



# Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District

## Annual Report 2018

### Summary

The Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District has had a year with positive changes. After 20 years as the face of the District, Kym Sanderson decided to retire and have the freedom that she has been working so hard for. We will certainly miss Kym’s hard work, guidance and positive attitude she has shown to the citizens of Waldo County, the NRCS, FSA and the Supervisors. Kym’s replacement, Jenny Jurdak, is learning the ropes with the help of Kym, who will join the Supervisors as an Associate Supervisor.

Aleta McKeage, our Technical Advisor, has been very busy meeting the challenges by educating our district citizens as to what is coming and what they can do to keep invasives from their properties within the county. We are also striving to keep invasives out of our lakes and streams and to improve the quality of the water in our lakes and streams. Look to our web site to see the many interesting tours and presentations that Aleta has set up to improve our environment.

Some of our support comes from the County Commissioners and we certainly appreciate their support. Our services are available to all citizens of the county.

I have had the honor to work with the Supervisors an Associate Supervisors who are dedicated to make Waldo County a better place to live, work and play. We are one of the counties that borders the ocean, has excellent farm properties, woodlands, lakes and streams that we can all take advantage of. Please feel free to contact our office, or use our web site if you have any questions about what we are doing in your part of the county



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## Waldo SWCD 2018

### Educational Activities

## 2018 Accomplishments

- Eleven workshops on invasive plants and pests were provided to schools and community groups around Waldo County, including two intensive sessions for conservation professionals
- The District initiated the Take a Stand hemlock pest monitoring program in Waldo County.
- The District offered a 3 hour training in septic system installation and maintenance for contractors and property owners
- Waldo SWCD offered a half day training workshop on pond construction and maintenance
- Ten workshops on woodland stewardship were offered as a part of a series called Woodland Stewardship Tours. Other counties have initiated similar programs following our model
- The District initiated a Resource Protection program entitled Forests for Our Future, which was highlighted in the national NACD publication Forestry Notes
- District staff offered the Project Learning Tree Forest Inventory Growth Plot learning unit at Belfast Area High School, with District staff training teachers and leading student lessons for four weeks in the spring
- Invasive Species talks were given to students at Troy Howard Middle School, Waldo County Technology Center and at the Science Squad after school program
- Waldo SWCD initiated a Conservation Skills lesson unit for secondary students and began the pilot program at the Outdoor Leadership Program at Waldo County Tech Center
- District staff and volunteer manned an informational booth about District services at the Common Ground Fair
- The District internship program Community Conservation Corps employed two college interns for six weeks, providing 244 hours of service learning. Recently, Unity College requested a formal memorandum of understanding to partner with us on this internship program
- The District joined a multi-county Conservation Innovation Grant and Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund program to assist farmers with invasive plant management
- The District provided 314 hours of conservation assistance to 19 partners in 2018
- The District assisted the Waldo County Trails Coalition with grant writing and interpretive strategies and provided a training on citizen science
- The District provided leadership in funding the Maine Envirothon
- The District collaborated with Knox-Lincoln SWCD to bring Doug Tallamy to the area. Doug is a nationally recognized expert in ecological land management
- The District held a very successful annual Tree and Shrub sale

## The Community Conservation Corps



Now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, the District's internship program, the Community Conservation Corps, engaged students from area colleges in on-the-ground conservation work. The District's conservation technicians, Victoria Curtis of the University of Maine and Will Marnik of Unity College completed a very productive summer, providing a total of 288 hours of service learning. They helped local organizations and towns as well as private landowners with a wide variety of conservation assistance. The interns visited farms to assist farmers in assessing their invasive plant issues, helped plant trees and native plants in city parks, rejuvenated green spaces, collected soil samples, taught high school students about forestry, mapped invasive plants with GPS units, and monitored woodlands for invasive forest insects. Both students received offers of employment from our conservation partners after their internship. Will accepted a position with Coastal Mountains Land Trust's blueberry operation, and Victoria worked for the Belfast Parks and Recreation Department. Will has continued to assist the District with invasive plant mapping as a part of our Conservation Innovation/Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund project to assist farmers with invasive plant management. This year, Unity College requested that we enter a formal partnership to offer internships to their students each year.

## Education in 2018

As we entered our second year of expanded involvement with schools and students, we were able to offer new programs in area public schools. We also assisted in the development of two regional environmental education programs which reach students in many area elementary schools, the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition's Natural Literacy program and Friends of Sears Island's Science Squad. WCSWCD helped develop funding to initiate both of these programs, and provided speakers and lessons for some sessions. For the Science Squad after school program, WCSWCD taught a session on invasive forest pests, and organized an insect bioblitz event for families. The forest pest activities we developed for children have been shared with other conservation districts. We also offered educational sessions on invasive plants, trees and forest pests for Troy Howard middle school students as well as Waldo County Technical Center Outdoor Leadership Program. We offered a multi-session learning unit as a part of our Forests for Our Future program where students at Belfast Area High School created and studied forest research plots. The school plans to continue to offer this activity each year, and District staff will continue to co-teach the units. For 2019, an expanded unit called Conservation Skills will be piloted at the Waldo County Technical Center. The Conservation Skills unit will include an introduction to forests, forestry, mapping, invasive plants and pests and nature interpretation.



## Conservation Assistance Recipients

In 2018, the District provided 315 hours of conservation assistance to 25 organizations and individuals. The District provided a wide variety of technical assistance, including invasive plant and forest pest outreach, pond construction and maintenance and septic system education, invasive plant management recommendations, invasive plant treatments, pond maintenance assistance, education planning, curriculum development, funding development, forestry education, trail building and maintenance assistance, tree planting, biological monitoring, stormwater swale maintenance, program planning, land management plans and recommendations, pasture management recommendations, woodlot management recommendations and erosion control recommendations.

## 2018 Board of Supervisors

Andy Reed, Chair

Brian Baker, Vice Chair

Susan Hunter, Treasurer

Harold Larrabee, Supervisor

Katie Johnson, Supervisor

Donald Cox, Associate Supervisor

## 2018 District Staff

Jenny Jurdak, Administrative Director

Aleta McKeage, Technical Director

## NRCS Conservationists

Ron Desrosiers, District Conservationist

Stephanie Landry, 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

The Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District names a person or organization each year that they feel shows exemplary service to our citizens and protecting our environment. That individual or organization has gone out of their way to work with the District to further our commitment to support environmental issues and make Waldo County a better place.

This year our Conservationist of the Year is Morton Mossewilde, a Maine Forest Service Forester, who has participated in numerous field tours, consulting with land owners, and participating in workshops that further the soil and water conservation efforts.

Morton is one of 10 foresters in the State of Maine which means he has several counties in which to administer his expertise. Morton is a forester who is not one to shy away from saying no when asked to do something and we appreciate that very much. One could say that he is there whenever you need a question answered and participates in a lot of projects that we deal with. He is the person with the answers and always look to get people involved.

Morton is the person to go to if you have any forestry questions and enjoys giving out valuable information that helps resolve the situation. His wealth of knowledge in forestry

is valued in the area he serves in the State of Maine. We are certainly fortunate that he serves the Waldo County area.

I have know Morton for many years and certainly respects his judgment and those that



have worked with him will say the same thing.

Waldo County has forestry work shops going forward and you will see and meet Morton at these event.

It was an honor to present Morton Mossewilde with the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation Districts Conservationist of the Year award at our annual meeting held on November 7th 2018.

# New Faces to our District

## Jenny Jurdak

Jenny was hired as our new Administrative Director in November. She was raised on a dairy farm and has worked in agriculture most her life. She helped manage Suzie-Q Dairy for the past 9 years and continues to be involved in pursuing new avenues the farm is taking . Jenny has an educational background in animal sciences.

## Gene Randall

In 2015, after a career in accounting and finance management and an active involvement in local government, Gene and his wife Marianne McKinney-Randall, moved from Winter Park, Florida, to Belfast. He has become involved with various local activities and is a Board member with the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition. Being part of the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation Board is a great opportunity to learn more about the history of Maine agriculture and how to apply best practices to the issues of conservation and preserving the environment.



## Goodbye to a Dedicated Employee

Kym Sanderson, the eyes and ears for the last 25 years for the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District has recently retired. For the people of Waldo County, Kym was the Soil and Water Conservation District.

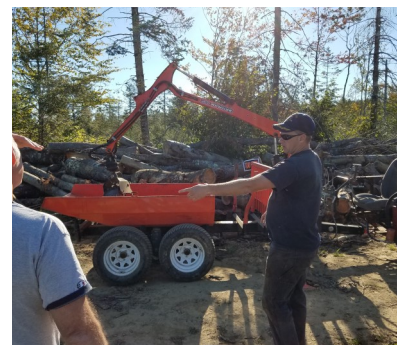
Always friendly and knowledgeable when helping the public. Kym built a strong rapport throughout the County. Her tasks basically included everything that happened within the Conservation District from office responsibilities, dealing with the public, answering questions or getting folks the help they needed, keeping the Board informed and up to date on all pertinent matters, attending and contributing to seminars and workshops, helping to set up and man the booths at the Ag Show and the Common Ground Fair, informing the public what the SWCD was all about and much, much more.

For years Kym was largely responsible for the annual High School Envirothon competition. The annual Tree and Shrub Sale took up a great deal of time, from ordering to the sale, extensive advertising, dealing with last minute cancelations, early and late shipments and all the bookkeeping.

Kym was always upbeat, a joy to work with, forever coming up with ideas for improvements within the District.

Kym was the glue that kept everything running and on track. For several years before retiring, Kym had ideas on how to replace her, what would be best for the District. Her selfless suggestions were adopted by the Board and has led to a smooth transition to our present situation.

Luckily for the Waldo County SWCD, Kym has agreed to be an associate Supervisor on the Board. Her awesome personality and wealth of knowledge will still be there to help guide the Board in the future.



# District Annual Financial Report

## Tree and Shrub Sale

Red Osier Dogwood

Shadbush

Highbush Cranberry

Native Honeysuckle

Beach Plum

Sweet Fern

Aronia

Pagoda Dogwood

Summersweet

Bayberry

Hazelnut

Witherod

Virgin's Bower Clematis

Joe Pye Weed

New England Aster

Solomo's Seal

Butterfly Milkweed

Purple Coneflower

Bee Balm

\* WATCH FOR OUR PLANT SALE CATALOG ON MARCH 1ST, available on our website.

### 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	
	<b>\$ 89,934.73</b>	<b>\$ 89,395.62</b>	

#### Balance: Dec. 31, 2017

\$ 47,041.35

## Annual "Shrub Sale"

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 and brook trout; 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.*

# Seven Things You Can Do to Take Care of Your Woodlands

Aleta McKeage and Morten Moesswilde

- Discuss with family members your **goals, values, priorities** for the ownership and the next generation; create an **estate plan** that assures the future integrity of the land and its management
- Gather deeds, maps, and other records; make sure **property boundaries** are clearly and accurately marked, on paper and on the ground
- Create a **well managed access system** of roads or trails
- Learn about woodland management from **publications and workshops**, and **visit other forests** that have been managed.
- Spend time interviewing **Licensed Foresters** who might work with you. Obtain samples of their written work and visit forests that they manage.
- Have your forester prepare a **Forest Management Plan** that is written, comprehensive, and current, and realistically addresses your goals
- Learn about plant and wildlife species present in your woodlands. Keep and protect landscape features that **provide good wildlife habitat** including:
  - Wetland and stream areas including vernal (seasonal) pools
  - Standing dead trees
  - Older forests with large trees
  - Areas with unusual or diverse plant life
  - A variety of trees species
  - Nesting areas of wading birds, hawks and eagles
  - Dense conifer stands for current and future deer wintering areas



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

## 2018 Annual Banquet and Meeting

The Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation Districts annual meeting was held November 7th at Aghaloma Farms on the Shibles Road in Knox, Maine, home of one of our District Supervisors, Harald Larrabee.

The annual meeting had a social time before the meal where individuals could meet the Supervisors, Associate Supervisors and our new Administrative Director, Jenny Jurdak who has taken the position held by Kym Sanderson for 25 years. Kym has officially retired after serving the district so well.

The meal was very good and no one went away hungry.

Morton Mossewilde, Maine State Forester, presented an educational slide show and talk that gave a wealth of information about Waldo County and also explained what his job is and how large an area he has to cover. Morton Mossewilde has been a valuable asset to the County and is well respected by all those who have come in contact with his knowledge of forestry. Many questions were asked and answered.

Each year the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District honors a person or organization who, in the opinion of the District, has gone above and beyond that required to make our county a better place to love. We felt Morton Mossewilde was well deserving of the 2018 award as Conservationist of the Year for Waldo County.

We also presented Kym Sanderson with a nice plant as an appreciation of her work for the District and we are so pleased after spending 25 years being the eyes and ears of the District. Kym has agreed to be on the Board as an Associate Supervisor.

# Forestry and Forests in Waldo County

## Helping the Hemlocks



It is a difficult time now for trees in Maine. A number of our most common trees are threatened by pests and disease, and may largely die off. For those of us who love the Maine woods, it is painful to imagine losing an iconic Maine tree like the northern hemlock. As you may know, hemlock is very much under threat in our area, as the invasive pest insect the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is moving steadily along the coastal areas of Maine, and may have already reached Waldo County. This insect has decimated hemlocks all over the Eastern US.

Hemlock is a conifer (needle-bearing) tree that is found throughout the state. You may see its graceful branches sporting tiny, soft needles hanging over cold streams and rivers that support prime trout and salmon habitat. In fact, it is important to those fish as it shades the water and keeps stream temperatures lower. All of us who walk in the woods here are familiar with the dark, dense stands of hemlock found where it covers areas of shallow soil, north facing slopes and bedrock ledge, where it provides important storm water runoff and erosion control. The sun shining through its delicate needles is one of the truly beautiful sights in our woods. Hemlocks also shelter wildlife and feed different species with their bark and seeds.

Waldo County SWCD began a concerted response to this pest in 2018, with the Take a Stand hemlock monitoring program. We trained volunteers and college interns in a method to search for the pest systematically, and collected data on five sites around Waldo County. We didn't find any HWA here yet, but it will be important to check every year, with the hope that we can determine when and where it is established, and to follow up with assistance to landowners on managing the pest in hemlock stands.

## Waldo County Offers Invasive Plant Management Planning for Farm and Woodland Owners

In 2018, Waldo County SWCD joined with Knox-Lincoln, Somerset and Kennebec County SWCDs in implementing a program to assist production land owners to identify and manage invasive plants, which can significantly affect crop production, pastures and forest regeneration. The program, funded by an NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, provides farmers with site visits, maps of their invasive plants created by district staff members and comprehensive management plans for controlling invasive plants on their land. In 2018, Waldo County staff and interns visited four farms that signed up for the program. District staff and interns systematically surveyed each farm and identified and mapped patches of invasive plants with GPS data. Technical Director Aleta McKeage then produced management plans for each farm which contained extensive management recommendations, methods for organic and chemical control and information on identifying and understanding the invasive species found on their land. The program will continue through 2021. Interested land owners with agricultural or forest production lands are welcome to apply for these free services.

## What You Should Know About the Emerald Ash Borer

You may have heard of emerald ash borer, as this invasive pest has recently made its way into Maine. This is big news, as the insect is capable of killing almost all of the ash trees in Maine, which is a huge problem. If you don't know much about what this means or what you might do, this article is offered as a starting point. First of all, it is a good idea to become aware of ash trees...those on your land and around your town. In many places in Maine, ash trees make up a significant component of our forests. In towns, along streets, in parks and schoolyards, ash is a popular tree that has been planted for a long time. How do you identify an ash tree? There are several species of ash in Maine, but you don't really need to be able to tell them apart, as the emerald ash borer affects all kinds of ash. In general, ash trees have a leaf composed of a number of "leaflets" (which look like leaves themselves) along a stem. Ash have thick twigs and bark with regular ridges going up and down the trunk and branches.



See the picture to the left to see the leaves (each green stem with 5-7 leaflets along it is actually one leaf) and bark. Different species vary slightly from this basic form.

Next time you are out, try to see if you can identify ash on your property or nearby. Since it's winter, look at the bark, and look for thick twigs gently curving upward at the ends, and coming out from branches directly opposite of one another.

In only 15-20 years since the pest arrived in North America, EAB has spread from Wisconsin and Michigan, to Missouri, to Quebec and across New England. Some states have lost nearly one hundred percent of their ash trees as the emerald ash borer has become established. If you travel through the Midwest in summer, in places you will see many trees that are bare and dead or dying, so much so that it looks like winter in places.

Can we avoid this in Maine, where the infestation is not yet widespread? Ash is an important tree for lumber, firewood and wood products. For some landowners, harvest plans for ash are part of making their forest economically productive. Our parks and streets are lined with ash trees. The seeds of ash are important food for wildlife and birds. The depressing scenario of losing all of this tends to fill our thoughts as we think that soon Maine ash will meet the fate of ash trees in many states.

The truth is that there are many reasons to hope, and to take action. Right now, in most of our towns, emerald ash borer is not established...giving us some time to respond, and to take advantage of what other states have learned. Depending on many factors, it could reach your town many years from now—or in the coming year, if somehow infested wood or trees are transported into your area. So limiting the spread of EAB is step one, which you can take right now by not moving ANY ash wood, firewood, or nursery stock – especially not from out of state. Areas of Maine are under quarantine, where movement of ash wood is prohibited, and further quarantine areas will be established.

Another important thing to do right now is to become aware of the signs of emerald ash borer... early detection of the insect is a key step in combatting the outbreak. You may be the first person to notice it in a new area if you stay alert for the signs. So its possible we could slow the spread of emerald ash borer through effort and awareness. Other methods offer hope in slowing the emerald ash borer in Maine. Scientists have developed means of slowing emerald ash borer movement through creation of trap trees and population “sinks” where the insects are lured to weakened trees and then destroyed. Insecticides have been developed that effectively protect ash trees, and so high value trees in yards or parks can be saved. Even slowing down emerald ash borer populations in Maine could save 800 million dollars, according to US Forest Service estimates.

The truth is though that eventually, many ash trees in Maine will likely succumb to the emerald ash borer eventually. But don't panic and cut all your ash trees right away! It usually takes 5 – 10 years for an outbreak to take hold, and in some areas it may take longer for EAB damage to show up. Waldo County SWCD staff can help you plan for managing forests with ash trees. The District also provides information and outreach regarding the EAB pest. In 2018, six presentations about EAB and other forest pests were given around the county. Our staff is planning to provide some management-specific workshops in 2019, and to actively assist municipal and conservation lands owners in preparing for the loss of ash trees.

Will ash trees be forever lost to our forests? In fact, it is quite likely that through the efforts of scientists, landowners, towns, universities and agencies, we will be able to restore the ash tree in Maine in time. One part of the solution is using “biocontrols,” or predatory insects that will feed on the emerald ash borer. In the future, when there will be many fewer ash trees (and thus fewer emerald ash borers), such biocontrols may be an important way to keep the emerald ash borer in check. Another important strategy will likely be the effort to find the few ash trees of different species that have some inherent ability to resist the emerald ash borer, cross breed those individuals to create stronger and more consistent resistance in offspring trees, and then propagate and plant resistant trees in forest restoration efforts. This is a primary reason for leaving ash trees in place, and as trees start to die, to note any trees that seem to stay healthy in an infested area: they may be genetically resistant, and thus very important to preserve. Genetic technologies now available will likely offer further options to create resistant trees. And these technologies are developing rapidly. In the Midwest, where emerald ash borer has killed many trees, researchers are well on their way to developing methods to propagate resistant trees we can readily apply in the Northeast. We need to take the time now to learn from their work and get ready to implement these efforts here. We need to plan for how we will face emerald ash borer infestation in Maine with systematic, multi-faceted strategies. And with luck and some hard work, we'll be able to offer our children and grandchildren forests with this strong, beautiful, important tree.

Find out more on our website at

<https://waldcountysoilandwater.org/invasive-forest-insect-pests-in-maine/>.



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

## A New Resource Protection Theme: Forests for Our Future



### Read ME Agriculture

Is an Agricultural Literacy program that finds volunteers to read and donate books to PreK-4 classrooms. They will provide the teachers with lessons and information to use, supplied by Maine Agriculture in the Classroom. This year the theme is Maple Syrup. This is a great opportunity to educate our children about agriculture. If you are interested in volunteering or would like your classroom to participate, please contact Jenny Jurdak, Waldo County SWCD Administrative Director at 218-5311 or [Jenny.jurdak@me.nacdn.net](mailto:Jenny.jurdak@me.nacdn.net)

Since beginning our program expansion in 2017, we have been all about connection, collaboration, and integration. In 2018, we've been thematically integrating our various types of work in order to share a coherent vision and plan for conservation with residents of Waldo County and this idea comes to full fruition in our new forest conservation program. Waldo County is over 80 percent forested and even properties focused on agriculture or residential use often have significant woodland areas. Forests are facing unprecedented threats, including forest pests poised to decimate dominant tree species in Maine and invasive plants impacting forest regeneration. Climate change is poised to exacerbate these problems as well as to create major changes in our forest composition. Conserving forests is a major focus of the SWCD and a forest-based economy is a significant part of many Mainers' livelihoods. It is for this reason we have worked to create a strong program to help people steward forests for a productive, bio diverse, resilient future through a project called the Forests for Our Future (FFOF). A central feature of this program is to integrate many facets of our work

to educate the public on forest stewardship and to bring diverse individuals and organizations together in forest conservation efforts. This wide-ranging effort follows our District model of building collaboration and community.

The FFOF program is an innovative approach that unites a wide variety of outreach and technical assistance activities. The project is designed to offer a coherent strategy and public face for the district's varied programs to protect forest resources. One part of the program, now in its second year, is a monthly series on small-scale woodland stewardship that addresses many aspects of woodland management, from sugarbush maintenance to smaller-scale harvest and forestry plans. In these workshops, community members tour local woodlands with landowners who are implementing effective practices to steward their woods. The SWCD is partnering with the Maine Forest Service to implement the series. In addition to workshops, staff is offering conservation assistance to forest owners willing to implement adaptive management.

Another goal of the FFOF program is to provide leadership in response to forest pests such as the emerald ash borer and hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that attacks North American hemlock trees. The district has spearheaded local efforts to monitor these pests as infestations approach the area. Pest monitoring is the first part of a continuum of services and includes assistance to municipalities and landowners in planning for and responding to pests.

Another aspect of the program's multi-faceted approach is engaging high school students to educate them about forests. The students learn about forestry while gaining skills in science through creating and sampling Maine Forest Inventory Growth plots, which are part of a Project Learning Tree program. College students help high school students learn as a part of the district's Conservation Corps internship while gaining valuable skills. They also assist forest landowners in mapping and managing invasive plants and help local conservation land managers monitor biodiversity. One popular part of the internship experience is planting new types of trees in local parks and mapping the urban forest canopy while quantifying storm water management provided by the trees.

The FFOF program also aims to develop knowledge for the future through developing forest management practices that support resiliency. The district has started a partnership with a local private demonstration forest to implement forest adaptation strategies, including planting tree species that are not currently native in the area but have potential to offer ecosystem functionality, urban tree canopy and forest cover in the future. Waldo County SWCD provided the forest management plan for the demonstration forest. An exciting development on this front is a new partnership we have with the Forest Ecology program of the National Park Service's Schoodic Institute, which will fund forest adaptation research in Waldo County, including planting trees in experimental plots in 2019.

The FFOF program has ultimately been a great tool to unite many partners in forest conservation work. Through ongoing publicity of the umbrella program, Waldo County SWCD's constituents gained an appreciation of the multi-faceted nature of addressing major conservation challenges and understanding the role soil and water conservation districts serve in bringing people together to tackle pressing resource issues.

## A 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. An additional thanks to those of you who volunteered your time and resources to our other programs.

Morton Mossewilde  
Kym Sanderson  
Andy Reed  
Brian Baker  
Sue Hunter  
Harold Larrabee  
Joyce Larrabee  
Donald Cox  
Buck O'Herin  
Arlene Hadley  
Bob LeRoy  
Cloe Chunn  
David Thanhauser  
Commissioner Walt Whitcomb  
NRCS State Conservationist, Juan Hernandez

Thank you to all the groups and organizations that assisted us and supported our mission in 2018:

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  
Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund  
Maine Natural Areas Program  
Knox-Lincoln SWCD  
University of Maine Cooperative Extension  
City of Belfast Parks and Recreation Department  
Crow's Nest  
Coastal Mountains Land Trust  
Midcoast Conservatory  
Belfast Garden Club  
Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition  
Suzie-Q Dairy  
Daisychain Farm  
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  
Waldo County Trails Coalition  
Trinity Green, LLC  
Town of Searsmont  
Waldo County Commissioners

### Update on Suzie Q Dairy

It has been one year since I was interviewed about my small dairy farm in Unity, Maine and there have been a lot of changes since that time. The Dairy industry has had many changes and a lot of farmers are going out of business. All of the milking cows on my dairy have been sold, with only a few youngstock left. We are looking for new ideas and new adventures to keep this property in farming. We will continue to hay our fields and possibly rent some of our land to other farmers, but the most important thing is to keep this beautiful piece of land in farming and in a conservation program.

*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.*

## Envirothon: The Top Environmental Education Program in the Nation

The Maine Envirothon is sponsored by the Maine Association of Conservation Districts which is a competition within the state where high school age students form a team to compete against each other in four regional and the top dozen or so winning teams compete for the state championship. The Maine State winner goes on to the National Conservation Foundation's National Envirothon which this year was in Idaho. Spruce Mountain High School came in 6th overall and first in aquatics which is a huge plus for the State of Maine. In 2018, we had 50 students. The students compete in topics that include aquatics, forestry, soils, wildlife and a current national, environmental issue. All districts work to make this program a success and we are always looking for financial sponsors because this program is run financially through sponsorships. This is an excellent program to advance education in the environmental fields of study. Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District heads the fund raising committee and all suggestions are welcome.



Waldo County Soil and Water  
Conservation District

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## 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  
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