

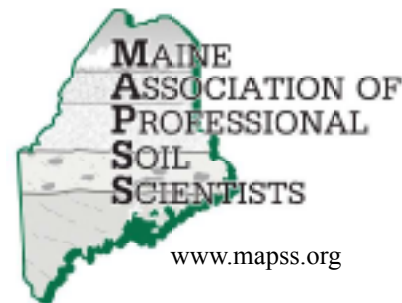
The Lay of the Land

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of Professional Soil Scientists
Volume 11, Issue #1
Winter 2007

MAPSS Reaches \$10,000 Fundraising Goal for Smithsonian Exhibit.

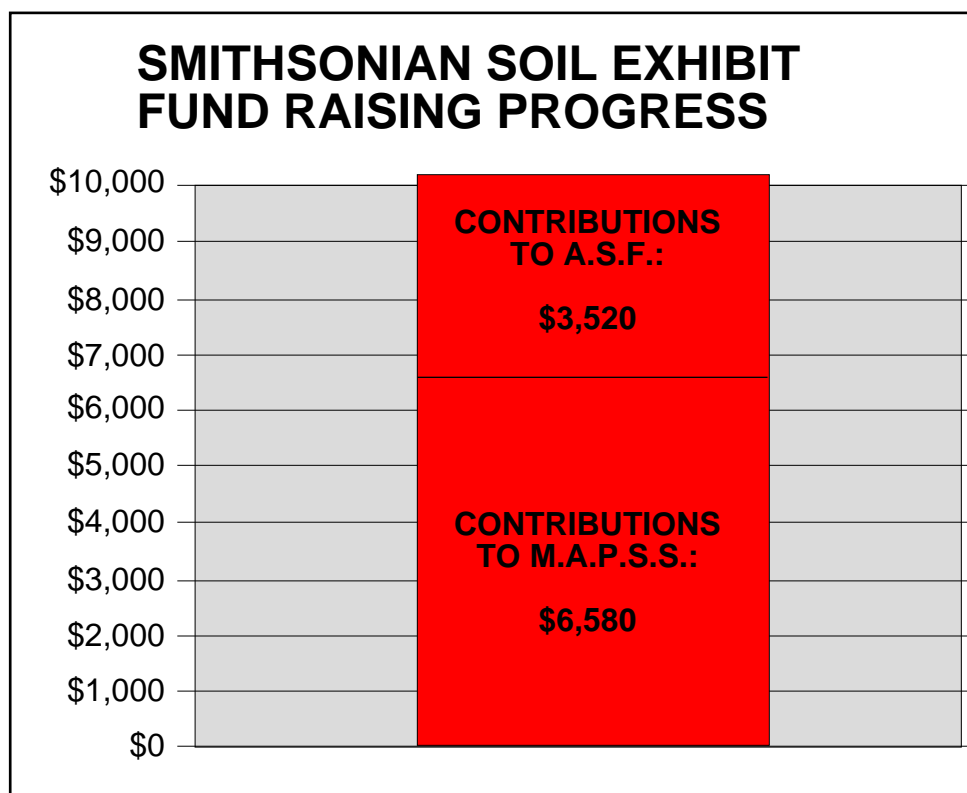
December 31, 2006, Don Phillips, CSS.

We Did It! Check out the Progress Chart below! Since you are all good soil scientists and certainly have a hand lens lying around nearby, use it to peer at the top line of the chart below and you'll see for yourselves that we've gone over the top. We not only achieved - but actually exceeded - our goal of raising \$10,000 for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History's upcoming Soils: Worlds Underfoot exhibit! With the last installment of a Thousand Dollar pledge from one of our members now safely banked and tucked away, we are now at the \$10,100 mark. With the maturation of a Certificate of Deposit later this month, we'll be contributing a grand total of about \$10,200 to the exhibit. Come 2008, go on down to Washington DC and visit the exhibit. You will see Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists engraved on the Chesuncook monolith. You will also see the names of other Thousand Dollar or more contributors listed below ours: (1) the Maine Association of Site Evaluators; (2) C.C. Dorion Geological Services; (3) Mark Hampton Associates, Inc.; and (4) David Moyse, Moyse Environmental Services. To them, I give tremendous thanks for their extraordinary generosity; but I'm nevertheless very much aware that we wouldn't even have come close without the more than Six Thousand Dollars contributed by the rest of us. So once again, the Smithsonian Fund-Raising Sub-Committee wishes to specially thank the following Individuals, Companies, and Professional Organizations for standing up when it counted for our profession.



CONTRIBUTORS

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Internships for USM Undergraduate Students with

Interests in Soils. January 8, 2007, Dr. Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh, University of Southern Maine.

What Is An Internship?

An internship is an educational strategy that combines academic skills with career-related work experience to form a well-rounded educational program. It is intended to use and improve skills characteristic of a particular field. An internship allows a student to acquire and apply practical skills in field experiences while working toward career goals, which are aligned with the goals of a supervising professional or agency. An internship bridges the gap between formal learning and active application of what is learned.

Why Do An Internship?

Most work in the environmental fields takes place in organizations, including government agencies, public interest groups, industrial and business firms, and professional consulting. Some early familiarity with how one works in such settings can make a major difference after graduation when you are in the job market or continuing your studies. Professional behavior, good communication and people skills, and the ability to effectively plan and complete a project, are some, but not all of the strengths developed during an internship experience. The national collegiate magazine "U" reports that over two-thirds of college students who successfully complete internships in organizations are eventually offered a regular job by that same host organization.

Internship Expectations

An internship is not limited to "gopher" work or bottle washing in the laboratory, although interns usually do a good deal of demanding low-level or "grunt" work, which is legitimate. An internship should involve using and improving skills in your field of interest, although sometimes you will be surprised by what some of those skills involve, including project planning, communications, ability to think critically, and problem-solving methods. An internship should involve regular contact with one or more members of the host organization; an important means to learning many new skills. In special cases, such as independent fieldwork in remote areas, some internships may not involve such regular contact.

Compensation

Ideally, an internship will be paid; however, many organizations, especially public interest organizations, environmental groups, and public agencies, cannot afford to pay, but offer valuable learning and experiential opportunities. Students should not be expected to pay your own expenses, such as for travel, materials, and lodging when performing the organization's work.

Internship Duration

The internship commitment should be approximately 120 hours. This translates into a 3-week experience working full-time at 40 hours per week. DES's internship program is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of the student and the host organization. Thus, many internships will be half time or flex time over a longer duration (e.g., an internship may be during a semester or the summer).

If an employer would like to host a DES intern they can contact Dr. Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh at 780-5361 or Langley@usm.maine.edu. More information about internships can be found at <http://www.usm.maine.edu/esp/intern/index.htm>.



University of Maryland soil judging team at soil pit #3

Northeast Regional Intercollegiate Soil Judging Competition Held at University of Maine - Orono. Week of October 2nd, 2006, Chris Dorion

From the photo above, one can see the University of Maryland soil judging team in action. Note their team uniforms. MAPSS is proposing to purchase high quality field vests with embroidered logo and text for our home State team "University of Maine Soil Judging Team" for the coming year. During this past fall's competition, hosted by the University of Maine, several MAPSS and NRCS soil scientists volunteered as soil judges, scorers, and official pedon describers. We all noted that the UMO team was conspicuous by its lack of uniforms and top-notch field gear.

MAPSS Executive Committee (E.C) had a long discussion earlier this winter on how we can lend support to this program. The E.C. felt that the soil judging class/field lab courses are the core of soil science. Five of the six E.C. members are consulting soil scientists, working with a diverse group of clients throughout Maine. Our expertise covers a broad range of soil topics, from nutrient management, environmental permitting, site engineering, septic system design, conservation land planning, and general land use planning to a range of allied fields such as archaeology, forest management, wetlands, and geology. The common thread running through these client needs is soil pedology/morphology and soil taxonomy. Most of the E.C. and Standing Committee Chairs of MAPSS are University of Maine graduates. The students pursuing this program will shortly become professionals, and should have the resources to become a professional team, both in the field and during interaction with their peers, including students, faculty, and potential employers. These students are giving up substantial amounts of time, such as weekends, holidays, and evenings, to compete with their national peers. They represent the core values of the University and its mission.

Students rotated as individuals and later as teams through 5 soil pits in a variety of parent materials. Full pedon descriptions were required, including horizonation with all prefixes, master, number, subordinates, and primes; boundaries, with lower depth and distinctness; texture, with coarse fragment modifier; Munsell color; soil structure with grade
(continued on page 7)

DEVELOPING A “REGIONALIZED VERSION OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS WETLANDS DELINEATION MANUAL. January 12, 2007, Dave Rocque,, State of Maine Soil Scientist.

The National Research Council (NRC) in 1995, issued a report supporting the basic logic and structure of the Corps manual but concluded that “regional variations among wetlands across the U.S. can affect the validity and usefulness of any national delineation manual”, and strongly recommended that delineation procedures be revised to increase their “regional specificit”. NRC further suggested the best way to accomplish this task was the formation of a National Technical Committee for Wetland Delineation (NTCWD). The committee is to be co-chaired by the Corps and EPA and include NRCS, FWS as well as important contributors of wetland delineation expertise and cooperating MOA agencies. Regional committees have already been formed and have overseen the development of what ACOE calls Regional Supplements to the 1987 Corps Wetland Manual for several geographic regions. Starting this year the NTCWD will begin the process of developing a regional supplement that is to include Maine. The supplement is schedule for completion sometime next year. One of the problems with this regional approach is the extent of the region that we find ourselves in. It includes all of New England, Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan etc. I am not sure what this means regarding our MAPSS Drainage Key or the Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils In New England but I hope their continued use will be allowed. In talking with Paul Minkin of the ACOE, we in New England were way ahead of the curve, at least for hydric soils. The regional supplements will include revised and regional guidance on all three primary wetland parameters; soils, hydrology and vegetation. Paul told me that 3 members of our New England Field Indicators committee would be invited to participate in the NTCWD process. The current approach used by the NTCWD is to use the Natural Resources Conservation Service “Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States” as a base for hydric soils indicators. Only those indicators pertinent to our region would be included.

Major conclusions and recommendations I found of interest in the report recommending a regionalized approach to the 1987 Manual include: For hydric soils, the focus should be on field indicators rather than a hydric soils definition and/or criteria. The report listed one short-coming of the current definition, its exclusion of oxygenated wet soils, which may exclude some areas that otherwise satisfy the Corps/EPA and NRC wetland definitions (this could have major implications in the western mountains and north country in Maine where the percentage of wetlands would greatly increase). One interesting suggestion was the development of “facultative” indicators of hydric soils similar to facultative wetland plant status. These soils would often but not always be an indicator of a wetland. As for suggestions regarding hydrology, the report recommends dropping the requirement that inundation or saturation occur during an arbitrary growing season. It should instead focus on when reducing conditions are present in the soil in the zone where the seasonal water table must be present to develop hydric soils. The report concludes that the minimum duration of inundation or saturation should vary seasonally, with longer duration required during colder portions of the year and shorter durations required during warmer periods. Another recommendation is for the development of regionalized lists of wetland hydrology field indicators. The report recommendations for hydrophytic vegetation are that the regionalized criterion be based on a wet-season, plot based prevalence index rather than on dominant species. Also, regionalization of hydrophytic vegetation determinations should focus on assigning a technically correct wetland indicator status to each plant species in a region or sub region, independent of social and political considerations. Another recommendation is that the regional supplements include updated lists of problem wetland types and guidance on how to identify/delineate them.

If you would like to see a copy of the full report, go to the ACOE website then click on “EPA, Corps move to improve wetlands, restoration, conservation. At the bottom of the page, click on the website for additional information about corps regulatory program then click on “regional supplements to the corps delineation manual”.

SOIL SURVEY NARRATIVE. January 12, 2007, Dave Rocque, State of Maine Soil Scientist

As one of the primary reviewers of soil surveys submitted to state regulatory agencies, I typically find a useful piece of information missing. It is not required by the MAPSS Guidelines for Maine Certified Soil Scientists for Soil Identification and Mapping but probably should have been. I am talking about a discussion of the minimum map unit size. Most of the time, soil scientists simple state that the soil survey meets the requirements of a class A,B,C or D soil survey without any indication of the actual map unit size employed. In some cases, map unit size may be in accordance with a Class A soil survey but ground control, base map or some other requirement is only to a Class B or lower standard. Other times, most of the map units are to a lower soil survey class but hydric soils and maybe other soils with significant limitations to the intended use were mapped to a higher detail. Knowing this would be very helpful to me in reviewing a project. I therefore, recommend including a discussion of map unit sizes in the narrative, which may save your client from having to go though the expense and time of having a higher intensity soil survey done and provide me with the information I need to review a project.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS:

Existing: Article IV, Section C.4 “4. Have the authority to approve expenditures **in excess of** \$250.00.”

Change to: “4. Have the authority to approve expenditures **not to exceed** \$250.”

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) sponsored a joint meeting October 19, 2006 with the intent of clarifying vernal pool regulations. This is a brief overview of some of the topics discussed at that forum. Presenters included:

- Jay Clement, US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
- Mark Kern, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Jim Cassida, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP)
- Mike Mullen, Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP)
- Wende Mahaney, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&W)
- Phillip deMaynadier, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIF&W)

The MDEP recently revised (June 8, 2006) the Natural Resource Protection Act (NRPA) Chapter 335, Significant Wildlife Habitat, which includes new standards for activities adjacent to SIGNIFICANT vernal pools. The vernal pool portion of the legislation will not take effect until September 2007. However, the MDEP Site Location of Development Act statutes and the ACOE currently have regulatory authority over some projects and their effects on vernal pools.

Significance:

- MDEP – the new MDEP authority will only apply to vernal pools that meet the abundance or rarity Significance thresholds outlined in Chapter 335
- ACOE – their authority is for all vernal pools, when jurisdiction exists

Review Authority of Area Surrounding Vernal Pools:

- MDEP – 250 feet
- MDIF&W – 250 or 500 feet, depending on project
- ACOE – 500 feet
- USF&W and EPA – 750 feet

Previous MAWS sponsored vernal pool workshop. Dr. Aram Calhoun discusses Significance thresholds. Silt fence and pitfall traps allow in-migrating spring amphibians to be counted. During early summer, pitfall traps inside the silt fence allow the out-migrating metamorphs to be counted. This type of monitoring can determine amphibian vector paths. Photo by Chris Dorion.



Natural vs. Not Natural Pool:

- MDEP – roads impounding wetlands that create hydrology that will sustain vernal pool species is NOT natural and will NOT be regulated as a vernal pool, unless it is judged that a functioning vernal pool existed prior to anthropogenic modification
- ACOE and USF&W – their determination is based on the functions of the pool, not if the pool is natural. A man-made or enhanced pool will be regulated as vernal pool if it is functioning as a vernal pool. It is important to note that the ACOE must first establish jurisdiction over the project to have the authority to regulate non-natural pools.

Notification of a Project:

- MDEP – currently a project that alters a wetland is not required to notify the MDEP if the alteration is less than 4,300 sq. ft. AND does not alter a wetland of special significance.
- ACOE – if you fill “waters of the United States” you need to look for and report all vernal pools on the property to the ACOE. This is true regardless of whether you directly fill a vernal pool or not. All Category 1 and Category 2 projects in Maine must minimize impacts to uplands within 500 feet from vernal pools and the ACOE needs to know vernal pool locations in relation to the proposed development to determine if this condition has been met.
- There are provisions in the regulations that areas excavated out of former uplands, e.g. ditches, sedimentation ponds, reflecting pools, etc are not typically considered waters of the United States. Due to the SWNCC ruling the ACOE also does not regulate “isolated” wetlands. You could have “man made” or isolated pockets that fall into either of these categories that provide vernal pool functions, that might even be reasonably valuable, but are not jurisdictional for the ACOE. Therefore, it’s a case by case call for the ACOE, and the pool either has to meet the definition of a wetland, or otherwise be contained in a wetland that is jurisdictional for the ACOE to begin with.

MDEP Permit By Rule (PBR):

- Beginning in September 2007, if a wetland contains a Significant Vernal Pool (SVP), a PBR will be required to be within 250 feet of the pool. If a SVP and the critical habitat is wholly contained within a freshwater wetland, then the MDEP regulates activities within 75 feet of the wetland edge.

Determining 75% disturbance of the critical terrestrial habitat (250 feet adjacent to a vernal pool. This issue still requires some clarity, however. This is how it was presented at the forum):

- MDEP – This is 75% undeveloped. Developed means buildings, roads, lawns, and other unnatural features.
- MDIF&W, ACOE, USF&W – 75% forested. Farm fields and other non-forested areas do not count toward the 75%.

The MDEP and MDIF&W need further discussion of this point. The state's vernal pool working group interpreted this exactly as the Corps and USF&WS are doing. Also, a strict reading of the rule leaves little room to interpret otherwise: "Maintain a minimum of 75% of the Critical Terrestrial Habitat (CTH) as unfragmented forest with at least a partly closed canopy of overstory trees to provide shade, ..."

Additional Notes:

- MDIF&W may review all high value vernal pools on projects requiring a Site law permit, not only Significant vernal Pools, however, they will only likely comment on Significant vernal pools.
- MDIF&W may require higher performance standards for setbacks from Significant vernal pools on projects that require a Site Law permit (i.e., 500 feet versus 250 feet setbacks)
- Mitigation calculations for alteration include the 250 feet CTH around the pool (or 500 feet for Site Law)
Example: If the pool and 50% of the adjacent 250 feet is altered, then the calculation for preservation would be: [the pool area+ (250 feet CTH around pool/2)]*8
- If there is a potential vernal pool on the project site and the client wants to proceed with the project prior to spring verification period, then you can assume significance and plan accordingly.
- There will be an MDIF&W GIS Significant vernal pool layer that will be populated incrementally over time, and shared with MDEP and other partners for both regulatory and outreach purposes, as is done with all other Significant Wildlife Habitats.



October 19th, 2006 vernal pool workshop, Garcelon Wildlife Management Area, Augusta area. Field leaders Phillip deMaynadier (black vest on left) with Wende Mahaney (back to camera, center) and MAWS members taking notes. This woods road cut through the margin of a vernal pool; because the vernal pool predated the road construction and was presently functioning as viable habitat for amphibians, it was deemed protected under Chapter 335, Section 9 of the NRP. Photo by Chris Dorion.

UPDATE ON THE MAINE NRCS SOIL SURVEY. Wayne Hoar, NRCS. January 12, 2007.

This past year field work was completed on the soil survey of northern Hancock and western Washington Counties. Hard copies of these maps are available now from the Soil Survey Office in Dover-Foxcroft. The maps are being digitized and this area will be available on the Web Soil Survey this summer. (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>)

We are committed to completing the initial soil survey of Maine within the next four years. We currently have about 2.5 million acres left to map in northern Piscataquis and Somerset Counties and in western Aroostook. To accomplish this, we have hired Anthony Jenkins from West Virginia as an MLRA Project Leader working out of the Dover office, and William Roberts from California working out the Presque Isle office. This brings our total staff of Soil Scientists who are mapping, up to twelve. In addition we are attempting to get six Soil Scientists to come to Maine from other states to map for the summer. We will continue to do some update mapping in southern Penobscot County but this will be a much lower priority now until we complete the initial soil survey.

NRCS in New Hampshire will start mapping the White Mountain National Forest this year. Most of the 798,700 acres of this forest is in New Hampshire, but 40,040 acres are in Oxford County, Maine. It is planned that this will also be completed within the next four years.

If you have any questions on the soil survey in Maine please give me a call or send me an email. 564-2628 x102 or wayne.hoar@me.usda.gov

News from Dr. Laurie Osher's Lab: Dr. Laurie Osher,
University of Maine - Orono, January 14, 2007

The results of Lauren LeClerc's (BS '04) research, "Heavy metal contamination from historic mining in upland soil and estuarine sediments of Egypt Bay, Maine, USA" was recently published in the *Journal Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science* 70:169-179. Ms. LeClerc is a soil scientist with Boyle Associates in Portland, Maine.

The first paper from Jennifer Jespersen's (MS '06) research, "Carbon storage in the soils of a mesotidal Gulf of Maine estuary" will be published in the March/April issue of the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. Ms. Jespersen is a project scientist with FBEnvironmental in Portland, Maine.

The first paper from Christopher Flannagan's (MS, '05) research "Soil/landscape relationships in a mesotidal Maine estuary" is in the final review stages for publication in the *Soil Science Society of America Journal*. Mr. Flannagan is a soil scientist with Wetland Studies and Solutions in Gainesville, GA.



Joint MASE-MAPSS soil morphology/taxonomy workshop held in conjunction with the Site Evaluators' field exam, in Orrington, in late September, 2006.

PROGRAM AGENDA

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS – ANNUAL MEETING AUGUSTA ELKS LODGE, ROUTE 27, AUGUSTA, MAINE TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2007

- 8:30- 9:00 REGISTRATION (COFFEE AND PASTRIES PROVIDED)
- 9:00-10:45 BUSINESS MEETING
- PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTON – CHRIS DORION
 - SECRETARY'S REPORT – ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 7, 2006 MEETING - CCD
 - ENVIROTHON DONATION OF \$500 – DAVE ROQUE
 - UNIVERSITY OF MAINE ORONO SOIL JUDGING TEAM - ALL
 - TREASURER'S REPORT – ANDREW CARPENTER
 - EDUCATION CHAIR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS – DAVE MOYSE
 - MEMBERSHIP UPDATES – DAVE MOYSE
 - SMITHSONIAN UPDATE – DON PHILLIPS
 - UMO UPDATE – IVAN FERNANDEZ
 - WEBSITE UPDATE – CHRIS DORION
 - NRCS UPDATES – WAYNE HOAR
 - UPDATE ON MASE/MAPSS TRAINING – CHRIS DORION
 - SCARBOROUGH HYDRIC SANDY SOILS WORKSHOP – DAVE ROCQUE
- 10:45-1 1:00 BREAK
- 1 1:00-1 1:15 ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- 1 1:15-1 1:45 NEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:
- PROPOSED AMENDMENT FOR THE MAPSS CONSTITUTION – CHRIS DORION
 - OUTREACH SUGGESTIONS FOR DISPLAY AND BROCHURE – DAVE TURCOTTE
 - IDEAS FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING – DAVE MOYSE
- 1 1:45-12:30 BUFFET LUNCH
- 12:30-1:15 SHARPENING WORKPLACE WRITING SKILLS: A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP -JUDITH HAKOLA, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE
- 1:15- 2:15 INTEGRATING CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SOIL SURVEYS – TOM DuBois, PE, MAIN-LAND DEVELOPMENT LLC
- 2:15-2:30 BREAK
- 2:30-3:30 GPS, AUTOCAD, AND GIS INTEGRATION IN SOIL MAPPING – JON STEWART, PLS, PLISGA & DAY LAND SURVEYORS

- **President: Chris Dorion**
- **Vice President: Laura Lecker-Suomi**
- **Past President: Jim Logan**
- **Treasurer: Andrew Carpenter**
- **Secretary: Dave Turcotte**
- **Director: Darryl Brown**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- **Newsletter: Dave Turcotte**
- **Education: Dave Moyse**
- **University of Maine - Orono Liaison: Ivan Fernandez**
- **University of Southern Maine Liaison: Samantha Langley-Turnbaugh**
- **Maine State Soil Scientist: Dave Rocque**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service Liaison: Wayne Hoar**
- **Smithsonian Exhibit Fundraising: Don Phillips**
- **Maine Department of Environmental Protection Task Force: Darryl Brown**

(continued from page 2)

and type; consistence; and, redox features. In addition, Profile Characteristics were required from each student or team: hydraulic conductivity, effective soil depth, water retention difference (field capacity to permanent wilting point range), and soil drainage class. Site Characteristics were also required: landform, parent material, slope, hillslope position, and surface runoff. Soil Classification was required: the epipedon and diagnostic horizon, and the correct taxonomic classification, including Order, Suborder, Great Group, Family, and Particle Size Control Section depths. The last category was Soil Interpretation: dwellings with basements, septic tank absorption fields, and roads and streets.

Speaking for the MAPSS soil scientists present, we were highly impressed with the students' skill levels from all the colleges and universities present.

A huge thanks to Dr. Laurie Osher for organizing this outstanding event.

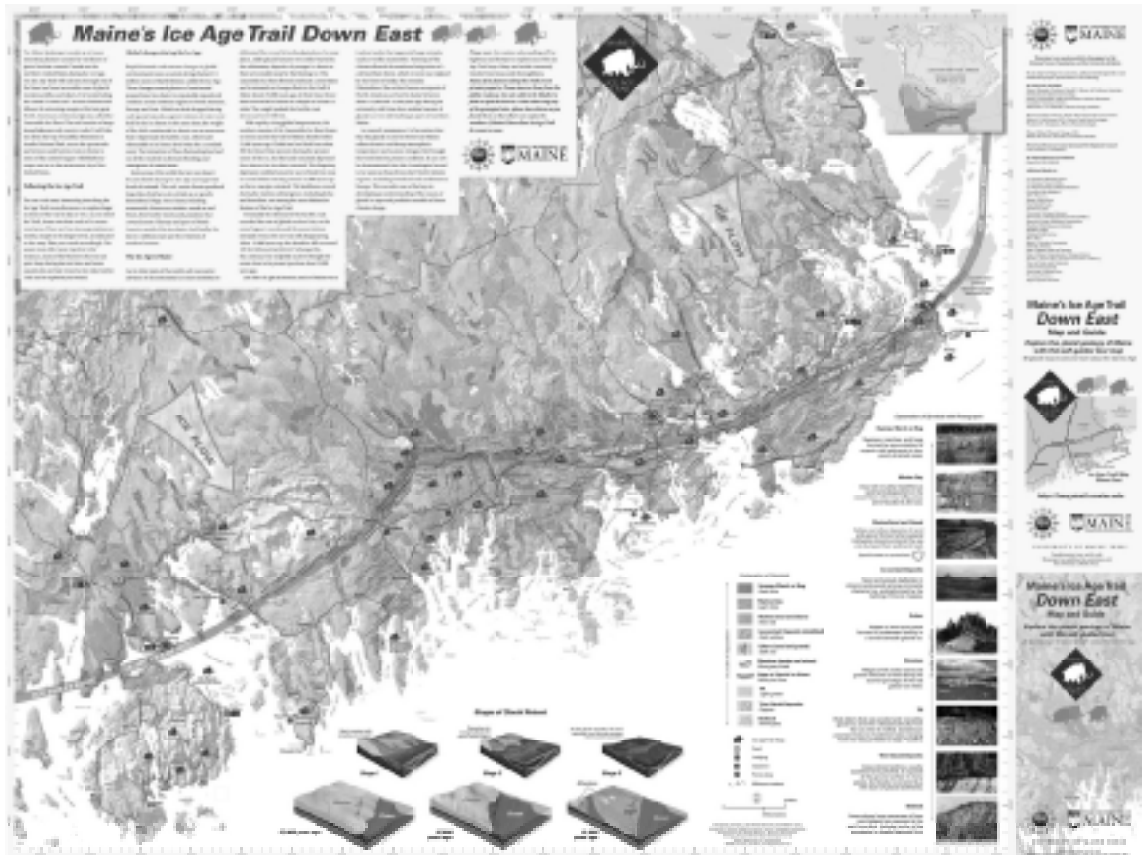
**Maine's Ice Age Trail,
Down East: Map and
Guide -**

<http://iceagetrail.umaine.edu/>

This timely and valuable contribution to Maine glacial geology and tourism is available in color hard copy from the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute (581-2190).

Soil scientists will find a wealth of information on the landscape evolution as deglaciation proceeded in this part of the State. Some of the stops on the map and guide were visited during the Downeast Hydric Soils Tour in September, 2005 (<http://www.mapss.org/downeast05.htm>)

For specific information, please contact Dr. Harold Borns, Jr. at 581-2196.



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MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS – ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUSTA ELKS LODGE, ROUTE 27, AUGUSTA, MAINE
TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2007

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE#S: DAY _____ EVENING _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$30 (MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS) FOR MEETING REGISTRATION (INCLUDES LUNCH). ALL OTHERS \$35.....

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$25 FOR 2007 **FULL MEMBER** DUES.....

OR

PLEASE ENCLOSE \$15 FOR 2006 **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** DUES.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED.....

\$

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT
(CHECK TO MAPSS) TO:

ANDREW CARPENTER, MAPSS TREASURER
P.O. Box 361
BELFAST, MAINE 04915

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2007

COMMON GROUND FAIR REPORT. January 18, 2007, David Turcotte, Education Committee

Last September MAPSS made its initial presence felt at the Common Ground Fair in Unity. This annual 3-day fair is sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA). The fair has a very popular following - both by members and non-members of MOFGA alike.

MAPSS had 2 tables for our upgraded display board and supporting materials in the Agricultural Demonstration Tent. Our tables were across from the University of Maine Soil Testing Service. This was convenient and logical, as our information and display materials complimented their's.

Beyond brochures and other informational materials, four tubs of contrasting soils (with signs conveying textural classes with or without coarse fragment modifiers) and a tray of contrasting native rocks were put out, stimulating hands on exercises for young and old alike. Native rocks ranged from granite to schist to hard slate to soft lime-seamed phyllite to calcareous metasandstone (that effervesced to 10% HCl) to metavolcanic (from the Katahdin Iron Works area - so porous that it almost floats in water!). Clods of soil with very friable fine to medium gravel (formerly know as "limestone ghosts") were also included on the tray.

Along with the display and table, each day a tour was led to a couple of contrasting soil pits into the woods adjacent to the fairgrounds. Both pits were sandy (from glaciofluvial materials), but one was somewhat excessively drained while the other was poorly drained. This was the best we could do as far as contrast, since the fairgrounds reside on an outwash terrace.

Thirdly, on the first day of the Fair I gave an hour long (including time for questions) MS Power Point Presentation on "The Soils of Maine" in the Audio-Visual Tent. This 50 image presentation is available to MAPSS members (send requests for a CD to turc3@adelphia.net) for future educational settings. Briefly, it presents soil forming factors, pedons (from different parent materials and with different drainage classes), and related landscapes and land uses pertinent to the state.

In summary, I feel that our presence at the fair was well received, and that it is a perfect venue for us (in all 3 capacities - display tables, soil pit tours and indoor presentation). Beyond that it does not cost us anything! Hence I feel we should continue our presence at the fair indefinitely, so long as we have enough (9) volunteers to man the tables, lead the tours and deliver the presentation. Finally, I express my gratitude to the following MAPSS members who made our participation at this year's Fair such a resounding success: David Rocque, Ronald Olson, Johanna Szillery, Andrew Carpenter, George Bakajza, Donald Phillips and Laura Lecker.
