URBAN/ALTERED/DISTURBED SOIL WORKSHOP

The Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, in conjunction with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists and Maine Association of Site Evaluators is sponsoring a one day workshop on urban/altered/disturbed sites scheduled for **Thursday, September 6, 2012**. This workshop will focus on making sense of areas that have been disturbed. We will focus on disturbed soils and how to map and describe them. We'll discuss altered hydrology and the regulatory implications. We'll also consider the flora associated with disturbed areas and how it fits into wetland determinations.

Join us for what should be a fun and informative day!

SOILS/ SITE EVAULATION: Workshops held in the past have focused on naturally occurring soils in a host of sites and conditions. In disturbed soils, morphological features observed do not necessarily reflect current soil development conditions. Because of the wide range in variability of altered/disturbed soils, published recommendations do not exist. It is therefore, up to the soil scientist or site evaluator to determine the proper use and management of the soil, based on such factors as texture, consistency, structure and depth to seasonal groundwater table. How do we determine the actual drainage class of the soil or its hydrologic soil group? Which properties are important for use and management? What is the hydrologic class of a soil with varying layers of fill/disturbed soil material? The hydrologic class of a soil is critical for stormwater management. Is the soil suitable for a septic system and if so, what is the limiting factor? Can a layer or layers be removed from the soil to improve its septic system suitability?

BOTANY/ HYDROLOGY: Altered soils can include compacted layers that are anaerobic due to the lack of pore spaces. If the compacted layer is at the soil surface, the result can be that it supports hydrophytic vegetation and develops redoximorphic features. Altered soils can also include layers from the subsoil horizons of a soil that formed in a wet environment and therefore has hydric soil morphologies not indicative of current hydrologic conditions. The question then becomes; is the soil a hydric soil and is the site a wetland? How do you distinguish between currently forming redoximorphic features and relict redoximorphic features? Also of interest is a concentrated flow channel that may or may not be a stream. This channel has long stretches that are culverted. Do regulators require setbacks from stream channels that are culverted?

These are just a few of the questions to be discussed at the workshop. The soil pits will be evaluated and described by a team of soil and wetland scientists as well as site evaluators. Regulators from DEP, LURC and ACOE will also be present to discuss issues and answer questions.