

**WETLAND DELINEATION AND IDENTIFICATION
AND
SITE EVALUATOR SOIL PIT CLASSIFICATION WORKSHOP
REID STATE PARK
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009**

The Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, in conjunction with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists, the Maine Association of Site Evaluators, the Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England and the Maine Forest Service is pleased to announce a workshop which focuses on wetland delineation and identification at Reid State Park in Georgetown, Maine. The workshop includes a hands-on field exercise as well as a group discussion at the conclusion of the field exercise. The primary focus of this workshop is to compare actual wetland delineations and identifications done using methods and protocol accepted by State and Federal Regulators today (based primarily on the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Manual and Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England) to those done using the Draft Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (which uses Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States and includes 4 categories for determining wetland hydrology).

The workshop will feature 4 transects that begin in uplands and extend into wetlands in a variety of soil parent materials including glacial till, marine sediment and alluvial soils (both flood plain and beach dune). Numbered soil pits will be opened for your evaluation along each of the transects where you should also determine whether hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology is present. Participants will be provided with copies of blank data forms from the 1987 Manual and from the Draft Regional Supplement to fill out and compare. Each transect will have a soil and plant expert to assist with soil and plant classification but it will be up to participants to determine the wetland/upland boundary (based on the three factor (formerly called “parameter”) approach). You are strongly encouraged to visit the ACOE website and download or at least become familiar with the Draft Interim Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region. If you are not familiar with the 1987 ACOE Wetland Manual, you should review that document as well.

The workshop will also include two of the sites used at last year’s Natural Resource Identification and Regulation workshop. No soil or plant experts will be present at these sites because they were discussed in depth at the workshop last year. You should, however, compare the wetland/upland boundary or determination made last year, using the 1987 ACOE Manual with boundary/determinations made using the Regional Supplement. These two sites will be discussed at the Pavilion along with the 4 new transect sites.

Each of the transect sites will have a number of soil pits (including the 2 sites used last year) that will be excavated and located for making both hydric soil determinations and Site Evaluation determinations. In addition, some of the transect sites will also include other pits dig exclusively for Site Evaluator determinations. The focus of this part of the workshop will be to provide training for site evaluators on the evaluation of soils that are somewhat poorly drained now that the State Septic System Program has proposed to lower the depth to limiting factor for suitable soil conditions located outside the shoreland zone from 12" to 9". In particular, we will be providing training for Site Evaluators on distinguishing between poorly and somewhat poorly drained soils which can't always be done simply by observing the depth to drainage mottling. The soil pits will be described by a team comprised of NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientists, Dave Wilkinson and Greg Granger; State Soil Scientist, David Rocque and immediate past president of MAPSS, Chris Dorion. We will collaborate to provide one specific answer to each soil pit (as compared to the annual MASE workshop at the location of the field exam where a broad range is typically provided for the answer).

After conclusion of the field portion of the workshop, participants will gather at the pavilion (located near the registration parking lot) for a PowerPoint[®] presentation and discussion of each site. Leading the wetland identification and delineation discussion will be Paul Minkin, Senior Wetland Scientist with the Army Corps of Engineers Regional Office in Concord, Mass. He led the field testing of the Draft Interim Supplement throughout New England last year. Leading the discussion of the soil pits for Site Evaluator determinations will be Doug Coombs, State Site Evaluator. Also present will be Mike Mullen from MDEP, Marsha Spencer-Famous from LURC and Dave Rocque who will MC and try to keep things moving along in a lively manner.

This workshop should have broad appeal to soil scientists, wetland scientists, site evaluators, code enforcement officers, planners, municipal officials, regulators, lake association members, foresters and the general public. You can participate at whatever level is appropriate for your background and knowledge of wetland delineation and septic system soil pit evaluation (the experts at each transect site will provide the level of assistance you require).

It should be a fun and informative day for all at a very scenic location.