

The Obligate



MAINE
ASSOCIATION OF
WETLAND
SCIENTISTS

P.O. Box 202
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

October 1994

The Newsletter of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

Vol. 4 No. 3

President's Message

Greetings Everyone. This summer, as usual, flew by. We continued to monitor the Federal Register for Publication of the Wetland Delineator Certification Program (WDCP) by the Corps. I spoke with Karen Kockenboch of the Corps on 29 August, to see if she was aware of when the WDCP proposed rules were going to be published. She indicated that they had intended to be published last spring, then during the summer, and now possibly in October. They were waiting for clearance from Washington. We will continue to stay on top of this issue.

Sid Pilgrim has been offering WDCP training classes this fall and is expected to continue to offer them in the future. While no one is certified by the Corps to provide the WDCP training, it is likely that Sid will become certified once the program begins. With this in mind everyone should be aware that the final regulations have not been adopted yet, and are subject to revision. MAWS will be providing comments when the WDCP rules are published. I expect that we will address the issue of mandatory training for everyone. Please call me if you have comments or questions regarding this program.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the State Planning Office (SPO) has formed the State Wetlands Task Force. The Task Force was formed to assist with the development of a report on the feasibility of the State applying to assume permitting jurisdiction over wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In addition to the main Task Force group, there are five work groups (WG) helping with this effort: Regulatory, Inventory, Mitigation, Public Information and Education, and Assessment. The Task Force and Work Groups are comprised of a mosaic of state and federal agency representatives, as well as members of conservation and development groups. MAWS is on the main Task Force and on several Work Groups. **Members of MAWS are strongly encouraged to attend meetings and provide input.** Those interested in helping with this project need to contact Jackie Sartoris, the person in charge of coordinating and conducting this project for the SPO, at 287-3261.

As always, if anyone has questions, comments, or topics of interest, please give me a shout at 729-1199.

1994 Executive Committee

John P. Lortie, President
Colen R. Peters, President-Elect
David P. Cowan, Secretary
Alan Burnell, Treasurer
Wende Rosier, Member-at-Large

1994 Standing Committee Chairs

Ethics: Rick Jones
Legislative: Peter Tischbein
Membership: Don Phillips
Program: Sally Rooney

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A Merry Meeting

As usual, the fall MAWS meeting was one of the grand social events of the season. After meeting in the parking lot of the Richmond public landing, our wetland scientists were introduced to the IF&W, Ducks Unlimited, MDOT, and Gary Nash wetland creation and "enhancement" project at the Raines Farm by Gene DuMont. The project began as mitigation for 20 acres of wetland fill in 1974, when I-95 was under construction. MDOT sunk a few thousand dollars into lining the road embankment with clay to seal a wetland basin along the northwest side of the highway at the Richmond exit overpass (the enormous chainlink fence around the wetland wasn't free either!). Because of difficulties with the landowner and some permitting and funding technicalities prior to the purchase of the land by Gary Nash, the project was not completed until this past summer. The new riser structure is expected to flood up to 100 acres, depending on the cooperation of adjacent land owners and the weather. The existing wetland is emergent and shrub, but lacks an open water component. The enhanced wetland will have open water and a larger emergent component. IF&W had found that these wetland habitats were needed for breeding bird habitat within close proximity to Merrymeeting Bay.

After the overview of the Raine's Farm project, we headed to Swan Island with Rusty Dike of IF&W and Barbara St. John Vickery of The Nature Conservancy, on Rusty's flat bottom skiff. Steve most hastily and in almost complete control, drove the lot of us to the south end of the island, while Rusty, holding on tenaciously, gave us the history of settlement and the rise and fall of the famed Swan Island deer herd. I for one was amazed at the huuuuuge tracts of land that were regularly mowed. This is done apparently to maintain the historical integrity of the island. We reached the southern end of the island, minus Sally's hat which was ripped from her head due to Steve's breakneck pace, and were treated to Barbara's presentation of Merrymeeting Bay. The Blue-winged teal were just moving through as she described the bay's national and state significance; it is one of the few remaining freshwater tidal estuaries that is relatively intact. The bay can be divided into three zones based on intertidal elevations; the mud flats with rosette forming plants, the tall graminoid zone dominated

by wild rice and bulrushes, and the area along the intertidal edge with overhanging trees. There are rare plants found in each of these zones, including the endangered stiff arrowhead, and the threatened Long's bittercress, Parker's pipewort, estuary beggar's-tick, and lilaeopsis. Unfortunately, the trip was planned during a high tide and we could only find the more common bay plants. An excellent paper was published by our beloved Norman Fassett in 1928 in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History (Vol 39, No. 3 *good luck*) called The Vegetation of the Estuaries of Northeastern North America which includes specific site descriptions of the flora in parts of Merrymeeting.

—Josh Royte

1995 Nominations

It's that time of year again. Time for YOU to think about running for office. Yes, it's too late to announce your run for the Blaine House under the Wetland Scientist party, but please do consider nominating yourself or another Active Member for one of the MAWS positions listed below. Remember, the current President-Elect becomes the President in 1995 and the President moves to Member-at-Large, so the latter two positions get no nominees. The positions are:

President-Elect	Ethics Committee Chair
Secretary	Legislative Committee Chair
Treasurer	Membership Committee Chair
	Program Committee Chair

1995 should be an interesting year to be part of MAWS' Executive Committee (made up of the officers and standing committee chairs). A new interagency soil morphology key is due out in January for use with the 1987 Manual, the federal certification program for delineators *may* see the light of day, Maine is formulating a new wetlands conservation plan, and the SWS annual meeting will be in our neck of the woods in June. This is your year to get involved. Call Betsey Day at 846-3598 with your suggestions for nominees or mail them in. (I could also use some assistance on the nominating committee!) See you at the November meeting. Thanks!

Calendar of Events

MAWS

MAWS Fall Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 1994

Meeting Place: Arey Hall, Colby College

Time: 6:30-8:30

Program: Jackie Sartoris, Maine State
Planning Office

Jackie is the Coordinator of the State Wetlands Conservation Program. She will be speaking about the program and how MAWS members can assist.

Members: Bring any questions you have to ask Jackie.

Quarterly Meetings/Programs

February 22, 1995 (Annual Meeting)
Program TBA

Regional

NHAWS

For information about NHAWS educational programs, contact Richard Cook at (603) 224-9909.

RIPARIAN BUFFER ZONE CONFERENCE

November 21-22, 1994, Sturbridge, MA
Contact Ted Pickering, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England, P.O. Box 258, Storrs, CT 06288 (617) 630-6260.

National

Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Meeting

May 30 - June 3, 1995, Boston, MA

For more information, contact Doug Sparrow (401) 521-5980 or Mickey Marcus (413) 256-0202.

National Interagency Workshop on Wetlands: Technology Advances for Wetlands Science.

April 3-7, 1995, New Orleans, LA. Contact U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station (601) 634-2569/4217.

Abstracts invited for 1995 Estuarine and Marine Shallow Water Conference. Topics: Shoreline Erosion Control, Dredging, Functions and Values of Shallow Water Habitats, Impacts and Assessments, and Current Management Practices. Scheduled for April 3-7, 1995 in Atlantic City, NJ. Contact Ralph Spagnalo (215) 597-3642 or Edward Ambrogio (215) 597-3697.

Professional Training Services

Institute for Wetland & Environmental Education & Research (IWEER), P.O. Box 331, Sherborne, MA 01770-0331

The State University of New Jersey - Rutgers, Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education, P.O. Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0231

Environmental Concern, Inc., P.O. Box P, St. Michaels, MD 21663, (410) 745-9620

Wetland Training Institute, P.O. Box 1022, Poolesville, MD 20737-0099, (301) 972-8112

National Wetland Science Training Cooperative, 221 First Avenue West, Suite 415, Seattle, WA 98119, (206) 283-0673



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