

Impact Report

2022

Our Story

Our Mission

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

Knox-Lincoln SWCD is non-regulatory community leader that responds to local natural resource issues. Our District has a long history of promoting the sustainable use of those resources through soil & water education for children and adults, as well as providing technical assistance and outreach to individuals and municipalities. These activities are guided by a board of five supervisors, and two non-voting associate supervisors, who serve as unpaid volunteers, as well as a part-time program manager, a part-time program coordinator, a part-time office manager and a part-time conservation technician .

Celebrating 75 Years of Conservation & Education

Our Purpose

We promote the sustainable use of natural resources and have been fulfilling our mission of conserving land and water resources since 1947. We accomplish this through delivery of technical assistance, education (K-12 and Adult), special events, and outreach to public and private landowners, municipalities, and watershed associations.



Our Annual Banquet allowed us to celebrate 75 years with old friends and new. We heard about the history and evolution of the District over 7.5 decades from Mark Hedrich, Robert Spear, Mary Thompson, Tom Gordon, Peter Abello and Ron Desrosiers.

About the District

Board of Supervisors in 2023

- Mark Hedrich, Supervisor Chair
- Diane Schivera, Supervisor Vice–Chair
- Jeff Tarbox, Supervisor Treasurer / Secretary
- Nancy Prisk, Supervisor
- Karin Rector, Supervisor
- Barrie Brusila, Associate Supervisor
- Sharon G. Chadwick, Associate Supervisor
- Barry Tibbetts, Honorary Lifetime Member
- Robert Spear, Honorary Lifetime Member

Staff

- Rebecca Jacobs, Program Manager
- Julie Sells, Office Manager
- Louisa Crane, Program Coordinator
- Mary Thompson, Conservation Technician

Natural Resources Conservation Staff:

Lincoln County:

- Amanda Burton, District Conservationist
- Xandy Brown, Soil Conservation Technician

Knox County:

- Peter Abello, District Conservationist
- Lindsay Johnston–Fennell, Soil Conservationist
- Courtney Hawkins, Soil Conservationist

National Recognition for Mark Hedrich

The National Association of Conservation Districts' inducted Mark Hedrich into their Hall of Distinction. Mark's service and contributions span local, state, and national conservation. His volunteer leadership in chairing the Knox–Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District for multiple decades—36 continuous years of service—has impacted the local area through identifying and addressing natural resource priorities, highlighting and assisting with resource concerns unique to the region, as well as supporting education and outreach to inform local landowners of services available, funding opportunities, and issues important to landowners of all levels; from recent landowners to beginning farmers to diverse operation property owners/managers.

For more information about NACD and the Hall of Distinction, please see: <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/nacd-history/hall-of-distinction/>.

Best Wishes to Ron Desrosiers on his Retirement

At the end of 2022, a valued member of our team, Ron Desrosiers, NRCS District Conservationist, said his farewell as he began a new chapter in his journey, called retirement. Over the years, Ron guided the District through his participation in our monthly Board meetings and showed much interest in Knox County blueberry fields. Most recently, he assisted in identifying, researching and establishing soil types specific to Knox County. As a result, the Knox County soil types were added to the Locally Important Soils classifications in NRCS/USDA resources. Ron spearheaded an information session held at a local blueberry farm highlighting NRCS programs in action. Over the years, he was generous with his time, commitment, research and institutional knowledge. He will be missed.

Our 2022 Focus

1

Technical Services

Provide conservation planning and technical assistance to landowners and units of government on request. Maintain and enhanced good working relationships and encouraged use of resource data by municipalities, county, state and federal agencies, lake associations, conservation groups, and the general public. Provide services and support community groups on request including those that serve minorities, women, and persons with disabilities who would benefit from District programs.

3

Grant-Funded Projects

Participate in grant projects that provide technical assistance and/or educational opportunities to constituent audiences.

2

Public Awareness, Outreach & Education

Present an information and education program that will inform the general public as well as agriculture, forestry and contractor audiences about conservation issues related to the protection of natural resources.

4

Develop District Capacity

Increase capacity of District to provide current and additional programs and services.

Our 2022 Strategy

In 2022, Knox–Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District offered an array of workshops and special events on Climate Adaptation Resilience to a wide range of clients, including local landowners and communities, throughout Knox and Lincoln counties

Our primary goal was to help individuals and communities in Knox and Lincoln counties maintain the highest quality environment possible through the wise use of our land, water, forest, wildlife, and related resources. We strive to achieve this goal by providing educational workshops, materials, programs, and one-on-one assistance.

Following are highlights of a few projects and educational efforts, including traditional conservation work on private land, controlling erosion, and improving water quality.

PROJECTS	DETAILS	OUTCOME
Invasive Plant Management Plans	Collaborated with Maine Forest Service, Georges River Land Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to survey properties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surveyed 12+ properties and created invasive plant management plans
Conservation Landscape Certification Program (CLC)	Partnered with Waldo SWCD to bring CLC program to Knox and Lincoln counties ensuring healthy ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held 5 events, 200+ attendees. Bus tour visited 5 certified properties.• In 2022, 16 active CLC program participants with 8 certified.
Youth Education	Provided hands-on programming in Knox & Lincoln County schools, including two innovative programs: Pollinator Party programs and Learning Landscapes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented to 1285 students in 20 schools• 2023 Pollinator Party programs funded through Maine Ag in the Classroom grant
Invasive Forest Pest Grant	Disseminated information about Spotted Lantern Fly, Asian Long-horned Beetle, Oak Wilt Disease and Beech Leaf Disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tabled at several local fairs• Partnered with MFS to release Hemlock Woolly Adelgid biologic control

Project Highlight

Conservation Landscape Certification Program and Conservation Bus Tour of Knox and Waldo Counties



5 core criteria in the Conservation Landscape Certification program are: providing wildlife habitat, soil & water conservation, invasive species management, plant for health ecosystem and IPM & organic practices.

16 residential owners in Knox and Lincoln counties actively pursuing Conservation Landscape Certification in 2022.

Held 5 educational events with 200+ overall attendees to explain the Conservation Landscape Certification Program and 5 core criteria.

In 2022, the following earned Conservation Landscape Certification:

- Will Addis & Hayley McKinnon
- Amy Flanagan
- Lori Geiger
- Michelle Henkin
- Joan Herzog
- Jane Schroeder
- Karen Searls
- Ernie & Cindy Wright



55 attendees on our Conservation Bus Tour that toured 4 residential properties and 1 public park certified as Conservation Landscapes in Knox and Waldo counties.

Adult Outreach & Education

1,331+

Held 15+ workshops, trainings, events with over 1,331 attendees. Programs in collaboration with US EPA, Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection, Maine Forest Service, NRCS, Waldo SWCD, Midcoast Conservancy, Boothbay Land Trust, Merryspring Nature Center, Georges River Land Trust, and several local Conservation Commissions.

Workshop topics included: Invasive Plant Management, Conservation Landscape Certification Program, Backyard Birding, Invasive Plant Species Walk 'n Talk, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Biologic Release, Apple Tree Pruning and Contractor Trainings

Assisted 65+ landowners for Conservation Technician assistance, including invasive plant surveys and management plans, erosion control guidance, pond maintenance, nutrient management plans and aerial photos.

65+



19+

19+ local news stories published and 14 eNewsletters to 1750+ subscribers with average of 59.25% open rates.



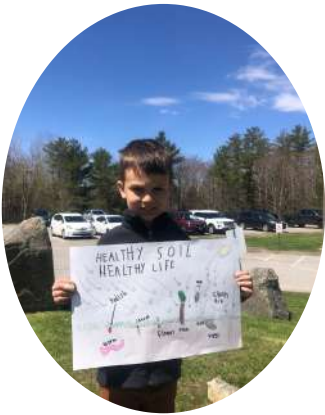
Youth Education

60

60 Second graders enjoyed our Pollinator Party Programs that offered multiple interactive learning stations.

1285 students reached through NACD's Poster Contest: "Healthy Soil; Health Life", Read ME Ag, Pollinator Parties, and Learning Landscapes program.

1285



Grades K-1 Category Winner:

Mark Bowen (Kindergarten), Union Elementary School



Grades 2-3 Category Winner:

Sebastian Bathe Oyer (3rd Grade), Chewonki Elementary and Middle School



Grades 4-6 Category Winner:

Ophelia Larsen (5th Grade), Lincolnville Central School

20

20 schools in Knox and Lincoln Counties held KLSCWD hands-on educational programs.

500+

Local residents who purchased & planted bareroot native plants, shrubs, trees, & wildflower seeds, bought rain barrel or compost bins, stocked private ponds with rainbow and native brook trout

\$25,826+

Net income from conservation fundraising sales efforts our conservation programs

Annual Spring Plant Sale

Knox-Lincoln SWCD expanded the traditional “shrub sale” into a springtime event that not only provides high quality fruit and berry plants to local residents, but also native trees, shrubs and perennials. Along with this event being the largest annual fundraiser, the District’s goal is to provide the community with high quality, bareroot plants at very discounted prices. Selections are excellent for conservation and ornamental plantings, AND great choices for pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife.

Backyard Composting and Rain Barrel Sale

In cooperation with Maine Resource and Recovery Association, we offer local residents the opportunity to improve soil and conserve water right in their own backyards at deep discount prices. In 2022, we continued to see a record number of property owners take advantage of this opportunity, particularly with installing rain barrels.



Spring Trout Stocking Sales

Every May, we sponsor an annual trout stocking sale for your home or farm pond. Private ponds that are stocked with trout provide multiple benefits for landowners and their families. Homeowners come back year after year for the rainbow and brook trout.

Wildflower Seeds Sale

October is the perfect month to sow wildflower seeds for spring growth. Our first annual seed fundraiser sale sold out quickly. We offered a variety of seed combinations to plant meadows to shaded areas. An easy-to-grow solution and supportive of pollinators, wildflowers are great to seed in small space gardens, fill a side yard, or plant across acres of land.

Publication Sales

Throughout the year, we offer two publications from the State: Forest Trees of Maine and Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide.

This field guide was released by Maine Natural Areas Program and covers **46 species** of terrestrial and wetland invasive plants and is waterproof, portable, and ring-bound to allow for future additions. Each species account includes key identification characteristics, growth form, habitats invaded, control methods, similar native and non-native plant species, and current status of the plant in Maine.

We thank the following businesses for your ongoing support of our conservation programs and activities.

Thank you to our Goldenrod Sponsors:

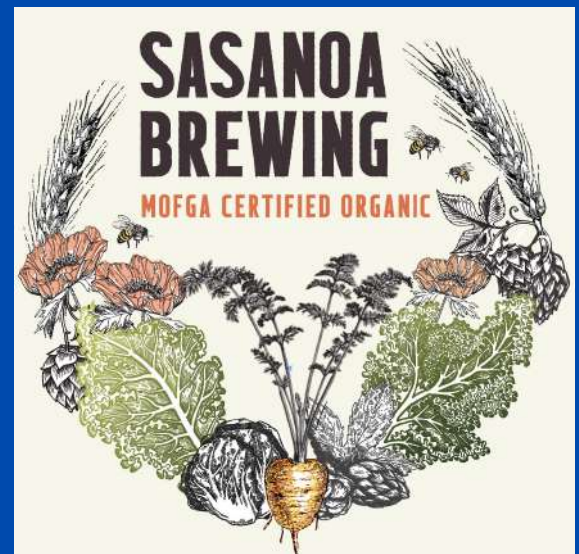


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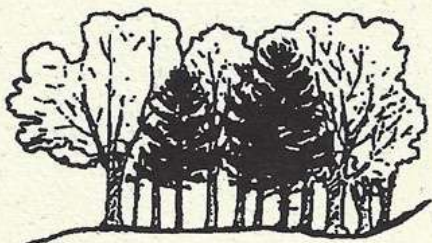


2022 Financial Statement

2022 Operating Expenses		2022 Operating Income	
Salaries/Staff training	106,220.16	County & State Funding	86,126.00
Payroll Expenses	9,195.10	Uncategorized	10,000.00
Technical Assistance	703.94	Technical Assistance Fees	4,017.51
Education Programs	6,085.85	Education Programs	10,709.79
Fundraising Expenses	39,285.63	Fundraising & Donation	65,629.24
Annual Meeting	889.00	Annual Meeting	1,823.05
Grant Expenses	3,165.00	Grant Income	5,348.68
Travel/Meetings	1,989.34	Total Operating Income	183,691.65
Dues	3,022.50		
Fees/Permits	80.00	2021 Non-operating Income	
Office Supplies	456.00	Interest Income	37.38
Accounting Fees	1,121.21	Total Non-Operating Income	37.38
Computer Tech Support	125.00		
Printing & Postage	1,843.31	Total Income	183,691.65
Advertising & Promotion	1,129.00	Total Expense	194,473.80
Rent/Utilities/Equip	18,600.48	Net income	-10,782.15
Subscriptions	469.70		
Other	92.58		
Total Expense	194,473.80		

Thank you to our Silverrod Sponsors:

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We thank the following individuals & organizations for supporting us through donations and/or volunteering at our events.

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Chuck Marecic
Dewey Meteer
Diane Schivera
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Sue Mcleod
Tina Hall
Valerie Dornan

and anyone we may have missed!

ME Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry
Commissioners, County of Knox
Commissioners, County of Lincoln
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Boothbay Region Land Trust
Boothbay Regional Water District
Coastal Mountains Land Trust
George's River Land Trust
Merryspring Nature Center
Midcoast Conservancy
Stewardship Education Alliance
Waldo County SWCD



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