



KNOX-LINCOLN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2018 Annual Report

Letter from Mark Hedrich, Board of Supervisors Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District had a record year in 2018 for providing educational programs and technical assistance for citizens seeking guidance for utilizing and conserving their soil, water, forestry and wildlife resources. Your Knox-Lincoln District has been providing this assistance to local constituents for over 70 years utilizing a voluntary, non-regulatory approach. This Annual Report will describe some of our many achievements of the past year and suggest new opportunities that we will pursue in the future.

Our District's educational and technical assistance programs continue to expand under the expertise and guidance of Program Managers Rebecca Jacobs and Hildy Ellis, our Administrative Assistant Julie Sells, and Technical Advisor Mary Thompson. These programs include the Conservation Fair, School Garden projects, Envirothon, Annual Poster Contest, Read ME Agriculture, Farmer in the Classroom, Ecology Camps, Farmer/Gardener Workshops, Sediment and Erosion Control Trainings, Septic System Maintenance, Invasive Plant Surveys, Invasive Forest Pests, and many others. Clearly, the Knox-Lincoln staff have developed a strong presence in our counties and have provided a vast array of educational and technical services that have benefitted thousands of our local landowners, farmers, municipalities, students and others in the utilization and conservation of our abundant, but not unlimited, soil, water, forestry and wildlife resources. Our formal educational programs reached over 2100 students this year and hundreds of adults. The hard work and dedication of our staff is what makes all of this happen.

These achievements also are testament to the commitment of our volunteer Board of Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, and scores of volunteers, and our associations with various partner agencies and organizations, particularly the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Farm Service Agency, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, various watershed groups, and others. I also want to recognize the Knox and Lincoln County Commissioners, their associated Budget Committees, the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and others who generously provide us with funding, which supplements our own fundraising efforts, for carrying out these programs for the benefit of residents and our environment.

Our abundant natural resources continue to be the basis for our existence, and all of us must be acutely cognizant of this fact. Support for natural resource-based enterprises, particularly those directly involving livestock and crop production, must be a continuing focus of support through our education and technical assistance endeavors. Knox-Lincoln farms produce an array of products, ranging from fresh locally-grown, nutritious and safe food, and fiber products. These agricultural enterprises consist of diversified, small farms producing meat, milk, eggs, fiber, vegetables, fruits, herbs, and an array of value-added products that range from sheep and goat cheeses to delicious jams, and even wines and beer! The superior quality of these products marketed from our farms, either directly to the consumer or through commercial outlets, will guarantee a continued increase in demand for these items. Farmers increasingly are under pressure to satisfy multiple, often competing, demands to produce more crops, obtain appropriately skilled employees, fulfill consumer preferences, protect the environment, and somehow make a living.

(continued on page 11)

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Year in Review – Highlights of 2018

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Accomplishments in 2018

In 2018, Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District offered an array of workshops and special events to a wide range of clients, including local landowners and communities throughout Knox and Lincoln counties. Our primary goal is 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.



Adult Education Programs

- KLSWCD Program Manager Hildy Ellis and Maine Forest Service District Forester Morten Moesswilde co-led nine Small Scale Woodland Stewardship Tours. Over 100 people attended.
- In collaboration with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Mid-Coast Farmer Alliance and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Hildy Ellis organized six Farmer & Gardener programs for over 100 participants.
- KLSWCD Program Manager, Rebecca Jacobs co-sponsored an Environmental Book Club with Appleton Library and Deer Foot Farm Café, meeting four times for lively educational discussions of two books: *Beyond the War on Invasive Species* and *Bringing Nature Home*.
- Natural History & Native Plants, Conservation Landscaping series, Apple Tree Pruning and Backyard Composting (*with KL Extension office*) were well received by the community.

K -12 Education Programs

- Rebecca Jacobs presented watershed learning sessions to over 500 K-5 students in 11 Knox and Lincoln county schools. Over 300 posters were submitted in the annual National Association of Conservation District's poster contest, "Watersheds - Our Water, Our Home." Category winners were highlighted at a Flatbread Fundraiser event in March.
- Through the Read ME Agriculture program of Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, Rebecca and eight volunteer readers read the book Applesauce Day to more than 900 students in 64 K-4 classes in fourteen Knox & Lincoln county schools.
- Summer Ecology Camps (*with Merryspring Nature Center*)
- More than 800 elementary students from 16 Knox and Lincoln county schools attended our annual, and very popular, Conservation Fair. Students were introduced to a wide range of topics by 20 presenters – such as aquaculture, web-of-life ecosystems, animal adaptations and plant germination – at this free daylong event.

Certification Courses & Technical Services

- Trained 30 attendees at our *Non-Traditional Solutions to Gravel Road Problems* at the Jefferson Fire Station. Midcoast Conservancy, as part of a 319 grant, partnered with us to provide this training.
- With USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Waldo and Kennebec SWCDs, held two Local Working Group meetings to make recommendations for allocation of local USDA funds.
- Consulted with landowners of Knox and Lincoln counties on buffer plantings, erosion control information and gravel roads.
- Created invasive plant ID, mapping and management plans for ten landowners.
- Provided pond and spring evaluations at private and public sites in both counties.
- Wrote a nutrient management plan and provided pasture consultations for landowners in Knox County.
- Assisted landowners with aerial photos and soil survey information.

Year in Review – Highlights of 2018

Grants for Conservation Efforts

Invasive Forest Pest Outreach Project

Since 2015, Knox-Lincoln SWCD and Maine's 15 other conservation districts have been working under a grant from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry to provide information to residents about the threat posed by invasive forest pests. Emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, and browntail moth have the potential to greatly alter Maine's forests and woodlands, not to mention affects on human health. The district has presented workshops, hosted booths at fairs and trade shows, reached out to municipalities, written articles for press and social media to provide information to as many residents as possible.



Unfortunately, in 2018, emerald ash borer was found in both northern and southern Maine. It is worth noting that many invasive pest infestations are first noted and reported by citizens like yourselves! We can all help to slow the spread of EAB and other pests and diseases: *Don't Move Firewood – Buy it and Burn it locally!*

Invasive Terrestrial Plants

Conservation Innovation Grant: Helping Maine Producers Address Invasive Species Problems (Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP)/Natural Resources Conservation Service; 2015-2018; 2019-2022) Knox-Lincoln, Kennebec, Waldo and Somerset SWCDs partner with MNAP to assist Maine farmers and woodland owners to identify, map and control invasive plants degrading woods and fields with the goal of preventing the spread of invasive plants to unaffected areas of the state.

MOHF: Invasive Plant ID & Management In 2018, Knox-Lincoln SWCD secured a one-year grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund to continue the work of the above grant with Knox-Lincoln, Kennebec and Waldo SWCDs.

Farmer in the Classroom

Maine Ag in the Classroom (MAITC) classroom awarded a grant to continue and expand our Farmer in the Classroom program in three elementary schools. (See page 4 for more information.)

Spring Plant Sale

Over the past eight years, Knox-Lincoln SWCD has 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, and includes educational exhibits and vendors selling outdoor garden accessories.



Our goal is to provide the community with *high quality, bareroot plants* at a reasonable price. We are proud that our selections are excellent for *conservation and ornamental plantings*, AND great choices for *pollinators, beneficial insects and wildlife*.

In 2018 – with the help of 40 volunteers who contributed almost 400 hours of their valuable time to label plants and pack orders – we sold 47 varieties of fruit trees, berries and other edibles, 66 varieties of native trees and shrubs, and 61 varieties of organic, field-grown native perennials and herbs from Rebel Hill Farm in Liberty, ME – a total of 2,745 plants (or bundles thereof)! While many of the woody plants come "from away," we have increased the number of "Maine grown" selections with plants from Crystal Lake Farm & Nursery in Washington, ME.

The 12-page catalog and order form is a resource all on its own! It includes a description of each variety plus planting tips and links to fact sheets. Our online catalog has all the same information – plus pictures of the plants. And, on top of all of that, the sale is our single biggest fundraising event of the year!



With all these changes, some things remain the same: Plants may be purchased by pre-order – either online or by USPS; or by cash, check or credit & carry on the days of the sale, which is always the Saturday and Sunday before Mother's Day.

If you haven't been to the sale in a while, come on over and see what we have to offer – or join us as a volunteer!

Spotlight on Community Outreach

2018 Conservation Farm Tour of Lincoln County

This year's tour put the spotlight on farms in coastal Lincoln County. Fifty-four participants saw conservation practices in action, learned about the benefits of local foods and agricultural products, and enjoyed the view traveling through the beautiful midcoast landscape.

The tour started at a blueberry barren in Waldoboro and ended at a diversified vegetable farm & brewery on Westport Island – from one end of the county to the other! At Scott's Blueberry Hill Farm in Waldoboro, Larry and Dale Scott - and their two sons - harvest blueberries for the fresh market only. They employ rigorous IPM methods to manage pests and engage in research with UMaine. In 2016, the Scotts were recognized as Knox-Lincoln SWCD Conservation Farm of the Year for their efforts to prevent soil erosion on their fields.



Donkeys, Wishing Well Acres



Tomato house, Tarbox Farm

The second stop was East Forty Farm & Lakin's Gorges Creamery in Waldoboro. Allison Lakin gave a tour of fields and woods and farm co-owner and chef Neal Foley provided a delicious farm to table lunch under the grape arbor.

After lunch, Gary Balducci, former Knox-Lincoln SWCD supervisor, led a tour of Wishing Well Acres in Edgecomb where he and his wife, Donna, raise goats, sheep and emus (among other entertaining livestock) for meat and eggs. Balducci highlighted practices that he has implemented with NRCS cost share programs to minimize runoff into the stream at the bottom of his fields.

The last stop was MOFGA-certified Tarbox Farm on Westport Island, owned by Knox-Lincoln SWCD supervisor Jeff Tarbox and farmed organically by Kyle De Pietro. This diversified vegetable farm and CSA also raises organically fed and pastured pigs - and is home to the newly established Sasanoa Brewery, which brews with organic ingredients.

Conservation Booths at Fairs and Trade Shows

KLSWCD is a regular presence at county fairs, state tradeshows and business expos. At events lasting from ½ day to one week, we connect with thousands of farmers and households providing them with up-to-date resources. Our staffed booths provide immediate guidance to individuals and businesses.

Be sure to stop by our booth the next time you are at the Hammond Tractor Open House, PenBay Chamber of Commerce Business Expo, Union Fair, Open Farm Day, Common Ground Fair, and Union Area Chamber of Commerce Business Fest.



Spotlight on Conservation Leaders

Lifetime Service Award: William Laflamme of Sidney

36 Years of Dedication to
Protecting the Environment
for the Citizens of Maine



Bill retired in 2018 after 36 years at the Maine DEP, where he was instrumental in developing the Voluntary Contractor Certification Program, which was implemented in 2008. His whole career was spent in service to the people of Maine and our land and water resources.

Now that he is retired, Bill will lead trips – he has been a Registered Maine Guide for 31 years - and spend more time with his grandson.

Thank you to raffle sponsors!

Along with congratulating our conservation award winners, we held a raffle as one of our yearly fundraisers. We appreciate the following individuals and local businesses, who generously donated prizes for the raffle, which raised \$300: *Sharon Abair • Dragonfly Cove Farm • Fireside Pottery • Fresh Off the Farm • Green Thumb • Hatchet Cove Farm • Midcoast Conservancy • Mystic Woodworks • Savage Oakes Vineyard & Winery • School House Farms • Spear Farm • State of Maine Cheese • Jean Vose • Warren True Value Hardware*

At our Annual Awards Banquet in November, we recognize conservation leaders for their efforts & accomplishments.

Conservation Farm of the Year

Dooryard Farm, Camden - Cooper Funk and Marina Sideris

Each year we recognize a farm - and farmers - for their efforts in promoting soil & water conservation. Dooryard Farm is a MOFGA-certified organic vegetable farm dedicated to an ecological approach to agriculture with a primary goal of building and maintaining soil fertility. They worked with NRCS to develop a Conservation Plan and implemented many conservation practices, including:

- a high tunnel to protect crop health
- improved farm access road to correct drainage, reduce erosion and protect water quality
- installed a pollinator habitat and buffer hedgerow
- installed a composting pad for soy pulp – and manure from future livestock



Volunteer of the Year

Gail Presley, Rockland, for her much appreciated help in organizing the plant sale labels and signs.

Woodland Stewardship Award

Dick Koubek, Bremen, for careful harvesting with the future forest in mind.

Special Appreciation Award

North Nobleboro Community Association for more than 30 years of excellence in hosting our Annual Awards Banquet – and, of course, for PIE!

Excellence in Conservation Education

For bringing environmental education to the elementary classroom.

- **Ferolyn Curtis, South School (Rockland)**
- **Coral Coombs, Lincolnville Central School**
- **Pamela Walton, Gilford Butler School (So Thomaston)**



L-R: Ferolyn Curtis, Coral Coombs, Pam Walton and Rebecca Jacobs

Spotlight on Youth Conservation Education

Conservation Education Fair Sept. 27, 2018 at Union Fairgrounds

Every year on the last 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 these young people in interactive demonstrations and activities about food, farming, bee keeping, marine resources, forestry...and more.

On September 27, 2018, approximately 800 elementary school students - with their teachers and chaperones - from 16 schools across our two counties joined us for this exciting educational event!



Farmer in the Classroom

Funded by a Maine Agriculture in the Classroom grant, our District created "Farmer in the Classroom" – a program for fourth grade students in RSU #13, CRES -Five Towns and MSAD #40. During monthly visits to three classrooms, Cheryl Denz of Terra Optima Farm in Appleton leads activities in the ecology of an apple tree, tree pruning, and teaches about the varieties of apples. The highlight of the school year is the farm visits in September and June when students get "hands-dirty" experience of working on the farm.



National Association of Conservation Districts Conservation Poster Contest and Fundraiser Gallery

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District congratulates the winners of the 2018 Conservation Poster Contest. This program is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Rebecca Jacobs, KLSWCD Program Manager, presented a lesson on the 2018 theme, **Watersheds - Our Water, Our Home**, to more than 500 K-5 grade students in 11 schools throughout Knox and Lincoln counties, resulting in >300 posters to evaluate.

In March, we held a congratulatory fundraiser with a Poster Contest Gallery and fun raffle items at Flatbread Company in Rockport that raised about \$300!

Congratulations to all the poster-makers for their efforts...



Category winners (L-R): Alexis Willey (Warren Community School, 2nd grade); Whitney Pearson (Appleton Village School, 1st grade); Zoe Curtis (Hope Elementary School, 4th grade); Audrey Colby (Thomaston Grammar School, 5th grade)

Spotlight on Adult Conservation Education

Small-Scale Woodland Stewardship Tours

Knox-Lincoln SWCD joined with the Maine Forest Service (MFS) to co-sponsor a series of nine field tours to a total audience of 100. The tours highlighted woodland stewardship and conservation practices of private landowners. Led by Midcoast District Forester Morten Moesswilde, the tours were open to landowners, loggers, foresters and others interested in the stewardship of small woodlands. Topics included:

- Winter Tree ID and Woodland Ecology at Erickson Fields Preserve, Rockport.
- Results of a Careful Timber Harvest at Pemaquid Watershed Association's Bearce-Allen Preserve and Demonstration Forest in Bristol.
- Tree Selection for the Future Forest at the Koubek property in Bremen.
- NRCS Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project at Medomak Valley Land Trust's Burkett Mill Preserve in Waldoboro.
- Invasive Plant Management at Deer Foot Farm in Appleton.
- Sustainable Forestry Practices Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson.
- Identifying Woody Shrubs at Georges River Land Trust's Appleton Preserve.
- Mushroom Ecology at Pemaquid Watershed Association's Pemaquid Pond Preserve Trail.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid at the Welsh property in Boothbay. (photo below)



Farmer & Gardener Workshop Series

In 2016, with a grant from NRCS, Knox-Lincoln SWCD presented a series of workshops for beginning farmers. We now offer this series in cooperation with Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Erickson Fields Farm and Preserve for *farmers and gardeners* – and all appropriate for beginning farmers.

2018 tours and talks:

- Tour of Sustainable Year-Round Ag Cluster, Waldoboro
- Food Safety for Producers at K-L Extension Office
- Planting for Seed Saving at Medomak Valley High School
- Natural Farming at Erickson Fields Preserve, Rockport
- Cover Crops & Low-Till in Veggie Systems at Goranson Farm, Dresden (co-sponsored by MOFGA)
- Pollinator Habitats for Midcoast Farms at Morning Dew Farm, Damariscotta (co-sponsored by MOFGA)



An evening with Doug Tallamy

Noted author, photographer and dynamic speaker, Doug Tallamy, gave a presentation on ***Why Native Gardening and Biodiversity Matter*** at the Rockport Opera House on July 5, 2018 to an engaged audience of 140 people. Tallamy's groundbreaking book, *Bringing Nature Home*, is an invaluable resource for professionals and home gardeners who want to improve backyard habitat for wildlife - from insects to songbirds and beyond. *The answer: plant natives!* Tallamy's research shows that to support songbirds (*it takes 5,000 caterpillars to raise one nest of chickadees*), the landscape must be comprised of 70% native species so that caterpillars have a diet of leaves on the native trees with which they co-evolved.

This event was presented in collaboration with Wild Seed Project, Merryspring Nature Center, Waldo County SWCD and Rockport, Warren and Boothbay Region Garden Clubs, and generously underwritten by Hammon Buck of Plants Unlimited.

Environmental Book Club:

"Bringing Nature Home"

by Doug Tallamy



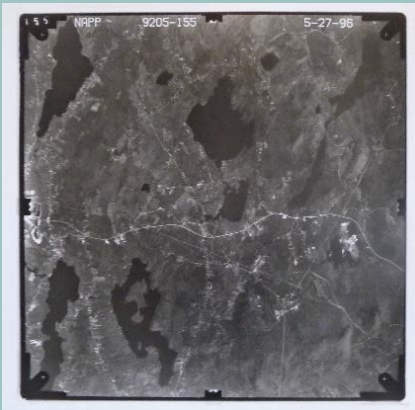
Rebecca Jacobs partnered with Appleton Library, and Deer Foot Café in Appleton to discuss the benefits of planting native plants. This was the second book the group discussed. The first book was "Beyond the War on Invasives" by Tao Orion.

Spotlight on Conservation Services

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, as well as some ice storm photos. 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

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!

On our Website

Our website includes a wealth of resources for soil and water conservation needs. From nutrient management to plant care fact sheets, check out our site first.

Publications & resources include:

- Conservation Practices for Homeowners
- Landscapes and Gardens for Maine
- Invasive Plants
- Invasive Forest Pests
- Farm and Field
- Yardscaping
- Forest and Woodland
- Maine Plant Hardiness Zone Map
- Erosion Control for Contractor
- Web Soil Survey Tutorial

Conservation Technician Services

Knox-Lincoln SWCD can provide low cost technical assistance and engineering design services to towns, organizations and individuals in Knox and Lincoln counties. Some of the services we provide are:

Erosion Control Technical Assistance

District staff meets with landowners, private road associations, and municipal officials to provide options for addressing problems that impact water resources including pre- and post-construction activities. Assistance includes site visit and written recommendations.

Permit-By-Rule Preparation

Preparation of Maine DEP's Permit-By-Rule for water quality improvement projects. Includes site visit as well as document preparation. (Landowner serves as agent on documentation.)

Natural Resource Protection Act Permits (NRPA)

District staff prepares Maine DEP's Natural Resource Protection Act Permits for water quality improvement projects. Includes site visits as necessary as well as document preparation. (Landowner serves as agent on documentation.)

Natural Resource Assessments

Landowners and municipalities or potential buyers looking to better understand their land as it exists and how to manage it for specific uses such as blueberry fields, forestry, water quality/quantity issues, soil health, hayland and pasture management. Assistance includes a site visit and written recommendations.

Nutrient Management Plans

District staff prepares plans to meet State of Maine standards. *(Note: This plan will not meet criteria for NRCS EQIP programs.)* Work will include site visit and written plan.

Soil Testing

District staff will extract soil for testing to specifications of landowner. Sample(s) will be sent to the University of Maine lab. Results will be sent directly to the landowner. (If desired, a separate time may be set up to review the recommendations.)

Stream Crossings

District staff provides assistance with planning and/or maintenance of culvert or open bottom installations of stream crossings. Includes site visit, written recommendations and engineered drawings as necessary.

Third Party Assessments

District staff provides recommendations to landowners and/or municipalities regarding potential or existing erosion problems due to construction activities. Assessment includes recommendations during and/or after construction on best

Spotlight on Supporters

The success of the District programs would not be possible without the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and supporters. In 2018, we benefitted from 500+ hours of volunteer service. Many volunteers return year after year.

A Special Thanks To.....

Plant Sale Volunteers

Sharon Abair, Eliza Bailey, Cindy Bland, Helen Burlingame, Sharon Chadwick, Paula Coil, Sarah Crosby, Anna Dembska, Cheryl Denz, BJ Dobson, Jamie Doubleday, Faith Getchell, Ann Goodale, David Grady, Maria Grindle, Karen and Keith Haney, Andrea Hawks, Mark Hedrich, Vicky Johnson, Mitch Kihn, Nancy Killoran, Ellie Libby, Lisa Looke, Herman Lovejoy, Margaret Mednis, Dewey Meteer, Rick Parent, Gail Presley, Tree Roth, Marina Schaffler, Diane Schivera, Carol Schmidt, Julie Sells, JB Smith, Ken Stewart, Donna Strawser, Jeff Tarbox, Erika Taylor, Mary Thompson, Larry Thornburg, Barry & Elaine Tibbetts & Jean Wakem.

READ ME Ag Volunteer Readers

Eliza Bailey, Victoria Bucklin, Cheryl Denz, Ellie Libby, Sue McCrum, Julie Sells & Jean Vose

NACD Poster Contest Volunteer Judges

BJ Dobson, Sharon Chadwick & Anna Fiedler
Liz Stanley – painted banner for Flatbread Fundraiser & Poster Contest Gallery

Conservation Fair Volunteers

BJ Dobson, Sharon Chadwick, Larry Thornburg, Herman Lovejoy, Mary Thompson, Mark Hedrich & Diane Schivera

1st Annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Hildy Ellis hosted a fun gathering to express appreciation to all volunteers. Board, staff and volunteers cooked, grilled and donated a delicious BBQ spread. Special thanks goes to Hildy and Nancy Killoran, and Sharon Chadwick for the BEST hamburgers from her Angus herd....and Mother Nature for delivering a gorgeous August day.



Volunteers always needed!

We often need an extra hand, whether for the Plant Sale; 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 us at 596-2040 or info@knox-lincoln.org.

2018 Supporters

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District extends our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following agencies, businesses and individuals, who through their support in 2018, made it possible for us to provide educational programs and technical assistance to the residents of Knox and Lincoln counties.

Please thank them the next time you shop or connect with the following:

**Maine Department of Agriculture,
Conservation & Forestry
Commissioners, County of Knox
Commissioners, County of Lincoln
Natural Resources Conservation Service**
Agricola Farm, Union
Boothbay Region Garden Club
Faith Getchell, Camden
Final-Lee Acres and Wandering Goat, Union
Fireside Pottery, Warren
Fresh Off The Farm, Rockport
Green Thumb, Rockport
Guini Ridge Farm, Appleton
Hatchet Cove Farm, Warren
Merryspring Nature Center, Camden
Midcoast Conservancy, Wiscasset
Mystic Woodworks, Warren
Plants Unlimited, Rockport
QD Loon, Pittston
Rebel Hill Farm, Liberty
Rockport Garden Club
Savage Oakes Vineyard, Union
Schoolhouse Farm, Warren
Sharon Abair, Nobleboro
State of Maine Cheese, Rockport
Union Agway, Union
Union Fair Society, Union
Waldo County SWCD
Warren Garden Club
Warren True Value, Warren
Wild Seed Project, Portland & Blue Hill

About the District

Celebrating 71 Years of Conservation & 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, one voting associate supervisor, and two non-voting associate supervisors, who serve as unpaid volunteers, as well as two part-time program managers, a part-time conservation technician and a part-time administrative assistant.

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



Mark F. Hedrich (Chair) has been an elected Supervisor since 1986. He and his wife, Linda Rose, own Agricola Farms, a diversified 117-acre farm in Union and operate Agricola Farms County Store. Mark received a B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from the University of Maine at Orono and an M.S. from Cornell University, specializing in ruminant nutrition. A former dairy farmer, Mark served as a member (and President) of the Executive Board of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and a member of the MACD Advisory Council. He also served as Councilman to the National Association of Conservation Districts, traveling extensively throughout the U.S. representing Maine. Mark 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.



Sharon G. Chadwick (Vice-Chair) lives with her husband, Gerald, at BenEva Farm in Warren, which was started more than 70 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 engage in conservation practices with a manure storage facility, a heavy use pad area, a livestock barn and by developing a management plan for invasive plant species. Each year, Sharon looks to judging the Annual Poster Contest and helping out at the Conservation Fair and Plant Sale.



Jeff Tarbox (Treasurer) is the seventh generation to live on the Tarbox family property on Westport Island, Covelly Farm. The Farm today is primarily managed forest land, in tree growth, and Jeff has taken over active management from his father. Jeff also leases 20 acres of fields to a MOFGA-certified mixed vegetable organic operation, Tarbox Farm, and supports their expansion of farming acreage and the implementation of NRCS-supported high tunnels and irrigation, as well as the soon to be opened Sasanoa Brewing Company. Jeff brings to the board his decades of experience working in project management, finance and consulting for General Dynamics, Computer Sciences, and Deloitte Consulting.



Diane Schivera (Supervisor) has worked as MOFGA’s livestock specialist since 1998. The position brings information to all farmers and homesteaders interested in primarily organic practices. In collaboration with University of Maine Cooperative Extension, NRCS, and farmers, she was instrumental in starting Maine Grass Farmers Network, which works to educate farmers on pasture improvement and hay management to make the fields and farms more resilient. Diane also has a small farm/homestead in Appleton that includes various livestock, vegetable and pasture fields, an orchard and wood lot - all of which aim for sustainable practices.

Associate Supervisors

Barrie Brusila (*Consulting Forester, Mid-Maine Forestry; Warren*)

Anna Fielder (*Director of Land Conservation, Midcoast Conservancy; Wiscasset; joined the board in February 2018*)

Robyn Tierney (*semi-retired consulting ecologist; Union; joined the board in January 2019 as a Voting Associate Supervisor*)

New Faces at the District: Anna Fiedler



Anna Fiedler (Associate Supervisor) has been the Director of Land Conservation at Midcoast Conservancy since 2016; she engages with landowners to identify new land conservation projects, keeps conservation priorities updated and linked to community needs, and oversees management of conserved lands. From 2011-2015 she was Executive Director of Sheepscot Wellspring Land Alliance. Anna holds a PhD in Ecology and Entomology, and a M.S. in Entomology from Michigan State University. Anna enjoys bringing together groups to identify and carry out land conservation and management priorities, as well as partnering with landowners to conserve their land.

Spotlight on KLSWCD

2018 Financial Report	
2018 Operating Expenses	
Salaries/Staff training	84,597.57
Payroll Expenses	8,895.54
Technical Assistance	4,423.88
Education Programs	2,249.58
Fundraising Expenses	26,637.90
Annual Meeting	2,960.90
Grant Expenses	2,920.33
Envirothon Expenses	520.35
Travel/Meetings	3,619.28
Dues	3,265.00
Fees/Permits	45.00
Office Supplies	1,452.37
Accounting Fees	1,919.95
Computer Tech Support	98.75
Printing & Postage	1,782.09
Advert. & Promotion	1,053.23
Rent/Utilities/Equip	13,612.10
Conservation Fair	2,394.46
Subscriptions, Ref	607.04
Other	479.27
Total Expense	163,534.59
2018 Operating Income	
County & State Funding	83,003.28
Technical Assistance Fees	5,369.71
Education Programs	3,508.28
Fundraising & Donation	39,786.37
Annual Meeting	696.74
Grant Income	27,149.00
Envirothon Proceeds	377.59
Total Operating Income	159,891.17
2018 Non-operating Income	
Interest Income	34.84
Total Non-Operating Income	34.84
Total Income	159,926.01
Total Expense	163,534.59
Net income	-3,608.58

Letter from the Board of Supervisors Chair (continued from front page)

It is estimated that a 150% increase in food production will be required to meet this need by the year 2050. I'm sure that Maine farmers and other US farmers, as well the nation's Soil and Water Conservation Districts, will have a role in this. But to meet this need, there must to be a renewed national and international commitment for supporting agricultural research that will enable more efficient food production. The development of crops that utilize fertilizers and water more efficiently, and crops that can respond favorably to wide variations in weather, insect and disease conditions, is critical. Innovations in new farm equipment for precision planting and enhanced fertilizer and crop protectant placement currently are in use and these technologies are improving almost daily. All of this must be done in a manner that does not degrade land, water, biodiversity, or the climate on a global scale. Also needed will be a network of professional educators from Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Cooperative Extension, universities, USDA, state departments of agriculture and private industry for conducting this research and for disseminating this new information to farmers and to the public.

We all have a lot of work to do and, hopefully, Soil and Water Conservation Districts will continue to be key players. Critical to our success will be a continued commitment to the development and implementation of innovative approaches to agricultural production and natural resource protection that will result in sustainable systems. One approach for assuring that your Soil and Water Conservation District will remain viable is to participate in District activities as a board member or volunteer. We continue to seek individuals to assist us with educational programs and projects. We also always welcome targeted or unrestricted financial gifts that will help us to fund on-going programs and to develop new initiatives. Please contact us if we can help you with your natural resource conservation needs, or if you can help us with your expertise or resources!

Sincerely,



Mark F. Hedrich, Chair, Board of Supervisors

District Supervisors and Staff

District Supervisors

Mark Hedrich, *Chair*
 Sharon Chadwick, *Vice-Chair*
 Jeff Tarbox, *Secretary/Treasurer*
 Diane Schivera, *Supervisor*

Associate Supervisors

Barrie Brusila
 Anna Fielder
 Robyn Tierney

Lifetime Honorary Supervisors

Robert Spear
 Barry Tibbetts

District Staff

Hildy Ellis
Program Manager
 Rebecca Jacobs
Program Manager

Julie Sells
Administrative Assistant

Mary Thompson
Conservation Technician

Consulting Engineer

Stephen Roberge

NRCS Staff

Augusta Field Office (Lincoln County)

Peter Abello, *District Conservationist*
 Xandy Brown, *Soil Conservation Technician*
 Luis Aponte, *Soil Conservationist*
 Paula Salazar, *Soil Conservationist*
 Lori Richter, *Agricultural Engineer*

Belfast Field Office (Knox County)

Ron Desrosiers, *District Conservationist*
 Stephanie Landry, *Soil Conservationist*
 Adam Cattrell, *Agricultural Engineer*
 Scott Carter, *Agricultural Engineer*

Join us for upcoming programs & events!

Visit www.knox-lincoln.org for more information about these and other programs!

Jul 27	All About Invasive Forest Pests	10am-noon	Merryspring Nature Center, Camden
Aug 17-24	Union Fair	All day!	Union Fairgrounds
Aug 20	Native Plants & Biodiversity w/noted author, Doug Tallamy	7pm	Ocean View Grange, Tenants Harbor
Sep 7	Conservation Tour of Knox County	8am - 4pm	
Sep 26	Conservation Education Fair	9:30am-2pm	Union Fairgrounds
Nov 6	Annual Awards Banquet	5-8:30pm	Jewell Lodge at Camp Wavus, Nobleboro
Nov 9	Growing Native Plants from Seed	9:30-11am	Aldermere Farm, Rockport

Check our website for updates:

September: Invasive Plant Walk 'n Talk

October: Nutrient Management in High Tunnels



893 West Street, Rockport, Maine 04856