

Association of Wetland Scientists

# President's Message

Richard Jordan

Hello again MAWS friends, and happy March! March heralds the beginning of spring, and spring is an important time for wetland scientists. As temperatures climb, water starts to move, animals begin to stir, leaves break through their buds, and the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists holds its Annual Meeting! The MAWS meeting should be more than enough reason to make one giddy, but we anticipate spring even more after a particularly cold, snowy or otherwise difficult winter. The promise of longer and warmer days, green plants, and new opportunities energizes and invigorates even the grinchiest of grinches and the snowiest of snow owls. If the winter of 2013-14 was particularly hard or felt extraordinarily long for you, or if you simply like change, then you'll join me in welcoming a new spring and everything that it may offer!

Last year's edition of The Obligate included a President-Elect's wish-list/agenda that I penned for 2013. I will paraphrase some of those goals below (in italics) and include response and follow-up to address the success, failure or "work in progress nature" of each aspiration.

Work to rebuild our coffers ...
MAWS had some success toward this goal.

We have nearly \$800 more than we did at this time last year (see Tim Forrester's Treasurer's Report on page 14.) Tim and the rest of the Executive Committee (EC) have worked on several ideas to stabilize our financial position. A solid financial footing will help ensure the longevity of MAWS and our continued investment in wetland science education.

Do you have some ideas or questions? Please contact Tim or another member of the EC (see page 3 for a listing of the current EC members and their email address).



Work to increase our outreach to colleges & universities MAWS has worked on this goal for a few years and will continue in the future. Some success is evident,

- The 2013 stipend recipient Michelle Slater is the first stipend recipient from University of New England (see Lee Burman's Ethics Chair write-up on page 5).
- The 2014 Annual Meeting is at Bowdoin College. We have invited students and are hoping to extend this invite to other universities and colleges in an effort to get more involved with our great educational institutions.

Continuing the efforts of the last few Ethics Chairs, MAWS should continue to reach new students and educators and our outreach should continue to grow in 2014. Additionally, MAWS new logo (see the response to number 4) should help put the MAWS brand back on the forefront of peoples' eyes and minds. Do you have ideas, contacts, requests, questions, or ideas for new folk or bluegrass songs? Please contact Lee.

Continue to Expand Workshops and Meetings ...
This goal has been met going into 2014. Please check out Sarah Watts' Program Chair Report on page 7.
MAWS has lined up a robust package of workshops for 2014.

- The Bog-themed annual meeting in Brunswick,
- A Functional Assessment update workshop featuring Paul Minkin and Ralph Tiner (pending),
- And a Bog ecology field workshop in early fall (designed to provide follow-up to our Annual Meeting)

We are looking to host some of our most interesting and well-attended workshops ever.



Commission the creation of a new logo and stickers ...

\*\*\*Please note that each attendee will receive one
free, brand-spanking-new MAWS sticker with paid
attendance to the 2014 Annual Meeting! Additional
stickers will be available for purchase at \$2
apiece.\*\*\*

The MAWS EC commissioned wildlife biologist Lauren Gilpatrick of burlybird.com to design a new logo for our letterhead, website, stickers and other MAWS merchandise. One reason for a new logo is that MAWS never had a clean, high-quality digital version of the original bittern-in-the-Maine-outline logo:



The original bittern drawing was created by Nancy Derey, 1991.

We tried several times (unsuccessfully) to transform that old logo onto a poster and it never transferred clearly. Given our goals for outreach we determined that the time for a new, high-quality digital logo had come. We asked Lauren to create a new design utilizing the original bittern drawing as a template. We stipulated that we needed it to work for web, letterhead, t-shirts, etc. After seeing a few prototypes, the EC voted for the bittern-on-thebranch logo included with this year's Obligate. The new logo is simple, clean, and really stands out on a two-toned sticker. We have a new web address now: www.MAWS.me. The original www.mainewetlands.org address still functions and we plan to keep it working for at least the next couple of years, but will transition outreach and advertisement links to the fresh, new web address..

Increased/sustain outreach via the Legislative Committee: Rodney Kelshaw has continued the tough task of Chairing the Legislative Committee and keeping MAWS abreast of state and federal legislative happenings (see Legislative Chair Report on page 4). Examples of his work this past year include:

- tracking proposed vernal pool changes currently (as of this writing) being reviewed by the 126<sup>th</sup> Maine State Legislature, and
- serving on an ad-hoc committee to help define new directional buffer guidance for significant vernal pools.

I imagine that assembly and coordination of that diverse committee was as difficult at tracking emigrating salamanders on a dark and stormy night...

MAWS will continue to work in 2014 to keep members abreast of the latest changes in rules and science. With everything on the docket from the aforementioned state level revisions, to a General Permit for all of New England, and potential release of new Clean Water Act guidance, I expect it will be an interesting year for wetland-related legislation. The Legislative Subcommittee can always use more ears, eyes and writers – so please consider volunteering. Contact Rodney or any member of the EC for more information.

Another aspect of this goal was to increase our outreach and cooperation with other environmental groups.

- MAWS worked with the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS), Maine Association of Site Evaluators (MASE) and the Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England (SSSNNE) for the September workshop organized by Dave Rocque, our State Soil Scientist.
- The MAWS EC helped coordinate botany and soil pit volunteers, prepared outreach and advertising to members, and provided two EC members to help at the sign-in table.



For new outreach and partnerships, I am hoping to coordinate with groups such as E2Tech, in order to discuss potential workshop collaboration in the future. Other groups with whom we hope to potentially enhance our *intellectual cross pollination* include

- Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM),
- The Wildlife Society (TWS),
- Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM),
- Duck's Unlimited (DU),
- Trout Unlimited (TU), and
- New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS).

Nationally, several MAWS members are working on a potential 2014 Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)-New England Chapter conference in Worcester, MA. Additionally, Dale Knapp worked with a siting group to bring the 2015 National SWS Annual Conference to Maine, but was unfortunately outvoted. Instead, the 2015 conference will be held in Providence, RI (see Dale's wrap-up on this page). If you're a member of or know of another group that would make for a logical collaboration, please contact a member of the EC.

That wraps up my revised goals and updates for 2014. I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting or other places this spring and throughout the year. As I write this - toward the end of January - the hearty winterphiles of Maine are enjoying the spoils of another arctic blast. Trails are abuzz with snowmobiles, ice shacks have returned to the lakes, and today I visited one of Maine's great ski mountains. The day started around 5 below zero

(Fahrenheit); the constant wind-holds on the lifts provided reminder that the wind-chill was somewhere around 40-below. At day's end when I retreated to my freezing car and drove home under darkening skies due to the 4:44 PM sunset, I was strongly pining for the warmer and longer days to come. The sunset on March 26, the date of the 2014 Annual Meeting, will not be until 7:00 pm, and I can be all but certain that the temperature will be above zero. Cheers to spring!

SWS New England Update Dale Knapp Fellow MAWS members it is with great excitement that I wanted to share with you all that the Society of Wetland Scientists national meeting is coming to Providence, Rhode Island on May 31 - June 4, 2015. The re-energized New England chapter met at the last meeting in Duluth and we pulled together a proposal that was ultimately approved. There is still much to do in planning and preparation. The theme for the meeting will be Changing Climate, Changing Wetlands: Climate Impacts to Wetlands and the Role of Wetlands in Climate Change Adaptation and Carbon Mitigation. This summer the New England Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists made the successful bid to win the 2015 Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be a weeklong event where research papers focused on the relationship between climate change and wetlands will be presented by wetland scientists from across the country and around the world. A number of field trips, both coastal and inland, will be offered. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly if you would like to be involved.

Table of Executive and Standing Committee Members

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Rich Jordan	President (2015)	rich.jordan@tetratech.com				
Brad Agius	President-elect (2015)	brad.agius@tetratech.com				
Tim Forrester	Treasurer (2015)	timforrester@comcast.net				
Steve Knapp	Secretary (2014)	sknapp@kleinschmidtusa.com				
Sarah Watts	Program Chair (2014)	sarah.watts@tetratech.com				
Rodney Kelshaw	Legislative Chair (2015)	rkelshaw@boyleassociates.net				
Katelin Nickerson	Membership Chair (2014)	katelin.nickerson@stantec.com				
Aleita (Lee) Burman	Ethics Chair (2014)	lee.burman@swcole.com				
Dave Brenneman	Webmaster	dbrenneman@boyleassociates.net				
Danielle Tetreau	Obligate	danielle.tetreau@stantec.com				
Roger St. Amand	Vernal Pool Technical Committee	rstamand@ces-maine.com				



Maine
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Legislative Committee Update Rodney Kelshaw For those of you who are fans of comedy I recommend seeing the 1993 Bill Murray film Groundhog Day (stay with me this is going somewhere). The premise of the movie is that Bill Murray plays an egocentric TV weatherman who, annually covered the Groundhog Day event in Puxatawney, PA and he hated everything about it. This time, however, he finds himself in a time loop repeating the same day again and again. Over the last several years being the MAWS Legislative Chair and prior to that being an interested scientist and consultant I have been paying attention to Maine State Legislative bills that have pertinence to wetlands and wildlife. In that time MAWS has provided public comment on many of these issues; ranging from vernal pool habitat requirements to regulation of man-made features as wetlands. On December 5, 2012, as the first regular session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Maine State Legislature convened, I felt like that was my "Groundhog Day". When the Legislative Committee (LC) started reviewing the proposed bill descriptions we noticed that there were some bills that were very similar to bills we already seen. In some cases, looking through our records, we noticed it was the same bill from a previous year with a new number. As we sat through, I mean participated in, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee public comment sessions through 2013, I had the distinct feeling I had done this all before: listing to the same people present the same testimony they had given just 2 years before to many of the same Senators and Representatives still on the Committee board for a bill with the same title and similar language. You might think I overstate to give my account of 2013 a little life. The reality is that just because an issue is decided in one session does not mean it is decided for good and chances are it will be back in the future. The LC will continue to be an important committee for MAWS to provide some institutional knowledge of past legislative

sessions may save us from re-inventing the wheel years down the road.

So, what did we do this year and what was the outcome?

LD 794: An Act to Amend Setback Requirements and Standards Related to Species Migration under the Laws Regulating Development near Vernal Pools - MAWS was neither for nor against this bill, however was prepared to comment. This bill proposed to amend the laws regulating significant vernal pool habitat to account for species migration patterns. However, this was only a concept bill with no text to explain how this directive would be met. MAWS was in favor of the concept for allowing development of directional habitat for vernal pools, but as we know the devil is always in the details. On July 10,2013 the ENR Committee carried over the bill to special legislative session and directed that a task force be set up to develop the text of a bill. The task force was spearheaded by Aram Calhoun and includes representatives from MAWS and other stakeholders to consider both sides of the issue before it is presented to the ENR Committee. The task force was formed in October 2013 and the first meeting was attended by a representative crosssection of groups from "both sides" of the issue. I attended, representing both MAWS and The Maine Chapter of the Wildlife Society (TWS). The general consensus of the task force was to work together to get to the root of all issues and find common ground prior to drafting of a legislative document. This would save both side a lot of time and effort. We came up with a draft document and a final version of the document will be presented to the ENR committee this session in 2014. LD 674 An Act to Clarify the Natural Resources Protection Act -MAWS was opposed to this bill. If passed this would have reduced the regulated "buffer" (which really should be called a regulated, consultation zone) around significant vernal pools; high and moderate inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat; and shorebird nesting, feeding



and staging areas from 250 feet to 75 feet. We attended the hearing prepared to provide testimony in opposition to the bill when the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee suspended comment to hold a vote where the committee voted LD 674 "Ought Not To Pass". At that point there was no more testimony and on May 8, 2013 the bill was dead.

LD 695 An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Laws - MAWS was neither for nor against this bill. This bill exempts from review, under the laws governing site location of development act, new construction at or modification of an existing licensed development that is permitted if the additional disturbed area not to be revegetated does not exceed 20,000 square feet of ground area in any calendar year and does not exceed 40,000 square feet of ground area in total and the construction or modification does not involve a division of the parcel of land. We presented a potential alternative to the legislation using existing permitting avenues. The bill was amended to not exceed 10,000 square feet in a calendar year and 20,000 total with reporting requirements. The law passed and was enacted on May 31, 2013. LD 793 An Act Clarifying the Department of Environmental Protection's Authority Relating to Compensation for Development Activity under the Natural Resources Protection Act - This bill prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from requiring one form of compensation for damages to wetlands or certain bird habitats resulting from a proposed development activity under the Natural Resources Protection Act if the applicant proposing the activity prefers an alternative form of compensation. MAWS tracked this bill and on May 15, 2013 the committee voted Out not to Pass and the bill died in committee. Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat Rulemaking - The principal purpose of the rulemaking is to make Chapter 335 consistent with the statutory changes included in PL 2011, Chapter 362. These changes clarify the effect of vernal pool regulation on adjacent property owners, clarify the regulation of vernal pools which straddle property boundaries, and clarify the regulation of artificially created vernal pools, all as directed by Chapter 362.

I will attempt to keep the membership up to date with the membership email list and the MAWS social media sites. Remember, there are always openings on the LC so if anyone has interest in being a member of the MAWS LC please contact me. Email: <a href="rkelshaw@boyleassociates.net">rkelshaw@boyleassociates.net</a>

Phone: (207) 944-6776

## Ethics Update Lee Burman

# Ethics Workshops

If you are a New Hampshire Certified Wetland Scientist, you likely know by now that of the 24 continuing education hours (CEH's) required for biennial recertification, 2 CEH's are required in Ethics. This requirement came into effect in 2012. To this end, MAWS sponsored an Ethics Workshop with Irene Grace Garvey of Abenaki Consulting on April 08, 2013 awarding 2 CEH's. The Workshop was held at the Gilsland Farm Audubon Center in Falmouth. Irene facilitated the workshop and asked thoughtful questions that created lively discussion! An example of a wetlands related ethical dilemma that happened to a Maine consulting wetland scientist was presented and attendees were asked to weigh in on how to handle the situation. This was a very useful workshop and one worth repeating in the future.

While not on the agenda this year, the New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) included an Ethics discussion in their annual meeting in January 2013. Visit the MAWS and NHANRS websites periodically to check for Ethics CEH's (www.mainewetlands.org and www.nhanrs.org). MAWS will work towards hosting a workshop or including an ethics discussion in one of their meetings, every two years. If you have ideas for future ethics workshops and would like MAWS to support them, please contact myself (aburman@swcole.com) or Sarah Watts (Sarah.Watts@tetratech.com).

The MAWS Code of Ethics is posted on the MAWS website on the "About MAWS" page. Active and Affiliate members should all be familiar with this document. Even if you do not need the CEH's for NH Wetland Scientist Certification, it



doesn't hurt to attend Ethics workshops and keep up to date on the ethics of your profession.

#### \$1000 Yearly MAWS Stipend

Michelle Slater, a Masters student in the Marine and Environmental Sciences Program at the University of New England, was awarded the 2013 MAWS Stipend for her research into the "Transport Regimes of the Common Reed (Phragmites australis) in the Saco River Estuary, ME, USA". Michelle is studying the dispersal patterns of this invasive plant so that a management regime can be developed. She is hoping this information will help develop ways to stop the continued spread of the species and resultant destruction of natural habitats.

In her own words, Michelle is "integrating biology and physics to explain the story of Phragmites in the Saco. I am currently creating a map of "areas of concern" for further Phragmites spread in the Saco based on the data I collected from drifter work, which I have to say is kind-of cool! I am also in the process of running though genetics tests to extract DNA, which will later determine more information about the origin of the Phragmites stands (i.e. native or invasive) and whether they are clonal individuals or produced through seeds. We are currently running some seed viability tests as well, and I am trying to pull together various ecological information that we collected including porewater salinities, patch sizes, Phrag. densities, and heights, nutrient data...etc."

Congratulations Michelle and we look forward to hearing your presentation at the MAWS Annual Meeting in March!

The 2014 stipend application will be mailed out to an extensive list of college and university professors, as well as student members of MAWS. The mailing list now includes over 40 professors. Currently we have no professor contacts at the University of Maine Augusta, Farmington, Presque-Isle, or Fort Kent campuses. All mailings go to biology or environmental science departments for posting. If you know of any professors at the above campuses who teach or research wetland related topics, please contact me at <a href="mailto:aburman@swcole.com">aburman@swcole.com</a>.



Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) Photo by Matt Lavin, Creative Commons License http://www.flickr.com/photos/plant\_diversity/10160968504/

Membership Update Katelin Nickerson
Hello MAWS members! 2013 was a good year for
membership, we gained 7 new members and
welcomed back two old members. The membership
list on the website is current for 2013; all active,
affiliate, and student members are listed. So take the
time to check it out, and please contact me if your
information is incorrect

katelin.nickerson@stantec.com. We have several members that have not paid dues in quite some time but are still listed as Active members. If your membership dues are past-due for five years, your membership status will be listed as Inactive. You are welcome to re-apply for membership if this happens to you. If you have not paid dues for 2014 please do or you will be hearing from me in the near future! I hope to see you all at the annual meeting in March!

# New England District Corps Plans Update of Wetland Functional Assessment Method

Paul Minkin & Jeff Simmons
The US Army Corps of Engineers, New England
District (New England District Corps), is in the
process of developing a new quantitative functional
assessment methodology to replace the current
qualitative approach known as the "Highway
Methodology Workbook Supplement" that has been
in use since the mid-1990s. The move to a more
quantitative method is intended to bring the New
England District Corps more in line with Corps of
Engineers functional assessment methods nationally



and have a method that fits better with the debit/credit concepts found in the Mitigation Rule (Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule 4/10/08; 33 CFR Parts 325 and 332). In addition, it can incorporate the past two decades of knowledge gained on aquatic resource functions.

An interagency team led by the New England District Corps, and that includes staff from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, and state agencies is developing the methodology. The effort started with a review of existing functional assessment methods to see what could meet current regulatory needs. After examining many existing methods, including the "Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement", methods from various New England states, and the Hydrogeomorphic (or HGM) methods supported by the Corps nationally, the New England District Corps decided to use NovaWet as the foundation for the new functional assessment method. NovaWet was developed by Ralph Tiner at the US Fish & Wildlife Service (for use in Nova Scotia, Canada) and was based on his review of the many assessment methods available, taking the best from each. The methodology is currently in the early stages of development, so many of the specific details may change during the development process. However, some of the basic components of the methodology have been established and are outlined here. This includes the use of NWI+ as the base wetland classification system to be used. The NWI+ system is an enhancement of the National Wetland Inventory classification system developed in the late 1970s and routinely used by wetland scientists ever since. NWI+ differs from the standard NWI classification approach in that it incorporates wetland landscape position, landform, water flow path, and waterbody type descriptors. With these new descriptors, NWI+ identifies potential wetland functions of the aquatic resource. Use of this system allows for a two-level approach to functional assessment. The first level is appropriate for planning-level studies, as it identifies the likely functions of particular aquatic resources based on the classification and data acquired through remote sensing. The second level of the approach involves

the acquisition and assessment of site-specific data and would be appropriate for evaluating the functions of specific aquatic resources for purposes of regulatory permitting and determining compensation requirements.

This methodology is meant to be a true functional assessment, not a condition assessment and does not lump goods and services into functions. "Functions" are the basic chemical, biological, and physical processes that the aquatic resource performs. "Goods and services" (previously referred to as "values" in older guidance and assessment methods) are the benefits humans recognize, and which are derived from the various functions. The new functional assessment methodology will be focused on three primary suites of functions (water quality maintenance, hydrologic integrity, and biota support), with several specific functions included for each of the three primary categories. Individual functions and variables to represent those functions are currently being evaluated.

As noted above, the interagency workgroup is currently working through details of the functions to be included and assessing appropriate variables. Once a working draft has been developed, it will be released for public comment and field testing, possibly later this year. After incorporation of comments and field testing results, a "final version" will be put into use, most likely sometime later this year or in 2015. It is intended, however, that this methodology will be open for periodic review and updating to ensure that it is current with the state of the science.

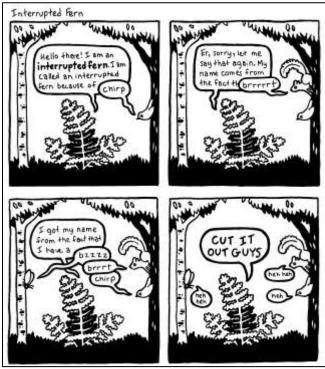
Independent from this effort, the New England District Corps is working on developing far less encompassing assessment methods for streams and vernal pools. These will not be true functional assessments, but will be used more to determine project impacts and identify appropriate compensatory mitigation. These will be included in the New England District Corps Mitigation Guidance update, anticipated to be released later this year.

All of these assessment methods are intended for New England District Corps to assess impacts associated with proposed projects and for purposes of determining mitigation requirements. The New



England District Corps will not require other federal, state, or tribal entities to use this approach for purposes of their regulatory programs; though they are certainly welcome to use these methods if useful for their programs. As we have done with previous assessments methods, these new methodologies will be required only when they are determined to be necessary, and are not for every project or permit application.

More information on this new method will be forthcoming, and MAWS will be holding a workshop that will cover the NWI+ classification, and the functional assessment methodology sometime during the late summer of 2014. The workshop will most likely be held in southern coastal Maine, and will include both classroom instruction and visits to field sites to apply what is learned in the classroom. An announcement of the specific date, location, and agenda will be available later this winter or spring. Stay tuned!



Comic by Rosemary Mosco

www.birdandmoon.com

Program Chair Update Sarah Watts Hello MAWS members! Get ready for a great program and new venue for the MAWS Winter

Conference and Annual Meeting this year! We are very excited to try out a couple of \*NEW\* concepts this year: new space, new vendors, new merchandise! This year's MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2014, at Thorne Hall, Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine. We decided to try out a new space this year in an effort to save money (a.k.a. do better than breakeven, which is what we've just barely been doing for the last several years at Maple Hill) and spread out and open up opportunities for vendor space. This will be a great trial run at this new venue, and I welcome your feedback!

We've got a great slate of speakers this year, as you can see from the agenda, many of whom choose to focus their work on BOGS! Just for fun, I did a quick Google search of "bogs definition" and came up with "wet muddy ground too soft to support a heavy body", and synonyms like muskeg, mire, quagmire, morass, slough, fen, marsh, swamp, and wetland. I can't wait to see what Norm Famous and Marcia Spencer-Famous can do with that definition and topic to inform and entertain us about these fascinating wetlands! But before that, we will welcome our local regulators and legislator, and look forward to hearing their updates on the goings on at Maine DEP, USACE, and the State Legislature! Over lunch, we can relax and enjoy a slide show of some of Norm's favorite bog photos, collected over the past few decades of natural resource work. In addition, we can look forward to hearing two talks on Phragmites: from the 2013 stipend winner Michelle Slater from UNE on the transport regimes of the common reed in the Saco River estuary, and local "host" Bowdoin College Assistant Professor Vladimir Douhovnikoff on his work on clonal growth in Phragmites! We'll wrap up with a return to our focus on bogs and peatlands with talks by Mark Hines of UMASS Lowell and Andrew Reeve of UMaine Orono. Very exciting stuff! I look forward to getting bogged down in the details at this exciting program.

In addition to speakers, this year we have included table space for four vendors, who will join us to hawk their wares, inform and entice us with their fancy equipment, attempt to train the untrainable,



and tickle our brains with books. Vendors include Maine Technical Source (MTS), Blue Lion Training, Natural History Center in Bar Harbor, and Gulf of Maine Books. Make sure to stop by their tables in the morning or at one of the breaks! As usual, we are pursuing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting, and will provide certificates of attendance for this event (and any other of our events) that include the associated professional time spent.

Registration fees for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting are as follows: registration for MAWS members is \$45 (not including annual dues); non-members is \$60 (begging the question: why not become an affiliate member for the same price!), and students are \$20. We hosted or co-sponsored several events this year including:

In April, MAWS sponsored an Ethics workshop at Gilsland Farms in Falmouth with Irene Grace Garvey of Abenaki Services. It was another informative and eye opening discussion! If you haven't attend one of these ethics workshops—or even if you have—they are truly great, and I learn something each time. Lee Burman (Ethics Chair) and I have started talking about doing another ethics workshop later this year. Stay tuned! Also in April, we presented MAWS After Dark presents: Tick Talk Two - a follow up to the original Tick Talk. Sara Robinson, MPH, is an Epidemiologist with Maine Medical Center and presented information on ticks, Lyme disease, and other tick- and other vector-borne diseases (e.g., mosquitos). A few fine folks ignored the willies that can be brought on by such conversations, and had a great opportunity to learn about tick biology and ecology; Lyme disease, prevention and treatment; and other vector-borne diseases in Maine. Thanks to Dave Brenneman and Lauren Leclerc for attending and hosting! In July, we organized a MAWS informal 5k fun run/walk/social circling the Back Cove in Portland, and reconvening at the Great Lost Bear for post run carb replenishment. Thanks to Rich for organizing! In August, we hosted a workshop on Delineating Federal Wetlands Using the Northcentral/

Northeast Regional Supplement. This workshop provided a basic overview of the delineation of wetlands, using the Corps of Engineers Regional Supplement to the Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region. The workshop was field focused and hands-on, with participants grouped into teams circulating through a series of stations, and culminating with the completion of a delineation on site. Thanks to Jeff Simmons for organizing a terrific event!

In September, MAWS co-hosted and provided the botanists for the annual Dave Rocque/ Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists, MAWS, Maine Association of Site Evaluators and Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England field workshop at Mount Blue State Park. It was another exceedingly well planned and well attended workshop, with elements that were relevant to soil scientists, wetland scientists, site evaluators and those other guys.

Looking ahead to 2014, we are in the process of planning a couple of events, including a Functions and Values workshop and a site visit to the Orono Bog for sometime this summer and fall. If any members have ideas for future workshops, we welcome your suggestions. Stay tuned for more details!

Finally, responding to some great constructive feedback from one or two of our members, we will be attempting to provide handouts (PowerPoint notes pages) of the speaker presentations this year, making a handful of copies (hoping to avoid unnecessary waste of paper) available at the registration table! Come early to make sure you get a copy! We hope that this will allow everyone to sit back, relax, and enjoy the presentations. See you in March!!

If anyone would like to assist in organizing workshops and activities for MAWS, please contact Program Chair, Sarah Watts
(sarah.watts@tetratech.com) or (207) 358-2383.
She would gladly accept your ideas and help! ©



# Maine Association of Wetland Scientists 2013 Annual Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Subject: Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

(MAWS) Annual Meeting **Date:** March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Time:** 8:30 AM - 3:35 PM followed by a MAWS Executive Committee Business Meeting from 3:35-

4:40 PM

Location: Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast and

Conference Center, Hallowell, Maine.

**Attendees:** MAWS Membership, Executive Committee, and Guest Speakers (approximately 90

attendees)

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) held its annual meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast and Conference Center in Hallowell, Maine. The session consisted of nine speakers given by local professionals and one MAWS stipend winners; each followed by an interactive discussion.

8:00-8:42 Registration, welcome, and

introduction of speakers. Jeff

Simmons notes that Rich Jordan will

take over as President elect.

8:45-9:19 Maine Stream Habitat Viewer, Slade

Moore, Project Coordinator, Maine Costal Program/ Alex Abbott, Database and GIS Manager,

USFWS.

Slade Moore gave an overview of barriers and habitat connectivity in Maine. There are currently at least 895 dams within the state. Several road crossing surveys have been completed which identify barriers (i.e., velocity barriers, perches, etc.). Based on results to date, approximately 50% of surveyed culverts are passage barriers. The remaining culverts may not be a barrier to passage, but most have additional issues including erosion or

high velocities (due to under-sized structures). Restoration efforts should be efficient and prioritization is key. A focus is given to high interest habitats for species such as Atlantic salmon, river herring, brook trout, etc.

Alex Abbott- The Maine Habitat viewer should be ready in 6-8 weeks as a map viewer with the data also being made available from the Maine Office of GIS (OGIS). Alex gave a quick review/preview of the viewer's functionality.

Slade Moore- Public crossings are the only crossings shown on the viewer.

9:20-9:55

Of Boulder Fields, Vernal Pools, Functional Assessment, and the Corps., Paul Minkin, Senior Wetland Scientist with the USACE New England District Regulatory Division.

Paul gave an overview of the characteristics of glacially-derived boulder fields in New England vs. scientific study by the Corps Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC).

These areas are problematic in that finding reliable indicators for wetlands may be difficult. Paul noted that Alpha-alpha-Dipyridyl (AAD) test strips work well with wet soils and that careful documentation of the wetland delineation methods is important. Also utilizing primary hydrologic indicators is more reliable than including secondary indicators.

Vernal Pool update- The USACE will be releasing a draft Federal vernal pool data form, approximately 2 pages in length. These data forms are recommended, but not mandatory.

Functional Assessment- Currently the USACE is working to replace the existing Highway methodology with a quantitative functional method.



The USACE is currently reviewing existing methods, including NovaWet (developed by Ralph Tiner for Nova Scotia). The current working group consists of the USACE, EPA, and USFWS. The goal is to create a framework for assessment to be presented to the States followed by field testing.

9:55-10:15 The Biogeography of Tidal Marsh Birds

in the Northeastern United States,
Maureen Correll, University of
Maine, MAWS 2012 Stipend
Winner.

Maureen gave an overview of her project and of tidal marsh bird life history. Marshes provide several services including storm surge protection, carbon storage, water quality improvements, and biodiversity. Tidal marshes are generally divided into high and low marsh zones, with most marsh birds utilizing the high marsh areas. Marsh bird reproductive behaviors are tied closely to the tidal cycles to avoid nest flooding.

Future project objectives include: 1) Describing change in distribution and how environmental factors influence distribution. 2) Describing methods for predicting occurrence of marsh birds through remote sensing.

Maureen thanked MAWS for supporting her work in 2012.

10:15-10:35 BREAK

10:35-11:15 Maine's In-Lieu-Fee Compensation

Program: Overview and Lessons Learned, Alex Mas, Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Nature

Conservancy in Maine.

Alex gave an overview of Maine's In-Lieu-Fee program which allows permit applicants to pay fees rather than utilize tradition mitigation methods.

The fees are paid into the fund which is administered by the Nature Conservancy through a grant program. The grant process requires certain criteria including assurance of project success, proper funding levels, sufficient threat to potential projects, and ideally projects occur in the same watershed as impacts.

To date the ILF program has awarded 7.2 million dollars (55 projects) through the grant program.

11:15-11:45 Capisic Brook Stormwater

Management, Doug Roncarti, Stormwater Program Coordinator, Portland Water District.

Doug presented an overview of Capisic Brook and its watershed within the City of Portland. The brook is 2.5 miles long and the watershed encompasses approximately 1,200 acres of land in West Portland. The area is a combination of residential and industrial development. The stream does not meet Class C requirements and is listed as an urban impaired stream with impervious surface covering approximately 15% of the watershed. The watershed contains 300 catch basins, 79 combined sewer outfalls (CSO), and several discharge points. In 1991, resulting from the Clean Water Act, CSOs were eliminated from the watershed. Currently green infrastructure and long term management have been incorporated into the management plan, which was approved by the DEP in 2012.

11:45-12:15 Understanding and Restoring Maine's

Urban Streams: Trout Brook Case Study, Wendy Garland, Environmental Specialist, Watershed Management Unit,

Maine DEP.

Wendy gave an overview of Maine's water quality classifications and Maine's urban impaired streams (31 streams in 16 municipalities). Wendy also



discussed Trout Brook as a case study for water quality improvements. In 2010 a management plan was developed for Trout Brook, a class B/C 2.9 mile stream with a watershed of 1,504 acres with approximately 12% impervious surface.

12:15-1:15

Lunch

Restoring River & Stream Continuity:
New Opportunities for Wetland
Mitigation, Scott Jackson, Wildlife
Biologist, University of
Massachusetts- Amherst.

-Scott began with an overview of stream connectivity issues including culverts, dams, bridges, and roads. Connectivity along streams is important not only for fish, but also for other aquatic organisms. The Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS) is a landscape based assessment tool to develop an Index of Ecological Integrity (IEI) score. After testing, the CAPS system should be available in Maine (~18 months). More information is available at: www.umasscaps.org

2:15-2:45

Farewell to the PUB- Regulated

Resource Response to Dam Removal,

Michael Chelminski, P.E., Stantec.

Mike gave an overview of several dam removal and restoration projects in New England. In particular Mike stressed the importance of staged draw downs and shoreline plantings to ensure stable banks following dam removal.

2:45-3:15

A Wetland Scientist Goes to Augusta:
Legislative Update from Jim BoyleState Senator from District 6 and
Chairman of the Joint Standing
Committee on Environment and Natural
Resources, Jim Boyle, Maine State
Senator, District 6.

Jim gave an overview of his time to date as a member of the Maine Legislature. In addition Jim discussed LD 794 and 824. LD 794 deals with directional buffers for vernal pools and LD 824 included language to move oversight of NRPA to planning boards rather than DEP.

3:15- 3:35 Break

# Annual Business Meeting 3:35-4:40

Rich began the business meeting announcing first thanking Jeff for his service as MAWS president. In addition Rich thanked Sarah Watts for setting up the annual meeting as well as Dave Bremman Brenneman for moving the MAWS website to a new service and transferring the mailing lists to a google groups. The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM.

#### **Executive Committee**

#### Secretary's report:

Motion to accept meeting minutes from 2013 as presented in the Obligate.

Laura noted that there is a typo to change. Motion seconded, no opposed. Motion passes.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Tim updated the membership and provided an overview of the financial statement provided in the 2012 Obligate. Tim noted that in the coming year MAWS should actively seek ways to earn additional money. In 2013 MAWS "broke even". Tim noted that the largest expenses are the annual meeting, stipend, Envirothon dontationdonation, membership, and the website.

Jim Boyle- asked a question as to why MAWS is retaining additional funds in the account.



Tim Forrester-Just to keep some funds in the account.

Rich moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented to the membership. Rod Kelshaw seconded, none apposed opposed. The motion passed.

### Standing Committee Updates

#### **Ethics Report:**

Laura Lapierre: MAWS received 5 applicants for stipends in 2013 and students are already inquiring for the 2014 stipend. There was a discussion focused on developing more student interest. Tim Forrester suggested reaching out to Colby, Bowdoin, or Unity Colleges. Rod Kelshaw suggested that we could have another showing of Dirt, possibly in Orono.

Laura moved to approve the stipend amount of \$1,000.00 for 2014. The motion was seconded, all in favor, the motion carries.

Dave Rocque. -moved to approve a \$1,000.00 donation to the Envirothon. The motion was seconded, all in favor, the motion passes.

#### Legislative Report

Rod thanked members of the Legislative subcommittee for working on a number of legislative items this past year. This year was a busy year. First list of bills was ~ 1,700, MAWS focus was on ~ 10 of those.

NRPA Bill- Decreasing habitat/IWWH (similar to that proposed in 2011). Lee presented for the SLODA changes, neither for nor against, but like the idea of a streamlined system rather than creating a new mechanism.

Vernal pool directional buffers: MAWS neither for nor against. The language of the bill had not been

developed. MAWS is in favor of the concept if presented properly.

Rod opened up for questions.

Rich Jordan: How does the buffer work, should MAWS define language?

Jim: This is the opportunity to come up with something stating that directional buffers are better. Dave Moyse: There is merit to directional buffers.

Rich J.: In 2011 MAWS was not in favor of reducing buffers, the details of the bill are important. The public hearing is set for April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Lee: Can MAWS suggest language?

Jim: Yes.

Dale Knapp: Are enough active members here to

Jim: Major issues are normally brought to the group for a vote.

Rod: Next year we should have the legislative stuff during the meeting rather than the business meeting. Jim Logan: Good idea.

It was discussed that Lee would talk with Aram and that the MAWS VPTC would work on conceptual buffer language. Rod suggested that the membership may be split on the idea and that MAWS may take the approach of supporting language developed by experts (Aram). Jeff Simmons: Could someone come in and present

prepared language?

Jim: Yes, they will probably come in with draft language; it may even be the same day.

Jeff: Drafting language may be too far out of the scope of what MAWS normally does.

Rich: "Buffers" is a bad word; possibly change that to something else.

Rod solicited further assistance with legislative issues moving forward. Rich agreed to contact Rod to discuss moving forward. Rich suggested that the meeting move forward as a vote was unlikely, all agreed and there was much rejoicing.

Membership Report

Katelin provided a brief update: 4 new members in 2013. The membership report is available in the 2013 Obligate.



# Program Report

Sarah started off the update by providing provided an overview of efforts for the past year and forecast for the future:

- MAWS co-sponsored the Urban/Altered/
   Disturbed Soils Workshop with MAPSS (September 2012).
- MAWS organized a workshop on Inland
   Wading Bird and Waterfowl habitat (IWWH),
   held at the Augusta Elks Lodge (October 2012).
- MAWS After Dark, showing of DIRT the Movie (December 2012)
- Ethics workshop with <u>Irene</u> Grace Garvey was given is scheduled for 08 April 8<sup>th</sup> 2013.
- Paul Minkin put on a wetlands workshop in the fall Wetlands delineation refresher workshop is in the works for late summer/fall 2013.
- Working with the Society for Ecological Restoration and Ecological Landscape Association to organize a site tour of the Penobscot River restoration (including Great Works and Veazie removal projects), hosted by Steven Sheppard, USFWS Maine Hydro Relicensing Coordinator (late summer/fall 2013) gave site tour of the Great Works and Veazie removal projects.
- MAWS after dark ideas:
  - o Another Tick Talk (TBD)
  - o Matt A. related to his book (TBD)
  - Dirt Movie showing, MAWS 5K <u>Fun Run</u> (July-6<sup>th</sup>)

Sarah noted that Dave Rocque. is planning another workshop at Mt. Blue State Park for Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. He is looking for help from MAWS/MAPSS/MASE and botanists to help out.

Jeff, Dale, and others discussed that the SWS is trying to coordinate a New England meeting for 2014.

## Standing-Sub-Committee ReportUpdate

Rich updated the membership on the <u>Vernal Pool</u>
<u>Technical Committee</u> (VPTC). No changes in 2013, still in a holding pattern while the USACE and State work through issues. <u>Roger St. Amand is the new VPTC</u>

#### Other Items

#### Elections

No nominations from the floor .:

President Elect: Brad Agius Treasurer: Tim Forrester

Legislative Chair: Rod Kelshaw

Rich moved to close the meeting. It was seconded and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Steve Knapp MAWS Secretary January 25 2013

MAWS Merchandise: pre-order on your registration form!







MAWS Financial St From January 31, 2013		
Respectfully Submitted to MAWS Membership	, January 21, 2014, by Tim Forreste	r, Treasure
	Beginning Balance 1/31/2013 \$	
	Ending Balance 1/21/2014 \$	6,389.66
INCOME		
1 Annual Meeting	\$	4,375.00
1 Annual Meeting (Field Book Raffle)	\$	42.00
2 Ethics Workshop	\$	275.00
3 Wetland Delineation Field Day	\$	525.00
4 Tick Talk II (Capt. Daniel Stone Inn)	\$	0.00
5 Membership Dues		2,475.00
	(A) TOTAL INCOME \$	7,692.00
EXPENDITURES		
1 Annual Meeting (Maple Hill Farm)	\$	3,749.17
<ol> <li>Annual Meeting (Scott Jackson Travel Exp.)</li> </ol>	\$	298.84
2 Ethics Workshop (Abanaki Services)	\$	175.00
2 Ethics Workshop (Audubon room fee)	\$	50.00
4 Tick Talk II at the Capt. Daniel Stone Inn	\$	125.00
5 Envirothon Grant	\$	1,000.00
5 Student Research Stipend Award	\$	1,000.00
5 Sec. State Fee	\$	35.00
5 BOA, Bank Fees	\$	18.00
5 PO Box Fee	\$	94.00
5 New MAWS Stickers and Design fee	\$	355.00
	(B) TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$	6,900.01
NEW YORK CHARGES	(A-B) <u>\$</u>	791.99
GAIN / LOSS	0.000	
1 Annual Meeting	\$	368.99
2 Ethics Workshop	5	50.00
3 Wetland Delineation Field Day	s	525.00
4 Tick Talk II at the Capt. Daniel Stone Inn	\$	-125,00
5 Membership Dues - all other expenses	<u>\$</u>	-27.00
	\$	791.99

# MAWS Business Meeting Agenda 2014 Annual Meeting - March 26

- 1. President's Introduction and Update
- 2. Executive & Standing Committee Updates

Secretary Update (approval of minutes from 2013 annual meeting) - Steve Knapp

Program Chair Update - Sarah Watts

Legislative Chair Update - Rod Kelshaw

Treasurer Update – Tim Forrester

Membership Chair Update - Katelin Nickerson

Ethics Chair Update - Lee Burman

Ad-hoc Subcommittees:

Education/Student Outreach Committee - Lee Burman

Vernal Pool Technical Committee - Roger St. Amand

Outreach Committee (maws.me & Obligate) - Dave Brenneman and Danielle Tetreau

3. Executive Committee Elections (2-year terms)

Open Committee Chair Position	Nominees (nominations will also be accepted from the floor):			
Membership	Katelin Nickerson (incumbent)			
Ethics	Lee Burman (current interim chair)			
Program	Sarah Watts (incumbent)			
Secretary	Steve Knapp (incumbent)			

- 4. MAWS Research Stipend Discussion and Award Vote
- 5. Envirothon Donation Discussion and Award Vote
- 6. Open Floor Discussion

#### **Maine Association of Wetland Scientists**

#### Wednesday, March 26, 2014

# Thorne Hall (Bldg 67), Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists will be holding its annual meeting at a \*NEW\* venue this year, at Thorne Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME. **See attached map showing location and preferred parking areas highlighted in red.** Registration for MAWS members is \$45 (not including annual dues); for non-members \$60, and for students \$20. Members, please take this opportunity to continue your support of MAWS by paying your annual dues. **Please complete the attached registration form and return to MAWS by March 12th.** 

#### BOGS!

#### **AGENDA**

8:00 - 8:30	Registration			
8:30 - 8:40	Welcome, Introduction of Speakers			
8:40 – 9:10	Maine DEP Regulatory Update, Mike Mullen, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (30 Min)			
9:10 - 9:40	USACE Regulatory Update, Jay Clement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District (30 min			
9:40 – 10:10	<b>Legislative Update,</b> Jim Boyle, Maine State Senator, District 6 and Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (30 min)			
10:10 - 10:30	Break			
10:30 – 11:45	<i>All about Bogs,</i> Norm Famous, Spencer-Famous Environmental Associates & Marcia Spencer-Famous (1 hr 15 min)			
11:45 – 12:00	Break (Bowdoin has asked for a break before lunch to set up)			
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch – Slide Show of Photos on Bogs			
1:00 – 1:20	Transport Regimes of the Common Reed (Phragmites australis) in the Saco River estuary, ME, Michelle Slater, Student, University of New England (20 min)			
1:20 – 1:50	Clonal growth invasion or stability: Clonal architecture, leaf morphology, and diversity in conspecific native and introduced Phragmites, Vladimir Douhovnikoff, Assistant Professor Biology Department, Bowdoin College (30 min)			
1:50 – 2:35	Trophic Status and Methanogenesis in Bogs and Fens: Implications for Climate Change Effects on Greenhouse Gases, Mark Hines, Acting Dean, College of Sciences, University of Massachusetts – Lowell (45 min)			
2:35 – 3:20	Assessing the influence of hydrology on peatland processes through computer simulation, Andrew Reeve, Professor, School of Earth and Climate Science, University of Maine – Orono (45 min)			
3:20 - 3:40	Break			
3:40 - 5:10	Annual business meetina			

We will provide certificates of attendance for attendees at the conference and business meeting.

If you have any questions, contact MAWS Program Chair, Sarah Watts @ (207) 358-2383, or by email <a href="mailto:sarah.watts@tetratech.com">sarah.watts@tetratech.com</a>.

# **Maine Association of Wetland Scientists**

# **Winter Conference & Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Thorne Hall (Bldg 67), Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME

#### REGISTRATION FOR MAWS WINTER CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

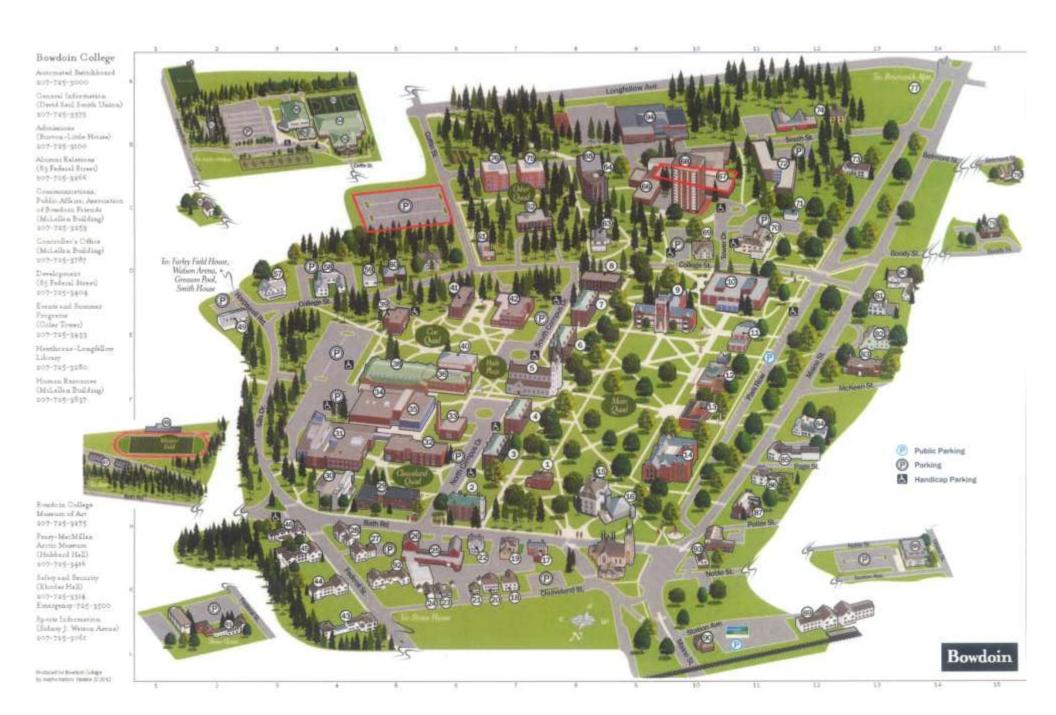
Please mail registration form and payment to: <u>Tim Forrester, c/o MAWS Treasurer, 135 River Road, Woolwich, ME</u> 04579.

Any questions, please feel free to call or email Sarah Watts, MAWS Program Chair, Phone: (207) 358-2383, Email: <a href="mailto:sarah.watts@tetratech.com">sarah.watts@tetratech.com</a>.

# Registration and check should be received by March 12, 2014. Make checks payable to MAWS.

Name:		Affiliatio	າ:		
Address:	City/State:				
Telephone and/or e-mail address:					
Registration Fee, which includes f	ood and facility charge	s:			
		MAWS membe	r: \$45*	: 	(a)
		Non-members:	\$60		(b)
		Student:	\$20*	·*	(c)
*2013 Dues must be paid	in full to receive memb	pership rate for	this event.		
Membership runs from January 1	to December 31. If you	have questions	s about your s	tatus please en	nail
Katelin.Nickerson@stantec.com	• •	·	,	·	
**Proof of student status	must be provided with	registration.			
☐ I would like to apply for me	mhershin: a complete	d application is	included wit	h my rogistrati	on
- I would like to apply for me	inscramp, a complete	a application is	Theradea With	inity registrati	011
MAWS Members Annual Dues:	Active:		\$25		(d)
	Affiliate:		\$15		(e)
	Student:		\$10		(f)
*NEW* MAWS Merch:	Sticker (1 free with r	registration!)		\$0	n
NEW MAWS MEICH.	Additional Stickers:	egisti ation: j	\$2		
			•		(g)
	Drink Koozie:		\$2.50		(h)
	Knit Hat (Orange):		\$12.50		(i)
	T-Shirt:		\$15.00		(j)
	Please specify size:		S, M, L, XL		
GRAND TOTAL (sum a to j)					
We will provide separate certifica	tes of attendance for th	ne conference a	and annual bus	siness meeting	·.
F				Business I	
Please indicate if you need a certificate of attendance (circle selection):		Yes	No	Yes	No

**No Refunds for Cancellations** 











# 2014 ENVIROTHON: FORESTRY (& More!) TRAINING WORKSHOP

# Sponsored by: Unity College &

# The Maine Association of Conservation Districts, Envirothon Committee

In cooperation with

## **The Maine Forest Service**

**Date:** Friday, March 21, 2014 Time: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch to follow, provided by Unity College

Schedule: PROGRAM

8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Registration
8:45 - 8:55 a.m. Introductions
9:00 - 9:45 a.m. Session 1
9:50 -10:35 a.m. Session 2
10:35 - 10:45 a.m. Break
10:50 - 11:35 p.m. Session 3
11:40 - 12:25 p.m. Session 4
12:30 p.m. Lunch

## **Student Stations/Topics:**

GPS / MAPS / COMPASS

FORESTRY TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

TREE ID / KEY

SILVICULTURE / MANAGEMENT

WILDLIFE

#### **Advisor Station**

**CURRENT ISSUE** 

#### Register your team(s) with Josh Platt, ME Envirothon Coordinator:

Email: josh@kcswcd.org

Mail: KCSWCD

21 Enterprise Drive, Suite # 1

Augusta, Me 04330

## Indicate in your email or letter:

- 1. Advisor Name
- 2. School Name
- 3. Number of Teams Attending (can be more than two, if desired!)
- 4. Number of Students Attending (so we may plan ahead for lunch)

Once teams have registered, a second announcement will be sent with a rotation schedule.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY - MARCH 14th, 2014.

NOTE: Project Learning Tree (PLT) may have a tree trunk or two available for teams to take home with them when they leave the training. PLT does not have enough for each team and the trunks are heavy and cumbersome. Tree trunks will be handed out on a first/come first serve basis!