

# Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District Journal 2021 - 2022



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## Letter From the Chair

In 2021, the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District continued to rethink how to service our clients and keep everyone safe. It was certainly a challenge. At times we met in person and at other times we held virtual meetings.

The district sponsored a grant request for the Watershed Based Management Plan for Lake Winnecook (Unity Pond) located in the towns of Burnham, Troy and Unity. We are working with the Friends of Lake Winnecook, the DEP and EPA, who provided funds for the grant.

Medea Steinman was hired as our Administrative Director. Medea has extensive experience in administration, conservation and education.

This year our District looks forward to hosting the Midcoast Regional Envirothon competition. The winner will go on to compete in the state competition.

Aleta McKeage, our technical director, has worked with area schools, towns and nonprofits to further their knowledge of conservation matters. She has also developed a Conservation Land Certification Program with property owners. Other districts are following her lead. Aleta also worked with state agencies in training their employees on invasives.

We also work closely with the NRCS to better our county.

I would like to thank the DACF and the Waldo County Commissioners for their support. Special thanks also goes to our Board of Supervisors who give their time and knowledge to support our mission. --Andy Reed, Chair, Board of Supervisors



[waldocountysoilandwater.org](http://waldocountysoilandwater.org)

## A Look at the District's Work in 2021

- In 2021, Waldo County SWCD engaged with 15 organizational partners to create conservation programming throughout the region.
- Developed the Wales Park Pollinator Demonstration Garden resources including a guide to plants, map, and labels, and assisted garden volunteers in preparing to certify the garden with the University of Maine.
- Helped students at Troy Howard Middle School and Captain Albert Stevens Elementary School design and plant pollinator gardens in their schoolyard, including donating plants for each garden.
- Completed a series of outdoor lessons for Troy Howard Middle School to create forestry research plots where students will collect data on experimental tree plantings.
- Continued to work with BAHS to complete data collection on Project Learning Tree Forest Inventory Growth Plots.
- Assisted in instruction for the Maine Invasive Plant Academy Short Course, teaching field sessions for consultants interested in participating in the new Invasive Plant Management Cost Share Program offered by the state.
- Completed work for the Maine Natural Areas and NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant Program to provide Invasive Plant Assessments and Recommendations to producers.
- Provided instruction for the Maine Forest Service Landowner 101 Short Course, offering a segment on Forestry for a Changing World.
- Led six in-person field workshops after Covid



- vaccination was available in the summer and fall of 2021, including a talk on Forests for Our Future in partnership with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), a workshop on pollinator gardening, a tour of City Park Arboretum, a woodland stewardship workshop on post-harvest considerations, a workshop on organic management of invasive plants at MOFGA, and a presentation on wild forests and carbon with Midcoast Conservancy staff.
- Provided 132 hours of conservation technical assistance to 32 landowners and partners.
- Supervised an invasive plant management pilot demonstration for MNAP CIG program in Unity, Maine.
- Completed monitoring for hemlock woolly adelgid in Waldo County, with the help of Coastal Mountains Land Trust volunteers.
- Continued to collect data on the Head of Tide forestry research plots in partnership with Coastal Mountains Land Trust and the Schoodic Institute.
- Initiated a partnership with the Viles Arboretum to implement long term research into climate adaptive tree species for Maine, which will be a new research and education focus for Viles. The project is underway with a site selected and initial soil assessments completed by the District.



- Applied for and receive two grants totaling \$16,300, for development of the Conservation Landscape Certification program and the City Park Arboretum.
- Designed and planted six trees at City Park Arboretum, as well as creating a new map and key and additional tree markers with information, as part of the Canopy Grant funded development of the arboretum.
- Applied for and received a \$45,508 grant to develop a Watershed Management Plan for Lake Winnecook, in conjunction with Friends of Lake Winnecook and the Maine DEP.

- Provided support for Lincolnville residents to manage phragmites near Norton Pond.



## People

### Meet Our New Administrative Director



Medea Steinman joined the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District on September 8th, 2021.

Prior to coming to the District, Medea worked in science education and education research for about 17 years. She brought inquiry-based learning to K-12 science classrooms in Central and Downeast Maine, and her Master’s degree research involved teaching 7<sup>th</sup> graders to use online environmental data to answer questions about Maine’s environment. She has worked at various campuses of the University of Maine System, collaborating with researchers, K-12 teachers and college students to invigorate science teaching and learning.

In a previous life, Medea studied ecology and conservation biology in the southwest United States and worked in land conservation and environmental consulting in New Mexico for eight years.

She’s an avid birder and naturalist and has participated in bird counts in Mexico and the western U.S. Currently she serves as a compiler for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Besides devoting many hours to her vegetable garden, she’s gradually improving her pool-playing technique and white-water paddling skills.

She says she was “thrilled to be selected as the new Administrative Director for the District” as it allows her to be involved once again in natural resource conservation. “My goal is to make a lasting contribution to the District and to reinforce and deepen the District’s impact in the County.”

## A Profile of Supervisor Harold Larrabee

Harold Larrabee’s passion has always been “all things agriculture.” Currently, Harold is a partner of Aghaloma Farms, a family dairy farm with 860 Holstein cattle located in Knox. The farm is a long-standing member of Agri-Mark Northeast Cooperative and sells milk to Hood Processing Plant in Portland, Maine.



Harold’s parents, Newton and Marjorie Larrabee, created “Aghaloma Farms” in 1947. His father purchased the first tractor in the town of Knox! After his father retired in the 1960s,

Harold and his brother, Galen, carried on with the farm and today it is owned and operated by Harold’s daughters, sons-in-law and nephew. The daily demands require a workforce of fourteen people to attend to animals, vehicles and equipment, nutrition, barn facilities and bookwork. Though the survival of the dairy industry becomes a greater challenge each year, the family legacy of love and hard work perseveres.

One of the first organizations Harold became involved with was the Waldo County Extension Service. About 40 years ago Harold began participating in the Agri-Mark Young Cooperators Farmer program where he held office as president and secretary for four years. He served nine years as Regional Maine Director for the Agri-Mark Milk Cooperative and served as a member of the Agri-Mark Legislation Education Committee for 32 years. He also served as a Waldo County director with the Maine Farm Bureau and had multiple positions with the Maine Dairy & Nutrition Council and the Maine

Dairy Promotion Board for 32 years. The United Dairy Industry Association recognized him for outstanding contributions to the dairy industry and the promotion of its products. He has helped state officials to understand the plight of the Maine Dairy Farmer and he feels his greatest impact came from helping establish a dairy spokesperson. This created a platform for dairy farmers to advocate for their needs as an industry.

Harold is attentive to farming impacts on the environment and strives to use good farming techniques. Aghaloma has installed cement pads for manure and used-tire storage; removed stone walls, turning four sloping fields into one; and added diversion ditches and split-cropping to control water. The farm also reseeds sloping fields with rye or grass to control erosion after harvest.

All told, Harold has been involved with the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District, and NRCS, for over 60 years. According to Andy Reed,



Board of Supervisors Chair, “Harold is always there to help. His comments and views are respected by the Board, and he has been a valued Supervisor. And he has a good sense of humor!” We deeply appreciate Harold’s service to the District, the County, and the dairy farming industry. He continues to be a strong asset to our work and a clear and level voice in all our deliberations.

# 2021 Financial Report

	Total 2021 Year to Date	Footnotes	2021 Budget	Year-to-Date % of Budget
<b>Income:</b>				
Waldo County	\$ 39,000.00	1	\$ 26,000.00	150.0%
Maine Dept. Ag	25,000.00		25,000.00	100.0%
Lake Winnecook Management Project	23,808.42		22,754.00	104.6%
CIG Grant	1,388.80		2,000.00	69.4%
NRCS Grant	4,560.00		4,000.00	114.0%
Miscellaneous Grants/Projects	-		2,000.00	0.0%
County/State Meetings - Ticket Revenue	-		100.00	0.0%
Donations	196.00		500.00	39.2%
Build. Maintenance.	12,320.40		14,000.00	88.0%
Tree/Plant Sale	9,225.25		8,600.00	107.3%
Misc. & Interest	5.37		200.00	2.7%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 115,504.24</b>		<b>\$ 105,154.00</b>	<b>109.8%</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Payroll	\$ 16,655.30		\$ 20,000.00	83.3%
Workman's Comp/Unemployment Insurance	259.18		500.00	51.8%
Payroll Taxes - State, Social Security, and Medicare	2,917.21		3,200.00	91.2%
Mileage	165.04		350.00	47.2%
Office Supplies/Meetings/Misc.	1,808.57	2	800.00	226.1%
CIG Grant	2,611.82		2,000.00	130.6%
NRCS Grant	-	3	2,000.00	
Non Grant Education & Outreach	173.12		1,500.00	11.5%
Miscellaneous Grants/Projects	-		1,000.00	0.0%
County/State Meetings	329.69		100.00	329.7%
Donations & Dues	2,730.00		3,000.00	91.0%
Lake Winnecook Management Project	15,211.44		18,379.00	82.8%
Miscellaneous Projects	-		500.00	0.0%
Build. Maintenance.	9,693.07		11,000.00	88.1%
Tree/Plant Sale	10,050.81		7,800.00	128.9%
Contracted Services	31,824.00		32,000.00	99.5%
Website	175.16		400.00	43.8%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 94,604.41</b>		<b>\$ 104,529.00</b>	<b>90.5%</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 20,899.83</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 625.00</b>	<b>3344.0%</b>

**Footnotes:**

1. \$13,000 payment expected in 2020 arrived in 2021
2. Board approved office supplies and equipment purchases
3. Unbudgeted revenue
4. Profit exceeded budget due to receipt of 2020 revenue in 2021 (#1) and below budget expenses

## 2021 Staff and Supervisors

### Board of Supervisors

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

### District Staff

Aleta McKeage, Technical Director  
 Medea Steinman, Administrative Director

### Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff

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

# Community

## 2021 Annual Gathering

Like everyone else, we are sorely missing face-to-face time with community friends and partners! It was a difficult decision but, erring on the side of caution, we once again held our Annual Gathering online. It was held December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and offered a chance to meet some new faces in conservation for Midcoast Maine. We also presented an award for Conservationist of the Year and recognized outgoing Board Supervisor, Donald Cox.

Our two guest presenters were **Joseph Roy**, Private Lands Biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), and **Allyssa Gregory**, the Maine Forest Service District Forester for the Midcoast region. Both speakers gave an overview of the services they provide. Allyssa leads “walk-and-talks” with landowners, guiding them on forest management and connecting them with informational resources and funding. She will be partnering with Aleta McKeage, our Technical Director, to offer Landowner 101, a basic orientation to forest management. Allyssa also spends time monitoring timber harvests around water bodies and wetlands in Natural Resource Protection Areas (NRPAs), with the goal of ensuring the safety of water resources. She can be reached at [allyssa.gregory@maine.gov](mailto:allyssa.gregory@maine.gov).

Joseph Roy’s position is new for Maine IF&W and has him working exclusively with private landowners to help them achieve their wildlife management goals. He often works closely with District Foresters or NRCS staff. He also works with Maine’s Beginning with Habitat program to create guidance documents and offer technical assistance to foresters and landowners, and makes presentations to organizations around the state. Joe can be reached at [joseph.roy@maine.gov](mailto:joseph.roy@maine.gov).

**Sandi Cirillo** was recognized as Conservationist of the Year. She contributed a long article in our last Annual Journal where she talked about her tireless efforts to control invasive plants and promote pollinators and native plants on her property in Searsport. She was one of the District’s first participants in our Conservation Assistance Program. We are grateful for her enthusiastic support of our District’s work over the last five years.

**Don Cox** was profiled in last year’s Annual Journal for his decades of contributions to Soil & Water Conservation Districts in North Carolina and Maine. After many years of volunteer service, awards, and leadership, Don is stepping back from the Board but we’re delighted he will continue with us as an Associate Supervisor.

## 2022 Partnerships

We are looking forward to continuing some exciting collaborations with our partners in 2022. Waldo SWCD will be partnering with the Maine Forest Service in offering a Landowner 101 forestry course, as well as other woodland stewardship workshops. We’ll begin our project to develop forestry research plantings at Viles Arboretum, which will create a statewide opportunity for developing public awareness about forest climate change adaptation. We are eager to continue our 2021 connection with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardener’s Association’s Low Impact Forestry Program,

implementing climate adaptive forestry plantings on the MOFGA campus. We will also continue programs at RSU 71 schools to create schoolyard habitat and continue student citizen science. Our partnership with Friends of Lake Winnecook and Maine DEP to develop a watershed plan will be completed in 2022, and our City of Belfast partnership to develop City Park Arboretum will continue as we implement our Canopy Grant work. We are also excited to expand our landscape certification in partnership with Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District.

## Our Five Year Vision

Five years ago, in January of 2017, the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District embarked on a bold plan to reinvent our District from the ground up, beginning with a new staffing structure of 2 part time staff positions instead of one full time position, with a new half time contracted position for Technical Director. The Board of Supervisors, working together with Administrator Kym Sanderson and consultant Aleta McKeage, drafted an innovative five year strategic plan that would structure the District focus, programs and organizational framework. The plan began with a look at our conservation mission for the 5 years, which became “Healthy Woods and Waters.” Then, we created a framework of service delivery tools, beginning with our Conservation Assistance Program (CAP), Annual Workshop Series, and Conservation Corps, an internship program for college students. In 2019, we added our Conservation Landscape Certification, which assists landowners in taking systematic steps to implement practices we recommend. We continued our work in important legacy programs such as Envirothon, taking a leadership role in planning and funding the program.

Along with structuring our service delivery, we also developed a series of resource protection themes, including major themes that are reflected in our programming and educational outreach over the course of several years. Two of the major themes that have been developed are Forests for Our Future, which addresses forestry and forest adaptation to climate change and invasive pests, and Love Our Lakes, which includes workshops, assistance to lake associations with watershed planning, LakeSmart and Fish Lead Free. A third major theme woven into these first two is Conservation Landscaping, embodied in our landscape certification program. Forests for Our Future has been a rich umbrella theme encompassing woodland stewardship



workshops, K-12 programs including forestry research, Project Learning Tree, and planting projects for landowners coupled with citizen science. Sustainable forest management is encouraged via our landscape certification and workshops for woodland owners. In addition to helping woodland owners, the landscape certification program also helps landowners with small residential properties as well as schools, land trusts, and municipalities create healthy landscapes through conservation practices. To develop our major resource protection themes, each year we have theme-based focus areas where we engage with landowners and organizations, such as the recent theme of pollinator habitat, and our

ongoing work to educate the public about invasive plants and pests.

During this period of expanded programming, we also restructured our organization, adding new staffing and human resource procedures, a member database, a new annual plan of operations framework, a publicity and communication plan including a website, newsletter, blog and social media presence. These changes have allowed us to reach new audiences and constituent groups, as well as to share our ideas, tools and programs with other districts throughout the state and nationally. Through our creative effort to make our District as effective as possible, Waldo County SWCD has been able to showcase what can be done even at a small scale.

# Conservation Land Certification

## Thinking Like a Forest

When you begin to landscape or steward your property for nature (which we often refer to as eco-landscaping), there are some easy pointers you can get just by looking around at natural landscapes in your area. For instance, if you look at a woodland, you'll see it's not just trees with some plants on the ground, but it has several vertical layers: ground level vegetation such as moss and wildflowers, low shrubs like huckleberry or raspberry, taller shrubs and small trees like moosewood, witchhazel and dogwood, understory trees like balsam fir, and tall trees like white pine and red oak. And of course, many gaps in the woods have small trees starting to grow and sun loving plants, adding to the variety. So if we mimic these layers when we plant, our landscape is not only more beautiful but supports insects, birds and wildlife that use each of these layers and their plants.

The forest gives us other hints about good planting design...we see openings, woods, wetlands, each with mixes of species often found growing together. It can be good to think about these "plant guilds:" groups of species that live together, support each other, and that each offer something unique for wildlife. When you plant, you can add groups that each have plants with contrasting fall colors, nuts and berries ripening at different times, flowers that invite various pollinators, dense evergreen foliage for shelter or leaves that feed many caterpillars. Your plant guilds should reflect the best plants for various conditions on



your site: wet or dry, sunny, shady, acidic or alkaline soils. And your plant guilds can provide the various vertical layers. The guilds may mirror natural assemblages or be some other set chosen for a variety of form and function. You'll find that some growing traditions such as permaculture offer specific guilds of



plants to grow together.

When you are planting trees to enhance or create a woodland, another idea worth considering is the creation of a miniature forest: a great diversity of forest plants arranged together in a relatively small area. In this sense, even a smaller residential property can act like a mini-forest. This approach can also lend itself to urban spaces or schoolyards. This idea was originally promoted by Japanese ecologist Akira Miyawaki, who created the concept of Miyawaki Forests. Even when planting over a larger area, this idea can be applied. Grouping different species in concentrated areas is likely to create greater functionality for wildlife as opposed to a planting a series of monocultures of one type of tree. And variable spacing, like in nature, is also an improvement on rows or equal spacing.

**Continued on page 11**

## Layer Your Landscape



### CANOPY LAYER

Red or White oak: Red oak may be already present, white oak can be planted. Oaks are one of the most important insect and wildlife trees.

White Pine: Also easy to find on our Midcoast landscapes, and easy to grow. Feeds and shelters wildlife.

Tulip poplar: Fast growing and beautiful, lumber tree, supports pollinators with its large flowers and birds and mammals with its seeds.

Shagbark hickory: Beautiful bark and leaves, feeds people and wildlife with its nuts.

Hackberry: Tough, beautiful bark, supports many species of birds and wildlife with its nuts.

Black and yellow birch: Birches support many species of birds, insects and wildlife.

Red maple: Beautiful all year, grows fast and easily, supports birds and wildlife

Blackgum: Shelters wildlife and feeds birds and mammals with its nutritious fruits. Beautiful color and form.

### SMALL TREES AND SHRUBS

Hophornbeam: Supports bees, butterflies, moths, birds and mammals.

Arborvitae: Evergreen to add to deciduous guilds, shelters birds and wildlife

Witchhazel: Fall and winter flowers, medicinal bark

Pawpaw: Tasty fruits for people and wildlife, large unique leaves

Serviceberry: Edible berries, early spring color and flowers

Dogwoods: Beautiful form, berries feed birds and wildlife

Grape vines: Grapes for jellies or wine, feeds birds and wildlife

Redbuds: Gorgeous in spring with pink flowers, heart shaped leaves and seed that feed birds and wildlife

Highbush blueberry: Edible fruit and supports pollinators

Spicebush: Yellow flowers, hosts butterfly larvae, fruits feed birds and wildlife

### GROUND LAYER

Native honeysuckle: Beautiful low shrub grows in poor soil, supports pollinators

Ferns

Native perennial flowers

# Conservation Assistance Program

## UPDATE: Unity Pond (Lake Winnecook)

In last year's Annual Journal, we talked about the Watershed-Based Management Plan (WBMP) for Unity Pond (also known as Lake Winnecook). This project was launched collaboratively in 2020 by the Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP), the Center for Wildlife Studies, Friends of Lake Winnecook, and the towns of Burnham, Troy, and Unity. In 2021, we received a \$45,508 grant from Maine DEP and began work on updating the lake's WBMP.

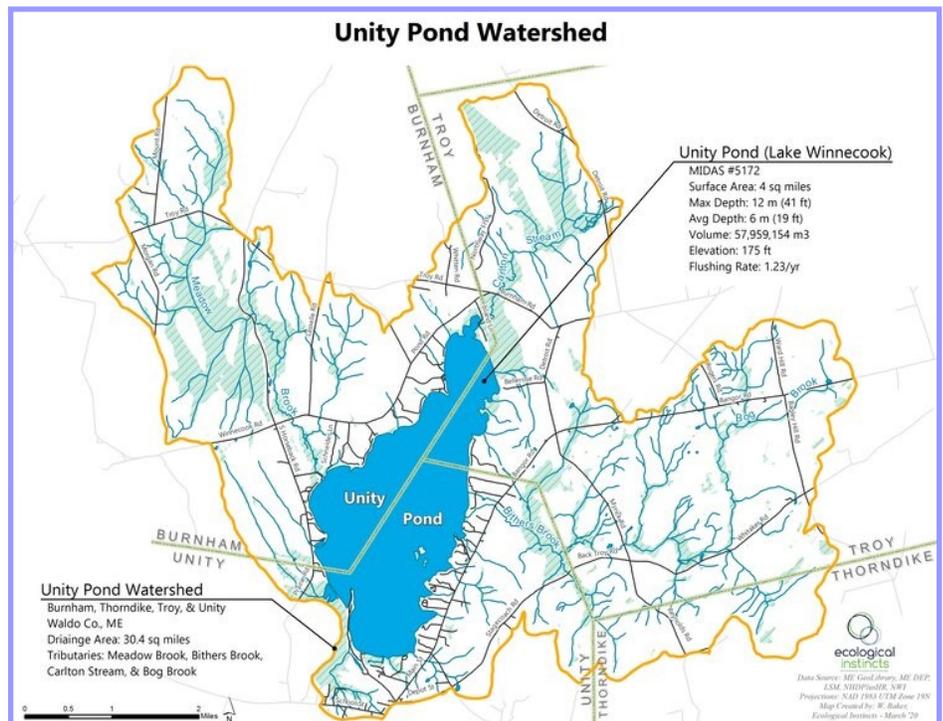
To recap, the purpose of the WBMP project is to create a comprehensive plan with well-developed implementation strategies that effectively improve the water quality of the lake over the next 10 years. In late 2020 and throughout 2021, science consultants, project managers, staff and board members, and watershed residents rallied together to collect critical data about Unity Pond. They conducted surveys and monitoring studies to establish a baseline picture of conditions of the lake and its surroundings. These studies looked at water quality, watershed hydrology, non-point source pollution, property, septic, and road conditions, and phosphorous loading in and around the lake.

Acting as project manager for Waldo SWCD, Jen Jespersen of EcoInstincts has completed a historical water quality analysis, developed a watershed nutrient loading model and is guiding our team in development of a pollution mitigation strategy. Amanda Pratt of Maine DEP serves as a project advisor and produced a non-point source watershed survey report. Our Technical Director, Aleta McKeage, is

consulting with our NRCS partner, Ron Desrosiers, to develop the forest cover and agricultural survey. Brian Levesque, President of Friends of Lake Winnecook, is busy guiding their Board in their decision-making and discussions and seeking further funding to help residents defray costs associated with pollution mitigation.

In the coming months, we will hold our first Technical Advisory Committee meeting to review the results of the field studies. Plans will begin for landowner meetings and a prioritization strategy will be developed for how to proceed with pollution mitigation efforts.

All the partners are strongly committed and excited to see this work moving forward. It may sound cliché but it truly “takes a village” to keep a lake healthy and thriving and to ensure it fulfills the needs of all who depend on it. We look forward to restoring Unity Pond to a healthy, vibrant place!



# What is a Watershed-Based Management Plan?

“A *strategy and workplan* for achieving water resource goals that provides *assessment* and *management* information for a watershed.”

– U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## EPA required 9-elements:

1. Identification of Pollution Sources
2. Nutrient Load Reduction Estimates
3. Management Measures
4. Technical and Financial Assistance
5. Education and Outreach
6. Schedule
7. Milestones
8. Evaluation Criteria
9. Monitoring



## Thinking Like a Forest, continued from page 8

We can also get outside of the box in thinking what to plant, mixing natives with non-natives or nearby natives. This approach can create greater diversity than what might be present naturally, and so offer diversified food and shelter to birds and wildlife as well as greater resiliency in changing conditions. Planting nearby natives can potentially create landscapes for the future as the climate warms.

See the diagram on page 9 for ideas about plants for different layers and purposes.



*Planting a hybrid American Elm as part of the Canopy Grant funded work at Belfast City Park Arboretum*

## Education

## Pollinator Gardens Are Growing



Perhaps you followed our work last year on promoting pollinator gardening and planting, which we kicked off with the Wales Park Pollinator Garden. This garden, created as a teaching demonstration, is integrated with a community garden for growing food. In 2021 we worked on making this place an even better learning resource, completing a map of the plants and a growing chart. All the plants are labeled so you can learn a lot just by touring the garden. And this spring, we completed another part of our design, a

demonstration of shrubs that support pollinators and wildlife. A lot of folks helped this effort, including members of the Belfast Garden Club and Master Gardeners labeling plants and planting shrubs. Our Technical Director Aleta McKeage gave a talk this fall to garden club members about the development of the garden. In 2022 we will start a citizen science program where members of the public can photograph and identify insect visitors to the garden.

Waldo SWCD also carried this educational theme further with a program to help Troy Howard Middle School Students design and plant a pollinator garden on their school site. Captain Albert Stevens Elementary School also added a pollinator garden with labels to their school food garden. The district donated plants and seeds for both of the gardens. We hope to help other schools in the county create not only pollinator gardens but schoolyard habitat for birds and wildlife in 2022.

## And, Forestry Research Started at Area Schools ...

Along with helping schools to create pollinator gardens, the District is working with schools to create research plantings of trees being studied for future use in Maine. Troy Howard Middle School students eagerly took on this work in 2021, with the first school research plot in our area. The students learned about scientific data collection and also a bit about different tree species as they planted trees including tulip poplar, shagbark hickory, white oak, black walnut and blackgum (tupelo). The students will measure height and tree health each year. New students have picked up the mantle this year, and the school hopes to continue this as a long-term research project. Belfast Area High School science students will install research planting this spring, adding a second school to the program. They also continued studying their forest inventory growth plots this fall after a one-year hiatus, so are well prepared to continue with this new forestry science research next spring. *(Above: Volunteers measure trees on our original study plots that form the basis for the student research.)*



## Grants Awarded To Waldo County SWCD in 2021

2021 was a banner year for two of our signature programs, Conservation Land Certification and the City Park Arboretum. Each of these programs received a vote of confidence with fully funded grants provided to continue our work.

The Davis Conservation Foundation awarded \$7400 to Waldo and Knox-Lincoln SWCDs to develop the land certification program. Our Districts are promoting best management practices through our innovative conservation land certification program, which helps all types of landowners with fostering wildlife habitat, practicing soil and water conservation, controlling invasives species, planting for ecosystem support and implementing organic practices.

The grant will enable us to add a resource guide for landowners completing the certificate, online and smartphone interactive checklists, and to offer training workshops in each county. The Davis grant also funds durable outdoor signs that landowners can post when they receive a conservation landscape certification. With this funding, we will have completed the full scope of resources that we hoped to offer with this program and will be able to share our tools and models with other Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the state.

Waldo County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Belfast Parks and Recreation Department have also been awarded \$8900 by Project Canopy for our educational project, the Belfast City Park Arboretum. The award will fund the installation of 14 new trees in the arboretum, new interpretive signs, tree markers for 30 more trees, as well as an educational map and guide. The District and the City are excited to work with Project Canopy on this project, which will allow them to complete many of their planned arboretum resources at the park.



City Park Arboretum in Belfast is one of the only arboretums in the Midcoast area. For decades, local residents worked to create an arboretum in the park, adding many species of trees and making plans. In 2015, we began working with Friends of Belfast Parks, the City of Belfast, the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, Habitat Belfast and the Soil and Water Conservation District to make the long held dream a reality, adding an interpretive plaza, kiosk, map and labels for trees. With this grant, we will complete most of our goals, and the arboretum will be an amazing learning resource for Waldo County residents and visitors. Work is already underway, with six new trees planted in June of 2021. The new plantings will include climate appropriate adaptive species, disease resistant hybrids, urban street trees, and new native Maine trees. Trees lost to age and storms will be replaced. The new map and guide will include guided walks, tree information, and activities for children and teachers. Printed copies will be available in the park.

The Waldo County SWCD and the City of Belfast Parks Department are grateful to be recipients of this grant from the Maine Forest Service Project Canopy and the USDA Forest Service. They would also like to thank the City of Belfast, Norm Poirier, the Belfast Parks Commission, the Menig Trust and Friends of Belfast Parks for making this vision a reality. Stop by the park and see the new trees and signs this summer, or join us for a tour in 2022. District supporters are welcome to get involved in this project.

## Coming in 2022

### Announcing Homestead Day , New in 2022



On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Plant Sale Pickup in conjunction with a “Homestead Day” at Maine TradeHers in Unity, which will make a trip to our Plant Sale even more fun. Many plants will be available for purchase the day of the sale, along with lots of locally made products offered by your favorite local farm and craft vendors! Our plant sale this year is also focused on a Homesteading theme, offering 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 early March. Your purchases help to support the District’s conservation and education mission. Look for our catalog online and in the mail in late February.

### Plants Available at Our Spring Sale 2022

#### **Fruit Trees/Shrubs**

##### Apples

Empire  
Freedom  
Liberty  
Sansa  
Sundance

##### Pears

Harrow Delight  
Kaspar Winter pollinator

##### Plums

Kahinta  
Underwood  
La Crescent

##### Peaches

Golden Jubilee

##### Elderberry

Adams  
York

#### **Ecolandscape**

Basswood (American Linden) (top photo)  
Black gum  
Persimmon  
Redbud  
Tulip poplar  
White oak  
Edible landscape packs  
Wildlife packs

#### **Homestead**

Pussy willow  
Shagbark hickory  
Black walnut  
Beach plum  
Pawpaw (bottom photo)  
American chestnut  
Allegheny serviceberry  
Highbush blueberry  
Native flowering raspberry  
Spicebush  
Sugar maple  
Concord grape (seeded)  
Black elderberry  
Hackberry



## 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**

**Viles Arboretum**

**Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association**

**Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation Service**

**City of Belfast Parks and Recreation Department**

**Coastal Mountains Land Trust**

**Midcoast Conservancy**

**Troy Howard Middle School**

**Capt. Albert Stevens Elementary School**

**Jenni Judkins**

**Belfast Area High School**

**Belfast Garden Club**

**UMaine Cooperative Extension**

**Waldo County Commissioners**

**Maine DACF**

**Maine DEP**

**Maine Natural Areas Program**

**Friends of Lake Winnecook**

**Ecolninstincts**

**Sandi Cirillo**

**Noah Gleason-Hart**

**Todd Miller**

**Cassidy Gerrish**

**Linda Oskamp**

**Barbara Gage**

**Lee Reilly**

**Michele Carrier-Clinch**

**Katie Rose Leone**

**Noah Gleason Hart**

**Ron Desrosiers**

**Sue Hunter**

**Brian Baker**

**Andy Reed**

**Harold Larrabee**

**Gene Randall**

**Donald Cox**

**Marianne McKinney**

**Jack Shaida**

**Dan Reeve**

**Brooks McKinney**

**Drew McLaughland**

**Steve Bird**

**Ryan Martin**

**Laura Kircheis**

**Dave Roque**

**Dale Finseth**

**Rebecca Jacobs**

**Mary Sullivan**

**Nancy Olmstead**

**Allyssa Gregory**

**Jorge Ortiz Montalvo**

**Lindsay Johnston-Fennell**

## Don't miss out on our 2022 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

**Waldo County Soil & Water  
Conservation District**

46 Little River Dr.

Belfast, ME 04915

207 - 218 - 5311 Office

855 -884 -2284 Technical Assistance

[www.waldocountysoilandwater.org](http://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