

# Field Notes

April 2014

[www.sssnne.org](http://www.sssnne.org)

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Membership dues are \$10 per  
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PO Box 76  
Durham, NH 03824-0076

## Mark Your Calendars!

**The SSSNNE Summer Meeting will be held in conjunction  
with the  
Northeast Region Cooperative Soil Survey Conference  
Monday, June 23, 2014  
at  
Plymouth State University  
14 High Street  
Plymouth, New Hampshire  
See details on page 4**



The draft of the proposed Code of Ethics developed by the SSSNNE Board of Directors is presented on pages 5 and 6. Please take the time to review the draft and note any proposed revisions or edits. The intent is for the membership to discuss and approve the Code of Ethics at the upcoming Winter Meeting.

**\*IMPORTANT: 2014 Annual Dues now due. SSSNNE  
Membership Renewal Form on page 7**

## 2013 NH Soil Judging Contest

The New Hampshire Soil Judging Contest was held on October 11, 2013 at Kingman Farm in Madbury NH. Despite the Government shut down, Lenny Lord from the Rockingham Conservation District and Lisa Morin from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts pulled off another successful event. When Joe Homer retired, I was somewhat distressed over losing one of the regions great and inspirational soil scientists in the active sector. Alas, the light at the end of the tunnel turned on when our active New Hampshire NRCS Soil Scientists were not allowed, by Washington, to participate in the previously scheduled event during the government shutdown. So after Peter put a tremendous effort into putting the program together with Lisa, he had to sit out and Joe, who had offered to be a pit monitor, stepped in once again to lead the day's exercise starting with the rules and introduction soil pit and then traveling around to the various pits during the contest making sure everything was ok.



A familiar group of professional soil scientists volunteered their time to be pit monitors. Lenny Lord, Tom Peragallo, Adam Doiron and Tom Carr spent the day assisting with the practice pit and opening comments by Joe, use of clinometers, and monitoring then reviewing their individual pits with the students. After the contest, Tom Peragallo had some discussions with the Conant coaches and, as a result, will be assisting them in training there students for the 2014 Envirothon. Sounds like Conant may be a ringer!

This year's contest was sparsely attended compared to the last few years. Conant, Keene and Merrimack both fielded two teams. Nicholas Meehan was the only individual participant and he placed mid-pack with a score of 755. Keene A won the team contest with a score of 3485. Congratulations to Keene who always seems to be in the running for top honors! Conant A placed second with a score of 3325 and Keene B placed third with a score of 3160. Top individual scorers were Adam Burnett from Keene A with a score of 1015, Tom Carbonara from Keene B with a score of 975 and Allina Bennett from Conant A with a score of 910. Great job everyone!



Thanks again to the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts, Lisa Morin who did a great job organizing most the event and doing the final scoring etc., Lenny Lord from the Rockingham County Conservation District for his coordination with UNH and pre-competition field set up the day before, the UNH Farm Services for the use of Kingman Farm, the pit monitors for volunteering their day to the cause and a special thanks to Joe Homer for volunteering to lead the day in the absence of Peter and Karen. Although small, the 2013 New Hampshire Soil Judging Contest was a big success and continues to support the education and awareness of soil science.

Tom Carr

Any soil news for New England can be found at a twitter feed at: <http://www.twitter.com/SoilsNE> and a facebook site at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Society-of-Soil-Scientists-of-Southern-New-England/109584875780697>

**As always, find publications, updates, and more on the SSSNNE website: [www.SSSNNE.org](http://www.SSSNNE.org)**

**Send items for the newsletter anytime to Gregory Howard:**

**wetsoil1@roadrunner.com or P.O. Box 442, West Ossipee, NH 03890**

## SAVE THE DATE-

### **2014 Northeast Cooperative Soil Survey Conference- Forest Soils and Ecology**

*NH and VT Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Forest Service, and the Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England will be hosting the 2014 Northeast Cooperative Soil Survey Conference in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The Conference is scheduled for June 23-26, 2014. It will be based out of Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire and will include technical tours in Forest Services' Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (<http://hubbardbrook.org/>) and the White Mountain National Forest on June 24 and 25. Details on the conference and registration are accessed below.*

The webpage for the conference is [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/partnership/?cid=stelprdb1242569](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/survey/partnership/?cid=stelprdb1242569)

The webpage to register for the conference is <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=7jrxl6pab&oeidk=a07e8yp4cq99bf6f0e0>

The **SSSNNE Summer Meeting** will be held in conjunction with the Northeast Region Cooperative Soil Survey Conference Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at Plymouth State University 14 High Street, Plymouth, New Hampshire. The SSSNNE Summer Meeting will be conducted during Breakfast at 7:00-7:50 AM prior to the field tour that day. To attend register for the conference.

**NOTE:** SSSNNE Members can register for the NCSS Conference at a reduced rate of \$100 versus the standard rate of \$125. This conference presents a great opportunity to share and discuss soil science with soil scientists from the public and private sectors.



**Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England- Minutes of the Annual Meeting  
Convened at the Maine Audubon Gilsland Farm Facility, Falmouth, Maine  
February 15, 2013**

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Michael Cuomo at 3:05 PM. Mike introduced the two page draft of the Code of Ethics (COE) that the membership had received to review prior to the meeting. There was not a specific incident that generated the COE; it is simply a document to encourage ethical behavior by the membership. After a few editing comments such as, SSSNNE should be Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England, the numbering of the sections had a typo, etc., discussion of pros and cons continued. Dave Marceau asked if this COE conflicts with other code of ethics such as MAPSS, etc. Greg Howard commented that SSSNNE should not develop into a "judge and jury" on specific incidents/complaints. Questions on what the structure would be for reviewing complaints ensued. It was recommended that any complaints should be directed to the various state boards in place for such purposes. Ray Lobdell commented that a COE might help a SSSNNE board in responding to a complaint or incident. Jamie Long made a motion that SSSNNE does not need a COE. After some discussion Mike Cuomo clarified the motion to be, "Does the membership want a COE?" 13 were in favor and 9 were opposed. SSSNNE will adopt a COE. Additional discussion on the COE continued. Tom Carr wanted to modify Section 4(a)(ii) now Section 5. The membership decided to delete all of Section 4(a)(ii). Cindy Balcius moved to strike the whole section. Final member consensus for Section 4(a)(i) now 5(a)(i) was that the SSSNNE Board of Directors "shall determine the appropriate course of action". Jim Gove motioned to change the title of Section 4 now Section 5 to "Duty To The Society". Seconded and passed. Sherrie Trefry motioned to accept the COE with edits and amendments added. Motion was seconded by Jim Gove and passed unanimously.

Summer Workshop Discussion

Karen Dudley reported that Don Parizek (CT-NRCS) wanted to have collaboration with SSSS-NE and SSSNNE with the subject being a "back to basics" soil seminar. Don suggested a more centrally located site such as Durham on marine sediments as a possibility. Chris Dorion gave a summary of a Soil and Natural Resource Workshop to be held September 4, 2013 at Mount Blue State Park in Weld, Maine. This will be sponsored by MAPSS, MAWS, MASE, and SSSNNE. It will be structured similar to the past Reid State Park and Rangeley workshops. State and federal regulators will be present along with NRCS soil scientists and private consultants. Dave Rocque has located a number of challenging soils and wetland related sites where monitoring data would be available. Audra Klumb suggested a possible "Drumlin 2" workshop day at Tom Carr's property. Tom has limits to the number of attendance and the very successful barbecue most likely would not happen. Cindy Balcius suggested a workshop focusing on impacts to soils that occurred in the last 200 years. For example, current wooded sites that were open pastureland in the past.

Website

Lindsay Byboth reported on our website. It has been maintained over the years by Brian Tremback. Taking Brian's excellent work over the years, suggestions for improvement, etc., Lindsay will be taking over as SSSNNE webmaster. One change will be to incorporate a SSSNNE.wordpress.com. This will allow the website to be updated more easily and provide better access to the membership. Costs are \$18.00 per year for this feature. It was decided that no motion was needed for an expenditure this small. Mike Cuomo thanked Brian for all his years of service and Lindsay for taking over the website duties.

New Hampshire Certified Soil Scientist Exam

Jim Gove organized a committee to review the soil certification exam. The primary purpose was to evaluate whether the exam was a fair test to measure the person's knowledge to work in the soil science field in New Hampshire. Ray Lobdell, Cindy Balcius, Randy Shuey, Mark Stolt, and

others were involved in the review. The committee gave suggestions to Tom Peragallo. The suggestions were geared more to provide an exam that dealt with what soil scientists in NH perform for work. The modified exam is ready to use. There is also a training system that is in draft form now. Tom Peragallo has training modules and sites available.

### Treasurer's Report

Lindsay Byboth presented the Treasurer's Report with total assets for the end of 2012 of \$8,254.34. Greg Howard motioned to accept the report as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

### Envirothon Donations

Vermont has requested assistance for their program. In the past a \$300.00 donation has been given to VT, NH & ME if requests come in. Eric Fontaine motioned to give \$300.00 to Vermont Envirothon. The motion passed. Greg Howard motioned to make \$300.00 available per state for this year to be used for soil science related education (i.e., envirothon, soil judging, etc.). The motion passed unanimously.

### Election of SSSNNE BOD

Mike Cuomo asked for any BOD nominations from the floor. The existing Board of Directors consisting of Sherrie Trefry, Lindsay Byboth, Marc Jacobs, Mike Cuomo and Greg Howard will remain on for 2013. A motion to approve unanimously passed.

### Closing

Mike Cuomo thanked Sherrie Trefry for organizing a great educational workshop. Greg Howard motioned to adjourn the business meeting. Motion was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
Joseph Noel, Acting Secretary

### **President's Message**

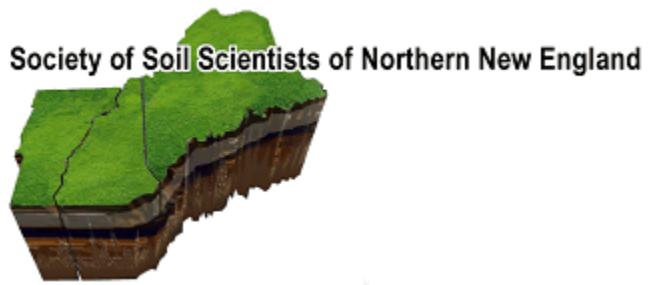
As I write this I am looking out my window and the snow is falling very hard, adding to the two feet already on the ground. It has been below zero for the past three mornings and the forecaster on the radio is talking of another cold snap next week. Ah, spring in Northern New England. Can the field season be far off?

As SSSNNE's new president (Warning-never miss a winter meeting or this could happen to you), I look forward to the upcoming year which promises to be an exciting one for soil scientists. Most exciting is this year our society will be cosponsoring the 2014 Northeast Regional Cooperative Soil Survey Conference entitled "*Forest Soils and Ecology*" which is scheduled for June 23-26 at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, NH. Details and registration information can be found in this newsletter and on our website. Centrally located for our membership, this conference offers the opportunity to learn from and exchange information with soil scientists from all over the Northeast from Maine to West Virginia. A substantial portion of the conference is devoted to the field. If you can't make all four days, come for one or two days (field sessions are on Tuesday and Wednesday). Accommodations are very reasonable. The conference will serve as our summer meeting and a business meeting will be held on Tuesday morning at breakfast.

Regional soil survey conferences are held every two years at different locations within the each region. The purpose of the conferences is to bring together all of the various partners who participate in the National Cooperative Soil Survey who "*cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, interpret, disseminate, and publish information about soils of the US*" Committees to report at this conference include taxonomy, hydric soils, subaqueous soils, soil ecosystems, and research needs. Something for every soil scientist.

In the 50 years that the Northeast region has held these conferences, I understand this is the first time it has been held in NH. You don't want to miss this opportunity so close to home.

See you all in June in Plymouth!  
Raymond Lobdell



## **Membership Renewal Form**

Please fill in the form below so that we may verify your contact information. To renew, please include the form and your \$10 check made payable to SSSNNE and send to:

SSSNNE  
c/o Lindsay O. Byboth  
8 Continental Drive, Bldg 2 Unit H  
Exeter, NH 03833

First Name:

Last Name:

Mailing Company/

Organization:

Mailing Street:

Mailing City:

Mailing State:

Mailing Zip Code:

Business Phone:

Home Phone:

E-Mail:

Fax:

Membership Category  
(Active or Associate):

## SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP

September 3, 2014

Mt. Blue State Park, Weld, Maine

The **Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists** (MAPSS) in conjunction with the **Maine Association of Wetland Scientists** (MAWS), **Maine Association of Site Evaluators** (MASE) and **Society Soil Scientists of Northern New England** (SSSNNE) is once again sponsoring a late summer workshop focusing on soils and natural resources. This year, the workshop will be held on **Wednesday, September 3, 2014** at Mt. Blue State Park in the western Maine town of Weld, from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm. As in the past, this workshop will combine soil evaluation with natural resource identification and regulation issues. Natural resource/soil sites to be included in the workshop are: a potential wetland in glacial till soils on a 20% slope; sandy spodosol soils (soils with a gray leached Albic horizon directly underlain by a red to black horizon of accumulation); glacial till spodosol soils; pit and mound topography soils pits on a long sloping glacial till site that are influenced by oxygenated groundwater; a stream/wetland complex and a stream/wetland/vernal pool complex in the shoreland zone of Webb Lake that will have all kinds of shoreland and LUPC zoning issues as well as a few involving NRPA.

For those of you not familiar with Mt. Blue State Park, it is the largest State Park in Maine with a size of 8,000 acres. The park is split into two sections; the largest section surrounds Mt. Blue with the smaller section having frontage on Webb Lake. It is about an 8 mile or 11 mile drive to go from one section to the other, depending on which way you go around Webb Lake. The scenic vistas of the mountains and Webb Lake are outstanding, including from the Park Headquarters on Center Hill Road where registration and the group discussion will take place. For lunch, you can stop by the beach on Webb Lake to use picnic tables located on a lawn which extends to a sand beach or travel to the Center Hill picnic area which has spectacular views of the mountains. Lunch is not provided so bring your own. There are limited opportunities to buy lunch in the town of Weld so I suggest packing your own or buying it on the way to the park.

As in the past, we will have a team of expert soil professionals evaluating and describing soils pits including Greg Granger and Dave Wilkinson from the NRCS; State Site Evaluator Glenn Angell, consultant; Jim Logan; MASE President, Dale Knapp and myself. We will also have Mike Mullen and Colin Clark from the DEP; Marcia Spencer-Famous and Karen Bolstridge from LUPC (formerly LURC); Glenn Angel from the State Septic System Program and Jay Clement from the Army Corps of Engineers to address regulatory issues. MAWS will provide a couple of botanists to evaluate the sites wetland status and be present during the day of the workshop. The hand dug soil pits were located and excavated last summer and are being monitored for depth to seasonal groundwater table by Mt. Blue Park staff so there should be some data to compare with seasonal groundwater table determinations made on the basis of soil morphology. Along with soil profile descriptions, the soils team will provide soil drainage class determinations, hydric soil determinations (both New England Field Indicators and National Indicators) and subsurface wastewater disposal rules classification using the new drainage key (here is your chance to use the new key with assistance from experts). Regulators will provide regulatory interpretations for protected natural resources including freshwater wetlands, streams and vernal pools. There will also be a discussion of shoreland zoning issues for a site near Webb Lake.

Registration will be at the Park Headquarters on Center Hill Road, 1.4 miles from the intersection of Center Hill Road, Rt. 156 and Rt. 142, from 8:30 am to 9:00 am. Participants will be given a map showing the locations of the 5 sites they are to visit. *Please bring with you a Munsell color book and copies of any keys you wish to use at the sites (NE Hydric Soil Field Indicators, National Hydric Soil Field Indicators, SSWWD Rules Drainage Key, MAPSS Drainage Key, Wetland Plant List etc.).* You will have until 12:30 pm to visit the sites (4 of the sites are located near each other on the access road to the beach on Webb Lake and the other site is less than a mile from the Park Headquarters on the Mt. Blue parcel). Each of the sites will have at least one monitor to show you the points of interest and answer general questions. They will also have copies of the soil pit evaluations and other determinations which they will share with you after you have made your own determinations.

At the conclusion of the field portion of the workshop, participants will gather at the park headquarters scenic overlook at 1:30 pm for a discussion of each site. MAPSS, MASE and MAWS presidents will lead the discussion of each site with participation from soil pit evaluators, other experts and regulators and I will do my best to keep things lively (as usual).

In keeping with tradition, I have chosen some challenging sites and soils. These are conditions you all see in the field and struggle with. Not all site evaluations are straight forward or black and white. The purpose of this workshop is to bring consultants and regulators together to discuss difficult sites and attempt to come to a consensus on how to classify them. This will be a good opportunity to use the MASE Drainage Key on some difficult soils, with assistance from experts including the State Site Evaluator, and see what is a tributary stream in the shoreland zone (requiring a 75 foot setback).

This workshop should have broad appeal to soil scientists, wetland scientists, site evaluators, code enforcement officers, planners, municipal officials, regulators, lake association members, foresters and the general public. You can participate at whatever level is appropriate for your background and knowledge level (the experts stationed at each site will provide the level of assistance you require). It should be a fun, interesting and informative day of camaraderie for all in a very scenic location.

David Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist

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## 2014 SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP

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*Wednesday, September 3, 2014 Mt. Blue State Park*

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The 2014 MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE Soils and Natural Resource Workshop will be held at Mt. Blue State Park in the town of Weld, Maine; on Wednesday, September 3, 2014 from 9:00 am until 3:30 pm. Check-in will be in the Park Headquarters on Center Hill Road from 8:30 am to 9:00 am. You will be given a location map to sites you are to visit. **Carpooling is recommended** because of limited parking at some of the sites along the park entrance road to the lake. Assistants will be at each of the sites to point out the soil pits and other areas where you are to make observations (and determinations). You have from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm to visit the sites. After visiting the field sites, travel back to the base lodge for a 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm discussion of the sites and soils by state and federal regulators and experts. **Lunch is on your own.** There are a number of excellent places to enjoy your lunch including the Park Headquarters which has a scenic overlook; a picnic area near the beach on Web Lake and a scenic overlook on Center Hill. You will see soil pits on long sloping sites, in pit and mound topography, in outwash spodosols, in glacial till spodosols, on 20% slopes that are wet. You will also see a wetland/stream complex and a wetland/stream/vernal pool complex within the shoreland zone of Web Lake. These are challenging sites that will generate a good deal of discussion. Experts as well as State and Federal Regulators will be present to answer questions and provide valuable guidance for dealing with these difficult sites and soils. See attached workshop description for more details.

**The cost of the workshop is \$35.00** for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE members or associate members and **\$40.00 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 August 25. Check [www.mapss.org](http://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 [da-vid.rocque@maine.gov](mailto:da-vid.rocque@maine.gov).

Any questions about registration, contact Gary at [gfullerton@sebagotechnics.com](mailto:gfullerton@sebagotechnics.com)

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### Registration for MAPSS/MAWS/MASE/SSSNNE 2014 Soils and Natural Resource Workshop

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Park Headquarters, Center Hill Road

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Mt. Blue State Park, Weld, Maine

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending Workshop: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ X \$40.00 \_\_\_\_\_

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### AGENDA

**8:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

**9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

**12:30 PM – 1:30 PM**

**1:30 PM – 3:30 PM**

**3:30 PM**

**-REGISTRATION AT PARK HEADQUARTERS**

**-VISIT 5 FIELD SITES**

**-LUNCH AND TRAVEL TO PARK HEADQUARTERS  
FOR GROUP DISCUSSION**

**-GROUP DISCUSSION AT PARK HEADQUARTERS**

**-WRAP UP AND ADJOURN**