

# WHO SHOULD ATTEND

## MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE/MFS WORKSHOP SADDLEBACK SKI LODGE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

This is a reminder that the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, in cooperation with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists, Maine Association of Site Evaluators, Soil Science Society of Northern New England and the Maine Forest Service will be offering a workshop on Saddleback Mountain near Rangeley, Maine on September 1, 2010. **The focus of this workshop will be on the unique soils and hydrology features frequently encountered when undertaking construction in the higher elevation areas of the state, particularly the western Maine mountains.** Participants will visit 5 sites during the morning of the workshop where they will have the opportunity to observe unique hydrological features and evaluate 17 soil pits in different positions in the landscape. Some of the soil pits have large contributing watersheds with oxygen rich groundwater flowing through them. Thanks to the generosity of staff at Saddleback ski lodge, the water table in these soil pits has been monitored 2 times per week during the growing season in 2009 and 2010. Unique hydrological features include boulder fields where there is standing or moving water between the boulders but non-hydrophytes grow in the organic duff on top of the boulders and stone lined subsurface channels that have running water in them. One can stand on top of these stone lined channels and hear the running water but you can only see the water in a few areas. They function similar to an seasonal underground stream.

One of the outcomes of this workshop is to have a determination of the classification of these unique hydrological features by state and federal regulators. In order to provide that determination, the Army Corps of Engineers is sending a problem solving team based in their Cold Regions Lab in Hanover, New Hampshire, to the sites this July. Participants will be provided with a detailed soil description taken by a team including NRCS, the State Soil Scientist, the State Site Evaluator and private sector soil scientists. The workshop will conclude at the lodge with an afternoon power point presentation and discussion of each site, moderated by the State Soil Scientist, which will include state and federal regulators.

**This workshop should have broad appeal to many groups and individuals, particularly anyone with an interest in the booming mountain top windfarm development** including engineers, soil scientists, wetland scientists, code enforcement officers, planners, town managers, environmental organizations, site evaluators, developers, loggers, foresters and contractors.

**Foresters and loggers should attend** to learn about these unique hydrological features and soils as they affect many aspects of their professions from site productivity to skid trail and logging road construction.

**Wetland scientists and soil scientists and site evaluators should attend** to learn about hydrologic features they need to identify in the field when collecting data for a development project and describing high elevation (but not Cryic) soils.

**Engineers should attend** to understand what these hydrologic features are so they can design appropriate measures for windfarm and development infrastructure without significantly altering the natural hydrology. Development projects in high elevation areas must take these features into consideration when submitting a project for a permit to a State Regulatory agency.

**State regulatory agency personnel, code enforcement officers, town managers and environmental groups should attend** to familiarize themselves with the unique soils and hydrology features that development projects in the higher elevation areas must contend with.

**Individuals from neighboring New England States should be interested in this workshop** as they have similar hydrologic features and soils to contend with concerning windfarm and ski resort development in their mountainous regions.

Register now for what should be an interesting, informative and enjoyable day in one of the most beautiful locations in the state of Maine. September is a great time to visit the western Maine Mountains. The bugs have disappeared as have many of the tourists, the weather is dry and cool and the foliage is just starting to turn on the mountain tops. For those interested in spending a night or two in the area, Saddleback has condo's to rent.

If you have any questions, contact David Rocque at (207) 287-2666 or e-mail at [David.Rocque@Maine.gov](mailto:David.Rocque@Maine.gov).