

**2008 MAPSS ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUSTA ELKS LODGE, ROUTE 27, AUGUSTA, MAINE
TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH, 2008**

REGISTRATION: 8 to 9am (COFFEE & PASTRIES PROVIDED)

BUSINESS MEETING (commenced @ 9:00 A.M.)

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION - Chris Dorion

Ivan Fernandez is acknowledged as Distinguished Maine Professor for 2008 at the University of Maine (Orono). Ivan graciously accepts the recognition, and acknowledges contributions to the science and commitment to the profession that his colleague Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh has put forth, along with MAPSS members' contributions to the University of Maine Soil Judging team. He also notes that the recognition meant a lot to the Department of Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR WETLAND LICENSING - Don Phillips

A debate has been on-going for several years regarding whether wetland scientists should have to be certified (licensed) in Maine. The MAPSS Executive Committee decided to bring the issue to the membership by proposing a letter of endorsement for the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS). Details on MAWS' effort to obtain a certification (licensing) program is found on the MAWS website (<http://www.mainewetlands.org/home.htm>) in a report entitled "Final Exploratory Paper on the Issue of Credentialing Wetland Scientists in Maine". ~~MAWS is receptive to MAPSS' endorsement (see letter in the winter issue of "The Lay of The Land", available at www.mapss.org)~~ Dave Rocque emphasized that any certification process should be highly structured to stand a chance of approval. structure needs to be created for the certification process. Chris Dorion suggested that the New Hampshire Board of Certification's website could be cited to see what their requirements are. Voicing support for endorsing wetland certification, ~~Chris Dorion responded~~ remarked that there is unacceptable work being done by unqualified individuals, and gave an example of a civil engineer using an NWI map for a site-specific (1 inch = 100 ft. map scale) project. According to Chris, this resulted in up to 12 professionals spending 3 meetings attempting to sort out the wetlands on the property, with no resolution as yet. One comment from the floor questioned Don about an article the questioner read about the Board of Licensure possibly terminating several boards due to budgetary reasons. Don responded by stating that, in his opinion, it is unlikely that the Board would terminate any Board that would bring in more money than it spends, as would likely be the case if up to fifty or more wetland scientists become certified in addition to the number of existing Certified Soil Scientists who would likely become Certified Wetland Scientists. Another question from the floor asked Don how much any new certification of wetland scientists might cost? Don responded that he did not know for sure, but that if enough applicants were to become certified under the existing Board of Geologists and Soil Scientists, then it would not be likely that the cost would increase too much from where it stands today since the Board is already established. Don Phillips reminds the membership that MAWS is simply in the early stages of obtaining endorsements. Chris Dorion is in favor of MAPSS endorsing MAWS in this endeavor and asks for a motion from the floor. Dave Marceau makes a motion to this extent that the president of MAPSS should drafts a letter of endorsement (similar to the one from the executive committee ~~already~~ that is already posted on the MAPSS website) to MAWS, and Lee Burman seconds the motion. Fifteen are in favor and five are opposed, so the motion carries.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Dave Turcotte (on behalf of Anna Kettell)

Chris Dorion asked for a motion from the floor that the minutes from the 2007 annual meeting be accepted. Dale Brewer made such a motion, and the motion was seconded by Dave Moyse. The motion was carried by the membership.

ENVIROTHON DONATION - Dave Rocque

This high school competition engages students across the country and is sponsored by the National Soil & Water Conservation Districts. It is held in high esteem by many working in the environmental disciplines. Quite often these students end up pursuing advanced education in environmental fields. Maine Forest Products contributes financially, but not as much as they have the past few years. Wayne Hoar points out that if we contribute \$1,000 then we will be acknowledged as a significant sponsor and will get our name

on the back of the T-shirts. Dave Moyse states that we should have the treasurer's report before voting on how much money we want to contribute this year, and Darryl Brown warns us to be careful spending before we know what we have in our account. At this point the Agenda was changed and Andrew Carpenter presented the Treasurer's Report. (CONTINUED)

TREASURER'S REPORT - Andrew Carpenter

See enclosed report. The report was presented, and a motion to approve was put forth, seconded, and passed by the membership

(CONTINUED) Following the treasurer's report, Dale Brewer moved that we give \$1,000 to the Envirothon, and Dave Rocque seconded the motion. The motion passed.

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SOIL JUDGING - Dave Moyse

Last April Dave Moyse of MAPSS presented University of Maine students on the collegiate soil judging team with eight embroidered vests, caps and tool buckets. These contributions were well received and accepted, and the students were appreciative. Ivan Fernandez stated that no additional financial support for the team is needed this year, unless they advance to the regional competition. Monetary and time contributions for this were made by Dave Moyse and additional MAPSS members Alan Burnell and Chris Dorion, with letters of support from the Department of Plant, Soil, and Environmental Sciences and the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture. This effort supports the team by having them appear professional and in unison, and organized by keeping their tools in order. A photo of Dave Moyse with students Matt Dorman and Anthony Drouin at the Department's annual awards banquet was left next to the display board here today, along with a synopsis of this contribution. For more details, see the related article in the winter edition of "The Lay of the Land".

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS - Dave Moyse

~~So far for this year there has only been one applicant student - Matt St. Clements - has applied for ; for the Janet Engle Cormier scholarship, that being Matt St. Clements this year.~~ This is not unprecedented. This year once again the award is \$500. In the interest of encouraging students to attend our meetings and field workshops, we should consider lowering the respective registration costs, as we did for this meeting. With precedence, MAPSS shall continue to contribute at least \$500 to the annual scholarship fund unless a vote is made to the contrary. This was moved by Andrew Carpenter, seconded by Dave Moyse with ensuing discussion for 15 minutes. Discussion initiated by Dave Moyse ensued regarding whether to advertise / make available the scholarship ~~@ at~~ USM and Unity College, and to continue to do so in combined fashion for both undergraduate and graduate students. Don Phillips and Dave Marceau did not feel it was appropriate to have it available or advertised ~~@ at~~ Unity. In lieu of advertising at Unity, Don proposed inviting professors from colleges and universities to next year's meeting in order to give them first-hand knowledge of what we do in the hopes that they will pass on enthusiasm to their students. However, Chris Dorion states that the scholarship is currently open to everyone anyhow. He'd like to pull more graduate students into the membership as well. He feels that a poster could help, and Johanna Szillery agrees. Ivan Fernandez concurs, and states that he feels that we should not exclude students from any institution. Andrew Carpenter would also like to see us keep Unity in the loop. Dave Moyse surmised that the major importance of the student's application is the credentials (so long of course that the student is enrolled in an advanced curriculum that encompasses soil science in Maine). Andrew Carpenter moved to amend his earlier motion that we approve \$1,000 for the Janet Engle Cormier scholarship in 2009. His proposed amendment is to make two scholarships available \$500, rather than one. Dave Moyse seconds the amended motion, and discussion ensues. Bob Vile thought that one \$500 scholarship designated for undergrads and one \$500 scholarship designated for grads would be the way to go, but Ivan Fernandez wonders if in some years there may not be an applicant from one of those pools? The discussion is brought to a close, and the amended motion is voted and passed by the membership, leaving two \$500 scholarships available in 2009 for any two students in a soil-science related major attending an advanced education institution in Maine.

OUREACH EDUCATION - Don Phillips

Don proposed establishing a ~~A~~ course in pedology ~~of at~~ some level at Eagle Hill ~~is proposed~~. Dave Rocque and Ivan Fernandez have been approached to lead one, but are too busy that time of year with field research

and job commitments. Ivan Fernandez did think that a one credit per one-week-long course at Eagle Hill would be appropriate. They both agree that they don't pay the instructor(s) very much. Dave Moyses thought that this was a good idea to pursue, ideally with a week of mapping and a week of field morphology. Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh asks "what do people want?" Lee Burman suggests emphasizing hydric vs. non-hydric soils. Greg Cironi suggests that Unity College host such an undertaking, but this may not be manageable for that institution.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - Dave Turcotte

This winter a membership drive was undertaken to extend the scope and presence of MAPSS. Those solicited for membership were former members (prior to 2007), Maine Certified Soil Scientists, NRCS soil scientists (including retirees), UM, USM, Unity, and UNH professors, and those who went to the workshop in Georgetown last summer, and others concerned. Letters were sent out with an application, annual meeting registration, and brochure. At this time we have 28 full members, 15 associate members and 29 attendees at this meeting. Subsequent follow-up to the recruitment letter shall proceed through this summer (with the summer edition of the "Lay of the Land"). Dave Moyses wondered what the trend was with respect to membership numbers. Andrew Carpenter stated that he looked at the trends on the membership database since 2004, and noted that we've been getting more associate members since 2004. Ivan Fernandez points out that what should get students / people interested in joining professional affiliations via: a) jobs; and B) value of membership. Dave Turcotte emphasizes that keeping registration costs as low as possible helps membership recruitment, and in particular giving students a discount to encourage their participation.

COMMON GROUND FAIR REPORT - Dave Turcotte

For the second consecutive year MAPSS maintained its presence at MOFGA's Common Ground Fair in Unity. Dave Rocque, Don Phillips, Donna Doel, Corinne Leary, and Anna Kettell helped to man the booth, lead or co-lead the tour of the soil pits, and/or narrate "The Soils of Maine" PowerPoint presentation. Our participation seems to be a good fit. This booth worked well for MAPSS, citing its minimal costs, central location, and the mission of MOFGA in that its costs are minimal and its the location is where we should naturally be. The membership showed informal support for our continued presence at the Common Ground Fair, and continuing to man the booth, give descriptive tours of the soil pits, and narrate the "The Soils of Maine" slide show. This year the Fair is scheduled for Sept. 19-21, and as always 9 volunteers ~~are~~ will be needed over the 3 days to cover our commitment.

UM UPDATE - Ivan Fernandez

Ken Stratton - who has taught at Unity College - will be teaching courses in pedology in Orono. Furthermore, Brian Dahl and Laurie Osher did not get tenure with the University and will be leaving. Otherwise money is tight on campus and colleges / departments must compete. Nowadays most of the research funding appears to be in Environmental Soil Science, or more specifically Soil Ecology / Microbiology (vs. pedology). These also happen to be vacant positions in the department. This is where most of the financial resources usually come from (via grants) - rather than taxpayer funding. As to attracting students into our profession, the bottom line for course offerings tends to be focused on: "where are the jobs?"

USM UPDATE - Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh

As with the University of Maine there is also a funding crunch here. The University actually has considered suspending some of the programs in natural sciences (not Environmental Sciences though). There is a new president coming in, however, so that will have a bearing on the future. The university's policy is that each course must have at least 12 registered students, and in specific soils courses that is sometimes difficult to achieve. At this time courses in Soils & Land Use, Bioremediation, Soil & Water Conservation, and Soil Mapping are being offered, and - Also, USM is considering a new a Certificate program in soils and wetlands ~~is being considered.~~

NRCS UPDATE - Wayne Hoar

Mapping: Digital data are available on Web Soil Survey for the entire state, save Northern Somerset, Northern Piscataquis, and Western Aroostook Counties. There are 1.7 million acres left to map in the State over the next 3 field seasons. Mapping is continuing on the Southern Penobscot Survey update in early

spring and late fall. Staff changes at the NRCS include: Tara King and Donna Doel have resigned; Anthony Jackson has transferred to Oregon; Will Roberts has transferred to the Agricultural Research Service in California; ~~and~~ Ron Olson and Ted Butler have retired; and Matt Dorman and Carl Bickford have joined the soil survey crew out of Presque Isle and Dover-Foxcroft, respectively. Six vacant positions are detailees are being sought to finish the soil survey in the North Maine Woods (3 out of Presque Isle and 3 out of Dover-Foxcroft). Updates to the on Soil Series and Catena Key include: ~~brought up to date with new series:~~ the Boothbay series is now limited to MWD; the Pushaw series has now been added as an aquept to the Boothbay catena; the Ricker series is now limited to cryic areas; the Knob Lock series has now replaced the Ricker series in frigid areas; the Moosabec series replaces Waskish as sphagnofibrists in the Northeast; and the Meadowsedge series has replaced the Rifles series as a Euic, frigid Typic Haplohemists in the Northeast.

REID STATE PARK NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP - Dave Rocque

Visit www.mapss.org and click on the link to this winter's "Lay of the Land" for a summary of this workshop held in Georgetown last summer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

~~As the head of the nominating committee,~~ Gary Fullerton presented the slate of officers nominated for election. Chris Dorion was nominated for president, Dave Turcotte for vice-president, Gary Fullerton for secretary, Andrew Carpenter for treasurer, and Dale Brewer for director. Gary Fullerton called for nominations from the floor and none were received. Darryl Brown moved to accept the slate of officers and Andrew Carpenter seconded. The motion passed and the slate of officers for 2008-2009 was approved.

BUFFET LUNCH

NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION: IDEAS FOR 2008 WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING - Dave Rocque

Much discussion was made concerning this topic. One possibility is a hydric soil workshop with the new National Indicators criteria, but that will not be finalized until later this year. Another possibility is a "back to the basics" workshop in pedology. If we continue cooperating with MASE as we have done in past years, then that field workshop would serve this purpose well. Yet another possibility is a worse vs. better case scenario (in terms of clustering and land use planning) in a subdivision, but a suitable site will would be hard to find. Chris Dorion thinks that we should try to attract civil engineers in some regard. However, Dave Moyse states that they are the ones that often request a waiver for the soil survey, and that they are really only interested in what the hydrologic soil groups are.

MOVING TO THE NATIONAL HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS - Dave Rocque and Chris Dorion

We have used the New England Hydric Soil Indicators since the late 1980's (or the inception of SSNNE), but such will soon not be the case. The National Indicators will be regionalized in the process, however. Visit: <http://soils.usda.gov/use/hydric/> for the latest information. Dave Rocque welcomes feedback from wetland scientists on the proposed changes. Recent research from the Mascoma research site in western New Hampshire sheds some light on the challenges of hydric soils and wetland hydrology in the northeast. Visit <http://soils.usda.gov/survey/research/reprints.html> and search for "Mascoma" for the latest in research findings from Mascoma, and/or www.mapss.org for an article in this winter's "The Lay of The Land".

PRESENTATIONS (visit www.mapss.org for outlines).

BIOSOLIDS: A RESOURCE OR WASTE - REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES, Andrew Carpenter (Northern Tilth) and Ned Beecher (NEBRA)

THE REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE: WHAT IT MEANS TO THE SOILS COMMUNITY - Jim Brooks (Maine DEP Air Bureau)

THE CREATION AND APPLICATION OF HIGH INTENSITY SOIL SURVEYS: THE NEW HAMPSHIRE EXPERIENCE - Jim Gove (Gove Env. Svcs.)

The meeting concluded @ 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, David Turcotte, Acting Secretary

DRAFT