



The Obligate

Maine
Association of
Wetland
Scientists
www.maws.me

c/o Lauren Leclerc, TRC
14 Gabriel Drive, Augusta, ME
04330



President's Message *Brad Agius*

Dear MAWS Members,

It has been a tremendous honor to serve you as the MAWS President over the past two years. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know many of you and have appreciated your support, input and feedback. We have shared many successes and laid the groundwork for several new initiatives. When I began my tenure in 2015, I outlined five focal areas to keep us poised for the challenges and opportunities ahead: 1) education, 2) science, 3) outreach, 4) partnerships, and 5) membership. Together, we strengthened each of these areas. For example, we expanded our research stipend awards by 50%, grew our membership by 9%, and increased our account balance by 67%. We established a credit card payment system, which now allows our members and users to register online for events, pay membership dues, and purchase MAWS merchandise (find us at <http://mainewetlands.org/>). This new system allows for real-time record keeping and helps us better anticipate event participation. In its first year, the majority of MAWS Annual Meeting and Winter Conference attendees opted to register through the online system. We expect this easier payment and registration system will bolster interest and participation in MAWS events. We continue to grow our outreach efforts through the MAWS website, email list serve, Obligate newsletters, and Facebook page. Check these portals often to stay current on the latest wetland and natural resource information, upcoming events, proposed state and national rules and regulations, and opportunities for professional development.

We co-sponsored two Sebago Lake State Park Natural Resource workshops with the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS), Maine Association of Site Evaluators (MASE), and spearheaded by Dave

Rocque (Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry). MAWS worked with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and over 100 Conservation Partner organizations to revise Maine's Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The Plan identifies 378 Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their habitats, including numerous species associated with wetland ecosystems. We added a poster session to the MAWS Annual Meeting and Winter Conference in 2015 and doubled participation in the 2016 session. Speaking of the Annual Meeting, it will be held at Bowdoin College on March 23rd with an exciting speaker line-up focusing on Wetlands Restoration. Special thanks to our Program Chair, Sarah Watts, who is coordinating the scientific research, regulatory, and wetlands work being presented at the Annual Meeting. The Legislative Committee has reviewed and provided MAWS' professional expertise on countless federal regulations and state legislative documents. In addition, the technical committee has been working on language refining wetlands of special significance in Maine Department of Environmental Protection Chapter 310: Wetlands and Waterbodies Protection, as well as developing a stream protocol.

I have only touched on a few of our accomplishments, which were not possible without the collaborative efforts of the entire MAWS membership. In particular, the Executive Committee, Standing Committee chairs and committee members, and many MAWS volunteers work tirelessly to keep this organization vital and engaged. I would like to give special thanks to Rod Kelshaw for his eight years as the MAWS Legislative Committee chair. While he, too, is nearing the end of his tenure, our legislative work will continue as we navigate new directives and relationships among state and federal programs. I suspect this may be a very active legislative era in Maine and nationally, with the phrase "drain the swamp" used widely as a political rallying cry.

Presented for March 23, 2017

The Obligate Volume 23, www.MAWS.me

The Obligate is published by the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists. Submissions are encouraged.

Assembled by L. Leclerc February 2017



Over the last two years, I dedicated my tenure to being a good steward of MAWS, moving forward the ground work laid by previous leaders while incorporating new innovations and approaches. MAWS is in excellent hands, as I pass the tiller on to Danielle Tetreau, who has been a knowledgeable and enthusiastic President-Elect. As I sail off into the sunset, I encourage you to get involved, stay engaged, and uphold our long-standing tradition of professional integrity. We are on the front lines of wetland stewardship, and our work is crucial to maintaining the healthy waters and lands that support us all.

All the best,

--Brad

Incoming President’s Message *Danielle Tetreau (2017-2019)*

What a time to take the helm of an environmental group! I have hope and I have concerns. I worry that denying climate change and science (or facts in general) will affect the public’s opinions of our role in studying, mapping, protecting, and permitting natural resources; but this also gives me hope that our group, as little as it is, has a place and a unique opportunity to educate our neighbors about the value of science and wetlands in this world. The wetland scientists that formed our group nearly 30 years ago developed this mission statement:

To institute a non-profit organization that will promote the profession and understanding of wetland science in Maine and protect the public interest by:

- Establishing a code of ethics and maintaining high professional standards of practice.
- Establishing professional qualifications and certifying those qualifications to the public.
- Implementing and participating in educational programs pertaining to the study of wetlands and the profession of wetland science for the Association membership and the public.
- Supporting and contributing to the expansion of the wetland science research base.

- Promoting policies that contribute to the sound stewardship of wetland resources.

In my time leading the group, I’d like to revisit this mission and make sure that it accurately represents the group’s current focus. I hope to develop a strategic plan to direct and/or refocus our work to reflect what YOU want from the organization. I’d like to expand our membership and encourage active and affiliate members to join a sub-committee or CREATE a sub-committee if there isn’t one you’re interested in!

I have hope that the new political climate won’t be all doom and gloom for science; that proposals to update our infrastructure will be real and will benefit us as professionals and constituents. Our work to educate won’t stop. We have a responsibility to share information about wetlands, wildlife, and the natural resources everyone in our state depends on.

While I can’t guarantee I’ll be at the conference portion of the meeting (thanks to a future scientist expected in the first half of March), I hope to see you all at the business meeting this year.

If anyone would like to be part of the MAWS executive or other committees please contact Danielle Tetreau (danielle.tetreau@stantec.com) or any member of the EC.

Table of Current Executive and Standing Committee Members

Brad Agius	President (2017)	brad.agius@tetrattech.com
Danielle Tetreau	President-elect (2017)	danielle.tetreau@stantec.com
Aleita (Lee) Burman	Treasurer (2017)	blburman@gmail.com
Audie Arbo	Secretary (2018)	audie.arbo@maine.gov
Sarah Watts	Program Chair (2018)	sarah.watts@tetrattech.com
Rodney Kelshaw	Legislative Chair (2017)	rodney.kelshaw@stantec.com
Katelin Nickerson	Membership Chair (2018)	katelin.nickerson@stantec.com
Kevin Ryan	Ethics Co-chair (2017)	kevinr@fbenvironmental.com
Shri Verrill	Ethics Co-chair (2017)	shri.verrill@gmail.com
Dave Brenneman	Webmaster – Communications Subcommittee	dbrenneman@trcsolutions.com
Lauren Leclerc	Obligate	lleclerc@trcsolutions.com
Roger St. Amand	Vernal Pool Technical Committee (year term expires)	roger@arc-env.com

**Report of the Webmaster – Communications
Subcommittee** *David Brenneman*

Another year has passed and little has changed with the MAWS website or other social media outreach avenues. Last year’s implementation of online payment continues to be a success and has improved the organization’s ability to track payment of dues and registrations for workshops. In 2017, we hope to offer MAWS “schwag” for sale via the website, so look for that in the first half of the year.

Now, I have a few questions for you MAWS Members! How can the MAWS website, e-mail list, and/or Facebook page reach you more effectively? What do you find the most and least useful regarding our method of outreach? How do you best like to receive updates and information from the organization? Via the website, Facebook or the e-mail list? Email me at maws.webmaster@gmail.com with an answer or with ideas, suggestions, additions, or issues with the site or the e-mail list. You can also send information regarding upcoming events, employment, or other news that you wish to have posted.

Legislative Committee Update *Rodney Kelshaw*

Well, with a heavy heart, I must inform the membership that at the 2017 MAWS annual meeting I will be stepping down as the MAWS Legislative Committee (LC) Chair.

It has been a good run and I am glad I took on the task. I learned a lot about MAWS, the legislative process, politics, how to tie a tie again, and the need for a suit that fits. I had the opportunity to meet and work with people from many groups across Maine and individuals within the MAWS membership. I want to thank the MANY people that worked with the LC to help pick topics we took on, write letters (re-write my letters to make them much better documents), and attend public comment periods and workshops in Augusta, sometimes at a moment’s notice, to represent MAWS. For those of you that are MAWS members but have not yet taken the opportunity to be a member of the executive committee, it really is a great opportunity personally and professionally so do yourself a favor and get involved.

My goal for the MAWS LC has always been to represent MAWS as an organization that is willing to provide information to help law and rule makers make their decisions based on science. We all know that MAWS is an environmentally based organization with an obligation to help protect Maine’s protected natural resources. However, despite what some people think, we have not always sided for more environmental regulation if the changes would be considered arbitrary or unnecessary. I think we have struck a nice balance between supporting appropriate legislation but not overreaching legislation. Our statements have been formed after careful review of the purpose of the proposed legislation, how the proposed legislation would actually work, and current science-based



literature. Our representation of the science was presented knowing that we have an ethical responsibility to present facts and hope that is enough for the law makers to make an informed decision.

The first regular session of the 128th Maine State Legislature convened on December 7, 2016. There are already many proposed bills passing through the joint standing committees and the LC is actively tracking these bills to determine if there are any that MAWS may want to enter the fray and provide public comment. The “mining bill” in its various forms is once again on the table and we may get involved here where it relates to wetlands and waterbodies.

On January 18, 2017, Katelin Nickerson represented MAWS at the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee orientation meeting, providing a letter to the members and public comment. It may not surprise you that, out of nowhere, she was asked about vernal pools. Unflustered, she answered the questions well and represented MAWS like a champ. We were unable to attend a similar orientation for the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW) Committee the following day, so we emailed them a letter to re-introduce MAWS to the committee membership.

If you want to keep abreast of legislative happenings, here are a couple of websites to watch:

The Maine State legislative page:

<http://legislature.maine.gov/>

128th Legislative Documents:

http://legislature.maine.gov/bills/search_ps.asp

If anyone is interested in becoming involved with the MAWS LC please contact me...oh wait...Dale Knapp.

Ethics Update *Kevin Ryan*

In 2016, MAWS awarded \$750 research stipends to Laura Garey and Jack McLachlan, both graduate students at the University of Maine. Laura is a Master’s student in the School of Biology and Ecology. Jack is a Ph.D. student in the department of Ecology and Environmental Science. Both Laura and Jack will be presenting their research at

this year’s MAWS Annual Membership Meeting on March 23rd.

Laura is a student of Dr. Brian Olsen and is researching food webs within tidal marshes. Her project is based in southern Maine and involves investigating the response of invertebrate and plant communities to avian predator removal, namely saltmarsh sparrows (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). Laura is “removing” the sparrows (and other predators) from small areas in marshes using exclosures constructed of PVC pipe and bird netting. To collect samples, Laura vacuums invertebrates in control and exclosure plots using a Ryobi leaf blower in reverse. Laura used her stipend proceeds to hire an undergraduate research assistant to identify and enumerate the collected invertebrates.



Exclosure experiments allow researchers to simulate the impact of losing tidal-marsh specialist birds on local food webs by “excluding” birds from the study area. Pictured is an avian exclosure in a Southern Maine marsh. Photo courtesy of Laura Garey.



Jack is advised by Dr. Hamish Greig. He is interested in how various environmental gradients interact to shape and determine patterns of aquatic macroinvertebrate biodiversity on spatial and temporal scales. Predicted sea level rise in Maine is expected to alter the hydrology of coastal wetlands by increasing inundation and reduce the overall area of tidal wetlands in the state. How this change in hydrology affects aquatic invertebrate communities found in tidal freshwater wetlands, and the food webs they support, is the main focus of Jack’s research.

Jack’s research takes place in the tidal freshwater wetlands surrounding Swan Island in Merrymeeting Bay. Jack will be presenting about his work on the effect of increased duration on benthic communities in tidal freshwater wetlands. He used his stipend, in part, to purchase materials necessary to construct invertebrate pitfall traps and preserve the resulting specimens.



Here, Jack and his undergraduate field assistant, Braden Adams, are laying out a transect at low tide. Photo courtesy of Jack McLachlan.

Congratulations Jack and Laura, and we look forward to hearing more about your research at the MAWS Annual Meeting in March!

The 2016 stipend application was mailed out to an extensive list of college and university professors. We are always looking to add to our list, so please feel free to forward the names and e-mails of professors and advisors that you think should get the stipend information to kevinr@fbenvironmental.com.

Membership Update *Katelin Nickerson*

Hello Members, and thank you for your membership! Without your participation, we would not have this great organization where the wetland scientist community in Maine can stay connected with each other, pursue professional development and stay tuned in to vernal pool migration across the state every spring. It is your dues that go directly to funding workshops, seminars and the winter conference and annual meeting. Member dues also go to supporting the future natural resource scientists of Maine through donating to the Maine Envirothon and granting research stipends to undergraduate and graduate students. The more paying members we have every year, the more we can give back through workshops that provide CEUs for wetland professionals and financial support to aspiring wetland scientists. MAWS welcomed five new members in 2016 and we hope to increase that number in 2017. If you have been a member in the past but have not been active in a while, or if you know someone who could benefit from becoming a member, don’t hesitate to apply. Applications and dues payments can all be done through our website and you can also check your membership status and past dues payments. As always feel free to contact me if you have questions about your membership at katelin.nickerson@stantec.com. Hope to see you all at the winter conference in Brunswick!

Program Chair Update *Sarah Watts*

Hello MAWS members!

It’s hard to believe that another year has passed and it’s already almost March again and time for our Winter Conference and Annual Meeting! Yet again, I marvel at the talent and brain-power on the MAWS Executive Committee to come up a great concept for our meeting and identify and secure superb speakers! In this sidebar of gratuitous back-patting, worry not about me spraining my arm: I must emphasize that my focus is outward on the many dedicated members of the MAWS Executive Committee who brainstormed the ideas, shared the workload, made the calls to their contacts, and took the first steps to secure the speakers! I simply tied it all up in a nice package with a bow! So, I am very much looking forward to a return to Bowdoin for the MAWS Winter



Conference and Annual Meeting this year! The Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2017, at Thorne Hall, Bowdoin College, in Brunswick, Maine.



Thomas Bay Salt Marsh Restoration, Adams Road inlet, pre-construction, 8-9-2011. Photo courtesy of Matt Craig of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.



Thomas Bay Salt Marsh Restoration, Adams Road inlet, post-construction, 9-2-2011. Photo courtesy of Matt Craig of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.

Visit http://www.cascobayestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2012_cbep_thomas_bay_marsh_restoration.pdf for more information on the Thomas Bay Salt Marsh Restoration.

Our theme this year is on Habitat Restoration & Mitigation for Wetlands and Watercourses. After Brad Agius kicks things off in his last stand as MAWS

President, Dr. John Field from Field Geology Services will share some lessons learned from his experience with river alterations past. Following that, Josh Royte of The Nature Conservancy will discuss how road stream-crossings screw up streams, and what TNC is doing to turn that around, Troy Barry will present on the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District's stream restoration work, and Cole Peters of Power Engineers will share some of his experiences with wetland compensation in Maine. Dr. David Burdick of the University of New Hampshire will discuss salt marsh threats and restoration, followed by our two 2016 stipend winners—Laura Garey and Jack McLachlan—who look like great up-and-comers in studying and understanding Maine's tidal systems!

During the lunch and poster session break, we invite attendees to spend some time checking out the posters and talk to the authors about their research. Posters will be set up on easels around the room -- we still have space for posters if anyone is considering it – contact me or Danielle Tetreau! The poster session is intended to be a low key, informal way for individuals, students, or professionals to present academic or professional research, and talk to current wetlands professionals, build their contact list, meet potential future employers, and get feedback from the industry about their research.

After lunch, we'll hear from Dawn Hallowell (Maine Department of Environmental Protection [MDEP]), and Ruth Ladd and Jay Clement (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] New England District) about regulatory updates and the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP). Dr. Joe Zydlewski, of US Geological Survey – Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Professor at University of Maine will update us on his work related to dams and fish. Finally, Dave Rocque will give us an update on Version 4 of the New England Indicators and will provide info on the ENVIROTHON.

After a short break, we'll hold the Annual Business Meeting, which everyone is welcome to attend. More than likely, this will be followed by some afterhours fun at a local establishment in downtown Brunswick. Please feel free to join us!



As usual, we are seeking approval for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting from the State Site Evaluator for the Subsurface Wastewater Program and the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Code Enforcement Officers (CEO) Program. We'll be providing Certificates of Attendance for this event. We will also be providing a limited number of handouts (PowerPoint notes pages) of the speaker presentations again this year; come early to make sure you get a copy!

We are keeping the registration fee structure consistent with last year: registration is \$45 for MAWS members (not including annual dues); \$60 for non-members; and \$20 for students. For payment received AFTER March 13, 2017 (10 days prior to the event), including payment at the door, add \$10: \$55 for MAWS members; \$70 for non-members. Student registration will remain \$20. We look forward to seeing you there!

Since last year's Annual Meeting, MAWS co-sponsored the Sebago Lake State Park Soils and Natural Resources Workshop with MAPSS and MASE. Back by popular demand and with the indefatigable support of Dave Rocque, MAWS, MAPSS, and MASE held an expanded workshop at Sebago Lake State Park in Casco, Maine, in September 2016. This workshop included expanded wetland components thanks to the efforts of MAWS Executive Committee members Brad Agius, Aleita Burman, Danielle Tetreau, and Katelin Nickerson, who in the spring and summer of 2016 conducted vernal pool surveys and delineated the wetlands at several of the sites:

- Sites 4 & 5 had Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) vernal pool data forms completed with maps showing regulatory areas,
- Sites 6 & 7 had USACE North Central Northeast paired upland and wetland data forms with flagged wetland boundaries, and
- Site 7 had a functions and values assessment with a focus on hydrologic indicators.



Is this feature a permanent impoundment? Vernal pool? Part of the lake? Hmmmm. Photo courtesy of member and Incoming President, Danielle Tetreau.

MAWS representatives manned these sites the day of the workshop to explain the work and answer any questions. It was a great event!!

In thinking about future events for MAWS for 2017, and about the Program Chair position, it would seem that 8 years as Program Chair is the right amount of time for me, and the time will come—at the 2018 meeting—for me to hand the reins to someone else. Anyone that is interested in an exciting, wetlands-focused position in a friendly, fast-paced environment, please contact me! Oh, and for anyone that is contemplating the Program Chair role on the MAWS Executive Committee, my phone lines and email are open, too!

If you have ideas for an upcoming workshop, please let me know!

See you in March!!

If anyone has a workshop idea or would like to assist in organizing workshops and activities, please contact Program Chair, Sarah Watts (sarah.watts@tetrattech.com) or (207) 358-2383. She would gladly accept your help! ☺



MAWS Vernal Pool Technical Committee Update

Roger St. Amand

2016 has been a busy year! The MAWS Vernal Pool Technical Committee (VPTC) (Aleita Burman, Richard Jordan, Rodney Kelshaw, Dale Knapp, Jim Logan, Kathleen Miller, Heather Storlazzi Ward, and myself) bolstered by MAWS President Brad Agius and President-Elect Danielle Tetreau have put in a substantial amount effort on the following major topics:

- Vernal Pool Special Area Management Plan (SAMP)
- Wetlands of Special Significant (WOSS) - Chapter 310
- Stream Determination Protocol

After the 2016 annual meeting there was a flurry of activity related to the USACE announcement about the proposed SAMP. The VPTC and interested MAWS members, spearheaded by our fearless President, Brad Agius, attended meetings and also met with the USACE and members of the SAMP team to discuss the plan. MAWS provided a response letter regarding the SAMP to the USACE on April 7th requesting additional public hearings. The letter outlined support for the general concept, but voiced concerns and raised questions about several details of the proposed implementation. MAWS was not the only group with concerns; notable comments also came from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and MDIFW. The USACE then held additional meetings to hear concerns and accept input over the summer. Revisions were made to the proposed SAMP and it was adopted by the USACE in September. More details can be found on the USACE website:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Media/News-Releases/Article/950064/corps-maine-dep-sign-document-for-a-special-area-management-plan-for-vernal-poo/>

The VPTC met with Mike Mullen at DEP in May to discuss a proposed “Stream Determination Protocol” and proposed edits to WOSS language in MDEP Chapter 310 rules. Lee Burman has been spearheading the efforts to address the WOSS issues and at the meeting provided a

summary of why the current rules can be challenging to work with. (Incidentally, this issue has been on the MAWS agenda since 2006, when the same concerns were discussed with Mike!) MDEP is interested in working with MAWS to develop changes to improve “regulatory predictability” and make better calls on WOSS determinations. Over the year, the VPTC met to develop suggested edits to the protocol, and then met with MDEP again this winter to review and further edit the language. Draft 310 language has since been submitted to MDEP.

The suggested edits included clarification to define a WOSS as the area within 250 feet of the significant feature, as is currently done for a subset of WOSS under the rules, and clarification on the definitions of “emergent marsh vegetation” and “peatlands.” The VPTC worked hard to propose the minimal amount of changes to make the 310 language more effective. This was done specifically to make review and approval by MDEP as simple and straightforward as possible. These draft edits are under review, so there are no official changes yet, but stay tuned for updates!

During the May 9th meeting with MDEP, the stream determination protocol was also discussed to provide clarification and better “regulatory predictability” regarding stream determinations. MDEP is interested in working with MAWS to develop this. It seems the current stream definitions would require major substantive rulemaking to change and that may prove difficult based on past efforts to modify the language.

Currently, the best path may be developing interpretations of the stream definition that could be adopted as MDEP internal policy through the form of the protocol. MAWS will continue to provide momentum and direction on the issue, with the goal of the “official” protocol coming from MDEP. This topic is ongoing and will continue to evolve in 2017. Tom Danielson and Mike Mullen are working on this at MDEP, while the VPTC committee is reviewing possible approaches, including how streams are handled in other regions of the country. North Carolina has developed a protocol that might be worth a look. If folks have thoughts or experience with stream protocols in other regions that could be applicable in Maine, or want to be involved, please reach out at the



Annual Meeting or via email at: roger@arc-env.com. I saw this quote from Aldo Leopold today, “One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of a March thaw, is the spring.” So keep your ear to the sky...spring is just around the corner!



New Certification for Ecological Restoration Practitioners, World's First Certification Program for Ecological Restoration

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) is pleased to announce the world's first certification program for ecological restoration practitioners and practitioners-in-training. Certification is intended to encourage a high professional standard for practitioners who are designing, implementing, overseeing, and monitoring restoration projects throughout the world.

“As more and more countries invest in ecosystem and ecological restoration to meet climate and conservation targets, the need for certified practitioners only increases. SER is eager to meet this growing need with our new program,” said Bethanie Walder, SER Executive Director.

The program includes two levels of certification: Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners (CERPs) and Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioners-in-Training (CERPITs). Both certifications are based on five key requirements:

1. Knowledge base
2. Professional-level experience
3. Familiarity with and understanding of **SER foundation documents** about ecological restoration
4. References to demonstrate character and skills

5. Compliance with the SER Code of Ethics and disciplinary policy

SER's certification program is a credentialing program; it guarantees that certified practitioners meet a certain set of minimum requirements, but it does not audit the quality of any individual's work. Certification will require both an understanding of the science of ecological restoration and a minimum of five years of actual, on-the-ground practice as well. Certification will be valid for 5 years from the date of approval and may be renewed if sufficient continuing education credits are obtained. The continuing education requirement will encourage practitioners to continuously engage in and actively contribute to the advancement of the field of ecological restoration while also enhancing their skills and knowledge.

Investment and support for ecological restoration is growing rapidly all across the globe, but standards are minimal. SER's certification program provides numerous benefits to the field. Most importantly, the SER certification program is designed to improve the quality of ecological restoration projects on the ground. The program has multiple other benefits as well. Academic institutions with ecological restoration degree programs can use the knowledge requirements to evaluate curricula so that graduates will have the core competencies specific to the field. The certification program will benefit individuals by increasing professional status through formal recognition of their training and experience. Finally, employers, agencies, organizations, and the general public will benefit by easily being able to identify those practitioners who meet the high standard set by SER.

“We are excited to participate in SER's new certification program and to help further professionalize this field. In this era of increasing ecological change, credentialed professionals to help address today's emerging issues in restoration will be critical. SER's certification program will help us deliver higher quality restoration on the ground, to the benefit of the environment and practice as a whole. We see ecological restoration as an increasingly important core service that our company can provide, and being able to demonstrate competence through the



certification program will be important to our clients.” said Paul Davis, Head of Ecological Services at GZA.

- Share program info with your friends and colleagues.

The Application Window is Open!

SER is currently accepting CERP and CERPIT applications. The current open application period runs until March 17, 2017. The next open application period will run from July 17 through September 15, 2017.

- Check out the website to find more information.
- If you are interested, apply to be a Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner or Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner-in-Training.

Additional information about the certification program is available at: <http://www.ser.org/page/certification>

About the Society for Ecological Restoration

The **Society for Ecological Restoration** is an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting ecological restoration as a means of sustaining the diversity of life on Earth and re-establishing an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture.

For information on the **Society for Ecological Restoration – New England Chapter**, please contact Sarah Watts at sarah.watts@tetrattech.com or (207) 358-2383.

MAWS Financial Statement - 2016	
From January 01, 2016 - December 31, 2016	
Respectfully Submitted to MAWS Membership, January 13, 2017, by Aleita Burman, Treasurer	
Beginning Balance 01/01/16	\$ 7,120.06
Ending Balance 12/31/16	\$ 9,990.22
	2016 GAIN \$ 2,870.16
INCOME	
1 Annual Meeting (Bowdoin College - 31Mar2016)	\$ 4,155.00
2 Membership Dues	\$ 2,540.00
3 MAWS Merchandise	\$ 42.50
4 MAWS Twig ID Workshop (Viles Arboretum - 28JAN2016)	\$ 795.00
5 MAWS Bat Workshop (Viles Arboretum- 09MAR2016)	\$ 2,425.00
(A) TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,957.50
EXPENDITURES	
1 Annual Meeting (Bowdoin College - 31MAR2016)	\$ 3,194.08
2 MAWS Twig ID Workshop (Viles Arboretum - 28JAN2016)	\$ 411.90
3 MAWS Bat Workshop (Viles Arboretum- 09MAR2016)	\$ 365.72
4 Envirothon Grant	\$ 1,000.00
5 Student Research Stipend Award (2@\$750)	\$ 1,500.00
6 Sec. State Fee	\$ 35.00
7 Bank Fees, Stripe & Squarespace Fees, Annual Mtg Reimbursements (double pay)	\$ 580.64
(B) TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 7,087.34
	2016 GAIN (A-B) \$ 2,870.16
GAIN / LOSS	
1 Annual Meeting	\$ 960.92
2 Membership Dues	\$ 2,540.00
3 MAWS Merchandise	\$ 42.50
4 Workshops	\$ 2,442.38
5 Envirothon Grant / Student Stipends	\$ 2,500.00
6 Other Expenses	\$ 615.64
	2016 GAIN \$ 2,870.16



Maine Association of Wetland Scientists Annual Business Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Subject: Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) Annual Meeting

Date: March 31, 2016

Time: 3:10 PM – 5:17 PM

Location: Thorne Hall, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine

Attendees: MAWS Membership and Executive Committee

Brad Agius called the annual business meeting to order at 3:10 PM. Brad thanked Steve Knapp for his work as secretary.

Executive Committee

Program Chair Report:

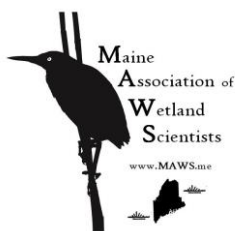
Sarah provided an update on the Obligate. Discussed future workshop ideas: Pam Morgan possible collaboration, Paul/Erica for functions workshop. Noted that the bat workshop surveys had not been downloaded yet but about 20 people had responded. It was discussed if members thought surveys were useful. Most thought they were. It was noted that MAWS had stepped up its functionality in Sebago Workshop. It was also noted that vernal pools in Sebago were going to be surveyed this spring, possibly on Monday.

Brad thanked Sarah for workshops put on this year.

Legislative Chair Report:

Legislative updates were covered during the meeting.

Rod noted that the Executive and Vernal Pool Committees need to respond to SAMP. Jim Boyle noted that MDEP has a new Commissioner. Audie Arbo shared he is heavy on education outreach. MDEP was discussed regarding staff attendance of workshops. Discussed cost to regulators attending workshops versus stipends versus free attendance and would it be all workshops or just Sebago Workshop for possible discount. Discussed MAWS sending an introductory letter to MDEP Commissioner Paul Mercer (Rod was tentatively tasked with this). Discussed MAWS/MDEP interactions in more depth and suggested talking to Mark Bergeron (Land Resources Bureau Director) before letter is sent to Paul Mercer. Jim Boyle also noted that the Board of Environmental Protection will have a new member- Kathleen Chase. This process includes a public hearing with committee to occur, then nomination presented to Senate. The timeline for this process is until April 20, 2016.



Treasurer's Report:

The 2015 treasurer's report was presented in the 2016 Obligate. Lee gave an overview of MAWS finances. We started the year with \$6,000 and ended the year with \$7,100. MAWS received \$840 from annual dues, paid out \$2,000 for stipend/Envirothon scholarship; and ended with a \$1,153 profit for the year. It was noted that MAWS increased the student stipends from \$1,000 to \$1,500, so there will be an extra expense reflected in next year's total.

Chris Dorion moved to accept the treasure's report. The motion was seconded, none opposed. The motion passed.

Membership Report:

Katelin noted that online registration was helpful for collecting membership dues. The membership application form is being updated in the next few weeks. MAWS is made up of mostly active members, with approximately 100 members.

Q: (Dale) How did the students sign up?

A: Administrators signed them up.

Q: (Rich) Any students from Bowdoin?

A: (Lee) Not sure.

Q: (Jim) How about other Professionals?

Discussion about other professionals who might be interested in MAWS/annual meeting: non-profits, policy people, project managers, MEREDA, municipalities, Maine Association of Planners, Maine State Bar, and engineers were all groups suggested. Discussed the possible mixing up of themes for annual meeting to get different types of people to attend.

Q: (Jim) Do we want to do all this in the EC meeting to annual MAWS meeting?

Q: (Rod) How do we want to brand ourselves?

Discussion: (Lee) Do we need diversification of what MAWS is doing? Does MAWS want to increase outreach or are we trying to get new members? (Cole) He doesn't want to lose quality of agenda to get more people attending. (Dale) Natural resources super group? Who can we align with? Diversify? Affiliates?

Ethics Chair Report:

Kevin provided a review of the stipend results. Standardization of scores for stipend applications was discussed. The timeline for application was moved up in advance of field season. MAWS received a limited amount of good quality applications. There was a question as to whether the stipend award should be condensed into one larger prize. Recommendations on who to reach out to as possible stipend applicants are to be forwarded to Kevin Ryan.

Jim: Could the stipend go to policy students?

Standing Committee Report

Vernal Pool Technical Committee:

Roger noted that MDEP is likely on board with a stream survey protocol being developed by MAWS. MAWS and MDEP need to be in communication regarding the development of this protocol. The MDEP wetlands of special significance definition was discussed. Jim noted that changes to this definition could be made through the legislative process and a minor technical revision though the legislature was a possibility. SAMP was noted as being a program that requires further review by this committee. It was suggested that it may benefit from a public hearing on the matter.



Outreach Committee:

Dave noted that the website is largely unchanged from last year. The only major change is the online store.

Q: (Audie) MAPSS has emails and expertise on website- Can MAWS do something like that?

A: Discussion about feasibility of this for MAWS.

Brad thanked Dave for his hard work on the website. He also thanked Lauren for the hard work on the Obligate.

Other Items:

Elections:

Open positions include Program Chair, Membership Chair, and Secretary. Secretary (Steve Knapp) must be replaced as term is up. The nominees are Sarah Watts for Program Chair, Katelin Nickerson for Membership Chair, and Audie Arbo for Secretary.

Dorion motions to accept all nominees. None opposed. The motion passed.

Research Stipends

Research stipends amounts were discussed. The award increased last year from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each stipend award recipient received \$500 last year. It was noted that MAWS has an increase in its account balance and the question was asked what we should do with that money.

Jim motioned to keep the award total at \$1,500. The motion was seconded, none opposed. The motion passed.

Envirothon:

Dale motioned to provide the customary \$1,000 to Envirothon. There was discussion of increasing this amount. The motion was seconded, none opposed. The motion passed.

Open Floor Discussion:

Rod brought up branding the organization and there was discussion of the goals for MAWS. The EC needs to look at the MAWS mission statement for guidance.

Ethics training was brought up. The suggestion of a webinar was proposed. It was noted that ethics training was not well attended in the past. Dale noted that SWS has ethics training.

Brad moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Audie Arbo

MAWS Secretary

6/16/2016



MAWS Business Meeting Agenda 2017 Annual Meeting - March 23

1. President's Introduction and Update – Danielle Tetreau
2. Executive & Standing Committee Updates
 Secretary Update (approval of minutes from 2016 annual meeting) – Audie Arbo
 Program Chair Update – Sarah Watts
 Legislative Chair Update – Rod Kelshaw
 Treasurer Update – Lee Burman
 Membership Chair Update – Katelin Nickerson
 Ethics Chair Update – Kevin Ryan and Shri Verrill
 Ad-hoc Subcommittees:
 Education/Student Outreach Committee – Lee Burman
 Vernal Pool Technical Committee – Roger St. Amand
 Outreach Committee (maws.me & Obligate) – Dave Brenneman and Lauren Leclerc
3. Executive Committee Elections (*2-year terms*)

Open Committee Chair Position	Nominees (<i>nominations will also be accepted from the floor</i>):
President-elect	Bryan Emerson
Treasurer	Aleita (Lee) Burman (<i>incumbent</i>)
Legislative Chair	Dale Knapp
Ethics Chair	Kevin Ryan (<i>incumbent</i>)

4. MAWS Research Stipend Discussion and Award Vote
5. Envirothon Donation - Discussion and Award Vote
6. Open Floor Discussion
7. President's Closing Message, Meeting Adjourns



**Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Winter Conference & Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2017
Thorne Hall (Bldg 67), Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME**

**Habitat Restoration & Mitigation for Wetlands and Watercourses
AGENDA**

- 8:00 – 8:30 **Registration**
- 8:30 – 8:35 **Welcome, Introduction of Speakers**, Brad Agius, MAWS President
- 8:35 – 9:05 **Lessons Learned from River Alterations Past**, John Field, Ph.D., PG, Fluvial Geomorphologist and President, Field Geology Services (30 min)
- 9:05 – 9:30 **Road Stream-Crossings Screw Up Streams; What TNC is Doing to Fix That**, Josh Royte, Senior Conservation Scientist, The Nature Conservancy (25 min)
- 9:30 – 10:00 **Stream Restoration**, Troy Barry, District Engineer & Geomorphologist, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (30 min)
- 10:00 – 10:20 **Maine Wetland Compensation – Some Regs, Some Plans, Some Results**, Cole Peters, Professional Wetland Scientist / Geologist, Power Engineers (20 min)
- 10:20 – 10:40 **Break**
- 10:40 – 11:20 **Salt Marsh Threats and Restoration**, David Burdick, Ph.D., Interim Director – Jackson Estuarine Laboratory and Associate Research Professor, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, University of New Hampshire (40 min)
- 11:20 – 11:40 **Exploring the Spatial and Temporal Variation in Tidal Marsh Prey Response to Avian Exclusion**, Laura Garey, M.S. Biology Candidate, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, University of Maine - Orono (20 min)
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Invertebrate Communities in Tidal Freshwater Wetlands of the Upper Kennebec Estuary**, Jack McLachlan, M.S Biology Candidate, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, University of Maine - Orono (20 min)
- 12:00 – 1:30 **Lunch & Poster Session Break**
- 1:30 – 2:15 **Regulatory Updates and Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP)**, Dawn Hallowell, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, with Ruth Ladd and Jay Clement, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District (45 min)
- 2:15 – 3:15 **Dams and Fish**, Joe Zydlewski, Ph.D., Assistant Unit Leader, US Geological Survey - Maine Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and Professor of Fisheries Science, Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Conservation Biology, University of Maine – Orono (60 min)
- 3:15 – 3:30 **Update on Version 4 of the New England Indicators & ENVIROTHON Plug**, Dave Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist (15 min)
- 3:30 – 3:45 **Break**
- 3:45 – 5:15 **Annual Business Meeting**

We will provide Certificates of Attendance for attendees at the conference for 6.0 hours of contact time for the conference and 1.5 hours for the annual business meeting. We are seeking approval for CEUs from the State Site Evaluator for the Subsurface Wastewater Program and from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development Code Enforcement Officers (CEO) Program.

**Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Winter Conference & Annual Meeting
Thursday, March 23, 2017**

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

➔ **Register** online at: <http://mainewetlands.org/store/>

For those that prefer, you may register on line, and send payment to:
Aleita Burman, MAWS Treasurer, P.O. Box 145, Orrington, ME 04474

Any questions, please feel free to call or email Sarah Watts,
MAWS Program Chair, Phone: (207) 358-2383, Email: sarah.watts@tetrattech.com

Registration should be received by March 13, 2017

No Refunds for Cancellations

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Controller's Office
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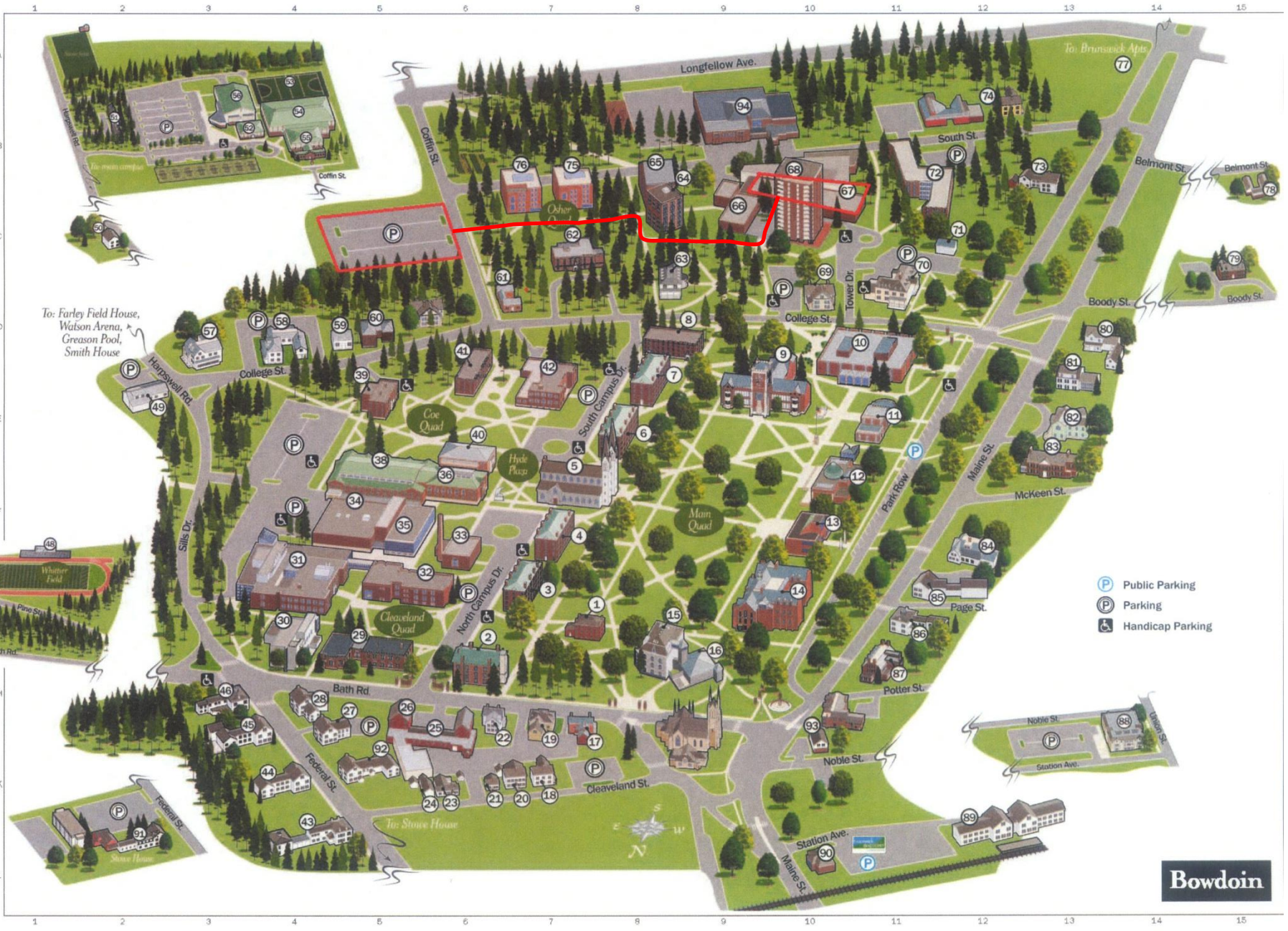
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