

SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP REID STATE PARK WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

By David Rocque

I have once again agreed to organize a MAPSS/MAWS/MASE Soils and Natural Resource workshop. It will be held at the same site as last year's workshop, Reid State Park in Georgetown, Maine, on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. I believe there is a lot of value for first time attendees but also for participants who went to the workshop last year and are now mulling over what you thought you saw in the field compared to what you thought you heard from the regulators. Then, there is the beneficial social interaction amongst the many professions represented by attendees, in a wonderful setting out-of-doors where you can earn CEU's for a number of certifications including Site Evaluators, contractors and CEO's. Another value is having everyone see the same actual sites in the field and then finding out their regulatory determinations, so all are on the same page. An added bonus this year will be to see how the new WOTUS Rule (Waters Of The United States) affects jurisdictional determinations made at last year's workshop by ACOE. Reid State Park is a great location and early September is a great time of year. Summer vacation is over, most of the tourists and bugs have left so the Park will not be crowded or buggy and the weather is usually very nice. There will be 16 soil pits to evaluate for soil series, septic system suitability and hydric soil determination with hydrologic soils group determinations to be made for three of the soil pits. You will also be asked to identify a number of natural resources and determine what regulations are associated with those natural resources. Last year, we included soil pits for making site specific determinations of the Hydrologic Soil Group (Ksat) using a proposed method developed by MAPSS. That new methodology has now been accepted by the DEP for use in determining stormwater treatment options so you might be interested in seeing how to apply it at actual sites. This new methodology might make the difference between treating stormwater with under-drained bio-filters or a vegetated buffer strip. There is also a site with oxyaquic (oxygenated) soils which is a common condition in Maine but not well understood so it causes problems with all manner of use and management activities on the land. The workshop includes a field portion requiring visits to 11 sites in the morning followed by an afternoon session where each site will be discussed by regulators and you can ask questions. Attendees will be provided with a set of questions to answer for each of the sites (for your own use only) and a site map. There will be assistants at most of the sites to help direct attendees to the specific parts of the sites to be evaluated and will also provide all appropriate natural resource maps of the sites necessary to make proper determinations. You will be asked to make a number of field determinations including:

1. determination of what is and isn't a vernal pool and whether it is or may be significant
2. determination of what is and isn't a stream
3. determining where the starting point is for measuring shoreland zone and natural resources protection act setbacks for river, stream, wetland, pond and ocean settings
4. determining the upland/wetland boundary
5. determining what is and isn't a wetland of special significance
6. determining where the boundary is between a coastal and freshwater wetland (how to tell the difference)
7. determining how to tell if a sandy soil in a back-sand dune is hydric
8. determining if a flood plain soil is hydric
9. determining the difference between podzolization and redoximorphic features in a spodosol
10. determining the difference between a folistic and histic epipedon and what difference it makes in making a hydric soil determination. It also makes a difference in stormwater treatment potential.

11. determining the Hydrologic Soil Group (based on saturated hydraulic conductivity of the least permeable layer above a hardpan or bedrock) of specific soil profiles as compared to the assigned representative rating based on soil series established by the NRCS using a newly adopted Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists technique that is now accepted by the DEP.
12. determining what is and isn't a jurisdictional Waters Of The United States.

In addition to field determinations, you will be asked a number of regulatory questions for each site. After visiting the sites and answering the questions, there will be a discussion of the sites at a very scenic pavilion with a beach reserved for our workshop. Participating in the discussion will be Jay Clement from the ACOE, Jim Beyer and Jeff Kalinich from DEP, Karen Bolstridge and Debra Kaczowski from LUPC and Brent Lawson from the State Plumbing Program. The idea is to provide a field exercise similar to what many of us face with our jobs on a daily basis and then to get closure for the many gray areas we typically encounter by having all of the appropriate regulators present to discuss each site and answer questions.

This workshop should have broad appeal to people who work with natural resources including: soil scientists, wetland scientists, site evaluators, foresters, engineers, planners, code enforcement officers, municipal officials, natural resource regulators, conservation commission members, lake association members and the general public who are interested in natural resource issues. It will be held in a very attractive location at a great time of year. Please use the following form to register.

NOTE: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH SOMETHING TO DRINK AS NONE WILL BE PROVIDED AND THERE ARE LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES TO PURCHASE FOOD IN THE AREA.

**Face masks are required as is social distancing.
Please respect these requirements to keep yourself
and others safe during this workshop.**