



District Volunteer of the Year
Nancy Brown

Reports from Our Partners

Natural Resources Conservation Service – 2011 in Review

- Mary Thompson USDA/NRCS Resource Conservationist

Conservation work continues to be implemented on our Knox-Lincoln county farms, fields, and forests and it was a pleasure to be involved with those projects that were selected for funding. In 2011, close to 80 people contacted the office for technical assistance and many more have called or emailed for District business and everyday NRCS operations.

Several Farm Bill Programs provide funding to complete conservation practices according to priorities established by the Knox-Lincoln USDA Local Work Group. The priorities for 2011 were:

- High – animal waste issues and cropland, which included hayland and wild blueberry fields, and pasture areas
- Medium – forestry concerns
- Low – wildlife opportunities

The programs that were utilized in Knox and Lincoln counties for 2011 included:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): 37 contracts developed, which included contracts for developing forest management plans: \$238,960.76.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)-Forestry Initiative: five contracts approved: \$56,000.27.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): two contracts: \$12,599.00.
- Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program: one contract: \$22,341.00.
- Total: 44 contracts funded (out of 65 applications submitted): \$329,901.03

In addition, 5095 acres of conservation plans were developed in conjunction with these contracts.

In July, the Natural Resources Conservation office in Warren was temporarily closed and Mary Thompson was detailed to the Belfast office, while still covering operations in Knox and Lincoln counties. Since mid-October, clients in Knox County are served from the Belfast office (338-1964 x3) and clients in Lincoln County are served by the Augusta office (622-7847 x3). If you are unsure which office to contact, please call the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District at 273-2005 x101; either Hildy or Rebecca can direct you to the appropriate office or perhaps they can help you!

While we get used to these changes, conservation work remains to be implemented in the Knox-Lincoln area. If you have conservation questions or concerns, don't hesitate to give us a call at any of the numbers previously listed.

Farm Service Agency Report

- Maria Granger, County Executive Director

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) supports farmers through commodity and credit programs designed to stabilize and enhance the counties' rural landscapes. FSA employees administer price support, conservation assistance, disaster assistance, and farm loans through Direct & Counter-Cyclical Payment, Conservation Reserve Program, Milk Income Loss Contract Program, Market Loss Assistance Program. FSA also administers the Farm Loan Program, which makes and guarantees loans for youth, new and experienced farms, and producers undergoing emergency situations, as well as credit counseling and supervision to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. FSA loan applicants are often beginning farmers who do not qualify for conventional loans because of insufficient net worth, or established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters or economic downturns. FSA loans are tailored to a producer's needs and may be used to buy farmland and finance agricultural production. Farm Loan Manager, Brenda Wells, can be reached in our Augusta office at (207) 622-7847 x2.

As some of you may know, FSA has experienced some funding cuts, which included Maine losing its temporary employees. Cindy Bland, Program Technician, was one of the temps we lost in June, 2011. Trudy Soucy, County Executive Director (CED), retired at the end of August. Since then, staff from the Waldo and Kennebec offices have covered the Warren office as travel funds allow. The new CED for Knox and Lincoln counties is Maria T. Granger, who also manages Kennebec and Waldo Counties from her office at the Augusta USDA Service Center, Kennebec County FSA Office, 21 Enterprise Drive, Augusta, ME 04330, (207) 622-7847 x2. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FSA is now offering free online communications through our GovDelivery electronic news service, sent via email to your home, office, or Smartphone, which allows you to receive immediate notification of farm program news. Subscribers have the option to choose information by topic and by state/county. To subscribe online, go to <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/subscribe>.

Time & Tide (T&T) Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)

- Nancy Chandler, Monmouth, Maine

Much of 2012 was spent communicating with Maine's Congressional Senators and Representatives to try to retain funding for the RC&D staff and office space. After abruptly losing our two staff members in April, the board met monthly to determine how to recover our computer records, clean out our storage area and offices, and move computer, tables, and records into a storage locker. Dale Finseth, director of Kennebec Soil & Water Conservation District, has been forwarding our mail and phone calls, and we have decided to contract out this work in 2012. In 2012 we also will be contracting with a part-time project manager to add and administer projects for T&T.

In 2011, we created a printed farm map of Kennebec County, gave out four school garden grants of \$100 each in Kennebec and Waldo counties, helped organize speakers for the April Maine School Garden Network teacher workshop, helped plan the Kennebec River Celebration, and provided transportation for river boaters. We continue to fund the innovative work of Susan Gammon at Androscoggin Soil & Water Conservation District to develop a soil carbon measuring system in an effort to develop a market mechanism to sell carbon credits and to promote organic soil additive farm practices that will sequester carbon. We reestablished our website at www.timeandtide.org. T&T board members provided leadership to the other four Maine RC&Ds in telephone conferences and drafting a Congressional delegation letter of support for all Maine RC&Ds. In the summer of 2012, we will be hosting an all day workshop to teach farmers improved business practices to reduce risks, which will include using the Agrilite whole farm insurance program and a demonstration of effective, hand-operated weeding tools.

We would like to thank some of the many agencies and organizations that partner with us to bring you many services and programs -

Maine Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of Conservation Districts
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farm Service Agency
Maine Department of Agriculture
Maine Department of Conservation
Maine Forest Service

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries
Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension
Maine Agriculture in the Classroom
Maine School Garden Network
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
Pemaquid Watershed Association
Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association

Thanks to our state legislators

Rep. Chuck Kruger (D-Thomaston)
Rep. Walter A. Kumiega III (D-Deer Isle)
Rep. Edward J. Mazurek (D-Rockland)
Rep. Andrew R. O'Brien (D-Lincolnville)
Rep. Deborah J. Sanderson (R-Chelsea)
Rep. Wesley E. Richardson (R-Warren)
Rep. W. Bruce MacDonald (D-Boothbay)
Rep. Dana L. Dow (R-Waldoboro)

Rep. Leslie T. Fossel (R-Alna)
Rep. Jonathan B. McKane (R-Newcastle)
Rep. Joan W. Welsh (D-Rockport)
Sen. Brian D. Langley (R-Hancock)
Sen. Christopher W. Rector (R-Knox)
Sen. Seth Goodall (D-Sagadahoc)
Sen. Christopher K. Johnson (D-Lincoln)

Special thanks to our volunteers - we couldn't do it without you!

And thanks to the Commissioners of Knox and Lincoln counties for their generous support.

2011 Financial Report

Income			Expenditures		
Annual Meeting		535.00	Accounting		2,385.92
Conservation Bus Tour		820.00	Annual Meeting		1,026.17
Conservation Fair			Awards		-
	Anonymous Donation	2,500.00	Bus Tour		1,119.58
	Camden National Bank	150.00	Computer Tech Support		-
	Book sales	20.00	Conservation Fair		1,500.33
Envirothon		500.00	Dues		2,075.00
Education & Outreach			Envirothon		202.66
	Non-Native Invasive Species	55.00	Equipment & Repair		310.21
Plant Sale		13,985.37	Fees & Permits		72.00
Trout Sale		4,166.25	LLWG		-
Counties (Knox & Lincoln)		40,025.00	Web/Utilities		976.70
State of Maine		17,500.00	Office Supplies		792.49
Other funding sources:			Other		1,342.12
	Contractor Certification	2,006.38	Postage		159.20
	LakeSmart	819.96	Publications & Printing		2,113.95
	Loon & Lead Project	500.00	Trainings & Meetings		314.00
	MAITCA	500.00	Travel & Expense		2,257.86
	Natural Resources Assessment	3,500.00	Plant Sale		13,016.56
	Sub -total funding sources	87,589.80.	Trout Sale		3,338.00
Other income:			Education & Outreach		765.50
MEMIC Refund		127.21	Payroll		
Checking Interest		6.79		District Coordinator	18,870.37
	Subtotal other	134.00		Education Coordinator	20,873.21
	Total	87723.80		Intern	823.50
			Employer's Payroll Contribution		15,377.19
Investment income			Workers Compensation Insurance		469.00
	CDs	223.30			
	Oxton Fund	3,330.19			
	Subtotal investment income	3680.70			
	2011 Income Total	91,404.50	2011 Expenditures Total		90,181.52

2012 Calendar of Events

Please check our website (www.knox-lincoln.org) for more details or to register for these and other programs.
Or, get in touch by phone or email: 207 273 2005 x101 | info@knox-lincoln.org

January

1	Office closed	
10-12	ME Agricultural Trade Show	all day
16	Office closed	
18	District Board Meeting	6:30p

February

4	Native Plants for Water Quality, Wildlife, & WOW	1p
8	Poster Contest Judging	noon
8	District Board meeting	1p
20	Office closed	

March

14	District Board meeting	6:30p
16-19	Read ME Ag Week	by appt.
28	Lush Lawns Without Chemicals (Five Towns Adult Ed)	noon
29	Conservation Landscaping Series: Lush Lawns Without Chemicals (RSU 13 Adult Ed)	6-8p

April

5	Conservation Landscaping Series: Native Plants for Water Quality, Wildlife, & WOW (RSU 13 Adult Ed)	6-8p
11	District Board meeting	6:30p
12	Conservation Landscaping Series: Beef Up Your Buffer - Why More IS Better (RSU 13 Adult Ed)	6-8p
16	Office closed	
19	Project WET Educator Training (K-12)	9-3:30
26	Midcoast Regional Envirothon	all day

May

5	Plant Sale (pre-order/cash& carry) & Education Fair	9-3
6	Plant Sale (pre-order/cash& carry), continued	10-2
6	Trout pick-up – pre-order only!	noon
9	District Board meeting	6:30p
17	Invasive Plants of Midcoast Maine (co-sponsored by Rockport Conservation Commission)	6:30-8p
28	Office closed	

June

5	Planning a Successful Timber Harvest	9-noon
13	District Board meeting	6:30p
20	Pond Construction & Maintenance	5:30-7:30p

July

4	Office closed	
11	District Board meeting	6:30p
18	Conservation Landscaping Series: Lush Lawns Without Chemicals (with Pemaquid, Muscongus, & Damariscotta Lake Watershed Assns.)	7-8:30p
25	Conservation Landscaping Series: Native Plants for Water Quality, Wildlife, & WOW (with Pemaquid, Muscongus, & Damariscotta Lake Watershed Assns.)	7-8:30p

August

1	Conservation Landscaping Series: Beef Up Your Buffer - Why More IS Better (with Pemaquid, Muscongus & Damariscotta Lake Watershed Assns.)	7-8:30p
8	District Board meeting	6:30p
14	Invasive Plants of Ovens Mouth Preserve (co-sponsored by Boothbay Regional Land Trust)	10a
18-25	Union Fair	
28	Moonlight Nature Walk (co-sponsored by Coastal Mountains Land Trust)	7-8:30p

September

3	Office closed	
12	District Board meeting	6:30p
27	Conservation Fair	9-1:30

October

6	Conservation Bus Tour: Knox County	8-4
8	Office closed	
10	District Board meeting	6:30p

November

1	Annual Meeting/Awards Banquet/ Supervisor Election	6:30p
12	Office closed	
22	Office closed	

December

12	District Board meeting	6:30p
25	Office closed	