

Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District Journal 2022 - 2023



Letter From the Chair

Waldo SWCD had a productive year in 2022. A Watershed Based Management Plan for Lake Winnecook, aka Unity Pond, was completed and we have received final approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. The management plan provides a roadmap for reducing phosphorus coming into the lake and in lake sediment. This should reduce the algae blooms in the lake in the summer. We will form a new steering committee in early 2023 to help Friends of Lake Winnecook, and our office, move forward with the plan.

Medea Steinman, our Administrative Director, with extensive experience in environmental and educational conservation, has been an excellent fit for the District taking charge of different projects, including working with the Friends of Lake Winnecook. She managed our “host” role for the Maine Envirothon in the May 2022 regional competition; and she helped coordinate our annual spring plant sale. See page 14 for details about the 2023 sale with plants to improve your property for bees and wildlife!

Aleta McKeage, our contracted Technical Director, has worked with school students, the City of Belfast at the City Park, and property owners, and has led the way developing a Conservation Land Certification (CLC) program. The CLC program has been a hit with county citizens. A bus tour was held last fall, in cooperation with Knox-Lincoln SWCD, to showcase the Conservation Land Certification program.

We would also like to thank DACF, NRCS, FSA, DEP, MOFGA, and our County Commissioners for their loyal support. Special thanks to our Supervisors and Associate Supervisors for their dedication in guiding our District. And finally, a very special thank you to Ron Desrosiers, outgoing NRCS District Conservationist. Ron has been a great asset to the District and has always offered great advice. We will miss his friendship.

Our monthly Board meeting is open to the public and we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of conservation in the County and welcome citizen input.

--Sincerely, Andrew Reed, Board Chair

Table of Contents

A Look at Our Work.....	2
Financial Report.....	3
People.....	4-5
Conservation Land Certification.....	6-7
Conservation Assistance Program.....	8-11
Education.....	12
Aerial Photos.....	13
Pollinators.....	13
Shrub & Tree Sale.....	14
Thank You	15
Our Mission.....	16



A Look at the District's Work in 2022

- Developed and received state approval for an official Locally Important Soils Program, which includes community and landowner service and maps of Locally Important Soils for all Waldo County Municipalities
- Completed project administration for an updated Watershed Management Plan for Unity Pond (Lake Winnecook)
- Developed funding for Envirothon, and hosted the 2022 Regional Envirothon for the Midcoast Region
- Completed a resource toolkit for landowners to use our Conservation Landscape Certification, and presented the program at the statewide Maine Association of Conservation Districts, making the toolkit available for any district around the state to use the program
- Implemented a Maine Forest Service Canopy Grant to complete the Belfast City Park Arboretum, an educational site to learn about Maine trees and forests, planting 16 trees and developing an education map, 8-page guide, a website and interpretive signs.
- Implemented a grant from the Davis Conservation Foundation to enhance resources and trainings for the Conservation Land Certification program, in collaboration with Knox Lincoln SWCD
- Received and completed work to offer a smartphone app-based version of our conservation landscape certification checklists, via a grant from Friends of the National Association of Conservation Districts.
- Advised Belfast Area High School on creating an outdoor classroom and pollinator garden.
- Continued a Forests for Our Future research project at Troy Howard Middle School.
- Assisted students from the Ecology Learning Center Bridge Program to restore a shoreline at a high impact erosion site on Unity Pond.
- Offered an Arbor Day series of activities for children and families at Belfast City Park.
- Held three tours of the City Park Arboretum, as well as several volunteer events.
- Offered two workshops at Viles Arboretum to prepare for their Future Forests research planting, including organic invasives removal as part of site preparation, and a talk on Adapting Maine's Forests to Climate Change and the Viles research project.
- Held a volunteer workday at Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners association to prepare a forestry research planting site.
- Advised Friends of Lake Winnecook on follow up to the NPS impact sites.
- Offered 8 public workshops on forest adaptation, tree identification, tree planting, invasive plant control, managing mature and late successional forests, and ecological landscaping.
- Taught a field session for the Maine Forest Service's Landowner 101 Course.
- Provided 445 hours on Watershed Project and Envirothon hours of conservation technical assistance to 33 landowners and partner organizations.



2022 Financial Report

	<u>Total 2022</u> <u>Year to Date</u>	<u>2022</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u> <u>% of Budget</u>
Income:			
Waldo County	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,000.00	100.0%
Maine Dept. of Ag	25,000.00	25,000.00	100.0%
Lake Winnecook Management Project	27,899.58	21,692.00	128.6%
Canopy Grant	7,917.96	8,900.00	89.0%
Davis Grant	2,535.00	3,500.00	72.4%
NRCS Grant	360.00	340.00	105.9%
Miscellaneous Grants/Projects/Envirothon	7,573.85	500.00	1514.8%
Donations	-	200.00	0.0%
Build. Maintenance.	12,320.40	13,000.00	94.8%
Tree/Plant Sale	5,466.45	3,700.00	147.7%
Misc. & Interest	120.00	50.00	240.0%
Total Income	\$ 115,193.24	\$ 102,882.00	112.0%
Expenses:			
Payroll	\$ 20,492.38	\$ 20,000.00	102.5%
Workman's Comp/Unemployment Insurance	481.31	400.00	120.3%
Payroll Taxes - State, Social Security, and Medicare	3,797.60	3,500.00	108.5%
Mileage	1,364.10	350.00	389.7%
Office Supplies/Meetings/Misc.	2,009.50	900.00	223.3%
Canopy Grant	6,694.01	6,620.00	101.1%
Davis Grant	45.00	500.00	9.0%
NRCS Grant	-	-	
Non Grant Education & Outreach	69.99	500.00	14.0%
Miscellaneous Grants/Projects/Envirothon	1,520.50	500.00	304.1%
County/State Meetings	274.99	50.00	550.0%
Donations & Dues	2,909.00	3,000.00	97.0%
Lake Winnecook Management Project	30,055.79	18,679.00	160.9%
Miscellaneous Projects	884.14	200.00	442.1%
Building Maintenance	11,404.32	11,000.00	103.7%
Tree/Plant Sale	3,288.47	3,500.00	94.0%
Contracted Services	30,234.00	32,000.00	94.5%
Website	1,211.76	800.00	151.5%
Total Expenses	\$ 116,736.86	\$ 102,499.00	113.9%
Net Profit (Loss)	\$ (1,543.62)	\$ 383.00	-403.0%



Many thanks to MOFGA for allowing us to host the Midcoast Regional Envirothon competition at their Unity fairgrounds in May. Pictured at left is the Mt. Ararat High School team, who went on to place 3rd at the State-wide Envirothon. They may not be from Waldo County but still ... Good job, guys! :-)



Photo courtesy of NRCS

At the end of 2022, Ron Desrosiers retired from his work with the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Ron served as the District Conservationist in the Belfast Field Office and it was our good fortune to be co-located with him there. He regularly attended our monthly Board meetings where he provided us valuable input and guidance.

Around NRCS, he is known for his passionate and dedicated resource conservation service and his professionalism. Ron worked tirelessly over the last 29 years, developing conservation plans and providing both financial and technical assistance to help producers achieve long-term conservation and production goals. He created strong partnerships and built trust amongst farmers in the community.

In Waldo County, he cared deeply about the dairy industry and worked closely with producers to improve manure storage, nutrient management, and crop rotations, as well as implement energy efficiency upgrades. With our District, he also served as an advisor on our Unity Pond forestry and agriculture survey. He is an innovative thinker with a wealth of knowledge and his work will have lasting impacts on our county.

Board Chair Andy Reed commented, “Ron has been a friend and a great person to know and work with. He has so much knowledge of the area and conservation practices. It’s obvious he enjoyed working with his clients and staff. And we are fortunate that he has agreed to serve on the steering committee for the Lake Winnecook Watershed Management Plan. This shows the kind of person he is. Generous and positive!”

Another example of his devoted collaboration with community partners in Waldo County is the role he played to help write a USDA SARE grant for an alley-cropping demonstration at Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association in Unity. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grants offer funding for projects that advance agricultural practices in the U.S. (You can read more about this project here: <https://www.mofga.org/resources/orcharding/alley-cropping/>.)

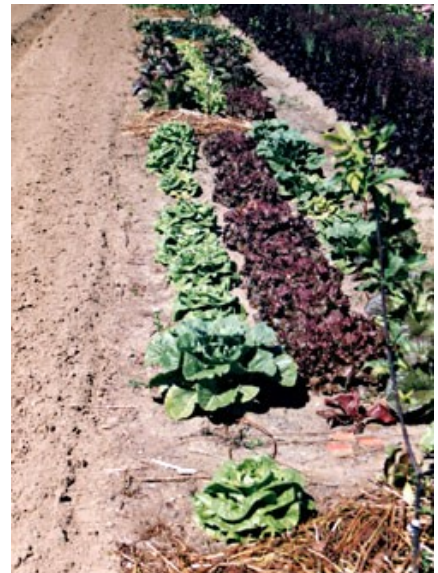


Photo courtesy of MOFGA

Although Ron is retiring from NRCS, he’ll still be collaborating on similar work around Maine. To quote Garrison Keillor (from the *Prairie Home Companion* radio program), “Be well, do good work, and keep in touch” Ron!

People

Volunteer of the Year—Drew Laughland

Since the fall of 2021, Belfast resident, Drew Laughland, has generously donated his time and skill to numerous District projects.

Initially, as part of our collaboration with Coastal Mountains Land Trust, he worked tirelessly collecting hundreds of tree measurements in *Forests for Our Future* research plots, for which he then catalogued the data in a spreadsheet. At that time, through his connection to the Belfast Garden Club, he also learned about our work at City Park Arboretum and began donating his time there for tree planting and care. He also helped plant pollinator shrubs and other plants at Wales Park Community Garden. “In fact,” says Program Director, Aleta McKeage, “he has shown up every time I’ve asked him!”



More recently, when we put out another call for help, Drew stepped forward yet again to assist with our aerial photo digitizing project. Over numerous days, he returned to our office to meticulously compile important metadata for over 500 photos. Once this was complete, he joined Administrative Director, Medea Steinman, for a trip to the Maine State Library in Augusta where he received training and scanned all of these large format photos on the library’s equipment. These will be refined and compiled into a collection for the Digital Maine Repository (see story on page 13).

We feel so fortunate to have found someone with Drew’s range of skills and ceaseless generosity. For all his gifts to the District, he will be formally recognized by the Board of Supervisors as Volunteer of the Year in February 2023.

2022 Staff and Supervisors

Board of Supervisors

Andrew Reed, Chair
Harold Larrabee, Vice Chair
Gene Randall, Treasurer
Susan Hunter, Secretary
Brian Baker, Supervisor
Donald Cox, Associate Supervisor

District Staff

Aleta McKeage, Technical Director
Medea Steinman, Administrative Director

Natural Resource Conservation Service Partner Staff

Ron Desrosiers, District Conservationist
Jorge Ortiz Montalvo, Soil Conservationist
Lindsay Johnston-Fennell, Soil Conservationist

Conservation Land Certification

Bus Tour of Conservation Properties Highlights Land Certification

Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) collaborated with Knox Lincoln SWCD to offer a full day bus tour highlighting five residential properties and a public park that earned certification through our Conservation Landscape Certification Program. This program was created by our District, and recently expanded into Knox & Lincoln counties. Our 50 participants viewed beautiful landscapes enhanced with native plants, meadowscapes, perennial gardens, pollinator gardens and wildlife habitat features. They also enjoyed lunch at The Hoot, a gourmet farm-to-table restaurant in Northport. Both districts have worked for several years to complete a land certification program that includes resource guides and landowner checklists as a part of the certification, which has levels from Aspiring to Master Conservationist.

Certification program participants who shared their property during the tour worked to meet the requirements in the five core criteria areas which include: provide wildlife habitat, practice soil and water conservation, control invasive

plant species, plan and plant for ecosystem support, and implement organic and integrated pest management practices. Our tour included all types of properties, from an urban oasis boasting a tiny orchard, perennial/shrub borders, to mixed use properties with fields, streams and woodlands as well as gardens with native and other useful plants. The owners described their efforts towards making their property wildlife friendly as well as implementing many other recommended practices.

Our full bus also included state conservation managers and SWCD district staff. Talks were also given by Aleta McKeage, founder of the program, and Rebecca Jacobs of Knox-Lincoln SWCD. Highlights included an educational pollinator garden in a public park, restored meadowscapes with added pollinator plants and wildlife-friendly mowing regimens, woodland shade gardens, chestnut plantings, and organic eradication of invasive plants providing space for a natural

community of native plants to emerge.

Our final stop in Waldo County was at the property of Sandi Cirillo, our most recent award recipient of the Waldo County Conservationist of the Year. She has diligently transformed her acres of fields, wetlands and streambanks to a healthy native ecosystem for several years.



Continued page 12

Conservation Land Certification

Meadowscape Your Property

A popular topic among landowners is how to create meadows, pollinator habitat, or just how to stop mowing grass. We can provide guidance on converting lawns to meadows or creating edge habitat near a woodland or around a hay or crop field. There are many practices you can implement to improve habitat in open areas.

You may have heard of “No-mow May,” where people are encouraged to not mow their lawns for the month of May. This allows the many plants in the lawn to flower and provide nectar sources for bees and other pollinator insects

at an important time of the year. This can make for some tough mowing later on or can look a bit neglected to the neighbors. Another option is to mow only every two weeks. This still gives the lawn a chance to diversify with flowering plants, such as violets, bluets, pussy toes, and other small flowers mixed in the grass. It won't look as weedy or neglected. You might even come to appreciate the sunny yellow discs of dandelions, especially when you notice bees feeding on them, and your grass may be healthier and fare better during drought.



District Technical Director, Aleta Mckeage, shared her own experience with experimenting in an urban yard. “In Maine, our native

wildflowers can appear in our meadows quickly, and you'll be rewarded with blasts of color



as asters and goldenrods appear, and a big uptick in butterflies and wildlife. I left a small patch of grass unmowed where I was creating a pollinator garden, just to see what would happen and was immediately rewarded with blue bellflowers and pink mallows. I added

swamp milkweed, a beautiful plant, black-eyed susans, scarlet bee balm, coneflowers, New England aster, and then with little effort I had a pollinator garden with a variety of colors all season, including wild strawberries that produced enough for me to

collect and eat. This was near an established garden with garden phlox and other perennial flowers, so I expanded my garden mostly by not mowing. I created a distinct edge between the garden and the turf with a shovel, and added a border of mulch, so it all looked neat enough for a city yard. Or you can simply mow a strip around the meadow. Mowed pathways can help you enjoy all the life that is there.”

If you have a field you want to use as wildlife habitat, you can mow once a year in late fall after flowers have gone to seed and insects and birds are no longer nesting or feeding. Gradually, diversity will increase, and this open habitat can support birds that nest in open fields. If you have more land, you can try mowing only every two or three years to create meadow and shrubby areas, which will attract a great variety of birds and wildlife. Adding a belt of meadow and shrubs around hay and crop

Continued page 14

Conservation Assistance Program

What is the CAP Program Anyway?



But our CAP program extends beyond individual landowners to municipalities, schools, and non-profits. This year, we worked with Belfast Area High School to develop an outdoor classroom, a forestry research planting, and a pollinator garden, and we helped Troy Howard Middle School staff and volunteers to clear a trail. We also advised several area land trusts on issues that ranged from managing hemlock stands to controlling hemlock woolly adelgid to restoring shoreland zone vegetation and streams.

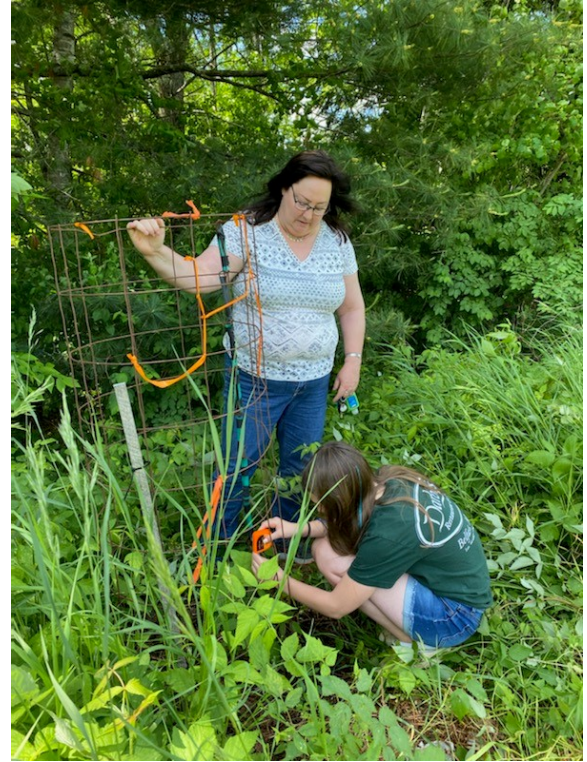
You've probably heard of our Conservation Assistance Program (CAP), but may wonder exactly what we do as a part of this program. Each year, we receive requests throughout the season from landowners that have questions about their property, which might be about an erosion problem, invasive plants, what native plants to add and where, or advice on managing a shoreland zone area or a multiple use woodland. Other inquiries are about blueberry field management, gravel road erosion, and urban lot landscaping. Often, we offer to take a look at their site and provide on-the-ground advice, with an initial visit called a Walk and Talk, which we provide free of charge. Sometimes, landowners request a follow-up ranging from written recommendation to receiving land certification checklists. At times, we bring in colleagues with expertise in a particular area if the problem requires a complex solution.

Our work with municipalities included implementing a Canopy Grant to add trees to a large city park as well as recommending trees for street tree plantings and browntail moth control. We also led volunteer events to improve public parks.



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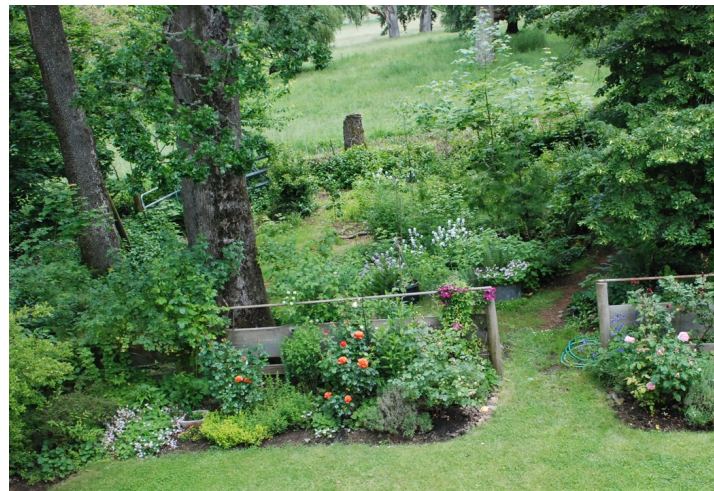
What is CAP? (continued)



gram is available to all in our county, and we are willing to help you reach your conservation goals through advice or even community project organization and public events... just ask!

Our non-profit work elsewhere included working with Viles Arboretum and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association to create experimental forest plantings, projects which are still underway, and developing a watershed management plan for Unity Pond.

We are also available to help towns with zoning, planning and infrastructure issues through our resource protection programs including Locally Important Soils, Forests for Our Future, Love Our Lakes and StreamSmart. The CAP pro-



Conservation Assistance Program

Unity Pond Watershed-based Management Plan

For the past two years, we have been involved in a multi-partner effort to develop a new management plan for Unity Pond (aka Lake Winnecook)—now the plan is complete. The objective was to develop an updated watershed-based management plan (WBMP) that addresses EPA’s nine elements and uses current information about lake water quality and watershed hydrology, as well as an

inventory of non-point source pollution problems, an evaluation of septic systems, and an assessment of the external and internal phosphorus (P) load.

Additionally, the goal was to bring together a diverse group of watershed colleagues to develop locally supported water quality targets and action strategies for restoring the pond. The updated WBMP will be used to guide watershed restoration efforts over the next 10 years.

Major accomplishments include: a water quality analysis and watershed modeling; an internal loading and alternative restoration feasibility analysis; a future monitoring plan; an updated GIS land-cover layer; P loading estimates for high impact/priority NPS sites; a septic vulnerability analysis and septic brochure/survey; a backflushing

study; an assessment of agriculture and forestry; two technical review committee meetings, three steering committee meetings, two press releases, and one public meeting. See below for the resulting list of recommendations.

It’s done ...

Why is this needed? Waldo County’s largest lake has a history of severe summertime



nuisance algal blooms that have been occurring for over three decades. Water quality has been in decline since at least the 1970s.

Some sources of pollution have been removed. Unfortunately, the lake is threatened by NPS pollution from development, including agricultural development, residential and commercial development, and roads.

Continued next page

Unity Pond (continued)

Pollutants that have built up in the lake's sediments also pose a threat to the lake. In addition to Unity Pond being listed on the State's NPS Priority Watersheds List as an impaired lake, Unity Pond is listed as "Most at Risk from New Development" under Chapter 502 of the Maine Stormwater Law because of its history of severe blooms and internal P recycling.

To read more about the lake, and the two final reports produced by our contracted project manager, Jen Jespersen of Ecological Instincts, visit our website: <https://waldocountysoilandwater.org/unity-pond>. You will also find links to useful resources about stormwater management, camp/gravel road management, and PFAS fish advisories.

If you would like to help Unity Pond, link to the Friends of Lake Winnecook website

(<https://www.lakewinnecook.org/>) and contact them to learn how you can play a part in this important work. It will be worth every minute, and every dollar, to improve the health of this beautiful lake. When the community comes together, great things will happen!

... and now the work begins!



List of Recommendations for the 2023-2032 WBMP

A. Reduce the external phosphorous load by addressing existing nonpoint source (NPS) pollution in the direct watershed of Unity Pond and indirect watersheds

B. Reduce the internal phosphorous load by stripping phosphorus (P) from the water column and inactivating P in the sediments at the bottom of the lake that fuels algal growth;

C. Prevent new sources of NPC pollution from getting into Unity Pond by strengthening and enforcing existing municipal ordinances to prevent any increase in P loading from existing and future development, investing in land conservation, and focusing on climate change adaptation planning.

D. Raise public awareness about the connection between land use, phosphorus, and algae blooms and water quality and strategies by increasing local education, outreach, and communication efforts to increase participation among municipalities and watershed residents.

E. Build local capacity through building across multiple community groups engaging steering committee members and developing a fundraising strategy.

F. Monitor and assess improvements in Unity Pond's water quality over time. This includes monitoring in-lake water quality, streams, NPS pollution, invasive aquatic plants, and backflush-

Education

District Continued K-12 Conservation Education in 2022



Waldo SWCD continued its K-12 program this year with some new projects, and also on some projects we've been at for a while. At Troy Howard Middle School, students continued to care for a pollinator garden planted last year, and to collect data on trees planted for researching forest climate adaptation. At Belfast Area High School, students began a community science project at Wales Park, photographing and identifying insects visiting our demonstration pollinator garden there to learn more about such gardens before planting their own. They began preparing to plant their garden at the high school this fall, in anticipation of adding plants they've selected next spring. To date,

the District has helped 3 schools plant pollinator gardens, and we plan to add each garden to our Pollinator Pathways map (see story on page 13) Another project is underway at the high school to create an outdoor classroom and to add their own forest research planting. Meanwhile, in Searsport students are preparing to study nearby Mill Brook Preserve to learn about stream ecology and restoration, with a little help from our staff and Coastal Mountains Land Trust, who owns the preserve. Mill Brook is a high quality stream with potential as brook trout and sea-run salmon habitat, and the students are planning to create an interpretive nature trail near the stream. And in Unity, the students at the Ecology Learning Center planted shrubs as part of a shoreline erosion control project implemented by Friends of Lake Winnecook based on our study of NPS high impact sites at Unity Pond, a part of our updated Watershed Plan project for the pond (see photo).



Bus Tour (cont'd from page 6)

The land was formerly choked with invasive plants, including multiflora rose, purple loosestrife, Norway maple and exotic honeysuckle. Working with a tractor and hand cutting, Sandi has largely rid her landscape of invasives with little use of chemicals, and native plants have made a great comeback. She has been working to create a meadowscape in her fields and wetlands that supports pollinators, birds, mammals and wildflowers. Her reward has been many hours of wildlife watching as a variety of creatures returned to the land. Everyone had a chance to explore each property as they learned about important conservation practices and their positive effects on the landscape.



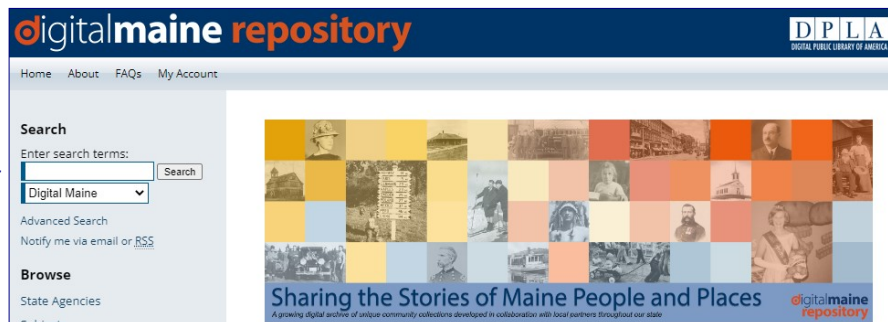
Aerial Photos Available Online Soon!

Years ago, we inherited a collection of Waldo County aerial photos from USDA/NRCS. The collection includes aerial flights from the years 1939, 1966 and 1980, with over 1,000 black-and-white photos, each one measuring approximately 20 x 26 inches.

Members of the public are welcome to view the photos at our office by appointment. The 1939 collection is particularly popular with Waldo landowners who are researching the history of

their property. That flight was conducted two years before our SWCD was formed, when the countryside had fewer trees and more farms.

In order to maximize public access to these photos, our office has been searching for other means of housing this important collection. Happily, the Maine State Library came to the rescue! Adam Fisher, Director of Collections Development and Digital Initiatives, generously (and enthusiastically!) offered the use of the Library's scanner and digitizing services. The 1939 photos have been scanned and the metadata are being catalogued. Once completed, over 500 photos from 1939 will be available through the online Digital Maine Repository hosted by the Maine State Library. Many thanks to Adam Fisher, volunteer Drew Laughland, and the Maine State Library. See page 5 for a profile about Drew and stay tuned for the digital launch announcement!



Pollinator Pathways to be Launched in 2023



beneficial insects that pollinate our plants, including a large percentage of agricultural crops. In developed areas, it can be important to add these pollinator patches to yards, parks, and even woodland or field edges to support beneficial insects. The Pollinator Pathways Project will help people identify where more habitat is needed, and encourage the creation of more pollinator plantings. We will be offering a Guide to Creating Meadowsapes, which can be used on large and small properties. You can visit our website to learn more about pollinator plantings under our Education Section, where we have a map of our flagship demonstration garden at Wales Park in Belfast, as well as a list of the many valuable pollinator plants there that you can plant in Midcoast Maine.



Coming in 2023

Homestead Day 2023 - May 6th at Maine TradeHers in Unity



Last year we tried a new approach to our plant sale through a joint venture with Maine TradeHers Market in Unity. It was called “Homestead Day” and it was a tremendous success! There was a slight chill and a lot of wind but no one noticed. There was too much warmth from the happy reunion of folks coming together and loads of neighborly conversation after another long Covid winter.

We will repeat the event this year featuring not just our Waldo SWCD plant sale, but also, once again, locally made products offered by local farm and craft vendor favorites! As with last year, our plants will go on sale online in March for pre-ordering, and plants will also be available for purchase on the day of the sale. Once again we’ll offer plants that provide fruit, nuts, medicinals and other useful things for the homesteaders and other independent folks. Below is a list of some of the beautiful and useful plants you can purchase from us at discount prices beginning in March. Your purchases help to support the District’s conservation and education mission. Look for our cata-

log online and in the mail in late February.

Plants Available at Our Spring Sale 2023

Fruit Trees/Shrubs

Apples

Honeycrisp
Black Oxford
Baldwin

Pears

Bosc
Beurre Clairgeau
Elderberry

2 varieties TBD

Highbush Blueberry

Blue Crop
Blue Ray



Ecolandscape

Persimmon
Tulip Poplar
White Oak
Wildlife Packs

Homestead

Pawpaw
Spicebush
Hackberry
American Hazelnut

Meadowscape (cont'd from page 7)

fields or orchards can ultimately bring many more beneficial insects and birds that feed on pests.

If you start with bare earth and add an appropriate seed mix, controlling weeds is an issue, and you might need to mow a seeded area at certain intervals as it becomes established. Be on the



lookout for invasive plants such as Canada thistle, Himalayan jewelweed or garden Valerian and take steps to remove these. See our Conservation Landscape Certification webpage (<https://waldocountysoilandwater.org/conservation-landscape-certification-intro>) webpage for more resources to create habitat on your property and watch for our *Guide to Meadowscape* coming out in 2023. We are also happy to visit your property and suggest ideas for practicing conservation and improving habitat on your land.

A Special Thank You to...

We would like to thank our many partners and supporters for assisting us with our conservation mission this year:

Maine Forest Service

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Protection Agency

Center for Wildlife Studies

Ecological Instincts

Friends of Lake Winnecook

Viles Arboretum

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District

City of Belfast Parks and Recreation Department

Coastal Mountains Land Trust

Midcoast Conservancy

Troy Howard Middle School

Belfast Area High School

Belfast Garden Club

UMaine Cooperative Extension

Waldo County Commissioners

Maine DACF

Maine DEP

Maine Natural Areas Program

Unity Pond Steering Committee

Envirothon Judges and Volunteers

NRCS Belfast Field Office Staff

WCSWCD Supervisors

Sandi Cirillo

Noah Gleason-Hart

Todd Miller

Linda Oskamp

Barbara Gage

Michele Carrier-Clinch

Katie Rose Leone

Noah Gleason Hart

Marianne McKinney

Jack Shaida

Dan Reeve

Drew Laughland

Steve Bird

Ryan Martin

Laura Kircheis

Dale Finseth

Mary Sullivan

Allyssa Gregory

Ned & Lexa Clifford

Linda Oskamp

Matt Walker

Carol Weymouth

Barry Hanstein

Brit Ziegler

Desneige Halbert

Isobel Curtis

Irene Flynn

Buck O'Herin

Joseph Roy

Steve Walker

Joe Dembeck

Lucas Kirsch

Don't miss out on our 2023 Programs:

- School yard habitat and pollinator education
- Conservation land certification trainings and new tools
- Adaptive forestry workshops
- Woodland Stewardship workshops
- Conservation assistance for landowners
- Unity Pond Surveys and Planning (see pg. 12)
- Midcoast Regional Envirothon
- Citizen Science with Report a Tree
- School Forestry education
- Native plant and fruit tree sale (see pg. 14)
- Fish Lead Free and LakeSmart programs
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid management planning services
- City Park Arboretum tours and resources
- Landowner walk and talks
- New research plantings and public events at MOFGA and Viles Arboretum
- Locally Important Soils Services
- Pollinator Pathways
- New Online Resources

**Waldo County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

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Belfast, ME 04915

207 - 218 - 5311 Office

855 -884 -2284 Technical Assistance

www.waldocountysoilandwater.org

Email:

[msteinman@
maineconservationdistricts.com](mailto:msteinman@maineconservationdistricts.com)

Our 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.

You can support the District’s important conservation mission in many ways. We welcome you to volunteer with us (indoors or out), provide input through joining our supervisory board, or to help through donations, which may be earmarked for specific work. Our many services in conservation assistance and education are available to all residents, land owners and organizations in Waldo County.



To:

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