



Annual Report 2020

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Our office is located at:

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www.knox-lincoln.org**

**[www.facebook.com/
knoxlincolnsoilandwater](https://www.facebook.com/knoxlincolnsoilandwater)**

About the District

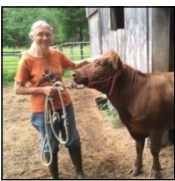
Celebrating 73 Years of Conservation & Education

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

Meet the Board of Supervisors for 2020 – 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.



Diane Schivera (Vice-Chair) recently retired from MOFGA, where she worked as a livestock specialist since 1998. Diane enjoys working on her 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. Diane can also be found volunteering at Brae Maple Farm and serving on many nonprofit Boards.



Jeff Tarbox (Treasurer / Secretary) 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 30 acres of fields and woods 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. The property also boasts Maine's first MOFGA-certified organic brewery, Sasanoa Brewing, and Jeff is the bookkeeper for the nano-brewery. Jeff brings to the board his decades of experience working in project management, finance and consulting for General Dynamics, Computer Sciences, and Deloitte Consulting.



Sharon G. Chadwick (Supervisor) 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.



Robyn Tierney, PhD (Supervisor) (Colorado State University), 1992), is our most recent addition to the Board of Supervisors. She brings decades of experience and a background in ecological restoration, wildlife biology, and botany. Robyn, her husband, and dogs are enjoying their home in Union growing vegetables and a few fruit trees.

Associate Supervisors for 2020

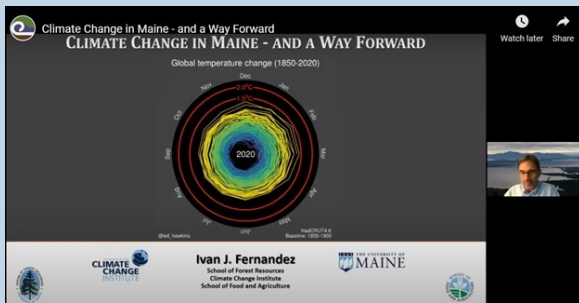
Barrie Brusila (Consulting Forester, Mid-Maine Forestry; Warren)

Spotlight on Conservation Leaders

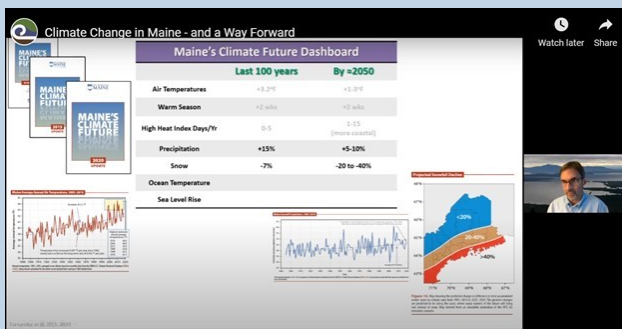
At our Annual Awards Banquet in November, we recognized conservation leaders for their efforts & accomplishments.

Our first virtual Annual Banquet 2020 is available to be viewed on our new website <https://www.knox-lincoln.org/annual-awards-banquet> using our new YouTube channel.

University of Maine Distinguished Professor, UMaine Climate Change Institute and School of Forest Resources, Ivan Fernandez, was our Keynote Speaker at our virtual Annual Banquet on November 10, 2020.



Ivan Fernandez provided an informative overview of historical warming of the climate and consequential impact in Maine explaining options of mitigation and adaption methods. Ivan summarized the work done by the 39-member Maine Climate Council



A sense of optimism was offered as a conclusion by Ivan Fernandez, including some practical ways each resident can mitigate further climate change through building: Soil Health, Carbon Sequestration, and Resilient Systems.

The District is committed to offering resources and technical assistance to advise Knox and Lincoln residents, business owners and non-profit organizations on numerous conservation practices; most significantly, no till or low till practices; use of cover crops; nutrient management plans; identifying invasive forest pests; invasive plant removal; planting native plants; buffer plantings; conserving rainwater; composting food waste; and participating in our Conservation Landscape Certification program. **For more information, please contact Knox-Lincoln SWCD at 207-596-2040 and/or info@knox-lincoln.org.**



Conservation Farm of 2020:
Andrea and Allan Smith of
Brae Maple Farm,
Union



Awareness & Management of Invasive Plants in Maine:
Nancy Olmstead,
Invasive Plant Biologist,
Maine Natural Areas Program



Promoting Water Quality in the Lower Sheepscot River
Sue Mello, Natural Resources
Program Manager,
Boothbay Region
Water District

Year in Review—Highlights of 2020

In 2020, Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District scheduled 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 land, water, forest, wildlife, and related resources. We strive to achieve this goal by providing educational workshops, materials, programs, and one-on-one assistance. Due to the pandemic shutdown, we adjusted to hold online hold events and outside events while adhering to CDC guidelines.

K-12 Education Programs

- **K-5 Poster Contest - “Where would we BEE without Pollinators?”**

District staff presented learning sessions to 30 classrooms in 30 Knox and Lincoln county schools. More than 450 posters were submitted to the annual National Association of Conservation District’s poster contest in February. Category winners were highlighted at a fundraiser at Flatbread Co. in Rockport in March.

K-5 Poster Contest Category Awards



Grade 5-6 Category Winner: Miley Black (right)

Photo: Samantha Bernardo (left, Class Winner) & Miley Black (right, Gr 5-6 Category Winner) both in Grade 5, Thomaston Grammar School

Grade 2-3 Category Winner: Helen Rice (left)

Grade K-1 Category Winner: Sabrina Seiders (right)






Photo: Helen Rice (Gr. 2) and Sabrina Seiders (Gr K-1), South Bristol School

- **Summer Eco-Explorer Kits**

Summer Ecology Camps in partnership with Merryspring Nature Center, Camden – Both the Eco-Explorers (ages 7-9) and Little Sprouts (ages 4-6) camps were cancelled. Alternatively, we prepared and provided a total of 160 free take-home Explorer Kits to area families over the course of eight weeks. Twenty of these kits were distributed per week.

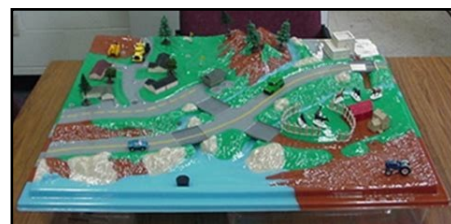
Some Explorer Kits Themes

- Backyard Scavenger Hunt Kit
- Mason Bee House Kit
- Owl Pellets Kit
- Cloud Journal Kit
- Birdhouse Kit
- Nature Loom Kit



- **Watershed Model**

The District provided our Watershed Model to several schools for teachers to show how stormwater pollution and runoff occur when "rain" falling on the landscape carries soil (cocoa), chemicals (colored water), and oil (cocoa and water mixture) through the watershed to a body of water. Students learned about pollution prevention.



- **Maine Agriculture in the Classroom Grant (Jan 2020 – extended to June 2021)** District staff facilitated this monthly “Farmer in the Classroom” program for 4th grade classrooms at Jefferson Community School, South School (Rockland), with Appleton farmer, Cheryl Denz of Terra Optima Farm.

Year in Review—Highlights of 2020

Adult Workshops & Trainings

Community Outreach



- The District held a community event to watch the movie: “Biggest Little Farm” – (Feb 16) Sheepscot General Store, Whitefield

- George's River Land Trust – District staff served on the Lands Committee and attended six meetings and performed one site visit
- Agricultural Trades Show (Jan; Augusta Civic Center) - District staff moderated a workshop (Jan 16) from 11-noon - “Implementing Conservation on Your Farm: Working with NRCS and FSA;” staffed Beginning Farmer Networking Room; and staffed MACD booth
- District Day – District staff participated (Feb 13) at the State House

Invasive Plant Events



- District staff spoke at Invasive Plant ID and iMap Invasives online training (Jun 1) >20 attendees
- District staff spoke at the Tuesday Talk on Invasive Plants at Merryspring Nature Center (Jun 9) >30 attendees
- District staff led an Invasive Plant Walk at George's River Land Trust's Langlais Preserve (Jun 8) >7 attendees.

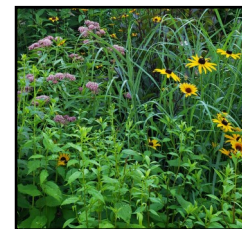
Invasive Plant Walk 'n Talks



- Boothbay Region Land Trust (*May; 20 attendees*)
- Georges River Land Trust (*Sep; 13 attendees*)

Conservation Landscaping Series

- District staff led a talk on Native Groundcovers - Belfast Garden Club (Jan 28) – 40+ attendees
- District staff spoke on Gardening with Native Wetland Herbaceous Plants with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens –Virtual program in (Aug 25) - 20 attendees
- District staff spoke on Creating Backyard Habitats at Midcoast School of Technology Adult Education – (Oct 20) – 6 attendees



Certified Contractor Training Courses

- Annually the District collaborates with ME Department of Environmental Protection to offer trainings. During the pandemic, Maine DEP created and offered training certification courses online for contractors, site evaluators, and code enforcement officer's. *The District is planning for in-person trainings to resume in during fall 2021.*

Spotlight on Invasive Plants

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District, recognized at the State-level for expertise in invasive plants, continues to take the lead in educating Maine residents beyond Knox and Lincoln counties on invasive plant identification, mapping invasive plant outbreaks, developing an invasive plant management plan for property owners and conservation areas, and providing numerous resources on removal techniques and encouraging planting native perennials. During 2020, while most informational events were offered online, the District was able to hold physically-distant outside talks. Two seasonal interns assisted with invasive plant identification and removal at agricultural and woodlot properties, in addition to Merryspring Nature Center in Camden.

Buffer Planting Boothbay Water District

A microburst struck the Boothbay region in 2018 impacting several properties resulting in significant vegetation loss. One property, now owned by the Boothbay Region Water District (BRWD), provides a vegetative buffer for Adams Pond; one of the two water bodies serving the region's water supply.

In 2020, the District partnered with BRWD to plant tree seedlings to re-establish the buffer on the parcel. Two District seasonal interns, Alex Chaney and Sarah Loudon worked to plant the seedlings on site. Alex returned throughout the season to ensure the seedlings were adequately watered.

Invasive Plant Removal at Merryspring Nature Center

Concerned about the extensive invasive plant infestation at Merryspring Nature Center, the District was contracted in 2019 to develop a remediation plan. District staff wrote a comprehensive five-year project to start in 2020.



Two District seasonal interns, Alex Chaney and Sarah Loudon under the direction of the District worked 48-hours to remove the "Early Detection Rapid Response species" of Himalayan balsam and garlic mustard from the front area of Merryspring.



**You can help map
invasive plant species!**

Report on iMap Invasives:
www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/



Maine Invasive Plants Field Guide

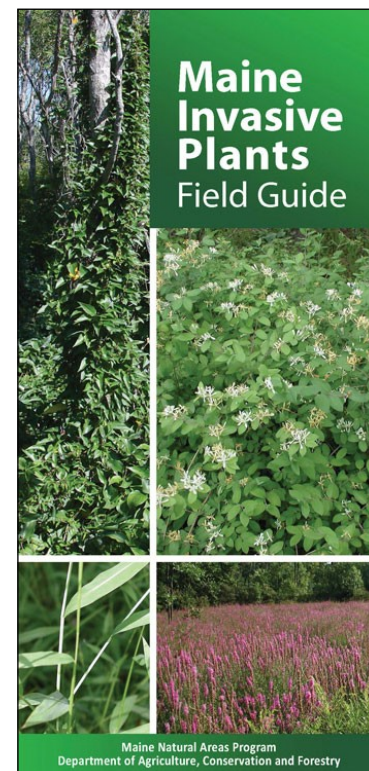
Available for purchase in our Shop on our website, this new field guide was released by Maine Natural Areas Program in June 2019.

The 3.75" by 8" guide 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.

\$24.95 plus 5.5% sales tax = \$26.32

USPS shipping and handling (ME) \$3.60

Total shipped in Maine \$29.92



Maine Natural Areas Program
Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Spotlight on Conservation Landscape



What is the Landscape Certification Program?

Knox-Lincoln SWCD is partnering with Waldo SWCD on a Certification Program for Conservation Landscapes. This certification program will help landowners implement conservation practices in a systematic way, with guidance and ideas from our staff and one-on-one help on your property. (One visit is complimentary per landowner with additional visits at the standard rate.) It is also a chance to measure your progress and share ideas and practices with your neighbors, friends and family.

Residents who complete the Conservation Landscape Certification:

- o Receive a certificate and document that can support other conservation work, such as working with NRCS or state agencies.
- o Can post our sign indicating your property is certified, which is a great way to start conversations with others about your efforts.
- o Will be recognized in our Annual Report and at our Annual Awards Banquet.

But it's likely your own immediate reward will be the chance to watch birds and wildlife inhabiting your land, feeding, and raising young, and seeing beautiful changes in the landscape.

Why participate in the Conservation Landscape Certification program?

Biologist Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home* and *Nature's Best Hope*, proposes a "Homegrown National Park" where we can all help to create the vast landscape of ecosystems needed to

- o keep the water and air clean,
- o keep farms and forests productive, and
- o help birds, insects and wildlife recover from steep declines in recent years.

More than 165 million acres in this country are devoted to neighborhoods, towns, and lands where we live and work. Implementing healthy conservation practices around our homes will create an environment where birds, butterflies and other creatures can shelter, find food, raise young and migrate. For larger properties, the way farm fields, pastures, edges, landscaped areas and woodlands are managed can make a great difference in supporting a connected, healthy ecosystem that ultimately keeps the land resilient and functional.

Go to the District's website for more information and checklists for both residential and forest/woodland properties.: <https://www.knox-lincoln.org/land-certification>



Spotlight on Conservation Sales

Spring Trout Stocking Sales

In 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.



To make it even easier to convert kitchen scraps into soil conditioner, we also offer accessories: a 2-gallon Sure-Close kitchen scrap pail with vented, locking lid that keeps odors in and flies out; Wingdigger compost aerator and turner to mix compost layers and decrease compaction without straining your back.



Photo: District Supervisors, Jeff Tarbox (Lincoln) and Diane Schivera (Knox) helping distribute the Backyard Sale orders.

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 2020, we saw a record number of property owners take advantage of this opportunity.



It's easy with the tried-and-true 80-gallon Earth Machine backyard composter and the 55-gallon System rain barrel. Both are made of recycled materials, designed to fit into any landscape, and are offered at wholesale prices. The Earth Machine composter has an "in at the top/out at the bottom" design and a 10-year warranty. The System rain barrel fits under a downspout to take advantage of roof run-off for garden watering and has built-in mosquito mesh and overflow capability.

Annual Spring Plant Sale Cancelled

We were disappointed that our largest annual fundraiser and conservation service to residents in Knox and Lincoln Counties and beyond was cancelled due to the pandemic. The District's goal with this fundraiser 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.

In 2021, following CDC guidelines, a pre-order curbside pickup plant sale was possible. We are grateful for the overwhelming community support, even record breaking numbers of plants sold out, quantity of orders and net income.



Spotlight on Business Supporters

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District extends our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following agencies and businesses, who through their support in 2020, made it possible for us to provide educational programs and technical assistance to the residents of Knox and

ME Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry

Commissioners, County of Knox

Commissioners, County of Lincoln

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Agricola Farm, Union

Belfast Garden Club

Coastal Maine Botanical Garden

Flatbread Company

George's River Land Trust

Merryspring Nature Center, Camden

Midcoast Conservancy

Midcoast School of Technology

Moose Crossing Garden Center

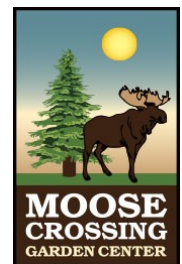
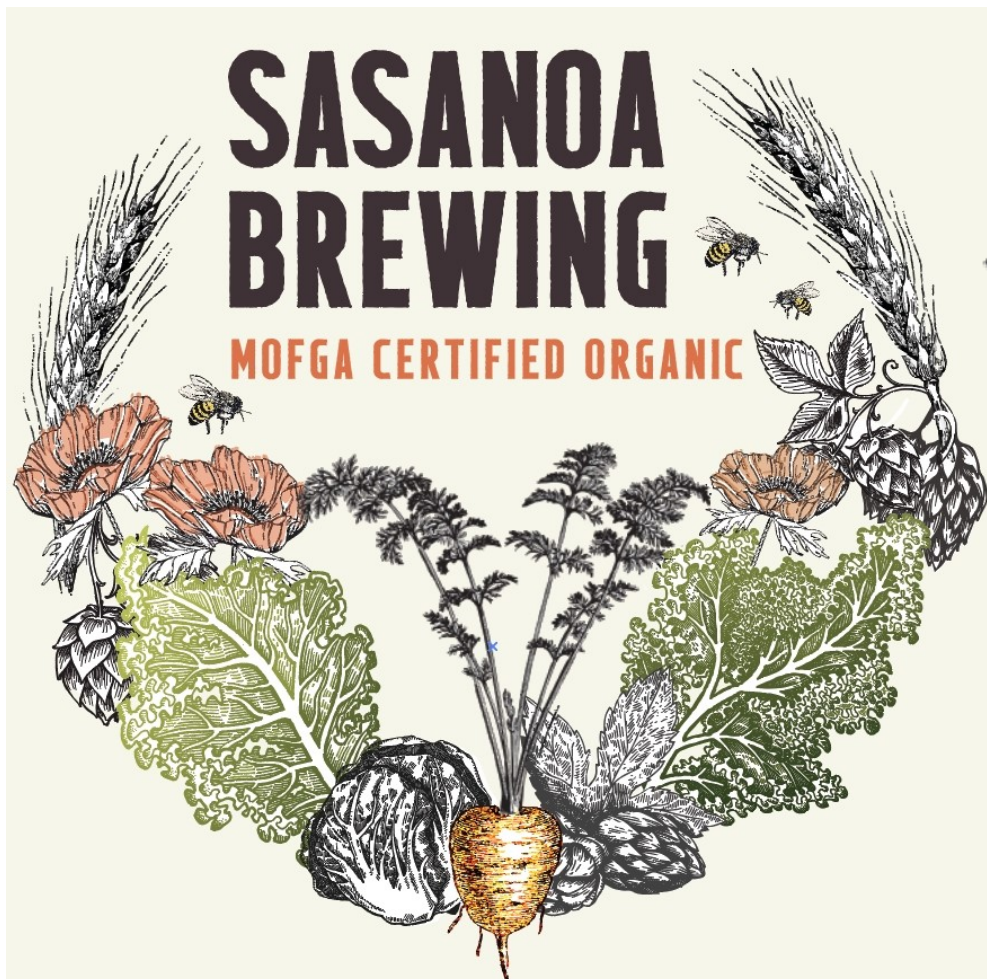
Mystic Woodworks

ReVision Energy

Sasanoa Brewery

Union Farm Equipment

Waldo County SWCD



MID-MAINE FORESTRY



Woodland Management Services
Green Certified Resource Managers

Spotlight on KLSWCD

2021 District Supervisors & Staff

District Supervisors

- Mark Hedrich, Chair
- Diane Schivera, Vice-Chair
- Jeff Tarbox, Secretary/Treasurer
- Sharon Chadwick
- Nancy Prisk

Associate Supervisors

- Barry Tibbetts, Voting Assoc.
- Barrie Brusila
- Karin Rector

Lifetime Honorary Supervisors

- Robert Spear
- Barry Tibbetts

District Staff

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

Consulting Engineer

- Stephen Roberge

NRCS Staff

Belfast Field Office (Knox County)

- Ron Desrosiers
- Jorge Ortiz Montalvo
- Lindsay Fennell

NRCS Staff

Augusta Field Office (Lincoln County)

- Peter Abello
- Xandy Brown
- Carolina Luciano Ramos
- Andrew Johnson

Engineers

- Lori Richter, Agricultural Engineer (Knox & Lincoln)

2020 Financial Report

2020 Operating Expenses		2020 Operating Income	
Salaries/Staff training	84,108.36	County & State Funding	77,324.25
Payroll Expenses	7,214.23	Uncategorized	20,101.85
Technical Assistance	17.50	Technical Assistance Fees	7,311.15
Education Programs	309.01	Education Programs	369.42
Fundraising Expenses	11,484.23	Fundraising & Donation	14,768.34
Annual Meeting	493.96	Annual Meeting	1,280.10
Grant Expenses	3,167.46	Grant Income	10,911.82
Travel/Meetings	917.10	Total Operating Income	132,066.93
Dues	3,020.00		
Fees/Permits	20.00	2020 Non-operating Income	
Office Supplies	692.29	Interest Income	95.16
Accounting Fees	1,638.00	Total Non-Operating Income	95.16
Computer Tech Support	225.00		
Printing & Postage	1,538.99	Total Income	132,162.09
Advertising & Promotion	557.50	Total Expense	133,749.08
Rent/Utilities/Equip	17,565.71	Net income	-1,586.99
Conservation Fair	0		
Subscriptions	340.45		
Other	439.29		
Total Expense	133,749.08		

Spotlight on Conservation Services

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:

Conservation Landscape Certification Program

District staff advises landowners on implementing conservation practices in a systematic way and provides one-on-one help on your property. (One visit is complimentary per landowner with additional visits at the standard rate.)

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.

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 management practices.

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.

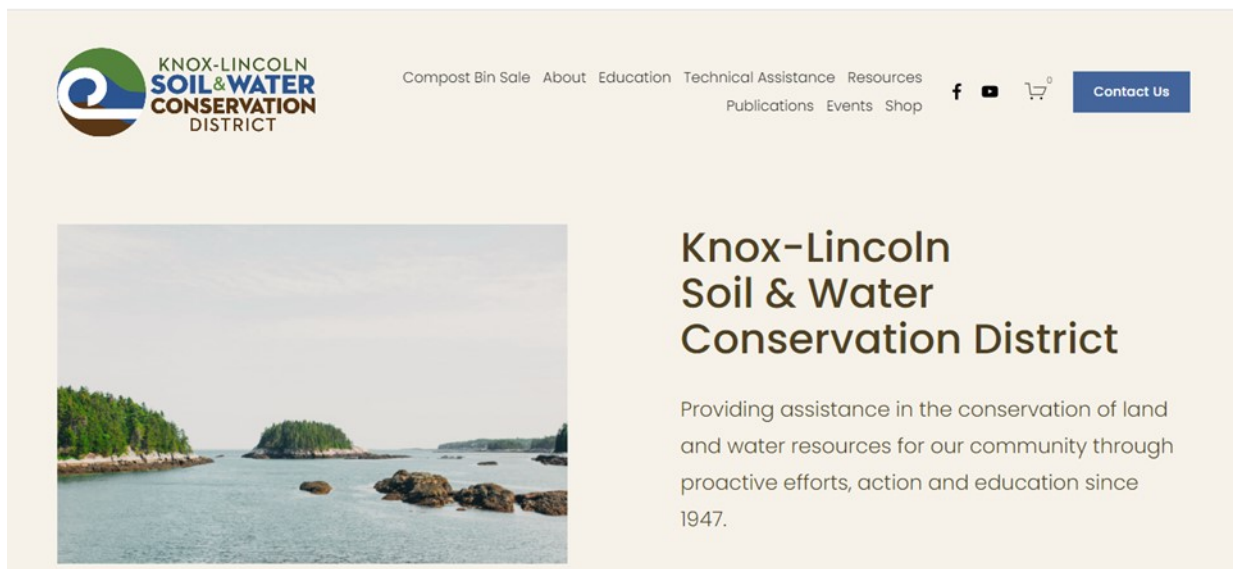
Soil Test Kits

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 at www.knox-lincoln.org

Be sure to like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/knoxlincolnsoilandwater/



KNOX-LINCOLN
**SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

Compost Bin Sale About Education Technical Assistance Resources
Publications Events Shop

f y

Contact Us

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District

Providing assistance in the conservation of land and water resources for our community through proactive efforts, action and education since 1947.



893 West Street, Rockport, Maine 04856

Save the Dates!

Oct 20, 2021 - Annual Banquet (Jewell Lodge)

*Panel Discussion on Carbon Sequestration and
Woodlot Management*

2022 Spring Plant Sale (Union Fairgrounds)

Fri, May 13 Pickup Only

Sat, May 14 (Pickup & Cash 'n Carry)

*Same great selection of fruits & berries, native trees, shrubs & perennials
at incredibly discounted prices!*

Catalogue & online ordering available in December 2021.

Be sure to order early to ensure best selection.