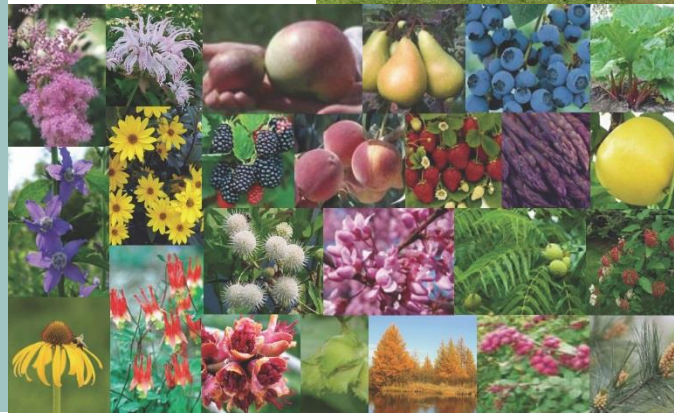




KNOX LINCOLN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2016 Annual Report

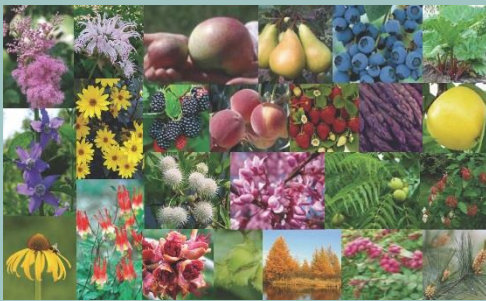


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Spring Plant Sale/Adult Programs & Assistance

Spring Plant Sale & Fair April 30 & May 1, 2016

Our Spring Plant Sale is the single biggest fundraiser of the year, and, coming hard on the heels of winter, a chance for folks to get out, see friends and look ahead to the summer gardening season. Moving the sale to Union Fairgrounds, in 2012, gave us the opportunity to offer cash & carry sales that almost equal the pre-orders; include education displays and handouts on plant care, soil health, and composting; and add local vendors of handmade items for backyard habitats.



We continue to expand our offerings as well! In 2016, our catalog included 36 varieties of bareroot fruit trees & berries; 55 different native conifers, trees & shrubs; and 54 species of herbs and perennials (organically grown by Rebel Hill Farm in Clifton) that bloom through the season to keep the pollinators happy.

In addition to Maine grown perennials, in 2016, we offered locally grown native shrubs from Crystal Lake Nursery in Washington. We plan to offer more Maine grown plants in the future!

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 2016 sale a great success!

Invasive Species Outreach Grants

Both Rebecca Jacobs, Ed/Outreach Coordinator, and Hildy Ellis, District Coordinator, have extensive backgrounds in invasive plant identification and removal, so it was a perfect fit when Knox-Lincoln (*along with Kennebec SWCD*) was asked to participate in a pilot project spearheaded by the Maine Natural Areas Program and funded by a Conservation Innovation Grant from Maine Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Helping Maine Producers Address Invasive Species Problems aims to assist Maine farmers in identifying, mapping, and controlling the invasive plants degrading their woods and fields with the goal of preventing the spread of invasive plants to unaffected areas of the state. Summer 2016 was the first field season of this grant and Rebecca and our summer intern, Devin Dohmeyer, surveyed, mapped, and delivered reports to eight farms in Knox and Lincoln counties.

In addition, the Maine Association of Conservation Districts Employee Committee, was awarded a grant from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's *Invasive forest Pest Outreach Project* to conduct outreach on threats posed by invasive forest pests, including browntail moth and emerald ash borer. See more information about this grant on our website at www.knox-lincoln.org/invasive-forest-pests.

Beginning Farmer Workshop Series

Education has always been an important focus for our District – and not just for the kids! In 2016, we received a grant from NRCS to conduct a series of free workshops for “beginning” farmers – those who aspire to farm, as well as folks who have been farming for up to ten years. Maine Coast Heritage Trust/Aldermere Farm served as co-sponsors for the complete series; Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association and Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine co-sponsored individual workshops.

Seven workshops were held at locations in Knox and Lincoln counties and served a total of 130 attendees – many of whom attended several or all the sessions. The workshop topics were:

Managing Soil Fertility in Greenhouses • *Pest Management & Organic Certification*
Implementing Conservation on Your Farm • *Improving Pollinator Habitat*
Beyond the Field Edge: Your Woodlands • *Soil Health & Nutrient Management*
Pasture & Grazing Management

We look forward to continuing to provide this kind of programming!

Natural Resources Assessment

Working under another grant from NRCS, our district - and all conservation districts in Maine - conducted a natural resources assessment in the winter and spring of 2016. Using SurveyMonkey, districts worked together to develop a statewide survey that also included questions specific to each district. The survey was well-received and 80 Knox-Lincoln residents responded. Invasive species, water quality, and pressure on agricultural and forest land from development were high on the list of concerns of those who responded. In addition to the survey, Knox-Lincoln SWCD held two public meetings, one in Waldoboro and one in Damariscotta to get public input.

The resulting report was completed in Fall 2016 and may be found on our website at www.knox-lincoln.org/natural-resources-assessment.

K-12 Education Highlights

Summer Ecology Camps

For the second year, Knox-Lincoln SWCD offered two one-week summer ecology camps in collaboration with Merryspring Nature Center in Camden: Little Sprouts for campers ages 4-6 and Eco-Explorer for campers ages 7-9.

Both ½ day camps included an introduction to natural resources, ecology, and wildlife through games, hands-on learning activities, crafts, nature hikes, nature observation, and gardening. Some scholarships are available.



NACD Annual Poster Contest: *We all Need Trees*

Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District congratulates the winners of the 2016 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 2016 theme, *We All Need Trees*, to more than 650 K-6 grade students in 10 schools throughout Knox and Lincoln counties, resulting in >550 posters to evaluate.

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



Grade 4-6 winner
Lilly Curtis



Grade 2-3 winner
Lyla Brooks



Grade K-1 winner
Mia Debrosky

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 29, 2016, approximately **950 elementary 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 2016, we focused that message on invasive plants and invasive forest pests, reflecting the work that we are doing under two separate grants and the expressed interest of area residents in the Natural Resources Assessment.

Here are just some of the events to which we brought displays, specimens, and handouts and answered questions: Agricultural Trade Show in Augusta, Legislative Day at the State House, Hammond Tractor Open House in Union, Pen Bay Chamber of Commerce Business Expo in Rockport, Maine Public Works Association Hiway Congress in Skowhegan, Maine Boats, Homes and Harbors in Rockland, Union Fair and Wild Blueberry Festival, Open Farm Day at Erickson Fields in Rockport, Maine Farm, and the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity where we collaborate on a display with Waldo County SWCD.

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. These can be accessed from our website at www.knox-lincoln.org – come visit us!

Annual Awards Banquet

On November 2, 2016 we gathered for food, friendship, and fun at our Annual Awards Banquet held at the North Nobleboro Community Hall on Upper East Pond road.

Congratulations to the 2016 awards recipients:

- *Conservation Farm of 2016 – Scott Blueberries, Larry and Dale Scott & Sons, Waldoboro*
- *Excellence in Forestry Education – Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson*
- *Preserving Agricultural Genetic Diversity – Beau Chemin Preservation Farm, Jo Ann and Wayne Myers, Waldoboro*
- *Outstanding District Volunteer – BJ Dobson, West Boothbay Harbor*

After dinner and awards, Sue Jones of Community Energy Partners and Rob Johanson of Goranson Farm in Dresden presented information on Renewable Energy Grants available through the Rural Energy for America Program. Community Energy Partners has a USDA grant to help producers apply for these grants. Goranson Farm received two grants through this program – one for a reverse osmosis system for maple syrup and another for a photovoltaic installation which now powers the farm!

As usual, a good time was had by all – and, as always, the pie was great!

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.

2016 Financial Report

District Supervisors and Staff

2016 Operating Expenses

Salaries	69,384.84
Payroll Taxes	5,758.10
Education Programs	5087.96
Fundraising Expenses	23,190.95
Annual Meeting	1,251.14
Grant Expenses	3,007.15
Travel/Meetings	3,055.97
Dues	3,302.50
Fees/Permits	72.00
Office/Supplies	1,346.44
Accounting	2,651.20
Outside Contract Services	1,125.00
Printing & Postage	646.13
Advertising & Promotion	694.19
Rent	10,200.00
Equipment & Maintenance	1,700.16
Utilities	2,442.87
Workers Comp	337.00
Other	1,400.13
Total	136,653.63

2016 Operating Income

County & State Funding	72,277.75
Technical Assistance Fees	1,748.17
Education Programs	3,929.19
Fundraising Income	30,948.06
Annual Meeting	623.23
Grant income	24,003.75
Other income	1,474.35
Total	135,004.50
Net Operating Income	-1,649.13
Non-operating Income	
Interest Income	1.84
Insurance reimbursement	62.23
Net other income	64.07
Net Income	-1,585.06
Beginning Balance	21,137.36
Ending Balance	25,866.56

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 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 2016, 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

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Agricola Farm, Union

Ames Supply, Wiscasset

Fresh Off the Farm, Rockport

Goranson Farm, Dresden

Green Thumb, Rockport

Hannaford Supermarkets

Lincoln's Country Store, Warren

Mid-Maine Forestry, Warren

Mystic Woodworks, Warren

NEWAIM Farm, Waldoboro

Ober & Barrett Builders, Rockport

Rising Tide Coop, Damariscotta

Schoolhouse Farm, Warren

Spear Farms, Nobleboro

State of Maine Cheese, Rockport

Warren True Value, Warren

2017 Special Events

May 6 & 7, 2017: 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 2017.

May 7, 2017: 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 2017.

May 2017: Maine Envirothon for Grades 9-12

Summer 2017: Ecology Camps at Merryspring Nature Center

September 9, 2017: Conservation Farm Tour of Lincoln County

September 28, 2017: Conservation Fair for Grades 1-4 at Union Fairgrounds

October 18, 2017: 70th Anniversary Party at Camp Wavus on Damariscotta Lake!

For details of all programs and events:

www.knox-lincoln.org www.facebook.com/knoxlincolnsoilandwater
596-2040

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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