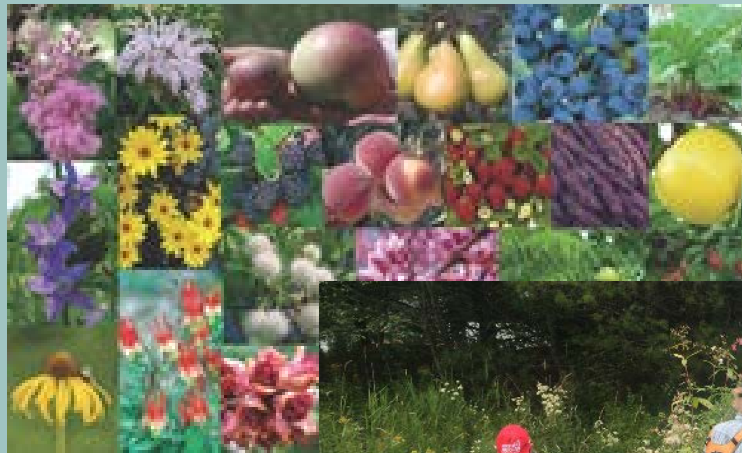




# KNOX-LINCOLN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2017 Annual Report



### Contact Us:

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# About the District

## *Celebrating 70 Years of Conservation & Education*

### **2017 marked Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

In response to the agricultural disaster known as The Dust Bowl, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1937, recommended that state governors allow local landowners to form soil conservation districts. Knox-Lincoln SWCD was organized by an act of the Maine State Legislature in 1947 to work with the newly formed federal *Soil Conservation Service* (now, *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*) and thus ensure the success of conservation work on private land. Today, the country boasts nearly 3,000 conservation districts, including 16 in the state of Maine, all of which continue to work with NRCS and other federal, state and local partners.

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 and three non-voting associate supervisors, who serve as unpaid volunteers, as well as two part-time program managers, a part-time conservation technician and a part-time administrative assistant.

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

*In 2017, the District welcomed two new supervisors, Jeff Tarbox of Westport Island and Diane Schivera of Appleton. We look forward to the expertise, knowledge and new ideas they will bring to our programs.*



**Mark F. Hedrich (Chair)** has been an elected Supervisor since 1986. He and his wife, Linda Rose, own Agricola Farms, a diversified 117-acre farm in Union and operate Agricola Farms County Store. Mark received a B.S. in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from the University of Maine at Orono and an M.S. from Cornell University, specializing in ruminant nutrition. A former dairy farmer, Mark served as a member (and President) of the Executive Board of the Maine Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and a member of the MACD Advisory Council. He also served as Councilman to the National Association of Conservation Districts, traveling extensively throughout the U.S. representing Maine. Mark was active with the Farm Service Agency County Committee for 21 years, serving as Chairman for 10 years. Currently, Mark is the State Nutrient Management Program Coordinator for the Maine Department of Agriculture.



**Sharon G. Chadwick (Vice-Chair)** lives with her husband, Gerald, at BenEva Farm in Warren, which was started more than 70 years ago by her grandparents, Ben and Eva Barbour. Sharon and Jerry “came home” to run the farm with Sharon’s grandparents in 1988 and still operate as a conservation farm, raising commercial Black Angus beef for the freezer and feedlots, and selling hay. They engage in conservation practices with a manure storage facility, a heavy use pad area, a livestock barn and by developing a management plan for invasive plant species. Each year, Sharon looks to judging the Annual Poster Contest and helping out at the Conservation Fair and Plant Sale.



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



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

### ***Associate Supervisors:***

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

**David Hayden** (*Angus Acres; Whitefield*)

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



# K-12 Education Highlights

## Summer Ecology Camps

Each summer, Knox-Lincoln SWCD and Merryspring Nature Center collaborate to offer two one-week summer ecology camp sessions at Merryspring in Camden: *Little Sprouts* for campers ages 4-6 and *Eco-Explorers* for campers ages 7-9.

These popular, ½ day sessions include an introduction to natural resources, ecology, and wildlife through games, hands-on learning activities, crafts, nature hikes, nature observation, and gardening.

**Scholarships are available; [www.knox-lincoln.org/summer-ecology-camps](http://www.knox-lincoln.org/summer-ecology-camps).**



## National Association of Conservation District Poster Contest and Fundraiser Gallery

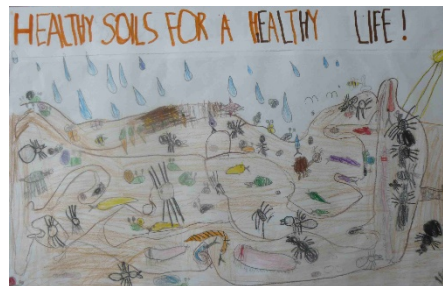
Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District congratulates the winners of the 2017 Conservation Poster Contest. This program is sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts. Rebecca Jacobs, KLSWCD education coordinator, presented a lesson on the 2017 theme, **Healthy Soil is Full of Life**, to more than 650 K-6 grade students in 10 schools throughout Knox and Lincoln counties, resulting in >550 posters to evaluate.

In March, we held a congratulatory fundraiser with a Poster Contest Gallery and fun raffle items at Flatbread Company in Rockport that raised about \$400!

**Congratulations to all the poster-makers for their efforts!**



Gwenevere Hustus, Gr 4-6 winner



Jett Woods, Gr 2-3 winner



Lucia White, Gr K-1 winner

## Conservation Education Fair

*September 28 at Union Fairgrounds*

Every year on the last Thursday of September, we bring Knox-Lincoln students to the Union Fairgrounds for a day of conservation and environmental education. Here state and local professionals and volunteers engage these young people in interactive demonstrations and activities about food, farming, bee keeping, marine resources, forestry...and more.

On September 28, 2017, approximately 450 middle school students - with their teachers and chaperones - from schools across our two counties joined us for this exciting educational event!

Especially exciting in 2017, two of our presenters were other students engaged in peer-to-peer teaching.





# Focus on Plants

## Spring Plant Sale

A rite of spring since 1947!

May 5 & 6, 2017

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.

The sale focuses on fruits, berries and other edibles for the garden, as well as native trees, shrubs and perennials for wildlife habitat, erosion control, soil conservation and water quality.



We continue to expand the number and variety of plants that we offer – for pre-order as well as cash & carry – and the educational aspects of the sale and “fair.” These include demonstrations, displays and hand-outs on plant care, soil health, and composting; local vendors of hand-made, re-purposed items for backyard habitats; and exhibits by local conservation organizations. In addition, we have added more local growers and continue to search for more.



Our customers are dedicated and loyal and are not even daunted by bad weather, like the pouring rain we had this year.

**Sign up for next year's catalog at [www.knox-lincoln.org/spring-plant-sale/](http://www.knox-lincoln.org/spring-plant-sale/)**

## Native Plants/Invasive Plants

As reflected in the 2016 Natural Resources Assessment, Knox and Lincoln county residents place a high priority on managing invasive plants and improving wildlife habitat and water quality with native plantings.

In addition to offering native plants at our annual spring sale, Knox-Lincoln SWCD offers technical assistance and education that focuses on these priorities for agricultural and woodland owners as well as local residents.

### Invasive Plants Outreach Grant

In 2016, 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* aimed to assist Maine farmers and woodland owners 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.



The field work for this grant was completed in 2017 and resulted in 20 management plans for Knox and Lincoln county producers. These plans may serve as an aid in procuring funding for to control these invaders from agencies, such as NRCS. In addition, the team did some mechanical management (hand-pulling) of garlic mustard and Himalayan balsam (above) at selected sites. The District looks forward to continuing to offer these services and others into the future. ***If you have a question about invasive plants, please contact us at 596-2040 or [info@knox-lincoln.org](mailto:info@knox-lincoln.org).***

### Growing Native Plants from Seed

In October 2017, Knox Lincoln SWCD presented a hands-on native seed-sowing workshop at Sheepscot General Farm & Store in Whitefield. Growing native plants from seed is a great way to produce a lot of plants inexpensively and to protect the genetic diversity of Maine native plants



Heather McCargo, Executive Director and founder of Wild Seed Project (Portland and Blue Hill) instructed >20 participants in the germination strategies of native perennials, trees and shrubs. Participants then had an opportunity to sow their choice of provided seeds— ranging from blue vervain, to take home and overwinter for germination in the spring (or beyond).

# Community Outreach

## *Invasive Forest Pests, Invasive Plants, Conservation News*

The District takes advantage of local fairs and events to share the conservation message. In 2017, we focused that message on invasive plants and, especially, invasive forest pests, such as the emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and hemlock woolly adelgid. This reflected the work that we are doing under the NRCS-CIG for invasive plants and an invasive forest pest outreach grant from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry as well as the expressed concerns of area residents in the 2016 Natural Resources Assessment.

*(below, Open Farm Day at Brae Maple Farm in Union)*



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; PenBay Chamber of Commerce Business Expo in Rockport; Maine Public Works Association Hiway Congress in Skowhegan; Union Fair and Wild Blueberry Festival; Open Farm Day at Brae Maple Farm in Union, Maine Farm Days in Clinton, and the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity.

In addition, we reach 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](http://www.knox-lincoln.org) – come visit us!

## *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](mailto:info@knox-lincoln.org).

# 2017 Financial Report

2017 Operating Expenses		2017 Operating Income	
Salaries	74,670.38	County & State Funding	87,638.25
Payroll Taxes	6,295.85	Technical Assistance Fees	3,441.44
Education Programs	6494.52	Education Programs	7,277.58
Fundraising Expenses	20,043.84	Fundraising Income	28,215.49
Annual Meeting	2,520.30	Annual Meeting	1,328.60
Grant Expenses	2,818.00	Grant income	17,480.49
Travel/Meetings	2,302.21	Other income	227.56
Dues	2,753.75	<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>145,609.41</b>
Fees/Permits	22.00		
Office/Supplies	2,076.79	<b>Non-operating Income</b>	
Accounting	2,208.71	Interest Income	3.11
Computer Tech Support	717.79	<b>Total Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>3.11</b>
Outside Contract Services	0.00		
Printing & Postage	1,545.93	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>145,612.52</b>
Advertising & Promotion	1,379.68	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>138,766.15</b>
Workers Comp	263.67	<b>Net income</b>	<b>6,846.37</b>
Other	413.93		
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>138,766.15</b>		

## 2017 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

Sasanoa Brewing, Westport

Schoolhouse Farm, Warren

Spear Farms, Nobleboro

State of Maine Cheese, Rockport

## District Supervisors and Staff

### District Supervisors

Mark Hedrich, *Chair*

Sharon Chadwick, *Vice-Chair*

Jeff Tarbox, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Diane Schivera

### Associate Supervisors

Barrie Brusila

Anna Fielder

David Hayden

### Lifetime Honorary Supervisors

Robert Spear

Barry Tibbetts

### District Staff

Hildy Ellis

*Program Manager*

Rebecca Jacobs

*Program Manager*

Cathrine Vogel

*Administrative Assistant*

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*)

Brittany Hummel

Megan Facciolo

Ken Blazej

### Engineer

Candi Gilpatric, PE



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