



Welcome to the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District

191 Camden Rd., Warren, ME 04864

(207) 273-2005 ext 101

"Making Conservation Work For You"



2010 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 Knox-Lincoln County Soil & Water Conservation District is a Non-Profit Organization.
The Knox-Lincoln County SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer

The 2010 Annual Report is dedicated to.....

Mark Hedrich

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The Board of Supervisors and Staff would like to extend our gratitude for your commitment and dedication to the district—over 20 years of continuous service!

Thank You Very Much!

Chairman's Message 2010

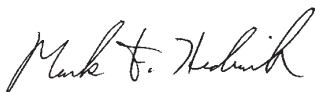
As we begin our 64th year, the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District continues to be a conservation leader in our two-county area. This annual report will highlight the many programs and activities that have been carried out by our dedicated supervisors, associates, volunteers, staff, friends and partners during the past year.

In addition to providing technical assistance for land and water conservation through our partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the efforts of our education coordinator/technician, the District also has a strong agricultural and natural resources conservation education program. These educational events are developed to address the varying needs and perspectives of adults, youth, farmers, municipal officials, contractors and others.

A primary focus of our land and water conservation efforts involves the development and implementation of best management practices imparted through various workshops such as Maine School Garden Day, Yardscaping and Watershed Stewards activities, to mention a few. These programs are done in collaboration with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Maine Ag in the Classroom, watershed groups, and others. We are expanding our environmental stewardship outreach by developing or expanding programs that assist contractors and landowners with the implementation of best management practices when they are undertaking projects that involve land disturbance. The objective of our Environmental Literacy program is to reach as many students as possible to foster the development of our future environmental stewards, and we do this through a variety of activities and events. The District currently is conducting a "Natural Resource Assessment" of our two-county area in collaboration with our partner organization, the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Results of this assessment should be available in 2011.

Finally, I believe that the coming year promises to be a challenging, yet rewarding 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 important, new initiatives. As you peruse this report, please be thinking about how you might participate with us in these efforts. Conservation and stewardship have to be a team effort, and we sincerely encourage you to join us in these endeavors!

Sincerely,



Mark F. Hedrich
Chairman of the Board

Introducing the Knox-Lincoln SWCD Board of Supervisors... Planning Conservation Needs for Our Future



Mark F. Hedrich serves as the District's Chairman and 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 sheep, forage crops, flowers, bedding plants, and vegetables in addition to operating Agricola Farms County Store and a Gallagher Power Fence dealership. They grow produce for the farmstand and their Community Supported Agriculture program. Mark graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal and Veterinary Sciences and received a Master of Science degree 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 as 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 a District Director for a number of years, and served as Councilman to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), traveling extensively throughout the United States representing Maine. He has been a Board Member of the Knox-Lincoln Farm Bureau and a member of the Time & Tide RC&D Council. He was active with the Farm Service Agency County Committee for 21 years, serving as Chairman for 10 years. Currently, Mark also is the State Nutrient Management Coordinator and Director of the Agricultural Compliance Program for the ME Dept. of Agriculture.



Sharon G. Chadwick lives with her husband Gerald and daughters Aubyn and Shelby, at BenEva Farm on Middle Road in Warren. Started more than 65 years ago by her grandparents, Ben and Eva Barbour, the farm is still going strong. Sharon attended Seattle University and the University of Rhode Island. After graduation, she returned to Maine, utilizing her scientific background in laboratory research. In 1988 the couple decided to "come home" to run the farm. Sharon's grandmother passed away in 2005 at age 104, predeceased by her husband who was 93 years old. The blended families were a great source of enjoyment through the years. Operating as a conservation farm, the Chadwicks' raise commercial Black Angus beef for the freezer and for feedlots, and sell hay. Beautiful views of meadows and hills are enjoyed through every season on the farm. Manure and pasture management techniques have been expanded with a manure storage facility and the completion of a heavy use area. Sharon works in the Quality Department at Lonza BioScience in Rockland which specializes in molecular separations products. Jerry combines farm chores and a small grain dealership with a full time position with the Nobleboro Sanitation District. Sharon rarely misses the opportunity to be

one of the judges at the District's Annual Poster Contest and enjoys helping out with the Conservation Fair and the Knox-Lincoln SWCD Spring Tree & Shrub Sale.



Rick Parent, Jr. became a District supervisor in the fall of 2007, and presently serves as Secretary/Treasurer. Rick 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 at Orono. Upon graduation from college he worked for a few months on a local dairy farm then moved on to selling John Deere farm Machinery. In 1974 Rick went to work for the Maine Dept. of Agriculture where he stayed in various capacities for about 12 years, before transferring over to the Maine Dept. of Transportation where he was employed as a real estate manager within the Highway program. He was employed by the State of Maine for over 38 years and retired in April 2008. Rick has served on several boards and committees, over the years, within the local community and is currently serving as a Knox County Commissioner.



Tim Hathorne joined the District in May, 2008 and is a strong supporter of the District's education programs including the Conservation Fair. Tim has a strong background in agriculture, technology and animal management in conjunction with a sincere interest in energy conservation and management. He enjoys working with people to develop and implement soil and water conservation projects that are environmentally, socially and economically friendly. Tim has been actively involved with "Agriculture in the Classroom" projects and volunteers at the Shrub Sale offering pertinent input in both venues.



Gary A. Balducci, Sr. lives with his wife, Donna, at Wishing Well Acres Farm, in Edgecomb. Gary has been farming for 27 years and is a diversified farmer, living on a 40 acre commercial family farm. Together with his wife and children, Gary raises chickens, meat goats, lamb, and holiday turkeys, providing local customers with fresh all natural products. Their farming also includes llamas and emus. In addition to his farming activities, Gary has been active in several farming organizations. He is currently serving as President of the Knox-Lincoln County Farm Bureau, of which he has been a member for 16 years, and from whom he received recognition as an outstanding leader and the Friend of the Farm Bureau Award in 2001. He was drawn to the Farm Bureau because of their willingness to lobby in support of important agricultural issues. Gary is also President of the Maine Alternative Poultry Association, a Sheep and Goat Committee Chairman, a member of the State

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for 6 years, Director of the Knox-Lincoln County Tractor Safety Course for 9 years, and is a Judge of 4-H programs at local fairs. Currently, Gary is working toward his degree from the University of Guelph on Dairy Goat Production and Agricultural Economics.

Office Staff & Field Personnel...

Providing technical and administrative assistance



Rebecca Jacobs comes to Knox-Lincoln SWCD with a wide range of experience in the field of conservation. While formally trained as a landscape designer at Springfield Technical Community College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Rebecca has brought her knowledge and love of plants to a number of conservation related organizations and locally owned garden centers. Her interest in native and non-native invasive plants grew while at the Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary. While living in Massachusetts, Jacobs served on the town of Monson’s conservation and master plan committees as well as on the board of Opacum Land Trust, which serves 13 towns in south-central Massachusetts. Moving to Maine in 2006, Jacobs was able to share her love of horticulture and “all things outdoors” in her role as education coordinator for the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens. Since that time she has moved on dividing her time professionally with her own business in landscape design and horticultural services, Gabriella’s Gardens, and as education/outreach coordinator for Knox-Lincoln SWCD. Rebecca enjoys hiking and traveling with her husband and daughter, running, biking, gardening (of course!) and generally anything that involves being outdoors.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Autumn Birt is the USDA/NRCS Zone District Conservationist assigned the supervisory responsibilities for the newly established Mid Coast zone which covers Knox, Lincoln, Waldo & Kennebec counties. Autumn holds a Masters Degree in Ecology & Environmental Science from the University of ME in Orono. Autumn also holds a Studio Arts degree and enjoys painting 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. Autumn is looking forward to rolling out the new farm bill and creating some multi-county projects. The newly formed multi-county Zone is a pilot project designed to explore efficiencies in NRCS resources and dollars with the goal of using less to put more conservation work on the ground for Maine farmers and producers.



Resource Conservationist **Mary E. Thompson** provides technical assistance to District Cooperators, landowners, municipalities, State and Federal agencies. She has over 20 years of experience in helping the District with various projects, and helps landowners in implementing projects authorized by the “Farm Bill”. Mary graduated from Belfast Area High School and has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Maine. Mary has served Knox and Lincoln counties for 17 years. In her spare time she swims with the Maine Masters swim team, enjoys camp and tends to her vegetable garden.



Chuck Penney is a Soil Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Belfast and Warren Field Offices. Chuck graduated from Unity College in 1995 with a BS in Environmental Sciences. He started his career for the State of Maine DEP where he worked as a Fisheries Biologist for 7 years. Chuck lives in Unity with his wife Raena, daughter Lindsay and son Hunter.

Associate Supervisors

Assisting the Board to Enhance our Environment

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Barry, J. Tibbetts, Whitefield | Donald Burke, Appleton |
| Barrie Brusila, Warren | Dave Hayden, Whitefield |
| Nancy Blake, Warren | Terry Spear, Nobleboro |
| Allan Smith, Union | Perry Ells, Union |
| Jan Goranson, Dresden | Jeanne Cameron, Whitefield |
| Rodney M. Bailey, Whitefield | |

Honorary Lifetime Member...



Robert W. Spear (Bob) was awarded Knox-Lincoln’s Honorary Lifetime Membership Award in 2005 at the Maine Association of Conservation Districts Winter Meeting. Bob served on the Board of Knox-Lincoln SWCD as an Associate Supervisor for 8 years and as a Supervisor for 20 years. More recently, he has served as Maine’s Commissioner of Agriculture for 6 years. His vast knowledge, dedication & expertise are greatly appreciated and admired by those who share his values of agriculture and conservation. Bob has always been generous of his time and talents, traveling extensively across the United States representing Maine to ensure continuing and effective accomplishments in resource conservation. Bob and his wife Janet reside in Nobleboro. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

~ 2010 Knox & Lincoln Counties Accomplishments ~

ADULT EDUCATION

Erosion Control – co-sponsored with DEP and the City of Rockland (Code Enforcement Office)

Basic On-Site Wastewater System Installation provided a fundamental understanding of the design, permitting, construction and inspection processes in the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rule, CMR 21 to 24 installers, contractors, design professionals and town officials. A detailed description of the inspection process was featured, stressing system construction aspects that are crucial to the successful long-term functioning of subsurface systems. Additional discussion was devoted to the use of erosion control devices and the Dig Safe process. Participants were eligible to receive voluntary certification for septic installation after submitting additional paperwork to the Division of Environmental Health.

A **Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop** focused on the proper techniques of how to prune and care for apple trees. Participants received hand written information and materials as well as a valuable hands-on experience from Brien Davis, owner of Hope Orchards.

Co-sponsored “**Tree Growth**” program with the Maine Forest Service 1/28/2010 KLSWCD Office

A “**Marking Trees for Thinning in Young Forests**” program was presented at Beech Hill Preserve in Rockport by Maine Forest Service District Forester Morten Moesswilde. Co-sponsored by Knox-Lincoln SWCD and Coastal Mountain Land Trust, this hands-on field workshop talked about thinning young forests to improve long term growth, timber quality, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics of these stands. These activities are sometimes referred to as “Pre-commercial thinning” or “Timber stand improvement”, and are appropriate in forests with trees roughly 2-10 inches in diameter. Often a “firewood” thinning can both improve the stand and produce useable wood for fuel, crafts, or other projects. The basic ideas of tree species selection, density, crown health, vigor and defects were emphasized. The field site, chosen offered hardwood and mixed wood stands where participants practiced selecting trees to remove and/or leave in the stand to accomplish different purposes.

The district co-sponsored an **Unpaved Gravel Roads** program in late summer which resulted in the participation in a pilot program with Maine DEP to provide technical assistance to landowners on Woster Farm Road in Camden. Work will span the 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Knox-Lincoln SWCD Education/Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs invited USDA/NRCS Technical Specialist Mark Darlington to discuss insect biology, integrated pest management (IPM) and the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB) at the “**What’s Bugging You?**” workshop at Merryspring Nature Center.

K-12 EDUCATION

Conservation Fair: The Knox-Lincoln SWCD 2010 Student Conservation Fair was a tremendous success with over 700 1st and 2nd grade children participating! This extremely popular free event gave students an opportunity to learn about many aspects of their environment through hands-on activities and personal interaction. Jackson Gillman was the feature presentation and his comedy routine had people laughing and acting along with him. Presenters and demonstrators from throughout the agricultural community generously donate their time for these hands-on opportunities so that students gain a better understanding of natural resources and conservation.

Thomaston Grammar School: Design workshop for 5th grade students to aide in Common Ground School Garden Project. The district wrote a grant for continued support of this program to MAITCA

NACD Poster Contest Conservation Habits = Healthy Habitats. Knox-Lincoln SWCD Education/ Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs scheduled presentations for students in grades K-6 on this year's topic which stressed the recognition and environmental importance of protecting our soils and natural resources. Overall division winners received a \$20 gift certificate to a local book store. All 3 of the districts regional winner's won at the state level as follows:

- K-1 winner: 1st place, poster will now compete at national competition;
- 2-3 winner: 2nd place
- 4-6 winner: 2nd place

Salmon in Schools ~ Fish Friends Program: Through partnerships with the Atlantic Salmon Federation and US Fish & Wildlife Service, Knox-Lincoln Education/Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs assisted US Fish & Wildlife Representative, E. Peter Steenstra deliver and monitor wild Atlantic salmon eggs to students at the South School in Rockland and at the Great Salt Bay School in Damariscotta. Students study the development of the Atlantic salmon from Full Eyed Eggs to Alevin to Fry and release the Fry into the Sheepscot River in the spring. The fish eggs were provided by the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery.

Knox-Lincoln SWCD partnered with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Medomak Valley Land Trust in a day-long program for 7-12 year old students for an Earth Day Celebration appropriately called "**Earth All Around**"

The "**Read ME Agriculture**" program is offered by the Maine Agriculture in the Classroom and sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture. This program promotes awareness and importance of agriculture in our everyday lives. The District organized volunteer readers and delivered materials to elementary schools throughout Knox and Lincoln Counties to celebrate National Agriculture Week, March 15th – 19th.

St. George School – Soils Program 5/5/10. Planting program on new nature trail 5/26/10

Youthlinks/RASA (Rockland After School Alliance) bringing environmental literacy through age-appropriate activities. These programs were open to students entering 6-9th grade in fall 2010 in the RSU District.

Nokomis High School students from Newport, ME earned first place in the **2010 MidCoast Regional Envirothon** held at Unity College on May 21st. Envirothon is a natural resource problem-solving competition for grades 9-12. In an outdoor setting, students are tested in five natural resource areas: aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current national environmental issue. Envirothon is a team effort that includes site-specific, hands on tasks. A team includes five students, an alternate, and an adult advisor. However, a team may be as small as three students. The MidCoast Regional Envirothon was hosted by Waldo, Kennebec, Knox-Lincoln and Somerset SWCD's and sponsored by the Maine Association of Conservation Districts.



EnviroScape Watershed Model. This hands-on interactive model is used by the district or loaned to provide education about how water moves throughout a watershed, sources of point and non point pollution and to initiate dialogue about water pollution prevention within a watershed.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Contractor Certification: The district conducts evaluations of construction sites on behalf of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's Contractor Certification Program. This is a voluntary program for contractor's to prove the use of Best Management Practices in erosion and sediment control.

The District provided **LakeSmart** evaluations to landowners within the Pemaquid Watershed. During a site visit, a review and scoring of landscape



and maintenance practices in 4 categories: 1) road, driveway and parking areas; 2) structures and septic systems; 3) lawn, recreation area and footpaths; and 4) shorefront and beach areas. Assessments were performed by Rebecca Jacobs, a Certified LakeSmart evaluator.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Knox-Lincoln SWCD assisted over 400 citizens and municipalities with conservation questions and concerns. Our office continues to provide soil maps and descriptions, in-house viewing of topographical and aerial maps and informational pamphlets on a variety of conservation topics.

Conservation District Day

In early October, we hosted a **Conservation Bus Tour** of Knox County designed to highlight various local conservation and agricultural practices and activities. This year our destinations included the Pool Preserve, Sweetgrass Winery & Distillery, Linita Farm and Avena Botanicals. The bus tour is sponsored by the Knox-Lincoln SWCD in partnership with the USDA/NRCS, the Knox-Lincoln Farm Bureau and the Farm Service Agency.

Spring was a very busy time at the Knox-Lincoln SWCD. The Districts annual **Tree & Shrub Sale** fundraiser offers bareroot plants to provide food and habitat for birds, mammals & butterflies. Other items featured help to provide soil erosion control or offer windbreaks. The district served over 350 customers this year.

The Knox-Lincoln SWCD Spring **Trout Sale** offered Rainbow and Brook trout to area residents to stock in their privately owned ponds as designated by individual permits issued by the ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. By actively work together with the IFW, we can help to educate the public about endangered species and ensure strict compliance with Maine regulations concerning the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program.

Knox-Lincoln SWCD Associate Supervisor *Donald Burke* (left) joined in the festivities at the **Hammond Tractor Open House** in Union where the District was invited to offer valuable information about the programs, activities and fundraising efforts provided. District Office Manager Katherine Ward and USDA/NRCS Resource Conservationist Mary E. Thompson were on hand to answer questions throughout the day.

This year 18 farms participated in Open Farm Day throughout our two-county area, attracting over 2,500 adults and children. Participating farms included Beau Chemin Preservation Farm, Birch View Farm, Cloud Hollow Farm, Shepherds and Such Homesteading Farm in Waldoboro, County Fair Farm in Jefferson, Bridge Farm in Dresden Mills, Morris Farm in Wiscasset, Stones Edge Farm in Newcastle, Agricola Farms, Brae Maple Farm, Ellsfarm Sheep Dairy, Guini Ridge Farm, Linita Farm, Savage Oakes Vineyard & Winery and Sweetgrass Farm Winery & Distillery in Union, Sweet Season Farm in Washington, Seabreeze Farm in Friendship, and Spruce Mountain Blueberries in West Rockport.

The **Mid-Coast Sustainable Living Expo** in April provided hands-on workshops, demonstrations and seminars to encourage sustainable products and practices and to educate the public on their need. Consumers learned about energy-saving and affordable options for a more environmentally responsible lifestyle. Display focused on plant sale and sound gardening practices.

Union Fair & ME Wild Blueberry Festival: The District celebrated over 60 years of service to county residents and our partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The exhibits were well attended, focused on the importance and lifelong impact of conservation education and staffed by knowledgeable and friendly volunteers who answered questions about the districts programs, workshops and educational opportunities available.

KLSWCD met with the **Waldoboro Conservation Commission** to discuss the District's role and possible future collaborations.

Rebecca Jacobs, Education/Outreach Coordinator for Knox-Lincoln SWCD was the featured guest speaker at the Mid-Coast Chapter 2169 of the **National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)**.

Partnered with Somerset, Kennebec and Waldo SWCD's on the **Lead for Loons Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund (MOHF)** grant project promoting the usage of non-lead fishing tackle

Meetings & Trainings

Education/Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs attended the **Ecological Landscaping Association Conference**. Products and information ranged from garden tools to organic fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to greenhouses to stone to plants to books. Informative lectures consisted of "Strategies & Methods for Invasive Species Management" which dealt with identifying and/or working with non-native invasive species; "The Asian Longhorned Beetle" a verbal and pictorial account of the lifecycle of the beetle with additional resources available for field & lab study; "Urban Tree Installation and Maintenance: A Checklist for Sustainability" and "The Plight of the Bumble Bee and Other Pollinators" which offered interesting tidbits regarding the alarming drop in the overall population of our native bumble bee.



As part of the **Locally Led Partnership Program**, throughout the year, the District invites individuals, groups and other local agencies to speak at our regular monthly meetings in an effort to develop relationships and understanding of a variety of programs. At the same time, our guests can gain a better understanding of our programs and objectives. Guests this year included: Laura Suomi-Lecker, Somerset County SWCD Loon & Lead Project; Pauline Paré USDA/NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Maine; and Steve Marsanskis.

Secretary/Treasurer Richard Parent, Jr. represented Knox-Lincoln SWCD at **Time & Tide RC&D Council Meetings**.

Maine Municipal Association Annual Conference – October, 2010

YardScaping Training: District staff participated in a 4-step training provided by Cumberland County SWCD. Topics covered included Spring Greening, Water Wisely, Bugs Out! And Simply Soil.

The District hosted **USDA Local Led Work Group** attended by local, state and federal agency representatives. The objective of this group is to utilize the EQIP program to promote the use of conservation practices to address nutrient management, reduce soil erosion, grazing land management, farmland preservation efforts, and development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP), air quality concerns, forestry practices and wildlife management. Allocations for available EQIP funds for FY 2010 are as follows: Cropland (includes hayland) (30%); Pasture (10%); Animal Waste (40%); Forestry (20%); and Wildlife (0%) which will be addressed using WHIP funds.

- To assist in determining and prioritizing the natural resource concerns for Knox & Lincoln Counties
- The 2010 LWG was hosted by the District in November at the U/M Cooperative Extension office in Waldoboro. The local work group is mandated by the USDA Farm Bill legislation and is responsible for providing recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs made available by the NRCS. The meeting was open to the public and invitations were extended to the conservation district officials, representatives from the FSA, the NRCS and the U/M Ext.

Watershed Stewards Program – Boothbay Region – Co-sponsor: UMCE, Laura Wilson, Water Quality Specialist

Letters of Support/Partner with other Organizations: Androscoggin Valley SWCD, Landowner workshops on Septic Systems in an effort to restore clam flats in Kennebec estuary and to Kennebec Estuary Partners: Clean Water for Shellfish Campaign.

Requested & received a \$2,000 grant from the **Norcross Wildlife Foundation Grant**. These funds were used to cover an Apple laptop computer, software, a digital camera and display materials for education & outreach.

The District's **website** was utilized as an important resource for members of the community to obtain up-to-date information regarding our education programs, projects, workshops, fundraising activities and District highlights.

MACD Summer Meeting

State Technical Committee: The District was represented by Associate Supervisor Terry Spear.

The District was well represented at the **MACD Winter Meeting** which included an MACD Advisory Council Meeting with the Maine Commissioner of Agriculture, Seth Bradstreet. Chairman Mark F. Hedrich, District Office Manager Katherine Ward and Education/Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs took part in these meetings as well as the MACD Directors Meeting. At the annual MACD auction over \$2,800.00 was raised statewide for natural resource education in Maine.

Farm Bill Program: As many of our agricultural customers know, the District & USDA/NRCS staff works hard to provide conservation assistance. We have been working with the current Farm Bill Programs for the last 10 years. Landowners participate in these programs on a voluntary basis and only receive partial funding to pay for the costs of installing these practices. Many of our farmers participate in these programs because they love the land and want to protect our natural resources.

We are a member of the **Maine Association of Conservation Districts** (MACD) and the **National Association of Conservation Districts** (NACD) and have a partnership with the **United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service** (USDA/NRCS).

County Commissioners & Legislative Delegation: The Board of Supervisors would like to recognize the Commissioners of Knox and Lincoln Counties and the Legislative Delegation for their cooperation and effort. Without this support many of the activities and programs of the District could not be maintained. Our agricultural and natural resources are of prime importance. Long range planning for the protection of these resources is one of the District's major goals and can be accomplished only with the cooperation of all levels of government and agencies working together.

Elections: November brought election time to the District and with it the re-election of Vice Chair Sharon Chadwick of Warren. Secretary/Treasurer Richard Parent, Jr of Warren and Board Member Tim Hathorne of Union were both reappointed by the Maine Soil & Water Conservation Commission.

Bus Tour:

Board Meetings: The District conducted 10 monthly board meetings in 2010 and strives to keep abreast of local issues affecting soil and water related resources. Meeting notices are sent to local newspapers via e-mail to encourage public participation. Meetings are generally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the KLSWCD office.

To ensure the proper management of District funds, the District participates in regular yearly audits.

Annual Meeting

The Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District held their Annual Meeting and Banquet on November 4th to highlight the year's events, projects & successes.

The featured speaker for the evening was Laura Suomi-Lecker, the technical director for Somerset County SWCD. She presented a talk and slide show: *Unleaded Loons: Preventing Lead Poisoning of Maine's Water Birds*. Loons are a symbol of Maine Lakes. Of the many threats to loon populations, lead poisoning is the number one cause of death of adult loons in New England. Laura's presentation focused on what can be done now, to encourage and promote non-toxic alternatives to lead fishing tackle.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS!

~ Distinguished Service Award ~ Wendy Pieh

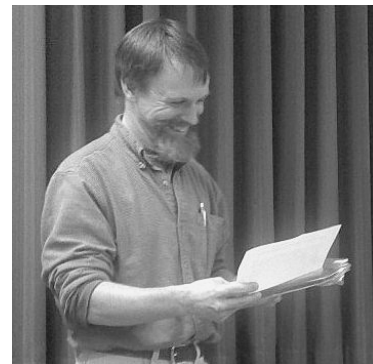
~ Conservation Teacher of the Year ~

Erik Wade

Hope Elementary School

~Outstanding Forestry Award ~

Morten Moesswilde



~ Conservation Educator ~

Kathy Cartwright



~ Cooperator of the Year ~

Scott & Martha Monroe

Pleasantville Farm, Warren

~ Special Conservation Recognition Award ~

Andy Williamson

~ Professional Service Award ~

Mark Hutchinson

University of Maine Ext. Service



USDA/NRCS - 2010 in Review

By Autumn Birt

2010 was a record year for funding for NRCS in Maine. Over \$359,000 in federal funding was awarded in Knox and Lincoln Counties through NRCS managed programs in 2010. There were new practices, programs and initiatives available for producers and landowners. In Knox county one contract was funded under the AMA (Agricultural Management Assistance) program for a High Tunnel. This practice is being offered under a pilot program for three years from 2010 until 2013. The demand for it far exceeded available funding and in 2011 the practice has been moved to regular EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) as a special funding pool.

NRCS had one application approve in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in Lincoln County. This program is designed to reward producers who are good

stewards of the land and encourage them to further enhance their efforts.

A total of 24 EQIP applications were approved for funding in 2010, 6 in Knox and 18 in Lincoln. These contracts included practices such as mulching and rock removal in blueberry fields, pasture work, and waste storage facilities. Eleven of these contracts were to have Forestry Management Plans written under EQIP's Conservation Activity Plan options which include Nutrient Management, Wildlife Habitat, and Energy Management Plans.

Six WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) applications were funded, 5 in Knox and 1 in Lincoln. This program helps to improve and protect wildlife habitat and includes such practices are riparian buffers, streambank improvement, and brush piles.

Open Farm Day: July 25, 2010

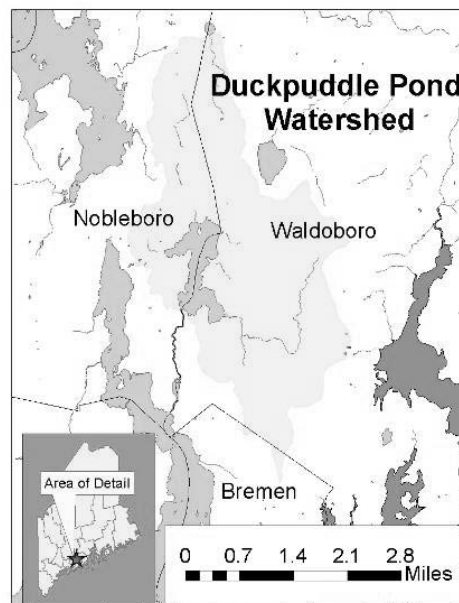
More than 100 farms across the state of Maine, 18 of which are located in Knox and Lincoln counties, joined in this exciting educational forum. Many farms offered special activities and events including berry picking, petting zoos, sampling delicious farm products, enjoying a hayride, hiking nature trails, milking demonstrations and homemade products for sale.



Duckpuddle Pond Watershed Restoration Project – Phase II

#2007WW24 - WIFAP

Waterbody Name: Duckpuddle Pond
Location: Nobleboro, Waldoboro, Lincoln County
Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed
Project Sponsor: Knox – Lincoln County SWCD
Project Duration: April 2008 – September 2010
319 Grant Amount: \$26,644
Local Match: \$17,716 (local) \$20,000 (MDAFRR)



PROBLEM:

Duckpuddle is a 242 acre pond, with a primarily forested watershed of 8.2 square miles. Developed land area, including agriculture, rural residential and commercial lands make up about 14% of the watershed. The pond shoreline is lightly developed with several large undisturbed shorefront areas. From 1989 to 1998 Duckpuddle Pond experienced nuisance algal blooms most years (8 of 11 years) due to excessive phosphorus export from its watershed. In 1996 Maine DEP added Duckpuddle to Maine’s list of impaired waters list because of the recurrent nuisance algal blooms and increasing trophic state (biological productivity).

Pemaquid Watershed Association and DEP completed a watershed survey in 1995 and identified 55 nonpoint source pollution sites. In 2005 DEP completed a Phosphorus Control Action Plan (TMDL) water pollution assessment report describing pollution sources and recommendations reduce polluted runoff.



Algae Bloom on Duckpuddle Pond

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Phase I (#2000R-37) from 2000 to 2004 installed erosion control BMPs on several roads and a manure storage facility on the Spear dairy farm to help reduce sediment and phosphorus entering Duckpuddle Pond. Phase II continued work to reduce phosphorus loading from the watershed in order to help restore the water quality of Duckpuddle. The District and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) worked with the Spear Farm, a large agricultural dairy and vegetable producer in the watershed. Improved agricultural BMPs were planned, designed and installed at three sites and the farm nutrient management plan was upgraded to meet recommended NRCS standards.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- In 2009 a heavy use area (2200 sq. ft. concrete pad) was constructed for livestock that separates clean water, contaminated water, and manure. Manure accumulation in the heavy use area is removed to the existing manure storage pit. Contaminated water runoff is directed thru a foot level lip spreader into a vegetated filter strip for treatment.
- In 2010 improvements constructed at the existing bunker silo area reduced the volume and provided treatment of silage runoff and leachate. Clean storm water runoff was diverted from entering the silage bunker area. A concrete working surface and ditch directs silage runoff water and leachate thru a picket dam to collect solids, then to a 100 foot long vegetated filter area into a small basin.
- Implementation of a revised Nutrient Management Plan will help manage nutrients to meet agronomic crop needs and control erosion and sediment to reduce polluted runoff.
- Pollutant loading to the pond was reduced by an estimated 7 tons of sediment and 120 lbs of phosphorus per year.
- Notably in 2010, DEP removed Duckpuddle Pond from Maine's impaired (TMDL) waters list. Water quality gradually improved over the 10 years ending 2008 and the pond meets Class GPA water quality standards. Phosphorus and sediment reductions from work completed under phase 1 and 2 contributed to improvement in Duckpuddle Pond.



Heavy Use Area



HUA - vegetated filter strip



Silage Bunker -vegetated filter

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Spear Farm

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONTACT INFORMATION:


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