



Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Report 2017

Summary

2017 has been a year of change and growth for the District. In the fall of 2016, our Board of Supervisors and Administrative Manager Kym Sanderson began developing a vision for expanded outreach and education for the District. Their first action was to expand the staff from one to two people, by dividing the single full time position into two part time positions. This allowed the District to hire Aleta McKeage as a Technical Director responsible for developing outreach and education programs. Together, Kym, Aleta and the Supervisors developed a greatly expanded Conservation Assistance Program, which forms the core of our service offerings, with a 2017 theme of “Healthy Woods and Waters.”

We also created a program for volunteers and student interns called the Community Conservation Corps which provides on-the-ground conservation assistance and community service as well as providing a valuable learning experience for area college students, community volunteers, and also ex-offenders. We’ve expanded our educational programming on several other fronts, with new environmental education enrichment programs for area schools and a workshop series on small-scale woodlot management. These innovative new programs have allowed us to partner with 16 area organizations in 2017. Please read on to learn more about our exciting year, and to find out what’s next.



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2017 Accomplishments

- Added a technical director
- Developed a member database and email newsletter
- Created a new website with resources for the public
- Provided 425 hours of conservation assistance to 23 organization and individuals
- Initiated a conservation intern and volunteer program which also employed Department of Corrections inmates in re-entry
- Partnered with NRCS to have the interns be a part of the NRCS Earth Team
- Partnered with 16 organizations
- Held a small scale forestry workshop series in collaboration with the Maine Forest Service
- Held four workshops / trainings on invasive plants
- Assisted in the development and implementation of the Natural Literacy Environmental Education Program
- Partnered with Knox-Lincoln, Kennebec and Somerset SWCDs to hold the Midcoast Regional Envirothon, and hosted the statewide Envirothon
- Gave a presentation on shoreline erosion control and native plants to the Friends of Lake Winnecook, with site visit to a property owners group as a follow up
- Assisted Friends of Sears Island in writing a successful grant for environmental education and program development
- Assisted Knox-Lincoln SWCD with forest pest education at the Conservation Fair and the Common Ground Festival
- Created an expanded Shrub and Fruit Tree Sale that included native plants recommended for various resource improvements
- The Board of Supervisors provided leadership to assist MACD in accomplishing state wide goals.
- Partnered with Somerset SWCD to develop the Ag Allies Delayed Hayfield Mowing Program

Waldo SWCD 2017

Educational Activities

- Midcoast and State Envirothon
- Belfast High School AP Science Lessons on Field Sampling and Assessment
- Swanville's Nickerson Elementary School Watershed Study Unit
- Community Conservation Corps Internship
- Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition's Natural Literacy program planning
- Knox-Lincoln SWCD Conservation Fair

Learning on the Job : The Community Conservation Corps "CCC"

In 2017 the District offered a program for volunteers to participate in many projects while learning about agriculture, forestry and conservation. This year two college students were accepted as full time interns, Jamie Behan of the University of Maine and Sierra Hopkins of Unity College. The young women completed 476 hours of service and learning. Each week they rotated between several major ongoing projects including Belfast's Crosby Center green space revitalization, Main Street Park stormwater management garden, Sears Island Biological Monitoring and Coastal Mountains Land Trust invasive plant management. As the summer progressed the interns took increasing responsibility for managing each project and making decisions. As they worked various important skills required in a conservation career were learned and practiced, and the interns completed the program with many additional professional competencies. "It has been a life-changing experience," said Sierra as she completed her nine weeks with the District. At the end of her internship, Sierra was able to draft a full invasive plant management plan for a Coastal Mountains Land Trust preserve, including maps of the infestation that she and Jamie created. Each week the students had learning sessions with various professionals from the different organizations we assisted. They had learning sessions on botany, ecology, mapping, dairy farming, nutrient management, blueberry farming, water quality sampling, wetlands, soil sampling, trail construction, invasive plants, native plant gardening, site improvement and vegetation assessment. The interns developed confidence as they continued their experience, which allowed them feel ready to lead adult volunteer groups. One of our goals for the CCC program is to integrate community volunteers with student learners, and as a result approximately 40 people contributed over 500 volunteer hours to our conservation assistance projects in 2017.



Community Conservation Corps interns lead Athena Health volunteers (in green shirts) in the Crosby Center green space revitalization.

Breaking Down the Dam : Conservation Assistance

It began with a day of exploring Moulton Mill Preserve with Sebasticook Regional Land Trust stewards in late 2016. The District had answered their request to provide assistance in dealing with mounting invasive plant problems on their preserve lands. They contracted with WCSWCD to help, and soon the District offered a seminar to their members, planning assistance during a stewardship committee meeting, and then a training which involved this excursion into Moulton Mill Preserve. The training helped the land stewards understand how to use GPS units to begin mapping the invasive plant distribution in the preserve, and provided instruction in methods to control the invasive honeysuckle in the river floodplain. Thus began a vision to offer extended technical assistance to Waldo Landowners large and small, under a new Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) . The Sebasticook conservation assistance led to a request by the Alewife Restoration Institute to help them plan for healthy revegetation of an area which would be “de-watered” after a dam was removed to allow fish passage in the China Lake area. The District provided a series of services which included a workshop for the conservation commission, a full land management plan, and GIS mapping of invasive plants. The District completed thus completed two major CAP projects by late spring.

A new focus for the District is integration and collaboration. We have added many multi-organization collaborations, and within our own work we have integrated programs and focus areas. Our conservation corps interns participated in the each of these conservation assistance projects from start to finish, and in the process learned skills such as using a GPS unit to characterize land features in GIS (geographic information systems) maps, planning and writing.

We have opened our Conservation Assistance Program to any landowner large or small. Some assistance such as the training and full management plans have been provided to land trusts and other conservation organizations, and many recipients had small residential properties that they wanted to improve. This year we provided technical assistance through our Conservation Assistance Program to 23 organizations and individuals, with over 425 total hours of assistance. Our largest project this year was to assist the new Crosby (community) Center in revitalizing its urban green space, which the district planned and then provided labor through the Community Conservation Corps. Two other major projects were assisting Coastal Mountains Land Trust with invasive plant assessment, training, mapping and management on their new McClelland-Poor Preserve, and assisted Trinity Green LLC in developing plans for its demonstration forest on the Passagassawakeag River.

Conservation Assistance Recipients

Alewife Restoration Initiative (Maine Rivers) Conservation Commission training, management plan, mapping, ongoing assistance

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition CCC assistance, education program participation and organizing

City of Belfast CCC assistance with arboretum and stormwater management demonstration

Coastal Mountains Land Trust Management Plan and training, volunteer leadership (CCC interns leading), staff training on invasive plants, CCC invasives mapping and removal

Crosby Center Green space site improvement including revitalization plan and CCC labor assistance

Friends of Lake Winnecook – presentation on shoreline management and WCSWCD, landowner assistance

Friends of Sears Island CCC assistance with biological monitoring and invasive plant control, public presentation on biodiversity and citizen science, grant writing assistance

Maine Forest Service Invasive brown-tail moth survey, outreach collaboration

Midcoast Regional Re-entry Center Job training on our CCC projects

NRCS CCC assistance with soil sampling, Earth Team collaboration

Sebasticook Regional Land Trust Volunteer training, public presentation

Trinity Green LLC Land management plan for Refugia Demonstration Landscape

Waldo County Trails Coalition CCC assistance with Hills to Sea trail

13 individual landowners received conservation “walk and talks”

2017 Board of Supervisors

Andy Reed, Chair

Brian Baker, Vice Chair

Susan Hunter, Treasurer

Harold Larrabee, Supervisor

Katie Johnson, Supervisor

Donald Cox, Associate Supervisor

2017 District Staff

Kym Sanderson, Administrative Director

Aleta McKeage, Technical Director

NRCS Conservationists

Brittany Hummel, District Conservationist

Megan Facciolo, Soil Conservationist

Ken Blazej, Soil Conservationist

District Mission

The District provides leadership, information, education and technical assistance to conserve, improve and sustain our natural resources through partnerships with individuals, businesses, organizations and government agencies.

Conservationist of the Year

Every year the district picks an individual, group, organization or farm to receive the Conservationist of the Year Award. We give this award based on the accomplishments achieved and work done to improve and/or protect Waldo County's natural resources.

The 2017 recipient was Andy Reed. Andy has been a long-time, hard-working and dedicated member of the District for close to twenty years and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. Serving on the Board is just one of the many contributions he makes to conservation and his community. He has dedicated his life to Maine's outdoors – from the forest land that he works and manages to the lake he lives on in Unity with his wife Gayle.

He gives countless hours to the Maine Association of Conservation Districts as Chairman of the Board. He also chairs the fund raising committee for the Maine State Envirothon Program, the top natural resource conservation competition program for high school students in the state. In addition Andy is a member of the Maine Chestnut Foundation and has participated in planting countless American Chestnut trees, with the goal that one day the work will lead to a blight resistant tree.

Although natural resource conservation is a big part of his life, Andy also gives time to his community serving as chairman of the Knox

Ridge Baptist Church Board of Trustees, is on the Friends of Lake Winnecook board, is a member of the Maine Tree Farm Association and serves as chairman of the Unity Budget Committee.

The District is very grateful to be able to count Andy Reed as a friend and partner in



*Andy Reed,
District Conservationist of the Year*

conserving Waldo County's natural resources for present and future generations. It is an honor to name him 2017 Conservationist of the Year.

2017 Annual Banquet and Meeting

Friends, partners and members of the Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District gathered for our Annual Banquet on November 16, to recognize the 2017 accomplishments. The event was hosted by Aghaloma Farm in Knox and started with a home-cooked meal prepared and served by the owners of the farm, the Larrabee family. The dinner was followed by a short program that started with the Board honoring Chairman Andy Reed with the Conservationist of the Year award. Reed was honored for eighteen years of dedication to the district. Also recognized for her many hours of volunteering to help with various district events was Darrah Wagner. She was awarded the 2017 Most Valuable Volunteer for giving a great deal of her time to the district's annual tree and shrub sale fund raiser as well as helping with mailings and educational programs throughout the year. Technical Director Aleta McKeage, who joined the district in February of this year, gave a presentation outlining the new and expanding programs and projects she developed and put in place for 2017 and announced plans for the coming year. McKeage has done an outstanding job making connections with local conservation partners, developing new conservation education programs for students and residents of Waldo County, as well as providing conservation assistance and upgrading the district's social media outlets. Board member Sue Hunter gave a brief talk describing her current and future plans for the dairy farm she and her family own and operate in Unity and ended her talk by introducing her granddaughter, Rebecca Heuttner as guest speaker for the evening. Rebecca, a senior in high school, gave a talk and presentation on her trip to Montana this past summer as a member of a crew that was sent out to help fight the forest fires in that state. She showed and explained the equipment she carried and used as well as photos of the area, fire and camp she and her team stayed in for the two weeks she was there. Her future plans include studying to become a physician. The evening ended with several door prize drawings for items donated by the district board members.

A New Face for our District

This year we have been able to add a second staff person, Aleta McKeage, and that has given us a chance to have a staff team of two. A team approach has been very worthwhile in terms of sharing ideas, inspiration and the work of implementing program changes. In January, the Board of Supervisors contracted with Aleta to work as a Technical Director for the District, charged with program development. Kym Sanderson, our Administrative Director, and Aleta have also worked together on various aspects of organizational development. Aleta brings a very broad range of skills and interests to our District. She has a Master of Science degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University and has previously worked for the National Park Service and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. She has also completed many projects as the Lead Scientist for the GreenWays Consulting Group, primarily in ecological restoration and community outreach. In a prior career, Aleta spent 15 years as a secondary teacher creating programs in science and language for immigrant students in large, inner city schools. This varied background has given her a love of not only working with the land and nature, but in teaching and inspiring others to get involved in conserving our precious natural resources. This is certainly reflected in her development of programs for the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District. We are very lucky to have her creative vision applied to expanding and re-inventing our District's technical assistance and outreach and educational programs.



“The Soil and Water Conservation District’s help with defining our vision and plan for managing Refugia Forest Demonstration Project has been invaluable.”

- Loren Brown, Trinity Green LLC

Working with Your Woods

One of our goals this year has been to find ways to integrate the work of the District with other area organizations dedicated to conservation, in order to enhance the effectiveness of both organizations. One of our most successful collaborations has been with the Maine Forest Service. Working with District Forester Morten Moesswilde, we conceived of a workshop series on forest management that would be geared to the type of woodland owners we typically have in Waldo County, which are smaller woodlands often on properties with other uses including agriculture and residential areas. The series, called **Working with Your Woods**, was rolled out in mid-2017 and will continue throughout 2018.

The sessions range across a very wide variety of topics related to small-scale woodland management. Each is centered around a forest landowner and is a tour of the owner's land which often includes a professional forester that has worked with the landowner. The tours have proven to be highly engaging, as often many people with a lot of experience with forests are present, as well as folks interested in learning more. Many lively conversations have taken place in the woods as we walk along and stop to observe various

conditions in the forest as well as management activities. In 2017 we visited several properties where timber harvest and road building were taking place in a combined agricultural and forest setting. Information on economic conditions, stand improvement, shoreland area harvest, the planning process and harvest equipment have all been a part of the events.

The forestry sessions will continue in 2018 beginning with a session on small scale winter harvest and sugarbush management in January and February. Each month thereafter, we plan to have a workshop, generally on the third Thursday of the month from 2-4pm in winter and 3-5pm in warmer months. Please see the Events section of our website for more information. You can also sign up for E-News on our website to stay informed about our events and activities.



Native Plants for Your Maine Landscape

WCSWCD recommends many native plants and native plant cultivars that can enhance the ecological health, beauty and functionality of your landscape. Here are a few of our recommended plants (This list does not include large trees). See the Resources and Eco Landscaping sections of our website at waldocountysoilandwater.org for more information.

A Few Recommended Native Plants:

- Virginia rose *
- Sweet fern
- Highbush blueberry *
- Elderberry *
- Highbush cranberry *
- Native bush honeysuckle
- Red-osier dogwood *
- Pagoda dogwood *
- Northern bayberry
- Buttonbush *
- Sweet pepperbush *
- Shrub cinquefoil *
- Serviceberry (shadbush) *
- Pussy willow *
- Butterfly milkweed *
- Coneflower
- Beebalm *
- New England aster *

* Denotes plants available for the 2018 Shrub Sale. WATCH FOR OUR PLANT SALE CATALOG ON MARCH 1ST, available on our website.

New Programs in Ecological Land Management

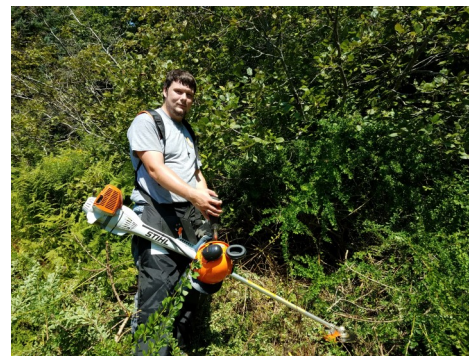
As a part of our program expansion we have developed several educational offerings focused on current conservation practices. In recent years soil and water conservation districts have responded to the changing nature of land use in the US and are now developing innovative programs focused on urban land use and water quality as well as on important ecosystem components such as pollinator habitat and ecologically diverse farms and forests.

Our District has focused on these efforts in our educational programming, with new resources for ecological land management, including workshops and online and print resources. In 2018, we will add a program to certify your land as an Eco-Landscape, Conservation Farm or Conservation Forest. Related services we offer include conservation assistance in managing invasive plants and insects, planting with natives, and forest and open lands management for health and economic viability. We also offer resources on land management for water quality and wetlands management, including lake shoreline practices, pond construction, and wetland conservation.

Our new website now has extensive resources for members of the public interested in these

topics. We are also available to provide workshops and training on demand in the topic of your choice.

See the Calendar on our website for dates and information on our ecological land management workshops.



A CCC crew member manages invasive plants for Friends of Sears Island (Protective equipment removed for photograph).

Changes for our Annual “Shrub Sale”

In 2017 we greatly expanded our annual plant sale, adding many landscape plants, both shrubs and perennials, to our offerings. The plants offered various functional benefits such as wildlife habitat, pollinator food, erosion control and that are ideal replacements for newly banned invasive plants. The selections also offered color and all season interest for gardeners seek an attractive landscape. Our plant offerings dovetail with our new Conservation Assistance Program and our educational initiative on ecological (healthy) landscaping.

Each year we plan to have a thematic focus to our sale as well as offering proven favorites in both landscape plants and fruiting trees and shrubs. This year we will have a selection of plants that offer the same functionality and beauty. **Our 2018 sale focuses on plants suitable for wet and dry areas including rain gardens, eave areas and pond and lake shorelines.**

We will also have several small native trees that are stunning additions to a moist or mesic (average moisture) landscape.

[See our website for a downloadable color catalog and online ordering.](#)

TROUT SALE: This year we are offering rainbow trout only; please contact us if interested.

Buttonbush, an attractive native shrub which can enhance wet areas and shoreline. Buttonbush can be purchased during the 2018 Plant Sale.



Tips for a Healthy Landscape

There are hundreds of ways you can make your yard, garden, field, forest or farmland healthier and more resilient. Keys to healthy land include erosion control, nutrient recycling, water management, a diversity of native plants and animals, and a variety of vegetation cover that includes weed and invasives control.

In early 2018, we will add checklists for healthy land practices that you can use to assess your own management. We will also offer conservation land certification based on the checklist. See our website or contact us for more information. This process can be done at any scale from a small urban yard to a large rural property.

Here are just a few practices to consider implementing on your land:

- Leave vegetation debris such as brush and slash in piles to create wildlife habitat
- Leave ground thatch and duff layers undisturbed; reduce tilling, litter removal and compacting
- Compost on site, and use site produced compost on the land
- Leave a variety of vegetation growing at different heights, from diverse pasture and fields including pollinator plant belts or edges, to shrub areas, to forest or edges with trees of different species, ages, and heights
- Provide healthy water sources including well managed ponds, vernal pools, wetlands, lake shoreline and streams
- Add new species of plants with high value in terms of cover, erosion control, wildlife food and shelter, beauty and pollinator value.
- Practice integrated pest management strategies
- Remove invasive plants, ideally before they are widely established, and monitor for any new infestations.



Below: Sue Hunter, District Board Member, teaches our interns about dairy farming. Sue hopes to develop her farm into a demonstration and education farm.

An Interview with Sue Hunter, Waldo Dairy Farmer

So tell us just a little bit about your farm.

Well, we have a commercial dairy farm, where we milk about 80 cows. We keep our young stock all under one barn and my daughter and I do the majority of the work so so it's definitely a family farm.

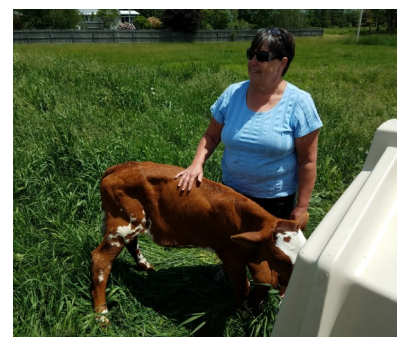
Could you share some things that you've done to make your farm thrive and be economically viable? Well we've kept the labor costs down. Labor is a really large cost in the dairy farm. We try to keep costs down in general, and we do a lot of work ourselves. We look at where the best management practices are at to help us keep costs down as well.

What have been some of the things that you've done lately to be innovative on your farm? One of the projects that we do is we work with NRCS [Natural Resources Conservation Service] to help minimize any problems with the fields such as run off and things like that. They have helped us add a concrete pad for the cows, and to set up a manure pit, through their EQIP program. We're also going to go ahead and look into making and selling our own products such as butter, yogurt and cream.

And tell me some other things you're doing to enhance your farm and to keep it productive. We like to focus on the comfort of that cows. I like outside pasturing in the summer time. We are careful to adjust what we're doing to keep milk production up.

So as you know the District is focused on healthy land and good conservation practices. I would be curious to know what are some things that you've done to keep your land healthy and implement conservation practices. Well we border on a bog, which is high value natural resource. We have left an appropriate naturally vegetated buffer between the bog and the fields. We also strip crop the fields in rotations. And we are going to add pollinator areas and fruit trees this year.

So what are some of your future plans for the farm? I'm looking to turn my farm over to the family members- my daughter and anybody else it is in the family that would be interested in it. I still want to keep my hands in it, but to do the things that I really enjoy doing. We are looking to do the processing part of it ourselves, and to sell milk independently. Ultimately our goal is to be independent and local in our sales.



District Annual Financial Report

2017 Development and Capacity Building

Website development and hosting, IT support added

Computer and projection system purchased

Invasive pest teaching materials added

Technical consultant hired

Two seasonal internships added

Volunteer safety equipment purchased

MACD Membership renewed

NACD Membership renewed

MANP Membership added

2017 Operating Expenses Funding

County of Waldo

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

2017 Community Conservation Corps Funding

New England Grassroots Environment Fund

Cricket Foundation

Artemis' Arrow Fund

INCOME **EXPENSES** **BALANCE**

Balance: Dec. 31, 2016

\$ 46,502.24

Waldo County	\$ 25,000.00	
Maine Dept. Ag	\$ 25,000.00	
Payroll		\$ 13,800.87
Taxes	\$ 210.88	\$ 4,702.28
Insurance	\$ 46.20	\$ 91.68
Mileage		\$ 756.13
Postage & Mailings		\$ 274.00
Office Supplies		\$ 1,970.96
Education & Outreach		\$ 616.17
Workshops/Projects	\$ 5,822.56	\$ 1,865.21
County/State Meetings		\$ 862.68
Dues		\$ 3,293.00
Build. Maint.	\$ 11,232.60	\$ 9,808.83
Tree/Trout Sale	\$ 12,392.60	\$ 10,624.03
Misc.		\$ 384.89
Interest Earned	\$ 22.48	
Contracted Services		\$ 28,637.48
Website		\$ 1,500.00
Conservation Corps Project	\$ 10,207.41	\$ 10,207.41
	\$ 89,934.73	\$ 89,395.62

Balance: Dec. 31, 2017

\$ 47,041.35

Special Thanks to...

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with this year's shrub and tree sale. We couldn't do it without your help; and thanks to everyone who pitched in on our outreach mailing project this past fall – what could have taken a very long time to accomplish went smoothly and quickly with everyone's help – and it was fun having folks working together! An additional thanks to those of you who volunteered your time and resources to our other programs.

- Bill Sanderson
- Darrah Wagner
- Patrice Janssen
- Bindy Pendleton
- Roberta Tatro
- Mo Martin
- Michelle Steinfeldt
- Susie Dixon
- Cloe Chunn
- David Thanhauser
- John Tipping
- Pamela Corcoran
- Loren Brown
- Sierra Hopkins
- Jamie Behan

Thank you to all the groups and organizations that assisted us and supported our mission in 2017:

- Waldo County Technical Center
- County of Waldo
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Maine Forest Service
- City of Belfast
- Belfast High School
- Unity College
- Aghaloma Farm
- Susie Q Dairy
- Belfast Garden Club
- Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition
- Coastal Mountains Land Trust
- Lotic, Inc.
- Athena Health
- Midcoast Regional Re-entry Center
- Crosby Center
- Alewife Restoration Initiative
- Friends of Sears Island
- Friends of Lake Winnecook
- Sebastcook Regional Land Trust

Strategic Planning for 2018 and Beyond

In February of 2018, the District Board of Supervisors and staff will begin a 3 year strategic planning process. During this process, we will explore long-term priority goals and related annual objectives, organizational and program development, and focus areas for education and outreach.

In addition to long term strategic planning, the District creates an Annual Plan of Operation each year. During 2017, an annual planning process was completed in January and February, which including a facilitated process with the Board and Staff providing input into a plan of action for the year. During this process, we structured the development of new programs in described in this Annual Report. Our focus was educational themes, collaboration goals, and organization records and social media enhancements, and public resource development. In 2017, our theme Healthy Woods and Waters framed up our workshop offerings, as well as providing content for our online resources, and conservation assistance. The Conservation Assistance Program formed our umbrella program, and our major educational program was the Community Conservation Corps. We also developed goals for collaboration, including joining other conservation districts in existing programs and exploring new collaborations with nearby districts. We also implemented a goal of partnering with various community organizations as well as state agencies and municipalities.

In the coming weeks, an annual plan for 2018 will be completed. Please contact us if you would like more information, or would like to participate in the District at a planning level.



Farmer Travis Johnson shares his farm management system with participants in the Working with Your Woods workshop held on his farm.

Aghaloma Farm in Knox Hosts Envirothon: The Top Environmental Education Program in the Nation

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 nationwide environmental issue. It is a team effort that includes site-specific, hands-on tasks. Each team is made up of not more than five students, an alternate and an adult advisor. Four regional competitions are held throughout the state each spring with the top teams from each region competing at the state level. The state champions go on to compete at the national level against teams from across the United States and Canada.

Waldo County SWCD along with Knox-Lincoln, Somerset and Kennebec County SWCD's partner to host the Mid-Coast Regional competition which is held in May of each year. The 2017 Midcoast event was held at Kent's Hill High School in Readfield where the team #2 from Mt. Ararat High School in in Topsham took first place and went on to compete at the state event hosted by Aghaloma Dairy Farm in Knox. A total of twelve teams competed in the five natural resource categories with stations for each category set up in various locations throughout the farm. With the current issue category focusing on agriculture, the farm provided the perfect setting for students to see firsthand the layout and operation of a successful dairy farm. District Supervisor Harold Larrabee owns and operates the farm. The Spruce Mountain High School team took first place at the state event and went on to set a new high score which placed them 16th at the 2017 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon. Teams from almost every state and Canadian province, as well as two teams from China competed at the event.

The Envirothon program began in Pennsylvania in 1984 and came to Maine in 1990 with 9 participating schools. Since its inception, participation in Maine's Envirothon Program has grown to more than 70 high schools statewide involving nearly 600 students, teachers, team advisors and Soil & Water Conservation District staff every year in Maine.



Morten Moesswilde, District Forester with the Maine Forest Service, demonstrates tree girdling to the Conservation Corps interns. The tree will serve as an emerald ash borer trap tree.

Waldo County Soil and Water
Conservation District

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Belfast, ME 04915

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855 -884 -2284 Tech. Assistance

waldocountysoilandwater.org

Email:

kym.sanderson@me.nacdnet.net

A Note from the Board of Supervisors

This has been an exciting year for the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District. Kym Sanderson, our Administrative Director, Aleta McKeage, our consulting Technical Director, and the Board of Supervisors have worked to provide many hands-on training and field demonstrations having to do with invasive plants and insects that are coming northward to invade our lives. We can no longer rest because they are changing the make up of our woodlots and in some cases destroying our beautiful trees, rivers, and landscape.

The District is working hard with other private and state agencies to educate the public about what to look for and how we all can make a difference in keeping our properties viable and healthy.

I wish to thank the different agencies and non-profits who have worked to make Waldo County a place to live, work and enjoy.

Andy Reed, Chair, WCSWCD Board of Supervisors



To:

Waldo County Soil and Water
Conservation District
46 Little River Drive
Belfast, ME 04915