



KNOX LINCOLN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2015 Annual Report

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Soil & Water Conservation/Technical Services

Spring Plant Sale & Fair May 2 & 3, 2015

Since 2012, our annual plant sale fundraiser has been held at the Union Fairgrounds, where we have expanded the reach of this event to include educational displays by local organizations, local vendors of handmade garden accessories, and cash & carry sales that almost equal pre-orders.



In 2015, we offered **62 varieties** of bare-root fruit trees & berries, native conifers, and (mostly) native trees & shrubs for shade, erosion control, & wildlife habitat. In addition, we had **40 varieties** of potted native perennials and herbs organically grown in Maine by Rebel Hill Farm that bloom throughout the season to keep the pollinators happy.



This year saw an increase of 20% in our plant sales over 2014, reached 92 new “customers,” and included ten new volunteers in the event.



We couldn't do this without the score (or more) volunteers who unpack, label, water, mulch, and repack 1000s of individual plants into pre-orders, as well as serve the more than 300 residents who attend the weekend sale.

Thanks to all who purchased plants and who helped to make the 2015 sale a great success!

Backyard Conservation Sale



Now in its second year, our Backyard Conservation Sale was a big success! Working with Maine Resource Recovery Association, we provided **60 compost bins**, **40 rain barrels**, as well as scrap pails and compost aerators to area residents at wholesale prices.

This means more local folks are conserving water, building soil, and sending less food and yard waste to landfills and incinerators!

New Technical Services Offered in 2015

In January 2015, Mary Thompson, formerly the District Conservationist for the USDA-NRCS field office in Warren, joined Knox-Lincoln SWCD as our new Conservation Technician. With Mary's training, experience, and familiarity with conservation concerns in our region, we are now able to offer an expanded range of fee-for-service assistance.

Some of the new services offered are:

- Preparation of State of Maine Nutrient Management Plans
- Planning and/or maintenance of culverts or open bottom stream crossing installations
- Advanced pond construction and maintenance
- Pasture management consultation

In 2015, Mary provided assistance to more than 10 landowners in Knox and Lincoln counties, including preparation of two Nutrient Management Plans, a gravel pit application inspection, and several pond consultations.

FMI, visit www.knox-lincoln.org/technical-assistance-services or call 596-2040

Contractor Certification Training

In January 2013, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) certification was made mandatory for contractors excavating more than one cubic yard of soil in the shoreland zone. This certification is required before contractors can receive a work permit from local code enforcement officers. Currently, there are more than 3000 certified contractors in the state.

Although conservation districts are no longer site evaluators, we are still collaborating with the DEP to help enlist local contractors in the certification program. To that end, Knox-Lincoln SWCD hosted a DEP-required daylong training session on Basic & Advanced Erosion Control Best Management Practices for Contractors on November 18, 2015 at the Damariscotta Town Office. 30 new area contractors seeking certification and 5 contractors seeking recertification attended.

Find Certified Contractors in your area on the DEP website:
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/land/training/ccec.html>

K-12 Education Highlights

Read ME Ag: Aquaculture for ME

Read ME Agriculture is a statewide program initiated by *Maine Agriculture in the Classroom* to introduce farming - *and farmers* - to area students. Education Coordinator Rebecca Jacobs and a cadre of volunteer readers spent the week of March 23-27 visiting local elementary schools to read the 2015 book, *Aquaculture for ME*, to more than **675 Knox & Lincoln county students in grades K-4**.



In addition to reading the book, volunteers shared their own diverse backgrounds in horticulture, beekeeping, forestry, community supported agriculture and hobby farming with the classes.



One special group of readers, *RSU 13 Alt Ed students who participate in the aquaculture program at Herring Gut Learning Institute in Pt Clyde (left)*, shared their personal experiences in aquaculture with classes at South School in Rockland.

All participating teachers receive a copy of the annual book along with supplementary materials to use in future lessons, courtesy of MAITC.

NACD Annual Poster Contest

Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators



Grade 4-6 winner
Lilly Curtis



Grade 2-3 winner
Jordynn Pierce
(with Rebecca Jacobs)



Grade K-1 winner
Henry Ackor

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District congratulates the winners of the 2015 Annual Conservation Poster Contest. This program is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts, which each year sets a national stewardship theme. Rebecca Jacobs, KLSWCD education coordinator, presented a lesson on the 2015 theme, *Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators*, to more than 650 K-6th grade students in 10 schools throughout Knox and Lincoln counties, resulting in 550 posters to evaluate.

And, the three local winners (pictured above), each went on to be the statewide winner in their grade categories!

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District congratulates all of the winners and commends all of the students for their efforts.

Conservation Fair

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 26, 2015, approximately **550 middle school students** - with their teachers and chaperones - from numerous schools across our two counties joined us for this exciting educational event!



Community Outreach

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District takes advantage of local fairs and events to share the conservation message. In 2015, we had interactive educational displays on various topics at:



- Legislative Day at the State House (February 12)
- Hammond Tractor Open House (April 4)
- Maine Boats, Homes, & Harbors Children's Tent
- Union Fair and Wild Blueberry Festival (August 22-29)
- Common Ground Country Fair (with Waldo SWCD; September 25-27)

In addition, we reached out through our dynamic website featuring District, NRCS, and other local conservation events, news, and publications of conservation interest; an active Facebook page; and an occasional – and lively – e-newsletter. All of these can be accessed from our website at www.knox-lincoln.org – come see us!

Annual Awards Banquet

Our Annual Awards Banquet is held the first Wednesday in November at the North Nobleboro Community Hall – and in 2015 there was no freak snow storm, so everything went off as planned with more than enough homemade pie to satisfy all!

Pictured below are this year's awards recipients (*from left to right*):

- *Conservation Farm of 2015*: Patti & Chris Hamilton of Hamilton Farm and Barred Owl Creamery
- *Honorary Lifetime Supervisor*: Barry Tibbetts, Sheepscot Valley Farm, Whitefield
- *Excellence in Forestry Education*: Lorraine Taft, DACF Forest Outreach Project
- *Excellence in Agricultural Education*: Ellie Libby, Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension, Waldoboro
- *Excellence in Horticultural Education*: Liz Stanley, Knox-Lincoln Cooperative Extension, Warren



Guest speakers were teacher Sally Allen, ed tech James Willigar, and student Ethan Tillson who got us up to speed on **ABLE: Aquaponics (and garden) Based Learning Environment** at Whitefield School.

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. 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 and Planting Guides

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!

Volunteers needed!

We often need an extra hand, whether for the *Plant Sale* - packing orders, helping customers with plant selections or finding new sources of locally grown plants; **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 Hildy or Rebecca at 596-2040 or info@knox-lincoln.org.

2015 Financial report

2015 Operating Expenses

Salaries	67,746.71
Payroll Taxes	5,985.49
Education Programs	4,695.85
Fundraising Expenses	20,181.59
Annual Meeting	1,221.76
Travel/Meetings	2,482.63
Dues	2,950.00
Fees/Permits	120.13
Office/Supplies	900.72
Accounting	1,947.55
Printing & Postage	1,271.30
Rent	10,200.00
Utilities	718.16
Workers Comp	410.45
Total	120,832.34

2015 Operating Income

County & State Funding	78,346.00
Technical Assistance Fees	5,764.71
Education Programs	4,391.35
Fundraising Income	26,548.36
Annual Meeting	486.61
Grant income	8,000.00
Other income	5,046.15
Total	128,583.18

Net Operating Income 7,750.84

2015 Non-operating Income

Interest Income	32.87
Beginning Balance	14,066.56
Ending Balance	21,997.18

2015 Supporters

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District extends our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following agencies and businesses, who, through their financial support in 2015, made it possible for us to provide educational programs and technical assistance to the residents of Knox and Lincoln counties.

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Commissioners, County of Knox
Commissioners, County of Lincoln

Floor Magic

Ober & Barrett Builders

A.E. Sampson & Son

Fresh Off The Farm

Good Tern Coop

Green Thumb

Hannaford Supermarkets

Mid-Maine Forestry

Moose Crossing Garden Center

Mystic Woodworks

NEWAIM Farm

Rising Tide Coop

Rockport Automotive

Schoolhouse Farm

Spear Farm

Viking Lumber

Warren True Value

District Supervisors and Staff

District Supervisors

Mark Hedrich, *Chair*
Tim Hathorne, *Vice-Chair*
Richard Parent, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Sharon Chadwick
Gary Balducci

Associate Supervisors

Barrie Brusila
Jan Goranson
David Hayden

Lifetime Honorary Supervisors

Robert Spear
Barry Tibbetts

District Staff

Hildy Ellis
District Coordinator

Rebecca Jacobs
Education/Outreach Coordinator

Mary Thompson
Conservation Technician

Consulting Engineer

Stephen Roberge

NRCS Staff

Augusta Field Office (*Lincoln County*)

Peter Abello
Xandy Brown
Luis Aponte
Ken Blazej

Belfast Field Office (*Knox County*)

Autumn Birt
Brittany Hummel
Ken Blazej

Engineer

Candi Gilpatric, PE

2016 Special Events

April 30 & May 1, 2016: Spring Conservation Plant Sale at Union Fairgrounds

Bareroot fruit trees & berry bushes, native trees, shrubs, and perennials for conservation, wildlife & ornamental plantings. Pre-order and cash & carry. Order forms will be available late January 2016.

May 1, 2016: Trout Stocking Sale Pick Up & Lead Tackle Exchange at Union Fairgrounds

Brook and rainbow trout to stock your pond. Pre-order only (IF&W permit required). Order forms will be available late January 2016.

May 2016: Maine Envirothon for Grades 9-12

Summer 2016: Ecology Camps at Merryspring Nature Center

September 10, 2016: Conservation Farm Tour of Lincoln County

September 29, 2016: Conservation Fair for Grades 1-4 at Union Fairgrounds

November 2, 2016: Annual Awards Banquet at North Nobleboro Community Building

Check our website (www.knox-lincoln.org) and Facebook page
or call the District office at 596-2040
for details of these and other programs and events.

This report is printed on paper made from trees harvested from a forest managed to strict environmental, social and economic standards, and certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international non-profit association working to improve forest management worldwide.



Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water
Conservation District

Conserving land & water resources

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