

The Obligate



MAINE
ASSOCIATION OF
WETLAND
SCIENTISTS

P.O. Box 202
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

September 1995

The Newsletter of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

Vol. 5 No. 2

President's Message

This issue of *The Obligate* may seem kind of thin but it's not because nothing has been going on in wetlands. Shorter and cooler days make it clear that time for the field season is at a premium which also applies to getting this brief newsletter out on deadline.

Agenda, directions, and other details on the Wednesday, September 27, 1995 workshop at the University of Maine at Orono on the new **Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England** appear elsewhere in this issue. Steve Howell, President of MAPSS, Dave Rocque, Betsey Day, and others I'm sure I've failed to mention have been the stimulus for arranging this collaborative day in the field. Coming full circle and hopefully with better weather, the format is to look at the same sites last looked at by MAWS and MAPSS several years ago. Lively discussion can still be expected! The sites will be reviewed on Thursday, September 7, and anyone interested in leading a discussion on vegetation or hydrology during the workshop would be appreciated. Please let me or Betsey know if you're interested.

As you may know, in March of this year, MAPSS renewed efforts to establish technical criteria for professionals qualified to make hydric soils determinations in the course of delineating wetland boundaries. Since the update on this at the last

MAWS meeting, supplemented with input from the MAWS' Executive Committee, on July 12, Betsey Day and Jennifer West met on an ad hoc basis with Steve Howell and Hugh Durgin to begin to establish some form of interim qualifications. A preliminary list of "Minimum Qualifications" encompassing the pending Corps of Engineers' Wetland Delineator Certification Program (WDCP) and/or education and experience was developed. Evaluation of a wetland delineator's qualifications by a joint MAWS/MAPSS Review Panel has also been suggested. Mechanical/logistical elements and perhaps other technical criteria obviously remain to be addressed such as: the make up of the Review Panel, documentation of qualifications or how this may interface with or be addressed by the pending WDCP. Time permitting, the upcoming workshop may be an opportune time to further discuss this matter.

Certification, the latest on the WDCP schedule, and changes to wetland regulations in Maine are bound to be a topic of discussion at the next MAWS meeting scheduled for 6:30-9:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 8 in Room 207, Arey Life Sciences Building at Colby College.

Respectfully submitted,
Cole Peters

Job Announcement

Normandeau Associates, an environmental consulting firm with offices throughout the United States, has an immediate opening in its Yarmouth, Maine office for an experienced wetland scientist with one or more of the following capabilities:

- wetland delineation and assessment
- wetlands mitigation design
- plant ecology
- wildlife ecology
- EA/EIS preparation
- State and Federal permit preparation
- hydrology
- landscape architecture

The position would require a M.S. degree and several years' experience in wetland science, plus demonstrated experience in technical writing and project management. Special consideration will be given to mitigation design experience. Normandeau Associates has excellent benefits, a dynamic working environment, and competitive salaries. Interested applicants should send resumes to:

Marcia Bowen
Normandeau Associates
Box 202
Yarmouth, ME 04096

Normandeau Associates is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Volume 5 of *The Obligate* is published by the Environmental Division of Northrop, Devine & Tarbell, Inc., Portland, Maine. David Cowan, Editor; Ginger Rivers, Administrative Assistant; Colette Bouchard, Word Processor

Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England Workshop

September 27, 1995 (9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.)

University Sawmill on College Avenue Extension
University of Maine, Orono, Maine

Sponsored by: Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists and Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

Purpose of Workshop: To provide MAPSS and MAWS members the opportunity to compare the new Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England with the Field Indicators outlined in the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands.

Description: The workshop will consist of four sites in hydric soil areas where morphological features, hydrologic indicators, and plant species will be identified and evaluated with the assistance of expert soil scientists and wetland scientists. These sites are the same ones used in a 1992 workshop that also was sponsored by MAPSS and MAWS.

Registration Form

Name _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cost: \$10.00/person. Make check payable to MAWS. Please return this form and registration fee by September 13, 1995 to: Betsey Day, c/o Normandeau Associates, 82 Main Street, Yarmouth, ME 04096



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Wetland Delineator Certification Program (WDCP) Update

According to Karen Kochenbach of Corps of Engineers Headquarters, the final version of the WDCP is very close to being issued (as of mid-July). There's no question in her mind that the program will go forward. Although many letters from New England groups were in opposition to the program, the majority of those commenting on the draft were of the opinion that such a program is needed. (Note: The Corps will be drafting a special letter of response to Peter Spear, whose letter we published in our newsletter.) Also, there is no known major opposition, political or otherwise, likely to prevent implementation. The opposite is more likely, given the environmental agendas in Congress. Karen said that the Corps would likely delay implementation of the WDCP until at least October to prepare for its administration. She added that the New England Division of the Corps will have to comply, whether they agree or not, with mandated shortened permit approval timeframes for certified delineators.

NAS Wetland Characterization Study

Karen Kochenbach (see WDCP update) also noted that the Corps submitted an action plan to Congress for updating the current wetland delineation methodology. Their plan is based on the recommendations set forth in the National Academy of Sciences' wetland characterization study that was recently released. The plan includes: 1) national standards, 2) interagency regional teams, and 3) a new manual (early 1997 at the earliest). She's not sure how these recommendations will be received. It is possible that Congress will force a tighter timeframe, depending on what changes are made to the Section 404 program.



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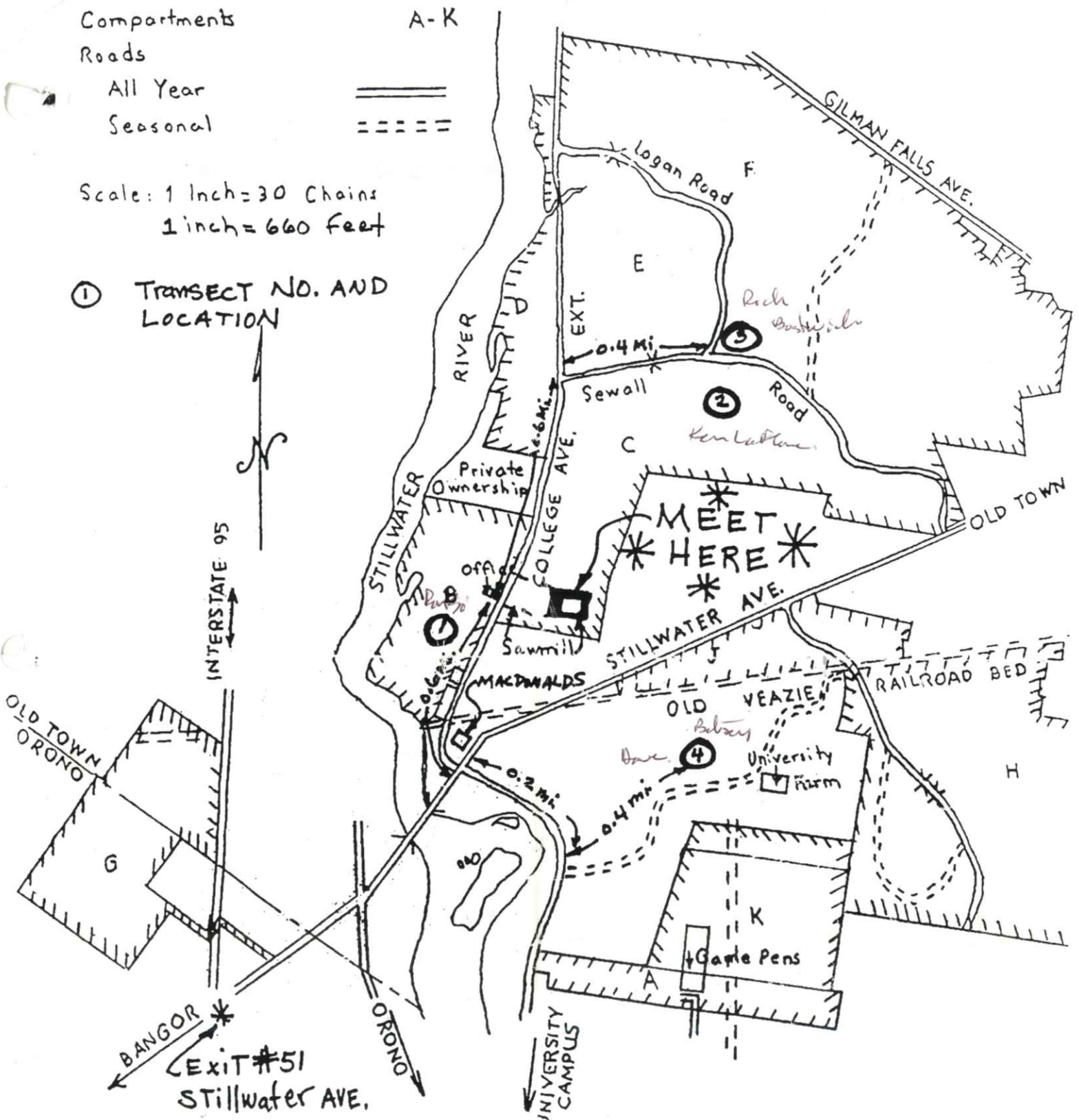


Seasonal



Scale: 1 Inch = 30 Chains
1 inch = 660 feet

① TRANSECT NO. AND LOCATION



Location of Sept. 27 Workshop