

The Obligate

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

c/o Danielle Tetreau, Stantec,
30 Park Drive, Topsham, ME
04086

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President's Message *Jeff Simmons*

Hello MAWS members! Well, it looks like my time as President of your organization is nearing an end. The past two years have gone by very quickly, and much has been accomplished. I believe I have learned a great deal during my tenure, from working with many great people on the MAWS Executive Committee (EC) and Standing Committee Chairs, as well as through my interactions with many of you. I appreciated hearing your thoughts and points of view on several important matters over the last 2 years. When I first became President of MAWS in 2011, I identified several goals for the organization, which are outlined below. I believe we made significant progress on many, but of course there remains much to do.

Continue with an increased level of involvement in legislative and technical issues relevant to our profession.

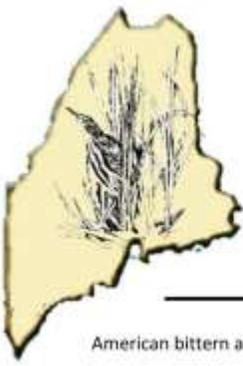
As you know, the last several years have seen many proposals debated in the legislature focused on modifying existing natural resource regulations in Maine. In fact, no less than five bills were introduced early in 2011 that could have had dramatic effects on resource protection and regulation in the state (LD156, LD219, LD341, LD872, and LD1031). The goal of these efforts was reportedly to reduce the number of regulatory hurdles for development, thereby making the State permitting process less restrictive, and inducing greater development (and thereby providing a stimulus for jobs). The MAWS EC, led by Legislative Committee Chair Rod Kelshaw, provided testimony to the legislature that focused on the scientific perspective. As bills were introduced, or placed on the agenda for legislative committee meetings, we made every effort to track the activities, and provide input where needed. This took a considerable effort, as the bills up for debate were often announced on the agenda the day before the hearing, and the text of draft changes was also frequently made available late in the process. This allowed us little time to review the changes proposed, and provided a challenge in arranging attendance by someone at the hearings. Rod Kelshaw deserves recognition and thanks for keeping track of the activities on these bills, and for frequently adjusting his personal and professional schedule to lead the effort in responding to the proposed regulatory changes. Through his efforts, as well as everyone's on the EC, I believe MAWS

provided excellent input that was based on science regarding the implications of the proposed changes, and allowed the legislature to make informed decisions regarding the policy track they wanted to follow. In my mind, the organization more than lived up to one of its stated purposes, this is outlined in Article II of our Constitution: "Promoting policies that contribute to the sound stewardship of wetland resources". Going forward, the LC has developed a flow chart to decide whether or not to comment or provide testimony on future proposed legislative changes. Although the pace of proposed changes had slowed, there are definitely more on the horizon.

Review and reassess the path forward for the wetland scientist certification process.

As most know, the EC has reviewed the prospects for wetland scientist certification in Maine. Our conclusion continues to be that this program does not have adequate support in State government to move forward. However, as divisive an issue as it has been, the potential is there that MAWS will have to wrestle with the certification question again in the future. For that to happen, it appears that economic and political conditions would need to be more conducive to adding to a government program, and greater consensus would be required from the MAWS membership itself that certification is worth the required investment in time and money.

In addition to the wetland scientist certification program, and at the suggestion of several MAWS members, we initiated consideration of merging with the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS). An ad hoc committee was formed to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of a merger to MAWS members. Unfortunately, after two meetings, it was determined that not enough interest could be mustered to convince anyone to conduct a detailed investigation of the pros and cons regarding merging. Therefore, the EC decided to drop the idea from any further consideration. More importantly, at last year's MAPSS meeting, the membership of that organization voted to not to merge. Thus, no further discussion of a merger between MAPSS and MAWS is to be continued at this time.



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Provide regular, relevant, and interesting educational opportunities.

Adding to our impressive educational opportunities in 2011, MAWS held a number of workshops this past year. The workshops included topics such as Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat mapping and data sharing, an Urban Soils workshop (co-sponsored with MAPSS and MASE), and an evening event (now known as "MAWS After Dark") that included an opportunity to network and enjoy dinner or refreshments, while also taking in the film "Dirt: The Movie". Going forward, we anticipate sponsoring more of the "After Dark" series of events (topics to be determined), as well as a variety of technical workshops covering such topics as wetland functional assessment, mitigation, and possibly some plant identification workshops. We are also working towards scheduling training this summer with the Corps of Engineers on the Regional Supplement, and there may also be opportunities for getting up to speed on the latest information/data requirements for the Corps regarding vernal pools. We also will continue to notify the membership of workshop and conference opportunities germane to our profession that are sponsored by other organizations (i.e., NHANRS, AMWS). Hopefully this will provide ample opportunities for everyone to accumulate CEUs towards recertification as PWS and/or NHCWS. Stay tuned for more information in the coming days and weeks regarding workshops, and be sure to offer suggestions on topics of interest to you!

Increase involvement by the membership.

MAWS has always looked for ways to bring in new people, and we are seeking others to get involved in leadership positions. I was encouraged this past year to see some new faces on the EC, and as members. It is not news that a volunteer-based organization is only successful if its members are actively involved. There is no shortage of things to do within the MAWS organization, and the EC is always looking for others to help out. If you can find the time, we encourage you to get involved. Help with a workshop, or a committee. There is a lot going on, and any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated. I encourage all of you to find some role in MAWS that will interest you. As I move on, I want to thank my fellow EC members, past and present, for all their support during my tenure as President. I feel very fortunate to have worked with

such a great group of people. I leave you now in the very capable hands of Rich Jordan. Please join me in welcoming him as the new President. Rich is set to guide the organization for the next 2 years, and has many ideas on how MAWS can serve you better. I'll let him outline his agenda for you elsewhere in the Obligate, but I urge you to support him and make the next 2 years under his leadership a success.

Best regards,
Jeff

**DON'T FORGET TO LOG ON TO
WWW.MAINEWETLANDS.ORG AND SIGN UP FOR THE
MAWS EMAIL LIST**

*Receive workshop and regulatory updates from the
comfort of your inbox! Join the social media
community at www.facebook.com/MAWS.org*

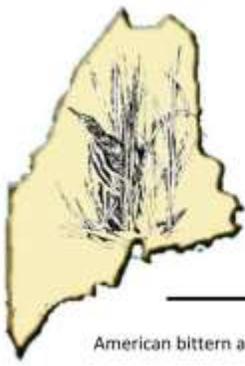
SWS New England Update *Chet Bigelow*

The New England Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists, an international scientific body dedicated to the furtherance of wetland science, is again active. We are excited to report that we have a full slate of officers whose election by ballot will occur over the next several weeks. In addition we have a large group of society certified professional wetland scientists (PWS), and other scientists who have graciously volunteered to staff committees and contribute their time to developing a regional conference for SWS members and non-members alike.

On February 14th the new officers and interested members met at the Holiday Inn in Concord, New Hampshire from 10 am to 2 pm to begin the task of organizing the chapter, setting direction, staffing and giving direction to the committees. These types of meetings are of course open to any current SWS member in good standing.

We have some exciting events forth coming including the possibility of hosting the 2015 SWS conference in New England.

One item on the Chapter agenda is how we will interact and develop our relationship to the state associations who are not affiliated with SWS. In this regard we look forward to both growing the science and developing a broader network of wetland professionals. I know you are as excited about this as we are at New England SWS.



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Legislative Committee Update *Rodney Kelshaw*

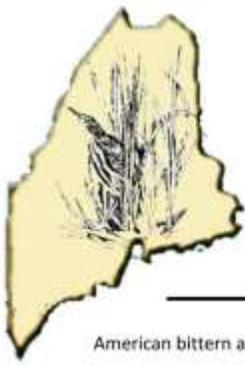
I thought after a few years of the MAWS Legislative Committee (LC) being more active we would have solved the world's problems and we could dissolve the committee. Well, surprise, surprise...that did not happen – there is still much to discuss! The 126th Maine State Legislature, 1st regular session convened on December 5, 2012. The balance of power once again shifted and Democrats, as the majority party, again hold committee chairmanships. As a matter of fact, longtime MAWS member Jim Boyle won election to the State Senate and has been selected as the Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. So, what does all this mean for the MAWS LC, and how will the MAWS LC represent MAWS in the coming session? In Article II of the MAWS Constitution two for the stated purposes are: “supporting and contributing to the expansion of the wetland science research base” and “promoting policies that contribute to the sound stewardship of wetland resources”. These two purposes what I use to guide the actions of the MAWS LC. At the 2012 annual MAPSS and MAWS meetings, the MAWS LC was discussed and I was surprised to find out that it was the opinion of members from both associations that the LC was too involved with influencing policy and the association is seen as anti-development. I am taking this opportunity to address this opinion and describe how we operated over the past few years. Here is a quick and dirty breakdown of the process. We signed up for weekly summary emails from state legislative committees that we have similar interests, like the ENR and ACF. When we noted a bill of interest we, the MAWS LC and EC, would decide if MAWS should be involved. If we decided to move forward we would discuss our position and then develop testimony. The testimony was based on the most up-to-date scientific data available. We sought information from within the organization and from state and federal departments. When there was time we would submit the draft testimony to the membership for review and comment. We, as professionals are familiar with keeping opinion and personal feelings out of our work, and in this case the testimony. As we move forward in 2013 this is the process we will again use. We have also developed a flow chart to help decide what bills we will comment on or follow, and that should take some of the subjectivity (or perception of subjectivity) out of the decision as to whether or not we get involved.

To address the opinion that MAWS is becoming an anti-development association: at times we did submit testimony “against” bills that the MAWS LC determined were not scientifically sound or would have a detrimental effect on the environment. If the perception of some people was that in all cases that action was anti-development then there is not much I, or the MAWS LC, can do to change that perception. If that is the perception of the majority of the membership then I think it is a good time to have a discussion about the MAWS mission statement and role of the LC so it can best represent the association moving forward. State legislative committees are already meeting and hearing bills. On January 22, 2013 the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry (ACF) Committee held an open invitation, meet-and-greet where interested parties could go and introduce themselves/their organizations to the committee. I headed down to represent MAWS; unfortunately I did not make it there (yes, even wetland scientists experience car trouble) so I submitted a letter to the committee describing MAWS and our mission statement, and invited the committee to seek our input on bills. A few examples of current bills that we might weigh in on are:

- [LR 761](#) An Act To Amend Setback Requirements and Standards Related to Species Migration under the Laws Regulating Development near Vernal Pools
- [LR 762](#) An Act To Make Adjustments to Setback Requirements under Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Laws
- [LR 427](#) An Act Clarifying the Department of Environmental Protection's Authority Relating to Compensation for Development Activity under the Natural Resources Protection Act
- [LR 337](#) An Act To Clarify the Natural Resources Protection Act

Things are moving pretty fast right now, so by the time you read this, some of the information may already be out dated. I will attempt to keep the membership up to date with the membership email list and the MAWS Facebook page. This is going to be a very busy few years staying on top of all of these issues. Remember, there are always openings on the LC so if anyone has interest in being a member of the MAWS LC please contact me.

Rodney Kelshaw, Legislative Subcommittee Chair
Email: rkelshaw@boyleassociates.net
Phone: (207) 944-6776



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Ethics Update *Laura Lapierre*

Last year marked the first year that the New Hampshire wetland scientist certification program (NHCWS) required continuing education in ethics. Both MAWS and NHANRS (New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists) annual meetings included an ethics discussion lead by Irene Grace Garvey of Abenaki Consulting. We are in the planning stages for an ethics workshop for this year. If you have ideas for future ethics workshops and would like MAWS to support them, please contact myself or Sarah Watts.

As many of you know, one of my duties as Ethics Chair is to lead the research stipend program. Maureen Correll, a PhD candidate at UMO received this year's MAWS Wetland Research Stipend. Ms. Correll is studying the biogeography of tidal marsh birds in the northeastern US, specifically focusing on Saltmarsh Sparrow (*Ammodramus caudacutus*), Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelson*), Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*), Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*) and Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus*). The ultimate goal of her research is to facilitate the implementation of conservation plans that benefit tidal marsh birds and their habitat in light of climate change, in particular the projected rise in sea level. The stipend will fund the travel costs to her 300+ sample points throughout the state. Maureen will present her current research and findings at the annual meeting on March 25, 2013.



Nelson's sparrow Photo by Teddy Llovet, Creative Commons License
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/teddyllovet/4111073007/in/photostream/>

In 2011 we had two PhD student stipend winners who split the \$1,000 funds. Jennifer Walsh had a successful field season continuing her Saltmarsh-Nelson's Sparrow Hybrid Zone research. She sent along the following update to her research: "The past

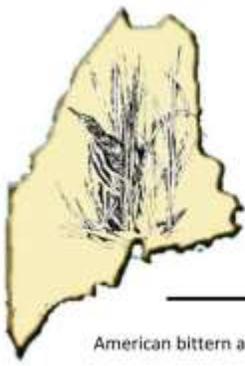
field season was incredibly productive. I completed my 2nd field season (of 3). During this time I collected a second year of demographic data from my 3 sites; I monitored roughly 100 nests and banded/collected blood samples from an additional 150 adults and 130 chicks. I also completed the sampling of a geographic transect that ran North to South through the 200 km hybrid zone; I collected blood samples from 250 individuals from 29 salt marshes ranging from Lubec, Maine (on the border of Canada) to Prudence Island, Rhode Island. Lab work is now well under way, and I hope to generate some preliminary data before going back out into the field this May. I also passed my comprehensive/candidacy exams in December." Congratulations Jen!

The 2013 stipend application was mailed out to an extensive list of college and university professors, as well as student members of MAWS. The mailing list now contacts over 40 professors. Currently we have no specific professors to mail to at the University of Maine Augusta, Farmington, Presque-Isle, or Fort Kent campuses. All mailings go to biology or environmental science departments for posting. If you know of any professors at the above campuses who teach or research wetland related topics, please contact me at llapierre@normandeau.com.

Membership Update *Katelin Nickerson*

Hello MAWS members! As your new Membership Chair, I have slowly taken over the reins with some guidance from Danielle. She did a great job getting the membership applications into digital form and has created system that is easy to keep applications and membership dues organized. Speaking of dues, don't forget to send in your dues for 2013! As far as new membership goes, we picked up 5 new members in 2012 and 2 already in 2013.

An issue has recently been brought to our attention that some folks are not receiving the mass emails to the members about workshops and the annual meeting. As we work on resolving these problems with the distribution list, please let us know if you are one of these people so we can fully address the issue. In the meantime, Danielle continues to keep the MAWS Facebook page up to date with the latest news, workshops and happenings. If you have any membership questions, or know someone who is interested in applying for membership, please send me an email: katelin.nickerson@stantec.com.



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Botanical Briefing *Laura Lapierre & Erik Lema* 2012 National Wetland Plant List

Just ahead of its 25th anniversary, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) completed its first official update to the 1988 National Wetland Plant List. The National Wetland Plant List is the comprehensive list where you find wetland plants and their wetland classification ranging from water-loving obligate (OBL) to those most commonly found in uplands (UPL) to everything in-between (called Facultative species: FACW, FAC, FACU from wet to dry). The list and those classifications are necessary to determine that the area you are investigating is or is not composed predominantly of hydrophytic plants.

The final version of the list was posted for the public in time for our 2012 field season, and agencies began using it in June, 2012. After years of debating the wetland status of 8,200 plants throughout the country, only 12% of indicator statuses were changed. In what is sure to cause widespread confusion, plant name updates were much more common than status changes. For example, we no longer have *Acer rubrum* variety *drummondii* or *trilobum* which were on the 1988 list. Unfortunately, those who do not keep up with name changes may have a hard time finding, say, New England aster since its genus has changed from *Aster novae-angliae* to *Symphiotrichum novae-angliae* (actually, there are no more *Aster* species in New England at all!). One can create a list sorted by common name, but often times the common name on the list is not *your* common name. I do not know



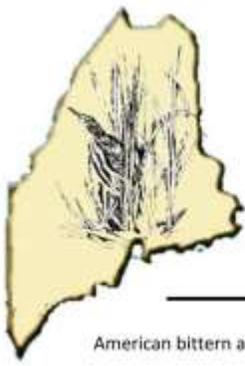
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anyone who calls *Juncus effusus* “Lamp rush” or New York aster (*Symphiotrichum novi-belgii*): “New Belgium American-Aster” but it is the official common name of the USACOE list. Perhaps you may wish to have two lists in your field vest – one sorted by common name, and the other by scientific. Or might I suggest you learn the new scientific nomenclature? Herein lies another vexing issue: some of the scientific names have been changed, but those changes are not reflected in even the most recent floras such as Arthur Haines’ *Flora Novae Angliae*. An example that will affect us all is that of royal fern, which is no longer *Osmunda regalis*, but is instead *O. spectabilis* on the plant list (alas, where to begin?). Although most indicator statuses have remained the same, some which have changed may make a big difference in your delineations here in Maine. Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadense*), known as “False Lily-of-the-Valley” in the list, has changed from FAC to FACU.



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<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52421717@N00/4633924282/>

Intermediate wood fern (*Dryopteris intermedia*) were previously FACU, is now FAC. Hobblebush (*Viburnum lantanoides*) and red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) were FAC and are now FACU. A comprehensive list of all of the species whose status has changed is not readily available, and creating your own is difficult due to all of the name changes. We simply have to look-up each species anew and find out for ourselves. Updating an 8,000+ plant species list throughout the nation and coming to a consensus of indicator statuses is clearly no easy task. The USACOE did a great job orchestrating the suggestions of many



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botanists and wetland ecologists for one cohesive list. The most important portion of the list, the indicator statuses, is solid and serves as a good foundation for future lists. The good news is that we will not need to wait two more decades for the next update to the list. The Biota of North America Program (BONAP) will provide annual updates of plant nomenclature. A panel will review indicator status change requests on a semi-annual basis. The next edition of the NWPL, due out this March, will have many nomenclature updates which will address the issues in the current list. To learn more, check out:

<http://rsgisias.crrel.usace.army.mil/NWPL/#>

2010 Stipend Recipient Update: Chytrid Fungus Research

Sasha Greenspan, MS

Chytridiomycosis, an emerging infectious disease caused by the microscopic fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd), threatens frog populations worldwide. Bd colonizes the mouths of tadpoles and the skin of sub-adult and adult frogs. Effects of this fungus on frog species are variable. Some species typically develop minor infections and may function as carriers; others typically develop lethal infections that can lead to population declines. Mild infections in the bullfrog are well-documented. In contrast, recently metamorphosed wood frogs can die from chytridiomycosis. For my MS research, the bullfrog and the wood frog served as model species in which to investigate some conservation implications of this deadly fungus.

First, I conducted a fine-scale microscopy investigation of Bd inside bullfrog and wood frog tissue to find out how the fungus invades amphibian skin cells.

Included among my findings was photographic documentation of a *Bd* life stage never before seen in frog skin and a never before seen morphological feature of *Bd* that is used for invading host cells. These findings fill a critical gap in knowledge of *Bd* development. Only with a comprehensive understanding of the life cycle of this fungus can researchers address treatment and suppression of chytridiomycosis in wild amphibian communities at risk of population decline. This component of my thesis was published in *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* in 2012.

Second, I conducted a laboratory experiment demonstrating that bullfrogs are capable of efficiently transmitting lethal Bd infections to wood frogs in

shared enclosures, despite the tendency of bullfrogs to carry only light Bd infections. This study underscores the importance of monitoring frog populations at high mortality risk from Bd that co-occur with bullfrogs in the wild. My results also highlighted the challenges implicit in detecting light Bd infections in bullfrogs using standard screening methods, a finding that is significant in light of exotic bullfrog colonies on multiple continents and large scale global trade in this species. This component of my thesis was published in *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* in 2012.

Funding from MAWS was critical to the completion of this work and I am extremely grateful for the support. Since completing my Master's degree in 2011, I have continued to focus on herpetological conservation through a field-based position with the Jones Ecological Research Center, a non-governmental organization in Georgia promoting conservation of the southeastern coastal plain.

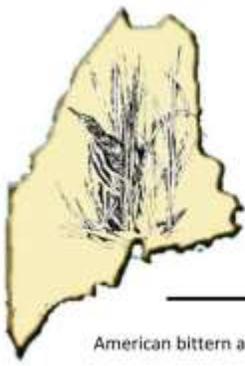


"Actually, the entire department was scheduled to be shut down until Bill, our resident genius, saved all our jobs by figuring out a way to get it designated as a protected wetland!"

Program Chair Update

Sarah Watts

I am looking forward to another great program for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting, to be held on Monday, March 25, 2013, at the "usual" Maple Hill Farm B&B in Hallowell! This year, we are taking a broader look at various water resources—streams, brooks, dams/dam removal, and stormwater—loosely grouped under the title Water Resources and Water Quality. In addition, we can look forward to hearing from the 2012 stipend winner on the good work she is doing on the Biogeography of Tidal Marsh Birds, and



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we have included a presentation from the USACE on several important wetland-related topics. We also are fortunate to include a lunchtime keynote speaker this year: Scott Jackson, Wildlife Biologist at UMass Amherst, who will be sharing information about aquatic connectivity. His team has completed an assessment prioritizing road-stream crossings for replacement or upgrade in MA and has developed software for scenario analysis that will allow users to create custom scenarios for evaluation by their Conservation Assessment and Prioritization System (CAPS) modeling system. They have received a grant from the USFWS to conduct CAPS analyses for the entire North Atlantic region, and will have baseline data necessary to run these analyses in Maine within the next year Very exciting stuff! Please see the enclosed agenda for more detail and hold on to your seats for an exciting program.

As usual, we are pursuing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the MAWS Winter Conference and Annual Meeting, and will provide certificates of attendance for this event (and any other of our events) that include the associated professional time spent.

PLEASE NOTE: We are changing the registration fee structure this year for the Winter Conference and Annual Meeting. If payment is received by March 11, 2013 (2 weeks prior to the event), registration for MAWS members is \$45 (not including annual dues); for non-members \$50, and for students \$20. For payment received AFTER March 11, 2013, including payment at the door, add \$10: MAWS members \$55, non-members \$60. Student registration fee will remain \$20.

Back in September, MAWS co-sponsored the Urban/Altered/Disturbed Soils Workshop, in conjunction with the Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists and Maine Association of Site Evaluators. As usual, this meeting of the minds assembled an informative workshop for its attendees, with components to tickle the brains of wetland scientists, soil scientists, and site evaluators, alike, followed by a good discussion to tie in each of these elements. Thanks to the organizers for all their hard work putting together a great event!

In October, MAWS organized a workshop on Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat (IWWH), held at the Augusta Elks Lodge. During this workshop, Bob Duchesne reviewed the history of Maine regulations related to IWWH, and Don Katnick provided us with a

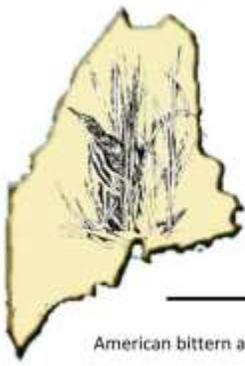
more in-depth exploration of the Dark Side of Data Sharing, which he had given us a peek at during the last Winter Conference and Annual Meeting. Thanks Rich Jordan and Rod Kelshaw for organizing, and thanks to our speakers for an interesting event and for pinch-hitting to adjust to some last minute changes!

If anyone would like to assist in organizing workshops and activities for MAWS, please contact Program Chair, Sarah Watts (sarah.watts@tetrattech.com) or (207) 879-9496. She could use your ideas and help! 😊

In December, Tim Forrester organized the second “MAWS After Dark” event: a Silent Auction and showing of *Dirt! The Movie – A Story with Heart and Soil!* This movie—narrated by Jaime Lee Curtis—brings to life the environmental, economic, social and political impact of soil. It shares the stories of experts from all over the world who study and are able to harness the beauty and power of a respectful and mutually beneficial relationship with soil. The Silent Auction had a great assemblage of items to bid on, from maple syrup and honey to muck boots, a boot dryer, a shovel and more! If you missed out, you’re too late for getting good stuff cheap, but it’s worth checking out the movie on Netflix. Thanks for organizing, Tim! We look forward to more MAWS After Dark events in the future! Ideas are welcome! We’ve got several events in the works and look forward to a busy year! We are in the process of developing (1) a Wetland Delineation Refresher workshop focusing on the U.S. Army Corps Regional Supplement, including boulder fields, (2) an Ethics workshop with Irene Grace Garvey, who gave a great interactive presentation at last year’s Winter Conference and Annual Meeting, (3) a MAWS After Dark event promoting Matt Arsenault’s new book on *Cyperaceae* of Maine after publication in Spring 2013, and (4) the first annual MAWS 5k trail run (What?! Yep, we’re organizing a trail run!). We hope to have more of this nailed down by the Annual Meeting!

Ethics: Invoicing, the PITA Factor & the Dull Ache in One’s Belly Irene Grace Garvey

I had an interesting conversation with a friend the other day, an environmental consultant from the Boston area. She told me she was busy and making money in spite of the state of the economy. I asked



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what contributed to her success and she replied she had found a niche with shoreland owners and folks, basically, who still had money to burn. She went on to say, “they are a demanding and tiresome bunch” then sheepishly added “and my invoices reflect this.”

This got me to thinking...

A year ago, while building our home, my husband and I received an invoice from our plumber, which seemed higher than anticipated. The last I saw him, he and I were having a passionate conversation in our attic about the stink pipe. It is exiting the attic cockeyed, I complained, causing the boot around the stink pipe to crumple on the metal roof. I was concerned water could get under the boot and seep into the attic. He seemed upset, which I attributed to having this conversation in an excessively hot attic - he 6' tall and hunched over and me standing upright. I crawled back down the ladder and he stayed behind to fix it. After receiving the invoice, I could not help thinking I was the object of the “PITA Factor.” We like and respect our plumber so I wrote a check without question. And, I had to admit, this might have been payback: as a consultant I have been guilty of invoicing using this same methodology. This PITA experience left me with a dull ache in my belly. If you have not translated this acronym yet, it is unlikely you will find it defined in your professional’s Code of Ethics. UrbanDictionary.com will help!

After facilitating ethics workshops over the past few years and then talking with my Boston area friend, I realized I had to take stock. Was my past invoicing applying the PITA Factor ethical?

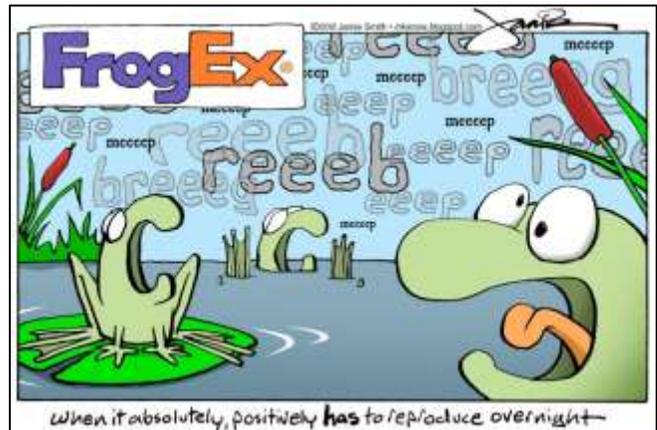
In ruminating, I reminded myself I had given invoicing breaks to nice little old ladies and friends, or friends of friends – those decisions are more than ethical aren’t they?

I wonder, though, if over the years I had a collection of chits. Like pennies in the shallow dish at the checkout counter: use one if you need, drop one if you do not. These things tend to even out do they not? Or was I justifying past decisions to add PITA to a bill?

I find the conversation about Professional Ethics, in general, fascinating. Inevitably after I facilitate a workshop where the group hashes out a case study together, someone at the end will ask: “Well, what is the right answer?”

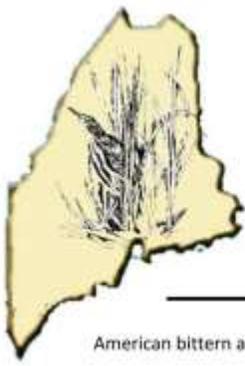
I read my professional ethics and ponder the question that has churned up in my belly – the question about applying a PITA Factor. Is there one right answer? Deciding what is “ethical” takes some diagnosis. Some answers are obvious and some are personal and complicated, with things other than the obvious to weigh into the question of what is ethical.

I have not recently talked to my Boston buddy but I have decided to invite her to lunch. I thought it might be nice to ruminate together over some stomach comforting food. Perhaps in this way we can diagnose our Codes of Ethics together and leave lunch with our own personal answer as to whether the PITA Factor feels ethical. She is a good enough friend to overlook perhaps feeling judged. In this way, we might act as each other’s mirror, to hash out our professional methodologies and decide which ones do not sit well and cause those nagging dull aches in our bellies.



Cartoon by Jamie Smith inksnow.blogspot.com

Give a hoot, don’t pathogen pollute *Laura Lapierre*
Vernal pool habitat protection has come a long way in recent years. Today the most productive pools are protected from excessive development. Due to outreach efforts the public is more aware of vernal pool habitat significance to wildlife. Using remote sensing and GPS technology, we have been able to map a good number of significant pools in the state. Regardless of our efforts to protect vernal pool habitat, amphibians throughout the state are still in “hot water”. In the northeast there are confirmed cases of mass amphibian die-offs caused by the ranavirus and the chytrid fungus.



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You may remember hearing about the chytrid fungus at our 2011 annual meeting. Sasha Greenspan presented on her research, funded by MAWS, focused on the lifecycle and infection process of the chytrid fungus with host species wood frogs and bull frogs. The spores of the fungus are waterborne and cannot survive desiccation, nor can the spore survive temperatures above 82°F. Amphibians become infected when their skin comes in contact with the water containing spores. Symptoms include lethargy, hemorrhaging, and excessive sloughing of skin. Larvae tend to live with the infection, but metamorphosed individuals often die. Ranavirus may be less well known but is more deadly to amphibians, and can also infect reptiles with equally lethal results. Documented die-offs in vernal pools caused by ranavirus often reach >90% mortality. Symptoms include lethargy, hemorrhaging, the inability to remain upright, emaciation and death. Ranavirus is transmitted when individuals come in contact with infected water, cannibalize infected individuals, or come in close proximity to the infected. Both the chytrid fungus and the ranavirus may be dispersed from pool to pool via transported soil and water.

Ironically, we field scientists may be inadvertently spreading pathogens which kill the very species we try to protect! Our boots, nets, Frisbees etc. can serve as a trolley for pathogens. Luckily, the most conclusive research on these pathogens is how to kill them. A 4% solution of bleach will kill chytrid fungus and ranavirus within a minute of contact.

The MAWS Vernal pool survey protocol, developed in 2010, includes a decontamination protocol. It states *“when moving between drainages and at the end of each day, crews should either a.) spray down waders, boots, nets and any other field gear (e.g., dip nets) that have come into contact with surveyed pool water with a 4-5 percent solution of bleach and water, followed by drying without rinsing, or b.) Allow all field gear to completely dry for a period of at least 3 hours.”* An added precaution would be to wear rubber gloves while hands are in contact with pool water and disposing of gloves after use. Bleach can harm vernal pool organisms so equipment should also be rinsed with water after decontamination, before entering a pool. This may be accomplished by pouring nearby water onto equipment in the upland. Over time bleach loses its potency while in solution, so decontamination

solutions should be made up every few days to ensure effectiveness.

Wetland scientists can prevent their spreading of harmful pool pathogens with the simple protocol outlined above. Many Maine scientists have adopted decontamination protocol. This spring please include a spray bottle of bleach solution to your field equipment list. The time it takes to decontaminate between sites is well worth the effort.

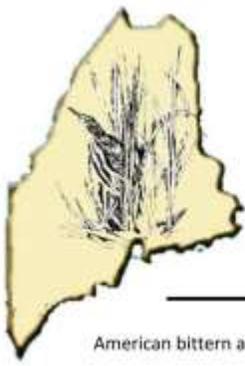
Further reading:

- Gray MJ, Miller DL, Hoverman JT. 2009. Ecology and pathology of amphibian ranaviruses. *Disease of Aquatic Organisms*. V.87 p243-266.
- Miller, D. L., and M. J. Gray. 2009. Disinfection of field equipment and personal gear. Southeastern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Disease, Pathogens and Parasites Task Team, Information Sheet #10.

President Elect Message – Richard Jordan Visioning for 2013-2014

A couple years ago, the MAWS EC amended our constitution so as to better describe the duties of the Executive Committee. One of these changes was to require the incoming president to compile a President-Elect’s message on the year they are to become president. It sounded like a good idea at the time...! Beginning at the 2013 annual meeting, I’ll be taking over presidential duties from Jeff Simmons. I want to start by thanking Jeff for his two years of excellent service. Special thanks as well to Dale Knapp, our past-president who stuck around through the last couple of post-office years to help the EC and the organization in general. Finally, last but not least, thanks to Danielle Tetreau and Dave Brenneman for their efforts at keeping MAWS in the 21st century via mainewetlands.org and the MAWS Facebook page (as well as DDT’s preparation of the Obligate!). I’d also like to thank the rest of the executive committee – looking at the list of nominations, it appears that many of you (*like it or not*) are in for at least one more term!

While having an “experienced” Executive Committee with strong institutional knowledge is great for the organization, it certainly provides evidence for the ongoing challenge that nearly every president has complained about since MAWS’ inception: volunteers



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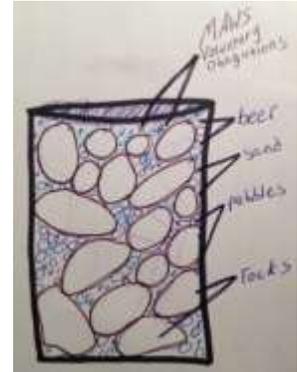
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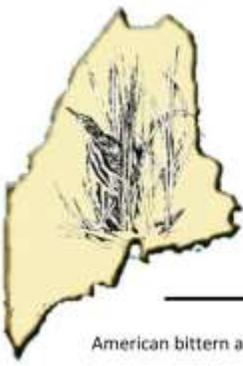
are hard to come by. I offer no solutions to this quandary, because I know we are busy people -- work and life demand a lot of attention! Despite the recession, or perhaps because of it, it seems as though MAWS members have been very busy over the last few years. I mean that both as the organization, and individually as members. How are we seemingly busier in an apparently slower marketplace? We have adapted. We have diversified. We have branched outside the state. We have learned and mastered new skills. And, we have succumbed to the warm embrace of big projects and large companies – both of which have often lead to our members working far afield and far away. With all that in mind, and with the hopeful winds of economic recovery gently caressing our cheeks, I will still reach out for volunteers. If you have ideas for workshops, if you have particular interest in a legislative change or happening, if you would like to help with our website, if you want to write an article for the Obligate, if you want to work with fabulous people, network with other scientists and earn your stripes and my undying respect – then call or email me and we'll go from there!

Here is a short(*ish*) roundup of my MAWS agenda/wish list for the next couple of years:

- Work to rebuild our coffers in order to support our charitable stuff (e.g. stipends/Envirothon). We have money, but we should have more (we're not at the precipice of the fiscal cliff, but our rainy day fund is less than stellar). See the enclosed treasurer's report for more information.
 - Work to increase our outreach to colleges & universities. Our Ethics Chair – Laura Lapiere – has done a great job getting word out to colleges about our annual research stipend. Interest and application to the program has climbed steadily over the last few years (way to go LL1 and LL2!). I want to build on this outreach and get more student interaction, including more MAWS coverage and support for ongoing research projects. I hope to find an educational/student liaison to collaborate with the EC and help us further bridge this gap and expand our educational outreach and membership base.
 - Continue to Expand Workshops and Meetings – get creative. Between globetrotting and management, Sarah Watts has done a great job putting together our workshops and annual meetings. In addition to
- technical and regulatory workshops – including continuing MAWS support of the great autumn workshops that Dave Rocque has assembled - I want to continue our "MAWS After Dark" series. Special thanks to Tim Forrester for organizing the most recent 'after dark' event in which we showed the documentary "Dirt" – combined with revenue from a live silent auction, this event helped MAWS make a few coins to pad our purse. These events have been successful by spreading information, getting members together for networking, making MAWS a little money, and being all-around good times. Finally, I have tasked a group of MAWS runners with organizing a MAWS-sponsored 5K walk/race later this year – there will be a wetland connection in regard to the location of the course...stay tuned and start training!
 - Commission the creation of a new logo and stickers. The EC plans to work with MAWS member and biologist Lauren Gilpatrick (from burlybird.com) to come up with a new logo and some crafty new stickers.
 - Increased/sustained outreach via the Legislative Committee. Rod Kelshaw has pulled off a Herculean task over the last couple years keeping up with and acting on behalf of MAWS in presenting testimony on proposed and enacted changes in state and federal guidelines and rules. Given some additional support, there is more the LC could be doing:
 - Work with Towns – for a few years we've mulled over the idea of sending out a mailer to let planning boards/selectmen know we exist. The biggest hurdles here are the lack of time and peoplepower to debate, create and plan such a document, as well as the cost of mailing.
 - Be active with the Legislative and Executive branches of state government – of particular relevance to this bullet, longtime MAWS member Jim Boyle has been elected to the State Senate and sits as the Chair of the Standing Committee on



There's always room for MAWS. If you don't get this, Google "professor empty glass sand beer" and shame on you.



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Environment and Natural Resources. Jim will be speaking at the annual meeting and I suspect he will provide great help in this regard. Additionally, the legislative subcommittee is working on a “go/no-go” decision matrix for deciding when MAWS provides input on certain legislation. This should help us avoid controversy and save time when deciding whether or not we take action on proposed legislation.

- Existing Groups – mingling and support: with last year’s swift death of the attempt to merge MAWS and MAPSS, there is limited urgency to this bullet. That being said, MAWS and MAPSS will continue our great relationship in the years ahead and we will continue to work with TWS and MASE on workshop collaborations whenever we can. Outside of our existing partnerships, I’m hoping we can expand the list of groups with whom we partner for workshop and membership support, e.g. E2Tech and SWS (see Chet Bigelow’s discussion for more information on MAWS opportunities to work the New England Chapter of SWS).

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists 2012 Annual Meeting *Minutes of Meeting*

Subject: Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) Annual Meeting

Date: March 29th, 2012

Time: 8:30 AM – 3:20 PM followed by a MAWS Executive Committee Business Meeting from 3:35-4:11 PM

Location: Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast and Conference Center, Hallowell, Maine.

Attendees: MAWS Membership, Executive Committee, and Guest Speakers (approximately 90 attendees)

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists (MAWS) held its annual meeting on March 29th, 2011 at the Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast and Conference Center in Hallowell, Maine. The morning session consisted of five speakers given by local professions and two MAWS stipend winners; each followed by an interactive discussion.

8:00-8:45 Registration, welcome, and introduction of speakers. (Rich Jordan filling in for Jeff Simmons).

8:45-9:25 DEP Regulatory Update

Mike Mullen, Department of Environmental Protection.

Mike provided an overview of recent legislative activity and rule making over the past year. While the USACE was unable to make this year’s meeting Mike noted that the USACE may pursue a New England wide general permit. While he had received the recently circulated USACE vernal pool data forms Mike was unable to provide much detail as he was unable to review the materials prior to the meeting.

Wind Power Noise Rules committee has approved, but not finalized yet. Major change reducing noise limits from 45 db. to 42 db. at the edge of the project boundary.

Chapter 335, PBR standards allowance for activities within Inland Wading bird and Waterfowl Habitat (IWWH). Allows for a PBR for development within moderate value IWWH. Set back is now 150 ft. and 80% of the forested buffer must remain. The Google earth layer for IWWH will soon be color coded to identify areas of High or Moderate value IWWH.

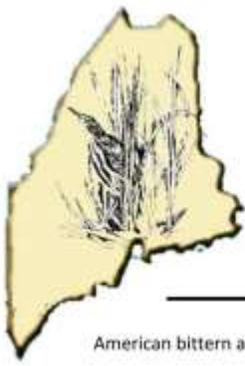
DEP Rule making new IWWH will not be placed in resource protection.

LD 1738 is related to building in sand dunes, the word “building” has now been changed to “structure” to cover additional activities that are already permissible (as long as construction is no closer to the ocean and occurs on an already impervious surface).

Rulemaking for an allowance in certain cases to allow persons to rebuild into a frontal dune if the structure is on posts, and the dune is already behind a retaining wall. Not effective currently but planned for rule making this year-this will likely not be a PBR activity.

Changes for agricultural ponds, currently ponds constructed in streams, provided adequate minimum flows are met. Due to issues on the Federal level the DEP is investigating the use of “side ponds” outside of the stream channel that utilize intakes. These ponds also have requirements for minimum flows within the stream.

LD 1648 Site Law changes in addition to the municipal exemption, there is now an exemption for military bases was changed for leases and sales. Sale will not trigger Site Law, but if an individual lot will contain qualifying activities that lot will be subject to Site Law individually. New exemptions for ski areas



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and educational facilities with an existing Site Law permit. Under this exemption these facilities may develop up to 30,000 sq. ft. A year with a maximum of 60,000 sq. ft. in total without obtaining a new permit if original permit conditions are followed and if an annual report is provided to the DEP identifying activities completed under the exemption. Facilities must not violate terms of the original permit.

Changes to vernal pool regulation under NRPA. Pools that straddle the property line, any vernal depression that is entirely on a single property, but the 250 critical habitat zone would extend on to an adjacent property (provided the ownership is different) is only regulated on the property with the vernal pool depression (i.e., the 250' buffer does not cross the property line if the pool depression is located entirely on a single property). If the pool depression straddles a property line (i.e., occurs on both properties) the 250' critical habitat zone applies to both landowners. In this case both land owners must retain 75% of the forested critical habitat zone that occurs on their property.

Bills that did not move forward included changes to the Water Quality Certification review procedures. This would have required DEP to meet with and obtain agreement from the MDIFW for every Water Quality Certification. There was a proposal to require DEP to complete an analysis for permitting dam projects that had the potential to provide hydropower.

Items for the upcoming year include LD1739 which places the Maine Forest Service (MFS) in charge of permitting for all forestry related activities. MFS would assume LURC duties for all things forestry related (including permitting roads, etc.). Additional provisions for "chop and drop" habitat improvement in streams for the addition of large woody debris. DEP will provide provisions for rules and methods for permitted activities.

LURC, under current proposals DEP would assume Site Law level projects in LURC territories while LURC would maintain some oversight of smaller projects.

Mining issues have arisen at the close of this legislative session, the current proposal would seek to change existing rules and changes to rules pertaining to waste etc. would be done through the rule making process.

9:25-10:05 **The Dark Side of Data Sharing,**
Donald Katnik, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Habitat Group Leader.

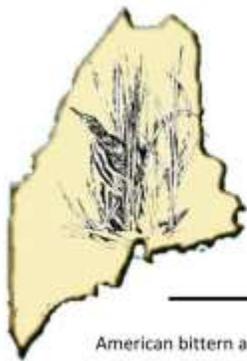
Don presented information on issues and concerns related to the sharing of data. Often shared data is used inappropriately due to limitations within data. In cases data that is shared may have been developed for internal use and while the originator of the data may understand use limitations those who obtain the data may not. Keeping data up to date is important, when sharing data users of the information are responsible for keeping data sets current, if this is not done it is out of the control of the originator of the data to ensure the proper data is being used. SCALE! Data is only as good as the scale, current mapping software allows users to "zoom" in as far as one would like. In many cases the scale of the original data used is inappropriate for the use. Sharing data is important as the purpose of the State Agencies is to assist the public, but it is important for users of the data to be informed. Currently through a nationwide discussion group on data sharing a set of Best Management Practices is being developed (none currently exist) which will help to standardize data sharing efforts across States. While online mapper tools are excellent for sharing of data and allow the data originator to set usable scales for the data, it is currently cost prohibitive. Read the metadata, know your scale and use limitations!!

Don discussed the history of wetland mapping in Maine (specifically IWWH):

- 1961- First effort to map wetlands in the State
- 1969- Evaluation of wetland quality (root of High/Moderate value)
- 1972- Maine Wetland Inventory\
- 1993- Manual Mapping of NRPA IWWH
- 2008- Significant improvement of IWWH data layer (mapped at a 1: 3,000 scale).

Important note that the IWWH data layer was designed as tool to involve MDIFW biologists when there is the potential for IWWH. Rich and Don are beginning the planning of a workshop for September that will involve a field visit to a potential IWWH mapped wetland.

10:05-10:20 **Break**



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10:20-10:40 **Juvenile amphibian movements in complex landscapes: Insights about dispersers from forest experiments and technological innovations for direct-tracking**, Brittany Cline, University of Maine, MAWS 2011 Stipend Winner.

Brittany presented preliminary findings related to the movement of wood frogs through a variety of landscapes and cover-type scenarios. In her work Brittany has looked at habitat permeability for wood frog dispersal for hay fields, open lawns, clear-cuts, and moderately covered lawns (i.e., manicured lawn with some over-story cover). Her research has found significant differences in habitat permeability for juvenile wood frog dispersers. In addition Brittany has been working with other institutions to develop tracking technologies that may be used to track movements of juvenile amphibians.

10:40-11:00 **Characterizing hybrid zone dynamics between Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows**

Jennifer Walsh, University of New Hampshire, MAWS 2011 Stipend Winner.

Jennifer is in the early stages of her research project and presented an overview of Saltmarsh and Nelson's sparrow natural history. Both species are ground nesting with the Saltmarsh Sparrow's fledging time occurring in 26 days. Her future work will involve testing morphological definitions using genetics to determine the effectiveness of using field plumage for identification of hybrids, examining the fitness of hybrids, and looking at parenting success for hybrids.

11:05-12:05 **Charismatic Sedges: An Update on the Cyperaceae of Maine**
Matt Arsenault, Stantec

Matt gave an overview of the much anticipated *Cyperaceae of Maine*. The guide is designed as a user friendly field guide for identification of Maine's 223 sedge species. The expected release date is spring of 2013, mark your calendars.

12:05-1:05 **Lunch**

12:45-1:25 **Ducks, Frogs, and Politics: An Oddly Volatile Mixture**

Nick Bennett, Natural Resource Council of Maine

Nick presented on some legislative hurdles and observations over the past legislative season. Special focus on vernal pools, IWWH, and the recent mining legislation.

1:25-2:40 **Ethics in Professional Practice: An Introduction to What You Need to Know**

Irene Grace Garvey, Abenaki Services.

Irene led a discussion of the MAWS code of ethics followed by a group breakout session discussing some of the submitted scenarios. Breakout discussion involved a hypothetical inspection of a wetland delineation and a hypothetical situation involving discovery of potentially hazardous materials during field work.

2:40-3:20 **Envirothon: Laying the Groundwork for Maine's Next Environmental Leaders**

Tish Carr, Mike Cooney, Dave Roque, and Mike Cooney's students.

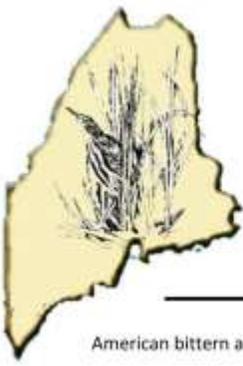
Mike presented an overview of Envirothon and the students presented on some areas of interest and skills they have learned through Envirothon. Tish updated the membership that as of 2012 a total of 68 teams are now active which is the most since 2002.

For more information:

<http://maineswcads.org/envirothon/>

3:20- 3:30 **Break**
3:30-4:11 **Annual Business Meeting**

Rich began the business meeting announcing first that Jeff (acting President) was unable to make the meeting due to a conflict. Rich assumed his responsibilities for the meeting in his place. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM.



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Executive Committee

Nominees for the Executive Committee Positions Include:

- Ethics Chair- Laura Lapierre
- Membership Chair- Katelin Nickerson
- Program Chair- Sarah Watts
- Secretary- Steve Knapp

There are no other nominees. Chris Dorion moved to vote to accept the slate of nominees as written, it was seconded, all in favor by show of hands, vote carried.

Secretary's report:

Motion to accept meeting minutes from 2011 as presented in the Obligate.
Motion seconded, no opposed. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report:

Tim updated the membership and provided an overview of the financial statement provided in the 2011 Obligate. Tim noted that in the coming year MAWS should actively seek ways to earn additional money. In 2011 MAWS "broke even".

Chris moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented to the membership. The motion was seconded, none opposed. The motion passed.

Standing Committee Update

Ethics Report:

Laura Lapierre noted that application for the MAWS stipend was sent in February in 2011 and MAWS received seven applications which is up from the prior year. As of the date of the meeting one application had been received and two additional students had contacted Laura with the intent to submit applications before the deadline.

Laura moved to approve the stipend amount of \$1,000.00 for 2012. The motion was seconded, all in favor, the motion carries.

Tim Forrester moved to approve a \$1,000.00 donation to the Envirothon. The motion was seconded, all in favor, the motion passes.

Legislative Report

Rod thanked members of the Legislative sub-committee for working on a number of legislative items this past year which included vernal pools, IWWH, and the shoreland zone. Rod noted that topics chosen were those with a nexus to wetlands and MAWS and also that comment attempted to be fact based and non-biased. Rod noted that, based on feedback from the legislature, MAWS was seen as presenting the facts and was helpful during the process.

Rod also mentioned that he had received some feedback from members that the sub-committee may have commented without enough input from membership. Rod invited the entire membership to help provide constructive feedback.

Kathleen Miller asked a question as to whether MAWS only commented in front of legislative committees only.

Rod: Yes, only in committee.

Johanna thanked Rod for all of his hard work over the past year.

Jim Boyle moved that Rod should have a cookie. The motion was seconded, all in favor, the motion passed.

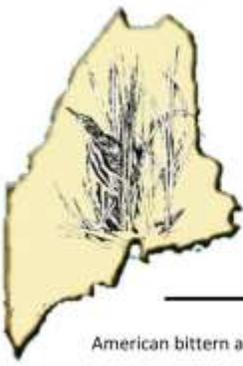
Membership Report

Danielle Tetreau was unable to attend the 2012 meeting. Rich provided a brief updated, the membership report is available in the 2011 Obligate.

Program Report

Sarah was contacted by a vendor inquiring about setting up a table/booth at this year's meeting. There was a discussion about interest in the possibility of inviting vendors as a way to off-set costs for the annual meeting. Sarah noted that if vendors are to be invited there would need to be an additional position to assist with coordination.

It was also mentioned that vendors would want exposure and therefore additional time may need to be provided during breaks, also the Maple Hill venue may not be large enough to support vendor tables. Possible vendors mentioned at the meeting included Books, Rite in the Rain, Maine Technical Source, Ben Meadows, etc. Rich explained that no vote is needed



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to look into the possibility of vendors at the next annual meeting.

Sarah Watts outlined workshops completed in 2011. In addition she outlined potential workshops for 2012. Possible workshops discussed are:

A to be determined workshop by Arthur Haines for wetland plant identification.
A delineation workshop with Marcia Spencer-Famous (TBD).
IWWH workshop with Don Katnik (TBD)

Sarah noted that for 2012 MAWS will attempt to complete 3-4 smaller workshops and 1-2 larger workshops. All were in agreement that workshops are an excellent way to provide revenue.

Dave Rocque also noted that he will likely be conducting another workshop in 2012. Details to be determined.

Sub-Committee Report

Rich updated the membership on the VPTC. In 2011 not much happened. The VPTC will be meeting in the near future to discuss the recently distributed forms and guidance from the USACE. It appears based on

the forms sent recently by the USACE that the forms are for New England and MAWS will find out whether the forms are intended to be filled out in addition to the MDIFW vernal pool data forms.

MAWS will have an updated website in the near future. The vernal pool form is up and running.

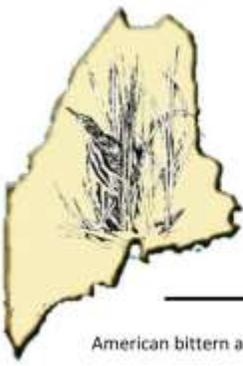
Rich asked, on Danielle's behalf, if the Membership liked the inclusion of additional cartoons in this year's Obligate. The membership approved.

Other Items

There was a very brief discussion of the MAPSS-MAWS merger. MAPSS had voted against the merger at their annual meeting. No need to pursue further.

Rich moved to close the meeting. It was seconded and the motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Steve Knapp
MAWS Secretary
April 6 2012



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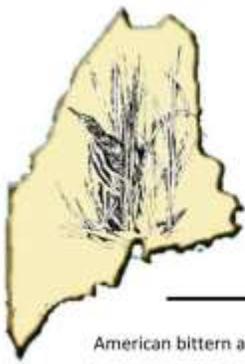
MAWS Financial Statement - 2013	
From February 11, 2012 - January 30, 2013	
Respectfully Submitted to MAWS Membership, January 31, 2013, by Tim Forrester, Treasurer	
	Beginning Balance 2/11/2012 \$ 3,752.50
	Ending Balance 1/30/2013 \$ <u>6,138.62</u>
	Net Gain \$ <u>2,386.12</u>
INCOME	
2012 Annual Meeting	\$ 4,285.00
Workshops (VP, Twig ID)	\$ 120.00
Membership Dues	\$ 2,543.33
MAPSS Urban Soils	\$ 950.00
IWWH Workshop	\$ 465.00
MAWS "After Dark" Dirt The Movie	\$ 766.00
	TOTAL INCOME \$ <u>9,129.33</u>
EXPENDITURES	
2012 Annual Meeting	\$ 3,704.13
Envirothon Grant	\$ 1,000.00
Student Research Grant	\$ 1,000.00
IWWH Workshop	\$ 283.75
Sec. State Fee	\$ 35.00
MAWS After Dark, Dirt The Movie	\$ 599.23
BOA, Bank Fees	\$ 27.10
PO Box Fee	\$ 94.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$ <u>6,743.21</u>

**Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Business Meeting Agenda
March 25, 2013, 3:35 – 5:00 p.m.**

1. Executive & Standing Committee Updates
 - Secretary Update, approve minutes from 2012 annual meeting – Steve Knapp
 - Treasurer Update – Tim Forrester
 - Membership Chair Update – Katelin Nickerson
 - Ethics Chair Update – Laura Lapierre
 - Legislative Chair Update – Rod Kelshaw
2. Elections

Executive Committee: Underlined positions will be elected at the 2013 annual meeting. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor:

 - President Elect (to become President in 2015): Nominated – Brad Agius
 - Secretary (tenure expires 2014) Steve Knapp
 - Treasurer (expires 2015): Nominated - Tim Forrester
 - Membership Chair (tenure expires 2014) Katelin Nickerson
 - Program Chair (tenure expires 2014) Sarah Watts
 - Legislative Chair (expires 2015): Nominated - Rodney Kelshaw nominated by everyone else for a third term whether he likes it or not...
3. Updates from the Sub-Committees:
 - VPTC: Rich Jordan
 - SWS-NE: Chet Bigelow
4. Vote on Stipend Award amount
5. Vote on Envirothon donation amount
6. Open forum



The Obligate

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

c/o Danielle Tetreau, Stantec,
30 Park Drive, Topsham, ME
04086

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ANNOUNCING THE 2013 SOILS AND NATURAL RESOURCE WORKSHOP

Presented By David Rocque

The Maine Association of Professional Soil Scientists in conjunction with the Maine Association of Wetland Scientists, Maine Association of Site Evaluators and Soil Science Society of Northern New England is once again sponsoring a late summer workshop focusing on soils and natural resources. As in the past, this workshop will combine soil evaluation with natural resource identification and regulatory issues.

- **The workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 from 9:00 AM until 3:30 PM at Mt. Blue State Park in Weld, ME.**
- Registration will begin at 8:30 AM at the Park Headquarters. Participants will receive a map of the five sites to visit. Discussion of the sites will begin at 1:30 PM at the Park Headquarters' scenic overlook. **Bring your own lunch.**
- Bring your 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're encouraged to finish your site visits by 12:30 PM. Discussion will begin promptly at 1:30 PM at the Park Headquarters.

Mt. Blue State Park is Maine's largest State Park, encompassing 8,000 acres. The park is divided into two sections; the largest surrounds Mt. Blue and the smaller on a portion of Webb Lake. It is about an 8 to 11 mile drive from one section to the other around Webb Lake. We will enjoy the outstanding scenic vistas of the mountains and Webb Lake, especially from the Park Headquarters on Center Hill Road. The beach on Webb Lake has a grassy picnic area with tables which extends to a sand beach and the Center Hill picnic area also has spectacular views of the mountains.

As with past workshops, we will have a team of expert soil professionals evaluating and describing soils pits, botanists to evaluate the wetland status at each site and we will also have regulators from the MDEP and LUPC (formerly LURC), the State Septic System Program and the Army Corps of to address regulatory issues.

The soil pits were located and excavated in 2012 and Mt. Blue Park staff are monitoring each pit for the depth to seasonal groundwater table to compare with the soil morphology determinations of seasonal groundwater table. The soils team will provide soil profile descriptions, soil drainage class determinations, hydric soil determinations (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). The regulatory team will provide regulatory interpretations for protected natural resources including freshwater wetlands, streams and vernal pools; and discuss the shoreland zoning issues for a site near Webb Lake.

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. Each of the sites will have at least one expert to show you the points of interest and answer general questions. They will have copies of the soil pit evaluations and other determinations. They will share this information with you after you have made your own determination at the site. You can participate at whatever level is appropriate for your background and knowledge level, the experts stationed at each site will provide whatever level of assistance you require.

MAPSS, MASE and MAWS presidents and Dave Rocque will lead the discussion of each site with participation from soil pit evaluators, other experts and regulators. As with the previous workshops, the sites and soils are challenging, conditions you all see in the field and struggle with. The purpose of this workshop is to bring professionals and regulators together to discuss difficult sites and attempt to understand the regulatory expectations how to classify these difficult types of sites.

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.

Presented for March 22, 2013

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Assembled by D. Tetreau February 2013

Maine Association of Wetland Scientists

Winter Conference & Annual Meeting

Monday, March 25, 2013

Maple Hill Farm B&B, 11 Inn Road, Hallowell, ME

The Maine Association of Wetland Scientists will be holding its annual meeting at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. For directions go to <http://www.maplebb.com/> **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN FEE STRUCTURE:** Payment received by March 11, 2013 (2 weeks prior): Registration for MAWS members is \$45 (not including annual dues); for non-members \$50, and for students \$20. : Payment received AFTER March 11, 2013, including payment at the door, add \$10 (no change for students). Members, please take this opportunity to continue your support of MAWS by paying your annual dues. **Please complete the attached registration form and return to MAWS by March 11th.**

WATER RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY DRAFT AGENDA (some details may change)

- 8:00 – 8:30 **Registration**
- 8:30 – 8:40 **Welcome, Introduction of Speakers**
- 8:40 – 9:20 **Maine's Stream Habitat Viewer**, Slade Moore, Project Coordinator, Maine Coastal Program / Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and Alex Abbott, Database and GIS Manager, USFWS
- 9:20 – 9:50 **Maine's In-Lieu Fee Compensation Program: Overview & Lessons Learned**, Alex Mas, Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Nature Conservancy in Maine
- 9:50 – 10:10 **The Biogeography of Tidal Marsh Birds in the Northeastern United States**, Maureen Correll, University of Maine – Orono, MAWS 2012 Stipend Winner
- 10:10 – 10:30 **Break**
- 10:30 – 11:15 **Of Boulder Fields, Vernal Pools, Functional Assessment, and the Corps**, Paul Minkin, Senior Wetland Scientist with the USACE New England District Regulatory Division
- 11:15 – 11:45 **[Title TBD on Capisic Brook Stormwater Management]**, Doug Roncarati, Stormwater Program Coordinator, Portland Water District
- 11:45 – 12:15 **Understanding and Restoring Maine's Urban Streams: Trout Brook Case Study**, Wendy Garland, Environmental Specialist, Watershed Management Unit, Maine DEP
- 12:30 – 1:30 **Lunch**
- KEYNOTE SPEAKER: [Title TBD on Aquatic Connectivity]**, Scott Jackson, Wildlife Biologist, University of Massachusetts – Amherst
- 1:30 – 2:30 **Dam those Maine Rivers! -- Hydrology and restoration of Maine's large rivers**, Stephen Shepard, Maine Hydro Licensing Coordinator, USFWS
- 2:30 – 3:00 **Farewell to the PUB – Regulated Resource Response to Dam Removal**, Michael Chelminski, P.E., Stantec
- 3:00 – 3:30 **A Wetland Scientist Goes to Augusta: legislative update from Jim Boyle - State Senator from District 6 and Chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**, Jim Boyle, Maine State Senator, District 6
- 3:30 – 3:45 **Break**
- 3:45 – 5:15 **Annual business meeting**

We will provide certificates of attendance for attendees at the conference and business meeting. If you have any questions, contact MAWS Program Chair, Sarah Watts @ (207) 879-9496, or by email sarah.watts@tetrattech.com.

**Maine Association of Wetland Scientists
Winter Conference & Annual Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2013
Maple Hill Farm B&B, 11 Inn Road, Hallowell, ME**

REGISTRATION FOR MAWS WINTER CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

Please mail registration form and payment to: **Tim Forrester, c/o MAWS Treasurer, 135 River Road, Woolwich, ME 04579**. Any questions, please feel free to call or email Sarah Watts, MAWS Program Chair, Phone: (207) 879-9496, Email: sarah.watts@tetrattech.com.

Registration and check should be received by March 11, 2013. Make checks payable to MAWS.

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____

Telephone and/or e-mail address: _____

Registration fee, which includes food and facility charges:

MAWS member:	\$45*	Add \$10 after March 11	_____
Non-members:	\$50	Add \$10 after March 11	_____
Student:	\$20**		_____

*2012 Dues must be paid in full to receive membership rate for this event.

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. If you have questions about your status please email danielle.dyer@stantec.com

**Proof of student status must be provided with registration.

I would like to apply for membership; a completed application is included with my registration

Current MAWS Members Annual Dues:

Active:	\$25	_____
Affiliate:	\$15	_____
Student:	\$10	_____

Total Payment: _____

We will provide separate certificates of attendance for the conference and annual business meeting.

<i>Please indicate if you need a certificate of attendance (circle selection):</i>	Conference		Business Meeting	
	Yes	No	Yes	No

No Refunds for Cancellations