

# *The Obligate*

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists  
January, 2001  
Volume 10; Number 1; Internet Version

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## **President's Message**

Shortly before Christmas, a handful of us more “senior”, weathered, and bug-seasoned scientists got together and, in the course of conversation, reflected on the “state of the union” relative to our common interest . . . wetlands. With some chest thumping and head scratching, the wetland conversation, which spanned as much as 15 years, touched on a number of recognized frustrations and achievements. At that time, I reflected on some of my frustrations starting out as a budding wetland scientist as I was trying to improve myself and find my place amongst my peers. Some of these frustrations I share with you.

The nature of these frustrations are probably very similar to your own. In no particular order, these included: (1) seemingly having no shortage of ideas as to how best to approach or manage wetland issues, but few opportunities to effect them; (2) the ongoing desire to be thorough and conversant in the technical work that I did; (3) trying to stay on top of wetland regulations such that I could confidently give consulting advice (without having to cross my fingers under the table); and (4) learning the best way to educate clients who didn't understand why they were spending so much money on “some kind of swamp”. Lastly, there was the struggle of knowing that in many ways my favorite childhood natural playground had transformed itself into a featureless, faceless, commodity. A commodity that I spent hours handling without really being able to appreciate it for what it really was, a dynamic, living, critical part of our environmental landscape.

Well, for me early on, this was where MAWS came in . . . The workings of this association, dealing with its issues and diverse members helped to continually reintroduce me to the essence of wetland science. As a newcomer, MAWS offered balance and helped mitigate some of those frustrations just mentioned. Tit for tat, this is how it worked for me.

MAWS gave me and other scientists an opportunity to voice or act on creative ideas. Whether it be what controversial issues should MAWS weigh-in on, what should be presented on the web page, how should we implement public involvement, how do we cross-train our members, etc.? With membership comes the right to volunteer your creative views and problem-solving solutions or just plain disagree.

MAWS serves as a recognized, effective conduit for passing on technical information which improves how we do our work and perpetuates our interest in the science. Lately we have only received positive feedback about our workshops from inside and outside of our association. It is these workshops that keep us confident that we are all doing the best we can technically.

On the regulatory side of the business, MAWS continues to actively interface its members with the regulatory administrators of those programs which influence wetland resources.

MAWS has on numerous occasions served in an outreach capacity to educate the public about the role wetlands play in our everyday environment. The word about wetlands is slowly getting out and hopefully someday our clients will come to appreciate their natural significance.

Lastly, becoming involved with MAWS has put a face on that “commodity” by providing for an avenue to a deeper understanding of wetlands.

So what will 2001 bring? For starters, some new faces will likely be joining our slate of officers. To them, “Welcome”. We will continue to work with the Corps in refining their Mitigation Plan Checklist and tracking the possible adoption of the GPS Standards by the state. Plans are to add more current information to the MAWS web page. Attempts will be made to interact closer with our sister state associations such as AMWS and NHAWS. Efforts will continue to draw in speakers that have significant name recognition in their areas of expertise, be it vegetation, soils, functional assessments, or wetland policy making, certification Wetland Scientist by the state of Maine may once again be revisited.

Those of you who are newer members or haven’t been too involved because you feel you do not have the technical depth, experience, or seniority, remember . . . all are welcome to sit in on the Executive Committee meetings or at any time contact me as I segway into the position of Member-At-Large or Jim Boyle as he becomes our able President. Thank you all for making this an enjoyable year for me. I enjoyed working with and for you all.

- Peter Tischbein

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### **MAWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The composition of the Executive Committee will change following the election at the Annual Meeting on February 28, 2001 (see last page). Offices up for election are President-Elect, Secretary, Program Chair, and Legislative Chair, (underlined below). At the same time, the

President-Elect becomes President and the outgoing President becomes the Member-At-Large. The current Executive Committees is as follows:

*Past President* Peter Tischbein

E-Pro

41 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

(w) 621-7094

FAX 626-9600

[ptischbein@eproconsulting.com](mailto:ptischbein@eproconsulting.com)

*Membership*

Lauren Stockwell

Eco-Analysts, Inc.

PO Box 224

Bath, ME 04530

(w) **443-2629**

*President-Elect* Jim Boyle

Boyle Associates

61 Pennsylvania Ave.

South Portland, ME 04106

(W) 883-6040, (h) 775-2667

[jpboyle@aol.com](mailto:jpboyle@aol.com)

*Program Chair* Cole Peters

Duke Engineering & Services, Inc.

500 Washington Ave.

Portland, ME 04103

(w) 775-4495

FAX 775-1031

[crpeter1@dukeengineering.com](mailto:crpeter1@dukeengineering.com)

*Secretary* Karen Bolstridge

HC 65

Box 3574

Lincoln, ME 04457

(h) 738-5080

[bolstridge@agate.net](mailto:bolstridge@agate.net)

*Legislative* Gary Emond

E-Pro

41 Anthony Avenue

Augusta, ME 04330

(w) 621-4479

FAX 626-9600

[gemond@eproconsulting.com](mailto:gemond@eproconsulting.com)

*Treasurer* Curtis C. Bohlen, Ph. D.  
Bates College  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
(w) 786-8315  
FAX 786-8334  
[cbohlen@bates.edu](mailto:cbohlen@bates.edu)

*Ethics Chair* Alan Haberstock  
Kleinschmidt Associates  
75 Main Street  
PO Box 576  
Pittsfield, ME 04967  
(w) 487-3328

[alanh@kassociates.com](mailto:alanh@kassociates.com)

*Outgoing* Don Phillips  
*Member-At-Large* S. W. Cole Engineering  
6 Liberty Drive  
Bangor, ME 04401  
(w) 848-5714 (h) 525-0930  
FAX 848-2403  
[dphillips@swcole.com](mailto:dphillips@swcole.com)

*Obligate Editor* David Cowan  
Duke Engineering & Services, Inc.  
500 Washington Ave.  
Portland, ME 04103  
(w) 775-4495  
FAX 775-1031  
[dpowan@dukeengineering.com](mailto:dpowan@dukeengineering.com)

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### **2001 Executive Committee Candidates**

Candidates for election to the Executive Committee at the upcoming Annual Meeting are listed below, followed by brief biographies for each. As always, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

*President-Elect (1 yr.)*..... Gary Emond

*Secretary (2 yr.)*.....Kristen Andersen

.....Sandra Lare

*Program Chair (2 yr.)*.....Brett Battaglia

.....Christopher Dorion

.....Jeff Simmons

*LegislativeChair (2 yr)*..... Marcia Spencer-Famous

### **Candidate Biographies**

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Gary Emond** is an Environmental Specialist with seven years experience in the field of wetland science and consulting. He is currently employed by E/PRO Engineering and Environmental Consulting, LLC in Augusta, ME. His experience includes fisheries and wildlife biology, wetland delineation and functional assessment, resource impact mitigation planning (including wetland restoration, creation, and monitoring), local, state, and federal permitting, Phase 1 Site Assessment, botanical resource consulting, and construction-related environmental compliance inspection. Gary has a BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Maine at Machias and has taken numerous soil science classes at the University of New Hampshire.

In addition to being actively involved with MAWS, Gary is also a member of the New Hampshire Association of Wetland Scientists and the Society of Wetland Scientists. In his spare time Gary enjoys botanizing and birding “Downeast”, spending time with his infant daughter, fishing, and attempting to deplete the wildlife game species of northern Maine (during the designated legal season of course).

#### **SECRETARY**

**Kristen Andersen** , GIS/Wetland Scientist with Boyle Associates, received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology from the University of Massachusetts in 1998. While attending UMASS, she worked with the Natural Resources Assessment Group (NRAG) as a Biological Technician. During this time, Kristen performed quality control of National Wetland Inventory maps, aerial Photograph interpretation of deepwater habitats, and field based wetland identification. At NRAG, Kristen maintained the herbarium as well as the plant species database associated with site studies.

Since joining Boyle Associates in 1998, Kristen has worked on a variety of projects including wetland delineations and preparation of environmental permit applications. Kristen has worked as the Maine DEP's third party environmental inspector on transmission line projects, monitored wetland mitigation sites, and performed rare and endangered plant surveys. In addition to wetland identification, monitoring and mapping, she is an experienced GPS, GIS and CAD operator. Kristen has training and experience with AutoCAD Map, ArcView GIS, Trimble GPS products and she uses these technologies to provide quality products for land use planning and permitting. Kristen is a member of the Maine GIS User's Group, the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists, the Society of Wetland Scientists and Josselyn Botanical Society.

**Sandra Lare** is an Environmental Planner with 10 years' experience in environmental impact assessment, mitigation planning, permitting, and environmental compliance, for both government and private industry projects. She is a Managing Environmental Planner employed by Northern Ecological Associates, Inc. in Portland, ME. With a strong background in energy development projects, she recently presented a paper on endangered plant species mitigation at the International Symposium on Environmental Concerns in Right-of-Way Management (2000) in Calgary, Alberta Canada. In addition to having a strong background in environmental science and wetlands, she is an artist who enjoys incorporating outdoor elements into her paintings and sculptures. She and her dog are also particularly fond of wetlands with the NWI classification of E2BB (estuarine inter-tidal beach bar) and E1OW (estuarine subtidal open water) wetlands. She looks forward to the opportunity to serve MAWS in the capacity of Secretary.

## **PROGRAM CHAIR**

**Brett Battaglia** is a Senior Biologist with Northern Ecological Associates, Inc. in Portland, Maine. He was previously employed by various private consulting firms, and state and federal agencies from Alaska to the Florida Keys. This employment provided him with eight years of experience in environmental compliance, permitting, environmental inspection, and wetland mitigation planning. Brett is a Professional Wetland Scientist through the Society of Wetland Scientists and is recognized by the State of New Hampshire as a Certified Wetland Scientist. He has attended several symposia/conferences regarding wetland-related issues. In addition to his appreciation and respect for the land, he likes to hunt, fish, kayak, and "just spend time outdoors".

**Christopher C. Dorion**, Geologist/Wetland Scientist, holds a MS degree in Quaternary Geology from the University of Maine. He works on a contract basis with Moyse Environmental Services conducting wetland delineations for NRPA and federal permitting, and assisting with soil surveys. Other contract work is with Archeological Research Consultants and the University of Maine conducting geoarcheology and paleohydrologic studies, and with Northeast Geophysical Services conducting related work. A member of the Josselyn Botanical Society, Chris identifies (often to the species level) seeds, fruits, leaves and buds cored from lake sediments to quantitatively reconstruct lacustrine, littoral and upland environments. This semester, Chris will complete the required 15 hours of soil classes and expects to apply later this year to take the Professional Soil Scientist examination in order to become a Maine Certified Soil Scientist. During the autumn and winter, Chris helps to administer and organize the *Wicked Winter Bog Caribou Ski Tour/Race* from Bangor to Old Town in the dual capacity of Trail Planner and Groomer.

**Jeff Simmons** , PWS, is a Senior Wetland/Soil Scientist, working out of the Yarmouth office of Normandeau Associates. He has more than 12 years experience as an environmental scientist, working predominantly on transportation-oriented projects, throughout the US. His wetland science experience includes: conducting wetland delineations and functional assessments; preparing jurisdictional determinations and permit applications; wetland restoration/mitigation site search, design, and monitoring; and the preparation of environmental documents (e.g., consistent with the requirements of NEPA) and supporting technical reports.

Jeff received his undergraduate degree from Plymouth State College in Environmental Biology, and an MS in Natural Resources (Soil Science Option) from the University of New Hampshire. His thesis research was conducted at Lake Gårdsjön, Sweden and involved a collaborative effort with the Swedish Environmental Research Institute to examine the consumption and production of certain environmentally-significant gases in peatlands. He is a certified Professional Wetland Scientist through the Society of Wetland Scientists, and a New Hampshire-certified Wetland Scientist. In addition to being a member of MAWS, he is currently a member of the Society of Wetland Scientists, New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists, Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists, Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England, and the Society of Soil Scientists of Northern New England.

#### **LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

**Marcia Spencer-Famous** , Senior Planner with Maine LURC, has been involved with wetlands through delineation, assessment, research, and permitting since 1985. Self-employed during most of her career, Marcia has also worked for several companies, conservation organizations, and State/Provincial and federal agencies in both the United States and Canada. Her Canadian work experience included producing a government publication for the Province of New Brunswick, as well as associated research. She particularly loves peatlands and has spent an enormous amount of time with peat mining and peatland restoration, which subsequently allowed her to gain wetlands experience throughout Canada and the United Kingdom. Presently, Marcia is employed by the Department of Conservation's Maine Land Use Regulatory Commission in Augusta as a Senior Planner. Her primary role is to implement the wetlands regulations, and to oversee wetlands permitting activities, in the unorganized territories of Maine.

Marcia's "recreational" activities include working as part of an expert witness team for an Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Justice enforcement case in Michigan, and producing and illustrating an interpretive guide of the natural resources at Corea Heath located in Winter Harbor, Maine. A MAWS member since its creation in 1990, Marcia is looking forward to continuing her long-time participation in MAWS.

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## **MAWS Meeting Notes**

### **2 000 Maine Association of Wetland Scientists**

**Annual Winter Meeting**  
**Senator Inn - Augusta, Maine**  
**Wednesday, February 23, 2000**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM - Registration.

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM - Don Phillips, President, called the meeting to order. Thirty-eight members in attendance. Don opened the meeting by reviewing Questions 9, 10, and 11 of the MAWS 2000 Questionnaire to insure everyone was clear as to the matter presented.

**Guest Speakers**

9:15 AM - 10:15 - Liz Hertz, Casco Bay Functional Assessment Pilot Project. Ms. Hertz provided an overview of the watershed based, Casco Bay Project and its future applications in protecting the functions and values of wetlands threatened by growth and development activities. Ms. Hertz stressed the importance of structured GIS use in storing and manipulating watershed data. The report and data associated with this project will be downloadable off the website by the end of March 2000.

10:15 AM 12:00 - Mike Tyrrell and Mike Lynchwala, EarthTech, Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline - Phase II Environmental Review. Mr. Tyrrell and Mike Lynchwala provided an overview of the environmental concerns experienced while developing the natural gas pipeline project, which extends 205 miles through Maine.

12:00-1:10 PM - Adjourned for lunch.

1:10 PM - 2:15 PM - Joseph Homer, NRCS, Comparative Field Study of Wetland Boundary Indicators, Mascoma Wetlands Project. Mr. Homer provide an overview of the field study designed to collect data, which will be used to evaluate hydric soils, wetland hydrology, hydrophytic plant and growing season criteria as wetland boundary indicators. Mr. Homer provided an innovative and interesting presentation and MAWS will join with MAPPS in writing a follow-up letter of appreciation and support for the project.

**Business Meeting**

2:15 PM - 2:25 PM - Karen Bolstridge, Secretary, Reading of the 1999 Annual Meeting Minutes.

2:25 PM - 2:40 PM - Executive Committee Reports.

Dale Brewer, Treasurer.

Balance:

February 1999 3,325.33

February 2000 3,211.29

Projected 2001 2,476.00



Paul Corey, Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

	<b>Active</b>	<b>Affiliate</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Prior Members</b>	62	23	2	87
<b>New Members</b>	3	9	1	13
<b>Totals</b>	65	32	3	100

Gary Emond, Chairperson of the Legislative Committee: Reviewed legislative and regulatory information presented in Volume 9, Number 1, page 6 of *The Obligate*.

Steve Walker, Chairperson of the Ethics Committee. No data.

2:40 PM - 4:45 PM - Floor Discussions.

Call for volunteers for FAME workshop May 11, 2000 at the Bangor Civics Center.

Request for funding by State Envirothon - The Envirothon is a nationwide high school competition; the theme this year includes "Wetland Management". Motion to give \$500.00, our Stipend amount, no second motion, left for Executive Committee to review and decide award amount.

Bob Stratton, Maine Department of Environmental Protection: Reviewed the finalized MEDEP Wetland Delineation and Submittal Requirements. Updated Members on status of streamlining Tier I reviewing process between the MEDEP and ACOE.

Sylvia Michaud, Army Corps of Engineers: Updated Members on status of ACOE Mitigation Special Conditions & Guidelines. Still in draft form.

Karen Bolstridge, Website: Links - Discussion on adding links to website. Subsequent Approved Motion: Any link to be related to MAWS Website must be related to environmental sciences and be a non-commercial enterprise, the Executive Committee will draft parameter guidelines, gather the link requests, review the links, and approve the links.

Results of Questions 9, 10, and 11:

Question 9      Yes          21 Responses  
                      No            09 Responses  
 Question 10    2000 Election    17 Responses

	2001 Election	12 Responses
Question 11	Yes	23 Responses
	No	06 Responses

Bylaws must be changed to reflect these results.

Election Results:

President Elect	Jim Boyle
Treasurer	Curtis Bohlen
Membership	Lauren Stockwell
Ethics	Alan Haberstock

Member discussion of MEDEP Consulting Professional Task Force - Proposed Standards for Accuracy of Location Wetlands Delineation. Draft Revision 2/15/2000. Members believe there is an ethical concern, which demands the correct use of GPS methods involving wetland boundaries. Executive Committee to form a Sub-Committee to review the document and draft a response.

Executive Committee to write letters of appreciation and support to Speakers.

4:45 PM - Meeting adjourned.

Meeting outline respectfully submitted by Karen Bolstridge, MAWS Secretary.

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## Legislative and Regulatory

### Wetlands Legislative Update

by Gary Emond, Legislative Chair

This year had some legislative activity at both the state and federal levels. Specifically, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection finalized changes to the Permit-By-Rule (PBR) program that had been initiated in 1999, and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) reissued the new State Programmatic General Permit (PGP).

At the state level, the DEP made modifications to changes to Section 10 Stream Crossings (bridges, culverts, and fords) of Chapter 305 that had been made in 1999. These original changes had made multiple stream crossings associated with single and complete projects ineligible under PBR

and required such projects to obtain individual permits under the Natural Resources Protection Act. However, these stricter standards sparked strong protest within the logging industry and forced closer examination of the changes. In response, the DEP modified their changes to Section 10 Stream Crossings in February, 2000 to once again allow projects that involve multiple stream crossings to proceed under PBR.

At the federal level there were two specific legislative issues regarding wetland regulation. The first was the reissuance of the State Programmatic General Permit No. 39 (PGP-39) on September 29, 2000. This new PGP will expire on September 29, 2005. Projects eligible for review under the new PGP will fall into two categories including Category I screenings (non-reporting activities) and Category II screenings. In general, single and complete projects involving less than 4,300 square feet of fill and/or secondary impacts in inland waterways or wetlands will fall under Category I, while projects in the 4,300 square foot to three acre range will be eligible for Category II screenings. Among some of the additions to this new PGP included provisions for contacting tribal governments in some situations, and involving the National Marine Fisheries Service during the permit application screening process for projects that will impact or have the potential to impact areas designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH is describes as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity”. The specific areas of concern include habitats for marine, estuarine, and anadromous finfish, mollusks, and crustaceans.

The second issue was the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling to exclude “isolated wetlands” from the definition of Waters of the United States. This essentially removes them from Corps jurisdiction under its administration of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, for the time being this ruling will not have any immediate implications on how the Corps’ Maine Project Office regulates wetland in Maine. Until they hear otherwise from the New England District Office, things will remain status quo.

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## Constitution of the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists to be Amended

At the Annual Winter Meeting held in February 2000, the members of the Maine Association of Wetlands Scientists determined that the Constitution should be amended to extend the offices of President and President – elect to two-year terms and to eliminate the Member-at-Large position. Before adoption, these amendments must receive an affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds of the members present. The following amendments to the Constitution are being proposed and will be voted on at the 2001 Annual Winter Meeting. A complete copy of the Constitution is available for reference on our web site at [mainewetlands.org](http://mainewetlands.org).

Karen Bolstridge, Secretary

### Article IV

#### Executive Committee:

- o Section A – The Executive Committee of this Association will consist of the President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, ~~and the Member at Large.~~

- o ~~Section F – Duties of the Member at Large~~

~~The Member at Large shall:~~

~~Item 1. Function as a member of the Executive Committee in accordance with Article IV, Section A.~~

- o Section G – Elections

Item 1. The President-elect shall automatically assume the office of President biennially ~~for the following year.~~

~~Item 2. The immediate past President shall automatically assume the office of the Member at Large.~~

Item 3. The President-elect shall be elected by majority vote of the active membership ~~annually~~ biennially. The President-elect, and President, ~~and Member at Large~~ shall each serve two ~~one~~-year terms.

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## **Exciting New Plant Conservation Program Expanding Into Maine in 2001!**

Brandon Mann

The New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) is expanding an existing Program into Maine this spring that may be of interest to MAWS members. For ten years NEWFS has coordinated the New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP), a voluntary alliance of private organizations and government agencies committed to the conservation of the region's native vegetation. An exciting component of NEPCoP is the Plant Conservation Volunteer Corps (PCV), a growing network of volunteers working to maintain the diversity of our native flora. These volunteers are involved in several facets of plant conservation, primarily monitoring rare plants, but also controlling invasive species, managing selected habitats, and conducting general botanical surveys.

The success of the PCV's in the other New England states over the past several years has encouraged us to expand the program into Maine and Connecticut in 2001. This year we are hoping to establish a PCV Program in Maine with anywhere from 10 to 20 volunteers. Ultimately, we are seeking to recruit and train approximately 50 or 60 Maine volunteers. Our goal for all of New England is to establish a network of 400 volunteers by the end of 2003. These are ambitious goals but we believe this initiative will allow us to make huge strides in rare plant conservation!

Candidates should ideally be committed to the conservation of the native flora of Maine and have a basic knowledge about plants, however we will train enthusiastic amateurs. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, we recommend that they fill out an application and return it to us as soon as possible, as the required training session will be held in late March or early April. Additional information regarding NEWFS and the PCVs, volunteer applications, may be found at our web site ([www.newfs.org](http://www.newfs.org)) or you can contact either Chris Mattrick or me.

Chris Mattrick  
Senior Conservation Programs Manager  
Ext. 3203  
[Mattrick@newfs.org](mailto:Mattrick@newfs.org)

Brandon Mann <[bmann@newfs.org](mailto:bmann@newfs.org)>  
Plant Conservation Volunteer Asst.  
NEWFS - 180 Hemenway Rd.  
Framingham, MA 01701-2699  
ph: (508) 877-7630 ext. 3204  
fax: (508) 877-3658

## **Corps Restores, Enhances Wetland Staff**

Ruth Ladd

The New England District of the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch welcomes Dr. Paul Minkin to the Environmental Resource Section in Concord, Massachusetts, effective October 23, 2000. Paul is transferring from the Baltimore District's Regulatory Branch where he has worked since 1995. In that position, he was a permits project manager but also performed wetland delineations and evaluated wetland restoration and creation projects. He has also taught courses on wetland plant identification, wetland delineation, and other specialized courses such as "Grasses, Sedges, Rushes, and Composites" offered by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Prior to the Corps, Paul worked for the EPA in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. While with EPA, he worked on incorporation of wetlands protection into watershed protection, development of biocriteria and its monitoring for wetlands, development of a national wetland plant identification course, and review of Section 404 permit applications.

Paul is a PWS, a Certified Senior Ecologist, and has a doctorate in Botany from Miami University in Ohio. He has published articles and prepared posters, including a co-authoring a paper for the U.S. Forest Service entitled, "Forested Wetlands: functions, benefits, and the use of best management practices." In his new position, Paul will be involved in wetland mitigation review and monitoring, performing and reviewing wetland delineations, analyzing functions and values of wetlands, providing training, and a myriad of other things that come up in this sort of position!

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### **MAWS ANNUAL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2001**

**EMBASSY ROOM, SENATOR INN**

**AUGUSTA, ME**

Once again the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists will be holding its annual meeting at the Senator Inn (284 Western Avenue, (207) 622-5804) off I-95 Exit 30 in Augusta, Maine and we hope to see you there! Now isn't that just a fine way to ward off cabin fever and get ready for mud season! Speakers and the topics of their talks appear below and another important part of the day will include the annual meeting with the election of new officers and an important vote on changes to MAWS Bylaws. To cover room and meal fees, MAWS is asking each MAWS member to pay \$15.00 over and above annual dues. A special reduced price of \$10.00 is being offered to actively enrolled students. These amounts will address approximately 25 percent of the costs for a delicious deli buffet lunch and morning and afternoon coffee; MAWS will pay the remainder. A few of you lucky attendees will be the proud winners of wetland related door prizes! We hope to see you there and help us kick off a brand new year (our tenth) with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists!!

**8:00 to 9:00 AM REGISTRATION**

- 9:00 – 9:15 AM**            **WELCOME**
- 9:15 – 10:15 AM**            **David Dominie, Sr. Environmental Specialist, E/PRO -**  
*Removal of Edwards Dam, Kennebec River, Augusta, Maine*
- 10:15 – 10:30 AM**            **BREAK**
- 10:30 – 11:30 AM**            **Ruth Ladd,**  
*Regulatory Affairs Update - Compensation, General Permits and More*
- 11:30 - 12:00 AM**            **TBA**
- 12:15 – 1:00 PM LUNCH**
- 1:00 – 2:00 PM**            **Amanda Baker, Unity College- MAWS 2000 Stipend Award Winner -**  
*Herbivory and Oviposition of Native Insects on Purple Loosestrife*
- 2:00 – 4:30 PM**            **BUSINESS MEETING (INCLUDING ELECTION OF OFFICERS)**

Questions? Call Cole Peters Program Chair, 207-775-4495

REGISTRATION FOR 2001 MAWS ANNUAL MEETING

*Please mail registration form with a \$15.00 (MAWS members) or \$10.00 (student) check payable to MAWS to*

*Cole Peters, DE&S, 500 Washington Ave., Portland, ME 04103 . Annual dues are payable at the meeting.*

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

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and/or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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