



Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District 2023 Annual Report

Photo Credit: Aleta McKeage

Letter From the Chair

The Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District had an interesting and challenging year in 2023. We continue to work with the Friends of Lake Winnecook (Unity Pond) on efforts to make the lake cleaner. Having completed the Watershed Based Management Plan, they can now apply for grants to help them improve the water quality. Our Canopy Grant (from Maine DACF Forest Service) has been completed and the new City Park Arboretum *Map & Activity Guide* can be obtained from the City of Belfast, and from our website.

Our Technical Director, Aleta McKeage, retired at the end of October after nearly 7 years with the District. We wish her well and appreciate her accomplishments while working as an independent contractor. We also thank Susan Hunter for her time as a Supervisor and Brian Baker (who served as Supervisor then Associate Supervisor over many years), for their contributions to the District. Medea Steinman will be leaving the District at the end of February 2024. We want to wish her the best and thank her for her dedication to our District while she was here. We will miss her greatly for her friendship and fine work.

We partnered with Knox/Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District in putting together the Conservation Land Certification Toolkit that is now being used by other Districts in the State and has attracted attention nationally (materials available on our website).

We would like to thank MACD, DACF, NRCS, FSA, DEP, MOFGA, our Waldo County Commissioners, and the Waldo County Budget Committee for their continued support, as well as all of our other supporters. We work closely with NRCS, so we extend a warm welcome to the new District Conservationist in Belfast, Peter Abello, who replaced Ron Desrosiers. Also thanks to Supervisors Harold Larrabee, Gene Randall, Drew Laughland, and Associate Supervisor Don Cox, who have offered much throughout the year.

Our monthly Board meetings are open to the public and we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of conservation in the County. In addition, we welcome hearing from anyone interested in serving on our board. In April of 2024 we will be celebrating our 80th year working in the County to improve conservation! Please get in touch if you'd like to learn more. And feel free to contact us with your conservation needs.

--Sincerely, Andrew Reed, Board Chair

Table of Contents

- A Look at Our Work.....2
- Financial Report..... 3
- People..... 4-5
- Partners—NRCS, MFS, BP&R.....6-7
- Conservation Land Certification.....8-9
- Annual Meeting... ..10-11
- Conservation Assistance Program..... 12
- Resources..... 13
- Coming Events.....14
- Thank You 15
- Our Mission..... 16



A Look at the District's Work in 2023

Education, Trainings & Workshops

- Developed and led educational lessons and activities at five different schools on trail clearing, forestry measurements, Outdoor Learning at a Searsport preserve, conservation education, creating pollinator gardens, and planting trees for research.
- Presented Gardening for Wildlife Habitat at Rural Living Day.
- Taught course on Adapting to Climate Change.
- Co-sponsored Stream Smart workshop for municipal personnel.
- Presented programs at partner organizations like MOFGA, Common Ground Fair, and Viles Arboretum to volunteers, staff and members of the public on Forests for Our Future, low impact forestry research, climate adaptation research, climate adapted forestry; and conducted tree identification training.
- Developed i-Tree Instructions guide with the Belfast Tree Working Group (TWiG).
- Raised funds for the state-wide high school science Envirothon program and co-sponsored the Midcoast Regional Envirothon.



Community Collaboration

- Collaborated with Belfast Green Streets” on urban canopy plan.
- Helped write MOFGA Canopy Grant for Forests for Our Future research plots and education program.
- Co-led event with Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition at City Park about the Arboretum program and resources.
- Held meetings with Midcoast Council of Governments about culverts and other areas of potential collaboration.
- Hosted table at the Sustainability Communities event in the Belfast Boathouse.
- Assisted Hills to Sea Trails Coalition with trail nature guides.

- Made enhancements for Wales Park Community Garden.
- Installed interpretive signs and hosted tours at City Park Arboretum (see article on page 7).
- Co-sponsored annual Local Working Group meeting with NRCS and Knox-Lincoln SWCD.
- Sponsored invasive species talk by Maine State Horticulturist, Gary Fish, for Waldo County residents at our Annual Meeting (see article on page 10).
 - Facilitated potential fish passage and stream connectivity project in Searsport through meetings with DMR, private consultant, community members, and as liaison for dam owner and Penobscot Indian Nation.
- Held Homestead Day/Plant Sale at Hunter-Green Farm in Unity.

Conservation Assistance Program (CAP)

- Conservation Land Certification work included: CLC presentation to statewide meeting; development of resource guide and toolkit which was shared with three other SWCDs, Maine Audubon, and nationally through NACD; assisted landowners with CLC efforts and certified two more properties (see article on page 6).
- Conducted site visit with Coastal Mountains Land Trust at Ducktrap River Shoreland Zone to offer recommendations for a remediation plan.
- Led volunteer and staff event at Viles Arboretum on Forests for Our Future.
- Led volunteer event to plant native shrub buffer at Wales Park.
- Conducted CAP landowner visits.
- Met with Maine Forest Service staff regarding urban and community forestry and i-Tree software for local efforts.
- Collaborated with partners to form steering committee and launch the 10-year WBMP for Unity Pond, and coordinating communications and outreach for the WBMP.

2023 Financial Report



2023 Financial Report

Income & Expense vs Budget as of 12/31/2023

	<u>Total 2023 Year to Date</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>Year-to-Date % of Budget</u>
Income:			
Waldo County	26,000.00	26,000.00	100.0%
Maine Dept. of Ag	97,500.00	25,000.00	150.0%
MACD/NRCS Grants	-	2,500.00	0.0%
MACD Grants & Distributions	4,959.84	2,500.00	198.4%
Grants	-	5,500.00	0.0%
Fees for Service	200.00	550.00	36.4%
Donations	250.00	200.00	125.0%
Tree/Plant Sale	4,297.64	5,500.00	78.1%
Misc. & Interest	1,793.23	150.00	1195.5%
Total Income	\$ 75,000.71	\$ 67,900.00	110.5%
Expenses:			
Payroll	22,697.07	21,500.00	105.6%
Workman's Comp/Unemployment Insurance	424.00	500.00	84.8%
Payroll Taxes - State, Social Security, and Medicare	3,668.39	3,500.00	104.8%
Mileage	563.04	1,000.00	56.3%
Office Supplies/Board Meetings/Misc.	2,350.68	1,000.00	235.1%
MACD/NRCS Grants	-	200.00	0.0%
Non Grant Education & Outreach	473.73	200.00	236.9%
Grants	23.06	4,000.00	0.6%
Miscellaneous Projects - Edu. & Service	688.10	300.00	229.4%
County/State/LWC/Annual Meetings	953.31	200.00	476.7%
Donations & Dues	2,690.00	3,000.00	89.7%
Building Supplies	-	300.00	0.0%
Tree/Plant Sale	3,297.55	3,000.00	109.9%
Contracted Services	23,870.00	28,644.00	83.3%
Website	327.16	500.00	65.4%
Total Expenses	\$ 62,026.09	\$ 67,844.00	91.4%
Net Profit (Loss)	\$ 12,974.62	\$ 56.00	23169.0%

Welcome New Faces!

Drew Laughland, Board Secretary

Drew was awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2022. Subsequently, he was invited to join our Board of Supervisors in 2023. He served as Supervisor and then accepted the position of Board Secretary in September. Drew has been a great asset to the District, completing the rollout of digitized aerial photos (see article, page 13), registering our District with SAM.gov (not as easy as it sounds), and through his valuable input at Board meetings.



People



Peter Abello, District Conservationist

Peter has worked for NRCS for 20 years. He previously worked with Ron Desrosiers (former Belfast DC) who hired Peter when he was the DC in Augusta. Peter worked with Ron there for 6 years and says, “He taught me a lot. I was lucky to have him show me the ropes with NRCS.” Peter lives in Waldo County and was excited to make the move to the Belfast Field Office.

Courtney Hawkins, Soil Conservationist

Courtney began her NRCS career in the Bangor Field Office. From May through December 2022, she worked there as a Student Trainee (Soil Conservationist) through the Pathways Internship Program of the University of Maine, Orono. She began her permanent Soil Conservationist position in the Belfast Field Office in January 2023.



Farewells

Brian Baker has been a steady presence at the District since 2011. He served 12 years on our Board of Supervisors, including 7 as a Supervisor then 5 as an Associate Supervisor. As a devoted and knowledgeable fruit tree grower, he has provided invaluable expertise and guidance to customers at our annual tree sales. We are delighted that he will continue to offer support for this event, and we wish him the best as he devotes more time to his family and grandchildren.

Susan Hunter served for 10 years as a Supervisor from 2014 to 2023. She supported the District’s Tree/Shrub/Plant Sale every spring and in recent years hosted the joint Homestead Day & Plant Sale event at her farm in Unity. We wish her the best, especially with repairs to her barn after the 12/18/23 storm (see article about recent winter storms, page 12).

Aleta McKeage resigned from her contract at the end of October. We thank her for her seven years of hard work, creative accomplishments, and organizational support of the District. And we wish her well in her new position as Interim Executive Director at Viles Arboretum in Augusta. (See her farewell message: <https://waldocountysoilandwater.org/news-blog/a-fond-farewell>.)

Lindsay Johnston-Fennell joined the Belfast NRCS staff as a soil conservationist in June 2021. Upon the retirement of Ron Desrosiers at the end of 2022, Lindsay stepped in as the Interim District Conservationist for four months until Peter Abello arrived. Now Lindsay has been promoted to the position of District Conservationist at the Ellsworth Field Office. We are excited for her about this advancement, and we wish her the very best.

People

Another Farewell

Medea Steinman, Administrative Director

Since joining the District in September 2021, Medea has sincerely enjoyed working closely with the Board to strengthen and improve administrative systems and explore new pathways for the District. Besides her administrative duties, she has focused on board recruitment, long range planning, aerial photo digitization, and brought renewed attention for using the Stream Smart model in Waldo County. Medea has accepted a position as a Regional Planner at Hancock County Planning Commission and will begin working there in March. Until then, she will continue updating administrative systems and will help the Board with the transition to new staff (see below). She would like to say “Farewell and thank you for the opportunity to work here and get to know Waldo County better! It’s been a valuable experience and I’ve met many wonderful people.”



Paid and Volunteer Opportunities—Spread the Word!

If you or anyone you know has a passion for protecting the environment, and skills that you want to bring to our work in Waldo County, please get in touch today!

Email or call: waldocountysoilandwater@gmail.com, 207.218.5311.

- One **Supervisor** seat is open on our Board. This volunteer position includes voting authority and a chance to formally lead the District’s work.
- New **Associate Supervisors** are always welcome to join the Board. This is not a voting position and therefore carries lighter responsibilities. However, input and guidance from Associates is highly valued in all Board deliberations.
- We anticipate announcing one or more **paid staff positions soon**. Please keep an eye on our website. See **Get Involved** —> **Job Opportunities**.

2023 Staff and Supervisors

Board of Supervisors

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

District Staff

Medea Steinman, Administrative Director
Aleta McKeage, contracted Technical Director

NRCS Staff

Peter Abello, District Conservationist
Lindsay Johnston-Fennell, Interim DC/Soil Conservationist
Courtney Hawkins, Soil Conservationist
Amelia Wallis, Soil Conservationist Student Trainee

Partners — Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS Conservation Spotlight

by Peter Abello, NRCS District Conservationist in Belfast; photos by Lindsay Johnston-Fennell, NRCS District Conservationist in Ellsworth

Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till, is a conservation practice used to limit soil disturbance while establishing a crop. Compared to full width tillage or conventional tillage, which disturbs the entire field, no-till disturbs a narrow slice or strip of the soil, leaving the majority of the field undisturbed. Why is this important? Each time the soil is tilled, there is negative impact to the structure of the soil. Poor soil structure leads to increased erosion, decreased infiltration and decreased nutrient cycling. An undisturbed soil has high aggregate stability which is more resilient to erosion, facilitates increased infiltration and



Silage corn seeded into winter rye residue

nutrient cycling and provides habitat for the diverse biological system in the soil, enabling a particular soil to provide the highest services to our ecosystems.

Some of the more notable

reasons why a farm would want to adopt residue and tillage management include: reduced fuel use and labor, reduced sheet and rill erosion, maintaining or increasing soil health and organic matter content, increase plant available moisture, and increased resiliency to the effects of excessive rainfall or drought. NRCS can provide technical and/or financial assistance to implement this



Silage corn established under No-Till Management in Troy

practice. One such farm in Troy took advantage of this assistance this past year. Through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP),



NRCS Soil Conservationist Lindsay Johnston-Fennell measuring residue cover

dairy farmer John Cox converted 50 acres of silage corn fields to a no-till system. A cover crop of winter rye was planted in the fall after harvest in 2022. The rye does not winterkill, but rather goes dormant and then starts growing again in the spring. The rye was then chemically controlled with an herbicide in the spring of 2023. Corn seed was

Partners — Natural Resources Conservation Service Spotlight, cont'd

then planted into the rye residue with a no till planter. These photos were taken by Lindsay Johnston-Fennell, NRCS (then) Soil Conservationist, about 30 days after planting.

John's response when asked why he chose to adopt this conservation practice was, "Because it saves me time and money." When changing your cropping system to no-till, you're also changing how you control weeds, the type of equipment you use, and how manure and nutrients are applied. Luckily, there are some great resources to help you



Silage Corn established under No-Till Management on John Cox's Farm

consider the different factors. The University of Maine has done extensive research into the applicability of no-till management on Maine farms, resulting in some great resources available on the web: <https://extension.umaine.edu/agriculture/soil-health/no-till-and-reduced-tillage/>. Here you will find farm case studies, video links to farm panel discussions, and fact sheets about the benefits of no-till. In fact, you will see some other Waldo County Farms who have adopted soil health practices mentioned in this literature. For more information on how conservation practices like Residue and Tillage Management can work on your farm, contact your local NRCS Field Office in Belfast at 207-338-1964 x 3.

Partners — Maine Forest Service & Belfast Parks & Recreation City Park Arboretum

by Medea Steinman

Thanks to a Maine Forest Service Canopy Grant, work has been completed at Belfast's City Park Arboretum. The final interpretive signs and tree markers were installed in Spring & Summer 2023 and an educational *Map and Activity Guide* is now available on our website (<https://waldocountysoilandwater.org/city-park-arboretum>).

This has been a community effort completed with the help of many generous volunteers, and enjoyed by a range of Belfast community members, as well as folks beyond Belfast. Numerous tours and educational events have been hosted to draw attention to this wonderful park and the trees featured there. Sixteen new trees and species have been added to the park. Dying trees were replaced with climate-adaptive species, disease-resistant hybrids, additional native trees, and typical urban street trees. The project also offers a chance to educate the public about tree restoration for species vulnerable to pathogens. Thirty new tree markers were added and the 8-page activity guide includes a tour, stories about tree species, activities to do at the park, and a map with a key to the trees.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with planting and caring for the trees, installing signs, and reviewing materials for accuracy. We encourage all Waldo County residents to visit City Park and enjoy these new Arboretum resources!

Conservation Land Certification

2023 Certification Recipient—Shana Hanson

by Medea Steinman

In 2023, our District conferred Conservation Land Certification on two properties owned by Belfast resident Shana Hanson. One certification was awarded to her 39-acre 3 Streams Farm in Belfast, where she keeps her livestock and conducts leaf fodder and grazing research. The other certification was awarded to her 17 acres of blueberry land at the Cattail & Sky Field on Levenseller Mountain in Lincolnville, where she runs Belfast Blueberry Cooperative.



Shana Hanson with her CLC swag



Pollarded trees

You may already know, or know of, Shana. She has been featured in many videos and news articles. She maintains a busy blog, two farms, a SARE research project (<https://projects.sare.org/people/shanson/>), and works as a mental health counselor. Needless to say, Shana is a high energy person with deep knowledge and passion about her work.

What is her work? Well, how much time do you have? Her ventures and projects over many years have included fruit tree pruning and grafting, goat intensive biochar production, silvopasture, pollarding, and research about livestock grazers and leaf fodder. She crafts goat wearables and presents seminars and workshops. She is also a musician/singer with a body of songs about aspects of gardening and silvopasture management. Can you say, “Renaissance Woman?”

At Cattail & Sky Field, Shana leads a blueberry cooperative where she owns the land and the equipment, but runs the operation with others. People also can trade with the co-op for blueberries harvested at the property.

Cattail & Sky Field is certified organic and Shana and her partners grow more than just blueberries. They’re promoting native American False Pennyroyal, and other tiny aromatics and flowering plants, in the bare areas between blueberry patches. The goal is to create havens for small species that



Ever stuck your nose in a barrel of cherry leaves? Try it some time—find out what all the goat-fuss is about!

Conservation Land Certification Hanson, cont'd

like blueberry fields. They're also letting trees grow on the land and cutting them for goat and cattle fodder. The intention is to diversify for other useful plants within the blueberry matrix. Invasive fruit flies are



A friendly and welcoming bunch! Goats at their leaf fodder feeding station (left) and Angelo—a cuddly and handsome guy (right).

cutting harvests back shorter and shorter, and Shana's group values these other plantings as beneficial by-products. In May 2023, Shana and the Cooperative conveyed an easement to Maine Farmland Trust for Cattail & Sky Field.

On a recent tour of 3 Streams Farm, our conversation was fascinating and ranged widely. Shana explained the valuable role goats can play in controlling invasive plants; the leaf separator machine she co-designed to facilitate her fodder harvesting; and her jury-rigged tree tubes for protecting saplings from goat browsing. Shana's leaf fodder research is testing for a variety of factors including palatability to grazers, comparisons of leaf and hay fodder, quantity of leaves that trees yield under various conditions, and goat milk yields.

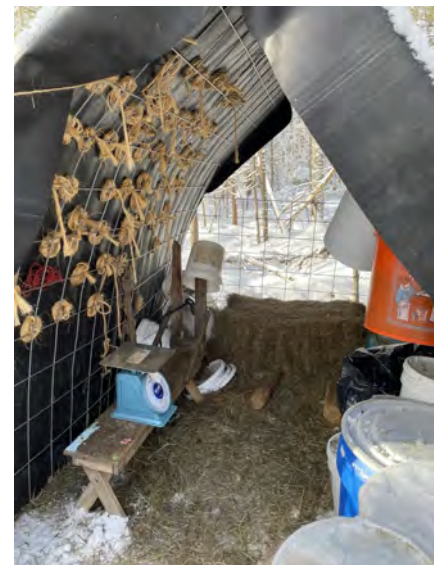
Shana is a font of knowledge not just about trees and plants, but also their relationships with grazers. For example, browsing by grazers can stimulate plant chemical responses that deter browsing. But at the



Homemade tree tubes protecting saplings

same time, grazing can support soil and forest health. Shana reports that in France people have noticed a decline in tree and soil health and quality. This has come on since Europeans began confining grazers in rotations, or other systems, rather than allowing them to roam under the knowledgeable supervision of herders. Need a job? Herders are now in great demand in France! (Search online for "herding schools, France").

Shana has been pollarding trees for dairy goats and other livestock since 2010, and she's been teaching about these tree-based methods of raising and feeding livestock since 2015. If you would like to learn more, visit her site at <https://3streamsfarmbelfastme.blogspot.com>, or view her videos at <https://www.youtube.com/@shanahanson4240/videos>.



Data collection shelter

Creating Community — 2023 Annual Meeting

Keynote Speaker: Maine State Horticulturist, Gary Fish

by Gene Randall, Marianne McKinney, and Medea Steinman

Mr. Gary Fish, the Maine State Horticulturist, was the keynote speaker at the Waldo County Soil & Water Conservation District Annual Meeting on December 14, 2023.

The focus of his talk was to explain the criteria for determining if a plant should be classified as invasive and how the process of selection works. Gary

oversees this process. You can find the list of species, and other information, at this link: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/invasiveplants.shtml#History>.

This popular speaker was the highlight of the evening, and the attendees were very appreciative of his knowledge, approachability, and candor.



Also at the Annual Meeting, we recognized Friends of Lake Winnecook as our Conservationist of the Year (see next page).

The meeting was held at the Town of Searsmont Meeting Room. People enjoyed refreshments before, during, and after Gary's talk, and the evening closed with a light-hearted drawing for various door-prizes. Gifts were donated by Board and Staff, and some were homemade. Marshall Wharf Brewing Company, in Belfast, donated a gift certificate to their restaurant.

spoke and responded to audience questions for over an hour. He shared numerous slides that showed how to identify many common invasive species and the damage they cause to the environment. He covered a range of invasive plants and animals, including some aquatic species. He spoke with audience members before and after his presentation to answer specific questions related to their farms and personal property.

Mr. Fish also provided copies of Maine's recently updated "Do Not Sell Plant List." This newly expanded list includes 30 more plants, bringing the total to 63. The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's Horticulture Program

This was our first in-person Annual Meeting since before the Covid-19 pandemic. It was wonderful to have this gathering and a chance to re-connect with Waldo County community and friends. We look forward to doing this again next year when we will celebrate our 80th anniversary!

View Gary Fish's talk on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQVnKWmGzHw&t=30s>.

Thank you!

MARSHALL WHARF
★ BREWING CO. ★

Creating Community — 2023 Annual Meeting

Conservationist of the Year—Friends of Lake Winnecook

by Medea Steinman

At our Annual Meeting in December, we recognized Friends of Lake Winnecook (FOLW) with our Conservationist of the Year award. Lake Winnecook is also known as Unity Pond. It straddles three Waldo County towns: Unity, Burnham, and Troy. There are 300 individual lots on the lake that are located within 250 feet of the shoreline. Unity Pond was declared an impaired lake by the State of Maine as a result of its poor water quality and increased incidence of nuisance algal blooms. FOLW is determined to restore the lake to healthier ecological conditions.

FOLW Vice President, Charlie Schaefer, graciously accepted the award on behalf of the lake association. Charlie married into the Unity community when he wed Arlene, who is a local gal. They moved back there when Charlie retired from military service after achieving the rank of Colonel, and he has served on the FOLW board intermittently since its inception in 1987. FOLW Board members and other volunteers have contributed countless hours of service to keep the lake community thriving. They are dedicated to addressing the needs of the lake and its residents, and repairing the challenging ecological conditions seen at the lake over the last few decades.

Here are some of the examples of FOLW's hard work and accomplishments in recent years.

- Organized and hosted Lake Smart trainings and conducted Lake Smart property assessments.

- Organized gravel road surveys and offered related workshops.
- Conducted bi-monthly water quality monitoring and data collection in the lake.
- Offered a septic rebate program and conducted septic education and outreach.
- Offered courtesy boat inspections and sent

plant fragments for identification. 908 inspections were completed in 2022 with 397 hours donated.

- FOLW collaborated with our District and other partners to bring about the completion of a new 10-year Watershed-based Management Plan in 2022.



For the updated 10-year plan, valuable baseline

data were gathered through various surveys, assessments, and monitoring activities as described above. It was also confirmed that Sandy Stream backflushes into the lake during heavy storms. More data are needed about this phenomenon and a study will be organized as part of the new plan.

Friends of Lake Winnecook is spearheading fundraising efforts and the application for a Maine DEP 319 grant, an important first step for studying and fixing nonpoint source pollution in the watershed. The road will be long but FOLW is off to a great start and they won't be walking alone. We applaud their devotion to the lake and look forward to supporting their efforts.

Conservation Assistance Program

Climate Change—No more waiting, it’s here

by Medea Steinman, photos by Andy Reed

The winter of 2023 – 2024 has been a confirmation that climate change is truly upon us. The storms of December 18, January 10, and January 13, hit us hard. Riverfront communities flooded and segments of coastline were transformed to be almost



unrecognizable. The January 10th storm saw hurricane force winds (95 mph) reported from Isle au Haut. Maine Public Radio (1/23/24) quoted one town manager saying, “What we thought we had to do, it’s way more than what we expected,” for storm repairs. An Island Institute marine scientist



postulated that what we’ve been seeing now represents a 5-year storm (a 20% probability of happening in any year). The public is being advised

to learn how to read flood maps and better understand warnings from the National Weather Service. The good news? A city manager in Kennebec County said the NWS river level projections were “spot on” for his town, which helped businesses prepare in advance. Meanwhile, the series of storms prompted an emergency meeting of the Maine Climate Council in January.

Right here within our District community, three board members were significantly impacted. Board Chair, Andy Reed, shared these photos from his woodlot showing major damage to large trees. Vice



Chair, Harold Larrabee, faced a fire at his dairy farm that destroyed his barn. Hundreds of dairy cows had to be temporarily relocated to another farm. And former Board Secretary, Sue Hunter, suffered a total loss of her barn. Our hearts go out to them, and we wish them the best with their recovery.

We would like to work with Waldo County municipalities on these challenges. We are particularly interested in addressing weak or failing culverts and stream crossings. If you would like to discuss ways we can work together to find money, get training for personnel, and prepare for more frequent and intense storms, please reach out to us at 207-218-5311.

Resources

1939 Waldo County Aerial Photos Now Available Online!

by Drew Laughland and Medea Steinman

Ever wondered what your land and neighborhood



Board Secretary, Drew Laughland, digitizing aerial photos in Fall 2022 at the Maine State Library

looked like in 1939? Now you can find out online! Our District has uploaded a collection of more than 530 aerial photos of Waldo County to the online *DigitalMaineLibrary*. The photos were commissioned by the USDA to assist with the new programs established under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of the Depression Era New Deal. After World War II, they were used to monitor compliance with agricultural crop programs.

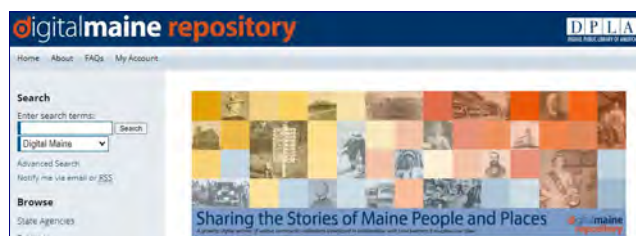
The collection has been available for viewing in the District office for many years. This new tool makes them available in a much more flexible format to anyone with an internet connection. The link to the collection is: https://digitalmaine.com/wcswcd_historical_aerial_photos/.

Use the small map in the left-side menu to locate the photo you are interested in. A larger version of the map can be seen by clicking on the **View Gallery on Map** or **View Gallery on GoogleEarth** links below the small map. Pushpins on the map indicate the center of each photo. Clicking on the pushpin opens a thumbnail image of the map and a link to see or download the full detailed version.

Alternatively, you can enter a town name in the **Search** box on the top left to see all of the photos showing that town. Some photos in the western portion of the county do not yet have the latitude and longitude data loaded to place a pushpin so searching by town name will bring up more maps. We expect to complete the location data in 2024.

Each map covers a rectangle about 3 miles east to west and 2 miles north to south. (The original photograph had a scale of 1:20,000). There is a great deal of overlap among the photos so if a feature is unclear in one, look at the nearby maps.

We are pleased to offer the 1938-1939 collection digitally and invite Waldo County landowners, researchers, and others to explore it for their own land use analysis or just out of historical curiosity. The physical prints of this and a 1966 and 1980 series are located at our office in Belfast, Maine. Visitors are welcome to view them by appointment. We thank the Maine State Library for its generous assistance adding the collection to the *DigitalMaine Repository*.



Coming in 2024

Spring Tree Sale — May 4th, 2024, 9am - 1pm

As with last year, our fruit trees and shrubs will go on sale online in March for pre-ordering. Below is a list of plants you can purchase from us at discount prices. Your purchases help to support the District's conservation and education mission. Look for location and other details online in late March.

Fruit Trees/Shrubs

Apples

- Cortland M111
- Grimes Golden M111
- Honeycrisp M111
- Liberty B118
- Northern Spy M111
- Zestar B118

Pears

- Bartlett
 - Bosc
 - Seckel
- ##### Elderberry
- Mixed Varieties



Upcoming Events

Online Workshops (check website for details and Zoom information)

- *Gravel Road Maintenance*, Tuesday Feb. 6th, 6:30-7:30pm
- *Plant Buffers for Shorefronts*, Thursday March 14th, 4:00-5:00pm

Tree Sale

May 4th, Location TBD
Pre-ordering available online mid-March

Common Ground Fair

3rd weekend in September.
Find us in the *Environmental Concerns* tent!

Annual Meeting– 80th Anniversary!

Date and Location TBD
(late summer or fall)

Local Working Group Meeting with NRCS

Date & Location TBD
(held in first half of December)

Board Meetings

4th Thursday of every month, 10:00am-12:00pm,
46 Little River Dr., Belfast, or via Zoom
(FMI call 207-218-5311)

Watch “Upcoming Events” on our website for other opportunities!

Special Thanks to...

Our 2023 Sponsors



And our many partners and supporters who assisted us with our conservation mission this year

Carol Weymouth & Maine Association of Conservation Districts

Tom Gordon, ME DACF

Cheryl Daigle, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust

Brian Levesque & Friends of Lake Winnecook

Christine Anderson-Morehouse

Susan Conard

Ron Desrosiers

Jake Maier

John Pincince

Deb Smith

Jen Jespersen & Ecological Instincts

Maine Audubon

The Nature Conservancy

Mark Whiting & Hancock County SWCD

Allyssa Gregory & Maine Forest Service

Adam Fisher & Maine State Library

Annica McGuirk & NACD

Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners

Coastal Mountains Land Trust

Belfast Parks & Recreation

ME Department of Marine Resources

Penobscot Indian Nation

Searsport Historical Society

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

Hills to Sea Trail Coalition

Belfast Area High School

Captain Albert Stevens Elementary School

Ecology Learning Center

Searsport Schools Outdoor Learning Program

Troy Howard Middle School

Cumberland County SWCD

Knox-Lincoln SWCD

Unity College

Rural Living Day

Marshall Wharf Brewing Company

Please forgive us if we have overlooked anyone. We are truly thankful for all of our partners!

**Waldo County Soil & Water
Conservation District**

46 Little River Dr.

Belfast, ME 04915

207 - 218 - 5311 Office

www.waldocountysoilandwater.org

Email:

waldocountysoilandwater@gmail.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.

Waldo County SWCD is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



To:

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