



November
2010

Kennebec & Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation Districts

If you receive more than one newsletter, or the address is wrong, please contact us and we will correct the error. Thanks.

2010 SWCD Election issue

Conservation Times
We are headed into winter....

This issue of the **Conservation Times** is primarily devoted to the Kennebec and Somerset District Supervisor elections. See the ballots inside and take the time to vote in your respective district. You must be a registered voter in the respective district/county in order to vote.

Given the rising costs of newsletter publication and distribution, the Conservation Times will be moving towards an electronic publication. We recognized that many of you still prefer to receive the newsletter in a paper format. Without support to cover those costs we need to either cut our costs of production or collect funds to support the expense of publication.

If you wish to continue receiving this newsletter in the mail as a paper copy, we ask that you pay a subscription cost of \$10/year. That will help cover our printing and mailing costs.

Unless we are able to cover those costs of production, the January, 2011 edition will be the last edition

you receive as a paper copy.

We recognize and appreciate all the positive feedback we get from our Conservation Times but our financial support for its publication can no longer be fully supported by the limited discretionary funds we receive.

Again, if you wish to continue receiving a paper copy of the Conservation Times, please take the time to send us a \$10/year subscription.

Check out the Supervisor ballots for both the Kennebec and Somerset district.

In the coming months the districts will be conducting a Natural Resource Assessment in order to collect public feedback helping establish natural resource priorities. This will include public meetings. Stay tuned....

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On the web at www.KCSWCD.org

Kennebec District Supervisor Election



The election of Kennebec District Supervisors to the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District Board determines what conservation projects and issues are addressed by District staff. Currently, the board includes five members. These supervisors and the associate supervisors are instrumental in securing District finances and growing the types of projects and services we offer. They provide the leadership needed to grow and develop the District.

Clif Buuck, of Readfield is running unopposed for a full three year term in this year's District Supervisor election. Clif has served one full term as Supervisor. Clif is a retired Code Enforcement Officer.

Tom Doore, of Augusta is running unopposed to complete the final two years of a three year term of office. Tom has served one year as a Supervisor and must stand for election in order to complete the final two years of that term. Tom has served as an Associate Supervisor on the Board for a number of years. He currently works for the City of Augusta on the Bond Brook recreation trails.

You may vote by coming into the District office and voting. Or ... the official absentee ballot is below. To vote, separate the ballot, make your selection, fold the paper over, and return it to the District in an envelope. On the other small strip of paper, print your name and indicate in what town you are registered to vote. Include that paper in the envelope. The two will be separated when we receive your ballot to guarantee a secret ballot. But we need your information in order to confirm that you are registered to vote. All ballots must be received at the District office by November 25th, 2010. They will be opened the following day, the 26th.

All registered voters residing in or owning land in Kennebec County are eligible to vote in the District Election. If you are eligible to vote and need a ballot, please call the District Office or come into the office.

Registered Voter Certification	
_____	_____
Name	Town in which I am registered
<small>Name is torn off and removed before ballot is placed in ballot box</small>	

Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District 2010 Supervisor Election Official Ballot

Please vote for **TWO** candidates. Mark your selection and mail your ballot to:
Kennebec Soil & Water District
21 Enterprise Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

All ballots must be received by 4:00 Tuesday, November 25th, 2010

Clif Buuck, Readfield for a 3 year term _____

Write in - _____

(if a write in, provide their address and phone number)

Tom Doore, Augusta for a 2 year term _____

Write in - _____

(if a write in, provide their address and phone number)

By voting you are confirming that you are a registered voter residing in or owning land within the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District boundary.

SWCD activities including Kennebec District specific

This fall the Kennebec and Somerset Districts have taken part in a number of public conventions and fairs. Both District were at the Maine Municipal Association Convention held in October. This gave us an opportunity to meet with representatives from towns throughout our respective districts, provide them information about conservation services we can provide them and their citizens, and ask them about conservation needs they may have in their area.



At that convention we asked people to vote on different natural resources priorities. We had 94 people voting. Many were from other parts of the State. Given those votes, the two top priorities were "Water quality", "Forestry" and "Agricultural". We hope to follow up on this feedback as we conduct our local Natural Resource Assessments this winter. Those meetings will collect public feedback helping establish natural resource priorities. That work will include public meetings and other surveys throughout each county.

Big news here at the Kennebec District is a recent grant award received from the USDA Rural Development Agency. This grant is a follow up from the Energy Audit program we completed last year. It is called "Harvesting

Clean Energy". The focus of the program is to help farms and small rural businesses in Maine identify and use renewable energy sources. We will work with our partner Soil & Water Districts and the Farm Energy Partners network to provide accurate information to over 3,000 rural businesses and then help technical assistance for at least 300 rural businesses regarding renewable energy options available to them. This project is intended to follow-up with businesses who have already had an energy audit completed and to help them take better understand and take advantage of what that energy audit indicated. This project has a particular focus on helping businesses us solar thermal technology for the production of hot water.

The **Conservation Times** is edited and produced by the Kennebec and Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Contact Dale at the Kennebec District if you have questions or suggestions. Either call at 622-7847 ext. 3 or e-mail him at Dale@kcswcd.org

Kennebec District Staff:

Dale Finseth

Josh Platt

Art Grindle

Kennebec District Supervisors:

Linda Leotsakos; Chair

took office 12/2008 (elected starting 1/2009)

Marianne Hubert; Vice-Chair

took office 1/1999 (appointed starting 1/2005)

Clif Buuck

took office 1/2008 (elected starting 1/2008)

Dan Tibbetts

took office 1/2000 (appointed starting 1/2003)

Tom Doore

took office 1/2010 (appointed for one year)

Associates currently active:

Chad Arms

Ted Sparrow

Students 'Dig In' at Local Cemetery Somerset News

In late October, most images of graveyards are spooky, scary, and frightening. But in Ripley, Maine, a group of Carrabec High School students discovered a burial site could be just the opposite. Five students volunteered to help restore a graveyard overlooking Ripley Pond.

This past spring, Peter Abello, Somerset NRCS, began working with a dairy farmer addressing nutrient management concerns. "Included in the process as part of the required national historic preservation act, was a survey of the area by NRCS archaeologist, Dr. Gary Shaffer," Abello said.

Upon learning of the burial site, Shaffer worked with NRCS county field office staff and the landowner to identify priorities and practices that would benefit not only the burial site, but the project as a whole. "To restore the area to its former condition, it first had to be mapped," Shaffer explained. "A detailed record of artifacts was made by utilizing a metric system grid."

Once the area had been mapped, excavation of tombstones could begin. Caren Roy, an NRCS finance technician and volunteer, assisted with that process. In addition to participating in field work, Ms. Roy studied the genealogy of those who had been buried in the small family plot.

In early October, Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District was contacted by Carrabec High School teacher Susan Hellewell. Hellewell, who leads a team of Carrabec students in the science based Envirothon competition, was looking for opportunities for North Anson high school students to volunteer on conservation projects. Upon hearing about NRCS's Earth Team volunteer program, Hellewell gathered a group of interested students who signed on to help with the graveyard restoration project.

Carrabec High School students in addition to Carrabec science teacher Paul Thompson, participated. As well as raking and shoveling loam, picking rocks, and stabilizing tombstones, students learned how their current studies are relevant outside the classroom. "Algebra, geometry, and historical research are all utilized in restoration processes like these," Dr. Shaffer told the volunteers.

The students also learned about agricultural conservation practices such as erosion control, soil stabilization, and nutrient management from NRCS soil conservationists Peter Abello and Darol Wilson.

While working, Dr. Shaffer described some of the unique methods that had been utilized for this restoration. A tool normally used by NRCS in soil surveys – a ground penetrating radar device, which sends radar waves into the ground to identify soil density – was used to search for additional graves.

Sixteen graves were positively identified, although all were not clearly marked. Some of the graves have carved granite tombstones, while others are identified with fieldstones.

As the students smoothed loam over the graves, filling spots that had been worn away through erosion, Dr. Shaffer explained that the tombstones would be stabilized for the winter and more research would be done to see how the old stones would be repaired.



Dr. Gary Shaffer and Caren Roy excavating stones.

Deadline for voting November 25, 2010



Somerset County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

Listed below is/are the eligible candidate/s for the Supervisor position with the Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District. The 3 year term begins January 1, 2011, and terminates December 31, 2013. Please put a check mark in the space provided to cast your vote. Place your ballot in the ballot box at the Somerset County SWCD District Office or send your ballot by mail to the **Somerset County SWCD 12 High Street, Skowhegan, Maine, 04976**. For your absentee ballot to qualify as a vote, you must sign your name on the return envelope, not on the ballot.

We will be tracking registration by your return address and signature on the envelope. The ballots will be separated from the envelope and held in a ballot box. Your vote will be anonymous. The candidate receiving the most votes will be elected.

Please exercise your right to vote.

2010 SCSWCD Supervisor Election Official Ballot

The following ballot is to fill a full THREE YEAR TERM

Please vote for **ONE** candidate. Mark your selection and mail your ballot to:
Somerset County Soil & Water District
12 High Street Skowhegan, ME 04976

John Ackley,

Skowhegan

John attended college in Syracuse, New York and earned a degree in resource management, with a focus on forestry. He's worked as a forester for 28 years, and co-owns Chez Lonndorf, a maple syrup house located on Burrill Hill Road in Skowhegan. John is seeking a third term on the Somerset County SWCD Board of Directors.

(Write in candidate)

_____,
Name

Town

Once you have voted, either bring this ballot to the Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District office OR place the ballot in an envelope, sign the back of the envelope, and mail it to the Somerset District by the deadline. **By voting you are confirming that you are a registered voter residing in or owning land within the Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation District boundary.**

Somerset County SWCD

Employees—

Carol Weymouth, Executive Director
Laura Suomi-Lecker, Technical Director
Rose Caron, Admin. Assistant
Pam Guerin

Board of Directors—

Kerry Hebert, Chairperson
Alan Haberstock, Vice-Chair
John Ackley, Treasurer
Gabe Clark, Supervisor

Contact Information—

(207) 474-8324 x 102 info@somersetswcd.org www.somersetswcd.org

Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District
Central Maine Commerce Center; 21 Enterprise
Drive; Suite #1
Augusta, Maine 04330
(207) 622-7847 ext. 3
www.KCSWCD.org

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Another issue of the **Conservation Times**
Brought to you by the Kennebec & Somerset County Soil & Water Conservation Districts

All programs and services of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or familial status.

Upcoming Events

Kennebec District Board meetings—The 2nd Tuesday of each month. Contact the District to confirm the time and place.

If special accommodations are needed at the meeting, please call to arrange them two weeks in advance at 622-7847, extension 3.

Somerset District Board Meetings—The 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact the Somerset District to confirm time and place.

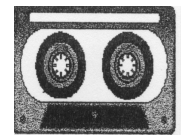
Somerset Local Work Group - November 15th at 1:00 pm at the Somerset office. Call Carol at 474-8324 x3 to register

Kennebec Local Work Group - November 17th from 1-3:30 at the Augusta office. Call Dale @ 622-7847 x3 to register.

MACD Winter Meeting - December 1 & 2 in Bangor.

Maine Ag Trade Show - January 11-13, 2011

Alternate format available.
Call the District office to request enlarged type, cassette or computer disk.



at the Augusta Civic Center.