

JANET ENGLE CORMIER SOIL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP

presented by the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists

JANET ENGLE CORMIER

In 1997, the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists created a scholarship in honor of Janet Engle Cormier. Janet Engle Cormier was a graduate of the University of Maine – Orono. While at UMaine, she was an active member of the local chapter of the Soil Conservation Society. Her commitment to conservation was put into action during her time at UMaine. The Society supported conservation activities and field trips by using proceeds from recycling paper products generated by the University and local towns. Janet was a Maine Certified Soil Scientist, and one of the first women to map soils with the USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service in Maine. Janet later worked as a consultant, and became an expert in relating soil formation and pedology to archeological investigations of Paleo-Indian campsites. She was instrumental in coming up with techniques that allowed archaeologists to establish time lines based upon soil morphology. As a consultant Janet also worked with foresters and loggers to develop techniques to reduce erosion and limit the environmental impacts of commercial logging to fisheries and wildlife. Janet was an active and enthusiastic member of and leader in MAPSS, serving as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. In 1996, Janet died as a result of complications from cancer. Janet is remembered as a dedicated, compassionate, and genuine person, who considered everyone to be valuable and important. She understood the critical importance of soils in global ecosystems but maintained a local pragmatism that defined Maine common sense.

THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOIL SCIENTISTS

The Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists formed in approximately 1974, with a mission statement of four objectives. MAPSS was formed 1) to promote the profession of soil science by maintaining high professional standards and codes of practice, 2) to assist with the continuing education and training necessary for professional development of soil scientists, 3) to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among members and 4) to promote a feeling of friendly and cooperative relations among members and other related professional organizations. MAPSS has members with varied professional backgrounds, including professionals who work in large and small private consulting companies, for Federal, State, local, and tribal government, and non-profits, students in a variety of fields, and those with an interest in soils.

SCHOLARSHIP ELEGIBILITY

The recipient of the Janet Engle Cormier Soil Science Scholarship must be a full time student (undergraduate or graduate) in a natural resources field. Preference is given to students majoring in, or with a demonstrated interest in, Soil and Water Conservation/Quality, Soil Science, Sustainable Agriculture, or Earth Science. Applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 at the time of their Application.