



2015 Annual Meeting

Unity College Center for the Performing Arts, Unity, Maine

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

The meeting commenced around 8:30 A.m. with an introduction by President Don Phillips, Unity College's Dr. Michael Evans (Provost and VP for Academic Affairs), and Unity College's Dr. Kevin Spigel (Associate Professor of Geoscience). Dr. Spigel provided a brief overview of the [Unity's](#) Earth and Environmental Science major, which is in its third year of existence.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Fullerton summarized the 2014 treasurer's report, which was included in the winter newsletter (with copies on the registration table). At the end of 2014 there was \$10,613.15 in our checking account, which was \$889.41 less than the balance was at the end of 2013. Gary is not too concerned about this drop in our checking account balance. The majority of our income is derived from our annual membership dues, followed by our annual field workshop (last year's at Mt. Blue State Park). We also tend to make some money from our annual meetings. Last year MAPSS donated \$1,000 to the 2015 Janet Engle Cormier Scholarship and \$2,000 to Envirothon.

With respect to membership, in 2014 we had 52 full members, 17 associate members, 3 student members, and 3 honorary members. Prior to today's meeting we had 28 full and 8 associate members for 2015, plus those who registered for the meeting today while joining or renewing their dues for MAPSS. Gary sends out post cards each May reminding members from the previous year that their dues are due, as members who aren't able to attend the annual meeting often forget to pay their dues in the new year.

Ivan Fernandez stated that there are between 60 and 70 licensed soil scientists in the state, and that MAPSS will more and more become the voice of soil science in the state in the coming years as several soil scientists retire in the coming years. Jack Lord asked if a discounted inactive fee might be a possibility to help keep retirees from permanently pulling away from our profession. The current annual licensing fee is \$170. Dave Rocque said that this has already been presented as a request to the Maine Board of Certification for Geologists and Soil Scientists, and that unfortunately their response was that the inactive fee would be the same as the regular licensing fee. He said that the Board's office is dependent the revenues received for all licensing fees. Johanna Szillery suggested that MAPSS give retirees a reduced membership rate to keep them active in the Association.

Jim Logan made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Dave Rocque. The motion passed.

Secretary's Report

Dave Turcotte presented the minutes from last year's annual meeting, and thanked George Bakajza for taking them on his behalf. The minutes were e-mailed to members a couple of times in the days leading up to today's meeting. There were no questions about the minutes. Dave Rocque made a motion that the minutes from last year's annual meeting be approved, and it was seconded by Ivan Fernandez. The motion passed.

University of Maine Update

Ivan Fernandez reported that Undergraduate education in soil science at the University of Maine is largely carried out now in the Soil & Water Science concentration of Ecology & Environmental Science (<http://www.umaine.edu/ecologyandenvironmentalsciences/>), while graduate education in soil science is carried out across a number of graduate programs. Presently there are 3 undergraduate students with this Soil & Water Concentration. The primary schools that oversee this major are the School of Food and Agriculture (<http://umaine.edu/foodandagriculture/>) and Forest Resources (<http://forest.umaine.edu/>). The core soil science faculty at the University of Maine focus on soils within the context of agronomic, horticultural and forest ecosystems, and environmental science. Much of the focus in these schools are with sustainability, and there has been a lot of federal grant money available for this.

The soil science faculty at the University of Maine continues to be Ivan (1.0), Stom Ohno (0.75) and Sue Erich (0.75). At this time it is still uncertain as to whether Soil Morphology, Taxonomy and Judging will be taught in the fall, and they weren't taught last fall. Consequently, at this time it is difficult for a student to attain the 15 credits in soil science needed for Maine Board of Certification licensing or (federal) Office of Personnel Management employment requirements. In this regard MAPSS voice could become more and more important, especially when the time comes for Dr. Fernandez, Dr. Ohno and Dr. Erich to retire.

Much of Ivan's research continues to be related to climate change, and he brought with him several copies of "Maine's Climate Future – 2015 Update" (released 5 years after the original publication). Ocean acidification is becoming more and more of an important concern in this regard. Being the state's land grant school, the University of Maine in Orono is much more proportionally geared towards research than the other state universities (in Augusta, Farmington, Fort Kent, Machias and Presque Isle) are.

There are graduate students at the University that are conducting robust research pertaining to soil science, but few of them have a primary focus on the soil resource. Likewise, Ivan's basic soil science course continues to be very popular, but once again very few of these students have their primary interest in studying soil science.

Envirothon Update & 2015 Natural Resource Workshop, Sebago Lake State Park

Dave Rocque reported that this year's natural resources workshop is already scheduled for September 9th. He provided an overview of what to expect there in last month's issue of "The Lay of the Land". MAPSS has always and continues to be the strongest advocate and supporter of these workshops that he has organized for several years running. Some of these workshops have been in very scenic locations, such as Mt. Blue and Reid State Parks.

Dave stated that Envirothon continues to be the best venue for high school students. The Maine Association of Conservation Districts organizes and facilitates Envirothon in this state, and our contributions go directly to them.

The subject came up about University of Maine soil judging, and whether we would want to allocate some funds to help support the team this year. Ivan said that it is quite unlikely that there would be a team, given the circumstances and conditions outlined in his University of Maine report. In addition, Gary Fullerton feels confident that the soil judging team still has at least \$1,000 of unused donations from us, since the last year we donated funds to them they did not have a team (and haven't since).

Dave Marceau made a motion that \$2,000 be donated by MAPSS to this year's Envirothon, and the motion was seconded by George Bakajza. The motion passed. As a sponsor of Envirothon we will continue to have our name and logo on Envirothon tee shirts and brochures around the state.

Education Committee and JEC Scholarship Award Winner(s)

Steve Howell reported that two applications from University of Maine students were received for this year's Janet Engle Cormier scholarship, and that the education committee (himself, Don Phillips and Dave Turcotte) voted to select one winner, awarding all of the approved \$1,000 to a Lindsey White, [currently in her Junior year and majoring in Ecology and Environmental Science with a concentration in Soil and Water Science](#). Incoming education chair Dave Turcotte will notify Shannon Field about who was selected for the scholarship, and hopefully present the check to Lindsey at the School of Forest Resources Awards and Scholarship Luncheon. He will only send a formal letter to Lindsey that she was selected for the scholarship, and likewise to the other applicant (Nathan Tomczyk) who wasn't (thanking him for applying and encouraging him to apply again if he is still pursuing higher education in soil science in Maine next year). Since she is a junior and should still be at the University of Maine, we will invite Lindsey to come and speak about her career ambitions at next year's annual meeting.

Besides the University of Maine, scholarship applications have also been sent to Unity College and the University of Southern Maine in recent years. Some discussion ensued about sending the application to other colleges (with natural resources programs) in the state, such as the University of Maine at Farmington and Colby, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges.

An article summarizing the accomplishments and activities of the education committee over the past year was included in last month's "The Lay of the Land", including having 1,000 more copies of the original MAPSS brochure reproduced (with some slight revisions) and bringing the display board up-to-date to reflect above-noted changes at the University of Maine. MAPSS continues to maintain a presence at MOFGA's Common Ground Fair (9 years running), and a show of hands suggested that there's enough support from the membership for us to continue to have a presence there. Dave Turcotte, Don Phillips, George Bakajza, Dave Rocque and Steve Howell have already volunteered to help again in 2015 (Sept. 25-27).

As proclaimed by the United Nations, 2015 is the International Year of the Soil, and a link for this is posted on our website (www.mapss.org). Incoming education chair Dave Turcotte will incorporate some of this on the display board for the Common Ground Fair, as well as trying to support Natalie Lounsbury in her effort to have the Maine Legislature pass a "Joint Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Soils to Maine's Future Prosperity" (today's last technical presentation).

Election of Officers

Vice president Anna Donahue presented the slate of officers for 2015-16. Don Phillips, Anna Donahue, Gary Fullerton and director George Bakajza were willing to continue in their elected positions, with Johanna Szillery continuing as past president. Dave Turcotte declined running for secretary again, and nominations were taken from the floor. Greg Granger, Jim Logan and Ken Gardner were nominated for secretary and respectfully declined. Amy Jones was nominated for secretary and accepted the nomination. The slate of officers then became Don Phillips for president, Anna Donahue for vice president, Amy Jones for secretary, Gary Fullerton for treasurer, and George Bakajza for director. Dave Moyse made a motion to approve the slate of officers, and Steve Howell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

For 2015-16 Dave Turcotte volunteered to be education chair, Don Phillips volunteered to continue as newsletter editor, and Matt Dorman volunteered to carry on as web master.

Vote to allow members to have a proxy vote for them at future meetings

Prior to last year's annual meeting there was a request to allow proxy voting at our annual meeting, as a member wanted to vote on a key issue but was unable to be at the meeting that day. For this to occur our constitution would need to be amended. Dave Turcotte specified that he has observed this being done in a church's annual meeting, where one church member was given written permission in advance to vote on behalf of another (who wasn't able to attend). Dave Marceau, Jim Logan, Steve Howell and Greg Granger voiced their opposition to a motion that would modify our constitution to allow proxy (absentee) voting, and such a motion never came to the floor.

Technical Speakers

[After the Business Meeting, a slate of speakers presented summaries of soils-related research, regulatory updates of consequence, and current happenings within the soil scientists' community. An agenda of the day's schedule can be reviewed from the Winter, 2015, Edition of the Lay of the Land newsletter.](#)

~~10:30 – 11:15 — **Earthworms and their Ecological Impact:**~~

~~————— Erika Latty, PhD.; Assoc. Professor of Botany, Unity College~~

~~11:15 – 12:15 — **Macroinvertebrates of Small Streams: A Critical Criterion For NRPA Stream Determinations**~~

~~————— Tom Danielson, ME DEP Biomonitoring Unit~~

~~12:15 – 1:00 — **BUFFET LUNCH**~~

~~1:00 – 1:45 — **Erosion and Sediment Control BMP Manual Revisions; MAPSS Connotative Legend; Proposed New Rules, etc.**~~

~~————— MDEP Staff, including Marianne Hubert (Stormwater Engineering, ME DEP)~~

~~1:45 – 2:30 — **ME Land Use Planning Commission Update — Proposed Revisions to Freshwater Wetlands, Water Bodies, and “Flowing Waters” (i.e., Rivers, Streams and Brooks) Regulations**~~

~~————— Stacie Beyer (Sr. Planner, LUPC)~~

~~2:30 – 2:45 — **BREAK**~~

~~2:45 – 3:30 — **USDA-NRCS Welcome to our New State Soil Scientist & Web Soil Survey: A Short Demonstration**~~

~~————— Kimberly McCracken, ME & NH State Soil Scientist USDA-NRCS, Durham, NH~~
~~————— Lindsay Hodgman, NRCS Liaison to MAPSS~~

~~3:30 – 4:00 — **Joint Resolution Recognizing The Importance Of Soils To Maine's Future Prosperity**~~

~~————— Natalie Lounsbury, ME & Northeast Regional Project Coordinator~~

~~*Maine Licensed Site Evaluators award 6 professional development hours for full day attendance~~

DRAFT