

SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP REID STATE PARK WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

By David Rocque

I have once again agreed to organize a MAPSS/MAWS/MASE Soils and Natural Resource workshop. It will be held at the same site as last year's workshop, Reid State Park in Georgetown, Maine, on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. I believe there is a lot of value for first time attendees but also for participants who went to the workshop last year and are now mulling over what you thought you saw in the field compared to what you thought you heard from the regulators. Then, there is the beneficial social interaction amongst the many professions represented by attendees, in a wonderful setting out-of-doors where you can earn CEU's for a number of certifications including Site Evaluators, contractors and CEO's. Another value is having everyone see the same actual sites in the field and then finding out their regulatory determinations, so all are on the same page. An added bonus this year will be to see how the new WOTUS Rule (Waters Of The United States) affects jurisdictional determinations made at last year's workshop by ACOE. Reid State Park is a great location and early September is a great time of year. Summer vacation is over, most of the tourists and bugs have left so the Park will not be crowded or buggy and the weather is usually very nice. There will be 16 soil pits to evaluate for soil series, septic system suitability and hydric soil determination with hydrologic soils group determinations to be made for three of the soil pits. You will also be asked to identify a number of natural resources and determine what regulations are associated with those natural resources. Last year, we included soil pits for making site specific determinations of the Hydrologic Soil Group (Ksat) using a proposed method developed by MAPSS. That new methodology has now been accepted by the DEP for use in determining stormwater treatment options so you might be interested in seeing how to apply it at actual sites. This new methodology might make the difference between treating stormwater with under-drained bio-filters or a vegetated buffer strip. There is also a site with oxyaquic (oxygenated) soils which is a common condition in Maine but not well understood so it causes problems with all manner of use and management activities on the land. The workshop includes a field portion requiring visits to 11 sites in the morning followed by an afternoon session where each site will be discussed by regulators and you can ask questions. Attendees will be provided with a set of questions to answer for each of the sites (for your own use only) and a site map. There will be assistants at most of the sites to help direct attendees to the specific parts of the sites to be evaluated and will also provide all appropriate natural resource maps of the sites necessary to make proper determinations. You will be asked to make a number of field determinations including:

1. determination of what is and isn't a vernal pool and whether it is or may be significant
2. determination of what is and isn't a stream
3. determining where the starting point is for measuring shoreland zone and natural resources protection act setbacks for river, stream, wetland, pond and ocean settings
4. determining the upland/wetland boundary
5. determining what is and isn't a wetland of special significance
6. determining where the boundary is between a coastal and freshwater wetland (how to tell the difference)
7. determining how to tell if a sandy soil in a back-sand dune is hydric
8. determining if a flood plain soil is hydric
9. determining the difference between podzolization and redoximorphic features in a spodosol
10. determining the difference between a folistic and histic epipedon and what difference it makes in making a hydric soil determination. It also makes a difference in stormwater treatment potential.

11. determining the Hydrologic Soil Group (based on saturated hydraulic conductivity of the least permeable layer above a hardpan or bedrock) of specific soil profiles as compared to the assigned representative rating based on soil series established by the NRCS using a newly adopted Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists technique that is now accepted by the DEP.
12. determining what is and isn't a jurisdictional Waters Of The United States.

In addition to field determinations, you will be asked a number of regulatory questions for each site. After visiting the sites and answering the questions, there will be a discussion of the sites at a very scenic pavilion with a beach reserved for our workshop. Participating in the discussion will be Jay Clement from the ACOE, Jim Beyer and Jeff Kalinich from DEP, Karen Bolstridge and Debra Kaczowski from LUPC and Brent Lawson from the State Plumbing Program. The idea is to provide a field exercise similar to what many of us face with our jobs on a daily basis and then to get closure for the many gray areas we typically encounter by having all of the appropriate regulators present to discuss each site and answer questions.

This workshop should have broad appeal to people who work with natural resources including: soil scientists, wetland scientists, site evaluators, foresters, engineers, planners, code enforcement officers, municipal officials, natural resource regulators, conservation commission members, lake association members and the general public who are interested in natural resource issues. It will be held in a very attractive location at a great time of year. Please use the following form to register.

NOTE: PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH SOMETHING TO DRINK AS NONE WILL BE PROVIDED AND THERE ARE LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES TO PURCHASE FOOD IN THE AREA.

**Face masks are required as is social distancing.
Please respect these requirements to keep yourself
and others safe during this workshop.**

MAPSS/MASE/MAWS
REID STATE PARK SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE
WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

AGENDA

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	REGISTRATION AT PARK ENTRANCE GATE
8:30 AM – 1:00 PM	VISIT FIELD SITES – ALL GROUPS
11:30 PM – 12:00 PM	GROUP 1 LUNCH AND TRAVEL TO PAVILLION
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	GROUP 1 DISCUSSION WITH REGULATORS
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	GROUP 2 – LUNCH AND TRAVEL TO PAVILLION
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	GROUP 1 LEAVES AND GROUP 2 ARRIVES
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	GROUP 2 DISCUSSION WITH REGULATORS
3:30 PM	WRAP UP AND ADJOURN

2020 SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 Reid State Park

The 2020 MAPSS/MAWS/MASE Soils and Natural Resource Workshop will be held at Reid State Park in the town of Georgetown, Maine, on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 from 8:30 am until 3:30 pm. Check-in will be by the gate on the Park Access (Seguinland) Road from 8:00 am to 8:30 am.

DUE TO CONCERNS REGARDING COVID-19, WEARING FACE MASKS IS REQUIRED AS IS SOCIAL DISTANCING. Not only is this requirement being made for your health and safety but out of concern for the health and safety of other participants and helpers. Carpooling is normally recommended but in light of the health and safety of all involved, carpooling should be restricted to those people who regularly associate with each other. Only the first 75 registrants will be allowed to attend one of two afternoon discussion sessions, due to the need to limit gatherings to 50 people or less (there will be regulators and station attendants at those discussions which will contribute to the head count). **People will still be allowed to register, beyond the first 75 but they will not be allowed to attend one of the afternoon discussion sessions.** Station attendants will be visiting each of the stations along with regulators, prior to the workshop, so they will be able to answer most regulatory questions for workshop participants. In addition, we are using the same station attendants at the same sites as last year, so they are quite familiar with them and regulatory determinations. During the afternoon discussion sessions, social distancing is required. To accommodate this requirement, we will be using a PA system (that we now know how to operate). Participants will congregate outside the actual pavilion, on the lawn area, either sitting or standing on the lawn or bring a folding chair for comfort. Regulators and hosts will gather at the edge of the pavilion to conduct the afternoon session. **It was not easy pulling this workshop off in light of these difficult times, but we felt it was needed, both for social/professional interaction and educations. Please do your part in making it safe and successful. Thank you.**

At the registration table, you will be given a location map to sites you are to visit as well as a few other technical handouts/keys. Assistants will be at all of the sites to point out the soil pits and other areas where you are to make observations (and determinations) and to answer questions. You have from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm to visit the sites. Note: some of the station assistants will have to leave at 11:30 to participate in the afternoon discussions so visits to those sites will be on your own or should be made prior to 11:30. These include stations # 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11. After visiting the field sites, as mentioned above, there will be two discussion sessions at the pavilion due to the need to limit gatherings to 50 or less people; the first is from 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm and the second is from 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Discussion of the sites and soils will include determinations by state, local and federal regulators and experts. **Lunch is on your own.** There aren't many places to buy your lunch in the area but there are a number of excellent places to enjoy what you bring with you including the pavilion, beaches or rocky prominences. The workshop has many interesting sites which include back sand dunes, flood plain soils, an oxyaquic soil transect with iris tubes, a new (approved by DEP) method for determining the Ksat and HSG of soils, streams, an upland to forested freshwater wetland to a salt marsh transect, vegetated stormwater buffer treatment area evaluations, where to begin measuring from for setbacks in the shoreland zone and vernal pools. These are challenging sites that will generate a good deal of discussion. Experts as well as State, local and Federal Regulators will be present to answer questions and provide valuable guidance for dealing with these difficult sites and soils. Of interest this year will be ACOE determinations based on the new WOTUS Rule as compared to determinations made last year with the former rule. See attached workshop description for more details.

The cost of the workshop is \$40.00 for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE members or associate members and \$50.00 for all others.

Please send your checks, payable to MAPSS, to:
Gary Fullerton
104 Millturn Road
Limington, Maine 04049-3141

Though registrations will be accepted the day of the workshop, for planning purposes, we ask that you register by September 1. Check www.mapss.org for background information and updates.

If you have any questions about the workshop, call Dave Rocque at 287-2666 or send him an e-mail at david.rocque@maine.gov.

Registration for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE 2020 Soils and Natural Resource Workshop
Entrance Gate on Park Access Road
Reid State Park, Georgetown, Maine

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Number Attending Workshop: _____ **X \$40.00 =** _____

_____ **X \$50.00 =** _____

Total Due: _____